

# Miami Muslim children enter public school

By Hakim A. Salahuddin  
(Special to Bilalian News)

MIAMI — "The bigger the mind grows, the lighter it gets. The smaller it is, the heavier the burden is... there is nothing more worthy of your support than to give to the development of a human beings' mind." — The Honorable W.D. Muhammad (Bilalian News, Jan. 23, 1976).

On Feb. 6, 1976, Miami's Sister Clara Muhammad Elementary and Secondary School temporarily phased Muslim students into the public schools. The Nation of Islam's school is being re-developed and structured to rise up to the task of "making all things new."

With the school being re-developed to fit the requirements of a "model school" as defined by the Honorable W. D. Muhammad, members of the Muslim community in Miami were provided with a unique opportunity. By going back to the communities as examples, they could spearhead the job of remaking the world.

### A NEW EXPERIENCE

An immediate transition placing Muslim students in public schools took place.

Many of these children had never experienced anything but going to an Islamic-guided institution.

This situation may have caused moments of apprehension to both the children and the parents. Questions arose: — What type of things are they teaching in public schools? — Who are the teachers? —

— Will our children be given comparable quality at these public schools?

As these questions formed in the minds of some parents and students, there was little time for Minister Abdel Aziz of Muhammad Mosque No. 29 to contemplate their answers.

Min. Najji has 11 children of his own and most of them were involved in this shift. The Honorable W. D. Muhammad, teaches that a man wears many hats and plays many roles: likewise, for Bro. Najji — believer, father, minister, husband, and others.

Carrying a few responsibilities, he increased the speed of his stride. In late August, when the Brentwood Elementary School Parent-Teachers Association convenes, PTA President Abdel Najji will be chairing the sessions. He is enthusiastic about his new

responsibility which calls for him to head a body of multi-ethnic peoples.

"We don't have to be afraid of society. We can walk into any situation and take our place," he says. "The Honorable W.D. Muhammad has removed the fear and lifted many burdens. This provides us with an opportunity to be an example. In doing our job of remaking the world, most surely we will have to remake the community."

The PTA acts as a liaison to all those who are involved in the educational process. An efficient PTA will be valuable

in facilitating the task of providing a quality education for the children. The newly elected president says that the group can act as a preventive measure and help to avoid unnecessary problems.

"The PTA can be like eyes, to help with many problems other than curriculum," states the minister. Such areas as improving parental interest and participation, improvement of traffic safety, heightening community pride... will be on the agenda in the forthcoming year. The attitudes of the people are the same ones held by the

members of many communities.

"Their attitude is the same one that we maintained towards our schools at one time: 'They can handle it.'"

"There are 14 Muslim children at Brentwood Elementary. We are placed in our role now. Muslim parents are becoming involved and getting on some of the decision making boards of the school. Whatever the problem is that plagues the society, the Chief Minister can lead us to the answer. Those who are receptive will see the reward..."

## Muslim student

# Wins presidential speech contest

By James X  
and Mikal Amin

TUSKEGEE — Each year on the campus of the famed Tuskegee Institute, many students enter what is called "The President's Essay / Speech Contest." This contest is sponsored by the president of the institute to encourage student competition and thereby enhance their literary and oratorical skills.

This year more than 100 students entered the contest, along with a Muslim student,

Bro. Abdul Alim Ibn Bashir. The contestants were screened at the eliminations held early in the semester and soon the number of finalists was down to six — Bro. Bashir was among this six.

Then, on April 25, 1976 — a Sunday evening — in the beautiful Tuskegee Institute Chapel, the six finalists delivered their speeches before the judges, students, faculty members and Tuskegee Institute's President, Dr. Luthor Foster.

At the end of the program, which included the presentation of awards to outstanding students, the decision was read and Bro. Bashir emerged victorious, taking first place and receiving a cash prize of \$75.

Bro. Bashir is a graduate of the former Muhammad University of Islam in New York. He has been at Tuskegee Institute for two years, and has been elected to the "Institute Honor Roll" for the 1975 - 76 academic year.



## Calendar

### JULY

## of Events



July 24, 1976  
Committee Disco Seminar  
Muhammad Mosque No. 48  
7115 Forrest Ave.  
Dallas, Texas Information 214: 428-2075

July 24, 1976  
The New Bilalian Woman  
Dancing, Fashion and Drama  
Guest Speaker: Sis. Laila Mannan  
125th St. & Adam Clayton Powell Blvd.  
New York State Office Building  
New York City Information 690-1457

July 24, 1976  
Morris Civic Center  
Guest Speaker: Min. Abdul Haleem Farrakhan  
South Bend, Ind. Information 219: 288-1090

July 24, 1976  
Summer Banquet  
Special Guest  
Graterford Prison  
Graterford, Penn.

July 24, 1976  
Family Picnic and Dance  
J.C. Park and Milan Rd. 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Dance at Groto Hall on Campbell St.  
8 p.m. to 12 midnight  
Sandusky, Ohio; Information 419: 625-6878

July 24, 1976  
Bus Ride to  
War Pond Ridge Reservation  
Bus departs 8:30 a.m.  
From Mosque 7A, 102 W. 116th St., N.Y.C.

Mosque 7F 210 S. 2nd Ave.  
Mt. Vernon, N.Y., Information 914: 667-8052  
212: 798-3892



July 25, 1976  
The Hon. Wallace D. Muhammad  
Chief Minister of the Nation of Islam  
"Death: A Form of Life Process"  
The Hon. Elijah Mosque No. 2  
7351 S. Stony Island Ave.  
Chicago, Ill. Information 312-667-7200



July 28, 1976  
Pillsbury Company Vanguard Advertising Div.  
Guest Speaker: Min. Abdul Haleem Farrakhan  
15 South 9th St.  
Minneapolis, Minn. Information 612-338-5386

July 29, 1976  
Unity in the Community  
Awards Dinner  
Live entertainment  
Guest Speaker: Min. Kariem Abdel Aziz  
Robbins Community Center: 6p.m. to 9:30p.m.  
13800 Trumbull Ave.  
Robbins, Ill. Information 312: 388-9714

July 30— Aug. 3, 1976  
International Council on Education for Teachers  
World Assembly Thurston Hall  
George Washington University  
Washington, D.C.

July 31, 1976  
Family Activity and Unity Fun  
Bus departs from Mosque at 6:30 a.m.  
Hersey Park  
Richmond, Va. Information 804: 643-5087

July 31, 1976  
Singles Social  
Live Entertainment, dancing; refreshments  
Salaam Cultural Center  
8300 Cottage Grove Ave.  
Chicago, Ill., Information 312: 651-7600

July 31, 1976  
County Fair  
Athletic competition, mini bazaar,  
Talent show, moonlight dance  
Muhammad Mosque 15B Time: 11 a.m. to 12 midnight  
735 Fayetteville Rd. SE  
Atlanta, Ga., Information 404: 378-4219