

SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:

- This year's camp ran five weeks instead of the usual four.
- Each week had specific themes.
- Our camp size ranged from 45 children in the first week to 105 in the second.
- Every Thursday was our field trip days.

INSIDE  
THIS ISSUE:

Welcome address	2
Week 1	3
Week 2	4
Week 3	5
Week 4	6
Week 5	7
IIT Information	8

# Final Newsletter

## July 2009

FINAL NEWSLETTER



JULY 2009

## Camping out at the IIT



All praise is to the Almighty who has given us the ability to love and learn from those around us. When I started this year as the principal of the IIT camp it was with the knowledge that 11 years of tradition was already laid down.

Since the beginning, I was struck by how superb the full time staff at the IIT was and how wonderful our counselors and assistant counselors proved to be.

As a team, the planning and running of the camp took place. As the principal I had the experience of previous staff to draw upon and the imagination of the new staff to continue with.

Each of our counselors and assistant counselors put in hours of preparation and went well beyond their expected roles. Not only did they assist each other with a

variety of activities but filled in seamlessly whenever and wherever possible. All of this was

done with high spirits and "Alhamdulillah" on their lips.

This of course would not have been as easily done if it wasn't for our volunteers. I would be amiss if I didn't acknowledge their dedicated work. Their sense of responsibility and their ability to adapt to changing duties was truly remarkable. Allah is truly the one who gives, and without our volunteers we would have been in a difficult place!

I would also like to thank all of the parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and friends who made it possible for the children to attend this camp. Together we are continuing to build a com-

munity.

Finally I want to recognize the very people for whom this camp is run. The number of smiles, hugs, stories, jokes, and "work" that were shared was amazing, *SubhanAllah*. Every week we had some returning people and new faces that would join us. Everyone did a phenomenal job of cooperating, sharing, and giving of themselves. By the end of each week you could witness how each group became part of a wider community.

Thank you to all who made this job go from "work" to something so much more! I pray that Allah accepts all of our effort and help to continue the legacy of IIT summer day camp.

~ Sr. Rownak Chowdhury ~



# Br. Aamir on our acCAMPlishments!



**IIT Day Camp Staff:**

Rownak Chowdhury—  
Principal

Aamir Zaid—Administrator

**Counselors:**

Kamil Abdullah  
Amina Allalou  
Sana Ansari  
Alyia Chan  
Mina-As-Saadia Effendi  
Abdullahi Hassan  
Saajida Khadim

**Assistant Counselors:**

Soumia Allalou  
Asiyyah Ally  
Shehtaj Bhura  
Hiba Gouse  
Saaliha Khadim  
Farheena Khan  
Alisha Ullah

**Volunteers:**

Raza Akhter  
Rumaysah Alloulou  
Farhan Mohammed  
Aamir Jawaid  
Hasan Rahman  
Asad Khan  
Aisha Tumsek  
Amirah Ullah

By the endless mercy of Allah this camp has been such an enriching experience—not just for the campers, but for myself too. After five entire weeks of so much fun and learning, one might think that I would have a lot to say, but *subhanallah* it seems that I'm at a loss for words.

Being this year's administrator, I thought that I would have been locked up in the office, having very little to do with the kids... yeah, right! I can hardly count the number of times the kids grabbed my hand and pulled

me right into the middle of their fun—and to see their smiles as they laughed and learned was enough to bring tears to the eyes. This camp is one of the countless favours of Allah—and we will never be able to thank Him enough for providing us with such a fulfilling program.

Of course, after thanking Allah, it needs to be said that without the help of all of our patient, dedicated, and responsible staff and volunteers, none of this could have been made possible. And how can I leave

out the parents? On top of being so lenient and cooperative with us, we even had a few parents who rolled up their sleeves and helped us tremendously. I thank you all—may Allah reward you for all of the good that you have done.

Really and truly, after seeing how much each and every one of us has grown since we first stepped through the front doors of the IIT, I feel that there is nothing that can be said other than *alhamdulillah!*

~ Br. Aamir Zaid ~



# Week 1: Exploring Allah's Creations

The first week of July was the beginning of camp. Administrators, counselors, assistant counselors, volunteers, and the children came in ready to start their summer! Enough of school many said. "I'm ready to have some fun!"

