

RAHA VOICE

RAHA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL/YEAR 2011-2012/OCT-DEC ISSUE

UAE National Day

BY SUSANNE MALIK (GR.10)

With the country having turned 40 years old on the 2 December, the celebrations for this year's national day in UAE were immense. national day was a day for all to come together and celebrate the union. It was a time to reflect on the great achievements and advances that this young country has made. It is incredible to realize that places where 40 years ago, there was merely water and sand everywhere, there are many impressive high rise buildings, hotels, and schools today. Some of the most advanced developments in the world have been made in the UAE in the past 40 years.

The UAE has gone through some very memorable moments, the launch of Etihad in 2003, and the completion of the Sheikh Zayed Mosque after 12 years of construction in 2007, leading all the way to the first ever Grand Prix being held in Abu Dhabi in 2009. Abu Dhabi even managed to make history in the Guinness Book of World Records in 2006 after selling a number plate with the number '1' for 52.2 million dirhams, the most expensive number plate ever sold.

This young country is facing a bright future, filled with opportunities. One can only imagine the future developments of the country. HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum summed up his view on the future in a very optimistic and encouraging way: "In the race for excellence, there is no finish line."



روح الاتحاد
40 SPIRIT OF THE UNION
اليوم الوطني
NATIONAL DAY
الإمارات العربية المتحدة
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

National Day @ RIS

The 40th National Day was celebrated on Tuesday 29 November with a school wide assembly, followed by a wide range of activities setup by the organizing council. Some of the activities included a bouncy castle, a magician, pony and camel riding, and tshirt/mug printing. The day

was a success and everyone enjoyed themselves. Thanks to all the volunteers, teachers, parents, and staff who helped out with the event. Forty trees were donated to the school by a generous family. The trees have already been planted on the campus. Special thanks to Ms.Sarah Thomas and Ms.Wafa



New Events Section

Naked Mole Rats Provide
Cure for CancerDiscovering Talent at
Raha (KidCurry)

Abu Dhabi Film Festival (October)

BY ZENA KHALIL (GR.11)

The Abu Dhabi Film Festival (formerly the Middle East International Film Festival) was established in 2007, with the aim of helping to create a vibrant film culture throughout the region. This event takes place once a year, during October.

This year's festival was from the 13th of October to the 22nd. While it seems like a short time, several films were played and countless people showed up. People came to watch the films not only from the GCC, but also places from around the world! There were many famous movie directors and actors present throughout the event. It was exciting to see them and be able to meet them. Many students in the city helped to volunteer for this event. Congratulations to those of you in Raha who volunteered.

This year's 2011 Competition Winner was Stories Only Exist When Remembered Middle East Premiere
Director: Julia Murat

My favorite film was "In My Mother's Arms," directed by two brothers, Mohamed and Atia Jabarah Al Daradji. It was about an Iraqi man, Husham, who noticed the large number of orphans in Iraq and decided to open up an orphanage using his own money, provide the children with a home and proper schooling. The government does not help him create an orphanage but he is undeterred, continuing to spend his time and money on the orphans. As a documentary, I thought the film was very inspiring. The people in the film were not acting; everything that was filmed was the actual daily life of those orphans. I found it amazing, especially because I'm Iraqi by nationality but I have never been there. Seeing my own country for the first time on the big screen really moved me and made me notice that my own people need help. After I watched the film, I got to meet with the director himself and two of the orphans! One was 11 years old and the other 17. This film gave me an idea to start raising money or clothes or school supplies for children in Iraq. In fact I might make it one of my major CAS projects because this is a very important issue to me and I believe I can make a change for my own people!

For those of you who didn't get a chance to see any of the films, I advise you to go check some out next year! For the volunteers, we have gained a lot of experience through this event and had so much fun. Overall it was a very successful event and I'm glad that I got to be a part of it.



(From left to right; Vegar Askerland, Dehan Erasmus, Zena Khalil, Lubna Ariqi on the red carpet at ADFF)

Al Forsan Family Fun (October)

COOPER LAY (GR.8)

Al Forsan family fun night was fun for the whole family. They had some bouncy houses, games, and entertainment for the little kids. Those of us, who are a bit too old for bouncy balls and Bobo the clown could do go-karting, or archery, or paintball, or laser shooting, or water sports. It had a lot of variety for people of all ages.

The children's "carnival" was full of people. The favorite attraction seemed to be the bouncy house without a roof where you hit the other person with a giant inflatable ear cleaner until they fall off (onto padding). The bouncy house was a big success because, how many 6 year olds don't like bouncy houses? If this isn't your forte then there were some things for people a bit older.

