

GAZZETTE

BAC

Editorial

When I first questioned the meaning of the tipping point, I was told it is a turning point. The way I see this point is that it is an ultimate change in someone's life, transporting him from one state to another.

You start as a kid, you know nothing about life. Little by little and through the small things, you realize you are growing. When you first feel that going to the dentist without your dad is not something to be scared of; that is when you know that your life is changing. When you pass through the streets and see how seasons are changing, you realize that in few months, your life can also turn upside down. Sometimes, in a single second you suddenly believe in something you had never imagined you would. Is the tipping point something scary? Perhaps it is, perhaps it is not. Often you don't even know that you are actually changing. Do people always realize that a single word can change the world? Sometimes, a single word can build; sometimes it can destroy, but most importantly, a single word has the power to transform. I keep wondering about the fast pace of change in our daily lives, and realize that whether we acknowledge it or not, change is an important part of our lives that is constantly happening. If there should be some stable feelings in our lives, those should be of hope and faith. Getting a low grade, failing a class, losing someone important can all be tipping points that may lead us towards transformation, and even positive personal revolutions if coupled with faith and hope.

In the end, we should all hope for the best and prepare for the future where the dormant tipping points laying within each of us can burst at any time: we should always be ready to change towards the better and be an inspiration for all those around us.

Ghina Shehab - Grade 10 A



Message of the principal

Dear learners, parents and colleagues

In an era witnessing rapid changes that are affecting our lives in one way or another, one cannot but look for the underlying stimuli. This epidemic has started somewhere by somebody who has been brave enough to say NO, to take initiative, to believe in his ability, to revolt against oppression, to dare the challenge, and most importantly to demand his rights. All people are born equal and with similar rights. Yet, we sometimes forget this and become selfish in our endeavors. We now live in a diverse, globalized and complex society that bestows many challenges on us. In order to face these challenges we should be critical thinkers and problem solvers; we should know how to collaborate across Networks; we need to be quick and prepared to adapt; we must take initiatives and communicate well our opinion; we should know how to access information and analyze it; we should give way to our curiosity and unleash our imagination. Those who can make a difference and cause a change have these skills combined with commitment and perseverance for their dreams, with excitement and enthusiasm in accomplishments, with hope and optimism for the future, with forgiveness and tolerance for those who dispute with them, and essentially with love that dissolves our differences and molds us in one coherent body. This love, if authentic and sincere, will be like the drop of water that falls in a pool and produces many ripples.

In order to lead the change one has to be brave and strong. Braveness does not mean being rude and impulsive. It does not mean smashing the other for one's interest. It does not mean reigning over the miseries of others or misleading others. Braveness is the courage to stand for the common right with deep belief and transparency. It is the ability to say sorry when we make mistakes. It is the ability to stand up once and one more when we fail. It is overcoming our selfishness. Braveness is reaching the tipping point toggling a status quo into a dynamic change. As for strength, it should not be only physical; else it will lead to violence. It should not be only technological; else it will lead to an automated world. Strength should be powered with love in order to stretch to the other and transform him.

Dear BAC community, in this holy season I invite you to live the deep braveness and strength within you and discover the importance of the flame enrooted in you and which can change the world through THE WORD.

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Laura Rizk



Work produced by learners in the Agricultural Program.

My Caring Siblings

On a sunny fruitful day, KG1's siblings decided to surprise them. They gathered from upper classes and paid them a visit.

In order to keep the sprightliness of the new theme, "My Family My Community", a story was read and acted out. The purpose behind this activity was for learners to acquire the importance of their family members and the roles they play. Therefore, each learner acted out a part of the story, pretending to be one of the family members. The elder siblings enjoyed spending time with the KG1 learners and sharing the experience of preschool with their little brothers and sisters. The story-telling was full of funny moments, laughter, and fun. The KG1 learners vividly interacted with the narrators. They answered their questions and asked questions of their own.

At the end, they all prepared a healthy snack and sat around the table to share it as one big happy family.

Ghada Saridar - KG1 Homeroom Teacher



Recyclage de papier au préscolaire

Le recyclage est un procédé de traitement des déchets (déchets industriels ou ordures ménagères) qui permet de réemployer un produit usé pour lui donner une deuxième vie, pour un usage identique ou différent.

Le recyclage a deux conséquences majeures :

- * La réduction du volume de déchets et alors de la pollution qu'ils causeraient.

- * La préservation des ressources naturelles, puisque la matière recyclée est utilisée à la place de celle qu'on aurait dû extraire.

Comme le papier est fabriqué à partir des feuilles des arbres et qu'il présente presque la moitié de nos ordures, l'exemple des papiers recyclés a été pris à l'école.

Les apprenants ont constaté de près comment obtenir la pâte. On ajoute aux papiers coupés de l'eau, un peu de colle pour renforcer les papiers et de la peinture pour les colorer. Ensuite la pâte est mise dans un cadre pour obtenir une forme et se sécher. Le papier est recyclé pour faire du papier hygiénique, des boîtes à œufs, des cartons de différentes qualités....

Donc pour lutter contre l'augmentation des déchets, le recyclage est nécessaire. C'est une activité importante de l'économie et des conditions de vie des pays développés.

Cycle Préscolaire
Enseignantes de la langue française
Jessy Hajji Touma - Joyce Bou Gerger

بطاقة الدعوة

وفقاً لبرنامج الصف الثالث الأساسي الذي يتناول في المحور الثاني موضوع الرسالة وبطاقة الدعوة. وتسهيلاً لاكتساب هذه المهارة. طُلب من كل متعلم اختيار شخص يدعو لحضور حدث معين مع ذكر الزمان والمكان.

