



February 2019 edition

AMS JOURNAL



**BROUGHT TO YOU BY
TORCH CLUB**

EDITED BY

Reem Hazim 12C and Jana Waleed 10A

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF

Mrs. Dina Al Atrash

THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

For the students of AMB, February 2019 was filled with engaging debates and challenging competitions! We bring you the highlights of this month's events:

History Trials: Marie Antoinette

February 11

The third edition in the History Trials series, this debate took its audience on a journey back in time to revisit the trial of French Queen Marie Antoinette and possibly change her fate. The debate featured five student musicians who enlivened the event and set the mood, in addition to well-articulated arguments and heated discussions.



SJEM 6 Exhibition

February 12

The STEM exhibition made a successful comeback this year with the sixth exhibition taking place in the Sheikh Hamdan hall on February 12. Students of grades 6-12 demonstrated their creativity and innovation through numerous projects that astounded visiting guests and judges.

History Trials: Agora

February 13

History Trials: Agora is the fourth edition in the History Trial series launched this year by the social studies department. In this event, students of grade 11 debated the topic of press freedom using Agora, the ancient Greek style of debating. The students were outfitted in Greek costumes and argued their positions fiercely in thirty-second intervals.



3rd Annual Al Mawakeb Archery Championship

February 13

In the third annual Al Mawakeb Archery Championship, members of the Al Mawakeb archery team competed against each other before an audience of teachers, students, and visitors. Members of the audience had the chance to try their hands at archery with the help of the archery team. The championship concluded with announcing the winners and celebrating the team with a delicious cake.



AUSMUN

February 21-23

For members of the MUN club, the weekend of February 21st was packed with heated debates about international conflicts. They arrived at the American University of Sharjah on Thursday, dressed in their formal wear and ready to tackle international issues as delegates of different countries. Our students' outstanding performance was rewarded by 3 distinguished delegate awards and 4 outstanding delegate awards.



AUD School Sports Challenge

February 22

On Friday, February 22, members of the AMB varsity teams participated in the AUD School Sports Challenge, an annual event held by the American University in Dubai. After an exhausting day filled with fierce competition, our students were rewarded by winning first place in girls' soccer, first place in girls' volleyball, third place in boys' volleyball, and four awards in girls' swimming.



ALWAYS SECOND BEST

By Minatallah Hussami

Growing up, I was always encouraged to “do my best”. “Do your best” this, “do your best” that. I was never told, however, that doing my best might not always make me the best. Instead, my parents narrated stories in which they exhausted themselves working towards something grand, something extraordinary, something that separated them from everyone else, and eventually came out on top. They made it look easy, as if the path to success was nothing but a serene, beautiful walkway. Success, to them, meant being “the best”, in other words, being better than everyone else. Those were the ideologies that were instilled in me from a young age, hence it is no secret

that when I fell off the monkey bars, failed to shoot a ball correctly into a basket, or did not stay within the lines of my coloring book, I associated those minute mishaps with utter failure.

As time passed by, and my priorities shifted from filling in those fiddly coloring books to finding the value of x , I found myself maintaining a permanent spot at second best. Sure, I was okay, but my achievements never seemed to satisfy my inner hunger for the feeling of being top tier. Instead of acknowledging the fact that the numbers on my exam papers were perfectly sufficient, I focused on my rank among my classmates. I would sigh, still second best. Second

best is the first to lose, they said.

I would train for hours on end, putting my heart and soul into a sport that I loved, but my efforts always seemed to backfire. Leveling up seemed to have an adverse effect on my mentality. Though moving up might mean victory to most, it made me feel as if I was being dragged all the way down to the bottom.

The other day, as I was sitting in the passenger’s seat of my dad’s car, I opened up. I was feeling brave, so I turned down the radio volume, straightened up, and faced him. Confused, yet concerned, he listened to me ramble on and on about the preconceived ideas and false expectations I set for

myself on a daily basis. He paused, turned to me, and answered in the simplest, yet most powerful statement I have ever heard exit his lips. “Mina, have you ever tried comparing yourself to yourself, rather than to the girl sitting next to you? In the past year or so, I have seen you blossom. You got your priorities straight and solid, and you even started asking me about universities. The Mina of today doesn’t deserve to be put down by her inner demons, taunting her for always being ‘second best’. Persevere; you’ll figure it all out; everything will fall into place. I’m not worried about you.”

