

# Community Connections

## Salam Academy: Where Education Has No Limits!

### From The School Board:

#### Invitation to ICNM Community For Celebrating Muslim Students Academic Successes

Dear ICNM families and Community:

Salam Academy is pleased to invite all members of the community to a dinner event on Sunday December 18, 2011 at The Islamic Center of New Mexico (ICNM). The dinner will be held in honor of all graduates from our community (college and high school) to celebrate their education successes.

After Maghrib prayer and preceding the dinner, Salam Academy Board members will provide a presentation highlighting its success and their new initiatives to solidify the school's role as a community school. A forum will be provided for your feedback and suggestions about the school. This event will also celebrate Salam Academy's 10-year anniversary. We look forward to your participation and to your help in making it a memorable evening. Please join us and bring a guest.

Sincerely,

The Board of Salam Academy, where Education has No Limits

"Indeed God is The Possessor of bounty for all people but most people do not give thanks."

(Al-Baqarah 2: 243).

Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, said, "He who does not thank people, does not thank God".

(Ahmad & Tirmidhi).

#### Newsletter Committee:

- Kamila Kasparian
- Rebecca Mosallaei
- Aamna Nayyar



Salam Academy Board of Directors had an open meeting with the teachers & parents on Sunday, November 20, 2011 at 1 pm at Salam Academy. The Board members presented an excellent PowerPoint on Plans & Vision, Brief of the School's financial, Fundraising Activities, Education Status, Network, Safety and Security at Salam academy. The meeting ended after an extensive questions, answer and suggestion session. The food, as always was yummy!



## Our Thanks to School Volunteers:

It gives us great pleasure to thank a group of people who ...

Even when things are tough and life seems busier than one can handle, I hope you can remember the value of your work.

You make schools better places. You make schools warmer

and brighter places. You motivate teachers on their toughest days.

Research says you help kids learn and schools thrive. It's huge, huge stuff.

On behalf of everyone at Salam Academy who should

thank you more but never quite get around to it -- thank you!

Dear Volunteers, we wish you peace, tranquility, happy and healthy families, and gratitude this Winter.

Jazak Allah Khair!

#### Star Volunteer of the Month:

Br. Ali Mosallaei donated his time and skills and installed keypad lock system in the school. Jazak Allah Khair to Br. Ali and all the parents like him who donate their time and efforts and are part of making this school stand out with pride.

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## From the Desk of the Administrator/ Budget Manager

- ◆ **REMINDER!** Tuition is due on the 1st of each academic month. Late fee apply after the deadline.
- ◆ Please read, understand and follow all the School's Policies & Procedures. Together we can help build the exemplary today and tomorrow of our children, Insha'Allah!
- ◆ For weather delays and closures, we generally follow APS, unless notified otherwise.
- ◆ Please send healthy snacks & lunch with your children following SA Food Policy.
- ◆ Stay connected by visiting the school's website, "Like" us on Facebook and remember to check the "My Grades" tab on the school's website to connect to GPA system.
- ◆ State & Capitals Contest is re-scheduled for Jan 13, 2011.
- ◆ School Spelling Bee is on Dec 9, 2011.

### Donations Received in Nov 2011:

- ⇒ **Thanks** to Sr. Jaleela Kassem for the donation of water pots (lotas) for bathroom use.
- ⇒ **Thanks** to Sr. Krista El Abbassy for arranging for the donation of the hockey table.
- ⇒ **Thanks** to Dr. Emawy and sons who helped in transporting the hockey table to the school from the donor's house.



