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# AL IMAN N E W S L E T T E R

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# **IMPORTANT DATES:**

### **RAMADHAN BEGINS**

◆ Tues 13th/ Wed 14th Apr 2021\*

### **CURRICULUM DAY**

• Monday 19th Apr 2021

### TERM 2 2021 BEGINS (Students)

♦ Tuesday 20th Apr 2021

# PARENT INFORMATION SESSION DAY

◆ TBC

### **ANZAC DAY**

• Sunday 25th Apr 2021

### **NAPLAN**

◆ 11th, 12th & 17th May 2021

### **EID UL FITR HOLIDAYS**

♦ Thur 13th & Fri 14th May 2021

### **EID FESTIVAL**

• Thursday 20th May 2021

\*Subject to Moonsighting.

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Ramadhan Prayer Calendar

# **Al Iman College Ramadhan Operational Hours**

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh Dear Respected Parents/Guardians,

As Ramadhan is approaching, we need to inform you of some changes in the college operational hours in order that you may make necessary preparations accordingly.

Ramadhan Timetable 2021 Monday - Thursday		
Period	Time	
Hifz and Uloom Ud Deen	7:30 am start	
Regular students Morning Duas	8:20 – 8:30 (10mins)	
1	8:30 – 9:05 (35 mins)	
2	9:05 – 9:40 (35 mins)	
3	9:40 – 10:15 (35 mins)	
Eating time	10:15 – 10:20 (5 mins)	
Recess	10:20 – 10:35 (15 mins)	
4	10:40 – 11:15 (35 mins)	
5	11:15 – 11:50 (35 mins)	
6	11:50 – 12:25 (35 mins)	
Lunch 1/Prayer/Lunch Supervision	12:25 – 12:45 (20 mins)	
Lunch 2/Play	12:45 – 1:05 (20 mins)	
7	1:10 – 1:45 (35 mins)	
8	1:45 – 2:20 (35 mins)	

- Zohar salat time in the prayer room will be 12:30pm.
- Friday follow the usual timetable.

### Student Dismissal

Mon - Fri: 2:20pm

This timetable will be applicable from Tuesday 20th April (Term 2 students start) until the end of Ramadhan.

As there will be no after school care arrangements, we request that you arrange pick up of your children on time.

Please also note the operational hours for both Men's and Ladies' Offices during this period:

Monday to Thursday 8:00am - 2:35pm Friday 8:00am - 3:30pm

May Allah accept all our preparations for Ramadhan and may we reach Ramadhan safely.

Jazakumullahukhayran Wassalam

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# SUPPORT PROGRAMS AT AL IMAN COLLEGE

Assalamu Alaikum Dear Respected Parents/Guardians,

**Support Programs** at Al Iman College aims to provide programs for all students with the opportunity to perform and achieve at their optimum levels. The school has a team of **Support Staff** who provide support through various programs.



These programs are part of the Intervention Program which include:

**TUTORING PROGRAM:** The school has employed 2 tutors to provide extra Literacy and Numeracy support to students in small group settings.

STA: Speech Therapy Assistant program which aims to provide group speech therapy to students. This program is devised by the school's new on-site full-time speech pathologist, Sr Sara Demirovic, who also conducts individual sessions with students. Included in this program are Literacy Programs to aid with improving reading and writing skills and Social Skills to enable better communication and understanding, through a guided approach, when interacting with peers and teachers.

Shhhh...
STA
session
in
progress

**READING PROGRAM:** The reading program aims to provide the opportunity for students to progress in their reading and comprehension skills. This program includes dedicated **Parent Volunteers** who provide their valuable time to assist our students.

**IN CLASS SUPPORT:** Integration staff are allocated to classrooms to support both teachers and students for a more productive environment. This support gives opportunity for effective learning.

**CENSORING:** This program involves editing of picture material to maintain the religious etiquettes of our school while providing an inclusive Curriculum.

It is a privilege to be part of a growing establishment and we are all looking forward to a productive year ahead.

Support Team at Al Iman College.

# **AL IMAN COLLEGE LIBRARY**

Love of Reading: If you want your children to love reading you must let them read.

**Develop a love of Reading in Children:** Exposing children to a variety of genres can help them find the books they love and enhance their reading comprehension strategies to deepen their engagement.

Reading dares your children to grow: Before we encourage our children to read, they must know how to read. Inspiring children to read is the first step for parents to undertake and finding books that interest them is another step as it is the foundation of reading. From there, the parents must interact with children with fun and exciting lines and squiggle until the children transform into stories, characters, and ideas. Once they master the picture books, move forward to novels.

To keep in mind that, for children to fall in love with reading they need parents' support and engagement in encouraging and motivating them to read; that will grow and deepen their knowledge. Acquiring knowledge through books is one of the many ways to benefit them, in terms of understanding the world and able to excel academically. Books that are highly recommended to read are literature, books in foreign languages, Islamic books, and many more.

