



# 2nd Grade News

From the desk of Shabana Ahmed

ILM Academy

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## Off to a great start!

2nd grade is off to a great start Alhamdulillah! Students have settled into the classroom routines and have been busy learning bees! This year at ILM we will be teaching through Project Based Learning (PBL) in sha Allah! The PBL method helps students learn better. Projects motivate students to gain knowledge, and they remember it longer. Projects also give students the chance to apply the skills they learn in school to personally relevant and real-world situations. Your 2nd grader will also learn skills in PBL such as how to think critically, solve problems, work in teams, and make presentations. These skills will help them succeed in the future, both in school and in today's work world. Our ILM grand challenge this year is Environment Sustainability. We will showcase two major projects related to this grand challenge, an Art project and an Engineering project in sha Allah!



## 2nd Grade Helping Hands!

Parents of:

Zeinah Hashem, Ayaan Ali

Dean and Tayma Alsayed

Musa Yousif, Humairah Muqim

Bayaan Hadbe, Ahlam Diab,

Myra Taher

جزا الله خير

# Math

It was all about addition and subtraction and how they are related as we began our 2nd grade journey. To provide a concrete understanding of the operations and their relation, I equipped the 2nd graders with a part, part whole and a whole, part part mat and manipulatives. They model the number sentences and get to experience how the two parts join together to become a whole in addition and how the whole is broken into parts in subtraction. We also worked on various strategies to solve addition and subtraction facts such as count on, count back, count up, and make a ten.



# Arabic

2<sup>nd</sup> graders have learned a lot so far in this month. Mashallah, they finished unit 1 (Introduction to themselves, asking questions about peers, etc). Students learned new letters ت ط how to write those letters in different forms, learning Hatha, Hathehe, Heya, Ana, Anta, and Anti. They learned how to place those words in a conversation and know the differences between them. We are learning how to name and to tell the differences between words when using masculine and feminine properties. (Man, women, boy, girl, teacher, and principle) \*All of this is in Arabic.

We are also learning a song in Arabic about numbers. I'm very excited to show you parents how beautiful my students' voices are, Mashallah! Sister Nisreen



# Social Studies

We spent the first two weeks of school focusing on respect! 2nd graders did many activities where they had to brainstorm how respects sounds, looks, and feels like. We will continue to reinforce this concept throughout the year! I tell my students nobody can see how much knowledge is in your brain, however they can see your behavior and we have all agreed to be respectful bucket fillers! Ask your 2nd grader what a bucket filler does!

# Science

Our Science exploration began with plants. We explored the plant parts and life cycle. 2nd graders dissected a lima bean and observed the seed coat and embryo too! Ask your 2nd grader "How did you germinate a lima bean without soil?"



# PE/Art

ASA Dear Parents,  
Our students worked on two art projects this month. The first project was the color wheel. They practiced Art ROAR expectations and agreements. They learned about color theory and how to create a color wheel. The second project was about learning how to draw parts of the plant such as roots, stems, leaves, and flowers. They also learned to identify the right atmosphere for the plants to grow in.

Sister Heba



# ELA/Reading

My goal this year is to teach the 2nd graders the 44 sounds that make up the majority of the words in English (only a minority are criminals). A, e, i, o, u, and sometimes y are not the only vowels sounds! Unfortunately this confuses students, especially when they start dividing words into syllables! I will try to rewire their understanding in this area in sha Allah. A syllable is a chunk of a word that has one vowel sound so what is the vowel sound in the word out? It's not /o/ as in pot, its /ou/ as in ouch! When you hear the /ou/ sound at the end of a word its spelled with ow like in cow and wow! You hear sounds when you pronounce words so why not teach the 44 sound/letter relationships that make up the English language!

We have started this journey and have gone through 24 sounds already! We breezed through the consonants! Slow sailing with the vowels, to ensure retention through practice and repetition!

This summer I have been deeply engrossed in discovering what research says most benefits students, as they become readers, writers and lifelong learners. As a result, the structure of my literacy block may look and sound a little different and I am EXCITED!

It won't be long until you hear your child talking about "The Daily Five." The purpose of this letter is to fill you in on what The Daily Five is all about, so you don't have to nod your head while wondering what in the world your child is referring to.

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# ELA/Reading...

