



Rajab/Shaban 1439

Keeping our Community Informed

April 2018 Edition: 1

Editor's note: We are pleased to bring you the first edition of the BCMA monthly newsletter. This edition include an inspiring message from the President, an insight on who the executives are, preparing for Ramadan as well as an important announcement on Education. Not to be missed are updates from Youth, Sports and our sisters!



Presidents Message – Iltaf Sahib

Dear brothers and sisters, Assalamwa'alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh. Welcome to the first edition of the BCMA Gazette for the year 2018.

One of the objectives of our new and dynamic Executive Board is to be open, transparent by communicating current news and events happening at our branches and schools to our general membership. The goal is to keep our community informed and engaged with our activities through various means of communication. Consequently, this exchange of information will also encourage the members of this new Executive Board to push ourselves to continuously measure and strive towards our goals and objectives.

There is a lot to be done in a very short period, nevertheless, it's very encouraging to see more and more young professionals joining the many boards and committees of the BCMA. On the same note, I'd like to request our senior and experienced members and directors to welcome these new talents, and utilize their expertise and ideas to further enhance the scope of our Association

For the first few months of my tenure, my major focus has mostly been on our two Muslim Schools. This has been an area of priority and concern for me for many reasons which I would not like to elaborate, but rather eradicate.

Therefore, in order to bolster our school operations, we have made some major changes to the Board of Education. Alhamdulillah, almost half of this new board comprises of individuals with current professional teaching background. InshaAllah, this will greatly enhance the board's ability to connect with and understand the needs of the teachers and the students.

To further enhance our school operations, and to raise the standard of our Muslim school both academically and Islamically, the Executive Board made a bold move in the right direction, thus, I am extremely pleased to announce the hire of Dr. Osman Mohamed as the new Principal of the BC Muslim School.

This appointment came at a very crucial stage where leadership of this caliber was much needed. This was indeed a blessing from Allah swt for our community, and I'd like to acknowledge and thank the management of Al-Iman Centre in Surrey that lent us a helping hand in this time of need.

Presidents message continued

Goals and Vision

I demand a “less talk and more work” attitude so here is a summary of my short to mid-term goals and vision:

1. Create an environment where every Muslim child has access to basic Islamic knowledge through our Masajids and Centers of learning.
2. Implementation of weekday evenings and weekend, Quran and Islamic Studies programs in all masajids and centers for boys and girls of all ages.
3. Support our sisters and seniors of our community to have weekly programs in learning the Quran and essential Islamic teachings
4. Provide the best quality Islamic and secular education for our children attending our two elementary Muslim schools and hire more qualified and certified teachers to fill any remaining vacancies.
5. Continue to create a strong Finance and Audit committee (already in the works) to maintain transparency and work on automation and upgrade of accounting software and processes for more efficiency in running the association.
6. Establish BCMA Membership Loyalty Program, whereby all BCMA members receive discounts on the various services provided by BCMA such as discounts on Madrasah fees, school fees, masjid rentals, plus any purchases at other Muslim businesses.
7. Introduce "Islamic Wills and Last Testament" educational seminars for all to benefit, and create Waqf trust funds for all capital projects.
8. Create stringent Halal Monitoring procedures and implementations in line with the HMA guidelines and regular inspections by our HICC board, supervised by our Ulema.
9. Build on the part-time madrasah program and establish a full-time Hifz only program.
10. Work in unity and co-operation with our Ulema and other Sunni organizations to address common services for the benefit all in our community.

I believe that our goals and commitments can be achieved only if we work with our hearts united as a team. We must also constantly remind ourselves that we are doing this solely for seeking Allah’s pleasure, therefore to be successful in our endeavors, I request my team and the entire community to turn towards seeking Allah’s help in all matters, for we all know that everything that happens; happens by the will and command of Allah (swt). May Allah swt keep us united!

