

Darul Arqam School- New Directions

Quarter 2 News

February, 2012

Islamic Day 2012: Youth & Globalization

On Saturday February 18, 2012, DAS was proud to celebrate Islamic Day and to hold our annual fundraiser. Proud parents, teachers, staff, and many school supporters were present to enjoy the amazing performances of our children! From Quran recitations to Islamic Nasheeds to entertaining and thoughtful skits, the students kept smiles on our faces and even struck a few tears through the beauty of their words and message:

We, the youth standing before you, are proud to be a part of an Islamic school, an Islamic community, and we are future Muslim leaders, Insha' Allah!

In addition to student presentations, the audience was welcomed by the Chairman of our Board of Trustees, Br. Essam Sherif. We also heard speeches from respected guest speakers Sami El Mansouri and our chief fundraising effort from Sheikh Munzer Taleb. By the grace of Allah, in the end, we earned approximately \$115,000 in pledges! This money will go towards the *Darul Arqam Improvement Fund*. A special thanks is owed to the Quran, Arabic, and Islamic Studies Department for working very hard over the past few weeks to prepare the students! An extra special thanks goes to Sr. Iman AlThawadi for coordinating this successful event!

In celebration of the great effort put forth, students and teachers alike were rewarded by the BOT with a special lunch and dessert on Monday, 2/27/12!



Preparing DAS Students for College and Career

Imagine what it would be like to be in one room with numerous Muslim college students who just entered the world of College? Imagine if they were ready to give you, a Muslim teenager their own personal insight and advice about starting college? Imagine if those Muslim youth were leaders of the Muslim Student Associations at their colleges and universities? Imagine if they were all gathered, in one organized fair just for you, to help you, guide you, and show you the way? Well, this isn't a day dream! By the grace of Allah, this wonderful event actually took place at Darul Arqam School on January 22, 2012. We were proud to sponsor the First Muslim College Fair with representatives from NYU, Rutgers University, St. John's University, Fordham University, NJIT, Seton Hall University, Kean University, and Brookdale Community College. The purpose of the informative fair was to lessen the anxiety of high school juniors toward their upcoming college endeavors. Fellow Muslims, new college students themselves, shared their experiences. Many were actually presidents of the MSA at their universities which illustrated to our children that there is a

great place and voice for Islam outside of our fostering Islamic school environment!

Present at the fair and providing a wealth of key information were Karen Simmons of New Brunswick High School and Natasha Bean, a Financial Officer at NYU. Ms. Simmons provided essential information about how students should decide on a college, how to file related applications, when to take the SATS, and even the importance of BRAG sheets and extra curricular activities. Ms. Bean provided keen insight into filling the FAFSA, and about scholarships and grants.

In the end, the day was a great success and certainly brought a new perspective to our young Muslim students who are about to enter the realm of the university.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to all of those who participated in this special event. May Allah guide our students in their decisions everyday throughout their college endeavors, and into their lives as productive Muslim adults!

Shaping Tomorrow's Leaders— Students



Here at Darul Arqam, we are proud to recognize the value of each and every student who steps through our doors. He/ she is not just a student with a name and academic goals, but a growing Muslim sister or brother, who has been blessed with the opportunity to blossom with our support and guidance. Our goal at DAS isn't merely to achieve academic excellence, put a seal on transcripts, and send our students off into the real world. No! Rather, we strive, by the grace of Allah, to shape our students into whole Muslims, who can be successful in all aspects life, way beyond academics!

With this in mind, we focus on promoting leadership skills within our students. DAS is a huge advocate of teaching leadership and showing children how leadership pertains to real life activities. Our high-school students attended the **Students in Action NJ Skills Building Conference** at Rowan University. The goal of the conference was to prepare leaders of tomorrow. Hand in hand with leadership is reaching out to one's community. Community service teaches essential social and communication skills, fosters understanding and patience of others, and opens our eyes and

exposes us to the world around us while connecting us to it.

Our DAS leaders continue to serve our community by volunteering at Elija'h Soup Kitchen in New Brunswick. They are honored to empathize with those who are in need, satisfied that they are able to extend a helping hand, and are reminded to thank Allah for all of the blessings they are granted daily. Insha' Allah our future leaders will continue to grow and succeed in upcoming years and throughout their lives!

The more they read, the more they learn, the more they will earn!
Our Read-A-Thon ends February 29th, so get to reading, imagining, and growing!

READ READ READ

Did you know that reading and literacy skills are the most important single factor in student learning. Is there any subject that you can say excludes reading? Subhan' Allah, even mathematics incorporates reading. In the Quran, Allah commands our beloved Prophet Muhammad (SWS) to "Read."

Reading is so essential to learning, it is perhaps appropriate to call it the root of learning. So how do we get our kids to read? How can we stress how important reading is, on a daily basis? We are constantly encouraging reading on a daily basis. For example, if you have a younger child, you should have taken notice of reading log sheets and book reports forms that are sent

with the students every week. Also, DAS hold book fairs to provide students with great reading material that they may enjoy at home. Each classroom is equipped with a humble library, **so please consider donating appropriate grade level books at your convenience, Insha' Allah.** The more they read, the more they grow! Beyond the daily list of reading activities, lately at DAS, we have been successful with thinking outside the box and bringing in newer, bigger, ways to encourage reading in school and at home! We recently held our Family Literacy Day presented by our honored PTO. It incorporated different literacy activities

such as reading circles, Arts and Crafts related to stories that were shared.

We've also recently embarked upon our February Read-A-Thon for our Elementary level students. This endeavor was initiated to promote literacy skills and to foster a great love of reading. The initiative behind the reading includes new technology incentives for the students to use within the classrooms. Students will raise money to purchase such technology through pledges as they read. The more they read, the more they learn, the more they will earn!

