



October 2019 edition

AMS JOURNAL



**BROUGHT TO YOU BY
TORCH CLUB**

EDITED BY

Jana Waleed 11A

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF

Mrs. Dina Al Atrash

TORCH: A MAGAZINE BY THE STUDENTS FOR THE STUDENTS...

We are delighted to welcome you to Torch, the very first student-run magazine at Al Mawakeb School (Al Barsha)! Torch provides students with an outlet for their creativity and a platform to express their voices and share their thoughts. We want to give students the opportunity to experience the journalism process first-hand while also developing and refining their writing skills. Torch doesn't only benefit its members, it also aims to present you, our readers, with high-quality articles relevant to your school lives, such as news updates on school events, or exclusive interviews with faculty members. Not only that, but Torch also covers a variety of external topics that will be sure to entertain you and inform you as well. Whether your interest lies in sports, arts, or sciences, you will always find something to read in Torch, a magazine by the students, for the students!

- Torch Members

~Our Members~

Heads:



Shahd Jamal

“Writing is the painting of the voice.” ~ Voltaire.
As a winner in several writing competitions, including poetry and short story writing, I am beyond eager to add value to this magazine and share my experiences and ideas through this magnificent platform. Writing in all fields intrigues and entrances me, but I excel most in writing descriptive pieces and poems. Amidst of all stress, be it school or life related, I encourage students to use writing as an outlet to express their opinions and emotions.”

As an ambitious player in many fields of sports, and a student who always pushed herself to read and write, I am glad to finally get a chance to encourage others with burning passion. Whether it is to write a short story or a school article about varsity teams, I am devoted to make Torch Club a welcoming place for creativity to fly high.



Jana Waleed

Social Media Moderator:

I view myself as a person with lots of room for growth. I am very curious and open to new experiences, which led to my fascination with art, such as visual art, auditory art, and writing, another art form that allows one to shine a light on their raw emotions indirectly. Through Torch, I hope to get others in tune with the artistry behind writing, and shift their perspectives on writing as a whole.



Minat Allah Jawfeeq

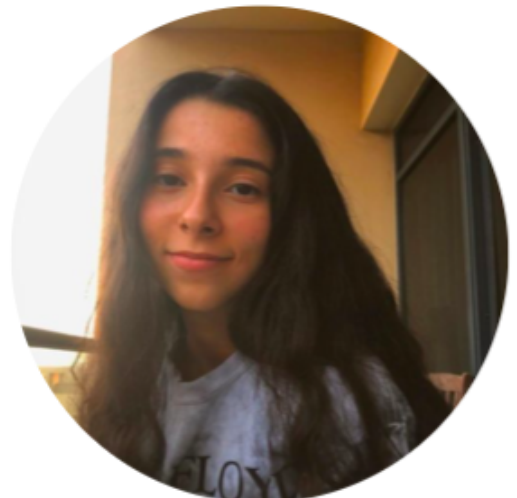
Writers:



Mouj AlSheikh

As a mathematics extremist and an ardent swimmer, I am grateful to have the opportunity to share with you the masterpiece of writing. I am overwhelmed with excitement at being able to have a shot in journalism! I hope you all benefit from our articles as much as we will benefit from writing them! Thank you, and welcome to Torch!

Reading and writing have always been major passions of mine. I've always had a need to record events and ideas using formal linguistic techniques. As for reading, it has always been a beautiful escape for me. It allowed me to travel in time. For that reason, I genuinely enjoy writing pieces on important ideas and issues that will inform and inspire others.



Taline Dia

As an amateur pianist and a daring pacifist, my aim is to compose and share some eye-opening articles on daily worldwide issues. I am very glad that I finally have the opportunity to try and make a change, and I do believe that hand in hand we can all make that happen. I will also be sharing the most recent events in the mythical world of music. Stay tuned!



Hanan Al Hammal



Nouf Khooni

Writing is one of my many passions because it allows me to be as creative and free as I want. I would love to pursue my career in writing and I think joining Torch Magazine is my very first step in achieving that goal.

