

Al Hilal



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A Magazine for Children

2019-3

QUARTERLY AL-HILĀL

A Magazine for children, by children, that provides them with a creative opportunity to learn about the world around them, and how to apply the teachings of Islām and Ahmadiyyat to their daily lives.

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Dear Reader, As-Salāmu ‘Alaikum!

The proverb “*The pen is mightier than the sword*” briefly captures the value of education, emphasizing that increase in knowledge enables us to benefit mankind in so many ways bringing growth and enhancement to society. Our Beloved Huzoor (aba) reminds us that the secret to success in education is to observe our prayers at the appointed time. Ask Allah for His Help and Guidance as He is the Source of all Knowledge and loves to see us use our skills and accomplishments for the good of mankind.

Please enjoy the insightful contributions from our children on the importance of education.

Was-Salām

Saliha Malik - Chief Editor, Al-Hilāl

Editor’s Note:

The symbol (sa) is an abbreviation of the prayer *sallallāhu ‘alaihi wa sallam* (peace and blessings of God be upon him), which we say after the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa). Though the prayer has not been written in full it should nevertheless be understood as being repeated in full in each case.

The symbol (as) is an abbreviation of the prayer ‘*alaihis-salam* (peace be upon him) and is used at the mention of Promised Messiah (as) and all other prophets of God.

The symbol (ra) is an abbreviation of the prayer ‘*radi-Allahu ‘anho/anha/anhum*’ (May Allah be pleased with him/her/them) and is used at the mention of companions of the Holy Prophet (sa) and the Promised Messiah (as).

Holy Qur'an

اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ ۚ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ ۚ
لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ ۚ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ
عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ ۚ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ ۚ
وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ ۚ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ
السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ ۚ وَلَا يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا ۚ وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ

الْعَظِيمُ ﴿٢٥٦﴾

Allah — there is no God but He, the Living, the Self-Subsisting and All-Sustaining. Slumber seizes Him not, nor sleep. To Him belongs whatsoever is in the heavens and whatsoever is in the earth. Who is he that will intercede with Him except by His permission? He knows what is before them and what is behind them; and they encompass nothing of His knowledge except what He pleases. His knowledge extends over the heavens and the earth; and the care of them burdens Him not; and He is the High, the Great.[2:256]

Holy Qur'an

وَقُلْ رَبِّ زِدْنِي عِلْمًا ﴿١١٥﴾

And say, 'O my Lord, increase me in knowledge.' [20:115]

Ahadith

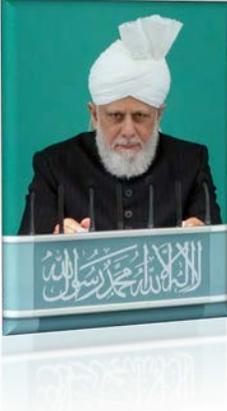
It is the duty of every Muslim man and woman to seek knowledge
(Ibni Majah)

If anyone undertook a journey for the purpose of acquiring knowledge, Allah would open up the way to it and at the same time open the way to paradise.
(Abu Darda)



The Importance of Education

Khalifatul Masih V (aba)



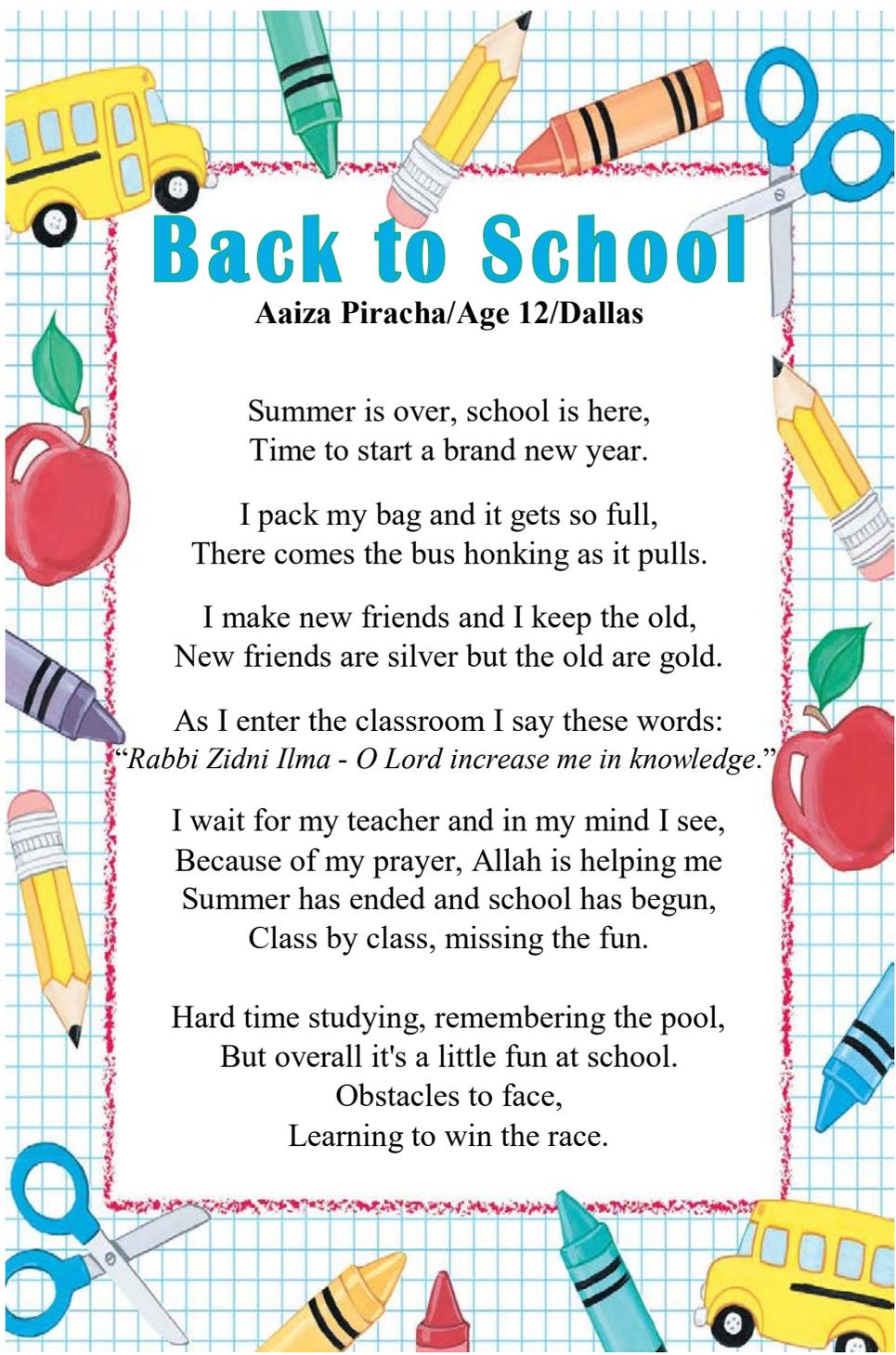
The truth is that the Holy Qur'an and the teachings of the Holy Prophet of Islam (sa) inspired the works of generations of Muslim intellectuals, philosophers and inventors in the Middle Ages. Indeed, if we look back more than a millennium we see how Muslim scientists and inventors played a fundamental role in advancing knowledge and developing technologies, which transformed the world and remain in use today. From the outset, Islam emphasized the immense value of learning and pushing the boundaries of knowledge.

In this era, it is the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community that has taken up the mantle of promoting education and furthering the cause of intellectual progress... With the Grace of Allah, the very first Muslim Nobel Laureate was an Ahmadi Muslim, Professor Dr. Abdus Salam, an eminent physicist who won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1979. Throughout his life, Professor Salam spoke of how Islam, and the Holy Qur'an in particular, was the inspiration and guiding light behind his work.

(Historic Keynote Address given at the United Nations, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) headquarters in Paris, October 19, 2019)

“Excel others in hard work. Excel others in education. That should be the hallmark of an Ahmadi. Allah told the Promised Messiah (as) that people of your Jama'at will progress in knowledge. Therefore I advise the youth: immerse yourself in your studies to the exclusion of everything else. Advance so much in every field of education that your minimum target becomes the Nobel Prize.”