**Reading is a Big Academic Boost:** Children who develop the love for reading perform better in schools. When reading is fun and easy children like it even more. Reading is a positive cycle which enhances their overall academic performance. Your children will build strong comprehension skills in writing, reading, and speaking.

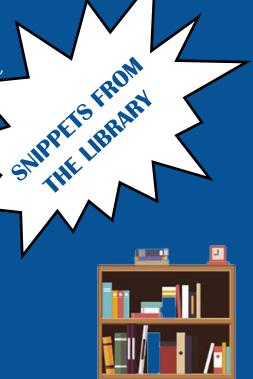
**Confidence and Motivation:** Children will have more confidence and motivation If they love reading, hence enhancing their academic performance.

Meaningful Personal Rewards: It is not just academic success, children who love to read get to feel the real joy of being lost in the good book, they experience the adventure right along with the character, in fact he or she will feel that they are the main character. This enhances the pleasurable and rewarding experience and can be a turning point in their lives. Reading shapes the way children understand the world.

JazakumuAllahuKhairan

Ms Khurrathul Aain Syeda

-Librarian



# Clean Up Australia Day

As part of Clean Up Australia Day, Al Iman College participated in the annual Schools Clean Up Day which took place on Friday the 5th of March.

Schools Clean Up Day is a fun and engaging way to teach our young and growing students about the responsible disposal of rubbish, resource recovery and the repercussions of rubbish dumped irresponsibly in the local environment.

This initiative helped students understand and practice one of the fundamental teachings of Islam, which is cleanliness.

It comes in a hadith that The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) has said: Cleanliness is half of faith...(Muslim) and in The Holy Quran it is mentioned that 'Allah loves the ones who keep themselves pure.' (Surah Tawbah, Verse 108).



**COLLEGE EVENTS** 

The school decided as part of the School Clean Up Day, students will be having a hands-on experience of cleaning up the school. Each class cleaned up their classroom and the areas around the school which were allocated to them whilst being supervised by their respected teachers.

# **Secondary Students Day Camp Trip**

Al Iman College organised a day camp for the Year 7 to Year 12 Boys on Friday 12th March 2021 and on Friday 19th March 2021 for the Girls. The aim of the day camp trip was for students to experience personal growth, enhance resilience, develop team and leadership skills in a non-school environment.

The destination of the trip was at Weekaway Recreational Camp, about 1hr and 15 minutes' drive from the College.

Students took part in activities which consisted of: Flying Fox, Canoeing, Raft Making, Laser Tag, Archery, Damper Cooking and other Team Building Activities. The Students were accompanied by a teacher/supervisor during each activity session. For some, outdoor activities were a complete new experience for them whilst for others it was something they were looking forward to every year, especially after not being able to travel last year in 2020 due to the pandemic and restrictions. Overall It was one of the best experiences the staff and students had and everyone is looking forward to the event next year Inshallah!

### **Extra Curricular Activities Department**













# **AIC EARLY LEARNING CENTRE**

We celebrated Healthy Lunch Boxes Week from 8<sup>th</sup> till 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021. It is an initiative by Nutrition Australia that aims to inspire Australian families to create healthy and enjoyable lunch boxes. What children eat during the day at school plays a crucial role in their learning development. Healthy Lunch Boxes week helps families and children to prepare healthy lunchboxes by ensuring a balance across core food groups. Children engaged with various activities such as making their own fruit salad, avalanche fruit salad games, paper plates art and food matching games.





On 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021, the children participated in the School Clean Up Day. It is an ideal time to support the children in becoming environmentally responsible even at the young age. They learnt that each effort done by one member of the community adds up to make Australia a cleaner and better place. We learn to reduce, reuse, and recycle and they even participated in cleaning their classroom and outdoor area. They worked in a team and assist each other with enthusiasm.

Harmony Week was celebrated from 15<sup>th</sup> till 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Its message was "Everybody Belongs" and it aims to promote respect for cultural and religious diversity throughout Australia. Children were engaged to talk about their food, family origin and home language.

**ELC Team** 





# **LOWER PRIMARY**

# **Melbourne Aquarium Trip**

On the 18th of March, year 2 students had the opportunity to visit the Melbourne Aquarium to learn about sea animals and their habitat. The students were guided the by teachers and support staff through stations where they were able to explore various animals and their habitats. Some of these animals included sting rays, sharks, jelly fish and penguins.

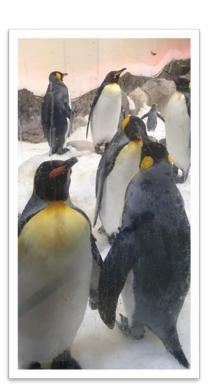
The students enjoyed watching the penguins swim, and for many this was the first time they had seen a penguin! At the end of the day, they were able to relax and enjoy a short 4D film.

Students were also given writing books to reflect on their experience at the aquarium and note down interesting facts about the animals they encountered. Overall, the students had an enjoyable time learning about marine life.



