



SOMALIA INTERNATIONAL

MAARIF

NOVEMBER 2025

SCHOOLS BULLETIN



Our Most Precious Treasure:
Our Children
Tahir EŞKİL

Folk Dances in Somalia
Abbas Mohamed ALİ

The Educational Values of
Turkish Maarif Foundation
Schools in Somalia
Mohamed Abdi MOHAMUD

My Pen Pal: An Intercultural
Language Learning Journey
Enes EYİBİL



TÜRKİYE MAARİF VAKFI
TURKISH MAARIF FOUNDATION

Valuing education



International Somalia Maarif Schools

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Selçuk BAŞ

Dear Readers,

It is with great honor that I greet you through the first issue of our magazine, published under the auspices of the Maarif Foundation in Somalia. This magazine serves as a guide, aiming to present our educational initiatives that build bridges between Somalia and Türkiye, showcase the achievements of our students, highlight the dedicated efforts of our teachers, and strengthen our cultural ties.

As the Türkiye Maarif Foundation, our educational activities in Somalia go beyond mere knowledge transfer; they embody a cultural exchange and a unity of values. We work with great responsibility and dedication to ensure access to knowledge in this region, inspire young minds, and provide them with a solid foundation for a secure future. On every page, you will find traces of these determined efforts.

In this magazine, we wanted to share not only the academic achievements of our students but also their artistic and cultural development. As the Maarif Foundation, we believe education is a multifaceted process, and as individuals discover their potential, society becomes stronger. Every new piece of knowledge our children acquire in our schools in Somalia and every project we implement heralds a bright future.

Moreover, the dedicated efforts of our teachers and the Somali community's interest in education are the cornerstones of this success. While our educational journey in Somalia brings many challenges, each challenge presents a new learning opportunity. We have adorned every moment of this journey with the sparkle in the eyes of our students and teachers and reflected it onto the pages of this magazine.

I hope this magazine serves as a source of inspiration for everyone who is part of the Somali Maarif Foundation family, enhances the sharing of knowledge, and further strengthens the bonds between Somalia and Türkiye. May it be a publication where you find inspiration from the stories of our teachers and students, gain a closer understanding of our projects, and discover pieces of our cultural richness on every page.

I wish you an enjoyable read of this first issue of our magazine and hope that we continue to raise the flag of Maarif's education and culture in Somalia.

Ülke Temsilcisi

Selçuk BAŞ

Sevgili Okurlar,

Somali'de Maarif Vakfı himayesinde yayımlanan dergimizin ilk sayısında sizlere hitap etmenin büyük bir onurunu yaşıyorum. Bu dergi; Somali ile Türkiye arasında köprüler kuran eğitim çalışmalarımızı tanıtmayı, öğrencilerimizin başarılarını sergilemeyi, öğretmenlerimizin özverili gayretlerini ön plana çıkarmayı ve kültürel bağlarımızı güçlendirmeyi amaçlayan bir rehber niteliğindedir.

Türkiye Maarif Vakfı olarak Somali'deki eğitim faaliyetlerimiz yalnızca bilgi aktarımını değil, aynı zamanda bir kültür alışverişini ve değerler birliğini temsil etmektedir. Bu coğrafyada bilgiye erişimi sağlamak, genç zihinlere ilham vermek ve onlara güvenli bir gelecek için sağlam bir temel sunmak adına büyük bir sorumluluk ve özveriyle çalışıyoruz. Dergimizin her sayfasında bu kararlı çabanın izlerini göreceksiniz.

Bu dergide, öğrencilerimizin yalnızca akademik başarılarını değil; aynı zamanda sanatsal ve kültürel gelişmelerini de paylaşmak istedik. Maarif Vakfı olarak eğitimin çok boyutlu bir süreç olduğuna inanıyoruz. Bireyler kendi potansiyellerini keşfettikçe toplum güçlenir. Somali'deki okullarımızda çocuklarımızın kazandığı her yeni bilgi ve hayata geçirilen her proje, aydınlık bir geleceğin müjdecisidir.

Ayrıca, öğretmenlerimizin özverili çalışmaları ve Somali halkının eğitime olan ilgisi bu başarının temel taşlarını oluşturmaktadır. Somali'deki eğitim yolculuğumuz birçok zorlukla karşılaşsa da her zorluk yeni bir öğrenme fırsatı sunmaktadır. Bu yolculuğun her anını, öğrencilerimizin ve öğretmenlerimizin gözlerindeki ışıltıyla süsledik ve bu ışığı dergimizin sayfalarına yansıttık.

Bu derginin, Somali Maarif Vakfı ailesinin bir parçası olan herkes için bir ilham kaynağı olmasını, bilgi paylaşımını artırmasını ve Somali ile Türkiye arasındaki bağları daha da güçlendirmesini temenni ediyorum. Öğretmenlerimizin ve öğrencilerimizin hikâyelerinden ilham alacağınız, projelerimizi yakından tanıyacağınız ve her sayfada kültürel zenginliğimizin bir parçasını keşfedeceğiniz bir yayın olmasını diliyorum.

Dergimizin bu ilk sayısını keyifle okumanızı diler, Maarifin eğitim ve kültür bayrağını Somali'de hep birlikte dalgalandırmaya devam etmeyi temenni ederim.

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OUR MOST PRECIOUS TREASURE: OUR CHILDREN



SOMALIA - 24/25 BANADIR CAMPUS SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Tahir EŞKİL

Human beings were created as the most honorable of all creatures on earth. Because of their dignity and value, prophets and scriptures were sent to them. The most precious treasure and wealth a person can have in this world is their children. We raise our children with the goal of making them both good human beings and righteous servants so that after we pass away, our record of deeds does not come to an end. The best legacy that parents can leave to their children is good manners and moral values. A child can sustain their life materially with the wealth inherited from their parents, but if they inherit good upbringing, they will be accepted in every environment they enter and spread peace around them. Therefore, as teachers and parents, our priority in life should be to instill good morals and awareness in our children. If we succeed in this, we will gift future generations that carry hope and morality for humanity.

The only truly powerful beings capable of developing and revitalizing the world and their homeland are well-educated, moral, conscientious, compassionate, and hardworking individuals. In this regard, both parents and schools bear a great and heavy responsibility. The weight of this duty requires us to work with even more dedication and effort. Our children are our most valuable treasure. Protecting this treasure and raising them as beneficial individuals for humanity is our primary duty.

Raising our children with good morals and striving to shape them into exemplary individuals is the most valuable of all efforts and endeavors. We must strive to educate them with knowledge, wisdom, and insight. Only when we provide these three elements together can our children truly understand reality. Truth is the essence of life and the color of reality. A student who learns this will carry a unique spirit and achieve success at every stage of life.

Knowledge is acquired through reading, wisdom through thinking, and insight through experience. Therefore, when educating our children, we must guide them to read, think, and apply what they learn, ensuring they receive the highest quality education. As the Turkish Maarif Foundation, we dedicate all our efforts to this purpose and carry out our work with these principles in mind. We must instill in our children the awareness and understanding of using their time wisely. The ability to enrich and construct time will give them a unique spirit, making it the most valuable legacy and gift we can offer them.

