

BIA Horizons: Enlightening Your Life

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

Summer Farewell 2012

by Sr. Qudsia Awan Vice Principal

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Asalaamualaikum Community Members;

By Allah SWT's grace and all of your cooperation, we have successfully completed the academic year of 2011-2012 Alhamdulillah. I am extremely grateful for your trust and support. Jazak'Allah for every word of praise or constructive feedback you have readily offered. BIA's warm and welcoming atmosphere is the result of the families of BIA working to-

gether to achieve a common purpose.

The highlight of the school year was moving to the new building. Alhamdulillah, we have a new school building at 311 Laurel Avenue, Hazlet, NJ. This new building has a gymnasium with a stage, a library, spacious classrooms, an IT lab, a dedicated prayer room, a large parking lot, and much more.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of each BIA staff member, and express my appreciation to every single person of the team for the smooth transition from one location to another. The enthusiasm of our administration, staff, and parents has allowed us to realize unprecedented achievements throughout the school year. An example of this is the performance of the students in the 2012 ICNA Quiz; we had 7 finalists, and 4 winners. We also had 4 finalists as well, as the 1st place trophy, in the 2012 North Star Poetry competition. We had 2 finalists in the first ever National Muslim Spelling Bee. We had 14 BIA students who won awards for the 2012 Math Olympiad. For the third successive year,



one of our students was the finalist in the national 2012 "Doodle for Google" competition. We also won one of the top three trophies in the 2012 New Jersey Science Olympiad. Also, just this month, our children have been honored to be awarded in the John Hopkins Gala ceremony.

I encourage you to explore our website and Facebook page. By doing this you will be able to stay up to date with our upcoming events. We have some wonderful programs lined up this summer. Our summer camp is starting June 25th. Along with this program, we are offering swimming classes, starting form Saturday, June 17th Insha'Allah. Please register as soon as possible to ensure enrollment. For more information, please visit our website at www.baytuliman.org.

We also have tried to keep you aware of all that goes

on at BIA through our weekly classroom activities report, the development of our website, and the regularity of our newsletter. We have also coordinated the Arabic and Quran curriculum Masha'Allah.

I thank everyone who has dedicated their time, talents, and energy to support and improve our school. We could not operate so efficiently without the help of our generous parents and volunteers. Please keep us in your prayers this summer as we are working diligently at making all the necessary preparations for next year

Insha'Allah!

Jazak'Allah Khayran,

Sr. Qudsia Awan

Vice-Principal

Ladies' Evening by Afreen Bakht, Sarah Morsi, & Iman Khalil

Dignity arrived like a shower after a blinding fog in the mist of the night of May 12th in the halls of our own demure BIA. The gymnasium; where bows hovered over walls, showered with an iridescent glow and beams of intense kaleidoscope pigments. The sizzling gourmet desserts came fleeing through the doors in the hands of the mistresses of the lady's bash. The aroma coming from home cooked meals brought cream licked smiles brightening the faces of many attendees. Every hand decorated with silhouettes, twines,

-and arches created in exquisite henna hued designs. In the end, the hearts and souls of daughters and mothers bonded in a way which would be kept even if enduring winds blast towards them. Amongst the recitations of poems and verses, amongst the jokes and laughs, amongst the competitions of nasheed chairs and Islamic knowledge a precedent set of a celebration of unity between the varying families in the Muslim community of central Jersey. In-sha'Allah may we all remain so united.

Muslim Spelling Bee Nationals @ Chicago- Representing BIA by Ridda Dadani

When I made it to the Muslim Spelling Bee Finals in Chicago I had hardly known that barely a week later I'd be on stage representing my school BIA. As soon as my school heard of the first ever "Muslim Spelling Bee" it immediately knew that we, its students, could win this contest, much like we have won many others. Masha'Allah! We immediately registered to participate. How excited I was to participate, and after I won the BIA annual Spelling Bee in our school, my excitement grew immensely. Day after day, my studying increased in direct proportion to my anticipation. Finally, the day arrived!

