



GAZZETTE

SMOC

Editorial

A Blessing or Two

So remote from the warmth life has to offer for every being, are many helpless unfortunate ones. That white un-smuggled paper, having to helplessly arrive to this wild world without being asked, and then forced to handle every hardship there is, with the absence of the existence of any other course, or that widowed mother who has no one to help her raise her distant sons, or probably that person who lost almost every family member in war. The heart-aching list goes on, and you dare cry yourself to sleep because of some effortless conundrum that you considered the end of your world?

Have you ever taken a minute or two to count your blessings? Ever reached out for someone in need? Put a bit of effort that required depriving yourself of a simple privilege, and then had the beautiful reward of sighting a thankful smile?

The Problem is that few are the ones who would open their eyes and hearts to witness and feel the misery of the rest of the world; few are the ones who would realize that when their comfort reaches its tipping point, the slightest boards seem as sky scrapers, which would, in turn, seem so hard to pull down.

If only you knew the tears you would shed if you were to simply hear about how most of the "people" around you have to live their everyday life, when you have everything you could possibly need and still have the nerve to step on it all and ask for more. Humans too are greedy, but I would rather be greedy for mounting my aid to anyone in need, rather than the latter being for my own contentment.

Do not ever consider that kind of required help as a materialistic one. For what they need is far more than that; it is the affection and care that inspire others to go on with their lives knowing that they are not alone, that there's someone by their side, giving them the needed support to go on. No matter how much it might seem secondary to some of us; it undeniably would tip and change the life of someone else. Above all, transcend and help yourself into realizing and acknowledging what you have been blessed with; thank God, and extend your blessings to those in need.

Sara Ann Bitar - Grade 12

Message of the associate principal

We have all heard of historic moments when the course of events was radically changed. Most of us have surely wondered: "What would it have been like to live during such a period?" I am sure that a few of us have even thought of the role they would have played if they were part of those momentous times.

Well, we are now living through a period that can, without exaggeration, be considered extraordinary. We are now both witnesses and part of dramatic transformations taking place around us in the world. Revolutions are taking place in all walks of life. The technological and political revolutions are but two examples out of many. Yet, at the same time that we are experiencing such advancements and enlightenment, we are faced with so much violence which can only result from so much hatred.

This brings us face to face with some important questions: What are we actually looking for? What do we really want? Where are we heading to? Is it a new life or a new way of living? Are we looking for a new life free of conflicts or do we need a new way of thinking and dealing with challenges to face and resolve conflicts?

This is where our role as unique individuals, with exceptional talents and purpose in life comes to surface. Believing that we are capable of coping with the world's challenges in order to make the required transformation will definitely move us towards those goals. Changes made right at the Tipping Point can have enormous consequences. So, if we are armed with this belief and with the appropriate knowledge, we will surely make and be part of those tipping actions that will move events towards required consequences.

We are all called upon today to reflect on our way of thinking and living; to consolidate our goals, to choose the appropriate tools and technology, and to aim high. We should be grateful for living in this time where we can put our God given talents to a purposeful use and leave positive impacts in the world.

Be assured that when our little acts reflect belief, hope and gratitude for God's infinite love and mercy, they can definitely start epidemics that will in turn lead to the required changes.

Let your effective plans lead your thoughts and actions, and may God's blessings lead your way.

Bissan Issa



A Thousand Thanks to you Moms

Mother's Day is a special day for honoring Mothers throughout the world and it is the day where we acknowledge the mother's unconditional love, support and efforts in raising her children. It is also the day where we can show the mothers our appreciation of their contributions to society and the sacrifices they give.

This year, Mother's Day was celebrated in a very unique way in the Preschool Division at SMOC. The preparations started ahead of time. Preschoolers were very excited. They wanted to show their mothers how much they mean to them. Each preschool level had a different way of expressing their gratitude to their mothers.

Celebrating Mother's day in our preschool premises provided our learners with opportunities to express their love and care to their mothers as well as to make their mothers feel so special and appreciated on such a day! The Nursery learners expressed their genuine feelings by telling their mothers few words of love and appreciation. They uttered words of love that made their mothers' hearts dance with pleasure. Moreover, a breakfast buffet

was awaiting everyone and the learners joyfully shared the delicious food and the teatime with their moms.

Going for a treasure hunt was a creative way of celebrating mother's day in KG1. The learners and their mothers were very busy rotating around four amusing games trying to search for clues that would help them figure out the password that leads to the opening of a treasure box.

As for the KG2 learners, they had their own plan to make their moms feel very special during this day. First, they presented a short dialogue which included mother's day history, and how it spread, along with some thank you notes. As learners were delivering their presentation, pictures on the wide screen were being portrayed through an LCD projector which made the demonstration more fun and interactive.

Additionally, each Preschool class sang songs to their mothers and performed a dance to them. At the end, our learners offered their dear mothers gifts which they have created with their little hands.

Zeina Kobeissi - KG2 Teacher



A Letter to Mom

It's March 21st; it's the day when we all express our gratitude and love to the woman who sacrifices everything for us, our mother. A mother is the person who makes it all possible; she's the one who makes difference just by being there. That's why grade 2 learners along with grade 4 learners wanted to give a present to their mothers, not a materialistic gift, but a gift that comes straight away from the heart. Each one of them wrote his/her mother a letter to say Happy Mother's day in their individualized and unique way. Here are some of these letters:

La fête des mamans

Ma maman Chérie je t'aime beaucoup, mais je n'ai pas dit mon secret: aujourd'hui je veux te donner 2 jours de vacances à l'occasion de ta fête. Je te fais la tartine, je te fais la course, je te prépare la table, et je nettoie la maison. De plus je te fais le café. Bonne fête maman. Ce n'est rien, un petit geste. Je t'aime!!!

