

Alphie's Post

Assalaamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatahu,

Dear Parents,

The month of January quietly flew by and Alhumdulillah we're only a few months away from Ramadan and graduation. We are also well into flu season and have had many staff and students affected by it. Please take extra measures and if your child experiences any symptoms, ensure they are fully recovered before sending them back to school. We must be mindful of all our staff and dear students and take necessary precautions to prevent this from spreading, InshaAllah.

Furthermore, we have changed the name of our newsletter. We feel the new name is fitting and representative of our school. Our aim will remain the same; to bring you great parenting tips and insight into your child's life here at Austin Peace Academy.

JazaakumAllahu Khair,
Principal Diana Abdi-M.Ed

5110 Manor Rd.
Austin, TX 78723
Phone: 512-926-1737
Fax: 512-926-9688
principal@apacademy.org

Contents

- ◆ Parenting Advisory, p. 1–2
- ◆ Reflecting on Character, p. 3
- ◆ APA in Action, p. 4–17
- ◆ February Calendar, p. 17

Serve foods that feed your child's brain



The food your child eats can have a big effect on his performance in school. Students who skip breakfast don't do as well in school as kids who start their day with a healthy meal. And when children eat meals that are high in fat and sugar, their bodies tend to crash, and they become very tired—making it hard to concentrate.

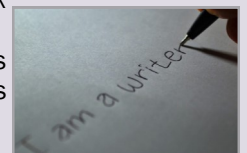
To help your child learn to make healthy food choices, buy only the food you want him to eat—such as lean proteins, fruit, vegetables and whole grains. He can't eat unhealthy food if it isn't around.

Source: Childhood Nutrition Facts, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nswc.com/nutrition

Help your child polish writing skills

To express their thoughts effectively in writing, your child must combine a variety of skills. Here are five ways you can help them tackle the challenge:

1. **Ask your child** to think out loud before starting. Clear writing starts with clear thinking. Talking through their ideas with you can help them clarify them,
2. **Encourage your child** to take notes and make an outline before they start to write. This will help them organize their thoughts.
3. **Have them focus** on what they want to say in a rough draft. After they get their ideas down, they can edit for spelling and grammar and create a final draft.
4. **Give more praise** than criticism. Be specific: "Your description really told me how Ali felt when he was lost." It's OK to point out some errors, but don't let your child think you look only for what's wrong.
5. **Be patient.** Learning to write well takes time. With your support, your child's skills will improve.



Simple activities help your child explore the world of science

Like many parents, you may be unsure how to help your child learn science. You don't have to have a science background or expensive equipment to do it. Just encourage your child to observe the science that is going on all around them.

Try these activities together:

- **Begin a collection** of items from nature, such as rocks or shells. Each time your child adds something new, help them record where it came from and describe its features.
- **Keep a weather chart.** Help your child keep track of the temperature and other conditions every day for a month.
- **Take a walk on a warm night** and look at the stars. Can your child identify constellations? If not, look for a book or an app that can help.
- **Figure out how the spin cycle** of the washing machine gets the water out of the clothes.
- **Visit a park or nature preserve** at different times of the year. Have your child record and classify the animals they see—as mammals, reptiles, insects, etc. Do they see different animals in different seasons?
- **Use a magnifying glass to look closely** at leaves on a house plant, a bug or hair from your child's head.



My child wants everything now. What should I do?

Q: My daughter has no patience. She can't seem to wait for anything. Her teacher says her impatience is becoming a problem at school. What can I do to fix this?

A: In this era of on-demand entertainment, it can be challenging for kids to learn to wait. But patience is necessary for school success. It takes patience to wait for one's turn and to keep from interrupting others. It takes patience to read all the way to the end of a long book and to continue trying to understand something that isn't immediately clear.

To help your child develop more patience:

- **Explain that everyone** has to learn to wait, and you are going to help her with this skill.
- **Give her opportunities** to be patient. When she asks for something, say something like, "In a minute." If she wants your attention when you are busy, come up with a hand signal that means, "When I'm finished."
- **Recognize the challenge**, and praise her success. "It's hard to listen to your brother talk when you have something to say. But you waited patiently. Now I am going to listen carefully to you."
- **Demonstrate patience yourself.** Stay calm when you are stuck in traffic, for example. You might say, "It looks like we're going to be in the car for a while. Let's play a game."

