

THE STAR NEWS

AL IHSAN SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

Editor-in-Chief: Selma Abazid

I Can Title This Whatever I Want

By: Omar Alomari



The United States-freedom of speech means you speak without constraint, but not without consequence. Restrictions for hate speech are the exception; therefore, do we really have freedom of speech?

The elite American population can say whatever they want on social media while others may be penalized for it. According to *The Washington Post*, “there was a federal case on a man who was banned off his social media account for a day” which is called **shadow-banning**. If this person’s First Amendment right can be violated because of a government official, do we really have freedom of speech?

However, other countries are not privileged with this freedom at all. The saying, “walls have ears” scare citizens into remaining silent, not allowing them to express critical opinions of the government. Citizens who express dissenting opinions in countries like China risk their lives to speak their minds. The United States, without freedom of speech, would be like any other dictator country, unable to speak your thoughts.

Should the President be so powerful that he can apply a gag order on what someone is saying? I disagree. Although he is the President, that doesn't change the fact that he shouldn't have absolute power.

“This is America where we have checks and balances, if Trump doesn't like it then he should reassess his position in the country,” said Mrs. Faten, the Social Studies teacher at Al Ihsan.

If we did not have the freedom to speak, we would not be able to challenge our government. Citizens should be able to hold their leaders accountable.

“If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear.” *George Orwell*

Islamic Corner

Compiled by: Selma Abazid

The Prophet (SAW) stated

“Every person will be rewarded only for what they intended.”

This hadith means- Everyone will be judged based on their niyyah (intention). If a person doesn't have an intention before they do anything for the sake of Allah (SWT), it will not be counted against you, but it won't be counted towards your good deeds either.

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This issue was brought to you by:

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Winter Blues

By: Saif Mohammed



The United States - Preparing for winter can be tough for Americans because cold temperatures can be dreary but they don't have to be—here are some tips to prepare for winter early.

During winter our reaction would be to crank up the thermostat. However, according to the US Department of energy, we can save money and energy by decreasing the temperature to 68° and even lower when you are away from home. This will let your body adjust to the cooler temperatures and if it is difficult, put on some layers.

We should stock up on supplemental indoor supplies (foods and necessities) so we won't have to keep making runs to our local grocery shop for more items. Buying the right apparel for winter such as coats, gloves, hats, etc. is necessary along with tools to remove snow (shovels and snow blowers).

Mrs. Emily, the high school ELA teacher suggested, "make sure to stock up on some lotion for dry skin". Lotion is great to get rid of winter weather's dry skin, according to Dr. Joshua Zeicher, an N.Y.C based dermatologist.

Mrs. Faten, the high school history teacher also commented saying, "Sign up for the gym because in the winter we tend to be less active, eat worse, and become more depressed." Exercise in the winter can be beneficial, as it can improve mood and help with vitamin D intake, according to the American Heart Association.

These are some helpful tips I hope we can all benefit from. Make sure to stay safe in the upcoming months by driving carefully and frequently checking the weather app for blizzards and major temperature drops.

The Video Game

By: Naji Abuirmeileh



Gaming Rooms- Throughout the current year, Fortnite Battle Royale, the "Funnest" video game of all time, is being criticized by experts and parents for recent child behavior issues.

According to *Newzoo*, a website that tracks gaming data, *Fortnite* is the most popular free video game, second most played game on the PC platform, and the most played on both Flagship console platforms, *Xbox 1* and *Playstation*

Peter Goodman, a brain psychologist at Harvard University, stated, "... The reason these kinds of video games are so prominent is because each time you eliminate another player, it sends *Dopamine*, a neurotransmitter that helps control the brain's *Limbic System*. And since the structure of *Fortnite* leads it to happen often, the brain becomes satisfied to the point of obsession."

While *Fortnite* may be very enjoyable to many, it may be just as harmful to them also. Some parents complained that they have "Lost their Children" to *Fortnite*, causing them to collaborate with teachers to seek solutions.

Zackari Salti, a video-gamer and student at Al Ihsan, said he thinks *Fortnite* and video games in general could be harmful in numerous ways, one of which is the gamer's behavior in reality.

When an Al Ihsan parent was asked whether they think Fortnite is more useful or harmful to its player, they stated, "Definitely more harmful. I can give you 10 harmful factors to it but only 2 useful ones." A program on electronic addiction will be held at the Cuyahoga County Library, Parma-Snow branch on Jan. 31st. Dr. Berk will identify the signs of electronic addiction and how to manage behaviors associated with it, such as rage, refusal to give up electronics, loss of friends, social isolation and inappropriate activities on electronics. Register through the CFK website <https://connectingforkids.org/register> or by calling 440-250-5563.

Star Students

By: Naji Abuirmeileh

- (KG-2nd) Elementary - Khadijah Ahmad: Khadijah is a respectful student who always tries her best. She is nice to her friends and gets along with everyone.



- Suheir Jabir, Kindergarten

- (3rd-5th) Elementary - Zaid Zaidan: Zaid has shown great improvement in the 2nd quarter. He is focused and willing to put forth the effort to reach his goals.



- Manar Hamoudeh, 5th grade

- (6th-8th) Middle School - Tasneem Lababede: Tasneem is a leader, helpful to others, supportive to the Staff, and is an 'A' student. She is a wonderful student, and deserves to be a star!