I've always felt that writing was a way to express myself in creative ways and freely speak about topics I feel are important. Writing has always been something I love doing and it'll forever be.



Salma El Etneby

Every secret of a writer's soul, every experience of his life, every quality of his mind, is written large in his work" ~ Virginia Woolf. As a dedicated story writer and a passionate future doctor, I deeply believe that readers live a million lives aside from their own. As a spirited writer on Torch Magazine, I'm extremely thrilled to have the opportunity to allow my readers to dive into worlds they've never experienced before through my literary artwork.



Jomana Hany



Lujaine Abu Baja

As a diligent student and an ambitious language lover, I have developed a sincere passion for writing as I grew up. I enjoy devoting my time to convey my thoughts and emotions through my writing, and I aspire to sympathize and touch others through my exuberant writings.

"You can make anything by writing." ~ C.S Lewis. Writing and reading are an escape from my busy day-to-day life as an athlete and a student with a dream. Being part of the school newspaper is a great opportunity to express and share my writing with my fellow students. I'm absolutely ecstatic and excited for the work that lies ahead this year! Here's to a year of prosperity, teamwork and stellar work!



Salem Eyob



Adrianna Sabbagh

Writing has always been an impulse and a purpose that grew alongside me throughout the years. As soon as I could write, I would scribble words after words with little to no sense. Sometimes, my words would come together to form a diary entry or messy sheets of paper taped together in the shape of a 'book'. Now, I still scribble-or type- words upon words with little to no sense. I joined Torch Club so that I may make sense of it and help shape a difference in our thriving community, one piece at a time.

As a life-loving, passionate person I was amazed by the power of words and the depth that pieces of writing can drown us with. Waves of emotions continuously pass by us, and we tend to let the nerves of our brain struggle and cluster, not giving it the means to explore itself and pour out its thoughts. I found that through reading, we gain and by writing we alleviate. To me, poems help me express myself in a way that nothing else could, and delving in the art of poetry is unimaginably exquisite.



Dana Abu Zamar



Alia AlMansoori

I've always been a lover of science and arts, this year I am looking forward to exploring a passion that I have long felt the need to share, which is writing articles and poetry. Poetry throughout the years has helped me convey my thoughts through a fun, soothing and creative medium. Whatever point of time a poem was written in, it does not change how deeply it can affect one's emotions. That is the sort of glorious power I am willing to explore in writing.



Elena Kakoun

I've had a passion for reading and writing for as long as I remember. Writing has always been natural for me, something I have always loved to do. Out of many things I enjoy I'd say writing beats them all, and I wouldn't call it a hobby, more a way of living. "I write to discover what I know." Flannery O'Connor. A quote I live by. A quote that describes writing in only seven words. Writing is power. Words are strength. And I will forever be proud to have it as a passion.



Maryam Al Attar

Writing makes me express my feelings and emotions in a creative and beautiful way.

Poetry, specifically, has been one of my interests for so long and I hope that one I will publish a book. Since I love both arts and poetry, most of what I write is about nature and life.



Amal Al Mehairi

I believe that being pushed to read from a very young age fueled my passion for reading, writing, and learning new things. I remember buying my first full-length novel and finishing it that same day. I could never resist staying up at night to see what happened next. As a part of Torch Magazine, I hope to inspire others and help them see that literature does not necessarily have to be dull or boring. You can create anything on a blank sheet of paper.

THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

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

Poetry Day

October 3

On October third, Literacy Committee prepared puppet shows for the elementary students to celebrate poetry day. And any high school students wishing to unleash their creativity came together for AMB's poetry slam to showcase their inner poets.



School Anniversary

October 10

This marked the day Mawakeb successfully reached its 41 anniversary. Many students came together celebrating by giving out desserts, and taking many wonderful pictures portraying the excitement built upon each student. We are honored to be part of a school community that really strives to make this world a better place.



Antibullying Awareness

October 22

AMB students made an effort on this day to combat a great problem. Many came together to campaign against bullying. Students in the boys section highlighted the consequences of mistreatment through a role play, and all KG students made a pledge to always be kind.



