

## AL IMAN COLLEGE – EARLY LEARNING CENTER TERM 4 2023 NEWSLETTER

Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuhu,  
Respected Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

As we bid farewell to a vibrant Term 4 filled with exciting adventures and valuable learning experiences, we reflect on the incredible moments that defined our journey. In this term, our little learners joyfully explored the Wonders of Water during the Greater Western Water Incursion, and they showcased their creativity in the Greater Western Water poster competition. Some of the highlights of term 4 was the unforgettable excursion to Animal Land Children's Farm on October 31st and November 1st, where adventures, giggles and discoveries echoed through the air. Transitioning towards the end of the term, our kindergarteners visited Al Iman College as part of the Foundation Transition Program on the 8th and 9th of November. Prior to this, we welcomed Al Iman College Foundation-level Teachers to the ELC to foster connections, understanding and educational exchange between our kindergarteners and school teachers. The climax of the term was our Kindergarten Graduation Ceremony on the 22nd and 23rd of November, honouring our kindergarteners who triumphantly completed their academic chapter.

We take this moment to extend our heartfelt thanks to our incredible parents, whose unwavering support, time (volunteering) and feedback have been invaluable. Special appreciation goes to the Management team and our dedicated Teachers and Educators at AIC ELC for making this journey possible.

As the summer break unfolds, we express gratitude for a fantastic year and eagerly anticipate reuniting in the vibrant academic year 2024. We wish everyone a rejuvenating and wonderful summer holiday! Alhamdulillah, for the memories and milestones we've shared!

JazakAllah Khairan,  
Sr Noor Illyaas  
(On behalf of the ELC Staff)

### IMPORTANT DATES

Last day of Term 4 for:

- Kindergarten- Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> December
- LDC- Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Term 1, 2024, commences for  
kindergarten:

- Group B- Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024
- Groups A & C- Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024
- Group E- Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024
- LDC- Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024 (AIC Teachers commence work on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024)
- LDC-Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024 for All staff's children.

### IMPORTANT DATES in Term 1, 2024:

Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024- AIC ELC  
Curriculum Day (students' free day)  
Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024- Australia  
Day Public Holiday

Last day of term 1: Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup>  
March 2024

Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024- Good  
Friday, Public Holiday.

# IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

## 🎓 Mabrook/Congratulations, Sr Saman Tahir! 🌟

We are delighted to share the outstanding news that Sr Saman Tahir, the dedicated teacher at AIC ELC, has achieved a significant milestone by completing her Master of Education from the esteemed Queensland University of Technology. This accomplishment is a testament to Sr Saman Tahir's unwavering commitment to educational excellence. On behalf of Al Iman College and the Al Iman College ELC community, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to Sr Saman Tahir for her remarkable achievement. We express our best wishes for continued success and growth. Her dedication to learning and professional development sets a commendable example for her colleagues and students, contributing positively to the educational environment at AIC ELC.

## National Water Week poster competition

In the spirit of artistic expression and environmental awareness, our kindergarteners at AIC ELC enthusiastically participated in the National Water Week poster competition celebrating National Water Week from 16th to 22nd October 2023. This year's celebration theme, 'United by Water,' inspired our little artists to explore the importance of water conservation and its unifying impact.

We are thrilled to announce that among the talented participants from AIC ELC, Irum Maleka Ahmed from kindergarten group B emerged as the winner of the National Water Week poster competition. Alhamdulillah, her exceptional design not only encapsulated the essence of this year's theme but also stood out for its creativity, thoughtfulness, and visual appeal.



*Irum Melika Ahmed's winning poster beautifully captures the theme 'United by Water'.*



As we congratulate Irum Maleka Ahmed, we also express our gratitude to all the kindergarten children who participated and contributed to making this year's National Water Week celebration at Al Iman College ELC truly special.

