



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful



Volume Number 3
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THE RISING TIMES

The Rising Times is a student centered newspaper which aims to provide students with intellectually engaging news, op-eds, and student pieces of art and literature. The Rising Times aims to be the student voice in our community, offering thought provoking content and fierce discussion starters.

OUR STAFF

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A'A Everyone!

We hope you are as excited to read our 1st issue for the 2017-2018 school year, as we have been putting it together! Jazakum Allah Khair to all our writers and readers!

- RSA Newspaper staff

"This is how you do it: you sit down at the keyboard and you put one word after another until it is done. It is that easy and that hard." - Neil Gaiman

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Rising Star Academy's High School Debate Team brings home 1st place in their first Parliamentary Debate Tournament, held in Chappaqua, NY. Team from left to right: Hassan Elsaid, Muhammed Haddabah, Sr. Ahlam, Yusef Haddabah, Nuralhoda Elsaid, Mariam Siam, Eaman Kaddour.

What's Going On? North Korea/ Trump

North Korea's leaders are racing to develop deliverable nuclear weapons as quickly as possible because they believe these weapons are the most effective and cost-efficient way to ensure their survival and enhance their leverage with other countries. From their perspective, nuclear weapons prevent bullying by



other countries, provide insurance against the types of foreign intervention faced by Libya and Ukraine after giving up their nuclear weapons, and enhance their own leadership. South and North Korea are still technically at war, so in conclusion, It's one thing to make a mistake intentionally, it's another thing to stumble into a conflict ... either one Kim Jong Un or Donald Trump could miscalculate and let loose a war unlike anything we have seen since World War

Growth vs. Fixed Mindset

Everyone has been there before .. you're in class and you can't seem to get what the teacher is saying. You feel lost, too shy to raise your hand and ask, and you don't want to let your friends know you don't understand. You leave the classroom feeling frustrated and annoyed. Not only that, but you now have an assignment on the information you don't even get!

Wait a minute...take a few steps back. What if you actually raised your hand to ask that question, what if you weren't so interested in looking cool, but rather you were interested in challenging your mind to solve the problem at hand?

When faced with a challenge, instead of avoiding it, try to figure it out! Every problem has a solution, and every time you struggle, you learn and grow!



President Erdogan of Turkey

On September 21st the students of Rising Star Academy were invited to attend a private event where President Erdogan delivered a special address. Several of RSA's seniors and juniors volunteered at the event. In this article Hassan Elsaid gives us his point of view.



The president of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan can be described in my opinion as one the most polarizing presidents in Turkish history. With that being said let's get into this. Recently, several juniors and seniors attended a private event in which the President of Turkey gave a special address, and naturally, prior to the event I wanted to get to know a little bit about the guy. Was he a good leader, or just another dictator? So I had done some research on the man, and apparently there are strong opinions on him. Allow me first to say that in politics, there are always going to be disagreements, the main point of my article is to not only share my thoughts but for it to act as a post-experience reflection. For starters, Erdogan is a conservative Islamist who holds very Islamic and nationalistic values, that to me is already a red flag. Turkey was founded as a secular nation by Ataturk after the fall of the Ottoman Empire and was never meant to be as Erdogan envisions it.

Continued on page 2

Teacher Interview

Sister Waheetha Banu Yunus Technology grades KG-12th

Tell me three adjectives about yourself?

Fair, confident, always keeps word

What brought you to RSA?

I loved to teach and I was looking for a job that would be suitable to my schedule based around my family and children.

What is your educational background?

I have a Bachelors of Engineering (B.E) in Computer Science and Masters of Business Administration in Systems (M.B.A)

As a kid, when you were asked what you wanted to study, or what you wanted to your career to be, what did you answer?

When I was in elementary school I used to say that I wanted to be a teacher, as I got to middle school I said that I wanted to be a doctor, and eventually when I got to high school, I decided that I wanted to follow in my brothers tracts and study computer engineering. Computer engineering was so interesting to me because I was so curious as to how the computer functions, the language it uses, etc. I am now very passionate about what I do and have more than 15 years of experience, Alhamdulillah.

