

★ THE STAR NEWS ★

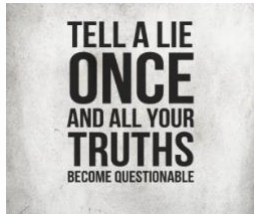
AL IHSAN SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

Editor-in-Chief: Selma Abazid

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THE TRUTH DOESN'T COST ANYTHING BUT A LIE COSTS EVERYTHING *By Fatima Hamidan*

ISLAMIC CORNER
Compiled By: Alaa Murra



100% of surveyed Al Ihsan students in upper grades have admitted to lying to escape the consequences of their actions.

There are only three acceptable reasons you are able to lie, the first one is if it's in a life or death situation about your religion or goes beyond your religion, second if it makes peace between people, and lastly, it's ok to lie to your spouse.

It doesn't mean to go do something unpleasant and lie to him/her, it means that you would be able to say that their food is good or that they are pretty not to hurt their feelings.

Mrs. Faten Odeh is a teacher that has been lied to and that lie goes beyond the three acceptable reasons.

"When someone lies to you, you feel like that person has no care for you at all, and you feel betrayed, I felt that way when a student lied to me about cheating on a test."

Not only the people that get lied to feel pain but also the people who do lie endure an inerasable regret.

An anonymous teacher revealed a heart-wrenching story and how she still deals with the feeling of remorse over 20 years later about lying to her mother.

"I lied to my mom that I was at my friend's house but she didn't believe me until I started crying and saying that "you never believe and you always assume the worst of me". Then she believed me and said sorry but ever since that day I regret lying to her and never lied to her again."

Lying can take you only so far, so it's best to tell the truth because the lies that you say will catch up to you at the end and it will be exposed to all.

Prophet Muhammad SAW said, "Indeed, truth leads to virtue and virtue leads to Paradise, and a truthful person continues to speak the truth until he becomes the most truthful person. Lies lead to evil and evil leads to Hell, and a liar continues to lie until he is listed as a high ranking liar before Allah." [Al-Bukhari]



The Prophet (SAW) stated,

"When a believer utters a lie without a valid excuse, he is cursed by seventy thousand angels...."

In common sense, we should not take lying as a normal thing.

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SAVE THE DATE

Compiled By: Selma Abazid

JANUARY:

12/20-01/01: No School – Winter Break
01/02: Back to School and 3rd Q. Begins
01/13-14: MAP Assessments
01/20: No School – MLK Day

FEBRUARY:

02/07: 3rd Quarter Progress Reports
02/17: No School – SPD
02/24-28: Reading Week

MARCH:

03/04: 3rd Q. Ends
03/05: 4th Q. Begins
03/12: 12:30 Early Dismissal & PTC
03/13: No School
03/19: Family STEAM Night 4-5:30 PM

MARCH CONTINUED:

03/24: AQIS Day (Cleveland KG-5)
03/25: AQIS Day (Plaza & Parma)
03/26: AQIS Day (Cleveland Middle/High School)
03/30-04/09: MAP Assessments

APRIL:

04/1-9: MAP Assessments cont'd.
04/03: 4th Q. Progress Reports
04/10-13: No School – Spring Break
04/14: Back to School
04/16:12:30 Early Dismissal & Teacher Work Day
04/17: Earth Day (all buildings)
04/24: Ramadan Begins, No School (tentative)
04/24: Ramadan Schedule begins. New hours: 9:00-3:30
04/24-5/01: Ramadan Week Begins

STAR NEWS STAFF

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**ARE YOUR WORDS WORTH RISKING
SOMEONE'S LIFE?** *By Alaa Murra*

Bullying is a serious topic that needs to be addressed more often, especially since many students are being physically and emotionally abused because studies show it can cause depression and anxiety.

Many people don't realize that their words can actually affect a human's life. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, "Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school-aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance." There are several forms of bullying such as; cyber, verbal, physical, and social bullying. These forms of bullying can happen anywhere and at any time.

According to The Ark Hope of Children, "56% of students have personally witnessed some type of bullying in school, 1 out of every 10 students drop out of school because of repeated bullying, and 90% of 4th through 8th graders report being victims of bullying." Bullying can lead to depression which can dramatically change a person's life in a way where it could possibly result in suicidal thoughts and acts.

Bullies usually aim for people that are vulnerable to that treatment. Once they see that their actions or words affect them in some way, they find it a constant habit that can repeatedly tear down the person. People can take a joke, but they can't take disrespect. A teacher from Al Ihsan states, "Gaslighting is a tool that bullies and abusers use to hurt you while at the same time making the bullied person look crazy, sensitive, or like they don't have a sense of humor if they complain."

