



From the Principal's Desk

Dear parent/guardian, As salaam Alaikum.

To make both lives prosper, knowledge of deen is essential. Without the knowledge of deen our children can neither serve Islam and Muslim community nor can they become good citizens. With this task in mind, Sunday Islamic School is being run. And so far, Alhamdulillah it has been very successful and InshaAllah, with the help of the community, and dedication of parents and volunteers, it will remain strong and help in producing the leaders of tomorrow, who will shape a brighter future for all.

We understand the frustration of parents whose children are still on the waiting list, but because of the space limitations we are helpless too. We like to assure you that we are trying our best to accommodate as many children as possible.

Every Sunday morning, we start the school with an assembly where children receive important lessons as well as dua's to begin their day. The assembly always has important nasiha. It's very important for your children to be in the Masjid by no later than 9:25; otherwise they are missing out something very valuable.

Br Abdullah Allaarakhia is trying to make recess time more fun for children. We always welcome volunteers. This could be an opportunity for the high school students who like to do their volunteer hours. I thank Allah and everyone else who is putting time and effort to make the school a success.

Abdul Mannan

Email: ourimam@gmail.com

Masjid Phone: 519-886-8470

School Hours: Starting Sunday March 8th. Daylight Savings Time will begin. Classes will start at 10:30a.m. and end at 2p.m., after Duhur prayer. Assembly begins at 10:20a.m.

School Policies

Fees: All fees should be paid either in full or monthly to the Treasurer, or hand it to the class teacher. Make cheques payable to Waterloo Muslim Society. If you are paying cash, please write down names of children you are paying for. Everyone will receive tax receipts at the end of each year. If you have not already paid for your children's books, please do so. Also, if your child has been absent for a while and does not intend to return, please let the Imam know, so we can open spots for those on the waiting list. For any questions, please contact the Imam. School will be closed the first Sunday of Spring Break but will remain open the following Sunday. Please do not come to the Masjid before 12:30p.m., since we have classes in progress until then. Thanks for your understanding and cooperation.

Mennonite/Muslim Youth Exchange

On January 11th. during the peak of the Gaza assault , our youth hosted a group of Mennonite youth in the Masjid. Together they watched “Occupation 101”, an award winning documentary about the occupation of Palestine, listened to an invited speaker and signed a petition to end the war. The Mennonite youth and their leaders were very grateful for this opportunity to come to the Mosque, get to know some of our youth and learn together about a subject that is often confused in the media. We are looking forward to planning an exchange trip to Flordale Mennonite community sometime in the Spring. This program was part of the Muslim/Mennonite Dialogue process that has been going on for about two years.

Teacher’s Corner

MashaAllah, once again this year we have a team of very talented teachers who are giving their best to teaching our children. Here is who they are and what they have been teaching so far. Please keep in touch with your teachers and if you have concerns about your child, or just want to know more about their progress, please contact your child’s teacher directly either by phone or email. You can also set up a time to meet with the teachers at their convenience, preferably after Sunday school.

Sahar El Gamal; Level 1 Senior

I have a bachelor’s degree in Education. I have been working as a teacher for seven years, five in an Islamic School in Quebec. Currently I’m working in Waterloo Masjid and Al Huda weekend schools.

My class has made very progress, Alhamdulillah. In Quran the kids memorized 9 short surahs and we finished 7 lessons in “Ahsan Elqwa’d” book. In Islamic Studies we finished 10 lessons in “Our Faith and Worship” book level 1 and we had a test on them. From “Alakhlaq” book (the morals) we finished 10 lessons. And from “Stories of the Prophets” book we finished more than half of its lessons. In Arabic we have covered about half of the Arabic letters with their different shapes and with vowels (fatha, damma and kasra) .

For the next month I hope we keep going in our curriculum with the same progress.

My goal for my class is helping the kids read simple words from Quran correctly, teach them our beliefs and morals as Muslims and to instil in them how to act in this society and be proud of being Muslim.

My second goal is to teach the kids in an exciting way through games and other fun activities. I want the students to enjoy their school time so they look forward to coming to Sunday school. An interesting activity we have in our class is the alphabetical carpet on which the kids are learning and identifying the Arabic letters in a fun and exciting way.

I request the parents to please check their child’s homework sheet that is given to the student every week and don’t hesitate to contact me any time if you have any concerns.

