



Announcing BHA's First Student Newspaper



The Horizon Times staff reviewing the final drafts of their contributions.

How is it that we didn't have a school bus until the Sunday before school started? We have many people from Afghanistan in our community; I wonder if they are impacted by the situation we are seeing in the news. After COVID 19, many of us feel more vulnerable than usual, and I really want to write about our mental health.

These are conversations happening in Room 2 during the new high school elective journalism class and club as students plan for the first edition of *The Horizon News*, a school publication staffed by student editors/reporters with the help of freelance writers.

Student editors/reporters are high school students enrolled in the class, while freelance writers are students who chose another elective with

journalism as a club or are guest reporters from outside the school.

Having an official school newspaper is a direct result of the ability to add more electives as our high school expands each year. This class and club appeals to students who love to write, want to be detectives flushing out stories waiting to be told, have thoughts waiting to be researched and expressed, love the thought of interviewing people, can't wait to add photographs to stories, and the list continues.

The first journalism students of BHA's high school are excited to be the ones launching the club. Choosing the name was the first highlight. Tasmeya Hammad, 10th grade, researched names of other newspapers creating a long list, then narrowed it down. *The Horizon Times* was finally chosen because it combines the school's name with a newspaper name. To become official, it was sent to the AG admin for approval. Rozita Kareem, also 10th, explains that upon approval "it was just so cool because we had come up with a great newspaper name that may stay in the school for many years to come."

Many highlights of the class are emerging. Rozita especially likes interviewing others and says she "felt like one of those journalists that you see on TV with their steno pads and recorders" after her first interview with BOA member Tamer Abouelkhir. From this first story, she found it valuable to learn "all the behind the scenes actions that had to be taken in order to provide the bus that I use twice a day, every

day." Tasmeya adds that *The Horizon Times* is going to be "a relaxing way to get things off your mind and present them to others in a system that is both fun and informing." She also feels optimistic that *The Horizon Times* will enable students "to take a stand and speak their minds."

The Horizon Times is now excited to present this first publication which, insha'Allah, will bring the latest news and voices of students to our BHA community of students.

Rozita Kareem

Behind the Scenes of the Bus



Omar Musse boards the BHA bus to meet his sibling at Clairemont campus.

"We do not have a bus service between campuses or from MCC at this time. We understand that it is difficult for many parents but we thank you for your patience, understanding, and co-operation." This statement was emailed to BHA families only three days before the first day of school.

This was shocking news for many families. In our busy world, it would be extremely difficult to adjust plans and figure out a way to drop off and pick up kids from two different campuses every day during rush hours. Many families

panicked, and some even started looking into other schools.

Why did we not have a bus service? One obstacle was that the required registration needed to put the school bus back on the road was not completed. This gave the admin team a rather small amount of time to finish the complex and detailed registration.

However, the major challenge was finding a bus driver. Unfortunately, Ms. Patricia, our previous bus driver of two years, needed wrist surgery and was unable to continue driving, leaving the school with no driver, and trying to find one was extremely difficult.

Due to Covid-19, schools had been virtual for over a year, leading many drivers to retire and quit, while others had lost their licenses and did not want to go through the long and costly process of renewing them.

This shortage of drivers is a problem not only faced by our school but many others across the country. For example, a school in Philadelphia couldn't find a driver so they creatively started to pay families to drive their kids to school.

This was an extremely stressful situation for the admin team because "by the time we were done tackling all the other problems, we only had five days to get to the bus situation," says Br. Tamer Abouelkhir, Operations Manager of the Board of Education.

Their first approach was to start looking for drivers but with no success. They then attempted to see if they could form a contract with a bus company. With no response, they sent an email notifying parents that there may not be a bus to transport students back and forth.

At this point, everyone, from admin to teachers to parents were getting anxious about how to deal with this big problem.

On Sunday, the day before the first day of school, at 2 p.m., the school received an email from the company with good news saying they could provide a bus and driver for students!!

A big weight was removed off everyone's back; families could actually look forward to the first day of school without worrying about transportation.

Now with about a month into school, the bus routine is settling into place. On the way to school, we use our bright yellow "Bright Horizon Academy" bus driven by the bus company employee. On the way back, we use a different bus provided by the company.

Looking to the future, the current bus situation is not a permanent one. The school already has a bus driver that is in training and, insha'Allah, within a few months, BHA will welcome a more permanent bus driver.