The Prophet (PBUH) said, "Help your brother, whether he is an oppressor or he is oppressed." The Prophet was asked: "It is right to help him if he is oppressed, but how should we help him if he is an oppressor?" He then replied: "By preventing him from oppressing others." (Sahih Bukhari, Hadith 624)

THE STAR RIDDLE
Compiled by Selma Abazid

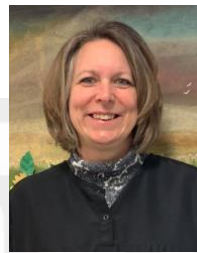
WHAT IS EASY TO GET INTO BUT VERY HARD TO
GET OUT OF?

ANSWER IS ON PAGE 4

THE STAR RANTS
Compiled by Fatima Hamidan

- You ugly you your daddy son
- I have in my hand a list of many repeat offenders... this school will be gum-free!
- Do not take life to seriously you won't get out of it alive
- None of your business
- Seeing a spider in my room isn't scary it's scary when it disappears
- Work smarter not harder
- I'm not hungry but I'm bored so might as well eat
- It's an A and B conversation does it look like we invited c no so can you see your way out

TEACHER FEATURE
By Lujane Abazid



Heidi Bailey, the 3rd Grade teacher has been nominated for this month's *Teacher Feature* for her creativity in teaching.

Mrs. Bailey's journey in teaching started at a young age when she was a babysitter because of her love to work with children. She was inspired to become a teacher by her 3rd Grade teacher and college professors, so she wanted to become like them.

Mrs. Bailey enjoys spending time with her family, traveling around the world, reading, and watching movies during her free time.

Mrs. Bailey graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in English with a teaching certificate.

Mrs. Bailey joined Al Ihsan School in 2010 so it is her 9th year teaching at Al Ihsan School. Since she has started, she has taught 3 different grade levels which include, a year of KG, four years of 5th grade, and now it is her fourth year teaching 3rd grade.

Mrs. Bailey has a passion for teaching and she loves teaching students and seeing them grow in the years after, as she fears not being able to reach the information to them with her methods. She believes so much in her students capabilities and is sure that if they put in their efforts, they will succeed and reach their goals, as she states, "I want them to see themselves how I see them. I want them to see how great they are and what they can accomplish and what they're capable of doing."

Since students now enjoy doing most of their things on technology, Mrs. Bailey uses iPads, and the Promethean Board to teach and assess them, "It's more fun for me and more fun for them, so when I can, I do hands-on activities and experiments to teach the students in a fun way," said Mrs. Bailey. They also seem to have fun in doing experiments, which also helps to teach students the material in a different form.

Eden Hussein, a third-grade student said: "She is a kind and helpful teacher. She lets us do a lot of activities like science experiments. She helps me understand reading tests when I get stuck. I was nervous at the beginning of the year because I didn't have my glasses so she would write the words bigger on the board so I can see them."

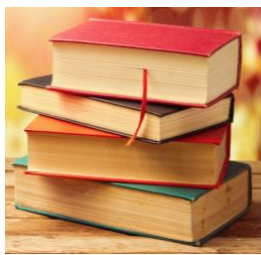
THE DEAR ABBY

*Dear Abby,
I am feeling stressed lately because of the amount of homework the teachers are giving me.
Best Regards,
Anonymous*

Dear Troubled One,
This is a common thing that happens to many people. Don't worry and relax. Do one thing at a time, and it will work out. Don't stress yourself out. It's ok, it will be easy, if you don't understand something, then you can ask one of your teachers, friends, classmates, etc. It might be hard in the beginning but you will be very happy in the end.

Best Regards,
Anonymous

**FEELING DUMB LATELY?
READ A BOOK.** *By Fatmeh Sammour*



If you have been longing for a solution to enhance your brain IQ then books are the answer! As unusual as it may sound, there are numerous studies and several reasons why you should pick up a good book right now.

The things you read has the power to affect the way you think. An Al Ihsan 8th grade student says, "Books are amazing because they allow you to expand your imagination" but a high school student responded with, "I don't focus when I'm reading a book because when I read I don't comprehend it as fast as I'm reading it, so it's technically a waste of time." Contrary to this math teacher Mrs. Alicia responded, "books allow you to see and have experiences from somebody else's point of view which help you become more empathetic."

Islam City studies show that reading not only helps with fluid intelligence but with reading comprehension and emotional intelligence as well. You make smarter decisions about yourself and those around you. A scientific study states that, "White matter carries information between regions of grey matter, where any information is processed." Not only does reading increase white matter, it helps information be processed more efficiently

This is why Islam attaches great importance to knowledge and education. When the Quran first revealed, the first word of its first verse was 'IQRA!'; read. The Prophet may peace be upon him made seeking knowledge an obligation upon every Muslim. Furthermore, he said that seeking knowledge is a way leading to Paradise: "Whoever follows a path in the pursuit of knowledge, Allah will make a path to Paradise easy for him." (Al-Bukhari)

MUSIC IN THE ISLAMIC COMMUNITY

By Jumana Abed



Today in America, Muslims have been listening to music, whether it's haram or not. Not many people have thought about it, as it is very typical, considering people living in the United States.

