

BA GAZETTE

NEWSLETTER BROUGHT TO YOU BY BAYAAN ACADEMY STUDENTS

STUDENTS

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COVER PHOTO BY LEILA IDHEILEH

WHAT IS THE CORONAVIRUS AND HOW FAST DOES IT SPREAD

BY LEILA IDHEILEH

What is the Coronavirus?

(Covid19) Coronavirus is a very infectious disease that began in Wuhan China. The severity of it depends on the person. It can range from a cold, to a dangerous illness; sometimes even causing death. Symptoms include:

- Cough
- Fever
- Headache
- Shortness of breath
- Sore throat

If you have experienced any of these symptoms it is recommended to call a doctor. How is the Coronavirus treated? There is no cure for Covid19 as of right now. However, if it does not affect a person much, medicine can be taken as well as precautions such as: staying home and washing your hands. However, if you are badly affected, doctors can treat you.

How fast does the Coronavirus spread?

The Coronavirus spreads through sneezes and coughs from the infected person. Therefore, it is recommended to stay six feet apart from others, as it spreads quickly. It spreads more easily than an average flu but spreads less than other respiratory diseases. It is known not to spread as easily to children. The virus is most contagious between five to six days but it can still spread up until two weeks. How many people have been affected by covid19? There are now currently 1,995,983 people are infected. There are currently 131,037 confirmed deaths. Covid19 hit 231 countries



FLATTENING THE CURVE

BY SAIMA FATIMA ALI

With the Coronavirus spreading rapidly, it's important to understand exactly what it is and what we can do. It may appear difficult initially, but there are many things one can do to help.

Washing Your Hands

Washing your hands is one of the most beneficial things you can do to protect yourself. You should wash your hands for at least twenty seconds with soap and water. Here's how it works: Coronavirus is encased in lipid, essentially a layer of fat. Soap breaks open that layer, making the virus unable to affect you.

Touching Your Face

Everyone unknowingly touches their faces from time to time. But your hands can easily have germs on them. By touching your face, you are giving the virus direct access to your body. It is undoubtedly difficult to stop touching your face entirely, but you should try to avoid it.

Avoid Gathering

Humans are naturally social, so this is quite challenging. Even though the officials say there can be a gathering of ten people standing 13 feet apart, it is better to avoid gathering entirely.

If one affected person goes to a gathering, they will most likely affect lots of people.

Don't Stockpile

When you take more than your share of essential supplies, you might have what you need for a while, but others will suffer. Only take what you need.

Keep Calm

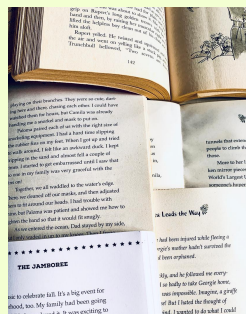
When people are in distress, it's often hard to think straight. Do not take the virus lightly, but do not panic. These are steps we can all take to help reduce the spread and help keep the virus in check. Everyone should do their part to help.

QUARANTINE TIPS

BY HANEEN IDHEILEH

Unfortunately because of the outbreak of the corona virus we are all forced to social distance and stay home. Staying home for a long time can be boring, and we eventually run out of stuff to do. However, lucky for you we can help. We have some tips and ideas of things you can do to keep busy during these rough times.

1. One idea to keep busy is read a book. Reading is very beneficial and it helps improve vocabulary. Since you'll be reading to pass time and not for school, you can pick any book you want! Even if it's a comic book, getting some time to read is a good idea.



2. Another idea to help pass the time is doing arts and crafts. Making homemade crafts can be used to decorate your room and brighten up the place. It's also a good activity for siblings to do together.