Nasteho Abdulahi's family appreciates the bus helping her busy parents.

Duaa for getting on a vehicle

سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي سَخَّرَ لَنَا هَذَا وَمَا كُنَّا
لَهُ مُقْرِنِينَ وَإِنَّا إِلَى رَبِّنَا لَمُنْقَلِبُونَ

Subhaanal lazi sakh-khara lana haaza
wama kunna lahu muqri neen, wa-inna ila
rab-bina la-mun-qaliboon

Glory be to Him Who has brought this under our control for we could never have accomplished this by ourselves. And to Lord surely must we return

www.nakrus.com

Adam Abdulkadir



Tracing the History of ISSD

To know about how the school was formed to today, we'll have to go way back to when the school started, back in September 1992. Back then, there wasn't a high school, a middle school, and not even a full elementary! There was just kindergarten, and a combined 1st and 2nd, with only 22 students.

One teacher from this first year who is still with the school is Ms. Munira; she has been promoting kindergartens since the school opened, masha'Allah.

One of the original parents is Ms. Aisha, currently one of our English teachers. She was living in Algeria with her husband and two young children, and her strongest desire for moving back to the U.S. was an Islamic school. However, none existed in San Diego and her daughter started kindergarten in public school. The next year, however, her prayers were answered when Abu Bakr announced that a school was opening.

I interviewed one of the teachers that stayed in this school for over 20 years, Ms. Hanan. She joined the school one year after it started, in 1993, and worked as a full-time teacher and principal for 13 years. Over time, according to her, 3rd and 4th were added to the school as a combined class, in addition to a combination 5th and 6th. The school finally had a full elementary for the growing community.

Then the school had a new problem. According to Ms. Hanan, the number of students was enough to add a middle school, but they didn't have the space. At that time, the masjid library covered

the current 4th and 5th grade classrooms, the computer lab, and the now-known library. By the will of Allah and the permission of the masjid, they rebuilt the space to have 4 rooms, $\frac{3}{4}$ of the space to be classrooms and $\frac{1}{4}$ to be the library.

Middle school first started in 1994 by adding 7th grade. One of our current parents was in the very first ISSD graduating 8th grade class--Mrs. Soha Salem, mother of Jumana and Yusuf Kadry in 6th and 7th grades.

Shortly after, the school had to close 7th and 8th because of a shortage of students for one year. However, it didn't take long to open again.

With the start of middle school, many school organizations started beginning with science fair and PTO; eventually other activities were added such as robotics, QIS contests, a science field day for grades 4-6, inventors' showcase, geography showcase, Arabic and Islamic study nights, math competition, Spelling Bee, and poetry publications, thanks to the support of parents and staff members.

A new milestone was the addition of an official TK in 2015. Then finally, in 2018, middle school packed up and moved to our previously bought 4-acre school in Allied Gardens, ready to add high school. By the end of the summer, the campus was ready for the middle school and new high school.



Alhamdulillah, 9th, then 10th, then 11th were smoothly added and received the WASC accreditation. However, the school closed 12th grade this year due to another shortage but is planning to complete the high school next year.

Another growth spurt has been seen this year. Clairemont campus needed to rent space in the ICSD annex for second KG and 1st grade classrooms since enrollment outnumbered the space in both classes,

Over time, many things impacted the school. One might think that 9/11 might have severely affected the school, but, surprisingly, Ms. Hanan states that the school only closed for that day, and hired a security guard for itself, after a meeting regarding the incident.

Another change is that the bullet-proof fence along the playground used to be a regular fence, but eventually collapsed. The grant given by the community gave the masjid the money to rebuild it to what it is today.

So, what's planned next for the school? I've asked Ms. Hanan, and she replied, "Whatever the school goes with, it will be determined by the help of the parents, staff, and volunteers." And as Allah knows about what will be in the future, we ask Allah for the best, especially during these days.

Daanya Hussain



Ms. Munira poses with her 30th group of fortunate kindergartners.

Ms. Munira Reflects on the Opening of ISSD

From 1992 to now, Bright Horizon Academy, formerly known as the Islamic School of San Diego, has grown from the combination classes of elementary school to an (almost) fully-fledged high school. Most of us

have probably only heard of the transformation of this school over the past 29 years. However, one teacher has witnessed it all: Ms. Munira!