In this regard, Maarif Schools serve as exceptional centers of education, raising our children with morality, knowledge, and wisdom. Families contribute to the construction of our future by entrusting their children to safe and capable hands.

As a final word, we say: Your children are your most valuable treasure—protect your treasure.



A POET IN HADRA: MOHAMED IBRAHIM WARSAME

SOMALIA - 24/25 KM4 CAMPUS TURKISH LANGUAGE TEACHER

İbrahim Halil KAYA



Like all literature, Somali literature has also been shaped around the oral tradition. Oral literature and the rhetorical structures that developed within this framework have evolved and transformed over time, finding new forms under the influence of different melodies as they were passed from tongue to tongue. This, in a way, marks the evolution of literature's wandering spirit.

Neither the magical realism and fictional structure of Latin American literature nor the rhythmic and poetic voice of Turkish literature, embodied in the Orkhon Inscriptions, is independent of oral tradition. Every literature—especially poetry—has drawn from oral literature and has become the unique song of its society. This transformation resembles a traveler who, despite being born at home, sets out on a journey due to various obligations, searching for ways to reach the universal. As Ludwig Wittgenstein expressed, "The limits of our language are the limits of our world," emphasizing the quest for completeness in expression.

In this context, the transmission of oral literature from language to language and its ability to interact across cultures, integrating into different societies, can be attributed to the pursuit of universality.

One of the most famous poets of the Horn of Africa and Somalia's most renowned artist, Mohamed Ibrahim Warsame, is known by the pen name Hadrawi. Also referred to as "the Shakespeare of Somalia," Hadrawi passed away in 2022. Beyond his poetry, he was also a philosopher and intellectual who served his people as an epistemic artist through his philosophical writings.

In his poetry, he sought to address themes such as happiness, peace, and brotherhood within the context of divine love. Believing in the rhetorical power of poetry, he once stated: "The only weapon I carried with me was my poetry..."

Poetry is a weapon we use both in war and in peace. When we want to convey something to someone, the best way to persuade them is through poetry," said Hadrawi, emphasizing the communicative power of poetry. In his view, poetry is the emblem of brotherhood, the weapon of war, and the ultimate purpose of peace. The poet's perspective on art is, in fact, a continuation of his outlook on life, following the same trajectory.

Given that Somalia's social fabric is rooted in brotherhood and tolerance, it is no surprise that poets like Hadrawi have woven these themes and emotions into their artistic philosophy. Lastly, Hadrawi expanded his artistic and intellectual life through Somali literature, Yemen's oral tradition, and Djibouti's "Siinley Poetic Tradition." By merging poetic expression with an optimistic spirit, he became the Archimedean point of Somali poetry.





A TEACHER'S JOURNEY FROM MALI TO SOMALIA: BRIDGES FROM THE HEART OF AFRICA TO TURKEY

SOMALIA - CAMPUS TURKISH LANGUAGE TEACHER

İSMAIL ÜNAL



In October 2017, I embarked on the biggest adventure of my life. Thanks to the Turkish Maarif Foundation, I went to Bamako, Mali, at the heart of Africa, as a teacher. I was filled with a mix of emotions—excitement and anxiety—as I stepped into a foreign land for the first time. A different language, a different culture, unfamiliar people... Everything felt so strange! Especially the food. I encountered fruits, vegetables, and animals I had never seen before. At first, adapting was incredibly difficult.

In Mali, I taught Turkish to students from elementary to high school. Their eagerness to learn and sincerity motivated me despite all the challenges. Over time, I learned a lot from both my students and the land itself. I realized that differences are a source of richness and that life continues under all circumstances.

After six years, I moved to Somalia. Coming from Mali's hot and humid climate, Somalia's cooler, oxygen-rich air felt refreshing. Here, I encountered unique plant and animal species. Camels, in particular, seemed to be an inseparable part of the culture, present everywhere. My bond with my students formed much faster than in Mali. Many of them dreamed of studying at a university in Turkey and worked hard toward that goal. We did our best to support them on this journey.

In both Mali and Somalia, I not only taught my students Turkish but also tried to instill in them respect for different cultures, tolerance, and a more positive outlook on life. These experiences helped me grow both personally and professionally. I discovered the commonalities among people living in different geographies and cultures. Basic human needs and dreams are remarkably similar, which further strengthened my belief in human unity.

Thanks to the Turkish Maarif Foundation, I had the opportunity to meet people from all over the world. This experience has become an unforgettable memory for me. I hope to continue sharing my experiences with many more students and contribute to their future.





A NEW FLAVOR IN THE SOMALI KITCHEN: PURSLANE

SOMALIA - CAMPUS TURKISH LANGUAGE TEACHER

BURCU ÜNAL



Somalia Maarif Schools Girls' High School Turkish language teacher, while walking in the schoolyard, accidentally came across purslane and started tasting it.

Under the curious gazes of the students, the teacher explained what this plant was, quickly sparking excitement throughout the entire class about this new flavor.

What began as a spontaneous moment soon transformed into a lesson plan. The purslane collected from the garden with the students became a research topic. The students explored the characteristics of purslane, its nutritional value, and its uses in different cuisines.

Then, under the guidance of their teacher, the students learned the intricacies of preparing purslane with rice. The excitement of cooking a plant that naturally grew in nature and that they had gathered with their own hands brought big smiles to their faces.

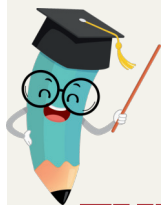


The prepared purslane dish was enjoyed by the entire class with great enthusiasm. This flavor, which they had never tasted before, appealed to the students' palates and sparked the idea that a new taste could be introduced to Somal cuisine.

This experience not only taught students how to prepare a new dish but also allowed them to enjoy being in touch with nature, exploring, and learning. This activity aims to raise awareness about the use of naturally growing plants in Somalia for culinary purposes.

Perhaps this small step will contribute to making Somali cuisine richer and more diverse. This experience for our students is not just about cooking a meal, but also about embracing local values and emphasizing the importance of sustainable nutrition.

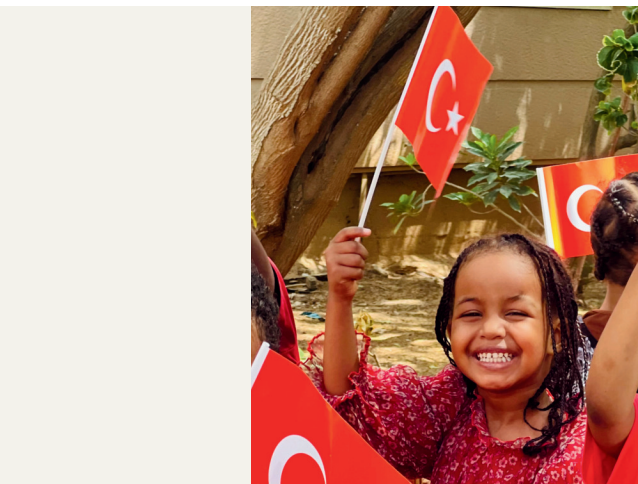
As a result, this unique experience at Somali Maarif Schools Girls' High School has the potential to introduce a new flavor to Somali cuisine. This fun activity once again reminded us of the importance of continuing to explore the riches that nature offers. As Somali Maarif School, we will continue organizing such activities that not only provide academic knowledge to our students but also contribute to their personal development.



