

SBIA - Islamic School

Newsletter

Volume 01 | Edition 03
Sha'ban 1444 | February 2023



Editors: Simrah Alam, Minaal Mokarim, Safa Mokarim

Important Dates

- Mar 4th** ISNA Community Day
Mar 10th SBIA Family Night
Mar 18th Calligraphy Workshop
Mar 23rd-24th 1st Ramaḍān

Du'a of the Month

↓
For parents

رَبِّ ارْحَمْهُمَا كَمَا رَبَّيَانِي صَغِيرًا

Rabbir hamhuma kama Rabbayani Sagheera

OH ALLAH! Have mercy upon them as they brought me up [when I was] small.

Assalamu Alaikum SBIAIS community,

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

Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf - Taking a Stand

by Minaal Mokarim

As we celebrate Black History month in our schools, we wanted to bring into focus a contemporary Black Muslim American who took a stand against racial inequality. Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf, born Chris Jackson to a single mom living in poverty in Gulfport, Mississippi, gained public attention in 1996 because he was suspended by the NBA for refusing to stand for the national anthem and flag, symbols he believed were associated with the oppression of black people in the US. He reached a compromise with the NBA and instead of putting his hand over his heart during the national anthem, he looked down as he held his hands in prayer. Abdul-Rauf



was booed incessantly by the crowd, called unpatriotic, and even received death threats. In 2001, a home he was building in Mississippi was burned down by the white supremacy group Ku Klux Klan.

Abdul-Rauf found himself paying the price with his NBA career for speaking up against systemic racism in this country. Considered one of the best shooters in the NBA, he struggled to get playing time and eventually left the NBA to play in Turkey. His story is making the news these days once again as his experiences are portrayed in a new documentary called "Stand." Abdul Rauf will be at Los Gatos Islamic Center on March 3rd for a screening of this documentary and a talk. We all can gain inspiration from his courage in speaking truth to power.

Teacher Spotlight:

Teacher
Tariq Afzal

by Safa Mokarim



This month, we are fortunate to learn more about a teacher who has been volunteering at SBIAIS since the planning stages! Teacher Tariq Afzal teaches SBIAIS's 7th Grade Islamic Studies class and was inspired to become an active participant in setting up SBIA's program and curriculum because he wanted to tailor education to the needs of the students and encourage them to be active participants of the larger community. As many of his former students know, Teacher Tariq prepares at length for his classes each week. He calls that preparation time "the best part of [his] week."

Growing up in Karachi, Pakistan, Teacher Tariq counts himself blessed to have grown up in a family where religious values ran deep, giving him a strong foundation. In addition, he considers himself fortunate to have studied with traditional scholars and received Ijaza in a few specialties, Masha Allah.

When asked what is the one lesson he wants his students to take away from his class, Teacher Tariq responded with, "Internalize the meaning of Surah Al-Fatiha." Along with this deeply profound lesson, Teacher Tariq's message to SBIAIS students is "Pray, Love, Eat, and Exercise." Wow, in just a few words, Teacher Tariq has given us sage advice to reflect upon!

continued on next page . . .

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Blessing Bags Project

by Safa Mokarim & Aliza Qureshi

On February 11, 2023, SBIAIS students relaunched the annual Blessing Bags initiative, where care bags are assembled by students and then distributed to local homeless shelters. This year, SBIAIS students collected over \$1,300 to purchase hygiene products, socks, gloves, blankets, and snacks to pack in SBIA monogrammed drawstring bags. MashaAllah 140 bags were made during the school recess time! These blessing bags will be graciously accepted by Life Moves, an organization that operates 16 shelter homes, serving families, children and individuals struggling to find stable housing. In addition, Life Moves dedicates one-third of its shelter beds to children every night, in order to help a few of the 1,000 children who are homeless in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. Another program that Life Moves drives is the Supportive Parking program, where families who are living out of their car are given a secure environment to park their vehicles and offered food and services. Although the Blessing Bags initiative cannot solve the homelessness crisis, we hope it can bring a moment of comfort to those in need.



Teachers Spotlight continued . . .

Rapid-Fire Q&A With Teacher Tariq:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Favorite sports? | Favorite restaurant? |
| Cricket has a special place | Pakwan and Khan Karahi |
| Favorite food? | Sleeping in or early bird? |
| Biryani | Early bird |
| Favorite subject? | Favorite color? |
| Math | Black |
| Favorite movie? | Favorite book? |
| Citizen Kane and Dead Poets Society | Godel, Escher, Bach by Douglas Hofstadter |
| Favorite game? | |
| I like to watch Jeopardy. | |

What is the one place you want to travel to?
I want to see the Northern Lights.

We want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Teacher Tariq for participating in our teacher spotlight!

A Student's Experience

by Sarah Kantrikar

Hi, my name is Sarah and I was one of the first bunch of people to join Suffa when it started. I was in Suffa all the way to the first time I was in Suffa's Youth class. After that I took a break from Suffa and I joined a different Islamic class. It was really interesting to learn about Islam there, so I decided to stay in that class. However, I wanted to come back to Suffa, because I really enjoy Suffa. I'm in the youth class and even though I recently got back there is plenty to learn from this class. We have different activities to keep the class engaging, such as group projects like planning events and having Muslim speakers in the youth class. And even if we don't have activities we get to learn new things about Islam and about Islamic history. I also came back because you can make more Muslim friends and just have a fun time.