Ahmed El-Sayed; Youth Boys

I have a PhD degree in civil engineering from the University of Sherbrooke. I am currently a postdoctoral research associate at the University of Waterloo. Prior to Waterloo, I was involved in teaching Quran and Islamic studies in Sherbrooke Masjid Sunday School.

In our class, we have achieved good progress in Arabic. Currently, we are studying lesson 8 of Madinah Arabic Reader – Book 1. Regarding Quran memorization, there are three different levels in the class. Level 1 is currently memorizing Surat El-Hadid, level 2 is memorizing Surat Al-Qalam, and level 3 is memorizing Surat El-Insheq. Some Tajweed rules are also given and taught during the Quran period such as Ahkam El-Ghona and Qalqla. Unit 7 (Prayer) and unit 8 (Other Practices and Duties) of the book “What Islam is All About” have been completed. We are currently studying unit 9 (Tales of Ancient Days).

A quiz in the Islamic Studies was done on January 25. A report about the performance of the students during the month of January including the quiz result was e-mailed to the students and their parents. InshaAllah by the end of next month, we are expecting to complete Arabic book one and it will be followed by Arabic test then starting Arabic book 2.

Muftah Muni: Level 2

I have a Masters Degree in Engineering from University of Waterloo. I have over 15 years of practical experience in the field of Mechanical and Process Engineering as well as around 4 years of teaching experience in teaching Math, Science, Islamic Studies, Qura’n and Arabic Language to elementary and high school students and adults. It is a great opportunity for me to be able to teach again at the Waterloo Masjid’s Sunday Islamic School. Although it is only for a few hours and is held once a week, I strongly believe that this program would benefit many children in the long run. Teaching and educating our children in an Islamic environment should be our priority. Maintaining, and even expanding it to be a fulltime school one day should be a goal

that we should all work hard to achieve. With the growing number of children attending the school, this has become a high priority.

My goal is to bring the best in every child and help them learn to the best of their potential. I hope I can contribute something that will help make this effort a little more successful

Progress and Goals:

Arabic Language:

We are using the book "Arabic for Beginners". The focus for the past months was on learning the different shapes of letters. Each letter is practised individually as well as in combination with other letters in words. Students are taught how to pronounce letters properly and how to write and recognise the different forms of the letters depending on their location in words. Supplementary materials have been handed out to the students for homework and extra practice. We have also been learning about numbers and colours from the back of the book. Again the focus here is on the proper pronunciation, shaping of the letters and forming of the words. Phrases are used to show these words in context.

Islamic Studies:

We are using the book "Our Faith and Worship, Vol. 1". We have been studying the "Articles of Basic Belief". Practice questions from the accompanying workbook are assigned for homework and are taken up in class discussions. We have also learned some Dua's from the "Book of Dua's for Children". The students are taught the meanings of these Dua's and are asked to practise them in their daily lives. These Dua's are reviewed frequently and a one or two new ones are added. Some Qura'nic stories have also been studied and lessons were drawn to reflect upon.

Qura'nic Studies (Memorization and Tajweed):

So far we have completed learning 6 Chapters from Juzu Amma; from Surat Az'Zalzalah to A'Sharah. Memorization of the Ayat of each individual student is reviewed weekly and corrections are made accordingly.

Planned Work for Next Month:

Continue with learning of the Arabic Alphabet letters. The different forms of each letter will be discussed and practised by writing individual letters, words and phrases. Simple phrases with their meanings will be discussed for students' use in spoken language. We will complete the basic articles of belief focusing on each article individually, explaining the basic differences between Iman and Islam and their impact on a Muslim's life. We will start the basic Pillars of Islam and start learning about the pillar of Salah. We will review the memorization of the 6 chapters we have already learned and give basic Tafseer of each Surah and discuss some basic rules of Tajweed such as the rules of "Non Sakinah and Tanween".

Notice to the Parents:

Parents are kindly requested to follow up with their children's homework and Qura'n memorization. Please also make sure that your child brings her/his books and school supplies and come to school prepared. There should be some homework

assigned every week. I try to make sure that every student writes down the pages she/he needs to work on and the Ayat she/he needs to memorize. Please also encourage your child to practise the Dua's at home and to get into the habit of memorizing new Ayat every day. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Abdulrahman Saad Seleim, Beginner Youth Level 1

My name is Abdulrahman Saad Seleim, I was born here in Canada, but lived all my life in Egypt. I got my bachelor degree in Mechanical Engineering from Egypt in 2007 and started my masters here in the University of Waterloo in May 2008. I believe that the coming generation will have a very big role here in Canada, that's why we have to prepare them with good understanding of Islam so that they can grow as good Muslims.