RAIN

By Hanan Al Hammal

There was a room I once created. It was painted with dark red colors and memories that are now far gone. That room smelled like the roses I went to pick with my mother back when I was 6, and the freshly baked bread that my neighbor would bake every morning. It felt like the first time I held my little brother's hand and the way the sun would caress my skin at 6:00 am. Eventually, that room became my only home. It was a calm Friday

morning when my brother and I played hide and go seek in the park. In the midst of me counting to 10, I heard my mother's piercing scream begging us to run back to her as quickly as possible; thus I ran in between the crowd attempting to uncover a path to grasp her arm while I began to feel the pouring rain completely drenching my skin, as the deafening, ear-piercing sound of gunshots echoed in my ears. I started seeing all the Trevi fountains,

where I and all the other children would toss a coin and make a wish, turn into blood pools. I saw swings swaying back and forth, yet no children were sitting on them. Instead, they were falling off of those swings, slowly like those droplets of rain, and gently, just like the way the moon kisses the sun goodbye. I couldn't quite comprehend what was happening, especially since I was only seven, but somehow, fear forced itself into my heart, scuttling through my veins, spreading its poison into my chest. There were people standing over

their loved ones' corpses, holding them the way a baby holds his mother's finger once he's born; tightly, vigorously, yet tenderly; with rivers streaming down their cheeks and agony filling up their hearts.

I then ran back to my mother. She took me to an underground bunker and then rushed back into the battlefield to search for my brother. A couple of hours later, when the world finally went silent and all the gunshots were hushed, my father came to pick me up from the bunker as he held 2 of the most precious

people to my heart in his arms and told me to close my eyes while he patted my back. That day, my brother never came out of his hiding spot, and an empty space filled my heart. I took a final glance at my mother and brother's face, and I saw my brother holding a daisy firmly in his hand, while his other one intertwined with my mother's. On her face rested the most beautiful and tranquil smile I have ever seen. Perhaps that was the smile she held when she finally found my brother or the fact that she knew I was

safe, but either ways I could not have seen a more pleasant smile in my life.



HISTORY TRIALS: MARIE ANTOINETTE

By Reem Hazim

On Monday, February 11th, students, teachers, and even visitors from the KHDA gathered in the downstairs hall of the girl's section to watch the third edition of the new History Trials series.

The History Trials are a series of debates staged as court trials launched this year by the Social Studies department. The first debate, held back in October, featured a face-off between the boys and girls of grade 12 about the infamous Watergate scandal. Then, last month, the second debate took place, featuring the

students of grades 11 and 12 as they took different stances on the controversial issue of capitalism versus communism. This third edition, The Trial of Marie Antoinette, comes on the heels of the huge success of the first two debates, and the large turn-up of the audience was very impressive, especially considering that the event was held after school.

What set this edition apart from its predecessors is the incorporation of brilliant acting and fitting music into the event. As the event

began, talented pianist Ali Nasri set the mood by playing Beethoven's fifth symphony in perfect synchronization with the judge's (played by Mrs. Daad, coordinator of the English department) entrance into the hall. The judge and the court clerk (Zain Manna) stayed true to their roles as they followed standard court procedures and announced the indictment of Marie Antoinette. Hostess Rama Celine Mahmalji delivered an excellent introduction to the event and presented helpful background information on the topic. Next, the ingenious Adrianna Sabbagh, dressed as Marie Antionette, delivered a moving speech asserting

her character's innocence and refuting all claims against her. Her realistic, emotional presentation put the audience under a spell of wonder and awe -even moved some to tears- and was supported by the guitar player Jad Diab, whose notes were perfectly tuned to her words. The speech even featured a climax where the soft background music came to an abrupt harshness that shocked the audience with its dramatic effect. After the speech of the accused Marie Antoinette, the prosecution lawyer, Asal Al Khuwaiter, was called to stage to present her case. She was then asked to invite her chosen witnesses, Montesquieu (John El Khoury) and Voltaire (Hashem Riyan) to present their testimonies. Then, the defense lawyer (Jana Massoud) was similarly invited to defend Marie Antoinette and call her witnesses, Louis XVI (Fadi Chahine) and Thomas Hobbes (Reem Hazim). This unique group of witnesses, most of whom were political philosophers, were hand-picked by the mastermind behind the event himself, Mr. Ahmad Hachem, who worked tirelessly to organize the History Trials. It's worthy to

note that three of the witnesses were not contemporaries of the French Revolution or Marie Antoinette. Yet, they spoke from their experiences and expressed their individual philosophies regarding the monarchy and its absolute power. After the witnesses presented their testimonies, the judge allowed each lawyer to cross-examine the witnesses and ask them their questions. This sparked a gripping debate where the characters swiftly refuted their opponents' claims with strong evidence and well-articulated responses. This also created tension between the debaters, with Louis XVI even becoming so provoked as to raise his voice on stage, which prompted an adverse reaction from the judge. Midway through the examinations, Thomas Hobbes objected to Montesquieu's words, stimulating another face-off between both sides, as the debate escalated and the strain increased between the defense and the prosecution. This was succeeded by another objection from Voltaire, who stole the stage and presented his philosophies in an engaging manner. After both sides were satisfied with their

arguments, they descended the stage and awaited the decision of the judge. After heightening the audience's suspense with an appropriate melody, the judge decided to execute Marie Antoinette. This initiated a dramatic scene where Marie Antoinette grieved over her fate and implored the court to have mercy on her.

