



ISTANBUL
INTERNATIONAL School®

voice

**OVER
20 YEARS**

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in **20** **22**
years
old

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Summer
2021

Over 20 years....

Over twenty years ago, Mustafa Karadeniz and John Lees teamed up to begin a small project, in a historical villa, with a spacious garden, in a leafy green suburb of Istanbul..... they had no idea what shape the project would take over the years.

Our idea was to combine our two skill sets, Dr. Mustafa as a paediatrician and me as a teacher, to address educational and medical needs in our community.



Dr. Mustafa Karadeniz and Mr. John Lees
attending the International Schools
Association Conference in India.

In the villa, the ground floor and the spacious garden were opened as a Pre School programme with my wife Elisa. On the upper floors, we opened up a variety of children's medical services, including even a children's dentist, under Dr. Mustafa's supervision.

After a couple of years the Pre School had mushroomed and we were looking for more spacious facilities, as well as the possibility of furthering our programme into Primary Education too. This became a reality when we moved into the Çamlica neighborhood, which in time saw us grow from Primary School into Middle School and then finally into High School. This growth resulted also in the building of another school campus in the same area.

For two philanthropists we have grown the project well, though the journey has also been turbulent at times. Along the way we have needed a great deal of patience, and gained a great deal of knowledge about business and how to create a sustainable learning community. Challenged from time to time with ever changing bureaucracy, we have been able to maintain a steady growth in school numbers, programme accreditation and an ever increasing amount of respect and congratulations not only from parents but more importantly from students themselves.



With us for a short or long period, they have understood our sincerity, our good intentions for them. The school slogan

‘Sharing knowledge, memories and experiences to last a lifetime...’

was carefully crafted over 20 years ago when we started. It has proven to be the right slogan for our school community and has produced a bright bunch of students who regularly appear at school to demonstrate their gained knowledge, their non erasable memories and the experiences that together have shaped their lives and give them a course for their futures. The graduating class of 2021 will be no exception!



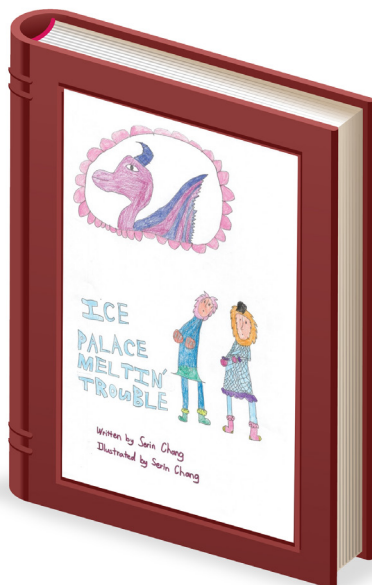
PRIMARY SCHOOL WRITERS



Ice Palace Meltin' Trouble



Serin Chang
Grade 1B



Shinoy and Myra were having fun in Dolphin Park. Suddenly, a tornado came over them and they were teleported to somewhere else.



"Where are we? It's so cold out here. How did we get these furry clothes? Is it Antarctica?" asked Shinoy. "I don't know, but anyway, let's just find out where we are," replied Myra. But Shinoy was not there. "Shinoy? Shinoy!" she called. But there was no answer.



Soon Mellisa came. She was about to melt her palace. But... Lazlo, the sneakiest member of the Chaos Crew, suddenly appeared! Lazlo came to help Flutterwind from freezing Mellisa by using some of his laser beam. To send Mellisa to death. That was the end of Mellisa's life. "I'm-," began Mellisa, but she was too late. The powerful heros saved the day!

Then, she saw an entrance hall that looked like an ice palace and in she went. She went inside, went upstairs, and... Myra found Shinoy! Myra saw a dragon and she said, "My name is Flutterwind. People call me the queen of the ice. I've got no time to talk. My palace will melt five minutes later! It means I'll have no where to live, stay safe, stay warm and stay in! Please help me. I'm so panicked."

"We'll help you," said Myra, taking off her furry hat. "Flutterwind, how were we teleported here?" asked Shinoy. "I teleported you guys here with my magical two indigo horns," said Flutterwind, flying around her ice palace. "Then, can you freeze Mellisa with your ice powers?" asked Shinoy. Mellisa is a villain that will melt Flutterwind's palace, because Flutterwind's so powerful. "Sure. If you two got shields, please use them for protecting my palace from melting while I freeze Mellisa," said Flutterwind. "Deal!" Shinoy and Myra cried in unison.



The day of the missing assignments



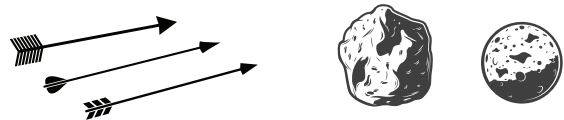
Elina Grace,
Grade 3A

One day Shinnoy woke up and went downstairs to eat breakfast. He saw Myra on the way down. They ate breakfast and went to school. On the bus they sat with their friends. They went to their classrooms and sat at their desks. They always do the same thing in the morning. It's like their morning routine. Mrs. Martin, Shinnoy's teacher, asked Shinnoy where his work was. Shinnoy looked in his folder. It was not there. He looked in his backpack. It wasn't there. He checked everywhere. His teacher was so kind -she let him have another day and a new piece of paper to write on. He went to the park after school with Myra. Shinnoy said, "Today my assignment disappeared!" Myra responded, "Wow, it's so weird the same thing happened to me!" They sat and thought. They knew who did this. They knew it was S.N.A.I.R. Shinnoy went home and called the Chaos Crew. Instead two dogs came. The dogs told them, "The Chaos Crew couldn't come and they asked us."



The kids were so confused so they tried to ask questions but didn't know what to ask. One of the dogs said, "My name is Ben and

this is my sister Bella. The Chaos crew was a bit busy so they sent us." The dogs took them through a portal and it led them to a dark hallway. The dogs took them a room. Ben exclaimed "This teleporter must be broken! We weren't supposed to see a dangerous room of obstacles! There is seriously lava!" Everyone tried to calm him down. Suddenly they heard footsteps of a man saying, "Shinnoy, Myra, Ben, Bella come out from hiding." That gave them the idea to hide. The man turned the corner. It was just Lazo! They came out from hiding. Myra said, "You scared us!" Lazo said he was sorry. Everyone told him what happened. Lazo told them they had to go through the obstacle. He said, "We need those assignments so we need to go." So they went but then pieces started to fall off and everything started moving. There were two colors of material, red and blue. They had to pick which one is safe. Myra threw a rock on the red material. The red material block blew up. She threw another rock on a different red block and it turned into fire. Myra turned around and exclaimed, "We are not going on the red!" She put a rock on the blue block and nothing happened. They went on the blue and they dodged the flying stones and the arrows.



They made it through and saw the device to take away assignments and powered it off. They teleported home. Lazo, Ben, and Bella went back to where they started. One day Shinnoy woke up and went downstairs to eat breakfast. He saw Myra on the way down. They ate breakfast and went to school. On the bus they sat with their friends. They went to their classrooms and sat at their desks. Mrs. Martin asked where Shinnoy's work was. He turned it in and never again did their family lose assignments.

Shinoy Galaxy Journey



Adrik
Grade 4A

In a faraway galaxy, there was a planet called "Milky Stairs" where there was a little boy called Shinoy. Shinoy had a little secret, which was to travel to another galaxy. Every night, he was secretly working on building his dream rocket. After nights of hard work, he built his rocket which could carry his new crew named Felix, his beloved dog.