Do you use report cards as learning tools?

Report cards come at the end of grading periods. But they are a great tool for new beginnings. Are you using your child's report cards to talk about school, study habits and how to move forward? Answer yes or no below:

 1. Do you set aside time to talk with your child about each report card?

 2. Do you discuss whether your child agrees with the grades they earned, and why or why not?

 3. Do you speak calmly, and treat your child's report card as something to learn from?

 4. Do you help your child recognize positive habits that led to their success, and suggest ways they can improve grades if necessary?

 5. Do you contact the teacher if you have concerns?



How well are you doing?

More yes answers mean you are helping your child use their report card as a guide for the future. For each no, try that idea.

Discover remarkable people

Many famous people were born in February. This month, help your child learn about:

- **Charles Dickens (Feb. 7).** Many of this celebrated English writer's works are semi-autobiographical. Ask your child to write a fictional story using details from their own life.
- **Thomas Edison (Feb. 11).** Edison had little formal education, but went on to earn more than 1,000 U.S. patents for his inventions. What would your child like to invent?
- **Susan B. Anthony (Feb. 15).** Anthony led the campaign for voting rights for women. Talk with your child about why the ability to vote is important.

Reflecting on Character



COMPASSION ~

-- **Mercifulness**, gentleness, kindness, tenderness, caring, concern, and love are just a few synonyms for *compassion*. Exhibition of any of these warm traits puts one in a good place as a human being, and more importantly, as one who mirrors one of God's divine attributes. "Compassion is one of the most frequently occurring words in the Qur'an. Each of its 114 surahs, with the exception of the 9th, begins with the invocation 'In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful' ..." The first surah further refers to Allah as *Rabb al-'Alamin* (Lord/Sustainer of the whole world). Providing sustenance for *everything* that exists throughout the universe, in and of itself, conveys the reality of His Compassion.

Allah (swt) says, "**My Mercy encompasses all things**". [Qur'an 7:156]

The following hadith was reported by Aisha (ra):

The Messenger of Allah (saw) said, "**O Aisha, Allah is gentle and He loves gentleness. He rewards for gentleness what is not granted for harshness, and He does not reward anything else like it.**" [Sahih Muslim, 2593]

From this we understand how much of an integral part compassion should play in our lives, and the inherent gains to be had for something so easily accomplished. There are as many relationships in which the simplest acts of kindness can be displayed as there are ways to show them – parent to child, and vice versa; husband to wife, and vice versa; sibling to sibling; teacher to student; colleague to colleague; doctor to patient; owner to pet; individual to environment; friend to friend, and even friend to foe. *What to do?* Give – a smile, a kind or encouraging word, a compliment, an attentive ear, a lending hand and the list goes on.

May Allah (swt) bless us with this endearing trait, and cause us to never lose the hope of His of mercy. Amen.

APA in Action

Pillars of Iman

Allah the Highest, through his infinite mercy and wisdom has made the Deen of Islam easy to learn and understand. The 5th Grade class gained a thorough understanding of the Pillars of Iman by learning the importance of each pillar. Students experimented by comparing an empty person (symbolized by a balloon filled only with air), who does not follow any pillar, with a person who follows all the pillars (symbolized by a balloon full of water).



Furthermore, the instructor can label five different water bottles, each with one of the five pillars, and then use these bottles to fill the balloons. When passed over the bridge (the "sirat", symbolized by the flame of a candle), the balloons filled only with air will pop, while the balloons filled with water (symbolizing the five pillars) will not. This symbolizes the safe journey across the sirat the people who follow the pillars of Islam will have.



