

the

# Star ★ News

Al Ihsan School of Excellence



## Islamic Corner

A sahabi, Abdullah bin Masoud (R) said:  
*“The long nights and the short days are a blessing for a believer because fasting will be easier and they will be able to pray Qiyam Al Layl longer.”*



**On November 5<sup>th</sup>, inshaAllah, the time will change making the days shorter and the nights longer. Take advantage of the time change by fasting extra and increasing in your night prayers.**

## From the Principal's Desk

Assalamu Alaikum

Welcome to another month here at Al Ihsan! It is starting to get a little chilly outside, so as a reminder please dress accordingly. Gym and recess will continue to be outside as long as the weather permits. We know we will be stuck inside for a while when winter hits so let's enjoy being outdoors!

Thank you to all our students for showing all your school spirit this month, I loved seeing everyone so excited to be at school! As a staff, we are very well aware of our surroundings, and along with that comes being extra cautious. We are beginning our lockdown drills and discussing possible situations with our students so they can also be well aware of their surroundings. We want to make sure our students know what to do in an emergency situation. As always, we encourage everyone: if you see something, say something!

## Save the Date!

### November

15 - Culture Day (all buildings)  
 22 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Q. Progress Reports  
 23-24 - No school - Fall Break

### December

4-15 - Map testing (Math, Language, Reading)  
 12 - Spelling Bee (Cleveland 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>)  
 13 - Spelling Bee (Parma 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>)  
 15 - Invention Fair  
 22-31 - Winter Break

### January

1 - No school - Winter Break  
 2 - Back to school  
 3 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Q. Ends  
 4 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Q. Begins  
 15 - No school - MLK Day

*This issue was brought to you by...*

- Selma Abazid
- Bayan Abed
- Hawa Abdul Salaam
- Rawand Abu-Jumah
- Thabia Assad
- Jennay Attallah
- Yasmine Dardari
- Danah Harmouche
- Jenin Mahmoud
- Razan Sabih

# Teacher Feature

By: Thabia Assad & Selma Abazid



**2nd Grade classroom-** Saeda Hammad, the head second grade teacher, was nominated for this month's Teacher Feature.

It all started seven years ago when Ms. Saeda decided to take a turn in her life and come to Al Ihsan to volunteer with elementary. She always knew she wanted to work with kids- just not as a teacher.

She wanted to be a psychologist and work with children in that field. After volunteering at Al Ihsan for two years, she decided to apply for a teaching position.

“As a new teacher, I remember laughing, crying, and working harder than I ever thought I could,” said Ms. Saeda.

Ms. Saeda believes the most challenging grade level to teach is any grade in elementary, “You need to teach them new skills, and set a foundation for them.” She also believes the most challenging part of being a teacher is making sure to reach all students at every level. “You have to make sure that you are challenging your advanced students and you are helping the struggling students excel at the same time.”

Growing up she may not have been the best student, on her own account, but through high school and college she excelled in her studies. She received a double bachelors in psychology and communication and a masters in curriculum and instruction from Cleveland State University. She was also a member of the International Reading Association. Ms. Saeda's hard work paid off as she graduated with honors, *MashaAllah*.

Ms. Saeda's inspiration to work with kids came from her own experiences of becoming a mother. She is a mother of two kids, Sajah and Saif. They are her pride and joy.

“Now after almost five years, my heart is full and my mind is packed with memories of kids who have changed my life. I hope that I am able to impact my students as they have to me,” said Ms. Saeda.

## Can you Answer this Riddle?

By: Razan Sabih and Thabia Assad

Q: In a one-story pink house, there was a pink person, a pink cat, a pink fish, a pink computer, a pink chair, a pink table, a pink telephone, a pink shower– everything was pink!  
What color were the stairs?  
(answer on p. 4)

## Fun Happenings at Al Ihsan



### Fire Truck

Oooh, It's getting hot in here!! Students learned about fire safety on Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>.



### Patterson Farms

The elementary students visited Patterson farms and picked apples on Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>.



### Saving Energy

The National Children's Theatre presented the Energized Guyz to teach our students about saving energy on Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>.

