



Important Dates

- 12/17/22** Last session before break
01/07/23 First session after break
Feb (TBA) Annual Blessing Bag Drive
Mar (TBA) Calligraphy Workshop

Du'a of the Month



Entering
the Masjid

اللَّهُمَّ افْتَحْ لِي أَبْوَابَ رَحْمَتِكَ

'Allāhumma 'ftah Lī 'Abwāba
Raḥmati-k(a)

O ALLAH! Open for me the doors of
Your Mercy!

Assalamu Alaikum SBIAIS community,

This is the first edition of the SBIAIS Newsletter run by some of SBIAIS's very own students. Every month, we will include recent news, important upcoming dates, a teacher spotlight, and a monthly du'a. We hope you enjoy each edition and gain valuable insight.

If you are interested in contributing to the SBIAIS Newsletter, please contact: zeeshanm@sbia.info

Returning to In-Person

by Minaal Mokarim

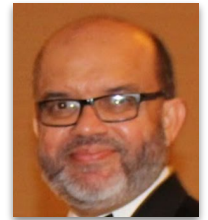
This year, SBIAIS returned to in-person learning after two and half years of online school. Students and teachers are glad to be back. Zorez Syed, a 7th grader, says "humans are social creatures." He mentions "it felt a bit lonely at times" during the pandemic and prefers in-person learning because "it's easier to ask the teacher questions and easier to understand the topic better when we are in the room together."



Teachers also felt the disconnect when everyone was stuck at home. "Connecting with students and keeping them engaged during distance learning was really challenging," says 5th grade Islamic Studies teacher Mahwish Qureshi. She continues on to say, "I am glad we are back in person, communicating and engaging in active discussion with my students on everything from our pets and love for donuts to the life and lessons of our beloved Prophets. [It] is exciting and helps us connect like we weren't able to before. Being back in person has also helped re-establish a sense of community which we all deeply missed during distance learning."

Students have been able to return to enjoying spending time with their peers and teachers every Saturday and it has strengthened the bond of our community.

Teacher Spotlight:



Mishal Atique

by Safa Mokarim

Every month, we will be spotlighting one of our own SBIAIS teachers! On a recent Saturday, we sat down with Teacher Mishal Atique, who has been teaching 6th Grade Islamic Studies at SBIAIS for the past 8 years, to learn more about him.

Born in Lahore, Pakistan, raised in Abu Dhabi, Teacher Mishal attended college in Arkansas and credits his parents for teaching him, among many other lessons, to never judge people and to always read.

When it comes to Islamic education, Teacher Mishal is self-taught, citing the importance of reading the Qur'an with meaning and considers the Qur'an his first role model, followed by his parents. He also listens to Dr. Israr Ahmed, Sheikh Hamza Yusuf.

When asked what is his favorite aspect of teaching at SBIAIS, Teacher Mishal responded, "The students here at Suffa are an inspiration," and "the energy that comes out of students" makes him "learn more about Islam and the Quran." He also likes learning from his students, giving the example of a student he once had who "made du'a that everyone in his house went

continued on next page . . .



FIFA World Cup

by Simrah Alam

The FIFA World cup is currently ongoing in the country of Qatar, the first Muslim country to host the FIFA World Cup.

The opening ceremony featured 20-year-old Ghanim Al Muftah, who suffers from Caudal Regression Syndrome which impairs the development of the spine. He is an inspiration since he did not let his disability stop him from accomplishing his goals. He is also a FIFA World Cup ambassador and recited Ayah 13 of Surah Al-Hujurat at the opening ceremony. The ayah mentions how humanity has many diverse nations so that we can come together to learn from one another, which describes what the World Cup represents.



The four countries that have qualified for the semifinals were Argentina, Croatia, France, and Morocco. Morocco became the first African country to reach the semifinals. It also became the second Muslim majority country to advance this far in a FIFA World Cup, with Turkey being the first to have done so twenty years ago.



Sadly in the semifinals against France, Morocco lost 0-2 on Wednesday, December 14. They played Croatia for a chance at third place, however were defeated 1-2. It is still a great accomplishment that this Moroccan team got so far into the World Cup and many around the world applaud their achievement.

The teams facing off in the finals are Argentina and France who will play on Sunday, December 18 at 7 am PST. Who do you think will take home the title of FIFA World Cup Champion?

Teacher Spotlight continued . . .

to sleep happy” every night.

We asked Teacher Mishal to share the best advice he received and he acknowledged his friend’s grandmother telling him in Punjabi, “Son, whenever you are kicked in the behind, you always fall forward.” That is a great way to shift perspective on a tough situation!

As we know, Teacher Mishal constantly shares pearls of wisdom with his students, so we asked him what is the one lesson he wants his students to take away from his class; he conveyed, “Allah (SWT) is with you wherever you are. You are never alone, speak with Him through dua. It is only between you and Allah.”

We learn so much from Teacher Mishal and he wanted to share a special message with the readers: “share your knowledge and wealth with humanity, use it for the good of humanity; Allah taking something away from you is a bigger test than not having it. Give your life purpose so it has meaning.” Teacher Mishal recited Ayah 191 of Surah Al-Imran, “O Rabb, you have not created this in vain. Glory to You! Save us from the punishment of Fire.” This is a great lesson and reminder for us to move forward with purpose and be in service to humanity.

We are so blessed to have Teacher Mishal with us at SBIAIS! Our sincerest gratitude for allowing us to feature him in our inaugural Teacher Spotlight!

Rapid-Fire Q&A With Teacher Mishal:

Favorite restaurant?
Kinara

Favorite subject?
Physics

Favorite food?
Fried chicken

Sleeping in or early bird?
Sleeping in

Where do you want to visit?
Tanzania to watch the Great Migration