The main hit for older kids was the paintball and the go-karting. They had themed paintball (Wild West, WW2, Sci-fi etc.) The go karts are very fun when you are going 60mph around a hammerhead turn on their over 1km track. But beware! Crashes are always a risk and some people aren't very cautious drivers. The shooting related options (archery, lasers, and guns) are very fun but required a high element of safety. The school organized the event as a good will event and as it seems many families enjoyed themselves.

All Hallows Eve

BY MAXINE DE LA REY (GR.9)

The history of Halloween, like many traditions has been inspired through generation to generation. As this festival was passed down many things about what it was truly about became distorted, and what we know today is very different to why and how it was in the past. Didn't you ever wonder? Why October 31st? Who decided to go from door to door collecting candy? Halloween had its beginnings in an ancient, Celtic festival of the dead. The Celtic people were once found all over Europe. According to their calendar, the year began on a day corresponding to November 1st on our present calendar (October 31st). The date marked the beginning of winter. This meant a lot of people, animals and plants usually died due to the cold temperatures of that year. The date marked both an ending and a beginning in an eternal cycle.

The Celtic festival was called Samhain. It was the biggest and most significant holiday of the Celtic year. The Celts believed that at the time of Samhain, more so than any other time of the year, the ghosts of the dead were able to mingle with the living, because at Samhain the souls of those who had died during the year traveled into the otherworld. People gathered to sacrifice animals, fruits, and vegetables. They also lit bonfires in honor of the dead, to aid them on their journey, and to keep them away from the living. On that day all manner of beings were abroad: ghosts, fairies, and demons.

Basically, all-present Halloween traditions can be traced to the ancient Celtic day of the dead. Halloween is a holiday of many mysterious customs, but each one has a history, or at least a story behind it. The wearing of costumes, for instance, and roaming from door to door demanding treats can be traced to the Celtic period and the first few centuries of the Christian era, when it was thought that the souls of the dead were out. Offerings of food and drink were left out to calm and bring peace upon them. Soon enough, people began dressing like these dreadful creatures, performing tricks in exchange for food and drink. (Trick or Treat?) As time went by, people began to think Halloween was something evil not knowing the true history of the Celtic people. Not knowing that they were merely trying to help the souls cross over to the other side. Things have changed since then and no one these days really knows, the reasons for Halloween and nobody really needs to know. Now its seen as a fun time to dress up and have fun with friends, with no religious beliefs attached to most of the people who celebrate it. Many compounds in Abu Dhabi celebrate Halloween and some organize parties.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

BY ZENA KHALIL (GR.11)

October is the month of breast cancer awareness and Raha has been involved in it for many years now! This year, members of the Student Council have organized many activities in October in order to raise money for breast cancer. We made pink ribbons for students and teachers to buy that have been sold every lunch time for the entire month. Looking great on those of you who have them pinned on your uniforms. Thank you for your support! Also a big jar of pink jellybeans was taken around at lunch time for students to guess how many jellybeans there were in the jar and that was also a great help in raising money for breast cancer awareness. On October 27th 2011, students were dressed in pink to school to show their support. Everyone looked great and as a school we should try to support this cause as much as we can! Again thanks to all the students and teachers who have bought ribbons this month and for showing your support. It is to be hoped that we can manage to raise even more money next year!

Did you know?

About 85% of breast cancers occur in women who have no family history of breast cancer. These occur due to genetic mutations that happen as a result of the aging process and life in general, rather than inherited mutations. About 1 in 8 U.S. women (just under 12%) will develop invasive breast cancer over the course of her lifetime. (Breastcancer.org)



Broken Things

BY ALIOSHA BIELENBERG (GR.8)

RIS, in general, is an excellent school. However as with any institution, there are always some small issues, and this is the place to talk about them.

Clocks are useful in many aspects of life. Humans have used some form of a timekeeping device from at least the 16th century B.C. In modern life, however, they have been largely superseded by electronic devices. Nevertheless, our school continues to provide these in many areas, such as the dining hall, central foyers of most blocks, and many classrooms. As such, I believe the school has a responsibility to maintain them. Many students and teachers have complained of the lack of batteries and even broken hands on our clocks. For instance, the clock in the foyer of Block B is stuck; whether this is simply because the battery “died” or some more complex problem is unknown. However, students pass it every time to access their lockers, which is when most students usually need to know the time the most. The school is fixing this problem by installing a digital clock system after New Years, vastly helping students, teachers, and visitors, keeping the school presentable, and perhaps even increasing the punctuality of students.

Think Pink!

BY SUSANNE MALIK (GR.10)

PINK was the first impression one got upon entering the ball room of the Radisson Blue Hotel, the meeting point for the second Pink-athon at Yas Island. From countless pink balloons, to T-shirts, pink flyers and pink cupcakes, the rooms were booming with pinkness.