Dana Kisserwan - EB 4D

Une aventure spéciale...

Ma mère est très fatiguée ,elle a beaucoup travaillé cette semaine, pour cela j' ai décidé avec mes soeurs de la remplacer pour deux jours, ainsi faire le travail à sa place.

On a partagé ce qu'on a à faire, alors j'ai pris la grande partie qui fatigue maman, la vaisselle. Et mes soeurs s' occupent du ménage et du cuisson. C'était une aventure spéciale, ma mère était très contente. On a senti combien elle se fatigue pour nous rendre heureuses.

Rayane Safadi - EB 4D

"Having a mother like you is the greatest gift a person can have. I know that what I do is so small compared to what you are giving us every day, but I promise to be a person that you will be proud of one day. I love you."

Dany Eid - Grade 4B

"Thank you mommy for caring about me and letting me do everything, and the best thing is letting me have a nice life, thank you for everything you do for me".

Adam Bassam - Grade 2

"Thank you mom, for everything you do. I want you always to be with me. I will love you each day more than the other"

Malak Rida - Grade 2

"Mommy I love you so much. Thank you for giving me all your care."

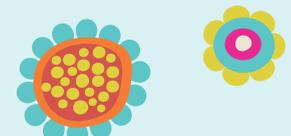
Luna Ahmad - Grade 2

"Thank you for taking care of me. Thank you for cooking me food. Thank you for your hugs and kisses. Thank you mommy, I love you so much and I want to say to you Happy Mother's Day".

Mohamad Abdallah - Grade 2

"Thank you mommy, you are the universe to me. I want to thank you because you are my mom and because you give me everything I want. I love u very much".

Rayan hajj Moussa - Grade 2



Science Fair in the Upper Elementary

Science fair is a corner where learners of grade levels 4 to 6 will have the opportunity to release the little scientist dormant inside each of them. It is one of the best experiences our learners can undertake to enhance and improve their inquiry and investigational skills. Of course, learning about science is at the heart of a science fair project. Our society relies more on science every day, and science fairs are a great way for learners to become more knowledgeable about how the world around them works. Every citizen needs sufficient science literacy to make educated decisions about what he or she reads in the media, about health care, and about other every-day problems.



Conceptually, a science fair project is very straightforward. A learner chooses a scientific question he or she would like to answer. Then, using different resources, the learner formulates a hypothesis and designs an experiment. After writing a report to summarize this research, the learner performs the experiment, draws his or her conclusions, and presents the results to teachers and classmates in class. Then, the best presentations are chosen to be displayed for the rest of the school. Then among these, the first three places of each grade level are chosen and given prizes.

Our Upper elementary learners got very busy in coming up with original ideas, for they consider it a real challenge to demonstrate their scientific knowledge and skills. They were bubbling with enthusiasm. Their ideas ranged from health to earth science and space. They were all very proud of the projects they did. Everyone considered him/herself a winner and achiever as he/she gained more interesting scientific information.

Orly Hasbany - Upper Elementary and Intermediate Physical Science Teacher

Learners' Insight about the Science Fair:

This year's science fair was different from the rest, since there's a wave of competitions ahead of us. The science fair reveals the hidden talents of learners and helps in improving scientific imagination. It also prepares us for the daring future.

From our perspective, we think that the science fair is a challenging competition and winning it would be a great accomplishment. That's why we had to choose a unique topic to surpass everybody's expectations and raise our talents among others. Our project is "The Alternative Car" where we express our concern about the environment and try to find a solution for the problem of pollution.

Karim Itani and Diala Ghalayini - Grade 6B

Every year starting grade 4 till grade 6 we have a special kind of competition in groups. In this competition, we have to come up with scientific project. It is the yearly "Science Fair". This fair gives us the chance to share our ideas about a certain scientific topic that concerns us all. It helps us practice science investigation and invention. It needs challenge, creativity and the ability to demonstrate our ideas as project.

Our project was the Solar-fan. It took us some time to decide on this idea as we wanted

something that could be useful to everybody. We have also chosen this topic in an attempt to help with saving energy as it is becoming one of the endangered resources.

Mohamad Ismail and Jad Akel - Grade 6C

We bet this year's science fair has more interesting topics because of new ideas and competitors. This means more knowledge, more information and more projects.

Our project for the fair is about smoking and how it harms people. From our research we concluded that smoking and second hand smoking cause cancer. We have also concluded that smoking is addictive and people who smoke know that they are harming themselves.

Our main goal from this project is to get the word out about the disadvantages of smoking and the diseases it causes. As well, we are looking to start a campaign against smoking through this project.

Bassel Ayoub, Yara Hashem, Luna Naoura and Ghassan Zein - Grade 6C

This is the first year we participate in the science fair. We felt very excited. We started looking for information about what we want to do. Then we started preparing.

As we care a lot about earth and the causes of pollution, we decided that we want to do a project that would benefit the earth. Our project is the Manual Windmill. The windmill produces electricity without causing pollution. It produces the electricity through using the wind.

It was a great project to us. We enjoyed presenting it to our friends and teachers.