(Inaugural Address, April 17, 2008, Jalsa Salana Ghana)



Back to School

Aaiza Piracha/Age 12/Dallas

Summer is over, school is here,
Time to start a brand new year.

I pack my bag and it gets so full,
There comes the bus honking as it pulls.

I make new friends and I keep the old,
New friends are silver but the old are gold.

As I enter the classroom I say these words:

“Rabbi Zidni Ilma - O Lord increase me in knowledge.”

I wait for my teacher and in my mind I see,
Because of my prayer, Allah is helping me
Summer has ended and school has begun,
Class by class, missing the fun.

Hard time studying, remembering the pool,
But overall it's a little fun at school.

Obstacles to face,
Learning to win the race.

Why We Should Respect Our Teachers

Alisa Shams, Age 12, Silicon Valley

Why should we respect our teachers? You might think the answer would be that we should respect anyone, or that they're our elders. While both of these things are true, there is more to it. For one, teachers are willing to share their knowledge with us. Islam tells us to expand our wisdom and seek out knowledge, and it would not be possible without teachers.



Teachers sacrifice their time and day to make sure we understand the lesson and become smarter. If they wanted, teachers could just give us the lesson and leave us there, but they let us ask questions and open the doors of curiosity no matter how long it takes.



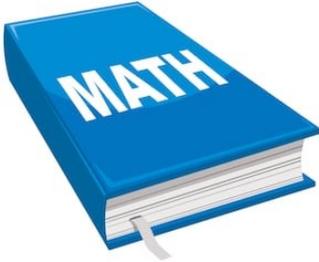
Teachers can form friendships with students, too! Forming a friendship and respecting your teacher can make class much more enjoyable. I found my language arts class boring at first. Then, I learned more and more about my teacher and it suddenly became my favorite class.

In conclusion, teachers deserve respect for what they give us, so the least we can do is raise our hands and pay attention.



Math: My Favorite Subject

Hassan Ahmad Khan, Age 7, North Jersey



Everyone has a favorite subject in school. My favorite subject is math. Mathematics always gives me a level of satisfaction and energy while I am studying in school. I can solve math problems easily without getting bored. My mother is good at math. She teaches me easy

ways to learn the subject well. She searches for more ways that she can teach me mathematics. My goal in life is to become a professor of mathematics.

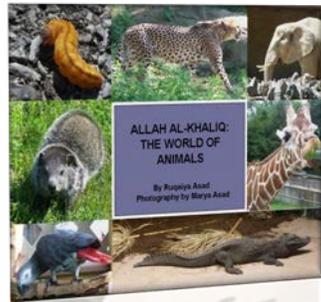
The major reason that I like mathematics is that I don't have to memorize everything. This is the only subject where you can score full marks and raise your percentage.



Allah Al Khaliq: The World of Animals

Written by Ruqaiya Asad

This is a book for children. The book contains original photos and simple text with Qur'ānic references and scientific facts that appeal to children's natural interest. Purchase at: islamicchildrensbooks.webs.com.



Spiritual Daily Routine

Rawiya Zia, Age 11, Laurel MD

I am starting middle school this year which also means adding additional daily things in my life to help me become a better Ahmadi Muslim girl. First thing it is, not your parents' responsibility to tell you that it is time to start wearing a scarf or modest clothes, also to say the five daily prayers as a part of your daily routine.

First, you should start your day by doing the *Wudhu*, which will make you fresh for the day and it will wake you up. After *Wudhu* you should say your Fajr prayer and prepare a modest outfit for school like loose clothing with a scarf.



When you get back from school say Zuhr and Asr, which you might have missed during school. Also add The Holy Qur'an into your daily routine before or after school. Last but definitely not the least before bed maybe take a shower because remember cleanliness is a part of our faith. Say your Maghrib and Isha Prayers, and that way you will have a good night's sleep.

My Favorite Subject

Sara Syed , Age 10, Albany



Today I'll be writing about my favorite subject! I actually like all of my subjects! But I'll tell you my favorite. It's English language arts! It's fun and amazing and since I am now in fifth grade it's a little harder, but in class we're making our invention and creating an advertisement about it. Well that's why I like English language arts!

Why is Education Important?

Kenza Bajwa , Age 11,
Virginia South

First and foremost, our beloved Holy Prophet Mohammed (sa) emphasized the importance of education for all human beings. The Holy Prophet (sa) stated, “Acquire knowledge even if you have to travel to China.” This quote just shows how important education was to our beloved Prophet (sa), as the distance was no excuse not to gain knowledge.

The Holy Prophet (sa) also highlighted the importance of education for both genders, which means it is important for both girls and boys to seek education to advance them and their family. Aside from advancing yourself, for most jobs a person needs education and hard work. It is very tough to get a job without education. Every day we should recite the words,

Rabbi Zidni ‘Ilma which translates to

“O my Lord! Increase me in knowledge.”

To increase knowledge, one should read a book every day for at least 20 minutes or more. This helps with vocabulary and improves writing skills. Whenever there is a test coming up, religious or otherwise, a person should always study and try to get an A+. In conclusion, focus on education so you are not left behind. Jazakallah for reading my paragraph.



Back To School Tips

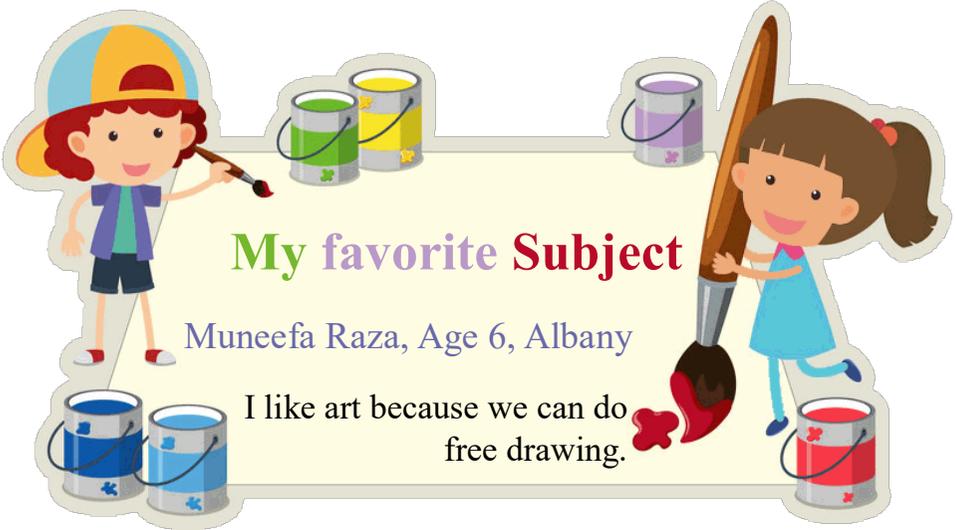
Syeda Malahat, Age 8,
Maryland



I know no one likes to get bullied. Bullying is bad and people's feelings get hurt and some people might get scared. I'm going to give you some tips to stay away from bullies:

1. Pray to Allah that He stops the bully from hurting you or calling you bad names.
2. Ignore the bully because they will lose interest in bothering you. When you don't listen to them, you are showing them you don't care about what they are saying to you.
3. Tell an adult, like a teacher or counselor. They might be able to keep the bully away from you in class, lunch, or recess.
4. Tell your parents. They can talk to the principal about what is going on and will come up with a solution.
5. Write a letter to Huzoor (aba) and ask him to pray for you and the bully.

In Sha Allah, that will do the trick!



We Want to Hear from You!!!

Children are encouraged to send their original writing for publication. Please include your full name, age, city, state and contact number when submitting an article as we may follow-up with the author for clarification.

If you would like to send a picture or artwork, please send the original. If you would like the original returned, please include your full name and return address/postage along with this request.