We left for New York; I couldn't wait to set foot on stage. As the seconds ticked by the tighter the knot in my stomach grew. Finally, it was my turn. In short, by the Grace of Allah I won!! At first, I was too dazed to believe that whatever was happening around me was the reality, not just a mere dream. Then came the hard part; I had to study for the Finals exactly a week later. I was studying every moment I had. Even in the car I was studying. In Physical Education, you would see me studying. I was studying so much that at

ICNA Competition: Through the Eyes of the Champ by Zonera Hashmi

Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA) organizes an annual young Muslims' quiz competition for children and youth. The objective of this event is to stimulate the spiritual and intellectual development of the youth by providing an incentive for gaining knowledge on Islamic history. The event has been successfully organized by ICNA-NJ every year since 1999, and is a favorite among Muslim families in New Jersey. The "jeopardy style" event is a fun filled experience for the entire family with great prizes for winners. There are also participation prizes for all competitors. This popular event

also allows young Muslims an opportunity to enjoy a whole day in the company of hundreds from their own age group. Participants from diverse backgrounds unite in the name of Islam and share this one-of-a-kind experience with fellow young Muslims. During the morning session, all participants take a written exam. Five top scorers from each of the six levels qualify for the final round. While participants are taking their written exams an exclusive (cont. pg. 6)

one point I felt as if my brain was going to explode. After a long week of studying, the day came when we boarded our flight to the Chicago O' Hare International Airport. It was night when we reached there and the next morning were the Finals! The next day I started studying the moment I opened my eyes. We quickly ate breakfast, got ready, and left. The seconds seemed as if they were hours. After about what seemed like five centuries it was our turn. My legs began to shake and felt as if I was going to faint. At the end of it all I lost. I felt as if this was a major setback and was extremely disappointed, but when my mother told me a hadith of the Prophet

(SAW); no matter what situation you are in you should always thank Allah, I felt a bit better. I may not have achieved the first position, but I tried my best and gave it my all in representing my school.



As Americans we hold certain rights dear; as Americans from diverse backgrounds, or with ancestors from diverse backgrounds we value these certain rights as privileges not to be taken for granted. Unfortunately, even many Muslim countries the world over may not have such rights in their legal code as the legal code of the United States, the Constitution, has. Recently, these rights, the incentives for many of us immigrating to this country, have begun to be challenged to the point that they may not exist anymore. On New Year's eve of 2011, President Obama signed a bill called the National Defense Authorization Act. What this bill pertains to mainly refers to the appropriation of funds and the like, but what many are finding offensive in this law is a particular section titled 1021 which allows Obama draconian worldwide authority to seize anyone suspected of "terrorism," or providing "aid to terrorists," or "associated forces" anywhere in the world including American citizens on American soil, and "and hold them without charge or trial indefinitely!" People against NDAA have spoken out against it citing unconstitutionality. People supporting the law argue for the act citing evidence that proves that if such an act existed before the atrocities of 9/11, the terrorist acts would not have occurred or at the very least been deterred! Many people in the middle on this issue have requested the government to seek a neutral sol-

Students' Debates

NDAA Debate— Pro vs. Con

-ution; one which would ensure American safety without hindering American freedom.

Soon after our future "activists" were told to debate on this issue, Federal Judge Katherine Forrest of New York upheld an injunction against the controversial provisions in NDAA. Regardless, lets observe the cases made by the future class of 2013 and 2014:

-Sr. Ambreen Ahmad

Pro-

NDAA allows the government to listen, search, and investigate upon communications previously regarded as private. This helps them find terrorists, as well as find facts to solve investigations of crimes. Their discoveries may reveal a culprit confessing their crime providing information to questions that otherwise would not be answered. **-Sarah Morsi**

After 9/11 the police arrested many people that had no involvement in it. If NDAA had existed back then, than the wrong people would not have been accused because they would have already know who had committed the crime. **-Saarah Khan**

I think NDAA should continue in finding out what people are doing or planning to do through all means necessary. After 9/11 we know that this is the only way to ensure

"real" information. For the safety of this country (and the world) we need to know when and where terrorism may be before it succeeds in its ugly mission.

-Narjis Moosavi

I think the government should be able to intercept private communications because that may help them intercept crime and stop people before they commit a crime/terrorism.

-Zainab Adebule

In today's time, one of the most controversial provisions is those of the NDAA bill.

The NDAA bill has addressed many things, such as a national security program, department of defense health-care costs, and military modernization. Although, there is another side to the NDAA bill which many people haven't yet understood, one of the good purposes this serves is that it sets out to grasp internationally acting traitors accountable! Most importantly it is over all a communicative network which watches out for other continued traitors which will always be considered the best counter terrorism system.

-Iman Khalil

Since 9/11 the American government has been trying to observe any person with "terrorist associations." In order to aid this purpose, they have passed the NDAA law which lets them listen to

*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!

communications, and arrest those considered a threat without having a trial. I personally support this act because no one know what another is capable of if not for this type of precaution. The government has a duty to protect us, and in order to fulfill their duty they must have some rights which make it easier for them. In this way, the ends will justify the means.

