



April-May 2019 edition

AMS JOURNAL



**BROUGHT TO YOU BY
TORCH CLUB**

EDITED BY

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UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF

Mrs. Dina Al Atrash

-Our Members-

2018-2019

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Sophomores:

Nouf Khoori

Lujaine Abu Baja

Minat Allah Tawfeeq

Salem Eyob

Salma El Etreby

Farewell to the seniors who will be leaving us, good luck to the new Heads, Shahd and Jana, and welcome to the future members of Jorch!

THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

For the students of AMB, May and April 2019 were brimming with thrilling events, competitions, and celebrations! We bring you the highlights of this month's events:

Mawakeb Souq

April 15

On April the 15th, Business Club launched another successful Mawakeb Souq to raise money for charity. Students decorated their own stands and put their marketing skills to good use. After selling artisan goods, garments and baked goods, they raised 11,750 AED for Dubai cares.



AMSIMUN

April 19-20

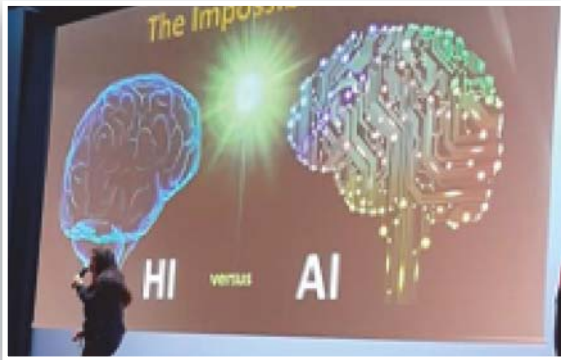
For the third year in a row, the MUN clubs of all AMSI branches came together to prepare a two-day conference in Khawaneej. Thanks to the efforts of the executive board members of this year, this conference is the most successful one since this tradition began in 2017.

Seniors' Breakfast

April 24

On the 24th of April, tradition prevailed once again, and the juniors were finally able to present what they've been preparing for months. Our seniors experienced the western life in this year's Seniors' Breakfast and made lasting memories with their juniors.





AI Symposium

April 30

On April 30, some of our grade 11 students presented their deep understanding of the current state of artificial intelligence, and they also gave the public insights on its endless potential.

UAE Schools Olympic Competitions

May 4

After many long hours of practice, the archery team grasped their chance one again and showcased their talents at the UAE Schools Olympic Competitions. They came back home with bronze, silver, and gold medals!



KG Celebration

May 5

On this day, a farewell celebration was made for the KG students. Wearing colorful costumes, and bright smiles on their faces, they performed multiple show for their beloved parents and teachers.





AN INTERVIEW WITH MR. SAIF AL FALASI

On Sunday, May 12th, Torch invited Life Coach and Motivational Speaker Mr. Saif Al Falasi for an interview at our school. Reem Hazim, Marina Markarian, Shahd Jamal and Jomana Abdelfatah had a conversation with Mr. Al Falasi about his career and his life philosophy.

Why did you take the career path you have taken? What made you decide to become a radio host and a motivational speaker?

First of all, I've decided to become many things, Radio host is one of them; motivational speaker is one of them; life coach is one of them; a trainer – international trainer- is one of them; and an athlete in different sports is one of them. You see, I'm trying to expand as much as I can because life is all about expansion. Not a lot of people know how good they are at something until they do it. This is how I figured out that a human being goes through stages I call wisdom stages. The wise have been through a lot, and they know a lot, and they have the answer to a lot of questions. That's why stages of wisdom is how you become who you want to be. If someone could share with you their experience, kind of like to-go wisdom, if you can sit with a lot of people that are wise and intelligent, that's a lot of to-go experience, to-go wisdom. This is the answer to my question, which is: first of all, before doing anything outside of your world, try to dig in to your world, your inside. Try to understand why you're doing what you're doing. Why are we feeling very emotional when it comes to specific things? Why are we becoming very thoughtful when we encounter something? So you have to really study yourself before you try to be someone else for the world.

Out of all the careers that you've tried, which one was your favorite? Which one did you find yourself in the most?

Answer: I like to cook. I told you, I've tried everything. Actually, cooking really presents your personality. You want to know if someone likes you? Let them taste your food and look at their reactions. To be honest, the best thing I ever found out that I fit into is making people's dream come to reality. It's hard to find people who tell you to do that, and growing up, I didn't have a life coach. I didn't have a motivational speaker whom I would take as an idol. I didn't have any of that. I grew up, and I decided that I will become a life coach, I will become a motivational speaker for myself first. This is how you do life. Life will always demand you. Life is like parents. They want you to do everything, but what do you get in return? Good job. Well done. No, no, no. I want more. I'll do more, and I want more. This is how you treat life.

You've mentioned so many aspects of your career, but do you ever feel stressed? Do you ever feel like you can't balance all of them?

Sometimes, you do feel out of control, and it's normal. Being human is being out of control. If you have to control everything that you encounter, then you're a control freak. You know how we always have that one friend who tries to control everything, even their breathing? What do they get? Nothing but stress. Being stressed out- and this is a tip- being stressed out is trying to control something that is uncontrollable. Trying to control the traffic? You can't. Try to control the wind, try to control the rain, try to control whatever you can't control and you'll be stressed. That's why some parents- when we try to control our parents, forget it. And when we try to control our closest friends to change, that is stressful. When you see something so good but not in a good way; you want to make them good but you can't.

Marina: I think it's like going from control to convince.

Persuasion? Yeah, like that. But imagine, throughout my career, if I tried to dedicate my life to trying to persuade, it's not going to work. Your own family? Forget it. You can change the whole world, but your family? Not really.

Shahd: But isn't part of your job as a life coach to persuade people to act in a certain way or to decide certain things?

