

Madina Insider

Message From The Principal

Save The Date

- January 17: Muslimah's Night out
- January 16: End of second quarter
- February 16: Students out. Teachers' PD day

Asalamu Alikoum,

Here we are welcoming 2015 that will Inshallah be yet another successful and eventful year at Madina Academy. When I sit down to reflect every month on what to write for the monthly newsletter, I can't help but to think of all the great things that are happening here at the Academy.

Did you get a chance to visit us on December 19th? Did you see the hard work that went in putting together a dynamic Islamic Showcase that was focused on the 99 names of Allah? Did you see how every single student from kindergarten to 12th grade demonstrated their strong Muslim Identity, their artistic skills, and their knowledge of the 99 names of Allah? It was truly amazing and rewarding for me as a principal to see my children demonstrate their knowledge of their religion, and proudly show the entire community their strong Muslim Identity.

In December we also hosted muffins

for moms and donuts for dads. Both events were very successful and very well attended. The feedback that I received from the parents will greatly help the school move from good to great.

Speaking of moving from good to great, I want you all to take a moment and imagine a massive flywheel. It's a massive metal disk mounted horizontally on a axle. It weights about 25-30 tones. Now the flywheel is at a standstill. To get it to move you have to make a tremendous effort. You push with all your power and finally you get it to move just an inch. After three to four days of continuous effort you get the flywheel to make a complete turn. As you keep pushing, the flywheel starts to make a second and a third turn. At a certain point, you cant really pin point exactly when, you breakthrough. The flywheel starts to rotate faster and faster with its own weight propelling it. This is called the flywheel effect. This is exactly what it feels like when you are inside a school that makes the

transition from good to great.

Here at Madina Academy the entire staff is in the process of pushing hard to get the flywheel to rotate. With all the successes that we have seen in the past couple of years we see the flywheel in its third and fourth rotation. Soon we will break-through and the flywheel will pick up speed and take off without the constant push.

At this moment, we would all be experiencing the shift from good to great. When we graduate our first cohort of seniors this year and have a 100% college acceptance rate, when we get the official accreditation status, when we retain our highly qualified teachers, and when we live our mission and vision on a daily basis we would be able to safely say that we have made the huge jump from good to great.

It is with your help, support, and feedback that we will be able to witness this powerful moment of incredible change.

Principal Hady

Letter from the Editors

Inside this issue:

Message from the Principal	1
Letter from the editor Boys workshop	1
The truth behind Ring around the Rosie	2
Dual program	2
Entertainment page	3
A Word of Wisdom	3
Challenge Yourself	4

This is the most important class you will ever take in your life ." said, Hamzah Vohra.

Hamzah is currently an undergraduate at UCONN. When he was in middle school, he attended an Islamic school in Dubai. He also studied Quran memorization and tajweed there. Hamzah grew up with a powerful Muslim soul. He lived with four main determinations: To be globally competitive, be a productive Muslim citizen, have a strong Muslim identity, and to be college and career ready. Hamzah's main expectation of Islamic school's is to help you

make proper Islamic decisions but they do not make it for you"

What is the decision?

This decision is whether or not you will accept being the slave of Allah and if you want to please Him or not. Every Muslim should make this decision at an early age. As we all know, failing a class is easier than passing it. In the same way, committing sins is easier than obeying Allah. However, the reward for the believers is excessive. If Allah was to give every single human on earth blessings in the size of the universe, it would not decrease of his owner-

ship of what is equivalent to a grain of sand. There are many ways in which you can enter Jannah. One of the most important ones for teenagers is lowering your gazes. Muslim teenagers should know the rules of gender interaction. Teenagers should follow the Islamic ways in their daily dealings with the opposite gender. In the end, Allah will judge us all fairly.

By: Ayman Elsherbini
(Gr 8)

True Meaning Behind Ring Around the Rosie



“Ring around the Rosie” may not be a lovely song, but a cruel story? This nursery rhyme has been passed down from generation to generation changing along the way. Yet, its origin will always remain the same, no matter how much it gets changed its true meaning will never change. “Ring around the Rosie” dates back all the way to 1347. This year was the beginning of the “Black Death,” a period of time where a disease, still unnamed today, began. By 1353, this disease had covered 2/3 of London. The obvious signs of the disease were “Rosie’s”

would cover every inch of the body. The “Rosie” was a poison filled sore that was extremely irritated. The only way to decrease the pain was by applying some special herbs for healing known as “Posies.” Yet, even with these herbs, there was not a true cure for the disease. As a result, “Ashes!” meaning death, who had it, had to be burned alive. This version still takes place during the Black Death. It also has similar symptoms including a “Rosie” red rash in the shape of a ring. Also, when someone caught it, they ended up carrying the scent of death.