-Speech Pathologist









# **UPPER PRIMARY**





### **Excursion to Melbourne Zoo**

In Term 1, we year 3 went to Melbourne Zoo as part of our Science unit. The zoo experience never fails to disappoint. We had such a fantastic outing, sighting many animals, partaking in a wonderful lesson with a Melbourne Zookeeper and applying much of our Science knowledge.

This term we have been learning about living things, nonliving things, plants and animals. It was a great opportunity to have the Zookeeper from Melbourne Zoo to run through different living things, non-livings things, plants and animals; and how to look after them, in order to expand our knowledge, which was quite a hands-on experience. It was amazing to be able to wander through the zoo and explore animals that are certainly not native to Australia, as well as those animals that are.

We received some lovely comments from other schools on how well behaved our students were. Well done to everyone!

### Ust MD Abu Yusuf & Hassan Ayub

-Year 3 Form Teachers



# **Excursion to Sovereign Hills**

On 15th, 16th and 17th of March, students of year 4 and year 5 visited Sovereign Hills Museums. Covering 15 hectares of a former gold mining site, Sovereign Hills Living Museum is an Australian tourism icon that brings the gold rushes to life through a living township with diggings, underground mines, costumed characters, coach rides and 1850s shops, trades, schools, and dwellings. Situated in the historic city of Ballarat, the Outdoor Museum is located in Bradshaw Street,a comfortable 50-minute drive from Melton along the Western Highway.





In term 1 the students were learning about life in the past, European settlement and its impact on shaping the Australia's Identity. Students analysed events which contributed to Australia's social, political, and cultural development.

In this context, the school provided our students with a hands-on experience for students to participate in a special simulated Gold Rush Excursion at Sovereign Hills.

Students joined the 'rush' to One Eye Gully, re-lived the highs and lows of gold fever. They participated in many activities such as role-play to understand the varied experiences of the diggers, gold buyers, harsh treatment of people and poor working conditions. It was a worthwhile experience to see history alive that students really enjoyed and had a great time with their teachers and peers. It will certainly be a day to remember for our year 4 students, Alhamdulillah for being given this opportunity by our school.



Year 4 & 5 Teachers







On the 17th of March, the year 4 girls went to Sovereign Hills. When we arrived, the streets looked just like the olden days. There were horse carriages and people dressed in old clothes too. We went to this olden day school and we were able to write with ink. We were also able to go to a mine and look for gold. We were all so excited to visit the stores and buy souvenirs and some yummy sugary sweets just enough to satisfy our sweet teeth."

# YEAR 6

# Setting New Standards of Excellence in Mischief and Academia.

Each year, when the first Term of the school begins, there is a cold war between the form teachers and their respective students; each trying to impress the other. Start of Term 1, 2021 was not any different. Masha Allah, the boys of Year 6 had been very resourceful in coming up with all sorts of pranks (such as huge plastic cockroach sitting on teacher's shoulder, wrongly accusing someone else to see if consequences would be given or not, etc.,), jokes, imitating the teacher and making sounds of animated characters of all kind (Peppa Pig being the most common one).

Being young and enthusiastic, the boys have tried everything 'silly' in the class. However, to their greatest disappointment, this year the Year 6B teacher changed, and the boys got a teacher who had been the 'outstanding' (literally standing out of the class most of the time) student in this field of pranking and mischief. Luckily, (for the students), the teacher had hung his boots, but still is able to engage in 'preemptive strikes' to counter the attacks. Come on, boys, is this all you have got? Bring it on. GAME ON!

While the battle is raging on, the students of 6B have started implementing 'MYOB' – (Mind Your Own Business) – strategies and had achieved a lot in terms of academics in Term 1. The change in attitude is mainly because of the recitation of a Hadith in the first period by the students. As the term progressed, students became more conscious of their academic goals. There are some very well-read students who do not miss a chance to rectify the teacher. Also, quite few of them are on Level 30 of the PM benchmark collection, and there are some bookworms who have to be stopped from reading their books during assessments!!!

In a recent practice for conversion units in Mathematics, one student completed two sets of 120 questions (that is, 240 questions in total) in less than the time taken by the entire class. And surprisingly, with 100% accuracy!!! Completely mind-blowing!!! He was followed by another student who completed 120 questions with 100% accuracy. Also, during the 'Rapid Fire' times table competition (within the class), top three students set a record of 5 min 14 sec, 6 min 14 sec, and 8 min 46 sec to complete 144 questions of varied times tables with 100% accuracy.



The boys are challenged in other subjects as well. They are in the process of developing their MS Excel skills to support their data management and presentation skills. In Arts, they have understood the depth of Indigenous arts and had treated its contents with respect. In science, after exploring bacteria and other microorganisms, the boys conducted various experiments at home and in class. This included yeast with sugar / salt and oil, making a moldy bread, finding, and cleaning mold from home and growing their own algae. As a result of their hard-work and dedication, the students took some water from outside, some bacteria grown on bread and some onion peels to the science lab, where they were briefed by the scholar Dr Zakir (Jazakumullahu Khairan for accommodating the request on such a short notice) about the different aspects of science and laboratory skills. The students then observed their algae, fungi, and onion cells under the microscopes.

