

Principal's Message

Special points of interest:

- Principal's Message
- Formal Day
- Saturday School

We know that students achieve their best at school in safe and supportive environments, where they are free from bullying and disruptive behavior.

At our school we put a big emphasis on making sure we provide a great environment for our students, including one that is free from bullying.

Bullying is a serious issue for all of us. We know that it can happen anywhere, anytime, and can have devastating consequences. We also

know that with the rise of social media, cyberbullying is an increasingly important issue. Where bullying was once confined to the playground, it can now occur online at any time of the day or night. Cyberbullying is just as harmful as face-to-face bullying, and online actions can have real life consequences.

The best way to tackle bullying and cyberbullying is for schools, students and parents to work together.

Parents can do the following at home:

Discuss with your children what appropriate internet use is and how to be responsible online.

Pay attention to your child's online activity.

Learn about sites your child likes and familiarize yourself with them, as well as the devices they use.

"Friend" or "Follow" your child on social media.

Install parent filtering controls or monitoring programs.

Install parent filtering controls or monitoring programs.

Have your child's usernames and passwords on file.

We can make the change.

Join us in our Almadina Cyberbullying Campaign to:

Change our negative usage into positive usage and download the "Be Strong" app. Available to parent, teacher, administrator and children. Spread the word. Together we can pull the plug on cyberbullying!

The resource be strong is available on the Almadina website, at esl-almadina.com

I encourage you to learn more by visiting the website and sharing the commitment to stop bullying and cyberbullying in our school and local community.

Yours sincerely,

Ahmad Jamal ElRafih



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February Newsletter

Grade 6 Awards Night

On January 26, 2018, last year's grade 6 students received awards for their incredible work on their completed Provincial Achievement Tests.

There were a handful of teachers, the principal, Mr. El Rafih, Mrs. El-Chamma the Vice Principal, Ms. Thaxter (the school counselor) and over 100 family members in attendance. It was noisy but exciting, and it quieted down when Mr. ElRafih explained how hard the students worked to get such

amazing scores. Before students received their awards, there was a short talk about cyberbullying. All parents were encouraged to be aware of what their children were involved in online. All students were advised to include their parents as to what they did on social media. Cyber bullying is very harmful. Then each past grade 6 student took a turn to receive their medal. It was a shiny gold medal on a ribbon that the students wore around their necks. Plus, they received a paper

award, too. Some students stopped for a photo to share with happy parents.

Another surprise was that the administration arranged to have cupcakes with the students' photo on it. Some students were so surprised about having their face on a cupcake, they traded with another so they wouldn't eat their own face! Tim Hortin's tea and coffee was available with a few finger snacks for parents. They stopped and enjoyed a short chat

Last year's grade 6 students received awards for their incredible work on their completed PAT.

short chat with other parents acknowledging the efforts their children put forward. They also spoke of gratitude for the teachers and their hard work that was put into supporting their kids.

By Eshal Tariq 6GS

This year's grade 6 students are looking forward to the same opportunity next year, once all the scores are in.

Grade 9 Edmonton Trip



On Tuesday, January 23rd, the grade 9's had the exceptional opportunity to go to Edmonton and tour the Legislative building. In this massive parliament building, we learned where MLA's and the premier met to discuss all important issues regarding Alberta.

All students were split up and each class had their own tour guide to take them all around the

building. At one point, the groups were treated to an immersive film experience that detailed each significant event in Alberta history.

Each student left the building with a newfound knowledge on the magnificent glory of Alberta and the building that makes the province run smoothly.

