



HABIB PUBLIC SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

e-Newsletter | December 2023 Issue

HPSAA CANADA Chairman Syed Hamid Hussain Generates Great Traction! **Canadian Habibians in Full Form & Flow!**

Interview & Report filed by Adil Ahmad (Correspondent)

Group Picture from our first get together on June 25, 2022



Front row left to right

Ali Kamani (1968), Azfar Qarni (1972), Ghulam Farooq (19/1), Syed Muhammad Anas (teacher 1956-71)
Ali Raza Sagarwala (1968), Mirza Zahid Husain (1974), Dr. Fakhruddin Tahir (1968)

Top row left to right

Asad Ali (1993), Asad Asghar Naqvi (1976), Syed Hamid Husain (1976), Mustaf Master (1972)
Fazil Bharucha (1979), Abu Omar Khalidi (1971), Akhtar Saeed (1976)

Oakville hosts 2nd annual reunion

On Saturday, the 14th of October 2023 60 Habibians and their spouses gathered at the River Oaks Community Center in the City of Oakville south-west of Toronto in the Greater Toronto Area. This was the 2nd annual reunion, with spouses, of the Canadian Chapter, the first having taken place on the 5th of November 2022 with an identical number participating.

Mouthwatering Menu!

This year the menu comprised of:

Veal Biryani
Chicken Karhai
Dum Keema
Bihari Chicken Boti
Chargha
Naan, Gulab Jaman
Ice cream and Cakes
Alongside tea for after dinner

Setting off to a rollicking start

The ball was set in motion on the 25th of June, 2022 with Sir Mohammad Anas announcing the formation of the HPSAA Canada Chapter at the Masjid in Vaughan, with 14 Habibians participating. Thereafter, on the 20th of July, 2022 10 Habibians met at the Karhai Point in Oakville to meet visiting Habibian Aftab Iqbal. This was followed by the 1st annual reunion on 5th November with 60 Habibians in attendance, and on the 26th of December 2022 14 Habibians got together for Nihari at the Tabaq restaurant in Mississauga. Midway through 2023, on the 3rd of June, 19 Habibians met for Dinner at the Karachi Highway Karhai in Mississauga.

“Before we started the Canadian chapter last year I could barely count three alumni in Canada. Now I have almost 90 alumni in my list, and I am sure there are many more that we have yet to reach out to,” said Syed Hamid Hussain, the Chairman of the HPSAA Canadian Chapter, speaking to me via WhatsApp at 3am PST from half a world away.

Personal touch for old friends

For the 2nd annual reunion the hall was booked between 6pm to 10pm, with 6 to 7.30pm earmarked for the setup of the tables, chairs, buffet table layout, and aesthetic design for the occasion. “We spread the table linen ourselves and my wife took in hand the interior décor.”

“A fair bit of effort went into holding the dinner involving disposable crockery, cutlery and cups, the serving of food and making of tea. We had two helpers assigned by the caterers Shaheen Enterprises, who cooked and delivered the food, with the helpers serving and replenishing the buffet table, and also helped in winding up at the end and making take away boxes and washing some dishes.”

Austerity and zero waste

In the weeks preceding Syed Hamid Hussain was on the lookout for discount sales for cold drinks, and other things to “get the most bang for the buck” as he put it. He didn’t manage to find any volunteers to help at the occasion, except for Syed Ameer Mehdi (Batch of 1987) who came onboard early, and to whom he offers many thanks.

Cashew nuts and mixed nuts were also served in bowls before dinner. Exhibiting great attention to detail, Syed Hamid Hussain had bought plastic Cosco boxes for takeaway of leftover food, ensuring nothing went to waste. “Attendees took food home, including ice cream! Everyone was overjoyed for the extra food in their fridge considering people in Canada have to do their own cooking, and the gesture was greatly appreciated by all.”

Fateha for the dear departed

Syed Hamid Hussain made the only speech of the evening. “We offered Fateha for our departed teachers, schoolmates, family members and those martyred in Palestine. We also prayed for the health and happiness of ourselves and our families.

