Dear Parents, Students, Staff & Community-Members:

Assalamu alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuhu!

As we enter this new Hijri Year 1433, we welcome back our friends and family that have returned safely from Hajj. May Allah accept their Hajj and grant them great reward.

We also give thanks. We give thanks for all of the bounties we have been given and for the beauty that surrounds us. We give thanks to our Creator, and we give thanks to all of those around us who help make life so amazing: our parents, our spouses, our children, and grandchildren, our brothers and sisters, our friends, our colleagues, and our community-members. Make a point of letting them know how much they mean to you.

Take a moment out of each day, as you sip your coffee or your tea, or as you simply gaze out of the window in wonder, to appreciate the miracles and the blessings that abound.

Notice the moth that has stopped for rest at your doorstep. Notice the mother duck guiding her 15 ducklings to the pond for a drink of cool water on a hot summer day. Notice the double rainbow that shines in grandeur after an afternoon shower.

Take time out of your busy schedule to give back. We are truly blessed, and we must share some of our blessings with others. Instill this in your children & in yourselves.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the Newsletter which was dedicated to the families in our community who are coping with cancer. May Allah give them strength.

May Allah bless your days and fill them with happiness & success,

Sr. Magda Elkadi Saleh
Head of School
This month the Elementary Students decked the walls with Tons Of Fun! Putting their creativity and markers to work, these Eagles transformed their classrooms into works of art for the Hajj Decorating competition!

**Best Hajj Classroom Decoration:**
- **1st Place:** 4B
- **2nd Place:** 1A
- **3rd Place:** 2A

**BOX TOPS**

**PRE-K DIVISION:**
- K4B collected 200

**K5-2ND GRADE DIVISION:**
- 2B Collected 982
- 3RD-5TH GRADE DIVISION:
  - 3B Collected 464

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**New Family Spotlight:**

**The Abdelhafes Family**

By: Tara Zekri, Translation By: Sr. Magda

For this month’s New Family Spotlight I Interviewed Sr. Jumana Abdelhafes. The Abdelhafes family moved to Tampa from Puerto Rico.

Tell me a little bit about how you learned about AYA and what made you decide to move all the way from Puerto Rico and bring your children here.

Assalamu alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh

من بداية العام الماضي بدأت البحث عن مدرسة إسلامية لاطفالي في بورتو ريكو ولا سلف لا يوجد لذلك توسعت بالبحث خلال العطل الرسمية وانتتي إلى أورلاندو ووجدت عدد من المدارس الإسلامية ما شاء الله و مدرسه إيه لاقت اعجابي

From the beginning of last year, I began searching for an Islamic school for my children in Puerto Rico. Unfortunately, I could not find one. For this reason, I enlarged my search and, during school breaks, began looking for schools in Florida. I came to Orlando and found several Islamic schools. Masha ‘Allah, AYA is the school that amazed me.

What do you feel AYA can provide your child that no other school can give?

قلالاكم والسنة النبوية والأخلاق الإسلامية التي نحب أن نتحلى بها أواضنا هي أهم وأفضل شيء تقديمه إيه لاجيال المستقبل

We would like for our children to enjoy reading and living by the holy Qur’an and the sunnah of the Prophet SAWS. These are the two greatest things that AYA offers for the future generations.

Have you become involved in volunteering at AYA, if yes, how so?

نعم انخرط بالعمل التطوعي واستمتعت جدا بالتعامل مع فريق العمل على راسهم الاخت بسمه معلم الفن

Yes, I began volunteering, and I have enjoyed interacting with them. I have enjoyed working the most with Sr. Baseman, AYA’s Art teacher.

What are your children’s favorite activities at school (AYA)?

أيتها ريم تحب اللعب بالرسم، عمل صفاتهم بالصف وفرنانا القصص وأحب أن أشكر مدرسته على جهودهم

My daughter Reem loves playing and drawing, making friends in class and reading stories. I would like to thank AYA, her school, for all of its efforts.

Would you recommend your friends/family to bring their children to AYA, if so, why?

طبعا اصح كم أصذلائي وعائيتي

Of course I would recommend that all of my friends and family to hurry and register their children at AYA to ensure that this generation of Muslims maintains its religion. This is AYA’s mission. Jazakumullahu khairan

If you could make a slogan or motto for AYA, what would it be?