So, one would put herbs, flowers, “Posies’,” in their pockets to mask the scent. When it finally reached them, “Ashes!” That person would be burned alive to the best of the ability back then. “We all fall down,” no one with the disease survived. It was a 100% guaranteed death sentence. Is it possible? How could one of the most favored nursery rhymes have such a dreadful background? Facts must be faced. Nothing can be perfect. Nursery rhymes have no exceptions.

By: Asma Ahmed (7)

Madina Academy vs. College Life

Do you know what a dual program is? The dual program enables us to graduate from college a year early and save time and money in the future by earning college credits in high school. On Tuesdays and Thursdays we attend Madina Academy for our elective classes that includes our religious studies, personal finance, computer science, art, and SAT prep. On Mondays and Wednesdays we go to college (MCC, Asnuntuck, Capital, UHart, etc...) and attend our credit courses such as a math, science, history, and English class. The dual program helps students develop good study habits and self-discipline, become highly competitive college applicants, and makes it easier to transition from high school to college. For me, the transition from 10th

grade to college has been fairly easy because we were prepared for college since the freshmen year. Madina Academy has made the transition less challenging so college life is not too stressful for me and I am adapting to the change quite well.

The transition from Madina Academy to college was a new experience for me. I attend school at Asnuntuck Community College on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00am to 8:00pm. College is a place that can help you find yourself, who you are and what you want to be. I am not really sure of what I want to be when I grow older, but I am waiting to see how this college experience will help me. The experience of going from a sophomore to being a college student was

both exciting and overwhelming. I was scared in the beginning but I am learning to get used to it. I have to be honest with you, college can be tough. My parents tell me, “No pain, no gain” and now I see the truth to that. If you want to accomplish something, you have to go through many obstacles to get there. For most of the students, college is an overwhelming and scary experience. Before I started college, I thought I would have no freedom to do what I want. Now, I would describe college like a new adventure in your life; it has its ups and downs, but you always have to stay strong. Robert Ingersoll once said, “College is a place where pebbles are polished and diamonds are dimmed.”

By: Ayesha Khan & Amana Mahamoon (11)



Entertainment Section

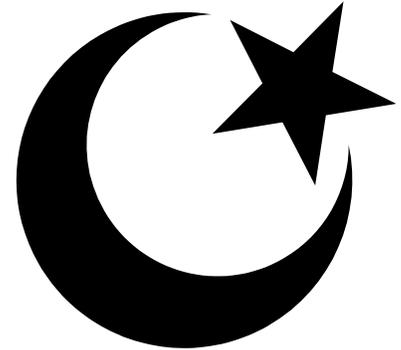
Islamic Word Search

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truthful
respectful
punctual
generous
just
helpful

honest
humble
reliable
pious
kind
modest

obedient
polite



Facts of the Month:

- Fact 1: There are more life forms on your skin than people living on this planet.
- Fact 2: Leonardo Da Vinci could write with one hand and draw with the other at the same time.

Hadith of the Month:

Narrated by Abu Musa:
Some people asked Allah's Messenger (SAW): "Whose Islam is the best? i.e. (Who is a very good Muslim)?" He replied, "One who avoids harming the Muslims with his tongue and hands." - Sahih Al-Bukhari

Quote of the Month:

Dig a well before you are thirsty - Chinese Proverb



Joke of the Month:

What happens to a frogs' car when it breaks down?

It gets toad away.



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Madina Academy
We raise children. Higher.



Reminders

- School starts at 8:00 a.m.
- School dismisses at 3:30 p.m.
- All students must be picked up and dropped off at the back entrance.
- Friday Dismal starts at 1:30 p.m.
- Non-Uniform jackets and sweaters will not be allowed inside the classrooms.
- If you are interested in being an active PTS member, please e-mail pts@madinaacademy.org

We appreciate the trust that you have put in us to educate your children. The vision of Madina Academy is to graduate generations of scholars who have a strong Muslim identity, and are ready to compete in the global society. Madina Academy is dedicated to arming students with the necessary tools and resources needed to be globally competitive, college and career ready, and productive Muslim citizens.

This newsletter is created by the students of Madina Academy. If you have a story that you would like us to consider for our monthly newsletter, please e-mail your story to principalhady@madinaacademy.org for review and approval.

We're On the Web
www.madinaacademy.org

**Love Madina Academy? Absolutely.
Absolutely, Love Madina Academy.**

Caught Being Good!

Ayman ElSherbini



Ayman was caught assisting teachers with their technology needs. He is always eager to help when help is most needed.



Challenge Yourself!

**Who was the daughter of
Prophet Muhammad
(SAW) who married Ali ibn
Abi Talib?**

-Umm Kulthum

-Fatima

-Zainab

The first student to bring to the principal the correct answer to the "challenge yourself" question will receive an award and will be recognized in the upcoming edition of Madina