The goals of my class are: preparing students to read Quran well, memorize some small Sura's, know the Arabic letters and be able to read simple words, Build basic Arabic vocabulary, memorize some Du'aas and learn about Islam.

I have a class with mixed abilities, some very beginner and other a bit ahead. So far, four of the students are about to finish the basics of "Ahsanul Qawaid" and should start reading from Quran very soon. This will encourage the others to follow them in shaa Allah"

Akram Abdul Rahman. Beginner Youth Level 2

Having a wide range of abilities in this class caused me to divide the class into groups based on their ability and progress. This will insh'Allah be more efficient for the learning process. Usually each group works alone during the Tajweed and Quran lesson but the whole class works together in the Arabic and Islamic Studies classes. We are at the fifth lesson in our Islam and Worship textbook and we occasionally review past materials to improve the student's understanding. Our goal for next month is to advance all the students in their current reading abilities as well as to cover numbers in Arabic and to reach lesson eight in the textbook of Islam and Worship.

Yasmeen Mohamed: JK and SK Level

It has been my sincerest pleasure to be a part of the teaching team at this year's Islamic school, as I have gained a great deal of joy and pleasure from my beautiful class of almost 27 students. I am a (third year) Wilfrid Laurier University student, completing my undergraduate degree in Honours French, with a Minor in Standard Arabic. I am intending to

apply to Laurier's Teacher's College to attain my professional teaching degree soon after completing my degree.

I have committed a great deal of my time to volunteering with various teaching opportunities within the Muslim community as well as all around the Waterloo/Kitchener Community. I have taught in various MAC Summer Camps, and am currently part of the Administration for the Al-Huda Islamic School. I work quite closely with Strong Start, Laurier Students for Learning, and also currently teach ESL every Friday from 6 to 7:30 at the Paulander Community Centre. But my greatest joy is teaching my class at the Waterloo Masjid every Sunday. We are currently studying from three books, "Arabic for beginners" by Mohammad Imran Erfan; "Our Religion is Islam" a colouring book by Hassan & Ghazi, and "Ahsanul Qawaid" an Arabic Reader.

Each week we cover and review the Arabic alphabet. We also have been learning some daily prayers and listening to important Islamic stories that teach some of the very basic pillars of belief and good morals and social skills. Reviewing the Arabic alphabet at home would be highly beneficial to the classes' advancement in the upcoming weeks.

A small reminder to please remember to send healthy snacks and a drink with your child each day they attend. Also kindly keep in mind that snacks should be SPILL PROOF, as we are using the masjid, we need to pay attention to the potential of the kind of messes that can occur with some snacks. (NO puddings, fruit cups, yogurts, etc)

The safety of each of my students is very important to me. So I would like to ask again for each family's patience during the dismissal of our classes. It is very easy for the youngest children to get lost in the maze of almost two hundred students and parents rushing in and out of the doors to return home after a busy day at school. *I will not, in good conscious, dismiss my students unless I personally see their parent/guardian that is responsible for picking them up from my care. Until I have made contact with that person, the child will not be permitted to leave the sister's prayer area.* As a mother, I always worry of the possibility of my young child getting lost in a large crowd. I worry about my students like they are my own. So your patience is deeply appreciated and it will help me guarantee a safe and happy reunion for each child with their family. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding our class or your child, please feel free to contact me directly by email at morningdewsparkle@hotmail.com.

Zubayda Ismail Level 1 Junior:

My name is Zubayda Ismail and I am currently a student studying social work and I also have an early childhood education background. I thoroughly enjoy being with the Waterloo Masjid Sunday School, and find the children I teach to be very pleasant Alhamdulillah. Thus far, I have had a rich

and fulfilling experience with the children and find everyday to be a new adventure. For this school year, my classroom goals are to have the students memorize Surah ikhlas, falaq, and nas. We are also working on basic Arabic vocabulary and the pillars of Islam and Iman inshAllah. The students are also taking parts of the seerah and learning about good Islamic manners (ie. Akhlaq). The students also take a weekly story of the prophet. The students thus far have been working hard to achieve these goals and I have attempted to incorporate fun learning games so as to make the process easier. I look forward in continuing to do so for the rest of the school year inshAllah.