APA in Action

KG Rocket Experiment

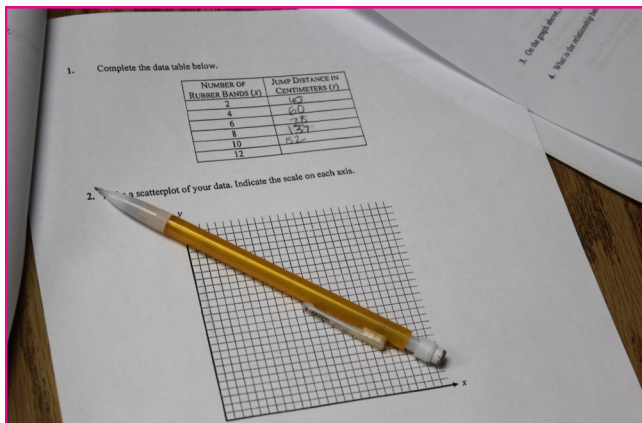


The kindergarteners learned about space exploration and did a rocket ship launching activity. Mohammed Ashour, a kindergarten parent, built the rocket models for this activity and the kids were very excited to do the countdown, see the rockets fly high, and deploy their parachutes. After the activity, the kids answered questions like “What caused the rockets to launch?”, “Which rocket went higher?” “Is it the big one or the small one?” and “What is the purpose of the parachute?”. Overall, it was a fun experiment and the kids learned a lot.



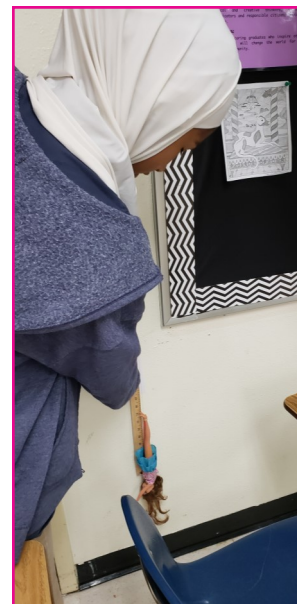
APA in Action

Barbie Bungee Break



Ms. Maysaa’s Algebra I class conducted the Barbie Bungee experiment from illuminations.nctm.org, The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. The students stimulated bungee jump action using a Barbie doll and rubber bands. Students read the data and then graphed it. According to the data of the table and graph, they also wrote the equation by finding (calculating) the slope and the Y intercept. They also had to explain the meaning of the rate of change and the Y intercept.

Experiments and real-life applications can help students improve their understanding, performance in class and develop interest in what they are learning.



APA in Action

In-School Science Fairs



3rd Grade Winners (L to R): Rushad Otallah (2nd), Arsalan Iqbal (3rd) and Omar Abu-Ghazaleh (1st)



4th Grade Winners (L to R): Batool Hussein (1st), Ali Siddiqui (2nd), Jude Sadi (3rd) and Aariz Karim-Ali (4th)



5th Grade Winners (L to R): Arham Saeed (1st), Mohammed Feroz (2nd), Tahiyah Rahman (3rd) and Ayman Mohammed (4th)

Alhumdulillah for a successful Science Fair! Austin Peace Academy's Science Department organized and hosted another great year of our in-school event for Elementary and MS/HS Divisions.

Students spent the first half of the year selecting their projects, conducting experiments, analyzing results, and preparing their presentations. All of the students did an outstanding job and impressed the volunteer judges.

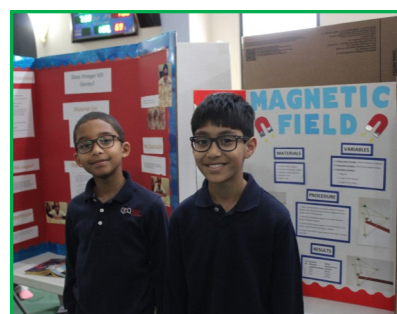
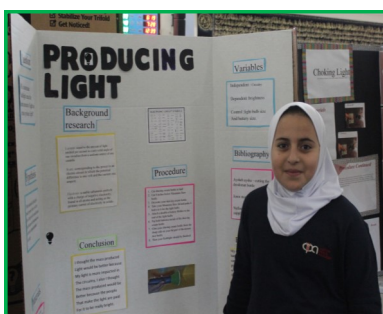
Elementary students who placed 1st through 4th qualify to participate in the Regional Science Fair, while all other interested students in Middle and High School have the opportunity to participate.

