

# Madina Insider

## Save The Date

- **May 15**  
Ramadan Begins!
- **June 8**  
Last Day of School!
- **August 21**  
Eid Al Adha!
- **August 23**  
Back to School!

## Message from the Principal

Assalamualaykum,

A big thank you to the entire Madina Academy community for the ongoing support and for believing in the success of this school. Thank you to the wonderful staff team for their brilliant work and to all volunteers who work in different areas and capacities—every ounce counts! And our gratitude to the PTS for the brand new, shiny, blue picnic tables—they are truly appreciated!

With a sad heart we bid farewell to Ms. Asiya, Ms. Mounia, and Ms. Naila, and also our seniors who have been with the school for many years- we wish them all the very best for the future!

### Quran

In our effort to gain results that are non subjective we invited independent assessors of Quran last week to test each and every student from KG-10th grade. InshAllah, the information gathered from these assessments will help us make decisions to improve our Quranic program at Madina Academy.

### Upcoming Year

As you make plans for your children for the upcoming year, we request that you please listen to your children attentively about their experience at Madina Academy. While it may not be so abnormal for students, particularly middle and high schoolers, to show a slight distaste or indifference towards their own school, students should feel assured in their choice of school; school pride and happiness have a significant impact on academic success and school culture, and as a learning community we are fully invested in both.

We are very excited about the official MA Falcons basketball team next year! We have already purchased uniforms and will be booking facilities for practice during the summer. We hope we will be members for the NEPSAC (New England Prep School Athletic Council). Until then we will play with teams from other independent schools. We highly encourage girls to sign up to form the girls team.

### Summer

We know summer is a time for children to play, explore, travel and enjoy long periods of time playing games, reading books, and spending time outdoors with family and friends. For this reason and more, we will not be assigning summer packets this year. However, in order to prevent the summer slide, teachers have created website accounts for their incoming students to encourage reading and math review. It is imperative also that students review Quran 10-15 mins daily so teachers can build upon their knowledge on their return in the Fall.

Finally, as we let you go, please note that the school will reopen for the the 2018-2019 academic year slightly earlier than usual. This is in anticipation of the many snow days and in consideration of shortened days during next Ramadhan. Please be aware that the calendar is always tentative—there will be changes should it be deemed absolutely necessary.

We wish you Blessed days of Ramadhan, a joyful Eid, and a refreshing and rejuvenating summer!!

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## Muslimah Night

March 17, 2018 was Madina Academy's annual Muslimah's Night, an event where Muslim girls of all ages can come and enjoy time with old and new friends at the campus. This year the night was hosted by the eleventh and twelfth graders. The theme this year was 'Dress to Impress'. Aicha Tidjani in seventh grade interviewed former student Alisa Chowdhury and current student Malayka Khan in seventh grade, both of which attended the event. Here are their thoughts.

**Aicha:** *Did you feel like the organizers outdid themselves, compared to last year?*

**Alisa:** *I felt like last year everyone was more together but this year everyone was kind of separated. But it was really fun.*

**Aicha:** *What would you say was the best part of Muslimah's Night?*

**Alisa:** *Seeing everyone.*

**Aicha:** *Do you feel like more people came than last year?*

**Alisa:** *Yeah, a lot of people came but it was still lit though.*

**Aicha:** *Did you enjoy Muslimah's Night considering this is your first year attending?*

**Malayka:** *Yeah, it was good and I liked the decorations and there was a lot of people. And I liked that we could take our hijabs off.*

**Aicha:** *Did you feel like the event went smoothly?*

**Malayka:** *Yes, but people weren't really paying attention to the competitions and contests. And the kids were really interested in the booths so half and half.*

Aichatou Tidjani

Grade 7

## Reflections from the Assembly

"Assalamu alaikum, Madina Academy!" The principal's voice is heard over the speakers and she begins to ready all the students for the day. As soon as the students hear Ms. Masuda's voice, they know the assembly has started. Something new is put into the students' minds as they leave to begin their day. Every week on Thursdays, Brother Abdulmalik takes some of his time to answer some Islamic questions students have. On Fridays, Ms. Noranita and Ms. Susie commend and reward students who have done something kind during the week with a program called "Caught Being Good."

Recently, ninth graders Muaz Sharaf and Al-

Yaman Zoghol went up to demonstrate some examples of what their upcoming engineering club will be doing next year. On another morning, Brother Muhammad Khalid came to talk about his job as a neurosurgeon, which fascinated and excited many students. There were many great and interesting events and opportunities in the morning assembly this month and hopefully, we will continue to learn as much and even more, Insha Allah.

Haneen Abuteen

Grade 7

## Student Opinion

### Why Hospitals Should Continue Life Support

Everyone should have the chance to live. A chance to not just enjoy life but to have a good impact on other human beings or to accept the shahada before it is too late. In the end the goal is always jannah. But what if someone wasn't good in his or her life. What if they weren't Muslim in the first place? What if someone wants to turn back to Allah or see their relatives one more time? They are still alive, maybe not mentally, or they are severely disabled. They are on life support. They are "brain dead", or in a coma. Can they come back to their conscience? We don't know, but we do know that our lord is capable of doing anything. Maybe through life support a person suffering from a coma can come back to their senses and have a second chance at life. And it has happened before. It won't always happen, but it can, which is exactly why hospitals should never pull the plug.

There are countless examples of people who were in coma, or brain dead, but because they were on life support, they were able to either wake up from their coma or regain their mentality. 22 year old Sam Hemming was a recent graduate from law school. She got into a car crash and 19 days later, she was in a coma and declared brain dead. She was on life support and that day, just before the doctors were going to take her off life support, she wiggled her toe. A couple weeks later, she felt just perfectly fine after many physical and mental exercises.

Everyone at the verge of death should be given a second chance at life. What if in their lifetime before their horrible accident, they owed salah's to their lord or money to the bank or a friend? What if they want to see their relatives one last time? Everyone at this stage has a chance for life. With life support maybe Allah will heal the sick person bringing back their consciousness. But without life support they would face a different fate. Like the people mentioned before maybe life support can help you gain back your consciousness or mentality.

Many people who are against life support say that for people who are going to die anyway the decision to pull the plug should be up to the doctors. However, it should not. Even if the patient will no longer receive any treatment, family or friends should decide when to pull the plug. Many people around the world would rather think about their sick relative as having a mental problem or just sleeping, rather than thinking about them as actually dead in a few hours ready to be buried. Imagine if this

was your relative who was brain dead or in a coma. You know that he or she has very little chance of living if the plug was pulled. However, you think it is too early to let go of them. The doctors let you decide when to pull the plug. You know he/she will die soon but you would like to stay with your relative until you are ready to let go of him/her. After 2 weeks, he/she passes away of natural causes. You finally feel comfortable leaving your relative. You cry a bit, but you know that they had to pass. Had your relative passed away 2 weeks ago, you would be struck, depressed, and in shock.