THE EDUCATIONAL VALUES OF TURKISH MAARIF FOUNDATION SCHOOLS IN SOMALIA

SOMALIA - KM4 CAMPUS VICE PRINCIPAL

Mohamed Abdi Mohamud



It is assumed that education is only about acquiring knowledge and technical skills. Although this is partly true, there is an important aspect of education that is often overlooked, the values that it instills in us. As T. Roosevelt wisely said, "To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society." At the Turkish Maarif Foundation Schools in Somalia, we understand the impact that values have on shaping the character and integrity of our learners. It is for this reason that we commit to nurturing well-rounded individuals through an approach that blends universal values with a deep respect and appreciation for the local culture.

Our Curriculum is designed to equip our learners with virtues such as honesty, responsibility, tolerance, and justice- drawn from the Islamic teachings and universally recognized ethical principles and etiquette. We believe that our role as educators extends beyond academic achievement; that is why we have the integration of value-based learning at the heart of our educational philosophy. Through this, we aim to produce students who not

only excel academically but are also guided by the principles of empathy, fairness, and integrity which ensure they grow into individuals who can positively impact and contribute to the wellbeing of their communities and the world at large.

The TMF schools' pride themselves on providing an inclusive environment where all learners irrespective of their background have access to quality education. We are proud to have produced students who have a deep understanding of their own cultural and moral traditions. Our goal is to prepare our learners for the rapidly changing world while honoring the intricate values that have shaped their communities for generations.



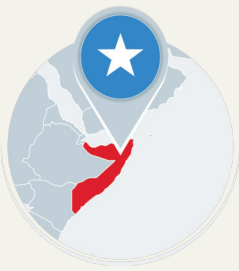
In this context, Students are taught to respect diversity, develop empathy, and work together towards shared goals fostering a sense of unity and belonging.

Our Schools in Somalia offer a comprehensive and modern educational experience. Equipped with state-of-the-art facilities including libraries, laboratories, and access to scholarship opportunities, we ensure that every student has the resources needed to excel. Our Curriculum which strikes a balance between local and global perspectives, inculcates critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills that are vital for success in an ever-changing world. With a focus on humanistic education, we ensure that our learners have the tools they need to navigate the complexities of the modern world.

Rooted in Türkiye's deep educational heritage, TMF schools continue the legacy of Anatolia's profound educational traditions. This dual focus on intellectual development and character-building sets high standards for both academic excellence and moral integrity.

The Turkish Maarif foundations' initiatives in Somalia are a testament to this mission bridging cultures and fostering friendship between the brotherly nations of Türkiye and Somalia. . Our Schools in Somalia are more than just places of learning; they are transformative spaces where knowledge is intertwined with character development and cultural heritage is united with global aspirations. With a strong emphasis on moral values, inclusivity, and academic excellence, these schools are shaping a generation that is grounded in wisdom, justice, and humanity. This is in line with our Foundation's motto "To raise good people for the goodness of the world."





FOLK DANCES IN SOMALIA

SOMALIA - KM4 CAMPUS VICE PRINCIPAL

Abbas Mohamed Ali

Folk dances hold a vital place in Somalia's cultural heritage, reflecting the country's rich traditions, history, and social values. Rooted in oral storytelling and vibrant community rituals, Somali folk dances are more than mere forms of entertainment; they are living symbols of identity, unity, and expression. These dances are typically performed during celebrations, ceremonies, and social gatherings, such as weddings, religious festivities, and cultural festivals.

The Role of Folk Dances in Somali Society: In Somali society, dance has historically been a medium for expressing communal joy, narrating stories, and celebrating significant life events. The dances often involve a blend of poetic recitations, rhythmic clapping, and synchronized movements. Traditional Somali music, featuring drums, flutes, and other instruments, provides the backdrop for these captivating performances. The rhythm and movements vary by region, reflecting the diverse lifestyles and cultural influences within the country.

Types of Somali Folk Dances:

1. Dhaanto: Perhaps the most well-known Somali folk dance, Dhaanto originates from the Somali pastoralist communities. It is characterized by energetic movements and rhythmic hand clapping, accompanied by poetic songs. The dance's origins are tied to imitating the galloping movements of horses and camels, symbolizing the deep connection of Somalis to their nomadic heritage. Dhaanto is performed in a circle or a line, with participants often dressed in traditional attire.



2. Jaandheer: Jaandheer is a slow, graceful dance often performed during weddings and other joyful gatherings. This dance emphasizes elegance and unity, with participants forming orderly lines and executing synchronized, sweeping movements. The dance is accompanied by melodic songs that convey messages of love, hope, or gratitude.

3. Wilisaqo: The Wilisaqo dance is a traditional Somali folk dance that showcases communal celebration, unity, and cultural pride. Often performed at special occasions like weddings, community gatherings, and festivals, the dance is characterized by rhythmic clapping, synchronized movements, and vibrant attire. The participants form a circle or line, moving gracefully to the beat of drums and melodic songs that often tell stories or celebrate Somali heritage. Wilisaqo reflects the importance of music and dance in preserving Somali traditions and fostering social bonds.





WHAT HAVE WE DONE THIS TERM?

Mevlid-i Nabi Week Event at Our KM4 Campus

As part of Mevlid-i Nabi Week, a presentation titled "Youth and Character Development in the Footsteps of Our Prophet" was delivered at our KM4 campus by Ömer Faruk Arslan, Religious Affairs Counselor at the Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye in Mogadishu.

Mr. Arslan emphasized the importance of the Prophet Muhammad's example in guiding youth toward personal and social responsibility, delivering inspiring messages to our students. At the end of the program, participants expressed their gratitude and engaged in fruitful discussions.

Our event was successfully completed in a manner that reflected the significance and spirit of the week.



Turkish Language Day Celebrated with Enthusiasm at Banadir Campus

At Banadir Campus, a vibrant Turkish Language Day program was held with the participation of school administration, teachers, and students. The event began with speeches emphasizing the importance of language in culture and identity.

Our students captivated hearts by reciting poems that reflected the beauty and richness of the Turkish language. The celebration continued with songs, allowing participants to once again feel the meaning and value of our language.

This special day, aimed at raising awareness about preserving and passing down the Turkish language to future generations, was celebrated with great excitement and joy.

Happy Turkish Language Day!

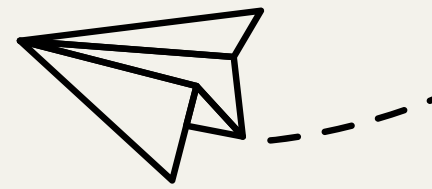


Excitement of the Elementary School Tournament at Banadir Campus

At Banadir Campus, a thrilling tug-of-war, running, and football tournament was held among our elementary school classes with great enthusiasm and excitement. Throughout the tournament, all students competed fiercely, showcasing their physical abilities while strengthening their team spirit.

The tug-of-war competition highlighted the students' endurance and teamwork, while the running races tested their speed and agility. In the football tournament, students not only demonstrated their skills but also supported each other in the spirit of fair play.





WHAT HAVE WE DONE THIS TERM?