Mr. Fazil Bharucha (Vice President, HPSAA) attended the event. He got so caught up in meeting old friends that he missed making his speech that contained a message from the President HPSAA, Mr. Saeed Allawala, which is reproduced below.

“Dear Friends of HPSAA Canadian Chapter,

It was a pleasure to attend the Annual Event as a member of Canadian Chapter & also as Vice President of HPSAA. I was also supposed to deliver the below words from Mr. Saeed Allawala, President of HPSAA but due to flow of events I could not do so and I am reproducing the same herein below:



*I am delighted to learn that the members of the Habibian Alumni Canada chapter are convening for a dinner event. We are elated to witness the prominent role Syed Hamid Hussain is assuming in bringing together the Habibians residing in Canada for social and cultural engagement. Hamid truly deserves commendation from all of us in Pakistan. Today, we have the monthly Executive Committee (EC) meeting, during which the EC members extend a warm welcome to all the attendees of the dinner.

I request the members in Canada to kindly arrange your forthcoming visit to Pakistan in such a manner that you can participate in the Habibian Reunion scheduled for Sunday, January 7, 2024. It would be our pleasure to receive our Canadian friends and accord them a special VIP welcoming arrangement.

Hence, we eagerly anticipate the joy of encountering you at the Reunion.

With warm regards,
Saeed Allawala, President, HPSAA*



GRAND ALUMNI REUNION

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, January 7th 2024

Enhance your **FRIENDSHIP** and gather with people of your community!

**HABIB PUBLIC SCHOOL
3:30 PM - 6:30 PM**

info@habibianalumni.org.pk | habibianalumni.org.pk

Spouses make new friends

Of the 60 Habibians 25 had brought their spouses along, Syed Hamid Hussain informed me, clearly very happy with the way things had turned out. “I specially thanked the ladies seated on 3 tables. While their husbands had their alma mater in common and were meeting up with old friends, their wives were strangers to each other and were making new friends.

Reminiscing the good old days & Networking

The old batch mates had made small groups of 4 to 5 and were busy reminiscing the good old days along with interacting with the senior batches to exchange notes with how life had changed at the HPS over time. Networking was a major value addition of the dinner, and a primary reason for organizing the Canadian chapter of the HPSAA. Knowing who is who and who is where is all important in finding better jobs in Canada. “Then there is the pressing need to get the kids married into families that have something in common with each other. This is an area on which we are working further.”

Dinner Dynamics

Earlier this year Syed Hamid Hussain had collected about C\$2500 for registering the HPSAA Canadian Chapter at C\$40 per head. This dinner was C\$45 per head, and the amount was adjusted for those who had paid earlier, and the balance money he is reimbursing to those who had paid and could not attend.

“For the most part the dinner was a replay of our dinner last year, but this year we introduced party games with 2 games for the gents, 2 for the ladies, and 1 for couples. Everyone participated with great enthusiasm and the winners were given gift cards worth C\$25 for Tim Horton Coffee. Abu Omar Khaldi (Batch of 1971) sang a few songs minus the music, as also did a few others present, with everyone immensely enjoying their performance. Next year we hope to plan something different, like a picnic in the park, or a proper musical program.”

The Dinner wrapped up at 10pm and not because people wanted to leave, but because that was the agreed to end time with the venue’s management and the cleaning crew turned up! “The hall was packed and nobody wanted to leave. By the time we wrapped up it was 10.45pm in any case. Everyone went home very happy.”



Syed Hamid Hussain’s Profile

HPS Batch of 1976/Green House/Prefect;

Graduated from the NED University of Engineering & Technology as Mechanical engineer in 1984; Worked in Fauji Fertilizer for 5 years, after which spent 15 years with Unilever;

Migrated to Canada in 2005;

In Canada first job with Pepsi for 3 years;

Moved to Cadbury for a short spell after which spent 11 years with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation; Now working for Coca Cola;

Happily married to Afshan Husain for 34 years, Masha’Allah; “A very wise lady and I would give her 100% credit for raising our children so well. She is surely a gift from God”;

3 children; Eldest is son Asad Husain, with BSc and MBA in health sciences from McMaster university, and now working with Eli Lilly;

Second in line is daughter Fatima Husain married with a 7 months old son as of 21st October 2023 which is when this interview was conducted, and a graduate from the University of Waterloo in Science and Business;

At #3 is daughter Aeliya Husain who has the same education as Fatima and is currently working with Microsoft.