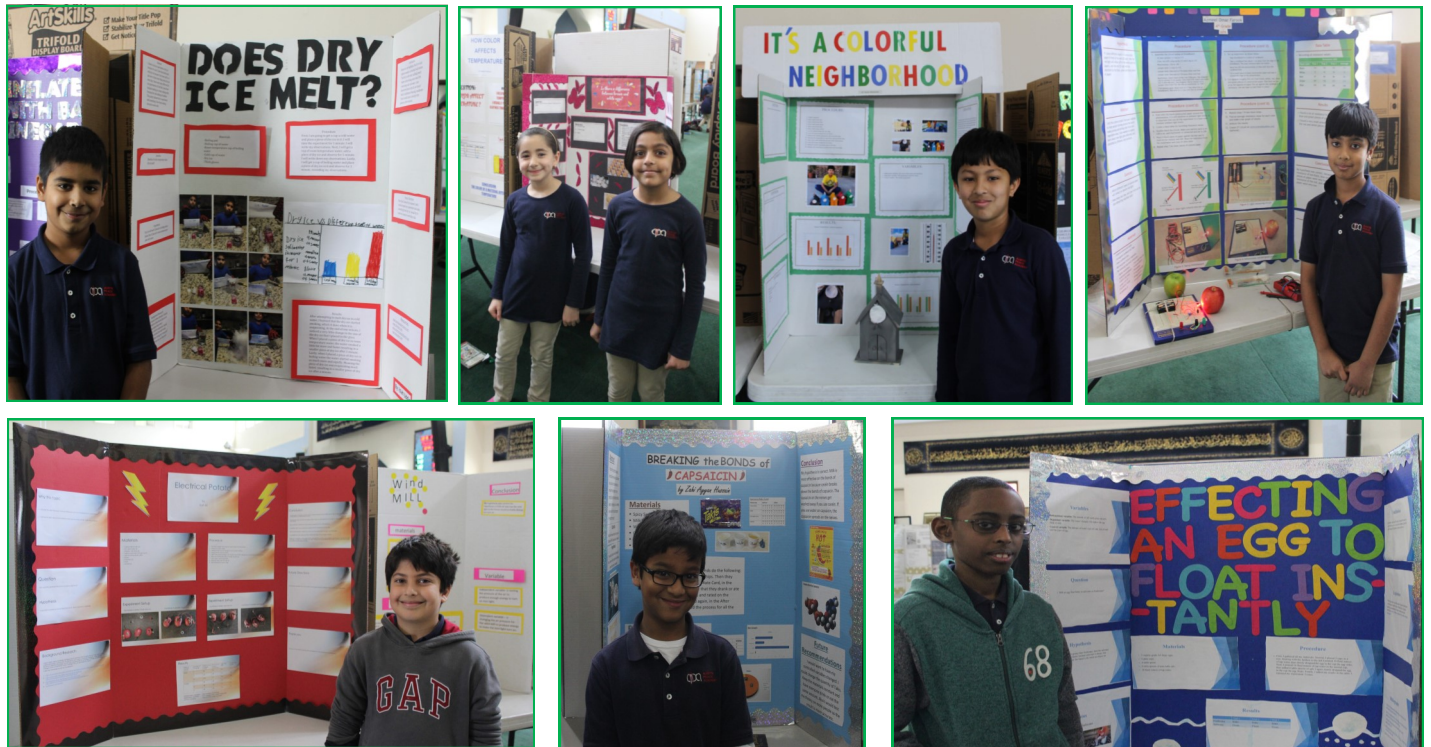
Congratulations to all of the winners and participants for an excellent, well-presented Science Fair. Our sincere gratitude to all our volunteer judges, Ms.Nahed Abougala-la and Ms.Nadeyah Baddour.

← Elementary Division ↓



Judges and Science Department Heads





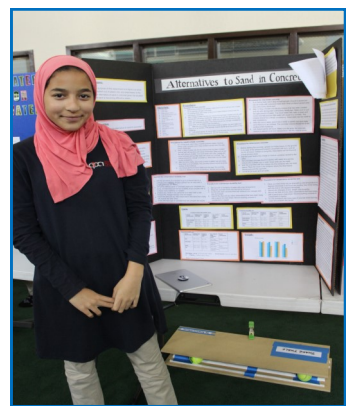
Middle and High School Division ↓



6th Grade Winners (L to R): Zuhayr Khondker (1st), Waleed Haider (2nd), Imran Abdullah (3rd), and Saboor Ahmed (4th)



7th Grade Winners (L to R): Danyaal Mahmood (2nd), Sadien Hirzallah (3rd) and Ayaan Karim-Ali (3rd)