Excitement of the Traditional Football Tournament at Banadir Campus

A traditional football tournament was organized for the elementary level at Banadir Campus. Throughout the tournament, students fiercely competed, showcasing their skills while fully enjoying the spirit of sports.

The championship team was awarded a trophy and medals in a special ceremony, creating a moment of great excitement.

We congratulate all our students who participated in the tournament and wish them continued success!



Somali Flag Day Celebrated with Enthusiasm at Banadir Campus

October 12th - Somali Flag Day was celebrated with great excitement and joy at the Banadir Campus kindergarten. Our little students learned about the flag as a symbol of unity and solidarity through activities designed to highlight the significance of the day.

During the program, children sang songs and danced in costumes decorated with the colors of the Somali flag. Additionally, they showcased their creativity through artwork and flag-themed activities, making this special day truly unforgettable.



CumhWe Celebrated Republic Day with Enthusiasm

October 29th - Republic Day was celebrated at our school with great joy and pride. The program began with meaningful activities prepared by our students. The poems and speeches dedicated to the 101st anniversary of our Republic once again reminded us of the significance of this great day.

Our students beautifully reflected the spirit of the Republic through their songs and stage performances. With the events organized at our school, we renewed our commitment to our past and strengthened our belief in the future.

We honor and remember with respect and gratitude Gazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of our Republic, and all the heroes who gifted us this great legacy.

Happy Republic Day!





WHAT HAVE WE DONE THIS TERM?

We Took Our Place at the Mogadishu Book Fair!

On November 7-8, 2024, we proudly participated in the 8th Mogadishu Book Fair as the Türkiye Maarif Foundation (TMV) schools operating in Somalia!

At our stand, we showcased the works prepared by our students, providing visitors with the opportunity to learn about our educational approach and projects. Through the unifying power of books, our students and teachers actively took part in activities that embodied the spirit of the fair.

We are delighted to have been part of this meaningful event and extend our gratitude to everyone who contributed!



Celebrating Success at Banadir Campus!

A joyous award ceremony was held at Banadir Campus to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our students. We honored all students who placed first, second, and third in various competitions, rewarding their dedication and hard work.

These achievements are a true reflection of our students' determination, diligence, and disciplined efforts. As they take steps toward their goals, we take great pride in standing by their side.

We are confident that they will accomplish even greater successes in the future! Congratulations to all our students—we wish them continued success. Here's to many more achievements together!



Tree Planting and Memory Corner at Banadir Campus

At Banadir Campus, we carried out a meaningful event with our students. By planting saplings in our garden, we not only contributed to nature but also created a lasting memory corner.

During the event, our students planted each sapling with their own hands, gaining environmental awareness and forming a stronger bond with nature. Additionally, with special plaques placed next to the saplings, each tree was transformed into a cherished memory. This memory corner will serve as a legacy for future generations, continuing to flourish on our campus for years to come.

Through this valuable initiative, we once again emphasized the importance of preserving nature and fostering a love for trees. We remain committed to nurturing a generation that grows up with a love for nature!





WHAT HAVE WE DONE THIS TERM?

Tree Planting Event at KM4 Campus

At KM4 Campus, we organized a meaningful tree-planting event with our students to contribute to nature and raise environmental awareness.

During the event, our students planted saplings, symbolizing hope for the future and reminding us of our responsibility toward nature. They experienced the joy of taking early steps toward a greener and healthier world.

While planting trees, discussions were held on the importance of environmental awareness, allowing students to gain valuable insights on preserving nature while enjoying a memorable experience.



A Special Event for Our Teachers

At Türkiye Maarif Foundation's KM4 Campus, we organized a meaningful and joyful event for our esteemed teachers. This special gathering, held in honor of Teachers' Day, was a token of appreciation for their dedication and hard work.

The program began with a warm and welcoming meal, where our teachers had the opportunity to come together, engage in heartfelt conversations, and create beautiful memories.

Following the meal, a ceremony was held, during which our teachers were presented with special gifts, expressing our deep gratitude for their invaluable contributions.



Tree Planting Event at Banadir Campus Kindergarten

At Banadir Campus Kindergarten, we held a meaningful tree-planting event with our young students. With their tiny hands, they joyfully planted saplings, experiencing the happiness of contributing to nature.

Throughout the event, our teachers provided valuable insights on the importance of trees for nature and the necessity of protecting our environment. This allowed our students to develop environmental awareness and a love for nature from an early age.

This special day, where saplings met the soil, became an unforgettable memory for both our students and us. These saplings, nurtured by little hearts, now stand as a symbol of hope for a greener and healthier future.





WHAT HAVE WE DONE THIS TERM?

Teachers' Day Celebration at Banadir Campus!

At Banadir Campus, Teachers' Day was celebrated with great excitement and joy. Our little kindergarten students organized a wonderful event to express their love and appreciation for their teachers.

The colorful handmade cards and gifts created by their tiny hands became the most beautiful expression of their affection for their teachers. During the event, students sang special songs and recited poems they had prepared for their teachers. Our teachers experienced emotional moments as they were touched by the sincere and heartfelt surprises from their students.



Teachers' Day Celebration at KM4 Campus!

At KM4 Campus, Teachers' Day was celebrated with great excitement and joy. Our students organized a meaningful program to express their love and gratitude for their teachers. The event began with heartfelt speeches prepared by the students. They then made this special day unforgettable by dedicating poems and songs to their teachers.

The carefully crafted gifts and thank-you cards, created with tiny hands and great care, brought warm smiles to the faces of our teachers.



Special Guests at Our KM4 Campus and Representative Office!

Our KM4 Campus and the Türkiye Maarif Foundation Somalia Representative Office had the honor of hosting two esteemed guests. TURKSOM Commander Brigadier General Sebahattin Kalkan and Star News Editor-in-Chief Journalist Nazlı Çelik visited our institutions and received insights into our ongoing efforts.

During the visit, our guests had the opportunity to closely observe the educational activities at our campus and the contributions of our representative office in Somalia. They met with our students, engaged in conversations with our teachers, and expressed their appreciation for our dedicated efforts in the field of education.





WHAT HAVE WE DONE THIS TERM?

Continuing to Learn with Maarif!

Today, we embarked on a fun and educational journey with our kindergarten students at KM4 Campus—we explored the organs of the human body!

With the guidance of their teachers, our little learners eagerly participated in activities as they discovered the names, functions, and locations of different body organs. To make learning even more enjoyable, they reinforced their knowledge through creative activities such as coloring, cutting, and pasting.

Through this interactive experience, our children not only learned about their bodies but also realized how exciting and enjoyable learning can be. Their curiosity and enthusiasm were evident as they asked insightful questions throughout each activity!



Scientific Studies Continue at Full Speed in Our School!

Today, our school experienced a day filled with scientific curiosity and discovery. Together with our students, we conducted a detailed laboratory experiment to examine the effects of manganese heptoxide. 🧪

During the experiment, tests conducted on various organic materials such as cotton, paper, ethanol, and acetone provided both an educational and thrilling experience. Our students had the opportunity to observe the chemical properties of manganese heptoxide and its effects on these substances, allowing them to apply their theoretical knowledge in practice.

