Greetings Parents,

Parent-coffee sessions are monthly meetings with Sawsan to discuss topics related to Early Years children and their learning and development. Our first Parent Coffee of the year is on Friday, October 16 at 8:15-9:15 in the Lower School Auditorium. You all know that the EY program at ACS is very unique, but what makes it special? We will delve deep into the program and its various components. I will share with you examples from the classrooms and together discuss and share strategies and tips you can use with your children at home.

This is a gentle reminder for all parents whose children do not ride the bus. Please wait for your child at the gate and not at the classroom door at dismissal time. We want to ensure a smooth closure of the day and your cooperation in this regard is highly appreciated. If you, for a certain reason, want to pick up your child before 1:30, please go to the lower school office where Ms. Nour Domloje contacts your child’s teachers and gives you a pass to hand to the guards at the entrance.

Inquiry is an inherent tendency in young children and they exhibit it as they explore their world and try to make sense of everything around them. Here’s a short excerpt on scientific inquiry.

**Scientific Inquiry among the Preschool Set** By SINDYA N. BHANOO Published: October 1, 2012

When engaged in what looks like child’s play, preschoolers are actually behaving like scientists, according to a new report in the journal *Science*: forming hypotheses, running experiments, calculating probabilities and deciphering causal relationships about the world.

The report’s author, Alison Gopnik, a psychologist at the University of California, Berkeley, says she based it on more than 10 years’ worth of research and studies, including some of her own.

In one study, for example, an experimenter performed five different sequences of three actions each, as a 4-year-old looked on. The sequences would either activate a toy or fail to activate it.

When the children were given the toy, they often performed only the actions required to activate it. They were able to eliminate the unnecessary actions by observation.

Other studies have found that when children are simply taught, they don’t explore and test multiple hypotheses, Dr. Gopnik said, adding: “There’s a lot of pressure
from parents and policy makers to make preschools more and more like schools. This research suggests the opposite.”

In another study, an experimenter held a toy that had four tubes. Each tube did something different — for instance, one lit up and one made a squeaking sound.

In one case, the experimenter accidentally made the toy squeak by bumping into it and then left the room. The children experimented with the toy and figured out the three other features. But when the experimenter made the toy squeak on purpose and then handed it to a child, he or she simply repeated what the experimenter did and never explored the toy’s other features.

“If we want to have great scientists, letting preschoolers explore, play and do pretend play exercises the capacities for doing science,” Dr. Gopnik said. “Not so much the flash cards and the Baby Einstein videos.”

Respectfully,
Sawsan Yaseen
Early Years Principal

**Upcoming Events & Dates to Remember:**

- Oct. 6  Town Hall Meeting with Mr. Clark in the Upper School Auditorium at 8:15 a.m.
- Oct. 14  Islamic New Year—tentative
- Oct. 16  EY Parent coffee Session in the Lower School Auditorium at 8:15 a.m.
- Oct. 23  Ashoura—tentative
- Oct. 29  PD day—Early Dismissal at 1:00
- Oct. 30  Halloween Celebration