To what teams or clubs did you belong to as a student?

As a kid I played badminton with my school team and eventually stopped playing in middle school due to the dress code of the sport.

What is the thing that bothers you most?

The thing that bothers me most is when I am blamed for something I didn't do, or someone questions me without knowing any information about the situation. It bothers me when people are biased, a person must be fair and hear out both sides of the story.

Are you usually early or late (generally)?

I am usually early, like not even on time, earlier than that.

What makes a good student?

A good student to me is one that is well behaved, respectful, and treats everyone fairly. Someone who focuses on understanding their studies, because personally, grades are unimportant to me, what is important to me is that the student understands what he/she is doing. I enjoy a student who is curious and eager to learn, one who questions, with respect to the subject of course.

What do you think is the greatest challenge facing students today?

In terms of technology I believe the biggest challenge facing (technology) students today is the constant change and updating of technology. If someone is interested in studying computer engineering or information technology, they must keep up with real time technology.

Student Interview

Abdulrahman Abdallah, 9th grade

What brought you to RSA?

Well, first and foremost the old Islamic school I was in didn't have a high school, so I was forced to leave. As I was looking for schools to apply to I had some criteria, I wanted to find a friendly learning environment. My parents also wanted me to become stronger in Arabic and in the deen, that is why I chose RSA.

3 adjectives about yourself.

Responsible, procrastinator, caring

How does RSA differ from other schools you've been to?

Initially I noticed that RSA has a larger student body, RSA definitely has better food than other schools, and lastly I like the fact that the building is actually a masjid.



Continued in next column

It was a country built on separating church and state, providing education and opportunities for women, opening schools to all people, and built on laws making it illegal to discriminate against women.

All of these policies shaped the path that allowed Turkey to join NATO and prosper as a nation, but with Erdogan's new policies, they're literally pulling the country in the other direction. Soon after Ataturk's death the country had become unstable for multiple reasons. For one, the military was given the responsibility of keeping Turkey secular, and it did so by staging coupes in 1960, 1971, 1980 and 1997. This had made the country unstable and the government had grown corrupt and in need of guidance. Then came Erdogan. He shaped Turkey and allowed the country to prosper economically. He allowed inflation to plummet and the GDP to grow in a sharp increase which made him wildly popular. He then began taking authoritarian and Islamist actions that were seen as



too far.

Erdogan began by increasing his term and reversing all the policies that Ataturk had placed prior to him. He also banned all international media outlets from entering the country and jailed numerous reporters. He has even been quoted numerous times for saying that women had no place in society other than being mothers, and that there was a clear difference in equality for men and women. Although it may be quick to judge him based on his values, he has been successful in boosting Turkey's GDP and keeping the country from failing, which goes back to him being such a polarizing figure. On one hand he has boosted Turkey financially, but on the other, he goes against numerous western secular values, and yet remains a key U.S. ally. With Turkey currently in such a crucial state, in terms of whether or not they're going to be admitted to the European

Do you know what you want to study or have any career plans?

I would like to study Biomedical Engineering. I love math, science, and engineering, while I also like the medical field and surgical occupations, so to find a middle ground that incorporates both, I chose biomedical engineering.

How would you present yourself if you were in an interview, for a job or position?

First off, I wouldn't tell the interviewer that I am a hard worker, because that is too cliché in my opinion. I would find a way to display my accomplishments in which I can show the person that I could give them what they need and am up to par for this position. Also, I would show just the right amount of enthusiasm, because there is such thing as too much enthusiasm, and a person wouldn't want to come off as unenthusiastic.

What are some of your strengths and weaknesses?

My strength lies in my academics and education, I am also a very good gamer. I could say that one of my weaknesses is that I am not a very athletic person.

- What makes a good teacher in your opinion?

A good teacher in my opinion is one who makes learning fun. One that has a good relationship with their class. The more attention they pay to their class, the more attention their class will pay to them. Most importantly, a good teacher is a patient and understanding one.

