

BIA Horizons: Enlightening Your Life

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Special points of interest:

- The BIA Website gets updated!
- The Art Show is an Amazing Success
- Third and Fifth Grade Plays
- 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Debates: Advocating and Public Speaking

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BIA Turns the Page to 2012

BIA School is leading the way to 2012. Recently, we have made many progressive changes to our school's website. These changes have made it easier for parents to stay informed and involved in their children's education on a first hand basis.

We have added a link which parents and students can access to check which assignments are due as well as when they are due for every coming week.

Parents can also see the various activities that their children are participating in at Baytul Iman. There are pictures of Culture Day, the Hajj Illustration, and the Recyclable Items' Arts and Crafts Contest. The pictures of the

new Hazlet campus Inshallah are also available to be viewed at your leisure.

Inshaallah we will soon be moving into the



The Hazlet Building

new building in Hazlet, NJ. Masha'Allah the new BIA campus is excellent! It is not only sufficient in that it has all that is required for

a school to run efficiently. It is also an amazingly beautiful and is literally the answer to our prayers. We look forward to making it an extremely inspiring environment for all BIA students insha'Allah. We hope and pray that this is a step towards a better and more progressive future Insha'Allah.

We at Baytul Iman strive to keep parents involved and informed at every level. It is our firm belief that a child who has support in all arenas, whether they be at school or at home, is a well-rounded, and ultimately successful, child.

Sr. Qudsia Awan
Vice-Principal

An Art Show with Renaissance Flair

The annual BIA "Recyclable" Arts and Crafts Contest this year was one that will be remembered for many years to come. The children from grades KG thru 8th grade all made art sculptures that would have been praised even by the Renaissance maestros.

Michelangelo would have

revered at the creativity exhibited in at the life-likeness of Iqra and Isha Sajjad's delicate and beautiful flowers. Leonardo would have been awed at the creativity exhibited in sculptures such as the chandelier, made by Maram Ayadi, and the model city, made by Afreen Bakht. Most of all, Rafael would have marveled at

the pure artistic genius behind the wreath, made by Iman Khalil, and the life-size brooch, made by Fatima Khalil.

The winners included Kindergarten's Huzaifa, Mustafa, Hadi, and Safa. The winner in 1st Grade were Minha, Myra, Aysha, Umar Mohammad and Fatimah. (cont. on pg. 2)



Activities and Events at BIA

The Colors of Cultural Day brings Vibrancy to BIA

Culture Day 2011-2012 was one that left an imprint on the mind of staff and students alike. The various students with their diversified background educated their fellow classmates, and the BIA staff, on their unique heritage. It was an enriching experience Alhamdulillah!

-Ambreen A.



Hajj Represented and Illustrated

The students of BIA started the day with anticipation of what was to come. As they listened intently to Dr. Talat's description of this sacred duty, and the meaning of each rite, they were rapt with devout attention. The students personified one of the rites of Hajj by performing tawaf; when hajjis circumambulate the Kaaba in a counterclockwise direction. Wearing their white clothing, symbolizing ihram, the "noor" of their sacred knowledge glowed upon their angelic faces. The "Labaik Allahuma Labaik", announced re-

spectfully, resounded throughout the halls of BIA in a cleansing manner.

-Sr. Ambreen Ahmad



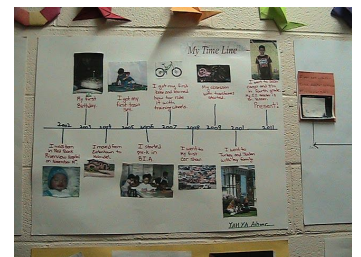
An Art Show with True Renaissance Flair

(cont. from page 1)

The 2nd Grade winners included: Fatimah, Hana, and Abdullah. The 3rd Grade winners were Tayyar, Junaid, and Muznah. The 4th grade winner were Iqra Sajjad and Yahya Ashour. The 5th graders winners included Maram Adyadi, Musa Shaikh, and Sherine Morsi. The 6th

grade winners included Iman Khalil, Afreen Bakht, and Sarah Morsi. The 7th and 8th grade winner were Isha Sajjad and Maryam Shaikh.

The students of Baytul Iman Academy prove once again that their minds are innovative and revolutionary in so many ways Mashallah!