Life coaching is not about making people change; it's about inspiring them. When you inspire someone, they do it voluntarily. They will love it. They will like it. But when you try to force them, you lose them. Letting go is one of the golden rules I've ever had trouble with. It was a big issue for me to let go, you know. Sometimes, I would say, it's hard for me to let go. I'm a failure. But then, I think about it: Did I really fail, or did I do something that did not work? You have to really ask the right questions.

Right now, as high schoolers, many of us are somewhat confused about the career path we should take. Sometimes, we are convinced that a certain path is what we are best at, but when we go into that career path we find that it wasn't our destination. How did you know that what you're going through, from different career paths, are what you're best at?

Alright, hold your hands like this, all of you [holds fists tightly together]. Do you know what this means? You hold yourself. Whatever you do, you're holding yourself. Whatever you do, you're holding yourself, you're backing up yourself. Because whatever you do, any career

path you take, if you don't like it, move out. Change it. Try something else. You're not a seed in the ground that has to grow somewhere. No, you can change. I do personality tests, and that helps a lot with knowing what you should do as a career. Scientists have created so many that will help us, but maybe because we are lazy, maybe because we like Instagram more than science, and we read anything that pops out on Instagram, we're not who we are. We're just horoscopes.

You know, many people would disagree with horoscopes. They would think that it's bad or taboo, but they forgot that many people have studied it for a long, long time. This is a short overview about how you should choose your career. You can never tell what's best for you until you try everything you have in mind.

Shahd: But what if you can't try everything? What if it's not available for you to try everything? How do you heighten the chance of you choosing the right path?

Volunteer. Nobody says no to a volunteer. When you try to volunteer everywhere, they will like you. They will want you to try a lot of things. But if you're trying to go there as a career, as an internship, as something, they will think about it twice. This is one way. Go for volunteering. Volunteering is the best remedy nowadays if you want to try something for one week, two weeks. Let me tell you a secret: I follow my guts wherever I go. This is how I know that I'm in the right place. Sometimes, I feel like I'm in the bad place, like I'm in the wrong place, but I still feel like I'm in the right place no matter what they do. No matter what they change, no matter what they try to tell me, if I feel like I'm in the right place, I stick with it.

Shahd: Do you feel like you're in the right place now in your life?

Yes... and I want to be more. If you are looking to progress in your life, you have to read a lot. You have to read not just books but also people. You will deal with people eventually. You read books to deal with people, right? If you're going to a bank, you have to read a lot of books so you can deal with numbers that people need, like your manager. Everything starts with reading; reading books, reading people, reading signs. I can read body language, but the thing is, what you need essentially, there are some primary needs, we all know it. If you have that all set, look for the next one.

Is there a moment where someone inspired you to do what you want to do right now?

Yes... I had a few. Among them are my parents. They treated me as a business man as a young age. At school, I had to take care of my own self. I remember I had an accident, so I called my father. I said, "dad, I went through a car accident".

He told me, "you're a man, right?"

"Yes."

"Deal with it."

You see, he was trying to teach me responsibility, and when people are trying to teach you responsibility, they're teaching you to live your life the right way. You know, I traveled alone at a young age to the US, at 17, a very young age. It is illegal to travel alone without a guardian. I thought a guardian meant something like a power ranger, but once I reached there, the police officer asked me where's my guardian.

Shahd: So you studied in the U.S.?

Yes, in Ohio. I stayed there for a year, then I moved to Arizona State University.

Shahd: What did you study?

I studied a lot of things. I changed my major around 5 to 6 times.

Shahd: So you practice what you preach, you've actually tried everything.

I'm just saying, and we're not talking about stages of wisdom. That's the name of my book. I would say parents and some of my amazing teachers that I had in my lifetime [inspired me]. I don't know if you've heard of Jim Rohn? I read a lot about him. You know Ibrahim al Faki? He's an Egyptian speaker. He passed away. But anyway, I always like to say that I inspired myself. I like to give myself credit. I had to find the people close to my personality. Don't try to reinvent the way you are; you'll waste a lot of years.

So, in your opinion, what is more important, living in the moment or planning ahead for the future?

Both. Never try to do one, because when you're living in the moment, you're missing out on the future plans. It's like you have no plans but will base it off whoever does, such as family or friends.

Shahd: So someone else would plan for you.

Like when you plan to be an employee, it's different than when you plan to be the CEO.

Marina: That's an interesting way of looking at it, in like the opposite direction.

I mean, I'm living it. I used to be an employee. I worked for one year of my life then resigned. Now, I'm the CEO of a company. I can tell you. I got rejected from high school three times because I didn't have English skills, didn't have Arabic skills, didn't have math skills. The same guy, he's a CEO and trains professors now. Who would have known? It's about being committed to yourself, to your goals and dreams. I had a big sign like the one here [points at "We Are Al Mawakeb" sign], maybe smaller, with my triangle of dreams. I wanted to be a doctor, etc... I've done it all except for that. I studied pre-med but didn't continue. It wasn't me. I didn't want to be sitting in a room treating patients... How patient could I be? It's not who I am when I imagine repeating myself; I'm not a routine guy.

Jomana: How do you control situations in life that you don't have complete control over?

I observe, you know, because if I wasn't able to deal with it this time, I'd be able to next time. I have to ask people that have been through it. An example (not a happy one) was I received a call when I was in Ohio while I was studying my ESL. The call said, "Do you know this guy? He passed away."

I said, "Okay, thank you," and closed the call. He was a close friend. I didn't know how to react or how to deal with it. I just sat on a chair, TV closed, at my apartment. I stayed there for a couple of hours and did nothing. I'd never encountered one of my friends passing away. I had to see others reacting to this news to be able to mimic them, but there was no one there. Next day, I felt so bad that I lost a friend who isn't coming back. Then I had to catch up to my feelings. Day after day, you know when you get hurt so much but then the days keep passing by and the pain kind of fades away. You know you have got to accept it

because this is life.

