

AL IMAN COLLEGE – EARLY LEARNING CENTRE TERM 2 2023 NEWSLETTER

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

As we bid farewell to an eventful Term 2, it is with great joy that we reflect upon the incredible activities and experiences that have shaped our time together. Our community has come together, creating lasting memories and fostering a sense of unity and togetherness.

One of the highlights of Term 2 was the Eid festival, held right here at the school side. It was a vibrant celebration of culture and tradition, where children came dressed in their finest attire, sharing joyous moments with their peers. The event was filled with laughter, delicious food, rides, activities, and farm animals that showcased the spirit of Eid.

In Term 2, we had the Greater Western Water Education program incursion. Our children engaged in hands-on activities, gaining valuable knowledge about the importance of water conservation and the impact it has on our environment. Additionally, we had the Maternal and Child Health Nurse (MCH Outreach Program) visit to our ELC. This visit was a wonderful opportunity for families to seek guidance and support on matters related to the health and wellbeing of their children. The nurse provided valuable insights and advice, ensuring that our little ones received the best care possible.

As we embrace the spirit of unity and togetherness, we extend our warmest Eid Ul Adha wishes to Al Iman College and the Early Learning Centre community. May the spirit of sacrifice and generosity inspire us to lend a helping hand to those in need.

Wishing you all a restful and rejuvenating break ahead, filled with joyful moments and quality time with loved ones. In Sha Allah, we look forward to the start of Term 3, where we will continue to embark on exciting journeys of growth and learning together.

JazakAllah Khaira

Noor Illyaas
(On behalf of the ELC Team)

IMPORTANT DATES

Last day of Term 2 for:

- Kindergarten - Friday, 23rd June 2023
- LDC - Tuesday, 27th June 2023
- Eid Ul Adha closure - Wednesday, 28th June to Friday 30th June 2023

Term 3 commences for kindergarten:

- Groups A & C- Monday, 10th July 2023
- Group B- Tuesday, 11th July 2023
- Group E- Friday, 14th July 2023

Term 3 commences for Long Day Care:

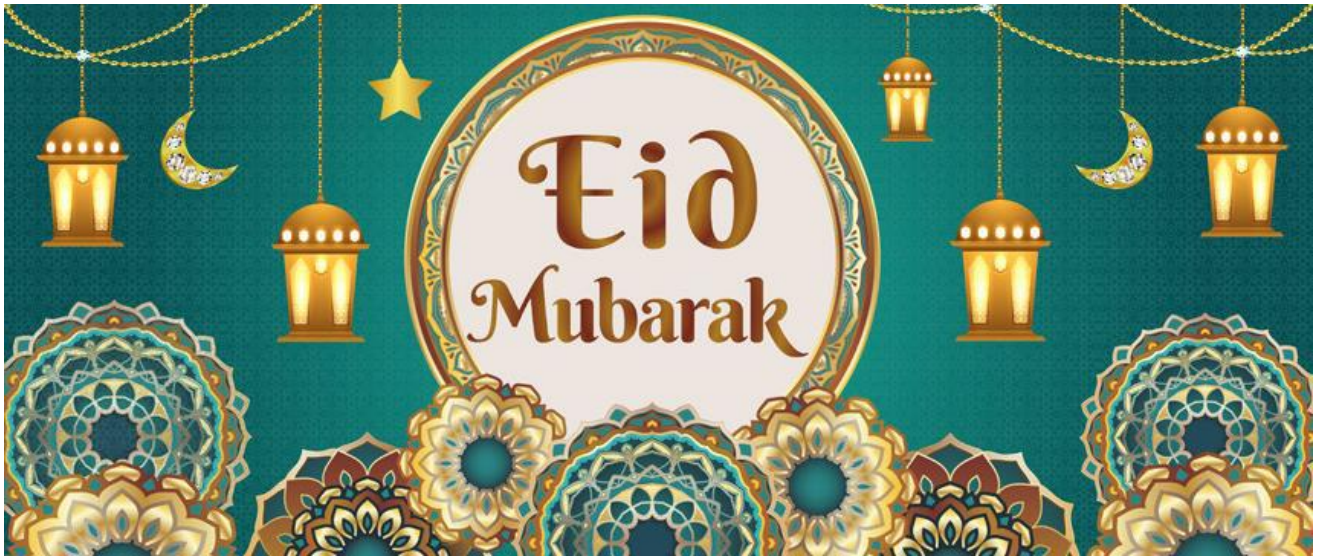
- Monday, 10th July 2023



Hajj is one of the most significant and sacred pilgrimages in Islam, attracting millions of Muslims worldwide to the holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia. This annual event holds deep religious and historical significance for us Muslims. At AIC ELC, we recently engaged the children in a special series of activities celebrating Hajj. The children gathered around as we introduced the topic by talking about Hajj and the significance of the Kaaba. They listened attentively, and their curiosity grew as we explained the various rituals performed during Hajj. We also watched a documentary explaining the steps of Hajj.

As we transitioned into the creative portion of the activity, the children helped to replicate the Kaaba. They excitedly gathered materials to make cards featuring the Kaaba and people performing Hajj. They worked carefully and thoughtfully, placing the Kaaba at the center of their cards and surrounding it with pieces of paper or paint dots representing people dressed in white. While working, the children engaged in discussions with one another, sharing what they learned about Hajj and Eid Al Adha and talking about their own experiences related to these special occasions. We will continue, Insha Allah, adding more to our project next term.





Our annual Eid festival celebration brought joy and excitement to the entire early learning centre. The children arrived with huge smiles on their faces, eagerly anticipating the day's activities. The school had set up various fun rides for the children, and they were divided into groups to rotate between the different activities. The excitement and laughter filled the air as each group moved from one ride to another.

Towards the end of the day, we returned to the early learning centre, where each child enjoyed their fairy floss and sausage to commemorate the special day. It was heartwarming to see everyone come together to celebrate this joyous occasion, with the children and educators having a wonderful time.



 National
Road Safety
Week 2023
14 - 21 May

DRIVE SO OTHERS SURVIVE
roadsafetyweek.com.au



THINK! ROAD SAFETY



STOP LOOK LISTEN THINK

Road safety is a critical life skill that needs to be instilled from an early age. By teaching children about pedestrian safety, traffic rules, and responsible behaviour, we can help create a safer environment for them to navigate in the future. Road Safety Week in AIC ELC serves as an excellent opportunity to introduce these essential concepts in an engaging and age-appropriate manner.

Group A & B – Sr Reham Mohamed

In groups A and B, the children were engaged in the safe road safety experience through various activities. They made their role-play while using the zebra crossing for people, driving their cars through the tunnels, and avoiding the trees. Children continued by drawing the road on their paper to exhibit safety on the roads.



Group E – Sr Saman Tahir

During road safety week, we discussed road safety rules with the children. First, we discussed traffic signals and road signs at group time, and then we did it practically outdoors, where the children were on their bikes. To mimic a real road, we put up traffic lights and signs. Children were educated on the importance of always holding hands when they leave or come to the Centre. Children also enjoyed a few art activities using crepe paper with which children created their traffic lights. There were tables set with road and road signs, so the repetition will help them learn better.





Group A & B – Sr Reham Mohamed

Every year in Australia, we celebrate National Reconciliation Week from 27th May to 3rd June. Children were encouraged to build positive and respectful relationships between Australians and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' culture. All the children painted dolls with Aboriginal colours using dried leaves and cotton buds. They learnt about Aboriginal symbols and did activities such as copying the symbols on the sand using sticks, branches of the tree, and dried leaves, which they gathered from the backyard. Children also matched the Aboriginal cultural pictures with the Aboriginal symbols.



Group C – Sr Saman Tahir

During Reconciliation Week, we celebrated and learned about Aboriginal culture at our early learning Centre. Through engaging activities, we aimed to connect children with their world and promote their well-being.