Amjad Yehya, Jad Bou Alwan, Khaled Youness and Rana Abdel Baki - Grade 4

La bande dessinée

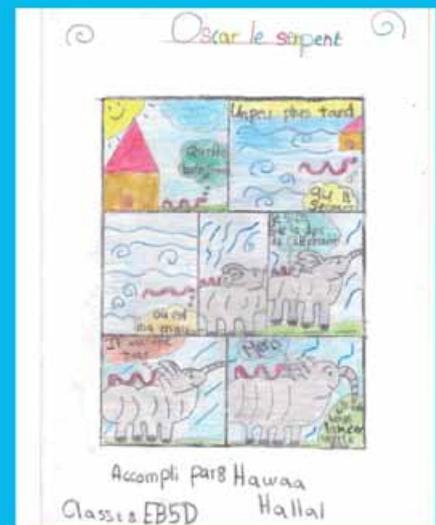
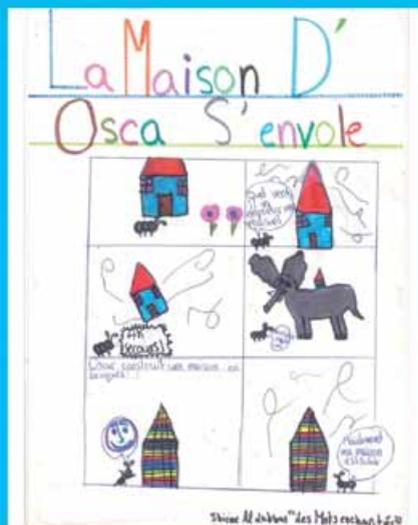
La bande dessinée (BD ou bédé) est un art, souvent désigné comme le « neuvième art ». Il permet de raconter des histoires au moyen d'un enchaînement signifiant de dessins. Ce concept est traité dans les classes d'EB5 suivant différentes activités intégrées avec l'art qui permettent à l'enfant de s'exercer et s'entraîner à produire un texte- images en suivant un ordre chronologique. Chacun des apprenants a présenté la BD qu'il a déjà préparée en classe. Suite à ceci les apprenants ont pu en déduire les caractéristiques et les étapes qu'ils doivent adopter pour pouvoir produire une BD. De plus, ils ont appris le lexique spécifique, comme vignette, les bulles, dialogue. Les apprenants ont vraiment apprécié cette activité.

Pour rendre l'évaluation d'expression écrite plus active, moins stressante et aussi, pour faciliter la tâche aux apprenants, la consigne était de produire une bande dessinée (dessiner, écrire un dialogue..). Ceci a rencontré un grand succès.

Mlle Pascale Ikhtiar-Enseignante de français



Bandes Dessinées



• En classe de EB5, dans l'unité 3, on apprend aux élèves comment produire une bande dessinée. Chacun a produit sa propre B.D. Voici les résultats!

Sports Tournament

With a little encouragement and motivation, children would give up the TV, PSP and Wii for more physical activities and busy playgrounds. Instead of munching chips and cookies, they would reach for sports activities. And what better way to keep our kids away from computer games and television than involving them in a sports tournament.

This year, the sports tournaments at SMOC were of huge success. Our learners were full of enthusiasm and ready to challenge their capabilities and each other, and at the same time display their sportsmanship. What was significant is the presence of parents-especially the parents of the upper elementary learners- who willingly cheered their children.

As this event was a massive thriller for the learners, they decided to share this experience with us. Here's what they wrote:

This year's football tournament was by far the most exciting of all! And the crowd can for sure back me up on this!

Everyone was very enthusiastic and excited as they cheered and applauded for their favorite team (regardless of how well they played).

The games were unpredictable; all the players were well prepared which meant an impressive and super-hot competition.

They played with clever tactics and strategies (except for some random passes and shots) and the tables turned countless times during the games as the scores were never stable.

It was a success, certainly, and I can't wait for next year!

Nizar Daou - Grade 6C



Kick It till the Last Bit

Freeing the soul and body is one of the needed and necessary requirements and goals of the youngsters. This is why our school organizes on yearly basis different kinds of activities for the learners of all divisions. Some of them are common to all, others are not. When it comes to outdoor activities that fire up enthusiasm and energy, we cannot but stress on the sports tournaments. This year, seniors have planned several soccer tournaments, in order to carry on for the purpose of releasing daily scholastic stress. Some amendments have been done in order to make these tournaments events to look forward to; such as adding a bit of music and playing the role of commentators. This was done, for sure, with the help of the school's Audio-visual Department.... These soccer games have included dividing learners into competitive teams, arranging every "sub-game", and consequently qualifying the winning contestants to play in the next

rounds! The crowd was watching with intensity and passion as they were of course cheering and applauding for their favorite team. Whenever a team qualified to the next round, the enthusiasm was surely leveled up!

Being sincerely anticipated and eager to witness the uniqueness and creativity in every scholastic activity, we hope to stand all up to all your expectations as to every planned activity.

Prom Committee



بمبادرة من قسم الرياضة في ثانوية السيدة الأثوذكستية وإشرافه. قامت بطولة في كرة القدم بتنظيم من الأستاذين بولس بشارة وأحمد علم الدين. الثلاثاء الواقع في ٢٠ آذار ٢٠١٢ في الملعب الغربي للمدرسة. شارك فيها متعلمو المرحلة المتوسطة (التابع. الثامن والتاسع الأساسيّ) وكان الفضل في التحكيم للأستاذ علم الدين والمتعلم زاهر حيدر.

البطولة جرت بحسب نظام التصفية. من الرابعة بعد الظهر حتى السادسة والتصف. وبرز فيها مستوى عال في اللعبة الكروية. في فريق الثامن The Singers وبخاصة في حراسة المرمى. التي أسندت إلى غياث عيتاني. ما حقق الفوز.

وتمكّن الفريق الفائز من اجتياز أبرز لاعبي الفرق الفائزة السنة الماضية (Game over) الذي حل في المركز الثاني. وكذلك فريق (Chunky).

المباريات أمتعت الجمهور في الدقة والتنظيم. كما ظهر للمرة الأولى في بطولة الحلقة المتوسطة لاعبو الصف السابع الذين حققوا نتيجة لا بأس بها.