Put yourself in the shoes of a person with an injured mother. It is hard to imagine and extremely undesirable. By the way, I just wish this doesn't happen to any one of our relatives. The mother gets hit by a car and flies back landing on her head. She loses consciousness, a lot of blood, and hope of life. You are depressed and in shock. Your most beloved person is in a fatal condition on a bed in the hospital. You get a call from the hospital saying that your mother has become brain dead. The doctors say she has no chance of living. However, she is still on life support even though her body is in a dangerous state. The doctors consider her dead since her brain no longer functions. They call you and your relatives in for a meeting urging you to take her off life support and make her an organ donor. You refuse because it is against your religion and refuse to accept that your mother is dead. You are convinced that you would never pull the plug. The next week when the doctors urge you again to pull the plug, something miraculous happens, your mother opens her eyes. Your mother had won the fight for her life. Had you pulled the plug, she would have taken a completely different route.

Al-Yaman Zoghol

Grade 9

## Student Opinion (cont.)

### Why Schools Should Not Have Uniform

Schools are supposed to not only help you in education, but also to help gain self-confidence and retain a high self-esteem. Yet many of those schools also impose uniforms on their students. By forcing students to wear what they aren't, schools that press uniforms on their students make them lose self-esteem and pride, because the students have to wear something that isn't them. Parents don't like spending too much money, but schools with uniforms practically force parents to spend tons of money on getting uniforms. Uniforms also take away a student's freedom of expression, and force him or her to be part of the crowd; to not be able to stand out as an individual.

One of our rights as humans is that we have the freedom of expression; we can express ourselves in any way we want. Yet how is a student expected to convey themselves with a uniform that restricts a student's freedom of expression. Students become part of the crowd, and they lose their sense of individuality and uniqueness. They lose who they are, and their identities are lost amidst the crowd, all who look the same, nothing distinguishing one student from the next. When students can dress the way they feel, they feel proud of who they are, and proud of their communities, schools, and of who they are.

Uniforms cause financial problems for parents and students alike. As a matter of fact, in the average school year, parents spend about 1 billion dollars per year on buying uniforms.

People say that uniforms improve attendance, academic preparedness, and help students get higher test grades and decrease bullying. A study showed that uniforms do the opposite. The student wouldn't want to come to school, because he or she feels restricted in their uniform. Students also hate the uniforms, and spend more time complaining about them. People focus better when they are themselves, when they wear who they are. A study monitored the test grades of students over time after the introduction of uniform, and found that there were no positive effects from the uniform, only negative. Uniforms are uncomfortable, and students can't focus well due to the distraction of wearing something that doesn't feel or look good. According to a child and teen development specialist, Robyn Silverman, that students tend to compare how each other look in uniforms. Another study showed that students do not like wearing the same thing every day, and they like to constantly change and develop,

and that uniforms and wearing the same thing every day leads the students into thinking that life will never change, and that life has the same thing to offer every day. Several studies show that uniforms increase violence and bullying. A study in 2007 showed that assaults increased by an average 14 per year in schools with uniforms. A study done by the Texas Southern University in 1999 said that problems increased by 12 percent after the introduction of uniforms. And according to the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Office of Education Evaluation and Management, fights in middle school doubled after one year of the introduction of uniforms. A professor at Brock University said,

"Overall, there is no evidence in bullying literature that supports a reduction in violence due to school uniforms." Bullies are bullies, and they will always find a way to tease and bother others, uniforms or not.

Parents don't like overusing money, and uniforms take up 40 percent of the parent's income, and spend from 700,000 dollars to 1 million dollars per year, depending on the school, and not including school equipment. Uniforms do NOT decrease bullying and violence, they increase them. And many studies show that uniforms are bad for children. And besides, they look terrible.

Muaz Sharaf

Grade 9





## Student Opinion (cont.)

### Why Madina Academy Should Bring Back Microwaves

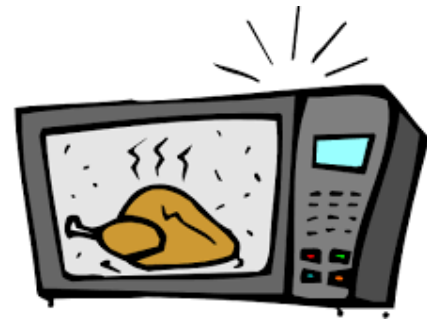
Do you know what Madina Academy's lunch is missing? A microwave of course! I know, I know... a few years ago Madina Academy halted uses of the microwave when someone set off the fire alarm, but we are RESPONSIBLE! Everyone deserves a second chance! Most people can't afford hot lunch, or they do not like the hot lunch choices, so they bring a lunch from home. Children at Madina Academy are not happy about cold lunches. They bring sandwiches, cold mac and cheese, and cold meat with rice. YUCK!

According to the USDA, bacteria grows most rapidly in the range of 40 degrees Fahrenheit to 140 degrees, doubling in as little as twenty minutes! Isn't that gross? With a microwave,

the food from home would taste better. If you are wondering who will supervise this, bring on the PTS or the teachers! We hope we can make this a reality.

Aanum Khan

Grade 4



### Why Madina Academy Should Invest in a Gym

Children, just like adults need exercise to stay healthy. This is a reason that kids go outside for recess. But, what about the days that classes can't go outside because of freezing wintry weather, rain, hail, sleet, snow, or freezing rain? How will the young students get their extra energy out and their exercise? Surely, Madina Academy needs a gymnasium for the energetic students to play in and run around in on days with horrible temperature forecasts and weather.

One hundred percent of the fourth graders at

Madina Academy wish that there was a gym to play in and run in on days that outdoor playing is forbidden. Madina Academy already owns empty buildings. All that is left to do is to add some gym equipment and it's done! I hope that Madina Academy staff considers my ideas and makes it a reality.

Noora Khalid

Grade 4



## School Events

### Walk Out to Protest School Shootings

Unfortunately, current events have mostly been comprised of tragic events like school shootings. An example is the recent school shooting in Florida. On

March 14, students and staff at Madina Academy staged a walk out to call for tighter gun control laws and to honor the victims of these shootings. The next page is a speech given at the walk out.





## School Events (cont.)

### Walk Out Speech

2,613, that's the number of people killed in mass shootings since 2013, with 7,745 injured. In 2018 there have been 62 mass shootings, 28 of which were in schools. 117 have been killed, and more than twenty in schools. 45% of all shootings, and about 20% of shooting deaths this year, took place in schools.

Kids go to school to learn, to receive an education, and to better their futures, and instead they are being shot dead.

On December 14, 2012, twenty first-graders went to school probably thinking about what they were going to get for Christmas, which was less than two weeks away, but they never came home that day. They were shot and killed by 20 year old Adam Lanza. 28 people were killed including students, administrators, and the shooters mother. This was less than an hour away in Newtown, Connecticut. That was the biggest school shooting since Blacksburg, Virginia in 2007, when 33 people were killed and 23 injured.