Since the beginning, Ms. Munira has seen our school grow. Her first year started with nineteen students for both kindergarten and the first/second grade combination class taught by Ms. Olsen. Ms. Sharifa was the principal. Ms. O'Barr was doing all the office work. With no internet or YouTube at the time (as hard as it is to imagine), Ms. Munira would take time to make nasheeds and Islamic rhymes to teach her beloved students.

However, it wasn't always like this. The establishment of this school was like a dream come true. Before, families like Ms. Munira's had to drive to Orange County for their Sunday School.

She had worked at a couple of Montessori schools in San Diego before joining the Islamic School. The difference between the two, as she pointed out, was that she could incorporate Islamic examples and prophet stories into her everyday curriculum. The Islamic School allowed her to teach Muslim children in an Islamic environment, the way she wished her children were taught. The way in which children could see Islam as a way of life.

"Children absorb everything from their environment; they hear the adhan, pray in the musallah, see so many Muslims around them, and feel that they are not alone," explains Ms. Munira. "I believe in the saying, 'It takes a village to raise a child'. This is that village, alhamdulillah."

And, as the years have gone by, that village has grown. From the first class to the thirtieth, generations of families have been enlightened by her loving teachings.

Ms. Munira says it is wonderful as she witnesses similarities and differences between family members. And this year, a former student has returned with her child.

Though her class has changed, Ms. Munira's teachings have not. She has long emphasized the importance of instilling into her students that they are

role models for the Islamic community. That when they go outside, they are “walking billboards of Islam.” It might be why there are so many alumni making a positive impact on the community.



Zina Alahmed visits her former classroom with her daughter, Sofia.

Yet, I had to ask: after all these years, what has kept Ms. Munira at the school? Her answer was the most touching.

“This school is so important to me because when I am getting ready in the morning, it's like I'm going to meet all my family members. It's a labor of love, alhamdulillah, and I thank Allah SWT for letting me come to His house every day, subhan'Allah.

Jazakum Allahu khairan for your dedication and love, Ms. Munira! We truly appreciate you!

Safwa Khan

Living with Insects

Have you seen these critters crawling around campus? Often seen near the large tree between the field and courtyard, sometimes in pairs and colored in black and red. These bugs are known as soapberry bugs, coming from the family Serinethinae, a subfamily of Ropalidae. Their

nickname, soapberry bugs, is linked to the family of plants they inhabit, the soapberry family (Sapindaceae) which consists of balloon vines, maples and, of course, soapberry trees.

They exist in large amounts, very noticeable near the tree, even sometimes in attached pairs.



Feel free to take a quick peek at them when you have the time, as they are generally harmless and leave everyone alone.

However, students often had problems with ants and spiders entering classrooms during school hours. Teachers would also warn their pupils to keep their classes clean to avoid attracting bugs as well as to keep overall cleanliness. During the PSAT preparatory tests, some students were inconvenienced with ants making their way near their backpacks and even into some student lunch boxes.

Alhamdulillah, on the 22nd of October, the Bright Horizon Academy Allied Gardens campus was sprayed with insecticides, and will continue to be sprayed every other weekend to prevent such incidents from reoccurring.

Realistically, it is impossible to rid the school 100% of bugs. As we continue our school lives on campus, living with bugs is something we are going to have to deal with on a daily basis. Keeping clean is crucial to making sure no infestations happen.

Cleanliness is stressed greatly in Islam as well, and as Muslims we must stay in a state of cleanliness regardless of any bugs or pests as stated in the Qur'an, “and Allah loves those who purify themselves” (9:108).

The Prophet (PBUH) said: “Try to be clean as much as you are able to. Verily, Allah has based the foundation of Islam on cleanliness; hence, never can a person enter Paradise but the clean

ones” [Kanz-ul-Ummal, Tradition 26002].

As bugs are attracted to leftover food scraps and unkempt areas, other factors also affect their presence. Open windows and doors can release fumes which attract ants indoors, while damp and humid areas, such as the bathroom, can attract other creatures, especially during the summer. You might even notice this phenomenon in your own homes, but bugs tend to be more present during the hotter months of the year in order to find sources of water to drink from.

Together, as a community of Muslim students, teachers and staff, we must work to keep our school tidy and organized as we live a school life on an outdoor campus. We are surrounded by nature wherever we go and we must also remember the glory and blessings of Allah SWT. His creations and His wisdom for everything to happen, even if we do not understand it, are points we must keep in mind as we continue living with insects.