"Robotics & Coding Club" Event at Somali Banadir Campus!

At Banadir Campus, our students had the opportunity to enhance their creativity and skills by working in teams during the Robotics & Coding Club event.

Throughout the event, students not only learned the fundamentals of robotic coding but also applied problem-solving, coding, and design skills in practice. Through group work, they strengthened their team spirit while experiencing the joy and pride of completing their projects.

We are delighted to mentor these young minds who will shape the future of technology! 🚀





WHAT HAVE WE DONE THIS TERM?

Strengthening Cooperation and Communication Through Parent Meetings at Banadir and KM4 Campuses!

As an essential part of the educational process, our parent meetings have been regularly held throughout the semester at Banadir and KM4 Campuses. These meetings serve as valuable opportunities to foster strong communication and collaboration between teachers, parents, and students.

What Did We Cover in Our Meetings?

- ◆ Academic Performance Review: Parents received detailed updates on students' progress, achievements, and individual needs in their courses.



- ◆ Goal Setting: Individual academic and personal goals were established for each student, and discussions were held on how parents can support their children in achieving these goals.
- ◆ Questions & Suggestions: We listened to parents' insights and recommendations, exchanging ideas on how to make the learning process more effective.
- ◆ Introduction to Educational Programs: Information was provided about school activities, projects, and annual programs, with suggestions on increasing student participation.

Through these productive meetings, we continue to strengthen our partnership with parents, working together to ensure the success and development of our students!

Excitement of the Middle School Mathematics Competition at Somali Banadir Campus!

The Middle School Mathematics Competition held at Banadir Campus brought together math enthusiasts for an exciting challenge. Our middle school students formed teams and engaged in a fierce yet fun competition, testing their knowledge while enjoying a unique learning experience.

This competition provided students with a great opportunity to reinforce their mathematical skills and enhance their problem-solving abilities. Additionally, through teamwork, they strengthened their sense of collaboration and discovered that mathematics is not just a subject but also an enjoyable and creative pursuit.



OFFICIAL DELEGATIONS

Somali Minister of Interior Visits KM4 Campus

The Minister of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation of the Federal Republic of Somalia, H.E. Ali Yusuf Hosh, visited the KM4 Campus and the Türkiye Maarif Foundation Somalia Representation Office. During the visit, information was shared about the Foundation's educational activities and projects carried out in Somalia. The Minister expressed his appreciation for the contributions of the Maarif Foundation to education in Somalia.



Somali Minister of State for Foreign Affairs at Our Embassy

The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Somalia, H.E. Ali Omar Balad, was hosted at the Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye in Mogadishu. During the visit, productive discussions were held on diplomatic relations between the two countries, cooperation in the field of education, and the activities carried out by the Türkiye Maarif Foundation in Somalia.

Azerbaijani Delegation and Somali Ambassador to Ankara Visit Our School

The delegation led by H.E. Yalchin Rafiyev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of brotherly Azerbaijan, paid an official visit to Somalia and visited our school accompanied by the Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye in Mogadishu. During the visit, the delegation was briefed on the educational activities carried out by the Türkiye Maarif Foundation in Somalia.

As part of the same program, H.E. Fathudin Ali Mohamed, Somali Ambassador to Ankara, also honored our school with his presence.



Visit from the Somali Türkiye Graduates Association

Abdinasir Abbi Hassan, Chairman, and Mohamud Ismail Kulane, Secretary General of the Somali Türkiye Graduates Association, visited our KM4 Campus and Representation Office. The meeting focused on the Foundation's activities and possible cooperation opportunities.

OFFICIAL DELEGATIONS

Special Guests at KM4 Campus

Brigadier General Sebahattin Kalkan, Commander of TURKSOM, and journalist Nazlı Çelik, Editor-in-Chief of Star News, visited our KM4 Campus and the Türkiye Maarif Foundation Somalia Office.

They were briefed on our educational efforts in Somalia and the impact of our projects on Somali youth.



Workshop on Turkey and the Ottoman Legacy in Somali Textbooks

In collaboration with the Türkiye Maarif Foundation, the Africa Foundation organized a workshop on the representation of Turks, Turkey, and the Ottoman legacy in Somali textbooks. Somali academics, educators, and officials attended the event. The workshop addressed textbook content, its impact on collective memory, and Turkey-Somalia relations. A follow-up session focused on curriculum and classroom practices.

Meeting with Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre

During the May 19 Commemoration of Atatürk, Youth and Sports Day event held at the Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye in Mogadishu, a meeting was held with Somali Prime Minister H.E. Hamza Abdi Barre.

The Prime Minister was briefed on the educational activities of the Türkiye Maarif Foundation in Somalia.



Meeting with Minister Abdulkadir Mohamed Nur

During the May 19 Commemoration of Atatürk, Youth and Sports Day event held at the Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye in Mogadishu, a meeting was held with H.E. Abdulkadir Mohamed Nur, Somali Minister of Ports and Marine Transport. The discussion focused on the activities of the Türkiye Maarif Foundation in Somalia.

OFFICIAL DELEGATIONS

VISIT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND BOARD MEMBERS OF THE TURKISH MAARIF FOUNDATION TO SOMALIA

Member of the Board of Trustees of the Turkish Maarif Foundation, Mr. Selim CERRAH, and Member of the Board of Directors, Prof. Dr. Mehmet ÖZKAN, paid an official visit to Somalia to hold a series of meetings and engagements.

As part of the program, the delegation visited the Banadir and KM4 Campuses in Mogadishu, as well as the Hargeisa Campus in Somaliland, meeting with school administrators, teachers, and students. During the visits, discussions were held on the educational activities carried out by the Turkish Maarif Foundation in Somalia, upcoming term objectives, and institutional cooperation.



Mr. Cerrah and Prof. Dr. Özkan also visited various Turkish institutions and organizations operating in Somalia to receive information about their ongoing projects and activities. In the meetings held with staff and administrators, evaluations were made regarding strategies to improve educational quality and plans for future projects.



The Maarif delegation also met with teachers serving in Somalia, listening to their views and suggestions, and had warm conversations with students. During the visits, classrooms, educational facilities, and social areas on the campuses were examined closely.

This high-level visit to the Turkish Maarif Foundation's schools in Somalia has made a significant contribution to our educational efforts and further strengthened the friendship and cooperation between Türkiye and Somalia.





MAGIS EXAM IN SOMALIA

SOMALIA - KM4 & BANADIR CAMPUS



The Turkish Maarif Foundation continues to strengthen its presence in Somalia through qualified education and international standards. Within this framework, the Maarif Admission and General Information System (MAGIS) Exam was successfully organized across the country with remarkable participation and enthusiasm.



Throughout the preparation process, Maarif teams worked diligently, setting up information stands in various parts of the city and distributing brochures to raise awareness among students and parents. As a result of these efforts, a total of 900 applications were received from the three campuses — KM4, Banadir, and Hargeisa.



On the day of the exam, over 600 students took part across the three campuses, competing to earn a place at Maarif schools. At the KM4 Campus alone, 300 students sat for the exam, demonstrating great interest and motivation to join the Maarif educational community.

The high level of participation once again proved that the Turkish Maarif Foundation, recognized in Somalia as an “Oxford-level international school,” continues to attract strong attention and trust from the Somali public.