After a very friendly greeting, we were given a T-shirt and balloon, and got information on when the marathon would start. Everyone's spirits were high, and there were over 300 participants, all getting ready and keen on starting. Before starting the 2.5 km walk, speeches were held by former breast cancer patients, as well as a speaker from the Health Authority Abu Dhabi, reminding us of the sincerity of the occasion of the event, and highlighting the importance about raising awareness about it.

Although it was quite a hot day, the event had been well prepared, with volunteers handing out water bottles every 400 meters or so. The Raha student council, as well as a few other students and teachers were actively involved in the event, representing the school through a banner that was held throughout the walk.

After walking around the loop-shaped route for approximately an hour, the starting point was reached again, where the participants were greeted with Pink, delicious cupcakes back inside the ball room, one of the things that made it really worth taking part in the walk!

While a raffle took place inside, there were seats inside as well as outside for people to relax, eat and drink. Free monogram scans were offered to adults, supporting “Simply Check”.

Exhausted, but with a feeling of fulfillment, the participants were rewarded with a certificate, which was the cherry on top of a great afternoon.

Movie Review

BY CHARLOTTE DE BEKKER (GR. 11)

Name: The Truman Show

Year of Release: 1998

Directed by: Peter Weir

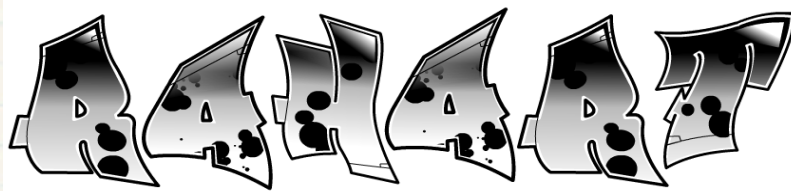
US Certificate: PG

Genre: Drama/Comedy

Imagine if your life was a TV series, everyone around you were actors and you didn't know it? That is the basic idea of this movie. Truman Burbank (Jim Carrey) thinks that he is an ordinary man with an ordinary life and has no idea about how he is exploited. He is unknowingly the star of a hugely popular 24 hour a day real-time documentary, every moment of his existence has been captured by hidden cameras and broadcasted to the entire world. The island town he lives in, 'Seahaven' is an enormous set and all the people in this town are hired actors; even his wife Meryl (Laura Linney). However, after 30 years of unknown imprisonment his growing suspicions and curiosity become too much and he decided that he wants to leave the island. This is a problem! Without the star of show there cannot be a show! So the show's director and master manipulator Christof (Ed Harris) must constantly devise ways to stop Truman's attempts to escape.



'The Truman Show' is definitely one of my favorite movies all time, it made me laugh, it made me cheer but most importantly by the end of the movie I walked away thinking. I love movies like that; movies that make you think. It's not that I don't like silly comedy movies, but there's something special about a movie which causes you to walk away with something new to ponder about...



The Monthly Raha Art Review!

Have a look in this section of Raha Voice to get an insight of Raha's best and most interesting Art works every month!

Art works will be nominated and chosen by Mrs. Daniella Parkinson our brilliant art teacher.

BY SHÀUNA EMIG (GR. 11)



Watch this art work in process, done by Wiebke Redinger, Grade 12.

Events

BY KIMBERLY GALEA (GR.11)

Entertainment:

What? Al Dhafra Festival

Where? Al Gharbia (the Western Region) at Madinat Zayed, Abu Dhabi

When? 17th to 28th December

Target audience: People interested in Emirati heritage activities

Cost: Unknown.

Who? Sade

Where? Yas Arena, Yas Island, Abu Dhabi

When? 16th December

Target audience: Sade fans

Cost: Golden Circle (standing): AED 750. Grandstand (reserved seating): AED 595. General Admission (standing): AED 295

What? Coldplay

Where? Corniche Breakwater, Abu Dhabi

When? 31st December

Target audience: Coldplay fans

Cost: Ticket prices start from 325 AED and will be available in different categories including seated, standing and VIP tables.



Naked Mole Rats Provide Cancer Cure

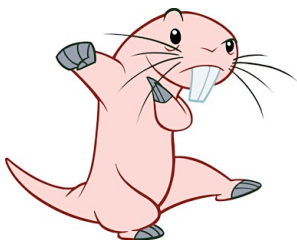
BY LYDIA AIT (GR.11)

Well, we all know what rats are, and that they have a horrible reputation. But the University of Rochester in New York has conducted studies that prove that naked mole rats are immune to cancer.

