

# The IMSA Chronicle

Winter 2018

1821 McCall Drive, Anniston, AL 36207

Volume 6

Iqra Math and Science Academy



## Upcoming Events

January 19-Winter Wonderland

January 26-Perennial Math

March 9-State Spelling Bee

April 13-Inter-Cultural Day

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## Similarities of Muslim and Christian Faiths by Noor Hamdan

So many times, people are left with the belief that the differences in the two faiths of Muslim and Christian far outweigh the similarities; however, on December 4th, Imam of the mosque presented to the school the facts that unite the two faiths; "Cousins" as he called them.

How are we cousins, you might ask? Simple, the lineage of the prophet Muhammad is that of Ishmael the son of Abraham. Jesus' lineage is from Isaac, the other son of Abraham and the brother to Ishmael, making the two faiths cousins.

The relationship of the cousins gets even greater in similarities when one takes a look at the beliefs and practices common in said faiths. Each faith is built on basic moral obligations. While the Christian faith does not have a set of pillars, the faith has requirements much like the five pillars of the Muslim faith: declaring your faith to your God (Allah), prayer (the Muslim faith calls for prayer five times daily), fasting which is similar to lent in the Christian faith, charity, which both faiths require a 2.5% tithe, and finally a pilgrimage to Makkah. While the Christian faith does not require the pilgrimage, many of that faith believe it to be a necessity in firmly cementing their faith before God.

Another commonality shared by the cousin faiths is each faith believes in peace and love. While war may, at times, be inevitable to which both have stood side by side from the Revolutionary War to the war now waged in the Middle East, neither faith believes in harming or killing, and both believe Allah (God) will condemn those that harm or kill in "his name."

The purpose of the media is to wisely and carefully open the eyes of society, Muslims and Christians stand side by side to protect our nation and our world.

While it is easy to get caught up in the propaganda the media writes, not all of it is fact. It can be so slanted that it taints a sector of society. We are united in peace and in war, for we are cousins.



## Journalism Club

Sheila Cordry-Teacher /Advisor

Noor Hamdan-Editor and Writer-10th Grade

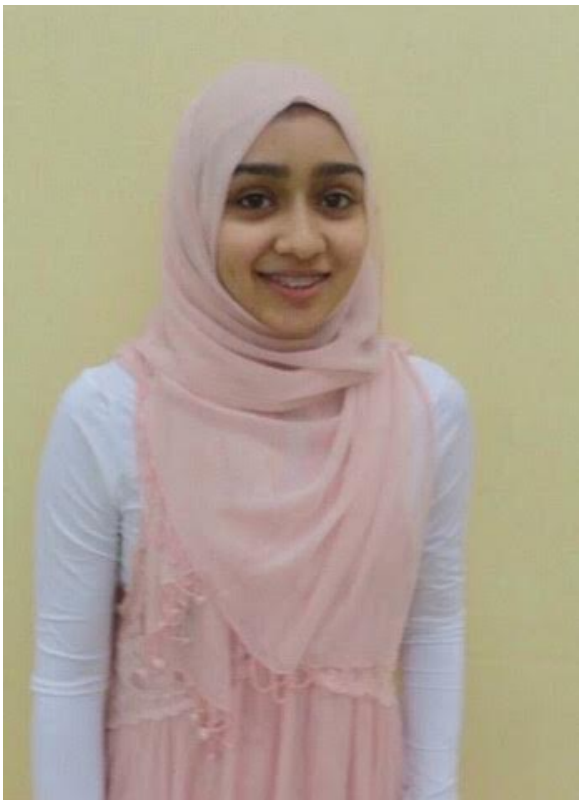
Ayasha Balouch-Writer-9th Grade

Muhammad Ahmad-Writer-9th Grade

Sumerya Demir-Writer-7th Grade

Summer Ghauri-Writer-6th Grade





# F A I T H



**Our New Hafiz and Hafiza** by Noor Hamdan

This year, two IMSA students finished memorizing the Quran. They are Zainab Ibraheem and Omair Kazi. Zainab started memorizing when she was nine years old, and she finished on July 25, 2018. It took her five years. She realized that she wanted to memorize the Quran when she started memorizing at a faster pace. Omair started memorizing the day he started fourth grade, and it took him seven and a half years to finish. He finished on August 8, 2018. Finishing memorizing the Quran was something that he always wanted to accomplish. Both of their families and the Anniston community are thrilled that they completed memorization of the Quran.