- ⇒ Our own school building :-)
- ⇒ Printer Papers
- ⇒ Science Lab/ Project Supplies
- ⇒ Tennis Racquets
- ⇒ Toilet Rolls
- ⇒ Fitness Gears



### Ways to Achieve Greatness through Gratefulness:

1. Stop Complaining
2. Be positive!
3. Say "Al-hamdulillah"
4. Respect others' time and schedule
5. Seize the opportunity while you can
6. Be patient and grateful
7. Donate your time, talent, money
8. Advice to social work and non-profit efforts
9. Visit the sick, the terminally ill, and the disabled
10. Share the message of Islam by practicing
11. Recite and memorize the Duas
12. Fall in Prostration (Sajda) when you receive a blessing from Allah
13. Don't consider any blessing too small
14. Use and display Allah's blessings moderately
15. Don't be too picky and accommodate others
16. Admire those below you
17. Keep your expectations low
18. Thank people for littlest things
19. Compliments & recognition and motivate team members
20. When you thank someone, make sure you mean it

## From the Desk of P.T.O.

### 10 questions about your child and the school:

- 1-What is my child expected to learn?
- 2- What are the teacher's rules?
- 3- What behavior is expected of my child?
- 4- How does my child behave at school?
- 5- What is my child's attitude towards school?
- 6- Is my child giving his best effort?
- 7- How is my child doing in class?
- 8- How is my child doing socially?
- 9- What does my child have trouble with?
- 10- What are my child's strengths?

## Early Childhood Development Program:

This month **Ms. Green's Early Pre-K** will be studying the letters Oo, Pp and will be studying about Arctic continents. They will be submerged in the depths of the Ocean while they learn about sea animals. They will be doing a review week before the winter break. This is an easy month for the Kiddos and they wish that everyone enjoys there Winter Break.

**Ms. Amaral's Pre-K** studied in November about the letter N and about Niguel Night Owl. They discussed nocturnal animals and their habitats. The phonics friend Ollie Octopus created great interested in sea life animals especially in the giant octopus & the great white sharks.

Pre-K just finished learning about Peewee penguin and all Antarctica animals. They also had a Pajama Party & enjoyed eating popcorn, pickles and peaches.

They will be starting AB, ABC patterns preparing the preschoolers for mathematic concepts. They will also be making a classroom friendship quilt & pattern necklaces. In the month of December, they will be exploring space. They will discuss rocket ships, space exploration, stars & planets. They will be designing & shooting model rockets.

Congratulations to Meena. She is the Pre-K Student of The Month of November. Mansour is the Student of The Month of December. .

We had our first Snow Day at Salam Academy! Parents please send your children with hats and gloves to keep them warm in their winter play.

**Ms. Priyam Banerjee's KG** has been working hard on their spelling & reading skills this month. Our annual Classroom Spelling Bee was held on December 2, 2011 & we had a wonderful performance by our enthusiastic spellers. Mansour Hashimi, Ohafi Faruk and Sakeena Al-Hassan were the winners. In Math, they are working on how to read time & learning about money. In Science, they are discussing the various food groups & what constitutes a healthy meal. They also had many participants in the Hajj competition and they put up a great show!

## Ms. Joan Boyden's First Grade:

Ms. Joan will be organizing a SCHOOL-WIDE FLAG PROJECT in January.

Every child in the school will be responsible for completing a FLAG that represents the country (or countries) of their heritage. This project will be done at home WITH the help and participation of parents! The purpose is increase the awareness, pride, and identity of each child with their cultural heritage. It is an opportunity for Salam Academy to exhibit with pride all the MUSLIM AND NON-MUSLIM NATIONS that are represented by our school population.

Teachers will be sending home infor-

mation about the specific requirements before our winter break so that parents and students will be able to work on this over the break.

Along with this, there will be an ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW done by each child with one of their parents, grandparents, aunts, or uncles about their lives in their country of origin. This will be presented in WRITTEN FORM along with the FLAG in mid-January. **Rehab Kassem** will be formulating an "Interview Questionnaire" for us to use for this project.

*Marwa & Safa Kassem solved the puzzle master challenge and won Glory and Treats— Congratulations!*

PARENTS PLEASE WORK CLOSELY WITH YOUR CHILD on this as it is intended to be a FAMILY PROJECT! All flags and all interviews will be displayed in the Assembly Area of the school.

First Grade put on their very first PLAY and PUPPET SHOW for the parents and Kindergarten students on Friday, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011. They made their own Owl masks and sound effects! It was a great performance!