Meet the Executives

Meet your 2018/2019 Executive team. The new Executive Board is working hard to achieve the vision and goals set forth by the President for the Association and our community! Contact the Executives: [Click Here](#)

President	Iltaf Sahib	president@thebcma.com
General Secretary	Abdullah Nasib Ali	secretary@thebcma.com
Assistant General Secretary	Rafiq Patel	Asst_secretary@thebcma.com
General Treasurer	Afzal Khan	treasurer@thebcma.com
Asst General Treasurer	Ifran Haroon	Asst.treasurer@thebcma.com
VP Religious Services	Abrar Esop	religious@thebcma.com
VP Education Services	Raza Mirani	education@thebcma.com
VP Social Services	Shawkat Hasan	social@thebcma.com
VP Planning & Development	Junaid Iqbal	planning@thebcma.com
VP Public Relations & Communications	Sikander Khan	media@thebcma.com
VP Funeral and Burial	Shariff Mohammed	burial@thebcma.com
VP Youth Development	Imtiaz Asin	youth@thebcma.com
VP Sports & Recreation	Irshad Siddeeq	sports@thebcma.com

Sikandar Khan
VP Media, Public Relations, Political Liaison and Communications



All praise is due to Allah Subhan'wa tala and salutations to our beloved Prophet Muhammad S.A.S .

We are indeed honoured to have this opportunity of serving in this Association for the pleasure of Allah.

This edition of the Newsletter is dedicated to the theme "Get to know your officials and welcoming the blessed month of Ramadan. The Media and Communications Board of BCMA is pledging to publish monthly online newsletters. The goal is to keep us connected and share information pertaining to the activities of the Association on a regular basis. We will also introduce you to the newly elected officials.

As a result of the recent elections of BCMA, the Association is blessed with some very talented young group of individuals combined with experienced proven leaders to chart the direction and future development of the Association as a way forward. Our newly elected President is a young, dynamic, energetic and progressive leader who will move the organization forward especially with youth development.

The blessed month of Ramadan is about to dawn upon us with its infinite mercies and blessings. This sacred month gives us a break and provides us with rare opportunity to ponder about our own selves, our future as Muslims and about our families. Fasting inculcates in us patience, unselfishness and gratitude. Fasting in Ramadan develops in a person the real spirit of social belonging of unity and brotherhood. The institution of fasting is the natural product of the fact that when we fast , we feel we are joining the whole Muslim Society comprising of about one fifth of the world's population in observing the same duty , in the same manner , at the same time for the motive and that is for the pleasure of Allah Almighty . May the coming blessed month of Ramadan bring peace, unity and harmony to the world. We pray that we remember those who are less fortunate, in sufferings and those who are sick in hospitals or at homes. Let this blessed month enable us to redefine ourselves as better than the year before.

Ramadan Mubarak!

Sports – Irshad Siddeeq VP Sports

A very active year for Sports at BCMA for all ages. Currently the BCMA Youth Soccer Skills is under way between April 8 to May 13. There are 140 boys and girls registered ages 5 to 15. Soccer Skills is a pilot project which has exceeded all expectations. Children develop skills in a fun and healthy environment. Insha Allah the demand for more soccer skills after Ramadan is evident!



Email: sports@thebcma.com



2018 Upcoming Events

- 🏆 **March 23–June 28** BCMA soccer league: Premier & Masters Div
- 🏆 **April 8–May 13** 6 sessions of the BCMA Youth Soccer Skills
- 🏆 **July 7-8** Mosque cup soccer tournament (All Divisions)
- 🏆 **August 25-26** BCMA Nations Cup soccer tournament (All Divisions)
- 🏆 **September 15** BCMA World Series Baseball Tournament
- 🏆 **October 6** Football Tournament
- 🏆 **December 25** Ball Hockey Tournament

Education

ANNOUNCEMENT: BCMS PRINCIPAL



The BCMA Executive Board is pleased to announce the hire of Dr. Osman Mohamed as the new principal of BC Muslim School (BCMS). Dr. Osman has had over 28 years' experience as a teacher, counselor, and Imam in Ontario, BC and Alberta. Dr. Osman's teaching experience includes teaching at BCMS for 15 years where he taught various grades. During his tenure at BCMS he also volunteered as an Imam the Richmond Jamea Mosque. Dr. Osman is also a Quran Hafiz who has Ijazah with all ten recognized ways of reciting the Quran. He holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry with educational training from Umm-Alqura University, Makah Al-Mukarrama Saudi Arabia. He also has a Masters Degree in Education from International Islamic University in Malaysia and holds a Professional Teachers Certification through Ministry of Education in BC, Independent School Branch. Recently he has completed a PhD Degree in Islamic studies from Graduate Theological Foundation in Indiana, USA.