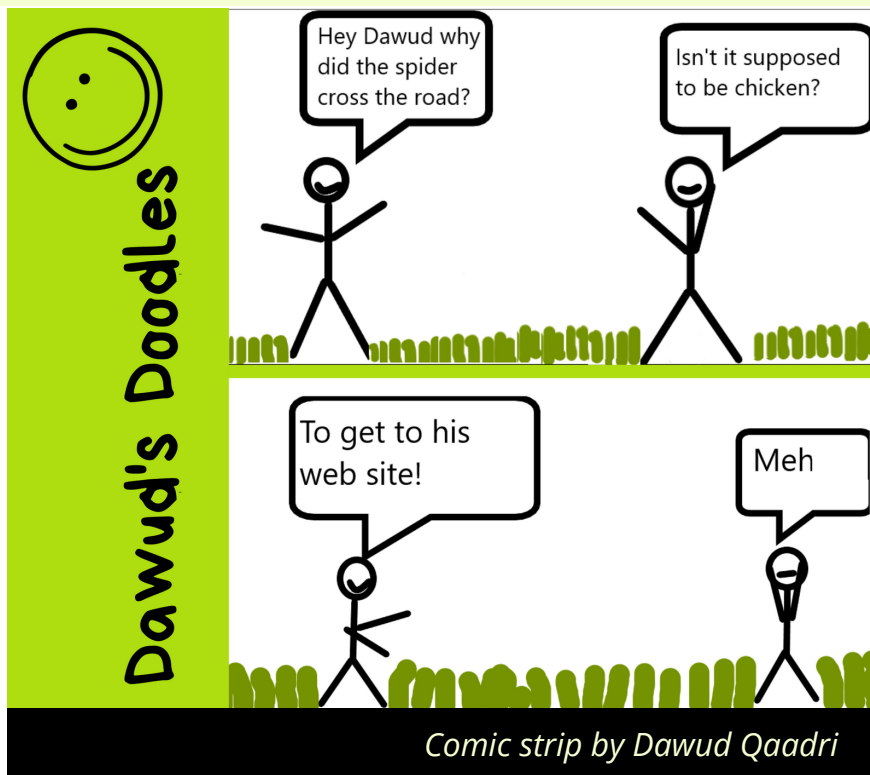
3. A third idea is cleaning. I know none of us really enjoy cleaning, however since we should take advantage of the extra time we have now to get things done that we couldn't during school days. Also having a cleaner room and house will decrease the amount of bacteria which also keeps a healthier home.

4. A fourth idea is riding a bike, scooter, or skateboard. Getting fresh air around your house riding is a good way to get in some body movement.

5. The fifth and final idea we're going to share with you is exercise. Since we are not going to school, we're not taking gym class anymore. So working out at your house is a healthy option and it's a good way to pass time. Those were five ideas to help you pass the time while social distancing.

Of course there are many things that you can do, those were just some ideas. Remember to wash your hands regularly and don't touch your face.

(Photography by: Leila Idheileh)



CLOUDED LEOPARD

BY: HISHAM SHAIK

I am doing a small article about the clouded leopard because this leopard is not a regular leopard, it is much darker and can camouflage easily.

The Clouded Leopards live in Himalayan foothills through mainland Southeast Asia into Southern China. These big cats are called 'modern-day saber tooth', because they have the longest canine teeth relative to their body size of any cat species.

Clouded Leopards are very good climbers too. Lots of big cats can climb but not like these ferocious leopards, they can hang upside down on branches, jump tree to tree, and even hunt from trees.

This is because when their prey approaches, they can easily jump down from that tree and attack.

Some people say that between a clouded leopard and a normal leopard there is no differences, but there is a lot of difference.

Male clouded leopard are generally twice the size of females. They are very camouflaged as well, their dark fur helps them come up really close to the prey without being seen.

Clouded leopards are also going extinct by the loss of habitat and poaching.



There are only around 9,000 clouded leopards left in the world. Most of them are in zoos and captivity because their fur is very valuable and rare.

Did you know?

Clouded leopard only stays with their mother for 10 months!

Clouded leopard fangs or canines can reach two inches (four cm) or longer, and their jaw is strong enough to break a turtles shell!



EXTINCTION AND HOW TO STOP IT

BY: HISHAM SHAIK

Animals in danger of extinction:

- Tigers (can go extinct this year!)
- Lynx
- Cheetah
- Arabian Leopard (only about 90 left)
- Amur Leopard (less than 50 left in the whole world)
- White lions (only 13 left)
- Pumas
- Clouded leopards
- Regular lions
- Florida panthers

Poaching is when animals are killed illegally. Penalties of poaching can result in imprisonment (ranging from five to ten years) or even being fined up to \$10 million.

