IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, MOST GRACIOUS, MOST MERCIFUL

THE OUTLOOK

PUBLISHED FOR PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF NEW HORIZON SCHOOL WESTSIDE

1819 SAWTELLE BLVD, LOS ANGELES, CA 90025

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The New Horizon School Westside mission is to inspire excellence through rigorous academics and the promotion of universal moral values in a progressive Islamic environment. We nurture a positive American Muslim identity, a devotion to God, and a strong commitment to family and diversity in a global community.

WELCOME to this edition of our School's newsletter: The Outlook. We all started this school year with great pleasure and enthusiasm. Over the summer, we received great news: New Horizon School Westside's application for accreditation by the California Association of Independent School (CAIS) and the Western Association for Schools and Colleges (WASC) was granted for a term of seven years. The completion of the CAIS accreditation allows a school to go through a process involving the school community in a collaborative way. The first step is to clarify the school's purpose and its goals for its students, programs, people, and facilities. The next step is to assess all aspects of the school's operations, the student program and its impact on students' personal and academic growth. The last step is to develop an Action Plan, as well as an accountability system for monitoring the plan's implementation. This accomplishment reflects the outstanding achievement and support of our students, faculty, and community, in which we can all take pride.

ABOUT CAIS

CAIS is an organization of approximately 200 elementary, middle and secondary schools in California. The Association serves and strengthens its schools by setting standards of academic quality and ethical conduct, facilitating the professional growth of faculty, administration and trustees, and promoting ethnic and socio-economic diversity. More information about accreditation can be found on their website:
http://www.caisca.org/page/22414_Accreditation.asp

FOSS SCIENCE AND NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS AT NEW HORIZON WESTSIDE

This year, we are proud to introduce a revolutionary way of teaching science to all our students. Research shows that the best way to learn science is by doing science, and the FOSS developers have spent more than 25 years working in classrooms learning how to best support teachers, as they facilitate doing exactly that.

Research also shows that an instructional model that delivers fewer science concepts in greater depth produces much better learning than one in which many topics are briefly visited**. FOSS Next Generation** puts the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) into practice by integrating all three dimensions: the **Disciplinary Core Ideas**, the **Science and Engineering Practices**, and the **Crosscutting Concepts**, within classroom-proven tools and strategies to engage students and teachers in enduring experiences that lead to deeper understanding of the natural and designed world. Furthermore, the program integrates robust reading and literacy strategies to support the Common Core ELA for all students.

FOSS Next Generation is designed to help students, over the years, develop more sophisticated ways to think about the core ideas of science. Modules are truly connected and build upon one another, within and across each strand, progressively moving students toward the big ideas of science.

Starting this year, all elementary students at New Horizon Westside will have the privilege of learning Science using these latest innovative methods. Teachers and students are excited to do science together when they open the FOSS kits, engaging in enduring experiences that lead to deeper understanding of the scientific and natural world.

As we settle into the second half of our 21st year, we invite you to read all about the exciting opportunities our students had to enhance their learning experience since the beginning of this school year.

ISLAMIC IDENTITY AND SPIRITUALITY

At NHSW, one of our goals is to nurture a positive American Muslim identity in a culturally diverse and global community. We start by teaching our students the basics and practices of our faith. We then go further by teaching and practicing a set of core values that our faith mandates us to follow and adhere to at all times. We teach by example and we have our spiritual traditions which, along with our core values, form the moral compass for our children to help them know right from wrong. Our students are taught at an early age about the love of God and the power of Du'a (prayers) in their lives. We nurture their spirituality by instilling in them the love for God Almighty, which gives them a sense of connection to Allah and a complete trust that He is always there for them and He will make things better.

HAJJ SIMULATION AND EID CARNIVAL

The journey to Mecca for Hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam. The gathering during Hajj is considered the largest annual gathering of people in the world, and a demonstration of the Muslim Umma's solidarity. It is also one of the highest forms of spirituality. As Muslims congregate upon the holy city of Mecca for their annual pilgrimage, our students undergo a journey of their own. For one day, the campus is transformed with designated areas depicting specific stops on the path of a pilgrim, and students follow their steps as they complete their pilgrimage leading up the first day of Eid-Al-Adha.