One night, Shinoy brought Felix to his room and in a press of button the ceiling opened displaying the stars. After boarding into the rocket with his fellow crew dog, the journey to the unknown begun. After thousands of miles away, he saw a little red star which led them to it. Suddenly, a very strong magnetic field was dragging his rocket and he could not resist the force. He found himself on a dark mothership. He saw a troop of guards carrying

laser guns and a tall officer through a tiny window. Felix started barking uncontrollably.

Shinoy and Felix were forced out of their rocket and being locked in a pitch-black room. Luckily, Shinoy brought a secret weapon which could neutralize the troops, hence escaping back to their rocket. Back to the rocket, they started the engines and run away at lightning speed from the dark mothership. However, it was not the end. Fighter ships took off from the mothership chasing after them. That was the biggest space fight ever! Shinoy flew the rocket in zig zags while Felix fired laser beams at the villains. They were able to destroy the villains' fighter ships and travelled to a safe galaxy. The sight of a blue star amazed them making it an enjoyable time there. Shinoy and Felix eventually flew back home after realising that a reunited family is then their biggest dream.



Shinoy and The Chaos Crew



Hamza Abdulaziz
Grade 5A

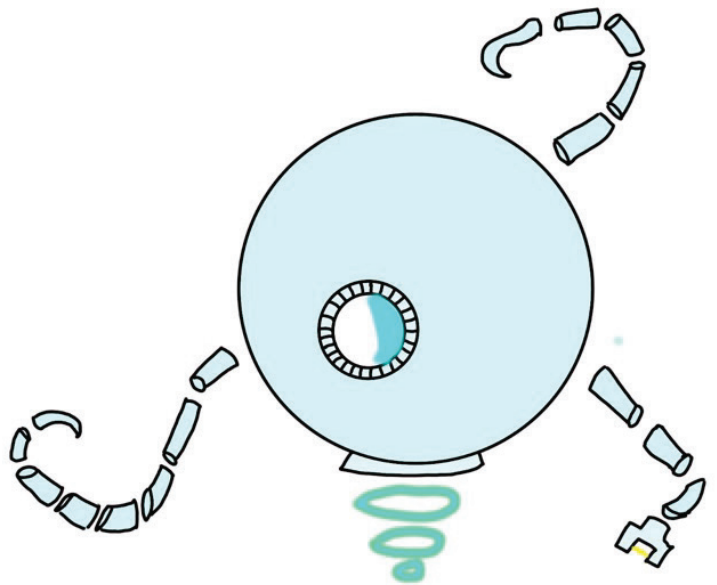
What I want to do is make a new character for the Shinoy and the Chaos crew.

My character will be a robot named Intellectual Object or better known as IO. He will help them on their journey with stuff like hacking or anything to do with technology. His personality is that he likes learning interesting stuff, but if you ask him for example, "This roller coaster is so fun," he will get confused for the particular reason that he wouldn't know what fun is. The reason is that he's a robot and he doesn't know when you are being sarcastic or just being plain funny, of which IO will have typical robot emotions.

Now for the background. IO's background will be that he was once evil. S.N.A.I.R made him so as to destroy the Chaos Crew. However when he came to destroy the Chaos Crew they fought him in a vicious battle. They eventually succeeded in destroying him, or so they thought. When they were about to throw his robot body away they heard a sound, which sounded a lot like a wire clicking in his circuit.

What had actually occurred is that the mainframe got rewired making him good, thereby helping them instead of trying to destroy them.

For his appearance he will be a circle with a robot tentacle and one eye. He can send his mind directly into the computers. In order to get a better image of how he looks I have attached a picture of him for you. There are millions of clones of him that S.N.A.I.R made and all of them are evil except....



The Scream!



Fatima Ahmad
Grade 5B



A normal day can turn into the most extraordinary and unbelievable. This is a very peculiar event where something most astonishing happened.

A formally dressed man was walking along the bridge, when suddenly, the man felt that things started swirling around, and he assumed that he was dizzy. When thinking this, he sat down to rest his head and he closed his eyes. When he opened his eyes, the atmosphere around him started swirling even more! He looked at everyone else, and surely everyone's expressions were confused and scared. He then got up and started looking around, the sun was going down and the sky split into many color hues, however they were all still swirling around. The sky was sinking into the sea and the colors were mixing. People started running, shouting, and even crying in fright! The place was chaotic and a lot was going on, but the man was standing in the exact same spot he had been. He just stared and had a close look at the waves and swirls in the sky.

It made a strange pattern, one that could be described in fairytales and fantasy settings. It would be a very rare experience of both wonder and fear.

PRIMARY SCHOOL ARTISTS



◀ Serin
Chang, 1B
'Fruit and
Vegetable
Portrait inspired
by Giuseppe
Arcimboldo'



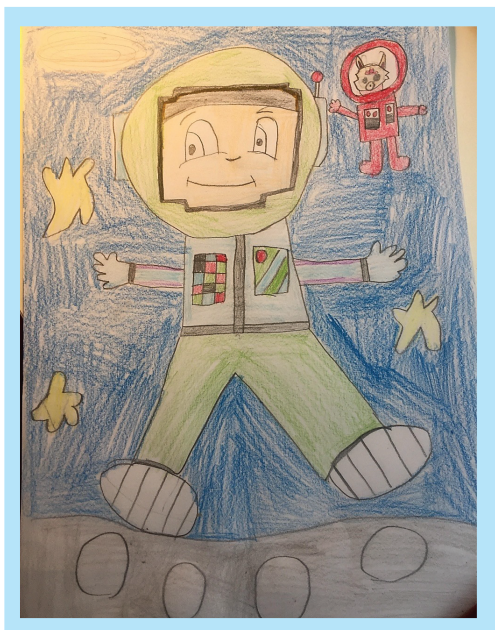
Serin Chang, 1B
'Happy Houses inspired by James Rizzi'



▶ Lola De Colo
Campan, 1B
'Me as a Superhero'



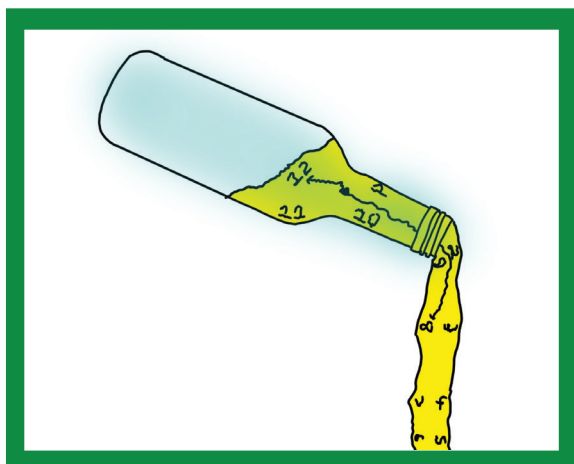
▶ Lola De Colo
Campan, 1B
'Happy Houses
inspired by James
Rizzi'



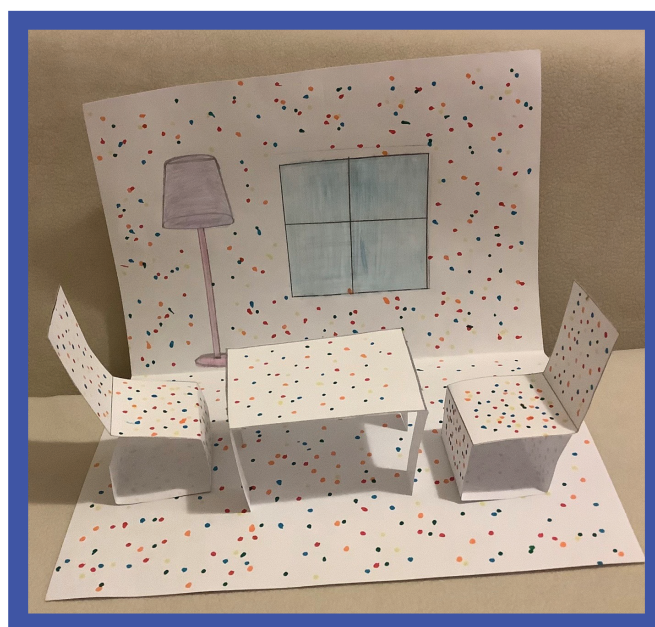
◀ Daniel Heidaripourghaziyan, 2B
'Me as an Astronaut'