Tasmeya Hammad

3rd Graders Create and Name Islands

Ms. Saima Nawabi's class was excited to use their knowledge and creativity skills to demonstrate how much they learned about landforms.

Ms. Saima wanted social studies to be “interactive and engaging.” The objective was to make an island with four landforms and three water forms. Air dry clay, heavy duty plates, and sticks (for poking) were some of the materials they experimented with. Students were able to show off not only their art skills, but the fact that they're very smart!

Especially enjoyable was using the materials they needed to craft their islands. Alya Hammad liked “making holes in the clay by using the sticks.” Noor Muzaini thought “it was fun to squish” the clay to make the landforms.

After creating the islands, the students used tempera paint and paint brushes to decorate their islands, which was the most exciting part according to Ms. Saima, as it "really brought their islands to life."



Yusuf Muhammed and Ismail Diwan decorate their islands while thinking of names.

Later on, they got a chance to name them! A few of the names included Maira's Waterland Island, Hawaii Cruise, Dangerous Cute Island, and Ayman's Paradise Island. Next, they made a map and key which helped locate the special places on their islands.

This project was overall very successful, aside from the fact that one student's hill came off of their island. Later on, they were able to fix it with liquid glue.

Ms. Saima "loved this project," but one of the things she needed was "lots of patience!"

Mariam Eldegwy

Afghan Refugees Assisted by the Community

A very close friend of mine was extremely hurt when she heard the news about all the turmoil happening in Afghanistan. She personally has

family back in Afghanistan who she knows and cares about. She would often ask me if I heard about the news and express her frustration and sadness.

Ms. Sumayya Yusufzai, an Afghan teacher at our Allied Gardens campus, also shares her concerns and relates, "It's hard to see my countrymen going through such turmoil and injustices for over four decades. Nothing has improved or changed."

Numerous people all around the country have been trying their best to help Afghanistan refugees. San Diego County members have been reaching out to Afghan refugees and supporting them through these tough times. There are more than 1,000 Afghans coming to San Diego to get refuge. It was agreed unanimously by county officials that Congress should provide federal aid and use \$9.5 billion to help these refugees, according to the *San Diego Union Tribune*.

Not only have county officials tried helping Afghan refugees, BHA faculty and staff have also been putting their all into this situation. A BHA club, the National Stem Honor Society, has recently been in touch with some incoming refugees. They are working alongside other community members to support everybody who's in need. Advisor, Ms. Najwan Nasereldin, explained that they are gathering donations of clothes, food packages, and kitchen equipment.

Even parents, students, and teachers in the Bright Horizon Academy community have been helping relatives who have left Afghanistan for safety and economical reasons. Not only are they assisting with providing food, they are helping them set up their lives, such as finding them English classes, showing them how to use the bus, and providing driving lessons. Teachers are also providing monthly donations for basic needs.

Besides supporting the families in San Diego, relatives here are also providing aid to family members left behind.

Many amazing supporters have been helping Afghan refugees in the best ways possible.

Hafsah Kazi

Readjusting to School After Covid

March 13, 2020, a day that changed many students' lives. On March 13, the Governor of California ordered schools to be closed in order to put a pause on the spread of the Covid-19 virus. Schools were then put on Zoom, and a completely different environment was set for students and teachers alike.

This situation went on for around half a year, and at the beginning of the 2021 school year, Bright Horizon Academy had officially opened in person. Many students and friends saw each other for the first time in a while and saw how the pandemic changed us all in the flesh.

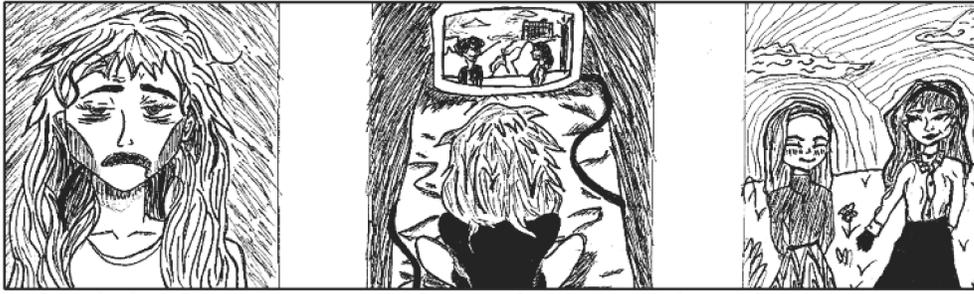
Being a student who enjoyed online school after I had adjusted to the new circumstances, I have to say it was quite different actually interacting with people instead of sitting in front of a computer with your mic off most of the class time. Going back to school also awakened the part of me that missed these interactions and the friends that I had not spoken to or hung out with since lockdown started.