This year, students and their parents celebrated Eid with community members, with a carnival day, filled with fun and games.

STUDENTS CELEBRATE ARABIC LANGUAGE DAY IN DECEMBER

Arabic is taught as a second language to all students in the preschool and elementary programs at New Horizon. The program's objective is to introduce the students to 2,000 vocabulary words in the first four years. This allows them to string words together to form simple sentences and small paragraphs. The following four-year program is a comprehensive one, where students learn the four components of a language: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Our ultimate goal is to provide our graduating Fifth Grade students with skills that enable them to comprehend and read the Holy Quran.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO declared December 18th as World Arabic Language Day. At New Horizon Westside, we commemorate Arabic Day every year with an event to showcase the skills of our students.

THANKSGIVING

Each day on the fourth Thursday in November, Americans gather for a day of feasting, football and family. While today's Thanksgiving celebrations would likely be unrecognizable to the attendees of the original 1621 harvest meal, it continues to be a day for Americans to gather around the table—albeit with some updates to pilgrim's menu.

At New Horizon Westside, one of the values we highlight is Thankfulness, and one of the opportunities our students have to practice this value is in November around Thanksgiving. This year, our students gathered around a virtual table and shared a meal together, in the spirit of togetherness and family.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Another goal is to provide a rigorous educational experience to meet each child's needs through individualized instruction, to enable students to contribute to a changing and diverse world. A direct approach to enhancing academic background knowledge is one that increases the variety and depth of out-of-class experiences. Such experiences include field trips to museums, art galleries, and visits to community centers, and a variety of after-school enrichment programs, which we offer as part of our extended program at New Horizon Westside.

Field trips and after school programs provide students with activities that cultivate curiosity and a sense of accomplishment in a given field. Some of the ways we provided our students with relevant learning opportunities over the past few months are highlighted below.

NHSW PRESCHOOLERS VISIT OUR LOCAL FIRE STATION.

DENTIST'S VISIT AND PRESENTATION

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM—SUPER SOCCER STARS

INVESTIGATING LAND EROSION IN MALIBU

KIDSPACE MUSEUM

BOOK FAIR

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SECOND GRADER

On November 5th, our Second Graders had a special opportunity to visit the Los Angeles County Museum of Art with pen pals they met through our most recent project, "Enduring Friendships". Ms. Carol, Cooper, Art teacher, planned and carried out this project. Her vision was to unite students from all three schools, allowing the children to learn cohesively, and to develop a friendship with other students.

The day began with a special meeting beside the iconic Urban Light sculpture, as New Horizon students were paired up with their pen pals from LSAUSD's Wisdom School as well as Calvary Christian from Pacific Palisades. The students, though shy at first, soon began to see that their new friends were fun-loving second graders, just like the friends they go to school with every day. They sat and had lunch together, and seemed to thoroughly enjoy the time they had to get to know their pen pals in person.

From there, they entered the Frank Gehry exhibit which fills the multiple rooms with over 65 models and 200 drawings featuring his work, beginning in the 1960s. The students could learn about the creative process of Gehry, which they have experienced first-hand in their own study and replicas of his work. Through the various types of models displayed in the exhibit, they could observe how technology is utilized in architecture and design.

ART EDUCATION

Instruction in the arts is vital to providing a well-rounded education for children, and schools integrating the arts into the curriculum as part of a comprehensive education reform strategy are documenting positive changes in the school environment and improved student performance.

At New Horizon Westside, we support the belief that all students benefit from the opportunity to learn about and experience the arts. Study of the arts in its many forms, whether as a stand-alone subject or integrated into the school curriculum, is increasingly accepted as an essential part of achieving success in school, work and life.

Students surpassed our highest expectations as they worked to put together an **Art Show** worthy of the most prestigious galleries. On November 11, friends and family members were delighted as they toured the Art show, featuring ceramic macaroons and salad platters, abstract wood structures, and an array of colorful fashion creations.

New Horizon Outlook is published by the New Horizon School Westside Campus to enhance communication with parents and friends of the school. We welcome your suggestions, comments and ideas. Please share them with us by calling **(310) 231-6092** or email us at **info@newhorizonwestide.org. The School also greatly appreciates your donations. Please make checks payable to New Horizon School Westside, or contact the office for further assistance. Thank You.**