

# **Al-Noor Academy**

## **April 2009 Newsletter**

### **Registration Drive - Only a Few Days Left for the Discount!!!**

This is a reminder that there are a few days left in our registration drive where families can earn a 2.5% discount on tuition. Please send in your registration and deposit check by Thursday. It is critical that we have registration taken care of within this month. We use the registration numbers to effectively and efficiently plan for the upcoming year (order supplies, optimize the schedule, determine class placement, etc...). The earlier you register, the better the planning for next year. Please remember, classes fill on a first come first serve basis. This year there will be a late fee assessed for returning students registering past May 18, 2009 this year. If you do not think you will be able to make the deadline, please speak to our registrar, Sr. Fatma, ASAP.

See <http://www.anahs.org/registration.html>

Registration Forms: <http://www.anahs.org/docs/ANA-Application-010.pdf>

### **Open House Friday, May 1, 2009**

We welcome parents of returning students to come and complete their registration for next year. Additionally, we encourage anyone interested to come and have a tour of the school, sit in on a class, and come to meet our teachers, administration, and students!

### **Fly Up Day Friday, May 8, 2009**

Friday, May 8th, 2009 is our fly up day for incoming students. 5th Graders at IANE, as well as students from local private, Islamic, and public schools will have the opportunity to visit the school for the day.

### **ANA 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the 2009 Muslim Interscholastic Tournament (MIST) at Harvard University!**

It is my pleasure to congratulate Team Uber Noobers and MIST Coach Sr. Siham and Sr. Aimen! Al-Noor Academy placed 1st overall in the Muslim Interscholastic Tournament (MIST) at Harvard University! ANA has now won two years in a row! We are very proud of you all. A very special thanks to Sr. Siham and Sr. Aimen for their help in coaching and organizing. Thank you to all of the teachers who came to support our school. Last and certainly not least, congratulations to all of our young brothers and sisters from area schools and Masajid who made this year's MIST a successful event. It was our honor competing with you.

### **ANA Goes International**

Alhumdulillah, Sr. Fatma, Ala'a Elshaar, and Munther El-Alami returned safely from their 3-week interfaith trip to The Netherlands. Their trip and dawah was an outstanding success. They were able to study the similarities and differences of Muslims in Holland and America. They also studied the school system and learned the history and culture of beautiful country. Insha'Allah, we will announce plans very soon for their presentation of the trip.

## **Teachers and Faculty Returning Next Year**

Not only are we currently having our registration drive, but we also are pleased to announce that we will have close to 100% teacher and administrative retention for next year! Of course, unforeseen situations may arise during the summer, but having this stability as a starting point is something we are very pleased to offer the community. This is something most private and public schools do not achieve and it is a fundamental key to school success and overall school improvement. We are very pleased to have most, if not all, of our dedicated, talented, and hardworking teachers and administrators returning next year!

## **Procession of Light Class of 2009 Graduation**

It is our honor to announce "The Procession of Light," Al-Noor Academy's Class of 2009 Senior Graduation and Awards Ceremony. Please invite family, friends, and community members to celebrate the achievement of our senior graduates and another milestone for our community, all thanks and praise to Allah (SWT).

- Location: Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center (ISBCC), 100 Malcolm X Blvd. Boston, MA 02120
- Keynote Speaker: Imam Basyouny Nehela
- Date: Saturday, May 16th, 2009
- Time: 11:00AM

We thank ISBCC very much for their gracious offer to host this year's graduation.

## **Our 100% Acceptance to Top Colleges and Universities Continues!**

All thanks to Allah (SWT), 100% of our seniors were accepted to choice colleges and universities. Students have been accepted to colleges with scholarships over \$30,000.00! Additionally, we are still waiting for responses from many schools. As of April 20, 2009, our five senior students have been accepted to: Northeastern, Umass Amherst, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, Brandeis, Stonehill College, Umass Boston (full scholarship!), Umass Dartmouth, Wheelock College, and Bridgewater State College.

## **8th Grade Graduation Coming in June, insha'Allah!**

Details coming soon, insha'Allah!!!

