



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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



Issue Number 2, 2016

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Accreditation Corner

A'A! Mark your calendars everyone because on April 25, representatives sent by a fancy organization known as Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools will be in our building, and they'll be here for 4 days! They'll be taking a look at how our school functions, what happens in our classes, and how our students walk calmly from class to class. :-)

If you didn't know, RSA is working on becoming an "accredited" school. This is like an AP exam for our school with the following subjects to be tested: **Philosophy/Mission, Governance/Leadership, School Improvement Planning, Finances, Facilities, School Climate/Organization, Health and Safety, Educational Program, Assessment and Evidence of Learning, Student Services, Student Life and Activities, Information Resources** (and you thought you guys were stressed!).

While they are here, they'll be walking around and will most likely enter your classes. They may possibly witness a Shakespearean Roast in Sr. Fadia's class, an experiment in the science lab or even you giving a speech at the Power Podium. They may even stop and ask you a question or two, so be on your best behavior!

-Sr.Ahlam

The Rising Times aims to provide the latest news, tips, and advice through various sources by students for students. The Rising Times expresses students' opinions on school safety, health, and politics. A newspaper which envisions improving



Dates to Remember:

- February 20th—Designing Our Future Fundraiser**
- February 23rd—Snow Tubing Field Trip**
- March 23rd—Broadway Field Trip (The Crucible)**

Growing up in RSA

Rolling the tables out almost every day just to play basketball. Carrying boxes of books and utensils every week from the basement to the "3rd" floor (more like 5th). Running to the bathroom to wash up once the bell rings. Sitting by the heater on the floor during winter just to get some warmth. Hearing the loud horns of cars beeping from the condensed parking lot below. Carrying food up every day to the main hall so the teachers won't have to. As weird as these actions sound, I'll never forget these moments.

After my parents, RSA has shaped me into who I am today. All of my actions, attributes and accomplishments are a result of how RSA has raised me. To the superficial eye, one might see a building that doesn't have as many "facilities" or is small compared to most other schools. However, when I look at this I realize how truly lucky I was to grow up here. Having spent most of my life with a handful of kids really builds a bond that is truly unbreakable; shout out to Shafei and Abdelmenam *#since2ndGrade*. Spending everyday moving tables so we could play basketball or carrying the lunch up so we could be first in line was a daily routine (I'll never forget the food either Sr. Sabura and Sr. Siham).

Sitting in a class where at most I'll have 10 kids who I've known for a while is light-years better than sitting in a class of 45. I miss the sky blue polos and khaki pants that I used to wear. Everyday as I get ready for my last year in high school, it'll always come cross my mind to put the RSA blue back on. I'll never get over the yearly apple picking trips and seeing Sr. Lina sit down anywhere and eat an apple minding her own business. I'll never forget the first time we beat Ahlusunnah in the MYCC league, the first win after a very long losing streak. I'll never forget the constant debates in Sr. Sarah's class especially when it came to politics in the Middle East. I don't think it's even possible to forget all the crazy stories I've written essays on in Sr. Fadia's class or how many times we've screwed up in Pre-Calc. There aren't too many places I can call home but RSA is one place I can. I feel nostalgic whenever I see the 1&9 and Tonelle Ave exit. I miss every single moment from reciting after Br. Saed in the morning to randomly roaming the school and having someone scream at me to go back to class. I miss having my next class 15 seconds away but taking 15 minutes to get there. I miss practicing Dabcha in our homeroom and filling it up with the mustiest smell on earth. 15 boys stomping can really stink up a room, ask Sr. Sarah she'll tell you. I miss stomping so hard that a teacher downstairs would have to calm us down. I miss praying in a Jamaa every day for Thuhr.

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An Impact Defined by Science

Science Olympiad is an extracurricular activity that helps one excel in majority of the fields of study. Most teachers believe it only revolves around science so we were given the name "the science freaks". I don't take that as an insult, I take it as a compliment, as in I am a person who loves to explore and try out new things related to science. Now Science Olympiad requires all studies sciences, Math, English, and History. Each used in a way that leads back to science. For example, Math is used to calculate voltage, gravitational forces, etc. all those calculations that are being done consist of both Math and Science. History is also being used, for the events like Green Generation and Fossils we have to go back and see how the world was effected, and in some cases learn about scientists. English is the subject that is probably used most, majority of the events consist of writing and answering questions. So as you see Science Olympiad does not revolve only around Science but around all subjects.

Science Olympiad played a huge role in my life. By participating in Science Olympiad I excelled in many different fields.

~Continued on Page 2

Islam in the Media

I bid a word to the bigots who commend harm in the state of ignorance.

I bid a word to the bigots who condemn a people based on their religious and cultural identity.

I bid a word to the bigots who fight in the name of common good but create evil instead.

I bid a word to the bigots who fail to understand that we are all human.

I have bid many words to the bigots, but many do not believe they identify as a racist and this is our problem.

We forget the war tactics our elders have used in the past, to divide and conquer and yet very ironically it is implemented into our lives every single day.

