

BCMA Gazette



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**The BCMA Gazette- Is the Official Newsletter of the
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BCMA Prince George Masjid- Project 2010-11

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Time is of the Essence

Time: it halts for no one. It does not pause to console the bereaved, or slow down for fresh wounds to heal. It is the vast amorphous vessel that can contain all the events and occurrences in the world, yet remain unaffected and continue each new moment as if the last when never really happened. A miniscule portion of it is granted to every living thing, and is the most precious resource anyone can have. Time is life. Life is about time. The way we use our time determines the outcomes and consequences we have to live with, in this world, on the day we give account for every second of time we were granted, and forever afterward.

Allah Almighty states:

By the time; man is in great loss (al-'Aşr:1)

The Prophet of Allah, peace and blessings upon him, states:

There are two bounties that many people fail to gain profit from: health and time (al-Bukhārī:6412)

As we return from our winter holidays and plan for a prosperous year, let us resolve to make wiser choices about how we use our time this year. Let us decide to use our time in only those activities that will reap the profits of *dunyā* and *ākhirā*, and to never compromise the everlasting bliss of paradise for the momentary and flimsy pleasures of this temporary abode.

Mufti Aasim Rashid- BC Muslim Assoc
Director of Religion and Islamic Education

BCMA PRESCHOOL TO OPEN SOON IN RICHMOND!

Assalamu Alykum Wa Rahmatullah Wa Barakatuh,

Last year, BCMA Board of Education (BoE) kick-started the implementation phase of its long overdue preschool plans. The change in the rate of progress was made possible by the formation of the new BCMA Extra program. The guiding principal behind the preschool plan was to:

- 1) Establish an exemplary type preschool and child care facility in Richmond
- 2) Create in-house expertise to duplicate similar facilities at other branches modelled on the Richmond experience.

A number of different locations needed to be considered before the city, fire, and the association interests were satisfied. Alhamdulillah, the transformation of the chosen location, previously the elementary school library, into a modern state-of-the-art preschool facility was initiated. We set out to create an environment that was designed specifically for children with ample indoor and outdoor spaces, and a lot of natural light.

This facility is due to be completed by the end of this month insha Allah. In addition, a revamped school library has been relocated to the secondary building library with major upgrade to ensure quality and satisfaction. The BCMA Preschool is absolutely beautiful. Thanks have to be given to the volunteer committee of qualified Muslim Preschool teachers that provided an advisory role throughout the project. The Preschool Advisory group have spent the last couple months planning our curriculum and program, as well as creating requirements for all resources including the hiring process of the preschool manager. The preschool is designed by architect Br. Bawa, and created by Br Abdullah Rahimi's team, with support from many community members. Jazakum Allah Khairan to everyone who has in any way helped shape this vision to reality - a job well done.

Our waiting list is expanding due to the large number of interested families. InshaAllah registration for the **fall program** in September will start on **Tuesday, February 15, 2011**. A "**KG readiness program**" for BCMS –KG starting in September 2011 and a "**Summer Program**" (July 2011) will start registration on February 15, 2011 as well (subject to licensing approval).

Applications for enrollment, full information about our schedule, staff, curriculum, philosophy, policies and tuitions will be available on our website insha Allah in February before the registration date.

We sincerely thank all of the many donors who gave so generously so that we were able to turn our dream for a Preschool into a reality. Please reserve **Saturday, February 12, 2011** for the official **dedication ceremony, on-site fundraiser** and to **tour in person our new Preschool facility**. Insha Allah you will love it just as we do.

For more information, please contact:

Br Ali Haider
604-270-2522

HAJJ REPORT

We the group of seventy, left for for Makka to perform Hajj on 3rd' November, 2010, under the guidance of brs.

Abbas, Shehab, Asin and Qari Wahab, us boarded the

Cathay Pacific at one thirty pm., we stayed in Hong Kong for one night, We again boarded Cathay Pacific to fly to Jedda, after alighting from airplane, It took some hours to board a bus to travel to Makka, in Makka we rested for a night.