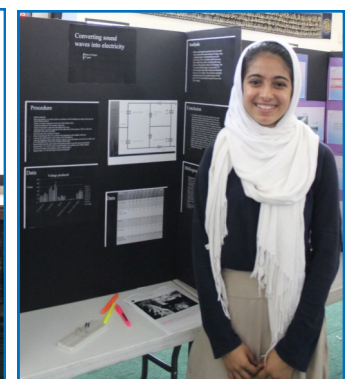
7th Grade: Jenna Nour El Deen (1st)



8th Grade Winners (L to R): Haroon Amanullah (1st), Ali Hammoud (2nd), Taha Taha (3rd), and Ayman Mahfuz (4th)



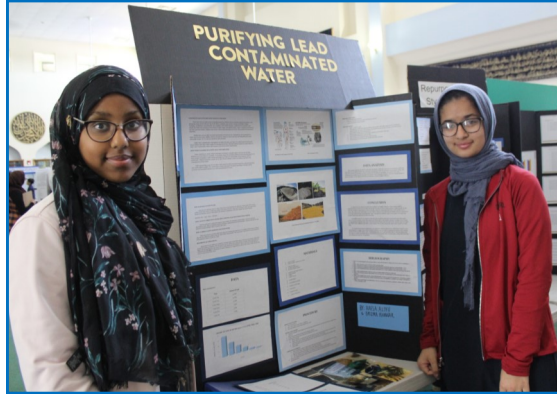
9th Grade Winners (L to R): Mariam Abuikhdaier (1st), Alisha Saeed (2nd) and Tasnim Djadi (4th)



9th Grade: Razan Al-Omari (3rd)

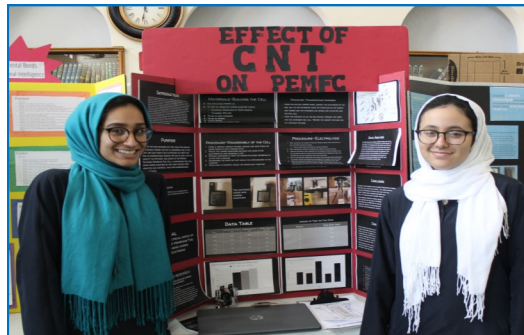
APA in Action

Middle and High School Division



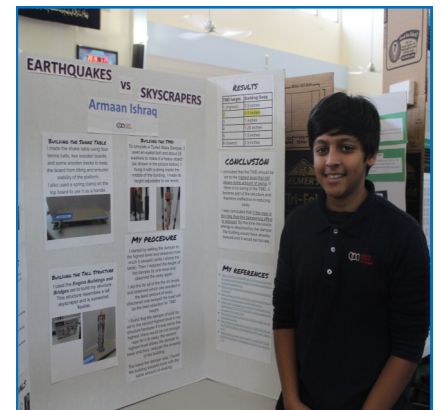
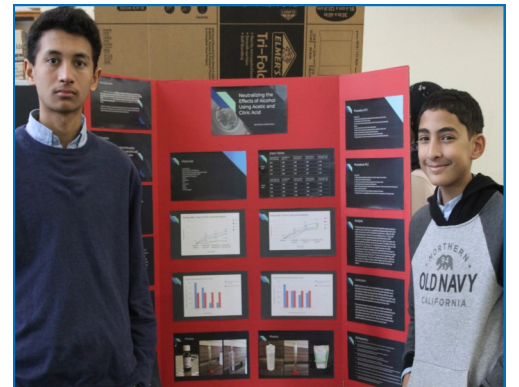
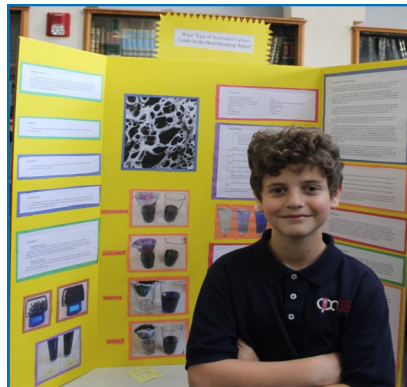
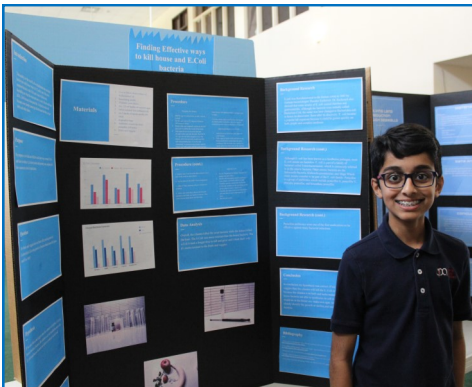
10th Grade Winners (L to R): Safiyya Haider (1st), Nora Boumaraf (1st) and Fatima Khawar (3rd).

