

Message from the Principal

Save The Date

- Multicultural Fair
- April 10-14: Spring Break, no school
- April 21st: PTS Family Night
- April 24-28: Spirit Week
- April 25th: Upper School: Muslims in the Current Political Climate
- May 2: Upper School Field Trips
- May 2nd Testing Practice Begins

Assalamualaykum,

The school is always striving to integrate arts, creativity, and technology within instruction, and we persistently ask ourselves- how do children learn? How and where can we change our methodology to suit the young, growing mind? Though our learning is increasingly becoming more student based, less traditional, and we continue to explore and venture outside of the conventional parameters that no longer define education in today's world, of course there are always challenges. One of the of bigger obstacles we face as Islamic School educators, similar to other faith based schools, is time. We want the best of both worlds, and we will achieve it with lots of training and quality resources- simply because our children deserve it and our school is worth every drop of sweat and every penny from our pockets. In this regard, the school encourages enrichment opportunities such as The History

day, Science Fair, CIC, Speech Day, Multicultural Fair, and participation in various clubs, such as the Theater club. Ms. Susie's club has moved from short skits to fantastic performances with costumes. One day, inshallah, we will have an evening of a full-blown play, on a real stage with lighting, real props and phenomenal costumes! This is one such example of our moving forward.

Jazakum Allahu Khayrun,
Masuda Vohra

Letter from the Editor

Assalamualaikum,

Alhamdulillah, we are already in the last quarter of the year. I have now been attending Madina Academy for six years, and I have come to see the change in this school. This is our second year participating in the National History Day competition, and Sheza and Sakinah as well as Al-Yaman, Ahmad M., Muaz, Qasem,

and Ahmed Z. won 1st and 3rd in their categories, respectively. Things like this are what help Madina Academy improve every year, "running the extra mile" as our principal calls it. As we approach the end of the year, we strive for a greater tomorrow (next year).

Samir Khan

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Interview with Ms. Debi Stevenson

Ms. Debi Stevenson is an ESL teacher; she teaches English to those to which English is a second language. Stevenson has been teaching English as a second language for 25 years. She spent five years at the University of Alaska, the University of Hawaii, and the University of San Jose. Stevenson majored in musical composition, and she gives piano lessons, and teaches songwriting and musical composition. She teaches Japanese, SAT, ACT, and TOEFL. She has done lots of ESL, where she evaluates a student's level in English. She tries her best to

make the teaching fun. She says, "If you make learning fun it's always great. I design a curriculum for certain people depending on their level. Everybody is different...and I like to work on that." She found out about Madina Academy online, and has worked here for three weeks, and she loves working here. She loves the ocean, and looks forward to learning about Muslim culture. Stevenson owns an online business called tutorandpiano.com.

Muaz Sharaf

Year-round School

Many students value their summer vacation because they dislike school or just because they need a break, but what many students and schools tend to ignore that may enhance the learning environment is year round school. Many people hear about year-round school and dislike the idea just because it sounds stressful, but what many people don't look at are the advantages of year round school. Over the three months of summer vacation, students tend to forget what they learned in previous years and often spend the fall of the next school year reviewing old material. This wastes time and discourages efficient learning. With year-round school, students will forget less of what they learned. A major concern is that there would be less time off, but that wouldn't be the case, since

summer vacation would be equally dispersed amongst the year into short breaks, and students will be able to enjoy all seasons. In most of the countries with year-round school, students have gotten higher grades than students in school with one long break. Attending school year-round can enhance our school and can better the overall educational environment.

Yaman Zoghol

Grade 8

The Library

As you may know, Mrs. Darlene recently held an Islamic book drive. Alhamdulillah, it was very successful, and she was able to gather about \$2,500 worth of Islamic books for the library thanks to your generosity. Mrs. Darlene was very happy because of this success, and is continuing the book drive. Even if each student brings one book, it is enough. The library is still open to Islamic book donations. With each donation, you empower the

child who borrows the book with the ability to represent Islam, and there is nothing more beautiful. Thank you for your support.

Samir Khan

Grade 8

Right: Ms. Debbi

Middle: Assembly
with Town officials

Below: Middle
School Field Trip





The Vanishing World

BOOM! CRASH! I ran outside as fast as I could to see what all the noise was about. Oh no! My favorite tree was gone! What could have happened to it? As I glanced around the yard, I noticed my tree was not the only one that vanished. How did all of the trees just vanish into nothing?