During the excursion to the Immigration Museum, the students watched the clips with interest and took notes during their visit. Though disappointed a bit due the closure of the shop and limitation of activities due to COVID-19 restrictions, the boys enjoyed being on the 'Interview Panel' as an Immigration Officer, the Chinese Type 56 rifle (a variant of the Soviet designed AK-47 and AKM rifles) and the largest gold nugget found in Victoria. The students did some mind-mapping on the chapters of the novel, 'Boy Overboard' (with the teacher being the board writer) and quite some narrative writings. When challenged to write a narrative on 'My Best Day Ever', one student, with a twinkle of cheekiness in his eye, asked for the topic to be changed to 'My Worst Day Ever'. He started his writing with, 'Today, I met my new teacher of Year 6B'.

### ....CONT

There is a lot more to write about as the boys prepare themselves for the assessments and some further relaxing activities being planned by their teacher towards the end of the school term and upcoming Ramadaan and Eid celebrations. Stay tuned!

Reflecting on the last two weeks of the term, and that the assessments are over, it can be stated with much confidence that the students of Year 6B are mature enough to handle the academic load of secondary schooling. In the recent assessments, many other students emerged as academic leaders in addition to the existing lot. Determining the 'Student of the Term' was a challenge as the number of eligible candidates kept increasing. Eventually, the certificate and the title were given to one student, 'Sheheryar Ahmad Zafar', who is an SRC, maintained 100% attendance, is always in uniform, had earned forty-four (44) green cards, has highest marks in quite a few subjects, and spends most of his class time on improving his performance. Masha Allah. Keep up the good work, mate.

As the mark of the end of a very challenging and hectic term, the students had cricket and handball matches, cleaned up their classroom and nominated school area, and enjoyed a lunch of creamy butter chicken with naan bread and rice on their last day. And that is not the end. During the school holidays, the students would be preparing for new battles with new strategies of dominance. The teacher, on the other hand, will be preparing for raising the academic bar even higher in the areas of mathematics, literacy, and science. Let's GO!!!

### Pride of 6B - Future Scientists

Alhamdolillah, the students of Year 6B made a request to Dr Zakir to visit the AIC Science Lab. The request was

honoured and the students had a great time learning and exploring microorganism such as bacteria, fungi and algae.

From doing the experiments at home and in class, the students would see the colonies of fungi (mold) on bread and in house and algae in the nearby ponds or lakes. Bringing their own samples (and that of the teacher) to the science lab, extracting their own 'specimens', placing and adjusting the specimen in the microscope and eventually, observing it, was quite thrilling for all of them. All students got their lab coats and gloves on before the experiments which gave the students a 'real feeling' of being a scientist of the future. Masha Allah!

The students made some reflections on their experience of the science lab. Some of these reflections are given below:

"I had fun and enjoyed my time and identified a specimen of both algae and fungi. I also learned safety procedures such as how to take your gloves off without touching the germs on the gloves." – Uzair Tariq Cheema

"When I went to the science lab it was amazing. It was better than the normal science lab and it was the best learning thing." - Hadi Seifeddine

"Today in the science lab we got to see algae under the microscope. The algae were very jelly like and stuck together. I plan on researching on why the algae was like that." – Ahnaf Abdullah







# Is this a dagger I see before me?

"Macbeth", or "The Scottish Play" as the students have come to know, is a story following a brave soldier who becomes enamoured with status, power and is ultimately overthrown.

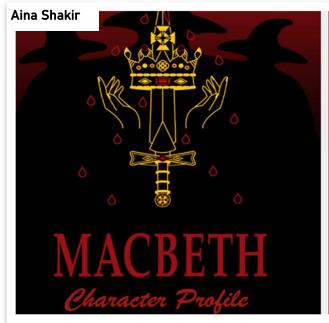


Students of 10A found themselves engrossed into the Shakespearean world of murder, betrayal, and tragedy. Initially students had difficulty understanding ye olde English, however, soon they were able to immerse and grasp the words of Shakespeare, enjoying the ideas and themes presented in the play. "The Scottish Play" dealt with characters who fell into temptation, greed, and inner conflict. With so much significance to the real world, 10A students were able to compare Macbeth to contemporary issues.

Thankfully, we finished the term unharmed, unscathed, and most importantly, untouched in our Macbeth Death Bingo. For their project this term, students had to create a booklet analysing the characters. Below are some wonderful examples of their talent and thorough understanding of the play.

### Ms Sevde Isitan

-Secondary English Teacher











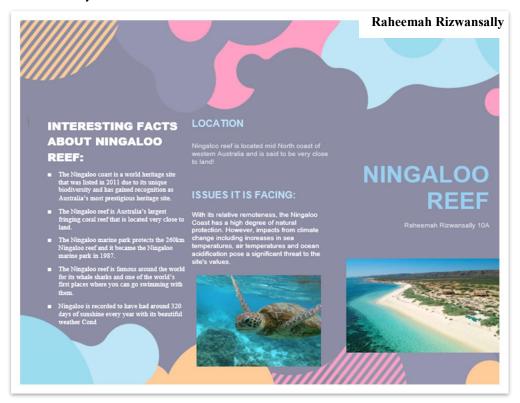
# Well, well, look what we have here? Climate change.