Next morning we performed umra, Hajj, tawaaf, umra, ziarat and when ever we had time, we did sight seeing, shopping etc.,

it was a joyful experience, Our visits to Mina, Arafat, Mudafala was event of every able muslim should perform, no one will forget. Subhan Allah.

From Makka us travelled to Madina, Madina I will never forget, most of the time we prayed in Masjid Nabwi, hugh mosque, I personally walked round this great masjid in night, I never felt pleasantness so good in my life. Qari Wahab explained all arqans of Hajj and umra so well, may Allah bless him, also Comet travel staff were very helpful.

in my life. One night I visited Baqi graveyards, there were two burial that night, one was a shaikh and one was a commoner, they were buried side by side, in thirty minutes burial was done.

In concluding this small article, it was a good experience.

One thing I noticed in masjid Nabwi and Haram shareef, Azan is pronounced in dolby and Aqama is sang.

Zajak Allah khair.
Nur Alam Khan.
Vancouver

BCMA News

- **Mufti Aasim Rashid** has been appointed as a Director of Religion and Islamic Education. His primary role will be the spokesman and advisor on Religious Services, Dawah Activities, Youth Programs, developing and overseeing Religious Education curricular for School and Masajids and provide lectures and seminars at various Branch/Chapters
- **Mohammed Imraz Asin** has been appointed as a Director of the Funeral Services which had completed the two year funeral director and embalmer; he was also awarded the Jurisprudence award for the highest academic performance in funeral law studies in BC. The BCMA is operating its Funeral Home from Richmond location which is currently licensed as funeral service provider.
- **Surrey Delta Branch:** The Association is very pleased to announce that Surrey Jamea Masjid is paid in full. We sincerely thank each and everyone for their generous support.
- **Prince George Capital Project:** In year 2008, the Association have embedded on a major project in Prince George, British Columbia. There are lot of Muslim Professionals residing in City of Prince George. Recently, the University of Northern B.C. based in the heart of Prince George has attracted a greater number of Muslim students from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In light of that the BC Muslim Association – Prince George Chapter had begun the construction of Prince George Islamic Centre and Mosque in the year of 2009 which is almost 80% completed.
- **Victoria Capital Project:** With a rapid growing number of Muslim Community and shortage of space in Victoria, the Management of Victoria Branch has initiated a project which will amalgamate two properties and expand the Masjid to meet the needs of the local community. So far the Management has raised almost \$825K and will begin their Construction as soon they reach their target of \$1 million. The construction is planned to being in Spring of 2011.
- **Richmond Branch:** A fundraising was conducted by the branch management for upgrade of Richmond Complex. A total sum of \$37K was collected. Since 2007, the Richmond Branch had spent almost \$850K to upgrade the facility which includes sewer system, roof and renovation of Richmond Jamea Masjid.
- **Direct Access Funding:** The Association has approved the Burnaby Branch to undertake the Health Program at various Branch and Chapters. In addition, the Association has setup a Computer Program at Surrey Delta Branch, Youth Program at Richmond Branch and Seniors/Kitchen Program at Surrey East Branch and Surrey Delta Branch.
- **Surrey Muslim School:** This project is still a top priority for the Association. A property adjacent to Masjid Rahmah was for lease/sale and based on the appraisal and engineers report, the building was not in compliance with municipal requirement to operate a private school. A complete renovation would have been required to meet school zoning. Another property is up for lease/sale in Surrey. The Executive Board is looking into it.
- **Membership:** The Head Office sent renewal forms to all members through its Branches/Chapters. We remind all members to renew their membership as soon as possible.

BCMA Premises: In light of security concerns, the Association will be closing all premises within one hour after each Salah, except where special requests being made for using the BCMA facility such as Dawah work, youth programs, rental etc in consultation with local Branch Management.

Board of Women Affairs-Workshop

The Board of Women's Affairs had a very informative and interactive workshop in December. In partnership with the Battered Women Services Society, the workshop ran for two consecutive Saturdays.