AMSI Voices

October 23

On October 23, grade 11 & 12 girls attended AMSI Voices: Girls are Makers of Change. The girls left home from this event with a new outlook on future aspects of life, and a new drive. They were inspired by many alumni, including Her Excellency Noura Al Kaabi that tjoined us in this 5th edition of AMSI Voices.



Breast Cancer Awareness

October 24

Students dedicated this day solely to bring attention to the dangers of breast cancer. Students hosted a bake sale to raise money for charity. The Dance Club prepared a zumba dance for younger grades, and everyone wore pink in support of all breast cancer patients



AUDMUN

October 31

On this day, MUN club members were finally able to showcase their hard work and attended the first day of AUDMUN, bringing back over 15 awards on the third day!





WORK SMARTER, NOT HARDER

By Lujiane Abu Bajeh

A new school year has begun, and—along with this new year—a ray of responsibilities has been cast upon us. All of us strive for top marks, but with the overburden of all the work assigned to us, we wind up lacking in certain areas as opposed to others. We often find ourselves trying to tackle multiple assignments all at once, but we become helpless due to the shortage of time. If you feel like you are not catching up, here are

some study tips to help you salvage your grades and your mental health: .

1. Study in time blocks:

While this may sound counterintuitive, studying for long periods of time without rest is rather ineffective. Various studies have been done to prove the credibility of this statement, and they all point in one direction: taking short periods of rest makes you a much more productive student. Taking small breaks throughout the day aid in

replenishing the mind and body, which can increase your energy, and help you get more work done in less time.

2. Summarize in your free time:

Speaking from personal experience, making small summaries of the lesson on a separate notebook is by far the most effective habit you could get into. Noting down the important things helps me further understand what I had previously learned. Using colors also

intensifies the effectiveness of this method by allowing you to de-stress and making the information more memorable. This method comes in handy especially around exam time; having little, colorful summaries to revise from will definitely make studying for an exam much less demanding.

3. Review and practice your notes:

Another study habit that should be developed for

more efficient studying is reviewing your notes before starting a new assignment. While studying every single subject, every single day may sound unrealistic, going over your work in class is a more practical approach. Not only does this assist you in remembering the necessary information for the next day, it also helps eliminate the work you have piled up. Therefore, instead of studying the lesson all at once, going

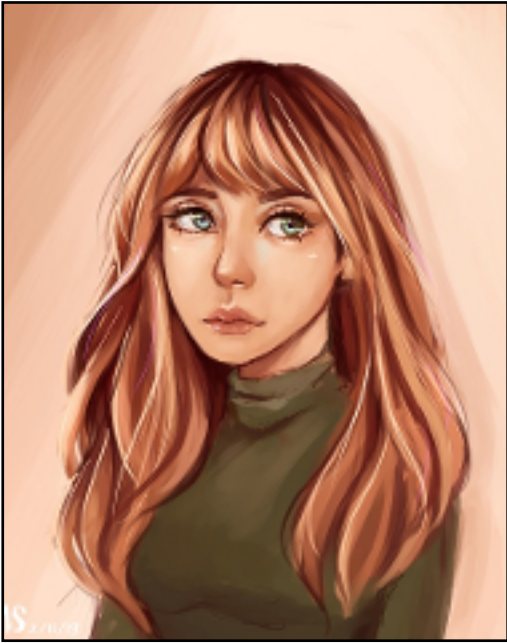
over your notes will have the same effect while requiring much less effort.

In conclusion, you don't have to work so hard for so long to get high marks. In order to be a highly successful student, all you need to know is how to study efficiently.