## Reminder for the library book return

### Library Book Returns

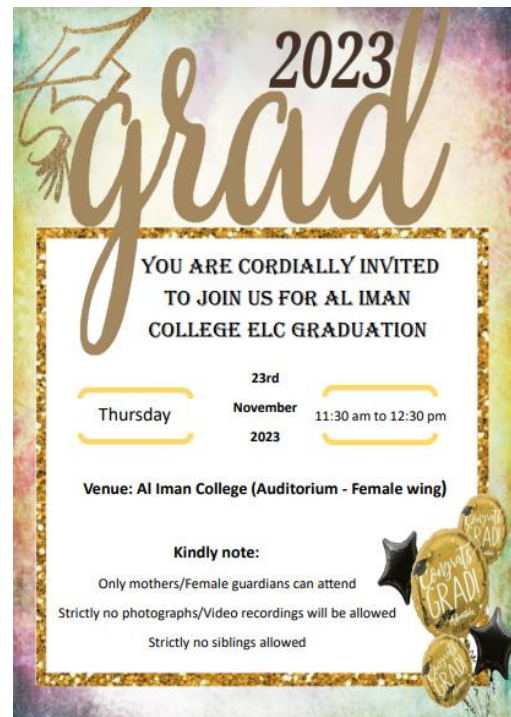
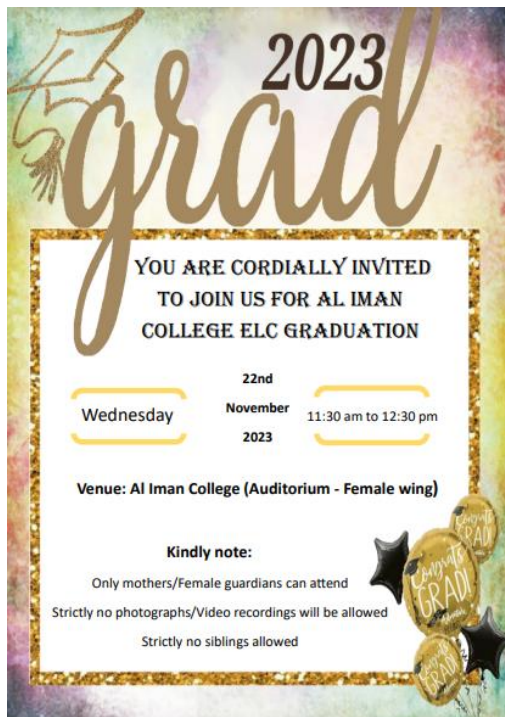


We kindly ask parents who still have library books at home, which their child/ren brought, to return them to the AIC ELC from Monday, 15th January 2024. Your prompt attention to this matter ensures that our library resources remain accessible to all students and helps instil a sense of responsibility in our little readers.

**All books must be returned, even if damaged or the library bags have been misplaced.**

# 2023 kindergarten GRADUATE

Kindergarten Graduation at Al Iman College was a momentous occasion celebrated by the Kindergarten Groups A, B, and C on November 22nd and 23rd. The atmosphere was filled with joy and excitement as the elegantly dressed children entered a specially decorated kindergarten. Children were thrilled to see the Auditorium decorated with banners and balloons, especially to celebrate their achievements. After receiving their gowns and caps, the young graduates proceeded to the school auditorium, where eager families awaited. The ceremony began with the recitation of surahs, followed by heartfelt performances of three Nasheed's by the children. Each child was individually recognised and presented with certificates, basking in their well-deserved moment in the spotlight. Al Iman College's Principal, Br Zulfiquar, Vice Principal (female wing) Mrs. Bahrudding, and Ustaza Mrs. Zulfiquar delivered speeches, adding to the parents' pride in attendance. It was a truly memorable celebration marking the achievements of our kinder graduates.





# Our Kindergarten Journey

This year, our Kinder program (groups A, B and C) has been a vibrant and joyous journey for our little learners. From engaging storytelling sessions that sparked their imagination to creative arts and crafts activities that allowed them to express their unique personalities, the children have relished every moment of their time in the program. Our outdoor adventures, filled with laughter and exploration, have fostered a sense of curiosity and teamwork. The year's highlight was the heartwarming moments captured in the numerous photographs, showcasing the children's beaming smiles during collaborative projects, science experiments, and special celebrations. These snapshots reflect the educational milestones achieved and are cherished memories of the friendships formed and the pure delight experienced in our Kinder program.

We enjoyed playing outdoors...



We enjoyed reading stories...