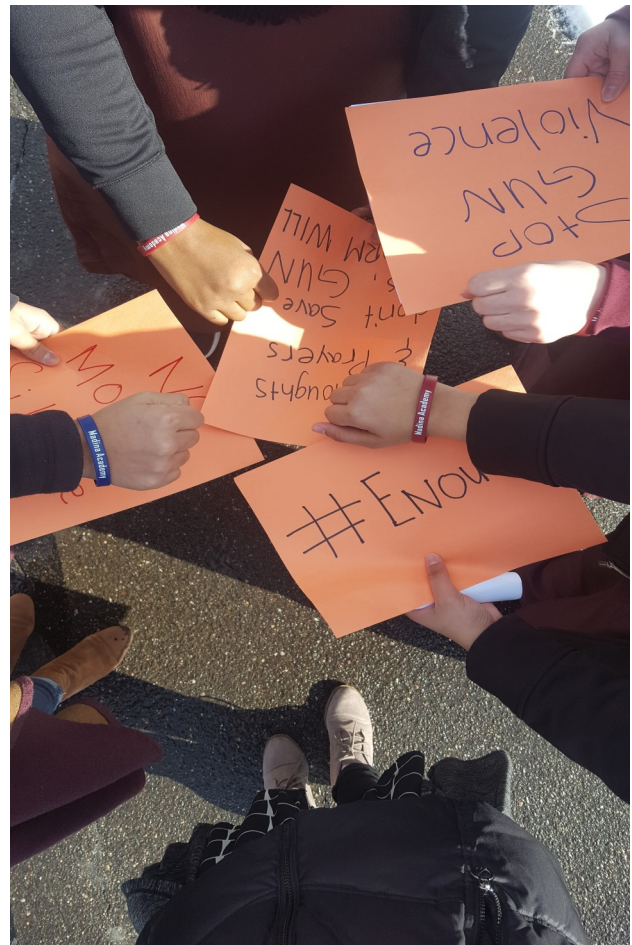
Americans own approximately 300 million guns, that's 48% of all civilian-owned guns worldwide. We own more guns than any other country in the world. Coincidentally, we also have the highest number of mass shootings, including those in schools. In 2011, a right wing extremist shot and killed 69 people at a summer camp in Oslo, Norway, and eight more with a car bomb. Norway already had very strict gun laws, a person even had to provide a valid reason for owning a gun, but they still saw it wasn't enough and enacted more.

School shootings in the US date back to 1764, when 10 people were killed in Greencastle, Pennsylvania. That was 254 years ago, and the number of shootings has only gone up. Gun laws are still abysmal. You can go to a gun show and buy a gun without any form of identification. Only in actual gun stores is there any form of background check. Only eight states, including Connecticut, enforce a waiting period before buying a gun. After 49 people were killed in the nightclub shooting in Orlando, a reporter for the Philly Inquirer was able to buy an AR-15 in 38 minutes just two days after and a few miles away from the shooting.

When will America learn? We are not safe. Students and teachers are being shot in schools. Tourists are shot in airports. Teenagers are shot in concerts and at movie theaters. This has to stop. Something must be done. When will America cherish children more than their guns. And if our government won't take action, WE will. May Allah grant Jannah to the hundreds of students we are honoring today. Ameen.

Ruqayyah Paine

Grade 10



## School Events (cont.)

### “Empathy in Action” Ramadan Project

One activity that’s keeping everyone here busy are the Ramadan projects. These projects aim at providing some form of community service in our area and others throughout Connecticut in the light of Ramadan. Led by Br. Abdul Malik, the Islamic Studies/Leadership teacher for Middle/Upper School, the projects are completely student-based. Students from grades six to twelve are responsible for the planning, fundraising, and execution of the projects for their respective classes. This allows students to learn how to manage problems collectively, improvise, and support each other’s ideas, or in other words, learn how to work in a team and take charge when necessary with minimal teacher guidance. These projects also encourage independence, communication skills in various contexts, and show students how they can apply essential Islamic values in their daily lives to help those who are not as fortunate.

I feel the need to specifically mention the 11th/12th grade Ramadan project, particularly because it is the first of its kind that Madina Academy has ever engaged in. This project is called “Empathy in Action” (every project has its own, distinctive name) and involved, in brief terms, the collection and organization of gifts and cards to give to patients at the Connecticut Hospice in Branford. Before this, however, the 11th and 12th graders took a lesson on empathy, the characteristic being the central theme to their project, where they learned in depth its meaning, significance, how it works, differences from sympathy and altruism, applications, and more. Then the class got together to decide what gifts to buy—they finally settled on teddy bears and thoughtful, hand-written cards. Before anything, the students worked out together what general message to write on all the cards

by imagining themselves in the position of the patients at the hospice and thinking of what they would have wanted to hear in such a situation. After forming the message, the students filled out 80 cards by hand! After packing the teddy bears and cards, they headed out to the hospice.

Upon arrival, they were met by the director of hospice volunteers who discussed regulations and briefly showed them around. After this, the students got the opportunity to go visit patients in their rooms in groups of two to talk and later hand patients the gift and card. It was a wonderful experience for them to meet the patients and their visiting families, who were very grateful for the friendly gesture. Unfortunately, the students didn’t get to visit as many patients as they planned to because many were either not available or inactive at that specific time. After praying in the prayer room, they had an interesting talk with the leading Chaplin of the facility. He talked about his job, what it involves, situations he dealt with in the past, and how the profession affects an individual’s mind, heart, and soul. Just before wrapping up to head back to school, they were also able to meet a Muslim woman who worked in the recreational department of the facility. It’s comforting to know that there are so many Muslims out there like herself, representing the overall populace of Muslims and the true values of which it stands for by taking up a profession such as this, where compassion and humanity are the backdrop themes to everything being done at the hospice.

Alina Mohammed  
Grade 11



## School Events (cont.)

### “Empathy in Action” Ramadan Project





## School Events (cont.)

### “Empathy in Action” Ramadan Project



## School Events (cont.)

### Gifts of Hope

*Allah says in the Holy Quran Chapter 2 Surah Baqarah verse 274:*

*Those who spend of their goods (in charity) by night and by day in secret and in public shall have their reward with their Lord: on them shall be no fear nor shall they grieve.*

*(Al-Tirmidhi Hadith 1527 Narrated by Mu'adh ibn Jabal) The Messenger of Allah (SAW) said, "Charity obliterates sins just as water extinguishes fire."*

Last week the 10th graders along with other classes were tasked by Br. Abdul Malik to do a Ramadan project. The reason for the Ramadan project was to be able to give back to the less fortunate and to be able to gain good deeds during Ramadan.

As a class, the 10th graders decided to do a toy and book drive, and all of the donations would be going to the Connecticut Children's Medical Center—specifically to the cancer unit. With the funds we received, we purchased blank cards in which we wrote messages of hope as a way to hopefully uplift the spirits of those who would read them. After we decided what we were going to do for our project we had to name it, and collectively we came up with the name, "Gifts of Hope." We decided on this name because we intended to give these gifts to the kids as a way of giving them hope and as a way of letting them know that no matter what struggle or hardship you're going through you will get through it Inshallah.

We decided to have a bake sale and a non-uniform day in order to raise money. Alhamdulillah the amount of money that we got from that one Friday doubled our donation amount, which allowed us to be able to purchase all of the goodies that we had antici-

pated at the beginning.

After we purchased toys, books, crayons, and other gifts, we brought them to school and divided them according to age group in order to make it easier to distribute them.

On Friday the 25th we went to the Connecticut Children's Medical Center and delivered the toys, books, crayons, and cards that we had for the kids. Sadly, we were unable to interact with the patients because of certain rules that the hospital had, but that was fine because we were still able to give the things that we had.

Inshallah, we hope the children enjoyed their gives. May Allah give them shifa and ease them of any pains.