For centuries, the natural hierarchy has named the lesser man a minority which seems to be flawed and it seems our time is upon us.

We have yet to see the time in which the white man will lose his superiority and sink to the bottom for it has not yet happened, nor does it seem to be.

However, the game has changed, the hierarchy has disappeared and the world has united to fight an enemy that is all but a figment of their imagination, or a product of their own creation.

They are the Muslims. Our enemy are the Muslims whether they be of white, black, Indian, Asian, or African descent or that they may be a man, woman, or child. They are the poison that poses a threat to us and our children.

Have I quite convinced you of our enemy? Is there a shred of doubt that their main purpose in life is to

terrorize the entire world? Do you believe this is a fight worth killing millions for?

It is our civic duty as humans to shield ourselves from the ignorance that comes in waves. The fight begins with the quest of gaining knowledge so that the only sickness that a common man might suffer from is knowing too much. I have begun this search for knowledge only to find that the amount of books we read will never amount to the common sense we must develop. We are all human.

Within every race or religion, you will find the good and the evil, however the media has rooted out the evil in Islam and radicalized it in the eyes of the people. In doing so, they discovered that the media is more dangerous than any other weapon of mass destruction, and so have we.

So I bid a word to the bigots, good luck in your fight towards hate for your ignorance fuels the danger our humanity faces.

-Shatha Hussien, 10th grade

"Our Faith, Our Pride"

"O you who believe! Fear God, and be with those who are true (in word and deeds)." (Quran 9:119)

Honesty holds a lot of significance in Islam; Prophet Muhammad has even told us that those who lie are not from this religion. One lie will lead to another, which will eventually lead you to the wrong path. However, if you stay truthful and honest, Allah will reward you with paradise. If you are always truthful everybody will believe and trust you, like Prophet Muhammad. Prophet Muhammad would always speak the truth in every situation that is why his companions would believe him without a doubt. A great example about not being honest is the story about the boy who cried wolf. In the story the boy lies to the people that the wolf has come. So when the wolf actually does come and he tells everybody, nobody goes to him because they think he is lying. If you lie nobody will believe you, they will constantly doubt you and think you are lying to them all the time. We should follow the Sunnah and always be honest with everybody in every way. "Abdullah ibn Mas'ud reported:

~Continued on page 3

Growing up in RSA



I miss setting chairs up for the Principal's Brunch and having to sneak down to grab a few bites since I was off by 4 points. I miss holding up God knows how many pictures at the yearly auction during family fun night. These are all memories I'll never be able to relive, but they are the ones most precious to me. Most people won't understand how deep my roots are in RSA since most haven't been here as long as I have. The first time I visited this year, all the emotions that I wasn't conscious of when I was attending came flooding back to me. I came and enjoyed a delicious bake sale, balled up, prayed and went straight to Islamic Studies and AP Lit like I would on a normal day.

It felt amazing just being there even if it was only for a few hours. All these small memories, small actions, they all played a role in letting me grow as a person; when you feel at home every second of the day, you feel comfortable enough to explore and grow into who you truly are because at the end of the day, no matter what happens or how bad you might mess up, you're home. No matter where I end up in college my career and in life, I'll always have one place that I can come to anytime; RSA is the one place I can proudly look at and call..... Home.

-Ibraheem Mirza, Senior

Seerah of the Prophet

Every week at school we would dedicate one period to learn about the Seerah of the Prophet (PBUH). We should all, as students and teachers, learn about the life of the Prophet so we can see how he acted and follow his footsteps. We also have this weekly Halaqah because two periods of Islamic studies aren't enough to cover everything we need to know as Muslims.

Angels are always surrounding us. They have all multiple jobs in watching over us and what we do and writing all of our good and bad deeds. Whenever the angels mention our name to Allah they would do it in a memorable way. Angels who watch over us have shifts at Fajr and Asr. During the time they go back to Allah and Allah would ask what we're doing and if we prayed on time they would say we left them praying and came to them praying. On Fridays the earlier you go the better. Angels would come and write down who came first to the Salah and go back and give it to Allah. The earlier you go the better it is for you.

The prophet was said to be neither tall nor short, was not brown or white, his hair was not in curls nor was it straight. His sweat smelled like musk, his hair was silky, didn't have a round face, and he had large black eyes. The prophet was known to be the best of men. He never hurt a child, slave, or women. He was also one of the kindest people. Whenever someone asked him for help he wouldn't say no and would go and help them right away. The prophet also joked a lot but not in a mean way.

An Impact Defined by Science

I learned how to construct devices using the simplest tools and materials around me, and to use simplest scientific lessons to develop different thought processes. Most people answer the question about how has Science Olympiad impacted your life with an "it didn't", it differs for me. Science Olympiad taught me how to be responsible and gave me the opportunity to know how it feels to run something, and be in charge of something bigger than myself.