Good Job, FIRST GRADERS!

## Ms. Suzanne Cordova's Second Grade:

The second grade class has been working very hard and having a good time. We recently learned all about pumpkins. We had lots of fun cutting open the pumpkins and seeing what was inside. The next thing we are going to do is make baked good with the cooked pumpkin.



## Ms. Sharon Cuba's Third Grade:

*I am a pirate,  
I shall plunder all the seas,  
Imagine the wealth  
~ Abdullah Shah*

Science: The students know how organisms with similar needs in a climate region compete with similar needs in a climatic region & compete with one another for resources such as: food, water, oxygen or space. Students' will create a food chain to show how producers, consumers, predator and prey.

Math: To Provide ties to multiplication. They will discuss multiplication facts and the importance of fact power; and

will review fact shortcuts.

Social Studies: Links San Francisco's past communities to it's present one.

Identify people of various cultures who live in San Francisco and their cultural contributions. Analyze how communities are shaped by people and events in their past. Understand that in a community each person makes a difference.

Language Arts: Students will create pieces of poetry in preparation for our poetry competition.

Students will identify compound words and learn how to form them.

Students will organize their writing by identifying the sequence of steps in a paragraph.

*He's the only God.  
We are Allah's creation.  
I do love Allah.  
~ Gada Khalaf*

## Ms. Sheri Peterson's Fourth & Fifth Grades:

Our fantastic fourth and fifth graders have been busy. We have been reading and writing lots of poetry.

Here is an example:

*If I had super powers,  
I'd use them for ten hours.  
My powers won't really last.  
'Cause I know I'll use them fast.*

(Skip to the end of the poem:)

*It's getting really boring being hero of the world.*

*I really don't know what to do.*

*And I miss my friends and family.*

*I guess it's all right being you.*

~Malaak Saeed



## Hajj Competition 2011- WINNERS:

### Grades KG- 3rd: Top in each grade:

- KG: Lily Mosallaei
- 1st Grade: Ismail El-Abbassy
- 2nd Grade: Sarah Khraishi
- 3rd Grade: Safa Kassem

### Overall Winners in KG-3rd Grade:

- 1st Place: Safa Kassem
- 2nd Place: Rakin Faruk & Sahar Mamdani
- 3rd Place: Sarah Khraishi

### Overall Winners in 4th-5th Grade:

- 1st Place: Amir Hawash
- 2nd Place: Mahnoor Gauba & Mallak Saeed
- 3rd Place: Malek Jaber

### Overall Winners Middle School:

- 1st Place: Rinad Yousef
- 2nd Place: Odey Yousef
- 3rd Place: Abdullah Shah & Marwa Kassem

**Ms. Hayat's** students are learning and practicing their Arabic Letters and grade 1 kids are writing 2-3 letter words. They are also learning about Names of Allah with meaning.

**Ms. Dima Hawash's** students are writing Arabic in full sentences . 2nd grade is memorizing Surah Alaa. 3rd grade is memorizing Surah Al Muttaffin. 4th &5th grades are memorizing Surah Al Muzammil.



## Middle School News:

Ms. Maggie Brisbin is forming a “**Math Club**”. The club will meet once a week and focus on Math related fun activities and School and regional level competition. Stay tuned!

**Dr. Tariq Khraishi** visited **Ms. Brisbin’s Science Club** on Friday, Dec 2nd and gave lecture about Crystalline structure in solid metals. He will be visiting again on Dec 9th and we will be building models of common crystalline structures found in metals. We are planning to visit Dr. Khraishi’s lab after the winter break.

**Ms. Kasparian** is preparing her Language Arts students for a stage play which is under planning to be staged for public presentation, Insha’Allah in May 2012. Her Social Studies class is ready for a test on Thursday.

**Ms. Nuha’s** class is advancing in Math.

**Ms. Iman Babaa’s** students are learning more Arabic grammar and practicing simple Arabic sentences.

In Islam, they are currently focusing on Marriage and its importance and also reading Quran with grammar rules. Insha’Allah, we will celebrate Khatam Quran at the end of spring semester.