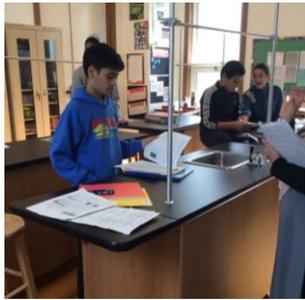


### Spirit Week

Students showed their school spirit by showing up to school on time and participating in the fun festivities.

# An Al Ihsan Makeover!

By: Bayan Abed & Danah Harmouche



**Al Ihsan Cleveland Campus** – Alhamdulillah! The school is finally coming along. We are excited to introduce the brand spanking new science lab to our students. We have also upgraded the

entrance doors to the school for safety and appearance reasons. We have also replaced the old mulch in the playground. Alhamdulillah, we have been fortunate enough to construct two new classrooms, repaint the walls, and add more lockers for our students. Piping and plumbing work has been fixed in our student restrooms and new doors have been installed as well. Also, the staircases are now stable unlike before. We hope you keep donating to our school as you are doing your Islamic community and children a huge favor. Not to mention, how much reward from Allah you will be receiving, InshaAllah. JazakumAllahukhair.

## Star Students

By: Danah Harmouche & Bayan Abed

- **Mariyah Bahadur:** She always follows directions and she is very respectful.  
–*Sr. Nadia, 1<sup>st</sup> grade*
- **Mujeeb Mohammadi:** He always works hard and tries his best. He is kind to his classmates, is very respectful and follows directions all the time.  
–*Mrs. Bailey, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade*
- **Danah Harmouche:** She always strives to beat her personal best and she is always smiling.  
–*Mrs. Salaam, 9<sup>th</sup> grade*



# Elections and Muslims

By: Faten Husni Odeh



**Cleveland, OH-** On Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>, the General Elections will be held at polls all across the state.

For many, this is the forgotten election. Its voter turnout is far less than the already low voter turnout for the presidential elections. According to Pew Research, “Tens of millions of registered voters did not cast a ballot in the 2016 presidential election.”

Many cited their reason for not voting being their dislike for the candidates or the campaign issues. This survey was done across the U.S. One might wonder if the attitude of Muslim Americans on voting is parallel.

The answer is, yes.

Apathetic is the term that comes to mind. When trying to register community members to vote at *salat il Taraweeh* during Ramadan, many responded that the elections did not concern them and their vote doesn't really make a difference.

This, my friends, is the reason why politicians are able to point fingers at Muslims and Islam as scapegoats for the nation's problems. This is why our current president can tweet:

“Just out report: ‘United Kingdom crime reports crime rises 13% annually amid rise of radical Islamic terror.’ Not good, we must keep America safe!”

If we all banded together and formed a voting bloc, no politician would ever dare use upsetting anti-Islamic rhetoric in their campaigns.

I strongly urge all Muslims to get out and vote in this year's general elections and for all elections to come.

You can vote by mail or go to your designated voting poll. For more information on Election Day and issues or candidates running, please visit [www.443vote.com](http://www.443vote.com) or call 215-443-VOTE (8683).

*Dear Abby,*

*Do you have any tips for middle school students? Middle School is tiring and hard. Please help.*

*~Love “?”*

*Dear Anonymous,*

*If you are struggling with understanding your lessons, you should ask your teacher for extra help after class. If the teacher is not available (you're at home) then I recommend watching videos about your lesson on websites like Khan Academy. Middle School is going to be hard at first, but you'll soon get used to it all. Just stay patient and determined.*

*Sincerely,  
Rawand Abu-Jumah &  
Yasmine Dardari*

## PTT Update

By: Razan Sabih and Thabia Assad



PTT has an exciting event for us! They will be hosting our first annual Al Ihsan Fall Festival on Fri., Oct. 27th from 4-10pm. There will be cow trains, hayrides, super slides, a jump park, a petting zoo, corn maze, and caramel apples. There are many things you and your kids can enjoy. Tickets are \$10. Partial proceeds go to Al Ihsan PTT. Mapleside Farms is located at 294 Pearl Road Brunswick, OH 44212. For tickets email: [PTT@alihsanschool.org](mailto:PTT@alihsanschool.org)

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*Answer to Riddle: It's a one-story house... there are no stairs. (p. 3)*