

# BIA Horizons: Enlightening Your Life

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**BAYTUL IMAN ACADEMY**  
**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:**  
**SR. AMBREEN AHMAD**

## ***BIA's New Hazlet Campus: Onwards to Greener Pastures Insha'Allah! By Dr. Talat Sultan***

*Assalamo-Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu!*

It is generally agreed upon that the Islamic schools have a decided advantage over other schools in terms of their well-behaved and disciplined students. The school atmosphere is permeated with the fragrance of salam, peace, brotherhood and sisterhood. In addition, the Islamic schools have the treasure of dedicated and devoted teachers that is rare to be found elsewhere. However, one of our major handicaps has been the lack of suitable and spacious physical facility. Even some of our best Islamic schools are accommodating their students in rental trailers!

It is indeed a sheer blessing of Allah [SWT] that He has bestowed upon us the gift of an excellent large building

that was already being used as an educational institution. It has spacious classrooms, offices, a Learning Resource Center [with a library, Computer Laboratory, and an Audio-Visual Center], a big multi-purpose Gymnasium [with a stage for an auditorium, banquet hall and a prayer hall] and a regular *Mussallah* to be used for five times prayers as well as for *Hifz* classes.. In addition, the entire building is well furnished.

*This precious Ina'm [award] from Allah [SWT] has also brought certain challenges along with it. Teachers cannot lament any more for the lack of sufficient space to try additional creative and innovative methods of teaching. Students have to prove worthy of enjoying their recess and*



*activity time by being more punctual, disciplined and protective of the new property. Parents and administrators do not have the excuse any more for not doing their best to promote the school in the community and to increase its enrollment. Alhamdulillah, ever since we have moved to this new location, almost every day we have been receiving new admissions. This is certainly an indication that our additional efforts can bring fruitful results.*

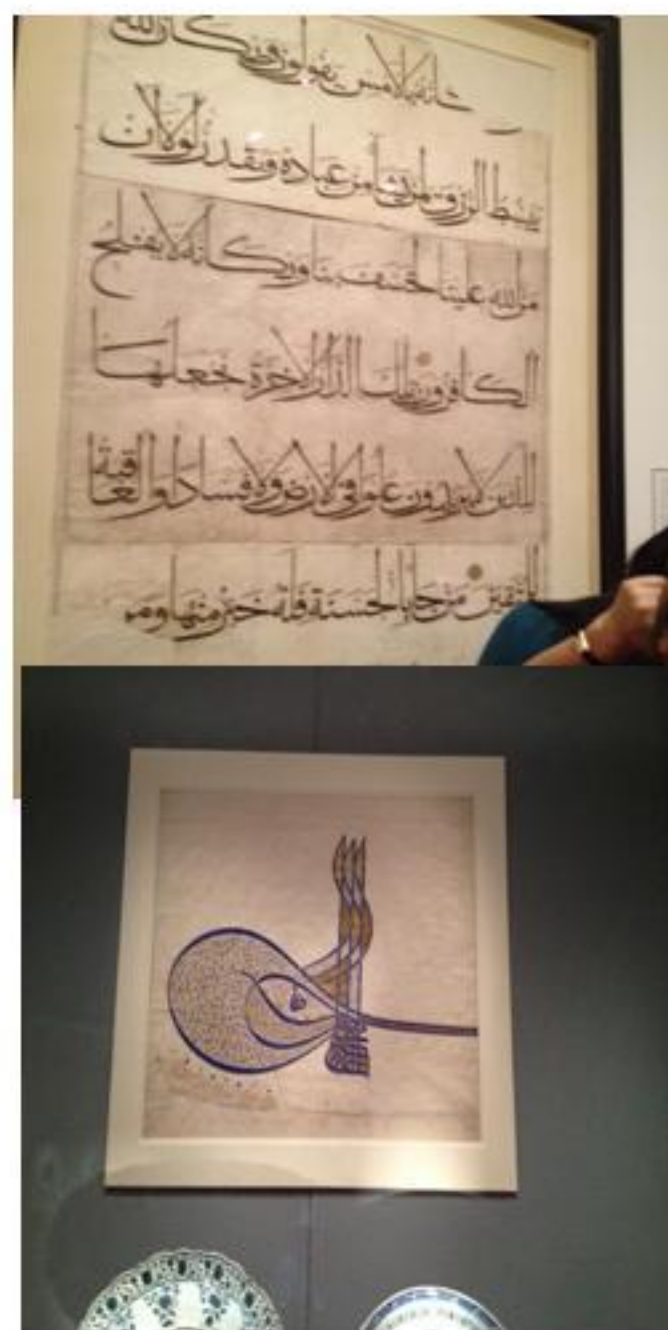
*Finally, the biggest of all challenges is to do our best in donating as*