وحيّمت على مجريات البطولة الروح الرياضية التي تجسد الأخلاق الرفيعة التي لطالما عودتنا عليها المدرسة. نأمل في أن تكون هذه البطولة متجددة ومستمرّة في السنوات المقبلة على أن تكون أكثر من بطولة واحدة سنويًا للانتقال بالمتعلمين من مرحلة الهواة الى مرحلة الرياضيين..

علي دكروب و وئام حداد - التاسع أساسيّ "ب"

العبرة من... صغارنا!

من أهمّ المواضيع التي نشدّد عليها وننشر الوعي في شأنها لدى متعلمينا ومنذ الصغر: المحافظة على البيئة. وذلك بهدف تعديل السلوك نحو البيئة. ما يؤديّ حتماً إلى تصحيح مفهوم المجتمع. وبناء وطن أفضل وأكثر صحّة ونظافة. فالتغيير يبدأ بالوعي. وأما مسؤوليّة نشره فعلى كاهل الأهل والمدرسة في آن معاً.

ولأنّ تعليم المهارات ينبغي أن يكون عمليّة متكاملة. فقد أطلقنا حملة وعي بيئيّ عرضت للمشاكل البيئية في صفوف التروضات. كما تضمّنت الكثير من التّشاطات المختلفة والتي تهدف الى الاهتمام بالبيئة ككلّ.

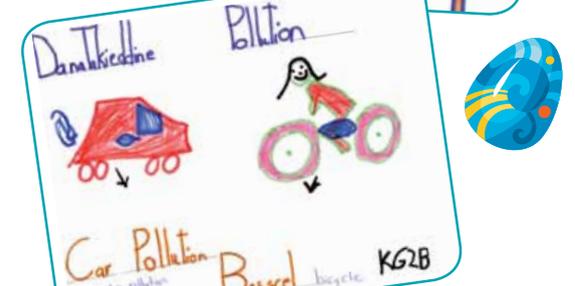
بعد عرض فيلم قصير يعالج مشكلة التلوّث البيئيّ. دار نقاش بين متعلمينا في صفوف التروضة الثانية. وفاجأنا كثيراً وعي صغارنا وإدراكهم أهميّة المحافظة على بيئة نظيفة. وبالتالي التمتع بصحة جيّدة. بدأوا بتعداد أهمّ عوامل تلوّث الهواء ومنها: الدخان المنبعث من المعامل والسّيّارات. إضافة إلى رمي النفايات بطريقة غير صحيحة على الطّرق. كذلك لم ينسوا التّطرّق إلى موضوع تلوّث المياه الذي أدى إليه رمي النفايات في الأنهار. وصولاً إلى البحر. والأسباب الأخرى للتلوّث على كثرتها..

لم يكتف متعلمونا بذلك بل عرضوا حلولاً للمحافظة على البيئة وللحدّ من التلوّث أو تخفيفه ومنها: إطفاء التور قبل مغادرة الغرفة. حسن استعمال المياه أثناء تنظيف الأسنان. وعدم ترك الحنفيّة مفتوحة. رمي النفايات في المستوعبات الخاصّة بها مع التّشديد على زراعة الأشجار في كلّ مكان. لأنّها تساهم في شكل كبير وأساس. في تنقية الهواء. لننعم ببيئة صحّيّة.

فهل نعتبر من صغارنا ونكون مثلاً صالحاً يقتدى به؟

فيوليت أبي سعد

معلّمة اللّغة العربيّة في صفّ التروضة الثانية



Communicating Creatively

Oral communication activities in grade three are always the Talk of the Town! From simple games played in class to sophisticated plays presented on stage, these activities are continuously evolving year after year. This term two interesting activities took place, our traditional "Culture Day" and our first time successful play attempt "The Giving Tree".

All the learners in the Culture Day played a substantial role to make it happen. Here are some of the learners' reflections and thoughts about that day:

Mohamad Ali Reda from Grade 3C explained: "It was an exciting Monday afternoon for the learners in the 3rd grade. Each one of us was given the chance to travel the world on a new adventure and discover its people and culture. Our topics were presented to an audience made up of teachers and friends. As I watched, it felt like I was reading the story *Around the World in 80 Days*, but in my case, it was more like *Around The World in 1 Day*. We presented our chosen countries in terms of their geographical descriptions, cultures, religions, food, music, traditions, and economy. After careful research, each of the learners became an expert on his/her specific country. As the audience and I listened, each one of us got the sense that the world is a blend of exciting people, and we represent the future of what lies ahead!"

Sarah Saoud from Grade 3C said: "On Monday, February 27, I travelled all around the world in just one day! It was Culture Day! I was so excited to see costumes from different countries, taste delicious food from many cuisines, enjoy the amazing cultural dances, and learn new fun facts about many countries that I have never visited before. I liked all the presentations; each took me to a different new world! I even learned some new words from many languages. My favorite part was being a Spanish girl wearing a very fancy dress and flamenco shoes. It was a totally thrilling experience because it made me learn the true culture and traditions of Spain. This will make it easier for me if I travel there. After the show was over, we had an amazing parade! Wearing our costumes, we went into every single class in the Lower Elementary to share the awesome experience. The fun was not over yet! We had a very scrumptious buffet from different countries. I tasted sushi from Japan, cheese from France, and pineapple from Hawaii! That day was memorable and will always be cherished by all G3 learners, and, most especially, by me.

Stephanie Shatila from Grade 3B explained: "I loved Culture Day because I got to learn many new things about different amazing countries. The country that I enjoyed the most was England because the learners who presented it were very creative. I felt that they did a lot of research and became experts on England and its culture and traditions. It was very nice of the teachers to do this activity

that gave us the chance to learn about different countries, people, and languages."