Our Read-A-Thon ends February 29th, so get to reading, imagining, and growing!



Science Olympiad News 2011/2012

In an effort to foster the love of Science, Darul Arqam School students participated in the annual Science Olympiad held at Camden County College on Saturday January 7, 2012. These regional

competitions truly bring science to life, as kids become mini-scientists, taking part in numerous, hands-on science related activities. As they worked hard to compete against many local schools,

our students were honored to bring home 2nd place in the "Mousetrap Vehicle" event as well as 6th place in the "Biology Blitz" event.

Congrats to our students and teachers for all of their effort!

DAS to Host First International Muslim Spelling Bee

Darul Arqam School is proud to announce that it will be hosting the regional competition of the area's first Muslim International Spelling Bee. This unique event will take place at our school on Sunday March 4, 2012. Muslim students grades KG through grade 8 will gather to compete in this trying competition. The event will also include a carnival and bazaar for the community to enjoy. Cultural food (halal, of course) will be sold and many vendors will be present to display and sell their merchandise.

We look forward to this event being a great success and are honored to be hosting it, Insha' Allah. We hope this will be the start of a great Islamic tradition that will unite communities from near and far for years to come!

See you there in the best of health, spirits, and Iman, and good luck to all of those who will participate in this unique event!



Family Fun Night @ Jumping Jungle

Is there a feeling more sweet than seeing the expression on your child's face as he jumps and smiles, innocent and carefree? A sound sweeter than his laughter and giggling? This image seems to capture the essence of childhood joy. Many such memories were created at Darul Arqam's Family Fun Night held at *Jumping Jungle* in East Brunswick the 10th of February 2012. To celebrate all of the hard work, we needed this time to close the

books, kick back, socialize, bond, and enjoy special time with our DA family. The children enjoyed jumping and playing in the numerous bouncy houses that the facility had to offer. Families bonded over meals including pizza and gathered in the name of FUN!

asha Allah, the event was a success and project FUN earned an A+. We look forward to planning such wonderful events in the future

and hope that attendance will be increased!

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2nd Grade Presents: "Culture Day 2012"

On January 12, 2011, our second grade classes proudly presented "Culture Day" to spectators including staff, fellow students, and of course, our honored parents. Our second grade teachers and coordinators of the event, Sr. Kanwal and Sr. Saphaa did a wonderful job at bringing a magnificent multicultural display to our school's gym. From the smells of the different foods

to the beauty of cultural artifacts, to the sound of children singing, all of one's senses were taken to a new height by a different culture that day. There were tastes of Egypt, Pakistan, India and Palestine to name a few. Our eyes were entertained by endless colors of flags proudly naming their country and representing the pride of its people. The museum of cultural artifacts

brought diversity in color, size, texture, and shape. Certainly a delight to all who were present! It was captivating to see how well the children were able to represent such a myriad of cultures and successfully bring them all together in one great place and on one special day! The children also entertained the captivated audience with a presentation of Sr. Seuss "The

Sneetches." They also sang the lovely tunes, "The World is a Circle" and "It's a Small World After all." Modeling their best cultural garb, students, furthermore, took to the stage to speak about their country of origin. With their heads held high and their best speaking voices, the students truly expressed their knowledge and love for their special country.

It was certainly a day to remember in DA history!

Darul Arqam School

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Don't forget our school Salah
Calendar are on sale for only
\$5.00. Please help support
our school and PTO
in their
continued efforts!

We're on the web @
www.darularqam.org

DARE @ Darul Arqam School

Our fifth DARE Program is underway! Students have been busy preparing and learning all about this special program. They look forward to the special celebration that will take place at the program's close on 3/8/2012. This excited event will be extended to members of our surrounding community including the local police, officials, and even our South River honorable Mayor, Mr. John Krenzel!

Teachers and staff, parents and students, as well as our Board of Trustees look forward to this special celebration which can serve as a great form of dawah to our respected visitors!

Darul Arqam School's Mission

Our mission is to provide an excellent Islamic and academic education within an Islamic environment to produce well rounded Muslims and strong leaders.

We seek to promote a safe, caring, and supportive environment where our children can attain the knowledge that would enable them to perform as effective citizens of the world, especially in today's world of Globalization. Our students will be attaining such worldly knowledge in a spiritual environment rich with Islamic teachings, values and practices.

We strive to have our parents, teachers, and community members actively involved in our students' learning.

**Today's Children... Tomorrow's Leaders*

DAS Gets to Cleaning! School Clean Up Day



So we have all heard that "cleanliness is half of our Iman," right? What efforts do we put into fulfilling this religious requirement? Surely, we shower regularly, and wear our best, clean clothing everyday, right? Do we keep our homes neat and tidy? Our gardens trimmed nicely? Our cars cleaned out and organized? How about our school? Hmmm?

How many hours a day do students and staff alike spend at our beloved school, Darul Arqam? Wow! To come to think of it we spend

one third of our day at school. That certainly makes our school a second home to all of us. If we take a look at our school lately, what can we do to make it more like home? Perhaps we can add things or remove others to beautify our second home? Well, that is exactly what took place on the weekend of February 25th!

During School Clean Up Weekend, goals included reorganizing rooms, putting up special posters, cleaning the walls, and basically making our school shine inside and out. This was a great

opportunity for parents to use up those mandatory service hours, especially since this event took place on the weekend. We would like to thank everyone who attended and lent a helping hand to decorate, clean, and reorganize our second home!

With the event's success just behind us, we can look forward to future efforts to keep our school the very cleanest it can be.

Insha' Allah, we look forward to even more increased parent and volunteer involvement in such upcoming efforts. JAK!