**MAKE ALL YOUR WISHES COME TRUE WITH *ALADDIN JR.***

**Disney’s ALADDIN JR. Playing at Braeburn in Dar es Salaam**

Disney’s *Aladdin JR.* is playing at Braeburn Dar es Salaam International School on the 28th and 29th of November. This spectacular 60-minute musical, designed for school-aged performers, is based on the 1992 Disney film and the 2014 Broadway adaptation. The cast includes many students and is led by Ms Leah Gathoni, Mr Mark Turner, Mr James Collingwood, and Ms Sekela Thambikeni.

Ring the bells! Bang the drums! You will love this exciting stage adaptation of the legendary tale of the lovable thief with a heart of gold! Join Aladdin, Jasmine, and the fast-talking, wisecracking Genie as they discover mystical caves, take magic carpet rides, and outwit the evil sorcerer, Jafar. Adapted especially for young performers, this musical includes favourite Alan Menken songs such as “Friend Like Me,” “A Whole New World,” and “Prince Ali,” as well as wonderful new songs added for the Broadway production. With new, colourful characters and non-stop adventure, *Aladdin JR.* is sure to be a crowd-pleaser for all ages!

**A Note from the Drama Teacher:**

Thank you for supporting your child’s participation in *Aladdin JR.* As you know, we are busy gearing up for the production, but I wanted to take a moment to highlight some of the countless benefits of putting on a show with students.

Having a regular creative outlet is not just part of a well-rounded education – it is essential for a child’s emotional health and well-being. Producing a show brings the arts together and provides growth opportunities for all types of learners. For example, kinesthetic learners engage their bodies through dance, linguistic learners dive into the written and spoken word, spatial learners tackle set and costume design, and musical learners revel in the show’s score.

Besides being incredibly fun, musical theatre helps young people develop many of the skills necessary for success in today’s world:

* **Self-Confidence:** Throughout the rehearsal and performance process, young performers discover how to take creative and emotional risks and learn to trust their abilities.
* **Literacy:** Students increase reading and writing skills at their own pace by immersing themselves in the story, reading and re-reading their scripts, memorising their lines, and taking notes at rehearsal.
* **Communication:** During rehearsals, students learn how to articulate their thoughts and questions and carefully listen to direction in order to improve their performances.
* **Imagination:** Theatre is most dynamic when the imaginations of its participants are fully engaged. Students make countless interpretive choices in design and performance to create a detailed, fictional world for their audiences.
* **Empathy:** Through character work and story creation, young performers explore the lives of others. First-hand perspectives of new circumstances challenge prejudices and aid in the development of well-rounded students and citizens.
* **Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving:** The amount of work required to successfully put on a show makes all participants valuable troubleshooters. Whether inventing mnemonics to remember lines, adjusting staging to show off everyone’s faces, or mastering a tricky scene change, students have countless opportunities to creatively tackle challenges.
* **Self-Discipline:** Through prompt attendance at rehearsals and learning lines, music, and choreography on schedule, students acquire valuable self-discipline techniques and become reliable and trustworthy members of an ensemble.
* **Community Awareness:** A theatrical production provides ample opportunities to connect with our families and neighbours. Students can engage parents, community centres, and local vendors to help create sets, props, costumes, and publicity.
* **Public Speaking:** Whether performing for their peers during rehearsal or for the school and local community during a performance, students gain expertise and confidence in speaking in front of a group.
* **Curricular Integration:** A musical provides a rich and engaging springboard for students to explore many subjects in their classrooms and discover connections among various modes of learning. Our ShowKit® came with show-related lesson plans for English language arts, social studies, science, and visual art – all of which fulfil the Common Core State Standards.
* **Teamwork:** Theatre requires extensive creative input from all participants. Students build an ensemble by working together to rehearse, construct, promote, and perform their show. Every role – whether onstage or behind the scenes – is vital to the show’s success.

As you can see, our students will gain valuable life skills through their participation in this production. We’re looking forward to jumping into rehearsals and seeing you on opening night, if not before! Of course, we’re always looking for parent volunteers to help pull everything together. Please contact me if you’d like to lend a hand with the show. Thank you for your continued support of your child during this educational experience.