Shahd: It's part of the grieving process.

Then it happened naturally, so this is why I was able to explore how I react to things. I don't ask people everything, because some people would say that they'd cry day and night. They don't mean it.

Marina: Do you ever feel like you have an obligation to something specific or you feel obligated or pressured to do something?

I used to... People's expectations used to kill me. I used to be a comedian. A really funny comedian. I used to be funny to the point where I would laugh at myself. Keep that in mind: law of attraction. But then, I noticed that I'm making fun of other people to laugh. Then I stopped being a comedian because I didn't want to hurt people to make others laugh. So I decided to make fun of myself instead, and that's the right way of doing it. When you see a comedian make fun of someone else, they're not comedians. They're just negative people who try to take credit that they don't deserve. I learned this the hard way when I received a call from the Philippines from a young girl. She said, "When are you going to visit us? We laugh at what you do!" I travelled to the Philippines and had my vacation there and went to visit her. She is the wisest person I have ever met! She looked very weird to a point where if anyone would see her, they'd make fun of her. But you know when you're holding yourself, and you're a comedian saying that "I'm going to use this to make people laugh". But I told myself, "No Saif. Stop. You could learn from her. This is the story: it was her birthday. I met her in person when I went there, and they were all playing musical chairs. Usually, they would make the birthday girl win, right? But she lost. It was weird. She came and sat right next to me. I told her, "Oh, you lost. Why aren't you sad?"

She said, "It's just a game!" It struck me. I thought about it as life or death!

What is a concept that you have spoken about in your motivational speeches that truly influenced your audience?

The concept of embracing your identity. If you accept yourself and embrace it, people are going to come to you; you do not have to change for people. Humans are no shapeshifters; they cannot change from one personality to the other to satisfy the people around. Many people believe that they have to change in order to be loved. Stereotypes presented in the media about people from certain countries create an image in people's mind that is full of hate, which leads to guilt and shame from people of that ethnicity. Therefore, it is important to remember that you do not need to change for anyone and no one should change for you.

What do you think should be really taught in school?

That is a frequently asked question, but I believe that the concept of "Self Efficacy" should be taught in schools, which is a concept that combines self-love, self-confidence, self-reliance and many more. Because if you do not love and accept yourself, you will not attempt to do anything for it.

What do you love most about yourself?

I consider myself a risk-taking, intelligent, and adventurous individual. When you are able to find who you are and what you do best, that is when you will find true happiness. I

remember when I was in university in the US; I was labelled as the “Dubai guy”. People did not know me and did not attempt to do so. However, one day one of my mentors put up a difficult equation on the board, but no one attempted to solve. I thought to myself “there’s no harm in solving it”, so I stood up and solved it, then I left. Since that day, people would ask me to tutor them in the library. I turned from being unknown to being very well known, and the reason for that is my passion for what I did and staying humble

LIBRARY NEWS

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

An Interview with Mr. Saif Al Falasi

On Sunday, May 12, we hosted Life Coach and Motivational Trainer Mr. Saif Al Falasi in the library and had an engaging and insightful conversation with him about his career and life philosophy. You can find the interview in this edition of the AMS Journal!



مسابقة تحدي القراءة لصفوف المرحلة الابتدائية

زيارة الطلاب الأسبوعية خلال فترات الاستراحة لقراءة أكبر عدد ممكن من القصص القصيرة باللغة العربية للمشاركة في مسابقة تحدي القراءة خلال العام الدراسي 2018-2019

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 April and May's competition:

Grade 7:

- Joury Sahrij
- Sophia Taha

Grade 8:

- Jane El Koury
- Rama Issawi

Grade 5:

- Angel Al Hajjar
- Kristina Zaytouni
- Bashar Al Hallak

Grade 6:

- Yara Matta
- Marc Sabbagh





FIVE THINGS I WISH I KNEW BEFORE JUNIOR YEAR

By Jomana Abdelfatah

Every day in this life, you hold a new experience, a new memory, a new hope for a brighter future. That is why a new year means a new chapter, a new way to become a better version of yourself, even if it's through your academics. Therefore, here's a guide to five things I wish I knew before my junior year:

1- The Dreaded Drop

As you know, junior year is different from all the years of high school. Therefore, there is a chance that you might

drop a few grades at the beginning of the term. However, this drop is not the result of not studying enough; it is the result of the change in the environment and system. This slight drop is completely normal and should not put you down; soon enough, you will be able to familiarize yourself with the subjects and the work required, and you will be able to strive again.

2- What you think you want and what you actually want are two

different things

Junior year is not to be taken lightly. If you are someone who does not take his or her academics seriously, then the junior year should be your wake up call. Colleges look at the grades of sophomore, junior, and senior years, but they closely consider your achievement in junior year. So even though going out with friends seems more desirable than studying for an exam, it is crucial to prioritize what you want and what you need.

3- Never Stop Learning

In junior year, you will realize that as much as grades are important, they are not a true reflection of your skills. However, that doesn't mean that you should slack on your studies because colleges look at your grades. It just means that you should shift your focus from "forced to learn" to "wanting to learn" because, at the end of the day, the skills you develop are the ones that will stay with you forever.

4- Sometimes, a "mental

health day" is necessary.

Junior year can get overwhelming, especially with the amount of work that you have to get through, so it is important to remember to take it easy on yourself and remember to breathe. Always remember that no matter what the situation is and how impossible it may seem, there is always a solution. Never let stress overcome you, life will teach you that you are an unstoppable force, so always approach matters with a positive mind.

5- Time works in mysterious ways.

Time flies by. One moment you will be at the hall receiving your laptops and suddenly you'll find yourself bawling your eyes out at the senior's breakfast. Always remember to make the most of your junior year. Engage in activities, start a club, or join scouts.