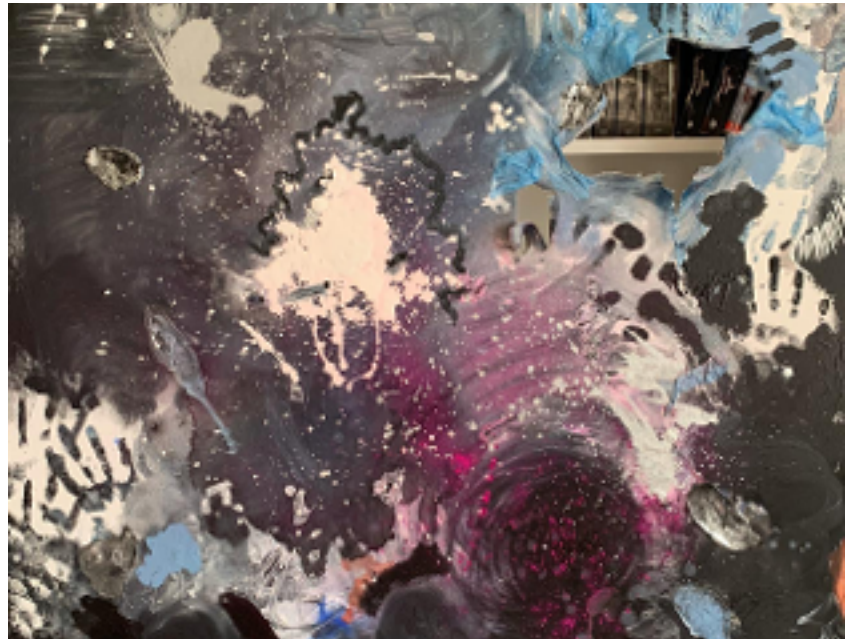
Hopefully, these studying tips will enlighten you on the much-needed habits that will help guide you to the right path in your academic journey.

ART GALLERY

Here, we showcase our gifted students' amazing artwork



by Mariam Samir



by Roudha Abu Abdullah



by Nora Zaid Kasem



by Meera Al Sayegh



by Mona Al Bastaki



by Roudha Abu Abdullah



THE OMNISCIENT KID

By Taline Dia

There was one memorable spring in 1981 that was representative of Elias's interest in things. It was representative of a lesson learnt. That spring was spent in a house by a hill. Nine year old Elias was very content to be spending spring outside of the city, where he could play outside amongst the flowers and under the sun. Where he could make new friends. His mother seemed content with the change in scenery as well. "Why isn't dad coming with us?" Elias asked his mom the night before they headed to the house.

"He's very busy dear, but he'll try his best to join us shortly after," his mom reassured him.

Deep down she knew that was unlikely. Deep down she longed to feel her husband's presence in the house. On the surface she wore the mask of a happy woman, for the sake of her son and for the sake of staying strong. "There was no need to acknowledge these types of feelings," she would think to herself, and she would proceed to suppress. She would wonder where Elias got his natural enthusiasm for life, because god knows

she never possessed it.

Elias loved nature, and this temporary escape from the city provided him with more energy than he could contain. He could not sit around to save his life. As he attempted to sleep, his mind was racing with the thoughts of everything he could do and of everything he wanted to do. Elias decided to wake up before his mother saw the light of day to cycle around the area in peace. His fascination with nature prompted him to witness dawn. Elias was in bewilderment of such

ights. He so badly wanted the answers to the questions that the sights of the universe would pose to him. He was a curious one. As the sun rose and as he cycled around, he stumbled upon a valley. He hadn't noticed how far he had cycled. From the distance he spotted what seemed to be a teenage girl sitting by a tree with her head in her arms leaning back and forth. Questions raced through his mind at that moment. More questions than usual. Why was she out so early? Does she also want to make new friends? Who is she? Why was she sitting like that? Why was she moving like that? Her golden hair illuminated under the rising sun. His curiosity controlled his footsteps, and Elias was not hesitant to approach her.

As he approached her his vision told him that she was tapping both feet rapidly against the ground. "Hello" he said loudly. The girl was startled. She had always thought this place to be private at this time of day. She looked at the skinny

boy, and his coming had only enhanced her preexisting feelings of panic. The girl retreated into her former position, trying to calm down. Elias stood by her, staring and thinking. "What's your name?" he asked curiously.

"Angel" the girl replies quietly.

