

★ THE STAR NEWS ★

AL IHSAN SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

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LIFE WITHOUT SOCIAL MEDIA

By Lujane Abazid

During this Age of Technology, everyone in well-developed countries are being affected by the social media around them because of how much time is being spent on it instead of taking care of other areas of their life.

Do you think you can leave all types of social media at once? Social media is now so famous all around the world that it will be hard to leave it. People can't imagine their life without it.

According to the Association for Psychological Science, a recent study shows that users who spend most of the time on different types of social media were shown to have a rate from 13 to 66% higher rate of depression than those who spent less time on it.

A big disadvantage is that when two people get into an argument half the people around the world, if not all of them, who have social media get involved in it.

People are so into it, they don't recognize what is happening around them, which results in family and friend separations. People would rather face-time, spend time, and socialize with each other on social media instead of visiting them. Because of this, people get bullied, lose self-esteem, and lastly go through depression.

Without social media, people's lives are more private. No one will know -or needs to know- when or what you ate, where you went, or the outfit you wore. This is the extra information you are giving out, which makes it easier for someone to stalk, and track you.

The first-time people look at their phones is early in the morning, and the last thing they look at is their screen. Going on your phone for a long time, can easily lead to serious back and neck problems and cause your eyesight to weaken.

Al Ihsan high school students share their thoughts on the topic,
 "I think life is peaceful without social media. I had social media before, and I don't miss it. With social media, you are less focused on your work, and homework, and you don't get involved with the drama, which is included a lot in social media. Since I stopped using social media, I improved in my education and started getting straight A's."

"I have social media, and I can stay without social media for a couple of hours. I find social media addicting due to all the news that is added to them especially finding new friends to talk to... Since most of the people I communicate with are on these social media apps, I tend to lose my focus instead of doing what I have been told to do. If I did not have social media, I would probably focus more on my work but because of the extreme amount of boredom, it's just for entertainment.

ISLAMIC CORNER



The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said, "There is no gift that a father gives his son more virtuous than good manners"

Having good manners is very important. The first thing a person notices when meeting a stranger is their manners. Be careful how you act around people and most importantly respect your elders.

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SAVE THE DATE

Compiled by Alaa Murra

September-

09/30-10/04: School Spirit Week

October-

10/01: Anti-Bullying Day

10/14: NO SCHOOL (SPD)

October continued-

10/18: 1st Quarter Ends10/21: 2nd Quarter Begins

10/24: 12:30 Early Dismissal & PTC 1:30 PM-7:30 PM

10/25: No School

TEACHER FEATURE*By Alaa Murra and Selma Abazid*

Ayeh Ahmad, the secondary school (3rd-5th grade) intervention tutor has been nominated for this month's teacher feature.

Ayeh was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio where she received her education from Cuyahoga Community College with an associate degree in liberal arts.

She is currently studying at Cleveland State University, where she is pursuing her dream of becoming a Math and Language Arts teacher for middle school students.

Ayeh was influenced by her middle school Math teacher as she says, "Besides the fact that I have an abundance of patience and love for kids, my passion for teaching came from my middle school math teacher. I was so inspired by her love and aspiration for teaching and the difference she was able to make in a student's life academically and socially that it made me realize that I wanted to do the same."

Ayeh started with working at the Cleveland Public Library, then finally realized she wanted to pursue an education career. Ayeh thought teaching at Al Ihsan would be a great start. She states, "Not to mention the fact that it's an Islamic school which benefits me into learning new information about my religion each and every day."

One of her biggest challenges has been adapting to different teaching techniques from other teachers. "I found this to be the most challenging because not all teachers have the same methods, so I had to learn how to set aside my teaching aspects when working with them."

Her top priority every year is to get to know each and every one of the students on a more personal level. "This makes it capable for me to incorporate their interests into the work we are doing in the classroom."

THE STAR RIDDLE*Compiled by Selma Abazid*

WHEN YOU WANT TO USE ME, YOU THROW ME AWAY. WHEN YOU'RE DONE USING ME, YOU BRING ME IN. WHAT AM I?

ANSWER IS ON PAGE 4

THE STAR RANTS*Compiled by Jumana Abed*

- "Can I get a yerrrr"
- "its YOLT not YOLO, you only live TWICE"
- "I want DUNKINNNNNN"
- "I'm stressed and depressed, and in desperate need of rest"
- "We're class-less, we got no class to stay in"
- "teacher: spit your gum out. student: ok... teacher again: IS THAT GUM IN YOUR MOUTH?!! student: ummm, no"
- "Hit the Woah"
- "We have WAY TOOO MUCH HOMEWORKKKKK"

WOMAN WARRIOR*By Fatima Hamidan*

With the concept of feminism becoming more popular in this day and age in the West, Americans may find it hard to believe that Islam was actually the trendsetter for this not so new movement.

Over 1,400 years ago in the Arabian Peninsula, Nusaybah Bint Ka'ab was the first woman warrior of Islam, when she took the oath to protect the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) as a human shield during battles.

She was a part of the Banu Najjar tribe living in Medina. At first, she was just bringing water to the warriors and tending to their wounds. After they lost the battle because the archers disobeyed the Prophet (SAW), she knew it was time. Nusaybah, with her sword at her side and her bow in her hand, joined the group who never left the Prophet's side.

Nusaybah was still alive when Abu Bakr Al Siddiq and Omar Ibn Al Khatab (RAA) were alive and when they became a khulafa. She had lost her hand and received several wounds because she fought fiercely at Al-Yamamah. She never gave up fighting side by side with the Prophet (SAW) defending him unlike others who had retreated.