Inspired by Aboriginal art, we engaged children in using natural materials, specifically leaves. The kids painted on the leaves using red, yellow, and black paint. They were also given sand, sticks and Aboriginal symbols to trace and copy on the sand. Children developed a respect for different cultures through these puzzles and practised their problem-solving skills (Outcome 2).

Group E – Sr Saman Tahir

Children learnt about Aboriginal culture through various engaging activities. We introduced Aboriginal puzzles and encouraged children to explore the images, fostering an appreciation for Australia's indigenous heritage.

Using recycled materials, we crafted a rainbow snake, teaching children about the Rainbow Serpent from Dreamtime stories. This activity promoted creativity, fine motor skills, and environmental awareness (Outcome 3). Further, we gave the children natural materials to play around with which they paste, or use paint to connect them with nature and culture.





Group A & B – Sr Reham Mohamed

We celebrate World Environment Day to build awareness and action to help protect our environment so children can demonstrate environmentally friendly behaviour. Children were taught to be responsible for the environment in which they live by learning to reduce, reuse, recycle, and be environmentally aware from a young age.

As a part of recycling, children learnt to put their leftover food scraps into the bucket so we could give them to the worms at the end of the day. When it comes to sustainable waste management, worm farms have emerged as an ingenious solution. These miniature composting systems harness the power of earthworms in transforming kitchen scraps and organic waste into nutrient-rich compost.



Group C – Sr Saman Tahir

World Environment Day is celebrated annually on the 5th of June, encouraging awareness and action for protecting the environment. Some activities were set up in the room that included:



- Worm/snail search – children searched for the worms in a large tub of organic soil. As they enjoyed this fun sensory activity, we discussed the importance of our friends, Mr Worm and Mr Snail, in helping our environment.
- Playdough Earth balls – children used their fine motor and hand-eye coordination skills to form and create their planet Earth out of playdough.



- Painting our Earth – A sizeable round earth was drawn on paper, and all the children worked together using paint and coloured tissues to decorate the Earth based on their understanding of the planet.



- Gardening – We discussed with the children the importance of plants and how they help the environment. To accommodate this learning, we did a gardening activity where children could clear the weeds from the garden beds, plant the coriander seeds, and water the plants to grow.

Kindergarten Group A&B

Teacher: Sr Reham Mohamed

Greater Western Water



The Greater Western Water Incursion was a specially designed program to introduce young children to the concept of water conservation and the role they can play in protecting the environment. Children learnt how to save our precious water with Sammy the Snake and Frances the Frog. It also included a special treasure box and a story about water.



Jungle activity



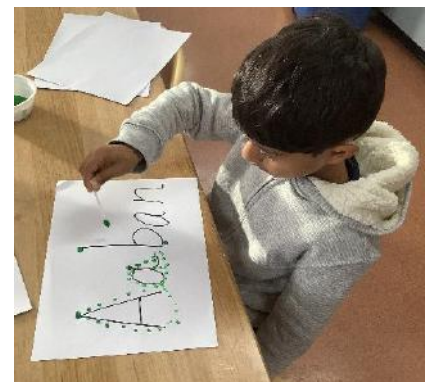
At the ELC, incorporating immersive and engaging activities can enhance learning experiences for young children. All the children were interested in exploring the jungle. A jungle-themed activity was a captivating adventure that sparked curiosity, imagination, and a deeper understanding of the natural world. Children went outside to collect various natural resources such as twigs, leaves, bark, and weeds to paste and create their jungle masterpieces. They used their fine motor development skills and hand-eye coordination to create their collage artwork.

Kindergarten Group C

Teacher: Sr Saman Tahir

Dotting names

During our group activity, the children in the room showed a strong interest in their names. To help children recognise their names and extend their learning, they were given a nametag with their names for each child to copy onto a piece of paper using cotton buds and paint. The children were excited to participate in this activity and eagerly began dotting their names with paint. This activity is a great way to practice fine motor skills, pincer grip development, concentration, and focus among children.