- Au Dree Calhoon, 6th grade

- (9th-11th) High School - Thabia Assad: Thabia always comes in with so much positivity and energy. She also displays empathy for those around her and is really into the morning assembly.



- Faten Husni Odeh, 10th grade

Teacher Preacher (continued on next page)

By: Daoud Aburoumi & Faten Husni Odeh

Al Ihsan School Office - Sheikh Ayham Abazid, middle through high school Quran and Islamic studies teacher, has been nominated for this issue's *Teacher Feature* due to his unfailing commitment to our community.

To just declare him as the sheikh of Almajsid Alomary alone, would be doing a great deal of injustice to this ever-so present figure. Sheikh Ayham is a teacher, a member of the board of our school, and a parent, *mashaAllah*.

He first received his education in dental lab from Columbus State. People would ask him to lead salah in the masjid and as time went on, he gradually became more involved. This caused him to pursue his bachelors in Islamic studies and an Ijazah in Quran.

Sheikh Ayham said he drew inspiration from a family member, "My great uncle was the Grand Mufti of the southern part of Syria and we spent some time together when he came to visit me in the states in 1999."

When asked what a typical day looks like for him, he said it starts very early in the morning with two hours of studying and listening to lectures.

According to Sheikh Ayham, one key thing is, "You first have to make the duaa for the *barakaa*."

About 40-100 phone calls a day, leading every salah in the masjid, teaching, counseling and many more tasks including spending time with family is a day in the life of Sheikh Ayham.

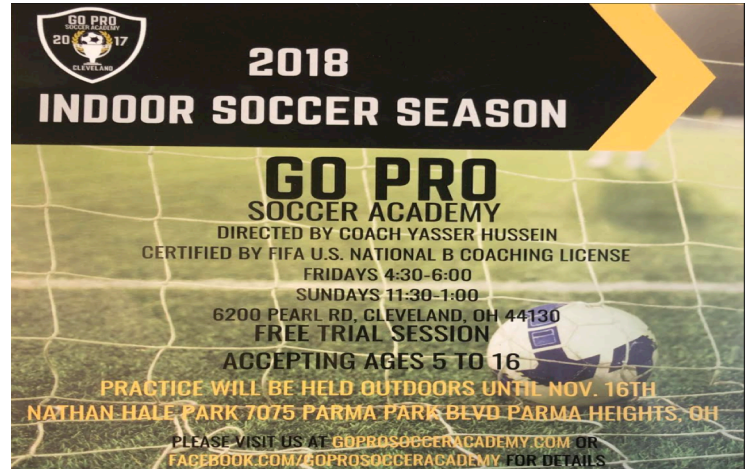
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Star Rants

Compiled By: Noah Ahmed

- "Is this the Krusty Krab?"
- "No this is Patrick!"
- "Gucci"
- "Shout out to the two 7th Grade Girls and the 9th Grade boys for their superb acting skills, mashaaAllah!!
- "#Jacketrights"

**Thank You Sr. Julia for
supporting our
Newsletter!!**



Teacheer Preacher continued...

By: Daoud Aburoumi & Faten Husni Odeh

“It is a big responsibility, a big burden. May Allah grant us sincerity.”

Amongst his favorite hadiths:

The first three people that will be thrown into hellfire: the sheikh, the emsadaq and a shaheed.

“It’s a scary hadith so we ask Allah SWT to grant us sincerity, ameen.”

There was a brief mention of fun but when asked what a sheikh does for fun, he unsurprisingly said,

“I don’t have much time for fun.”

One wonders how he has time for it all, *mashaAllah*.

“After Allah SWT, my biggest help is my wife and my brother Firas.”

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N	T	P	T	F	K	T	L	E	A	R	N	S	C	N

Qur'an	Teacher	Study	Dedicate
Hadith	Respect	Learn	Revise
Wahi	Pencil	Practice	pen
Fiqh	ilm	Teach	Memorise
Prophet	Paper	concentrate	Knowledge

Save-the-Date

Compiled By: Noah Ahmed

<p><i>December-</i></p> <p>21-31: No School- Winter Break</p> <p><i>January-</i></p> <p>1: No School- Winter Break</p> <p>2: Back to School</p> <p>10: Quarter 2 Ends</p> <p>11: Quarter 3 Begins</p>	<p><i>January continued-</i></p> <p>14-25: MAP Testing (Math, Language Arts, Reading)</p> <p>21: No School- MLK Day</p> <p>31: 12:30 Early Dismissal /Teacher-in-Service @Parma</p>	<p><i>February-</i></p> <p>12: 3rd Q Progress Reports</p> <p>18: No School- SPD</p> <p>25-28: Reading Week</p> <p><i>March-</i></p> <p>1: Reading Week continued</p> <p>8: Science Showcase after Jumah Salah @Cleveland & Parma</p>	<p>14: Quarter 3 Ends</p> <p>15: Quarter 4 Begins</p> <p>21: 12:30 Early Dismissal/ PTC @1:30-7:30 PM</p> <p>22: No School</p> <p>26: AQIS Day (Parma & Plaza)</p> <p>27: AQIS Day (Cleveland)</p>
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