ART GALLERY

Here, we showcase our gifted students' amazing artwork



by Mariam Al Ketbi



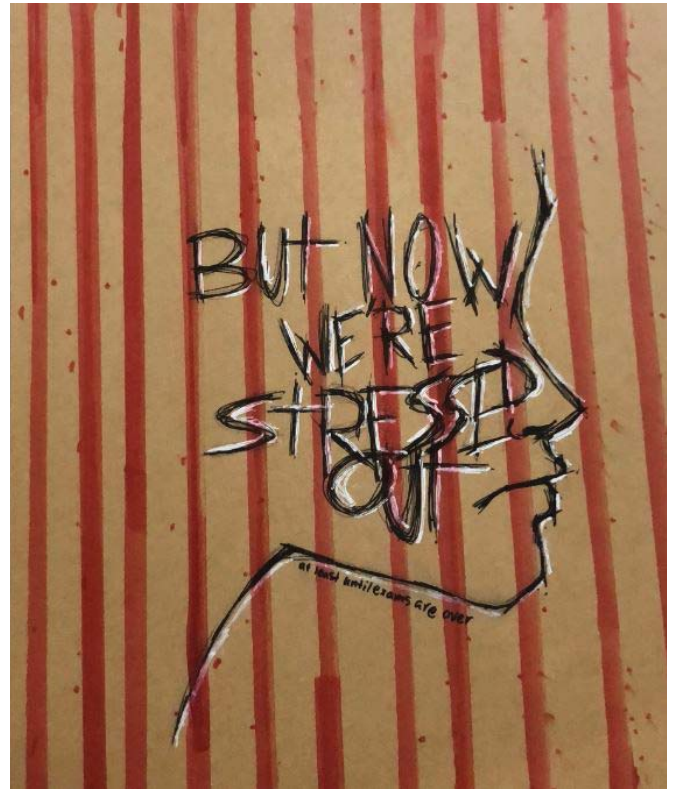
by Farah Amr



by Mariam Al Ketbi



by Farah Amr



by Farah Amr



by Farah Amr



BEFRIEND MELANCHOLY

By Shahd Jamal

Befriend melancholy. Sounds absurd right? We are all in a never-ending race after joy and happiness. We force smiles in hopes of tricking our brains into becoming genuinely happy, forcing our hearts to pump euphoria in place of our blood. Whether explicitly expressed or not, the chase after eternal happiness is a constant thought permanently residing in the folds of our brains. Be it in the center or in its corners, it remains present. The real question is why? Why are we so adamant when it

comes to attaining happiness and guaranteeing joy in every level of this game we live in: “life”?

Think about it, how would have we ever even known how good bliss and happiness feel if we never experienced the other extreme to compare it to? You would never value bright light, if you hadn't been through intense darkness. What good is the sun, if you've always been warm? Who cares about the rose if you've never been hurt by its thorn? Just as one will not have strong faith in

everything unless he's doubted everything first, one will never appreciate the essence of joy, bliss, and happiness if he hadn't gone down the melancholic, depressing, and sad path.

Despair and misery are mere stations on the way to happiness, and hence prior to reaching said desired destination, one must stop at them. How long one decides to stay at those stations is what determines how long it will take to arrive at the final destination. The longer the person dwells on sorrows, miseries, and

the longer he will have to wait to get to savor the taste of pleasure, satisfaction, and contentment.

Just like coffee, life is bittersweet. When you eliminate the excess, and add some sugar, or

perhaps some milk—when you deliberately enjoy life's bitter moments too—what remains is exponentially more delicious, more delightful, more worthwhile. It might be a bitter shock at first; but, much like coffee, a

meaningful life is an acquired taste. Savor it and sip slowly.

THE MASQUE OF THE RED DEATH

by Reem Hazim

The Red Death, with all its gruesome glory,
Had struck the country and caused much agony.

Prince Prospero, careless and proud,
Hid in a Castellated Abbey with his noble crowd.

The arrogant duke then threw a masquerade,
In Seven Rooms to show Death he was unafraid.

From East to West, the chambers spanned,
To be in a different color each was planned.

First the blue, then the purple, then the youthful green,
Then the orange and the white; his taste was very keen.