By Sheroog Kubur

Science Fair

Almadina held its annual science fair on February 2nd, 2018. The event showcased a multitude of different projects varying from all fields of science. The winners of this year's science fair are: for grade 5: third place goes to Fayad Ahmed in 5W, second place goes to Hashim Bassit in 5C, and the first place winner is Aysha Javed in 5M. In grade 6, the third place winner was Aiman Rao in 6N, the second place winners were Sheraz Ahmed and Ahmad Cheema, both in 6H, and the first place winner was Zahra Al Hadrawi in 6H and

Mariam Essid in 6A. The grade 7 winners are: in third place, Muhammad Annas and Ahmed Amin, both in 7P, in second place Ayesha Hyder in 7M, and in first place Hussein Elshabasy in 7S. The grade 8 winners were, in third place Hassan Elshabasy in 8E, in second place Hafsa Ferasat in 8A, and in first place Najibah Abbasi and Sapna Iqbal, both in 8R. And finally, the grade 9 winners are: in third place, Huda Syed in 9S, in second place Madiha Khan and Sadhiya Siraj Ahmed, both in 9S, and the first place winners were

Sadia Amin in 9S and Sundas Ali in 9M. Congratulations to all the winners, and we wish the Calgary City Wide Science Fair representatives the best of luck.

By Mr. Maruyama

Formal Day

On February 14th, student council is hosting a school wide formal day. The event gives the students the opportunity to get dressed up in their nicest clothes and come have some fun with other students. This would be the second year the event is hosted and students always love it. It gives students a chance to get out of their uniforms and have a bit of fun in school seeing all of their peers and

friends all dressed up formally.

By Sheroog Kubur

A Few Funny Cartoons



Saturday School or Private Tutor? If any at all?

“Really mom! Do I have to?!” My high school daughter whined when I mentioned that there was a core subject final exam coming up and I wanted her to have a private tutor. The next question gnashed between her teeth, “Why?”

My high school daughter has never gone to a school that offered Saturday School. Regular public schools do not offer such an advantage, so private tutors were the only option if the need was identified. I have heard of a tutor costing between \$40/hr for elementary age to \$85/hr for high school private tutoring. An Almadina advantage is that it offers

advantage, tutors don't usually talk to the teachers, Almadina does!

If the core teacher or homeroom teacher recommends Saturday School, it might be for several reasons including, but not limited to:

1. Student thrives in small group learning environment
2. Improves grades
3. Increases knowledge and understanding of subjects

for core subjects for free and that alone is not only a gift for the students but a financial and psychological relieve for parents.

Still, why have a tutor? Grade 6 and 9 have a government test administered to students. Everyone wants each student to aim for their personal best which means each child will develop their own potential. It will also help them with the tools and lifelong learning skills to succeed in all their future endeavors. Also as I explained

4. Increases motivation to succeed
5. Provides intensive practice
6. Leads to better use of study time
7. Encourages higher levels of learning
8. Encourages self-directed learning (learn how to study)
9. Provides praise, feedback, and encouragement beyond the core teacher and parents

ors. Also, as I explained to my daughter, some American universities go back as far as grade 9 to look at their marks. We all want on record the best marks in Math, Science, Social Studies, and Language Arts.

As a parent myself, my first piece of gratitude came when I knew it was not me behind my teenager begging her to study, and I hadn't a clue what they were studying - that was the tutor's job. It appeared my daughter showed up eager to prove to the tutor she did not need the tutor. I crossed

10. Provides review of skills not mastered but no longer taught

11. A catch up opportunity if many days were missed by the student

In the end, I struggled with my daughter to work with a tutor consistently, but she did it as long as another friend joined. At Almadina, no one studies alone, there is a strong sense of belonging and mutual support. Almadina's Saturday School program is a win-win program. If you are contacted by an Almadina

need the tutor. I crossed my arms and smiled, no more struggle for me!

The Almadina students' advantage is that they have a Saturday School program. The tutors in this program are certified teachers from Almadina. Most tutors are not certified teachers, so Almadina is using the best of the best, our own Almadina teachers. Even if they do not teach that specific course, teachers have the opportunity to coordinate their tutor/teaching with the core subject teacher.

contacted by an Almadina teacher and your child is recommended to attend Saturday School, your child has been offered a gift. Take it! Contact your homeroom teacher or administrator for further information.

By Ms. Grant-Suttie