HABIB PUBLIC SCHOOL

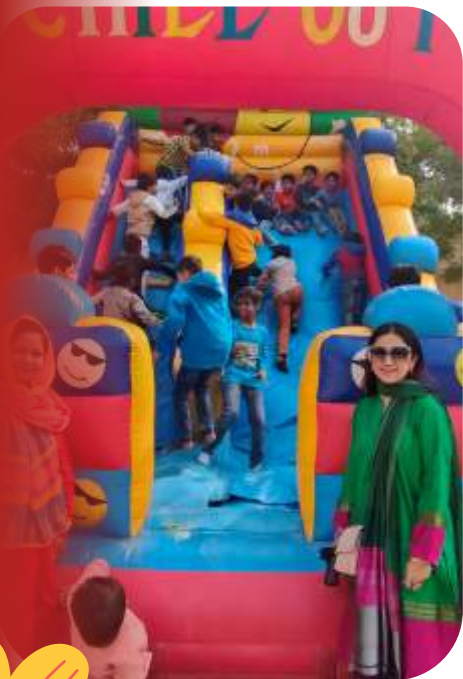
WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY

Celebrated at HPS

World Children's Day was first established in 1954 as Universal Children's Day and is celebrated on 20 November each year to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare.

There is probably no other occasion that would call to life as many multicolored designs and leaflets. Blue is the official color for Universal Children's Day as an activity run by UNICEF.

"Children are like buds in a garden and should be carefully and lovingly nurtured, as they are the future of the nation and the citizens of tomorrow. Let us sacrifice our today so that our children can have a better tomorrow. Children must be taught how to think, not what to think."



