

THE STAR NEWS

Al Ihsan School of Excellence

Editor-in-Chief: Selma Abazid

This issue was sponsored by: Al Ihsan School of Excellence

Halalaween or Haramaween ?

By: Noah Ahmed



United States- October, the month that *really* begins the Fall season with its celebration of Halloween which is celebrated almost everywhere, by almost everyone, including Muslims.

As Muslims, it's imperative we understand what's halal and what's haram. Many Muslims are celebrating Halloween, not knowing its prohibited.

"I honestly don't think that people understand the roots of Halloween, because I remember when I was young, my mom took my friends and I trick-or-treating and now I understand why my sister chooses not to take her daughters," said Faten Odeh, the Middle and High School Social Studies teacher at Al Ihsan.

The worst part is the origins of Halloween and how it came to be. It was made 2000 years ago by Celtic people in what is now Ireland. In their festivals, they would light bonfires and wear costumes to scare off ghosts. The night before was known as All Hallows' Eve, which later became known as Halloween. Over time, it evolved into a day of activities like trick-or-treating and carving pumpkins.

"The history of Halloween is definitely rooted in paganism," said Faten Odeh.

Some would say it's the *American* thing to do.

"My parents were new to this country and I think they thought to be American we must participate in celebrations our neighbors were taking part in. My siblings and I laugh at how they would dress them in Palestinian thobes with Halloween masks and take them in the neighborhood for trick-or-treating as Palestinian goblins and Raggedy Annes," said Mrs. Faten.

So, should we as Muslims follow what others in society are doing just to *fit in*? That is a question to ask yourself and your religious leaders.

Save the Date

Compiled By: Noah Ahmed

October- 26- 1 st Q begins 29- 2 nd Q starts	2- No School 21- Culture Day (all buildings) 22-23- No School- Fall Break 30- 2nd Q. Progress Reports	December- 11- Spelling Bee (Cleve. 3rd, 4th, 5th) 12- Spelling Bee (Parma 3rd, 4th, 5th)	14- Science Fair 6th-8th Grade 2:30-3:30 PM (Cleveland) 21-31- No School- Winter Break (Yay!)
November- 1- 12:30 Early Dismissal & PTC 1:30 PM-7:30 pm			

Islamic Corner

Compiled by: Naji Abuirmeileh

The prophet (SAW) said, "Fasting one day for the sake of Allah (SWT) would distance his face 70 years the opposite direction from Hell-Fire". The prophet (SAW)s statement is supported and backed up by one of Allah (SWT)s many own statements about fasting in the Noble Quran:

"Oh, you who believe! Fasting is prescribed to you as it was prescribed to those before you, that you may learn piety and righteousness" (Surat Al Baqarah: Ayah 183)

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Muslim Government Takeover

By: Naji Abuirmeileh

United States, Capitol Hill - Two words that never “Zang” together before, **Islam & U.S. Government**, are finally starting to get along.

Being part of the government is very important and like Mrs. Harris, the Middle and High School Director always says, “If you’re not the ones making the laws, then you’re just the ones following them,” and one might conclude if we’re not part of that discussion then our needs as a community would not be heard, or even worse -- suppressed.

According to Pew Research Center, in 2017 there were 3.45 million Muslims in America and that number continues to grow, *Alhamdulillah*, but only a few Muslims are part of our country’s law-making. Therefore, taking part in government and politics is becoming ever so important.

Recently, more and more Muslims are becoming more politically mobilized. Muslim Americans like Rashida Tlaib and Keith Ellison have taken their faith to Capitol Hill.

According to NPR, many other Muslim women are taking a stand and running for Congress like Ilhan Omar from MN, Deedra Abboud from AZ., and Tahirah Amatul-Wadud from MA.

Even our own Al Ihsan students have the political bug as they joined CAIR at the 1st and 2nd Annual Muslim Day at the Capitol to lobby our State legislators on issues such as gun laws, biased policing and minimum wage increase.

Brother Isam from CAIR stated, “Islam became the fastest spreading religion in the world because of political acts through business. The Muslim merchants dealt with their customers in an influential and non-corrupt manner. The power to change the way people view us is at our fingertips, and fortunately more and more Muslims are starting to realize that”.

Elections are right around the corner. Don’t forget to vote on the 6th of November. If you are not registered, call the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections at 216-443-3298 for more information.

Teacher Feature

By: Omar Alomari



Al Ihsan School- Alicia Kadiri, Middle and High School Math teacher, was nominated for this month’s *Teacher Feature* because she is a new and outstanding teacher.