▼ Yoonmo Ko, 2A
'Henri Matisse's Goldfish'



▲ Hamza Abdulaziz, 5A
'Time. A project inspired by S. Dali's 'The Persistence of Memory'



▲ Seham Sahyouni, 4B
'Diorama room inspired by Yayoi Kusama'



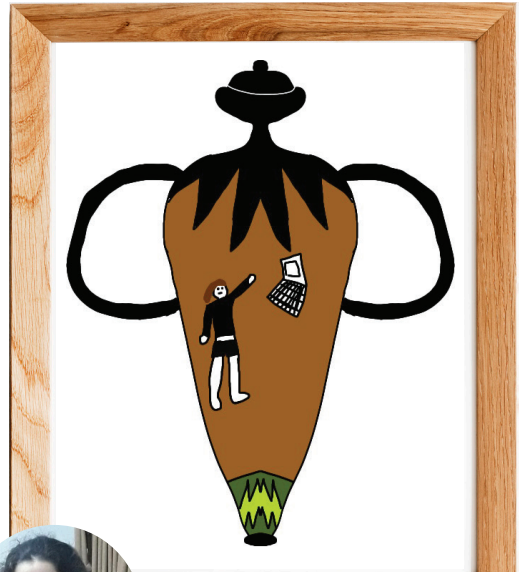
◀ Hyeyoon Jang, 4A
'Imaginary Bird'

‘Connecting Cultures’

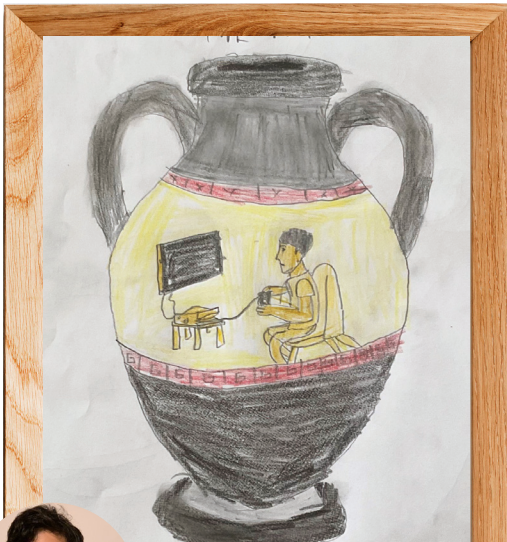
This project was inspired by Ancient Greek Pottery. After exploring the art of Ancient Greece students had to draw shape of a Greek vase and draw a scene from their daily life on it.



Ralph Halabi
4A



Leanne Neemeh
4B



Hamza Abdulaziz
5A



Fatima Ahmad
5B

‘Take a Walk in My Shoes’

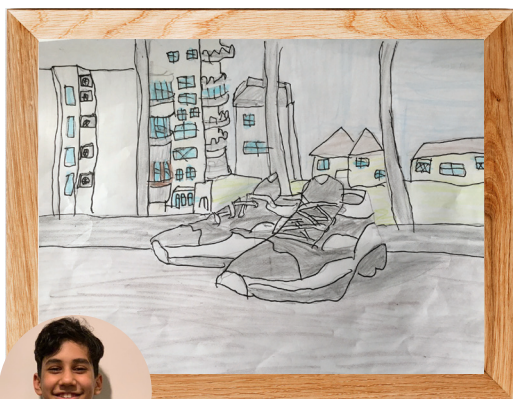
After studying the paintings of Van Gogh’s shoes, the students had to draw their own shoes in an environment, showing where they had been or where they would like to go.



Kareem Badghaish, 5B



Hyeyoon Jang, 4A



Hamza Abdulaziz, 5A



Dovydas Juraitis, 5A



Garin Kim, 4A

‘Friendship’

In this project the students learned the meaning of the word ‘curator’ and experienced the role of artist and curator, by creating and arranging their own mini exhibition and inviting some visitors (their toys).



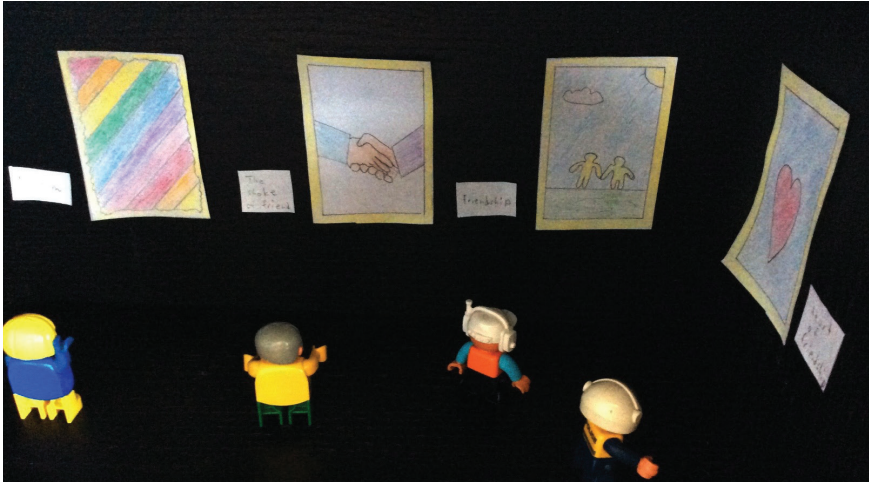
Ana Gomez,
3A



Hyeyoon Jang,
4A



Muhammad
Qayyum,
5A



Muaz Bin
Ahmed Rizal,
4B



Kareem
Badghaish,
5B



LOWER SECONDARY SCHOOL PROJECTS

International Jazz Day



Rael Solis May
Music Teacher

In November 2011 the UNESCO General Conference proclaimed **30 April** as “**International Jazz Day**”. This has the aim of bringing together musicians and jazz lovers all over the world through a series of events in different venues, such as schools and concert halls. Jazz is celebrated for promoting peace, dialogue among cultures and diversity, at the same time reinforcing the role of youth for social change, community action and music appreciation.



Istanbul International School as a member of the International Schools Association and cooperates in different academic projects with other schools around the globe. This time our school had the opportunity to open a series of events in order to celebrate the International Jazz Day. On this occasion, we had the chance of collaborating among others with Hypatia International School from Colombia.

