



Parenting Advisory

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Principal Speaking

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh

Parents sometimes approach parent-teacher conferences with a mixture of anxiety and interest. "What does the teacher think about my child?" And "what does the teacher think about me as a parent?"

Rather than worry, be confident! No child, teacher or parent is perfect. Research shows that it takes teamwork to create school success.

To arrive at your next conference prepared on October 29:

- **List the topics you want to discuss.** It's tempting to chit chat with the teacher, but time is short, so address priorities first. You might ask questions such as, "Is my child reading at grade level?" or "Is my child getting along well with other students?"
- **Be open-minded.** Listen to what the teacher has to say about your child's strengths and weaknesses. Remember that you both want your child to succeed. Discuss how you can work together toward progress. Be specific. Ask what will help at school. Ask what you can do at home.
- **Stay in touch.** Plan how you'll follow up after the meeting, such as by email or telephone. You might even volunteer in class and observe how your child is doing. Assure the teacher that you want to stay informed and involved.

Jazkum Allah Khair

TIP



As your child gets older she may start to disagree with you more often. You should still expect her to:

- **Be polite.** "I don't want to go to soccer practice today" is much better than "I hate soccer!"
- **Explain herself.** Listen to her reasons and keep an open mind. You may even decide she's right!

Source: K.Miles, "Twins: The New Toddlers?" Parenting, www.parenting.com / article/ Child/ Development/ Twins-The-New-Toddlers.

Silence Encourages Better Communication

Conversation is a wonderful tool for staying connected to your child. But don't assume you always know how to talk to her. Research shows that parents may:

- **Presume to know** what their child is going to say before she says it.
- **Mentally "Judge"** their child's words as she's speaking.

Unfortunately, this approach to communication doesn't help the conversation – it squashes it! To have a truly meaningful talk with your child, start by listening.



...really listening?

Source: Dr.Marvin Marshall, Discipline without stress, punishments or Rewards, ISBN: 0-9700606-1-0, Piper Press

Teach The Importance Of Perseverance

Achieving school success is tough for many children. It requires perseverance! In a lengthy study involving kids with learning disabilities, this character trait was linked to adult success. People with perseverance:

P Perseverance



Staying with a task,
not giving up.

- **Know** that hard work pays off.
- **Refuse** to quit easily.
- **Figure out** how to overcome challenges
- **Stop** unsuccessful strategies – and try new ones.

You can encourage these qualities in your child. Talk about the benefits of determination. Look for examples of it in people's lives, including your child's. Discuss what would happen if people didn't persevere. Support and compliment your child as he tries hard!

Source: M.H. Raskind and R.J.Goldberg, " Life Success For Students With Learning Disabilities : A Parent's Guide , " LD Online , www.Idononline.org/



Find your way to the stars!!

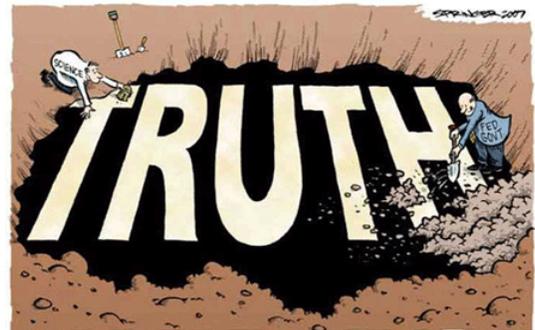
Hadeeth of the Month

The Prophet SAS said: If anyone is pleased to love Allah (SWT) and His Messenger (SAS), or rather to have Allah (SWT) and his Messenger love him, he should speak the truth when he says anything, and fulfill his trust when he is in position of trust”.

Honesty

Honesty is best led by example. What's the best way to teach your child about honesty? Demonstrating it! To be a role model of honesty:

- **Play by the rules.** If the DVD game for the X-BOX is due to the store by tomorrow, return it by tomorrow.
- **Don't fib when you buy tickets.** Is your child 11? Then don't claim he's 10 just so you can buy a cheaper ticket.
- **Own up to your mistakes.** "You're right, officer. I was speeding and I'm sorry."