فمن خلال هذا النشاط أصبح متعلمو الصف الثالث يجيدون إنجاز بطاقة الدعوة وتزيينها بالرسوم والألوان المناسبة. لذلك فإن الهدف الأساسي من هذه الدعوة هو نشر المحبة والألفة وروح الأخوة بين الرفاق والابتعاد عن العداوة والحقد. وذلك لتغيير نفوس بعض الأفراد والتشجيع على العمل ضمن مجموعات لتطبيق مبدأ "نقطة خول في حياة كل فرد".

معلمة اللغة العربية - الصف الثالث الابتدائي



Elections or Friendship

Grade 5 A and B learners have gone through the experience of elections and learned a lot about democracy. This activity was made because we were studying in civics about the process of elections; therefore application is the best means to learn something.

I'm Julian Azzam in Grade 5B, the Civics teacher chose my number among others on the attendance sheet in order to become candidate for the election. I prepared a speech and I read it in front of the class. This was my election program:

1- I will ask your teachers to let you drink water whenever you want because water is an essential part of our life.

2- I will try to convince Ms. Sandy to decrease the amount of the lessons that we usually have to do at home.

3- If somebody wants anything, he can come and tell me. Then my helpers and I can improve it. In addition, if someone has any remark we will listen to him because it's our civil right and that's what we have learned in Civics.

Then one of the learners got a box to place the names of the voted candidates in. After that, we started counting the votes. I learned a lot of things such as not to cheat because everybody will know that you did a bad thing. I've learned more about things in life and the experience we had, than the election process itself.

Eventually, I won the elections, but...

I'm Mazen Hammoud another candidate in these elections, and I'm Adam Omeish, I'm one of the learners who voted. When the results were announced, we accepted them happily. However then, we felt that our friend didn't deserve to be the class representative. He started to show off, and didn't do any of his promises. He thought we were his soldiers. And when he tried to organize

some protests against us in the playground during recess, we decided to present a petition to our Civics teacher who took immediate action: she congratulated us for our democratic spirit and the way we were trying to solve the problem. She also clarified to our friend the meaning of being a representative and explained to him how he should deal with the ones he represents.

At the end, we all decided to support each other for the best of our class.

Adam Omeish, Mazen Hammoud
and Julian Azzam - Grade 5 B



Beiteddine Field Trip : An Interview

Our school organized a field trip for Grades 5A and B learners to Beiteddine on Thursday 24th of November 2011. The next day, I decided to ask my classmates a few questions about our outing. Below are my questions and their answers.

Q : Where did we go to?

A : We went to Beiteddine.



Q : Why is it called Beiteddine Palace?

A : It's called Beiteddine Palace because Amir Bashir wanted a beautiful place so he chose Beit El Din Village.

Q : Why did he need a palace?

A : He wanted a special place to live in and rule his principality.

Q : Do you know a story told by people about him?

A : Amir Bashir wanted to make a beautiful door for his palace, so he asked a carpenter who promised to make him the most beautiful door ever.

Q : Is this palace still used today?

A : Yes, it's still used by the Lebanese presidents who go there and spend their summer.

Q : Why do you think the school took us there?

A : In civics, we study about how the Lebanese gave a lot of help to our civilization. We also went there to enjoy the beautiful architecture of this palace.

I don't want to forget telling you that on the same day, we visited also another Lebanese region which witnesses our country's rich history with its magnificent monuments. It

was Deir Al Kamar which was once the capital of the Lebanese territory.

I really like these outings because we learn a lot from them and we have fun as well.

Maria Namour - Grade 5 A



Our Pride and Joy

Inspiration comes in different forms and from different sources. Whatever the source is it leaves an impact on our lives and a lesson to be learned. Grade six students felt this experience though they might not be fully aware of it. Their trip started with a feeling of excitement to be together in the same bus, chat, sing, and enjoy the day out. When they reached the Shouf area they watched a documentary about the cedars of Lebanon. After that they head towards the real location. The air was cold, but the hiking trip pumped blood in their veins. Some of them mentioned that it was really a piece of heaven on earth. The proud trees stood huge above their tiny footprints that they were leaving without noticing the symbolic value behind it. Moussa's Fort was the next stop. They queued to enter through the gate, but to their surprise Moussa himself stopped them to ask them one question. How could he build this fort alone when he was only a poor young man? The answer came from one of the learners who told him his belief in himself and determination. She was awarded with a fan signed by him, which was the climax of the trip for this young learner. Heading back to school was smooth and profitable with the unique experience.

Maha Khattab – Upper Elementary English Teacher



A Mistake We Can All Learn From

On November 18, 2011, we gathered in the auditorium unaware of what we were going to see. We saw a man, an ordinary looking man who introduced himself briefly. However, it wasn't till we heard the word "AIDS" that we started paying careful attention. We were shocked, wondering what he was doing there, and why he had decided to come share the details of his painful life to strangers like us. After absorbing his words, each of us left with a spark of inspiration and awe in our hearts. One of the hardest things anyone could do is share his mistakes with people, especially if these are mistakes that stay with you for the rest of your life; however this man had the courage to do that. He had the courage to stand up in front of more than 60 learners and confess why he had

AIDS and how he felt about it. He shared his feelings as though we were not only listeners, but his best friends. He talked about how he felt lonely, hurt, discriminated, stranded, and awfully judged. I believe that he is one of the bravest men I have ever met. He knew that some of the learners were going to misjudge him and not understand, but he also knew that he touched the heart of at least a couple of them. He passed through the most difficult experience anyone could pass through, but he showed us how "Anwar Il Maheba", the association which helped him throughout his suffering, gave him hope, love, importance, and made him feel cared for. He taught us that in our age, we sometimes deliberately commit mistakes just for the sake of having fun, but life is really not that simple. In my life, people have attempted to teach me many lessons, but they have never really showed me the consequences of mistakes; that extra-

ordinary man did. That cultural session was a rousing, life-changing day. I will never forget how courageous, spirited, and optimistic that man was, and I cannot thank the school enough for what they did.