I asked some students at BHA how they feel about coming back to campus with masks being mandatory. Hibah Youssef, 7th grade, says, "It's controversial. The discomfort is worth it to keep the school safe."



Hibah and Aya Ajanovic having a conversation while being protected by their masks!

Roj Kareem, 8th grade, responded that it's sometimes painful and he has "chest pains because it's hard to breathe." I believe this is one of the biggest issues with masks. It's normal



When the lockdown was over - I had to watch videos and shows about interacting with people and manners - so that I could still actually interact with people properly.

to have trouble breathing from wearing masks for around eight hours. Masks can get very suffocating, especially for people who have claustrophobia or any form of respiratory issues.

Another widespread issue that people with glasses face is their lenses constantly fog up. Ibtisam Ali, 8th grade, relates to this and believes that "people with glasses and masks are distressed." And let me tell you she is right; that is one of the most annoying things.

Samiya Mohamed
Rozita Kareem

Students React to Stress of School

What is the point of school? This is a cliché question asked by students on a daily basis. School has numerous benefits such as gaining knowledge about the world around us and having a place to grow as a person, among many more. However, often school can come with the heavy price of bad mental health for many students. Our goal is to explore the roots that are causing such problems. We hope to bring more awareness to the issue at hand and try to lessen the burdens.

Many students fall into a state of low motivation, procrastination, sadness, and many other issues. One reason for this is because, as claimed by Amir Muzaini, 7th grade, "school gives an overwhelming amount of work." According to the *Washington Post*, on average students said they have about

3.2 hours of homework each day. This, on top of eight hours of school, limits the time they have to spend on activities that make them happy such as their family, friends, and necessary alone time.

A major factor of poor mental health in school is due to the grading system. It is supposed to motivate students to study, but instead, getting a paper back and not seeing that A on top leads to a student's mind to start being harsh on itself, comparing itself to others or, according to Aya Alzedi, 8th grade, "thinking they are not good enough." Doing badly on an assignment can lead students to think they are failures.

Another reason is the pressure and high expectations from either parents or teachers. This pressure makes many students' main objective not to learn but just to get an A on that assignment or test. Of course, all parents and teachers want their children/students to earn good grades but sometimes high expectations may make it feel to the student like the grade is what they value about them, as in their value as a person.

Solutions to these problems can help improve students' mental health by an enormous amount. Given the fact that children spend so much of their life at school, these problems should be a priority for society to solve as a whole.

How can this be better? Parents and teachers can start by decreasing the pressure on students to get a perfect grade on every assignment. Instead of saying "do better" when a child gets less than an A, a simple "good job for doing your best" may be exactly the motivation needed because grades are an important factor, but they are

definitely not the only thing that determines anyone's future.

According to the *New York Times*, a few states realized the mental stress and anxiety that comes with being a student and, therefore, allowed them to have "Mental Health Day" in which sick days can be called just for that. This is a great help to students because sickness isn't just physical; feeling mentally ill should also be a valid excuse to take a break and rest.

A big help to students would be "to have longer deadlines," suggests Ayyub Dhamim, 8th grade.

A wider amount of time to do assignments instead of having them all cramped up would help reduce a great amount of stress and anxiety. Also students at BHA, including Ismail Abdinaser, 8th grade, agrees that "there are way too many tests." Tests are an externally stressful situation, and having them so often, even daily, can really mentally drain students.



Ayyub and Ismail reviewing math homework.

This year has been extra hard for students because last year, we were all online in which we sat behind a computer all day, and although it wasn't the funnest, there was definitely a lot less work. Students such as Yaqub Qalib, 8th grade, argue that "we now have double the work." This, on top of adjusting back to in-person, can be a lot for teenagers to handle at times.

In surah Ash-Sharh, ayah five, Allah says, "For indeed, with every hardship will come ease." So fellow students, while stressed with work and school, just remember you are doing this for Allah SWT and, hopefully, you will be rewarded either in this world or the

hereafter. Also if you ever feel like there is way too much work for you to handle, alhamdulillah, we have very understanding teachers, and you can always try to talk to them about an extension or anything else you need.