"What does this kid want?" she thought to herself. As Elias got closer he noticed that Angel was slightly shaking. Angel noticed his proximity and looked up at him. The boy had strikingly blue eyes, and a naïve, innocent demeanor about him. "I'm Elias" he introduced with a smile. "Are you okay?" he asked Angel.

"Yeah I'm alright Kid," replied Angel, trying to appear as calm as possible.

"You hide them, like my mom" said Elias.

"Hide what?" asked Angel in confusion.

"The bad stuff," said Elias. Angel remained quiet and in awe of this boy. Where did he come from? Elias sat next to Angel by the

tree, leaning against it while looking out into the view before him. The greenery dominated, and the sun was as golden as Angel's hair. "This reminds me of that one scene in The Outsiders," said Elias, "Where Ponyboy and Johnny look out into the gold,"

"You read that book?" asked Angel

"Sure did" replied Elias "You're like 5 though," said Angel mid chuckle.

Elias hadn't taken his eyes off the view. "I'm almost ten," he replied after a few minutes.

Angel's panic had been put on hold by Elias's presence. Elias looked over at her, and noticed two scars on her right wrist. He didn't ask her about them. "Maybe she fell while playing like I sometimes do" he thought to himself. The investigative part of him could decipher the more likely possibility, but he brushed it off. Angel felt her panic return, and decided to leave the boy as to not expose him to the very concept of negative

emotions. But Elias knew. "I have to head home, but it was nice meeting you Elliot," said Angel. Elias smiled at her.

"Take care golden Angel" he said.

She ran home, in hopes of brushing off the anxiety and leaving the naïve, pure of heart-boy. Shortly after, Elias headed home too. As he neared the front porch, he saw his mom from the kitchen window.

She had awoken. She had some woman from around the area over for tea. She seemed so happy from this view. He had heard her awake late the night before. He had sensed her sleeplessness. Elias looked around for a bit and spotted gold. Angel's hair. She sat outside her front porch with some friends, laughing hysterically. She was too good to be true, and that was a fact

considering what Elias had witnessed. She seemed so calm and content around other people. He looked back and forth between both views, and drew a comparison in his head. At that pivotal moment Elias had drawn a conclusion one wouldn't at his age. He had drawn one about the way of the modern man in the face of inner conflict. Hide and smile.

