

March/ April Newsletter



Principal Jamal El Rafih

Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

Positive parent-school communication benefits students. The manner in which parents communicate and interact with teachers affects the extent and quality of their children's learning.

Researchers have evidence for the positive effects of parent involvement on children, families, and school when schools and parents

continuously support and encourage the children's learning and development (Eccles & Harold, 1993; Illinois State Board of Education, 1993).

Henderson and Berla (1994) reviewed and analyzed eighty-five studies that documented the comprehensive benefits of parent involvement in children's education. This and other studies show that parent involvement activi-

ties that are effectively planned and well implemented result in substantial benefits to students.

Some of these benefits are:

1. Students generally achieve better grades when their parents are involved at the school.
2. Students consistently complete their homework.
3. Students have better self-esteem, are more self-disciplined, and show higher aspirations and motivation toward school.

4. Students' positive attitude about school often results in improved behavior.

5. Students from diverse cultural backgrounds tend to do better when parents and professionals work together to bridge the gap between the culture at home and the culture in school.

6. Grade 9 students whose parents are involved usually make better transitions into high school.

Almadina teachers use

many forms of communication to inform parents about their children's progress. Please make sure you are always up to date with your child's progress.

Sincerely,

Ahmad Jamal ElRafih

Principal

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Virtues of the Month: Gratitude and Generosity

This month, 31 students were awarded for showing tremendous amounts of gratitude and generosity. Being grateful in this day and age means to be thankful for the people around you, and while the whole did prove their gratitude, these students showed exceptional behaviour .

The virtue of generosity means being willing to lend a hand in need without expecting much, if not anything, in return. Almadina students showed their generosity

by donating things like old clothes and shoes to the diabetes drive we held this month. They donated things like clothes and shoes to help the less fortunate.

Just because the months are over doesn't mean we still don't encourage the school to continue showing generosity and gratitude. In fact, students at Almadina should be involved in their communities and give back.



Robotics Club

The Almadina HydroTrons have been working hard for the past few months to prepare for the First Lego League Hydrodynamics competition on February 24th. The team competed against 31 teams in Calgary and ended up taking home a trophy for best Mechanical Design. Congratulations to all the members of the

team for their hard work and perseverance!



Diabetes Drive

On March 22, 2018, Almadina's annual donation drive for the Diabetes Association came to a close. In conjunction with our virtues of Gratitude and Generosity, our Almadina students displayed an overwhelming amount of generosity.

Division Two donated a total of 112 bags and Division Three with 15. The winning homerooms re-

spectively are Ms.Sheikh's with 30 and Mr.Tarrabain's with 4 bags. Congratulations to every student who donated to this wonderful cause, each and every one of you should feel proud of your kindness and generosity! Thank you!



March/ April Newsletter

Pink Shirt Day Assembly

On February 28th, Ms. Thaxter organized an assembly to commemorate Pink Shirt Day, a movement started by two boys in Nova Scotia to stand up against bullying. All students and staff were asked to wear pink shirts and attend the assembly. The most moving part of the assembly was when previous students who engaged in bullying stood up in front of everyone acknowledging their mistakes and made a pledge not to engage in that kind of manner again.

Two constables from the Calgary

Police Force, Constable Nadar and Bassam, gave a presentation about cyberbullying and the dangers of the internet. They gave warnings to students of how to behave online and to practice good internet etiquette. Thank you to the constables for giving their time to our school.



Suddenly Shakespeare

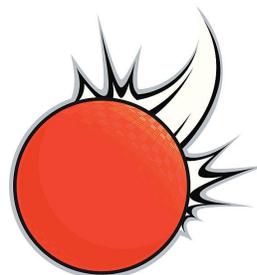
The grade 9 drama class put on a production for three of Shakespeare's most famous plays, Macbeth, The Tempest, and Romeo and Juliet. We commend the girls of the Term 2 drama class for their courage to stand up on stage and present to division 3. Outstanding work!



Floor Hockey Intramurals

These past few months, students have been involved in floor hockey intramurals during lunch recess. The teams involved were all showing good sportsmanship and dedication to getting to the top of the leaderboard to eventually play against teachers. Unfortunately, the team that made it the highest didn't win against the teachers. Congratulations to all the teams for working hard. Next up will be

the dodgeball intramurals.



Grade 6 at Kamp Kiwanis - Totally AWESOME!

From April 6 - 9, 2018, all of the grade six students were invited to an outdoor school at Kamp Kiwanis. It is 20 minutes away from Almadina going west on highway 8.

This camp allowed us to learn in an outdoor school environment. We learned cool facts about trees, for instance, did you know that some trees make their own sun screen? We also learned that beavers are nocturnal, and so much more. It was astounding to learn about science, and social studies, and many other subjects through an outdoor school – rather than a smart board in sight!

We ate together in a large hall. We always gave thanks for our vegetarian food. With food in our tummy and proper clothing, we headed out to enjoy the wild outdoors. We played, studied, learned, and experienced the wilderness, so having good wool socks, great winter boots, a hat, mittens, and a winter coat was essential. Every 9:15 pm, we headed into our cabins to get ready for the night. We slept in large rooms with bunk beds. Having a warm sleeping bag was also essential.

The counselors were named Nova, Firefly, Oak, Chia, Blu, Pluto, and Ivy. Our teachers were always around, but the sessions were led by these very outdoorsy people. We played games like gaga ball, capture the flag, and chocolate river, as well as our learning time activities.

The cabin inspection was totally funny! We had Bob, the Health Inspector, Mrs. Doubtfire, and the Fairy Godmother one day, and another day we had Princess Peach and Prof. Know-it-All inspect our cabins. We had to have everything neat and tidy. Each room wanted to earn the clean and tidy trophy.

By Badr Eddin Deeab

Some students did get homesick, but once they got busy, the thought disappeared. We were allowed one phone call home if we felt it necessary. We were very supported, we felt safe, and cared for. We also felt that we had a special time with our teachers, since we saw them past 3:00 pm. Did you know they get messy hair

Message to Grade 7 Students

We kindly ask you to please send a baby picture and a recent picture to Ms. Sheronick soon. The picture is not allowed to have any filters from Snapchat or Instagram for the graduation presentation. Grade 9 graduation will take place on June 27. More details will come closer to the date.

The Almadina Newsletters are written by Sheroog Kubur.

Many thanks to this dedicated Grade 9 student who always gives up her lunch recess to work on the newsletter.