Wael Talhouk from Grade 3B said: "Last Monday, we participated in the Culture Day. We put on traditional clothes, learned some foreign languages, and got to see some artifacts from many different countries around the world. Did you know that Chinese people clean their houses on New Year's Eve to take out all of the bad luck? I will never forget this day. We shared a lot of information, and we even shared some mouth-watering food!"

Ahmad Yassine from 3A shared his experience by saying: "The Culture Day was very exciting and interesting. Third graders participated in talking about the cultures of different countries. The Culture Day took place in the auditorium of SMOC on Monday, February 27, 2012. Everything was organized, thanks to the big efforts that our teachers and learners put. It was nice to see the traditional clothes, listen to music, and taste the food of different countries. The representatives of each country shared excellent information with others. I was very excited and happy because I learned a lot, and it felt like I had actually visited each country presented."

Mohammad Zreik from 3A explained: "The 27th of February, 2012, was a very nice day because it was Culture Day. On that special day, we all got information about different countries. Every country was special in a different way. Some people wore their countries' traditional clothing. After we finished, we had a parade in the LE Division, so we passed by G2 and they enjoyed hearing about the different countries; even the teachers were pleased! After that, we went down to the playground where we ate food from all over the world. That's why it was the best day!"

As for our play "The Giving Tree", more than fifteen learners from all grade three classes were involved in this profound integrated oral communication activity. These learners rehearsed for more than a month to present a praiseworthy play. All the learners enjoyed it and learned substantial lessons for life.

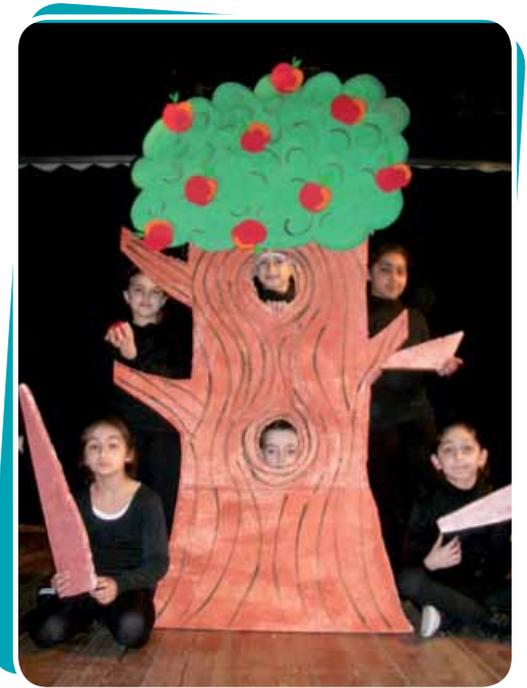
"This is the most interesting show that I ever acted in. I was so scared when it was my turn. I liked it when the boy ate a real apple and when the old man came walking on a cane. He really looked like an old person. The audience interacted nicely with us. They laughed and giggled when Ahmad Ballout – the old boy- went on stage." Sarah Barhoumi from 3B said. She thoughtfully added "This play taught me many things. I learned that we should take care of the tree, because just like all other living things on Earth we sometimes use them unwisely."

As for Zeina Kaddoura 3B, she said "this is an amazing show. I was excited and very glad to be a part of it from the moment I passed the first auditions. The Giving Tree opened

our eyes and let us see how many natural resources found on Earth are sometimes misused." She added "We as living things who share this planet need to take care of it and respect it."

Last but not least, Lama Hassbini and Nour Baydoun from grade 3A described their feelings about the play and the story as follows: "When we first read the story, it touched our hearts. We liked the way the narrator explained the events of the story. The funniest part in the play was when the old man entered the stage. The saddest part was when the boy left the tree. But we were very happy when the boy came back to take care of the tree. We enjoyed both the story and the play a lot."

This play didn't only help with the enhancement of the learners' oral communication skills. They discussed with their teachers the importance of preserving and respecting nature and of recognizing the Immense Generosity of God through His Creation (Trees, flowers, wind etc...)



Learners' Talents and Achievements

All children have special talents that need to be noticed and nurtured. These treasures sometimes float to the surface, yet at other times they need digging. Motivating the children, encouraging them and always supporting them through positive reinforcement can no doubt be very essential. Children's talents should be developed as early as possible so they can achieve their full potential. Parents can be very important in helping their children develop their talents by working with them at home. School, as well, plays a crucial role that certainly gives the children an effective incentive to work more towards this goal.

Aya Natur, a grade 2 learner, and her brother **Mohamad Natur** (grade 5) certainly possess the talent of drawing. In their drawings, one can see through their eyes the nature, different faces and events that affect them. Besides, **Layana Takieddine** (grade 2) attends, on weekly basis, afternoon classes for drawing. These classes are helping Layana learn the basics for drawing. She is making a great progress in developing her talent and this is reflected in her drawings.

In addition, **Lea Bassam** (grade 6), also excels in swimming. Lea considers swimming an essential lifesaving skill. She gave this sport a lot of her time so she could be one of the best. Lea was able to come in the second place in the 13th High School Invitational Tournament in swimming 50 meters breast stroke that took place at LAU. Not only Lea, but also **Nour Ghossaini** (grade 6), has been training on swimming, for 4 years now. She has taken part in many races and competitions. On December 24th, 2011, at the "Bain Militaire", in spite of the cold December sea, and in spite of the fact that Nour was competing with older and much stronger girls, she put in all her effort to win the race, and she came in the second place.