Apple Picking

On September 21st RSA took its annual school wide apple picking trip to Pochuck Valley Farm.

I liked this year's apple picking, it was fun. They gave us donuts, they were delicious. When I went picking apples I took the sweet ones. Apple picking was a great experience for me. There were lots of golden ones. When we were done picking we went to eat our lunch. There was a store over there, I bought some things from it. When we were done eating we played, I played football. I love



Speak to the World

I remember,
I was shy,
Trembling...
Nervous...
But that's the past,
My voice now clear and confident,
Touching the microphone,
And speaking to the world.



I imagine,
That I am speaking
To millions of people,
My face on billboards,
The crowd silent,
Carefully listening to my words,
My thoughts
My voice would be loud and clear and shouting,
Not afraid to talk
Not afraid to speak...

Color Run!

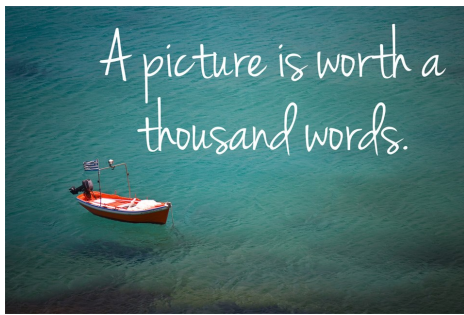
RSA's annual Color Run was held on October 22nd, 2017 in Van Saun County Park.



"The World Through a Picture"

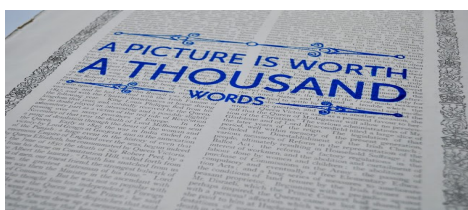
One picture is worth a thousand words. One photograph can have billions of stories. That is what intrigues me the most about photography. I may capture a scene and formulate my own story about it, but if I show the picture to someone else, they will make their own story. Photography is also a great way to display your feelings, like art. I just love the way you can take one picture, but that one picture can have over a thousand different stories.

Your morals play a big role in the way you view pictures. When looking at a photograph, you need to keep an open mind and let out the exact feelings you get when



seeing the picture. The interpretation you might have as you look at the picture usually brings out your personality and the way you look at things. Social media is filled with photography, especially Instagram. People everywhere scroll through Instagram, and, most of the time, often scroll past the same posts and same pictures, but nothing really catches their eye. The pictures that are most likely to catch someone's eye are of the news and what goes on around the world. When I am looking at a picture, I need to always check where it was taken, the background information of the place, and the photographer themselves.

One picture might have a thousand stories, but only one of



the thousand is the truth. It might be true, one picture is worth a thousand words, but no one will ever get the story right, not until you live in the shoes of the photographer. As I noticed in society, every photographer has their own story and you will never truly understand their story or the scene they have captured. Despite what you may think, we all have different views of this messed up world we live in.



Aya Darwish, 11th grade

"The Alchemist" Book Review

Discovering Your Personal Legend



As an avid reader, I have read countless novels and none has left such an impact on me as the exceptional narrative, "The Alchemist". I was enthralled by Coelho's writing style which was very simple yet elegant, sensory, and bold. This book narrates the story of a carefree shepherd who journeys from

Spain to Egypt to pursue his dream, or as the book refers to it, his personal legend. His journey was full of unexpected turns, chances, and moments of hopelessness. This story was instilled with metaphysical elements that were both spiritual and mystical. Throughout his journey, he meets various characters that each play a critical role, especially the alchemist, in shaping his knowledge, emotions, character, and wisdom in his pursuit of his Personal Legend. Hit with various trials, crooks, and bandits, the main character emerges with a more refined character as he dug out his heart's true destiny. The novel was not only a fictional, entertaining tale, but a sort of self-help/improvement novel. If you are looking for a book that will inspire courage, this is the one. No matter what your dream, goals or visions are, the universe will conspire to help you achieve the things you want, regardless of how insurmountable the task seems. You must live the life you truly desire to its fullest extent if you want to look back on a life worth having