Throughout the years I've heard many remarks questioning the importance of Science Olympiad and why it was needed. Science Olympiad teaches students how to think outside of the box, and apply their knowledge in different ways. So if someone was to ever ask me how Science Olympiad has impacted me, my answer would never change. It has impacted me in the most amazing way by teaching me different ideas and ways to come about things. Now that's just me, and I hope one day every Science Olympiad participant and all RSA teachers will realize how much it actually helped us and left us with great benefits. We appreciate all the classes you have given up for us to work on Science Olympiad, and on behalf of the Science Olympiad team we thank all RSA teachers.

To all the teachers and students who hate on Science Olympiad:

"When a person says science is boring, I cringe. Science is the world and that's far from boring." -Khawlah Nazzal, 11th Grade



In Jest ... Science Olympiad Rants

"Oh Lawd, here we go again!"

"How about we do experiments on Science Olympiad members?"

"If we valued the humanities as much as we did the sciences, the world wouldn't be a horrible place. Make the world great again, read books."

"These kids so good when they working on Science Olympiad, when they finish – they throw everything everywhere."

"If they insist on calling it Science "Olympiad", can it only happen every 4 years?"

**** Contributors have chosen to remain anonymous for safety concerns.

One time an old lady went to the prophet and asked can I go to Jannah. He told her no, old people aren't allowed in Jannah and she began to cry. Then the prophet told her to that Allah will make everyone who enters Jannah young.

These stories and lessons we hear should encourage us to do good, be kind, smart and all of the qualities the prophet (PBUH) was. These Halaqahs shouldn't just be teachers talking all the time. Students should volunteer and step up and teach the students something new. This is only our fifth Halaqah and I'm looking forward for the ones coming!!!

-Omar Abdelmenam, 12th Grade

The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said, "Verily, truthfulness leads to righteousness and righteousness leads to Paradise. A man may speak the truth until he is recorded with Allah as truthful. Verily, falsehood leads to wickedness and wickedness leads

to the Hell-man tell until re-with a fire. A may lies he is recorded Allah as liar."



-Minahal Ahmed, 12th Grade

Dolce & Gabanna Embraces Islamic Fashion

Dolce and Gabanna released their hijab and abaya collection earlier this week and it's anticipated to be the most talked about trend this year. The two designers came together and designed their first clothing line aimed for Muslim women. Although Muslim women have already established themselves in the fashion world and do not need to seek any form of validation, it is nice to see with all of the Islamophobia spreading people aren't shunning us from society. This collection isn't your boring, everyday plain cultural dress; the designers have kept the abayas and hijabs traditional but with a Sicilian touch. The ensemble is great for women who are looking to dress modestly while enjoying the luxurious things in life. Not only is this new addition a benefit to Muslim women, but also an advantage to the Dolce and Gabanna Corporation owing to the fact that they are very popular in Muslim countries such as Saudi Arabia (seven stores) and UAE (12 stores).

Nour El-Zant , 11th grade



Tough Times For Islam: Stay Safe

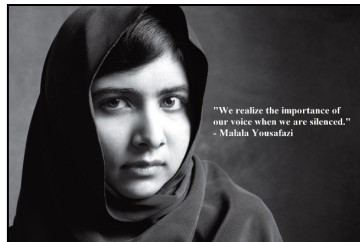
"Don't be a victim"

Those were the most important words that were emphasized by Hudson's County Law Enforcement. Across the United States, the concept of fearing Muslims has become a widespread idea and has manifested into the hearts of the American people. Another significant problem we face is that Muslim Americans like you and I are being targeted not externally by outside forces but within ourselves as well. It has become the concept or idea that has influenced all American Muslims from coast to coast. The idea of "Us vs. Them" has become falsely yet commonly used. A standing problem we have is that too many Americans just aren't educated on what Islam is. The unfortunate thing for our society is that we only soak up what the media portrays of us. Whether or not you think the media is correct is to be your own opinion, but a major problem in my opinion, is that we as Muslims with all that we face like controversy and "Islamophobia" clouding us, we have no time to look in the mirror. Think about it, we as Muslims had a Golden Age thousands of years ago. We were leading the forefront in mathematics, astronomy, and science, the Muslims were the center of knowledge. But look at us now. You want to see corruption, discrimination and ruthless leaders? Head to the Muslim world. We are regressing as a people! And on the smaller scale we don't have decent ethics. Now when we annoy our neighbors or even park with no regard to others, we humorously say "They're So Arab". We're only civilized when we have to be, which is during Salah. The only time we make it to the news is when we (those who claim to be us, what some of you might argue) blow something up. We truly don't have time to look in the mirror with all the circumstances facing us. We will be hated and made fun of no matter what, I guarantee you, just as the Prophets before were made fun of. But the question is are we being made fun of the same way the Prophets were insulted. I argue not. They were made fun of as a way to suppress the shining light of

~Continued on Page 4

Who is Malala Yousafzai?

How would you feel if you were coming back one day from school and you got shot? Everybody knows that your death is just around the corner and you don't know when your time will come. They tried to silence Malala but she surprised them and continued to strive for what she thought was right. When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. Malala was born July 12, 1997. She was well known for being a Pakistani student and education activist. She is also known for her activism toward girls' and women's rights, especially their right to an education.