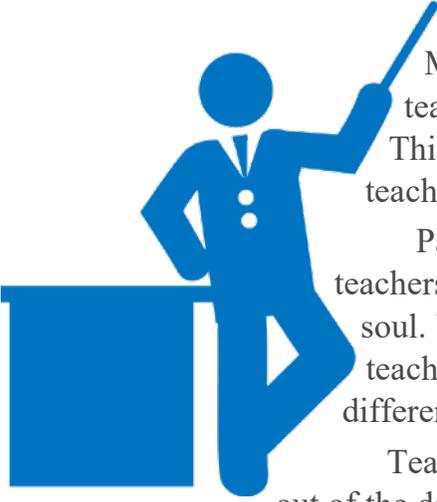
The Children's Magazine Committee, under the supervision of the Amīr, Jamā'at Ahmadiyya, U.S.A., will review and approve all submissions before publication.

E-mail Submissions to: al-hilal@ahmadiyya.us



Respect for Teachers in Islam

Ali Ahmad Khan, Age 8, North Jersey



In a hadith, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) said, “the place of a teacher is like that of spiritual parents.”

This tells us that we should respect our teachers as we respect our parents.

Parents feed the body of students but teachers provide food for the mind and the soul. We should respect and honor our teachers because they teach us the difference between right and wrong.

Teachers teach students by taking them out of the darkness of ignorance.

It is very clear that we should always respect our teachers as it is a part of our faith.

Happy at School

Hazeem Ahmad, Age 6, Virginia South



I am excited as I am going to first Grade as school starts. In Kindergarten as well I was HAPPY at school. My favorite subject is math. My school is Marshall Elementary and it is very good. I do many things at school.

Every day, I get in the car with my mother and go to school. I like it when I go in the car lane because it is very

quick. I liked my first day of school because I like playing outside and because I learn new things. All kids should go to school.

Rabbi Zidni 'Ilma

Zobia Khan, Age 11, Detroit

First of all, what does *Rabbi Zidni 'Ilma* mean? It means, “*O my Lord! Increase me in knowledge.*” Education is very important in Islam. The Holy Prophet (sa) once said, “No gift, amongst all the gifts, a father may give to his child, is better than education.” The Holy Prophet (sa) also instructed Muslims to obtain a good education. Knowing that we should live by the instructions of the Holy Prophet (sa), we should always try to get the best education and do our best, not only because it is what is best for us, but because it is what the Holy Prophet (sa) told us to do.



My Favorite Subject

Rahmatullah Trawalley, Age 13, Boston

My favorite subject is math. I like math because I understand it and it is easy for me. I want to be a math teacher because I want to help other people understand what math is and to help people not think it is so difficult. My favorite topic is arithmetic because I like to multiply numbers. Also this is a fundamental key in math. Arithmetic is where you start with all the numbers.

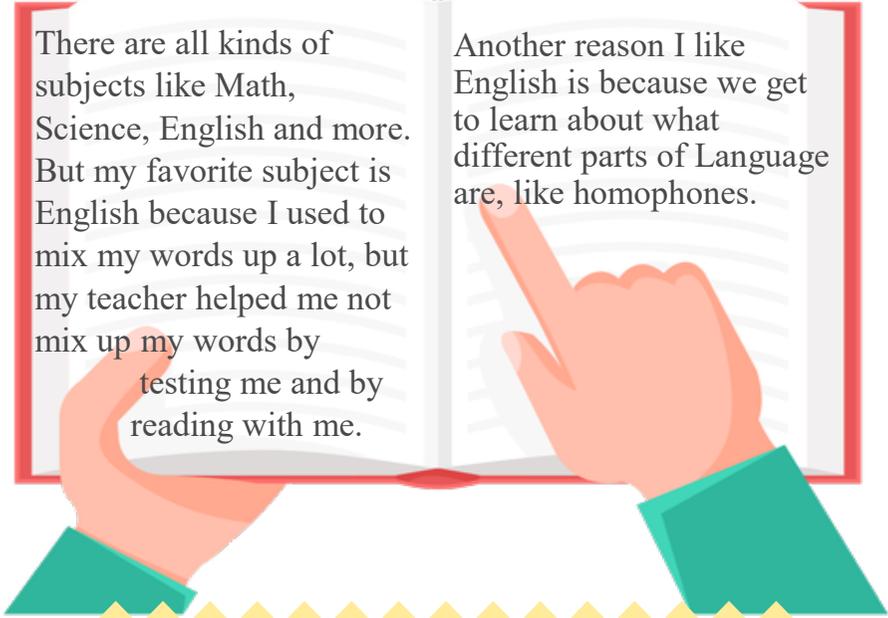


My Favorite Subject

Hafsa Khan, Age 11, Detroit

There are all kinds of subjects like Math, Science, English and more. But my favorite subject is English because I used to mix my words up a lot, but my teacher helped me not mix up my words by testing me and by reading with me.

Another reason I like English is because we get to learn about what different parts of Language are, like homophones.



My Favorite Subject

Fozia Raza, Age 10, Albany

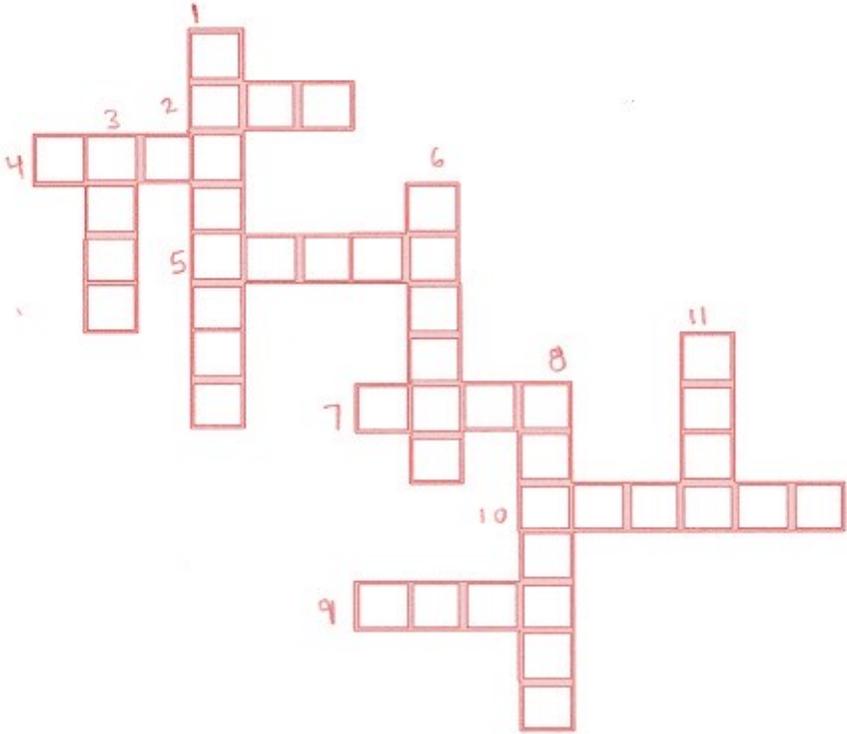
My favorite subject is gym. I like gym because it makes me creative. It also helps me get better at running and jumping rope. I like gym because we get to run on the track for the Fall

Fun Run. I can get better at sports by running. We like to play Big Ball inside when it is raining. We can also play Shark in a Tank. In the gym we also play Space Man.



Know your ways of Worship

Lailah Rahman, Age 11, East CA



1. The extra Salat you do in Ramadan.
2. One of the 5 daily prayers the Salat that you do in the afternoon.
3. One of the 5 daily prayers the Salat that you do in the evening.
4. The Nafl that you do after Isha,
5. The act of cleaning yourself before Salat.
6. Prayers the Holy Prophet (sa) performed.
7. First prayer of the day.
8. Muslim Holy Month of Fasting.
9. Mandatory prayer.
10. Prayer after sunset.
11. Early afternoon prayer.





STUDY TIPS

Zoya Malik/Age 11/Dallas



1) No need for ONE workspace



A well-stocked desk at home is key, but sometimes you need a variety of parks, libraries, or the kitchen table. This can prompt your brain to retain information better.

3) Start Small

If you have a big assignment, like a narrative, stay motivational by completing a portion of the project every few days.



5) Get a Routine

Make a designated time to do your homework everyday. Find the time that works for you.



7) Get Real

When you are looking at the homework you have to get done tonight, be realistic on how long things actually take.