Mona Jouni - Grade 11 SE A



Personal Hygiene

Personal hygiene is very important in every person's life. Many people do not understand what is meant by personal hygiene. It is defined as a system of principles for preserving or promoting health.

Therefore, personal hygiene not only deals with cleanliness of a person, but also his or her ability to stay in shape.

Personal hygiene isn't something to be taken for granted. Although some people do not have the means to keep a good personal hygiene, everyone should strive to maintain good hygiene to insure common courtesy towards others and self-respect.

Self-hygiene supports us with self-confidence since the healthier we are, the better chances we have in staying vital, and it reflects a good

image of the individual.

Nonetheless, exaggerating in our hygiene may not only destroy the good bacteria, but also cause obsession while dealing with others.

Thus, moderation is the best solution.

On the other hand, those who live without personal hygiene suffer from different cleanliness issues in addition to having other social problems.

Last but not least, the notion of personal hygiene should be acquired just as all personal habits are. The more awareness we have at home, the better we become in maintaining a cleaner and healthier life.

Yara Haidar - Grade 7 B



My Town, My City

We all have a place close to our heart, a city/town which we feel attached to, a place we call home.

The learners in Grade 8 had the time to reflect on their town/city while answering the following questions: Where are you from? Do you like your town/city? If you could change anything in it, what would it be? Here are some of the answers we got.

Imad Saabi: "Deir Az-Zahrani" it's perfect in all means. You can find people that are friendly and caring. The houses are simple, the trees are ancient, and the air is clear and fresh. It might not be the best, but to me, it means the world.

Lora Hodroj: "Kfar Melki" is where I come from. I love its mountains and meadows, its weather and its seasons. It's an example of perfection if not for the increasing causes of pollution and lack of good community services. I love my village very much and I hope one day I can make a change.

Antoine Araman: I was born in a beautiful city called "Beirut". It's where all my cousins and friends live.

Carel Abboud: I live in Ashrafieh, the center of the city. There are also many stores and shopping malls. Thus there's traffic all day long. Nonetheless, everybody is friendly. The narrow streets with old trees and buildings remind us of the past times. That's why I love my neighborhood.

Tamara Sleiman: Bednayeel, my happy village is where the family gathers to celebrate happy occasions. It has a beautiful view on the mountains surrounding an array of restaurants, pools, and arcades.

Nour Farah: My village is called "Bzoummar". Going there is as fun as going to Disney Land. If I were to change anything in my village, I would find myself unable to because of its absolute beauty. At most times, it is as quiet as can be except for the sound of children playing during the afternoons. It's always a joy picking fruits from trees planted on both sides of the streets.

Riwan Eid: My hometown is Beirut. Attraction wise, Beirut is an amazing place, but the traffic on the streets makes it impossible sometime to commute from one place to another without wasting a lot of time.

Victor Araman: I really love Beirut, the city of my ancestors; it has everything a person wants or needs, as sport courts, many cinemas, shops, malls, hospitals, schools, universities and many others.

At night, Beirut seems as bright as scattered stars, it has many of the oldest buildings in Lebanon, and many of the new tall ones, Beirut's streets, tunnels and neighborhoods have a very modern look.

Jean Marie Dib: I live in Hazmieh. I love everything about it; the nature, the sport clubs, and the closeness of my friends' houses.

Hassan Hashem: I was born in Jwayya, South of Lebanon. I love the fact that it lies on the

top of a mountain called the "Thyme Mountain". It is called so because there was thyme cultivated and planted there. The weather is a little cold but it is very enjoyable. I swim and play football with my friends.

يرتبط الإنسان بمسكنه. فيكاد يُصبح جزءاً منه. كيف ترون مكان سكنكم. وما هي علاقتكم بقرينكم أو مدينتكم؟

رضا شكري: أنا من الجنوب اللبناني الصابر الجميل. ضيعتي هي "خربة سلم". وأنا متعلق بها جداً. صباحها يكشف أرضاً جميلة تسهر العيون... في العيد. جتمع العائلة فنشعر بالحبّة والإرتباط.

محمد شقيلو: مدينتي بيروت. هي جمّة للكثير من الأجناس والأديان. وهذا ما يعجّني فيها. إضافة إلى قربها من البحر. أمّا ما يزعجني. فهو الزحمة الخانقة التي تكاد تخنق الناس. والتصاق الأبنية. ولكّتي أحبّها على رغم كل هذه الأشياء.

رم الحاج: مدينتي بيروت. هي جميلة للغاية. غطاؤها أخضر على رغم أبنيتها العالية. تعجّني كلّ محلات البيع التي أستطيع أن أنسوّق فيها. ولكّتي أكره الضجّة والأصوات العالية التي تصدر عن السيارات. إضافة إلى المصانع التي تلوث البيئة.

هبة جبل: في جنوب لبنان. تربض ضيعتي الجميلة "المارونية". أجمل ما فيها جبالها الخضراء التي تفتّشها الورود مع كلّ ربيع. الكلّ في ضيعتي أصدقاء وأقارب. أحبّ الزيارات الصباحيّة فيها. والسهر حتّى نور القمر. إنّها ضيعة مثليّة بمنظر خلابة.

نرمين القصار: مدينتي بيروت. ما أحلاها. ففيها كلّ ما يحتاج إليه المرء. لا أنكر أنّ زحمتها الخانقة مزعجة. إلّا أنّها تبقى سنّ الدنيا وأحلى المدن في نظري.

