

REPORT FOR ALI DAY CAMP 2017

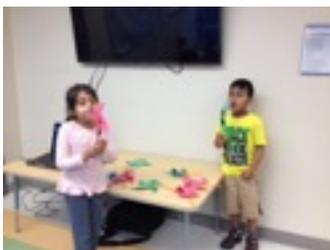
The Academy for Learning Islam extended one more wing this year by embarking on a new venture of the **ALI Day Camp** for children ages 6-11. Word spread quite fast and within hours of opening the registration, the spots were filled up. Registrants were not limited to local Canadian residents, rather the camp welcomed participants from the U.S, UK, U.A.E and as far as East Africa with children who were visiting their grandparents for the summer.



The camp was held at the Jaffari Community Centre from July 10th - July 21st, 2017. A total of 56 children attended the first week and 60 for the second week. Both numbers exceeded the originally planned 45 students per week. The campers were divided into the age categories of 6, 7-8 and 9-11 under the care of Sr. Sukaina Jaffer-Fazal, Sr. Sakina Kermali and Sr.

Najma Dhala-Datoo respectively. In order to ensure an exceptional program quality, these teachers were assisted by Sr. Mehreen Nasser, Sr. Raeesah Meghji, Sr. Ateka Alidina, Sr. Fatema Zahra Kermali, Sr. Sayyedah Hassanali. Sr. Kulsum Manji and Sr. Khadija Manji on a regular basis.

The team that planned for organized the day camp was led by Sr Taslim Somji, assisted by Sr. Zainab Manji, Sr. Shelina Panju, and Sr. Muhaddisa Allarakhia. They worked extremely hard to make sure the camp was interesting, fun, and beneficial. The theme chosen for the day camp was **Friends of Nature in the Qur'an**. Topics that were covered were Trees, Wind, Birds, Spiders, Bees, Camels, Ants and Fruits. A typical day began with a few minutes of warm up where students came in and played board games, allowing time for arrival and settling in. This was followed by some instruction time which included reflection on the verse of the topic for the day, some fun facts, uses and benefits, and excerpts from Hadith e Mufazzal on the topic. A teacher handbook was provided to the teachers from which they extracted the lesson and used power point presentations to deliver the lessons. Anecdotes, stories and supporting youtube videos were included in the daily lessons. Some interesting group discussions took place during this time.



Based on the topic, the teachers planned fun, hands on activities that covered science, art, critical thinking and

some engineering to keep the young minds stimulated. Almost every day they worked on a take home project related to the topic covered.

The camp day lasted a little over 5 hours and was well balanced with snack, outdoor activities/gym time, lunch and salaah. Younger students participated in leading Adhaan/Iqamah, Du'aas and Ziyarat while the older boys took turns leading the salaah.



Everyday after salat, the 7-11 year olds worked on their scrapbook journals where they creatively recorded what they had learnt. This included the Arabic word for the topic, the verse, hadith, question for reflection, fun facts etc. Meanwhile, the 6 year olds enjoyed story time with their teachers or occasional visits by Sr. Mubina Hasham and Sr. Zohra Merali.

Every Wednesday, the campers took a break from the regular routine and did some woodwork instead. The 6-8 year olds built a **lego shaped**

hook and a **friends of nature themed picture frame**. Both projects involved gluing, nailing screwing and painting the masterpiece. These projects were planned and designed by Br. Mazahir Somji who spent many hours preparing for them. The rest of the day was spent in more fun activities like kite flying, bubble fun, minute to win it games etc. The 9-11 olds had a more challenging woodwork workshop planned. Br. Mohammed Jawad Remtula led these sessions assisted by Br. Amjad Dattoo. Br. Jawad stayed up in the wee hours to prepare all the wood pieces, precisely sized for over 20 kids each week. The two main projects the campers worked on were to create a **step stool** and a **pencil holder**. This involved meticulously gluing the pieces, nailing, screwing, sanding and then finally staining the product. During the second week, the campers had the chance to enjoy some pottery based activity hosted by Madison from the company, Your Fired. The children enjoyed creating beautiful mugs for themselves which some said they will enjoy their 'chai' in 😊



In addition to all the activities mentioned, the day camp was fortunate to have a few fitness sessions planned in the 2 weeks. Sr. Zehra Allibhai came in to conduct an

obstacle course for the boys and the girls had the opportunity to do some yoga with Sr. Zaheeda Jiwan. Mahdi Abbas Datoos conducted a few sessions of sports for the 6 year olds. He coached them by sharing some soccer and basketball skills.



All good things come to an end a bit faster than usual. The final day was bittersweet for the teachers, assistants as well as the campers. The unit on Fruits was saved for the last day. The campers could therefore create their own fruit kebabs for their morning snack and enjoy healthy fruit freezies on the hottest afternoon of the two weeks. This was after an exciting game of jeopardy reviewing all the units covered. The score was 290-270 with the girls taking the lead!

The smooth running of the camp was made possible by the support of the ISIJ of Toronto's office staff who were always there to meet the needs of the teachers in the best possible manner. Furthermore, the teachers would like to appreciate Sr. Misriya Pardhan of As Sadiq Islamic school for allowing access to the playground and keeping them up to date with the schedule as well as happenings of the outside. All in all it was a successful day camp made possible by the Grace of the Almighty and the assistance of many dedicated people. Many children and parents have requested for more such programs.



