

★ THE STAR NEWS ★

AL IHSAN SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

Editor-in-Chief: Selma Abazid

This issue was sponsored HolyLand Market and Arabian Village Market

MUSLIMS IN A BUSY WORLD STRUGGLE TO KEEP THEIR DEEN

By Fatmeh Sammour

Around 47% of Al Ihsan students and staff polled that their busy schedules make them miss a prayer occasionally in, so we need to plan our worldly activities around our religious obligations, not vice versa.

As they say, "A busy life makes prayer harder, but prayer makes a busy life easier."

Finding a place to pray or making wudu can be challenging when you're out and about. Most times, stores have music in the background and that may affect your salah so even if you choose to pray in a fitting room, you could be listening to Cardi B while reciting surat Al-Fatiha.

Ayah Jadallah, a 10th grader said, "If one certain fitting room has music, I find another without music if possible, to pray."

Making wudu in public places may prove to be an additional challenge, "Yes Bro, some people stare at you for like an hour while you're making wudu," said a 9th grader from Al Ihsan. They might think you're weird for taking off your shoes and washing your feet in the public restroom's sink."

Breaking fast doesn't always fit in your schedule in a non-Islamic environment, "I remember stopping during my basketball practices and going on the sidelines to eat iftar in middle school," said Mrs. Faten. "I also remember my friend who passed out on the football field in a game because he was fasting Ramadan. He struggled between trying to win a football scholarship and keeping his deen."

Here are some tips to keep you on your deen in this fast-paced world:

1. Plan your activities around your salah. For a movie, maybe go after Maghrib.
2. If you're going to be out during salah time, make sure you have everything you need to make your salah like... a water bottle for wudu, be dressed in Islamic attire, information on a place you know is suitable to pray in.

ISLAMIC CORNER

Be Patient

In the Quran, Allah (SWT) says, "It may be that you dislike a thing and Allah brings through it a great deal of good"

Be patient, you might not know if something is good for you or not, but Allah (SWT) knows what is best for you and what is not.

IN THIS ISSUE...

- Save the Date
- Islamic Corner
- Star Rants
- Star Students
- Dear Abby
- Kids' Corner
- Teacher Feature
- Its 2019 and Nothing Has Changed...
- Our Growing School
- Muslims in a Busy World Struggle to Keep Their Deen
- Are Haunted Houses Haram?

STAR NEWS STAFF

- Abazid, Selma
- Abazid, Lujane
- Abed, Jumana
- Hamidan, Fatima
- Murra, Alaa
- Sammour, Fatmeh
- Tadbir, Noural



SAVE THE DATE

Compiled by Fatima Hamidan

November:

21- 12:30 Early Dismissal & Teacher Work Day
22- 2nd Q. Progress Reports
27- Culture Day (all buildings)
28-29- No School – Fall Break

December:

10- Spelling Bee (Cleveland 3rd, 4th, 5th)
11- Spelling Bee (Parma 3rd, 4th, 5th)
19- 2nd Q. Ends and 6-8th Grade Science Fair 3-3:30
20-31- No School – Winter Break

AS OUR POPULATION GROWS, SO ARE THE NEEDS OF OUR SCHOOL

By Lujane Abazid



Al Ihsan School has changed and expanded in size and population throughout the past 19 years that the school has been opened with the help of Allah (SWT) and then the help of the students, parents, teachers, staff, and administration.

In 2001, the community was trying all they had to build up an Islamic school for the Cleveland community as there was not one.

“Al Ihsan School was made to let our Muslim environment grow because when Muslim students attend the non-Islamic environment, it may affect their religion. The goal of this school was to get as many Muslims to thrive in both religion and education,” said Principal Maysa Jadallah.

What started off as one old church, now consists of three Islamic school branches, the Cleveland, Parma, and Plaza Branch.

The Cleveland branch first opened its doors on September 10, 2001 and has been expanding for the past 19 years. In total, there are now around 350 students.

“In the first year of Al Ihsan, there was a total of 10 students,” said Sr. Sahera Musa who has been here since its opening.

Mrs. Harris, who has been here for the past 14 years said that we started off with just elementary school and as the years went on, we added a middle and high school.

“The rooms were changed and there were additions. We continued to update the curriculum. We now have extra resources for teaching and have become more technology-based,” said Mrs. Harris.

The school was a good size in the first years the schools opened, but the students are increasing, and space is decreasing. Mrs. Faten Odeh the Journalism and History teacher said: “There isn’t any space between the desks, which does not allow me to help the students while they are sitting in their seats.”