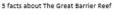
This term in Humanities, 10A explored geography and human wellbeing. The students were shocked to learn about land degradation and the devastating effects of natural disasters to which they said, "oh wow, the world is dying". While shocking may have been an understatement for these students, they were also \*delighted\* to learn that there were more CEOs named "Andrew" or "Michael" than women in the workforce with a CEO position. Yes, really. Aside from the gender inequality learnt, students also critiqued how we defined "happiness" and "wellbeing" from the Western lens. Learning these concepts allowed the students to plan their future effectively and be sustainable for a future that will hopefully thrive.

For their project this term, students had to create brochures detailing the impact of coastal damage and the environmental effect of many popular tourist areas. Below are some projects of the students.

### Ms Sevde Isitan

-Secondary Humanities Teacher





- It is the world's largest reef system.
- It is home to an incredible diversity of species.
- Prehistoric creatures still live there: As already mentioned, some of the coral structures could date back millions of years, but so too could some of the creatures living there.
- This incredible eco-system is 2,300km long.
- There are 600 types of hard and soft coral.

### Location of the great barrier reef:



What about the Great Barrier Reef?

Larger than the combined area of the UK and Ireland and comprising of almost a thousand islands, The Great Barrier Reef, Australia is an immense part of the world so where do you start? Here, our experts give their thoughts on why they think it's one of the most unmissable and important areas of the planet.

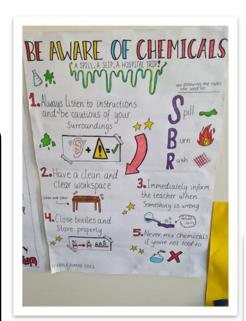
The Great Barrier Reef is not actually one reef, but a collection of almost 3000 smaller reefs which themselves are underwater ecosystems created over thousands of years by hundreds of different species of coral polyps. Although there are still some remnants of this ancient reef, the living barrier reef as we know it today that lives on its rocky ancestor is estimated to be around 8000 years old.

The Great Barrier Reef is home to more than 1,500 species of fish, 41 types of hard coral, one-third of the world's soft corals, 134 species of sharks and rays, six of the world's seven species of threatened marine turtles, and more than 30 species of marine mammals, including the vulnerable dugong.

# The Great Barrier Reef

By: Fatima Chundoo

Fatima Chundoo



# Be safe and use your head Or youll be lying sick in bed."



# Safety in the science lab

Year 7 Science students learnt about safety in the science lab in Term 1. Students were introduced to the science lab, scientific equipment, how to use the Bunsen burner, safety in the science lab and how to conduct scientific investigations. Students were asked to make a visual poster on safety rules in the science lab.

### Ms Amal Shihata

- Secondary Science Coordinator









### The Periodic Table

Year 8 Science students learnt about the periodic table and its elements in Term 1 Science class. Students were tasked with researching an element and finding out about its natural occurrence, extraction methods, when and where the element was discovered and the origins of its name.



Students were also tasked to research some chemical and physical properties of their element and what uses the element has. Year 8 students also made their own mini periodic table.

### Ms Amal Shihata

- Secondary Science Coordinator

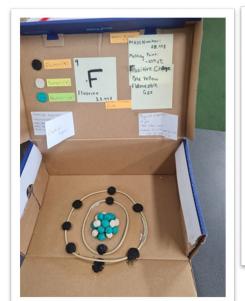
### The Atomic Model

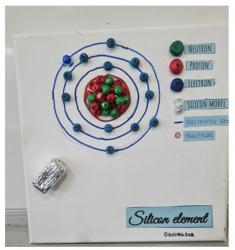
Year 9 Science students learnt a greater detail about the atomic structure in Term 1 Science class. They built on their knowledge from last year that everything is made of particles namely the atom. They learnt about the subatomic particles inside the nucleus of the atom and the electrons in the electron shell. Students were allocated an element each and were asked to creatively model the element at its atomic level showing the electronic configuration, its periodic table symbol, atomic number, mass number. Students did a great job Mashaa Allah.

Below are some samples of their creations.

### Ms Amal Shihata

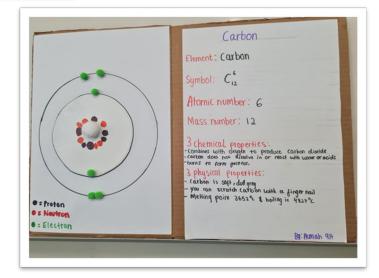
-Secondary Science Coordinator

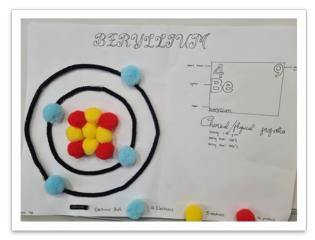


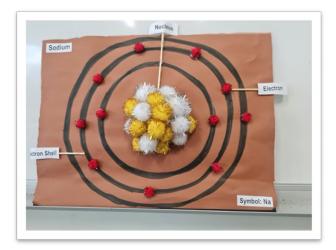












# **Biomes Project**

In term 1 the year 9 boys studied biomes. The students created a 3D model of the aquatic and terrestrial biomes as part of the geography project. Well done to Omar Karim and Muhammad Abdullah for creating the 3D models of their chosen biomes.