## **Fall 2009 Dual-Enrollment Registration for Juniors/Seniors**

All rising Juniors entering the dual-enrollment program are required to have their families attend a dual-enrollment orientation meeting on Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 3:00PM. We will have a brief overview as well as a question and answer portion of the meeting. Students will meet with Br. Justin at April 28<sup>th</sup> to begin to work on their schedules for their chosen dual-enrollment schools. Currently, students may choose from a number of schools, including:

- Bridgewater State College: Fall Registration 4/21/2009 (Begins August for Dual-Enrollment) [www.bridgew.edu/registration](http://www.bridgew.edu/registration)
- Quincy College: Fall Registration 5/11/2009 <http://www.quincycollege.edu/qc/enroll/general.htm>
- Bristol Community College: Fall Registration 4/15/2009 <http://www.bristol.mass.edu/Catalog/coursesearch/registernow.cfm>
- Harvard Extension School: Fall Registration 8/1/2009 <http://www.extension.harvard.edu/2008-09/register/>

- Dean College: <http://www.dean.edu/Apply/Index.cfm>
- Roxbury Community College: <http://www.rcc.mass.edu/Admissions/DualEnrollment.asp>

## **It Takes Courage... and Our Students Succeeded!**

We are extremely proud of our two students whom were awarded winners of Max Warburg Courage Essay: Youssr Attia and Awab Nehela! Masha'Allah!!! They will receive their awards during an upcoming luncheon with the mayor of Boston. Additionally, their work will be published in this year's Courage Essay Book.

## **Our Spelling Bees**

The following students are our Al-Noor Academy Spelling Bee finalists and they will compete with their coach, Sr. Afshan, at Medina Academy in Connecticut. Parents are needed to help with car pooling.

### **Spelling Bee Finalists:**

- **Grade 6:** Youssr Attia, Amal Adra, Hayel Abdulghani (alternate)
- **Grade 7:** Sherif Atia, Omar Sorour, Noor Adra (alternate)
- **Grade 8:** Afnan Nehela, Omayr Abdelgany, Norah Ismail (alternate)

## **2009-2010 Al-Noor Academy Student Council**

The following young men and women have been entrusted by their peers as the 2009-2010 Al-Noor Academy Student Council to represent the student body with Taqwa and Ikhlaus:

- President: Mariya Ghorri
- Vice President: Kenza Laoufir
- Secretary: Sarah Sanousi
- Treasurer: Sabiha Rahman
- 6th Grade Representative: Awab Nehela
- 7/8th Grade Girls Representative: Amina Fahmy
- 7/8th Grade Boys Representative: Firas Elshaar
- High School Girls Representative: Susan Ahmed
- High School Boys Co-Representatives: Sammy Mousa/Sharif Abdelal

## **Al-Noor Academy's Email List**

Are you on our email list? Do you receive our updates, announcements, and events? If not, be sure to email Br. Justin at [abuamatullah@gmail.com](mailto:abuamatullah@gmail.com) so you can be added to this very important email list.

## **Donate a Book and Receive Hasanat Forever, insha'Allah**

One of the primary focuses in our NEASC Accreditation and for school improvement is to improve our library. In these tough economic times, it can be difficult to donate cash for this initiative. But, how many of us have books - Islamic, non-fiction, fiction, educational DVDs, etc... that are simply collecting dust? Why not get good deeds for them and donate them to the growing ANA Library!??? Please bring any donated materials to the school and place them in our library box located at the front entrance. Allah is the most generous and just one book may provide you with hasanat for centuries!

## **Student Community Service**

All students are required to have a minimum of 40 community service hours for promotion to the next grade level. Many students have done a great job keeping track of their hours. These are due June 2, 2009. We are very pleased to announce that Wafa'a Satti has taken the initiative to volunteer at a food pantry for the homeless. Students are welcomed to volunteer at this location. Additionally, Elimam Sanousi has worked to have ANA involved in the Muslims Walk for Hunger, please see <http://www.projectbread.org/>. Other opportunities include local fire departments, libraries, food pantries, soup kitchens, Masajid, environmental cleanup projects, and much more!

## **Six Flags Field Trip**

The students made a deal. If, as a school, our overall grades improve, we will go on a Six Flags field trip on June 8th, 2009. We do need parent volunteers. Please let us know if you are available to assist.