We sincerely thank all the team members who contributed to the successful organization of the exam. This achievement stands as another example of Maarif’s commitment to providing qualified, value-based, and globally competitive education in Somalia.



23 APRIL NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND CHILDREN'S DAY IN SOMALIA

At our Banadir Campus, we celebrated April 23rd National Sovereignty and Children's Day this year with great excitement and enthusiasm once again. Our schoolyard was decorated with colorful balloons and flags; our students, teachers, parents, and guests gathered together from the early hours of the morning, filled with the joy of the holiday.

Our celebration program began with a moment of silence and the Turkish National Anthem, followed by speeches from the Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye in Mogadishu, Mr. Alper Aktaş, and TÜRKSOM Commander, Brigadier General Mr. Sabahattin Kalkan, emphasizing the significance and meaning of the day. With the participation of our esteemed parents and guests, a true festival atmosphere was experienced at the Banadir Campus.

Throughout the program, students from all age groups took the stage to showcase their talents. The choir performances, accompanied by songs in both Turkish and Somali, received great applause from the audience. Colorful and unforgettable moments were experienced at our Banadir Campus with dance performances representing different cultures. Through poetry recitations, our children's heartfelt emotions touched the hearts of everyone present.





One of the most enjoyable moments of the day was the variety of children's games and competitions. With classic games such as musical chairs, tug of war, sack race, and rope pulling, our students had a great time while also strengthening their sense of teamwork and friendship. In the playgrounds set up in the garden, our little ones ran around freely and experienced the excitement of winning prizes.

As every year, April 23rd was celebrated at our Banadir Campus in an atmosphere of friendship, unity, and brotherhood. We sincerely celebrate the holiday of all our children, who are the guarantee of our future, and wish that their joy and enthusiasm will never fade.



MY PEN PAL: AN INTERCULTURAL LANGUAGE LEARNING JOURNEY

SOMALIA - KM4 CAMPUS TURKISH LANGUAGE TEACHER

Enes EYİBİL

Our Beginning Story

We aimed to provide our students with creative and educational opportunities to enhance their Turkish language skills. In line with this goal, during the first semester of 2024, we launched the "My Pen Pal" project, connecting our students in Somalia with students in Venezuela.

The purpose of our project was to help students improve their writing skills while also enabling them to build friendships with different cultures.



First Phase of the Project

In the first phase, students wrote letters to each other based on pre-determined topics. The initial letters included fundamental subjects such as introductions, daily life, hobbies, dreams, and cultural values. Once written, the letters were reviewed by teachers for grammar and expression before being finalized for sending.

Throughout this process, students in Somalia and Venezuela not only improved their Turkish skills but also gained valuable insights into each other's lifestyles, dreams, and cultures. The project sparked great excitement among the students and significantly boosted their motivation for language learning.



In the second semester of 2024, we plan to take this meaningful project a step further. "My Pen Pal" will no longer be limited to physical letters; instead, it will be migrated to a web platform. Through this platform:

- Students will be able to easily communicate with their peers from all around the world.
- The project, which initially started between Somalia and Venezuela, will expand to more countries, transforming into a multinational student community.



Our Goals

With our new web platform, we aim to provide students learning Turkish with the opportunity to develop their writing skills within a broader international network. At the same time, this project will strengthen cultural bonds among students and help build friendships across different countries.

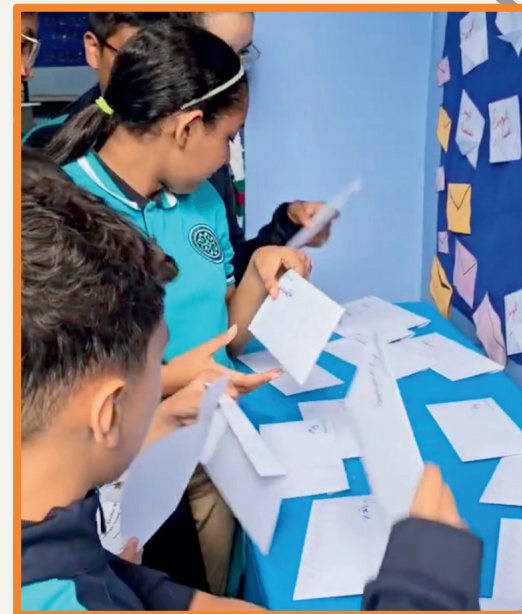
Why "My Pen Pal"?

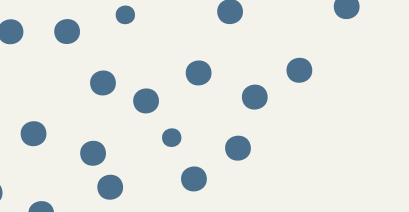
"My Pen Pal" offers a creative alternative to traditional language learning methods. By simultaneously enhancing writing skills, cultural awareness, and friendship, this project helps students learn Turkish with passion and dedication.

Looking Ahead

Starting with Somalia and Venezuela, the "My Pen Pal" journey will soon expand to more countries. Through our web platform, students will be able to make new friends worldwide while contributing to the recognition of Turkish as a global communication language.

Join us in supporting this exciting project and witness the power of Turkish in crossing borders!





SOMALI CULTURE DAY IN BANADIR

The “Culture Days” organized this year in our kindergarten at Banadir Campus received great interest from our students. During this special event, where different cultures came together, our students had the opportunity to get to know their own cultures more closely by wearing traditional outfits.

Throughout the event, our school garden transformed into a true mosaic of cultures. Smiling children in colorful clothes, a variety of traditional garments, and areas decorated with cultural motifs from Somalia and different regions took us all on a journey from the past to the present.

One of the most enjoyable moments of Culture Days was the children playing traditional games. In specially designated areas in the garden, children not only played games but also bonded with each other. Through all these activities, our students once again understood the value of growing up with intercultural respect and tolerance.

As Banadir Campus, we care deeply about our students embracing their own cultural identities and growing up as respectful and conscious individuals. Experiencing and carrying forward this cultural richness together through such events is our greatest happiness.



SOMALI CULTURE DAY IN KM4

This year's Culture Day at our KM4 Campus was filled with unforgettable moments, thanks to the enthusiastic participation of our students. The schoolyard was decorated with traditional Somali motifs, while our students and teachers added color to the event by wearing vibrant traditional Somali clothing.

One of the highlights of the day was the introduction of carefully prepared traditional Somali dishes. Various local delicacies were presented at stands, and students had the opportunity to experience their cultural heritage by sharing these unique flavors with their friends.

Another standout part of the event was the traditional dances. Our students enjoyed dancing to Somali music and took great pride in showcasing their cultural values on stage. With lively music and energetic dances, our schoolyard was transformed into a festive atmosphere.

Through this special day, our students experienced the beauty of Somali culture and strengthened their connection to their traditional identity.

As KM4 Campus, we are proud to continue organizing such events that encourage our students to share and cherish their cultural richness.



