

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH MOST MERCIFUL MOST KIND

MERAJ ACADEMY TIMES

December 2007
Volume 1, Issue 2

السلام عليكم

Newsletter



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Upcoming Events

- ◆ Quarterly Exams
- ◆ Hajj Simulation
- ◆ Chatsworth Library Field Trip

Hajj Simulation

Insh'Allah we will be having our annual Hajj Simulation on December 13, 2007. This special event is designed to prepare our students for the fifth pillar of Islam, Hajj. Students construct a model of the Kaaba, and miniature versions of the mountains of Safa and Marwa. They perform Tawaf and the obligatory walk or run between Safa and Marwa. A goat is brought to campus so the students may have a visual comprehension of Ibrahim's (alayhis salam) sacrifice, although we do not perform the actual sacrifice. Students are taught the du'as for Hajj, including how to make intention, Talbiyah, and other du'as. Our main aspiration in creating such an event is to provide our students with both an educational and enjoyable practice so they may be enthused to participate in the pilgrimage in the future Insh'Allah. The Hajj Simulation is an exciting and valuable experience for students contributing to a more comprehensive view of Islam. We are really looking forward to it Insh'Allah!



Winter Break & Eid

"The most exciting place to spend the winter break would be San Francisco. It would be wonderful to walk on the Golden Gate Bridge, smell the relaxing salty air, and eat at one of the restaurants at the Fisherman's Wharf overlooking the ocean. I would walk across the bridge with my cousins and remember every moment they made me smile. I would go outside and enjoy playing catch and smell the salty air. Finally, my family and I would drive home with many delightful memories." By Heba Elalami (8th Grade)

"During my winter break, my relatives will come over and we will have a party and go to Knott's Berry Farm. Then, my cousins will help us pack for our trip to Colorado. My cousins Rumi and Ronnie Ahmed will pick us up from the airport. Rumi is getting married and Ronnie has a PhD. Then we will celebrate Eid and have lots of food and drinks. Eid al-Adha is important because Prophet Ibrahim alayhis salam was about to sacrifice his son Ismail, but instead Allah told him to sacrifice a goat." By Shamima Ahmed (5th grade)

"On Eid Al-Adha we remember Prophet Ibrahim alayhis salam when he almost sacrificed his son Ismail as an act of devotion to Allah, but instead Allah told him to sacrifice a goat. On Eid we give gifts and also receive them. I plan to give my mom and dad some chocolate and a card. After all, they give me gifts every year! I will invite my friends over and receive gifts from them also. I am really looking forward to Eid!" By Raihana Mubarak (6th grade)

What is Hajj?

"Hajj is the fifth pillar of Islam. It is also called the pilgrimage. It is once a year and all Muslims who are healthy and rich must do Hajj. Hajj begins in Makkah where all Muslims must be in Ihram and pray at the Kaaba and perform Umrah. Hajjis kiss the Black Stone and drink Zam-Zam water. After Makkah, they go to Minnah and Arafat. The day that Hajjis go to Arafat is the most important day of Hajj because their sins are forgiven. After Arafat, they go to Muzdalifah where they pick stones before they go to Jamarat and pelt the Shaitans. When Hajj is over, Eid is celebrated and men shave their heads and sacrifice a goat. Insh'Allah I would like to do Hajj when I get older." By Humzah Ghani (3rd grade)

"Hajj, or the Pilgrimage, is one of the pillars of Islam. Muslims go to Saudi Arabia once in their lifetime. They visit Makkah, Medina, other cities in Saudi Arabia. Muslims do tawaf around the Kaaba seven times. Later, they throw stones at Shaitan. They also walk and run from Safa to Marwa. Finally, Muslims celebrate Eid Al- Adha at the end of Hajj." By Aya Elalami (4th grade)

"Hajj is the fifth pillar of Islam and is once a year before Eid Al-Adha. It is a pilgrimage to Makkah. On the first day of Hajj, Muslims travel from Makkah to Minna and spend the night in tents praying. On the second day, people go from Minna to Arafat and pray to Allah for forgiveness by the Mount of Mercy. At night, they move to Muzdalifah, pray to Allah, and collect small pebbles to throw at Shaitan. On the third day, they go back to Minnah before sunset and they throw pebbles at Shaitan. After they have pelted Shaitan, Muslims slaughter a goat and give the meat to the poor. Finally, they return to Makkah and perform the seven tawaf around the Kaaba and drink Zam-Zam water. They also walk and run seven times between the mountains of Safa and Marwa. Muslims believe that Hajj goes back to the time of Prophet Ibrahim. Hajj is a great pillar of Islam and I hope inshAllah I could go to Makkah and perform it soon. By Salman Azfar (3rd grade)



Me'raj Academy

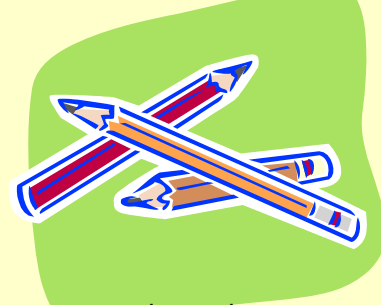
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Creative Writing



My journey as an astronaut...

"My journey as an astronaut was very hard. It was in 1856, and I was about to be launched into space. It took me 110 minutes. I landed on the moon and saw a creature with eighty eyeballs staring at me, a lion that ate plants and a weird vegetable with tartar sauce on it. I took pictures of all of them. Finally, my journey was over. Sixty minutes after leaving the moon, a planet began talking. I was so afraid! I ran through it with my rocket and destroyed it. Then, I felt myself falling. I woke up and realized it was all a dream." By Aakif Husseini (4th grade)

If I could fly...

"If I were to fly, I would go to the tropical rainforest where there are tigers, lizards, pythons, boas, okapis, and crocodiles. I would go there so I could see all these animals. I would swim with the crocodiles, and take pictures of tigers and put them on the internet. Okapis are beautiful spotted animals and tiger's prey. I would fly over the green mountains and see the whole world. I would always want to come back to look at the rainforest again." By Mohsin Khan (3rd grade)

When I went to the theater...

"One day, I went to a theater. It was a long journey. I observed many things on the way and drew them in my sketchbook. I imagined the musical theater and listened to a record on the way. When we arrived, the theater looked superb! It looked as nice as a real treasure. A fierce song was playing inside and I saw my sister listening. I was certain the band was rehearsing but the band made a spectacular entrance. They were surrounded by the audience. When the song was over, I departed for home. At home, I imitated the band and decided I would go there again." By Merziah Subhan (3rd grade)

"The role of a writer is not to say what we all can say, but what we are unable to say."

Preschool, Pre-K, and Kindergarten