With Dr. Osman's excellent leadership skills, experience and dedication, we welcome him to BCMS as he strives to work with our community in making BCMS the educational excellence centre for our children.



Board of Education Member **Ebrahim Bawa, BA, BEd., MA**

The Board of Education is diligently working to strengthen the Educational opportunities for our children at the BC Muslim Schools. The board has secured a team of educators to volunteer their time and expertise to BCMS. Mr. Ebrahim Bawa has taught KG to grade 12 in the BC school system. He is also certified for and has taught in federally funded Adult ELL (English Language Learning) and settlement programs. As a long standing BCMA member and former SMS Principal Mr. Bawa is very familiar with the role of the Board of Education and Muslim School operations. He completed his Bachelor of Arts degree and Bachelor of Education degree at UBC. Furthermore he is certified with both TESL Canada and the Ministry of Education for ELL instruction. Finally, he also holds a Master of Arts degree in Educational Leadership and Management.



Surrey Muslim School (SMS) Fundraiser/BBQ



Sunday March 25th, SMS held their Spring Break BBQ fundraiser. The fun filled day was well attended by families who enjoyed the food, games, henna, face painting, activities and bazaar. The event was supported and attended by the RCMP, MP Sukh Dhaliwal, MLA Rachna Singh and MLA Harry Bains. Media Waves Radio hosts Ashiana Khan did a live broadcast from the School as well. Thank you to the fundraising committee and volunteers for their hard work and valuable time. Approximately 700 people were in attendance throughout the day. All proceeds from the BBQ will help go towards debt payment for SMS.

Ramadān Gems by Imam Yahya Momla

The month of Shaban has dawned upon us; which means there are less than 30 days until the blessed month of Ramadān. We are all aware of the many blessings this special month will bring with it and perhaps even have in the back of our minds that we will take advantage of the month to the fullest extent. But wait, we had these very same thoughts last year and yet when Eid rolled around, we were left wondering, where did we go wrong?

You see, like any important event in our lives, Ramadān requires meticulous planning in order to execute flawlessly or with as few hiccups as possible. The importance of planning for Ramadān can't be stressed enough, especially with our already busy schedules.

Below are a few points to ensure a successful Ramadān Insha'Allah

1. *See how much time you will actually have?* Many of us often perceive ourselves to be busier than we really are. The first step to planning for Ramadān is to sit down and find out how much time (after taking into account the obligatory 5 daily prayers, work, sleep, errands, kids, and every other mundane task you must perform) you actually have. You would be surprised that **even the busiest amongst us do indeed have a minimum of 2 - 3 hours that we can spare.**
2. *What are you going to do with your time?* Once you have figured out how much time you have, comes the harder part, deciding what exactly it is that you will do with that time. It is not enough to say that you will just **read Qur'ān, make du'ā** and perform nawāfil; you need to identify when you are going to do what. **Tip:** Try to schedule your Qur'ān recitation for the morning and du'ā for before iftār if possible
3. *Warm up.* If you have **set a goal** for yourself (because really why wouldn't you?) then now is the time to start warming up. If you have the goal of reciting a certain amount of the Qur'ān daily, you should begin to recite at least a third of that amount right now.
4. *Accountability.* Hold yourself accountable during the month. Are you **following through on the goals** you have set for yourself?
5. *Maintenance.* Once Ramadān is complete, you would ideally like to **continue some of the habits** you have developed during the blessed month albeit to a lesser degree. If you were reciting an entire Juz every day during Ramadān, you may choose to continue reciting 1/3 of a Juz outside of the month.