10th Grade Winners: Hafsa Aliyu and Fatima Khawar (3rd)



10th Grade Winner: Eisa Rafat (4th)

10th Grade Winners: Ayla Saeed and Nora Boumaraf (1st)



APA in Action

Debaters shine in El Campo

On Saturday, January 12th, the APA Varsity debate team competed at a tournament held in El Campo, Texas. The debaters performed exceptionally well and picked up the sweepstakes award for the best performance in a small school competition. In addition, Varisha Masroor received an award for being the top speaker in the tournament.

Varsity Debate (Swept 1st - 3rd):

1st place: Varisha Masroor and Wajiha Masroor

2nd place: Imaad Thakur and Ahmad Elessawy

3rd place: Sumeya Aliyu and Raneen Aljamal



AACTM Spring Conference

Our Math teachers attended the AACTM Spring Conference, which is an annual Austin area conference for K-12 mathematics teachers. Sessions featured talks on the use of technology and manipulatives in classroom instruction.



There were 175 teachers in attendance at the conference. The theme was that Math teachers are "Super Heroes". The APA teachers all met at lunch and had a out-of-focus picture made. Our teachers found the conference very educational and are now ready to implement strategies that learned at the conference.

APA in Action

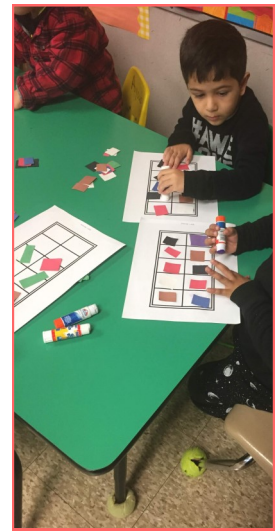
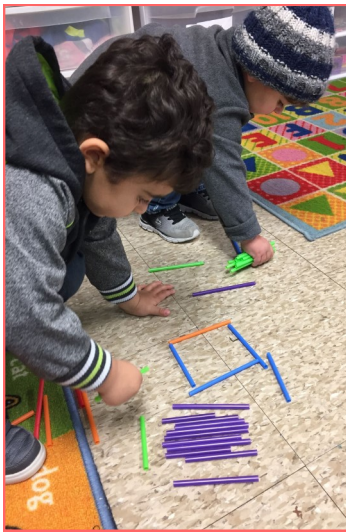
Pre-K 2/3 Arts and Crafts



The arts, crafts and Play-Doh center helps us practice hand eye coordination, vocabulary building, color identification, and identifying objects with beginning sounds of the alphabet. We also learn creativity, and self-expression. The Play-Doh center helps us develop motor skills and hand-eye coordination, and develop respect for each others work.

Math Centers

In the math center, we learned about patterns, shapes, size, grouping, building, and stacking. This helps us to show independence with trial and error. Getting practice with sorting at an early age helps us in understanding the concept of numbers, counting, and organizing things into groups.



Science and Social Studies

Recently, we were introduced to our new classroom pet: a betta fish! We are discovering, interacting, learning oral language and improving social skills, all through observing the fish. We are learning to differentiate between living and non-living things, and how living things need food, water, and sunlight to survive.



In social studies, we are learning about the important citizens of our society and their jobs. We studied about what a postman does, and are using our letterbox to learn how letters are sent out and received. With this, we are learning about picture directions, taking turns, and new vocabulary.

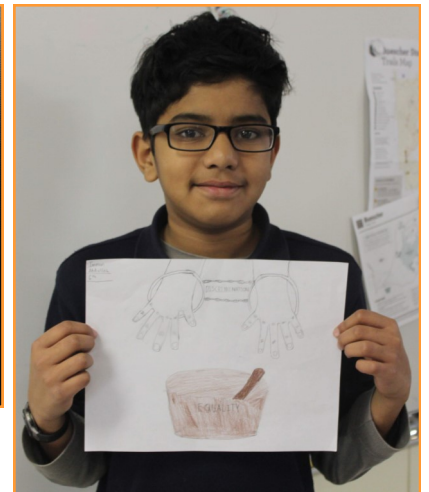
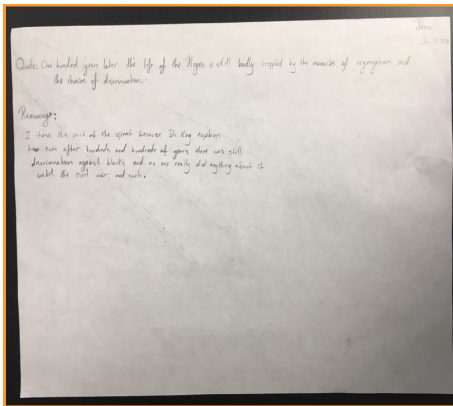