Remember that Ramadan is the perfect time for people to give back to the less fortunate and gain maximum reward. Thank you to everyone who donated, whether it was toys, books, or money. May Allah (SWT) bless you all.

Safiyah Bey

Grade 10



## School Events (cont.) Gifts of Hope





## School Events (cont.) Gifts of Hope



## School Events (cont.)

### 9th Grade Trip to the Mercy Shelter

Our 9th grade class recently went to the Mercy Shelter in Hartford. The trip was part of the class charity project to do good deeds during the month of Ramadan. After brainstorming for a few days, we came up with an idea. We named the Project “Muslims’ Intentions.” It was essentially a canned and non-perishable food drive.

The class collected donations to bring to the homeless people at Mercy shelter, where we would also be serving meals. Three teams were made for different purposes: the public relations (PR) team would spread the word about the fundraiser and collect donations; the second team handled and packaged all the donations to bring to the shelter; and the third team was the Da’wah team. All three groups had an important job, but the Da’wah team had the most important of all: they would be handing out pamphlets about Islam and answering any questions people might have had about our religion. Their main goal was to spread the message of Islam and that Muslims of all ages do good.

We collected several donations in addition to what my classmates brought from home, and brought it all to the Mercy Shelter on May 24. There, we divided into teams again: those who would serve meals, those who would help in the basement, and those who would be giving out pamphlets.

It was, for me, an important experience. Instead of always looking at those who are above you and aspiring to be like them, you should sometimes look below and remember those who are less fortunate. Being humble and merciful are some of the most important virtues for a Muslim.

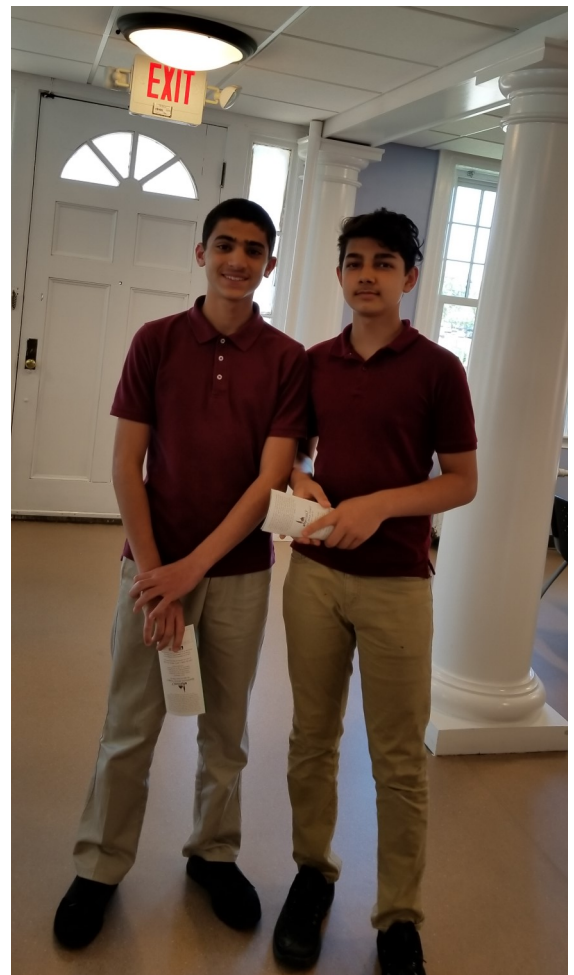
When I saw the families at the shelter, I felt humbled. There were all these people who had no home

to go to after this lunch and no bed to sleep in every night. Now I hope that we can all remember that we are so privileged. We have so much compared to others living in the same countries, states, and cities as us.

I speak for my entire class when I saw we gained something—the experience with the homeless really made us think about what we take for granted. I hope that Insha’Allah, we will all take something from this trip and apply it to our lives.

Sameen Sabir

Grade 9





## School Events (cont.)

### 9th Grade Trip to the Mercy Shelter



## School Events (cont.)

### 9th Grade Trip to the Mercy Shelter





## School Events (cont.)

### 9th Grade Trip to the Mercy Shelter



## School Events (cont.)

### 8th Grade Ramadan Project



*“Charity is one of the best and most honored deeds. Allah The Almighty urges it in His Noble Book as He says (what means): (They who have loaned Allah a goodly loan) [Quran 57:18] and (what means): (Who is it that would loan Allah a goodly loan so He will multiply it for him and he will have a noble reward?) [Quran 57:11]*

On May 17th, the 8th grade class gathered money to buy Edible Arrangements and visited the Windsor Police Department and gave them the baskets as a charitable, thank you gift. They were very pleased and showed us around the station.

The best part was when they showed us the cells!

The cells are very small and leave one with no privacy. The beds are as hard as flat rocks and the bathroom is right next to the bed, with no door or screen.

“Lucky they get to eat free McDonalds! But still, I wouldn’t like to be here because the beds are so hard!” Hafsa said.

Our Ramadan project was a way of showing gratitude towards Allah by being thankful to people for what they do and what they do to protect our community.

Ikram Hales

Grade 8





## School Events (cont.) 8th Grade Ramadan Project





## School Events (cont.)

### 7th Grade Ramadan Project

The gleaming white van stood there waiting for eager and excited children to fill it up. The ride flew by quickly, as if we were the only ones on the road, or like we were actually flying. Everyone walked inside, filling up the shelves of the Masjid Muhammad with their shows. Once the refugees arrived, we were captivated by their stories.

“When we left Iraq...” the mother of the family began. I can’t read anyone’s mind, but I’m sure everyone was thinking about how lucky we all are without having to struggle through such hardship, especially when you’re as young and Houssain and Malaq, two refugees. Still, the family was thankful and enjoy it here in America. We looked at beautiful photographs of Iraq and had many friendly conversations.

Soon after that, another refugee came in. “I became a Muslim when I was ten.” I have no idea what it would be like to have to make such a big choice at ten years old, being the only one in the family, and feeling different than everyone I am close to.

After prayer, we gave the family and the girl the food we packed and to some other refugees. It felt good—it felt like we really helped people. I felt guilty for always taking things for granted, and always complaining, even though I am far luckier than some. I realized everyone is luckier than someone else in a way, even if it seems like you have nothing, you’re still lucky and Allah (SWT) has gifted you in some way.

Dalya Bakr

Grade 7



## School Events (cont.) 7th Grade Ramadan Project





## School Events (cont.)

### 6th Grade Ramadan Project

The sixth grade Ramadan Project began with a bake sale and ended with the sixth graders learning empathy, which means to understand the feelings of another person.

The sixth graders started the project with a bake sale in order to raise money for the gifts we would buy. We settled on buying cards and practical gifts—mugs and cups. The next day, we went to a nursing home to visit the residents.

The sixth graders encountered a challenge that day—there was a delicious looking bakery right next door to the nursing home but because we were fasting, we could not get any pastries or cookies. The smell was overwhelming and our stomachs grumbled, but we knew that our project was for more important than our stomachs.

When we came back, we had a meeting to discuss the project. Despite some minor issues, it was a successful project. We talked about how we should feel empathy for the people in the nursing home because

we had things that they did not. For example, we have our youth, which helps us with moving and we can do things that when you get older you usually can not do. Alhamdulillah, we are also able to breathe without machines.