Issam Abdallah; Level 3

I have a Ph.D. in computer Science and this is my second year teaching at the Waterloo Masjid.

I have a dynamic class of 8 brothers and 7 sisters. Alhamdulillah, we are finishing level 1 in Arabic and level 2 in Islamic education. We will start Arabic level 2 the next week and we are starting on Islamic education level 3. In Quran, we memorized eleven Surahs; this week we are memorizing Surah AlQadr. We are also doing regular rehearsal of previously memorized Surahs and Quran readings. We are very glad to have Brother Ozayr Ghyasi, our youngest and most polite student, who recently completed all of Juz' Amma. May Allah SWT bless him with the memorization of the whole Quran soon, grant him a righteous heart, and reward his parents for the wonderful effort they are doing in following him at home.

Maha Nouri: Level 4

I teach Level-4 at the Waterloo Masjid Sunday Islamic School. I have a bachelor degree in education from Iraq with seven years of experience in teaching Quran in Canada. Alhamdulillah, my students at Level-4 completed memorizing surat At-Takweer and surat Abasa with proper tajweed, followed by a review of everything they memorized in the past from Juzu Amah. We are currently working on Surah An-Naziat and will finish with An-Naba before the end of the school year, InshaAllah.

For the Islamic studies, we have completed four lessons about Zakah and three lessons about Hajj.

With regards to the Arabic Language, along with the text book, I use various teaching techniques in class to make the students love this lesson such as flash cards, language games, and contests. We also practice dictation, reading, and writing to improve the students' skills in Arabic. I also provide additional materials to cover topics not in their text book. Alhamdulillah, everyone is progressing well. If anyone

has any questions, please feel free to contact me directly after school, over email or by phone.

Fatima Maksoud: Youth Girls, Arabic and Quran

I have a Master's in cell biology and have taught Islamic school in Ottawa prior to teaching in Waterloo. This is my second year of teaching at Waterloo.

This year's girls youth group is very dynamic, enthusiastic. They have been a pleasure to teach.

Quran: So far, we have worked on memorizing Surat Ar-Rahman and are halfway through Surat At-Tur. Translation for all ayahs have been provided as we progressed. We have also been working on some of the rules of tajweed (ikhfa2, iklab, izhar, idgham).

Arabic: For the past few months, we have focused on differentiating between masculine and feminine nouns and how to transform nouns and adjectives from the masculine to the feminine form. We have also learned how to obtain the dual and feminine sound plural form from the singular form. We have also been reading short texts and answering simple comprehension questions. In addition to that, we have been learning a few new vocabulary words every week which the girls are tested on in a spelling test the following week.

I am very pleased with their progress so far and hope that they will continue to show enthusiasm and put in the necessary effort to progress in their studies.

Idrisa Pandit, Islamic Studies: Youth Level Girls

I cherish the opportunity to teach our young women Islamic studies. Some of the students are returning from last year and others are new to the school. Alhamdulillah, we have accomplished a fair bit in this term so far. At the beginning, we reviewed lessons that we covered last year, going over Arkan al Islam and Iman and Ihsan. We started with exploring the Asma ul Husna to understand who is Allah. All students by now should have memorized all the names with meaning. As a way to improve our way of life, we studied ayats from the Quran that explain what Allah likes and dislikes. Using these ayats, we expounded on what it means to be a good Muslim and how important it is to focus on building our character.

The focus this term has been on studying the lives of various Prophets and using the Quran to further our understanding of the wisdom of each story. Using these stories, we make connections to the present day world. We have covered the stories of Prophet's Ibrahim, Yusuf and Musa (PBUT). We spend quite some time on Hagar her role in Islam as the mother of Ismail. At this point we are exploring the surah Al-Kahf and its lessons. We had a unit test and the exam was sent home for all parents to review. A second unit test will be administered soon.

From time to time, we have open ended discussions of issues our youth face in the outside world, hoping to help them find answers from an Islamic perspective. All our youth, especially young women, need understanding, love and care. InshaAllah, these girls will develop a bond and reach out to one another in the spirit of sisterhood. If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact me after school or email me.