APA in Action

6TH GRADE PRESENTATIONS



Sixth grade English students watched, heard and read Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's "I Have a Dream" speech. Upon choosing a favorite line and clarifying any unknown vocabulary/context, each student reflected upon his/her personal connection to the line chosen. Finally, students interpreted these pieces into a unique illustration and presented it to the class. Sixth graders created work showing the universality of King's message as it applies to gender, religion, race, socioeconomic and other background differences as having a common dream within the human family.



I Have a Dream ...



APA in Action

TEXAS MUSLIM CAPITOL DAY



On Tuesday, January 29, Muslim community members and leaders met with state lawmakers as part of “Texas Muslim Capitol Day” organized by the Texas chapters of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-Texas), the nation’s leading Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization. Seven of our students attended this event with Sh. Attia. Two students served as Officers of Amnesty International.

Following a morning rally on the steps of the Capitol Building, participants attended a program on civic advocacy and continued engagement throughout the legislative session.

We received great feedback from Ms. Diane Kanawati, Secretary of CAIR Austin, who had nothing but kind words for our students.



Along with Ms. Kanawati, the students met with a representative from Senator Kirk Watson's office and Representative Celia Israel.

They very effectively used the legislative materials that they were given and asked some great questions. The session proved to be insightful and productive.



APA FALL 2018 HONOR ROLL

A Honor Roll

1st Grade

Aymaan Hussain



Jaihan Mahfuz
Ushkula Mansoor
Ameen Mohammed
Zayan Siddiqui



6th Grade
Imran Abdullah
Saboor Ahmed
Waleed Haider
Sereen Hammour
Zuhayr Khondker
Sumaiya Khwaja
Amina Monk
Hamza Rahman
Amna Siddiqui

2nd Grade

Omar Ahmed
Simrah Ahmed
Yara Al Abiad
Noor Ali



4th Grade

Zayed Islam
Safi Ali
Zahi Hussain
Faz Islam
Aariz Karim-Ali
Ali Siddiqui



8th Grade

Aizah Khan

9th Grade

Razan Al-Omari
Tasnim Djadi
Jabir Ubaydullah

Iman Basharahil
Mayar Bataineh
Sana Uddin
Mahibah Rahman



10th Grade

Asmaa Aliyu
Hafsa Aliyu
Nora Boumaraf
Safiyya Haider
Abdo-Lah Nour El Deen
Ayla Saeed

5th Grade

Ibraheem Elessawy
Arham Saeed



11th Grade

Afnaan Chowdhury
Hafsa Haider
Sama Hirzallah
Rushmia Hoq
Fatimah Hossain
Wajiha Masroor
Ameerah Mohammad
Safa Radde

3rd Grade

Omar Abu-Ghazaleh
Arsalan Iqbal
Ariana Ishraq



12th Grade

Bakhtawer Ayub
Ahmad Elessawy
Bushra Hamid
Shadin Hussein
Muhammad Mohseen
Imaad Thakur

APA FALL 2018 HONOR ROLL

A/B Honor Roll

1st Grade

Neda Abu-Ghazaleh
Yusra Ali
Ibrahim Allouch
Karam Bataineh
Nazif Khan
Rayyan Khurshid
Hisham Makkouk
Sheraz Mohideen
Aaliyah Popoola
Azlaan A. Syed

2nd Grade

Imran Abdelghany
Lareen Awad
Raneem Gaber
Mustafa Khan
Leanna Qazait
Maryam Rahman
Lana Tawfeeq

3rd Grade

Ghazal Allouch
Yaser Elessawy
Ahmed Ibrahim
Adam Mohamed
Aiyla Mohiuddin
Rushad Otallah
Rayeed Rahman
Laila Saleem
Rayyan Syed
Fatima Taha
Zareen Yakub