What did our parents do when they were our age?

How different would your life be without video games? Many of us cannot tolerate such an idea, as we may be quite addicted to video games. However, could you please take a minute to stop and think about the toys that our parents used to play with when they were our age?

At that time, there were no such games, no iPads, no PlayStations, no Xboxes and no personal computers. Our parents did not even have the luxury of owing cellular phones. How did our parents actually have fun, if they had any fun?

Many games that we may nowadays consider unintelligent were actually our parents' favorite games. For example, a game that most of our parents have played and enjoyed is "Shoot the Marble". First, you should turn your hand so that your palm is not facing the floor, and the back of your hand is actually touching the floor. Place the marble on your index finger and curl your finger around the marble to hold it in place. Place your thumb behind the marble, then use the all force of your thumb to shoot the marble!

Another game that our parents used to enjoy is "The Dice". People take turns and throw the dice; whoever gets the highest value is the person who wins! Can you imagine them

having fun playing that?

All this has changed. Children today are exposed to life's luxuries at an earlier age. Do we ever stop to think that a child who owns an iPad and a PlayStation at 10 years old will not really be exposed to any of these simple, childish yet innocent games?

We have reached a tipping point, where the ripple effect places peer pressure on us, even with our choice of technological gadgets. However, it is time for us to stop and think; can we still have fun and enjoy our time if we put some of our technological devices aside and played the simpler games?

Naima Haidar - Grade 11 SE A

Writing is Fun!

Reading and writing are the most important aspects of a child's life when his mind is developing. Reading leaves a permanent mark on a child's thinking process. Writing is the output of the thinking process.

Writing is an integral part of our lives, and we can't survive without it.

To show their interest in writing and reading, Grade 4 learners were so eager to write their own short stories and share them with each other. They were divided into groups, and then they followed the writing process to write the stories. Here is one of them:

The Fake Treasure

One scorching summer night, Jimmy was sleepy, so he went to his bed and slept comfortably. He dreamed about a large treasure in his backyard. He was overjoyed!

When he woke up the next morning, he started looking around for the treasure he had dreamed about, but he couldn't find anything. After that, he went to the garden and looked well under the big willow tree. Next, he grabbed a shovel and started digging a hole. Definitely, he couldn't find a single piece of gold. He started to sweat! A few minutes later, his mom came and saw what he had done. Surprisingly, she felt happy because he had dug a hole in the same place she wanted to plant a red rose.

Jimmy's mother gave him \$20 for his work. Jimmy felt extremely happy, went out to the garden, and planted the red rose for his mother. He said to himself, "Maybe one day, my dream will become true."

Karim Kishly and Nour Osta - Grade 4 B

دفع الأقيساط الأخرى. وبسبب حبي للعلم، رحت أعمل ليلاً وأدرس نهاراً لأجمع قسط جامعتي. وفعلاً صار ما كنت أطمح إليه. أكملت دراستي الجامعية وبتفوق. وبعد تخرجي، عملت في شركة مشهورة. أحببتني رب العمل وأعجب بئابرني وإخلاصي، فكان يزيد لي راتبتي ويعطيني الحوافز لقاء عملي. حتى أصبحت أخيراً شريكاً له في كل أعماله.

لذا أطلب منكم يا أحبائي أن جتهدوا وتسعوا إلى تحقيق طموحاتكم مهما كلفكم الأمر من تعب وجهد وسهر. وأن تباقوا مخلصين لمن يقفون بجانبكم.

كريم الحاج سليمان - الصف الخامس ب

رحلتي إلى تركيا

سافرت إلى تركيا لقضاء عطلة الصيف. كم كنت متحمساً عندما وصلت مع عائلتي إلى مطار تركيا للتعرف إلى بلد جديد. بعدما ختمنا جوازات السفر، ذهبنا إلى الفندق ووضعنا أغراضنا في الغرفة وركضت إلى بركة السباحة. قضيت حوالي ساعتين في السباحة ومن ثم سعدت كي أستحم وننطلق في رحلتنا إلى أيا صوفيا وتوب كابي.

فور وصولنا إلى أيا صوفيا، قال لنا الدليل السياحي إنها كانت كنيسة ثم جامعاً وأصبحت الآن متحفاً للزوار. عندما علمت أن عمرها حوالي مئتي سنة، أحسست أنني أعيش في ذلك الزمان من روعة الآثار التي رأيته. بعدما خرجنا، اتجهنا إلى توب كابي حيث كان يعيش السلطان. إنه قصر كبير يحتوي على ثيابه، أثاث قصره، كما ثياب الحراس.

فرحت بزيارتي التوب كابي وتعرفي إلى حياة السلطان وأغراضه وكيف كانوا يعيشون في ذلك الزمان.

قضينا اليومين الأخيرين بالتسوق والسباحة في العاصمة إسطنبول.

بعدما عدنا إلى لبنان، فرحنا كثيراً بزيارتنا السياحية لتركيا وقررنا أن نسافر كل عطلة صيف إلى بلد جديد.

روي عرمان - الصف الاساسي الخامس أ

البندورة. والخيار النعناع. فنزلنا وبدأنا بجلب الخضار. فلاحظت ان شجرة التين قد كبرت و أعطت الثمار. قلت لأبي: "هيا لنأكل منها إنها لذيذة".