Kadiri has recently joined the Al Ihsan staff after moving to Cleveland from West Virginia. She attended West Virginia University of Engineering and Mineral Resources and graduated with dual majors in computer engineering and biometric systems with minors in nanotechnology and computer science. After graduation, she worked with a government contractor as a java developer along with acting as a biometric technician for immigration services.

She has been tutoring and homeschooling for eight years and enjoys being a teacher because it’s a mom-friendly job. She and her husband have two preschool aged children, but having a teaching position gives her flexibility to work and be available to her girls.

The person who inspired her to be a teacher was her eighth-grade math teacher, Mr. Pell. “Mr. Pell worked for a school with many challenges and little benefits, but he cared about helping students succeed so they could improve their situation,” said Kadiri.

Kadiri enjoys teaching algebra & appreciates the conservative culture of Al Ihsan. She wants her classroom to be a welcoming environment.

Kadiri said she hopes that students learn not because she’s making them or for a grade, but because they want to improve themselves.

Comics

By: Noah Ahmed and Zackari Salti



Star Rants

Compiled by: Saif Mohammed

- “Wakanda Forever”
- “Add me @carlos_mirangue (Instagram)”
- “Air hugs and air high fives for my MS and HS boys”
- “Y U so Salti”

Does Wearing a School Uniform Improve a Students Performance?

By: Saif Mohammed

The United States - Many students across the nation must wear a uniform and the number of schools implementing it, are growing to fix growing behavioral and academic problems

According to the US Department of Education, wearing a uniform can have some positive behavioral effects, such as a decrease in violence, theft and ingrains discipline in the student. However, this type of research is still developing and is not precise.

About half the schools around America implement the dress code, which limits what can be worn instead of describing exactly what must be worn. Schools claim uniforms improve discipline and help students excel academically. However, these policies have gotten students to speak up and say the policies are unconstitutional because they restrict their freedom of expression. This has led to nine lawsuits in which the school districts have won eight according to legalbeagle.com.

Students have also started protesting. An example of this is a student writing to a private school in New Hampshire, Pinkerton Academy, on the adoption of a school uniform. The student wrote, "A school uniform takes away individuality. Also, it will not change the study habits of students. It means too much money needs to be spent on each child. Parents do not have that type of money, especially in this economy. We have the right to freedom of expression and would like to keep it that way. And it's my right to wake up in the morning and have my own unique individuality."

"I never had to experience wearing a uniform as a student and I liked being able to express my individuality, however, I do think uniforms help students whose families cannot keep up with the cost of following the latest trends." states Faten Odeh, the Middle and High School History teacher at Al Ihsan.

Some studies show there is a reduction in student misbehavior, while others show an increase in student suspension. All studies have different information. A study in 2010 conducted by the University of Houston in large urban schools, showed that wearing a uniform did not change the number of suspensions for elementary students. However, it is high schools that have larger misbehavior problems. A study conducted in 38 North Carolina high schools found that 61% of principals believed there was a decrease in misbehavior. In the data, however, there was no change. All data on achievement, discipline, and behavior vary and you cannot put one research over the other.

Educators and school staff should be clear on the goals they have on requiring the uniform policy. This is a solution to avoiding lawsuits and problems that cost lots of money. School uniform should be optional but can serve as a symbol to academic and behavioral dedication and improvement if you wish to wear it. School uniform is an easy solution for complex behavioral and academic issues which can be solved in better ways.

Star Students

Compiled by: Omar Alomari



(KG-2nd) Elementary-
Ayah Abu-Ukkaz: Ayah is a well-behaved student who follows directions, completes her work on time and gets along with other students.

Suheir Jaber, Kindergarten



(3rd-5th) Elementary-
Sarah Omar: She is respectful, follows the rules, and finishes her work on time

Fatima Noubani, and Azera Haneef, 5th grade (Hifz Program)



(6th-8th) Middle School-
Muad Mustafa: Muad has been very proactive in checking and keeping his work up to date.

Anaceli Harris, 6th grade



(9th-11th) High School-
Selma Abazid: This student went above and beyond and made our students professional level press badges even though she is not in the class.

Faten Odeh, 9th grade

Dear Abby

By: Naji Abuirmeileh

Dear Abby,
I think one of my teachers hates me, and I am failing her class right now, so what should I do? Please help me ☹

- Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,
I'm sorry you feel this way. I recommend you to have a face-to-face talk with this teacher, I'm sure it's a misunderstanding. Ask her for help and advice to bring your grade up. When your teacher sees that you are concerned, she will help you out and take you seriously. I really wish you all the best, and I believe you can do this.