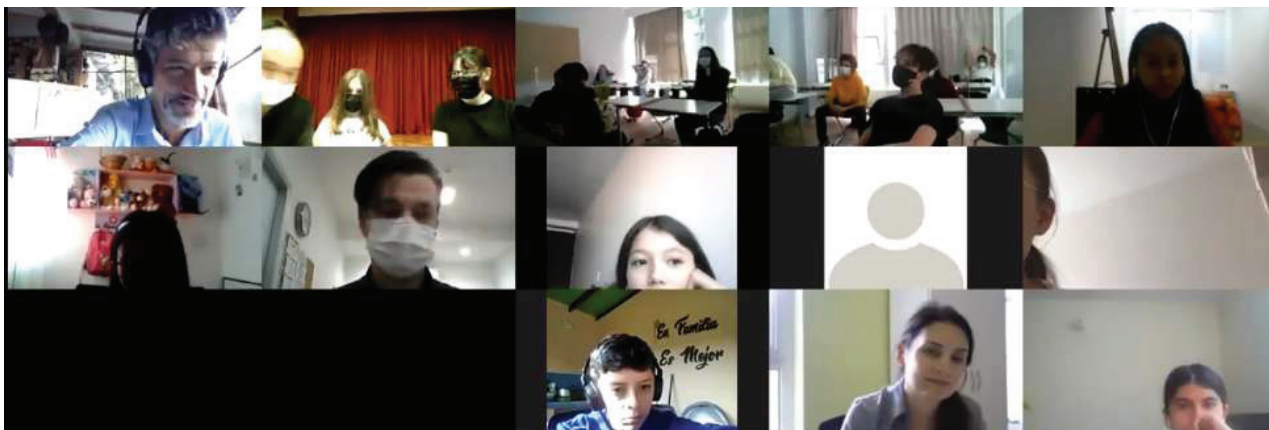


Our Grade 8 students Sara Cajetinac and Dalma Rolly put together a presentation about the origins and the first stage of Jazz, they walked us through the history of Jazz, more specifically about its beginnings in New Orleans. This city's unusual history, and the peculiarities of its rich ethnic and cultural diversity, helped to develop many distinctive traditions. The city is not only famous for being the cradle of Jazz but also for its festivals and different kinds of food such as the dishes we can find in the world famous Cajun cuisine.



Each community in New Orleans contributed to a very creative musical environment in the city, and in this way to the development of early Jazz. Our students started the presentation with great excitement since dozens of students from our school and Colombia were going to attend the online event. The students from Hypatia International School joined with great interest, even actively participating and asking questions of the presented topic. For our two presenters, it was very also very satisfactory to hear the words of support from other students on the other side of the world.

At the end of the presentations and, after having a section of questions and answers about Jazz, one of our students, along with presenter Sara, performed one of the most famous songs in the Jazz standard repertoire, "Fly me to the moon" by Bart Howard. Sara had the chance to perform from our auditorium, so all students online could feel for a few moments of a true concert environment, something they were not expecting and that definitely aroused their interests in Jazz music. Our school will look forward to more events made in collaboration with schools from other countries; this will definitely give the opportunity for our students to get closer to other cultures and to value teamwork and collaboration.



International Poetry Day

As a school, we were delighted to participate in a programme set up by the International School Association to mark The UN International Poetry Day. The theme was Reciprocity. The concept developed between several member schools was very useful and resulted in prizes for our school.



Mehdi Khayam
Deputy Head,
Lower Secondary



The Angel and The Poor Man

An angel struck from the blue night sky,
He saw a poor man, and said 'Oh my',
The angel went to buy some water,
He told the poor man and his daughter,

The poor man is poor and dirty
But that doesn't stop his generosity
He gives money to other poor people
And he would be left to eat beetles

Rivers started falling from the old man's eyes,
He looked at the angel and remember someone wise,
The angel gulped and gulped until the water disappeared,
He bought thousands of bottles until his belly started to appear,

The angel got his water,
The poor man got his money,
Exchanging things with others, this is reciprocity,
This can only be created through generosity

They both benefited from this,
Before a blink of an eye they both said 'Oh my.'



**By: Mohammed Dana
Madhat Almufti, 6A**

The sun gave us a planet
For us to take care of
But we are destroying it
Our home should be respected
Our planet should be mended

We should repay the favour of life
That the sun brings
It gives things
It is like a king

We should not use the things against the sun
The being that gave us life
We should show it reciprocity
And take care of the Earth
Like the sun preferred

Using plastic
Makes Earth sick
So we should pick it up
And stop using it

Using cars with gas
Does not pass
It makes the Earth poisoned
Use an electric one
Or none at all

Use a renewable source
Or have remorse

**By Ediz Leon
Paganini**



My Angel Mother

You brought me to the world, with joy and happiness
You had given me everything, despite your illness
My mother you're an angel, full of kindness and passion.
Your love for me is unforgettable

I... I am sorry to ever had made you mad
all that I am or hope to be I owe to you, my angel
I shall keep the promises that I made to you
When I grow up I shall take full responsibility
To protect you
I will be a strong man and protect you from harm

I will remember the time you gave me love
when I was hurting.
And brought me a brother and sister to the world
It's now my chance to fulfill my role
I now shall announce
I am giving a return back this is Reciprocity
This can only be created through Generosity
Love you mom!



**By Ahmad Alsaid,
6A**



Reciprocity

Doing nothing changes nothing.
Giving kind action changes everything.

Coming from our feelings with generosity,
Bringing us into a large hole of empathy,

Is the thing we cannot see,
But is the thing we can see
Through our emotions and thoughts.

It shines like gold,
But never melts or rots,
And warms the cold.

With the memories of reciprocity
Takes me back on the way to the days;

I remember the trees collapsed,
Grass lying wearily,
And our sky covered dusty.
Watched at people doing nothing
carelessly,
And looked at the wounds.

To them,
I gave my effort
And they grew with support.

I found my shoes coloured with dirt.
I found the trees dusty
Grass standing upright
And our sky clear as glass

Now, their harmony fills around me.
I see reciprocity;

Beyond this, there is generosity.
Inside of it, there is empathy.
And all together, it generates reciprocity.

By Danyeol Joe,
6A



Started from a Seed

I put you in the soil
You grew big and not spoiled
I watered you every single day
That's how I did it my way.

Now, you return my kindness
My good actions were priceless
I enjoy the happiness
Now, you left me speechless.

I do cherish the pure smell
The warm breeze you always leave
You made me truly believe
I don't regret any of this.

Oh! The fresh oxygen you give
Not just to me and my family
But to our wonderful world
So much I have learned.

Now it is your, turn to shine
Spread the word to plant a seed
Believe me you will succeed
So, go now, do a good deed.

As something little as one
And as easy as said done
Help our mother nature, please
Not thousand, just a few trees.

Now, we both gave to each other
Now, we are all very happy
Now, things can start to change
Let's start from YOU!

By Dunya Cajetnac,
6A





Reciprocity

The sun was shining, the sky was bright,
I saw an old, helpless man at plain sight,
I gave him my delicious leftover soup,
He looked really happy, I wish it was a loop.

He gave me a smile, it felt like warmth
I went my way with a smile to the north,
I wanted to help people in need more often,
I'm not really soft but I might really soften.

The clouds were golden, the sky was orange,
I went to get my bike in the storage
I see my storage empty with no bike
I searched all over the town with a strike.

I needed to go but, I couldn't afford a ride,
I was running late, so I wouldn't let it slide
The old man I helped gave me his bike
I was amazed about how reciprocity can be like.

By Belfu Esen,
6B



The Man Went to The Store

He skipped on the floor
He saw a homeless man
He bought a snack
And gave it to him
He gave him a hug without hesitation
He glanced at me and gave me a smile
I turned nervous to look

He came and gave me a red rose
With no hesitation
I looked at him and thanked him
He said that he just got a trim
What do I think
I said 'Well, it's not a dread!
He laughed and walked away
And smiled at the homeless man
Once again
And told him to have a good day
This is reciprocity

By Jana Sufyan,
6B



Reciprocity



Reciprocity

There was a guy who shared a gum.
His name was Billy Bergum

Then once he found his friend
who served him with tea and bread

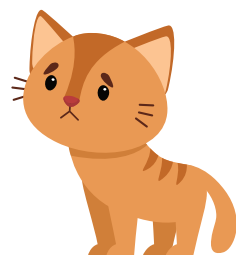
Then he came up to him with another two gums
He served it up to him without any sums

He said thank you for the favor
They taste like heaven in flavor

Soon they went home to have the gums
They had a lot of fun and played drums

Soon they became good friends in all over the city
and that's what we called reciprocity

By Omar Sahyoni,
6B



The walk I had in the park outside
With careful looking, plenty of shapes of reciprocity harmonies inside.
The tall tree I saw waving its bony fingers of branch
Gives nests to little singing birds the tranche.
The tree has good in return after all as well:
It appreciates the chirping orchestra of birds that dwell.
As I walked within an hour,
I saw a palette field of colorful flowers
Busy buzzing bees hovered around the flamboyant flowers field
Like the farmers harvest hard their crops in weald.
Good afternoon bees!
Shy flowers slowly show up their faces through the petals and see
Grateful bees coming to it to carry nectar.
Bees benefit honey they need as the collector
And flowers benefit from them to pollinate.
In such ways it explains that reciprocity is great.

