Thursday, August 23, 2007

Spiritual Growth of Our Children through Internalizing Values
Presented by: Necva Ozgur

- This workshop examines what spirituality is, how we nurture spirituality, and explores the role of values in spiritual formation in order to better serve our children and support their overall growth as human beings
- The Challenges of Muslim Students
    - Islamophobic environment
    - Pressure of assimilation
    - Alcohol and drug use
    - Dating and sex
    - Peer pressure
    - Violence
    - The results of which are:
        - Identity crisis
        - Confusion
        - Low self-esteem
        - Hoplessness
        - Fragmented image of Islam
- The role of Islamic Schools
    - A full-time Islamic school is a way to enable our children to tackle the un-Islamic influences that society has to offer
    - It does this through providing an environment that allows for intellectual, social, moral, physical, and spiritual growth
- What is Spirituality?
    - Spirituality is connectedness with the creator
    - Teaching Children Spirituality has Two basic Approaches
        - Informational approach; focuses on teaching content, with the Quran as a framework for children to learn the essential teachings of the faith
        - Formational approach: emphasizes deepening each child's awareness of the presence of God in his/her lifetime
- How do we Nurture Spirituality in our schools?
    - Develop a vision for spirituality
    - Develop standards for spirituality
    - Develop guidelines and expectations for spirituality
    - Train adult mentors in spirituality
    - Focus on Ibadat as a strategy to connect to Allah
    - Develop "talk sheets" and a "hot topic library"
    - Establish a youth Spiritual Leadership Program

- Internalizing Values and Spirituality in our schools
  - Islamizing the school environment with Islamic ethos
  - Teaching children to look at world from a Quranic paradigm
  - Providing a knowledge base grounded in the Quran
  - Helping students develop a strong Islamic identity that is a source of pride
  - Teaching Islam with passion
  - Encouraging value-based Islamic environment
  - Developing all adults as role-models who live values fully
  - Having caring teachers who help students reach their full potential
  - Creating a school culture focusing on excellence in every aspect of growth