

# Banaadir Academy School Newsletter

June 1, 2009

Principal: James Strait  
Assistant Director: Abdighani Ali  
Secretary: Sahro Jama



## Principal's News

Dear Banaadir Academy Parents,

As hard as it is to believe, this school year is quickly coming to an end. I would just like to take this opportunity to thank you for such a wonderful year. Having been an educator for over 10 years; I can tell you that we have one of the best schools a young person could hope to attend. A big part of what makes our school so special is our parents. In almost every single instance, when I have had to contact a student's home, I found a concerned parent who was willing to work with the school to help us resolve any problems or issues that we needed to address. While no parent likes to receive unpleasant news about their child, their willingness to work with the school to find a reasonable solution

speaks volumes about the values of our community. While the school year is not over yet, I do not think it is too soon to thank the parents for their part in making this a special school. I'd like to personally thank every- one for sticking with it. We certainly learned a lot this year, from scheduling, to policy, to field trips... Next year will be even better as we implement everything we have learned.

Eight graders, we wish you the best of success in high school and we will see you at your graduation in 2013! To the students returning, enjoy your summer! We look forward to seeing you in August.

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## STUDENT PLACEMENT INFORMATION

As we approach the final weeks of school, we are about to begin the process of placing students for the 2009-2010 school year. Student placement at Banaadir is guided by the following *beliefs and principles*:

Every Banaadir teacher is dedicated to high academic standards and meeting the learning and social needs of each child.



"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." NELSON MANDELA

Every child's placement is important and deserves careful consideration. Classroom teachers, specialists, learning support staff and the principal are all part of the placement process. Parent input is important and valued.

Students benefit from new experiences. A critical life lesson for children to learn is that working with diverse students and teachers is enriching and helps prepare them to successfully handle new and different experiences.

Balanced classrooms should reflect our diverse society. All classes will be balanced with regards to academic ability, behavior, race, ethnicity, gender, socio-economic standing, learning styles, and number of students.

I welcome any new or additional information you have about your child's needs; however, specific teacher requests will not be considered for the reasons stated above. If your child has special learning needs or there is exceptional information you would like to share with us, please feel free to complete the attached "Banaadir Parent Input Form". Please return your completed form to the office by June 15, 2009 so that your input can be referred to during our placement process.

Preliminary groupings will be created. I will be assigning teachers to classes in August once final adjustments have been made regarding staffing and class configurations.

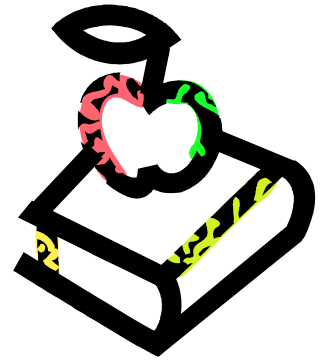
## Kindergarten Registration New Student Applications

Kindergarten Registration for the 2009-2010 school year has begun. In order to attend kindergarten in the fall of 2009, a child must be five years old by August 31, 2009. When registering your kindergartner **please bring with you** your completed registration forms along with your child's: birth certificate, proof of immunization, and social security number (optional).

We continue to accept applications for incoming students for grades 1 - 8 in September. Applications are available for select grade levels for this coming September. If you would like to apply, or know of someone else who might be interested in applying to our, please request an application as soon as possible, waiting lists are forming quickly. Thank you.

**Banaadir Academy**  
**STUDENT PLACEMENT INFORMATION**  
**Parent Input Form for 2009-2010**

This *optional* form is offered to parents who would like to provide input regarding classroom placement for the next school year. This information will be considered along with staff and principal input as we work to create balanced class-rooms. Your input will also give the future teacher information that will help them create a successful learning environment for your child. I will be making final placement decisions after class configuration and staffing decisions are made in August and I have reviewed all input and information. Please know that I consider every child's placement to be important. We are committed to working carefully and caringly toward ensuring a successful year for all students here at Banaadir.



Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade for 2009-2010 \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

At Banaadir, we believe that all children need a warm and encouraging learning environment. What special needs, exceptional information, unique to your child, (strengths, challenges, learning style, success in a split class, etc.) would you like to share with us?