Reciprocity around the world
Brings beaming brio to our world.
Never useful when muted,
But pleasurable when distributed!

By Gabeen Kim,
6B



Max

One day I was walking outside, and I heard something small,
It was a baby cat, it looked tired, she looked like she did not eat at all,
I picked up the cat and brought her home,
I gave her a bath then I let the cat roam,
We kept her as a pet and named her Max,
She would catch bugs and rodents and we would reward her with snacks,
She helps us and we helped her, that is an example of reciprocity,
It can be other things too, not just generosity.

By Yasmine Neemeh
6B



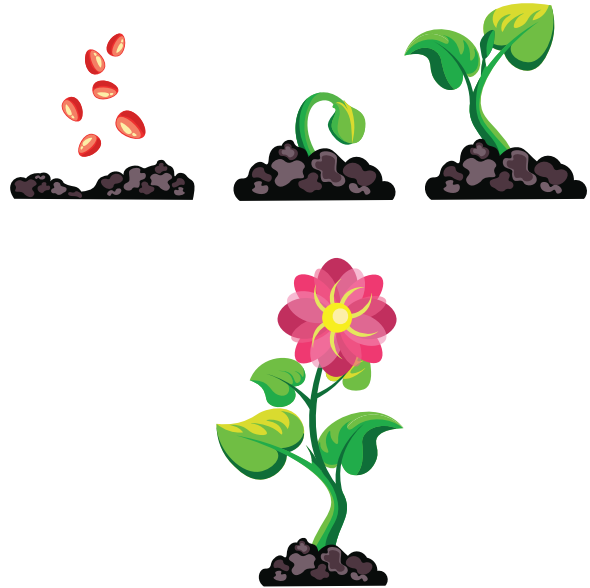
The Hating Plant

I once had planted you
But, you never came up
I once had watered you
But you never grew longer.
The more care I put in
The more time, it took to grow
I stayed up all night long
And you never opened up.

You had bloomed and never showed your true colours
Then I had started hating you
Then you started to show more of yourself
You made me smile brighter than the sun
You opened up like opening eyes
Then I started to love you
But you closed up again.
I had thought of throwing you out
But you started to open up
And I got excited to see you
But you unfortunately passed away.

By Kasamba Milimo

6B

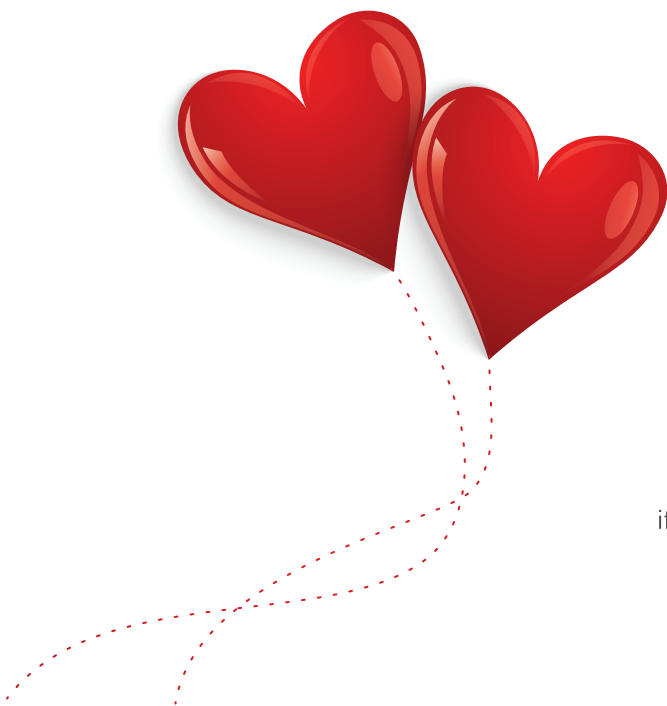


Loving and Giving

We may give without loving, but we cannot love without giving.
If the beauty of love is in giving,
its greatness is in overcoming mistakes.
Love is the only game in the world that both sides win or lose.
Giving is to take away from your heart all hatred and all problems,
and give with love,
whether moral or material.
You are not satisfied with just giving money,
money is not enough,
money can be obtained but they need your hearts,
you should spread your love everywhere you go.
Giving without asking is the greatest,
love without a doubt is the most wonderful,
and friendship without interests is the truest.
In life, you are above what you give,
not as much as you receive.
Loss of love starts when we stop giving,
then we stop taking.
Giving is love, so we must give with all love,
and it does not matter
if the opposite of this emotional giving is denial and denial.
Every generous person is a loving person.

By Rahiq Adam

6B



LOWER SECONDARY

Promising Artists



Betül Karakuş
Visual Arts Teacher



Gabeen's work is a remake of Henri Rousseau



Gabeen Kim,
Grade 6B



Adil's work is about
Typography and decorative
elements

Adil Okamoto Abdullaeva,
Grade 7





◀ Lilly and Moath's work is about warm and cool colours and patterns



Lily Jahanpour,
Grade 7

Moath Alsaid,
Grade 7



◀ Dalma's work is a remake of Antonio Ligabue's work



Dalma Rolly,
Grade 8

HIGH SCHOOL WRITERS

-descriptive writing



Azeri Weddings

A regular Azeri wedding starts at 7 o'clock in the morning. Both the bride and the groom wake up in their own houses and get ready. By 8 am they both leave their houses. The groom meets with his friends and they go to a nearby spa. They get massages and they go and relax in the spa. The bride on the other hand meets up with her friends and heads to a nearby hair and pedicure salon. They get their nails done, fix up their hair, and just get dressed up.

By 11 am, the Bride and Broom return to the Bride's house. In the house, they meet with all the guests and relatives. Then they initiate a special ceremony where they kill and butcher an animal, such as a cow, a camel, a sheep or a goat. Afterwards, they give the meat to people in need.

From 1 pm to 7 pm, the guests and the wedding organizers set up the tables in the restaurant, cook the food and get everything ready. Meanwhile, the Bride and the Broom spend their time preparing. By 7 pm the wedding starts. The Bride and Groom arrive at the restaurant with all the other guests.

The first thing done in the restaurant is the marriage contract, the official brings the Broom and Bride together and questions them about their marriage. After they both agree, they kiss and the whole ceremony starts. At 8 pm everyone starts dancing to traditional Azeri music. Next, they all sit down and dinner is served. Then it is time for the presents. They put out two boxes, one for the Bride and one for the Groom. The guests choose to put as much money as they want for a box of their choice. This money will go to paying the whole wedding, and with the rest, the Bride and the Groom will buy stuff for their house. The rest of the night everyone spends partying and celebrating the marriage. They do things like, throwing a bouquet of flowers and whoever catches will be destined to marry next. They drink, they dance even more and do other fun activities. The wedding comes to a close around 2 am.