Malala is originally from Mingora in the Swat District. She was a victim of a gunshot attack in October 2012. Malala was also the youngest ever to win the Nobel Peace Prize. She is the teenager who marked her 16th birthday with a live address from UN headquarters, is known around the world by her first name alone, and has been lauded by a former British prime minister as "an icon of courage and hope".

Malala is a very inspiring teenager who isn't really that older than any student in Rising Star Academy. She is a young lady who forced herself to not be silenced by the majority of girls that knew if they spoke it will be the end of them. She took that risk and knew she will have to pay the price. And the price was expensive but when you stand for what you believe in, and what you're saying is part of your rights, the price doesn't really matter anymore.

Malala gave hope to the girls and even some boys around the world that not just because society tells you that you can't speak you have to listen to them. Malala teaches everyone out there that education is not a privilege, it's a right not just for males but for females also. Just think about it - if a woman is not educated how will the next generation be educated since she'll know how to teach or raise her own children. Society needs to understand that women are equal to men and maybe better (if I do say so myself).

Nur-Al-Huda El-Said, 8th Grade

The Hands of A Clock (Poem)

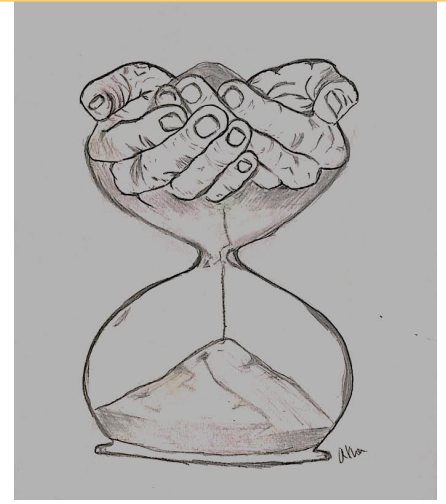


Image by Aqsa Khan, 11th grade

The hands of a clock lift the weight of the world
and yet at ease these hands are turned
and the time that passes is forever yearned
Gone forever, never to return
See Time only matters when there's none at all
left
Only passes quickly when you enjoy the time
you've spent
Time can't be borrowed, bought or, lent
And the moments you wished could last forever
Are gone in an instant and are relived never

Maryam Edris, 11th Grade

Student Spotlight

Aysha's Art Class

What made you want to start this class? Any inspirations?
Well I've always had a passion for art and I've also had many students asking me to teach them, so I said to my self why not start an art club, I've actually had this in my mind since last year

How long are you willing to continue this class?
Well that depends on the students

The charge per person and what is included in the price?
Well actually you don't need to pay anything. But you will need to bring some of your own supplies such as a sketch book, pencils and an eraser. But if you want me to buy the supplies for you than its 40\$

What are you looking forward to from your class members?
I hope that they enjoy my class and leave with something new.

What advice/motivation would you give to people in joining your class?
Practice makes perfect just keep trying and never give up even if things are looking bad at first just keep going at it and it will get better.

The American Dream

Will Counts was a skilled photographer. He had a photo of Elizabeth Eckford, an African American woman who told the story of segregation in an instant. It provoked reaction around the Little Rock City. Almost all Americans were shocked when they saw Hazel Bryan's snarling face in the one of a kind photo. It reached deep down into racism's deep roots in American culture. There was an idea. That every person should get the right education instead of being separated in different places. Most people didn't get good education back then. Usually white boys that came from very wealthy families only got the good, bold education that we get nowadays.

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Tough Time for Islam: Stay Staff

of Islam and to stop it from spreading since it was so powerful. We're made fun of now on the way we present ourselves. How many brothers or sisters do you know that cheat on their job? Or are just plain rude and disrespectful? We as Muslims need to give them the right reason to make fun of us. On the other hand, we can argue that Islamophobia really has reached its peak at these times. Especially for our brothers and sisters that live in less populated Muslim areas. We need to also remember that we are American as well, and have a part and voice in this country. We as Muslims need to make sure we educate our fellow Americans in this country. But we need to make sure we demonstrate ourselves in the proper way. A very important matter that was emphasized on Saturday night's event of Safety Awareness is the important need not to let things slide when you are harassed or targeted in any way because of your religion. We shouldn't let hate put us down or allow us to lose any pride in the fact that we are Muslim.

Interview with the Captain of the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office:

As students of a private school, what do you think we should do to aid in the effort of the fight against Islamophobia?
 "I think an important point that the Muslim students should do is get involved in more community activities in the neighborhood and around the school. You guys need to let your name stand out. You can't be quite at a time like this".
 What do you think is the most important thing to do if you've been harassed due to your religion or race?
 "The first thing you should do is report it since that gives us a much better chance of making sure we get this guy. It might be once but this guy won't stop until he gets a firm warning for us. I hate to say it but there are some really stupid people out there. They just really need to get educated" If you had to say a short saying for all the American Muslims, what would it be?
 "Don't be a victim"

Hassan El-Said, 10th grade

The American Dream

Some people didn't even get education. At all. Many people died not knowing how to even read or write. Most white kids got to get good education. Most of the kids went to elementary school in the 1800s. But by the 1870s, only 2 percent of whites finished high school.

