

Al-Noor Academy Newsletter

November 28, 2008 ~ Dhul Hijjah 2, 1429

Do You Know for the Snow?

We want to remind parents of our procedure regarding weather/emergency delays, early dismissals, and school cancelations. In the event there is a change in the schedule the community will be notified four different ways:

- An email from Sr. Nur for IANE and Br. Justin for ANA will be sent (to those on the email list). If you are not on our email list, please email principal@anahs.org and request to be added.
- The voicemail will be changed at both schools with updated information
- WBZ News and Fox News will be notified
- Our websites, www.iane.org and www.anahs.org will have a notice on the front page

'Eid!

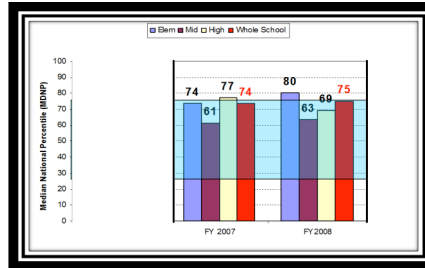
Eid-UI-Adha is projected to be Monday, December 8, 2008. We want to remind everyone to keep the hujjaj in their du'aa. Also, we will have 'Eid Vacation 12/5/2008-12/9/2008. There will be no Jummu'ah at ANA on 12/9/2008.

December Salah Times

- Fajr: 6:00AM
- Dhuhr/Jummu'ah: 1:00PM
- Asr: 2:35PM
- Maghrib: 4:30PM
- Isha: 8:00PM

Al-Noor's Scores – Hitting a Homerun

Our 2007-2008 CAT test results were very encouraging! From Pre-K through 12th Grade, our students scored in the top 25% nationwide. Individual scores from spring 2008 were sent home. Grade level scores are posted in the school. This is a great achievement for both schools, masha'Allah, and we hope to be in the 80th percentile next year!



In addition, our juniors took the PSATs this fall. Masha'Allah, the five students' scores averaged in 67th percentile. This means that they scored better than 67% of students nationwide (including all private and public school students whom took the PSATs this fall.) We have room to improve, but this is a very encouraging sign. Students are performing even better on SATs with scores over 2000!

Over all there are some wonderful achievements at ANA to report. Share the good news with the community! We should be humble in our achievements, but we should also let everyone know what we can offer!

Some recent developments and statistics at Al-Noor Academy and Islamic Academy of New England:

- ❖ Less than a 7:1 student:teacher ratio!
- ❖ A number of 2008 SAT Scores over 2000!
- ❖ 2008 CAT Testing Scores 75thile
- ❖ 2008 PSAT Scores 67thile
- ❖ 100% of our Graduates Accepted to College
- ❖ Alumni Accepted To: Northeastern, Wellesley, Umass, MIT, URI, Mass College of Pharmacy, etc...
- ❖ 40 Hours of Community Service and Dawah – Students Obtain Skills for Living as Muslims in the US!
- ❖ Diverse and Positive Community
- ❖ Curriculum Based on MA DOE with a full Arabic, Quran, and Religion course schedule
- ❖ Arabic Program Upgraded to Include Three Levels: Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced/Language Arts
- ❖ Dual-Enrollment College Credit Program for Juniors and Seniors
- ❖ A positive and encouraging environment liberated from the daily and regular pressure of drugs, inappropriate relationships, bad language, and bullying!
- ❖ About 1/2 the price of most private schools in New England
- ❖ Licensed School and becoming Accredited through NEASC for 2009
- ❖ 78% of teachers and staff trained in First Aid/CPR/AED
- ❖ Certified School Nurse
- ❖ College Guidance Counselor

Fundraising in Creative Ways

Tired of the same old fundraising techniques? As you know, tuition does not cover all the expenses at the school. We have a deficit to make up every year through fundraising. This allows us to keep tuition as low as we possibly can. Therefore, we have thought of some new fundraising ideas. Please join us in the effort!