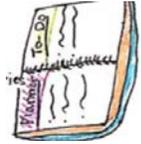
9) Look over notes

Fill in details, edit the parts that don't make sense, and star or highlight the bits of information that are most important. Interacting with notes helps you remember them.



2) More than homework

Keeping a planner helps you plan ahead, but its for more than just homework! Make sure that you mark ALL activities too!



4) School Supplies



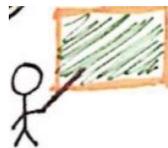
Come up with a system and keep to it! Like a big binder for all your classes with colored tabs. Or, separate notebooks. Keep the system simple.

6) Distraction Free Zone

Try to find a place with less noise. Or, turn off notifications or block social media so you can concentrate.



8) Class Time



If your teacher is done lecturing or finished an assignment with only ten minutes left, get a jump start on homework.

10) Study!



Cramming a vocabulary quiz might work short term, but when it comes to a big test, you'll be back to square one. Re-viewing terms will help you in the long run.

11) Don't let a bad grade get to you



A rough start to the semester doesn't have to sink your overall grade. Take proactive steps by regularly checking grades, and getting help if you need it.

Make friends in all classes



Find a couple of people that you can contact each class, if you have a homework question or when you miss class. Be sure to do the same for them!



Farzan Mubashir, Age 9, Georgia/ South Carolina

The Meaning Of.....

T	E	A	C	H	E	R			
R	X	M	A	O	N	E			
U	C	A	P	N	E	S			
T	E	Z	A	E	R	P			
H	L	I	B	S	G	O			
F	E	N	L	T	E	N			
U	N	G	E		T	S			
L	T					I	I		
L						C	B		
							L		
							E		



The Purpose of School

Eesha Ahmad, Age 10, Boston



At school we learn different ways of doing lots of things like how to solve math problems such as 8×3 or $15 + 5$, or for example, how to improve in writing by adding details to a boring sentence. School also teaches good behavior, which is a good way of learning how to respect Allah's creation. If you misbehave in class, you can get in trouble, which can teach you a lesson not to misbehave again. Not only that, but you can also go to the principal's office. It is not good to be bad because it gives others a bad example and you face Allah's displeasure.



There are prayers we can recite to help us in school. "*Rabbi Zidni 'Ilma*" is a good prayer for school because it means "*O my Lord! Increase me in knowledge.*" Teachers can set a good example for people too. My fourth grade teacher Mrs. Medeiros came to my spelling bee, which was thoughtful and sweet of her. She set a good example of a teacher by showing that you should always support friends and family. These are things we should remember when we go to school.



I Love School

Dania Ahmad, Age 13, Austin

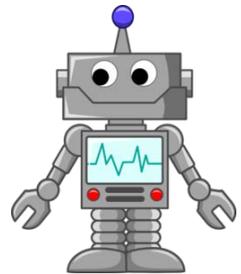


I love school because I not only get to learn so many new things every day but also enjoy learning them.

A fantastic thing about my school is that there are a lot of extra-curricular clubs that students can join. In my favorite club called FCCLA (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America), we make multiple service projects. The projects that are widespread and help out the community are chosen to compete against other projects that are similar at regional, state, and national levels. The sphere of people covered grows larger as you advance to each level. We also do a large collective project each semester.

Also, I love being a part of NJHS (National Junior Honors Society), which is all about serving our community. We do a huge annual spring service project that our community can benefit from greatly. We also frequently do service hours for the people in our community.

I also enjoy being in robotics because it's fun to design, build and program robots. I get to travel with my Robotics team all over the state to compete in various competitions. My favorite part is to help my team plan the competitions hosted by my school.



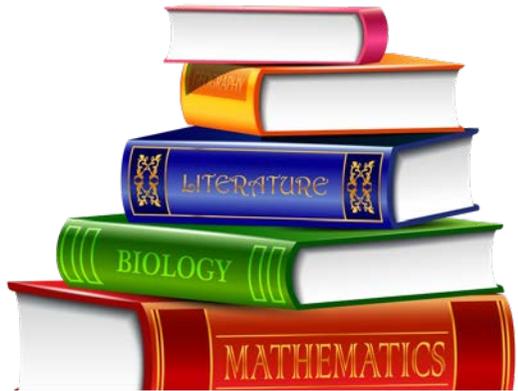
My school is an amazing place and I love it very much.



First Day of High School

Maleeha Bushra, Age: 13, Virginia Central

August 26, 2019 was my first day of high school. A few days before school started, we got our schedules and I was very excited to talk to my friends about it to see if we have the same classes. When I and my friends shared our schedule, I was sad to find out that we didn't have any



classes together. So, on the first day I was so nervous. Who am I going to talk to? Who am I going to sit with at lunch? I mean it's high school so it was normal for me to be nervous. When I got to



school, my first class was P.E. and personally I don't like that class. So, when I got there I just sat by myself for a little while. However, I wasn't nervous anymore, I felt silly for ever being scared of high school. Later on as the class went on, I made new friends and felt much better. I think it's all thanks to the prayer I made beforehand hoping that my first day goes well.

By the grace of Allah it did! I had an amazing time and met some amazing people. I can't wait to spend the rest of the year with them.

Back to School

Reem Luqman, Age 11, Laurel

I think school is very fun! Fifth grade is easy for me. We get to do fun projects in my school. We also get to use Chromebooks! I'm so glad that I'm doing better at math! I love English Language, Arts (ELA), Math, and Science. I love learning new things every day!

In school, I struggle with:

1. Focusing in class because my classmates seem to have a lot to chat about.
2. Since I have moved around a lot, it has affected my learning in school because I was learning one thing and when I changed schools, we started learning something else, and it resulted in lots of confusion.

If I could change 4 things about my school, they would be:

1. I think my school could use a longer art and technology class. They are so short!
2. I really want lunch to be 15 minutes longer.
3. Recess is too short because my class usually gets outside last. I want recess to be 15-20 minutes longer.
4. I think writing should be 15 minutes longer.

I believe education is very important because if you don't have an education, you can't really do much with your life. If you do get an education than you can be whatever you want when you grow up.



Good Study Tips

Malaika Khan, Age 10, Middletown

As school has arrived for many of us, there are many things to keep in mind. First, respect for our teachers and parents, and second, to have good studying habits as they help you do better in school. I would like to share some study tips that I use as they help me succeed in school.

I always keep a planner, because it helps me plan and write all the due dates for all my assignments. I always try to finish all of my assignments before the due date, because I don't want to be alarmed when the due dates come. Leaving all of your assignments until the last day is bad because many of us forget and say "I will finish that later". Having good studying habits not only helps me in school but also in Tahir Academy and Nasirat class.

Lastly we all have to pray that may Allah help us expand our knowledge, I would like to share the prayer for increasing knowledge which is

“رَبِّ زِدْنِي عِلْمًا”
“My lord, increase me
in knowledge” [20:115].

I hope these tips help you and let us pray that this may be the best school year to come as well as many more, Ameen.



The Importance of Knowledge

Ataul Noor, Age 14, Dayton, Ohio

Knowledge is the “awareness of or familiarity with various objects, events, ideas, or ways of doing things.” The Holy Qur’an states, “*And how canst thou be patient about things the knowledge of which thou comprehends not?*” (Holy Qur’an 18:69) In this quote, Allah asks us how can we understand, or be patient about something, if we have no knowledge about it?

Abu Hurairah (ra) relates that the Holy Prophet (sa), stated: “...Whoever treads a path in pursuit of knowledge, Allah will facilitate thereby his way to Paradise...” (Muslim) This shows that the Holy Prophet (sa) wanted his followers to gain knowledge.

In our modern day lives, we have many sources of information, including schools, the Internet, and even just our observations.



Many of our senses allow us to understand and comprehend knowledge. We are graded based on our understanding of this knowledge. This just goes to show how important knowledge is to society nowadays.

Keeping all this in mind we should be pleased to be Ahmadi Muslims, who are given this light from Allah. We should follow the path that Allah has given us, and tread on it very carefully. May Allah allow us, as Ahmadi Muslims, to continue in the pursuit of knowledge, Ameen.