Joammi Abbasi, 11th grade

"130 miles per hour later"

Lives were ended, homes and belongings were destroyed. A person had everything and then 130 miles per hour later, they had nothing. Meteorologists expected Hurricane Harvey to be a "rain event"



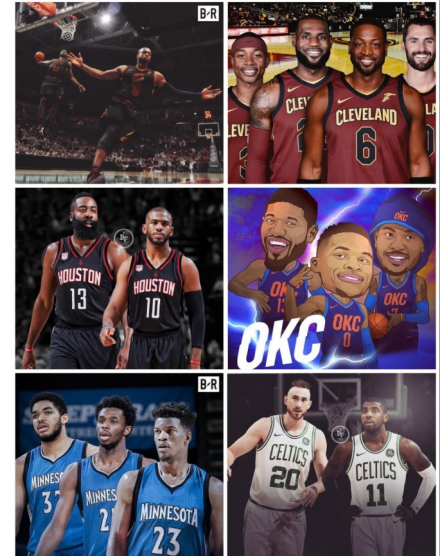
but it shattered their expectations when it hit the coast of Texas and dumped over 50 inches of rain. At least 39 people died and those who survived faced obstacles throughout the storm, and immense suffering after it passed. One of the biggest challenges faced was making sure shelters weren't full and, if they were, finding other places of needed comfort. In addition, the heart wrenching search for missing people only uncovered more dead bodies and hindered the spirit of the people. Hurricane Maria left Puerto Rico in the dark, not to mention the extended amount of time it took for supplies/aid to reach its people. The scene of this country was one of complete destruction and debris scattered everywhere. The once lush and colorful landscapes of Puerto Rico were turned into a hopeless panorama stripped of its color and, more importantly, its identity. For some, it was home, where they had grown and learned. It was the place that molded and brought them to the people they loved. For some, the storm was personal. It wasn't a meteorologists phenomenon, it wasn't yet another news story, it was their story, their lives, the lives that had been compromised with the blow of wind.

Furthermore, two of the strongest storms, Hurricane Irma and Maria, wreaked havoc in the Caribbean and continued its path towards Florida. The islands of the Caribbean were no longer picturesque vacation destinations, in fact, 95 % of Barbados' buildings were damaged. Palm trees came crashing down, causing power lines and buildings to topple over each other. Major cities were left with massive flooding and millions were forced to evacuate from their homes. In Florida, it left a path for battering tornadoes. To illustrate the amount of devastation this storm caused, experts said that because of Irma's size and strength its winds blew 185 mph for 37 hours. These

Continued on page 4

NBA 2017 Offseason

This NBA offseason was crazy! There were many game-changing signings and trades this offseason. Some remarkable trades were the Kyrie and Isaiah Thomas/ Jae Crowder trade, Paul George and Melo to OKC, CP3 to the Rockets, Jimmy Butler to the T-Wolves and many more. On the other hand, a few major signings that took place were the Cavs signing Dwyane Wade along with Derrick Rose, and Gordon Hayward signing with Boston.



Celtics. The Cavs acquired a lot this offseason such as the Nets 2018 first round pick, a 2020 Heat second round pick, Ante Zizic, and we already know about Isaiah and Crowder. As of now, the Cavaliers have the best bench in the league. Let's not forget about the biggest steals in the draft like Malik Monk, Dennis Smith Jr, and definitely 27th pick, Kyle Kuzma. Though it may be too early to tell, those three will prove how underestimated they were on the court. Though some people think that the Warriors are going to take home the championship this year, I beg to differ. The Cavs, Thunders, Rockets, and Spurs have what it takes to take down the Warriors. I believe that the Cavs will be winning this year as their bench depth and new additions have what it takes to beat

Hamzah Mansour, 11th

Being Black and Muslim

Basically if you're not being called a terrorist,
 You're going to be called a n*gger or abeed.
 Statistically I am the most unprotected person in the US.
 Fighting both battles at the same time gets tiring.
 Sometimes it feels like you're ignored 2x, hated 2x,
 And stereotyped a 100x more.
 We are the largest group of American-Muslims
 But always seem to be the last ones invited into the conversation on Islam.
 Why does the world hate me,
 And want me to hate myself?
 No, I will not choose between my religion or my race;
 You'll have to embrace me as both or ignore me 2x.