ANADOLU AGENCY – WE;

MAARIF SCHOOLS' SOMALI STUDENTS BECOME THE HOPE OF THEIR COUNTRY



Abdihakim Dahir Mohamed

Yakup Abdinor Abshir, a 12-year-old student at the Turkish Maarif Foundation (TMV) Schools in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia, dreams of helping children in refugee camps. Abshir, who once lived in refugee camps, stated that he has been studying at Maarif Schools for six years, saying, "I couldn't receive an education in the camp, but now I can. My mother and father want me to become a businessman after I finish school."

Receiving a scholarship for his education, Abshir explained that in the camps they could only play football. He added, "When I become a businessman and earn a lot of money, I will help the children in the camps and take my parents to Hajj. I thank Maarif School because it changed my life."

Another student at the same school, 18-year-old Mohamud Ali Suri, said that he was born in Saudi Arabia and came to Somalia seven years ago. Suri, who has been studying at Maarif Schools for two years, shared: "Life was a bit challenging because my family's income was low.

My father couldn't find good jobs in Saudi Arabia. We were grateful for what we had, but the education there was weak. School fees were very high, and we couldn't afford them."

After achieving a good score in the national exam, Suri received a scholarship from Maarif Schools, saying, "This was the best thing that ever happened to me."

He explained that after his father passed away, his mother had to work to provide for the family:

"I've been studying at Maarif for two years now, and my life has completely changed since I started. Thanks to the scholarship, my mother has been able to focus on other expenses. She no longer has to struggle with paying school fees."



Mohamud Ali Suri

Suri mentioned that he has learned a bit of Turkish at school and added,

"Turkey is a country I would like to visit. I don't know much about its culture, but Turkish people are kind and honest. They are devoted to their religion and have a strong sense of belonging. I really admire that."

Abdihakim Dahir Mohamed, a 15-year-old student who has been attending Maarif Schools for two years, also shared his thoughts:

"This is the best school in Mogadishu. My father is a teacher, and my mother is a housewife. I want to be an engineer in the future. I'm getting a better education here. My teachers are very supportive and help me to become a good engineer. I'm taking better lessons now."

With two campuses in Mogadishu and one in Hargeisa, the Turkish Maarif Foundation (TMV) provides education to more than 68,000 students in 517 institutions across 55 countries.



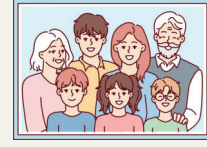
Yakup Abdinor Abshir



MY FIRST TEACHER: MY FAMILY

SOMALIA - BANADIR CAMPUS TURKISH LANGUAGE TEACHER

BÜŞRA OLGUN



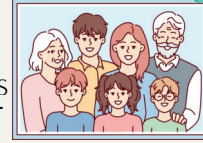
The first voice that touches a person's heart is their mother's. We fall asleep to the lullabies of that voice, and we find comfort in its reassurance. Like everyone else, the first voice I heard was my mother's. I learned the first words of this beautiful language from her. From my family, I learned the warmth of a simple "hello," the grace of "thank you," the humility of "I'm sorry," the hospitality in "welcome," and the hope carried in "inshallah." It was my family who made me love Turkish for the first time. The joy of reading and writing first bloomed in the home where I was born. Then, as I grew, that love grew with me. To love a language often means to love its people, its culture, and its story. And I did love them all — the story of this language and the place I found for myself within that story. I read this language, I spoke it, I listened to it. I wanted to express what I heard and show what I saw — so I became a Turkish teacher. Through teaching, I found a way to share the passion I feel for the Turkish language. Over time, that passion drew a path for me to follow. The legacy, effort, and devotion of my family opened the doors of this distant land to me, and here, they introduced me to many wonderful people who became my new family. I now have dozens of students, and with every new word I teach, I feel the same joy as a mother hearing her child speak for the first time.

On this occasion, I would like to once again express my deepest gratitude to my family — because a person's first teacher is their family, and that first voice echoes within us for a lifetime.



BEING A FAMILY THROUGH OUR STUDENTS' WORDS

SOMALIA – BANADIR CAMPUS TURKISH LANGUAGE STUDENTS



Name: Bahce Abdifatah

An Unforgettable Day with My Family

During last summer vacation, I went to the sea with my family. We woke up early in the morning and got into the car. The weather was beautiful; the sun was shining, and a light breeze was blowing. My mother had prepared delicious food, my father played music, and we were all very cheerful on the way. When we arrived at the beach, we were all very happy. My siblings and I swam in the sea, played in the sand, and had a water fight.

My mother took our photos. My father told us beautiful stories from his childhood, and I really enjoyed listening to him. That day was truly unforgettable for me because spending time with my family makes me very happy. When I'm with my family, I feel safe and surrounded by love. I will always remember this day in my heart.

Name: Sabrin Mahmoud Bulle

What Does It Mean to Be a Family?

Family is something very beautiful! I love my family very much. They make me happy and support me during difficult times. When I feel sad, they make me happy again. In my opinion, being a family means sharing, helping each other, doing things together, and staying united.

Name: Farhiya Abdirizak Adan

What Does It Mean to Be a Family?

Having a family is one of the most important things; people stay happy throughout their lives with their families. Family means being together, loving, helping, and supporting each other. In a family, we learn respect and good habits through experience. I love my mother very much because she always teaches me new things — for example, how to cook, work, and show respect and kindness. My mother always asks me, "Are you okay?" and she loves me very much. My family does everything for me. Being united and being a family is very important. Family is not just about living together; it's also about helping each other in difficult times. I love my family so much.

Name: Hani Aadan Ahmed

What Does It Mean to Be a Family?

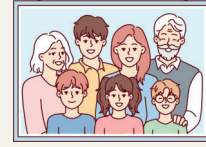
Family is wonderful. I love my family very much; they make me happy. When I feel sad, they make me happy again. My family is very big. Family is not just about living together; it is also about being together in both good and bad times. I love my family very much.



THE BOND BUILT WITH LOVE: FAMILY

SOMALIA - KM4 CAMPUS TURKISH LANGUAGE TEACHER

AYŞENUR ASLAN



Life itself is a long and vast journey. We continuously move forward along the line of time. Throughout this journey, we encounter both magnificent landscapes and painful scenes. As we move on, we meet new people — and some of them become a part of who we are. Those people become our family. Our very first home is our mother's womb. While living there, safe and alone, a new journey begins and we are born into a completely different world. In this new life, we are no longer alone; there are new people around us. The one who feeds and embraces us with tenderness is our mother; the one who holds us safely in his arms as we sleep is our father; and those cheerful kids who play with us — they are our siblings. We discover who they are as we continue our new journey and make them a part of ourselves. They become our first family. As we grow peacefully at home, suddenly we are taken into another journey of life. This new place is different from home — larger and more crowded. Many new faces, many new people... Where is this place we go to every day after leaving home? Who are these new people? As time passes, we realize that the person who teaches us new worlds and different paths in life is our teacher. And those lively children we play and spend time with — they are our friends. Although we are not connected by blood, these people become our second family. Despite all differences, we embrace this new family wholeheartedly. Then, one day, school ends. But life goes on, and the roads keep stretching ahead. On every new path, we meet new people. Some touch our lives so deeply that they change our direction, and some become a part of us — they become our families. I, too, am a traveler on this endless road of life.