### **Ust Wahid Hussain**

- Secondary Science Teacher





# **Bonding together!**

As a global community we are witnessing some of the most exciting scientific advances the world has seen. In Year 10A, we are also discovering plenty while exploring the elements in the Periodic table and how these elements bond together in the Chemical Sciences.

Our bright students have created amazing 3D molecular models for two different bonding between the elements of the Periodic Table. e.g., Ionic compound and Covalent compound. Some students chose to make some artistic posters and some produced awesome PowerPoint Presentations.

I am very excited to share some of Year 10 A students' innovations, as a result, of their resourceful and creative imagination.

The students learned about the different types of the chemical reactions through the group activities. hey created different 3D models to show the chemical equations for each chemical reaction.

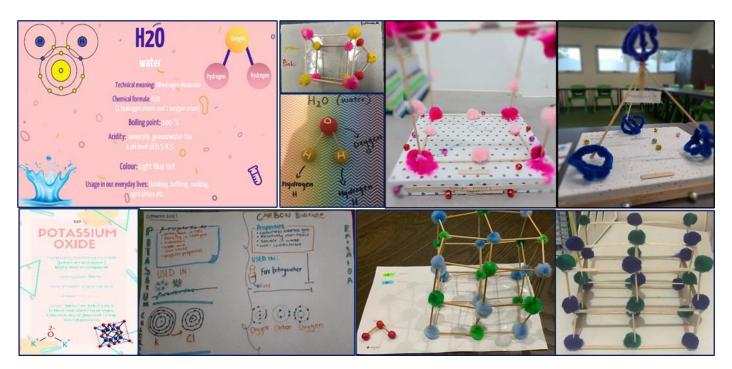
### Ms Sameeha Siddiqui

- Secondary Science Teacher

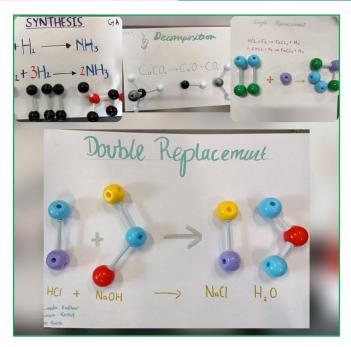












# ART DEPARTMENT



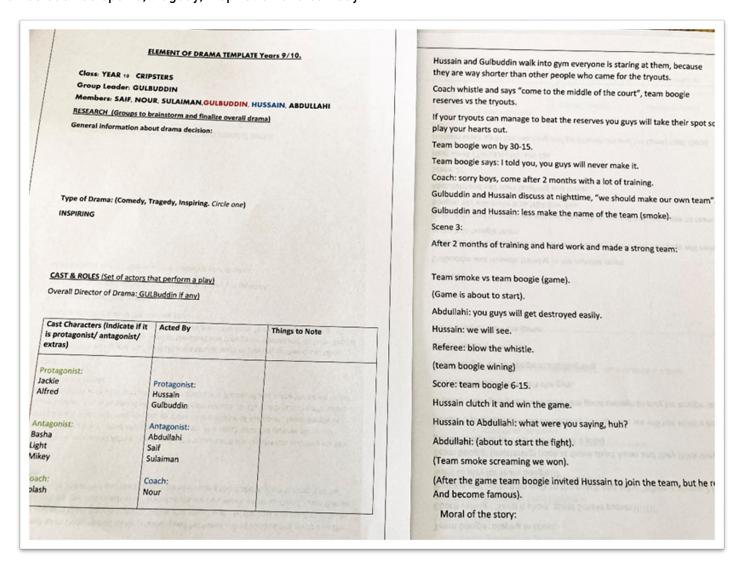
### Year 9/10 Drama

It was an exciting year for the students in Year 9 & 10 Art.

For the first time, students were exposed to Drama (Theatre), where they worked as a team, to understand and appreciate the history, elements and practicalities of drama.

Students learnt about how drama has benefitted and influenced communities and appreciated the various components required to execute an actual drama scene.

In their groups, they applied their creativity in coming up with dramas inspired from Islamic History to contemporary modern-day issues. They developed their scripts focusing on different genres while including themes such as sports, tragedy, inspiration and comedy.



Students ended the term with a Drama Theory Quiz and learnt how to complete an 'Elements of Drama Project' template. They also learnt how to produce drama scripts, which they will use in Term 2, as a resource for their actual group act.

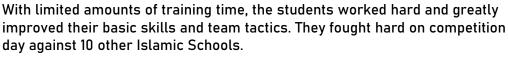
We wish them all the best and fun in acting out their masterpieces!