If we want animals to survive and stay healthy, we have to stop poaching. We must take these matters seriously or we will have a world with no interesting animals.

People are even destroying animals' homes and habitat. They are making more and more houses and buildings, for which they need space. This means cutting down trees with machines that can easily break an animal's home, den, or other shelter.

Also, when humans do construction, it scares off deer and other prey (which the animals need to survive) and so they die of starvation.

Another reason they destroy animals' homes is for farming and getting more land. It is not okay to destroy an animal's habitat for these reasons.

In conclusion, we can save animals by not hurting or hunting them. By trying to save animals we are also helping the earth. There are lots and lots of animal, and plants extinction everyday, If animals keep going extinct and at this rate we will be in grave danger. Wild forests and grasslands would die because they are adapted to rely on wild animals.



AN INTERVIEW WITH THE DIRECTOR

BY SHANZAY SHAIK

Mr. Sumair is the founder of Bayaan Academy. I chose to interview Mr. Sumair because I think readers will enjoy hearing how Bayaan Academy has progressed over the years.

What inspired you to start Bayaan Academy?

The reason I decided to start Bayaan Academy was, we were living in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia at that time. Many of the families including myself were homeschooling our kids and it was very difficult to find quality teachers to come tutor our children. Islamic schools there, I felt weren't up to the standard islamically or in terms of secular perspective. Having grown up in America, and going to public school from kindergarten, up till my masters, and then having spent time in Darul Uloom Buffalo, New York. I've seen both sides of the world; the secular academic side as well as the religious academic side.

I had a certain model in my mind that we were looking for, and Saudi Arabia didn't have that. After some time my daughter Hafsa, felt she wanted to have classmates. So we decided to start a homeschooling co-op. The co-op didn't really work out, because during that time women could not drive and the men would be at work.

During that time, a friend of mine; his kids were studying in an online school in England. That made me think why don't we just start an online school of our own?

Was it hard finding teachers ?

Yes, it was. It was difficult finding teachers with all the qualities we wanted them to have. We got about three hundred resumes in August, and shortlisted them to about fifty candidates. Those fifty candidates were given a short questionnaire. We then narrowed it down to about twelve teachers.

At one point we did not have enough teachers so I consulted a sheikh; and I asked him, is it okay to have qualified teachers who do not have the same religious background as us ? This is when I learned a very important point, and I think others can learn from it as well. The sheikh replied, we want to give the kids as best an education as possible, so for each subject, hire the best teacher you can get for it.

Do you specialize in a certain subject ?

Growing up, I was kind of confused. In the last twenty years, I would say my expertise would be in education, particularly special education. My undergrad was in psychology and economics. So when I graduated from the University of Delaware I worked as a stockbroker. Then I started working as a social worker for the Medicaid Office of Delaware. Then I was hired as a special education teacher for a juvenile center. Since the last nineteen years I have been working in the field of education.

What is the best thing about your job ?

I think the best thing about my job is, getting feedback from parents that what we are doing is meaningful. I mean, I like to hear all the positives and all the negatives, but the most important thing is, are the students benefiting? I really enjoy the critical feedback from parents, because that's how you learn, from criticism. The model we say now, is purely based on feedback from parents. So, the best thing about my job is, talking to parents and hearing 'my child has benefited from your program.'

Do you have any advice for us ?

The advice I give to students is the same advice I give to my kids. Number one, always have an open mind. Be creative. When problems arise seek solutions. Number two, hold on to your values. Don't compromise them. Understand what your values are. Your life should be structured around your values. Number three, consult those who are more experienced than you. Consult your elders. In today's time kids are being taught that their elders don't know anything. In truth, the elders are wiser and much more experienced. The youth are now being misguided and don't have anyone to turn to other than their peers.

INTERVIEW OF USTADHA HAFSA

BY HISHAM SHAIK & JOLNAR ALJWAINI

We interviewed teacher Hafsa because we wanted to know how she got interested in history and science.

How did you get interested in Science and Social studies?

When I was in secondary school, science was my favourite subject. I used to dream of becoming a doctor or a researcher. I would imagine myself doing experiments in the lab. I would understand science concepts more easily as compared to other subjects like math. And also the fact that I could relate it to the world around me got me interested in it. I got interested in history late in middle school. I used to read novels by Katherine Roberts. She wrote fiction about mythical creatures and also included elements of actual historical events. From there onwards, I started reading more stories from World history and that is what got me interested in this subject.