Large Recycling Collection: We now have a paper recycling bin open to the entire community. Please drop off your paper, newspaper, magazines, etc... (no cardboard). The organization will actually pay the school for filling the recycling bin!

Box Tops: We are now collecting box tops. Please contact Sr. Aisha Manzoor for more information on this!

Office Depot Fundraising Cards: Do you have card? Each student was given an Office Depot card. Come get one. Whenever you make a purchase there, enter the school ID # 70214786 and ANA will receive 5% of whatever you spend!

Penny Wars: Two students started a program to raise money by having a contest to see what home room could raise the most change. Students collected nearly \$1000 in change! Congratulations to the 7/8th grade girls for winning the Penny Wars!

With these initiatives, we were able to get some new materials for students! We have ordered new desks, four new state of the art microscopes for the lab, whiteboards, new locks for classroom doors, conference table, computer desk, file cabinets, and brand new Arabic books. Insha'Allah, we will keep improving the school materials and educational environment. Remember, there are still items on the wishlist!

- Teacher's Desks \$500/each (\$4500/whole school)
- Dry Erase Markers \$25/month (\$250/whole year)
- Misc. Classroom Materials \$75/month per class (\$6750/whole year)
- Outside Benches/Tables \$300/each (approx. \$1200/whole school)
- Lockers \$200/Stack of Three Lockers (\$4000/whole school)
- Bulletin Boards \$40/each
- New Maps for Social Studies/History \$250
- Improving the Library Fund \$3000

PTSO... Feeling the Energy Flow!

The PTSO (Parent Teachers Students Organization) has begun monthly meetings. Attached is an information form. This will help the current brothers and sisters in the PTSO organize the resources we have. Our meetings are on the first Monday of every month. Insha'Allah, our next meeting will be Monday, December 1, 2008 at 3:00PM at ANA.

Welcome Sr. Hanan Zaki-Koura

We want to welcome our new administrative assistant to the school! In just one month she has become absolutely irreplaceable! She is helping with office duties, parent communication, hallway monitoring, ordering supplies, this newsletter, and so much more. We welcome and thank you Sr. Hanan. May Allah (SWT) reward you for your efforts!

Nurse Updates

We thank Sr. Elizabeth for her continued efforts as ANA and IANE's school nurse. Please note that forms were sent home last week indicating if we need updated medical records for your child. We need these no later than December 1, 2008. Additionally, in conjunction with Mansfield Public Schools, we will conduct vision and hearing screenings for students at both schools.

Al-Noor Academy in the News!

Masha'Allah, the sisters' were in the Mansfield News for Global Pink Hijab day. They wore a pink hijab for \$5 each to raise awareness and money for breast cancer research. Please take a look at the picture online.

In addition, Al-Noor Academy was awarded the "Best of Mansfield 2008" award by the USLBA. This is an award acknowledging Al-Noor Academy's success as an establishment in the community.

Helping Students Out ...

We want to thank our teachers and students for their continued and increasing participation beyond the classroom. We are very happy to report the following initiatives and activities:

- Tutoring Program (Monday-Thursday)
- Peer Tutoring Program
- Sports Teams (HS Boys Soccer, HS Girls Basketball, Middle School Boys and Girls Basketball)
- Brothers and Sisters Monthly Qiyem
- Sisters Weekly Halaqa
- Borderland State Park Field Trip
- Debate Team
- 'Eid Party
- Interfaith Activity with the Interfaith Action, Inc. on December 14, 2008
- Global Pink Hijab Day
- Upcoming Student Council Elections

See: <http://www.anahs.org/activities.html>

Professional Development Program

A teaching career is a life long journey. In order to equip our teachers with the tools they need, ANA and IANE have developed a comprehensive teacher professional development program. This includes an in-house monthly seminar (five total), shadowing principals and teachers at public/private schools, and professional development courses at Sharon Public Schools. We have conducted CPR/First Aid training for most staff at ANA (from the nursing/health grant). Additionally, we have offered stipends for course work at colleges and universities to assist teachers pursuing their graduate and doctorate degrees in education. If you feel you can help in this program, just let us know!

