

The Prophet MPBUH stated, "The similitude of the five (obligatory) prayers is like a river running at the door of one of you in which he takes a bath five times a day."

### **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **Weekly Quran Lecture**

**Time: Every Friday  
Maghreb to Isha**

**Lecturer: Imam  
Wissam Abdul Baki**

#### **JUMAH**

**Time: 12:30 pm**

## **VISITATION TO OUR MASJID**

*Not many people are aware that a large number of local students and teachers from schools and colleges visit our masjid and the center on regular basis. In some ways, in our community, this has been probably one of the main modes of spreading the message of Islam to the general community. They usually visit during morning time and/or Juma'h. They come to see our masjid, meet the Imam and the Muslims, for most of them probably the first time in their lives. Alhumdulillah, these visits are going well. But they need better organization. We*

*need to identify a few brothers and sisters who could be there when the visitors are there. They can arrange the space, show them the facility and help with light refreshment, if they are served. They may also help the Imam to communicate with the group(s) before and after the visit.*

*We also need to outreach educational institutions (the ones that might not be either aware of our presence or have not visited the center), offices and businesses. I am sure many of those institutions would like to*

*make the trip. For example, recently we hosted the business meeting of the Western Mass Refugee Commission, at their request. It was very successful event with a large number of people who had either limited or no knowledge or exposure to our center or the Islam in general.*

*This is very important work for multiple reasons. We are looking for dedicated brothers and sisters who could help in this effort.*

*Please contact the Imam or any board member if you could help with your time and effort. .*

## **Funeral Arrangements at ISWM**

Recently, we had a community meeting to discuss the status of funeral arrangements at ISWM.

About 30 brothers and sisters were present in the meeting. In this first meeting, we heard everybody's concerns and gathered and shared ideas. The following were the main points where a consensus was reached:

A: Organize a set of at least two teams of brothers and sisters who would be available to take care of all aspects of a funeral.

B: Design a proper chain of

commands and/or communication within these groups and for the society in general.

C: Provide information on our website for contacting the society, the services that are available and the manner they are provided.

D: Organize educational programs for brothers and sisters on regular basis to learn Islamic etiquettes after a death, body preparation, prayers and the funeral.

E: Improve and organize the physical aspect of body washing and shrouding.

F: Maintain and further develop relationship with the local Funeral Homes that are willing to serve our needs.

G: It was also agreed upon that we need a piece of land for our local cemetery. Within our budget, we have been looking for an appropriate place for many years. We just need to put more effort and possibly more resources.

Please contact any board member or the Imam if you like to volunteer in any part of this effort. May Allah SWT accept the efforts of brothers and sisters who have been doing this for many years and would continue to do so. Ameen.

# Pioneer Valley Project

## IQRA ACADEMY K-12

**Principal:**  
Nadeem Sikander M. Ed.

**Current Enrollment:** 60  
**Staff:** 15 Teachers

### **Our Academy offers:**

- ..Kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade
- ..Quality secular education
- ..Islamic environment
- ..Islamic studies, Quran and Arabic language
- ..Superior atmosphere of learning
- ..Physical education classes

**Registration:** Open for 2014-15 school year

Please call to setup appointment for a visit at 413-642-4499 or send an email at [principal@iqra-academy.org](mailto:principal@iqra-academy.org)

We look forward to meeting with you and discuss the plans for your child's education.

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL

**In-charge:** Br. Marwan Al-Masri and Sister

**Staff:** Many dedicated and hardworking brothers and sisters.

**Students:** Children of ages 5 and up.

**Time:** 10:30 AM Sharp.

**Contact** for further info:  
[iswmsundayschool@gmail.com](mailto:iswmsundayschool@gmail.com)

As you might know, we are involved in this social welfare project for about a year. Recently, we had a key organizational meeting in which three designated committees came back, after being involved with research work for many weeks, and provided their recommendations to move forward. Following are the main recommendations to move this effort forward:

A: The School Committee: 1. Restart and refund Teacher Home Visit program, 2. Establish a Cultural Sensitivity educational program for teachers and staff, and 3. Implement Restorative Justice program to reduce suspension rate.

B: The Law & Order Committee: Establish a Drug Court in Springfield to minimize discriminatory punishment for many drug

## **Some Other News**

### Health

We are in touch with some local Behavioral Health practitioners who have requested to visit our center. This is mainly due to a large influx of Muslim refugees from war-torn countries and their potential behavioral health needs. Appropriate contacts and trustworthy relations with a set of practitioners can help our community and the professionals trying to help them.

### Immigration

President Obama recently took an executive action to help many undocumented citizens with their immigration status. We recently hosted an evening with Attorney M. Riaz Musani, an immigration attorney. You may contact Attorney Musani at 860-904-9545 for any questions about your particular immigration status and situation. Local Catholic Charities also provide some help to people with no immigration papers.

Sister Crystal Mengele has taken the lead to establish a recycling program in our facility. You may see containers with different labels at different places. This is an effort to make ISWM environmentally friendly. It is doable if we review our habits and minimize use of

non-recyclable items; separate recyclable items and put them in appropriate containers. Some important elements of this effort, such as the use of Styrofoam containers for lunch, have been discussed in the board many times. We always try to balance the material and environmental cost of

effect on many of our own members living in the city of Springfield and beyond.

We are one of the 13 groups of local religious and civil organizations taking part in this effort. This is also an excellent opportunity for anybody to learn this type of social work but also to make contacts and connections with many local people and officials. Please contact any board member if you like to take part in any of this effort.

### Rabi ul Awaal Program

Date: January 10, 2015

Time: 4-7 PM

Subject: The Prophet MPBUH

Nature: Community education

Food: Potluck dinner

Who is invited: All community members

## **ISWM and Recycling**

each initiative. Any suggestion to improve our ability to minimize use of non-recyclable material, in a cost-effective manner, and lower our overall negative impact on the environment is welcome.

Please help Sr. Mengele in this noble effort. You may also contact Brother Sufu Hashim for any question in this matter.