Strict Discipline and Academic Excellence
STUDENTS AT AYA WENT TOTALLY PINK DURING BREAST CANCER AWARENESS WEEK!!! October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. During this time our Islamic community and school decided to raise awareness and money for the families suffering from cancer. AYA sent representatives to the “Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk” in downtown Tampa on Saturday, October 22. During PINK WEEK at school, parent volunteers sold Cold Stone Ice Cream and pink T-shirts, families painted Pink Tiles that will be displayed in the school’s main corridor, students played “Can You Guess How Many are in the Jar” games with Pink Candy Whoppers and Pink Bubble Gum. Finally, students, teachers, staff, and parents wore Pink on National Pink Hijab Day, which was October 26.

Everyone had a really fun time raising awareness and money. Thanks to all the students and parents who donated money. May Allah give health to the people tested with all forms of cancer.
A special Thank You goes out to ALL who worked so hard to make this wonderful event a success.

The Hajj: The Journey

by Imām Ibn Qayyim al-Jawziyyah.

By Him whose House the loving pilgrims visit, Responding with ihram at the appointed limit. Uncovering their heads in total humility. Before One to Whom faces bow in servility. They exclaim in the valleys, “We have responded to You – All Praise is Yours, and Kingdom too!” He invited and they answered, with love and pleasure; When they called upon Him, nearer came the Divine treasure. You see them on their mounts, hair dusty and disheveled, Yet never more content, never happier have they felt; Leaving homelands and families due to holy yearning. Unmoved are they by temptations of returning. Through plains and valleys, from near and far, Walking and riding, in submission to Allah,
Sr. Alicia’s K4A Class
What kind of gifts are you hoping for this Eid? How about a circus tiger, maybe? A pumpkin carriage?! Here’s what some of our lil’ eagles wished for: Amal Maarouf: “Barbie dolls, a Legos set AND a monster truck!” Mazen Abdullah: “I want to have a life-size transformer action figure!” Mekded Abdul-Aziz: “My own SpongeBob square pants toy!” Reem Abdelhafes: “All the rainbow colors I want-so I can draw pictures” Fajr Almari: “Ariel! Because she can swim underwater and has a pretty voice.” Dareen Alshaafi: “A fairytale princess, who can fly with sparkle wings!” Alia Filali: “Princess Ariel, so I can make a sea crown from shells.” Lily Ghanem: “A jeweled princess fin tail so I can swim anywhere!” Akram Hamdan: “A striped circus tiger so I can train him and teach him tricks!” Nora Mari: “A doll house palace made for toy princesses to play with!” Isra Merai: “An iPhone with princess numbers and jewels on it!” Anas Saleh: “Super cool shoes that will make me run really fast!” Youssef Sheikh: “I want a transformer robot that can turn into an airplane!” Maram Sulliman: “A pet unicorn for me to ride whenever I want to!” Zain Tamari: “A magic Cinderella carriage with mice as the “footman!”” Tasneem Youssef: “A pretty tiara with lots of jewels for me to wear!”

Sr. Maha’s K4B Class

October Pre-K Students of the Month

K4A: Amal Maarouf
Anas Saleh

K4B: Muna Ajiyeh
Mohammad Alshafi
**Elementary News and Views**

**4TH GRADE POTATO EXPERIMENT**

*BY: SOFIAN FARIA*

First, we got a potato and we cut it in half. Then we split up into pairs. We got three toothpicks and we put them on three sides of the potato. Later, each pair got a cup and put the potato in the cup. Then we all lined up with our partners and put water in the cup. After we did that, we put them outside and had to wait to see what would happen. In a few days, we went to check out what happened. Mine turned green! This experiment is still not finished. Insha’Allah we will see what else will happen to our potatoes!

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**The K5 students visited the Fire Station to learn about Fire Safety!**

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**VOX BOX: WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF THE HAJJ STIMULATION?**

*BILAL QASEM, 2B:* It ruled! I had a lot of fun doing everything! Throwing the stones at jamarrat, drinking zam-zam water, staying at Mina and running between as-Safa and Al-Marwa as fast as we could! (well, maybe not too fast; the teachers were watching.) Then we ate till all the sweets and goodies were gone! I can’t wait to do it again! Inshallah!

*ADAM MANSOUR, 3A:* I liked pretending to be pilgrims going to Hajj, because we learned a lot and had a really good time! We even got to chant the pilgrim’s recitation, as loud as we could and go around the kaabah seven times! Plus, some teachers and parents brought plenty of goodie bags and treats!