The play ended with another symphony that set a dismal, gloomy mood to befit the impending execution. The judge left the court with heavy steps and a firm expression on her face, and the audience clapped in a deafening roar of applause.

After the end of the trial, the four musicians, Jad Diab, Sami Yassine, Ali Nasri, and Aser Hammash played some beautiful symphonies of their own creation and other, more famous ones, such as Yiruma's River Flows in You. Their performances ended in another round of applause and praise for their exceptional talents.

Her Honor's decision to conform with the actual events of history left the audience wondering: How could history have changed had Marie Antoinette been pardoned and allowed to live?



MORAL DILEMMA

By Sara Tahlak

I was only 16 years old at the time when I had been faced with the biggest challenge that would change my life forever, and here is how it all began.

I was born an only child into a family of peasants in a small village located not too far away from King Utter Pendragon's castle. My family was in charge of the crops that would be supplied to the Royal Family during the times of special occasions or simply to reward the winning knight in a duel. As a boy, I had been raised to

one day take over my family's farm; I spent my days being exposed to the different ways and techniques to harvest fruits and vegetables. I had familiarized myself with farm life, and all was well until my father had grown ill with the typhoid fever, eventually leaving me to take care of my family's duties and ways of life. A few years passed since my father's death, through which I was faced with many hardships and failures that led to the disruption of my family's business, leaving us with

nothing to survive. And yet again, another tragedy had found its way into my life taking my dear mother away from me due to starvation and depression. This made me an orphan at the age of 15, leaving me hopeless and devastated.

It was during this time in my life that I so desperately yearned for change; this led me to test my luck in becoming the King's knight. Throughout the period prior to my mother's death, I'd taken shelter with a friend named Alfred whom I'd grown to become very fond of. He was generous, had a pure heart, and was intellectual. It was he who'd trained me day by day to ensure that I achieved my

goal of becoming the King's knight; he too wanted to raise my status. During our training sessions, Alfred would always say: "My dear friend, if you want to win a battle, you must look for opportunities to strike when your opponent isn't looking." I for one had taken this piece of advice very seriously, and I knew that I was going to need it.

On my 16th birthday, the King's guard sent out formal letters written by the King Utter Pendragon himself inviting all men of any background, whether a peasant or a lord, to go through a series of vigorous tasks in which the winner shall be rewarded with the position of becoming a King's knight. I, who had spent months and months of hard core training accepted the invite, and I was ready more than ever to face my fate.

As I entered the King's grounds, all I could feel was the adrenaline rushing through my veins, the pounding of my heart, and the cold sweat that plastered my skin. It was in this moment that I decided to put my tormented past behind me. I presented myself as the strong man. The man I

hoped to become.

The battlefield was surrounded by thousands of royal guests eager to watch the tasks as they commenced, and amongst these people was king Utter Pendragon, and his most loyal companion, the magician. There were three tasks in total, the first was to test strength and sword fighting skills, the second was to test speed and agility, and the third and final task was to sacrifice an innocent life- this I felt most uneasy towards.

I was able to complete the first two tasks without difficulty, and I had been placed in the top ten of the most worthy of men. It was the third task, however, that I'd found the most difficult to complete. They'd given me a child to sacrifice, and at that moment my whole body went numb. As I looked into the young boy's teary, crystal blue eyes, I could not help but feel empathy towards the innocent child. But I knew that this was my last chance to prove my worthiness for the title I sought to obtain, so I decided to look away as I lifted my dominant arm- sword in hand- ready to behead the young child, until

I saw a strange looking figure with its arms stretched out, as if to grab the King's neck. Suddenly a door for opportunity had opened, and without a second thought I shifted my aim towards the dark hooded figure's heart and let go...

Time slowed as I watched the sword in intense fear as it pierced the hooded figures chest- I could not have foretold this- the King and the child's life was spared. In a split second all that had caused me pain in my life could harm me no more.

I was then awarded the title I'd worked so hard to achieve, but that was not all, I was also given a special green potion to drink by the magician himself, due to my courage, loyalty, and quick thinking. This potion granted me the best gift I could have ever asked for, which is that of immortality. From this day on, I shall be known as the Green Knight, who used his tormented past to conquer the impossible.



HISTORY TRIALS: AGORA

By Adrianna Sabbagh

Ever since the Teabate club was created (in close collaboration with the Social Studies Department) it has introduced and organized countless events of high creative standards and cultural implications. The Teabate club, unlike any other, is one whose participants are not limited to members. Any opinionated individual with a zeal for the art and science of debate is welcome to engage in its truly enlightening events.