ومع الوقت نسينا أن أمي تنتظرنا. بدأنا نتنزه في الجبل حتى وصلنا إلى الوادي. بدأنا في اللعب أبي وأنا. ومن ثم تسلقت شجرة زيتون ورميت بعض الياض منه على أبي. بعد قليل اقترنا من كعب الوادي. فوصلت إلى حافة و بينما كنت اقفز شعرتني أبي وأنا بشيء يزحف فإذا بها أفعى. تتسلق الشجرة. لكن عندما رأنا التفتت ونزلت في جوف الشجرة. أما أنا فارتعبت كثيراً لدرجة أنني صرت أرجف و الهت من الخوف فركضت إلى أبي وطلبت منه قتلها. كان معه عصا فأجابني بأن العصا رفيعة فلا يستطيع قتلها. بعدئذ سمعنا صوت بندقيّة وركضنا لنعرف مصدر الصوت. كان مزارع يحاول أن يقتل الأفعى. تكلمنا معه وقال لأبي: "ما كان يجب أن تنزل الولد في هذا الوقت من النهار لأنه حار والأفاعي تخرج" وأيضاً قال له: "في المرة المقبلة ألبسنا جزمة وسروالا طويلا كي لا تتأذي". أخذنا المزارع إلى مزرعته ومن هناك أكملنا طريقنا إلى البيت لنجد أمي خائفة وبالهة مشغولة. فأخبرناها بما حصل ومن ثم تناولنا الغداء وشعرت بالأمان.

كان هذا النهار مغامرة واكتشفت مناطق جديدة في قريتي.

مارون شبلي - الصف الاساسي الخامس ب

الجّد والاجتهاد

ذات يوم شتائي، اجتمعت العائلة. الأب الأم والجّد والأحفاد بشكل حلقة حول المدفأة. أثناء اللقاء العائلي، طلب الأحفاد من الجّد أن يخبرهم عن نجاحه وسبب ثرائه. علماً أنه نشأ في عائلة فقيرة. فراح الجّد يقصّ على الأحفاد سيرته قائلاً:

"أيام المدرسة، كنت تلميذاً مجتهداً وخلقاً. وبحبني المعلمون ويشجعوني. وفي العطلة الصيفية، كنت أساعد والدي في الحقل.

عندما انتهيت من دراستي في المدرسة وحن وقت دخولي إلى الجامعة، واجهتني مشكلة كبيرة وهي عدم قدرة والدي على دفع الترسّوم الجامعية. ما اضطررتني إلى العمل في الصيف لجمع ما أمكن من المال.

دفعنا القسط الأوّل ولكن والدي لم يكن قادراً على

مؤلفون على دروب النجاح

لطالما اعتدنا على سماع القصص من أفواه جدّاتنا. حيث كنّا ننتظرها بلهفة وشوق. وكم كانت جفوننا تصارع الرغبة في النوم، وذلك لمعرفة نهاية قصة. عشنا أحداثها فنقلنا إلى عالمها. وعابشنا تطوّراتها فبتنا أسرى أبطالها.

ونحن، مع متعلّمي المرحلة الابتدائية - الحلقة الثانية في مدرستني البشارة الأرثوذكسية والثلاثة الأعمار، عشنا تجربة كتابة أقاصيص من صنع مخيلتهم ومقالات مستقاة من الواقع. وقد جاءت الأقاصيص والمقالات هذه كنشاط ندعم من خلاله تثبيت مهارات التعبير الكتابي لديهم. كم فرحت لرؤيتهم يتسابقون في تقديم القصص التي لم ينسوا أن يختتموها بعبرة تكون لنا درساً في حياتنا. وكم من عبرة أخذناها شعاعاً ومثلاً أعلى يمكن أن نفتدي به.

من يدري، ألا يمكن أن نجد بين المتعلّمين كتاب المستقبل؟

ليندا فغالي - مدرسة اللغة العربية - الصف الخامس

المهر الصغير



كان في قديم الزمان مهر صغير وأمه يعيشان في مزرعة جميلة حياة هادئة وهانئة. يتسابقان تارة ويرعيان تارة أخرى. لا تفارقه ولا يفارقه. وعندما يحل الظلام يذهب كل منهما إلى الحظيرة ليناما في أمان وسلام.

وفجأة ضاقت الحياة بالمهر الصغير. وأخذ يحس بالملل ويشعر أنه لم يعد يطبق الحياة في مزرعته الجميلة. وأراد أن يبحث عن مكان آخر. قالت له الأم حزينة: إلى أين نذهب؟ ولن نترك المزرعة؟ إنها أرض آبائنا وأجدادنا.

ولكنه صمم على رأيه وقرر الرحيل. فودع أمه ولكنها لم تتركه يرحل وحده. ذهبت معه وعيناه تفيضان بالدموع.

وأخذ يسيران في أراضي الله الواسعة. وكلما مرا على أرض وجدا غيرها من الحيوانات يقيم فيها ولا يسمح لهما بالبقاء...

وأقبل الليل عليهما ولم يجدا مكاناً يأويان فيه. فباتا في العراء حتى الصباح. جائعين قلقين. وبعد هذه التجربة المريرة قرر المهر الصغير أن يعود إلى مزرعته لأنها أرض آبائه وأجداده. ففيها الأكل الكثير والأمن الوفير. فمن ترك أرضه عاش غريباً.

لين معصراني - الصف الاساسي الخامس ب

المغامرة

كان نهار أحد مشرقاً عندما قرّرنا عائلتي وأنا ان نذهب إلى قريتنا "قيتولي" قضاء جزيين وصلنا عند الظهر وضعنا أغراضنا. وبدأت أمي بتحضير الغداء. طلبت أمي من أبي ومتي ان ننزل إلى الجنيّة لنقطف



Christmas Around the World

This year's gazette offers you a magnificent tour around the world in order to discover together how Christmas is celebrated in many different cold and pretty hot countries. Furthermore, we are going to learn how "Merry Christmas" is pronounced in many different foreign languages. Get yourself well prepared for this exciting journey that starts in Mexico.

