

Al-Hikmah School

November 2009 Newsletter

Assalam Alaikum Respected Al-Hikmah Families,

I learned something about Al-Ghazaly High School last month that both amazed me and warmed my heart. Did you know that our last year's graduates were awarded **\$2.7 million dollars** in scholarships, masha Allah?



Of course, this figure shows me our students are smart, capable and well educated. It further proves that colleges and universities across the country know that Al-Ghazaly has **high standards** for its graduates and that they are willing to put a large price tag on the level of education that our students receive because they know it is a good investment.

But deeper than all of that, this impressive figure reassures me that the **IEF** is committed to our youth and persistently strives to offer them the **best educational opportunities** while in our schools and **even** after they leave.

Growing up, my parents paid thousands of dollars a year in taxes to put me in one of NJ's best public schools. I had access to every in-school and after-school activity imaginable, highly qualified teachers in every classroom, and wide open spaces in which to play. However, when I see the care and dedication of our teachers and staff, I can't help but wish I had been right here with these teachers and this **legacy**, being appreciated and loved by all of my teachers.

Instead of 5 full time guidance counselors who always seemed too busy to spend time with me, I might have had just 1. One part time guidance counselor like Sr. Khaldiya who juggled being guidance counselor, vice-principal, and social studies teacher, but who always made sure that she made every **student feel important**. Helping every child in Al-Ghazaly apply for college and writing scholarship recommendations took a lot of time out of Sr. Khaldiya's schedule. However, she never let her resolve rest and always took time out of every day to secure every child's future.

For last year's seniors, 2.7 million dollars bought them financial freedom, but more importantly, it reassured them that they are **worth caring about!**

In all honesty, although I always personally supported Islamic schools, I also thought that parents who chose public schools were not making a bad choice for their children. After seeing our teachers' dedication first hand, I now **know** that Islamic School is the only way to really ensure our children's futures, both spiritually and academically.

Today, my hat goes off to Sr. Khaldiya and every other teacher in our IEF system who, although over-worked and under-paid, **never let our children's futures be left to chance**.

1 semester's worth of books: \$300
Housing and a dining plan: \$5,500
University Tuition and Fees: \$29,500
A sense of self-worth: **Priceless**

Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today! – Malcolm X

Sincerely,

Sr. Heba Abdo



What's New at Al-Hikmah this Month?

- ✓ Congratulations to our students who memorized the first 3 pages of Surat Yaseen during Morning Line Up. Parents please make sure your children are here every day before 7:50 so that they can be involved.
- ✓ Sr. Heba is on a mission to get our students organized. Students in Grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 please bring \$3 for MOOSE folders by Monday November 9th.
- ✓ **Eid Field Trip:** November 23rd insha Allah!
- ✓ **Hajj Day:** Tuesday, November 24th Insha Allah.
- ✓ **Eid Vacation:** November 25th through November 30th. We will re-open on December 1st.
- ✓ **Marking Period Ends** Tuesday, November 17th. Report Cards will be distributed after the vacation insha Allah.
- ✓ **Picture Day:** November 10. Please send children in their normal uniform. There will be no Gym classes today!
- ✓ **Please see attached Handout** on Parent-Teacher Conferences