Why did you choose teaching online? You could have taught in a public school.

When I decided to teach, I just had my son and it was hard for me to teach in a school because there weren't many reliable day care facilities in Saudi Arabia. So I chose to teach online. I consider myself lucky as I can teach and take care of my son at the same time.

How do you like teaching?

In the beginning, I did not think I could be a good teacher since I believed that I was not good at explaining concepts to others. Once I started teaching my younger siblings I found that teaching was something I genuinely enjoyed and I still thoroughly enjoy it while teaching my students at Bayaan.

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ALWAYS LOOK AT THE BRIGHTER SIDE OF LIFE, JUST LIKE A SUNFLOWER WHICH LOOKS UPON THE SUN, NOT THE DARK CLOUDS

What do you find most frustrating about teaching ?

If you talk about teaching online in particular, sometimes I struggle to communicate with a few students who are unresponsive in class. I often think that if we were in a physical setup, I would be able to connect with my students better and help them out if they have any issues.

What do you like most about teaching ?

The thing I love about teaching is the connection I have with my students. I love interacting with my students and I love getting responses out of them.

If you get an opportunity later on, will you still teach online or will you go to teach in public school?

I'm very comfortable teaching online. Teaching online has numerous advantages which outweigh the advantages of teaching in a physical setup. However, if given the opportunity, I would love to have the experience of teaching in a public school as well.

Do you have any advice for us?

It is very important to have a positive approach in all aspects of life, even in the most difficult of times. Optimism can help you cope with any challenge you face. As the famous saying goes, "Always look at the brighter side of life, just like a sunflower which looks upon the sun, not the dark clouds"

LIFE IN SYRIA:AN INTERVIEW WITH JOUDI

BY ISRAA AMJAD

Joudi is a grade 7 student at Bayaan Academy who has experienced Syria before and after the war. Here she talks about her experience.

How did you hear about the U.S.A ?

When I went to Jordan, my mom and dad were talking about it and thinking that we should come here.

How did you leave Syria without being injured ?

We were going to be injured but with the mercy of Allah, we were saved.

How was it in Syria before it was bombed?

Syria was really peaceful before it was bombed. Our family was close with us and now they are so far from us.

Did you already know that Syria was going to be attacked?

No, we did not know Syria was going to be attacked.

When you left Syria where did you first go?

We first went to Jordan.

What was your reaction when you saw the bombs?

We were scared and we cried.

When you went to Jordan, how old were you and your siblings?

My younger brother was 2 years old, my little sister was 4 years old, and I was 6 years old. My older brother was 8 years old.

If you could wish for anything, what would it be?

I would go back to Syria and wish for everything to go back.

If you were the president, how would you stop Syria from getting bombed?

I would get the army and make them go around Syria and protect it.

When you first came here, to the U.S.A who did you meet first to keep you company? Who was your first friend, and where did you meet them?

When we came here, we first met our neighbor. One was from Syria and the other was from Pakistan. Our Syrian neighbor kept us company because they spoke Arabic and we could talk to them. My first friend was Israa Amjad. I met her in the Masjid called "Masjid ZAM ZAM"



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SYRIA WAS REALLY PEACEFUL BEFORE IT WAS BOMBED. OUR FAMILY WAS CLOSE WITH US AND NOW THEY ARE SO FAR FROM US.

JOUDI ALJWAINI

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Art by Shanzay Shaik

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Dear Readers,

We hope this letter finds you in the best of health. We are excited to announce this is the third issue of the BA Gazette! This edition of the newspaper is the result of months of hard work on everyone's part. One of the main challenges the team faced was the designing process. We started off with Publisher and ended up with Canva, due to the fact that the majority of people couldn't access Publisher. All in all, it has been a great learning experience.

Currently, we are beginning to work on the Summer Special; an exclusive edition filled with colorful photos and digital art! Last but not least, a special thanks to Ms. Sumna for all her help. We hope you enjoyed this issue of the BA Gazette!

Until next time, stay safe!

Shanzay Shaik

Chief Editor