PSIA Competition

Students and teachers this year are enjoying the last period on Friday afternoons practicing and participating in one of many Private School Association activities. Many of our high school students are deep in practice for one of the University Interscholastic League competitions. The decision was made to end Fridays with an enjoyable class which is deeply rooted in academic competition. Each teacher has been assigned to "coach" one of our academic teams and this period allows practice and coaching time. Our students can be seen competing in activities ranging from spelling, vocabulary, and debate to maps, graphs, and charts. In February teachers will be dividing up their teams for PSIA competition and parents will be receiving forms that allow their child to participate in our district PSIA competition. Good luck to all competitors!



Open House

Approximately 80 parents attended the annual Open House at APA to visit their child's classes and to meet on a personal level their child's teacher. "We are proud of our school and we want to give parents a chance to visit the classrooms and observe firsthand the excitement of APA", said Sr. Diana Abdi the school Principal. Food was served and parents were allowed to move from class to class to hear directly from the teacher the goals and objectives for this year classes. The schedule was created so that parents could hear from virtually all of their child's teachers. "We wanted to make sure parents could hear from the student's Islamic Studies, Koran, Arabic, and Physical Education teachers and not just the core class teachers. We believe every class at APA is valuable and deserves time at Open House", commented Mr. Alex Pritchard, Director of Academic Affairs for the Middle School and the High School.



APA and the Interfaith Breakfast

On Saturday, September 24th, Muslims for Peace sponsored an interfaith breakfast at the North Lamar Mosque. Approximately 150 people from all walks of life attended the gathering. In addition to a wonderful breakfast a short program was presented which explained Islam. After the presentations a lively question and answer period followed. A number of community organizations provided booths including a table for Austin Peace Academy. Ms. Laura Khalil and Mr. Alex Pritchard represented APA. The booth provided brochures and featured our school video which gathered a lot of attention from the participants.

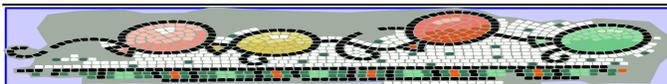


School Connection

Character Building Continues at APA



On September 16th, Austin Peace Academy kicked off our newest community service education with the Legacy of Giving Program. The program teaches the value of philanthropy to students of all ages. The opening lesson was entitled, "Blue Skies" and challenged APA students to envision a better community at the local, national, or international level. The program was adapted from the national curriculum and included two ahadeeth and a beautiful story from the Qur'an. The students were able to transform the important character building lessons they have been taught in their Islamic Studies classes to every day challenges they see in their own neighborhoods. The program will continue in October and November with character building lessons and then we kick off our first community service program on our campus. We hope parents will "stay tuned" for important ways they too can become involved in our newest community service education program.



EID Celebrated at APA

On Monday, September 13th APA celebrated EID through a campus wide effort. Elementary students enjoyed a fun filled Play Day on campus. Sr. Diana brought in professional play equipment for the young students to enjoy. While elements of fun and laughing could be heard across the playground important lessons of cooperative play and team work were also quite noticeable. Forty-seven students and faculty members from the middle and high school were treated to a day of paint ball in nearby Jonestown. With the girls only playing against the other girls, it appeared from their return that Sr.'s Diana, Amna, Eman, Huda and Emily had little chance against the marksmanship of the APA girls. Alex was the only male teacher, and while he held his own in the first two games with the boys, the "sneaky and conspiratorial plan" concocted by the ninth grade boys, soon led to his demise in game three. The older students returned to campus to a wonderful lunch of hot dogs and hamburgers. The EID celebration was a fun day for all and provided a happy transition back into the classroom after a two week break from classroom studies.



Activities in October 2010

- *October 15 Report Card*
- *October 16 PSA7*
- *October 20 Picture Day*
- *October 23 International Restaurant*
- *October 29 Parent-Teacher Conference*



We are on the web
www.apacademy.org