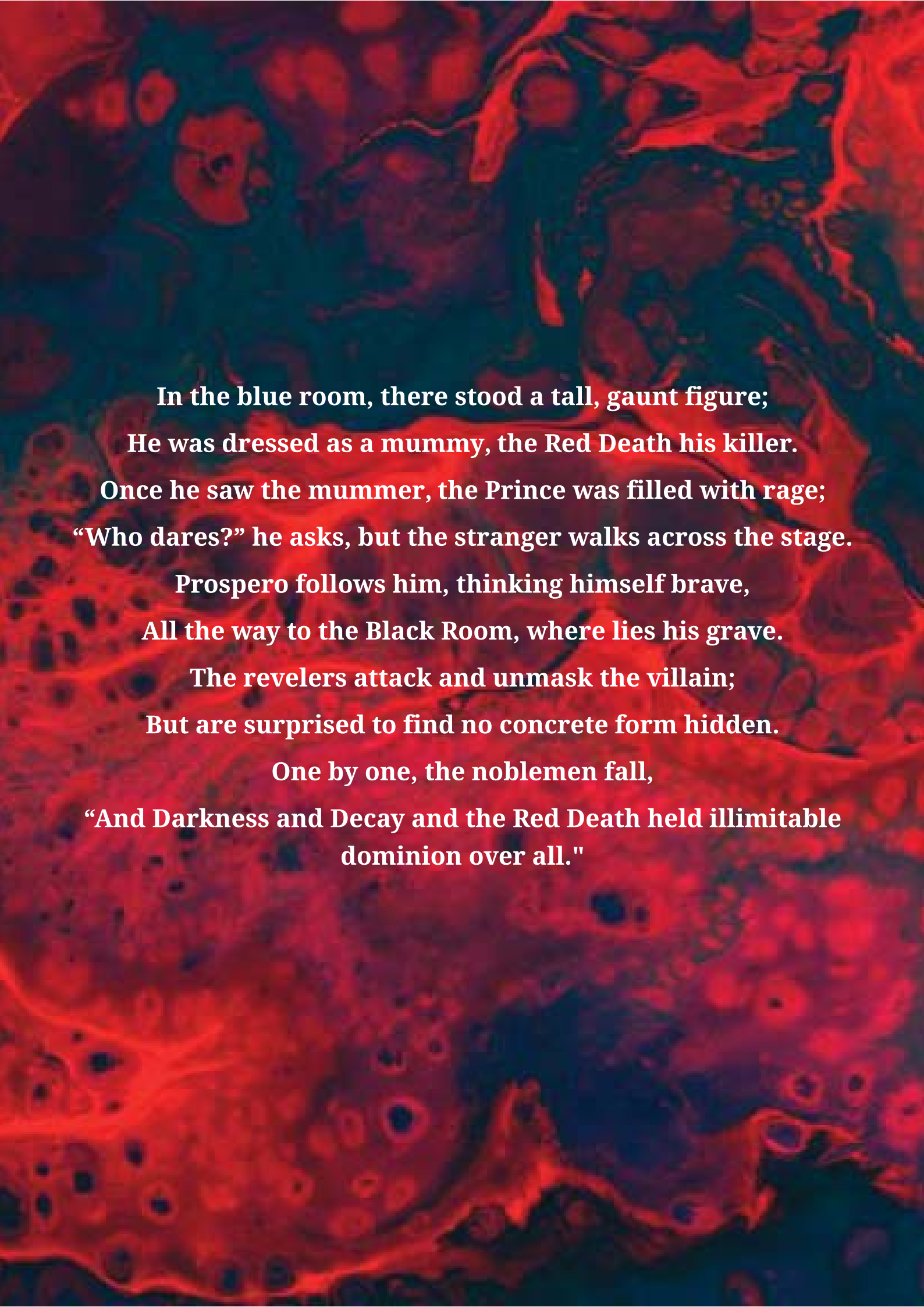
The violet and, finally, the Deathly Black,
For the peculiar and the eccentric, Prospero had a knack.

In that final room stood the large ebony clock,
Marking each hour with a chime that spread shock.

The dreadful room was immersed in a deep, blood scarlet,
Planting fear in the hearts of even the most light-hearted.

The revelers, like dreams, writhed in a sea of madness,
Looking wild and frenzy, they danced in the castle's grandness.

The party prevailed until the clock chimed midnight,
When the noblemen expressed terror at a deplorable sight.



In the blue room, there stood a tall, gaunt figure;
He was dressed as a mummy, the Red Death his killer.
Once he saw the mummer, the Prince was filled with rage;
“Who dares?” he asks, but the stranger walks across the stage.
Prospero follows him, thinking himself brave,
All the way to the Black Room, where lies his grave.
The revelers attack and unmask the villain;
But are surprised to find no concrete form hidden.
One by one, the noblemen fall,
“And Darkness and Decay and the Red Death held illimitable
dominion over all.”



INTERVIEW WITH MRS. ALISSAR

Conducted by Zain Manna

What would you like to tell the seniors who are graduating this year?

First, to the girls: I would like to remind you to keep saying these three sentences: I can, I will, WATCH ME! Becoming a strong woman in this generation does not mean conquering the men's world and losing sight of your femininity. It means that you don't have to emulate men to be able to compete with and be equal to them. You don't have to wear a suit and dark colors to be

empowered. Be yourself without infringing others. As for the boys, please recognize the value of the women in your lives, whether they're your mom, sister, or even your better halves, and become a voice for them, because one of the greatest strengths is having men stand up for women.

What are the three best things you think you've done in Mawakeb?

Are you kidding? You are the best things! Our students are the best things in this school.

There is nothing that beats that; it's the first, second, and third best thing, because everything else fades away, and I would do the same job under a tree, but I'd still be happy.

How would you define yourself and what is the main thing we should know about you?

As students, one thing you should know about me is that I am happy to support you any day, any time for the rest of my life. I've said this many times, but our students know that graduation is not the end of their story with us; it is just the beginning of a new story. And the way I define

And the way I define myself is wacky and sometimes a lunatic, and different. However, in general, I define myself by what I do, so my job defines me a lot. If anyone says, 'Alissar', the association will always be what she has done for her students.

The Khawaneej campus opened this year. How do you feel when you see that the school you graduated from is progressively growing and that you're a part of the growth?

How do I feel? I feel like the queen of the world because in Khawaneej we're able to do things that we couldn't in my days at school because of certain limitations, couldn't do in ISAS because of many limitations, couldn't do in Barsha because it was too late, so Khawaneej was like a wishlist. Everything I wanted in a school was achieved in the Khawaneej campus. We are still learning, though, and I think if we were to build another school, it'll

be better.

How do you empower the teachers in our school?

The concept of how you empower can be illusive sometimes because I don't remember specific moments where I was empowered more than when I wanted to find my inner voice and do what I want. I realized that some people need to be given that push, so with teachers, from the minute they get hired, I tell them: "I trust you, I know you can, now go be the teachers you wanted to have for yourself."

Since you studied abroad, do you think it's a better option to stay with your family or study abroad?

I don't think I can generalize an opinion on this because it depends; it's a case-by-case issue. However, if it is possible, I recommend for you to go overseas because I wish for you experiences that are not necessarily just academic. I wish for you to know how to manage

your finances; I wish for you to run out of socks because you didn't do your own laundry; I wish for you to experience the horrendously cold weather where you still have to make it to class. You don't get these experiences when you stay close to family because mom is still going to iron your shirts, cook, and help you with laundry.