fAmILy



My journey has taught me many things: that to be a family, one does not need a blood connection; that love and sincerity are more than enough to form a family. For me, the concept of family has never been limited to those related to me by blood. My friends, my teachers, my colleagues, and all the wonderful people I have met along the way — they are the ones who have found a place in my heart; they are my family. Let me tell you briefly about my most recent family. A short time ago, I left Turkey and came to Somalia to work as a teacher. Before coming here, I knew almost nothing about this country except what I read online. I was scared — everything was foreign to me. I was going to meet people for the first time with whom I shared neither a common language, nor a common culture, nor a common lifestyle. I kept wondering how I would manage everything. But, fortunately, all my fears were in vain. Here, I met kind, warm-hearted people who have already become one another's family. They welcomed me as if I had been here for years. During my journey in this country, I realized that when there is a will to connect, a shared language no longer matters. All my mountain-like fears turned into dust and disappeared. My country representative, who makes me feel like his own daughter; my assistant principals, who always ask about our well-being; the student affairs team, who always come with a solution; and my precious fellow teachers, who always try to understand and support me — they have all become my new family. And now I understand that one of the happiest times of my life will be the moments I spend with my family here in Somalia. I feel truly grateful to these people who never made me feel like a stranger and reminded me what it means to belong to a family. I owe them my deepest thanks. I'm so glad that they are my new family. Thank you. On this occasion, I would like to once again express my deepest gratitude to my family — because a person's first teacher is their family, and that first voice echoes within us for a lifetime.

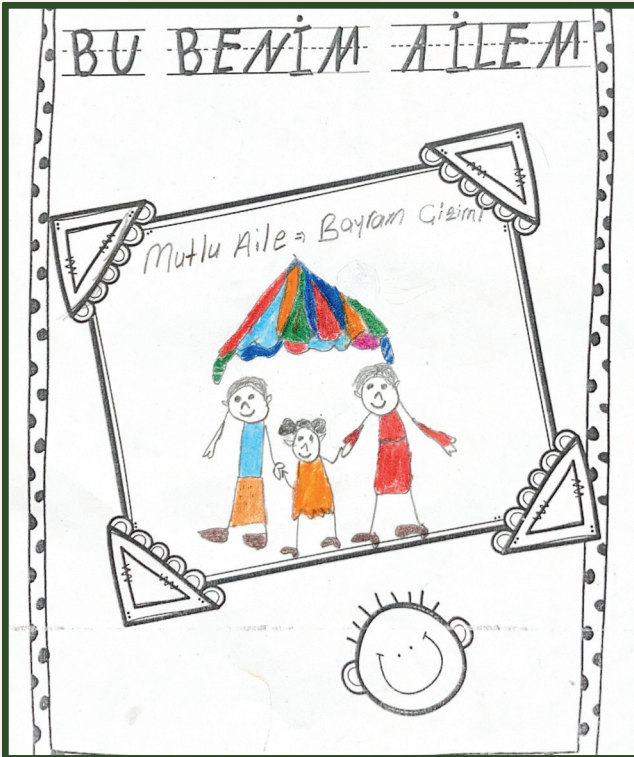
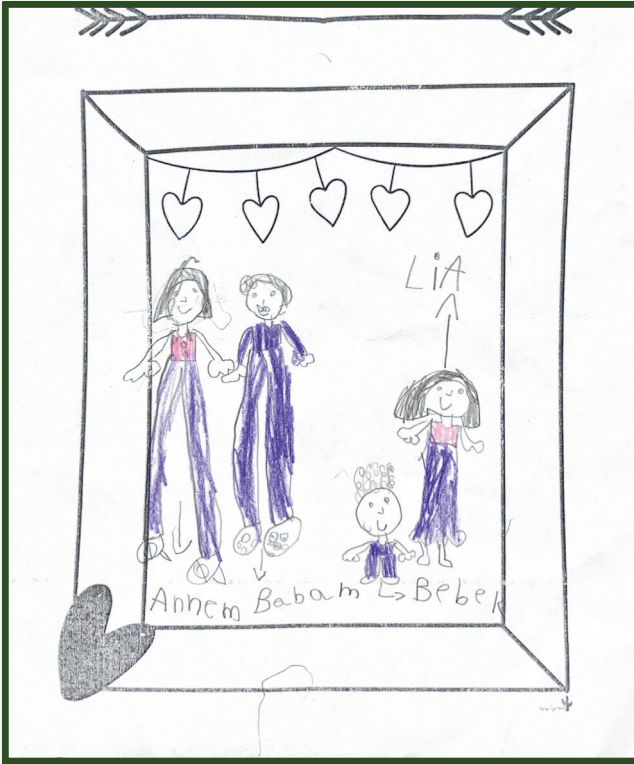
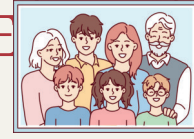


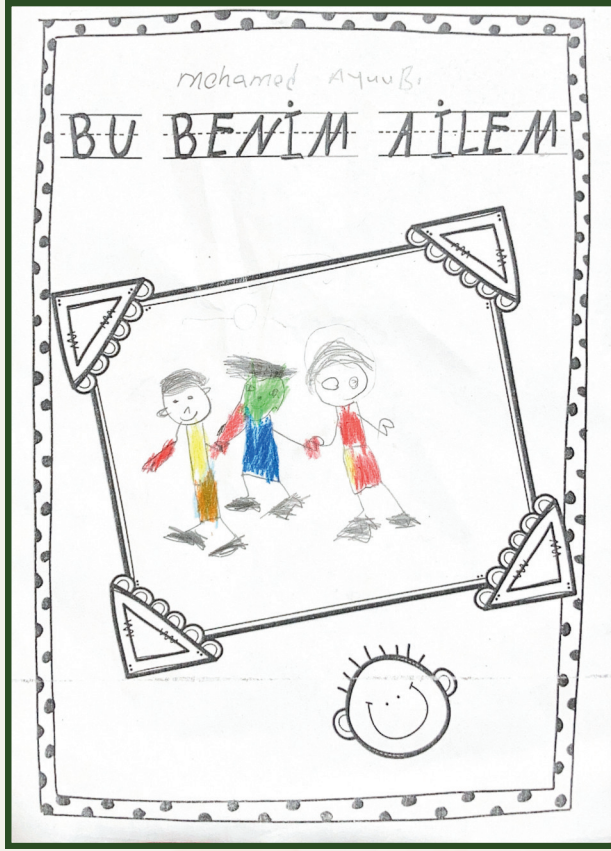


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FROM OUR STUDENTS: "MY FAMILY" DRAWINGS FULL OF LOVE

SOMALIA - BANADIR CAMPUS STUDENTS





The year 2025 has been declared as the “Year of Family” in Türkiye. Within the scope of this meaningful theme, our students participated in an activity where they expressed their thoughts and feelings about family through art.

With their “My Family” themed drawings, our students beautifully reflected values such as love, unity, trust, and sharing in their own unique ways. Each piece reminded us once again of the warmth and strength that family brings.

We sincerely thank all our students who took the time to create and share their wonderful drawings for the Year of Family. Every picture is a heartfelt reflection of love, belonging, and happiness from a child’s heart.

We are proud of you all.



TÜRKİYE MAARİF VAKFI
TURKISH MAARIF FOUNDATION



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