Around the world, listening to music is very common, as many have a loveable obsession over it.

Many people don't bother asking if music is permissible or not because of its popularity, or others might not think that listening to instruments would be a sin.

Many Muslims believe that only vocal music is permissible and that instruments are haram, which is the opinion of many scholars, including the four mathahib (views of the 4 scholars, Imam Malik, Imam Ahmad, Imam Shafii, and Imam Abu Haneefah regarding Islam). All four of the mathahib approve that music is not permissible because of the Hadith of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) where he states, "And of mankind is he who purchases idle talks (i.e. music, singing, etc.) to mislead (men) from the path of Allah without knowledge, and takes it (the Path of Allah, the Verses of the Quran) by way of mockery. For such there will be a humiliating torment (in the Hell-Fire)" [Luqman 31:6]

Music was first introduced during the prophet Sheath's time and that is the first time *fitna* was introduced. Many would say there is a direct connection between the two.

Hence there is a tradition of a cappella singing which is permissible as it does not include any type of musical instrument. Some Muslims believe that any instrument is lawful as long as it is used for the permissible kinds of music. This is often a common misconception between Muslims. Nasheeds on the other hand, are considered to be the halal type of music, as it is a genre of music that does not include any kind of instrument but, instead, uses a capella.

However, some Muslims don't care and will listen to any type of music, whether it was halal or not because they don't see it as doing something very disobeying to Allah (SWT).

Music, whether includes inappropriate language or not, is a distraction from Islam and the fulfillment of duties. The prophet SAW says, "Among my ummah, there will certainly be people who permit zinaa, silk, alcohol, and musical instruments..." Narrated By Al Bukhari.

★ **THE STAR STUDENTS** ★



Elementary (KG-2nd grade)

Lul Mohammed (KG): "Lul is a very good student, and she always makes sure to follow directions. She is also a very hardworking student, MashaAllah."

Mrs. Suheir Jabir



Middle School (6th-8th grade)

Yusef Rudolph (6th Grade): "Yusef is a hardworking, diligent student. He always tries his best to do well in class. Yusef misses recess to make sure his work is completed. He is a helpful student."

Mrs. Racha Alameh



Middle School (6th-8th grade)

Hanean Shehadah (8th Grade): "Hanean has been extremely helpful and cooperative with her classmates. She has been helping her friends with their assignments and has been selfless with her time in order to ensure they stay on top of things, not to mention being diligent with her own work."

Mrs. Emily Hill



High School (9th-12th grade)

Omar Alomari (10th Grade): "I have taught Omar since he was in 6th grade and he has been a pleasure to watch him grow into a very bright and kind young man, MashaAllah. We are so proud of you Omar!"

Mrs. Marsida Kraja

A GLOBALIZED WORLD AND A GLOBALIZED AL IHSAN

By Fatma Abduljalil

In a world of diverse people, it's about time we try to understand and respect different cultures.

People come from all over the world to the U.S. for many reasons. Many come for better lives and some are even refugees escaping the turmoil in their home countries.

Jennah Roberson a 6th grader said, "Just because you have a different culture than other people, it doesn't mean you can't be their friends or be nice to them." Most people would agree with her, though it's likely the current U.S. administration would not.

Al Ihsan aims to introduce students to learning about other cultures. As it says in the Quran, "*O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the noblest of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. Indeed, Allah is Knowing and Acquainted.*" -**Sahih International**

With the holy Quran's words in mind, middle and high school students took a trip to Little Italy, Cleveland for Culture Day. Mrs. Faten, the brains of the trip stated, "Over the past 2 years, we wanted to take the students to places Cleveland has to offer rather than learn about them in the classroom. I feel the students have really enjoyed it, *alhamdulillah.*"

8th graders Hanean Shehadeh and Ryanne Hussein, both agree that going out for Culture Day is a better experience. "It is a better way to learn than in a classroom, we had a lot of fun."

Students enjoyed a Little Italy scavenger hunt, an authentic Italian lunch, and cannolis for dessert. This was all made possible through weeks of raising money to make the trip affordable for all the students. *Alhamdulillah*, we even had a donor for those who still needed assistance.

"It was really cool seeing other people's cultures, trying their foods, and seeing their art," said Fatima Hamidan, 9th grader. Mrs. Faten says the key to having a successful trip was teamwork and lots of *duaa*.

"I prayed A LOT for this trip because it was in November and the weather can be unpredictable. *Alhamdulillah*, Allah answered my *duaa* as He always does and we had the most beautiful weather for us to enjoy the scavenger hunt and the entire trip," said Mrs. Faten.



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