The most significant of such events was, without a doubt, the Athenian Agora debate.

What is the Agora? Its literal denotation is “a gathering place” or “assembly”. It is a term that alludes to the central public place in ancient Greece where residents, athletes, artists, philosophers, politicians and ministers of religion, as well Kings and counselors, were summoned to attend

announcements and hold discussions in various fields. Both a market and a meeting place, it was “the heart of every Greek town”. As a participant myself, I can attest that it was an exciting experience to be able to recreate the atmosphere of the ancient, yet ironically modern, style of debate. The subject revolved around the freedom of the press and of public expression. The procedure was as follows: each participant on either side was to speak for a specified amount of time before passing on an object to another participant on the other end,

challenging him or her with a simple utterance of “esspassant” (an expression that meant yielding one’s position as a speaker) and a lingering argument that was gradually built upon then refuted in a series of rapidly thought-out exchanges.

The debate was characterized by speed and rhetoric, the subject

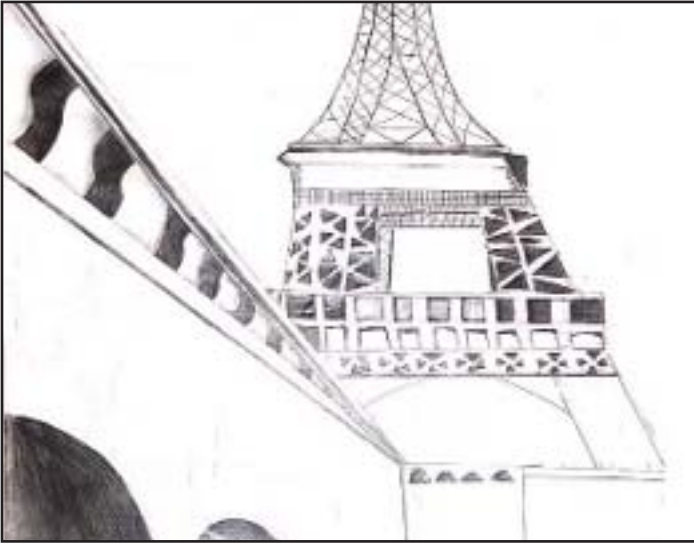
matter by its relevance and controversial degree of importance in societal and political development. It was a privilege to take part in and a thrill to witness.

Yet again, our students have not failed to impress. We revived and commemorated the original practice of democracy and

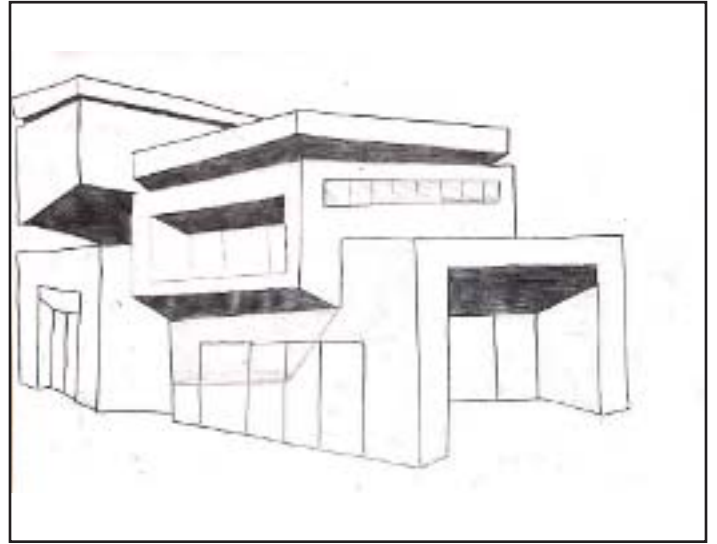
free-expression while also experiencing the epitome of what makes debating an art form in its own right.