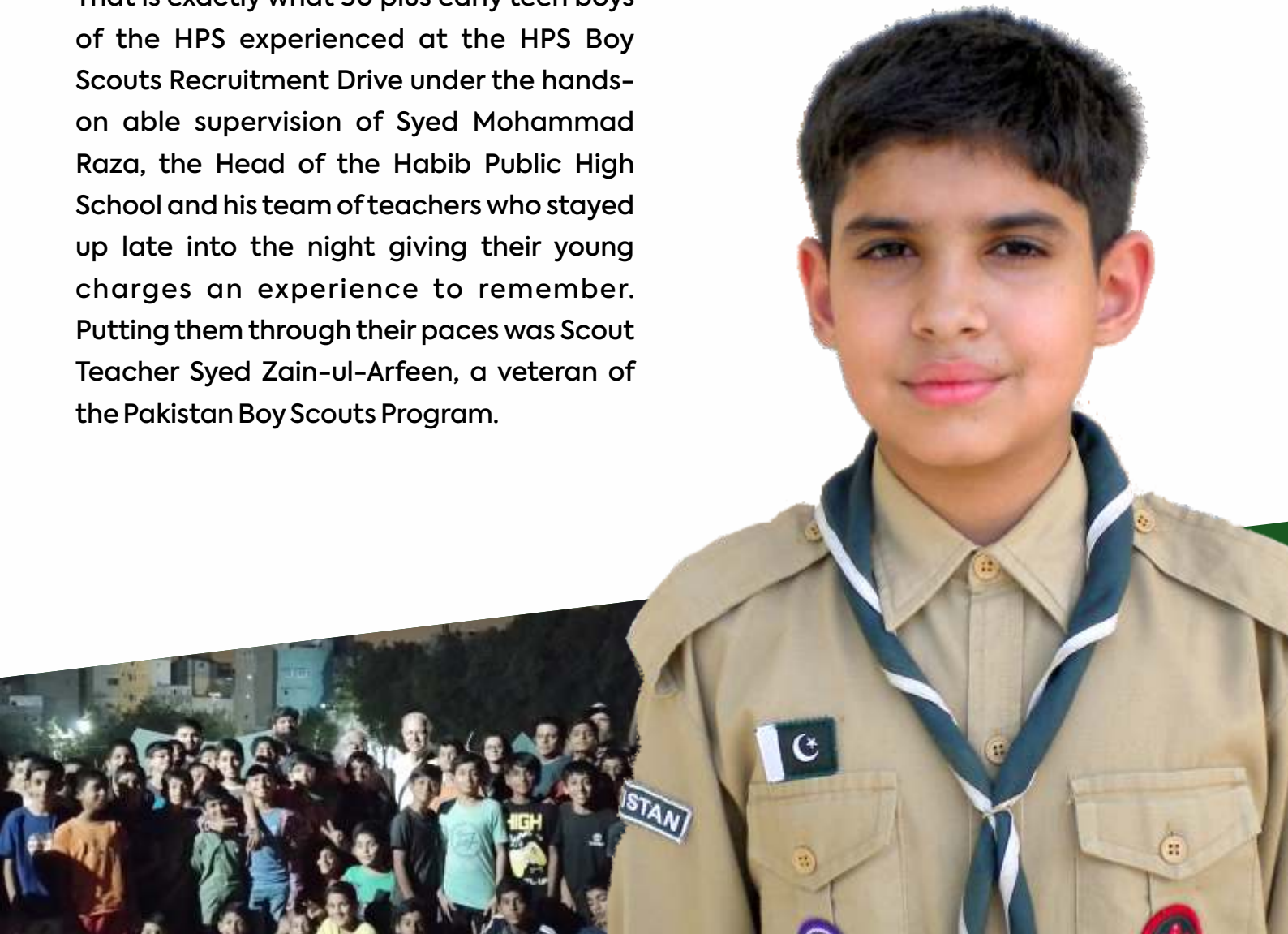


HABIB PUBLIC SCHOOL (HPS) BOY SCOUTS Recruitment Drive

Spending the night away from home is the ultimate thrill for schoolboys. When it involves an overnight Scout Jamboree with living in tents and engaging in all manner of fun activities, including a bonfire, then the excitement knows no bounds.

That is exactly what 50 plus early teen boys of the HPS experienced at the HPS Boy Scouts Recruitment Drive under the hands-on able supervision of Syed Mohammad Raza, the Head of the Habib Public High School and his team of teachers who stayed up late into the night giving their young charges an experience to remember. Putting them through their paces was Scout Teacher Syed Zain-ul-Arfeen, a veteran of the Pakistan Boy Scouts Program.

Scouting, also known as the Scout Movement, is a worldwide youth social movement employing the Scout method, a program of informal education with an emphasis on practical outdoor activities, including camping, woodcraft, aquatics, hiking, backpacking, and sports.





GLIMPSES



Dear Schoolmates,

Here we are again, keeping up the monthly connectivity amongst the alumni, and this time we have great news to report from our Canadian Chapter where Mr. Syed Hamid Hussain is doing a wonderful job of engaging with alumni in his part of the world. With Mr. Ahmed Ali taking charge of the entire USA Chapter, the HPSAA is all set to change gears in a big way, Insha'Allah.

On the HPS front the current crop celebrated Universal Children's Day in a big way as apparent from the pictorial report that we carry alongside the report on the HPS Boy Scouts Recruitment Drive wherein the kids spent 24 hours living in close proximity in tents and engaging in practical outdoor activities.

On Friday the 1st of December 30 of our senior students will be onboard a bus along with 6 teachers heading for the SST School in Rashidabad (Tando Allahyar) where they will join 30 senior students from the SST School in a Leadership Boot Camp spread over the weekend. We will have a detailed report on this great character building interschool joint activity in our next edition, Insha'Allah.

Stay safe and stay warm.

Saeed Allawala
President HPSAA