Imran Hasanzade,
Grade 10

Dagestani Weddings

The day of the wedding is a day which does not coincide with the birthdays of family members, Muslim holidays and the Holy Month of Ramadan. It is tradition to have two weddings held, one with the bride's family and one with the groom's. Preparations for the wedding are done months in advance. Early in the morning, both families get ready. This includes attire, makeup and hair. Before the wedding can take place, the bride and groom must go to a registry office and confirm their marriage. This confirmation is called Nikah.

After the marriage is made valid, the family and guests go to the place the wedding will be held. It is commonly held in a banquet hall, but the locations can vary from a restaurant to the families own home. Before going to the location of the wedding, the groom's female relatives will usually "kidnap" the bride from her house and take her to the wedding venue. Family members and guests will all go to the wedding with decorated cars. Upon entrance to the venue, a few cars will be blocking the road. To be able to pass, the members who blocked the road will ask you to dance, give money or sweets.

Around afternoon, all guests arrive at the venue. Since there are large "tukhums" (relative groups) in Dagestan, on average 500-700 people would attend a wedding. At the start of the wedding celebration, the bride and groom thank and honour their parents.

At the venue, there will constantly be food and drinks served on the table. Traditional Dagestani dishes such as "khinkal", "kurze",



"pilaf", "shashliki" will be served. Toasts and speeches are held by family members and friends. Afterwards, the couple receives many gifts that usually contain a note specifying which date they should open them. An example of what might be written is: on the birth of the first child.

In the evening, a traditional dance called "lezginka" takes place in the middle of the venue. Everyone gets pulled in the circle to dance. There is constant music, dancing and laughter throughout the venue.

The wedding ends late in the night, and sometimes celebrations can last longer than one day. After the wedding ends, everyone heads to the groom's house where the bride is given many sweets, gifts and money.

Aliya Okamoto
Grade 10

A Modern Filipino Wedding

The day of the wedding starts at 5AM when the bride and the groom start to get ready for their photoshoot with their bridesmaids and groomsmen, family and people influential to the wedding, like the Principal Sponsors. It usually starts at 7AM and lasts 2-3 hours. After that, the bride touches up on her gown and makeup and while that happens, final preparations for the wedding ceremony in the church are ongoing.

At 11 AM, the wedding ceremony starts. First, the groom will walk down the aisle with his parents and wait for the bride. Then, the last person to enter the church will be the bride, walking side by side with her parents.

Once she arrives, the priest will give a homily and give advice to the bride and groom. Meanwhile, three pairs of bridesmaid and groomsmen will come to the front. One will light candles next to the bride and groom, one will go and cover the bride and groom with a veil and lastly, one will cover them with a belo to signify the new couple's union.

Following that, the bride and groom will give their vows. Then finally, the priest gives his final words and declares them husband and wife officially.

Soon after the wedding ceremony ends, the bride and groom will take pictures with the guests and everyone involved. The wedding ceremony lasts 2 hours.



Soon afterwards, at around 1PM, all the guests head to the designated venue for the reception. First of all, the guests have lunch which is most often a mix of western and filipino food. After lunch, dances start. After the dances, the bride and groom give a speech to thank all the guests for coming and talk about their relationship, answer questions about it and play games. Following that, they show a video of their relationship, how it began, and their favourite moments together.

The reception lasts 3-4 hours and ends with everyone taking pictures and wishing the couple well.

Lara Badghaish
Grade 10

Traditional Egyptian Wedding

The marriage agreement is made up of two parts, the 'mahr', and the 'shabka', where the groom has to bring two gifts to the girl's family. The 'mahr' is a sum of money that a groom has to pay to the girl's family, while the 'shabka' is a tradition of the groom giving jewelry to his wife.

Egyptian women have a henna party for the bride and her female cousins and friends, which is held a day or two before the wedding ceremony. During a henna party, artists use a paste made from dried henna to paint patterns on the hands of the bridal party. The bride traditionally gets the most intricate patterns to set her hands apart from everyone else at the party and the process can take three to six hours to complete.

The Egyptian wedding ceremony starts with a car parade with wedding decorations of flowers and ribbons set up all over the cars. When the bride and groom reach the hotel they are received by a "Zaffa" which is basically a procession. An Egyptian wedding is usually held towards the afternoon as it is extremely hot anytime before that.

Christian couples celebrate their marriage in a church conducted by a priest with prayers and readings from the Bible. Muslims hold a wedding ceremony called "katb el katb" which is performed by the 'Maa'zoun' in the local mosque or at the house. The 'Mahr' and 'Moa'khar' are written in the contract during the ceremony. The 'Moa'khar' is the money a Muslim bride receives in case of a divorce. Once both families have signed the contract the wedding party finally begins.



Just like everywhere else in the world couples cut the wedding cake, which is several layers high and feed each other. The bride then tosses her flower bouquet behind her back to other hopeful females. The wedding celebration is marked by drinking of a traditional sweet drink called "sharbat" which is prepared from various fruits and herbs. Both families have a small photo shooting session with the groom and bride.

Once that is over the remaining people at the wedding are offered dinner at the wedding hall which is prepared by rented chefs and waitresses. Towards the very end music is turned on, tables are carried away and everyone is invited to dance. Everyone at the wedding normally leaves around 4am just before the sun comes out.

Mohamed Elnazer
Grade 10

The Stages of a Bengali Wedding

A typical Muslim Bengali wedding would start around 8 am with an event called “dekha dekhi” where members from both families meet each other to get to know each other and the eldest members approve the wedding as well as finalize wedding plans. Moreover, legal paperwork is completed here before other guests arrive for the wedding.

Around 10 am everyone gets ready for the wedding. The bride wears a saree with jewelry with normally one covering the forehead, connecting to the nose and some ear rings. The groom wears a well designed long dress and suits are common too. Same goes for the participants but women do not wear the same amount of jewelry compared to the bride.

The wedding starts around 12 pm after most guests have arrived. Every participant is given a seat while the staff serves traditional sweets as an appetizer. Traditional sweets are usually rasgullas which are small dough balls cooked in a light sugar syrup and sweetened yogurt. Sometimes shemai is even served which is similar to a pudding with the base ingredients of milk, spices and roasted nuts.

Turmeric is prepared for the next stage which is the turmeric ceremony, one for the groom and one for the bride. The bride’s friends apply turmeric paste to her face and even to each other. Turmeric softens her face giving it a subtle yellow glow. Afterwards, the same is done with the groom.

At the wedding ceremony which starts around 5 pm, the bride and groom along with both of their fathers are gathered where the official agreement is signed and the dowry is set. Gifts



are given from all the participants and the groom’s mother gifts new sarees for the bride. The meal is now served to participants which is commonly lamb or chicken biryani or rice with the famous rohu fish. The wedding is wrapped up and guests leave by 9 pm.

The second day at the groom’s new house Bou Bhaat is held where she serves rice with ghee, which is clarified butter, to all of her in-laws. The bride and groom gets introduced to people they have not met in the family yet.

Mukitur Rahman
Grade 10

What's a Persian wedding like?

A typical Persian wedding starts with the Khastegari ceremony, when the boy basically asks for the girl's hand in marriage in the bride's home, in front of her family to make it official. The groom's family has to bring some sort of flowers or pastry and talk about why they're eligible suitors for each other, as it is tradition. After both the bride and groom have said 'yes' and are happy with the idea, they announce their marriage to their relatives and friends.

Between a week to a couple of months after the Khastegari ceremony, the real wedding ceremony, which is divided into Aghd and the reception, takes place. Aghd usually takes place a couple of hours before they go to the reception for all the other guests, for the party and dinner.