ART GALLERY

Here, we showcase our gifted students' amazing artwork



by Dana Al Bastaki



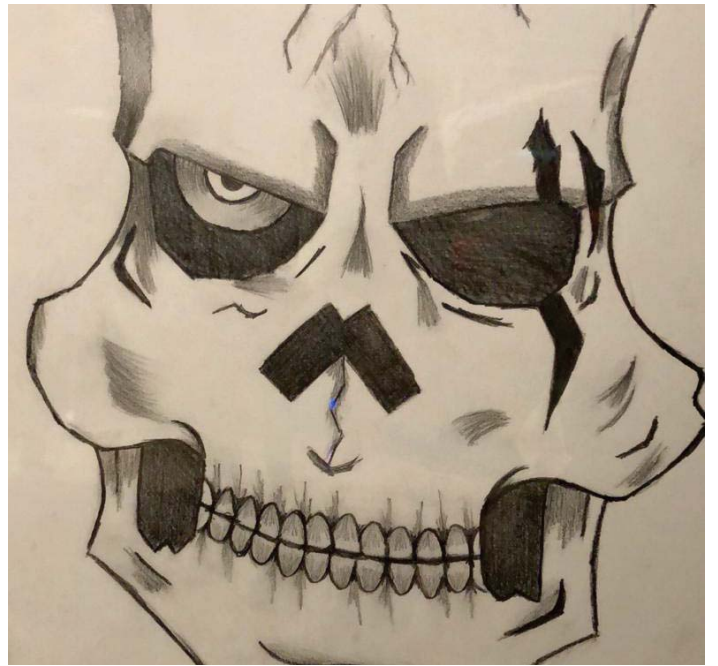
by Dana Al Bastaki



by Dana Al Bataki



by Nora Kassem



by Nora Kassem



by Nora Kassem

BELLA CIAO MY LOVE

by Abdelfettah Erbai

People are awakening outside my window
Makes my adulation to sunlight even more
Listening to the people's march crescendo
I can't belie my sullen further more
For there are things that I must do
Wish me luck so I can perceive
With my comrades admiring the amorphous blue
At last we "the people" will achieve
Thereupon you see me I may be smilin'
I'll be in prison or captured on TV
But we will never stop fightin'
It's fine cause the sunlight dragged me
To lead this glorious fight
Which won't end until we all unite

ANNOUNCING A NEW AMSI WRITING COMPETITION

A new writing competition, titled "Do the Write Thing", has been launched across all AMSI schools. Here is an overview of the competition and its rules:

*“Of all the arts in which the wise excel,
Nature’s chief masterpiece is writing well.”*

Reading is a vital activity in learning, but it is relatively passive. Writing, however, prompts a person to think and own a thought. Good writing is essential in order to achieve perfection in communication. It is the hallmark of a good leader!

The AMSI schools writing competition is the perfect opportunity for ambitious, emergent and fervent writers to exhibit their passion for the written word.

Students of different levels will be given the chance to submit an original and meaningful work about a specific topic or theme and in a specific genre.

Participating schools will be Al Mawakeb Schools and International School of Arts and Sciences.

Prompts:

Grade 7-9:

Write a poem, letter or essay addressed to your fellow citizens in which you share one idea for making the world a better place. Is it the importance of individual citizens exercising civic responsibility? Perhaps you have a vision for education reform or a plan to save the planet or environment? Be as detailed as you can be about the program that you propose.

Grade 10-12:

Compose an allegory or symbolic story, keeping in mind that each of your characters represents an abstract trait (honesty, pride, hate, beauty, strength...). Give your main character a goal he/she struggles against powerful obstacles to attain.

To find out more about the competition and its rules, read the full article on www.torchams.wixsite.com/torch

PHOTO GALLERY

This segment is dedicated to the talented photographers of our school...



by Hanan Al Hammal



by Hanan Al Hammal



by Hanan Al Hammal



by Chloe Salloum



by Hanan Al Hammal



by Hanan Al Hammal



AUSMUN

By Asal Alkhuwaiter

It takes only a second to make a decision. In only a split second, the human mind can make the choice between being a leader or a follower. An advocate or a participant. To many, the thought of making an impact in this complex and mesmerizing world we live in is too farfetched to even dream of. To those people, making a difference can take forever, when really, all it takes is 3 days.

On February 21-23, yet another Model United Nations conference took

place: AUSMUN. While all MUN conferences are built on the same foundation, every conference has a tinge of unique properties that makes it stand out from the rest. For AUS, it is the participants. Every individual that has set foot in that community has the same look of determination in their eyes, the same aura of passion that surrounds their forms. They come with the same goal. To leave with something new - whether it be an award or a new friend - and to

play a significant role in society, even if it was only for 36 hours.

After hours and hours of debating about topics ranging from cybersecurity to gun control, every delegate - whether they know it or not - has achieved their goal. Why? Because every participating individual leaves committee after that 6th session with something new in both their hearts and minds, if not their hands. And that something, is knowledge.

Knowledge about the new crises taking place around the globe and the

knowledge that every single person has the ability to play an active role in the world. Because as long as you are aware and allowing your voice to be heard through questions and statements, a change has occurred and a difference has been made.

MUN gives young minds the ability to be passionate for what they believe in. It allows groups of people that would otherwise never leave their comfort zones to socialize and communicate. It raises awareness of the world's conflicts through active participation. You do not

sit and listen, you rise and influence. MUN: a platform that raises people that persist, thrive, and achieve only the best. AUSMUN was not a conference. It was an experience.

LIBRARY NEWS

In this new segment, you can find all the announcements from the school library.

Dr. Sana Farid holds an awareness session

Dr. Sana Farid, Co-Founder and CEO of Munfarid Consulting and one of the top 10 speakers in 2018, gave the science department an awareness session about the importance of the virtual and augmented reality in education.