Many of the activities centered around the many blessings of Allah around us. All of us and everything surrounding us came to be because Allah deemed it so. The activities, arts and crafts, recreation, guest speakers, and even our field trip to the Ontario Science Centre was focused on our theme.

All in all, the first week was a roaring success, *Alhamdulillah!*



Camper's waiting for the field trip to begin.



"My favourite game [at the Science Centre] was doing the balls!" ~ Yaseen, age 5



"I saw the planets at the Science Centre!" ~ Maha, age 5



"I liked it, the island [during arts & crafts]!" ~ Halima, group 1



"I liked it when Br. Aamir jumped over the tables." (In reference to the Parkour demonstration)  
~ Ammar, age 6



"I like the Merry-go-round in Ontario Place."

I didn't like the Freefall, it made my head hurt"

~ Zayd, age 6

## Week 2: Use it before you lose it!

Week two of the Islamic Institute of Toronto's 12th annual camp flew by in a flurry of activities. Our theme for the week was "Use it before you lose it".

The entire week we focused on the blessings Allah has given us in our bodies. Just like any other valuable we have, this too we must take care of. The importance of healthy eating and exercise were a major compo-

nent to all of the weeks activities.

Breakfast is one of the most important meals of the day. On the morning of Tuesday, July 7, the IIT provided breakfast/brunch for everyone. We also had a presentation on *Parkour* to show different ways to keep fit.

We didn't stop there, the importance of healthy souls and

minds were also looked at. Islamic studies and guest presenters centered on issues surrounding proper thoughts, action, and behaviours. This was done on two levels: for ourselves and for others.

Thursday, July 9 was our trip to Ontario Place. The weather was perfect for a trip like this, Alhamdulillah. The children had play-all-day passes and got to go on many rides.



"Sr. Eiman's stories are very creative and they made me laugh!" ~ Saleem Ullah, age 10

# Week 3: Planting the seeds for the Hereafter



Campers working a team task.

The third week of the day camp went by in the usual fun and fast fashion. The theme of the week was "Planting the seeds for the hereafter". Our focus was the deeds of today that will have an effect on our lives in the hereafter.

Shaikh Abdool Hamid came in and conducted Islamic Studies with some of the campers. We also had two Chinese-Canadian Wu Shu

masters come in and teach the children the ancient art of Wu Shu (formerly known as Kung Fu). By the end of their time with the Masters, the children had learned a Wu Shu routine that everyone agreed was "super cool".

Our trip to the Toronto Zoo got us back in touch with many of Allah's creations, both

big and small. It was amazing to see the diversity of creation and the wondrous lives that these animals live.



*"Wu Shu is fun!  
And we learned a lot like [the] Hammerfish"*

*~ Abid Li,  
age 8)*



*"I liked the trip to the zoo. My favourite part is when I saw the tigers."  
~ Suhaa Sheikh,  
age 9*



*"What I like the most is Salat time in the gym because you get a lot of rewards for praying to Allah." ~ Mouhamed Kernane, age 9)*





"From Br.Jawad's presentation I learned that we can help the media by making good choices." ~ Misbah Nasir, age 12

"I learned that we should never have too much pride because even though the Prophet Sulaiman (AS) had many powers, he was never arrogant about it." ~ Amina Bangura, age 10

## Week 4: Living the Message

Week Four was spent "Living the Message". Islam is not a religion but a way of life. The everyday ways of applying our deen was practiced.

Shaikh Abdool Hamid, Sr. Eiman Khalifa, and Br. Jawad Jafry all came in to facilitate learning in Islamic studies, stories, and media presentations.

Wednesday, July 22 was pajama

day. Children came wearing their PJs and carrying their pillows and blankets. At lunch time they each got their own individualized cupcakes, and in the afternoon they got to munch on popcorn while watching, "Horton hears a Who".

Thursday, July 24 was our trip to Casa Loma. The older campers got to

room around the building on a self guided tour. The younger campers got to search the premises with a tour guide and help Lady Mary find her 10 pieces of jewelry.