On the day of the wedding ceremony, the bride wakes up at around 8 in the morning and has to head to the salon, to get her hair and makeup done, and then she's picked up by the groom to head back home to get dressed. At about 12 o'clock they go to the place where their wedding photo shoot takes place to take their photos, and then immediately after, they go to the Aghd ceremony at 2 which has been prepared by the bride's family.

For this part of the ceremony the bride, a veil covering her face, and the groom have to sit in front of the big sofreh Aghd for the Aghd ceremony to take place, as it is tradition. The sofreh Aghd is an important element in a Persian wedding- it's a table with a couple of symbolic items on it, like a mirror and candelabra, crystallized sugar, honey and a couple more items. Moreover, this is where the



vows are exchanged and official marriage papers are signed. When both the bride and the groom have said 'yes', they both dip their fingers in the honey and then feed it to each other and then the groom is allowed to take off the bride's veil and kiss her.

After the Aghd ceremony takes place, usually at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, they all head to the reception for the main party with all the invited guests. During the hours at the reception, a DJ is there to play music and create entertainment for the guests, with a lot of different served dishes. Later in the day the bride and the groom sit in the middle of the reception where all the guests can see them and then receive gifts and congratulations from each family that has attended their wedding. Then the cake is cut and ready to be served by 7pm.

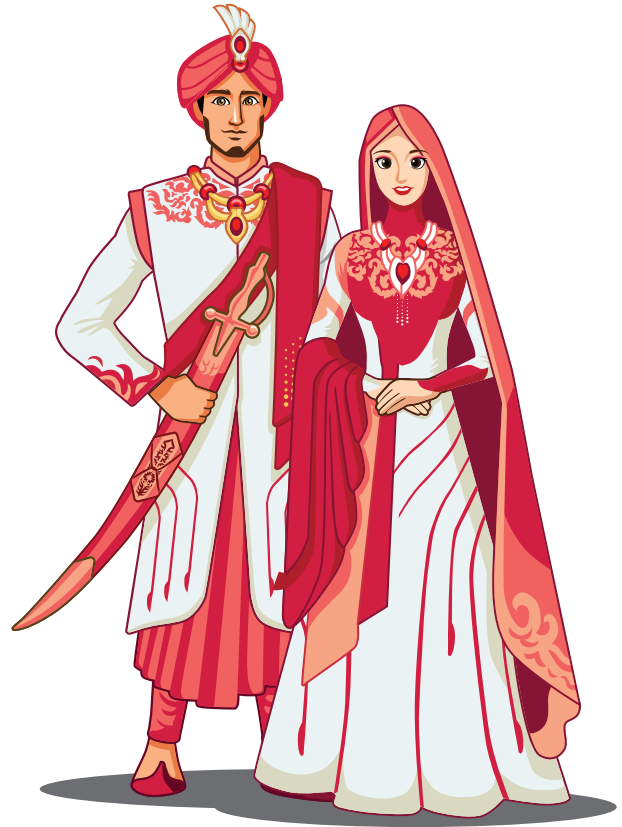
After a while, the main dish is served while they set off fireworks for the enjoyment of the guests.

Raika Ansaripour
Grade 10

What's a Pakistani Wedding like?

A typical Pakistani wedding consists of several different parts but the main necessary parts that every wedding needs to include are the Nikkah, and the Shaadi. Sometimes these two functions take place on the same day and sometimes they're spread out, it solely depends on the family and the way they celebrate. In my family though, we mostly have destination weddings, meaning weddings in foreign countries. They usually happen at hotels or resorts, so everything is central to that hotel or resort so we prefer to do both functions on the same day because essentially, the guests just have to go back up to their hotel rooms to change.

First, The Nikkah takes place, it is the equivalent of the registration ceremony - the bride and groom complete the legal process as well as the Islamic Nikkah, which is the Islamic form of sealing the marriage; it can be done either verbally or through a written contract. The ceremony itself begins at about 10 am, and is usually held at the marriage hall or any hall available but the family of the bride and groom need to arrive at the marriage hall at least an hour prior, to make sure that all decorations were put up correctly by the decorators, to deal with any last minute changes and the like. When the guests begin to arrive, the women separate to go sit with the bride while the men go to sit with the groom all separated until the Islamic Nikah is completed. The ceremony starts with verses from the Qur'an that are recited by the Imam, who is an Islamic leader. In my family, we complete the ceremony verbally. The vows are given by the Imam who asks if the bride is willing three times and if she agrees all three times in front of designated witnesses who are



all present in the room, the couple is married by Islamic standards. Afterwards, the groom is brought to the bride and they sit together and take pictures with the guests, and every Pakistani family has their own customs to ensure a happy and long marriage, a common one is holding a thin blanket over the couple's head while rubbing two bars of sugar together, symbolizing a sweet marriage to come. Lunch is then served at about 12-1 pm and it is usually a buffet with several Pakistani celebratory foods such as, different types of lamb curry, beef curry, chicken curry along with rice and vegetable curry. The ceremony then ends at about 2-3 pm and everybody separates to their respective rooms to get

ready for the Shaadi that is to take place in a few hours.

At about 7-8 pm, the Shaadi takes place, which is a celebratory stage, celebrating the official completion of the marriage. The word Shaadi in Urdu actually means "Wedding" but we call this stage a Shaadi because it is after this point that the necessary stages are complete. The Shaadi takes place, again at a marriage hall decorated heavily, usually in silver or gold. It starts off with guests arriving to see the bride and groom sitting on a stage, on a couch where family members are supposed to come and sit to take pictures for about an hour. Then usually, both fathers join the bride and groom on stage to give a heartfelt speech. With teary eyes, the guests as well as the bride and groom are redirected to the dance floor, where the dances take place.

A large part of the Shaadi are the choreographed dances that take place by each family, traditionally not including the bride or groom, though it is up to the bride and groom themselves. There is a kind of unspoken competition between the groom's side of the family and the bride's side of the family, each prepare choreographed dances that require weeks of preparation and it is arguably one of the most exciting aspects of a Pakistani wedding, not only performing but also practicing. There are usually 6-8 dances from each family and the playful competition is something to admire. Afterwards, food is served and it is usually biryani, which is a Pakistani traditional dish. At about 10 pm, the Rukhsati happens, which is the 'saddest' part of the wedding because it's the send off. It is when the bride and groom are leaving the wedding together. The bride and her entourage walk out behind her and the groom to the car. The entirety of the bride's family has to essentially say 'goodbye' to her, she is

essentially entering the groom's family at this point and so it is some form of a farewell. The entire bride's side will be found either hugging the bride or hugging each other and crying their eyes out. It is then that the night officially ends.

Those are the two most necessary functions of the wedding but there are more. There is the Dholki, which is a pre-wedding celebration, it usually takes place one-two weeks prior to the main celebrations. It is a function solely for fun, dancing, singing, and celebrating the union of two families. Along with that, there is the Mehendi which is the function that usually happens first because it is when henna is applied to the bride, groom and their families. That is the sole purpose of the function but it is used for the bride and groom's family to dance, have fun and socialise. In Pakistani families, there are several variants of the functions that take place, depending on where in Pakistan you're from and your own family traditions. Almost no two families have the exact same weddings because of how sacred they are to each family.

Zeina Gailani
Grade 10

The Environment

UN Climate Change-Speeches

Honourable Chair and delegates, I am honoured to stand before you today, not to make a point, but to welcome you. Two thousand twenty has been an interesting year both for common citizens, such as myself, and the likes of politicians and businessmen as well. It is as if time itself has decided to halt, leaving us locked up in our homes, and giving the earth an opportunity to take a breath. Welcome, honourable guests, to a new beginning, either of the future or of the end.