**We learnt how to count, sort and match...**



**We learnt how to write our name...**



**We learnt through STEM activities...**





## But most of all, we enjoyed our time together...

*"We've formed bonds that will last a lifetime and created a community that supports and uplifts each other. Whether working on group projects, playing together at recess, or just chatting during snack time, we always had each other's backs."*





# Kindergarten Group A, B & C

Teacher: Sr Reham Mohamed (kinder groups A and B)

Teacher: Sr Saman Tahir (kinder group C)

## Excursion to the Animal Land Children's Farm

In the fourth term, our kindergarten learners immersed themselves in a comprehensive study of animals and plants, exploring their life cycles in conjunction with the vibrant Spring season. We took our kindergarteners to Animal Land Children's Farm to further enrich this educational journey and celebrate Children's Week. This educational experience proved to be both delightful and instructive. The children actively participated in engaging activities, including milking cows, butter churning, and crafting their own butter. Additionally, they enjoyed pony rides, hands-on interactions with various animals, and affectionate moments with baby rabbits and guinea pigs. This unique opportunity allowed our little learners to reflect on the diverse topics covered in the classroom setting while immersed in the farm environment.



## STEM Experiences

Our focus this term has been on cultivating STEM experiences rooted in the genuine interests of our children. We've embarked on a fascinating journey delving into the intricacies of life cycles, exploring the captivating world of bees and their habitats and the enchanting life cycles of chickens and sea creatures. Our students have been engaged in many hands-on activities and experiments, including discovering the secrets of objects that sink and float. It's been a joyous exploration of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, creating a dynamic and enriching learning environment for our young learners.





## Kindergarten transition program to Foundation level at AIC

This term, the foundation-level teachers from Al Iman College paid a special visit to the Early Learning Centre (ELC), creating a wonderful opportunity for our kindergarten children. Groups A, B, and C had the chance to connect with their respective foundation teachers right in their own kinder rooms, fostering early relationships before they embarked on the Foundation transition program. In a subsequent visit to Al Iman College, our kindergarteners explored their future classrooms and enjoyed meeting their foundation-level teachers again. The day was filled with engaging activities organised by the Al Iman College foundation-level teachers, and our kindergarteners were paired with foundation students who acted as buddies throughout the visit. These buddy students provided invaluable support, helping our kindergarteners participate in activities and spend their lunchtime together. The experience strengthened the bond between our kindergarten children and their future teachers and added excitement as they returned to the ELC environment.





# Kindergarten Group E

Teacher: Sr Saman Tahir

## Water play

As the summer season commenced, we organised water-based activities for the children to participate. These activities included engaging tasks that exercised the children's fine motor skills, and the measurement skills of the children were honed as they utilised pegs to pick up pom-poms and delicately placed them into the tub. Following the water play session, we discussed the importance of pleasing Allah and avoiding wastefulness with the children. In line with this ethos, we suggested redirecting the water used in the play to nourish plants. The children enthusiastically watered the plants, fostering a sense of responsibility and environmental sustenance. During mat time, we delved into a discussion about the water cycle using a book. The children actively participated by sharing their thoughts and ideas on the subject.



## How are we feeling today?

An engaging activity using playdough mats was organised, where we started by encouraging children to express their feelings and emotions using playdough. As they worked diligently, their facial expressions mirrored their emotions. After that, we gathered to read 'The Monster Colour'. The children explored the different feelings displayed by the characters and enthusiastically discussed their emotions. They also shared with whom they would turn to if they felt sad and expressed the desire to share happiness with everyone. We seamlessly incorporated our Islamic practices into the discussion, explaining the importance of smiling at our brothers and how it can be an act of sadaqah (charity). The children also learned about the dua to recite when angry, which is an excellent tool for self-regulation.



## Butterflies

During our group time, Group E children engaged in a lively discussion about the onset of spring. They shared their excitement about the colourful butterflies and radiant sunflowers they had spotted. The mention of the popular children's book 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' sparked further interest among the group. We organised various hands-on activities to encourage their curiosity and channel their excitement. At one table, we allowed the children to unleash their creativity on sunflowers by colouring or pasting coloured paper. Some of us were so engrossed in the activity that we created vibrant pieces of art that paid tribute to the blooming sunflowers of spring. Another table held a 'Discovery Station' where we explored blending literacy with nature. Butterflies containing letters were displayed, prompting us to recognise the first letter of our names.





# Long Day Care (3+ years)

Room leader: Sr Heenabanu Pathan

## Fine motor and sensory skills

Children need to develop fine motor skills necessary for everyday tasks like eating, holding objects, buttoning up clothes, drawing, colouring, cutting and pasting. Our LDC children were exposed to diverse activities to enhance their fine motor skills. In term 4, we organised fun activities for the LDC children, such as playing with Legos, exploring outdoor mud kitchens, and picking pom-poms in water play and incorporating such engaging and purposeful activities aimed to foster children's progressive development of their fine motor skills, making it easier for them to do various things independently.