Truthfully, Naji Ayman Abuirmeileh ☺

Kids' Corner

Compiled By: Omar Alomari

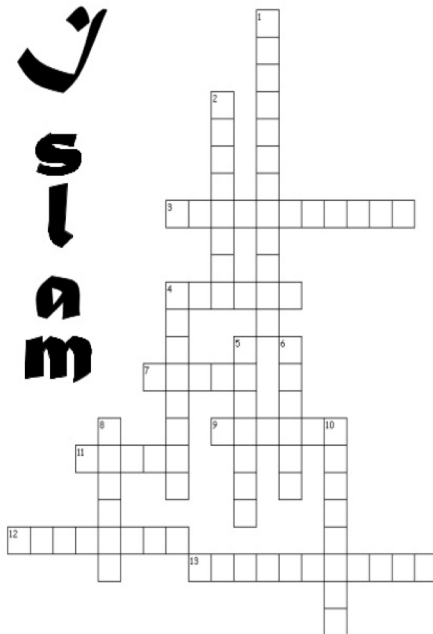
Islamic Studies

H	M	R	I	D	A	Q	L	A	R	R	Q	L	A
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A	M	J	L	A	U	D	A	I	R	D	A	B	S
E	I	J	A	A	M	A	T	E	H	P	O	R	P
M	N	A	B	I	L	A	A	I	Q	J	A	H	R
L	I	R	B	I	J	Q	D	I	M	A	S	J	S
M	A	L	A	S	S	A	U	I	H	L	A	S	S
B	A	M	I	R	U	M	M	R	N	L	I	S	A
A	A	A	A	A	R	A	D	A	A	A	H	D	L
H	A	R	S	A	A	D	M	I	E	N	S	A	A
I	A	A	M	R	H	A	A	O	A	N	A	H	H
L	M	H	L	P	L	A	L	A	H	N	N	A	H
A	L	U	S	A	R	L	D	A	M	A	S	S	A

ADAM
ALQURAN
SALAH
ALQADIR
HARAM
NABI
SALAM
IHSAN
JIBRIL
HALAL
MUSLIM
RASUL
AHAD
IHLAS
SURAH
HAJJ
PROPHET
MADINA
ASSAMAD
SAWM

Play this puzzle online at : <http://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/105036/>

U
S
I
S
L
A
M

**Across**

3. The country where Islam began in.
4. The name for someone who believes and worships Allah.
7. This place is considered the holiest place of Islam.
9. Abu Bakr became the first _____ which means he was a successor of Muhammad.
11. The city where Muhammad was born.
12. Muslims were very _____ of their conquered people, meaning they were lenient.
13. Many _____ helped the exchange of ideas.

Down

1. Islam believes only in one god, therefore is a _____ religion.
2. Nomads who lived in Arabia's deserts.
4. The prophet of Allah
5. Muslims fast during _____.
6. The city where Muhammad founded Islam
8. Geographically, Saudi Arabia is made up of mostly _____.
10. The Quran is the _____ of Islam.

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Heroes, Who are They

By: Zachari Salti



The United States-The actor, Henry Cavill quits the role in all Superman movies after viewers say his acting wasn't that great. This is because these movies weren't doing as well as expected.

Superheroes aren't just non-muslims, for example, there is a new Muslim superhero in the comics that we enjoy. Simon Baz, a former engineer from Dearborn, Michigan, resorted to stealing to keep his life afloat. Stealing cars was part of his crime spree. One night, after stealing a vehicle, he discovered that there was a bomb planted in the back of the car. With his religious beliefs and his obvious ethnic background, he was prosecuted for terrorism after escaping the car explosion. He declares that "He is a car thief, not a terrorist!" Meanwhile, Green Lanterns' Hal Jordan and Thaal Sinestro malfunctioning power ring presumed they both died during a rough clash with Black Hand, a notorious villain in the comic series. Their two-defected power ring fused together and immediately sought out Earth's replacement Lantern, Simon Baz! Whether his background is biased or not, he turned his life around and is showing others that Muslims are not always the evil characters that are seen on the news.

As Muslims, we know who our real superheroes are: Prophet Muhammed (SAW), the Sahabah (RA) and women like Maryam bint Imran, Assiyah, Khadijah and Nusaybah bint Kaib, (RA). But if you want to find a Muslim superhero of our day, you don't have to look too far...our teachers, our parents and members of our community are just among the few that save the day every day.

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