These animals are unique in several ways. They don't feel pain and they also have a revolutionary gene that can stop the spread of cancer. Since 1934, cancer has been thoroughly studied and it is not until now that scientists have discovered that the gene present in rats ends the process of multiplication of cells. The gene, called p16, existent in those rats arranges a second ring of defense against cancer. Unlike humans, who have a gene which is not as efficient as the one the rats. Injecting cancerous cells into the rats, scientists observed no spread of such cells which gives the medical world a boost in the domain.

Overall, these rats are one of the weirdest things that exist! They have their lips behind their teeth, acid doesn't burn them in any way and they are known to live longer than other rodents. The naked mole rats are hideous in appearance and are not even close to being as cute as a hamster; in fact they are uglier than actual rats. On the other hand, who cares about what they look like when they could save lives?

(For more information visit Popsci.com)



Raha's Got Talent

BY ZAPAER ALIP (GR.11)

Haris Siddiqui (gr.11) is also known as KidCuri. He started rapping 4 years ago when he recorded his first song Steve Jobs, which was a remix of a song named Bill Gates. Below is a quick interview with Harris Siddiqui.

Q: Why did you start rapping?

A: Well, it started out as a rock band, but that didn't really work out so everybody went solo instead. That's how I ended up rapping.

Q: What do you rap about?

A: My raps are about my personal experiences, life in general and other random things

Q: Why did you choose KidCuri as your rap name?

A: The name comes from KidCudi and I decided to name myself KidCuri

Q: Have you ever performed for people?

A: I performed at my school in Chicago for around 2000 people

Q: How many videos do you have on youtube?

A: I think I have more than 30 songs uploaded.

Q: Where do you record your songs?

A: I record my songs in my makeshift studio at home

KidCuri can be found on Youtube, Facebook, and Twitter

Youtube.com/Ibekrizzy Facebook.com/Imcure Twitter.com/Ibekrizzy

He is currently collaborating with DJam, DJ RYN(Aren), Omar Marhaba, BBS(Rapper) and Abood Bnimoussa.

If you know any students at Raha that you think have talent, recommend them by sending us an email at rahavoice@gmail.com



Website Review

BY ZAPAER ALIP (GR.11)

Popsci.com is an amazing and popular science news website (hence the name Popsci), the content is easy to understand and interesting. Everything from Science to Technology is available on the site. A neat part of it is the DIY section where there are hacks and DIY tutorials for almost everything cool. Check it out over the break. Another interesting DIY website is www.instructables.com have spare electronic parts or just want to build something really neat. The site also hosts DIY competitions where users are encouraged to come up with tutorials for building things from the given material or theme. Both sites are awesome, if you don't believe me just go and check it out and prove me wrong.



Your Opinions on the Raha Voice

In the last couple of months, we have been surveying students randomly on how we can improve the Raha Voice. As nothing is perfect and everything can be better. Some of the issues mentioned were the lack of consistency, lack of pictures, not having interesting content and only having one copy per class room.

We are constantly working on improving the Raha Voice, we are trying our best to get out student related content but we cannot publish all the content we wish to publish because this is again an educational facility aka School. However, we have had news sections in the newspaper such as the Movie/Art/Events sections on page 5 and 6. We are also asking for your opinions on news stories and events happening in and around the school. If you would like to voice your opinions on a matter or issue that is important why not email us? Your articles may even end up in a magazine or local region wide newspaper such as 181 Youth or Khaleej Times.

We are also working on providing more copies for each advisory class, as this a free non sponsored newspaper reliant on the Media and PR departments of the school. How many copies we provide relies on the mercy and mood of the department. Graciously they have been quite generous. We also have an email distribution system in place so if you would like to get a copy of the newspaper via email send us an email with the subject line : subscription. The Raha Voice will also be available via the Managebac system.

Finally, a more important issue is that teachers did not give the newspaper out to their advisories, which is very odd. Perhaps there was a misunderstanding, but we encourage asking your teachers if they received a copy so we can make sure everyone gets access to the Raha Voice. If you have any comments or questions please feel free to send us an email.

**There is an intentional mistake on the cover of the newspaper
can you find it?**

FROM THE EDITOR

As the editor of this newspaper, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all those who have helped in producing this newspaper. Below are a list of, students and teachers who need to be recognized; without their support and contributions this newspaper would have never been published.

Ms. Brigid, Charlotte de Bekker, Zena Khalil, Shauna Emig, Maxine de La Rey, Aliosha Bielenberg, Cooper Lay, Susanne Malik, Kimberly Galea and Lydia Ait.

Special Thanks to Mr. Jim Buie

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Zapaer Alip (Editor in Chief)

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Send us an email any time, from content ideas to improvements we read every one of our emails. We're serious about this, seriously. We are always looking for new writers, photographer, illustrators, and copy editors.