## College Credits Earned for English and Math

by Ayasha Balouch

The 11th grade students took on the daunting task of beginning to tackle college life early through the dual-enrollment class offered at Jacksonville State University.

With completion of one or both of these courses, students will begin their college careers with three to six college credits completed.

This is the first time IMSA has offered these courses, and with them, great success was had as all students earned either an A or a B.



## A Step Back in Time

by Noor Hamdan

On September 19th, the high school students took a step back in time as they visited the 16th Street Baptist Church and The Civil Rights Museum in Birmingham.

Many students found it difficult to understand the hate that was so evident at the time of the bombing of the church which killed four little girls and permanently hurt another.

After visiting the church and eating lunch in the Kelly Ingram Park, students then visited the Civil Rights Museum where they were privy to more information about past misdeeds.

After the field trip, the students had to write an essay comparing the discrimination of the 1950s to the discrimination that continues in today's society.





## Do You Want to Build a Snowman

by Muhammad Ahmad

On November 1st, after kick starting their day at Starbucks in Oxford, the high school students "Let it Go" and headed to the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Center in Birmingham to have day of pleasure instead of the painful studies. They let their imaginations go to Disney's **Frozen** On Ice. The characters sang and skated their way around the ice giving the students a day of imaginary play.

After **Frozen**, the students made their way to the Birmingham Museum of Art. This museum is free to the public and filled with art from the past to the present.



## America the Beautiful

by Sumerya Demir

The junior high students received an extra dose of history when they traveled to the American Village in Montevallo, Alabama on November.

Traveling to the past was not hindered by the rain that poured down during the trip. While there, they learned to be a part of the volunteer colonial militia by learning to march in step and carry a musket. The learning continued at a very important time in America as they actively participated in the vote for independence.

Finally, one student had a special ballroom dancing lesson from America's own Martha Washington.

Learning can be so fun through field trips and teachers willing to give them the experience-even in the rain.

## Jumping into the Arts

by Summer Ghauri

On December 5th, the junior high students headed to the Birmingham Art Museum for culture and Steel City Jump to release some energy.

The first stop was the art museum. The favorite art room was Bart's Room for Hand-On Learning where the students did a few activities.

After lunch, they enthusiastically spent time at a local game room. They finished the day jumping with delight on multiple trampolines at Steel City Jump. A fun time was had by all.





## Lions and Tigers and Bears...Nope...Reptiles, Oh My!

by Ayasha Balouch

On November 14th, some creepy, crawly, and slithering reptiles from Yarborough Educational Reptile Show visited IMSA.

Students and staff were introduced to "safe" and "dangerous" snakes. As the smell of the rattlesnake spray lingered, an alligator made an appearance as did a lizard.

At the end of the show, all were welcomed to take pictures and hold snakes, the lizard, and the alligator.



## "Fishy, Fishy...Wake Up"

by Sumerya Demir

The elementary have been privileged to go on three field trips this fall and winter. One of the field trips was to the aquarium in Atlanta, Georgia on September 12th.

The students were entertained by penguins and fish and had the opportunity to touch a few sponges.

Another field trip took place in Cullman, Alabama on October 16th as they learned about Johnny Appleseed. Peeling and tasting were a bonus to the trip.



They finished their field trip fun and learning for first semester on December 6th at the Birmingham Children's Theater as they attended a play. The younger elementary students watched "A Snowy Day" while the older students were privy to "Peter Pan" and all of his pixie fun.