*funds for the full payment of the building as soon as possible and for the running expenses of the school. Lets all resolve to make the upcoming fund raising dinner and opening of the new building a big success. Please distribute the publicity cards for the event, hand out the invitations to selected key individuals, and sell as many tickets as possible.*

**May Allah [SWT] reward you profusely for all your endeavors in meeting the above challenges. [Amin]**



### Making Memories: Trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art



*I grew up in Long Island, NY yet I never knew of the plethora of historic treasures in the heart of NYC known as the Metropolitan Museum of Art. In mid-January, grades three to eight had the opportunity to visit the MET. Many children went on the trip and reminisce about it still as an experience they will not soon forget.*

*Among the tombs of Ancient Egyptian kings, the children and teachers alike were delighted to find multitudes of artistic*

*treasures from ancient Islamic civilizations.*

*Whether it was an earlier copy of the Quran or the Persian carpet with embroidered Arabic manuscript, every artifact piqued the students' interests. They could be heard "ooh-ing" and "aah-ing" throughout the halls of the MET. The glass-enclosed atrium, surely inspired from a Nile oasis, drew the students' (and teachers') curiosity. One student remarked that this would be an excellent place to curl up with a book about Egyptian history. The collection of East Asian art and other artifacts were displayed in a most attractive way.*



*(cont. from above)*

*The tomb of King Perneb was especially interesting to some students while they tried to decipher what the hieroglyphs on the wall must mean. The similarity between cuneiform on ancient papyrus and early Arabic manuscript was wondrous. Even the stained glass window in the American art wing, with its various vibrant colors inspired the artist in each student.*

*Whether they be a close to home trip such as the trip to the MET, or a trip around the world, journeys of any kind invoke the nomad in all of us invoking an adventuresome and innovative nature. The students enjoyed this trip immensely and eagerly look forward to another similarly fantastic opportunity Insha'Allah in the very near future.*

*~by Sr. Ambreen Ahmad*

### Students' Recollections

#### Mango-Shaped Flask

*~by Iqra Sajjad*

**4th grade**

When we went to the Metropolitan Museum, there were many pieces of art that fascinated and amazed me. I saw many types of Arabian, Islamic, Indian, and Asian artwork. The one that I really liked was this mango-shaped flask.

The flask was made in India in the mid-17th century. Work on it started in 1634 and finished in 1666. It was created from rock crystal set with gold enamel, rubies, and emeralds. It is 2 1/2 inches tall. It was used as a decoration piece and a utilitarian object. I liked this flask the most because of its

-design. It looked very fragile and fancy. The stones and gold made it look very pretty. The shape especially was very interesting. I've never seen any decorative item shaped like a fruit, much less my favorite fruit. It was very unique.

#### Magnificent Nature

*~by Afreen Bakht 6th grade*

On January 18th, 2012 we all went to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in NYC. It was an amazing place where many artifacts from ancient civilizations from around the world were preserved. There were many pieces of art there that interested and stunned me, but my favorite one was definitely the stained glass window located in the American wing of the museum titled "The Magnificence of Nature."

The jade blue robins flut-

tered their wings as the gorgeous flowers caught the viewer's eyes. The beaks of the birds reflected the tangerine colored sky. They sniffed the pleasant aroma of the cream flowers. Their petals had the perfect hint of amber as they overlapped each other to create a magnificent shape. Underneath the flowers grew the sprouting chestnut stems with clinging leaves the shade of olive green. The entire scene characterized the meaning of "the magnificence of nature."

This stained glass window was very amazing to me because it showed how nature interacts with each other to create a circle of life, and how a piece of art can portray the meaning of nature.