## Name recognition



The children began expressing interest in their names, prompting the initiation of an enjoyable learning activity designed to facilitate name recognition. Names were written on the table with bold markers on individual pieces of paper. Each child was provided crepe paper to affix to their name, allowing them to craft a personalised name collage.



## Recycling week

We celebrated National Recycling Week at the ELC with our LDC children. Throughout the week, we emphasised the importance of waste reduction and the positive impact of recycling and reusing materials. The children were given access to various recycled materials, encouraging them to create their artifacts and learn the art of reuse. It was heartening to see the joy and enthusiasm with which the children embraced the activities, dedicating significant time to building and repurposing materials.





# Long Day Care (0-2+ years)

Room leader: Sr Sidra Hassan

## National recycling week

It was a week to celebrate recycling. Australia celebrates National Recycling Week every year to encourage recycling practices nationwide. With the help of educators, children learned what can be recycled and how we can all become better recyclers to save the environment. Embracing their interest in wrapping and encasing the boxes, infants played peek-a-boo with the dolls inside. Infants were dragging recyclables off the recycling sorting board with a magnet pen. This task calls on their fine motor skills. They were taking on their environment and using their imagination to create recognisable objects. Toddlers were engaged in constructs, builds, and stacks using kitchen rolls.



## World space week

This term, we allowed children to explore more about space. This valuable learning opportunity for infants and toddlers in our room nurtures imagination, feeds curiosity and stimulates analytical and reasoning skills for their future.

Our little friends participated in various engaging and instructive activities, including a bottle shaker with different objects like rice, stars, and rhinestones. They sealed the bottle tightly under the guidance and supervision of an educator. Toddlers were busy scooping and dumping as they explored the galaxy-themed messy tub. Youngsters acquire various abilities, including problem-solving, experimenting, research, and investigation.



## Healthy eating

We discussed eating a healthy diet this term, and the toddlers in our room discussed the fruits and vegetables they enjoy. We have planned a learning activity, "Growing an Edible Garden for Children." A garden with flowers, berries, herbs, and plants that may be eaten is called an edible garden. Creating an edible garden is one of the finest methods to inspire kids to plant a garden so they may learn various skills. The study of the plant life cycle will continue.

Young children are curious and highly motivated to learn new skills like edible gardening with adult encouragement in a safe and supervised environment. We have experienced age-appropriate activities such as pushing child-size wheelbarrows, sowing seeds into the soil with educators' help, and watering fruits and herbs plants. We talked about edible plants and ongoing care for plants throughout this term.





## Summer Fun in the Kitchen: Delicious Recipes for Parent-Child Bonding

Summer holidays are the perfect time to turn up the heat in the kitchen and create lasting memories with your little chefs! Our collection of child-friendly recipes is designed to make cooking a joyous family affair. From sweet treats to savoury delights, these recipes are delicious and fantastic for bonding with your children. Get ready for a summer filled with laughter, learning, and, of course, delicious delights! Let the culinary adventures begin!

### Mini quiches with hidden vegetables



(Makes 24)

#### Ingredients:

- 2 sheets of puff pastry (frozen)
  - 4 eggs
  - 1/4 cup milk
  - 1/2 cup mashed potato
  - 1/2 cup carrot (mashed)
  - 1 cup tasty cheese (grated)
- Place pastry sheets on a work surface to defrost for 10 minutes. Preheat oven to 180°C.
  - Select a 24 small-hole cupcake pan or 2 x 12-hole pans.
  - Cut 12 holes from each pastry sheet with a scone cutter slightly larger than the holes.
  - Carefully push pastry circles into the pan (there's no need to grease). Divide the cheese between pastry cases.
  - Whisk eggs and milk together in a jug, then whisk in the mashed vegetables.
  - Pour egg mixture into pastry cases to just below the top. Keep whisking the mix to make sure the veggies are evenly distributed.
  - Bake for 10-15 minutes until golden.