School is a journey we all have to go through and although in this journey grades are important, your mental health is more important, so always take care of yourself.

Tasmeya Hammad

Humanity and The World

Allah's creations must be cared for

"And the earth, He has assigned it to all living creatures" (Quran 55:10).

As Muslims, we should know to care not only for ourselves, but also for the animals of this world. Carelessly leaving things such as a mask at the beach can soon be found around the neck of one of our animals.

The National Honor Society, junior and senior, had a chance to see what happens if a person is careless; they went the extra mile and took action.

The team decided to clean up at Mission Bay, led by Ms. Hanan, advisor and high school Quran and Islamic Studies teacher, who was pleased with the results. They discovered "cigarettes, metal things, ropes, and even curtains, bathroom curtains" littering the sandy beach.



On the beach clean up day, a lot of trash was picked up by students.

students who attended the cleanup shared that water bottle caps which are dangerous for the animals littered the beach. Ms. Hanan wonders how they ended up there. They are concerned for the animals, since this is dangerous for the animals, especially the birds because they come by and eat the food and waste left behind.

This is a valid concern. For example, birds consume litter that we carelessly throw; it stays in their alimentary canal, or digestive tract. It plugs their passage of food. This leads to birds starving to death. Over 1 million birds die a year from plastic pollution.

After the cleanup, students are more aware of the danger for animals and will try not to leave trash anywhere.

Ms. Hanan gives advice so we can protect the animals from our trash and "clean up after [ourselves] instead of leaving it for someone else to do it." That way, the person who follows us won't see birds all over the bag of chips we decided to leave there.

Leaving our trash is done everyday without a second thought. If the same behaviour continues, we will continuously endanger animals.

It's really simple. Just clean up after yourself to cross it off the long list of things we do that affect our world.

Nahal Farrukh

Personal Reflection

The Sequoia Trees

There are tall trees that reach for the sky with huge reddish-brown trunks wide enough to walk through. These trees are called the sequoia trees, which grow only on the Sierra Nevada in California and are mostly located in the Sequoia National Park.

I went to Sequoia National Park over summer break. Of course, I loved the trees! They are so huge! Some of the trunks look like they have noses and eyes because of the way they bulge. Sequoia trees can live for a long time, and the oldest sequoia tree is about 3,266 years old. Since sequoia trees are really old, it makes me wonder what

they might say if they could talk. Or what their language would be like.



Photo by [Joe Dudeck](#) on [Unsplash](#)

I've read the *Lord of the Rings*, and in the book, they have Ents which are basically talking trees. The Ent language is described as slow and natural. Treebeard (the oldest Ent) says that their language is long and slow, like them. I think that is how the sequoia trees' language would be like, long and slow.

My favorite part was Moro Rock because it gives you an amazing view of the places you've passed. At the very top, when you look down, you can see the road on the mountains, the same road I traveled on to get there. On the other side, you see the mountains covered with trees looking like tiny towers. And in front, there is a mountain that looks as if it is polished on one side because it is smooth.

On top, the air feels fresh. Treebeard said that when he was younger, he used to spend a week just breathing. That's what I felt like on Moro Rock--that I could just keep breathing.

Have you not considered how Allah sets forth a parable of a good word (being) like a good tree, whose root is firm and whose branches are in heaven?

Qur'an 14:24

Daanya Hussain



“Don’t aspire to make a living, aspire to make a difference.”
~Denzel Washington

Welcome everyone to the first edition of Film Scope! Let's start with an introduction. My name is Daanya Hussain, a sophomore, and I am so excited to be your journalist for this column. Since I was a kid, I have been a fan of motion pictures. I consider myself a cinephile, or as you might say, a movie buff. My passion for cinema has led to my being a critic, so I thought I could share my views with all of you! The focus of these articles will be some inspirational actors and their movies. Don't let that discourage you though, because these films are entertaining and moving, so I recommend them for all families. I hope you all enjoy it. Now... let us begin!

Denzel Washington was born in December 1954, in New York. Before his acting fame, he began his career as a journalist at Fordham University. The comedy *A Carbon Copy* (1981) made Washington's first appearance on television and, before being inducted into the life of Hollywood, has starred on such television shows. He has won nine Academy Awards until now for his many show-stopping acts such as civil rights activist Malcolm X in *Malcolm X* (1992) and Coach Herman Boone in *Remember the Titans* (2000).