### Ust Hafizzudin Ng

-Secondary Art Teacher

### Inter Islamic Schools 7 a-side Football 2021

It was the time of the year again for 10 of our students from the Year 9/10 boys to represent the school in the Inter Islamic Schools Football Tournament. Due to various restrictions from COVID-19, schools participated in a 7 a-side outdoor football instead of the yearly indoor futsal session. Despite the change, students were very excited and adapted very quickly.





Al Iman College

Alhamdulillah, the boys managed to gain an overall **6th out of 11 competitors**, which is a massive improvement from 2020.



"In training, we did multiple drills to improve our running, passing and shooting. During the competition, the best part for me was being able to work as a team and having fun! I have learnt that we are out there representing our school, we should show our best behaviour, do our best and showcase our skills!

For future competitions, I will work harder!'

~AbdulAziz Jama, Student, Year 9B.

Ust Hafizzudin Ng
-HPE Coordinator

# **VCE DEPARTMENT**

# **VCE Program**

Alhamdullilah, with the grace of Allah (SWT) we are proud to announce that this year we started our VCE Year 12 program. For a smooth transition to Year 12 for both students and parents, an information session was organised in February. Parents of all students undertaking VCE studies in 2021 were invited to attend the information session. This session started with the recitation of Holy Quran, followed by a welcome note from our respected Principal Brother Zulfiquar. Information regarding VCE program and important policies were discussed in the session. Our VCE staff was available to address parents' inquiries. We also included information on how parents can support VCE students in their learning at home. The program ended with a refreshment takeaway pizza pack for attendees.

We would also like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the support provided at Al Iman College for VCE students. This year we have allocated a dedicated full time VCE tutor for our students who need tutoring during school hours. Students also have access to a VCE Lounge and study area.

We are grateful to note that we were able to end the term with a barbeque for our VCE students and staff. On behalf of the VCE Admin, we would also like to thank Brother Rashid for organizing the BBQ. Students were excited to take on leadership roles during the event and this helped in building unity among our Year 11 and 12 students.

Furthermore, the Victoria Police held a careers info session for the VCE students. Information regarding the career pathways and opportunities were discussed. Questions from students regarding the entry requirement and job opportunities were answered by the presenters from Victoria Police.

We wish all the best to our students in their VCE studies. With the grace of Allah (SWT), our students will do well in their VCE Inshallah.

Ust M Abdul Rashid & Ms Fathimath Senifa -VCE Coordinators









# Ramadhan Advíce



As we know the blessed month of Ramadhan is at our door step, a month in which Allah SWT opens the doors of paradise and closes the doors of hell and chains the Shayateen. A month to remind us of our purpose of life, rekindle our connection with Allah and retune our focus and shift our mindset from being engrossed in the Dunya to working towards the Akhirah.

The Messenger of Allah SAW said: "There has come to you Ramadhan, a blessed month, which Allah, the Mighty and Sublime, has enjoined you to fast. In it the gates of paradise are opened and the gates of hell are closed, and every devil is chained up. In it Allah has a night which is better than a thousand months; whoever is deprived of its goodness is indeed deprived."

As we prepare to embrace the blessed month wholeheartedly we must adhere to a few points and advices that would allow us to take the maximum benefit of Ramadhan and would draw us to the mercy of Allah.

### 1. Do excessive Istighfaar

We must enter Ramadhan clean. What does that mean? Before Ramadhan enters (in the few minimal days we have) we must first purify ourselves internally and externally. We must purify our soul and do excessive istighfar. This is because sins harden the heart and slacken a person from doing good deeds and makes a person prone to do bad and immoral actions. So, when we internally purify ourselves then we draw the Rahmah of Allah upon ourselves and we would be prone and inclined to do more good deeds. Hence we should do excessive tawbah in these few days that we have and enter Ramadhan clean and pure physically, psychologically and spiritually, ready to work hard and do good deeds and take the most benefit from this blessed month that Allah has bestowed us with.

It comes in the Hadith of Ibn Khuzaimah, the Prophet of Allah SAW when advising the companions RA mentioned, "Try to do four things as much as possible (in Ramadhan): two of them which please your Lord, and the other two you can't do without. As for those that please your Lord, they are testifying "La ilaha illa'Llah" and asking for forgiveness. As for those which you can't do without, they are asking for paradise from Allah and seeking His protection from hell."



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### 2. Reconnect ourselves with the book of Allah

We must reconnect ourselves with the book of Allah (SWT) in the blessed month by reading it, more importantly understanding and on top of that is practising upon it. This month is the month of the Quran, the month when Quran was revealed upon the Prophet (SAW) and all the other previous scriptures. Allah SWT revealed the Quran as a reminder and a guide to mankind. Hence, we should spend a great amount of time reciting the Quran (at least once) and engross ourselves in trying to understand and contemplate upon the meaning of the Quran and the message that has been sent to us in the Holy Quran by Allah SWT. More importantly, as we begin understand the meaning of the Quran, we must then put into practice the commandments that Allah SWT has asked us to carry out and refrain from the prohibitions that he has warned us about in the Quran as this is the purpose of the Quran.