We also talked about fasting because when you fast you feel thankful that you have food but the poor people do not. And when you feel thankful you feel empathy, which makes you do good deeds. When we help people who do not have what you have, it leads to taqwa, which is fear in Allah (SWT).

So the whole project was about fasting, feeling empathy, and doing good deeds, which again leads to taqwa.

Ismael Shelbaya

Grade 6



## School Events (cont.)

### 6th Grade Ramadan Project





## School Events (cont.)

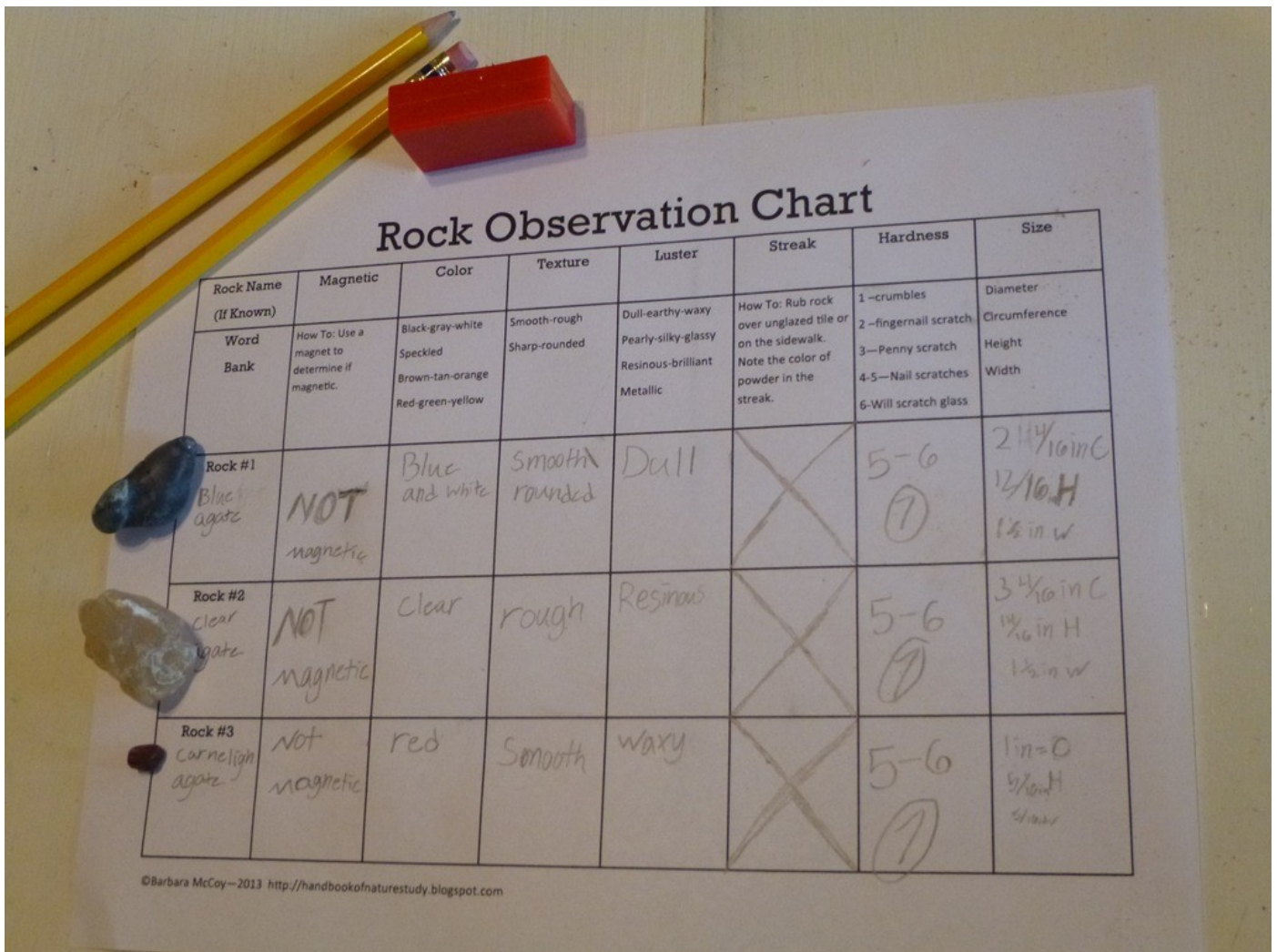
### 4th Grade Science Experiment

At Madina Academy, the fourth graders tested rocks that they found outside. After collecting rocks outside, the young scientists tested each rock's streak, hardness, color, cleavage, and luster. The rocks were collected in different areas around Madina Academy. In about half of the rocks, the students found that the streaks were the same color as the rocks themselves. The other half of the rocks that were tested had as-sorted color streaks. For example, there was a red

rock with an orange streak and a gray rock with a gray streak. The junior geologists discovered that different rocks have different streaks, colors, luster, cleavage, and hardness. How interesting!

Mariam Bakr and Fatima Khan

Grade 4





## School Events (cont.)

### Our Trip to the Children’s Museum

Second grade and third grade went on a field trip to the Children’s Museum in West Hartford. It was very fun. It had mammals to reptiles to dinosaurs!

We saw a show called “Oasis in Space” in the planetarium. We learned that every star is part of a constellation. In class, we learned that the Big Dipper is part of the constellation Ursa Major, and then we got to see it in the night sky! We can find the constellation Orion by the three stars in his belt. Orion is a hunter. We also learned that the Sun is the biggest star in our solar system and that a long, long time ago the earth was covered in water because it had no land. That’s so cool!

Near the gift shop there were animals of all kinds, like mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. My favorite

was the bobcat, Rufus. He was my favorite because he was friendly. He’s so cute because of his little black ringed tail. There was also a weird white creature named Charlie. He is a Mexican axolotl. An axolotl is a type of salamander.

The gift shop was my favorite! I kept asking Ms. Asiya, “When are we going to go there?” I saw colorful stuffed animals and a lot of colorful rocks and gems. I bought Pluto slime and two gem bottles, blue and multicolored.

It was a very fun field trip. I hope I can go there again!

Rejhan Ajdinaska  
Grade 3



## Outstanding Student Pieces

### Check, Wipe, Break, Next



*This is a piece describing The Great Depression from the perspective of a banker. Banks at this time did not have money for the people that left it there for safekeeping. This piece is a reflection on the picture of the banker above.*

The room was packed. All the sweaty, worried faces pushed and shoved to get to the front. All the hot bodies made the room swelter with heat. I was very hot sitting in my silver suit and tie, so I unbuttoned it. I would probably have to sell these later. All of the companies which I had invested in had also failed, it seemed that this bank would soon join the pool of the fallen companies and unemployed fathers. Another worried face came into line in front of the booth. "I would like to make a withdrawal," he said hurriedly. "I.D.?" I asked. He whipped out his flat wallet and with shaky hands, handed his I.D. over. I looked at his name; James White would join the pool too. I looked at his balance, and like many others, it was zero. I wiped the sweat off my fore-

head. Time to break the news, I thought. "I'm sorry sir, we don't have your money," I said. "No, it can't be! I've left 2,000 dollars here!" the man said. "I'm sorry sir, your balance is zero." "Next!" I yelled. He was shoved by another man while fumbling with words and tears. Another worried face filled the gap who immediately handed me his I.D. I checked it, wiped my forehead, broke him the news, and called for the next person in line. The man screamed loud enough for the whole bank to hear and threw his fedora onto the ground. No one stopped to look as he stormed out. They were too absorbed with their own problems and their own losses to care about his. Another man filled the gap, check, wipe, break, next. Another man came into the gap that would never remain empty, and the process continued: check, wipe, break, next.