Mexicans' main Christmas celebration is called La Posada, which is a religious procession that reenacts the search for shelter by Joseph and Mary before the birth of Jesus. During the procession, the celebrants go from house to house carrying the images of Mary and Joseph looking for shelter. Santa Claus is not predominant, but the bright red suit is represented in the traditional flower of the season. This flower is the poinsettia.

Preparation for Christmas in the Congo begins when some group is designated to prepare the annual Christmas pageant. Christmas day begins with groups of carolers walking to and fro through the village, along the roadway, by the houses of the missionaries, singing the lovely carols known to the world around. Often people may be awakened by a group of carolers beginning to converge on the house of worship. They return home to make final preparations such as the clothes that one must wear and also his offering for the Christmas service.

Our following stop is Brazil. Brazilians are a mix of different ethnic people, and as a former Portuguese colony, they have many Christmas customs which originate from this heritage. One tradition is to create a nativity scene or Presépio. The word originates from the Hebrew word "presepium" which means the bed of straw upon which Jesus first slept in Bethlehem. Papai Noel or Father Noel is the gift-bringer in Brazil. When he arrives in Brazil, he usually wears silk clothing due to the summer heat.

In Greece small children go from house to house and are given dried figs, almonds, walnuts and lots of sweets or sometimes small gifts while singing Christmas carols.

After 40 days of fasting, the Christmas feast is looked forward to with great anticipation by adults and children alike. On almost every table are loaves of christopsomo or "Christ Bread". This bread is made in large sweet loaves of various shapes and the crusts are engraved and decorated in some way that reflects the family's profession.

Christmas trees are not commonly used in Greece. In almost every home the main symbol of the season is a shallow wooden bowl with a piece of wire suspended across the rim; from that hangs a sprig of basil wrapped around a wooden cross. A small amount of water is kept in the bowl to keep the basil alive and fresh. Once a day, a family member, usually the mother dips the cross and basil into some holy water and uses it to sprinkle water in each room of the house.

Miled Majid, Merry Christmas, and Joyeux Noel are familiar expressions that we always hear and use in Lebanon. But what about the other countries around the world how do they express their Christmas greetings to each other?

Well in [China](#) Merry Christmas is "Gun Tso Sun Tan/Gung Haw Sun".

In [Japan](#): Shinnen omedeto. Kurisumasu Omedeto.

[Italy](#): Buone Feste Natalizie.

[Korea](#): Sung Tan Chuk Ha. In Greece Kala Christouyenna!

The [Irish](#) Merry Christmas is: Nollaig Shona Dhuit, or Nodlaig mhaith chugnat.

Pozdrevlyayu s prazdnikom Rozhdestva is Novim Godom in [Russia](#).

In [Spain](#) Feliz Navidad.

In [Turkey](#) Noeliniz Ve Yeni Yiliniz Kutlu Olsun.

It may sound strange but you can choose one of these languages to wish your family and loved ones a happy Christmas. It would be something special and unusual. Don't hesitate to try it out! No matter which way we choose to celebrate Christmas, the most important thing is to celebrate it with hearts full of love, forgiveness and happiness. Merry Christmas to you and to your loved ones.

Jacqueline Saydeh - Grade 2 Homeroom Teacher

BOS Christmas Tradition

Saturday, the 22nd of December, 2007, was a day to remember in BOS history. At 5:00 pm, BOS family members crowded excitedly at ETD. They greeted each other and introduced their families to colleagues. It was BOS's Christmas family event, a celebration which consisted of Christmas carols, a parade, and the lighting of the Christmas tree. It was an event to celebrate the joyous and blessed season with the neighboring community. Ever since then, it has become an annual tradition to gather around the Christmas tree in one of the three BOS premises.

Staff members and teachers come along with their children to celebrate the season in a cheerful atmosphere. The BOS choir joined by children and parents gather to sing Christmas carols, and the mixture of musical sounds and that of the dangling silver bells fills the air with a joyous ambiance. All invitees hold candles and wait for the peak of the event, The Lighting of the Christmas Tree. While enjoying Christmas carols and the luscious aromas of the different delicacies being served, BOS officers distribute colorfully-wrapped presents to the children of staff and colleagues. This year, BAC auditorium, playground, classes and neighborhood welcomed this joyful event.

Our family tradition continues...Merry Christmas and a Joyful Year, everyone!

Gisele Awdeh Bechara
Director of Registrar & ASD Departments





دور الاعلام في نشر الخبر سرعة على حساب الدقة؟

يحااصرنا الاعلام في مجتمعنا المعاصر كيفما توجهنا. منذ قرن تقريبا ظهر الراديو ثم التلفزيون واليوم الانترنت ووسائل الاتصال الحديثة. لتضاف كلها الى الصحافة المكتوبة التي بدأت منذ زمن بعيد. وتشكل مجموعة من وسائل الاعلام الأساسية للتعبير ولسير الديمقراطية وللتأثير في الرأي العام. تلتزم باخلاقيات ابرزها الدقة. واحترام الحياة الخاصة للأفراد والتحقق من المصادر.

ولكن مع سهولة الحصول على المعلومات وسهولة نشرها نواجه مشاكل عدة منها قضية الشفافية والتلاعب بالمتلقي. خصوصا مع انتشار الانترنت. وان كان وجوده لتحسين الاعلام وتسهيله. والتفاعل بين المسؤول والمواطن. وبين مجموعات من الأشخاص. يلتقون بالتفكير وان ابعدهم المسافات الجغرافية. الا ان هذه الحسنات لا تلغي امكانية وجود اخطار عدة على الديمقراطية منها التعرض للحياة الخاصة. ونشر افكار منافية للديمقراطية والترويج لها. خصوصا اذا اصبحت وسيلة اعلامية غير خاضعة للرقابة الديمقراطية.