According to Nusaybahfamily.net and Islamweb.net, the Prophet (SAW) said to her; "Praise is due to Allah who gave you victory over your enemy and satisfied you by showing you his death".

This was said when the Prophet (SAW) saw that Nusaybah's son was in danger, so he had found the person who tried to kill him, and they all started hitting him until he died.

Sr. Ansam, the Director of Al Ihsan Hifz School, states about Nusayba, "We all wish to be like Nusaybah, she was strong, brave, sincere, and sensitive. We can't protect the prophet (SAW) in battle like how she did, but what we can do, is protect his sunnah".

DEAR ABBY*By Fatmeh Sammour*

Dear Abby,
My classmate makes fun of anyone who participates in the morning assembly. She makes me feel ashamed of trying to be a good Muslim. How do I keep strong? -Anonymous

Dear Troubled One,
Have faith in Allah, ignore what they are saying and keep doing what makes you a better Muslim. Those kids are just jealous of how you're participating and they're not. In the end, if they keep making fun of you it's just more good deeds adding up and bad deeds going their way.
Sincerely,
Fatmeh Sammour

DOGS. HALAL OR HARAM?

By Alaa Murra



As the saying goes, dogs are a man's best friend, but many Muslims wonder if the safety and companionship a dog can offer haram for Muslims.

With the mentioning of dogs in the Quran and hadith, Muslims search for ways to keep it halal while having a dog for a pet.

There are certain reasons that people can keep dogs in their houses. Some people have their

dogs kept outside of their house in a garage or put in an outside doghouse, however, it is only supposed to be for important reasons. Those reasons include for protection as in Surat al Kahf, Allah explains the story when there was a dog it was used as protection for the young men that stayed in the cave; "And, their dog lay outstretching its two forelegs on the threshold. Had you come upon them unprepared, you would certainly have turned away from them in flight and would certainly have been filled with awe of them," (18:18).

Another reason that having a dog as a pet may be permitted in Islam is for farming and herding animals. A narration from Abu Hurayrah showed that the Prophet (PBUH) said, "Whoever keeps a dog, his good deed will decrease every day by one qeraat (a unit of measurement for a mountain) unless it is a dog for farming or herding." (Reported by al- Bukhari).

According to Islamqa.info, a dog may be helpful if a person is blind, and it as an exception to keep a dog since they can make it easy and useful to go to certain places.

But keeping a dog as Muslims does have its complications when it comes to Salah, if a dog licks you, you would have to wash your hands 7 times or throw away your garments (Islamqa.info).

So, keeping a dog as a pet may be fun and beneficial but you must be ready for the high maintenance that comes with it.

MARRIAGE CRISIS

By Fatmeh Sammour

The summer has passed, and wedding bells are still ringing but for many, getting married these days has proven to be harder than ever before for young Muslims all around the world.

The process of today in finding a significant other has drastically changed since the days of our parents. Marriage has become more complex and a little difficult making it burdensome to complete half our deen.

Back in the days females may have been oblivious about all the aspects of marriage such as financial security, motherhood and more. It was about the white dress and the big day.

According to Religion News, females today have "gained more rights, education is at its peak, and their independence is rising." Meaning their standards are higher when it comes down to marriage.

"The only standard I had for marriage was that my husband prayed five times a day. I wanted to marry someone for this life and the next, Insha'Allah," says Faten Odeh, a teacher at Al Ihsan

As for males, they may be deterred from a marriage with the worrying of the economic barriers of success. Housing prices are high and there's enormous competition for high salary positions. Not to mention how these large and extravagant weddings everyone seems to be having that cost \$50,000 or more and fall directly on the shoulders of the male. This makes them feel like they need to meet a set of goals and are unworthy of long-term investments needed for marriage.

Then there is the U.S. divorce rate with nearly 50% of marriages ending in divorce, though that statistic can be faulty.

"I think people have this misconception that love is temporary and conditional, people take out the love for humanity out of the equation for marriage and that is the problem, I love my husband first and foremost for the sake of Allah and when you have that in mind, everything else is put into perspective," says Faten Odeh.

★ THE STAR STUDENTS ★



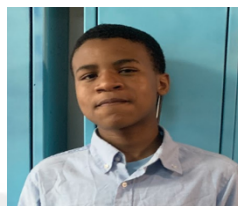
Elementary (KG-2nd grade)

Nureen Abdallah (KG): "I have chosen Nureen Abdullah because she is a well-behaved kindergartener. She always follows the rules and helps her classmates. She participates in class and is a good role model to her peers." -Suheir Jabir



Secondary (3rd-5th grade)

Jasmina Kraja (3rd Grade): "Jasmina has shown from the first day of school great manners, respect and how to be a friend. I'm so proud of her." -Heidi Bailey



Middle School (6th-8th grade)

Aweis Abdi (8th Grade):

"As a new student, he adjusted quickly and stepped up to the challenge of taking Algebra 1 by working hard in class and asking questions." -Alicia Kadiri



Middle School (6th-8th grade)

Faduma Aweys (8th Grade): "She has been on top of all her assignments displays the behavior and mannerisms of a model student." -Emily Hill



High School (9th-12th grade)

Yunes Assad (9th grade): "I love how Yunes applies himself in the classroom. He is thoughtful and well behaved. He brings lots of joy to my class." -Marsida Kraja

By Alaa Murra and Fatmeh Sammour