That's not all, for our talented learners are many. It's not only about sports or drawing. Writing also takes a huge part of our learners' talents. **Majd Shidiac** (grade 10) expresses his thoughts through drawing. Yet, he doesn't use colors or paint; he draws with words and through poetry. He was one of the winners of BOS writing competition in 2011. In addition

to that, and during Beirut International Book Fair 2011, Majd had a book signing for the first book he published. It took him two years to finish his first book. About this experience, Majd says the following: Publishing a book seems the most fun part in the whole process; yet I disagree, for I had a lot of pleasure in writing the book itself, and seeing the great moral support and feedback given to me by my family, teachers, classmates, and friends. My book has a lot of stories and a lot of different dilemmas and situations that could really get our minds to think. It also includes a lot of my thoughts, feelings, and situations which were basically my muse till the last minute. I hope this book would leave an imprint on the readers and ones yet to read, which in turn would make them get in touch with their inner soul and eventually trigger their creativity and get them to write and express their feelings.

Majd, Nour, Lea, Aya, Layana and Mohamad are just a few of our learners that are skilled and competent at something they enjoy. Recognizing their talents and shedding the light on their achievements would definitely support them and cultivate their self-esteem positively and play a big role in helping them to be successful and feel good about themselves. The coming days will, for sure, give us the opportunity to discover the uniqueness and artistic traits of SMOC learners that we are all proud of.

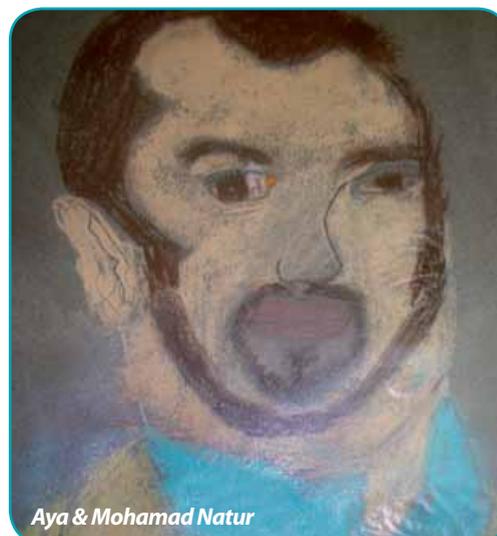
Manar Habbal - Editing Committee Member



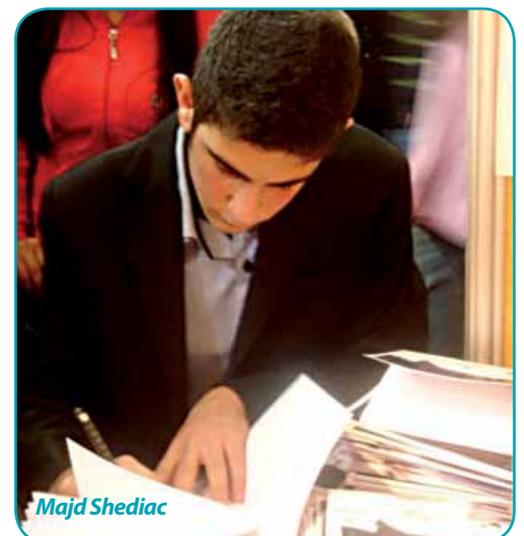
Layana Takieddine



Lea Bassam



Aya & Mohamad Natur



Majd Shidiac



Nour Ghossaini



In order to help our learners understand the importance of collaboration and cooperation, and to enjoy Easter and spring time in an artistic way, an Easter mural was prepared by the learners of grade 1 and grade 4.

"Tipping Point"

As individuals and social species, we put up huge psychological defenses to protect the status quo. Recently, we have witnessed tipping points in various systems around the world that affect our daily lives. One of those systems is technology and the evolution of the social media and its systemic effects on global change.

Many stable systems have critical thresholds called tipping points, where systems shift from one state to another and cause an epidemic change. Irrespective of the type of system, when approaching a tipping point, they begin to share common behaviors. Once transitions have occurred and the tipping point has passed a series of events that drive the system to a different state. A typical example could be the recent and current political situation in Egypt.

Janet Kadian

Mother of David Kadian - Grade 7B



Theme of the year: "Tipping point"

The word "Tipping Point" comes from the world of epidemiology. It's the name given to that moment in an epidemic when a virus reaches critical mass and everything changes all at once. It is when the ideas and products behave just like outbreaks of infectious disease. The tipping point is an examination of the social epidemics. Thus, the typical behavior for the epidemics is that they can blow up and then die out really quickly...

A tipping point exists in all areas of our lives and its impact on a certain field may either be positive or negative. Many examples can be given. "Global Warming" is one of these examples. I will tackle this issue due to its great impact in our life. Global warming is an environmental tipping point that threatens the whole world. Climate research shows that global warming will become the main driver of global environmental change in the

future. However, climate change isn't only an environmental problem; it has far-reaching implications for societies, economies and international system.

In earth's history before the industrial revolution, earth's climate changed due to natural causes...Greenhouse gases have a cruel warming effect. The major greenhouse gases are water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, and ozone. Clouds also affect the radiation balance through cloud forcing similar to greenhouse gases.

In the past century, another force has started to influence the earth's climate which is "Humanity". Human activity has increased the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Fossil fuel burning has produced about three-quarters of the increase in carbon dioxide over 20 years. The rest of this increase is caused mostly by deforestation.

Global warming is considered, nowadays, one of the complicated tipping points facing world leaders. Urgent precautions should be taken. We should all work together to diminish the impacts of this tipping point. A positive change can occur if we all work together.

The tipping point draws from psychology, sociology and epidemiology and uses examples from the worlds of business, education, fashion and media. As a result, the target for setting this theme is to show the learners how to start positive epidemics of their own and to encourage them to be agents of change. However, it should be clearly stated that tipping points can have both negative and positive effects. That's to say not all trends should be followed. A person should think rationally with the consequences of that trend before following it...