Strengths:

Challenges:

Type of educational environment you feel your child works best in (i.e. structured, flexible, etc.):

Additional Comments:

Thank you for your input. If we do not hear from you by June 15, 2009 we will place your child where the educational team feels is most appropriate.

# Students of the Month



The theme for April was “Cooperation and Honesty”. Below are the winners for each class.

## Kindergarten

Mrs. Greski- Aidurus Ibrahim  
Ms. Zeck- Sumayo Hirsi

## First Grade

Mrs. Hayden- Sahra Hassan  
and Mohamed Adan

## First Grade

Ms. McGuire- Mustafa Salad  
And Luul Aden

## Second Grade

Ms. Patterson- ZamZam Adan  
and Hanad Ali

## Third Grade

Mr. Edwards- Mohamed Mohamed

## Fourth Grade

Mr. Hutchins- Nuur Ahmed

## Fifth Grade

Ms. Swanson- Suad Muse

## Middle School

Samiya Sheikh and  
Egland Barre

# Graduation

Please join us for the Banaadir Academy graduation ceremony on Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. Festivities will begin at 9:30 and include poems and speeches from our students and staff. In addition, we will welcome a special guest, Said Ali, a constituent advocate working for U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar.

# Title I Math Night

On May 13th the Title I Math Night was held. Banaadir students, their families and staff enjoyed several activities such as math whiffle ball and building 3-D geometrical figures.



An octahedron



Math whiffle ball



Solving tangrams



Building geometric figures

## Other Events

Banaadir students were treated to two other special events in May. Kindergarten through fifth graders each received a book of their choice through the program Reading is Fundamental (RIF). Additionally, all grades participated in Junior Achievement day and learned about money and economics from members of the local business community.



RIF



RIF



Junior Achievement



Junior Achievement

## Teacher Highlights 08/09

### Kindergarten

The 2008-2009 school year is coming to an end for my Kindergarten class. Over the course of this school year, my students have really enjoyed taking field trips to the Science Museum, Underwater world, and to the park. They have also enjoyed celebrating about Dr. Seuss, having a pajama day, and hat day. They have come along way in all academic areas and with their behavior. I have really enjoyed working with all of my students and I am very proud of them! They are so excited to graduate from Kindergarten and move on to First grade.

**-Mrs. Greski**

Kindergarten was so much fun  
 Something learned by everyone.  
 We learned to read, to count, and of  
 course we played  
 We learned something new every day!  
 Snack time was our favorite part  
 We even did a little art.  
 We all have new friends and we learned  
 how to share  
 Good luck in first grade; you have  
 nothing to fear!

**-Ms. Zeck's**

### 1<sup>st</sup> Grade in Review

Looking back at our first grade year, we realized our students accomplished a lot! First grade is an incredibly important year for all students because it sets the foundation for learning throughout their entire education. Here

is what some of the students had to say about first grade this year...

- “I learned about minus in math. I like first grade because everybody is nice.” – Sahra
- “I learned about math and addition and subtraction in 1<sup>st</sup> grade.” – Khalid
- “I liked the math games on the computer. I also liked to play outside and choice time.” – Sumayo
- “I liked to go on field trips to the library, underwater world and the fire station.” – Mustafa
- “I liked to read in my class.” – Ridwan
- “I liked to play math games and read in class.” – Aliah

We enjoyed our classes and wish them the best as they head off to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade!

**Mrs. Hayden and Ms. McGuire**

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

The second grade had an exciting year. During the first half of school, we pretended to travel to Asia, Africa, Europe, Australia, and South America where we explored the customs and environments of other lands. During the later half of school, we focused on science, especially the families of animals: mammal, bird, fish, amphibian, reptile, and insect. We also studied outer space. I look forward to a warm and fun-filled summer school session! Have a beautiful summer! –Ms. Patterson

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

We have come a long way this year in the third grade. In Math, we started with addition and subtraction, worked our way through single digit multiplication and division, and now we are working on 2 digit times 1 digit multiplication.