THE RAVEN

by Karin Mia

Note: The Raven is a narrative poem written by Edgar Allan Poe. This piece is a re-written version of the poem.

While I sat in my state of bore,
There was a tap;
A tap on my chamber door.
'tis some visitor I kept telling myself
while I distinctly remembered
that it was bleak December.
In my mind I'm stuck and cannot escape
like a prisoner in my own mind and body.
These feelings are what shaped me,
although I hoped they'd fade away once I counted to three.
I want to end my sorrow,
which is why I used the books I'd borrow
from the stacks I go through every night.
They still don't help get my mind off Lenore,
my long lost Love.
Even though I'm aware it's wrong, her Love I still crave.
To hold her in my arms once again, some day...
But from that I'm restrained
As she's no longer here.
This emptiness inside had left me drained,
pleading for the Raven to respond with "nevermore",

A black crow is perched on a bare, light-colored branch. The crow is facing slightly to the right but looking towards the camera. Its feathers are dark and glossy. The background is a soft, out-of-focus mix of light and dark tones, suggesting a natural outdoor setting. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image, centered vertically.

Adding more to my state of bore.
I don't get the answers I wanted,
For why cant my wish just be granted?
Why am I trapped in a state so haunted?
Still to the useless bird I ranted,
Only in need of reassurance.
Reassurance that I'd hold my Love,
My beautiful white dove,
In my arms once again,
But not being able to,
Leaves me in the same state,
The same old state of bore, as I'm still staring at the door,
Added with the state of vain,
Where the pain in the remaining stain,
As I stay seated there is a tapping;
A tapping on my chamber door.

PHOTO GALLERY

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



by Zain Manna



by Zain Manna



by Zain Manna



by Zain Manna



by Zain Manna



by Zain Manna



GOWNS OF STEEL: GREAT WOMEN WHO DEFINED HISTORY

By Hisham Fazail

It is well known that in times of old it was the man that stormed the field in defense of his nation, his king, and his god. Amongst songs of clashing steel and spilling blood, the women waited wistfully for the return of their husbands, father, and brothers. But, even in the heat of war and the ballad of death and disease, there have been various women that have defied the odds and broken free from the shackles of society. Women who donned steel

gowns and charged with horse and sword or with pen and paper into the affairs of men. In a world seemingly made by men, run by men, and ruled by men, it was not the place of a woman to decide the fate of her country. One woman sought to change that and lead her nation into a new age of liberty and democracy. That woman was Susan B. Anthony. Susan Anthony (born 1820) was a prominent US civil rights leader who, with the help and aid of various other

strong women, played a vital role in the women's rights movement.

Anthony was a strong woman, she was hellbent on bringing about proper and equal rights for women, especially when it came to voting.

Anthony had an extremely strong political personality which went on to define her as a leader and revolutionary.

Anthony's main stage was the 9th women's rights convention where she posed excellent questions to the men ruling her

nation. “Where, under our declaration of independence, does the Saxon man get his power to deprive all women and Negroes of their inalienable rights?!” This question alone cemented her not only as a fighter for women but as an early example of a political figure that stood for anti-racism.

Anthony continued her public speaking and finally cast her vote in 1872, after which she was tried and found not guilty. And although Anthony never saw we sisters vote, she was honored by being on the United States Coin in 1979. Andrews was not only the face of feminism in a time of misogyny, but an Icon for every woman that followed in her name. In the year 1412, Joan of Arc was born in Domremy, France. It was a little town, Joan grew up in a peasant family. She was often revered for her skill and her hard work, she seemed fairly average except for her utmost piety. During the year of 1425, the young girl began to hear voices and echos

which she claimed were the voices of St. Margaret and St. Michael. She claimed that the voices asked her to take arms and aid the king in his war against the English. She was also instructed to liberate the city of Reims and finally have Charles anointed as king of France.’

When Joan arrived at Vaucouleurs to join the fight, the men denied her a place in their ranks and sent her off as a mere woman. However, in late February 1429, she was granted an audience with the king who allowed her to aid the French troops. She was sent to Orleans and quickly jumped into the field, rallying the French forces into a frenzy and expelling the English invaders. After then beating the English forces at the battle of Patay, Joan finally completed her quest of crowning the king.

Perhaps one of Joans most famous works was the letter she writes to King Henry of England. The letter was a stark

reminder of a man’s fear in god and of how the French will drive the Englishmen out whether they like it or not.

Joan was also given the status of a saint by the papacy and has ever since been honored as woman of great morality and a model of piety.

Elizabeth the first brought upon her nation an era of golden prosperity. An era England had not seen for centuries prior. Although the queen had various moments during her reign that could be mentioned, it was her speech “I have the heart of a king” that cemented her place in the hall of historic glory.

“I know I have the body of a weak, feeble woman; but I have the heart and stomach of a king, and of a king of England too, and think foul scorn that Parma or Spain, or any prince of Europe, should dare to invade the borders of my realm; to which rather than any dishonour shall grow by me, I myself will take up

arms, I myself will be your general, judge, and rewarder of every one of your virtues in the field.”

The Speech to the Troops at Tilbury was delivered on 19 August 1588 by Queen Elizabeth I of England to the forces gathered at Tilbury in Essex in preparing for fighting back the foreseen invasion by the Spanish Armada. Elizabeth’s speech includes her celebrated line “I know I have the body of a weak, feeble woman; but I have the heart and stomach of a king, and of a king of England too, and think

foul scorn that Parma or Spain, or any prince of Europe, should dare to invade the borders of my realm”.

Elizabeth reminded the men, through this line, her descent through the line of the warrior king Henry. And saw fit to rally the men’s spirits. with the Spanish armada landing on the coasts of her nation, the queen took arms at Tilbury. Her men had rallied behind her, in defense of their nation and their queen. But, after the Spanish flag set sail for England, the men began to lose moral.

