

# THE OMAR OBSERVER

The Official Newsletter of CIS - OBK February, 2016

## Principal's Message - Raiha Ali

As salam alay kum Dear Parents, Students and Teachers,

Wow what a beginning! Many changes are taking place and Alhamdulillah, these changes are positive. Our school management system is changing and our administrative staff is working hard to align our system with central office.

At the classroom level, we are taking a research based approach where data is used to improve our teaching and learning. We are using quantitative data from the Fountas and Pinnell tests to organize literacy centers, classroom instruction and activities in our classroom. We drafted the school goals for this year which focus on literacy, accountability, safe and caring and Islamic Character Development and Leadership. OBK first Student Council is well on its way to planning activities for our students and the community. Our Junior High students participated in a Leadership Conference where 425 students attended from all Palliser schools. InshaAllah, there is a Leadership Conference planned for Elementary students coming up in April this year. One of the tasks of the conference is for students to take on a leadership initiative at the school and present the outcomes of their initiatives later in the school year.

Inshallah, Thrilling Thursdays are well on their way. The staff has worked very hard to offer a variety of exciting options this year. We have six weeks before the end of this term. If parents will like to meet me, you can set an appointment or meet with me during parent/teacher conference.

Alhamdulillah, as a new Principal, I have been welcomed by all, students, staff and parents. Change, although necessary is not always easy. This year is about working together to keep the school running successfully and adapting to the changes that lie ahead. Together, we can work as a team to make our tomorrow better than today.

### Important Dates:

- 11 - Pizza with the principals
- 15 - Family Day, no school for students or staff
- 16 - Grade 1 field trip
- 18 - 19 - Teacher's Convention - no school
- 23 - Quran competition assembly
- 26 - Monthly Virtue Assembly - Compassion
- 29 - Pro-D Day - no school for students

### April 28

**Elementary Student Leadership Conference** (Gr. 4-6) Students will be chosen by their teachers - plan to participate!

## Honesty Assembly by the Grade 3 Classes

The Grade 3 Classes hosted the monthly virtue assembly last month and they presented a great play called "Honesty is the Best Policy." The 3A class made their own instruments and played a song that they wrote called "No Human, No Lie." Thanks for the fantastic performances, Grade 3!



Noooo people,  
no lie.

Honesty

## Radiant Readers

Our hope, as teachers, is to witness our everyday lessons practiced in the real world. When I stepped out for my outdoor supervision duty last Thursday, I imagined it to be like any other day – kids playing and interacting with an overwhelming amount of energy! Instead, I came across a group of grade 3 students who sat along a retaining wall reading to grade one and two students. I observed the situation before I asked one of the students what they were doing, out of interest. To my surprise, Diyanah explained to me that she and her friends had put together a “Book Club.” This composed of about 5-6 grade 3 students, who referred to themselves as instructors. She further explained to me that younger students could sign up to be read to by these grade three students. It was so well planned and executed. They knew who was in charge for the day, who was reading that recess, and who needed to be ready to take over in-case an instructor was absent. In total, there were least 10 younger students engaged in this recess reading session! To me, it was a clear distinction between reading for the sake of meeting expectations, and reading for the sake of pure enjoyment! They were promoting a love of reading and I can’t wait to see this club expand! - Mrs. Borhot

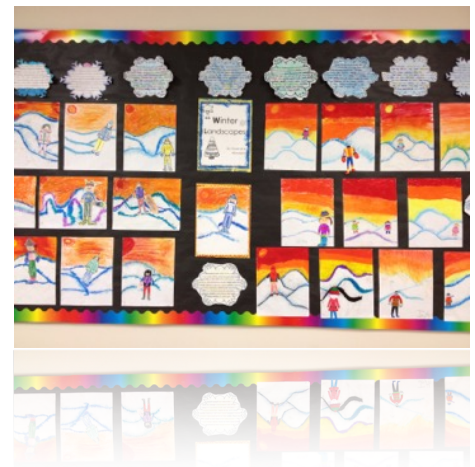


**The Book Club: Aseel, Diyanah, and Sophia**



**Grade 3 student actors**

## Grade 4 Art: *Landscapes*





# I'm A Wheel Watcher!



***The Wheel of Knowledge*** was created as a Brain Gym activity to be used on Fridays during the morning assembly. It includes sections for all the core subjects in addition to Arabic, health, Islamic, and a fun games section. Every Friday students from each grade participate by turning the wheel and they are then asked a question about the subject on which the arrow lands. If they are not sure about the answer, they can “call” a friend from the same grade, and they get a small prize if they answer correctly. The activity created big fun last week when students landed on the games section and participated in a competitive game to win their prize.



Newsletter  
Club

Saturday, May 28:  
Girls and Boys CIS  
Conference (Gr. 6-9)  
Location: OBK Campus

February is *Literacy Month* at OBK. Fill out your home reading sheets and bring them to your homeroom teacher - happy reading!

Hall  
Monitors

