

Al-Hikmah School

April 2010 Newsletter



Assalam Alaikum Respected Parents,

Last month, we offered our first parenting workshop through the PTO. I hope that our parents gained some insight into the unique challenges of parenting children here in America. We have a long, winding road ahead, but together I pray that we will succeed in leading our children to a straight and easy one in the akhira.

Since the time of the workshop, there are a few parenting issues that came to my attention and which I would like to make you aware of:

- 1) **Internet security:** Many parents and teachers have expressed concern about the ease of children's access to information through the internet and modern technologies.
For more information on security settings for your child's i-phone, please use the following link: <http://knol.google.com/k/how-to-setup-parental-controls-on-iphone-ipod-touch-os-3-0-edition#>.
Of course, even the best security setting can be bypassed. The most effective security for our children is parental involvement. Please make an effort to stay close to your children whenever they are using the internet.
- 2) **Positive discipline:** Many of our parents have expressed that they feel invested in finding alternatives to yelling and spanking, but that they are really not sure what to do or how it will be best done. This is such a large topic and it would not do justice to give a simple answer here, however, I would like to suggest some resources for our parents and also reassure you that our doors are always open to overwhelmed parents. If you are dealing with a discipline issue at home and you just "don't know what to do", please stop by the office. We support our families through good times and difficult ones too!
 - a. <http://www.kalamullah.com/hesham-alawadi.html> Dr. Hesam Alawadi is a wonderful lecturer who was recommended by a parent. His "Children Around The Prophet" Series is an inspiring and beautifully narrated glimpse into the lives of the youngest sahaba and how the Prophet SAW built within them the blocks of character necessary to carry the banner of Islam. Dr. Al-Awadi rightfully compares the struggles of the first children in Mecca to those of our children here in the US as they tried to uphold their religion and values, although they were at odds with those in the outer society. I highly recommend all parents to listen to this series in full. I further recommend parents to listen and discuss these together in halaqa groups and to set up action plans to create more peaceful and inspiring home lives.
 - b. Meeting the Challenges of Parenting in the West, by Ekram and Mohamed Beshir: This book is one of the most eloquently written and proactive books I have read on the unique challenges we face. I highly recommend adding this book to all of your bookshelves.
 - c. Please see the attached fact sheet as well from www.parentingpeacefully.com (and join their online mailing list)
 - d. Please join our PTO and/or a parenting circle. Sometimes the best way to become a more peaceful parent is to just feel like you are not alone.
 - e. Above all else, if you are feeling stressed- take a break! Even a few minutes can help you act in love rather than anger.

Sincerely,

Sr. Heba



What's New at Al-Hikmah this Month?

- 1 Terra Novas 4/13 through 4/16. Dismissal time is 12:00
- 1 **4/13 Product Presentation from Active Ion-** I am interested to see how well this actually works as an alternative to chemicals (and a financially stable alternative as well). Please feel free to come and join us at 12:45.
<http://www.activeion.com/science/default.aspx> please watch video by Bill Nye (The Science Guy)
- 1 **4/14- OPEN HOUSE** for new parents- Please send some friends!
- 1 **4/16-4/17 MUN** for registered students
- 1 **5/1 Mann Ana Event.** More information to come insha Allah. Please check www.
- ❖ **5th Grade Literature Celebration** will take place early this month to honor our students' accomplishments thus far. Takbeer!
- ❖ **KG Alphabet Party** was a beautiful celebration of our KG learning throughout the year. Takbeer!
- ❖ **Writers' Workshop** implemented in PreK-6 with the help of a Professional Development consultant who will be providing services to our school throughout the next school year!