Noticing this, the queen rode for Tilbury and offered what she could in terms of words. She called the men to battle and spoke of her willingness to fight for her men. Elizabeth did not just win the hearts of the Tilsbury men, but won against the Spanish Armada, Driving them back to Spain.

A TRIBUTE TO TORCH

from our members

"I'm genuinely happy that I was part of the Torch family this year. Yes, at times it was stressful meeting deadlines and writing about certain topics; however, it was honestly a very remarkable experience. Not only was it a learning experience, but it was also a place where students were able to freely express their thoughts and knowledge. I specifically want to thank Reem and Jana, the club heads, for all their hard work and for making Torch such a successful platform, and I sincerely hope that that this club continues to grow and remain successful as it is right now. "

- Zain Manna

"Being co-head, I had high expectations for Torch Club, but what this club has reached was utterly beyond my imagination. Had it not been for the determined and committed members of this club, it would have plummeted to the ground. So, to all future members, heed my words; Torch Club provides the liberty to express one's self, but it requires hard work and perseverance in return. Join this club to acquire the fun, but also to sacrifice some time. Join this club to gain experience, but help the inexperienced. And, finally, join this club to write, but also to make a change in this school."

- Jana Waleed

"School is finally ending, and as much as I want it to end, I still can't believe how hard it feels to leave. Although I have been in Al Mawakeb for merely three years, I can say that this is not my school, but rather my second home. As human beings, we never really understand the value of something until it's gone. Therefore, I realize now that what I used to call "a boring routine" has the best memories with the best people and will always be one of my life's best chapters. However, I know that this is not the end; it might be the end of one journey, but I hope that we, the seniors, will all have even more wonderful journeys ahead of us."

- Rama Celine Mahmalji

"Joining torch had to be one of my biggest accomplishments this year. I explored new types of writings and genres I've never been exposed to, and adding on to my experience was the family I acquired from torch, which I'm more than thankful for. To all 2020 members, Torch is not a club; it's a lifestyle."

- Mouj Al Sheikh

"Torch was not only a club to me. It was a family, a team of individuals who share a similar passion for writing. Lead by an amazing club head that always strived for improvement, Torch Club was a great experience and a successful achievement. Being able to communicate and interact with your readers and listen to feedback, was a fascinating way to see the fruits of your writing blossom. I would recommend anyone with a passion of writing to join Torch Club next year because it truly develops you as a person and helps you gain experience."

- Jomana Abdelfatah

" Being a member of AMS Torch has been such a rewarding experience. This year has been especially significant in terms of this long-standing newspaper's evolution to a large-scale platform. I am extremely grateful to have been a part of its development and to its wonderful leaders and gifted co-writers for their enlightening contributions. I hope to join a new group of zealous writers one more and last time next year.

As for our seniors, adieu. Your legacy and impact will never be forgotten. We are confident that you will carry Mawakeb's Torch wherever you go, illuminating your own path and forging new legacies. Thank you Torch and Al Mawakeb!"

- Adrianna Sabbagh

"Using social media is an essential part of my day-to-day life; therefore, when I knew that I was chosen to be the social media moderator for Torch's Instagram page, joy filled my heart. I am proud to be a part of this successful project, since Torch isn't just a school magazine. Torch has personally taught me a lot, either from the other club members or from simply writing captions on Instagram. Reading all of the different styles of writing and different genres also inspired my writing, and I hope that Torch expands and becomes a global platform for young souls to share their writing!"

- Sarah Abdallah

"I consider myself lucky to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard. However, goodbyes don't mean forever; the people that I have met on Torch will always be in my heart. It's a place to remember the best memories, stories, poems, and creativity. This has come to an end, and to make an end means to make a new beginning; therefore, I guarantee that future members will enjoy and express their passion freely and develop a new family.

'This is not goodbye, my darling, this is a thank you.' (Nicholas Sparks)"

- Alaa Obaid

"This year, I wanted to change things up for myself. I wanted to contribute more to this school, and I wanted my voice to be heard on a larger platform. To do that, I joined Torch. My decision of becoming a Torch member is one that I will never regret. It not only allowed me to achieve my goal, but also encouraged me to become closer to people I would not have thought of befriending. I might not have written as many articles as I would have hoped, but I certainly learned a thing or two from reading the work of others. I could not be happier to call myself a Torch member, for it has been an adventure I am proud to have undertaken."

- Asal Al Khuwaiter

"To me, Torch was not just a club; it was a family. It was about meeting those who shared the same passion I had. It was about having the ability to express my thoughts transparently without anything holding me back. Torch made me discover a whole new side of me I never knew existed. Having the opportunity to be part of this wonderful magazine was marvelous and I can never fully express how ecstatic I am that I got accepted into Torch. I admire the tremendous efforts that every member of this club has put in, which eventually lead Torch into becoming a huge success. Special thanks to the most hardworking person I know who dedicated so much of her time into this magazine, and happens to be the head of this club, Reem Hazim."

- Hanan Al Hammal

"I have been lucky enough to witness the creativity and passion of many talented writers through the articles they published on Torch. I have read each one of them. These articles have inspired me not only to maintain accuracy and cohesiveness in writing but to find that unique quality that could possibly distinguish my writing from any others, as have the writers on Torch. I remain impressed with the workings of Torch, and I am certain that I will continuously be impressed the following year. I am, to say the least, inspired."

- Taline Dia

"I am beyond happy that I was able to be a part of Torch club where I was able to practice my writing skills and to make new friends along the way. I hope that everyone who becomes a part of Torch Club has just as much of a good experience and feels as welcome as I have. Thank you to everyone who made this club special! "

- Katherine Hamdan

"Torch has truly been a torch that casted the light upon various different topics, issues, and people. It is a true sample that portrays what our students can do: their capabilities, ambitions, opinions, thoughts, and streams of consciousness. I'm extremely excited to work with new members next year and cannot wait to watch them unleash their talents and use Torch as their outlet."