*LANA SHADA, 2B:* I loved drinking the zam –zam water and making my wish-and, we got to wear pretty hijabs while doing saa’y and standing on Arafat (which was really tablecloths and chairs piled on each other). I even did a Hajj project in class!

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ADLIB STORY by Sarah Mari

Fill in the banks to concoct your own far-out, hopping-wild stories about anything from guitar-playing raccoons’ to bicycles that can fly; you’re the author! DIRECTIONS: work with a friend for even more fun-ask them for the listed items and have the same done for yourself, comparing which story is crazier!

On the Track of Bigfoot

One blue day, our class went hiking along the __________________River. Like all ____________ hikers, we were ready for any emergency. In our _______________________ backpacks, we carried ___________________________ and one _________________________________. As we walked along the trail, __________ noticed a (n) ________________________ footprint. “Do you think a (n) ___________________________ made these tracks?” he/she asked. “No, but let’s follow the trail anyway,” suggested _________________.

________________________ We ran for hours. Then I screamed, “_____________________!” I think I see a huge ________________.”_________________________ We heard someone say. It was _________________. “_____________________!” we screamed. “We thought you were a huge ___________________________!” “Do I look like a huge ________________? Well, as long as you’re all here, you can help me look for ___________________________. There are lots of them here along the ______________________ River. We can take them back to school and study them under our microscopes.” “_____________________?”!!” everyone said.

American Youth Academy
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Recruiters from USF, HCC, Nova and SPC met students and talked to them about admission, financial aid and college life.

Leadership Hillsborough

Representatives from over 20 Tampa & Hillsborough County businesses and organizations visited AYA. Their coordinator calls AYA: “The best-kept secret in Tampa!” They were very impressed with AYA and what we offer.

Students’ Thoughts

I honestly liked that our school actually had a college fair. We learned a little more about the colleges that we are interested in. It was great! – Yara Twam

Don’t choose the college; let the college choose you. Meaning: don’t pick a college because it’s well known or whatever. Go to a college that fits your personality and your needs. That’s how it should be. – Shireen Kiswani

I think the college fair was a good opportunity for us to learn about different colleges. I really never knew about these other colleges and their programs, because I was only thinking about attending the same college my sister attends. Now I learned about another college that seems to be exactly what I’ve been looking for. – Salam Hamed

I think that the college fair was very helpful. I would really like for the administrators to introduce us to more colleges.

THANKS! – Osamah Nofal

I think the college fair was a really good experience for the students in high school, especially the ones who are freshmen and sophomores. It gave us an idea of what the colleges are like and what we need to do to apply to them. I learned a lot. – Safa Gurwala

College is the first step to an amazing journey! – Diana Mustafa
American Youth Academy

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Secondary Science in Action

The Senior Store was opened during the month of November. Look for more Senior Sponsored Activities throughout the year!

New Student Spotlight

By: Nadine Al-Ashker

Why did your family move from Jordan to Florida? We moved for multiple reasons: business, AYA, and family.

What’s a difference you see between AYA and your old school in Jordan? AYA is a lot more focused on discipline.

Things you love about AYA? Friends, family, and Islamic Environment.

Favorite after school activity? Why? Eco-club! Our teacher’s cool..oh, and helping the environment.

What was your reaction to winning the public relations election? I wasn’t shocked, because I worked hard on my campaign.

A quote you go by: Live your life, because its short. If Allah brings you to it, He will bring you through it.

What is one rule that bothers you a lot? The one where your grades can drop based on attendance. What does that have to do with grades?

Message to students- Do well in school so you can be successful in the future...but keep a balance between school and a social life.

If you had a choice between AYA and public school which would you choose? AYA, because it keeps my Islam in check.

VOX BOX?

If you can change one rule in the school what would it be?

Mariah Hamil: Infractions …… “I agree”

Mohammad Saad: Uniforms. I would like to wear what I want to school.

Al-Anoud Fetais: The 5 unexcused absences = a drop in your class grade rule.

Lara Matter: Shoe color restriction rule.

Tamara Irashid: The cell phone rule.
THE SKY IS THE LIMIT FOR OUR EAGLES!