## Students' Debates

### About Animal Testing:

~ By Sr. Ambreen Ahmad

*"We send thee not but as mercy for all creatures." [Quran 21:107] Islam has laid down laws for us towards not only humans but also animals of every kind. With this responsibility comes the opportunity to use it well. While in the pursuit of industrial endeavors, often times animals are tested on in place of their human counterparts. From cosmetics to pharmaceuticals, rest assured an animal has allowed us to use it upon ourselves. Many people argue that this is cruelty to animals. While others argue that if not animals, than surely how can we allow humans to become "guinea pigs" for untested products. It is a controversial topic to say the least, but, regardless of the side you choose, surely it's only dependent upon your opinion of which is the lesser evil.*

### Pro:

**Ridaa Dadani 7th grade**

"If animals cannot be used for testing, then who do we test on?"

**Fatima Gohar 7th grade**

"Since animals match us through 99% of our DNA composition, then they can help us gather data for products and medicine for use on us."

**Omar Mbarki 7th grade**

"I do agree that animal testing is like tormenting animals, but I also believe in sacrifice for a greater good."

### Animal Testing: Pros and Cons—

**Saarah Khan 6th grade**

"Causing pain to innocent animals cannot be justified no matter how much profit it would potentially bring, but the most important thing is that the reduction of human suffering is our first priority and the prevention of animal suffering or death is secondary to that. So, if there is a decent chance that an experiment will result in an important medical breakthrough that will reduce human suffering and death then it is justifiable to do it.

### Con:

**Sarah Morsi 6th grade**

"Animal testing is a controversial subject and a practice that many people find immoral and cruel. Some people believe that animal experimentation is a worthwhile tactic that has helped improve human medicine. This fact may sound fine to many of you, but it is false and scientific evidence proves it. First of all there are many differences, psychological and physiological, between an animal and a human. Those who approve the violent act may be thinking that it is better because of the outcome. As a result of this atrocious belief, scientists proceed to enhance new levels of more inhumane testing."

**Iman Khalil 6th grade**

"According to the Humane Society of the United States, one study demonstrated that 92 percent of drugs that pass animal testing fail human safety trials. Also, a major issue of animal testing is that animals are kept in unnatural conditions (such as a lab and not their habitat). Animals in pain or distress won't give rise to accurate or consistent results. Therefore, they won't react to the drugs in the same way compared to their potential reaction in a natural environment. This further weakens the validity of animal experimentation.

Another issue with testing is the large catalogue of errors and failures that have occurred as a result of animal subjects. As many as half the drugs that have been approved in the US and UK after animal testing have subsequently had to be withdrawn because of harmful side effects. Furthermore, it is a highly costly method of testing in general. Housing, feeding, controlling environment etcetera are all extremely financially burdensome.

In conclusion, just because animals can't protect themselves and their rights doesn't mean that humanity can do whatever they want and take control over any animal. As researchers try minimizing and reducing

*We want your Opinion!  
Who do you think made  
the stronger argument;  
Pro/For or  
Con/Against?*

*Please email us at  
Deb8BIA@gmail.com  
with your responses!*

-the pain that they themselves cause the animals that they torment, they aren't able to completely prevent it from not harming the animals. You see researchers use anesthetic, and in some types of testing, the anesthetic reacts with the product being tested which in turn results in tragedy."

**Afreen Bakht 6th grade**

"In addition to the fact that animals are different in their physiology from human beings, if an even closer genetic relative is chosen as "subject" then we run the risk of psychological harm. This is expected if not inevitable in an animal which would be more intelligent, and treating it as just a biological object would be careless and irresponsible.

In this type of testing experimented "subjects" often are born, live, and die in captivity. Often times these animals receive tests for substances that will never actually see approval, public consumption, and use. It is this (cont. page 7)



# Writer's Corner

## Sweet Doll

~By Ayesha Siddiqui

### 1st Grade

I have a doll;  
Sweet and Tall,  
Slim and Smart.  
I bought it from the Mart.  
Her name is Ruth;  
Fresh like a fruit.  
Her hair is brown.  
She wears a crown.  
She is very pretty,  
I call her cutie.

### Fifth Grade Finds

**Prompt: Imagine that one day you find a treasure chest. Tell us about your "find". Use vivid words to paint a picture for your reader.**

## My Treasure Hunt

~By Yusra Ulhaq

Yesterday morning, when I was on my daily search in the ocean riding my submarine, I suddenly saw a sparkle as bright as sunlight in the sand. The sand danced off me in swirls like snow, soft and light. Yet, the amazing find did not escape my eyes. I couldn't believe my eyes! It was there right in front of me. A golden chest!

