In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Most Merciful

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Noor-Ul-Iman News

Assalamu Alaikum NUI Families,

“In differentiation, not in uniformity, lies the path of progress.” Louis D. Brandeis

As we all settle into the school year, it is crucial that teachers and parents identify ways that they can help students reach their highest potential in school. As we work together to help our students reach academic success, we must also continue to nurture their spiritual, physical, social, and emotional needs as well. In doing so, we attend to the whole child and maximize their chances of success in school.

On Monday, October 10th, Dr. Naphtali Hoff, a pioneer in differentiated instruction, visited NUI and gave an entire day of training to our faculty and staff on differentiation and individualizing instruction and care of students. During the training, Dr. Hoff engaged the teachers in a day of learning and sharing; teachers learned different strategies for differentiation and shared the strategies they were already applying in their classrooms as they strive to meet their students’ needs and abilities every day.

In accordance to our mission, NUI teachers and staff strive to help students reach academic and spiritual success. We look forward to working closely with parents as we venture into refining our individualized attention of our students at school. As we do so, we hope to strengthen the school-home relationship through closer and more frequent communication. Through this open communication and hence, successful partnership between teachers and parents, NUI will be able to better serve its students, insha’Allah.

Eman Arafa, Head of School

Princeton Friends School Annual Visit

Noor-Ul-Iman third grade students have been visiting the Princeton Friends School for the past 15 years. NUI developed a relationship with Princeton Friends School to encourage friendship, communication and peace between our Muslim community and neighboring communities. Prior to our visit each year, students are assigned “pen pals” from PFS who are similar in age. The NUI and PFS students write cards to and receive cards from each other. On October 7, 2016 students met their PFS friends, played games with them, and took part in cross-cultural activities. Our students look forward to visiting PFS each year! This has been a great way to have our students interact with students of different faiths from our neighboring communities.

Ms. Amina & Ms. Shereen
**Annual Model Hajj 2016**

On Thursday, September 8th, shortly after the school year started, Noor-Ul-Iman elementary school students participated in the annual Model Hajj. During Model Hajj, Religious Studies Department teachers and staff presented information regarding how to perform Hajj and guided students through the manasik (rituals) of Hajj. Students from Pre-K 3 to 5th grade participated in this annual activity. Preparations for Model Hajj began within the first days of school when elementary school students colored “dinars”, filled out “passports” and made “pebbles” to be used by the “pilgrims” on the day of Model Hajj.

Model Hajj is an all-day activity. The NUI MPR was turned into a mini site of Hajj, complete with a model Ka’bah, ZamZam Station, the hills of Safa and Marwah, the plains of Arafat and Muzdalifa as well as Mina with the Jamarat and a tent replication!

The “pilgrims” were transported from NUI to “Makkah” via a quick “airplane ride”, complete with an in-flight informative movie about Hajj produced by our high school students. Once the students arrived in “Makkah” they practiced reciting the Talbiyah and made dua as they performed Tawaf around the Kab’ah. They then heard the story of Prophet Ibraheem, Hajar and Ismael (Alaikim Assalam) and drank pretend ZamZam water. The students then made Sai’ between Safa and Marwa and went to Arafat where they learned that standing at Arafat and making dua’a is the essence of the Hajj. The Model Hajj concluded with the students throwing foil pebbles at the Jamarat and petting the stuffed toy sheep.

A great big thanks goes to the NUI Staff who helped make the Model Hajj possible. Their efforts brought the Hajj to life for the students and many of the elementary students indicated that they can’t wait to go on the Model Hajj next year, insha’ Allah.

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**NUI’s Annual Ashura Program**

The Annual Hijrah and Ashurah Program took place on Wednesday, October 5, 2016. The Pre-K through second grade students watched two live plays that were written and produced by the twelfth grade students. One play taught the students about the Hijrah from Makkah to Medina and the relationship between the Islamic Calendar and the Hijrah. The other play reenacted some of the historical events that occurred on Ashurah including the parting of the Red Sea. The ISCJ MPR and the Home Ec Room were decorated with different scenes and props that included a cave covered with spider webs that demonstrated how Prophet Muhammed (S.) and Abu Bakr hid from the Quraish during the Hijrah.

The senior class also produced Jeopardy games for the third through fifth grade students. The games had questions on the Hijrah, the Islamic Calendar, and Ashurah. Students were divided into teams and they competed to see which team knew the most information. The elementary level students enjoyed the Jeopardy games and the seniors enjoyed this opportunity to interact with the younger students.

Shaikh Walead Mosaad spoke to the middle and high school students. Shaikh Walead Mosaad is a local scholar who was educated at Al-Azhar University and has a PhD in Arab and Islamic Studies. Shaikh Walead Mosaad spoke to the students about the relevance of the Hijrah and the events of Ashurah. This allowed the students to review important aspects of the Seerah and learn about upright Muslims who made great sacrifices to ensure the continuity of Islam.

Overall, the day was fun and fact-filled, alhumdulilah. The KG through twelfth grade students are now encouraged to show off all that they learned in the Islamic New Year and Ashurah Drawing and Poetry Contests (please see e-notices).
THE SUPERKIDS COME TO NUI

Superkids is the new reading program introduced for KG through second grade this year. The Superkids are a cast of characters that appear at all three of these grade levels and help motivate students to learn basic reading skills. The program is a core literacy program that uses step-by-step lessons based on deliberate text and systematic phonics instruction to build reading skills. It combines rigor with fun to help students learn to read with accuracy, fluency and comprehension. The program integrates reading, writing, spelling, grammar, handwriting, science, social studies, and character education. “The students absolutely love the program! Each child connects to one of the Superkids characters and they look forward to reading every single day!” Ms. Samah. To learn more about the Superkids Reading Program and the research supporting it, go to www.superkidsreading.com

NEW READING PROGRAM FOR THIRD THROUGH FIFTH GRADE

ReadyGEN is the new reading program introduced in third through fifth grade at NUI this year. The program was developed using the most recent research in the literacy field. It incorporates high standards and comes with enthusiastic recommendations from other schools that have used the program. Instead of the basal reader that students used in the past, in ReadyGEN students read authentic literary and informational texts which are very engaging for them. The program encourages all students to develop higher level thinking skills, with the program design allowing readers of all levels to participate, grow, and improve. Writing, grammar, and vocabulary are integrated into the reading program, and the program makes connections to science and social studies as well. We look forward to an enjoyable and productive year with the students using this new program.

PTO Corner:

The PTO has been off to a great start to the 2016-2017 school year, with our Welcome Back Breakfast, NUI Carnival and Allergy Awareness Week. We would like to extend a big Thank You to all our NUI community members that attended and helped with the Carnival, and contributed their time and energy so far in supporting Orientation, Back To School Nights, Eid Cake and Gifts distribution and Allergy Awareness Week...none of this can be done without your help! A special shout out to the Community Service Club members who created and managed an awesome collection of carnival games for the kids...Thank you! Please continue to support PTO events. Your generosity allows us to not only fund current and future projects that support our school, but also brings us closer together as a community. Our NUI Scholastic Book Fair is coming up this week with a spectacular family fun night offering face painting, games, sand art, dress up, dinner, hot drinks and sweet treats. Please join us for a fun evening.

Upcoming events to look out for:

Scholastic Book Fair: November 9,&10 from 8:00-4:00 and November 11 from 4:00-6:30 in NUI MPR
Family Fun Night: November 11 from 4:00-6:30 in NUI MPR
PTO Bake Sale: November 11 from 9:30-12:30 in Lobby

Zenab Butt, PTO VP