Finally, we must all understand that, as human beings, we will never be perfect. No one knows this better than our Creator. The ultimate goal of Ramadān is to be more conscious of Allah at the end of Ramadān than you were at the beginning. Think of it this way. If we were able to better ourselves a little bit every Ramadān, then the last Ramadān of our lives will be the best and according to the hadīth of our beloved Prophet ﷺ “decisive are the final actions” [al Bukhārī] that is what matters most.

Important Dates:

**The anticipated dates mentioned below are based on astronomical data. Actual dates will be verified through crescent sightings and announced accordingly.

1st Ramadan – 17 May, 2018
27th night - 11 June, 2018
1st Shawwal – 15 June, 2018
1st DhulQa'dah – 14 July, 2018
1st DhulHijjah – 13 August, 2018
Hajj starts - 21 August, 2018
Arafah Day - 22 August, 2018
Eid al Adhā - 23 August, 2018

Ramadan timetables are available at www.thebcma.com. [Click here](#) to download your copy. Please check your local Masajids for Tarawih and Iftar information.

Womens Council – Sr. Tazul Ali, Secretary

Alhamdulillah, with the Mercy of Allah Subhanahu wa Ta'ala and the confidence and trust of our sisters, Women Council is committed to its vision of strengthening sisterhood within the organization. The aim of the Women Council is to empower women through education both in Islam and in worldly knowledge. Our branches and chapters need to have a strong base to serve the community. We endeavour to bring diversity into our branches by welcoming women of different cultures. Islam is an universal religion and diversity is the strength. The Women's Branches are making a concerted effort to bring educational session/classes to its membership. There are halaqas for both sisters and youth girls on a continual basis. A great emphasis is made to include our Youth in all the spheres of the Branches.

The Burial services are a major service provided by our organization and the Vice Chair for Funeral is ready to accommodate to this very important service through our committed volunteers. Seniors activities are held once a month in most of the branches. There is a tentative Health Fair planned for health-related topics, healthy aging sessions, nutritional education classes and general physical activities are emphasized. Fall Conference is in the planning stages. The theme of this will be looking at Stepping up the Leadership Roles for our Youth and Sisters.

Events coming up soon:

- Women Council fundraising for women and youth activities. This Fundraising is a **Food Drive on April 29 from Jamia Masjid in Surrey Delta**. We are looking for community support.
- **Annual Eid Celebration for Sisters on June 29** after the month of Ramadan. This will be a social event with flavor and gala where sisters can connect, celebrate and enjoy the diverse cultures during the festival of Eid.

The Month of Ramadan is just around the corner and Muslims are conscious of the approaching month of Mercy and Blessings. On behalf of the Women of BCMA, we take this opportunity to wish everyone the peace and blessings of Ramadan.

Executive for Women 2018/2019

Chairperson: Amara (Anjuman) Asin
Secretary: Tazul Ali
Treasurer: Rabia Mohamed
Funeral: Najmah Mohamed
Social Services: Faten Abuzant
Youth: Sasha Clark



Youth Development – Imtiaz Asin

Young Ummah Umrah 2018 took about 42 individuals including youth and sisters to the holy land. The group had the privilege of visiting Makkah, Medina, numerous historical locations including the Badr as well as meet with renowned scholars of the haram. The Young Ummah Umrah trip creates a bond and provides an educational experience that brings one closer to this beautiful DEEN. This is a yearly event and planning is under way for next year Insha Allah! **Upcoming Events: Spirit of Islam Conference.** May 5 & 6. Purchase your tickets now for a chance to win an Umrah trip in 2019. Keep updated by following the Young Ummah BCMA Facebook page as well as www.thebcma.com. Email youth@thebcma.com

9th Annual
روح الإسلام
SPIRIT OF ISLAM
 SEMINAR

OUR'AN
 Book of Guidance
 AN INSPIRATIONAL SEMINAR AND WORKSHOP
 May 5th & 6th, 2018
 1:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.
 Surrey Jamea Masjid
 OPEN TO BROTHERS AND SISTERS

INSPIRING TALKS
 INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS
 Q & A
 BOTH DAYS DINNER INCLUDED

GUEST SPEAKERS
 Shaykh Sulaiman Moola (South Africa)
 Shaykh Daood Butt (Mississauga, Ontario)
 Sister Tasneem Ghauri (Mississauga, Ontario)