Student Awards

In a humble acknowledgement of individual success, we have the student awards for Term I:

- Abu Bakr Award for Community & Public Service: Mariya Ghorl
- Award for Most Improved Student: Mohamed Abdullaahi
- Ibn Abbas Award for IANE to ANA Growth: Jubayre Hafiani
- Alu Yassir Award for Overall Sabr & Perseverance: Salma Duwaji
- Ibn Taymiyah Award for Going Above & Beyond: Haajra Ahmed
- Ansar Award for Being a Wonderful Helper: Sammy Mousa
- Tarbiyyah Award for Overall Exceptional Character and Islamic Conduct: Hayel AbdulGhani
- Ibn Al-Khattab Award for Taking Initiative: Elimam Sanousi
- School Spirit Award: Nour Tabidi
- Al-Khawarizmee Award for Exceptional Performance in Mathematics: Elaf Wohaibi
- Jabir Bin Hayan Award for Exceptional Performance in Science: Sarah Sanousi and Noor Adra
- "Shaikh-speare" Award for Exceptional Performance in English: Mohamed Abdullahi
- Al-Idrissy Award for Exceptional Performance in History: Masihuddin Ahmed
- Seybawyh Award for Exceptional Performance in Arabic: Sharif Abdelal, Mustafa Janoudi, and Hessa Al-Muhairi
- Zayd Ibn Thabit Award for Exceptional Performance in Qur'an: Mariam Abdelgany
- Ibn Taymiyah Award for Exceptional Performance in Islamic Studies: Munther El-Alami
- Attendance Award: Amina Fahmy
- Top Honor Roll: Sabiha Rahman and Sherif Atia

Al-Noor Academy PTSO

Would You Like to Improve Your Child's Success in School?

Dear Moms and Dads,

Al-Noor Academy PTSO (Parent Teacher Student Organization) would like to ask you to come and join us with this wonderful opportunity to pledge our time for the sake of Allah and the success of our children in the school.

ANA PTSO coordinates volunteer efforts for school activities and raises funds to support school programs that further enrich the experience of all students. Parent volunteers help with all types of school programs, class events, class parties, field trips and learning activities.

Studies show that their children do better in school with more parental involvement. Parent involvement is the most important responsibility of the PTSO.

Volunteering does not mean a huge time commitment. An hour or two a semester makes a big difference. We have jobs to fit your time schedule and interests.

Our next meetings will be on Monday Dec.1, 2008 and Monday, Jan. 5, 2008 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. maximum at Al-Noor Academy.

Won't you join us? Just fill out the accompanying form and return it to the school. It's easy---and it really makes a difference!

Please return by December 5, 2008 to Br. Justin

If you would like to find a spot to get connected that fits your interests and availability, simply fill out the form below and we'll get in touch to help you find a great event, committee or effort to help with.

Mom or Guardian

Dad or Guardian

Name: _____

Name: _____

*Phone: _____

*Phone: _____

*E-mail: _____

*E-mail: _____

*(Indicate best way to contact you)

Best time for PTSO meeting: _____

Mom

Dad

I would be willing to help with the following areas:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Offer to be a Class Parent (Organize volunteers as needed from your child's class, call parents) <i>Note, teacher will coordinate if multiple parents volunteer.</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Help in the Classroom/Tutor (e.g., work with a small group of children) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Computer Room Assistance (Help class during computer time) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Prepare Materials for Your Child's Teachers (photocopying, cutting, laminating, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Bring Baked Goods or Food for Bake Sale |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Help with Other Special Events throughout the year: Book Fair, Field Day (May), 'Eid Party |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Be a guest speaker and share information on your culture, travels, talent, skills, crafts, or professional experience. Topics: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Books inventory/organizer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Help in preparing the PTO News Letter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Attend Field Trips |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Help with lunch time |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Help with gym on Thursdays |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Assist with Box Top collection |

Other _____

STUDENT INFO (Please list **each** child you have at ANA)

Name (First & Last)	Grade	Teacher
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____