4th Grade

Hanya Abdelghany
Azmeel Farook
Batool Hussein
Mubarak Ibrahim
Ibrahim Mohammed
Majd Obeidat
Asmaa Rahman
Jude Sadi

5th Grade

Ismael Abubakar
Mohamed Feroz
Maira Khan
Nayef Khan
Ayman Mohammed
Saeed Qazait
Ameena Rahman
Tahiyah Rahman

6th Grade

Yahya Ahmad
Malek Alwaqfi
Iman Barreh
Emaan Khan
Musa Qazait

7th Grade

Tasnim Aliyu
Reema Al-Omari
Ayaan Karim-Ali
Mujtaba Khan
Danyaal Mahmood
Zaid Mohammed
Jenna Nour El Deen
Nour Nour El Deen
Hafsah Rahman

8th Grade

Haroon Amanullah
Ayman Mahfuz
Shayaan Shah

9th Grade

Mariam Abuikhdair
Tamer Aljamal
Muna Barreh
Asmaa Kajjaj
Zainuddin Mohammed
Mohammed Qais
Aisha Saeed

10th Grade

Bilal Akhlaque
Ghalia Alnahas
Minha Barkatullah
Talal Hammoud
Fatima Khawar
Eisa Rafat
Lamya Seyam
Furwah Shah

11th Grade

Noura Abdi
Wali Ali
Maryam Amin
Hodan Barreh
Emaan Khan
Varisha Masroor

12th Grade

Sumeya Aliyu
Raneen Aljamal
Sarah Ayoub-Agha
Ahmed Eid

In the Spotlight

We are introducing a new section in our newsletter to highlight the efforts and hard work of our staff, called “In the Spotlight”. This segment will help you get to know your child’s teachers a little bit better. In this issue, we would like to shed light on our Pre-K 2/3 Teacher team of Mrs. Ambreen and Ms. Zinah.



Mrs. Ambreen Saeed has been a part of our APA community since 2011. She has served as the elementary school level teacher assistant for six years. In 2015, she received the best TA award. Mrs. Ambreen has also served as the PSIA Spelling Coach/Grader and Assistant Director.

She earned her Bachelor of Science Degree and her Bachelor of Arts in Education from the University of Punjab in Lahore, Pakistan. She also earned a paraprofessional certificate from ACC and attended a wide variety of workshops leading to certifications. In 2011, she earned a NAMC preschool/kindergarten Teaching Diploma for Montessori Schools. Her experience in the Montessori learning method and its implementation serves as great benefit to the students in fostering a love of learning through play and exploration.



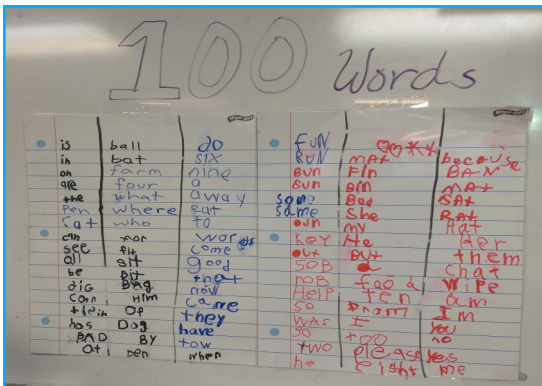
Ms. Zinah has been with Austin Peace Academy since 2015. She started off as a volunteer for our school’s lunch program and then was hired as a Teacher Assistant for Pre-K 4. She then transitioned into her current position with Pre-K 2/3. Ms. Zinah has a passion for working with children and loves her job. She also frequently babysits for events held at our facility for ICGA.



APA in Action



On January 29th, we completed a 100 days of school! Many of the lower elementary grades participated in different activities to celebrate this milestone showcasing all they have learned thus far.



As part of their 100 day activities, the Kinders came up with 100 words they have learned since the beginning of school. They hope to come up with double the words once they reach 200 days of school, InshaAllah!

February 2019

- February 5 Basketball Game
- February 11 Basketball Game
- February 14 5th Grade Field Trip
- February 16 UIL Debate Tournament
- February 18 Basketball Game
- February 20-23 Austin Regional Science Fair

* More Information can be found via email *



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