First Day of School

Soha Ahmed, Age 9, Virginia Central

It was the first day of school. My heart was pounding and I had butterflies in my stomach. I was worried about my teacher, my grades, but most of all who my friends would be. That is what made me VERY nervous, and since I don't know anyone in my class, this made me even more worried. When I got there I prayed in my heart to Allah and remembered the Holy Qur'an verse (9:119) to keep the company of the righteous. And, during recess Allah had listened to my prayers and gave me a righteous companion!



Rabbi Zidni Ilma

Aneelah Kauser, Age: 12, Houston North

We use *Rabbi Zidni Ilma* in our everyday lives. It means, 'Oh Allah increase me in knowledge'. I usually like using it before tests and if I'm stuck on a question. *Rabbi Zidni Ilma* is supposed to help you have the knowledge. During a math test I didn't understand a question so I kept saying *Rabbi Zidni Ilma* and I understood it a little bit after that. *Rabbi Zidni Ilma* is an important tool in school and our daily lives. Another time I had to get a science fair idea I kept saying *Rabbi Zidni Ilma* and I got a great idea! The Holy Prophet (sa) said "It is the duty of every Muslim man and woman to acquire knowledge". Allah likes those who seek knowledge. There is another Hadith that says "Allah opens the path of paradise to one who takes a step on the path to acquire knowledge." These Ahadith tell us that knowledge is very important in our life and we can improve it with *Rabbi Zidni Ilma..*

Our Living God - Al Haye

Sanya Alina Nazir/Age 9/Silver Spring

First class of my school day,
trying to find my way,
hoping to make friends along the way,
trying to keep my fears at bay.

Then I took a moment to pray.

I remembered that,
He who gave life to me,
is guiding me and looking out for me,
is living in my heart,
and hears me.

Time flows by easily,
but I'll always hold this key,
to the door that opens for me.

As I pray to Allah,
Our Living God – Al Haye.



ALLAH



Study Tips

Rahmeen Malik/13/Dallas

1) FOCUS

Keep yourself away from distracting objects like T.V. and devices to focus on your studying.

3) ORGANIZATION

Keeping your workspace clean and organized is important when studying.

2) NOTES

Taking notes beforehand will give you materials to study if you have nothing else (colors help!)

5) TECHNIQUES

Keeping study techniques such as flashcards will be effective when studying.

4) NO MULTITASKING

Multitasking while studying is not a good idea if you are planning on being productive.

6) DIVIDE & CONQUER

It's hard doing all of your work at once. So, dividing your material up can help get things done more easily.

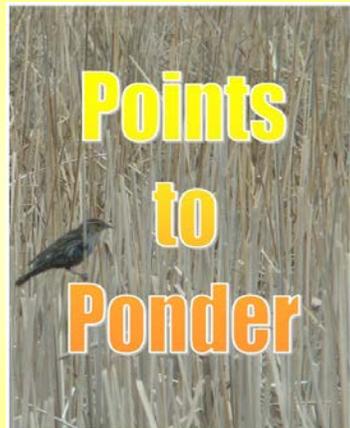


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Study Tips

**Mairah Kauser, Age 9,
Houston North**



I love studying. Here are some tips. First, always start with the name of Allah, and remember to recite *Rabbi Zidni Ilma*. Second is to always make notes about everything and while taking notes make sure you can read them any time. Third, if you are stuck on something, don't be afraid to ask for help. Fourth, find a study space and a regular study time that works for you and stick with it. Fifth, if you study a little bit every day you'll be continually reviewing things in your mind. This helps you understand things. It also helps you avoid the stress of last-minute cramming. Sixth, it's important to take breaks while you're studying, especially if you're tired. Also try to do your favorite things and hobbies.

To make sure you have fun, here's a joke: what animal should you not sit with during a test...? A cheetah!

Importance of Knowledge

Rohma Salman, Age 9, Long Island



Without knowledge, we would have nothing. Our parents could not take care of us. Many kids do not want to learn, but now I have realized that Allah has blessed all of us young children with the ability to go to school. So many kids do not have the opportunity to go to school and learn. We should be thankful and feel very lucky that we can learn.

Some kids think that homework is useless but it really has a BIG meaning. Homework helps to make sure you do not forget what your teacher has taught. When you are older, you will need to use what your teachers have taught you in the past to help you get a good job.

Knowledge has no Limits

Zara Ahmad, Age 12, Virginia South

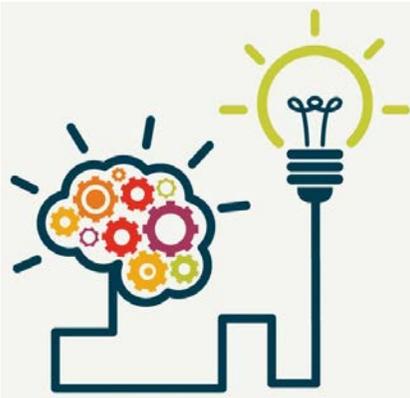
Knowledge is as important as oxygen to have a better and more comfortable life. Not only is it used to create technology, but it gives the understanding to have a peaceful life. We learn more about medicine, technology, math, history, different languages, and cultures that years ago we had no knowledge about. If we didn't have education, we wouldn't have doctors, phones etc. Without education we wouldn't be able to speak, read or write. Education gives us power and understanding of ourselves and humankind, it gives us a way to talk to each other and understand each other. Knowledge has no limits, it's extremely important to everyone of all ages to be educated. Education gives us a different perspective of society and life.

In pursuit of knowledge, one should not hesitate to undergo physical hardship if needed. Our beloved Holy Prophet (sa) said to seek knowledge even if you need to go to China for its attainment. On another occasion, he (sa) said, "Whoever travels a path in

search of knowledge, Allah will make easy for him a path to Paradise."

My parents taught me a Quranic prayer (20:115): "Say: *Oh My Lord, increase me in knowledge.*" When I was a toddler, from an early age my parents made me understand that getting knowledge and asking God to help you to get

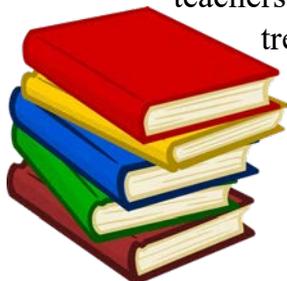
it, is very important for all of us.



Your teachers taught you everything from the ABC's to the 123's! You should give them some respect. You spend so much time with your teachers. They take time out of their day to teach you and if you don't respect them that's just rude. By listening while they talk and being kind to them that is being respectful towards your teachers. Allah will be happy with you if you respect your teachers. They were sent from Him and if you don't treat them with respect He will be mad at you.

Respect for Teachers

Laiba Bajwa, Age 11,
Queens



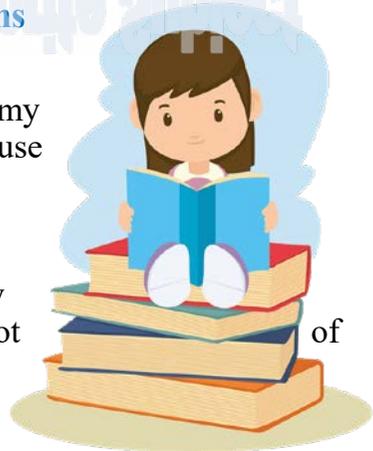
No matter what, you should try to respect your teachers.

My Favorite Subject

Ayatt Bajwa, Age 6, Queens

Out of all the subjects at school, my favorite is reading. I enjoy reading because the books I read can be very interesting. Reading makes me relaxed.

Also reading teaches me a lot of new things. Teachers make reading very interesting. Reading also teaches me a lot new words.



Respect for Teachers In Islam

Hamile Mubashir, Age 11, Georgia/South Carolina

Teachers are among the most influential people in the society. They have a responsibility to shape the student's personality and give him or her knowledge. Islam gave teachers a high rank in society and teaches us about their rights.



Teachers in Islam are referred to by different names such as Sheikh or Mualim. Teachers are responsible individuals and play a very important role in building a nation. These responsibilities demand us to give them high protocol and respect.