#### Method:

### Smartie Biscuits



(Makes 24)

#### Ingredients

- 125 g butter (softened)
  - 1 tsp vanilla essence
  - 1 cup brown sugar
  - 2 eggs
  - 2 cups plain flour
  - 1 tsp baking powder
  - 1 cup desiccated coconut
  - 1 packet Smarties
- Preheat oven to 190C (170C fan-forced) and line trays with baking paper. Place the softened butter, vanilla essence and brown sugar into the bowl of an electric mixer and beat until it's pale and creamy. Add the eggs one at a time and mix for two minutes until well combined.
  - Sift flour and baking powder over the butter mixture and add the desiccated coconut. Mix well with a large spoon.
  - Use a dessert spoon to scoop the mixture and lightly roll it into balls. Place the balls onto your prepared baking tray and flatten slightly. Leave approximately 3cm between each biscuit to allow room for spreading.
  - Gently press the Smarties onto the top of the flattened biscuits. Place the trays into the oven and bake for 10-12 minutes or until the biscuits have turned light brown.

#### Method:

## At-home play-based learning – science activities

### **Simple volcano eruption science experiment**

This simple and exciting science experiment entertains kids and introduces them to basic chemical reactions in a fun and interactive way. Enjoy the magical world of science with this easy indoor or summer activity.

#### **Materials Needed:**

- Bowls \* Water \* Milk \* Food colouring
- Baking soda \* Essential oils (optional) \* Spoons



#### **Instructions:**

1. Place the bowls on a table or any flat surface suitable for the experiment.
2. Fill one bowl with water and another with milk. Add a few drops of different food colouring to each bowl for a vibrant effect. Optionally, add a few drops of essential oils to enhance the sensory experience.
3. Provide each child with a spoon. Encourage your child/ren to mix and experiment by combining the ingredients in different bowls to create their unique potions.
4. Instruct the kids to add a spoonful of baking soda to their concoctions. Explain to your child/ren that baking soda will create a magical reaction when combined with the other ingredients.
5. As they stir in the baking soda, watch their potions fizz and bubble, mimicking a volcanic eruption. Encourage your child/ren to observe and describe the changes happening in their potions.
6. Discuss the science behind the reaction with the kids, explaining how combining baking soda and liquid causes a chemical reaction that produces carbon dioxide gas.
7. Once the experiment is complete, assist the kids in cleaning up the bowls and utensils. Remind them to wash their hands thoroughly.

### **Creating a planting project for children at home**

Engage in an enjoyable and educational outdoor activity by planting seeds or small plants at home. Follow these steps to make it an exciting learning experience for kids:

#### **Materials Needed:**

- Small pots or containers for each child
- Soil or potting mix
- Seeds or small plants
- Watering cans or spray bottles
- Labels (optional)



#### **Instructions:**

1. Choose a suitable outdoor location for the planting activity. Any space with enough sunlight.
2. Provide each child with a pot or container. Make sure the pots have drainage holes at the bottom to prevent overwatering.
3. Assist your child/ren in filling their pots with soil or potting mix.



4. Depending on your preference and the season, either plant seeds or small plants in each pot.
5. Emphasize the responsibility of watering the plants. Instruct the kids to water their pots daily, ensuring the soil remains moist.
6. Encourage the children to observe their plants regularly. Discuss the changes they notice, such as the appearance of sprouts, leaves, or flowers. For an extra touch, provide labels for the children to mark their pots with the name of the plant or their creative labels.
7. Take moments to discuss the different growth stages of plants, from germination to maturity. This helps children understand the lifecycle of plants.
8. Celebrate milestones in the plant's growth, such as the first sprout or the appearance of flowers. This fosters a sense of accomplishment and responsibility.
9. Enjoy the Process: Remind the children that the joy of planting comes not only from the result but also from the process of nurturing and caring for living things.

### **Making playdough**

Enjoy the versatility of playdough for all ages, and have fun outdoors in the summer. Gather sticks and leaves to create imaginative playdough faces, animals, and trees. This sensory activity is enjoyable and aids in strengthening hand muscles and developing fine motor skills. Have a blast with this creative and beneficial playtime experience.

#### **Ingredients:**

- 1 cup flour
- 1/2 cup salt
- 2 tbsp cream of tartar
- 1 tbsp oil
- 1 cup boiled water
- Food coloring of your choice
- Zip lock bag or airtight container

#### **Instructions:**

- In a large bowl, mix the flour, salt, and cream of tartar.
- Add oil.
- Mix a few drops of food colouring into the boiling water and add to the mixture in the bowl.
- Mix everything well, then kneed until the mixture is no longer sticky.
- Allow it to cool, store it in a zip lock bag, wrap it in plastic, and put it in an airtight container.
- Store at room temperature, and it should last around 6 months.



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