HAUNTED HOUSES ARE AN OCTOBER AMERICAN PASTIME MUSLIMS ARE JOINING

By Fatima Hamidan



How people act at a haunted house; having no idea it will affect them after their death.

33.3% of Al Ihsan students surveyed that they attend haunted houses with family and friends in the days leading up to the controversial American holiday of Halloween, but 15.2% say they don’t go because they believe it’s haram.

The imam of Alomary Mosque, Sheikh Ayham Abazid stated,

“Going to a haunted house is haram because you are going around the time of a holiday (Halloween) that people celebrate. The Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) had seen people celebrating and said to them that there is no need to celebrate because Allah (SWT) gave us two holidays to celebrate Eid Al-Adha and Eid Al-Fitr. Even though you just go with your family and friends to have fun and don't care about the Halloween part, still haunted houses open for Halloween. If you were to go to a haunted house, not around Halloween season, that might not be haram.”

Two teachers were asked for their opinions on the topic. Mrs. Marsida Kraja, a high school teacher said, *“These events are organized with Halloween approaching, I feel I need to be on the safe side and not participate.”*

Mrs. Emily Hill who was born in the U.S. states, “I personally haven’t been in a long time, however, if I were to go, I would make sure it’s not associated with Halloween. The Prophet, peace, and blessings be upon him, said, “Do not scare your brother.” I know many haunted houses are not super scary and most of the scares are predictable so I would consider it if it weren’t associated with Halloween.”

There are many stipulations when taking part in these scary Fall festivities, so it might be safer not to go to a haunted house for the sake of Allah (SWT) and yourself.

ITS 2019 AND NOTHING HAS CHANGED

By Alaa Murra



On September 17th, Al Ihsan students took the opportunity to help make “America great again” by lobbying at the State House with CAIR during the Third Annual Muslim Advocacy Day on a non-school trip.

Inequality still plagues the U.S. and many Americans are unaware of it. An Al Ihsan student stated, “CAIR was a new experience that I enjoyed even though I had to wake up at 4:30am.” Students had the privilege to speak to senators at the State House and speak up for these three key issues: Family and medical paid leave, equal pay for equal work, and voters’ rights.

The family and medical paid leave act was an important issue that affects all people in different ways, “I remember my brother having to quit school to work for our family when my father was sick because my father did not have paid medical leave,” said Faten Odeh, a teacher at Al Ihsan and board member of CAIR.

An alarming issue that was revealed, is that in Ohio, a woman gets paid 23% less than men. Another bill that was lobbied for was the “Enact Equal Pay Act,” which would allow women to get paid equally as men and eliminate “gender-based wages.”

“When a woman is a single parent or caregiver, she should feel that she can support her family without worrying that she is being paid unfairly,” said Manar Hamodeh, a teacher at Al Ihsan who attended the trip.

In the Quran, Allah (SWT) says, in Surat Al Imran, Ayah 195, “*I never fail to reward any worker among you for any work you do, be you male or female - you are equal to one another.*”

TEACHER FEATURE

By Jumana Abed



Mrs. Hanan Abuzahrieh, one of the Arabic teachers at Al Ihsan, has been nominated for this month’s teacher feature.

Mrs. Hanan was born in Kuwait, but originally of Palestinian heritage.

She has been teaching in the Arabic Department at Al Ihsan for 11 years now. Not only did she teach at Al Ihsan, but she has taught in other countries as well. She taught Arabic in Kuwait, Qatar, and Amman, Jordan.

When asked about her hobbies outside of school, she mentioned her love for cooking and baking, she also loves to hang out with her friends and visiting the sick even if she has never met them and on the side, in her free time, Mrs. Hanan enjoys reading the Quran, and books in general along with listening to lectures related to Islam.

Mrs. Hanan started working at Al Ihsan because of the Islamic environment and her love for children,

“I love working with children and that’s why I came to work here. I also love the student’s positive energy to learn and to work when facing any obstacles.”

She views Al Ihsan as her second home,

“My love for the school is like the love and need of a fish to its water; a fish is not able to survive without water.”