-Afreen Bakht

Con-

Piece by piece our freedoms as American citizens have been blown apart. The "American Dream" has become the "American Nightmare". President Obama signed NDAA into law on New Year's Eve 2011 authorizing the government to imprison any person "suspected" of terrorism or other "belligerent acts". Our constitution is being shattered! Our forefathers wrote the Bill of Rights, the ten amendments, clearly stating the 'right of trial by jury to be preserved'! It's time we wake up and fight for the rights guaranteed to us since 1787.

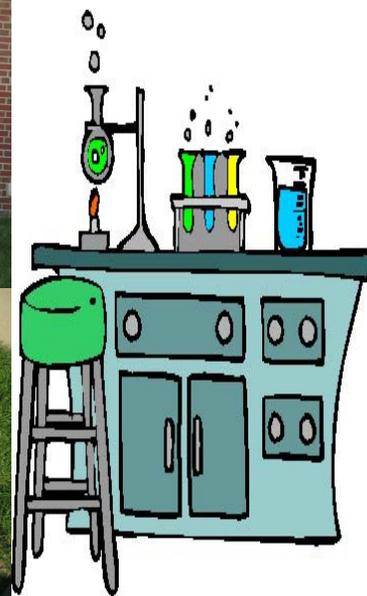
-Ridda Dadani

(cont. pg 9)

Scientific Adventures by Sarah Morsi, Iman Khalil, and Afreen Bakht

On Saturday, May 19th, 2012, the New Jersey Science Olympiad was held at the Morristown Friends School. There were several schools competing in the prestigious contest. Each school presented their respective skills in sixteen obstacles including "Bottle Rocket," "Mystery Architecture," "Catapult," and many more. It was a functional and organized event. Each project was set against a fixed timing, to increase competitiveness amongst the students.

Six awards were given out for each competition; the positions ranged from one to six. Masha'Allah out of all schools competing, Baytul Iman Academy won fourteen out of sixteen competitions. Baytul-Iman achieved one of top three trophies Masha'Allah. Baytul-Iman did it once again and brought home medals, trophies; the honor of maintaining a championship Masha'Allah!



Summer Thrills by Fatima Gohar

It was a bright sunny morning and my family and I were getting ready to go to Dorney Park. It was going to be a long trip. I got ready and went into the car. First we had to pick up our cousins. The windows were rolled down and the humid air was hitting my face with a punch of heat.

After what seemed like a lifetime, we finally got to the park. When I got out of the car, the first thing I noticed was a ride which looked like a gruesome dragon. The ride took you 20 feet into the air and dropped down at an accelerated speed. I had an incredible fear of rollercoasters. I felt as if my stomach was going to come out of my throat. After getting our tickets, I noticed the buttery

-scent of popcorn in the air. The delicious aroma wafted up my nose, gnawing at my appetite. In no time, my mouth filled with saliva. Simultaneously, I felt as if my eardrums would burst from the sounds of the screaming people shrill in their excitement/fear on the rides. They sounded like they were in a horror movie and not an AMUSEMENT park. Little did I know that before the day was up, I too would be amongst those crazies.

It involved a lot of begging from my cousin, but finally I was *forced* to "accompany" my cousin on the rollercoaster. As soon as I sat down, I closed my eyes as tight as I could. When we had

-reached the top of the first drop, I was sure I was going to die! To make matters worse, the relentless wind was not helping me any! "3, 2, 1...Ahhhh!!!!" The rest of the ride was a blur because I was too busy thinking about my good deeds versus my sins and whether or not I would end up in hell. When we finally stopped, it started to rain. Don't you just love Mother Nature? Some rides closed down, but after an hour or so the rides opened up again. At that point, half of the park had left. We had it all to ourselves, so we went to the water park because the water falling from the bright blue sky just wasn't enough! We sat on a few water (cont. pg. 6)

Syrian Summers by Hamdi Lababidi

Syrian times are very hot, especially in the summer. Once I swear I almost melted!! The coldest day is 103 degrees farren-height. Often you are stuck in the house with nothing to do. There is

usually only one AC, probably in the living room. The worst part in a Syrian summer is when you have to go shopping. No carts, muddy roads, and lots of heavy things to carry. At the time, we did-

- car, so we would usually take a taxi. I would have to carry watermelons altogether, with possibly 3 bags of grapes, and/or eggplants. The worst part was never the heavy things, but the heat of the sun beating

-down on me while I carried the cumbersome things. When I would finally get to a taxi, I would put the stuff in the trunk. I would fall breathlessly on the seat, adjusting my red, numb hands while realizing that (cont. pg. 6)