In retrospect, week four went by just as quickly as the previous 3 weeks, full of fun, learning, and laughter, *Alhamdulillah*.



"All of the trips were very fun and exciting, I especially enjoyed Casa Loma." ~Riaz Ulla, age 13

Group 4 & 5 In the tower in Casa Loma.

# Week 5: Fasting but not Furious

The final week of the IIT day camp focused on the five pillars of Islam, in particular fasting. With Ramadan fast approaching us it is important to stop and really learn about this holy month.

Shaikh Abdool Hamid came in to conduct sessions with our campers around the theme. Sr. Aminah Khan came to show us

how to make bouncy balls and

ice cream with everyday household items.

Tuesday was our International day.

Campers and counselors attended wearing their traditional ethnic clothes and help us celebrate our diversity. They also brought in a multitude of foods for all of us to share.

Instead of going on a trip this week, we stayed in and had a big IIT event. Everything from a Wall-E jumping castle, BBQ,

indoor & outdoor games, to Jungle Cat World was on premises to make this day memorable, *Alhamdulillah*.

The final Friday was be our Grand Finale presentation after Jumah. Parents, former, campers, and family members came out to witness all of the talents our children have.

All in all, the finally week of the camp went off with a bang!



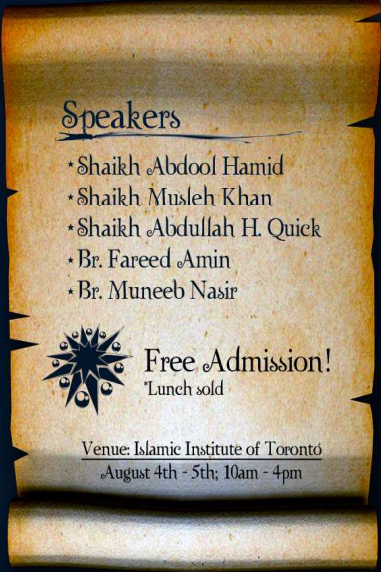

# Upcoming Events at the IIT

The Islamic Institute of Toronto offers many events throughout the year. We have planned a comprehensive program for Ramadan. It all begins with our pre-Ramadan dinner, followed by lectures & iftars every Saturday during Ramadan, concluding with Eid prayer and the Eid carnival & bazaar. Further details can be found on the IIT website.

## Upcoming events:

- Pre-Ramadan dinner: Sun. Aug. 16  
— details to be announced
- Lecture and Iftar program every Saturday—please check the website for timings.
- Taraweeh every night
- Khatam-ul-quran program
- Qiyam-ul-layl in the last 10 nights
- Eid-ul-fitr prayer: Sun. Sep. 20, 9:00 am
- Eid Carnival & bazaar: Sun. Sep. 27, 12:00—4:00 pm

## faithinaction



Speakers

- Shaikh Abdool Hamid
- Shaikh Musleh Khan
- Shaikh Abdullah H. Quick
- Br. Fareed Amin
- Br. Muneeb Nasir

Free Admission!  
\*Lunch sold

Venue: Islamic Institute of Toronto  
August 4th - 5th; 10am - 4pm

Register today at [Islam.ca](http://Islam.ca)

Islamic Institute of Toronto - 1630 Neilson Road, Scarborough, ON, M1X 1S3. [www.islam.ca](http://www.islam.ca)



## ISLAMIC INSTITUTE OF TORONTO 12TH ANNUAL SUMMER DAY CAMP

This project is funded by  
the Government of Canada.



1630 Neilson Road  
Scarborough, ON  
M1X 1S3

Phone: 416-335-9173

Fax: 416-335-9208

E-mail: [Info@Islam.ca](mailto:Info@Islam.ca)

The Islamic Institute of Toronto is a non-profit, federally registered, educational institution.

The Institute was established in 1996 to:

- Strengthen access to Islamic education
- Promote scholarly research
- Facilitate community outreach and interaction with other religious organizations and community groups
- Consolidate the social fabric of the Community
- Sustain Islamic work by encouraging and building endowments

The IIT's mission is to nurture and establish Islam as a living reality in the lives of Muslims and to enhance the Islamic identity in society at large.