## **Parent Teacher Student Organization PTSO**

Insha'Allah, our next PTSO meeting will be Monday, May 4, 2009 at 3:15PM. We will meet to discuss the upcoming graduations, upcoming field trips, and summer work ahead - please come with your sleeves rolled up. If you can donate 10 hours or 10 minutes a week, either way – we can use your help!

## **CAT Testing Coming**

Our CAT Test (Standardized Testing) will be May 12th-14th. This is an extremely important test. We would like to ask parents to remind students of the importance of this exam. Not only does it let us know how we are achieving relative to the entire country, but it is also an important factor in determining dual-enrollment eligibility, academic probation status, individualized academic programs, and possibly scholarships!

## **Need Help? Do You Know Who To Go To?**

Feel free to call the school or send an email!

- Dr. Abdulfatah Elshaar ([afelshaar@gmail.com](mailto:afelshaar@gmail.com)) and Br. Ghazwan Ghazi ([Gfgdm@aol.com](mailto:Gfgdm@aol.com)) – Chair and Co-Chair of the School Committee, Liaison to ANA and IANE, Respectively
- Overall School Program and Daily Functioning, Executive Committee Member, Parent and Student Needs, Curriculum, Grading, Dual-Enrollment, College Applications, Major Behavior Issues – Br. Justin Valanzola ([principal@anahs.org](mailto:principal@anahs.org))
- Student Records, Files, Transcripts, Registration, Tuition, Requisition Forms, and Purchase Orders – Sr. Fatma Abdelwahab ([fatma56@gmail.com](mailto:fatma56@gmail.com))
- Office Assistant, Late Slips, Attendance, Immediate Behavior Issues – Sr. Hanan Koura ([sarawmariam@yahoo.com](mailto:sarawmariam@yahoo.com))
- Religion, Arabic, and Quran Department Head, Executive Committee Member – Br. Sofiane Hafiani ([sofianeh.1970@gmail.com](mailto:sofianeh.1970@gmail.com))
- Humanities Department Head, Executive Committee Member – Sr. Afshan Javid ([afshan@aol.com](mailto:afshan@aol.com))
- Math and Science Department Head, Executive Committee Member – Sr. Siham Yagoubi ([sihamyagoubi@gmail.com](mailto:sihamyagoubi@gmail.com))
- Public Relations, Marketing, Building, and Maintenance Needs – Br. Fawaad Qamar ([fq.alnoor@gmail.com](mailto:fq.alnoor@gmail.com))

- Arabic Curriculum and Program, School Committee Member – Br. Ziad Jamous ([ziad.jamous@gmail.com](mailto:ziad.jamous@gmail.com))
- Dual-Enrollment, College Application Process, School Committee Member – Br. Amr Fahmy ([amr\\_fahmy@hms.harvard.edu](mailto:amr_fahmy@hms.harvard.edu))
- Financial, Accounting, School Committee Member\* – Br. Omar Elmaghari\* ([elmghari@yahoo.com](mailto:elmghari@yahoo.com)) and Br. Nabil Sabti ([nabil.sebti@yahoo.com](mailto:nabil.sebti@yahoo.com))
- Building, Maintenance, Repairs, School Committee Member – Br. Mujeeb Ahmed ([Mujeeb@mujeebhomes.com](mailto:Mujeeb@mujeebhomes.com))
- IT/Tech, Computer Teacher, School Committee Member – Br. Hisham Hijazi ([hkhejazi@gmail.com](mailto:hkhejazi@gmail.com))

### **Student Extracurricular Activities**

Getting Involved? There are many extracurricular activities at ANA. Now only are they part of a comprehensive education and Tarbiyah, but they can also add to things such as scholarship, grant, and college applications. Currently, we offer: Sister's Basketball, Brother's Soccer, Student Outreach and Dawah, Fishing Club, Archery Club, Sewing Class, Sister's Halaqa, Brother's Qiyem, Student Council, School Store, Gardening Club, Cooking Club, Debate Team (school debate coming in May, insha'Allah!!!) Get involved!

Jazak Allah khair!

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