Kindergarten Group E

Teacher: Sr Saman Tahir

Creating Bookmarks

We always intend to teach the children about Islam and the Sunnah. During the group discussion, we spoke with children about their parents and their contribution to raising them, as we believe it is vital for the children to know and understand better. We shared a Quranic verse to incorporate into the topic:

رَبِّ اَرْحَمُهُمَا كَمَا رَبَّيْتَنِي صَغِيرًا

My Lord, have mercy upon them [my parents] as they brought me up [when I was] small.
Surat Al-Israa:24

To extend this learning, we printed individual Quran verses on one side, and children decorated the back side of the paper the way they preferred using different coloured glitters. After the children decorated their notes, we laminated them so that the children can take this activity home and give it to their parents to use as bookmarks.



Long Day Care (3+ years)

Room Leader: Sr Heena Pathan

Road safety

During road safety week, we set up activities related to road safety, made traffic signals and signs, and had an open discussion with the children about the road rules to find out what they already know and how to strengthen their knowledge on the topic. The children learnt the colours of the traffic light and what each colour means. They further learnt about road signs, such as "stop", "children crossing", "No Parking", and other traffic rules. Children were involved in various activities, creating traffic lights, and using the traffic floor mat to learn about road rules and zebra crossings. During the outdoor play, children role-played being pedestrians and drivers by riding their bikes and stopping at crossing signs.



Reconciliation week

During Reconciliation Week, we celebrated and learned about Aboriginal culture at our Early Learning Centre. Through engaging activities, we aimed to connect children with their world and promote their well-being. Inspired by the Aboriginal flag, we engaged children in handprint painting on paper using red, yellow, and black paint.



Learning numeracy (using marbles and wooden stack & count set)

Through observing the children, we noticed that the children showed interest in numeracy. We engaged the children in various activities to extend their learning and interest. One of the activities included providing children with marbles to use as a learning tool – children enjoyed this as the marbles had different colours and rolled around, making them easy to move and count with. Another tool used was the wooden stack count set – this was colourful, and children enjoyed matching the colours and numbers together. To extend their learning in numeracy, we provided further differentiated activities to learn more about numbers and counting.



Long Day Care (0-2+ years)

Room Leader: Sr Iram Mehmood

Eid Festival



We participated in the Eid festival which contributed in developing the children's social skills. Children enjoyed playing with farm animals and progressed their sensory and fine motor skills by touching and feeding them. After having an excursion to the animal farm, the children showed interest in animals. To extend children's learning towards animals, we added some zoo animals in our room and created a pretend land and sea using green and blue playdough.



Children demonstrated fine motor skills by rolling playdough with both hands. They were purposeful and persistent, focusing on their work and interacting with educators and their peers while enjoying sensory activities.

World Environment Day

We celebrated World Environment Day on 5th June, a national day for action to protect our environment and raise awareness on environmental issues, emerging from human overpopulation, global warming, and marine pollution to wildlife crime and sustainable consumption.

We shared some ideas and strategies with our group of children during group time that will help children to care for the environment in which they live.

We conducted some activities according to our children's age and understanding, such as a sorting waste and rubbish activity, and zip lock bag painting. We printed images of bins and pictures of garbage items for the children to place the images of the garbage on the appropriate bins. Through this activity, children learned what different colour bins mean and the rubbish that goes in each bin according to the colours of the bins. Children learnt to differentiate between rubbish, recycling, and green waste. We used recyclable items for daily craft activities to teach the children the importance of recycling and reducing wastage. Children engaged in this activity for hours.