Winners of the Monthly Library Competition

Every month, the librarian posts a new knowledge question in the library. A box is provided under the question for students to put their answers. At the end of the month, the answer and the winners are announced. Here are the winners of February's competition:

Alreem Alfardan 4D	Lucy Kakoun 4A	Kristina Zaytouni 5A
Alya Afifi 4D	Mohammed Sultan 4D	Lana el Haddad 5A
Obai abo Ahmad 4G	Alex Ters 4A	Joy Rahme 5A
Fatma Sulaiman 4D	Aysha Al khoori 4F	Michael Atalah 5B
Buti AL Muhiarbi 4D	Mina Al tayar 4F	



World of Stories

World of Stories are a series of theatre shows held at Masrah Al Qasba theatre from November 8, 2018 until 20 December, 2019. The stories are adaptations of famous fairy-tales and feature music, dances and visual effects to appeal to children. The aim of the shows is to teach children through theatre. Al Qasba, the organizers of the event, believe that “the experience based education is the most successful way to teach children about ancient stories, history, music and it will increase their self-confidence.”



Independent Learning... Eternal Imprints

The social studies department organized a visit to the library for the special S.S. students of grades 7, 8, 9. The aim of the visit was to teach students the methodology of research by allowing them to use the library's resources, such as books and computers, to study an influential character in history or science and prepare a project about them.





INTERVIEW WITH MR. YOUSSEF SIMAAN

By Shahd Jamal

Who is Mr. Youssef? Tell me about yourself.

I grew up in Lebanon where I studied Biology and graduated in 2009 from AUB. My first full-time job was in an NGO called Teach for Lebanon, which recruits fresh university graduates and send them to rural areas within the country to teach in underprivileged schools. The NGO is part of a global mission to improve the quality of education worldwide. I was sent to an area in north of Lebanon named Akkar, and so I was on a completely different journey than my peers. It was an exciting mission for

me, and I know I desired a challenging experience after I graduate. I did not prefer to directly travel abroad, instead, I wanted a real adventure where I can get to develop different aspects of myself. Also, education is a pressing issue in rural areas, and I felt the urge of contributing to its resolution. Those years of work were very important, and I really advise students who plan on pursuing Masters degrees and PhDs to take gap years between those stages to go and work. Higher education helps you develop your IQ further, but working with people, and interacting and collaborating with colleagues

help you develop your EQ (Emotional Quotient). Earning degrees consecutively with no gaps in between may cause a struggle faced by those graduates once they join the workforce. So after working with the NGO for two years, where I got the opportunity of travelling to different places around the world, including New Delhi and New York, I was lucky to have gained a lot of insight about education in different cultures and countries. Then, for my Masters, I studied Immunology in University of Balamand. Following that, I came to Dubai.

Did you ever think of becoming a doctor?

Well, when I was a sophomore in AUB, I worked in its medical center for some time, just admissions, paper work, documentation, checking for equipment availability, etc. Being surrounded by doctors, nurses, and patients all the time gave me the opportunity to talk to them and realize whether it was a setting I imagined myself in 10 years from then. Sometimes you can get a sense of whether you belong somewhere or you do not, and I didn't. I would not have been able to reach this conclusion though without experiencing it firsthand. My decision was not an assumption made based on anecdotal evidence; it was based on an authentic personal experience. That's why internships, part-time jobs, and volunteer work help a lot in the orientation process for your career.

Tell me your favorite quality about yourself and why.

I would say it is having a sense of empathy. In general, people who lack empathy tend to affect their

surroundings in a negative way, and they might not even be aware of it. So this quality has always helped me stay mindful of other peoples' emotions and general well-being.

Do you think that this quality can also be a curse if one constantly cares about how people feel and always prioritizes their well-being?

In Science, as in life, the hardest thing to maintain is homeostasis, or balance. In the human body, for example, it could be to constantly keep the body's temperature at 37 degrees Celsius. The keyword here is *balance*. One should not overdo it and become too selfless; you will be abused and taken for granted. On the other hand, being completely selfish is not a good compromise either. People can be kind and understanding while simultaneously doing what is best for them in regards to prioritizing their personal needs and goals.

What is one thing you wish you would like to change about yourself?

Procrastinate less.

You look like you always have everything managed and under control, though!

I always ensure that I complete tasks that are at stake, yes, but I tend to procrastinate less important matters.

Seeing as you are a person whose smile does not part his face, what keeps you motivated?

There are two factors which always contribute to people's character, you took this in AP Bio: nature and nurture. In other words, the genetics and the environment. Some people are constitutionally predisposed to being happy. Just like people that are be predisposed to cancer, addiction, and many other things. The environment plays an equally important role as well. So I keep myself motivated because I practice good habits: I work out regularly, I eat well, sleep well, and I ensure doing random acts of kindness and good deeds whenever I can. I also surround myself with wise and positive people. I pray. I meditate. So I create an environment that generates happiness and motivation as a by-product. It is also important to develop a growth mindset;

one must fail as part of the route to success. Failure is nothing but a learning experience if you decide to look at it this way instead of just beating yourself up.

Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

I see myself supporting people to reach their full potential wherever I am. I believe that by doing so, I would also help myself develop further.

Geographically, I would love to see myself in Europe.

Colors say a lot about people, what is your favorite color and why?

I like blue. I do not know why though. There is definitely a science of colors, a science of numbers and much more, but I never really looked into the plausible explanation behind this in details.

What is the hardest challenge you have faced and how did you manage to overcome it?

Many hard challenges I faced were the result of impatience. With time and experience, I realized the true meaning of patience as a virtue and that struggle is actually needed. So, do not rush life and do not skip any

phase. Give every stage of your life its needed time. There is a story I like about a caterpillar who was struggling to come out of the cocoon. A man nearby witnessed that struggle and felt sad for the caterpillar, so in an attempt to save it, he created a snip in the cocoon for it to come out. However, the caterpillar came out and turned into a butterfly that died, because it wasn't ready yet and had skipped several stages which were essential for its development. In the same way, I see that people have to live every stage of life with totality to finally reach the right time when they can feel that they achieved fulfillment.

In your opinion, what qualities must a student possess to be considered "good"?

A good student is one who operates from a growth mindset. It is one who is aware of the fact that growth is what matters and not merely the attainment of high marks. So, when you feel like you have reached a satisfying level of attainment in a certain academic area, you can move to develop other skills and abilities. This will help your brain function

at its full potential. You can develop your music intelligence for example. So a good student is a student who is continuously looking to grow further.

Speaking of music, what instruments would you like to learn playing?

If I were to play any, I would love the violin. Instruments are not really my field of interest but languages are for example.

What languages do you speak?

I speak Arabic, French, English, and Spanish.

What is the last book you have read and what do you think of it?

I am currently reading a book called "Nirvana: The Last Nightmare" by Osho. It is a book that discusses the concept of learning to trust in life – the idea of going with the flow, and not trying to control life or set the conditions. It helped me realize that many things could be out of my control, and that it is fine. It can sometimes serve as a wake-up call. I also had further conviction that the highest impact you can leave on yourself and others is when you walk your talk.

What is something/someone you cannot imagine your life without?

I can certainly survive on my own, but no man is an island. I have many close friends whom I trust and feel blessed to have. True friends can be a great support system in difficult times, and also make you feel great when celebrating joy together. As for something that I can't imagine my life without, that would be the internet. My friend once called asking for a restaurant's number – I had to hang up. (laughing) Google it, man. I see internet and technology as an essential tool to improve the quality of your life.

Are those friends from the Al Mawakeb?

Not really. Actually not all my close friends live here in Dubai, but we have successfully managed to keep in touch regardless of the long distances. Those who live aboard visit me frequently, and I travel to see them.

If you were not a Science coordinator, what would you wish to work as?

I would be interested in becoming a researcher in

clinical psychiatry. Linking science to metaphysics.

What is your favorite memory in high school or in general?

Having met a friend for life, he is in the US now. We met in university, and now he's like a brother from another mother. All the fun times we spent together on campus were really good memories.

How are you still in contact with those people from university and high school?

I am good at keeping in touch in general, following up and checking on people. I like to strengthen my connections with others, and treasure the important people in my life.

So this stems from your empathetic nature?

Yes, maybe.

Seeing, as you are "Mr. Techy" himself, what is your opinion on the fast-paced technological advancements that are slowly limiting human interaction?

That is a good question. I think that reaching this stage is part of the evolution of humans. It is bound to happen, and it is going to

happen regardless of whether it is good or bad. It is part of the journey of evolving as a species. And yes, I do agree that it limits the human interactions, and that there are several bad consequences that come along with this shift in technological advancement, but I am not an advocate of stopping it.

An author might like to go on a walk to clear his mind prior to writing a book, what tasks do you do before you write an exam?

There is not a specific preparatory stage, but I must admit it is stressful. We have a pool of questions that I resort to when preparing an exam, and I take suggestions from teachers sometimes to see what I should focus on. I always keep an open mind towards constructive feedback though. So when I get criticized at work I do not take it personally, not even one percent, because we're at work and there is nothing personal. Business is business.

Do you feel bad when you know that the quiz you made is hard for the students?

Not at all. Students need to sit for a challenging test from

time to time. It is part of the process, and critical thinking is a skill they have to develop. Making easy tests and praising intelligence all the time does not do you good. I would in fact be doing you an injustice. What should be praised is effort. The attainment on the quiz does not matter much, what truly matters is the progress the student makes.

What is your definition of success?