LOCAL SPEAKERS
 Imaam Yahya Momla (Burnaby)
 Mufti Shujaath (Vancouver)
 Shaykh Ismail Mohammad Nur (Victoria)

\$20.00
 PER PERSON
 DOOR PRIZES
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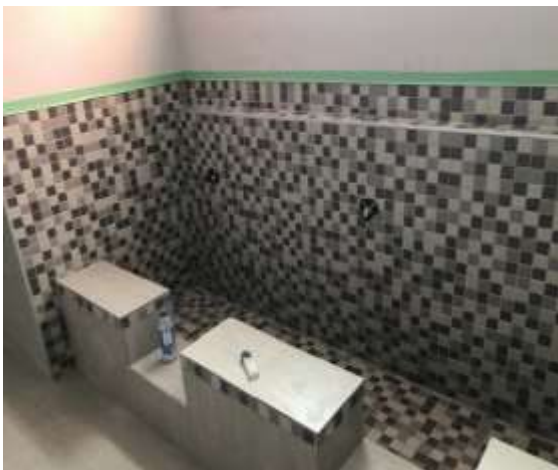
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Dr. Dostum Khan 604-432-9744
 Dr. Hamza Mazik 604-213-0786
 Sr. Faye Pentth 604-314-7943

Dr. Imtiaz Asin 778-865-4771
 Dr. Muhammad Akmal (Grand Haven) 604-781-2704
 Dr. Hamadullah Qasbi 604-811-3563
 Sr. Fathima Karthiqa Bahar 778-251-6428

Kelowna Masjid Construction Update

Alhumdolillah Masjid Construction is in the **final stages**. The project will be substantially complete by April 30th. However, formal occupancy is being delayed until approximately the last week of May. **Volunteering** This is a reminder that volunteers are always welcome. Community members interested in volunteering should contact any of the construction committee members. Landscaping, irrigation, and fence building are the next components of the project. [Click here](#) to **donate** to the Kelowna Masjid project!



Funeral Services

We provide the funeral service to Muslim community in the Lower Main Land. In the event of a death of a loved one you can call a BCMA representative. We're available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 604-727-8001. Report the death to the BCMA director in charge of burial immediately.

Funeral Information & Forms

In the event of a death

Funeral Expenses

Burial Administration Fees

Purchase Burial Plots

JOB OPPORTUNITY: Female Funeral Director

[Click here](#) for everything you need to know about Funeral Services at BCMA.

Did you know you can sign up to receive funeral email notification?

Inspiring, Connecting and Building a Healthy Islamic School Environment

BCMA SCHOOLS

SHAPING THE FUTURE

- Building a Strong Muslim Identity and Love of Islam
- Safe, Caring and Stimulating Islamic Environment
- Multicultural, Citizenship and Social Responsibility
- Collaborative Learning and Teaching
- Outdoor Soccer Field, Playground, Computer Lab and Much More

We Offer

- Quran Reading and Memorization
- Islamic Studies Curriculum
- Arabic as a Second Language
- BC Ministry of Education Curriculum (KG to Grade 8)
- Information Technology
- Extra Curricular Activities
- Small Class Sizes
- PE Programs

BC MUSLIM SCHOOL
KG - Grade 8
604.270.2511
12300 Blundell Rd. Richmond, BC
www.bcmuslimschool.ca

MUSLIM SCHOOLS
Registration
2018-19

SURREY MUSLIM SCHOOL
KG - Grade 7
604.599.6608
#119 - 7475135 Street, Surrey, BC
www.surreymuslimschool.ca

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

- ❖ Funeral Director
- ❖ Teachers

We are growing

Penticton's growing Muslim community needs a Masjid. Please support the growth. [Click here to donate](#)

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editor@thebcma.com

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Membership

A large membership base is the key to the success of any organization. Are you and your family members BCMA members yet? Your spouse and children over 16 years qualify to become members.

Stay Informed – Get Connected – Make a Difference!
[Click Here](#) for new Membership and renewals.



Ramadan Mubarak to you and your family!