### Gobbly Goodness

by Summer Ghauri

New to the country and American traditions, the female dorm students visited Mrs. Cordry's home for a traditional Thanksgiving Day feast on November 24th.

While the food was good, they were more delighted by the dogs and indulging in a game of *Heads Up*.

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on all that a person has...the girls reflected on friendship and love.



### "Just Keep Swimming..."

by Muhammad Ahmad

Living in the dorms could be a lonely life, but IMSA keeps the dorm students and all others actively engaged in activities.

The male students swam on over to the YMCA of Anniston and enjoyed a day of fun in the pool.

Trips such as these provide fun as well as bonding time that will forge lifelong friendships.



### Surfs up at Gulf Shores

by Mohamad Hamdan (Contributing Writer)

On November 17-20, IMSA male students went on a fun trip to Gulf Shores, Alabama. Our students stayed in a beach front house with a great view of the ocean. Our students had a blast with their friends at the beach while still having daily Quran and reading time.

The students were involved in daily physical activities such as: swimming, volleyball, soccer, football, and races. Our students enjoyed watching movies with their friends, walks on the beach, and much more.

Our students also prayed together everyday and took turns washing dishes, helping cook, cleaning, washing clothes, and other chores. Students also got to go and interact with the public and enjoy nature at the Gulf Shores National Park and The Gulf Shores Pier.

Students did not only have the experience of getting closer to their friends, but to their teachers too. Overall, IMSA students had a great time at Gulf Shores and are eager to go on another trip!





## Picnic Packs a Punch

by Sumerya Demir



It is not always about how you spend your days; oftentimes, it is about with whom you spend them. On October 27th, students, staff, and family gathered for an IMSA picnic, organized by the school and the PTO, at Oxford Lake.

Before running off to enjoy some planned activities, a delicious potluck meal was provided by those who attended.

Laughter and chatter filled the air. While the adults visited, the students had the opportunity to compete in fun games, like tug-o-war and the potato sack race.



## All the Buzz about the Spelling Bee

by Ayasha Balouch

On December 13th, five students in grades 4-8 took part in the IMSA spelling bee.

IMSA students in fourth to eighth grade were given an in-class test. The students doing the best were then sent on to the schoolwide spelling bee:

**4th Grade: Zakira Smith**

**5th Grade: Hala Al-saadi**

**6th Grade- Yama Sherzai**

**7th Grade: Mohamad Hamdan**

**8th Grade-Mostakim Sifat**



Standing before the student body and the judges, the students' answers rang out with beauty as they studied hard to get to this point.

Mohamad Hamdan, first-place and Hala Al-saadi, second place will now move on and represent IMSA at the Calhoun County Spelling Bee (date not yet announced.) There, the students will have the opportunity to qualify for the State Spelling Bee on March 9, 2019.



## Grant Brings Guinea Pigs

by Muhammad Ahmad

Sometimes a necessary evil for teachers to get extras in the classroom is through grant writing.

Mrs. Wallis is an elementary teacher with savvy grant writing skills. With these skills, she was able to bring two lovely guinea pigs, Snowball and MooMoo, to her classroom.

Animals can bring stability, responsibility, and a calmness to a classroom by giving students something extra to do and something fun to look forward to each day. These little critters bring much joy to IMSA.