You become a successful person when you are able to understand yourself. All aspects of yourself, all your strengths, weaknesses, fears, and areas that require

development and growth. Inner success is where it begins and where it truly resides, while outer success can be a mere misleading illusion.

And do you feel like you have reached that point of understanding yourself and unraveling all aspects about yourself?

It is a long process, and I always try to keep myself on the right track.

What advice would you give students who are on the brink of graduation? Through what lens must they look at life?

Choose easy, work hard. Do

not be regarded so much with becoming filthy rich. This is bound to happen as a by-product if you do what you love and do it with passion. Do what you love, and everything else will follow.

STARS DYING

by Hashim Riyan

With the dusk's fading Haze I'll paint stars dying,

The empty hopeless clouds coping with Tears

Yet thought I, my eyes could feel the cool sears;

Of your tantalizing torture you leave sighing

Awaiting a golden laughter I couldn't but scar

My budding Valentine, be not I your czar ?

For roses forgotten by Rivers of Blood untold

For by sulking Soliloquy shan't my flesh, unfold;

Yet by fate fancied, My heaven blighted -

Burning again, of Love unrequited.



YEAR OF TOLERANCE

YEAR OF TOLERANCE

By Sarah Abdallah

On 15 December 2018, H.H. Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed declared 2019 as the “Year of Tolerance” as an extension for the “Year of Zayed” in 2018. As The Gulf News published last December, this year will focus on 5 pillars: to deepen the values of tolerance, to have the UAE as the capital of tolerance, to accept multiple cultural programs, to focus on the governmental objectives that are related to cultural and religious tolerance,

and, lastly, to promote tolerance via media.

The UAE has already planned multiple events to promote the “Year of Tolerance.” It started by the visit of Pope Francis in February, and, during March, the Special Olympics World Games will take place in Abu Dhabi to embrace all the differences in peoples' conditions around the world. In addition, the construction of the first Hindu temple began and it

is estimated to be opened in 2020. The National newspaper stated that different programs and rules will be introduced to school and university campuses where people of all ages and from different fields can take part in workshops to redefine tolerance through skills including perspective, compassion, dialogue, conflict resolution, resilience and teamwork.

Through the Year of Tolerance, the UAE is spreading its values to create a happier community. It aims to highlight itself as a "global capital for tolerance".

CURIOSITY HOUSE

THE FEARSOME FIREBIRD

BOOK REVIEW OF THE CURIOSITY HOUSE

By **Angelina Kakoun**

The Curiosity house is a wonderful series for children to read. It is recommended for children between the ages of 8-12. It is amusing and entertaining. The stories are written by Lauren Oliver and H.C. Chestre, and they revolve around 4 orphans, Philippa, Sam, Thomas, and Max, who have extraordinary abilities such as super-strength, mind-reading, exceptional flexibility, and extremely accurate knife-throwing skills. During the stories,

many other characters are introduced, such as a talking cockatoo (Australian Parrot), a dwarf, the largest woman alive, a beautiful bearded lady, and a nervous magician. The story leads these children to a series of murders and explosive secrets about their pasts. There are three books in this series:

- 1-The Shrunken Head
- 2-The Screaming Statue
- 3-The Fearsome Firebird

The book has received high

praise from multiple reviewers:

"The continuous action, compelling mystery, and dark, brooding illustrations make this book impossible to put down. Perfect for kids who feel they're different or those simply after a freakishly good time." – Book list

"From the opening sentence, Oliver grabs readers' attention, enveloping them with strong storytelling and rich language." -School Library Journal

To find out more about this extraordinary book go to www.thecuriosityhouse.com



THE TROPHIES RETURN HOME YET AGAIN

By Salem Eyob

Ronnie Lott once said, “If you can believe it, the mind can achieve it”, a quote that perfectly describes the mindset of every athlete representing our school. As our talented and passionate varsity members competed in yet another tournament, they failed to disappoint.

It was the early morning of February 22nd when the team members departed on a journey they would never forget. Packed up and ready to go, they headed to the American University of Dubai to compete with other schools

around the UAE in the AUD School sports challenge. With games starting as early as 8 am, the support team had been there as early as the teams themselves. As a family, they entered the competition hoping for the best.

The sun began to set, night began to fall, the games got more intense and the support multiplied. Every point counted, every pass made a difference, every player had a role and within no time, our teams had swept away the competition. With our girls' volleyball team winning first

place **again**, the boys' basketball team winning third place and the girls' football team winning first as well, it was all joy and celebration following our great achievements.

Being part of this experience, as a team member myself, I have seen what the true meaning of teamwork and family is. Regardless of the wins, we all worked together, laughed together and supported one another no matter what. As Joseph B. Wirthin said himself, “Some memories are unforgettable, ever vivid and heartwarming”, and so it was. To teamwork, support, friendship, and many more wins to come !