The prophets sent by Allah were appointed to teach people right or wrong. In the Holy Qur'an, Allah states "*Allah elevates to high position those from among you who are faithful and those who acquired knowledge.*" (58:12)

The Holy Prophet (sa) said "I have been sent as a teacher." All teachers deserve a lot of respect, appreciation and love from their students because they are just like our parents. We can understand the high rank of teachers from the saying of Hazrat Ali (ra) who said, "If a person teaches me a single work, he has made me his servant for a lifetime."

If you respect your teachers, then never raise your voice in front of them, and never point to them with your hands.

Always listen to your teachers and whenever you see them, be the first to greet. Respecting teachers is one of the keys to success in life.

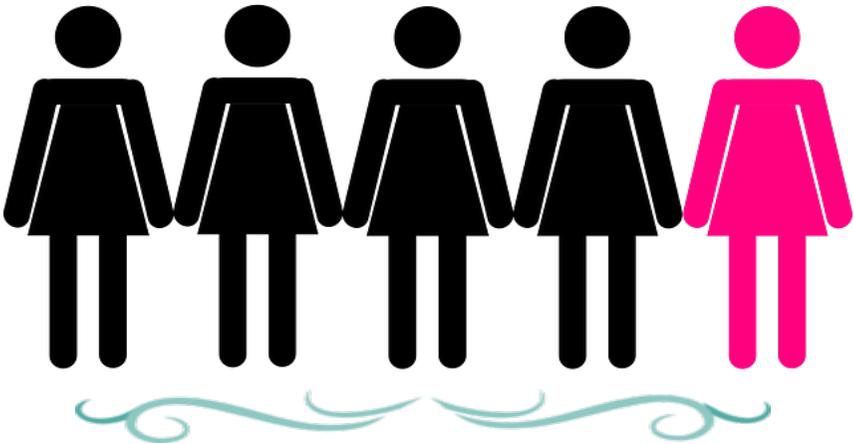
Good Peer Pressure VS Bad Peer Pressure

Tehseen Zia, Age 12, Laurel

I will be focusing on the difference between good and bad peer pressure. An example of good peer pressure is if your family and other Ahmadis encourage you to wear modest clothes. You should not argue and recognize that this makes you different from others in a good way! This also applies to reading the Qur'an and saying Salat daily.

This routine can also help you in school! Bad peer pressure is very different. One example is when your friend's influence you to take your scarf off in gym because you will be hot and sweaty. You should not do something just because your friends tell you to.

Never let your friends try to get you to do something you do not want to do. You don't have to prove anything or change anything about yourself for others to like you!



Rabbi Zidni Ilma

Ayisha Sabahat, Age 14, Detroit

O ALLAH!

**Benefit me with what you have taught me,
And teach me what will benefit me,
And increase me In knowledge
Ameen.**

This prayer (dua) is very helpful. This is a very simple and easy prayer. It is not only for study, rather this prayer is also for a strong belief in God.

Once upon a time, there was a kid. There were tests. She worked so hard for her tests. It is very important to be top in college. She studied for her exams all day and night. Then on exam day she was very nervous. Because her test was not good. Her heart was broken. Then she cried and looked at the sky. Then she said, Allah doesn't love me, Allah doesn't like me... And she slept. In her dream she saw three words and the words are

رَبِّ زِدْنِي عِلْمًا

MY LORD! INCREASE ME IN KNOWLEDGE.

After that she recites this before and after study. Then she came top in her college and she now knows never to lose confidence and always believe in God. She is a very intelligent woman now. So, this story provides a helpful lesson. Whenever there is a problem don't be afraid.

Pray first. And believe in God always. It will be better for us, because what Allah does is not wrong for us. In the last I want to say. Please memorize and read everyday, every moment of your life, Jazakallah.



Award Winning Art Work

Amatul Baqi Bahri, Age 12, Georgia / South Carolina



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Articulate your Story
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School: Simpson MS
Grade: 6th
Media: Colored Pencil
Teacher: Kim Walker

My Favorite Teacher

Areasha Tahir, Age 12, Long Island

A good teacher can inspire hope, ignite the imagination, and instill a love of learning. They can shape the character and caliber of students. I have many amazing teachers in my life, but Ms. McDonough is my favorite teacher because of her ability to teach so well. My first impression of her was that she seemed very approachable and friendly. She is my favorite teacher because she is always caring towards others and I loved the way she taught. She has a big heart, which is one of the many reasons she was one of my favorite teachers.

For example, one time, my friend Erin and I came to her last year after we helped pass out candy canes to every student in the school. Since Erin and I were in student council, the principal chose us to guide others to the classrooms. When we finished, Erin did not feel good. Even though Ms. McDonough was not our teacher at the time, she went out of her way and stopped her lesson with her class to help us out. She impacted and influenced my life because I used to hate school, but she changed that for me! One time, my friends and I accidentally bumped into her desk and broke her picture frame, and when we did, she was not mad because she understood that it was an accident. She was just happy that no one got hurt. She lets us have fun and teaches us!



Importance of Knowledge

Aniyah Mubasher, Age 10, Long Island

Knowledge is important because when you get older, all the information that you learned from past experiences will help you with some of your daily tasks. For example, when someone goes grocery shopping and they have to pay a certain amount of money, they could easily count the amount in their head without having to count on their fingers or counting each dollar bill out loud because they learned basic math in school or on their own. Of course, I cannot go grocery shopping on my own right now, but I still use what I learned in math in my daily life.



In life, we have a lot of problems, just like math has a lot of questions and word problems. So, figuring out the answer to a problem in my life is the same as answering a question in class by using the knowledge that I have learned. Solving math problems helps me solve problems in real life. Even though I'm technically not doing $2+2$ every day out of school, I'm still using my analytical skills from class to solve problems and figure out answers. I am so happy that Allah blessed me along with my friends and family with the ability to receive knowledge! I hope to continue learning things and using it to improve myself, In Sha Allah!

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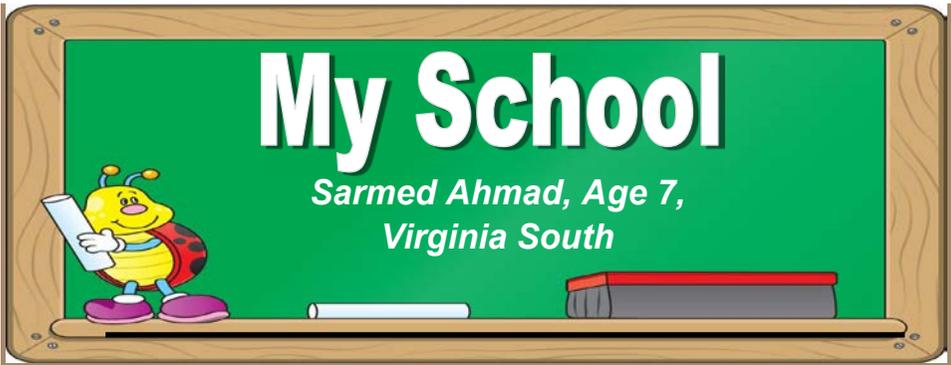
Back to School

Tamseela Mumtaz/Age 8/
Virginia Central

I am super excited to go back to school and meet my school friends and teachers again. I have lots of fun things to share with my friends. The best thing about the new school year is buying new clothes, shoes, and school supplies. It is so much fun, even though I am going to miss all the fun of sleeping late, going to beaches, riding my bike, and having fun with my friends.

As a Muslim girl, I know the importance of education. In the Holy Qur'an, Allah said, *"Oh my Lord increase me in Knowledge."* Prophet Mohammad (sa) said, "Seek education even if you have to go to China." I am going to be a fourth grader, and I am ready to learn new things and make new friends. This year, our school will go on a field trip to Richmond. I am so excited to learn!





Why should kids go to school? Do you know? For me, the answer is for kids to learn new things and to have fun! Every year, my school has two or three book fairs, a Read-a-Thon, a reading challenge and a carnival. A book fair is when the library sells hundreds of books for the students to choose and for the adults to come, look and buy. A Read-a-Thon is when you show how much you read every day: twenty, thirty, or sixty minutes! We also have a carnival, that is called S.O.A.R., which stands for Safe Organized Attentive Respectful.

