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NEWSLETTER

September 2005

In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful



WELCOME!

The Arabic School of Portland extends a very warm "welcome back" to all our returning students and teachers. We're equally excited to welcome all our new students and teachers!

If you see an unfamiliar face, please smile and say, "Asalamu 'alaikum!" Let's help everyone feel that they belong in our school and community.

LOOK WHAT'S NEW!

Alhamdulillah, we're starting our third year of the Arabic School, and we're continuing to grow and improve!

♥ We've opened two new grades: grade 10 for girls, and the much-requested pre-K/Kindergarten for 4 and 5 year olds.

♥ We've hired two new teachers.

♥ We have 85 students this semester.

♥ We've increased instruction time by 1 hour on Fridays, with classes scheduled 6-9 P.M. We've also increased Ramadan instruction time by a total of 8 hours, with classes scheduled from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. on Saturdays.

♥ We've shifted Friday Night Sports to 9-10 P.M., so the main gym is more likely to be available during basketball season.

♥ Homework assignments will now be posted on our website, so students and parents can more easily keep track of them, insha'Allah. Students are still required to write their homework assignments in the little



blue assignment books that are provided by the school.

♥ Our mailing address has changed from Tualatin to Tigard. The new address is listed in the upper left corner of this newsletter.

♥ We've had to increase tuition to cover increases in classroom rental fees and janitorial services, and for additional teachers' salaries. The principal, board members, and many of our dedicated parents continue to cheerfully work as unpaid volunteers!

ASP SCHOOL CALENDAR

September 2005

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

We're happy to announce that the Arabic School calendar is available on our website, so you can easily refer to it throughout the school year.

We're also distributing a "Year-at-a-Glance" version of the calendar to all students. Please keep a copy on your refrigerator, so you'll know the class days, vacations, Ramadan schedule, exam dates, and swim days, insha'Allah.

SWIMMING!

Most of you who participated in our Spring/Summer swim program have told us that swimming is not just for summer! It's a great way to exercise and have fun the rest of the year, too!

So, due to popular demand, our boys' swimming program at the Tigard



Swim Center (8680 SW Durham Road) will continue into the school year. Check out the school calendar for the Sundays we've reserved so far. The time is generally 3-4 P.M., but check our website for any changes. The next swim time is scheduled for Sunday, September 18.

DID YOU KNOW?

By immersing our children in the Arabic language, we help them to master it – to speak fluently, and to read and write with true understanding. This opens a whole new world to our children.



Arabic in all its varieties has 280 million speakers worldwide, and with this count would be #5 on a list of the 20 most populous languages. It is also the UN's fifth official language.

Furthermore, as the language of Islam, Arabic is used (though not necessarily spoken) by well over 1.2 billion Muslims worldwide.

The Arabic School of Portland teaches Classic Arabic, which is the language of the Quran, and is taught in schools in the Arab World. It's understood by most Arabic speakers, and is used in books and newspapers, on radio and TV broadcasts, and at international conferences.

You can open this vast world of the Arabic language to your children! Turn off the computer and TV and encourage your children to do a great job on their Arabic homework, to speak in Arabic whenever possible, to read Arabic stories, and to recite Quran, insha'Allah.

Prophet Mohammed (peace be upon him) said:

Every good action is a charity and it is good action to meet a friend with a smiling face. Bukhari