- Shahd Jamal

"Farewell, Torch!

I would like to take this opportunity to bid farewell to my fellow torch club members and readers. Working alongside my colleagues on bringing Torch magazine to life this past year has been a wonderful learning experience... One that I will miss immensely.

I would like to personally thank Reem Hazim for her constant support and guidance and for having confidence in me and allowing me to publish my work for other students to enjoy.

I am looking forward to starting a new phase in my life, and I'm wishing all of you the best of luck in your future endeavors."

- Sara Tahlak

"Torch taught me so much over the past year. It taught me the obvious: how to improve my writing, how to capture the reader's attention, etc. However, it also taught me how to express my feelings through writing, which I believe is very important, especially in this day and age. It also introduced me to some wonderful, passionate, inspirational people that I have grown so close to because of torch. Torch, to me, is not just a magazine. It's a family."

- Minat Allah Tawfeeq

"I'm genuinely very proud of everyone this year for making the Torch school magazine a reality. Knowing how hard previous heads have worked makes me even happier to have been able to be a part of Torch this year and be able to witness the end result. It was an amazing opportunity to work with everyone and also have my work published."

- Marina Markarian

*"Dear future members,
Torch club is like a family where everyone can share their thoughts and feelings with their peers. Torch club is a place where hesitation is not an option. Write with passion, and write from the heart. Cherish your accomplishments in this club, and have a mindset primed for growth. Learn from others, grow your skills, and try to communicate for a better understanding of certain topics and aspects. Do not be hesitant, for the members of this club are close-knit. Most importantly, I encourage you to give it your all."*

- Lujaine Abu Baja

"Sharing my ideas and stories with other people always seemed daunting; never in a million years would I have thought about letting anyone else--let alone the entire school--see my work. That seemed entirely impossible until I joined this club.

It's more than just a club to me. It's a whole family of people who constantly hype each other up and encourage and motivate one another. It was so fun while it lasted, and while only two articles of mine were posted, that's more than I'd ever imagined I'd publish. This club gave me the confidence I didn't know existed within me, and, for that, I am forever grateful, especially to the heads. I'll surely miss it, but hopefully I'll see it again next year! "

- Salma El Etreby

"Torch was a phenomenal experience that helped me develop into a better writer. The fear of having my work published and open for the public to criticize had always been something I struggled with; however, after joining Torch and receiving amazing feedback from my peers and readers, I was able to flourish as a writer."

- Salem Eyob



A FAREWELL TO TORCH

By Reem Hazim

"It's a dangerous business, Frodo, going out of your door. You step into the Road, and if you don't keep your feet, there is no knowing where you might be swept off too." – J.R.R. Tolkien (*The Lord of the Rings*)

That was precisely how I felt when we first launched the Torch website. If you told me back then that we would have a monthly magazine, an Instagram account, and a mobile app, I would have probably laughed at you.

When I launched Torch, I was determined to do one thing: to create a platform for students to share their work with others. Along the way, I was lucky enough to receive opportunities to make this project grow and expand in ways I could not have imagined. It was not until now, when I reflect back on this year's journey, that I realized that Torch transcended being a just a platform; it became a mine of opportunities. Students would email us with their short stories

and poems, their photos and their artwork; members would send in pieces where they expressed their feelings and voiced their thoughts; and it finally occurred to me that Torch gave students the opportunity to inspire and be inspired by each others' writings, by each others' art, by each others' photos. It led them to discover and gain confidence in their talents. There was not a moment where I felt more pride in what we had accomplished than when our members proudly and excitedly posted about their work on their own social media platforms and shared them with their families. Their

happiness was contagious, and having a place where everybody could read their work motivated them to write more and publish more. It was not only the artists, writers, and photographers who benefited from Torch, though. It has given our social media moderator the chance to experience running a public account on social media. Even more interesting, a couple of months back, we were approached by a student who volunteered to help us create a mobile app. To him, Torch was an opportunity to apply and develop his programming skills and create something he could showcase with pride. I truly hope that, over the next years, Torch's opportunities will grow to include a wider range of talents and skills.

Ironically, no amount of words will be sufficient to convey my gratitude to all the key figures who helped bring Torch to life. To my dearest members and friends, I say, thank you for your endless support and enthusiasm. Your undying passion and dedication for the club are what made it the successful platform it is

today. We could make a million websites and print a million magazines, but without your thoughts and your writing masterpieces, they would be nothing but empty, abandoned shells. You never ceased to surprise me with your talents and exceptional writing skills, and I hope you never will. Thank you for putting up with my constant demands, and I truly hope you never, ever, stop writing.

To the future Heads of Torch, Shahd and Jana, I have complete faith in you. I have no doubt that under your guidance, Torch will thrive and become something much larger and much more successful than we could have ever dreamt. It will be tiring, yes, and it will take a lot of time and effort, but I could not think of any two people with more devotion to this club and more determination to make it flourish than you. I pass on the Torch to you with a peaceful mind.

And, finally, to the readers, to the student contributors, to the artists and photographers who read our articles and shared their work with us, you are

what keeps our magazine alive. I hope Torch has given you all the opportunity to express your creativity and showcase your talents, and I hope it continues to do so on a much larger scale.

Torch was undoubtedly one of the best things I have ever done in my life, and I will continue to look back on the legacy it has left with pride. I would like to end this piece with a fitting quote from one of my favorite authors. These words are the ones Charles Dickens ended *A Tale of Two Cities* (the second best-selling novel of all time) with, and are the same ones I would like to end my time as Head of Torch with:

“It is a far, far better thing that I do, than I have ever done; it is a far, far better rest that I go to, than I have ever known.” – Charles Dickens

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