Summer Reading Recommendations



A Critique of Animal Farm by Ridda Dadani

The book *Animal Farm* written by George Orwell takes place at a farm called “THE MANOR FARM” later renamed “THE ANIMAL FARM”. Its former owner is man named Jones. This setting is perfect for the story because the story is mainly about a revolution, which will later be discussed in this report. The farm is just like a society run by the rich, or in this case; the powerful animals. The poor and weak try to protest, but because of their weakness and poor status in the society they are quieted down by the rich and powerful animals. The rich and powerful animals are the pigs and the dogs which all the animals consider to be the most intelligent of the animals because of the fact that the pigs' ancestor was the one who inspired the Rebellion (which was when the animals took over the farm from its owner Jones). Following the pig's death and the “Rebellion”, the pigs take power.

The main characters of this written work becomes obvious at this point. They are Napoleon; the pig who emerges as the leader of *Animal Farm* after the Rebellion, Snowball; the pig who challenges Napoleon for control of *Animal Farm* after the Rebellion; Boxer, the cart-horse whose incredible strength, dedication, and loyalty play a key role in the early prosperity of *Animal Farm*, but then is betrayed by Napoleon. There is also Squealer; the pig who spreads Napoleon's propaganda among the other animals, Old Major; the boar who serves as the inspiration for the Rebellion, Clover; a good-hearted female cart-horse and Boxer's close friend, and Benjamin; the long-lived donkey who refuses to feel inspired by the Rebellion.

In the story, as I said, a farm is taken over by its mistreated, overworked, and starving animals. These animals set out to create a paradise of justice, progress and equality. Yet instead, they end up with something totally opposite of what they first intended to do. At first, *Animal Farm* prospers. When Mr. Jones reappears to take back his farm, the animals defeat him again, in what comes to be known as the “Battle of the Cowshed”. After this, Napoleon and Snowball have a fight during which Snowball is killed. Thereafter, Napoleon takes absolute power. Mr. Frederick cheats Napoleon in the purchase of some timber and then attacks the farm and dynamites the windmill. After the demolition of the windmill, a battle ensues during which Boxer receives major wounds. When Boxer later falls while working he senses that his time has nearly come. Then secretly Napoleon sells him to a slaughter house, and tells everyone that Boxer was sent to the hospital and was treated with the most expensive medicine, but nothing could cure him. Years pass on *Animal Farm*, and the pigs become more and more like human beings—walking upright, carrying whips, and wearing clothes. They become so much like humans that at the end it is hard to tell the difference between the pigs and the humans. In conclusion, the seven principles of Animalism, the animal's “code of morality and behavior”, becomes reduced to a single principle reading “all animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others.” This is the treachery the pigs do to the other animals.

The book *Animal Farm* is based on the Russian Revolution which took place during World War I due to which Russia had to leave the war and the United States of America entered. Because it is based on the Russian Revolution, the characters and events in the book symbolize many of the characters in the Russian Revolution such as Napoleon who is meant to be like Joseph Stalin. The dogs under the care of Napoleon are like the police threatening anyone who displeases Napoleon. Snowball is like Trotsky who was expelled from Russia just as Snowball was from *Animal Farm*. Jones symbolizes Czar Nicholas II. Both Jones and Czar Nicholas pretty much neglect their people, or in Jones' case animals, and therefore are overthrown by their subjects.

The reason I chose the book *Animal Farm* by George Orwell is because when I read its back cover it interested me and made me curious so I decided to go ahead and check out the book. Unsurprisingly, I really liked the book and would like to recommend this book to students who are learning about the Russian Revolution. The book intricately explains everything about the Russian Revolution so this confusing topic will be made easy through the book. Last but not the least, I really admire the way George Orwell has presented the characters and concepts in his book. I hope you get the book as soon as possible and read it. Enjoy! :)

A Review of “The Other Side of Truth” by Omar Mbarki

The story “The Other Side of Truth” is a children's novel by Beverly Naidoo, and a great one at that. Personally, the story doesn't appeal to me because of its political and historical theme. Yet, I am sure that many other people *will* enjoy it. The story's setting takes place in Ibadan, Nigeria, and later changes to a city in London when twelve year old Sade Solaja, and her ten year old brother, Femi Solaja, try to escape from danger.