Dunbar High School was considered one of the best African-American schools in the entire country. Across the South, most white students had better equipment, better academics, and better education. Compared to the other white schools, African-American schools were barely funded. Teachers got poor pay. Most textbooks were shared and old. Students had to share supplies because there weren't enough. Some schools were unsafe because they weren't built right.

Benjamin Fine was a target for segregationists after he, a white man, comforted Elizabeth after being name-called and almost beaten up. In conclusion, back in the days was not safe for African-American. Things were not civil. Things were not right, nor fair. But after time, people became civil and worked together. Nowadays, blacks and whites work together and even be friends, but there is a very small percentage of people who are still very racist.

Jenna Kayed, 5th Grade

Family Fun Night

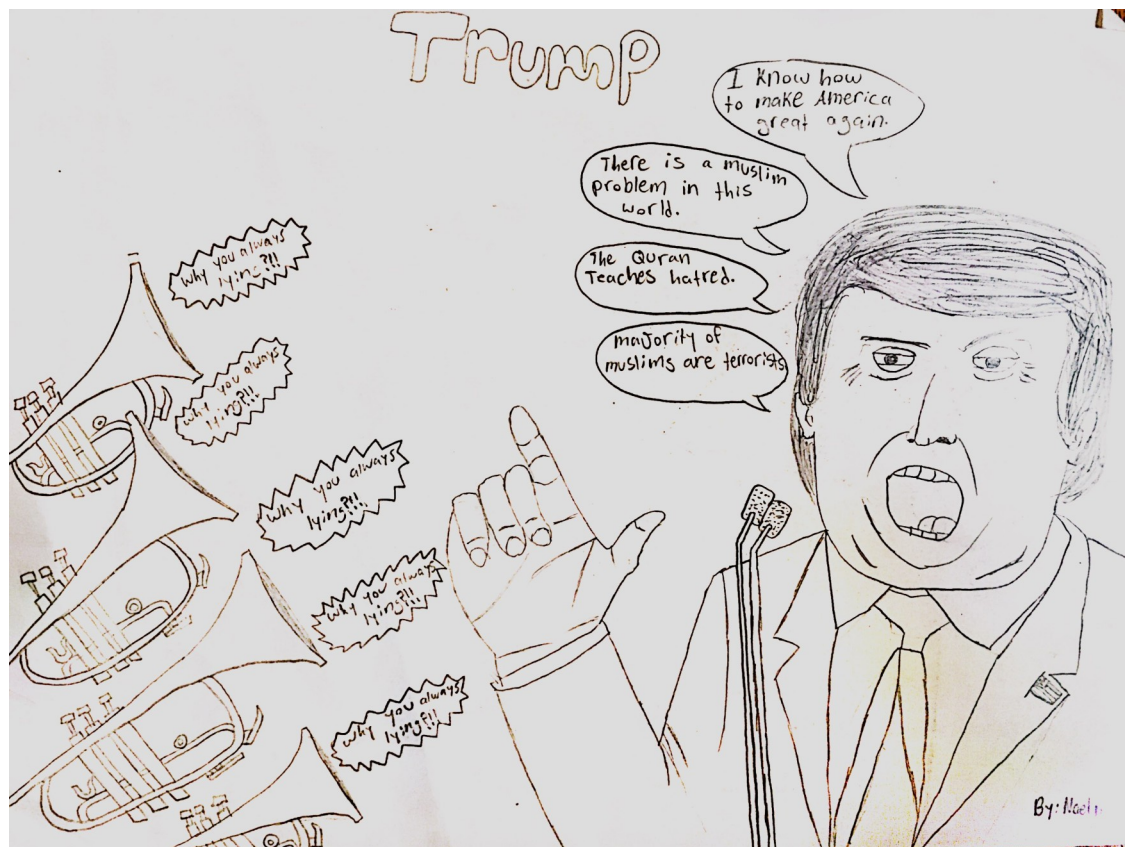
As a new student in an Islamic School, I love it! Being surrounded by teachers and friends that treat you like family and as if they've known you forever is an amazing feeling. What I have enjoyed and experienced from the events that I was part of was llays & Duck, Family Fun Night and plenty more. What I have adored the most was Family Fun Night, especially because my mother and sister attended with me, and we really enjoyed it!

As we entered the main hallway we were amazed by the beautiful curtains, table's designs, awards and lots more. I loved it! As we took our seat and people started to show up and the tables were getting full,

Sister Hala and Sister Sarah started the event with a lovely welcoming. Omar Shafei recited Quran seamlessly Mashallah! Right after the recitation they started awarding the winners of the Quran Competition. Mashallah a lot of youngsters won first, second, and third place. After the Pre-K to third grade received their awards with a beautiful smile on their faces they started performing their songs or plays.

