

SALAM ACADEMY

Community Connections

Volume 2, Issue 1

Newsletter Committee:

- Kamila Kasparian
- Rebecca Mosallaei
- Aamna Nayyar

Inside this issue:

Administration/ Reminders	1
Early Childhood Program	2
Elementary/ Arabic/ Islam	3
Poetry and Art Competition Winners	4-5
Science Fun	5
5 Ways to handle a Drop in Grades	5
Volunteer Positions	6
Chess Club	6
Contact	6



From The Administration:

Salam Alaikum Parents,

Salam Academy is proud to announce the opening of our KG I Classroom. This is another 4-5 year old’s class specifically for students who will be entering Kindergarten next year.

We are happy to welcome Ms. Cindy Tong back to Salam Academy. Ms. Cindy previously taught Kindergarten for us. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Elementary Education with a specialization in Early Childhood Education. She is certified to teach in California, New Jersey and New Mexico. Ms. Cindy has been in the education field for over 35 years. She has taught Kindergarten, First Grade, English as a

Second Language and Pre-Kindergarten.

The curriculum for this classroom follows the same standards and benchmarks that Salam Academy requires for our other PREK classrooms. Parents can request to see the Early Childhood Development Program’s Curriculum.

We currently have three openings in the class and are accepting applications. If you or someone you know is looking for a class for their 4/5 year old, please recommend that they check out Salam Academy.

We offer a safe and secure Islamic environment with high standards in educational achievement. We are CYFD-certified.

We do extensive background checks on our teachers and provide a loving and safe environment.

Please let us know if you have any questions or if you or someone you know would like to come and see our newest classroom.

We are currently working on finances and standardizing all the policies and curricula.

Also, we want to extend our heartiest thanks to all the community with whose support our December 2011 event at ICNM was extremely successful. Stay tuned for our fundraiser at ICNM this month, Insha’Allah!

Our thanks to all the volunteers.

Peace!

Reminders!

Ask about Salam Academy’s Tutoring Program. Open to all internal and external students.

Fatimah Gauba has organized several bake sales with the seventh grade girls to earn money for Salam Academy. She has taken so much time to help the school and is donating the money to others. Thanks to all who have helped her!

- ◆ **REMINDER!** Tuition is due on the 1st of each academic month. Late fees apply after the deadline.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ On Friday Jan 27th, we are hosting the Salam Academy Science Fair. We need volunteers to bring water, juice, tea or coffee, fruit as well as breakfast/snack items for hospitality for the judges. These things would need

to be dropped off at SA Friday morning by 8:30. If you are able to help out by donating any food or drink items, please contact the school. Thank you in advance for your help.

Pre K News from Ms. Green & Ms. Amaral:

Happy new year ! We are so excited to be back after such a nice vacation. This month we will be exploring the Artic and the deep ocean. We will be discovering color patterns and weather changes. We would like to say farewell to Sami , Lana and Abdul as they go to a brand new class. Lets welcome Ali to the class and Sara who will be learning with us for the next month. Thank you to all the wonderful parents that have helped make this a stellar class. So here is to a new bright and terrific New Year.
Many Blessings ~ Ms. Monique G.



In December, preschoolers studied the letter q and about Queenie Quail, and the letter r, Robbie Rabbit.

We looked at pictures of local quails, roadrunners, cotton tail rabbits and jack rabbits We are continuing exploring space discussing rocket ships, space exploration,

stars and planets. We will be talking about the weather and the water cycle.

We will be discussing the sun, clouds, rain, hail and snow.

~ Ms. Desiree A.

Congratulations to **Emeen Yousef** of Pre-K. He is the student of the month of December. Emeen's warm smile and excitement to learn is enjoyed by all his peers. Emeen excels in his Arabic studies recognizing all his letters, sounds and numbers. Emeen knows all his English letters and sounds; he is on way to learn how to read in English!

Ms. Cindy Tong's KG I:

Welcome back Ms. Cindy Tong!