My favorite subject is Math since there is so much to learn. I also love Art because there are so many fun techniques like cubism, spiral art and *guoyaku* [go-ee-tuk-oo], Japanese fish art.

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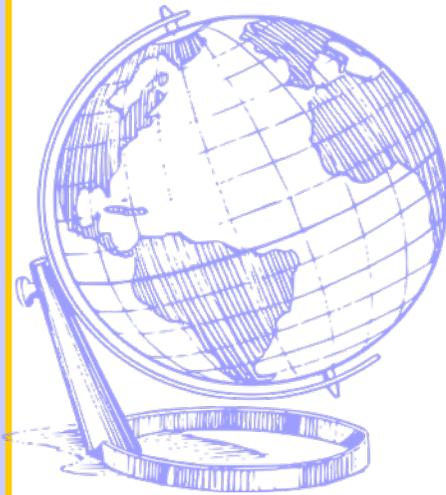
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The Importance of Knowledge

Fehsal Khan, Age 9, Seattle

To be knowledgeable is very important. The best knowledge we can gain is to understand why God created man. Also, if you are knowledgeable, you have a better chance of going to a good college and later, getting a good job. By learning many different things, you have less chances of making mistakes.

For example, geography teaches us about other parts of the world so that we can enjoy traveling and understand other cultures. By learning math, you can make quick calculations when buying things and understand your bank balance. I speak three languages; English, Urdu and

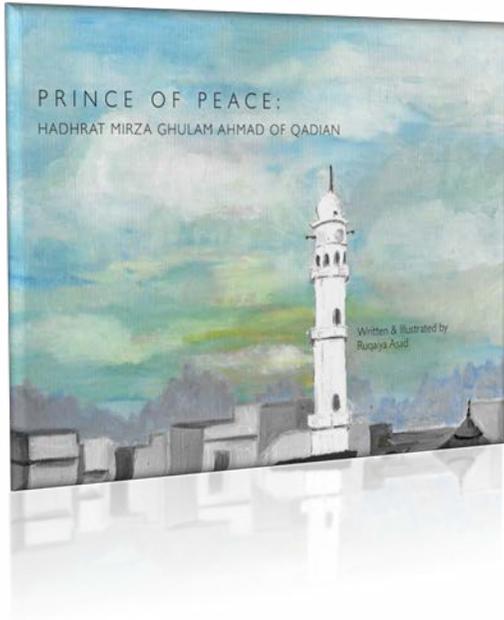


Spanish. I think this is an advantage for me because if I travel to other countries or meet people from other countries, I can communicate easily with them.

There are so many things we can learn about to help us in our daily life.

New Children's Book

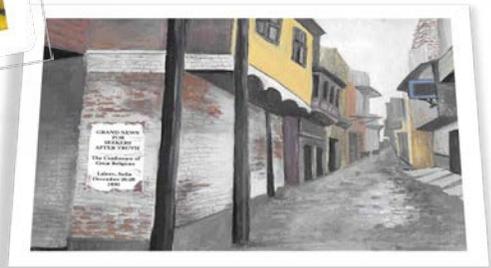
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My Favorite Subject

Sajeela Ahmad, Age 8, Virginia South



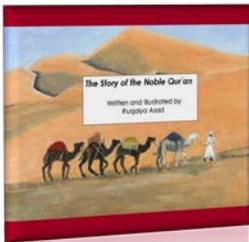
I love school, and I hope you do, too. I know that all of you have a favorite subject in school. What is it? Well, mine is Math! The first reason I like Math is because it's fun! I love how there is so much to learn in Math and its learning never ends. Even if you are eighty years old, you still have at least something to learn in Math.

The other reason I like Math is because, without it, we wouldn't be able to do anything! We wouldn't know how to count or add, multiply or divide.

The last reason I like Math is because it helps us in building mosques and houses, so we can live and pray. That's why I think Math is a wonderful subject.

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The Importance of Knowledge

Raina Jaffer/Age 12/Dallas

- ⇒ It is important to have knowledge because it helps you make better choices in life and makes you choose the right one.
- ⇒ Knowledge can help strengthen your belief in Allah.
- ⇒ It is important to have knowledge because it can give you a better future and help you get a better job.
- ⇒ It is also good because you can help the future generation.
- ⇒ I know that having good knowledge is good for your education.



Respect for Teachers

Aqsa Suhail/Age 9/Virginia Central

I chose this topic because I think teachers are almost as important as our parents. In fact, I think of my teachers as my second parents. They care about us so much that they would never forgive themselves if something happened to us. “Seek knowledge even if you have to go as far as China.” says Prophet Muhammad (sa). If you do not respect your teachers, they become so sad.

They have worked so hard to teach you and in return you give them sadness. Our teachers are mentally so strong. They keep everything so organized in the classroom even when things go wrong. Therefore we must remember to respect our teachers at all times.



MY FAVORITE SUBJECT

Maheen Khan/Age 7/Seattle

My favorite subject in school is writing. I enjoy writing



because I like sharing my ideas and thoughts with others. I get better at writing by practicing writing stories in the journal that my father gave me, or by writing letters to my grandmother in the unicorn notepad that she gave me.

When I grow up, I want to become a writer because I like being creative and coming up with stories. I like to write funny stories, how-to books, fairy tales and stories that have a surprise ending.

I also read a lot so that I can get more ideas and become a better writer. I have read chapter books like Pippi Longstocking, Little Women and the Unicorn Princess series. I also like to read non-fiction books and articles about nature in National Geographic Kids, as well as biographies like ‘Who was Steve Jobs’, and about other cultures and civilizations such as ‘All About the Aztecs’.

I really enjoyed having the opportunity to share with you my favorite subject.

I Love Math

Sabeeka Ahmad/Age 8/Austin

What I love about school is learning math. I love math because it is so much fun. At school, in “Power Hour” I enjoy playing math games like Prodigy, Problem of the Day, Math Literacy and much more.

I think learning math is important because math is needed for all sciences. If you want to become a scientist, you need to know math.

SHARING KNOWLEDGE



Jaziba Ahmad/Age 10/Austin

Education is important because it increases our knowledge. With knowledge you can do so many positive things in life for yourself and others. I have been using my knowledge to help others in third and fourth grades through a school program called “HUG” (Hippos Uplifting Greatness). On Tuesdays and Thursdays after school, I would mentor younger kids who needed help with subjects like math, language arts and reading. It helped them a lot. By the end of the year, their skills had improved and their knowledge had increased. This also helped me improve my mentoring skills.

I plan to join “HUG” this school year too to help younger kids by sharing my knowledge.

My Favorite Teacher

Azka Mubashir, Age 10, Georgia/South Carolina

When we look around, we see many professionals like doctors, engineers, lawyers, businessmen, nurses etc. Who shaped their careers? The answer is teachers. A teacher is an adult who gives knowledge to others. A mother gives birth to a child but a teacher makes these kids useful people of society. A teacher is a nation-builder.

I have many teachers in my school and in our mosque. They all are nice and respectful, but my favorite teacher is sister Najia who teaches me at Tahir Academy. She reads us stories from the Holy Qur’an. We play relevant games to help us understand and learn. When we don’t have writing utensils she always has extras and her class is fun.

She always teaches us about religion and ethics, as well as the importance of Salat and other Islamic values. She encourages us to read books about the prophets. That is why sister Najia is my favorite teacher.



Respect for Teachers

Sonya Hayatt/Age 13/Orlando

Respecting your teachers is very important because they give you knowledge and knowledge is priceless. Teachers also have to demonstrate extreme patience with their students. For example, grading their students' late work and putting up with their disrespectful behavior. Students should never disrespect their teachers and should try their best to be nice to their teachers everyday.



