

Madina Academy

Issue 1: November 2019

Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

We reached a milestone today- Multicultural Fair! It's hard to believe we have come this far into the year. Today was a huge success with a good number of parent turn out, 9th & 10th grade Meal Fundraiser, visitors from the Town, and students and staff display of hard work, collaboration, and creativity. The weeks of Multicultural Fair buzz came to a climax today!

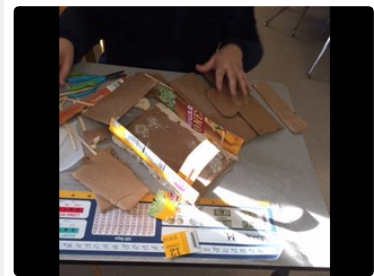
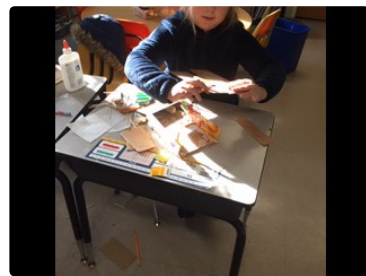
We have also fully implemented Mishkah Islamic Program in high school. our students took their first Mishkah external exam- towards earning an Associates degree in Islamic Studies. Our other initiatives- Next Generation Science Standards and Advanced Placement Computer science for 9th graders is also in full swing. We have begun transition into Standard Based Grading, however as this is also an initiative for Schoology, our report cards will be delayed. Please be patient with us as we trouble ourselves with the technicalities. But students did take the FALL 2019 NWEA MAP standardized tests. We will send home Family reports after the break.

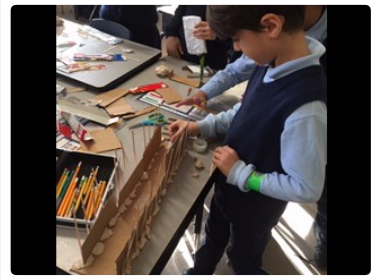
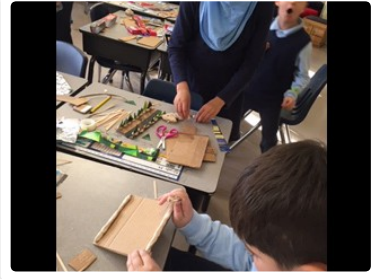
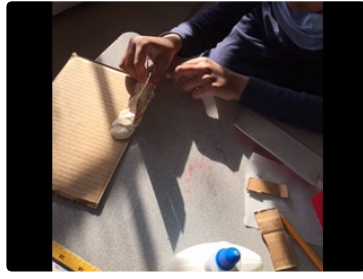
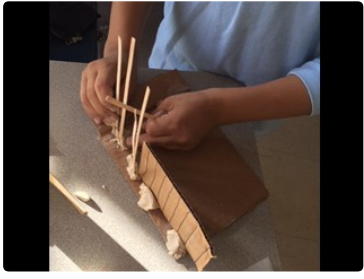
Please take a few minutes to view the pictures that is indicative of the fantastic work happening at Madina Academy.

Have a wonderful Family Break!

Masuda Vohra

BUILDING BRIDGES IN SECOND GRADE





Br. Abdul Malik's Article in CT Post: Faith Matters

The patriarch Abraham (peace be upon him for each mention) is much venerated in Islam, Judaism and Christianity. Muslims request a special blessing from God for him a minimum of five times daily during ritual prayers. The rites of hajj, which concluded recently, include a commemoration of acts done by Abraham, his wife, Hagar, and his son, Ishmael (peace be upon them). Hajj is the fifth and last pillar of Islam and is obligatory upon every financially and physically able Muslim at least once in their lifetime. Hajj is the annual pilgrimage to the Kaaba and the surrounding areas in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. The Kaaba is the house of worship that was built by Abraham in dedication to the one God. Abraham was such a dedicated and devoted servant of God that God honored him, chose him as a close friend and made him a leader and role model for all of humanity. God says in scripture: "And who is better in faith than those who (fully) submit themselves to God; Do good; And follow the Way of Abraham, the upright? God chose Abraham as a close friend" (Qur'an 4:125) and "You already have an excellent example in Abraham and those with him" (Qur'an 60:4).

There are many lessons from the legacy of Abraham as a role model, leader and close friend of God for these times. Here are three:

1. The importance of seeking knowledge and truth.

Abraham was not a blind follower of the multiple gods of his times. He did not accept the ideas, beliefs, and practices of his idol-worshipping people on face value without thinking. Rather, he dedicated himself to inquire about God's attributes, right to lordship, and right to be worshipped alone without partners or associates. Abraham also challenged his people to think in this regard (Qur'an 6:80-81).