Safa Zein Masri

Mother of: Ahmad - Grade 1C & Haya - KG 1A

All of us know of needy people living in poverty. We have all heard stories of families living in decrepit quarters with little to eat or drink. Yet, we tend to be apathetic to the plight of people in need. We pretend not to know, look the other way, or be cold faced when we are confronted with such situations. How can we learn to act more humanely towards others? How can we share in their plights and help reduce their burden? The answer is to actively participate in charity work. Philanthropy can positively change our lives, increase our sense of commitment to society and help us instill higher values in our children.

When I became actively involved in charity work, my original purpose was to give something back to society. However, as I handled particular cases, I started observing how charity work was developing my daughters' sense of humanity. My daughters used to ask me why I would feel sorry for people I didn't know well! Explaining wasn't enough. But taking them to an orphanage and seeing many children sleeping in one simple room was an astonishing scene to them. It made them feel grateful for having parents to take care of them.

I feel that charity work has been a tipping point in my life and, especially, in my daughters' lives. My daughters now show better understanding towards the poor and needy. They make suggestions to me as to how we can help and they even participate in some charity events. Hopefully, this sense of humanity will stay with them and grow stronger as they develop into mature adults with the ability to make a difference in other people's lives.

Mariam Mogharbel

Mother of Oumaya and Nour Mogharbel - Grade 4



المكتبات وخدمات المستقبل



أن نضع الكتاب على رفوف الذكريات. ونتجه في كليتنا نحو التكنولوجيا والمعلوماتية، كأنا نلغي حقبة من تاريخنا البشري لنعبر جسراً يفصل بين العالم الورقي الذي أحدث ثورة في القرون الماضية إلى العالم الرقمي الذي هو الثورة في عصرنا الآن.

الكتاب وما هو الكتاب؟ أهو حامل للذاكرة والتاريخ والتراث؟ أو حامل للأفكار والرؤى الجديدة والنظريات والجماليات والعلم والثورات المعرفية؟ أهو أداة للتواصل والتواصل الثقافي بين الحضارات واللغات والشعوب واستشراف للمستقبل؟ نعم، الكتاب

التأليف وعرض نتاجهم الفكري. كل ذلك انعكس إيجاباً على ارتفاع مستوى الاعارة وباللغات الثلاث.

ومن النشاطات الأبرز والأكثر حيوية هو عيد الأم: نشاط له نكهة خاصة. فيه يندمج الأهل في العملية التربوية. فعلى مدى ثلاثة أسابيع. فتحت المدارس أبوابها لتستقبل أمهات مرحلتى التعليم الأساسى الأولى والثانية. اللاتي قرأن القصص وشاركن في الأعمال اليدوية. وفي هذه الأيام توزع المتعلمون مجموعات. وتنقلوا بين المكتبة والصفوف وغرفة الزراعة والمسرح. ما جعل من المدارس خلية نحل تعمل مجتهداً ومتعاونة. وكان للكتاب الدور الأول. لأن الأمهات عملن على اختيار القصص وسردها. ما جعل المتعلمين يسارعون إلى استعارتها.

"إن بيتا يخلو من كتاب هو بيت بلا روح"
"كلما أغلقنا كتاباً كلما سددنا النوافذ"
"وتركنا عالماً بكامله يموت اختناقاً"
"قارئ اليوم قائد الغد"



منيرة التتوري حداد

هو كل ذلك. فهل يمكننا أن نضعه جانباً بعد كل ما يناله. لنواكب عصر التطور والتكنولوجيا؟

يتجه العالم اليوم نحو الكتاب الرقمي. فنحن نتصفح الجرائد والمجلات على الانترنت بكلفة أقل. ويمكننا البحث عن الموضوع الذي يهمنا من دون أن نتكبد أي عناء. أمّا الكتاب المدرسي. فهو يتقدم في خطى سريعة نحو النظام الرقمي. الإحصاءات والأرقام تضعنا أمام واقع لا بد منه. فأكثر من ٤٠ في المئة من إنتاج الكتب أصبح رقمياً. والكتاب الورقي إلى تراجع مخيف. والرقمي إلى تقدم تصاعدي سريع. ولكن، ثمة فسحة ما زالت متاحة أمام الكتاب للحفاظ على دوره ومكانته. فنحن لا نعارض التطور الحاصل. ولكننا نريد أن يبقى الكتاب متوازياً ومحافظاً على مكانته.

أمام كل هذه التحديات. عملت مكتباتنا على جعل هذه السنة سنة مميزة في نشاطاتها. واجتهدت في تسليط الضوء على الكتاب من خلال إغناء مجموعاتنا وتغذيتها بإصدارات جديدة. وتشجيع متعلمينا وتوجيههم نحو القراءة واستعارة الكتب. وحضهم على محاولات أولى في

Fables

Une fable est un court récit écrit plutôt en vers qu'en prose et ayant un but didactique (qui comporte un enseignement, qui cherche donc à instruire). Elle se caractérise généralement par l'usage d'une symbolique animale ou avec des personnages fictifs, des dialogues vifs, et des ressorts comiques. La morale est soit à extraire de l'implicite du texte, soit exprimée à la fin ou, plus rarement, au début du texte. Les fables les plus caractéristiques comportent un double renversement des positions tenues par les personnages principaux. La fable s'inscrit dans le genre de l'apologue.

Jean de La Fontaine devient au XVIIe siècle le plus grand fabuliste de tous les temps. S'inspirant beaucoup d'Ésope, de Phèdre ou de Guéroult, il imprime sa marque en critiquant la société du siècle de Louis XIV. Ayant écrit plus de cinq cents fables, c'est un auteur prolifique, qui a marqué à jamais la littérature française.