New York Public Library

On Wednesday October 25th, 2017 RSA's juniors and seniors took a trip to the fourth largest library in the world, The



4 Fun Facts About the NYPL

1. At the time it opened in 1911, the Library was the largest marble building ever built in the United States.
2. Mayor Fiorello La Guardia nicknamed the Library Lions Patience and Fortitude in the 1930s because he felt New Yorkers needed to possess these qualities in order to survive the Depression.
3. After Pearl Harbor was attacked, the most valuable volumes and manuscripts at the Library were moved to bank vaults around New York City.
4. *Ghostbusters* isn't the only movie to film at NYPL! *Spiderman*, *Ted 2*, *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, and more filmed at NYPL.



Jokes, Riddles, and Student Art

"WAR ON WORDS"



Political cartoon by Aysha Mohdi, 11th grade

Answers to brain teasers:

1. In Washington D.C. 2. you light the match first 3. 1 cent

Just as there is a silver lining to everything, these hurricanes, though damaging forces of nature, have brought nations together. People have banded together to collect items to send to the victims of the hurricanes. People sympathized and sacrificed their own time and resources in order to serve the greater good. These hurricanes may have destroyed homes, but they also taught us that people coming together can be home. Rebuilding these cities may take an enormous amount of time and money, but our humanity has surpassed that reconstruction and



Alaa Essafi, 10th Grade



Hijrah Day

هجرة الرسول إلى المدينة

هاجر الرسول صلى الله عليه وآله وسلم من مكة إلى المدينة. وكان معه صديقه أبو بكر رضي الله عنه. كانا يركبان ناقين سريعتين. وكان كفار قريش يبحثون عنهما في الصحراء. دخل الرسول وصاحبه أبو بكر غار ثور. وكان الرسول يقول لصاحبه (لا تحزن ان الله معنا).

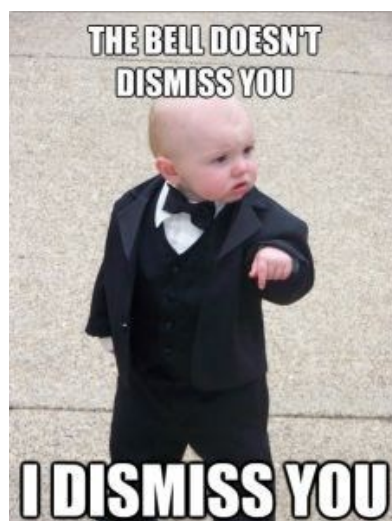
وصل الرسول سالماً إلى المدينة، فاستقبله أهل المدينة بالأنشيد وفرحوا بقدومه.

في المدينة أسس الرسول صلى الله عليه وآله وسلم أول مسجد للمسلمين هناك. ومن ذلك المسجد ارتفع صوت المؤذن عالياً.

JOKES

1. Where do animals go when their tails fall off?
2. How does a train eat?
3. What's Forrest Gump's password?
4. What do you call a cow with no legs?

Jokes and brain teasers contributed by Sana Elasmr, 11th grade



Answers to jokes:

1. the retail store 2. it goes chew chew 3. 1forrest1 4.gorund

BRAIN TEASERS

1. There are three houses. One is red, one is blue, and one is white. If the red house is to the left of the house in the middle, and the blue house is to the right to the house in the middle, where is the white house?
2. You are in a cabin and it is pitch black. You have one match on you. Which do you light first, the newspaper, the lamp, the candle, or the fire?
3. Your dad tells you that he will pay you \$6.00 an hour for the 6 seconds that you take to wash your hands before dinner. How much did you make for washing your hands?