

Islamic Educational Centre

WINDS OF CHANGE AT SCHOOL

Extract from Principal's Address at the 2013 Awards Evening

COMMUNITY ICONS—OSMAN MOOLA, ISMAIL HANSA AND ABBAS ASMAL RECEIVE LIFE-TIME ACHIEVEMENTS AWARDS AT THE IEC'S AWARDS FUNCTION ON 29 NOVEMBER 2013



There are many people out in the community who have a negative or unsatisfactory opinion of the school. This is indeed unfounded and baseless because I believe that the quality of education at the school is of a high standard.

There are many parents who have their children at this school and there are many others whose children are at other schools. That is their right, and I respect that.

At times, I cannot convince parents to send their children to the IEC, and I have tried.

CHANGES

The Shura Committee has appointed a seasoned educator and administrator, Mr Idris Kader, as Head of Department: Humanities. He has served Islamic Schools for a period of 28 years, and served as Principal of Newcastle Islamic School, Principal of the Polokwane Islamic School, and the Azaadville Islamic School. His wife, Zahera Kader, is a qualified teacher, and she will strengthen the Intermediate Phase.

Moulana Saleem Karrim has accepted an offer to serve as Islamic Advisor to the school, and he will oversee and supervise the Islamiyyat Department. As a school, we have identified areas of concern, and have put measures

in place to address gaps and weaknesses. This is ongoing! Currently, we are negotiating with a Bachelor of Science (Mathematics) graduate to assist in improving Mathematics teaching at the school.

As a plus factor, Mathematics Literacy will be taught in Grade 11 and 12 and will eventually be phased out in 2015.

The Shura Committee is also weighing the options of taking the school into the digital age by introducing tablets in teaching and learning.

Flowing from that initiative, white boards and data projectors are being installed in the Multi-purpose Centre, Library Resource Centre, Jamaat Khanna, and Foundation Phase.

Lockers for learners have been placed in each class, and locks will guarantee the safety and security of learner possessions.

Change is inevitable, and change for the better is always smarter!

2014—THE YEAR OF AKHLAAQ

The Shura Exco resolved on Tuesday, 3 December 2013, that 2014 be determined as the Year of Akhlaaq. The driving force of the year would be to reconnect and strengthen good conduct, increase Allah Consciousness in all that we do at school, and most importantly, to allow Islamic Morality to be the code that determines our standing in the community.

We must do what is necessary!



Islamic Educational Centre's 17th Awards



"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it's the courage to continue that counts." Winston Churchill

On Friday, 29 November 2013, a capacity crowd of parents, supporters and well wishers converged at the Civic Hall, to bear testimony to the Islamic Educational Centre's 17th Annual Speech & Awards function. Muallimah Abeeda Rassool extended a warm, cordial and "titanic" welcome to all present to witness another "voyager mile" in the history of the school.



The school, which is currently leading in a Ladysmith Gazette survey of top schools, honoured its learners for their academic and sporting achievements. It was a glittering event organized to applaud and celebrate some outstanding achievements not only by the learners but also to honour three of our senior citizens for their lifelong support to the school. The principal, Mr. RG Reddy being the new "captain at the wheel" paid tribute to and presented the lifetime achievement awards to Mr. Abbas "Mota" Asmal, Mr. Osman "Bully" Moola and Mr. Ismail "Lighty" Hansa.

The Ameer of the IEC, Mr. Dawood Vawda informed the audience of the role the

school has played in shaping our learners, many of whom have achieved professional success. This is testimony of the school's success. He further said the tide in education is turning in favour of technology and parents need to embrace this change so that the learners could "sail" easily.

The school was blessed to have Miss Babha, a qualified social worker, who hails from Toronto, Canada to grace the function. In her address she emphasized the importance of Islamic Education and how fortunate we are to have established Islamic Schools in South Africa as "anchors".

The accolades received by the learners included among others the Dux Award, the Sport's Boy and Sport's Girl of the year award. The Sports Boy of the year was awarded to Tahir Moolla. The Sports Girl for the year was shared by two learners, Maseeha Karim and Zenath Mathir. The recipient of the Dux award was Azizza Mulla. The Good Fellowship award went to Muhammad Jhetam and Maseeha Sardiwalla received the award for Loyalty and Dedication. The recipient of the Principal's award was Sajjan Saulick.

The Grade R learners were a natural with no stage fright!

Special awards were given to learners who excelled in external activities such as Conquesta, Challenga Olympiad, Pick n Pay Spell Check and Escom Science Expo. In addition to the above, learners were recognized for their good character (Aqhlak), consistence of effort, dedication and perseverance and full attendance.

The function terminated with dua by Hafiz M Randeree.

Muallimah Abeeda Rassool



The Gift of Giving—Muhammad Vawda

Early this year I made a request through the Ladysmith Herald and IEC newsletter for unwanted toys in good condition, for children who don't have toys. Jazakh Allah to the many kind people who donated toys. Some people bought new toys.

After helping to sort and pack the toys, a group of six boys and seven girls came with me to distribute some of the toys to children at the Intando Creche in Smartiesville. The children were very happy to see us. They gave us a warm welcome. We handed out the toys and then spent time playing with the creche children on their jungle gym. Intando is a small creche with not much equipment. Alhamdulillah we are very lucky to have a big, beautiful school.

The teacher, Miss Busi Hlongwane and her children were very grateful. We also

sent toys to the SANZAF office and to creches in Watersmeet and Ezakheni.