Here are some of his must-watch movies:

Glory (1989) was Denzel Washington's introduction to Hollywood. This movie follows the story of the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, the first all African-American troop of the United States. Recruited and led by Colonel Shaw, the unit was limited to rigorous physical labor due to racism. However, that doesn't stop these men from fighting to participate in the war and gain the respect that they deserve. The symbol of determination, *Glory* will leave your heart aching for those soldiers who risked everything to prove their worth. **(Recommended watching with family or ages 13+.)**

Remember the Titans (2000) is the movie to watch if you are a sports fan, especially of football. This movie will transport you to a 1971 high school in Alexandria. Due to new rules, the school had to integrate an all-black with an all-white school. This movie focuses on the struggles of the football team and how they overcome these hurdles. For me, this story is the definition of racial equality and a feel-good movie for all ages. **(Recommended watching with family or ages 10+.)**

The Great Debaters (2007) follows the true story of Wiley College's first debate team. Formed by Professor Tolson, the team consists of Hamilton, Henry Lowe, 14-year-old James, and their first female member--Samantha Booke. As the team moves from locally based to out-of-town debates, the teammates are faced with reality- racism, violence, and secret activity. This heartwarming movie will have you cheering for joy, crying with sadness, and screaming with anger as different emotions play into this beautifully intricate film. **(Recommended watching with family or ages 13+.)**

Disclaimer: Families should check each movie to see appropriateness for the age of their children.

Mahdi Sahid

Our Prophet's (SAWS) Example

Character is one of the most important aspects in our religion, and one we could all work on. The Prophet (SAWS), when asked about Isam, simply said, "I was sent to perfect the character." This shows us just how crucial it is to our deen.

As students at Bright Horizon Academy, perfecting our character is something that we should all strive to do, on and off campus, as we try to be better Muslims.

One step that I feel would benefit all of us is trying to be kind to others in all situations. Let's make the intention together that every action we perform and every word we say should not hurt anyone in any way. This is what the Prophet (SAWS) would want from us and what we should strive for.

Do you accept the challenge?

The Horizon Times Team

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Neziha Cinar



Neziha's Recipe Corner

I love being in the kitchen and personally feel that cooking and baking are fun activities that anyone can learn. That's why I have decided to share a cooking or baking recipe each edition of the school newspaper.

Easy Fudgy Brownies



Photo by Chris Black Photography

Prep Time: 12-15 mins | Bake Time: 30-45 mins

Ingredients

- ¾ cups of unsalted butter
- ¾ cups dark chocolate
- ⅔ cups all-purpose flour
- ¼ cup cocoa powder
- 3 large eggs
- 1 ⅜ cups white sugar
- Optional walnuts

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F. Line an 8 inch x 8 inch baking tray with parchment paper.
2. In a double-boiler, add your butter and chocolate to melt. After the butter and chocolate has been melted, set aside to cool.
3. While it's cooling, combine the eggs and sugar in a medium bowl; mix until fully combined.
4. Next, add cocoa powder and flour to the bowl mix until combined.
5. Finally, pour the cooled butter and chocolate mixture into the rest of the ingredients and mix until fully combined (it should have a thick consistency)
6. is when you would want to add your walnuts.
7. Pour the batter into the prepared pan; use a spatula to smooth the top.
8. Bake for 30-45 minutes or until a toothpick comes out with just a little bit of batter stuck to it; it should have a crackly crust.
9. Cool completely before enjoying!

NOTES

It's better to pull them out early rather than leave them in for too long.

No one likes their brownies over-baked, so when making this recipe or any brownie recipe for that matter, make sure to keep your eyes on them while they're baking. Bake the brownies until a toothpick comes out with just a bit of batter on it, and it'll continue to firm up as it cools.

Avoid eating before completely cooled.

I know it's tempting, but waiting for them to cool is an important step in the recipe, and here's why: letting them cool makes them fudgier and have a richer chocolate flavor. Plus, you'll get a cleaner cut when slicing them.

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Meetings are currently held after eating lunch, 12:00 PM, approximately once a week, with consultations and working meetings on an individual basis as needed.

Middle school students may also contribute articles by emailing ideas and following through with the advisor.

Email to:

Bhahorizontimes@gmail.com

Sincerely,

The Horizon Times
Team