



MALEK FAHD ISLAMIC SCHOOL

ABN: 41003 864 891

KNOWLEDGE IS LIGHT & WORK IS WORSHIP

www.mfis.nsw.edu.au

22nd March 2018

Assalamualaikom wa Rahamatullah wa Barakatuhu

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Harmony Day

The Primary School will have their student Harmony Day Assembly On Wednesday 28th March. To mark the day, children may wear an orange top (long sleeve for girls in 3-6), with their sport pants. Girls in 3 – 6 are also allowed to wear an orange hijab. This culminates several activities that students are doing around the school and in class to reinforce the concept of Harmony Day.

Parent Teacher Interviews

The Primary School will hold the Parent Teacher interviews in week 11. It is important that parents and caregivers attend, as these are opportunities to find out how your child is progressing both socially and academically. If you are unable to attend the interviews, contact the classroom teacher and arrange for an alternative interview time.

National Action Day Against Violence and Bullying

Our School has zero tolerance for violence and bullying. Students are reminded that one of our rules



is, “Keep your hands and feet to yourself” and to “always tell a teacher” if someone is bothering them, rather than react to somebody else’s poor behaviour. Under the guidance of Ms Charmand, the Primary SRC have shown their leadership on this cause, by giving presentations to their peers at morning assembly. Last week, the Boys School Captain, Ayman Chami and Girls School Captain Heyam Chami, spoke to their fellow students about what bullying is and why the School is standing against violence and bullying. To further support this initiative, students from Years 3 – 6 wore a “NO Bullying NO Way” wrist band. The SRC will continue to speak out against bullying at morning assemblies as an initiative to combat behaviour that affects others. We remind all parents and caregivers to regularly ask their child how their day went and to make the School aware as soon as a concern becomes known.

Ayman Chami (Boys Captain), Mr Saddik (Boys Wellbeing Coordinator) & Heyam Chami (Girls Captain)

Parking

Please remember that when you are driving into the School, you park in the Parents Car Park and that you do not block other vehicles in. Please do not park in the drop off and pick up zone.

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School safety

For the safety of our students, it is a school rule that parents are not allowed to walk into the school play areas and classrooms during school time. All parents and caregivers must go to the office and wait there for their child during school hours. The Office admin staff will assist you with any enquiries you may have. If you need to drop something off, the Admin Staff can assist with this. Parents who are seen walking about in the school grounds will be told by staff to go to the office. If you would like to speak with your child's teacher about any concern, do not go to the classroom or when a teacher is on duty, whether it be at assembly or on pedestrian duty. This is disruptive and will distract the teacher from carrying out their duty of care responsibilities. To have their undivided attention and be able to properly discuss your child, it is best to make an appointment with staff through the Primary School Office.

Year 3 and 5 Morning Classes

The attendance for the Year 3 and 5 morning classes have been very good. These have provided an opportunity to address areas of weakness in literacy and numeracy. A reminder that the classes will run in Weeks 9 and 10.

Please note that K – 6 classes start at 8:45am. Unless there is an organised activity, students should NOT be at school before 8:30am due to limited supervision prior to this time. Children who arrive earlier than 8:30am, must sit down in the assembly courtyard, all other areas are OUT OF BOUNDS. For student safety, we ask parents to help the School by reinforcing the out of bounds rules with their child.



Ms Sanaa and Ms Sabrina, knitting for charity

Winter is Coming Knitting Appeal

Please join us every Tuesday at 9:30am for one hour and help us to knit scarves and hats for the homeless. All completed items will be donated to the Homeless Run who will distribute the items accordingly. Thank you to Ms Sanaa and Ms Sabrina who have been coming along.

MFIS Basketball Team

MFIS prides itself on being a community school and so we are putting together an MFIS team made up staff and parents to play competition basketball. The competition begins in 2 weeks and will run until mid-August. Games are always held on a Sunday between 5:00 and 8:00pm at the Basketball Stadium in Condell Park.

Please express your interest by registering your name and contact details to Mr Saddik via the front office.

Grandparents Day

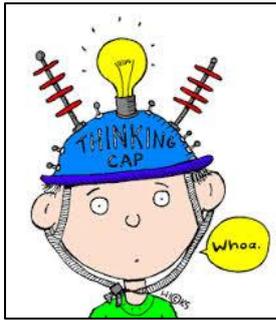
The Kindergarten staff held their annual Grandparents Day on Wednesday. This activity coincides with the History unit of work "Who am I?" and Harmony Day.