Class Highlights



CLASS ACTIVITIES

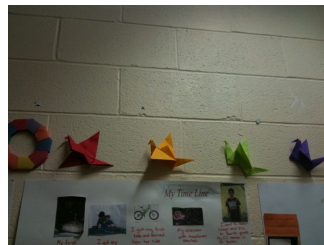
Origami: Mathematics in Art



Besides math, science, and poetry, this year I have introduced Origami in the students' art class. I have taught the students of BIA how to make three dimensional geometric figures. I personally believe origami especially promotes interest in the mathematics. Each fold in origami is a geometric shape, in direct relation to angles, triangles, polygons, congruence, symmetry, fraction, ratios, properties, dimensions, and tessellations. It also helps teach shape size

and color recognition. The Japanese art Origami is a "fun to learn" project as students apply their knowledge of geometric terms to follow directions while folding an origami sculpture. It also builds up creative and constructive abilities of all children, no matter what their level of comprehension.

- Sr. Fahmina Hasanat



Fifth Graders: Enactment in Inspiration

The fifth graders this year bring positive light to everything they do. Just recently they applied their work ethic to a story they read in Language Arts.

The story of John Henry is a story of a man who lived to the fullest and tried to help everyone in the

short time that he was on this earth. Having read the story of John Henry the fifth graders felt the innate need to re-enact his life story and inspire other students at BIA.

With their Language Arts teacher directing them, they practiced and rehearsed until the story of

John Henry was embedded in their soul. They performed the story of John Henry in front of the student body of BIA (2nd graders and up) on December 22nd. Inshallah the message they intended was well-received by all that saw their re-enactment.

-Sr. Ambreen Ahmad



Descriptive Writing: Painting with Words



The students at BIA are exceptionally passionate writers. Their writing is especially exceptional in that they have a unique perspective than their peers in other school may have. Their point of view is also of interest to their parents because after all they are incorporating both their American and Muslim heritage, which may be a first for many families at BIA.

Recently, we have started to write descriptive essays in the 4th and 6th grade language arts class. The students are being taught to incorporate their five senses (sight, smell, sound, taste, and touch)

to write in a descriptive format. They are told to write so vividly that the reader may picture themselves where they are, what they smell or taste, and to feel what they may feel. As Anton Chekov said "Don't tell me the moon is shining; show me the glint of light on broken glass".

Many of the students have proved themselves to be exceptional painters of prose. I can see already that many BIA students will pave the way for Muslim writers everywhere, and become renowned for their excellence in the writing field Inshallah.

- Sr. Ambreen Ahmad

The Glorious Scene

By Iman Khalil 6th Grade

There it was, the sun plunged down below into craggy mountains, still ablaze in the sky with fiery oranges, searing reds, and the deepest of yellow. Down below sat the mighty river banks of the river that was shaped like the meandering snake of the wild while sparkling by the dazzling rays of the sun. Set aside were green patches of nature's tall swaying grasses, oak trees, and clovers. Below the oak trees sat the venison white-tailed deer along with a white rabbit that was eating the grapes that hung low

-from the thorny vines.

Later the outer edges of the blazing sky had begun to cool with the indigo of the night and the stars twinkling in the night sky. I grabbed my hot cocoa and got in the tent leaving the zipper open so I could find all the magnificent constellations over the majestic mountains. It was all so wonderful that mere words are still not enough to paint the real picture of the beautiful serenity that nature had offered at the moment.

After I was done adoring the view I decided to go to sleep since I knew I had a very long, tiring trip ahead back home. (cont. below)

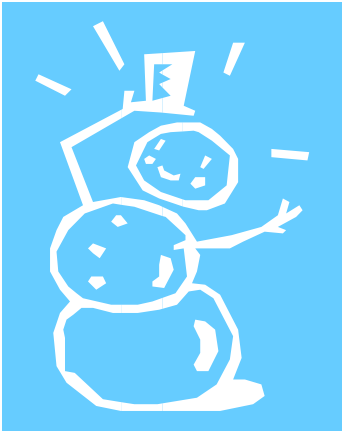


(cont. from above, "The Glorious Scene" By Iman Khalil)

The next morning, I got packed up and ready to go real early, but the hard part had just come. I had to leave the mountains and head

back home. I knew I could come back another time, but the heavenly peace of the glorious scene was too hard to let go. I eventually said my goodbyes and got into the car. I wonder where destiny will take me next.