## Community Service with a Smile

by Ayasha Balouch

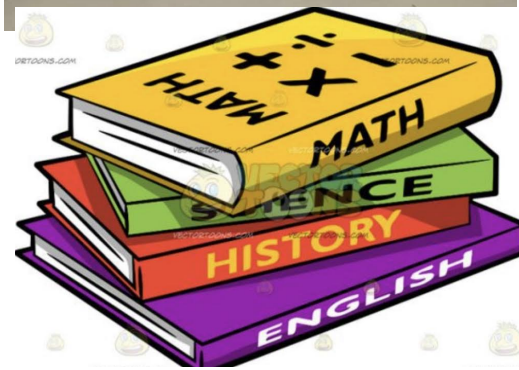
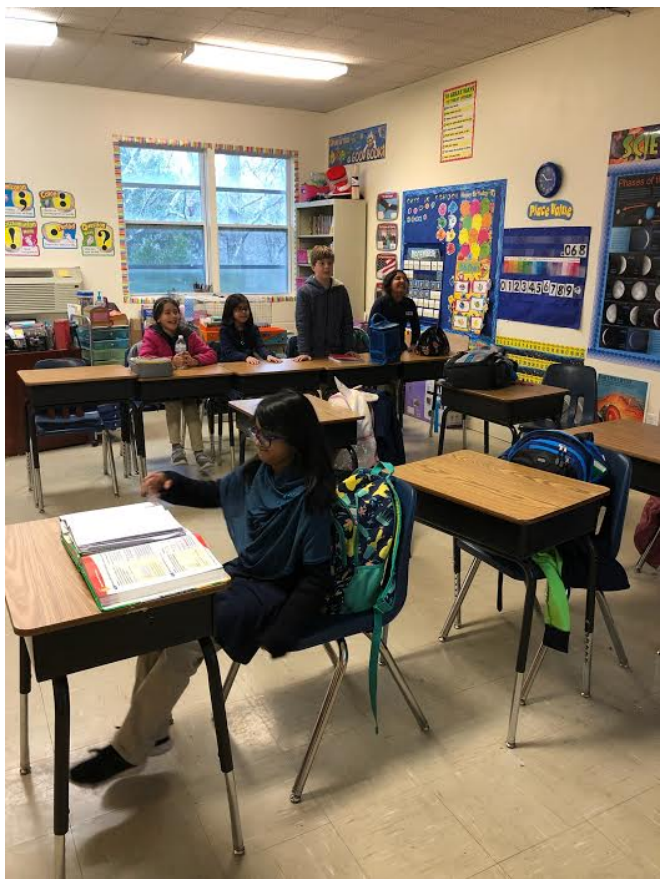
As students prepare for a life outside of high school, they must think ahead to creating a resume that is well-rounded.

One of the pillars of the Muslim faith and one of the categories for a resume when applying for scholarships to colleges is community service.

IMSA has recently participated in "Socktober" which collected new socks to give to the homeless.

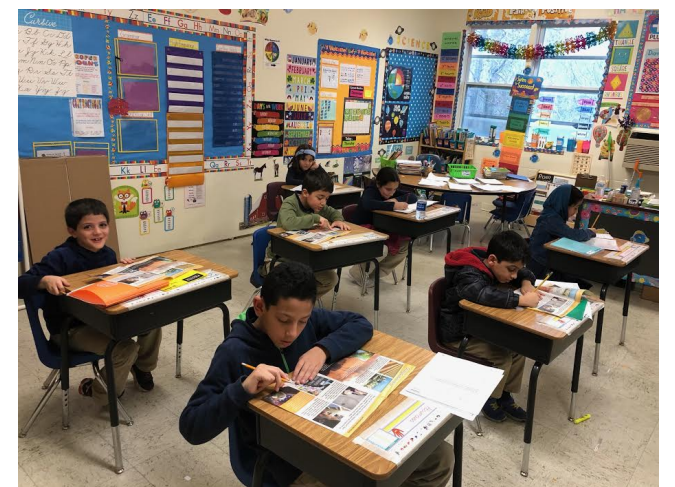
The students have also participated in delivering Meals-On-Wheels through Stringfellow-RMC. The students pick up the meals and then deliver them to the needy and shut-ins in the Anniston area.

Second semester the students will begin a community service project through Ministries of Faith. To give to those in need is always better than to receive. It is a joy to help others.