Packing spare clothes and shoes

Children love to explore and engage in hands-on activities, such as painting, playing in the sandpit, or experimenting and playing with water. However, these experiences often result in messy situations. Hence, we request that parents provide their children with a spare set of clothes to keep at the kindergarten. Having readily available spare clothes ensures that your child can fully participate in all activities without any worry or discomfort. Accidents happen, spills occur, and puddle-jumping can be irresistible – but with a spare set of clothes, your child can embrace these moments freely. Please remember to label each item with your child's name, as it helps us keep track of belongings and ensures a smooth transition when changing clothes.

We also request that parents send their children to kindergarten wearing suitable shoes. Proper shoes are crucial in ensuring their safety and comfort throughout the day. Sturdy, closed-toe shoes with a good grip are essential to prevent slips, trips, and injuries. Sandals, flip-flops, and open-toed shoes are not recommended, as they may expose their little feet to potential hazards. Shoes that are easy for your child to put on and take off independently promote their developing self-help skills. Velcro straps or slip-on shoes are excellent options, as they encourage children to become more self-reliant in preparing for outdoor play. Please ensure that your child has suitable footwear for different seasons, such as boots or waterproof shoes for rainy days and lightweight and breathable sneakers for hot summer days.

At AIC ELC, we prioritise your child's safety, comfort, and active engagement. Providing spare clothes and appropriate shoes empowers them to participate fully in all experiences, fostering their independence and ensuring their well-being. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions or need further guidance regarding spare clothes or proper footwear, please do not hesitate to contact us.



Childcare subsidy changes

Starting from July 2023, important changes have been implemented to the childcare subsidy in Victoria, providing enhanced support for families accessing early childhood education and care services. These updates aim to make childcare more affordable and accessible while recognising families' diverse needs and circumstances. As a parent, staying informed about these changes is crucial to make the most of the available benefits.

One of the notable changes is an increase in subsidy rates for families. The new subsidy rates are designed to ease the financial burden on parents and ensure that childcare remains affordable and accessible. Depending on your family's circumstances, you may be eligible for a higher level of subsidy, which can help reduce your out-of-pocket expenses for childcare services.

The CCS percentage you're entitled to depends on your family's income.

- The income limit to get the maximum CCS is increasing. Families earning up to \$80,000 will get an increased maximum CCS amount from 85% to 90%.
- If you earn over \$80,000, you may get a subsidy starting from 90%. This will go down by 1% for each \$5,000 of income your family earns. You'll either get more subsidies or have no change to your entitlement.
- If you have more than one child aged 5 or under, you can still get a higher rate for one or more of your children.



If you already get CCS, you don't need to do anything to get the increased rate; changes to your CCS will be applied automatically.



Dental health check-ups

As parents, we prioritise the well-being of our children, ensuring they receive regular health check-ups. However, one area that sometimes goes overlooked is dental health. Dental check-ups are crucial for maintaining healthy smiles and preventing potential oral health issues. Some of the benefits of regular dental health check-ups include:

- Preventing tooth decay: Tooth decay and cavities are prevalent in children; hence regular dental check-ups enable dentists to assess your child's oral health and apply preventive measures such as fluoride treatments and dental sealants. These interventions create a protective barrier on the teeth, reducing the risk of tooth decay and cavities.
- Oral hygiene education: Dental check-ups offer an excellent opportunity for children to receive oral hygiene education from dental professionals who can demonstrate proper brushing and flossing techniques tailored to your child's age, ensuring that they develop good oral hygiene habits early on. By educating children about the importance of oral care, dental visits can empower them to take responsibility for their dental health.
- Reducing dental anxiety: Regular dental check-ups help children become familiar and comfortable with dental visits, reducing dental anxiety in the long run. Starting dental visits early in childhood establishes a positive association with dental care, fostering a sense of trust and ease during subsequent appointments. This lays the foundation for a lifetime of good oral health practices and regular dental care.

Taking children for dental check-ups instils the importance of lifelong dental care. When children see their parents prioritising dental health and attending check-ups, they are more likely to value oral care as they grow older. Regular dental visits become part of their routine, leading to better oral health outcomes and a reduced risk of dental problems in adulthood.

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