As I walked down the street to further investigate, I saw many animals looking for their homes. I felt sorry for the poor little creatures. I wondered what could have happened. Without trees, Earth couldn't continue to exist. Trees and plants make their food from sunlight and they make oxygen, and they are the first part of the food chain. Animals must eat plants to survive, and all life needs oxygen to survive.

Running down the street in panic was my best friend Jeff. He asked me if I knew what happened to the missing trees. I told him no, but I was determined to find out. Just then, we noticed a circular hole in the ground. It

looked like a light beam from outer space. There were many alien visitors that had been visiting our planet for the past 20 years. I wondered if perhaps they stole our trees to bring life to their planet.

Jeff and I decided to go back to my house to see if we could find anything out from the news. As we reached my house (in the woods), we saw a bright light shining from behind my driveway. We snuck behind some of the remaining trees and watched as a spaceship used the light beam to snatch trees from the yards behind my house. We froze in fright, hoping that the alien ship did not see us.

Finally, after what seemed like forever, the alien ship disappeared into the darkness, taking all of the trees with it. Life as we knew it on Earth was over. Without trees, our planet would never survive. Time to start looking for a new planet to move to.

By Abraheem Azab, Grade 5

The Same Party

CLICK! CLANK! As I walked to the popcorn machine, my sparkling black Nine West heels tapped along the glossy tiled floor, but was I doing with my favorite heels strapped on? Being bored, that's what.

Every year, my family is invited to the same party in the same hall, and I don't know anyone. The only things I liked this time were the popcorn and pizza. Now my turn had come. The delicious snack smelled—weird. The dusty red mechanism groaned as I made the popcorn. All of a sudden, it stopped. So then, thinking it was normal, I started walking away...BOOM! The noise was so loud that the next person in line almost fell over! Then again the machine started to whirl. After that another loud sound came. This time, it was so loud that everyone fell.

When I got back up, everything was yellow. Then I realized the room was flooding with popcorn! My surroundings were crazy.

The kids were climbing on top of the tables and cannonballing into the popcorn, and the adults were yelling at them with popcorn in their mouths! Ding-dong! Everyone stopped and stared at the door. The pizza was here!

A man carefully waddled his way to the door as I desperately tried to turn off the popcorn machine. The pizza successfully came without him knowing about our popcorn wonder land. One hour later a miracle happened. BRRRRRRRRRRRRRP!

One by one, the popcorn began to disappear until there was none left. I sighed in relief. After hours of hard work, I had finally fixed the popcorn machine. Even though I had a popcorn filled day, I continue to eat popcorn, because you can't live without it. I most likely gained weight.

By Zainab Sabir

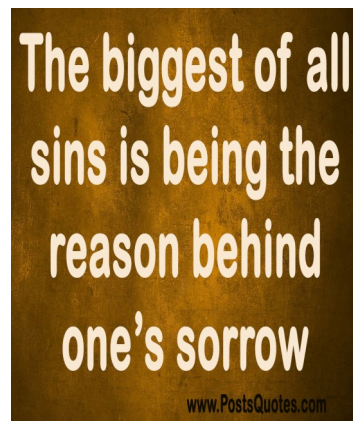
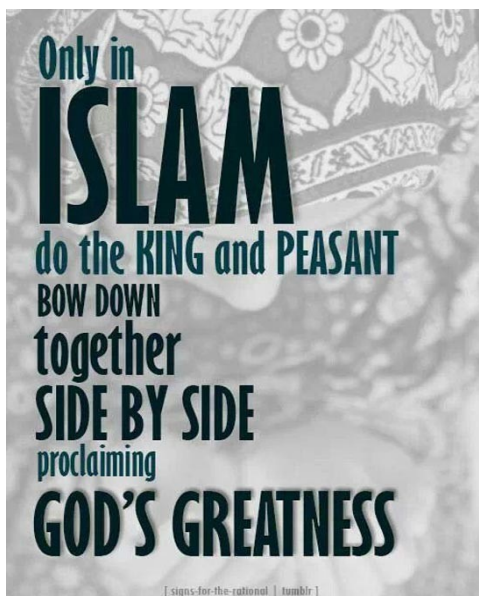
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Madina Academy
We raise children. Higher.

We're On the Web
www.madinaacademy.org

Your business tag line here.



Reminders

- ♦ School begins 8:00 AM and ends 3:30 PM

Student of the Month



Radeyah

Very helpful and well mannered

Challenge Yourself!

How many Sajdas are there in the Quran?

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