Allah SWT says in the Quran in Surah Baqarah Verse 185; "The month of Ramadhan (is the month) in which the Qur'an has been sent down as guidance for mankind containing clear signs which lead (to the straight road) and distinguishing (the truth from falsehood)."

### 3. To exercise Sabr (Patience)

The prophet SAW when speaking about Ramadhan mentioned it as a month of patience.

"It is a month of patience, and the reward of patience is paradise."

Ibn Khuzaimah

This is because Ramadhan is a month in which we have to show a lot of patience: we get thirsty and hungry, cranky and tired, but we have to restrain ourselves and our Nafs and do good deeds and avoid sins. We accustom our stomach to patience by not eating anything although we are hungry, by not drinking even a sip of water even when our throat dries out of thirst.

On the other hand, if we happen to get angry, or if our Nafs forces us to backbite or to tell lies and bad words, we instantly refrain from it and remember that we are fasting and thus show patience against such evils.

This training of patience that we carry out during Ramadhan makes us recall those whose circumstances are more difficult than ours. This is because however poor one may be, one can by all means still find others poorer and more in need than oneself. Hence, he is reminded to help and assist the poor and feel their plight that they have to endure on a daily basis.

It is the lack of patience that destroys a person and deprives him from the mercy and blessing of Allah SWT.

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### It is mentioned in the Hadith of Bukhari by Ubadah Ibn Samit RA:

The Prophet came out to inform us about the Night of Qadr but two Muslims were quarrelling with each other. So, the Prophet SAW said, "I came out to inform you about the Night of Qadr but such-and-such persons were quarrelling, so the news about it had been taken away; yet that might be for your own good, so search for it on the 29th, 27th and 25th (of Ramadhan)."

Also we should control our tongue and utilise it for good and be patience with those who do not use their tongue and limbs for the right reason rather than retaliating and losing our reward.

This exercise deepens the self understanding and realisation which helps one to subjugate impatience, intolerance and other such vices.

**Abu Huraira RA related that the Prophet (SAW) said:** "If a person does not avoid false talk and false conduct during Siyam, then Allah does not care if he abstains from food and drink." (Bukhari, Muslim)

In another Hadith The Messenger of Allah said: ".. If one of you is abused by an ignorant person while fasting, then let him say: 'Indeed I am fasting.'"

### 4. To do Shukr

We should do shukr and sincerely thank Allah SWT for this blessed month. Shukr is not only done by the tongue or doing tasbih Alhamdulilah 100 times rather it is by appreciating the blessings of Allah and making the most use of it. We see that when Ramadhan enters then we busy ourselves sending many messages on WhatsApp and Facebook reminding others about Ramadhan, yet it is us who are missing our prayers, do not give charity and are oblivious of the commandments of Allah. Is this how we are grateful to Allah? The Prophet SAW practically demonstrated how to do shukr.

**Al-Mughirah ibn Shu'bah reported:** The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, would pray until his feet were swollen. It was said, "Why do you do this when Allah has forgiven your past and future sins?" The Prophet said, "Shall I not be a grateful servant?"

Shukr is by our actions: how we are expeditious and prompt in doing good deeds and how we utilise what Allah SWT has blessed us with to help and benefit others.

When Allah SAW reminded the Prophet SAW about the blessing that he showered upon him In Surah Ad Duha;

"Did He not find you unguided then guided you? And did He not find you needy then satisfied your needs?" (Verse 7-8)

He also ordered him SAW to be truly thankful for these blessings by utilising it to help others:

"Therefore, as for orphan, do not oppress him, and as for the beggar, do not scold him. And proclaim the blessings of your Lord." (Verse 9-11)

### 5. To be organised

Alhamdulillah Allah SWT has blessed us by making our life in Ramadhan very structured with Suhur in the morning, the five prayers, the iftar and the Taraweeh in the night. However, to make the most use of Ramadhan, we must organise ourself in such a way that we are always engaged in some form of worship and hence making the most of our day in Ramadhan. Also, the end of the day (before sleeping) should be left to self evaluate; where we evaluate how much time was wasted in useless things and how much time we sincerely worshipped Allah SWT. This will also remind us of our shortcomings and motivate us to do more and make the most of Ramadhan Insha Allah.

May Allah SWT accept all our good actions done in this blessed month, allow us to make the most of it and fulfill the purpose of Ramadhan. Aameen

### Mln Roohan Qazi

Islamic Studies Assistant Coordinator





~ Commencement of Ramadan / Eid is Subject to Moonsighting ~Timetable courtesy of the Hilal Committee Australia

3:02

3:01

3:00

3:43

3:42

3:41

5:28

5:27

5:26

6:53

6:53

6:52

12:22

12:21

12:21

TUE

WED

THU

11-May

12-May

13-May

5:39

5:40

5:40

7:09

7:10

7:11