## Learning Made Fun

by Summer Ghauri



Learning can take on a multitude of venues. Some students learn easily just through sound, but for others, they are more of a sensory learner. This means they may have to experience learning through sound or touch, and oftentimes, young learners learn best through repetition of the skills.

To enhance the learning style of each student, teachers at IMSA often incorporate numerous lessons. Students can be seen sitting down and quietly doing independent work, working on a group project, or even learning together in a competitive online game. Reaching each student is the goal of IMSA.

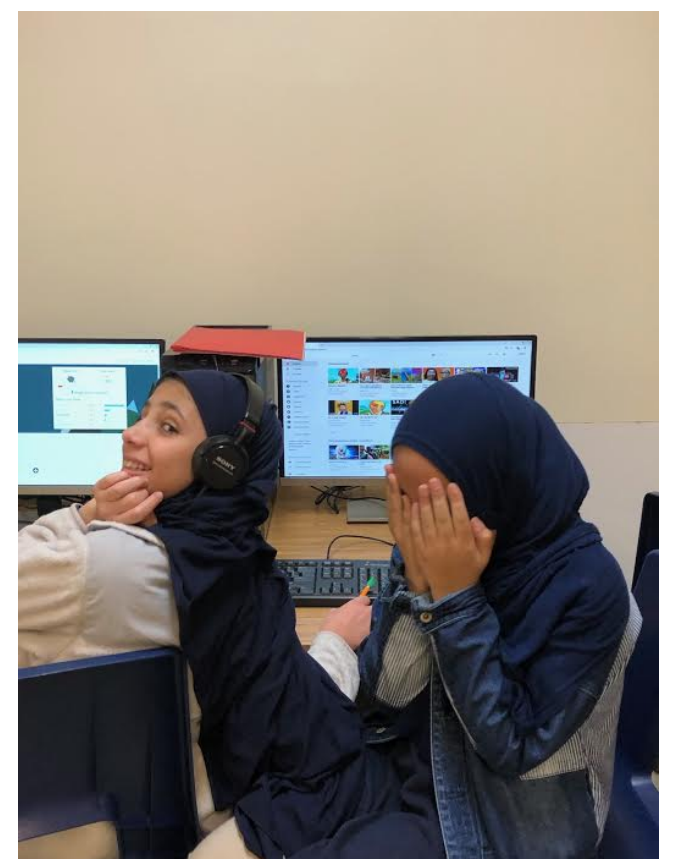
## Technology Enhances Student Learning for a Bright Future

by Sumerya Demir

The students are the key to a bright future for our world. In order to compete in an ever evolving world, IMSA provides an up-to-date computer lab.

Here students are able to comfortably access the web to do research for their classes as well as play educational games to enhance their learning.

When the students graduate from IMSA they will be well versed in each program they will utilize in college and in their futures.