★ THE STAR STUDENTS ★



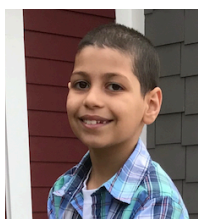
(KG-2nd) Elementary-
Madina Muhammadi. “*Madina is a great leader, she’s very helpful and respectful to all*”

Mrs. Nadia Aziz 1st Grade



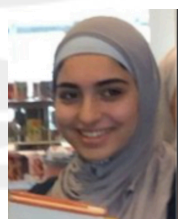
(6th-8th) Middle School-
Zaid Zaidan: “*Zaid is impressing me this year! He is on top of his work and gets along with his peers, and constantly lends a hand without being asked.*”

Mrs. Fatima Noubani 6th Grade Boys



(3rd-5th) Secondary-
Saif Taweil: “*Saif comes to school ready to learn every day! He loves to participate and always is trying his best.*”

Mrs. Heidi Bailey 3rd Grade 3



(9th-12th) High School-
Fatmeh Sammour: “*Fatmeh is very appreciative of her teachers and is a hardworking student!*”

Mrs. Faten Odeh 9th Grade Girls

KIDS' CORNER

Compiled by Fatmeh Sammour

F	A	T	I	M	A	H	G	Q	K	A	B	B	A	S
B	B	A	D	H	H	S	K	U	L	J	V	J	A	N
R	A	B	D	U	L	M	U	T	T	A	L	I	B	D
L	T	U	B	L	N	J	Q	H	G	F	D	J	D	K
T	Z	T	B	C	S	M	K	M	F	A	T	T	U	Z
J	Z	A	Y	A	M	I	N	A	F	A	J	S	L	A
L	A	L	I	C	C	X	G	N	L	R	M	H	L	Y
P	D	I	D	F	N	Q	S	Z	F	D	W	D	A	N
J	H	B	C	F	P	R	K	H	A	M	Z	A	H	A
R	K	H	A	D	I	J	A	H	G	M	T	K	M	B
P	L	T	R	R	U	K	H	I	Y	A	H	P	L	K

FAMILY MEMBERS

Abdul Muttalib	Abdullah	Fatimah
Abu Talib	Amina	Abbas
Hamzah	Khadija	Ali
Rukhiya	Zaynab	Abbas
Jafaar		

INSPIRATIONAL TIPS OF
THE MONTH

HOW TO FEEL YOUR FEELINGS:

A THING that SOUNDS OBVIOUS BUT TOTALLY ISN'T.

1. AN UNPLEASANT FEELING ARISES.
2. YOUR MIND Launches into WHATEVER INNER STORY ACCOMPANIES this FEELING

"I'm UNLOVABLE... I'm a LOSER... I RESENT my FACE"
(JUST FOR EXAMPLE)

STOP! YOU ARE THINKING YOUR FEELINGS.

3. REDIRECT your MIND AWAY FROM THESE THOUGHTS & into the SENSATIONS in your BODY. MENTALLY NAME THEM (my chest is TIGHT etc.)

4. BREATHE INTO the FEELING/SENSATION & ALLOW IT. (RY, SHAKE, etc. (if you're not, like, in Target.))

5. YOUR MIND WILL REALLY WANT to GO BACK into THOUGHT-STORY-MODE. When THIS HAPPENS, REDIRECT your AWARENESS BACK into YOUR BODY.

6. TAKE DEEP BREATHS. KEEP FEELING into your BODY. Let the FEELING EXIST and TRUST that IT WILL LEAVE. OBSERVE IT CHANGING. WATCH IT Move. NOTICE that YOU HAVE SURVIVED.

EMILY McDOWELL @EMILYONLIFE

HALAL

Arabian Village MARKET

Hand Slaughtered Meats Beef, Lamb, Goat & Chicken
Bakery - Groceries (Mediterranean, European & Indian)
Fresh Daily Meals To Go - Hot Sandwiches

f ARABIAN VILLAGE MARKET
12926 Lorain Ave. Cleveland, OH 44111 Tel: 216.941.9111

حلال

مكتبة القرية العربية

ملحمة - مخبز - بقالة - وجبات يومية
نقدم جميع الوجبات العربية لكافة المناسبات

f ARABIAN VILLAGE MARKET
12926 Lorain Ave. Cleveland, OH 44111 Tel: 216.941.9111

Imported Mediterranean, European, and Asian Groceries.
Halal Meat, Fruits & Vegetables, Sweets, Gifts,
Household needs.
Finest Quality & Reasonable Price.

مواد غذائية - لحوم حلال - خضروات
فواكه - حلويات - هدايا - أدوات منزلية

Holy Land imports

www.holylandimp.com

11717 Lorain Ave Cleveland, oh 44111
Tel: (216) 671-7736 Fax (216) 671-5681