



# Islamic Studies

## Newsletter

September 14, 2007

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

As salaamu alaikum wa rahmatullah

Ramadan Mubarak to all of the Averroes families. May Allah SWT shower you with his blessings and mercy during this wonderful month, ameen. I hope you will all enjoy the first edition of the Islamic Studies newsletter. Feedback is always welcome. Jazakallahu khairun.

Here is what we have been learning in Islamic Studies:

### Kindergarten

**Islamic Studies:** We have learned that Allah is the Creator of all living and non-living things. He is always with us and we should always try to make Him happy. We have begun to learn about the 5 pillars of Islam. We also learned about the month of Ramadan and that adult Muslims cannot eat or drink while they are fasting. Best of all, we now know the Islamic way of greeting one another. All Muslims should shake hands and say salaam to each other.

### Quran Memorization:

Alhamdulillah, we have finished memorizing half of Surah Fatiha. Our goal is to know all of Surah Fatiha by the end of next week insha'Allah. Our surah tests are every Thursday.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

We have been learning about the 4<sup>th</sup> pillar of Islam, fasting. We learned that Muslims fast in the month of Ramadan because Allah has commanded it in the Qur'an. Ramadan is a month of patience. We also learned which people are

excused from fasting, and that Ramadan begins with the sighting of the crescent moon. Last but not least, we set our goals for the month of Ramadan so we can all become better Muslims insha'Allah.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

**Islamic Studies:** We have been learning about the month of Ramadan. We learned that this is a month of patience, and that Muslims who are fasting should not only refrain from food but bad deeds as well. We made a recipe for Ramadan, set our goals for the month, and played a game to practice being patient.

**Quran Memorization:** In our Quran class, this is our schedule: we begin our new surah/portion of surah on Monday. We learn about the meaning of the surah and practice it. On Tuesdays we will soon begin learning a new tajweed rule each week, and use it to practice our surah. Every Friday, we will have the surah test insha'Allah. Please remember to bring your signed memorization charts on the test day.

This week, we practiced the beginning of Surah Al-'Alaq together by reciting it as a class, individually, and along with Shaykh Sa'ad al-Ghamdi's audio recitation of the Quran. I was not in class on Monday so we will discuss the meaning of the surah next Monday insha'Allah.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

We have been learning about the month of Ramadan. We came up with a long list of attributes of Ramadan. We learned that Ramadan is a month of patience and good deeds. One good deed we focused on is sadaqah. We found that there are many different types of sadaqah and made posters of examples of sadaqah. We also discussed which types of daily activities bring us closer to Allah so we can do them more often during this month. We read about a few laws of fasting, such as when to begin and end our fast, and which people are exempt from fasting. Lastly, we set our goals for Ramadan.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

We have been learning about the month of Ramadan, with a special focus on the concept of patience. We studied the story of Prophet Musa (A) and Khidr (A) and derived many important lessons from it. We learned about the significance of this month and we also discussed the attributes of Ramadan and made informative posters in which we elaborated on those attributes. We also set goals for ourselves which we hope to accomplish by the end of Ramadan insha'Allah.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

We have been learning about the month of Ramadan and the concept of fasting in Islam. We studied the inner dimensions of fasting and made a large display for the entire school to benefit from. We also began to study the fiqh of fasting and learned about the different types of fasts. Insha'Allah we will continue this topic into the next week and learn about what is required of a fasting person, what actions invalidate our fast, etc. Also in preparation for Ramadan, we made schedules for ourselves so we do not waste any time that can be used to attain the pleasure of Allah. Last but not least, we set our goals for the month regarding those areas in which we hope to improve spiritually.

## OTHER NEWS

- ☪ Grades 2-5 have received a Ramadan Prayer/Fasting Chart to help them keep track of their spiritual growth this month. Please encourage your children to pray/fast with you and utilize the charts. Be sure to send it back to school each day.
- ☪ Our Virtue of the Month for September/Ramadan is: patience. Please continually remind your children of this concept at home and discuss the benefits of being patient, especially during the month of Ramadan. More information can also be found at the Islamic Studies website.
- ☪ Insha'Allah, starting next week, we will have something new at Averroes Academy called "Guidance of the Week." Students will find on a display board in the hallway a mini-Islamic Studies lesson every week. This will include the translation of one name of Allah, one sunnah of the Prophet (S), one major sin, and one easy good deed. Our aim is to produce both knowledgeable and God-conscious students insha'Allah. Please ask your child about the mini-lesson everyday and encourage them to memorize it so they can apply it in their daily lives insha'Allah.
- ☪ We have seen many female students coming to school without hijab for prayer and wearing nailpolish. Please remember that salah without proper wudu and hair covering is not valid. We have tried to

implement a strict policy regarding these two factors and would really like your help in reenforcing it. The white hijab is part of the required school uniform and nailpolish is not allowed at school.

- ☪ I would like to thank all the parents and students who contributed to the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Fruit & Smoothie Sale, particularly those in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. The students worked very hard and alhamdulillah, raised over \$80 for their pet tortoise. The money will be used towards purchasing food and healthcare supplies for Tortie, as it is our duty to care for his well-being. Jazakallahu khairun for your help.

Have a wonderful weekend and please remember your teachers, principal, and friends in your special Ramadan du'aas!