Ahmad Mohammad

Grade 9



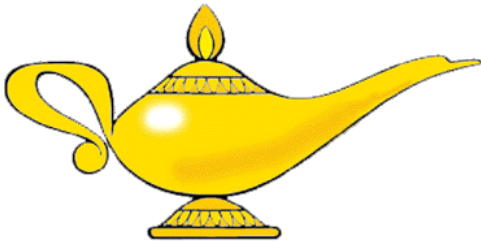
## Outstanding Student Pieces (cont.)

### I Wish...

I wish I had twenty-one lives! Then I could live for a super long time! I'll know how it feels to die and I'll be the first and only to know too! It will be awesome because I would be able to see the next 21 generations of my family!

Abdullah Khaled

Grade 3



I wish I had twenty-one cats in my future mansion. I'd be sitting in front of the fireplace petting one of my cats gently, looking loyal and royal. Then the other 20 of my cats will become jealous, so I will pet all my other darling cats. All of my cats will start meowing and purring till I fall asleep.

Minal Khan

Grade 3

### The Magic Egg

One afternoon, I was really bored and my mom asked me to grab the mail. I went outside and opened up the mailbox. Then I took the mail and ran home because usually, there's something in the mail for me! When I reached home I asked mom if she could see if there's anything for me. My mom stared at all the mail, trying to see if there was something for me. "Umm... no. Wait, actually, this package says, "To Faqiha."

I opened up the package, extremely curious, and in it was... a weird egg! "What kind of egg is this?" I wondered. "Why is it here? Who brought it here?!" My mom was not sure and said, "I don't know!"

The egg was lavender with brown spots all over it, and it was SMELLY! I brought the egg to my room and held it in my palms. It was soft and hard at the same time!

"Wait a minute... on the package it says 'Take good care of me, play with me, and feed me please!'" I went outside and went on the swing with the egg.

"I am going to name you Laveenda." All of a sudden, a little voice spoke and said, "Lovely name for me." "Wait, can you actually talk?! Wow!" I was so shocked that I started asking a whole bunch of questions. The egg answered every single one. Then, automatically, the egg hatched and inside it was a baby chick! The chick was very cute and fuzzy. Then we lived our life just like that.

The End!

Faqiha Faheem

Grade 3



## Outstanding Student Pieces (cont.)

### The Journey

Once upon a time, I was sitting in this tight round egg wondering when I'm going to get out when I heard a loud crack! I looked up and found a hole big enough to let me out. I didn't hesitate to get outside. I was thinking, "I'm free! I'm free!"

I looked down at myself and found a green furry body with six legs. I then noticed how hungry I was. I went to the closest pizza place I could find and ordered a pie with everything on it. It was probably the best thing I ever ate.

After a few weeks of eating pizza, burgers, chicken nuggets, and fries, I went up to my favorite tree and formed my chrysalis. It wasn't much fun. After about a month, I came out of my chrysalis and to my surprise, I was a spider!

At first I thought that was a bad thing because I'm supposed to be a butterfly, but I then noticed that

because I'm scary I could get food this way.

I went to McDonalds first, but I only got a few fries because they wanted to kill me. So I thought about it and figured to not try Dominos because they would probably do the same thing.

After a few days when the fries were gone, I went to somebody's house who usually brought leftovers from McDonalds and Dominos. I went and scared them so bad that they ran away and never came back.

I feasted on those delicious foods and thankfully they had a TC so I could watch soccer matches. I'm probably the luckiest spider on earth!

Ayoub Elamrani

Grade 3

### My Kind of Life

One day I saw a big round shiny thing surrounding me. All that I could think of was, "Trapped! Trapped!" I wailed. Finally, I broke out and kept on cheerfully thinking, "Free! Free!" But once I realized I looked like a worm, I recoiled away from everything except milkweeds.

(You might ask why not milkweed, well because I need milkweed to eat.)

So I only ate and barely slept. Then I wrapped myself in a weird crusty thing from a branch and thought, "Not another wrap around!" So I wailed, "Trapped! Trapped!"

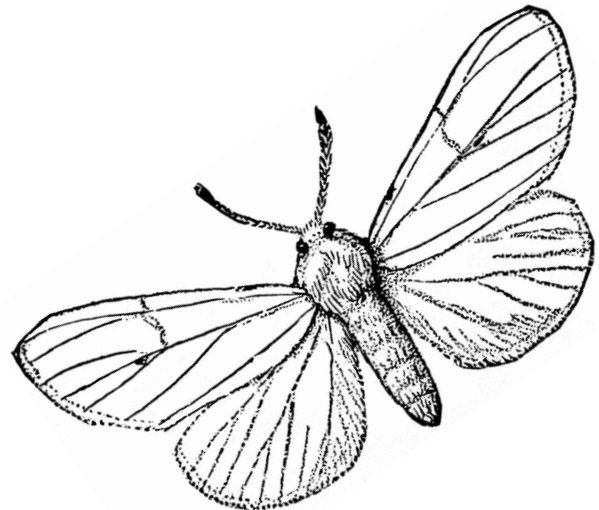
A little time that felt like eternity, I finally became a moth. My face slackened. I was supposed to be a butterfly!

In shame, I hid until the night so nobody would see me. Some people saw me because they did not go to sleep. But they did not see my color and could not know I was a moth.

So that is why moths only come out at night.

Wali Sheikh

Grade 3





## Outstanding Student Pieces (cont.)

### 30 Days of Good Deeds in Ramadan

A Book by The First Grade Class



I will make Taraweeh in the masjid.  
Taraweeh is the long prayer in  
Ramadan.

By Eshaa/



I will invite my friends to  
my house so they can break  
their fast. I will serve them  
rice, chicken and strawberry  
cake.