Ms. Cindy Tong has been in the education field for over 35 years, teaching kindergarten, first grade, English as a Second Language and pre-kindergarten. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree (History and Elementary Education) plus 17 graduate credits, specialized in Early Childhood Education (pre-school through grade three). She is a certified teacher of

New Jersey, California and New Mexico.



She believes that learning is a life-long process, and young children learn best when they are actively involved in hands-on experiences and to interact positively with peers and adults. She design lessons with objectives to develop the whole child socially, emotionally, physically and intellectually. She models supportive behaviors and encourages team effort. In her class-

room, students learn to develop respect, cooperation, positive attitude, health, love, peace and a sense of belonging.

Ms. Priyam Banerjee's KG II:

Kindergarteners returned to school fresh and rejuvenated after a fun winter break to resume their curriculum.

They have been learning about consonant blends and honing our reading skills.

In math, they have been working on shapes (2D and 3D) and fractions.

On the 20th of January, Kindergarteners went on a field trip to the Erna Fergusson Library along with 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades.



Ohafi Faruk is the K.G. Student of the Month for January 2012 and we are all so proud of his achievements.



News From Elementary School:

- ◇ **Ms. Joan Boyden** is leading the Flag Project. Students have made wonderful flags which have been posted on the walls in the school. Students are also learning about the countries and will be presenting their projects on assigned dates.
- ◇ **Ms. Suzanne Cordova's** Grade 2 are excited to be back in class and re-viewing all that they learned last semester.
- ◇ **Ms. Sharon Cuba's** students are on Unit 5 in math. They are working on tenths, hundredths, place value in decimals and reading, writing and ordering numbers. They will also be working on timed multiplication tests, and weekly multiplication tests. They will be presenting their explanatory writing pieces to the class, and wrap up their history about our founding fathers. They will continue to work on Chapter 5: Water and work on science experiments.
- ◇ **Ms. Sheri Peterson's** students enjoyed competing in the Poetry Contest. They wrote fabulous poems.
- ◇ Everyone is getting ready for **I.T.B.S. Tests.**



- ⇒ Teachers will be posting all lesson plans online in the "Planner" section on the GPA system.
- ⇒ Teachers will post information about behavior in the "Discipline" section of GPA.
- ⇒ It is the parents responsibility to check it regularly to keep on track of their student's behavior in class.
- ⇒ <http://salamacademy.org/35.html>

Dear Friend, The New Mexico 2012 Legislature is about to begin and we need your help! Bills will be introduced in the upcoming N.M. Legislative session to establish the Equal Opportunity Scholarship Act and the Special Needs Student Scholarship Act. Bill numbers will be assigned soon. This legislation would allow for tax credits for individuals and businesses that donate funds for scholarships. Organizations can then give scholarships to lower-income and special-needs students to attend the private, parochial and public schools of their parents' choice.

We need you to send letters in support of these bills. You can use this template: Letter and Fact Sheet. Please send all letters to sabrina@carrollstrategies.net and she will send them to members of the Legislature. Please send on your organizations letterhead if not from an individual. Sabrina will be following up with you soon. Let her know if you have any questions or concerns.

On behalf of the children of New Mexico, THANK YOU for your help!

Daniel Ulibarri-Executive Director- Educate New Mexico

Arabic/ Islam News:

- ◇ In an effort to make our Islamic curriculum the most comprehensive for our students, the school will be administering a standardized test on Islamic studies. This test will help us to determine where there are gaps in our curriculum and what our students are retaining. Only the 2nd thru 8th grade will be tested. This test will take place next month. This will help insure that our children are learning what is needed in an Islamic education. For more information on this test, please visit; <http://iqrafoundation.com/standardized-testing/testing-faqs/>
- ◇ The school's Education Subcommittee, under the leadership of Sr.Nada Abdel Hack is exploring standardized test for Arabic language.
- ◇ Parents can request to see the Curriculum for Arabic/ Islam used at Salam Academy.