I swam out and brought the chest into my submarine. When I went to open the chest a piece of gold and a white pearl fell out of the keyhole! Just then the phone rang. It was

my boss.

"Yusra, you won't believe this. This millionaire who lives on a private island just said on the news that he's dropped this gold chest full of treasures into the ocean. It's right around where you do your daily rounds!" he told me out of breath.

"I found it." I told him smiling.

"Oh my God, that's great! You won't believe this! He did it on purpose as a sort of good deed. You get to keep it!" he said laughing and with amazement in his voice.

I was so happy. I went back home to my island shack and went to work. I made a pearl necklace and gold rings out of the jewels! My boss thought I would quit. Why would I? I want to keep the job and go on more adventures in the deep blue ocean. Who knows what I'll find next!

### The Treasure Chest

~By Sumaiyya Ramadani

Dear Journal,

One day while my crew and I were on the Guana Beach in the Bahamas, we came upon a bump in the sand. In great anticipation, we dug up an old rusty brown treasure chest. Luckily, the treasure chest did not have a lock so it was easy to open. When we opened the treasure chest we saw lots of shiny silver and gold coins. There were necklaces and one big tiara.

The three necklaces had a rare look and feel. The first one had deep blue sparkly diamonds and a yellow gold "knick knack" that said "RULER". The second one had star-shaped rubies that were as red as a rose and looked as if they must possess some sort of power. The third necklace had off-white pearls that shone like stars. Lastly the beautiful tiara had 22 pearls, 800 diamonds, and 5 leaf-green emeralds that were stunning. Finding this treasure was worth walking on the endless sandy coast for a million miles again. In fact, that's just what we did; except this time we had a big chest treading behind us!

Your Eternal Traveler,  
Sumaiyya

## My Treasure Hunt

~By Ayesha Yasir

One summer afternoon my parents decided to take my brother, sister, and me on a nature hike in the 'mysterious woods' behind our house. It was believed that a Native American Captain Warrior buried his treasure there. So we packed our camping equipment and set off into the woods. The day passed very quickly and soon it was time to set up our tent and roast marshmallows. After that, we went to do a little exploring. On our way, we passed chirping crickets and flow-

-ing rivers. We had just moved the leaves of a large tree out of our way when we came upon a high cliff which was more than two miles above the ground. The cliff was in the shape of a crooked triangle. It was 5 feet in length and right behind it there was a big bent tree.

I was walking around the area with my brother when we came upon a big hump in the ground. My brother told me it was just a big hump of sand and rocks, but I was too curious to let it go at that. Luckily, I had my shovel, so I started digging. I kept digging and digging till I saw... a buried treasure with a golden key on top of it! I opened the treasure with the key and happily called my parents. We rejoiced at the discovery! There were red, blue, and purple gems overflowing out of it. There was also a crown, sword, and other jewels. There were also crystals and diamonds in it.

Since that day we all live in a beautiful castle and as the saying goes "happily ever after!"

## Primary Persuasion

~By Tayyar Hasanat 3rd grade

**Prompt: The mayor of your town recently made the following statement: "It always strikes me as a terrible shame to see young people spending so much time staring at television. If we could unplug all the TV sets in America, our children would grow up to be healthier, better educated, and more independent human beings." Do you agree or disagree with the mayor; why or why not? I partially agree with the mayor's statement (cont. page 5)**



# Writer's Corner

**Primary Persuasion by Tayyar Hasanat** (continued from page 4) that it is a "terrible shame" to see young people spending so much time on television. I agree with the "so much" part as excess of anything is bad. Childhood is a crucial part in a human's life for their mental and psychological development. One should involve themselves in creative and constructive activities. If one is staring at the TV all the time, they are going to become lazy. Watching TV for a long time also makes one cranky and irritated.

Although, I disagree with the mayor's idea to "unplug" all the TV sets in America. If all TV access is cut off, then we will not be updated with the world and its current events. Even to update ourselves with the weather, we have to watch TV. Instead of "unplugging," if we were to modify the mayor's statement a bit by *reducing* TV time, our children will grow up to be "healthier, better educated, and more independent human beings."

