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Promoting Local Cultural Diversity

Islamic Society hosts events

As a way to celebrate diversity – and to kick off the New Year with good health – Portland's Muslim community will host an art exhibit and health screening over the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend at the Islamic Society of Greater Portland, 16100 S.W. Blanton in Beaverton.

"The Graceful Names of Allah" marks the latest work from locally-based artist Kanaan Kanaan -- known for his artistic celebration of culture and faith between East and West – a "crossing of the divide." This exhibit showcases a sample of the 99 names of Allah (God) in the form of tiles, large and small, each intricately detailed with rich, colorful designs.

The exhibit kicks off with a reception and "artist talk" at 6 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 15; the exhibit continues throughout the weekend. All art will be for sale, with a portion of the proceeds being donated to the Crescent Islamic Montessori School.

Shagufta Hasan, M.D., will lead the health screening, to include both blood pressure and sugar tests, and she will offer sign-ups and details about a free dental clinic to take place Sunday, Jan. 31. Both the counselor/psychologist and acupuncturist with Dr. Hasan's Beaverton-based medical clinic will be on-site at the health screening to answer questions and schedule appointments for their services, available for a small donation or free as needed.

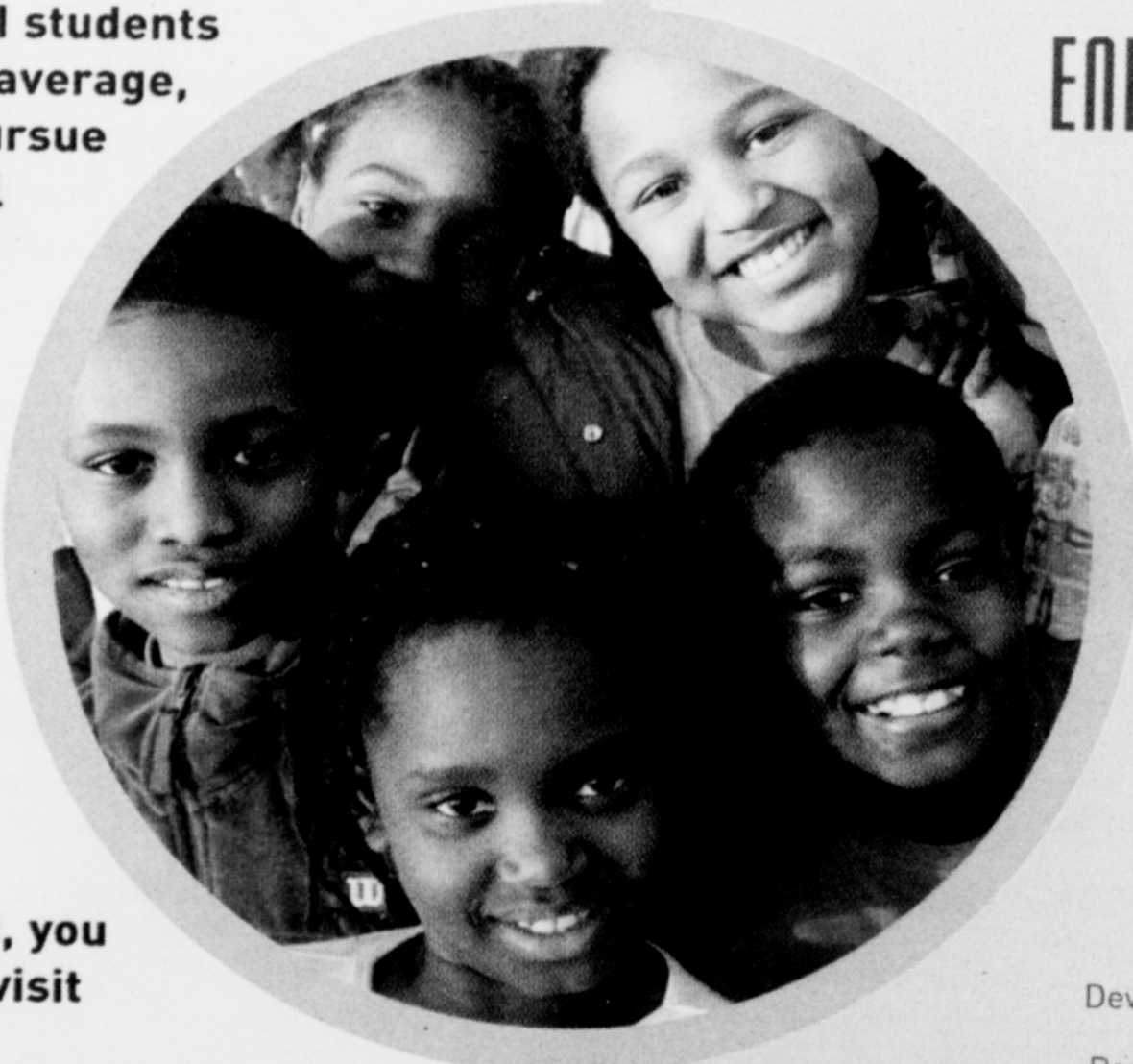
Founded in 2004, the Crescent Islamic Montessori offers preschool and lower elementary grade school for children ages 3-6 and 6-9. Its mission is to provide a developmentally appropriate program based on the principles and philosophy of Dr. Maria Montessori and the recommendations of latest research in early childhood education within an Islamic atmosphere.

For more information, contact Kate Chester at 503-706-1294 or at katechester2003@yahoo.com.

Each year, in Portland, only 54% of African-American students graduate from high school. Yet in 2008 and 2009, every single one of SEI students graduated. As in 100%. Plus, on average, more than 85% continue on to pursue higher education or occupational training, many being the first in their families to do so.

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