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SHEIKHA LAMIA BINT FAISAL AL QASSIMI

According to Sheikha Lamia Bint Faisal Al Qassimi, “Every individual is talented.” In her perspective, children are the treasures of our present and the builders of our future. They are the authors and the painters who hold the pens and brushes that will eventually shift our world into a better place.

Sheikha Lamia also revealed that she values spaces where “various subjects get integrated and intertwined with art.” Art is a land where the voices of talented individuals echo. “When a subject gets integrated with art, it is no longer about the letters and numbers in books. It is rather about complex topics getting broken down and easily conveyed to all minds through the resplendent colors and phenomenal sketches,” she said.

Furthermore, “Al Ma’arifa International Private School does not only focus on education. Shaping astounding personalities and building leading characters are its top priorities.”

It is evident that Sheikha Lamia Al Qassimi values every single individual for who they truly are. Had it not been for her monumental efforts and unceasing support, a lot of events would not have come to life at MIS. She truly is the epitome of an astounding leader. As a community, we thank her for building a second home for us. We thank her for always holding an open door to welcome the talents of MIS and help them flourish!



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Leen Shibly

A talented volleyball player

Every year, Al Ma'arifa International Private School (MIS) fosters talented individuals who have an interesting story to share, here is where a certain student takes the spotlight. Meet Leen Shibly, a student of 12GSC, who carried the passion of volleyball and made it an indelible mark on the MIS school's athletic history.

Leen's journey in the world of volleyball began at an early age when she discovered her interest for the sport. Her innate athleticism and keen eye for strategy quickly became apparent, making it an asset to any team she joined. As she honed her skills over the years, her commitment to the hobby only deepened.

The school's volleyball competition is no walk in the park, featuring fierce rivals and intense matches. However, her leadership on the court, combined with traits of unmatched agility and precision, led the team to securing third place. Her powerful serves, lightning-quick reflexes, and capability to read the game provides a crucial edge, setting her apart as a volleyball prodigy.

Off the court, Leen is known for her modesty and sportsmanship. She leads by example, inspiring her teammates to push their boundaries and strive for excellence. The dedication put to both her studies and sports exemplifies the well-rounded student-athlete MIS takes pride in nurturing.

Leen's triumph in last year's volleyball competition serves as a testament to her exceptional talent and unwavering commitment. She has not only brought honor to the community but also serves as a role model to inspire athletes. The future shines brightly for the beacon of merit as she continues to walk down the path of success, leaving others to wonder: "How does one become like her?"



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MUN JOURNAL

A NEW DAWN AT MUN

MUN - Model United Nations - is an annual conference where students around the world represent different countries, organizations, or even specific people, such as presidents. The overall objective is for delegates to debate a variety of World problems to reach a common ground or solution. Last year, the students of MIS participated in the conference and received several rewards and honorable mentions across multiple committees; however, there is one particular student whose story is one to remember.

FROM MEMBER TO LEADER

Jad Marji, a senior student in the Advanced Placement class, once was like most students in our school: he had no idea what MUN was. But it all changed that one day, “I just wanted to get water and saw my friend enter the physics lab, so I followed him, and I was given a paper,” Jad said. This paper was the MUN registration form, which explained what MUN was about, and how the whole process would be conducted. “So, I said, why not? And it ended up being the happiest incident that could have happened to me,” he said. While representing Norway’s position on the unfortunate war between Ukraine and Russia, he got an ‘honorable mention’ trophy, a round of applause, and a lot of admiration too.

However, that is not the exciting slice of this story. Jad’s ‘Happy Incident’ did not just create a memorable experience but also a pathway for him to become the official president of MUN’s boys’ delegation. We asked him what his responsibilities are as the president: “I organize the club’s meetings, choose topics to practice when debating, and I also manage team discipline and dismiss members based on conduct, performance, or attendance,” he expressed. He also mentioned his fierce determination to change the past of “few awards and honorable mentions” to “at least half of MIS’s competitors must get awards, and one of us wins it all.”

All in all, Jad seemed to be very confident in the objectives he has set and wanted me to mention this rather cringy quote directed to his ‘haters’: “To everyone praying for my downfall, pray harder, it’s too easy.”