CANCER IS WAR

by Elena Kakoun

Cancer is war

A mere battle between the body and the soul

Cancer is war

Nothing but an allusion of control

Cancer is the enemy but the soul has the upper hand

Because the soul already has a plan

The love, the memories, the legacies

All soldiers playing for the soul

Because cancer is weak

Relying on a single technique

It may corrupt your body

But it will never get to your heart

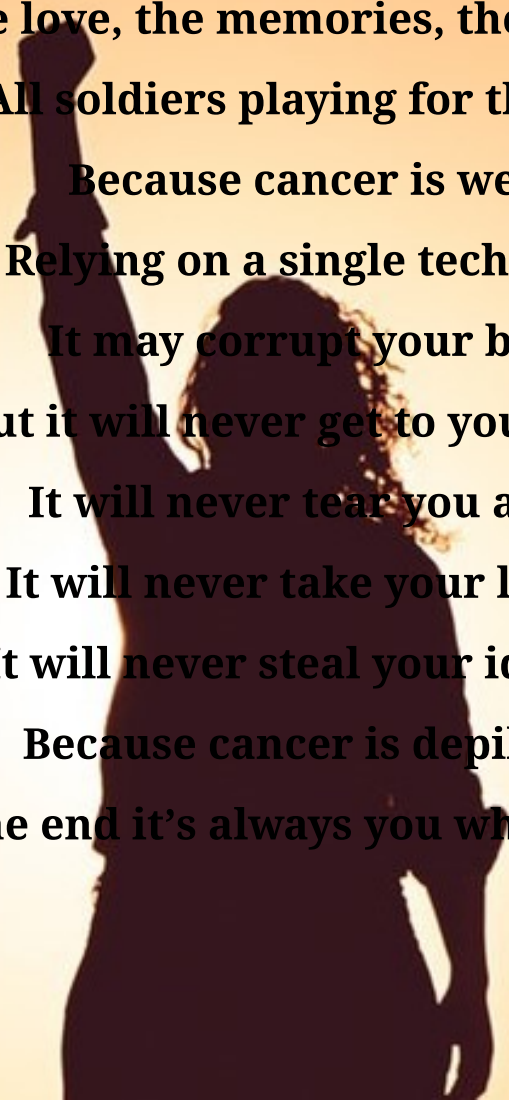
It will never tear you apart

It will never take your legacy

It will never steal your identity

Because cancer is depilated

And in the end it's always you who is celebrated





TOXIC PRODUCTIVITY IS TOXIC TO PRODUCTIVITY

By Minat Allah Alhusami

Hustle culture is a term that nearly all students in this modern, fast-paced society have grown all too familiar with. Hearing successful people say things such as, “I’ll sleep when I’m dead” and “no days off” makes students feel as if they’ll never be able to amount to anything. This feeling then gets cemented into the fragile teenage brain. Subsequently, one of two things can happen, one would either give up and settle for mediocrity, or surrender to these

motivational nothings and abide by them, leaving them perfectionistic and unhappy with their successes.

Today, the attention span of the average human rests somewhere around eight seconds. Thus, if you are not the absolute best of the best at what you do, people will go back to looking for the next revolutionary thing or person to drop their jaws at and applaud, and you will be drowned out by all the other

seven-out-of-tens in your field.

And thus, hustle culture was born; the notion that you need to like a “go go go” lifestyle with no pauses. Throw an inherently high achieving teenager into that environment, you have just created a monster. I’ve known high achievers that would jump off buildings for a pat on the back by a superior or two. You’d think admiration or just mere acceptance is like oxygen to them, but

they simply cannot help it.

The other day I went to the consulate with my dad. He pointed to a middle-aged man. He had a salt and pepper beard and a bald head, coupled with wrinkles that look like they cannot even be ironed flat and eye bags that hung down to his nose. I later learned that man was my dad's

colleague, meaning he was around forty-five; he looked sixty. That man was the top of his class; he earned all the medals and plaques, but none of the sleep. He then settled for an average, comfortable job in an unheard-of dental clinic, earning acceptable wages.

