

# January 2024 - KG

## Hadith of the Month

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ made a clear connection between belief in Allah SWT and compassion.' In a saying of the Prophet narrated in Al Tabarani he said 'You won't be true believers unless you have compassion.' When people heard him say this people said 'Oh Prophet, we are all merciful.' He replied 'I am not referring to the mercy that one of you would have towards his companion or close friend but I am referring to mercy or compassion to all.'



## Why it is important for your child to read home?



Please read books for 10 minutes a day to enrich vocabulary and reading skills.  
Reading at home with your children has proven to be beneficial.  
It helps to build comfort, reassurance, confidence and relaxation.  
When you give your child time and full attention it helps builds skills such phonics; problem solving and reinforces skills taught at school!

## Upcoming events

**Classes Resume:** January 8th, 2024

**Parent Halaqah :** January 18th, 2024  
(Sheikh Jamal and Sheikh Sadique)



Edmonton Islamic Academy

**Principal:** Mr. Ibrahim Abougouche [abraham.abougouche@islamicacademy.ca](mailto:abraham.abougouche@islamicacademy.ca)

**Resident Imam at EIA:** Imam Jamal Taleb [imam.jamal@islamicacademy.ca](mailto:imam.jamal@islamicacademy.ca)

**ECLC Assistant Principal:** Ms. Mariam [mariam.abougouche@islamicacademy.ca](mailto:mariam.abougouche@islamicacademy.ca)

**Team of Educators:**

Ms. Fatima Younes; Ms. Jinan Yassine Ms. Nimeh Othman; Ms. Sherin Keshta  
Ms. Montaha Haymour; Ms. Nadia Alramahi  
Ms. Dana Huoseh; Ms. Seham Rahime; Ms. Sabina Sekander;  
Ms. Tahseen Anwar; Ms. Mahasin Mashriky



# Message from our Imam:

Assalam Alaykoom Dear Respected Parents, Students, Teachers and Staff,

Empathy is the ability to recognize, understand and share the feelings of others, like walking in someone else's shoes.

Is empathy encouraged in Islam? Absolutely! Consider this Qur'anic verse about our beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ (peace and blessings of Allāh be upon him):

“There has certainly come to you a Messenger from among yourselves. Grievous to him is what you suffer; [he is] concerned over you and to the believers is kind and merciful.” [Qur'an: Chapter 9, Verse 128]

Our Prophet (peace and blessings of Allāh be upon him) would always feel our suffering and is praised by Allah (glorified and exalted be He) for his empathetic nature.

The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allāh be upon him) himself also encouraged us to feel empathy for each other, he was reported to have said:

“The believers in their mutual kindness, compassion and sympathy are just like one body. When one of the limbs suffers, the whole body responds to it with wakefulness and fever.” [Bukhari]

This Qur'an describes believers as those who practice compassion, which is a form of empathy that moves one to help others.

“And what can make you know what is [breaking through] the difficult pass? It is the freeing of a slave, or feeding on a day of severe hunger, an orphan of near relationship, or a needy person in misery. And then being among those who believed and advised one another to patience and advised one another to compassion.” [Qur'an: Chapter 90, Verses 12-17]

May Allah help us to be among those who feel about our fellow Muslims especially in Palestine and Gaza in this difficult time, Ameen.

JazakAllahu Kheirun,  
Sheikh Jamal  
780-454-4573



# Message from the Assistant Principal

Salam Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh Sisters and Brothers,

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome you all back to school, In Sha Allah your lives are filled with prosperity and health for you and your loved ones.

Once a week, I have the opportunity to participate with the grade one students as a whole team in discussions and activities focused on developing Virtues of Moral Intelligence. By exploring different virtues each month, we are fostering their understanding and practice of important values. Introducing compassion and empathy as the theme for January will help them develop a deeper understanding of the importance of kindness, empathy, and compassion.

Empathy allows us to put ourselves in someone else's circumstances, enabling deeper connections, compassion, and fair judgment. By experiencing their emotions and perspective, we can develop a more comprehensive understanding of others and foster a more inclusive and understanding society.

If we follow the Sunnah of our beloved Prophet ﷺ empathy for each other would naturally develop and In Sha Allah prevent racism. It is up to us as the adults to educate our future generation about racism and help them develop the Sunnah ways of empathy and respect for one another.

It ensures effective communication, as individuals can better navigate conflicts and build understanding, leading to stronger and more fulfilling friendships and relationships. Additionally, empathy promotes acts of kindness and altruism, leading to personal growth and overall success in various aspects of life.

Please see the last page of the newsletter for strategies in building empathy/compassion with our children.