وتهدف وسائل الاعلام بكل وجوها الى نشر الخبر وبسرعة لضرورات تنافسية وبشكل واسع الانتشار لتطال اكبر نسبة من المتلقين. ولنقل الوقائع المهمة والاحداث في البلد نفسه وفي العالم اجمع. هكذا اصبح في إمكان اي فرد اينما كان. في عمله. منزله. مكتبه. سيارته. متابعة الاحداث واليوم اكثر من قبل من خلال سهولة الحصول على هذه المعلومات بوسائل اتصال لم تكن متوفرة في السابق. ومن خلال تقنيات حديثة ومتطورة وخصوصا الهواتف النقالة التي نصطحبها في كل مكان والتي اصبح معظمها موصولا بالانترنت.

ولا يتوقف دور وسائل الاعلام على نقل الخبر فقط. بل توسع اكثر ليدخل الى التحليلات التي تضيء على زوايا وتسمح للمتلقي بفهم الاحداث من خلال ترجمة الوقائع. ومع وفرة وسائل الاعلام في لبنان وتنوع المشهد السياسي. حيث يملك كل مسؤول من مختلف الطوائف وسيلة اعلامية. اصبح في الإمكان الاطلاع على وجهات نظر الاحزاب والطوائف من خلال وسائل اعلامها التي تنشر الاخبار والمعلومات لتابعيها. كما اصبح في الإمكان درس مختلف وجهات النظر وردات الفعل المتعلقة بموضوع واحد.

وتؤمن وسائل الاعلام نشر الخبر بشكل سريع وتام. واحيانا يتم على حساب الدقة. فيكون الوصول الى سبق صحفي احيانا على حساب الصدقية وهذا النوع من التنافس عززته وسائل الاعلام الالكترونية التي تنشر الخبر بسرعة لتسبق الراديو والتلفزيون وكذلك الصحافة المكتوبة التي تحتاج الى اليوم الثاني للصدور. والسرعة ليست فقط على حساب الدقة فقط بل ساهم الاعلام الاجتماعي. مثل الفيسبوك والتويتر وغيرها في تحويل كل مواطن الى صحفي اصبح في إمكانه نقل الاحداث من مكان ما صوتا وصورة. كما اصبح في إمكانه التعبير عن آرائه ومعتقداته السياسية وغير ذلك. وهنا يغيب دور الرقابة الذاتية التي يتحلى بها الصحفي المحترف. وكذلك تغيب اخلاقيات المهنة لان معظم المتعاطين ليسوا من المحترفين. وان كانت وسائل الاعلام تنقل الخبر الا انها احيانا قد تملي على المتلقي آراءه. من هنا اهمية تحليل الخبر ومعرفة مصدره. وعليها في ظل المنافسة القوية الذهاب ابعد من الخبر الى ما ورائه لتقدم مع متخصصين ما قد يعجز عنه الاعلام الاجتماعي المنتشر بقوة.

رلى معوض - والدة لني نعمه (Tendernest Daycare)

Epidemics

Etymology: epi (meaning upon or above) and dêmos (meaning the people)

Definition: Marked increase in prevalence of a disease in a specific population or area, usually with an environmental cause such as an infectious or toxic agent.

It affects those who do not have an acquired or inherent immunity to the disease.

Causes: Most epidemics are caused by infectious organisms:

Epidemics occur when an infectious disease spreads beyond a local population, lasting longer and reaching people in a wider geographical area. When that disease reaches worldwide proportions, it's considered a pandemic

Microbes spread through local populations by different routes. Some spread through shared resources, such as air and water. Others spread through droplet transmission (by coughing or sneezing), food handling, shared needle injections, sexual contact, or disease carriers, such as fleas and rats.

On the global level, different populations interact through travel, trade, and war—all opportunities for microbes to reach new areas.

Warfare has long been linked to disease. In fact, infectious diseases sometimes kill more soldiers than do battle wounds.

Responses to epidemics

Before the identification of microbes as the source of epidemics, people assumed that the illness is a punishment from gods, or caused by evil forces or magic.

Efforts to contain the disease could be complicated involving elaborate ceremonies, chants, mystical signs, charms and fetishes

Romans noted that people who lived near swamps often died, so they drained the swamps and built aqueducts to bring clean water into town, though they did not know that mosquitoes carried the disease.

Greeks promoted a healthy lifestyle: diet, exercise and cleanliness

In Europe, during the bubonic plague epidemic, sick people were confined home with doors closed, and the word "plague" written. Sick travelers were confined in ships and not allowed to enter the city. However, rats and rodents were able to circulate freely, thus perpetuating the disease.

Some tribes practiced a type of protection against smallpox by "variolaion", i.e. inserting fluid from smallpox blisters under the skin, in order to produce a mild form of the disease and trigger immunity against disease, a little bit like vaccination now.

Nowadays, advocated means to prevent the occurrence or spread of disease are, among others, implementation of proper hygiene measures, respiratory etiquette, use of pesticides (for prevention of malaria, or other tick-borne illnesses), and vaccination.

Epidemics through History

Here are some examples of epidemics and patterns of social responses

Athenian Plague in 430 B.C: The Athenians considered intentional poisoning of the water supply by outsiders as a potential cause of the epidemic.

Leprosy in the 12th Century Europe: Leprosy was viewed as a just punishment for those who behaved sinfully. Skin spots were considered the sign of impurity. Objects touched by an unclean individual were subject to a process of disinfection.

Black Plague in the mid 14th century: Killed almost the third of the population of Europe at the time. During this period, theories of disease causality ranged from magical, astrological and religious to scientific. Quarantines, as well as devastation of the population from plague, impacted wages and trade economy.