2. The importance of a heart that is full of faith.

Abraham's quest led him to faith. Once he found faith, he never let go. He submitted himself to God, devoted himself to the worship of God and dedicated himself to the service of God (Qur'an 2:131). His faith was opposed, and it was tested with different trials. Abraham was faced with attempted execution by burning, for example, but his faith in God was resolute. Abraham also proved true-hearted when God commanded him to leave his second wife, Hagar, and their infant son, Ishmael, alone in a barren, uncultivated valley. He also proved faithful later when asked to sacrifice the same son when the boy was an adolescent. Each time, Abraham demonstrated his love of, trust in and reliance upon God. God greatly rewarded Abraham for his sincerity.

3. The importance of a sound heart.

God describes Abraham in the Qur'an as having a sound heart (37:84). A sound heart is one that is mindful of God and enables a person to say words and do works that are pleasing to God while keeping the person from saying or doing things that are displeasing to God. A person with a sound heart is mindful of God, loves God above self and above everything else, and is gracious to God's creatures.

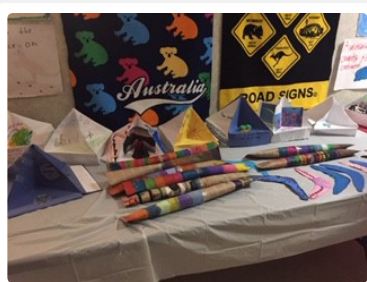
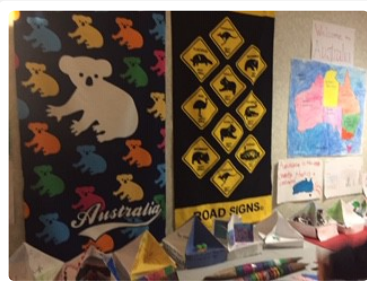
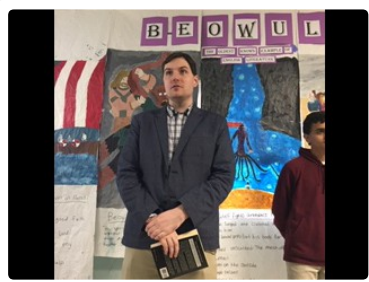
There are all kinds of trials in these modern times that test faith and may be unsettling. These include the obscuring of the difference between truth and falsehood, the inducement to misguidance and hatred, and the pollution of hearts leading to senseless acts of violence against fellow human beings. There is hope. Abraham's faith and leadership model provides clear signs for anyone needing spiritual relief from these trials. The Way of Abraham requires seeking and striving for truth, placing faith and trust in the oneness of God and the unity of humanity, and rising above the fray to love God above everything else and to love humanity for the love of God.

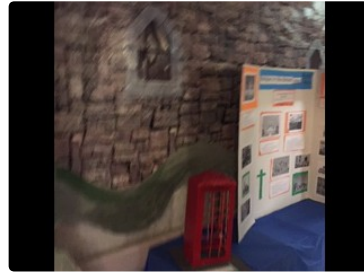
Like Abraham and the pilgrims who had come from all corners of the earth to gather as one and commemorate him, the way entails sacrifice. However, the rewards are much greater than the sacrifice – closeness to God.

AbdulMalik Negedu is a community chaplain with Malik Human Services Institute Inc. in New Haven.

<https://www.ctpost.com/religion/article/FAITH-MATTERS-Lessons-for-our-times-from-Abraham-14301013.php>

A GLIMPSE OF THE MULTICULTURAL FAIR





Opinion By a Middle Schooler

Have you ever had those days where everything goes wrong? Everything is making you mad: you just got a horrible grade, and you want to just relax? Or maybe one of those days that were the complete opposite? Good days, or bad days, everyone needs a break. As a hard working middle school kid, I think we deserve a little 10-20 minute break. The only time we get to have a little break is during lunch, and we have to stay inside, quickly eat our lunch, and make wudu' and pray. Although, sometimes we do fool around and mess up, but everybody makes mistakes. And yes, sometimes we take too long outside, and go places we shouldn't go, and no, we don't deserve free time like that. At some point in the day, we need time to enjoy ourselves and play around. Then again, good day or bad, we all deserve a break.

By Amani Abuteen Grade 6

Dates To Remember:

Tuesday, Dec 10th: Picture Retakes

Thursday, Dec 12th: Early Dismissal

Friday, Dec 13th: PTS BAKE SALE

Thursday, Dec 19th: Speaker on Atheism: Tentative

Mon, Dec 23rd- Thurs, Jan 2nd: Winter Break