The Daily Five is a way of structuring the reading block so every student is independently engaged in meaningful literacy tasks. These research-based tasks are ones that will have the biggest impact on student reading and writing achievement, as well as help foster children who love to read and write. Students receive explicit whole group instruction and then are given independent practice time to read and write independently while I provide focused, intense instruction to individuals and small groups of students. Students will be engaged in the Daily Five, which are comprised of:

1. Read to Self, 2. Write to Self, 3. Read to Someone, 4. Listen to Reading, 5. Word Work

There are very specific behavior expectations that go with each Daily 5 component. We have spent our first weeks working intensely on building our reading and writing stamina, learning the behaviors of the Daily 5 and fostering our classroom community.

One thing you'll notice that may be a change for you is a direct decrease in the number of worksheets your child brings home. While worksheets keep students busy, they don't really result in the high level of learning I want for your child. Instead, your child will be taught to select "Good Fit Books" or books they can read, understand and are interested in, which they will read during Daily 5. They will be spending most of their time actually reading, which research supports as the number one way to improve reading. I anticipate the motivation and enjoyment of reading will skyrocket when this gift of choosing their own books is accompanied by extended practice and specific reading instruction for each individual child.

As you can see, I am excited about giving your child the opportunity to be involved in a structure that will have a positive effect on their education. In sha Allah!

Please think of our classroom as you visit bookstores or clean your own child's bookcase. It is my goal to make our classroom library as appealing as your favorite bookstore for browsing books in 2nd Grade. I n sha Allah!







# Qur'an

Assalamualaikum,

Dear respected parents and students,

Alhamdulillah the first few weeks of school have flown by so fast! The second graders have been refreshing their memories by reviewing the suwar and nooraniah lessons learnt last year. In addition, we have been taking a closer look at what the Qur'an is, why it is important to learn it, and how to take care of the Qur'an with utmost love and respect. While reviewing we have been analyzing suwar learnt last year in more depth, and how the teachings of the Qur'an can be applied to our every day lives. Students learnt the importance of starting their day with the recitation of Al-Fatiha and the three Quls. They used their knowledge about Surah Al-Fatiha and Al-Bayyinah to understand why it is important to learn the Qur'an. That's not all! Your second grader has been learning about an important character trait: being responsible. They have taken responsibility of their behavior in Qur'an class by performing biweekly self-assessments and establishing biweekly goals to work towards. Students also have been observing their classmates and nominating a responsible student at the end of the week! Students are currently on Nooraniah lesson 11 and on Surah Al-Qadr. There are lots more fun, interactive, and exciting activities planned, and I look forward to sharing them with you next month In Sha Allah! Until then please ensure that your second grader spends at least twenty minutes daily to practice their Qur'an homework, Jazak Allahu Khairan!

Sister Sauda



# Islamic Studies

Welcome to Islamic Studies @ ILM. Alhamdulillah Grade 2 students have been analyzing and assessing demonstrations to see how can we build an effective learning community. We are mastering the procedures to be great learners and Ambassadors of Islam. We got to be comfortable with each other, learned Tawaz, Tasmia and Dua for ILM. Learners enjoyed doing activities on (22) Adab in the Classroom, (16) Essential Revision, (24) Bismillah and (36) Six Articles of Faith (IS Book page numbers written next to them for easy reference).

Please ask your child how should we greet a Muslim, how does it make the other person feel and why are manners important?. Please note

**We meet on ::** Mon, Tue and Fridays (Students can post a letter to IS Mailbox anytime :) )

**Homework ::** Assigned on Tuesday. Due on next Monday. HW Details on Alma with video links/games too and in Homeroom note.

**Quiz/Test day ::** Tuesday (written/ oral/ game or competition :) )

**Grades::** Gradebook Updated on Alma

**Salah Chart ::** Please Fill every day. Redeem end of month for reward. Salah Champion prize end of year

**Book Reading ::** Read "Islamic Studies Book" chapter of the week 5 min every day. Can record in ELA log too as book read :)

*\*IS Materials sent home Tuesdays. Bring them back only on Monday In Sha Allah.*

We did practical in school driving questions activity with remote control car to learn the significance of focused efforts and how it builds effective learning community. Please ask your child what are the 5 key Islamic behaviors ILM students are getting recognized for and how? Please ask your child about 5 Pillars of Islam and 6 Pillars of Imaan and how can we explain them with a tree model? We are enjoying our STEAM Show and Shares on Fridays. Please continue to share how your child is sharing the learning at home and applying it and we would love to recognize the same in our Student Spotlight In Sha Allah and do not forget.. **READ Read to Succeed :) .** May Allah SWT increase us all in beneficial ILM. and Amal, Ameen.

Sister Javairia



# Islamic Studies

