



Parent notes for the Islam Rotation  
Grades 2-5

Thank you, Leslie Ryan, for your assistance during the Islam Rotation!

Thank you to our teachers: James Bennett, Phyllis Higley, Emily Cameron-Shattil and Kim Beyer-Nelson

October 24: Kids got a basic overview of the history of Islam. Our library has several very good DVDs about Islamic history. Karen Armstrong's book "Muhammad" is also a good read if you want more information.

October 31: Founder's Tale: We watched a DVD that covered the major events in the life of Muhammad and the schisms that occurred in the religion very shortly after his death.

November 14: Rites of Passage: The children learned about Islamic weddings and funerals, and we worked with henna, a decorative herbal paste that makes a long-lasting tattoo!

November 21: How to be a good neighbor: We learned about food restrictions, fasts and how the dads are usually heads of households in Islamic society. Phyllis used a neat tool: have the kids self-select about five pieces of differently colored candy. When they have returned to their seats, tell them that they may not eat a certain color (for instance, all the green candies). When they ask why, explain that for some people, their traditions do not allow the eating of some kinds of food. Let it lead to a discussion about how "what's yummy" is something we learn from parents, our society and our religious traditions.