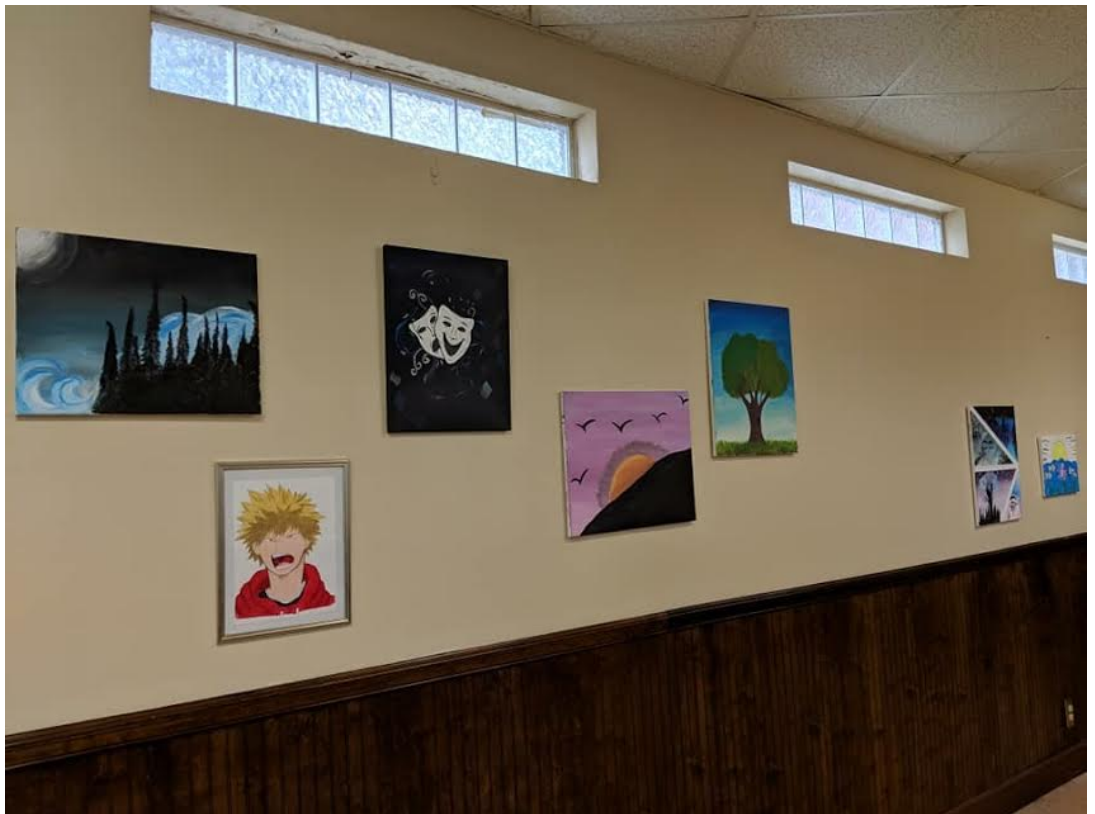




# IMSA Art Gallery



**1754** by Noor Hamdan



1754...We were in the French and Indian War. Taking over the land; We don't want you here no more.

No fishing on Sundays. Or any other religious holidays; Fighting for all these years. Got these countries In a daze.

We began with the British. But now we just want to finish.

No taxation without representation. We thought this was was a united nation.

But little did we know we were wrong. The war and fighting going on and on.

Do you always listen to King George the third; Flying after him like a couple of birds.

You put taxes on our tea. Too much money; a high fee.

Talking about the tea act that left a huge impact.

Closing down or harbors. Making our lives so much harder.

But now we want to take responsibility, making the Sons of Liberty.

We just want to be independent making our own amendments.

## You WON'T want to miss **Upcoming IMSA Events**

**Perennial Math** is underway with a team of five students to represent the school in a competition scheduled for **Saturday, January 26, 2019** in Sylacauga, AL at Nichols Lawson Middle School. Our school team for this event consists of the following members:

Kerimov Akmad Yusuf- 6th grade  
Yamma Sherzai - 6th grade  
Hamnah Fareed - 6th grade  
Mohamad Hamdan - 7th grade  
Ali Ahmed - 8th grade

Practice for this event began Thursday afternoons on November 29, 2018

**The inter-cultural event** has been postponed until the Spring, but efforts to prepare for that event are well underway. Students in art club and social studies classes are already planning and working on projects that are designed as preparation for this event. Food from each represented country will be available to try as well as activities to participate in for the whole family. There will be an admission fee. Mark your calendars for Saturday, **April 13, 2019!** You will not want to miss this one!



**Sanaa Qureshi**

### **3-D Cell Project for Science**

**A Math and Science Day event** is being planned for **Saturday, January 19, 2019**. The title of the event is "Winter Wonderland Chemistry." Booths with activities for student involvement will be set up to allow for participation in exciting and fun activities to learn and enjoy. For example, there will be a kickoff activity titled 'Wintery Wonderland Eruption' ( Elephant Toothpaste)! Students will enjoy and learn, and families are encouraged to attend.