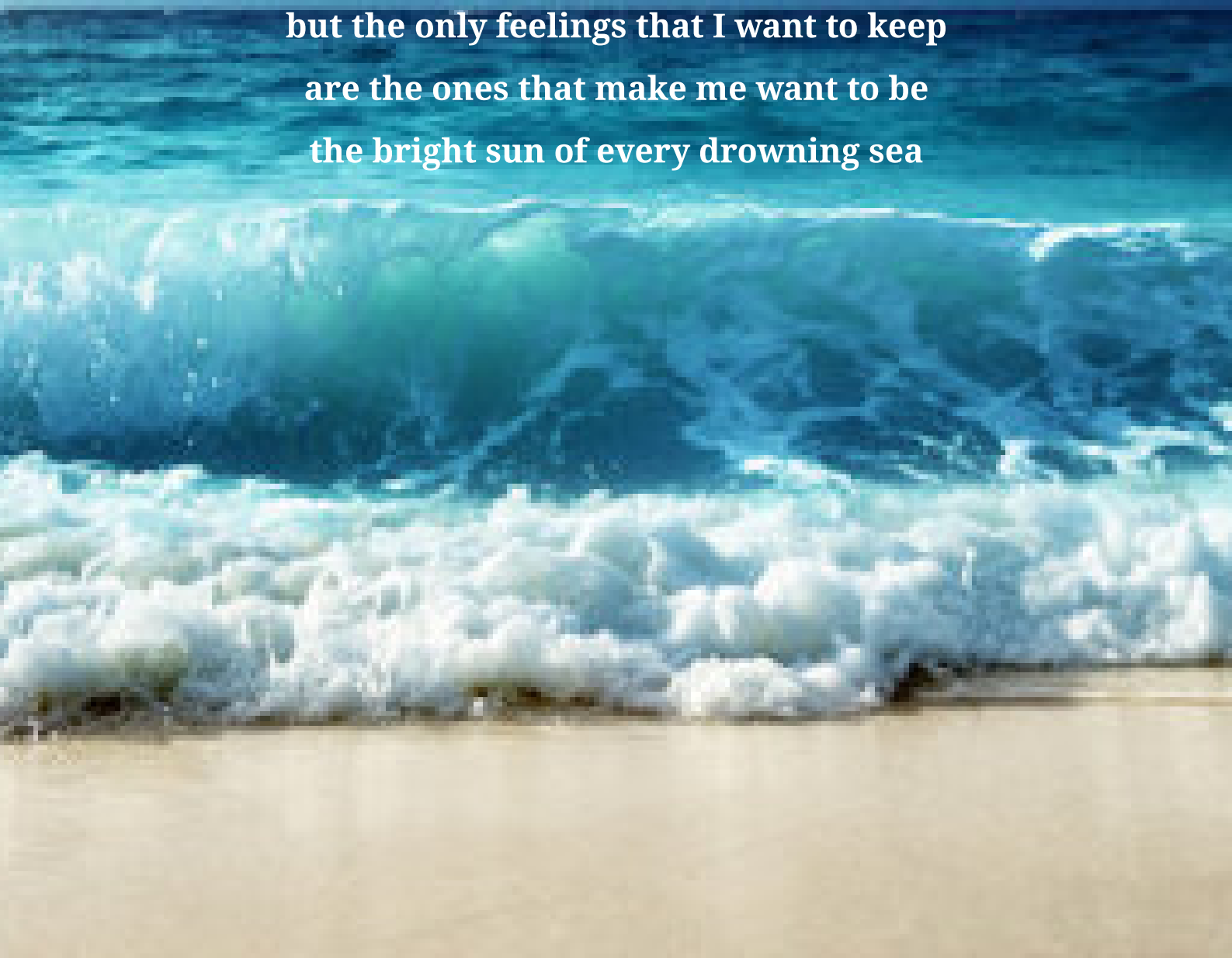
The bottom line is you may think that you are resilient enough to work yourself into a grave with

no stopping; however, what you may not realize is that your body will eventually say enough. Listen to your body. Intuitiveness does not equate to failure, it just means you have cracked the code for long-lasting success.

FEELING I WANT TO KEEP

By Maryam Al Attar

I feel nothing and everything at the same time
the shallow and the deep
the sour and the sweet
but the only feelings that I want to keep
are the ones that make me want to be
the bright sun of every drowning sea



رسالة بلا سلام

بالحب والسلام تبدأ الرسائل
ولكن .. أنت لا حباً ولا سلاماً عليك
فلا أنت تومضُ في جنبات الروح ضوءاً
ولا ينسكبُ إلا الحزن من بين يديك
برغم أن الصوت يفرضنا بقوة
غير أن الصمت أقوى ما لديك
وندور معك دوماً في دوائر
نختبئ منك ونعودُ في آخر الأمر إليك
قال الطبيب، بعد صمتٍ دام دهرأ
مَن قال أن السرطان يمضي ولا يعود؟
إرفق بأَمِّك فهي تعلم أن
للدرب الطويل هبوطاً وصعوداً !
وعليها أن تبقى قوية مكافحة
وتواجه الألم بكل عزم وصمود
عاث الخبيث في كل أروقة
الجسد النحيل واستوطن الغسق الخدود
وغزى بناره يكوي الخلايا
ويحشد لمعركته كل الحشود
وكانت ضعيفة ولكن ثحارب
ووقفت ثودع آخر خصلة شعر
وأطفئ وهج سراج العيون
وكانت ضلماً
فيا مَن أخلت نهاري ظلاماً
ويا مَن سرقت على حين غفلة
غداً سوف تصبح همّي الوحيد
سأحشدُ ضدك كل العلوم
وسوف أنزلُك في ساحتك
غداً عن سماءٍ بلادي سترحل
غداً سوف تهزم وتُسحق وتُطرد
غداً سينبت في جبين العلم مصلاً
وتضفي حضوراً جميلاً يا أمي
ولديها، مع آخر خيوط الشمس الودود
ودفع اليدين استحالة برود
ويا مَن زرعَتْ بقلبي الجحود
أحببتنا وشيدت بيننا كل السدود
غداً لن يبقى لديك وجود
وكل التجارب ستغدو جنود
وأهزمك، وعن كل مريض أذود
وتزهر أيامنا حدائق غناء و ورود
وصحة الأبدان من جديد تعود
يداوي العظام ويشفي الجلود
بكل معاني العطاء وجود

