

ISI-PTO Newsletter

Online Edition

December 2007

Important Dates

Jan. 21	Staff dev./Student holiday
Feb. 11	Progress reports
Feb. 19	TAKS test: Reading 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, ELA exit level; Writing 4, 7, 10
Feb. 22	Staff dev./Student holiday
Feb. 29	Parent-Teacher Conferences

2007-2008 PTO Contact Info

<u>President:</u> Br. Luqman Thayyil
<u>Vice-President:</u> Sr. Lourdes Yanouri
<u>Treasurer:</u> Sr. Taslima Shaw
<u>Secretary:</u> Sr. Jill Chai-Abdolgony, Librarian
<u>Volunteer Coordinator:</u> Sr. Eram Butt, Preschool Teacher
<u>Fundraising Coordinator:</u> Sr. Jennifer Almasri, 2nd Grade Teacher
<u>Newsletter Editor:</u> Sr. Jennifer Almasri

Guest Speaker – Sr. Ashath Ahmed

As part of a requirement for her Library Media Specialist certification program, Sr. Ashath presented a storytelling time to Kindergarten (A) students during the month of November. She also presented a book talk to 6th grade students in December. The students enjoyed her visits and look forward to her presentations soon.

New Additions to ISI

Sr. Asma Ansari – Administrative Assistant

Sr. Hera Tantu – 1st Grade (A) Homeroom Teacher

Sr. Irina Yusuf – P.E. Teacher

Sr. Lubna Arif (Part-time) – Teacher Aide for 3rd grade

Sr. Mazida Abdul Malik – 2nd, 3rd & 4th grades Technology Education Teacher & Help Desk Support

Kudos to ISI Volunteers

Sr. Khadija Shakib - Intern

Sr. Nada Attili - Arabic

Sr. Nicole Sadek - Office

Sr. Saleemah Abdullah – Library & Box Tops

Sr. Wiwied Muchtar – Library

Update on ISI's New Arabic and Quran Curriculum From Sr. Shahnaz Chowdhury, Assistant Principal

The goal of the Arabic Department is to provide such a course that ISI students will graduate from the school with a total grasp of Standard Arabic (Fussah-eloquent) in order to be able to interpret the meaning of the words in the Holy Quran. The students will be able to:

- 1) Know what they are reading in the Quran and make connections;
- 2) Read and write in Standard Arabic;
- 3) As high school students, receive credit for Arabic as a foreign language.

Within the last two years there has been a definite move towards raising the quality of Arabic instruction at ISI rather than simple memorization of words and reading books of a certain Arabic dialect.

ISI is the only one among all Islamic schools in the DFW area with its own developed Arabic curriculum. May Allah Az'wajal accept the work of Br. Bashir Ansari for this honorable purpose.

As for the Quran curriculum, ISI's student goals for this department include the ability to:

- 1) Memorize verses from selected chapters of the Holy Quran with basic Tajweed rules;
- 2) Learn the translations of the verses memorized;
- 3) Study the history behind the revelation;
- 4) Connect the verses learnt to real life applications.

ISI-PTO Website: <http://teacherweb.com/TX/IslamicSchoolofIrving/ISIPTO/t.stm>

Save the Earth! Please recycle or reuse this paper.

Our goals are purely geared towards Islamic academic learning and how to apply the memorized verses in day to day life. ISI goals are to gear each student to be a “Committed Balanced Muslim and Knowledgeable Scholar.” For total memorization of verses, the Hifz Program and the Quranic School is in place as supplements under the auspices of ISI.

Lastly, the faculty and administration’s intention is to please Allah Subhanahu Ta’ala while working with humbleness for the success of the students in this world and the Hereafter.

Hajj Simulation – December 18th, 2007

Alhumdulillah the hajj simulation conducted on Dec. 18, 2007 was a success! 50-60 parents turned up to witness this event when Pre-K to 10th grade students learnt the sequences of performing hajj. A big thanks to Sr. Massouda Ansari (Islamiyat teacher) and Sr. Nahil Hamam (ISI volunteer), for coordinating this program and decorating the school. We would also like to thank all parents and community members who volunteered their time to make this event a success.



Box Tops – Coordinated by Sr. Saleemah Abdullah

Insha'Allah this school year we hope to collect 3,000 Box Tops coupons. As of November 2007, we have collected 1,050 coupons. We really need continuing support from you to help us reach our goal. Box Tops collection sheets can be obtained from the Library Media Center or downloaded and printed from this web page <http://www.boxtops4education.com/ActivityCenter/Projects.aspx>

Good Behavior Award @ Library Media Center

Congratulations to **2nd Grade** students for achieving five excellent checkmarks for good behavior in the LMC during the month of December! For their excellent behavior, they received bookmarks and a game day in the LMC. Keep up the good work 2nd Graders!

Congratulations to **Kindergarten (B)** students for achieving five excellent checkmarks for good behavior in the LMC during the month of December! For their excellent behavior they received chocolate and bookmarks. Good job KG-B!

Help Wanted! - After School Tutoring Parent Volunteers

We are looking for parents to help in after school tutoring. This program is coordinated by Sr. Faiza Qureshi (1st grade teacher). This task involves mainly coaching students in reading. If you are interested, please e-mail Sr. Jill at jiru_c@yahoo.com or talk to Sr. Eram.

Help Wanted! - Bake Sale Coordinator

We are looking for someone to take charge of the bake sale for this academic year. This task involves mainly setting up the food for sale, collecting money, and cleaning up. If you are interested, please e-mail Sr. Jill at jiru_c@yahoo.com or talk to Sr. Eram.