Soccer Results:

HS Soccer
AYA vs. Pepin Academy, 5 - 1

MS Soccer
AYA vs. UAF, 4-1
AYA vs. Berkeley Prep, 12-1
AYA vs. Seffner Christian, 7-0

Upcoming Matches:

Soccer Game (Elem)
Thursday: 12/1 @ 4:15PM,
AYA vs. UAF, HOME

12/5, Soccer Game (MS)
Home @ 4:00PM

12/6, Basketball Game (HS)
Away @ 6:00PM

12/15, Soccer Game (HS)
Home @ 4:00PM

12/20, Basketball Game (HS)
Home @ 6:00PM

ENTHUSIASTIC EAGLES By : Aya Faria

“Wow, wow, wow,” ....... that’s all I hear from the Elementary boys’ soccer team. Sofian Faria, a member of the soccer team loves Tuesdays and Thursdays... only because, they are soccer practice days. I asked him what is one thing you enjoy the most in soccer practice. He replied, “You have no clue. We are crazy when we play soccer, and I love to compete against Omar and Hakim because they are good and it helps me become a stronger player.” Since practice started in October, Coach Ali has been working hard with all the teams. So far all our Eagles are undefeated, but they still need your support at the games. There are games almost every week. Hope to see you all there cheering them on!

MARTIAL ARTS UPDATE:

AYA's students participated in the UTKA National Karate tournament in Cape Coral Florida on October 15th, and Mash’Allah won a total of 5 medals. Another great accomplishment for the dedicated students at AYA. GO EAGLES!
AYA’s Student Council
President: Lama Mattar
Vice President: Mohammad Hamed
Secretary: Yasmine Hussien
Public Relations: Nasser Hijaz
Treasurer: Nadine Albadawi

The AYA Eco Club worked hard this month and made a boat completely out of recyclable materials and competed in the Rally on the River sponsored by Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful. The AYA EAGLES did a great job designing the boat, putting it together and racing it in the river! **Our Eagles WON 3rd PLACE!** Members also participated in a County Wide Clean-up.
CRITICS CORNER
By: Sarah Mari

ERAGON, BOOK ONE
by Christopher Paolini

Fifteen-year-old Eragon believes that he is merely a poor farm boy—until his destiny as a Dragon Rider is revealed. Gifted with only an ancient sword, a loyal dragon, and sage advice from an old storyteller, Eragon is soon swept into a dangerous tapestry of magic, glory, and power. Now his choices could save—or destroy—the Empire.

"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body." Sir Richard Steel

THE HUNGER GAMES
By Suzanne Collins

In the ruins of a place once known as North America lies the nation of Panem, a shining Capitol surrounded by twelve outlying districts. The Capitol is harsh and cruel and keeps the districts in line by forcing them all to send one boy and one girl between the ages of twelve and eighteen to participate in the annual Hunger Games, a fight to the death on live TV.

I found out that my close friend was talking about me behind my back. What should I do?

First off, if someone is talking about you behind your back they are NOT your friend. Friends do not do things like that. If they have something negative to say, they should confront you about it or keep quiet. I'm sure it was difficult to find out that one of your close friends was backbiting, but you should not let people treat you with such disrespect. I hope things get easier for you. Just remember: "There will always be an END in friend but family will always "END" with an [ily] (I love you)!" Keep your friends close, but family comes first. They won't let you down.
What goes around the world, but stays in the corner? Answer: Stamp. Submitted by Sr. Manal Ramadan, 1st Grade A Teacher

How did your mum know you hadn’t washed your face? I forgot to wet the soap!

What town in England makes terrible sandwiches? Oldham!

What kind of hair do oceans have? Wavy!

What is the best hand to write with? Neither — it’s best to write with a pen!

Why does a flamingo lift up one leg? Because if he lifted up both legs it would fall over!

In Alabama, putting salt on a railroad track may be punishable by death.

In Alaska, no child may build a snowman taller than himself on school property.

In Georgia, it’s illegal for chickens to cross the road.

In Florida, it’s against the law to dream about another man’s wife or cow.

In Illinois, it’s illegal for one to mispronounce the city’s name.

In Maryland, it’s illegal to mistreat oysters.

Also, a fact from our Elementary correspondent, Malik Zekri, 1A, “Did you know that it takes 100 ants to weigh as much as a peanut?”

Who Said It?: Famous Quotes by some of AYA’s Elementary Teachers

Across Clues
2. Stories of Peewee
3. Talking Stops in 3, 2, 1!
5. BIG BOOBOO!
7. Oh, Man!...Oh, Woman!

Down Clues
1. Big Time!
4. Knock It Off, Capiche!
6. Quiet Signal.

From a young age my speech was immaculate. I took a liking to vocalizing my thoughts and expressions. My friends were well thought out best-sellers. Can you characterize me?