



Parenting Advisory

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Principal Speaking

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh

We have had a great opening day for the 2010-2011 school year! I want to compliment our students, faculty and parents for making the opening day a success;

We are off to a very good start to the year. It has been great to visit with our students as they return to campus. I have seen some outstanding and positive attitudes from students who are ready to embrace the upcoming school year.

We are looking for several parent volunteers to help during lunch supervision. We are hoping to get a few volunteers who could commit 2 or 3 hours of time at least once a week.

Research is clear on the value of parent involvement. When parents and schools work together, kids do better in school. Find out if your child's teacher is looking for volunteers. If so, sign up now if you can.

Look for ways to help support your child's learning at home too. Supervise a regular homework time. Read as a family. If you have concerns about learning or behavior, talk with the teacher soon. Your child's teacher is your best ally when it comes to education. The teacher can offer insight into what happens in the classroom and how your child is doing there. She can also tell you what she expects from her students. So take time to connect with your child's teacher, whether in person, by phone or via email. It could be one of the most important connections you make all year.

In closing, let me thank all of you in advance for everything you will do to partner with us in educating your student at Austin Peace Academy this school year.

Jazkum Allah Khair

TIP



If your child runs, jumps, hops and zips through her day, she might have a tough time sitting still for long stretches to do homework. So don't insist on it. Instead, build regular "get up and move" breaks into her study sessions.

This will help her stay focused when she actually does sit down to work. And it just may keep those "ants in the pants" from getting out of control!

Nutrition Matters!



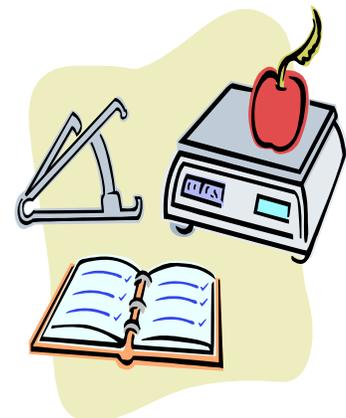
Eating healthy won't only make your child healthy it may help her perform better in school.

Research shows that kids who are well nourished:

- **Are better able** to concentrate in class.
- **Have an easier time** completing complex tasks.
- **Earn higher scores** on tests.
- **Have fewer mood swings.**

So always start your child's day with a healthy breakfast – and send her off to school ready to learn!

Source: "Proper Nutrition Adds to Success in School," www.babyboomers.com/proper-nutrition-adds-to-success-in-school/188.



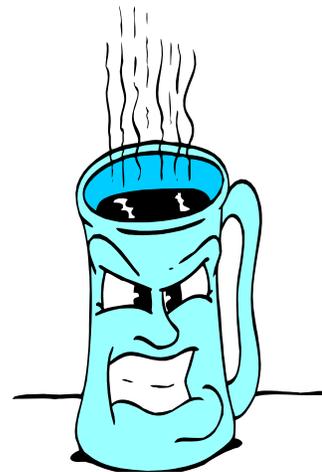
Give Your Child The Courage To Face Consequences

It's tempting for kids to make excuses for their misbehavior. ("My brother did it!") After all, they want to please their parents. But no one is perfect, and everyone must accept responsibility. This takes practice. It helps to learn how to respond to excuses such as:



- "I didn't do it." If your child is being dishonest, probe for the truth without being judgmental. "That doesn't make sense to me. I'd like to know what really happened." Also mention how much you appreciate honesty. When he confesses, compliment him for telling the truth, but still enforce the consequence.
- "It was his fault." Blaming someone else is an easy way to avoid guilt. Instead of letting your child off the hook, focus on solution. Say, "How can we keep this from happening again?" Later, when things are calm, talk about the situation. How did it make others feel? What if your child had made a different choice?
- "I didn't mean to do it." Accidents do happen, but rather than placing blame, discuss results. "Either way, you can help clean it up. Unfortunately, we'll be late for the party." By stating the facts calmly, you encourage honesty and good behavior future.

Source: S. Marshall, "How to teach kids to accept responsibility for their action," Parents.com, www.parents.com/kids/responsibility/values/its-not-my-fault/.



"I didn't mean to do it!!"

Just The Facts, Please



avoid arguments with your child by stating facts, not opinion. Here's an example:

OPINION: "You never clean up your schoolwork!"

FACT: "Your notebooks are scattered on the floor."

The first statement practically invites an angry reply from your child. But the second? It's a simple statement of fact- and one that's hard to argue with!



Source: Scott Brown, *how to negotiate with Kids Even when you thin you shouldn't*, ISBN: 0-14-200398-0 Penguin.

Hadeeth of the Month

The prophet (peace be upon him) said “Acts are judged by the intention behind them. Everyone is rewarded according to his intention” and his saying, “Allah does not judge you according to your forms and properties, but according to your hearts and deeds “. (Transmitted by Muslim).

The above -mentioned affirms what the Muslim thinks about the supreme seriousness and high importance of the intention. Accordingly, the Muslim should depend on good intentions in doing all his actions. He should exert his best efforts not to do any action without having such intention or while having a bad intention. If the intention is good, the action will be considered to be valid. If the intention is bad, the action will be considered to be invalid.

Intention

The Muslim should believe that the intention is the cornerstone and condition of the validity of the action. Likewise, he should not consider the intention as only a word uttered by the tongue (Allah, I intend to do...). Nor should he consider it as only a conversation with himself. However, it is the heart's tendency towards the action of good purpose. Such purpose could be bringing any benefit or pushing any harm away that appears now or in the future.



School Connection

Academic Improvements Continue at Austin Peace Academy

By Mr. Alex Pritchard



The students arrived for the 2010-2011 school year and new educational improvements were found in every classroom. Most noticeably were the addition of College Board certified courses in Advanced Placement Chemistry and Advanced Placement Literature and Composition. In order to receive certification, teachers are required to submit their syllabus to College Board who verifies that the course meets the rigorous requirements to earn college credit. Listening Centers greeted five classrooms in the elementary school. These centers will enhance student listening skills, imagination, creativity and overall, makes learning fun.

The High School added new classes in Pre-calculus, American Government, and Economics. The more subtle changes in the curriculum will occur in Middle School. In 6th, 7th, and 8th grade, students will take 7 classes in Language Arts each week instead of the normal five classes. This addition will enhance APA's ability to expand critical reading skills and teach more advanced writing skills.



APA Welcomes New Faculty Members

APA added three new teachers this year and completed its move to establish a full high school faculty. Laura Khalil, a fourth year teacher, joined APA by taking on middle school history classes and freshmen English. Laura comes to us from KIPP Charter School and is a graduate of Yale University.

Also joining our Middle School is Amna Rahman. Amna will be teaching 6th, 7th, and 8th grade English. Amna's education includes a LLB degree (Bachelor of Law degree) from London School of Economics and a Masters Degree in English Literature from Queens University in London.

APA also welcomes Pre-School teacher Nadia Abadallah. She graduated from Purdue University in elementary education and has experience working in several schools in Indiana.



Activities in September 2010

- *September 13– Eid Celebration*
- *September 17– Mid quarter progress report*
- *September 24– Open House*



We are on the web
www.apacademy.org