على كل نفس قوية سنُشفى وتسعى بروحها نحو الخلود
أجل يا طبيب.. أجل سوف يمضي فبالعلم نحن نزيلُ الحدود
خِتاماً بغير سلاماً سأنهي فلا دُمت يوماً بخيرٍ ولا طبت بهذا الوجود

عمل الطالبة: شهد محمد جمال
الصف الثاني عشر – مدرسة المواكب (البرشاء) دبي

PHOTO GALLERY

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



by Deema Hazim



by Aya Edelbi



by Maryam Al Khayatt



by Alia Al Janahi



by Jana Issawi



by Maryam Al Khayatt



INTERVIEW WITH MR. MOUSSA CHAHBAZ

1-Mr. Moussa, how long have you been a principal for?

- "I have been doing this job for seven years."

2-What exactly was your driving force behind wanting to become a principal?

- "It is not exactly like that. You do not study or work to become a principle, for it is a destined duty. I first started as a teacher, 24 years back, I really loved teaching so I continued doing it until my role evolved within the school.

My responsibility grew and I carried on more, then became the head of section. Later on, my work extended on working with all students, boys and girls. After that, my title became 'vice principal' which allowed me to work with more people, including teachers, heads of sections, and of course students. "

3- In your opinion, what does it take to become a principal?

- "Being a principal is being a good leader. One with great

communication skills, and of course, lots of patience. Most importantly, a principal must know a lot about the students. To build a connection and establish trust, and to be able to accurately help them whenever is needed. "

4-Over the last 7 years in which you've been a principal, what is your favorite thing about the job?

- "Seeing students' progress. That is definitely my favorite thing. Everything else is

stressful, but aiding students who wish to achieve higher and watching their success and progress are the things that make me happy. "

5- How can you describe your leadership style?

- "I believe in equality. I am not the type of person to consider anyone working with me as someone who is less than me. Equality is a key factor to being a good leader. When you are a leader, you must treat everyone equally and fairly. That way no one would be scared to come talk to you, or confide in you. Moreover, you have to be a good listener to be a good leader."

6- What were your favorite experiences as a teacher, and now as a principal?

- "As a teacher, the best experience was that I got to know all of the students, who are now older, viewing them all as friends. I think about how we, not only me, impacted them. I truly cherish these moments which I experienced. Now as a

principal, I enjoy watching students' progress. Anyone who visits our school tells us that we've done a good job with these students and that makes me really proud."

7- So, what is your favorite thing about our school?

- "I like the fact that our students are genuinely nice. They never challenge teachers rudely. They are simply kind."

8- What do you plan on doing to improve the school's involvement with the community?

- "I would certainly encourage clubs and invite more people from different backgrounds to visit our school to see who we are and who you are. "

9- Have you ever had a time where you found out that a student was bullying others? What was your reaction?

- "Luckily, that situation is not likely in our school. However, there are always

students who misjudge other people's personalities or opinions. They might be bullying but unintentionally because I do not believe that students just decide to start bullying. I believe that it stems from something else in the student's background or upbringing. Nevertheless, we help the students who feel attacked by proving to them that they are safe and supported. On the other hand, even the students who 'attack' are paid attention to and supported in terms of understanding their motive, explaining their mistake, and why they should stop. "

10- How does helping students make you feel? How does it impact you?

- "I believe that it is rewarding, their success. Just like Karma, if you plant something good, you will receive something good in return. I believe that our society deserves better."