Politicking – Donald Tumpeting

As we all know the presidential elections are coming up in November 2016, and the candidates are outdoing themselves. Like usual we have the GOP and the Democrats, and the last GOP debate of 2015 was Tuesday 12/15/15. Donald Trump is currently part of the GOP, we don't know if it is going to stay that way though, he is also in the lead and personally I don't know why. Now of course people have different opinions and thoughts, but I would expect more out of the people because how could you support someone who constantly contradicts himself and in my opinion has a lack of education. I mean, he stands up on the podium and dictates facts; he has no analysis, no basis for discussion, do you really think he is fit for president? Coming after Donald Trump is Ted Cruz, Ben Carson, Marco Rubio, and so on. In this last debate the other set of the republicans that the people don't really pay attention to which consist of Senator Graham, Governor Huckabee, Governor Pataki, and Senator Santorum, discussed the most popular issue for debate currently which is Islam and ISIS. Now they all agreed on one thing in particular, that is, that we are not at war with the religion or the followers of that religion, but we are at war with the extremists that are causing destruction. Is America really paying attention to what's right and wrong or are they blindly supporting the wrong people, like Donald Trump? As American-Muslims we need to keep our eyes and ears open to what is going on and what is being said, and do the best that we can to showcase the true message that Islam conveys. As for the adults, don't forget to vote for the best candidate these upcoming elections



Nael Ahmed, 10th Grade

Republican Presidential Debate Round up – Meet the Candidates

Donald Trump	Ben Carson	Jeb Bush	Chris Christie	Ted Cruse	Rand Paul	Marco Rubio
Jeb Bush is just saying this because he is failing his campaign and nobody cares.	We need to make sure any place not just a mosque or school doesn't include terrorism.	We can't ban peace loving Muslims.	We have people that are scared to death for nothing because they think they are going to be a shooting victim.	We should not bomb places we think have ISIS we should use airspace not bomb them.	If we were not scared none of these attacks would happen	There is nothing we can do now that we couldn't do before.
I don't want ISIS to use our social media to take our important youth. They aren't masterminds they are thugs.	Muslim brotherhood says he will steal our PC	The FBI has tools to spy on anyone but they shouldn't focus on Muslims			Believing in surveillance increase is nonsense.	The next time a terrorist attack happens I swear people are gonna blame it on the president

Yusef Haddabah, 7th Grade

- ◆ 7th Grade:
 - Zahra'a Fardos
 - Yusef Haddabah
- ◆ 8th Grade:
 - Sarah Mohamed
 - Ahmed Mustafa
- ◆ 9th Grade:
 - Aysha Mohdi
 - Hamza Mansour
- ◆ 10th Grade:
 - Shatha Al-Hussien
 - Ali Jamil
- ◆ 11th Grade:
 - Aqsa Khan
 - Abdallah Darwish
- ◆ 12th Grade:
 - Nida Alam



4 Terrifying Robots

4: Samaria Bot: this robotic arm was built in Japan and trained to fight with a sword! Wow! Imagine the robots from the movie / Robot with swords... yeah... Will Smith and his robot arm would not have made it out of that tunnel. Anyways, the robot was given eyes and had a competition with a master swordsman and the robot won! Great!

3: Cheetahro: this robot Satan is supposed to look like a cheetah, but looks like a demon sheep. This bot can run 5 miles per hour but got upgraded and now can jump over obstacles on its own. It weighs 70 pounds.

2: Spot: this robot is the little brother of big dog which is a huge robot, but runs slowly. Spot can't get knocked over, try all you want, it will keep standing up and it runs pretty fast.

During the testing people were kicking it, and you know maybe it will remember the abuse they did to it and get revenge!

1: Japanese lifelike bots: this really deserves to be number 1! This robot is modeled as a normal average Japanese woman, but is programmed to be as lifelike as possible. They will act like humans and the researchers hope to add them in our daily lives. They will replace nurses and babysitters and have their own show so it's a kind of terminator.

Be Prepared....

Qasem AlKhatib, 6th Grade

Riddles/Jokes

- ◆ My friend thinks he's smart, he said "An onion is the only fruit that can make you cry" I threw a coconut at his face.
- ◆ A science teacher tells her class, "Oxygen is a must for breathing and life. It was discovered in 1773." A student replies "Thank God I was born after 1773! Otherwise I would have died without it."
- ◆ Dad: "Can I see your report card, son?"
Son: "I don't have it."
Dad: "Why?"
Son: "I gave it to my friend. He wanted to scare his parents."
- ◆ Teacher: "Answer this math problem: if your father earns \$500 a week and gives half to your mother. What will he have?"
Student: "A heart attack."
- ◆ I travel all over the world, but always stay in my corner. What am I?
- ◆ What starts with E, ends with E and only has one letter?
- ◆ Teachers always tell us to follow our dreams....BUT yet they don't let us sleep in class

Mohammed Bengabsia, 6th grade

LAST EDITION RIDDLE ANSWERS:

- ◆ Mary is the fifth Daughter
- ◆ Smiles
- ◆ The letter E
- ◆ Empty

ENTERTAINMENT CORNER

Interview: Sheik Ismael

What do you most love about RSA?
All the students, they are our future.