A special thank you to Mr Elias Mlambo from Ladysmith Mica and to our fabulous mummies Mrs Farida Moola and Mrs Rooksana Vawda who took us to distribute the toys.

Miss Busi Hlongwane of Intando Creche receives a handful of lovely toys from Grade 5 learner, Muhammad Vawda.



Spotlight on Intando Creche in Juniper S Drive, Acaciavale East which houses 90 learners from the poorest of the poor families.



2014 Grade R Orientation

Muallimah R Khan hosted parents and learners on Wednesday, 25 November 2013. Enthusiastic learners played on the Jungle Gym while parents were taken on a journey through Grade R. An effective and motivational Powerpoint presentation captured the interest and attention of the parents. Alhamdulillah, there was an excellent attendance and we at the Islamic Educational Centre, look forward to

our new Grade R enrolments for 2014. Once again, the school drew warm plaudits for the professional manner in which the orientation was conducted.



IEC AND THE GREAT 2013 MARCH TO VOLKSRUST



The Great 2013 March as it passed the old Transvaal Border (Dry Stream) and entered Volksrust. Almost 2000 people joined Ela Gandhi on this historic march.

Pic: Natal Witness

At exactly, 13:35 on Saturday, 30 November 2013, after a long 12 kilometre walk from Charlestown, Principal, Deputy Principal, educators and learners stood outside the old Volksrust Prison.

It was indeed a poignant moment in history when the granddaughter of MK and Kasturba Gandhi, Ela Gandhi, stood trembling outside the walls of the prison. Our school, the Islamic Educational Centre, was there as we captured this milestone of the history of Indians in South Africa.



Crouching tigers at Newcastle Station

History teacher Maullim Abed Moola convinced us that we should undertake the journey so that we could connect with history and relive the painful steps of those who walked the same route 100 years ago.

In March of 1913, the campaign got the impetus it needed to resume. In a judgment of the Supreme Court, Judge Searle refused to recognise Hindu and Muslim marriages. Angered by this, Indian women joined the campaign for the first time. One of the most prominent female protesters was Gandhi's wife, Kasturba Gandhi. She declared that she 'would go to prison rather than be declared an unlawful wife'. Accompanied by twelve men and six women, she left the Durban railway station, where the women began the first part of their journey by train to the Transvaal. This was a criminal offence for which they could be jailed for up to six months.



Marshal Muall HB Ahmed lays down the rules

When Kasturba Gandhi's group of protesters arrived at Volksrust station in the then Transvaal, they were ordered off the train as they did not have permits. They refused to get off, saying that they were prepared to go to jail. The government knew that, by arresting these women, the campaign would get a lot of publicity, so for several days they left them alone in Volksrust. But by Sunday 21 September the police had lost their patience and decided to deport them. The police took the group to a bridge on the border between Natal and the Transvaal and pushed the protesters across it. The group promptly marched back into the Transvaal, where, this time, they were arrested. On 23 September they were tried and sentenced to three months' imprisonment. For six days they were held in Volksrust before being transferred to the Pietermaritzburg prison in Natal.

As we stood by the bridge that separates KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga, we visualized how these brave women challenged this draconian law that treated them as lepers.

On 30 November 2013, 100 years later, we stood at Volksrust Prison, and understood the immense sacrifice that gave us dignity as a people and a community in South Africa.

[Humairra Ismail \(Grade 9\)](#)



Visiting the SANZAF offices in Acaciavale

A group of foundation phase girls visited the Sanzaf offices on Tuesday 3rd December where they gave out handbags to a bunch of delighted little girls from indigent homes.

SANZAF is a registered national welfare institution established in 1974. The single largest Zakah institution of its kind in SA. SANZAF empowers local communities through poverty alleviation, education, skill development and disaster relief

The South African National Zakah Fund (SANZAF) is a faith-based, socio-welfare and educational organisation that strives to facilitate the empowerment of needy families through the efficient collection and effective distribution of Zakah and other Sadaqat in a proactive and cost effective way through projects – with dignity, sincerity and a shared responsibility. All in the service of the community and for the pleasure of Allah (SWT).

Our girls spent time chatting and playing with their new friends before heading back to school. Jazakh Allah to sisters Farida Moola and Rooksana Vawda for accompanying the IEC group.



There was excitement and joy as IEC learners handed out handbags



READING FOR PLEASURE – A HOLIDAY PRIORITY

A child's reading skills are important to their success in school and work. In addition, reading can be a fun and imaginative activity for children, which opens doors to all kinds of new worlds for them.

Parents play a critical role in helping their children develop not only the ability to read, but also an enjoyment of reading.

Turn off the TV. Start by limiting your family's television viewing time. Teach by example. If you have books, newspapers and magazines around your house, and your child sees you reading, then your child will learn that you value reading. You can't over-estimate the value of modelling.

Read together. Reading with your child is a great activity. It not only teaches your child that reading is important to you, but it also offers a chance to talk about the book, and often other issues will come up. Books can really open the lines of communication between parent and child.

Visit the library. Try finding library books about current issues or interests in your family's or child's life, and then reading them together. For example, read a book about going to the dentist prior to your child's next dental exam, or get some books about seashore life after a trip to the coast. If your child is obsessed with dragons, ask your li-

brarian to recommend a good dragon novel for your child.

There are many ways to include reading in your child's life, starting in babyhood, and continuing through the teen years. Focus on literacy activities that your child enjoys, so that reading is a treat, not a chore.