Sade is a very brave and courageous character that loves school and wants to live in peace with her family. Her younger brother Femi, however, is the exact opposite of his older sister and leaves everything to her in regards to getting through difficult situations. In the story, when the siblings escape to London, Femi barely ever talks and seems always depressed and/or homesick. Two other characters that I would like to mention are Sade and Femi's uncle and father. Their father, Folarin Solaja, is a journalist who writes articles for *Speak*, an uncensored newspaper in a country that does not allow any freedom of speech. Folarin is very courageous and hates to lie, therefore writing the absolute truth (cont. pg. 8)

ICNA Competition—Through the eyes of the Champ by Zonera Hashmi

(cont. from pg. 2) adults program is held in the main auditorium. After lunch and Zuhr Salah, the jeopardy style buzzer quiz competition is held in the main auditorium for six levels. The event also features an Islamic bazaar.

My experience in ICNA has always been good. I have been going every year to ICNA since I was five years old. I have Alhamdulillah been going on the stage when I was in Levels 1, 3(twice), and 4 (twice). I won in Levels 3(twice 1st place) and 4 (twice 2nd and 1st place)). Both of the years when I was in level 3, I won a dirt bike. In level 4, the very first time I went, I won second place and received an iPod touch as a prize. The second time I went, I won first place and a Wii Console as a prize Alhamdulillah.

Going to competitions doesn't mean that you have to win no matter what. Winning or losing is in its own place, but the main thing of value we should all realize is that even if we don't win, we still are "winners" because we DO get to gain more Islamic knowledge. That in itself is noteworthy. I think every Muslim from every school, Islamic or not, should go to ICNA. We lack opportunities such as these in where we can gain knowledge and meet other Muslim people from different states and make new friends. Plus, we get to show what Baytul-Iman is capable of to other people unaware of our ability!

Muslim Spelling Bee Finals @ NYC by Saif Syed

My experience in the Muslim Spelling Bee was extremely interesting. It was held in Queens, NYC, which itself is great. Yet, I feel that the fact that it was held there was the only negative aspect about it. I will explain why I think this way.

You see I was very nervous the day of the Spelling Bee finals at NYC. The distance between my house and NYC only increased my anticipation. Every mile that we got closer to our destination, my anxiety increased ten folds. I was convinced that I was going to lose. Finally just when I felt that I couldn't handle the pressure any longer, we arrived.

I walked into the building and onto the stage. I kept saying to myself, "I'm going to lose on the first word." Yet, I didn't. In fact, I won fourth place overall. I had never seen my mom and dad so happy! I will definitely enter again; if for nothing then to see that pride in

my parent's eyes again insha'Allah!

Summer Thrills by Fatima Gohar (cont. from pg. 4)

-rides and when we were so drenched to the bone that even our eyebrows were dripping with water; we decided that we were done getting wet. Yet, then we decided to try one more water ride. On it we had to climb 200 flights of stairs and when we reached the top, the ride conductor told my cousins and I that we could go because we were wearing jeans. My cousin pretended that she didn't know English, and had asthma, in order to make him let us go down the easy way. Yet, he had no heart! He made us go back, and I swear I could hear people laughing at us.

Then my father decided to come out of his shell and sit on a rollercoaster. There was no way that I was sitting on another one, much less a bright yellow one. Yet my dad decided that I could go on the vomit green one instead because I had

sat on it in the morning. Well, after much thought I decided that if I lived the first time then I would surely survive a second time. Of course, then suddenly a thunderstorm started up! Going up, up, up I could hear the thunder rumble in my ears. I wanted to scream as loud as I could in my dad's ears for making me go a second time except I started to literally cry.

Finally after the ride was over we decided it was time to go home. I sat up front, and opened up the window. The cool breeze calmed my rattled nerves. The sight of a luminous moon combined with the gentle breeze helped me slowly drift off to sleep.

Syrian Summers by Hamdi Lababidi (cont. from pg. 4)

-tomorrow would probably be the same.



GRADUATES FAREWELL ADDRESS

Hassena Qalati's Melancholic Jazakallah Khayran

I've been in Baytul-Iman for almost eight years and now it's time to go to high school and leave the school that I've come to call my second home. I'm really going to miss all my friends and teachers. I'm going to miss all the fun times I had here, and I know those memories will be ones incomparable to the ones I will make. Due to the fact that I've spent so much time at B.I.A., I'm having hard time saying goodbye to it. I've grown accustomed to everyone here, and I won't be able to find that comfort and solace anywhere else. Other than the fact that everything will be new, from the people to the place, I will have a difficult time forming a bond with them. My relationships with the teachers and friends here run deep, and it'll be really hard to forge that with anyone else. I wish I didn't have to go and was able to stay here till the end of high school, but unfortunately I can't. No matter what hardship I came across (cont. pg. 8)



Maryam Salman Shaikh's Salaam

I've been in Baytul-Iman Academy since I can remember; pre-K to be exact. Basically, I've been coming here for an entire decade! Many of you may think that I must've been waiting for this day and the anticipation I feel must be bursting at the seams, but I'm not at all excited! In fact, I'm depressed. For the most part, I don't want to leave. I'm going to miss everyone and everything that I did here. Yes, there were times when I got so annoyed that I wished I was anywhere else, and that I could go to a different school if only for *once*. Yet, now I don't want to leave at all. I don't think I could have had this much anywhere else. I never would've had these perfect friends; sisters more than anything. I never would've had these perfect teachers; role models in every way.