This workshop "Self Advocacy and the Legal System" was attended by over 25 women from all over the Lower Mainland. The main training was for self advocacy. By participating we gained necessary skills to be more effective in information seeking, communicating and problem solving. The skills we learnt can be used in our personal, social and professional life. Also, we learnt different ways of information searching and finding community resources available to us. The group also participated in smaller groups on methods of problem solving by taking different scenarios. Legal words were discussed and a quiz on the subject was done by everyone. Certificates were presented to those who successfully completed the two day workshop. The sisters found this workshop beneficial and an eye opener because we often forget that abuse and violence do happen in all communities. Rights of the victim are seldom explained and so we learnt the Charter of Right, the Canadian Court of Law both Provincial and Federal, the ins and outs of Legal System. There was interest shown to present similar workshops for sisters and family soon, InshaAlah. It is very important to have Islamic knowledge and the main source of this is through the Holy Book – The Quran and by following the Sunnah of our Beloved Prophet, Muhammed, *Sallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam*. The Women chapters are busy with the Quran classes and Halaqas. Contact your chapter for the schedules of Quran classes and the halaqas. It is never too late to learn. *Rabbi Zidni Ilma*.

Richmond Women's Chapter welcomed the Hujjaj with a delicious lunch. It is always inspiring to hear the Hujjaj talk about their Hajj experience. We were also blessed to have Sr. Habibah Gamiet with us for lunch. We thank the Richmond sisters for their generous and kind gesture.

We are planning for a Youth Camp in spring. The Women's Council is encouraging youth, years 12 – 18 to become involved with their chapters. They can volunteer in the Mosque and the hours can be accredited to their high school curriculum. Stay tuned for further progress on the Camp.

The Social services group is planning weekly visits to Care/Nursing Homes to provide support to our elderly and sick. It is the duty of the Muslims to visit the sick and elderly and we need volunteers to join this team.

All the chapters are involved in the fundraising for their own masjid through Friday bake sale, bazaar. They always need help from other sisters, so please call the chapters and get involved. Burnaby Women's Chapter is holding a Fundraising Dinner on March 19th at the Masjid Al Salaam. Tickets can be purchased through the Directors.

We encourage sisters and girl youth to become members and get involved within your chapters. There is no good time to join because you may not get another chance. Allah gives opportunity to everyone for doing good deeds and if you do not grasp that opportune time, He passes that on to someone else. Please do come forward and help yourself and your community. Thank you.

Tazul Ali, Chair – Board of Women's Affairs.

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New Year, a time of reflection and self reformation

It is 1432 Hijri year, and 2011 According to Gregorian calendar, it means another year has passed by and we have welcomed a new year. Allah SWT has blessed us with another year to live. But have we thought that we have grown older by one more year. Some of us have become 30 years old, some 40 and some 50 and on. Our life span has been shortened, drawing us closer to our death and final destination. None of us have any control over our mortal life, nor do we know how much time do we have remaining in our life span, a few years, months, weeks or even may be a few days. Allah knows the best. He SWT says in the Hoy Quran: "when the appointed time reach people, neither can they delay it nor advance it an hour." (A'raf/34) if this is what we believe in? Should we not then be more serious than before about our life? Should we not be extra vigilant about the usage of our time and performance of good deeds? Prophet PBUH said, "Allah SWT does not accept any excuse from a person who has been blessed with 60 years of life to live". (Musnad Ahmed) So let's adopt an agenda for this New Year. Let's make some changes in our life. Let's commit our selves to make this year very productive, positive, and prosperous Insha Allah. Here are a few suggestions, some goals and objectives for 1432 and an agenda for 2011

Religious life:

1. Do not miss regular prayers even if it may seem burdensome. "The first question a believer will be asked on the day of judgment is about his prayer, if it is sound the rest of the reckoning would be easy".(Hadith- Narrated by Nasa'i)
2. Don't forget to say 3 times Astagfirullah and recite 33 times Subhanallah, 33 times Al hamdulillah ,33 times Allahu Akbar and one time Laa'ilaha Illallahu wallahu akbar , as these words will exonerate your sins even if they are equal to the foam of the ocean.(Hadith-Narrated by Muslim)
3. Make every possible effort to perform jumu'aa prayer. It strengthens your bonds with your community. "The one who neglects it constantly incurs the wrath of Allah ,his heart will be sealed rendering one heedless".(Hadith-Narrated by Muslim)
4. Make a habit to seek forgiveness of Allah 100 times a day, prophet PBUH despite of being the chosen one, used to seek forgiveness of Allah 100 times a day(Hadith-Narrated by Muslim)
5. your earnings to support yourself and your family must be from halaal source of income, "as for the body nourished by unlawful source ,will not enter paradise".(Hadith-Narrated by Bayhaqi)
6. Reconnect your self with the book of Allah , recite daily at least one page of the Holy Quran with translation," as the recitation of the Quran will intercede on your behalf on the day of judgment".(Hadith-Narrated by Muslim)
7. Be scrupulous and avoid doubtful things in all walks of your life. "He who guards himself against doubtful things, keeps his religion and honor intact ".(Hadith –Narrated by Bokhari)
8. Refine your character and behavior. "It is the sign of perfection of your faith" (Hadith-Narrated by Tirmidi) in addition, people will judge you according to your character.
9. When you open your eyes in morning, thank God for another day of life to worship, to work, to enjoy and to share, remember there are people in the world who were not fortunate to experience another day of life.
10. Last but not least, practice your religion because you love Allah SWT and his prophet PBUH and that you appreciate your religious values not as mere rituals.

Family life:

1. Family is a divine gift and one of the God's masterpieces, so be grateful for this gift.
2. Know your role and responsibilities in your family and carry them out "as each one of us is responsible for certain obligations and would be questioned about them on the day of judgment".(Hadith-Narrated by Bokhari)
3. Express your love, care and kindness to them, don't delay it for another time, as you may not have the second chance to do so. prophet PBUH said, "if a believer has sincere love for his brother, he should inform him about it" .(Hadith- Narrated by Abu Daud)
4. Always show your appreciation for their help, support and kindness, never belittle it or neglect it. "A person who can not appreciate kindness of a human ,certainly can not acknowledge the favors of God".(Hadith-Narrated by Musnad Ahmed)
5. Be extra kind and caring to your parents because their favors to you are priceless and everlasting. Ibn Abbas RA said, "A believer, when he is kind to his parents ,Allah opens two doors of paradise for him and if he mistreats them, Allah opens two doors of hell".(tanbihul Gafilin)
6. Stay in touch with your relatives and friends. You should know that maintaining the kinship is highly rewarded when you remember people even though they have severed their ties with you (or forgotten you)(Hadith-Narrated by Bokhari)
7. Spend on a regular basis some quality time with your spouse and children, or else they will feel ignored. Remember that they are the first source of comfort for you when you fall ill, it is neither your job npr your wealth, also conduct educational sessions every day at home even if is for 15 minutes and share with them the biography of prophet Muhammad PBUH. As it will have immense effect on nurturing good personality. "No parents have ever given any gift to their children better than good manners".(Hadith-Narrated by Tirmidi)
8. Don't remind your partner with his/her past mistakes, none of us are perfect, prophet PBUH said, "should you become eager to mention another's faults, recall your own"(Hadith -Ar Rafi'i)
9. You don't have to win every argument, because your words are neither divine nor prophetic. Imam Abu Hanifah RA said, "I think of my opinion as correct with the possibility of being wrong and the opinion of my opponent as wrong with the possibility of being correct".
10. Last but not least, if you strive to be the best for your family, then indeed you are the best of people as prophet PBUH was the best of all people to his family.(Hadith-Narrated by Tirmidhi)

Social life:

1. Every human being is part of a society where he/she resides, thus your society has right over you.
2. Fulfill your obligations towards your neighbors, co workers and other members of your society. "If a believer dies neglecting the physical and economical wellbeing of his neighbor, then it is the sign of imperfect faith".(Hadith-Narrated by Tabarani)
3. Take part in volunteerism to enhance the good values of your society. our religion does not stop us from being kind and contributive to our societies if they do not infringe our religious freedom(Quran:Mumtahinah/8)
4. Living in the west, cease every opportunity to educate people about who you are as Muslim and what Islam is all about .this will eliminate misunderstanding from their minds about your religion. In the current time of islamophobia, this considers as a great form of Da'wah.
5. As a good citizen, Play active and positive role in political economical and judicial system of your country but keep the door open for constructive criticism when you see things going wrong.
6. It is said "justice is blind" Be the embodiment of this great saying and speak out against oppression even if it is against yourself, your family or friends .this is the teaching of Islam (Quran:Nisa/135)
7. Life is to short to waste time hating any one, cherish goodwill towards all people. Remember Islam is about wishing well for people "Ad deenu An Naseeha".(Hadith-Narrated by Muslim)
8. It won't hurt you if you smile even if you are not in the mood. So smile dealing with people. this will adorn your personality, and "this is also an act of charity in Islam".(Hadith-Narrated by Muslim)
9. No matter how many times people have hurt your feelings, let it go and forgive them if you want to be an exemplar. After all, "Do you not want Allah SWT to forgive you?(Quran: Noor/22)
10. Last not but least. The crux of the matter in Islam is to be sincere to your Lord and have love and compassion for his creation. Prophet PBUH said, "have mercy on people of the earth and the one who is in the heavens will shower his mercy on you".(Hadith-Narrated by Musnad Ahmed)

I wish you lots of success and abundant prosperity in your life. May Allah grant you his pleasure. Ameen

Mufti Shujath Ali, Vancouver Masjid

BC Muslim Association- Licensed Funeral Home

The Association has been recognised and registered under the Consumer Protection B.C. to operate a funeral home. It is indeed an honour to have the only Sunni-Muslim funeral home based in British Columbia and serving the entire Muslim community. The Association is privileged to adhere the compliance of (BPCPA) and able to provide funeral services according to the Islamic Shariah.

The ⁶operational of funeral service is based in Richmond Complex and services for funeral/burial are provided from Richmond Jamea Masjid, Masjid Al-Salaam and Surrey Jamea Masjid.

At present, the Association has invested in total of 9,000 burial plots at Ocean View Memorial Park, Victory Memorial Services, Vedder View Garden, Cedar Valley Memorial Garden, Lakeview Memorial Gardens and Royal Oka Burial Park.

The Association currently has a licensed Funeral Director as per the requirement by the Business Practices and Consumer Protection Authority (BPCPA). Br. Mohammed Imraz Asin has successfully completed two year program with qualification of Embalmer and Funeral Director and was also awarded with the Jurisprudence Award for highest academic performance in funeral law studies. Congratulations to Br Imraz Asin

It is with great sadness that we inform you that Br. Abu Bakr and Dr Mohammed Saleh have passed away. Both brothers played a key role in BC Muslim Association. They volunteered their time, effort and passed on their knowledge for many years and will be greatly missed.

We pray to Almighty Allah (S.W.T) for his mercy, to forgive all their sins and reward them with the best place in paradise, and to give patience to the family, Ameen.



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We're on the Web!
Visit us at:
www.thebcma.com

Upcoming Events

Jan 16th BCMA Youth Seminar
Richmond Masjid
Contact: Imtiaz Asin
604-270-2522

February 5th BCMA Vancouver Masjid
Fundraising Dinner
Contact- Shariff Mohammed
604-873-1787

February 5th BCMA Burnaby Masjid
Fundraising Dinner
Contact- Daud Ali
604-524-4499

February 12th BCMA Preschool Dinner
Contact – Ali Haider
604-270-2522

February 20rd BCMA Treasurers Seminar
Contact- Fareed Raza
604-270-2522

New Hires/ Appointments

Mufti Aasim Rashid
Appointed as Director of Religion and Islamic
Education
604-270-2522

Fahim Khan
Appointed Imam Masjid Rahmah
604-597-7863

Imraz Asin
Appointed as Director of Funeral Services
604-270-2522

Communications Board

InshaAllah, the Board of Communication will make every effort to publish regular newsletters in this simple format, to keep the Jamaat informed of the activities of the association.

BCMA – Executive Board 2009-2011

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The Board welcomes input and contributions of articles from branches, chapters and individual members that will contribute information of interest to the general membership of the association.

Disclaimer

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