## A Cycle's Beauty

~By *Rahma Mbarki 8th Grade*

A tree shadows a patch of grass.  
Its leaves green and full of life,  
But fall comes rolling by,  
And the leaves fall with a trembling sigh.

The cold touch of winter enters the scene.  
The limbs of the tree are now brittle and lean,  
But after awhile spring's warmth comes in  
Making up for the cold winter's sin.

Sooner or later summer comes back  
Compensating for what the other seasons lack.  
Flowers like roses and tulips sprout around.  
Their beautiful petals littering the ground.

And autumn comes flowing again  
Silencing the calls of the beautiful wren.  
A cycle of life repeats once more  
Preparing nature for what's in store.

## The People and the Sun

~By *Humzah Faizah 4th Grade*

Once upon a time, some people were frolicking on the beach having lots of fun. On the other hand, the sun wasn't in a good mood at all!

"I'm wasting all of my energy on the summer for these people who don't care at all about me," he pouted.

After a few days of thinking about it, the sun

decided to go away forever. After he left, every day was a dark and sad one. The moon was happy about it though! He could stay around forever! Without the sun, there was no spring, summer, fall, or winter. The people missed the sun a lot.

One day the Sun realized that he hadn't said goodbye to anyone, so he came down to earth just for one day.

"This is our chance to explain," the people realized. "Oh, Sun! Please do not go! Without you, every day is cold and dark. We're sorry we got carried away," the people apologized.

The Sun thought about this and said, "I admit. I miss you guys too. I just wanted someone to appreciate me."

After that, the people and the sun had great fun. They all lived happily ever after; the sunny Sun shining all the time, and the people enjoying its warmth for all the days to come.

## Martin Luther King: Student's posts

(cont. from page 6)

-wanted to sit down. After Rosa Parks (an African American lady), got arrested for riding in the white section of a bus, most African Americans were enraged,. With Martin Luther King Jr. as their leader, they boycotted the city buses. After a year, the boycott was successful and the buses no longer had separate sections based on race. The boycott's leaders chose King as their spokesman.

King's opinions and success in winning civil rights angered many people. In the spring of 1968, while helping the African American sanitation worker of Memphis, King was shot and killed by James Earl Ray. He is still remembered today as a leader who changed the world as we know it. We honor him and other African Americans in the month of February.

~Maram Ayadi 5th grade





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# Eternal Legacy: Martin Luther King Jr.

*"I have a dream that on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit at the table of brotherhood..."* Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I have a Dream" speech is one of the most well-known, and often recited and re-enacted, American speeches to date. Today Martin Luther King Jr. is remembered as one of the most influential people of the millennium affecting not only his time, but history over all. He, through his use of non-violent protest, taught the people of the world that one can find a solution to major conflict through love and brotherhood. These two thoughts are essentially Muslim in their origin. The Quran and Hadith teach us to show love to our fellow brothers and sisters, to be tolerant of those different from us, and to be forgiving to those that have wronged us. MLK, through his work may have worked to end segregation in his time, but left us all with an eternal message of peace and

-ty.

*It is true that even without MLK certainly another would have come that would've ended segregation in the United States, but whether or not that other would have united the American people through a rule of non-violence isn't necessary. In February, as Americans we honor Martin Luther King Jr. for his work (that unfortunately led to his abrupt demise). As Muslims, we pray that we Muslims may learn from his message of brotherhood and unify our community and religion forgiving actions and factions that divide us. Insh'Allah and Ameen.*

*~Sr. Ambreen Ahmad*

**Humzah Faizan 4th grade**

Martin Luther King Jr. helped us all. He helped ban segregation. He made a famous speech called "I have a Dream." He led a peaceful protest to help achieve his goal of unity. In the 1950s, he was assassinated by James Earl Ray.

**Farhaan Ali Mohammad 4th**

**grade**

Martin Luther King Jr. affected my life because I am a Muslim American. I would be treated like an African American because I am not a white American. He helped end segregation. He saved all Americans from staying divided. He made a wonderful speech called "I have a Dream." He was assassinated while giving a speech.

**Taimur Chaudhry 4th grade**

The American people only treat "white" Americans as "true" Americans. So when Martin Luther King Jr. helped end segregation, which helped give all people that are not "white" equal rights. It gave us Muslims rights too because it made us as much equal to everyone else as well. Without him standing up for African Americans, the United States even today would have been segregated and divided. Everyone should be thankful to him; I know I am! I can't imagine life without him in history.