In the past ten years, I've grown to trust these people so much and now I realize that I will find it very hard, if not impossible, to form these kinds of relationships wherever I may go. If growing up means leaving this place and these people, I wish I never had to grow up! The surprising thing is that I never realized this until this very year, when I'm about to leave. It's amazing how we don't realize what we have, until it's gone. I'm very sure that I will cry at the graduation ceremony, and probably make my friends cry too. I will never forget this school, but most of all I will never forget the people here; not one single person. I will forever cherish the memories that I made here, and utilize the lessons, life and otherwise, learned here, and I will infinitely represent this school on all paths of life; it's pride in every way possible Insha'Allah!

Rahma Mbarki's Insha'Allah and Advice

I've been in Baytul-Iman for ten year now, and to many of you that maybe A LOT, and truthfully it is. After all it is a DECADE! During my time here I've met a variety of people and made friends, along with getting my education. This is my last year at BIA, and I find myself feeling as if I'm about to lose a vital part of myself. I pretty much grew up with two of my classmates, and it's as if we're sisters. Now, all of us are at a crossroad, and must each take a different path. We were together up until now, and this is the very first time that we must make our own individual way in life. I know high school will be difficult at first for us all, but I hope that we may get through it with little or no hardship Insha'Allah. I would

like to thank all of my teachers for helping me get through eighth grade, and for all their support and encouragement. My homeroom teacher Sr. Hoda put all she could into helping my friends and I achieve the highest score possible and to completely, if not overly, be prepared for the life ahead of us. Before I conclude this I would like to tell next year's graduating class to give their all to their eighth grade studies. Please try to get excellent grades because in this world (what a world it is!) it's survival of the fittest. The one's who don't care about their education will lose out, in more way than one! I'm sorry if I sound like your dads or something, but you know something parents actually do know what they're talking about (most of the time, anyway!). Do give it all you can, and Insha'Allah you will do great!

Hassena Qalati's Melancholic Jazakallah Khayran (cont. from pg. 7)

-it was made easier due to the awesome friends I had. One advice I would like to give to the next year's graduating class is that enjoy your time here at Baytul-Iman because it is truly precious and you won't be able to bring back this time no matter how hard you try. Jazak'Allah Khayran.

Marwa Lababidi's Asalaamualaikum

My name is Marwa Lababidi. I have only been in BIA for 5th and 8th grade, but I think it's a great school. I think it's great because number one, it's got excellent teachers that pour so much knowledge into you. Also, because of Baytul Iman, I have so many memories that I will cherish for a lifetime. I love all my memories; with my friends, teachers, jokes, and the fun! I love learning with three girls my age. I love everything about this school!

A Review of "The Other Side of Truth" by Omar Mbarki (cont. from pg. 5)

-when he shouldn't. The children's Uncle Tunde is a skilled and dedicated lawyer. He easily find the truth a way to correct a situation even in a situation full of upheaval.

After Sade's mother's murder, Uncle Tunde urges folarin to send the children to London where he assumes they would be safe. Since Sade and Femi are in danger of being spotted in London, they pose as the children of a Mrs. Bankole, a stranger, in order to ensure their safety. Yet, after Femi and Sade reach London, their Uncle Dele fails to pick them up, and in turn Mrs. Bankole abandons them. They are later picked up by the Grahams and again by the Kings, trying to contact their Uncle Dele. Also, Femi and Sade aren't connected anymore because they are sent to different schools. Meeting a person with a story almost identical to her, Sade and Mariam, the girl she meets, become best friends. After a while, they find out that their father had secretly come to London to find them, but has gotten caught and will be sent back to Nigeria unless Sade comes up with a way to tell the people of Britain what has happened to her family.

Sade has to solve many problems throughout the entire story. The first major problem she encounters is that she has to protect her father at all costs, and that means she has to keep both herself and Femi's identity a secret, which leads to lying; the only possible solution. The second problem that she faces is that she has to tell the world her family's story, which means she has to tell the truth. This completely interferes with the fact that she lied about her and her brother's identity. Regardless of that, she bravely goes to speak to "Mr. 7 o'clock," a journalist.