What do you most love about teaching?
I love to get the students to like things, not just with learning but open their eyes to the future by making them look forward to it. I want them to like the fact that they are succeeding

If you were not a teacher, what would you want to be and why?
"Your value is in what you do best" -Ali ibn Abu Talib
The best thing I can do is Quran

What is the happiest moment of your life?
The day when Dr. Mohammed Murci won the presidency in Egypt.

What are you most scared of?
Nothing but Allah SWT should make you afraid, the only fear I have is from Allah SWT

Favorite surah in the Quran?
Surah Ar-Rahman, the bride of the Quran

Three adjectives that you want your students to have
To love reading

Sports – LeBron Gets Robbed

LeBron James, you are no longer the best basketball player on the planet. A new star has risen. If you watch basketball, and no matter what your favorite team is, you know that Steph Curry has claimed the throne. But how can a 6'3 point guard become the best basketball player on the planet just nine years after barely being recruited out of high school? Just by becoming the perfect basketball weapon, a force unstoppable by everyone except for Curry himself. No one can defend this All-Star. The only time he's not playing well is when he's just cold, or out of the game mentally. And based on the Golden State Warrior's 36-3 record, that doesn't happen much. Steph Curry doesn't need any off ball movements to separate himself from the defender, just give him the ball and he can get a shot going no matter what.

Steph Curry, aka Chef Curry, can shoot from anywhere on the court. Therefore his defender cannot back down on him. He must play him up top as close as he possibly can.

This combination of not needing a lot of space and having incredible range creates a huge problem for defenses. That means getting a hand on him 30 feet from the rim, an area no one is used to defending. But when a defender does come up tight, Curry is so quick that he can then blow past the defender for an easy layup. Or an easy pass to a big man down low, breaking the defense. So having someone guard him up close will fail. Guarding him down low will give him a 24 foot layup. So the only other option is to have 2 to 3 defenders on him.



Sounds like an ingenious plan, but that won't work either. He can easily lose the 3 or pass to an open man. His court vision is just too great. Boston Celtics guard Isaiah Thomas sums up the greatness of Curry with a column in The Players' Tribune, in which he explains why it is so difficult to guard Curry, noting that what makes him dangerous is that on defense, "you're always guessing."

Not only this, but his game is just somehow getting better and better. Not only because this is his MVP year but because his numbers and percentages are just increasing and increasing. No player can compete with Steph anymore. Curry is the best player in the world, and it doesn't look as if anybody is coming for that championship belt anytime soon.

~Abdelkareem Ramadan, 11th Grade

Family Fun Night

The 4th graders, Khaled, Musabeh, Abdallah, and Owais performed a nasheed which my mom loved! While the youngsters were performing many of the parents were up front taking videos and pictures of their children performing.

At the end of the night auctions occurred where many families bought stunning Islamic calligraphy, clocks, Qurans, and beautiful Quranic verses to hang up, they were very magnificent! While the auction was underway I, myself helped out with my classmates passing out the food. Alhamdulillah, everyone enjoyed the night, the hosts and our youth sure made us occupied with their nasheeds, skits, Quran recitation, and Quran Awards! Being gathered together is the greatest feeling ever and unforgettable moments. The Quran states
" وَمَا مِنْ دَابَّةٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَا طَائِرٍ يَطِيرُ بِجَنَاحَيْهِ إِلَّا أُمٌّ أُمَّتُكُمْ مَعًا
فَرَطْنَا فِي الْكِتَابِ مِنْ شَيْءٍ تَعْتَمِدُونَ إِلَى رَبِّهِمْ يُحْسِنُونَ

There is not a moving (living) creature on earth, nor a bird that flies with its two wings, but are communities like you. We have neglected nothing in the Book, then unto their Lord they (all) shall be gathered."

May Allah Gather Us in Jannah Inshallah! -
Nevine Amer, 11th grade



Break...What Break?

We students are granted a week off from school every few months, but can we consider this week off a break from all the work? I ask you, what if you waited for that one week where you didn't have to think about all the work coming your way, and suddenly, a day before that week arrives, I give you a countless amount of papers of students' tests to grade. How would that make you feel? Is the work during school hours not enough? Must we keep working and tiring ourselves during our "break"?

I say, you should just let us relax, please, just let us relax. We students are just as exhausted as you teachers are, and we need just as much of a break as you do. I mean, come on, we come here just like you from 8AM-3PM, yes we understand that you have other students' tests to grade, but do not forget that we have other teachers' homework to do. Do you think it's right for you to destroy our hopes of finally getting that long deserved week off? We want to spend time with family and friends, is that too much for us to ask for?

If the week off from school is called a "break", why do we have more work on this "break" than we do on school days? We really need to relax, we just want some rest. If you want us coming back refreshed, if you want us coming back active, then don't tire us out over the break by giving us work. It's a simple request, it's not like you teachers lose anything by letting us free and at rest. Please, reconsider your decisions on giving us work over our next break!

Anonymous

Could the Hunger Games Really Happen?