*Bermuda Triangle  
The Bermuda Triangle  
Fascinates me. Did aliens  
Drop a dangerous machine,  
That caused the triangle to re-  
spond  
At a dangerous degree?*

*Do mermaids live under the sea?  
Using the Triangle to protect their  
Ocean city?  
Do you agree with me?  
Does Atlantis lie hidden beneath?  
I don’t know.  
Do you?*

~Amina

*The La Luz Trail,  
It was cold, snowy and foggy,  
But a lot of fun. Fresh air,  
Big, gigantic brown mountains,  
Cool, unshaped rocks,  
Big, full with leaves trees,  
Full with pretty green leaves.  
Sharp circle shaped cactus,  
Cute, small birds nests,  
A lot of small caves,  
Beautiful, cold, full of trees, the forest,  
Less cactus and more trees,  
Clay like plant named liken,  
Down to the trail,  
Beautiful sceneries,  
Colorful plants,  
Less colder, more warmer,  
Less trees,  
And a cup of hot cocoa.*

~Fatimah

## Hydraulic Car Alternative Fuel Challenge on Nov 19, 2011:



## US Coast Guard Event at UNM on Dec 1, 2011:



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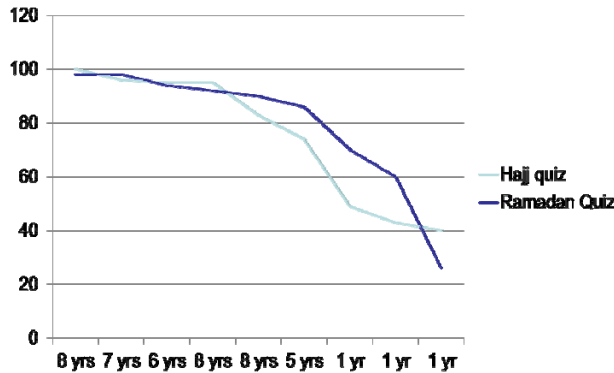
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### Our Vision:

Salam Academy's Vision is to create outstanding American citizens who are trained to be leaders in their family, community, and the American society as a whole.

A Not for Profit Organization with 501 C status. Please read about Fatwa on Zakat to Islamic schools on the school's website.



Islamic Knowledge Quiz % age Score Comparison between Middle School Students who attended Islamic School for 5 or more years and those who are first time Islamic School Students.



Our **Big Thanks** to the judges of the Hajj Competition:

- Imam Shafi
- Dr. Ahmed Hasan
- Dr. Omar Nabaa

## P.E. & Computer Education:

- ◆ PE is graded at Salam Academy. Students are doing great in Tennis and Fitness Exercises. Please send your children in appropriate PE clothing on PE days.
- ◆ Work on personal websites is continuing during this month also.
- ◆ Thank you Ms. Kasparian and Ms. Brisbin for keeping our children fit!



## The Spelling Bee Winners by Each Grade

(Friday Dec 2, 2011)

Following Winners will Compete in the School Level Spelling Bee on Dec 9, 2011, Insha'Allah!

<b>KG:</b> 1. Mansour Hashimi 2. Ohafi Faruk 3. Sakeena Al-Hassan	<b>First Grade:</b> 1. Nabil Zeyae 2. Manar Saeed 3. Lillah Hammeed
<b>Second Grade:</b> 1. Amr Kassem 2. Aisha Raji 3. Rami Alnashef	<b>Third Grade:</b> 1. Safa Kassem 2. Hamza Momeni 3. Ibrahim Musleh
<b>Fourth/Fifth Grades:</b> 1. Amir Hawash 2. Mahnoor Gauba 3. Malaak Saeed	<b>6th Grade:</b> 1. Bilal Momeni 2. Isa Manzanares 3. Layla Saleem
<b>7th Grade:</b> 1. Marwa Kassem 2. Odey Yousef 3. Amina Sall	<b>8th Grade:</b> 1. Abdullah Shah 2. Jun'te Al-Hassan 3. Muhammed Saeed