Grandparents Day in class K Red

Message from Curriculum – Ms Mourad

Activities to Help Children Develop Creative Thinking Skills



As a parent, there's little more enjoyable than watching your child lose themselves in exploration and play. Granted, this happens more easily when our kids are small (or at least when the TV is turned off and the tablets packed away). Creating **opportunities** at home where children of all ages can engage in **open-ended, creative activities that encourage problem-solving is important**. The skills developed during these kinds of activities are building blocks for **creative thinking and general self-confidence**. So, with school holidays coming up once more, don't be scared of those frequent "I'm bored!" cries. Here are some great school holiday activities that will keep your **child's mind active**. Plus, they will be learning without even realising it!

Why Do Children Need Creative Thinking Skills?

Providing your kids with opportunities for play that stimulate their mind and their imagination builds and strengthens the synapses that are required for higher order thinking skills such as problem-solving, logical reasoning, organising and abstract thinking.



What Kind of Skills Do 21st Century Children Really Need?

CURIOSITY

Providing your children with novel experiences where they can experiment, and play teaches them how wonderful it is to be brave explorers and how to get enjoyment **when things go wrong!**

LOGICAL REASONING

Understanding **why something is the way it is, how one thing is related to another**, the concept of cause and effect are crucial 21st Century life skills! Kids develop and maintain these skills through experimenting, asking why and noticing differences and similarities in every day and play-based situations.

CREATIVITY

It is so important for kids to be confident thinking "outside the box". To be **excited by what failure teaches them about how to approach a problem the next time around**.

STORYTELLING

The digital age makes everyone a storyteller. Our kids are growing up in a world that shares ideas in images, words and videos at a rate that is hard to fathom. **Learning how to tell a story (in any way – spoken, written, in videos or pictures) builds the kind of mental skills that will be required of all of our kids when they are adults**. And, as kids, storytelling helps with self-discovery, communication, memory and creativity.

Creative Thinking Activities for Older Kids

So, how do you get older kids to turn off the TV and do something else?

The answer is STEAM inspired activities

What is STEAM? STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics. But, don't worry! You don't need to be an expert in ANY of these areas to get your kids doing things that build their higher-order thinking skills. In fact, STEAM (or STEM) activities and ideas take the onus off you and let your kids show you just how creative and innovative they are!

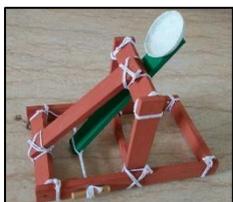
STEAM activities are:

- hands-on
- require kids to solve some kind of problem
- create something that performs a specific function.

STEAM Activities at Home

BUILD A ROLLER COASTER

Make your own roller coaster using found materials such as – paper straws, cardboard boxes and tape! Sure, those plastic, bendy straws might make it a little faster to create.



CREATE A CATAPULT

Creating a catapult is another fun creative problem-solving challenge. You can create any context you'd like – or even better – let your child decide why they need to make a catapult, what it will throw. Building a story around the activity is a great way to play!

BUILD A RAFT

This open-ended STEM investigation has been designed to deepen students' understanding of two science concepts – floating and waterproof materials.

Open-Ended "Play" for Older Kids

Providing your children with access to objects that are related to their interests will give them the opportunity to create in a way that isn't restricted by any specific request or context. For younger kids, it's easy to think of open-ended toys like sticks, blocks, Lego etc. On one hand there's no reason why older kids can't be challenged to create with these sorts of materials too. However, you may like to open things up even more by encouraging your child to create using things like:



TECHNOLOGY

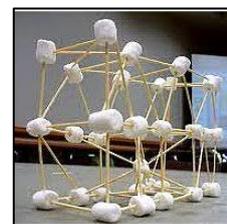
Devices make fantastic 'toys' for older kids, provided they have something that they'd like to create! Perhaps it's a photograph or design project about something they love or an app idea that they've never even told you about. **Use devices such as a digital camera; iPad or tablet; app builders like 'AppsBar'; graphic design websites such as 'Canva'; simple video editors such as MS PowerPoint or iMovie.**

PEN AND PAPER

Encourage your children to spend time writing anything at all! They may like to write a letter to a friend or family member, writing a story or a poem.

SPAGHETTI AND MARSHMALLOW TOWER

This is a super fun challenge that uses inexpensive, easy to source materials. Just watch out for excess sugar consumption! Join straws together with marshmallows to build a tower or bridge!



Now we hopefully won't have to face the frequent "I'm so bored" cries these holidays!

If you are interested in a Parent Information Session on such activities, please register your contact details with the office and if we have enough interest, we will organise the session shortly.

Wassalamas



Ms El-Ahmad
Head of Campus - Primary