Pee Wee Powerhouse: In the news with 1st and 2nd Grade

December 23rd, 2011

Second Grade: Savants in Training

The second graders are quite clearly a smart group of students. They are hard working, energetic, fun, considerate, and creative children. We studied and discussed pilgrims coming to the "new world" and how the native Americans helped them meet their needs from their surrounding. When students began stating how lucky we are to have so much compared to people living in the Third World or other less fortunate countries. I was somewhat surprised to hear such open and broad responses. They talked very compassionately on this topic and also provided me with ideas on how we can raise funds to help

-those who are in dire circumstances. In fact, recently they have even gone a step ahead with it. We have set up a donation box in our classroom, and to my sheer awe the second graders brought in their own allowance money to donate to those less fortunate. Subhan'Allah! What a compassionate bunch!

On the less-humanitarian front, we've also put together a cookbook with kid-friendly recipes. This project helped them open up to new foods and enjoyed and appreciate Allah SWT for all that is given to us in His bountiful glory.

While we were go-

ing through this lesson, the holiday of Thanksgiving came along. This gave me all the more incentive to devise this "cookbook" project with the class. The project also gave me a chance to further elaborate on the lesson.

All in all, the second graders this year are an innovative bunch. Everyday I learn from them as much as I teach making it an enriching experience for all involved.

-Sr. Nargis Anjum



First Graders: Focusing on Building Blocks

The first grade is a time when the child takes a step into the part of education that requires more focus and attention. In first grade building blocks, or the basics, of a child's education is set up by the teacher. Due to this the te-

acher's role is integral and requires a different kind of dedication. Also, the students are just coming out of kindergarten and therefore still immature in their focus and attention span. This year I am teaching the children

a variety of strategies and tools to solve addition and subtraction problems; such as counting forwards and backwards, doubles and near doubles, making a ten, fact families, addition and subtraction stories, number bonds using num-

ber lines, and drawing pictures from number stories.

In language arts, my focus is on writing and reading comprehension. Reading comprehension also allows them to develop critical thinking skills. -Sr. Farah



Class Activities

6th, 7th, 8th Grade– Advocating Public Speaking

The 6th, 7th, and 8th grades are being well prepared to become students who may go on to be, all that is required, but also the crème de la crème of all of New Jersey's students overall. Recently, we have just started to prepare them for public speaking by having the students participate in debates on topics in the news.

The first debates were held in October. The topics debated upon where the “sin” tax (the tax on items such as cigarettes, junk food, etcetera), and whether or not more nuclear plants should be allowed to be built. One of the topics debated in December

was inspired by the current “Occupy Wall Street” movement. The students debated whether or not protests against the government are a show of patriotism. The students also debated on the advantages and disadvantages of standardized testing.

The students' debates were enthralling. They were passionate and extremely well-informed on all subjects. They are a source of pride for their teachers and parents alike Mash'Allah!

-Sr. Ambreen Ahmad

Pre-K: Artists-in-Training

As you all are aware, we implement the Montessori method in all our pre-K activities. Currently we are trying to provide the child with the key to orient him or herself with the world of color. This helps the child to discriminate between different colors.

In the first activity, a child is given 6 tablets in which there are a pair of each of the primary colors (red, yellow, blue). These are the most sharply contrasted colors. In the second activity the child is given twenty-two tablets in which there are a pair of each of the primary col-

ors and secondary colors (green, orange, purple), and also pink, brown, black, white, and grey. In the last activity, the child is given sixty-three tablets in which there are 7 shades of 9 colors (red, yellow, blue green, orange, purple, brown, pink and grey). The child is given several prompts in which he or she must differentiate between the different colors and answer accordingly to the prompt given to them.

Insha'Allah this activity is a great method to teach the child to become experts at recognizing the different colors and become avid artists in the future. **-Sr. Fatima**

Third Grade: Learning through Concepts

Third grade has been practicing different activities related to science and social studies to better understand and conceptualize what they are learning. Activities included have been seed collection, making fossils,

and putting certain parts of history into play format.

One of the interesting activities that the third graders participated in was relative to social studies. The students demonstrated the lives of

Native Americans to show how they worked and lived. The play showed why English men made Native American their slaves. By interacting in this play, the students learned Native American History all the

-time enjoying this learning method. This demonstration will most likely be remembered by the students for years to come.

-Sr. Madiha Islam