**Afreen Bakht 6th grade**

Martin Luther King Jr. affected our life because there are Muslims who are black and who are white. If he had not ended segregation, that we would have been divided just like the rest of United States was in that time. If we were divided then we would not be unified. Alhamdu'lilaah for Martin Luther King Jr.'s work to end a divided America.

-the world without violence, but with understanding. If he hadn't stood up for American civil rights Muslims would not be able to mingle with any races that were different from them. They wouldn't have been treated equally and have rights like they do as well. He had a huge impact on my life by showing me how we get through life's problems without violence. I will never forget him for standing up for individual civil rights.

**Maram Ayadi 5th grade**

In the 1950s, black people were not treated very well in the United States. Public places, including schools and restrooms, were segregated in many Southern states. That means that there were separate buildings or areas for black people and for white people. Even in Northern states, black people often weren't allowed to live in nicer neighborhoods. They were rarely hired for good jobs. Their children could not go to good schools. In some places they even had to give up their seats on the



# LAST WORDS

## The Sun

The sun rises every day,  
And sets every night;  
Giving us warm kisses,  
And hugs us with its rays.  
The sun is yellow and bright.  
It helps crops grow,  
And heats a cold winter.  
With the sun's warm kisses,  
Planet Earth and every living creature  
flourishes with life.  
The birds cruise in the heated air.  
It seems like the sun is floating in the sky.  
The sun rays never seem to weaken.  
The sun dries the clothes on the  
clothesline so the clothes may be suitable  
to wear.  
How can we imagine to survive without  
the Sun.

~By Yahya Ashour 4th grade

## Random Ruby

Random Ruby  
Rode a Raft  
Down the Rapid River.  
She Rode to Russia  
And met a Ridiculous Rat.  
Then, she ate some Raspberries in a Rush,  
At a Restaurant in Rome.  
After some Ravioli and Ripe Radish,  
She Realized that she was Running out of  
time.

So she Rode a Rigid Rhino all the home.

~By Ridaa Dadani 7th grade

## Students' Debates

(cont. from page 3)

Con-

## Afreen Bakht 6th grade (cont.)

"...aspect of animal testing that many view  
as a major negative against the practice, as  
it seems that the animal died in vain because  
no direct benefit to humans occurred.

Animals have the right to be treated as  
beings of value in themselves, not as the  
means to human ends; this principle must  
be applied in order to guarantee the end  
of cruelty to animals. The application of  
this principle means that animals should  
never be experimented upon whatever the  
potential gain for humanity. To infect  
monkeys with the AIDS virus or to expose  
rodents to toxic chemicals and radiation is  
simply not acceptable, whatever the  
supposed benefits."

## Saif Syed 7th grade

"Animal testing should be stopped...it's  
wrong for the animals. We must find  
another way."

## Zonera Hashmi 7th grade

"Just because they can't talk or express  
their feelings doesn't mean that you should  
go ahead and test them to see if cosmetics  
or medicines are okay for use on us."

## Isha Sajjad 7th grade

"Animals feel pain and sorrow just as we  
do. Who are we to threat them like test  
subjects?"

## Saphiya Sultan 7th grade

"I'm personally more so against  
testing, but pharmaceutical  
companies should come up with  
an (natural) alternative to finding  
cures to harmful diseases."

## A Poetic Footnote

By Sr. Fahmina Hasanat

Alhamdu'lillah, during the  
second parent teacher meeting  
we had the annual poetry  
exhibition which went  
successfully. This poetry  
exhibition was an opportunity  
for visitors to observe the  
outstanding collection of the  
young poets of B.I.A. As  
Wordsworth describes poetry  
as "the spontaneous overflow of  
powerful feeling", young poets  
incorporated their own life  
experiences and feelings into  
their poems. This was also a way  
to escape trivial circumstances  
and serves as an outlet for their  
diversified and varying  
circumstances. The exhibition  
displayed different forms of  
poems like cinquain, diamante,  
haiku, senryu, limerick, ABC,  
enjambments, and alliteration  
poems. The students also  
explored Shakespearean  
sonnets, "I Wish" poems, and  
plenty of tree verses.