Ses fables nous enseignent par exemple que :

«La raison du plus fort est toujours la meilleure» Le Loup et l'Agneau (I, 10), ou bien «En toute chose il faut considérer la fin» Le Renard et le Bouc (III, 5). Mais aussi que «Toute puissance est faible, à moins que d'être unie» Le Vieillard et ses enfants (IV, 19), et que «Rien ne

sert de courir, il faut partir à point» Le Lièvre et la Tortue (VI, 10) et beaucoup d'autres encore.

A SMOC, nos chers petits apprenants des G3, sont devenus à leur tour des «Petits La Fontaine» et ont créé leurs propres fables ! Ils y ont mis en œuvre les valeurs déjà discutées à l'école et en ont énoncé la morale à travers l'écriture d'une histoire adaptée à leur âge !

Lena HAYDAR

Enseignante de langue française, cycle primaire

Le premier jour d'école

Un jour, Chaton et Canard se sont réveillés de bon matin. Ils étaient très fâchés! C'était le jour de la rentrée et ils ne voulaient pas aller à l'école. Ils croyaient que « aller à l'école » n'est pas amusant.

Quand ils sont arrivés à l'école, ils y ont trouvé beaucoup d'enfants et de jouets. Ils se mettent alors à jouer dans la grande cour! Et quand la cloche a sonné, ils sont rentrés dans la salle de classe. La maîtresse a commencé à leur lire une histoire jusqu'au temps du déjeuner. Après, ils ont passé de beaux moments jusqu'à la sonnerie de la fin de la journée. Ils ont eu tellement de plaisir qu'ils ne pouvaient plus attendre le lendemain pour aller à l'école.

Depuis ce jour-là, Chaton et Canard ont compris qu'il ne faut jamais juger quoi que ce soit

avant de l'essayer.

Aya Yatim - Grade3B

La Vache et le Fermier

Dans la ferme de monsieur Sami, il y a beaucoup d'animaux.

Il y a : des poules, des coqs, des cochons et deux vaches. Une des vaches, la plus jeune, procure du lait très frais, délicieux et écrémé.

Chaque matin, le fermier traite cette vache. Quand c'est le temps du petit déjeuner, monsieur Sami verse le lait dans un bol pour en faire du lait au chocolat chaud.

La vieille vache qui fait du mauvais lait devient jalouse. Elle veut faire du lait aussi bon que celui de la vache gâtée. Mais elle n'y arrive pas.

Un jour, le fermier en a marre d'attendre une semaine pour avoir du lait frais. Alors, il tue la jeune vache pour prendre son lait. Mais quelques minutes plus tard, il est conscient de ce qu'il a fait et se dit :

«Oh ! J'ai tué la vache qui me donne le lait le plus frais !» Et depuis ce jour-là, le fermier comprend qu'il faut être patient et se fatiguer pour obtenir ce qu'on désire.

Mariam Alwaieh - Grade 3B



La Campagne "Yes You Can"

Dégoûtés par les déchets parsemés partout? Vous ne supportez pas les gens qui les jettent? Vous voulez faire une action d'éclat ! Alors participez à la campagne "Ana ma bkeb" et soyez nombreux ! Tout dépend de vous !

La campagne "Ana ma bkeb" sensibilise les gens, donne des idées écologiques, identifie les problèmes, propose des solutions ... Tout le monde sera informé de la date où la "peinture poubelle" va commencer. Les poubelles seront distribuées sur les trottoirs, partout au Liban.

Dans le cadre de "Ana ma bkeb/ Yes You Can", certaines personnes vont aller dans les écoles pour informer les apprenants sur ce projet. Il va y avoir beaucoup de moniteurs et de guides pour assurer votre sécurité et celle des autres.

Yasmina Rajab - Grade 8B

La pollution est un problème auquel on fait face quotidiennement. Bien sûr, on se doit d'en parler et de travailler pour sauver, protéger la nature et arrêter la pollution. A l'école on a parlé d'une compétition qui s'appelle "Yes You Can" c'est une compétition dans laquelle les jeunes doivent présenter une affiche avec des dessins. Le jury choisit les 100 meilleures affiches dans diverses écoles. Après, les 3 meilleurs dessins seront choisis et les personnes qui les ont préparés vont faire exécuter leurs dessins sur des poubelles qui seront distribuées dans plusieurs endroits au Liban afin de montrer aux gens l'importance de la nature non polluée. Nous pensons que cette compétition est amusante et intéressante et en même temps c'est une action écologique bénéfique pour un environnement sain.

Karen Kassab and Reina Ghalayini - EB8A



صفحة غيرت التاريخ

كانت فرنسا أثناء أزمته أيام الثورة الفرنسية قد انتشرت القمح من الجزائر بديون مؤجلة. إلا أنها لم تف بوعودها بتسديد ديونها. ولم تستمع إلى مطالب الجزائريين. وفي عام 1816م جاء القنصل الفرنسي لقصر الداي للتهنئة بمناسبة عيد الفطر. فسأله الداي عن رد الملك الفرنسي على رسالته فأساء القنصل الأدب في رده للداي. فما كان من الأخير إلا أن صفعه وطرده من القصر. فكتب القنصل إلى حكومته ما تم. فاعتبرت ذلك إهانة وأخذت تستعد للغزو.

أكملت فرنسا استعداداتها فأرسلت في 25 أيار 1830م حملة عسكرية ضخمة مؤلفة من 103 سفينة عسكرية وأربعمئة سفينة نقل تحمل العتاد وأربعين ألف مقاتل. ونزلت هذه القوة على البر واحتلت موقع (سيدي فرج).

وبعد معركة طاحنة بين الطرفين انتصر الفرنسيون ودخلوا مدينة الجزائر في (5 تموز 1830م) واضطر الداي إلى الاستسلام. ثم استولى الفرنسيين على الجزائر بأكملها.