Chapter 4 (Surah An-Nisa) verse 60 states:

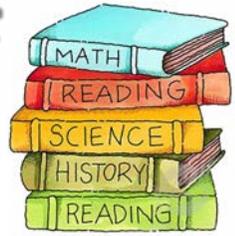
يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَأُولِي الْأَمْرِ مِنْكُمْ فَإِن تَنَزَعْتُمْ فِي شَيْءٍ فَرُدُّوهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَالرَّسُولِ إِن كُنتُمْ تُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ ذَلِكَ خَيْرٌ وَأَحْسَنُ تَأْوِيلًا

The translation for this verse is “O you who believe! obey Allah and obey His Messenger and those in authority among you. And if you differ in anything among yourselves, refer it to Allah and His Messenger, if you are believers in Allah and the Last Day. That is the best and most commendable in the end.” Here “those in authority among you” are teachers so students must obey them.

The Holy Prophet, Muhammad (sa) was a great teacher and his teachings were from the Holy Qur’an, the perfect book.

Importance of Education

Rehaan Muzaffar/Age 9/Orlando
Helped by Hinna Muzaffar



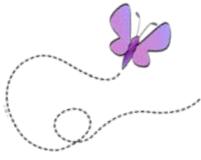
I think education is important because it helps you learn. Education not only includes learning school subjects, but I believe it also includes learning things about the world and your religion. Without education, you will not know about these things.

Education at school teaches you subjects like Math, English and Science. My favorite subject is Science. I like it because we do experiments and we learn how things work and how they are made.

- Worldly education means learning about what is happening in the world. I learn about the world by reading and watching the news. I think this is important because there could be bad things happening and we need to be safe. For example, where I live in Florida, hurricanes frequently occur. If my family and I don't watch the news we won't be prepared.

The most important source of education for me is my religion, which is Islam. I am an Ahmadi Muslim and we read a book called the Holy Qur'an. This book is the word of God and teaches us what is right and what is wrong. If we do something right, Allah will be happy, but if we do something wrong, Allah will not be pleased.

These are all the reasons I think education is important. Our beloved Huzoor (aba) has said, "Islam, teaches that each and every child, no matter his or her background, should be provided a proper education so that they can develop into skilled and truly beneficial members of society." I am grateful to my parents and to Allah for providing me with an education.



MY FAVORITE TEACHER

Fizah Ahmad, Age 10, Georgia/South Carolina

My mother, Attiya Ghani, is my favorite teacher. I pray to Allah that may He grant her a happy, healthy and long life, Ameen.

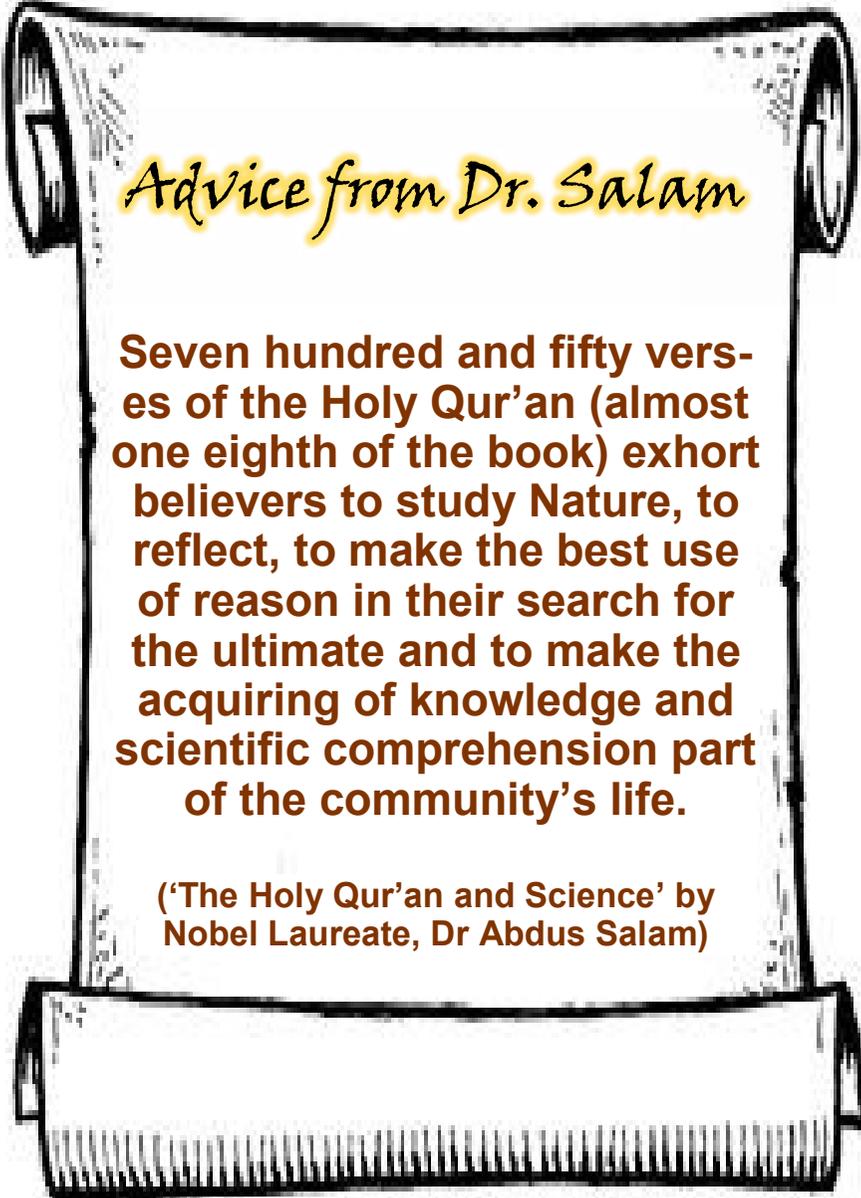
Here is my poem about my mother:

**My mother,
My friend so dear,
Throughout my life,
You are always near.
A tender smile
To guide my way,
You are the sunshine
To light my day.
I say *Al-Hamdu Lillah*
(all praise to Allah!),
To our Creator,
For giving me a chance
To live with my mother.
My mother helps me
With everything I need,
It is a blessing
To live with her, indeed.**



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Advice from Dr. Salam

Seven hundred and fifty verses of the Holy Qur'an (almost one eighth of the book) exhort believers to study Nature, to reflect, to make the best use of reason in their search for the ultimate and to make the acquiring of knowledge and scientific comprehension part of the community's life.

(‘The Holy Qur'an and Science’ by Nobel Laureate, Dr Abdus Salam)



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Glossary

Abū Dāwūd ابو داود : A collection of Aḥādīth. The author of this collection.

Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ : All praise belongs to Allah.

al-Hilāl الهلال : The new moon.

Āmīn [Āmeen, Aameen] آمين : So be it. Amen. Ceremony to commemorate the completion of the first reading of the Holy Qur'an.

As-Salāmu 'Alaikum اَلسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ May peace be upon you. (The formation assalam-o or assalam-u is incorrect as there is no waw و after mīm م, hence the abbreviation AoA or A.O.A. or A-o-A is also incorrect.)

Chanda: چنده Monetary contribution, donation. (The ha at the end is to indicate a fath on dal, and is not pronounced, so should not be explicitly written in the transliteration of the word.)

Ḥaḍrat حضرت [Hadhrat, Ḥaḍrat, Hazrat]: His Holiness

Aḥmad, Ḥaḍrat Mirzā Masroor (1950-...) حضرت مرزا مسرور احمد, may Allah strengthen him with His mighty support: Fifth successor (2003-...) to the Promised Messiah (peace be on him).

Ḥuḍūr [Ḥudhūr, Ḥuzūr, Huzoor] حضور : His Honor, His Holiness, Your Honor, Your Holiness. In Urdu, it is spelled Ḥaḍūr [Ḥaḍoor, Ḥadhūr, Ḥadhoor, Ḥazūr, Ḥazoor].

Iftār افطار : breaking the Islamic formal fast at sunset

Iftārī افطاری : eating to break Islamic formal fast.

Nāsirāt ناصرات : helpers (feminine). A member of Majlis Nasirat-ul-Ahmadiyya, association of young Ahmadi girls.

ṣadaqah صدقه: alms

ṣallallāhu 'alāihi wa sallam صَلَّى اللّٰهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: peace and blessings of Allah be on him.

Sipara سپاره: One of the thirty parts of the Holy Qur'an. [سِ سِ : thirty. pāra پاره : part] Juz جز in Arabic.



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