The States and Capitals Competition went very well. Congratulations to our winners!
 1st Place: Abdullah Mamdani
 2nd Place: Kiran Mamdani
 3rd Place: Sara Hasan



Poetry Competition 2011 Winners:

Poetry Grade Division Winners

K-2

Ismail El-Abbassy (First Grade)

3-5

Malaak Saeed (Fifth Grade)

6-8

Alexis Al-Omari (Seventh Grade)

Poetry Class Division Winners

Kindergarten

1. Ohafi Faruk
2. Sakeena Al-Hassan
3. Lily Mosallaei

First Grade

1. Hanifa Al-Hassan
2. Nabil Zeyae
3. Lillah Hammed

Second Grade

1. Eman Gauba
2. Mustafa Saeed
3. Amr Kassem

Third Grade

1. Ibrahim El-Abbassy
2. Darya Mosallaei
3. Sahar Mamdani

Fourth Grade

1. Amir Hawash
2. Mahnoor Gauba
3. Malek Jaber

Sixth Grade

1. Mahmmud Saeed
2. Isa Manzanares
3. Bilal Momeni

Seventh Grade

1. Marwa Kassem
2. Rinad Yousef
3. Sara Hasan

Eighth Grade

1. Muhammed Saeed
2. Jun'te Al-Hassan
3. Abdullah Shah

Published Students in Creative Communication

Kindergarten

Meckrem Yousef "My Family"

First Grade

Ziad Aloui "Fun Time"
Ismail El-Abbassy "Smile"
Lillah Hammad "Blink"

Manar Saeed "Pink Bird"

Nabil Zeyae "The Floating Star"

Hanifa Al-Hassan "The Silly Star"

Mimi Assed "The Happy Star Who is Funny"

Second Grade

Iman Aggad "Iman"
Eman Gauba "Eman"
Hayya Gauba "Hayya"
Mutazz Jaber "Mutazz"
Aisha Raji "Aisha"
Mustafa Saeed "Mustafa"

Third Grade

Ibrahim El-Abbassy "The Silence"

Safa Kassem "The Cherry Tree"

Ahmad Khalaf "Japan"

Darya Mosallaei "Humming Birds"

Ibrahim Musleh "Africa"

Sanan Zamanian "Flowers"

Fourth Grade

Amir Hawash "Sunshine"

Fifth Grade

Malaak Saeed "Super Powers"

Sixth Grade

Isa Manzanares "Friends in Taos"

Mahmmud Saeed "I Wonder"

Seventh Grade

Sara Hasan "My Feelings Towards Animals"

Marwa Kassem "Deep Within Me"

Gada Khalaf "Life"

Taha Quraishi "Sea"

Amina Sall "Bermuda Triangle"

Rinad Yousef "From Bird to Bird"

Alexis Al-Omari "Beautiful Sky"

Eighth Grade

Muhammed Saeed "Pain"

Jun'te Al-Hassan "People"

Judges:

Candy Cluff

Heidi and Dan Smith

**Thank you
Ms. Kasparian!**



5 Ways to Handle a Drop in Your Child's Grades:

1. **Avoid the "D" word.** Telling our kids that we are disappointed is sometimes effective, but with grades, it tends to de-motivate. Instead, ask #2:
2. **2. Ask "How do you feel about these grades?"** Asking how *she* feels refocuses the issue on her instead of you. Take your time with this question. Her answer might be "I don't know." Stay silent for a while. Even if she isn't answering, she is still thinking about it. But be careful of #3:
3. **Don't take the bait.** Some kids will answer with things like: "I don't care," or "A 'C' is average. What's the big deal?" or "You expect me to be perfect!" Ignore these statements. Your kid is trying to get you to react and change the subject.
4. **Ask "What's your plan?"** Ask him what he plans on doing about this. If the answer is "I don't know," then say, "One of us will be making a plan. I think your plan might be better than mine."
5. **Don't punish right away.** In fact, consider not punishing. Most punishments we give at the spur of the moment tend to be too severe and don't work very well. Rewards work much better than punishments when it comes to school-work, and most parenting experts agree that rewards are the better choice to increase a good behavior. And punishment often decreases motivation instead of increasing it.
~ www.schoolfamily.com

