



United Sri Lankan Muslim Association of Australia



Share



Tweet



Forward

USMAA's Inaugural Debating Competition

Salaams dear USMAA family,

USMAA conducted its first live debate last Saturday, 3 October 2020. It was the culmination of three weeks of debating workshops attended by the kids during their school holidays. While the initial plan was to hold only three workshop sessions via Zoom, due to the enthusiasm of the kids and the parents, we ended up adding two more sessions mid-week, thereby having FIVE sessions in total! We honestly enjoyed every minute of it.

The workshop was designed to introduce our kids, the future of USMAA, a new skill during lockdown; a skill that would be useful not only during their school life, but more importantly when they step into the workforce.

The live debate was a momentous event for everyone involved, especially the kids, as it was their first debate ever. It was for this reason, we decided to close the forum for outsiders and invite only their families to watch it. Both the parents and the children were highly appreciative of the time and effort that we invested.

Reproduced below are some comments from the parents:

“I must say this whole session was an amazing success. The kids thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience, from the workshops to the preparation and finally the live debate! May Allah bless you for all your efforts and guidance.” – Umaara Waz

“Such an amazing initiative by USMAA. As a first-gen-USMAA-kid myself, seeing the enthusiasm and potential of all the children today really does give me hope for the future of our community In sha Allah. I think you've tapped into some future politicians! Thank you so very much...we are eagerly awaiting the next event!” – Shakira Salahudeen-Kassim

“It was an amazing event, such a wonderful opportunity given to the kids. You can see the potential in it. Truly you all are doing an amazing job for USMAA, something we were waiting for and something that they were lacking for many years as kids, as they are the ones who will have to take over USMAA too one-day In sha Allah.” – Rushana Usoof

“Jazakallah Khair for initiating and following through with this wonderful workshop for our kiddos. They all seemed to have enjoyed the ride while at the same time gaining an insight into a valuable skill set which I am sure they will hold on to and run with.” – Shazreen Hammard

USMAA would like to extend our sincere appreciation to Adilah Haque and Rizan Abdeen for being our adjudicators for the day.

Here are the winning teams:

Winners for the topic “Schools should ban uniforms” (Grade 3-4) are:

1. Aqib Nawaz
2. Ayrah Rushan
3. Aleeza Azmaan
4. Zacky Shums

This team won by a margin of just four points!

Winners for the topic “Australia should close all zoos” (Grade 5-6) are:

1. Yaara Hammard
2. Hamza Sharaf
3. Ayub Fauzaan

This team won by a mere two points!

All participants will receive a certificate of participation while each speaker from the winning team will receive a gift voucher as well.

We encourage parents to get their children involved in future events focused on building key skills as it would add another string to their bow. In fact, some of the kids mentioned that they had been reluctant at the outset to join the workshop, but did so only because of their parents. However, they were glad that they did as they had a lot of fun and learned a new skill in the process. In addition, everyone demonstrated that they had resilience, determination, analytical thinking and a good command of the stage. Seeing and hearing the kids in action made us immensely happy! Makes everything worth it.

Congratulations all around!

Jazakallah khair

Ruzna Shums and Rizan Abdeen
Debating Workshop Facilitators



Copyright © 2020 United Sri Lankan Muslim Association of Australia, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email as a current or former member of the United Sri Lankan Muslim Association of Australia.

Our mailing address is:

info@usmaa.org.au

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).