JazakAllahu Kheirun,

Ms. Mariam

ECLC (AP)

[mariam.abougouche@islamicacademy.ca](mailto:mariam.abougouche@islamicacademy.ca)

780-454-4573



# Things to Remember

## Parent Volunteer Hours

As you are aware, families have a 20 hour volunteer requirement.

This year the parents are able to earn volunteer time by attending monthly parent halaqas.

**We will be enforcing the no enrollment for your child/ren if you do not attend the Halaqas.**

This is a positive way to meet other parents, and learn more about a variety of Islamic topics.

## Home Reading

**Create a quiet, special place in your home for your child to read, write and draw. Keep books and other reading materials where your child can easily reach them. Help your child see that reading is important. Set a good example for your child by reading books.**

## Bedtime Routine

Establishing a regular bedtime routine, has proven to be productive for student learning.

Being consistent with this practice is an investment in your child's education. I encourage you to read this article:

<https://www.verywellfamily.com/kids-and-bedtime-routines-2634260>

## Staff Recognition

At Edmonton Islamic Academy, we are always looking to recognize hard work and dedication. We want parents to be apart of this opportunity as well.

If you want to recognize an EIA staff member, or something positive at EIA please contact me:

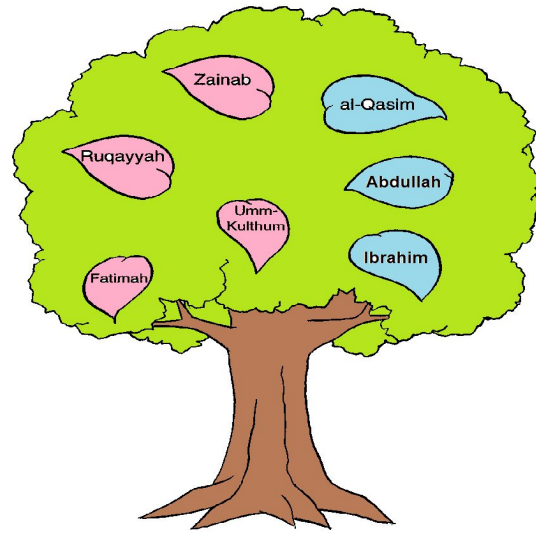
[mariam.abougouche@islamicacademy.ca](mailto:mariam.abougouche@islamicacademy.ca)

# Curriculum Update for February



## Islamic Studies

- The students will learn Surat Al-masad Ayats 1-6
- The students will learn the following names of Allah SWT (Al- Gafar, Al- Qahar, Al-Wahab) they will review the names of Allah SWT that they have already learned.
- The students will learn the Duaa relevant to entering a washroom.
- The students will learn about the children of our beloved Prophet PBUH.



## Arabic

- Students will learn and work with the letters (Taa, Haa, and Qaaf).
- The students will learn to read and write the letters.

## Language Arts

- The students will be reviewing all literacy concepts/skills covered to date.
- The students will be learning and working with the letters: Gg; Bb; Ee; Hh and Ww.
- The students will be listening to stories and connecting the stories with themselves.



## Citizenship and Identity

- The students will be developing their social responsibility by waiting for their turns in activities.
- The students will be developing their their social responsibility using the phrases “please, thank you and you are welcome.
- The students will be developing their social responsibility by asking others to play/work with them.
- The students will be developing their social responsibility by displaying respect to adults; peer and things in the class.

## Environment and Community Awareness

- Students will become aware of their five senses and they are used to explore and investigate safely.
- Students will become aware of the colours, shapes and patterns in their environment.
- Students will recognize that some of their activities occur as the same time each day (eg. lunch and recess).

## Math

- The students will be reviewing all concepts/skills covered to date.
- The students will be learning about the number “10”.
- The students will be introduced to the concept of patterning: identifying; reproducing; creating and extending.

# Key strategies to teach CHILDREN EMPATHY



## 3-5 YEARS

- **DESCRIBE AND LABEL** - Help children recognize their emotions and body, "You're clenching your fists. You stomped your feet. You seem angry."
- **READ STORIES** and discuss the character's feelings.
- Make a **WE CARE CENTER**.
- Coach their **SOCIAL SKILLS**.

## 5-7 YEARS

- Use **PICTURES** - Cut out pictures from magazines or print pictures that show sad, angry, or happy faces.
- **EMBRACE DIVERSITY** - Help children understand what they have in common with others.
- **OBSERVE OTHERS** - Note the body language of others and guess how they might be feeling.
- Teach about **HEALTHY LIMITS** and their own boundaries.

## 7-9 YEARS

- Engage in high-level **DISCUSSIONS** about book characters.
- Try loving