Art Contest 2011 Winners:

Kindergarten:

1st Place: Ohafi Faruk "Muslims at the Kabaa"

2nd Place: Sakeena Al-Hassan "A Butterfly Family"

3rd Place: Camila Khraishi "Rapunzel in her Tower"

Second Grade:

1st Place: Hayya Gauba "Pumpkins"

2nd Place: Sara Khraishi "Pumpkins"

3rd Place: Amr Kassem "Pumpkins"

Middle School:

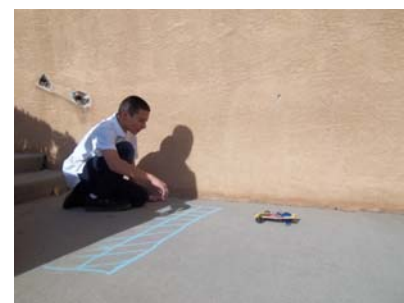
1st Place: Marwa Kassem "Sunset"

2nd Place: Abdullah Shah "Pirate"

3rd Place: Muhammed Saeed "Squirrel"

REMEMBER!!!

Salam Academy Science Fair is on Jan 27, 2012.



Ms. Maggie Brisbin's Science Fun:

7th and 8th grade are learning about invertebrate phyla in the animal kingdom as well as taxonomy and practicing Latin and Greek vocabulary. 6th graders are studying physics and practicing solving for velocity and acceleration.

Upcoming speakers: **Connie Crandall** on Feb 3rd 10:45-12:15. Connie is an educator from the Water Authority and will be giving a presentation and leading a hands-on activity.

Dr. Cliff Dahm from UNM will be speaking to the science classes on Monday Feb. 6 at 1:15 about micro-organisms that live in extreme places

like volcanoes and deep sea hydro-thermal vents.

Field Trips: **Tariq Khraishi's lab** on Feb 10 and Albuquerque water reclamation plant on Feb 17 (details in the field trip email).



Salam Academy

3939 San Pedro NE
Bldg. E
Albuquerque, NM 87110

Phone: 505-888-7688
Fax: 505-888-7646
E-mail:
pto@salamacademy.org

www.salamacademy.org

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.



Salam Academy
"Where Education Has No Limits"

Salam Academy needs volunteers! We are looking to fill the following volunteer positions:

Data Entry - must be able type accurately and navigate through forms. The time for this position is flexible and can be done for short periods of time like an hour before and after drop-off or pickup.

Filing - must be able alphabetize. The times for this position are flexible and can be done for short periods of time like an hour before after drop-off or pickup.

Answering phones - must be able to speak clearly and professionally. hours are flexible and we can use many people in this position at different times of the day.

Copying - We need a reliable person who is available most mornings for a half hour who also knows how to use a copier. This job can be done during morning assembly or immediately after.

Pre-K assistant - must be able to work with children and help in the classroom on a regular basis. Does not need to work everyday but must commit to a regular schedule

Library assistant - must be able to alphabetize to re shelf books and help teachers on library days. Must commit to a regular schedule.

Playground monitors - must be able to be at school during middle school recess from 12:15-1 pm. Does not have to work everyday but must be able to commit to a regular schedule.

Assistant Chess Coach - must be available Wed afternoons from 3:45-5:00 pm. Should have some knowledge of chess.

Recycling Coordinator - must box up recycling once a week and prepare it to send in. This can be done anytime of the day.

Box tops Coordinator - get Box Tops ready to send in to company about once per month. This does not take much time and can be done anytime during the day.

These are all important positions that help the school run more efficiently. If you or someone you know is interested in helping in any of these areas, please have them contact the office.

After School Fun: Chess Club

Chess Club meets each Wednesday after school in the elementary school cafeteria until 4:45pm! If you have time or are interested...please join them! It's okay if you haven't played before. Everyone is welcome. The Club requires members to be organized and understand importance of time management. Salat & homework and any other obligation comes before all fun activities.

