



The Islamic School of Seattle

Winter

2009

## Hajj Modeling

While Sr. Aishah was making the real Hajj, the children of I.S.S. were doing their annual Hajj modeling. Each year the children reenact the rituals of Hajj to reinforce the understanding of this important pillar of Islam.

Sr. Aishah returned from Mecca in time to attend the Eid party after the Hajj break. Special thanks to I.S.S. mothers, especially Srs. Lana, Alouise &



**Over the past 30 years we find that Allah provides when we least expect it AND when we are most in need.**

**Please make du'ah for an anonymous donor whose very generous and timely donation allows us to continue to offer the very best of educational experiences for our Muslim children.**



Upper –Elementary and Middle School students will be attending the Olympic Park Field Camp at Lake Crescent, insha' Allah, after completing their theme on Ecosystems of Western Washington.

They have been awarded a \$1000 scholarship and are busy raising money to pay for the remaining fees.



## Be sure to see the new issue of Horizon Magazine with an article about the Islamic School of Seattle!



The obelisks of Axum, Ethiopia

Sr. Ann has recently returned from a visit to Ethiopia. She visited the city of Axum, the city to which the early Muslims immigrated to escape the persecution of the Quraish. The people of Axum claim that their city was also the home of the Queen of Sheba. They also claim that the original Ark of the Covenant is kept hidden within one of their churches.

### ELEMENTARY STUDENTS TACKLE THE GREAT LESSONS

Masha'Allah, their study of the Birth of the Universe, the first of the Montessori Great Lessons helped the Elementary children to connect to the beautiful names of Allah SWT and the magnificence of Allah's creation. This also guided the child toward an initial examination of "Who am I?", "Where do I come from?", and "Why am I here?" This nurtures a powerful and meaningful relationship about the nature of life and self.

This tied in with our visit last fall from Malaysian Angkasawan Dr. Shaikh Muzaphar who shared his experiences in space with the children. Dr. Muzaphar was the 9<sup>th</sup> Muslim to go into space.



# COMING EVENTS FOR EDUCATORS & PARENTS

## SUMMER PROGRAM PLANNING UNDERWAY

Many Seattle-area children were kept busy and happy during the I.S.S. day camp last summer.

Insha'Allah, there will be another summer of fun and learning in 2009 beginning on June 22nd. Call to reserve a place for your child today, (206)329-5735.

## Themes & More Themes



Mohamed Mohamed puts the finishing touches on his water cycle poster.

Upper Elementary and Middle School classes have begun their 3<sup>rd</sup> theme of the school year. They are currently studying immigration. The initial focus is on the Irish after which each group will do independent research on another ethnic group.

Their first theme was Islamic Art, the 2<sup>nd</sup> the Water Cycle. The water cycle theme involved several field trips including a visit to a waste treatment facility, a water tour of Seattle and a visit to the watershed museum near North Bend.

Later they will study the ecosystems of western Washington followed by the history and geography of the Mongol and the Mogul empires.

## College of Education, World Affairs Council & Islamic School of Seattle to Sponsor Speaker Series at U.W.

We are very proud to announce that the Islamic School with the U.W. College of Education and the World Affairs Council will be sponsoring a series of three lectures on *The Ideals of Islamic Education*. These talks will feature outstanding experts on the history of Islamic education, the teaching methodology of Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) and the application of basic Islamic concepts to education. The lectures will be held at the University of Washington in Gowen 201.

The first lecture will be on March 6<sup>th</sup> on the History of Islamic Education by Dr. Greg Starrett from the University of North Carolina in Charlotte.

Subsequent lectures will be held on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and May 8<sup>th</sup>. The Speaker at the April lecture will be Br. AbdurRafaa Ouertani who is Director at Al Fateh Academy in Virginia and an Imam at the Adams Center in the Washington D.C. area. He is a specialist in the philosophy of Islamic education.

The third lecture will be on basic Islamic concepts as they apply to education, the importance of critical thinking, the holistic concept of knowledge, tolerance, compassion and the belief that each child is born free of sin and with the potential of becoming an ideal, multi-dimensional person with a clear sense of obligation to God and humanity.

## ALFIE KOHN COMES TO SEATTLE

One of the most influential educators in the U.S. today is Alfie Kohn and we are fortunate to have him once again visiting Seattle. Alfie is promoting his most recent book, *The Homework Myth*. He will be speaking at Mercer Island High School on Tuesday March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 P.M. All of our teachers will be attending and insha' Allah some of our parents will be there too -especially those who ask for more homework!