By Sameer

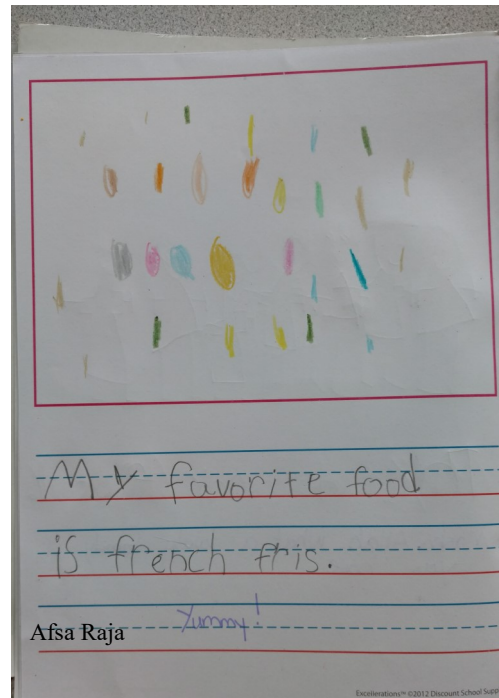
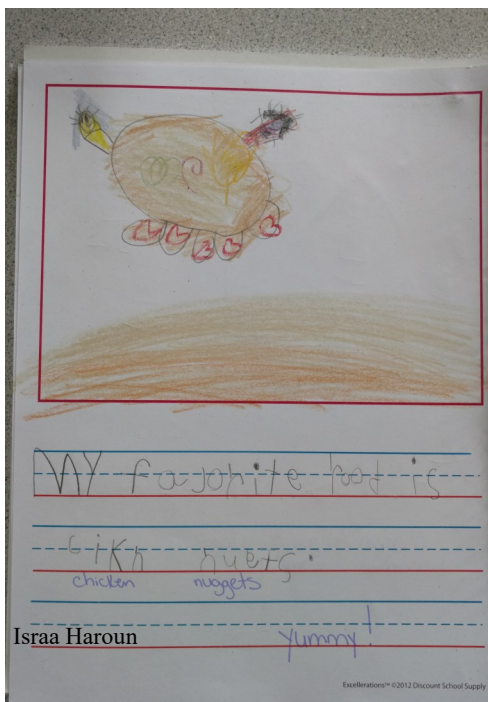
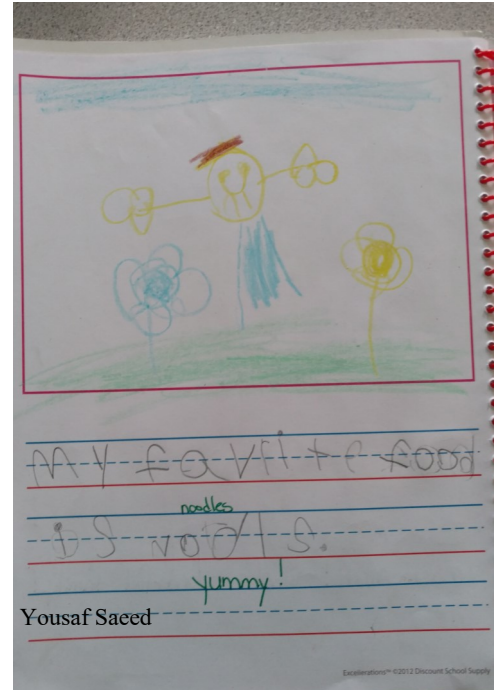
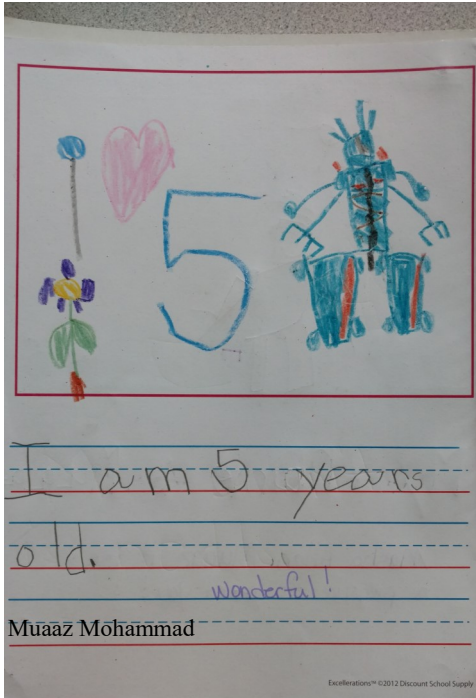


I will help my Mom and Grandma  
make the food for break fast.  
I will cut strawberries and put  
cream on dates.

By Mahmooda

# Outstanding Student Pieces (cont.)

## Kindergarten Thoughts





## Outstanding Student Pieces (cont.)

### “There He Stood, Hat in Hand”

A majestic creature poking out,  
 Eyeing the crowd,  
 Grinning was the magician  
 Holding the snowy-white nocturnal animal.  
 The ROAR and the THUNDER of the applause  
 Could never be beaten,  
 For a beautiful, soft feathered bird had just  
 Appeared.

Hedqig the Snowy Owl stood,  
 Clutching the magician’s arm,  
 And also, stood nice and tall.

Ghita Elamrani

Grade 5



### What if a Hat Could Take You Places?

If a hat could take me somewhere, I would love to go to an Ice Cream World. They would have ice cream clouds, ground, sky, mountains, and ice cream everywhere. They had all sorts of ice creams. And I went back to the hat and the hat took me home. And it slept with me in my bed and in my dreams he took me places like Cotton Candy World.

Noora Mahmoud

Grade 2

If a hat could take me places, I would use it to go to Virginia or New York or New Jersey. I would be surprised if I had a hat like that! But they wouldn't believe it.

Aisha Yaqoob

Grade 2

If a hat could take me places I have to say that would be cool. I would take my family and we would have fun. I would have fun because I can get out of school!

Rama Awkal

Grade 2

If a hat could take me places I would first not know it will take me places until I try it. So, anyways, when I try it, I might accidentally say where I want to go and forget to tell my mom where I want to go. The hat will drive us. We won't have to use a car OR we don't have to pay for gas for the car!

Sarah El Sherbini

Grade 2

What if a hat could take me places?! Wow I can't believe it ok?! I would want to go to Chuck E Cheese, Jump Off, and especially Malaysia. Places means anywhere, right? Right?! Malaysia has Water World, just for your information.