I think the theme, or moral of the story is that *lies can make problems and the truth can fix them*. All in all, despite the fact of it being a historically based story, I'd say that it is a great and fun book to read. The author's writing is a mix between powerful and beautiful. I would highly recommend this to anyone between sixth and tenth grades.

NDAA Debate (Con. Cont. from page 3)

The NDAA (National Defense Authorization Act) is basically an act in which the government can listen in to any conversation and punish any suspected individual without questioning or even a chance to go to court. I think this is very wrong. I feel this way because I think that the NDAA is disrupting our constitutional rights, like freedom of speech. Can't we have a little privacy in our lives? I understand that this is kind of beneficial and can stop many attacks and can help us live an easier life. At the same time, this can also increase the number of false accusations made. All in all, I say that this is a bad choice made by the government and there are many other ways to help protect us citizens. Ways that can maybe even work!

-Omar Mbarki (cont. on pg. 9)

A Summer Day at "Sea View" by Zonera Hashmi

The best summer day I had was when I went to "Sea View" in Karachi, Pakistan. My cousin really wanted to go to "Sea view" so my uncle took my two cousins, my aunt, and me to there. The "Sea view" beach is a section of Clifton beach located in Clifton. It is one of the most popular entertainment sites in Karachi. The beach needs serious attention and consideration from the city government, as the area has become increasingly dirty and unpleasant. The water has become polluted due to an oil tank falling from a ship and thus polluting the water. Lighting arrangements are the only good thing that the beach has. "Sea view" also has a number of restaurants. Clifton Beach or "Sea View" is the only cheapest and easily accessible picnic point in Karachi.

We left early morning from the house at 10 A.M .and reached between 10:30 and 11 A.M. When we got there, we decided to go down to the beach right away. The sun had come out, and it was getting hot. As I stepped onto the sand, I felt like my foot was on fire. It was really hot! When we reached the water my uncle backed away because he did not want to go in the water. My aunt, cousins, and I went towards the water. The beach was so desolate that it felt like no one ever came there. While we were standing, we did not notice that a big wave was coming towards us. My uncle at that moment started screaming our names and then suddenly the wave hits us. Because of the energy in the wave, we all fell down and got dirty and covered with wet sand. Due to the temperature outside we dried easily, but we since kept going in the water we kept on getting wet. We did not stand up because it would be of no use since we kept slipping and getting wet again. We sat down and started talking while at the same time paying attention to the water. When a huge wave would come towards us, we would all stand up. Yet still because the force of the water was strong we kept falling down. When I recall that day, I notice that we fell down a lot of times and I am not joking.

After four or five hours of staying there, we decided to go back and eat somewhere outside at a restaurant. There was a KFC nearby so we went there to eat. We were all wet and when we went inside, the AC was on. I understand that it is hot in Pakistan, but at that moment I just didn't want the AC to be on. Everyone that went in the water and got wet from head to toe was freezing cold! We ordered our food and sat down to eat. We all realized that our hands were dirty because of the sand that had dried of. We asked the man who was working where the bathroom was? He replied by saying that the bathroom needed repairs so it was under construction. I was just like O-M-G. I mean, have you ever heard of a place with no bathroom or an unavailable bathroom? It just did not make sense but we had to deal with it. My cousins and I rubbed our hands and the sand started falling but it did not help that much. We all ate with dirty hands and I had a feeling that I would get sick really soon. After we finished eating, my uncle showed me Quaid-e-Azam's tomb and many more things relating to the Quaid. When we got home, all three of the kids ran to the bathroom to take a shower, because the sand had started annoying us. After we were all clean, we told our Dadi Ama and Ami about the whole day. That was the best summer day I have ever had. :)

NDAA Debate– (CON continued from pg. 8)

What if you find out that someone is listening to everything you are saying. How would you feel about that? I don't think you feel happy about that! If I found out about that, I would be angry! Also, what if this law is mainly targeting Muslims, then that is really unfair. I mean, not only Muslims plan to do crimes or commit terrorism. They are done by many different people from diverse backgrounds!

-Zonera Hashmi

The new law that has been signed by Obama is not fair! It basically allows the government to listen into our phone conversations, check our mail (and email), and invade our privacy in any way they want and put us in jail without a trial or any evidence! The law is targeting Muslims mainly taking away our right to religion as well. Osama Bin Laden was a terrorist, but that doesn't mean that anyone with similar background is that too. That is false stereotyping and I believe it's wrong to allow it in any way!