In reading we worked hard on prediction, making a mental image, and making inferences from what we were reading. We also studied landforms throughout the world.

We worked hard all year on vocabulary tests, reading fluency tests, and our state tests, and we have made good progress. I am very happy with the effort this class has made.

Have a good summer! **Mr. Edwards**

### 4th Grade

Throughout the year the fourth graders have enjoyed a number of different activities in school such as roller skating, the corn maze, and the library. When thinking back, students were able to study a variety of different topics such as animals, geography, Japan, and also some fun times playing silent ball. I'm very proud of all the students for making such gains in their reading and math abilities. They all have a special talent and I hope they continue to work hard in the future! - **Mr.**

**Hutchins**

### 5<sup>th</sup> grade

This was a very busy year in fifth grade. The students created a science fair project in the beginning of the school year; they learned new math concepts to build onto their prior knowledge and work really hard on all their reading skills. All of the fifth graders did an extraordinary job on their

learning many of them increased their learning by one full grade level...hooray for them! One of our fifth graders increased their learning by two full grade levels. This person worked very diligently on their homework and in class, this person also worked on their behavior and how they handle their problems on a daily basis.

I am very proud of all my students and their achievements this year. I wish them all the luck for sixth grade and that they continue to keep up the learning! -**Ms. Swanson**

### Middle School

It has been a good year in Math and Science. I believe one of the students' favorite Science activities was taking apart a flashlight and exploring how it was put together while learning about electricity. Students were then given different materials to make their own flashlight. Math is ending with learning about data and statistics. We have been spending time looking and creating graphs. Also have been discussing how sometimes these graphs can be very misleading. -**Ms. Ross**

The middle school students worked very hard academically this year in their reading and writing class. In reading class students, were very busy learning about comprehension and vocabulary strategies, reading different genres of books during class, having whole class novel units where students were assessed with either a test of final project, book clubs where students were able to discuss the books that were reading and much more. In writing class, students worked on taking what they learned and practiced in reading

class about visualizing, inferencing and the elements of poetry and applying it to writing different types of poems. They also worked on persuasive and descriptive writing assignments, spelling tests, grammar, speeches and more. I can see a huge increase in the reading and writing skills from where the students began at the beginning of the year to their academic level at the end of school year. It was a pleasure to work with all of your students this school year, and I look forward to seeing them all at the beginning of the next school year.

- **Mrs. Dittrich**

I would like to thank all the students in Social Studies class this year. All the students learned a lot of information despite many challenges. The student's knowledge level of the early years of US History is outstanding. We learned everything from the Age of Exploration in the 1400's to Reconstruction in the 1860's. Many of the students received A's and B's on their tests every time. It is gratifying to know that you learned so much from my class. -**Mr. Knudsen**

### Specialists

Since this was my first year at Banaadir, the biggest highlight I had was getting to know the awesome kids at this school. I also really enjoyed events like the Title Nights and the Reading is Fundamental book give away. Nearing the end of the year, another highlight has been administering reading tests and seeing how much progress our students have made. - **Ms. Sanders' Highlights:**

I have had a great year with the students at Banaadir. We learned a lot about becoming good readers. My favorite times throughout the year include the 3 Title 1 nights we have had, Rollerskating with the 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders, Reading around the school, and handing out free books through the RIF grant. I enjoyed working with each and everyone of my students. Have a great summer and keep reading!

**Mrs. Kerl**

With the completion of another year we can look back on all the fun that was had! The long sunny days at the park playing Soccer, many days in the new Gym playing team sports, endless games of tag, and of course the countless push-up, sit-ups and minutes we spent running. It was all done with the good intentions of having our students in better shape and enjoying a more healthy life. I have enjoyed working with all the students and look forward to seeing them next year another inch taller.

**Thanks, Mr. Potts**

## Congratulations!

The whole staff at Banaadir Academy would like to congratulate all those students who did their best on the MCA testing that was recently taken. Students worked extremely hard preparing for the test and taking the test! Everyone should be very proud of their accomplishments both on this test and on their entire work over the year!

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