Due to the decreased use of transportation during Covid-19 lockdowns, air pollution rates have been decreasing significantly throughout major cities in the world, showing a 17% decrease in worldwide carbon dioxide emissions compared to the previous year. You have practically been handed a head start, yet this does not ease my concerns for our planet. I have lived for a mere sixteen years, yet I already know all of you very well, or rather I know your habits. Climate change has been ignored time and time again. Promises have been made, with 197 countries taking part in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)'s regulations. Although many of you claim to recognize Climate Change as an issue, and allegedly aim to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations, according to the UNFCCC's 1992 treaty, you don't seem to be acting upon your words.

Now, I am sure that you all are aware of the effects of carbon emissions, 28% of which in the United States are caused by transportation, according to the United States

Environmental Protection Agency. A further 22% is due to industrial causes. This, along with the 27% caused by uses of electricity, very clearly turn the blame to corporate businesses and governmental organisations. Your exploitation of our world's resources has left my generation with a burden which you all are and always were fully aware of. With widespread deforestation, 417 parts per million carbon dioxide within our atmosphere and more than 269,000 tons of garbage in our ocean, we are left with a mess of a planet; a mere ghost of what it used to be. Your destruction is leading to our demise.

It can not be ignored that there have been efforts made regarding a switch to natural energy resources. They are slow for invalid reasons but at least they exist, right? Single-use plastics have been banned in over sixty countries around the world, now all that there is left for you to do is wait another ten thousand years until the plastic that already is in the ocean disappears. Besides you can not possibly switch to natural means of energy if they don't exist. Depending on the unpredictable sunlight or wind can't be as reliable as burning the limited remains of organisms which lived thousands of years ago.

All I know is that we are all in danger, and if this continues, in a century, we might not have a planet to rule or an economy to exploit.

Miraç Bağcı
Grade 11

Mr Secretary General, ladies and gentlemen, fellow delegates, it's been a long way to get up here, to the United Nations headquarters. I've paved the path to this podium not as a politician, but as a conscientious young citizen of the world. I am here today, to speak on the behalf of my generation: the conscious youth of our ailing globe.

Earlier today, as I was on my way here, my fellow delegates and myself were riding through Times Square when a large digital clock on one of the buildings caught my eye. It read "7 years 99 days 12:30:02". I turned to a fellow colleague and asked, "What is this?". He said this was the Doomsday Clock, which was counting back the little time we have left on our hands to avoid our irreversible end. Seven years and ninety nine days is how much time we have left to lower greenhouse gas emissions to a level where global warming can be kept below 1.5 degrees Celsius.

At the depth of the climate issue, lie our coral reefs. In the last thirty years only, half of the world's coral reefs have died due to rising ocean temperatures. Let's carry on with the same spirit. Let's observe what happens in the next thirty years. Would be interesting to see, would it not?

My fellow colleagues, there can no longer be a place for skepticism about the existence of climate change when the U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity itself stated that every day, up to 150 species go extinct. We are a thread away from collectively perishing as a species.

There are many people in the world who still don't believe in climate change because so far it's been intangible to them. But I guarantee that with such spirit, soon climate change will feel very, very tangible to them. It's already



tangible for the 18.8 million internally displaced persons who fled their lands because of natural disasters caused by climate change like droughts in Afghanistan and flooding in Philippines.

The Earth has never lived through a period of industrialization before. We are the pioneers of this grandiose event in the history of mankind, and with this grandiose event comes the greatest test we have ever stood before: the test for survival. We must face it with dignity and with decisiveness if we do not want our generation to go down in history books as infamous, useless, petty, consumers and pests that destroyed their planet. If there will even be anyone to print history books for.

My mother taught me to never stoop down to be begging, but I am ready to go on my knees before everyone today, here at the U.N. headquarters in New York, before billions of people who are watching this live, if it will finally sober the dormant minds of our global citizens. Thank you.

Roman Gadzhiev
Grade 11

Your excellencies, UN Secretary-General, and distinguished guests,

I'm honored to be standing here at such an early stage of my life, yet seeing me here should strike you with awe rather than joy: For this should not be my stage, but one of today's leaders. Unlike most of you, I should have many decades ahead of me. However, this might not be the case because of a ubiquitous threat looming over us. An issue that has damaged ecosystems worldwide, killing flora and fauna and posing a serious threat to us - Climate Change.

You might say: "We have laws protecting the environment, ensuring sustainability for years to come!". Sadly, this is a grave misconception. To explain this, I must take you on a journey.

We are in Belize, October 2007, in the courtroom of the Supreme Court of the country. This very moment marks the end of a long journey for the Maya in fighting for the right to their land, which has been occupied by foreign companies with a permit of the state allowing them to exploit it, both destroying and polluting it. After a lawsuit lasting several years, their efforts pay off: The judge hits the gavel declaring the victory of the Maya.

However, this is not the end. Over the following years, companies continued to destroy the Maya's land. Why? Because for a judgment to become reality, it takes more than a slip of paper. It takes the power of the state. Due to business interests, the state of Belize did not enforce the verdict. If you, the leaders of the world, do not stand by your words, we will perish which is why I call upon you to take responsibility to save your families, futures, and homes.

In December 2015, you convened in Paris passing the Paris Agreement, vowing to keep global warming below two degrees Celsius, strengthening renewable energy and supporting the carbon dioxide budget. As we can see, many governments failed at reaching their goals. Missing the 2030 agenda will cost us 2 billion dollars daily from then on, not only ruining our environment but destroying our economy. The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in positive impacts on climate and caused regions to experience a large drop in pollution. In China, lockdowns resulted in a 50 percent reduction in nitrogen oxides emissions. Now that we have a head start, we must take action and stand together to stop climate change.

In the three minute duration, I have stood before you, over three billion tons of our world's glaciers and ice sheets have molten. So after all of this stop turning a blind eye to things that do not benefit you. Stand with me and we will create a sustainable world to live in and pass down to our children. We will undo the gruesome effects of climate change and we will save our home. Because as

Robert Swan once said:

"The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it"

Hana Akgüç
Grade 11

HIGH SCHOOL ARTISTS



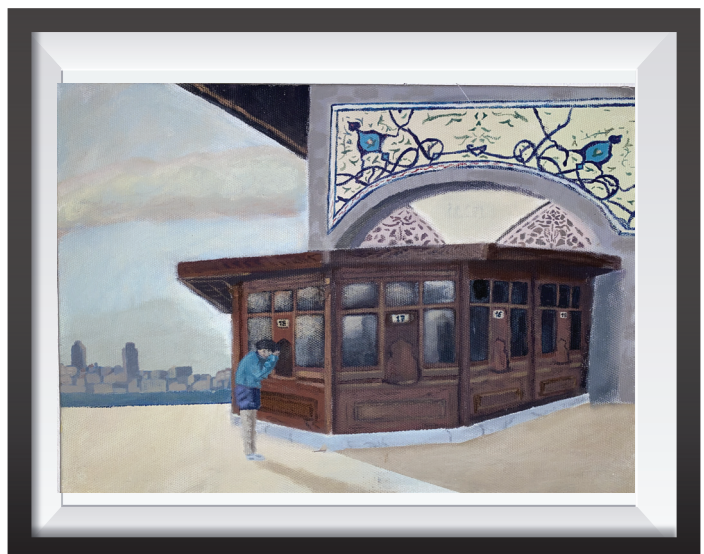
◀ Narin Soleimani's work is a poster for the Eco School.



Narin Soleimani
Grade 7

Roman's work is about Self, turning 18 during a pandemic. ▶

Roman Ghadziev
Grade 11





◀ Mirac's work is an investigation on colour and technique to create a 3D and distortion effect which creates an optic illusion.



Mirac Bagci
Grade 11

Oceane's work is about marine life with a mystical touch.

Oceane Valla
Grade 12



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