During the most unexpected times humans THINK. Whether it's during a three hour traffic jam or when your phone dies and you're sitting in the car. To truly think, to analyze and reflect on daily events rarely happens, from a young age we were programmed not to think. Mobile devices and constant interactions with other people deprive us from just sitting down and thinking. Well, in the Hunger Games the lack of actual thought lead people to accept the terrible things the government was doing to them.

"..... Even though the information is harmless, they don't want people in different districts to know about each other."

-Katniss Everdeen

The Capital didn't want people from different knowing other's and life-fear that unite them. In modern society people create divisions between each other based on politics, color of skin, and even religion. These divisions have caused us to be blinded and unable to help our own society. Also, the lack of unity all over the world compares to that of the Hunger Games. The authority is afraid that if people unite, they will end their reign of power. In our society, we have individuals who challenge common belief and stand for what is right. In the book, Katniss becomes motivated to rebel against the Capital's cruelty. She realizes, in the midst of her loss that to hate and become angry is pointless. But to preserve and help free herself and all of her people from the Capital would change society as a whole.



"Only wishing I could think of a way to show the Capital they don't own me. That I'm more than just a piece in their Games."

-Peeta Mellark

This quote is very profound although it comes from the mouth of a fictional character. The character proposes that maybe just maybe if he could find the voice, the strength to speak out it would make all the difference. Making his identity and individuality in their eyes something he wanted. If he could be the loud, courageous voice of the children and families suffering he could the Capital pay for everything they had done. So, if we could become the voice of the people all around the world trembling under the hands of oppressors. What would happen then?



But the ultimate question is. Could the Hunger Games society become reality? Sure. Is their society slowly seeping into ours? Maybe. Could we prevent this from happening? Absolutely. But if not let the seventy-fifth annual Hunger Games begin

Alaa Essafi , 8th Grade

Homework, I love you



Homework, I love you. I think that you're great. It's wonderful fun when you keep me up late. I think you're the best when I'm totally stressed, preparing and cramming all night for a test.

Homework, I love you. What more can I say? I love to do hundreds of problems each day. You boggle my mind and you make me go blind, but still I'm ecstatic that you were assigned.

Homework, I love you. I tell you, it's true. There's nothing more fun or exciting to do. You're never a chore, for it's you I adore. I wish that our teacher would hand you out more.

Homework, I love you. You thrill me inside. I'm filled with emotions. I'm fit to be tied. I cannot complain when you frazzle my brain. Of course, that's because I'm completely insane.



My Excuse

This morning I was walking past the local county jail when I was captured by a pirate just released on bail. He took me to his pirate ship and taught me how to sail and made me wed his daughter, who was covered by a veil. We sailed the seven stormy seas through hurricane and gale, but while we were marauding, we were swallowed by a whale. We soon escaped by torturing the whale with a nail and floating to the shoreline in an empty wooden pail. An Indian then guided us along a western trail and led us to a stagecoach that was carrying the mail. We all delivered letters through the sleet and snow and hail, until we found a train, and then we rode upon the rail. I barely made it back to school to tell you of my tale. I'm sorry that I missed the test; I hope I didn't fail!

Kenn Nesbitt, reprinted from [If Kids Ruled the School](#)

Movie Review: Frankenstein

We watched the movie Frankenstein after reading the novel and I honestly loved the book so much so I figured I would love the movie. However, I actually liked the book much more. The movie and the book were different in many ways. For example, in the book Frankenstein created a creature but society made him into a monster and in the movie Frankenstein made a monster in attempt to create life and prevent death, which no one believed was possible and completely insane.

The main characters in the movie were Victor Frankenstein, played by James McAvoy, Igor, played by Daniel Radcliffe, Lorelei, played by Jessica Brown Findlay, and Roderick played by Andrew Scott.

The book and the movie taught two lessons. In the book it was don't judge a book by its cover, as in treating others different based on their look. Society called the creature a monster and the creature's appearance made people believe he was a monster when in reality he was trying to find out who he is and the meaning of his life. Unfortunately, whenever someone would look at him they'd get uncomfortable and panic treating him as if he were a monster so he would get nervous and try to shut them up making him act like a monster. The people didn't even give him a chance they just judged quickly which isn't fair. The lesson being taught in the movie was always treat people with respect because of what their future holds. For example, while Igor was at the circus he was not respected whatsoever but then was rescued by Victor Frankenstein.

My favorite part of the movie was when Igor escaped with the help of Victor Frankenstein. I really didn't dislike any part from the movie. My favorite character was Igor.

I rate this movie a 4.2 out of 5, however, I believe the book was a 5 out of 5.

-Sara El Sayed, 12th grade



You want to hear acorny joke?

What do you call a group of unorganized cats? A CAT-ASTROPHE

How many tickles does it take to make an octopus laugh? TEN-TICKLES

Why did the bicycle fall over? BECAUSE IT WAS TWO TIRED

What do you call an alligator in a vest? AN IN-VEST-GATOR

What's a pepper that won't leave you alone? JALAPENO BUSINESS

How did the hipster burn his tongue? HE DRANK HIS COFFEE BEFORE IT WAS COOL

What kind of tea is hard to swallow? REALITY