-Fatima Gohar

LAST WORD

Our school's 2012 "Doodle for Google" Winning Picture by Tayyar Mustamir is below. The theme for this year was "If I could travel back in Time.." This is the third consecutive year that Tayyar was chosen as a finalist for the competition Masha'Allah. This year he was the only one chosen from his age category in the state of New Jersey, where it is on display at a local museum, Masha'Allah!



The students were told to write the purpose for why they chose their particular subjects for their masterpiece; "I would like to go ancient Egypt, back to 4000 BC to learn more about its architecture, artifacts, hieroglyphics and the mythology behind all these. The treasure of the tomb of Tutankhamen, royal mummies, and, above all, the giant pyramids would be a pleasure to visit."

LAST WORD

North Star Poetry Contest First Place Trophy Poem

The Prophet's Love for his Ummah

by Musa Salman Shaikh

Our Prophet cared so much for his ummah,
That is why he left us his Sunnah.

He worked so hard for our sake,
Even at night, he'd stay awake.

He would pray to Allah for us to be guided.
He would pray and pray for his ummah to be united.

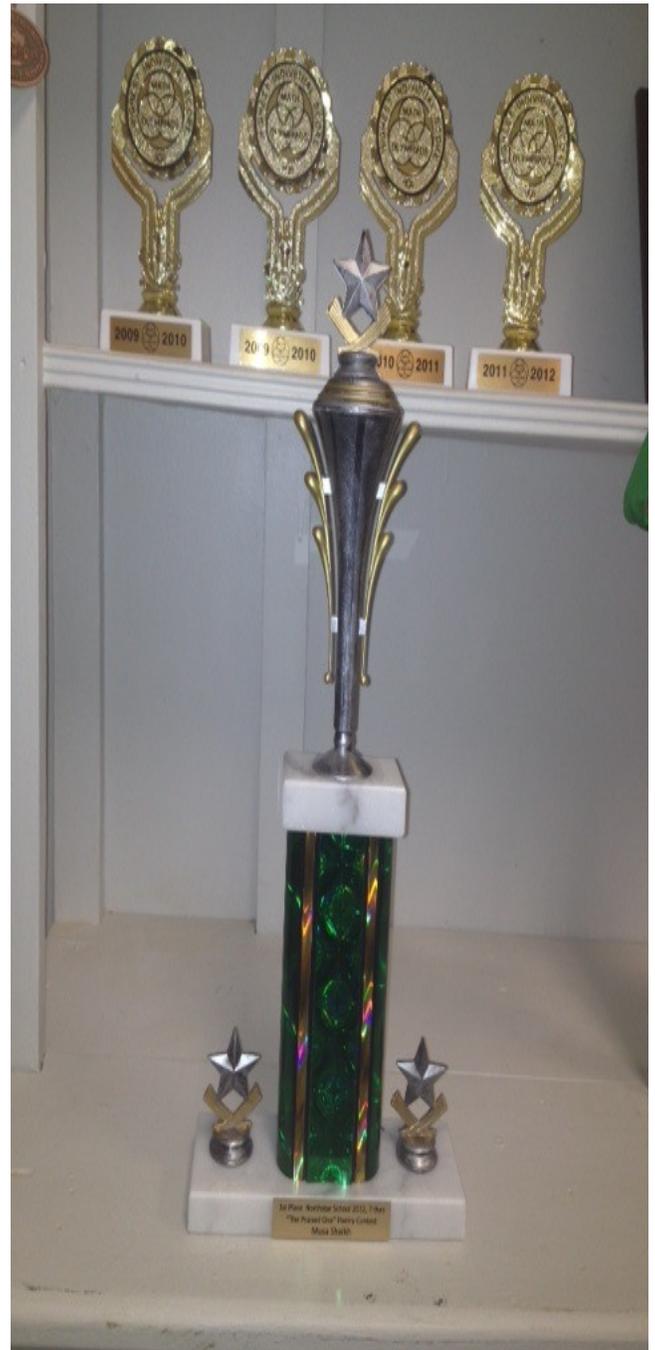
He prayed deeply for us all,
By day and by night fall.

His only wish was for us to be among the
ones who prosper.

He always hoped everything for us would be
easier.

He gave us the holy Quran,
Sent straight from Ar-Rahman.

He was our one and only true teacher,
In the whole world, he had the best feature.



“Faith in something greater than ourselves enables us to do what we have said we'll do, to press forward when we are tired or hurt or afraid, to keep going when the challenge seems overwhelming and the course is entirely uncertain.”

— [Gordon B. Hinckley](#)