Syphilis in the 16th and 17th century: responses to the new disease of syphilis included blaming people from foreign lands from importing it.

Cholera in the 19th century and the germ theory: the sanitation movement in public health in mid 19th century was crusade for pure air, pure water and pure food.

Tuberculosis and the germ theory of disease: the elucidation of the Koch's Bacillus, what we now see as the "cause" of tuberculosis, a disease then responsible for a tremendous amount of death each year, served as the model for much of what was to come

Influenza pandemic in the 20th century: The Great influenza 1918-1919. Also known as the Spanish Flu (although it began in the United States); it was most likely the deadliest plague in history, killing an estimated 50 to 100 million people in 6 months. The pandemic was magnified by conditions existing during World War I.

In 1918, U.S. soldiers carried the flu from stateside Army camps to the battlefields of Europe.

Polio and smallpox in the 20th century America: after implementation of effective vaccination on a widespread basis, the incidence of polio has been reduced and smallpox has not reappeared for over 2 decades.

In Conclusion

Studying responses to an epidemic provided researchers with insights into the nature of a specific society.

A survey of the biological and cultural ramifications of epidemics reveals that the expectation of conquering disease is a utopian ideal that, with the exception of polio and smallpox, is without historic precedent.

BOS Health Department

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كتاب: قصة عدوة - دكتور محمد عبد الحميد جوهري





Introductory Days



It has been a tradition in our schools to start the scholastic year with one or two introductory days. As an integral part of our educational system and as the naming signifies, the Introductory Days aim to ensure a smooth transition for the learners between the summer vacation and the beginning of the school year. They also introduce the theme of the year to the learners through involving them in diverse activities that integrate the body, mind and soul.

This year, two different programs were implemented. The first one targeted the Lower and Upper Elementary learners while the second targeted the Intermediate and Secondary Divisions.

In order to get acquainted with the theme of this year, "Tipping Point", Lower and Upper Elementary learners attended a play and a science show. The Lower Elementary play talked about a messed-up city where "Ayouk", one of its conscientious citizens, decides to search for the "Elixir of respect" that will make all the difference. Through the play, learners discovered that Tipping Point is a point in time where change occurs dramatically and affects a significant number of people. They also understood the importance of being agents of positive change in the society.

The Upper Elementary learners attended a play called "Do Re Mi, Tito et Mimi" that talked about two characters, Tito and Mimi, who chose to adopt a new style of music and how that choice affected their life. The learners discussed how a behavior can become contagious and how they can encourage their friends to adopt a habit or a trend that could be beneficial on both, the personal and general level.

As for the science show, it revealed, through the different experiments, that little things can make a big difference. After the show, learners discussed how things can be epidemic by giving real life examples.

In the Intermediate and Secondary Divisions, a Rally Paper was prepared. Learners passed through different stations in and out of school and made observations about road safety and green spots (extent of using greenery in the city). They also observed how behavior can be contagious. It is quite easy to double park if one sees that others have already done so. A person might feel the need to use a seatbelt if he notices that others in the car have used it...

After elaborating on the observations done, learners discovered the theme of the year by ordering the letters which they found in the different stations they passed through.

Finally, it is worth saying that the discussions were made even more successful because of the experiences shared by the learners themselves...

Rana Ghandour - Head of the IEN Department



Tipping Fashion



In our present world, fashion is considered to be a primary means for both expressing oneself and grabbing attention. It is also one of the most important elements that reflect a society's inclinations. Fashion trends sometimes are a direct cause to the start of new behavioral patterns that reflect different images. Trends have been globalized due to many factors. Celebrities and media are the main reasons to allow some trends to reach a tipping point, becoming an epidemic rather than merely a means of self-expression. I am sure that you have seen your favorite celebrity wearing an item of clothing that you have admired strongly and have felt the urge to have it. Celebrities these days have become trendsetters, and the public have been transformed into followers. An important part of fashion is fashion journalism. Editorial critique, guidelines and commentary can be found in magazines, newspapers, on television, fashion websites, social networks and in fashion blogs, allowing some trends to gain more popularity than others.

From hippie, to 80's, to geek chic; from animal patterns, to oversized sunglasses, to rain-boots: the urge to be fashionable controls most of our clothing choices.

I believe that trends should only be followed if an individual feels that a specific trend has the power and capability of allowing him/her space for self-expression, rather than reflecting a negative image about him/her. In addition to that, we should not allow the phenomenon of trends to reach a tipping point to an extent that everyone looks the same. Fashion should only be a means for each of us to look and feel unique.

Solandia El-Jurdi - Grade11 SE A



Inventions that Led to Tipping Points

Our lives are affected by a lot of tipping points that cause drastic changes in our existence. The Tipping Point is that magic moment when an idea, trend, or social behavior crosses a threshold, tips, and spreads like wildfire. It is the critical point in an evolving situation that leads to a new and irreversible development. Just as a single sick person can start an epidemic of the flu, so too can a small but precisely targeted push cause a fashion trend, the popularity of a new product.

In order for preschoolers to get more acquainted with the theme of the year "The Tipping Point", their classes were named according to people who had an effect and a salient change and that caused a turning point in our lives.

Let us stop for a moment and imagine our lives without: Chevreul's soap, Rodney's manners, Lydia Newman's hair brush, Einstein's theories in physics, Homer's poems, Newton's theories in mathematics, physics, chemistry and astronomy, Daguerre's photography, Babbage's computer and last but not least Alexander Graham Bell's invention of the telephone.

Appreciation should be made to all these people and many others who had made our lives more convenient. These inventions not only caused critical changes in our lives but also led to other tipping points.

Mirna Kaissi - Upper Elementary Math Teacher