Sarah Abuteen

Grade 2

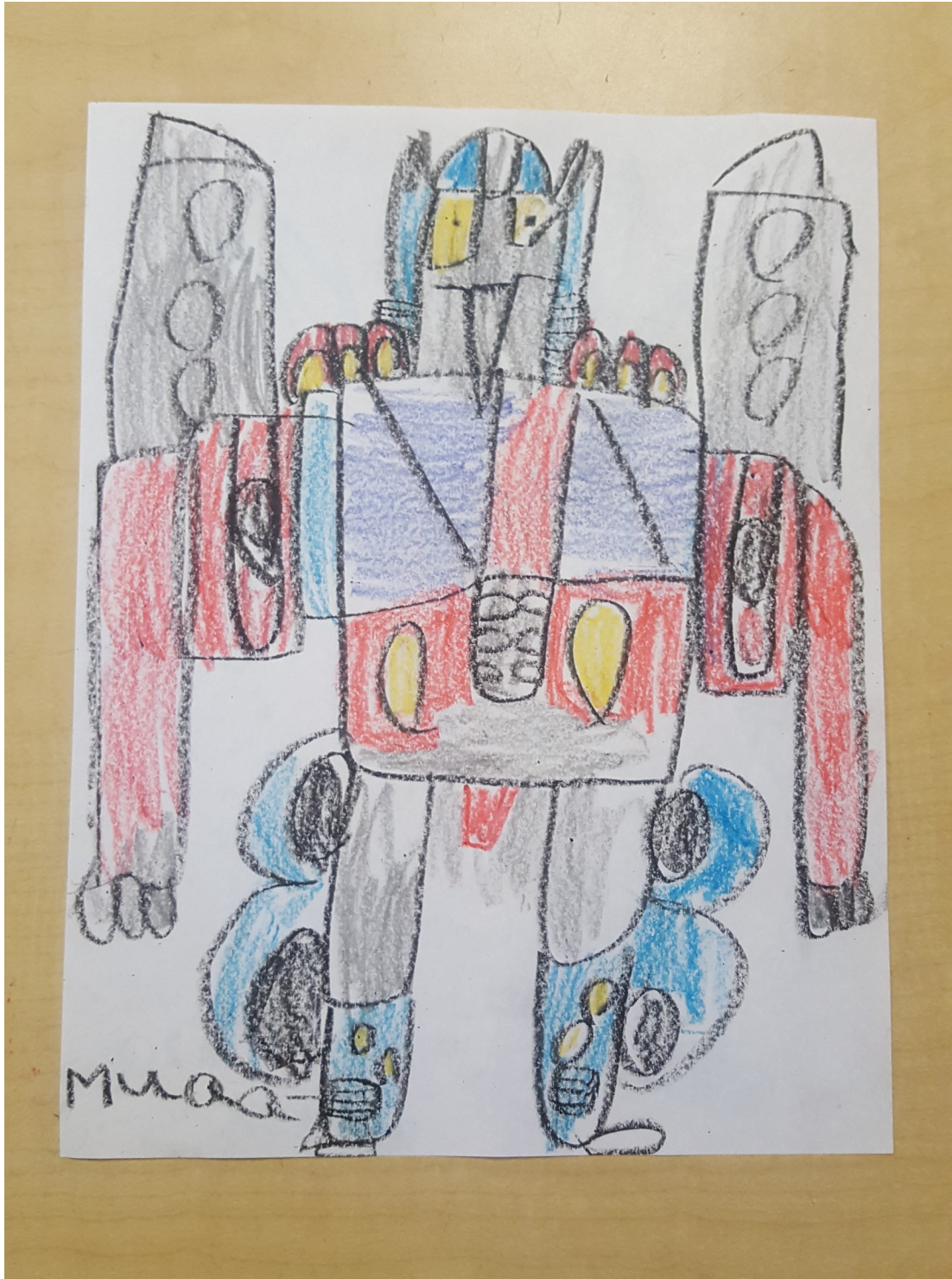
If a hat could take me places I would wear it and let it take me to places. When I get there I will take off the hat and explore. Then when I want to leave I will put it on.

Rahma Eid

Grade 2

## Outstanding Student Pieces (cont.)

**“Transformer”**  
Muaaz Mohammad KG





## Poetry Corner

### Acrostic Poems

So scientific  
Odd and rare  
Looks cool  
Amazing effect  
Rocks your nerves

Eradicates sight  
Completely dark  
Looks awesome  
In three minutes  
Personally my favorite  
Sight worthy  
Exquisite

Wali Sheikh  
Grade 3

Patient  
Really trustworthy  
Our prophets are amazing  
Praying  
Honest  
Example to others  
Talented at listening to Allah (SWT)

Always patient with Allah  
You are patient  
Our role model  
Unbreakable connection with Allah  
Brought good to the people

Ayoub Elamrani  
Grade 3

### Thank You Allah Poems

Thank you Allah for my family  
Thank you for guiding me the right way  
Thank you for the moon  
Thank you for my wealth  
Thank you Allah for my knowledge

Dawud Bey  
Grade 3

Thank you Allah for my parents so I can live with them  
Thank you for my eyes without them I wouldn't see your beautiful creations  
Thank you for giving me food to survive  
Thank you for creating me so I can worship you  
Thank you Allah for giving me everything and I am very grateful

Halimah Sulieman  
Grade 3

Thank you Allah for my family because they are the best thing ever  
Thank you for my way of life, without it I wouldn't have anything!  
Thank you for my wealth  
Thank you for your protections because I won't feel good without it!  
Thank you Allah for my name because it means "servant of Allah"

Abdullah Khaled  
Grade 3

### Haikus

White, pretty flowers  
The princess of the night is  
Also called jasmine

Minal Khan  
Grade 3

Quran is a book  
With extremely fun stories  
Arabic written

Muhammed Shelbaya  
Grade 3

The sun is gorgeous  
It is a medium star  
It shines so brightly

Asmaa Al-Tareb  
Grade 3

## Staff Mental Health Training

On March 19, the Madina Academy faculty and staff took part in an 8-hour mental health training in order to better serve our students and the countless other people we encounter on a day-to-day basis. The faculty and staff gathered in the event hall and the computer room, setting the goal to demystify stigma surrounding mental health and on how to provide immediate help in the case of a mental health emergency. After the training, we received a certification in Youth Mental Health First Aid USA. We are now trained to provide initial help to young people who are (primarily 12-18) experiencing mental health problems such as depression, anxiety disorders, eating disorders, ADHD, and psychosis.

Recognizing the risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems builds an understanding of how vital it is to intervene early in a young person's life. With this knowledge we can help a child make it through a trauma, guide them to appropriate coping mechanisms, and simply being the person to whom a young person would want to go to in order to share

their burdens and not feel isolated and unloved. Most importantly, we learned how to help an adolescent experiencing a mental health challenge or crisis. Being able to do this in a calm, knowledgeable manner can literally save lives. Understanding that an adolescent (or any person) who is experiencing a mental health break needs people who know what to do in this time of crisis—a more difficult task than simply calling the police or a fire department—is crucial in helping to prevent people from falling even deeper into what is troubling them. Depending on the situation, a trained professional can call 911, a designated caregiver and intervention counselor, or the adolescent's parents.

Mental health first-aid is just as important as learning the Heimlich maneuver or CPR—all three save lives.

Ms. Asiya

Third Grade Teacher





## Student of the Month



Salma Mahmoud  
5th Grade

Salma is a naturally inquisitive student and very hardworking. She loves reading the Harry Potter Series. She is respectful and kind and a pleasure to have in class.

## Entertainment

We rise high.  
We dominate the sky.  
Go Madina Falcons!

### Puns and Jokes

Brought to you by Muaz Sharaf

Q: What is an Imam's Favorite drink?

A: A Milk Sheikh

Q: What do you call a muscular sheikh?

A: A protein Sheikh

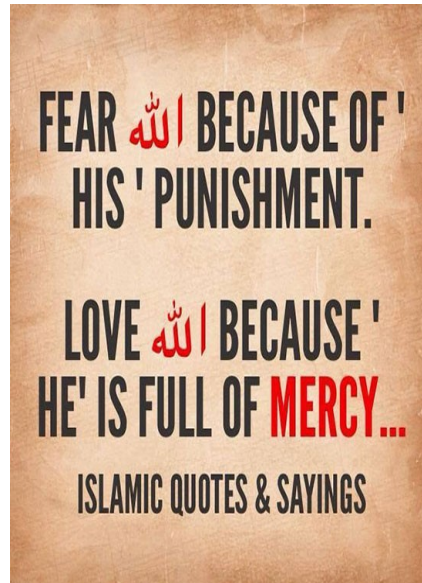
Q: What do you call the security outside of a Samsung Store?

A: Guardians of the Galaxy.

### Challenge Yourself!

#### How many hadiths are there in Sahih Al-Bukhari?

The first student to bring to the principal the correct answer to the "challenge yourself" question will receive an award and will be recognized in the upcoming edition of the Newsletter.



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