Talent Spotlight

Maya Crescini Rahal (12Gcomm) is a talented student whom I recently had the honour of interviewing. I got to talk to her about her skills in painting and drawing. Pictured in Figure 1 is Maya standing next to the mural in the girl's art room that she painted. If you ever wondered who painted the colourful fresco, read on to find out more about the brilliant Maya Rahal. I'm sitting next to Maya on the shaky bus driving us to school at 6:45 AM. Her hair is styled into two neat braids, and her make-up looks minimal and natural. She has a warm, jovial smile on her face. She nods eagerly when I ask to start the interview.



MIST: WHEN DID YOU START DRAWING?

Maya: I've always been drawing... I only started taking it seriously in the second grade when there were two kids in my old school, who could draw really well in my class. They were above average. So I was like, 'Well, now I have to practice every day'. And I just haven't stopped since.

MIST: DO YOU THINK YOU DRAW BETTER THAN THOSE TWO KIDS NOW?

Maya, (shrugging): I think I'm as good as them. I don't think I'm better than them. Something, I think shows how hard I've worked on to reach their level. Because- I swear to you, they could draw better than 11th graders.

MIST: SO, WERE THOSE TWO CLASSMATES AN INSPIRATION TO YOU?

Maya: Yeah... They were my initial source of inspiration, and since then, I loved the art class. Even though we didn't really do anything important. It was all really simple; like, 'How to draw an apple!', (chuckles).

MIST: YOUR ONLY INSPIRATION? YOU NEVER LOOK AT ARTISTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND TRY TO MIMIC THEIR STYLE?

Maya: Well... They were my only inspiration until I got social media. Then, I had an account where I'd post my art, but it got hacked, something I find weird, (she laughs ruefully). I wonder: What would a hacker do with an art account? I think the only inspiration of other artists is their colour schemes rather than their style.

MIST: YOU SAY YOU'VE BEEN PRACTICING AT IT SINCE SECOND GRADE. DOES THAT MEAN YOU PLAN ON CONTINUING THIS HARD WORK AND PURSUING AN ART CAREER?

Maya, (nodding): I'm actually working on my portfolio. I want to major in art, and later, I hope to be an art director, which is really something great. It's a very creative work field. For college, I plan to apply to a Fine Arts University. I'm still figuring it out right now.

MIST: SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE GOT EVERYTHING PLANNED!

Maya, smiling bashfully: Except for my portfolio!

MIST: DO YOUR PARENTS SUPPORT YOU THROUGHOUT ALL OF THIS EXCITING EXPERIENCE ?

Maya: It was very hard for them to support me in the beginning. But I guess when you've been so into something, since you were a little kid, they kind of expect you to aspire to it as a teenager. So I'd say they're very supportive. They want me to get into the best fine art schools ever, and they're helping me with that process.

MIST: HOW DO YOU THINK THIS SUPPORT HAS SHAPED YOUR PASSION FOR ART?

Maya: It made me uninterested in everything else. I think, if they said 'no' and hadn't allowed me to get into art, I would've just forced myself to like other fields, which I don't really want to do.

MIST: MANY PEOPLE ARGUE THAT THERE ARE NO ANY JOBS IN ART. WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THAT? WHERE DO YOU THINK THE WORLD WOULD BE WITHOUT ART?

Maya: That's so wrong. There are many jobs in art. There's art in everything around you, in my opinion. Even in business, like designing ads. (She pauses). Hmm, the world without art... (She pulls out a lychee-flavoured Freez bottle from her bag and takes a sip. She generously offers me some. It tastes like mango.) I feel like everything would be plain and bland. How would you attract anyone without art? How would you advertise without it? How would you make money without it?

MIST: IF THE WORLD IS PLAIN WITHOUT IT, WOULD YOU SAY ART MOTIVATES YOU TO LIVE? MOTIVATE YOU TO WAKE UP EVERY DAY AND WORK HARD?

Maya, (humming): That's an interesting question, (gives me a pensive stare) sometimes I don't feel like drawing, but when I do, that's when I'm the happiest. So, in a way, yes, but also no. Because, as much as I hate to admit it. I'm not always studious with my art. Sometimes, it feels more like a job than a passion, especially now that I'm a senior. I have to actually study art. So, in some ways, it can actually be really tiring, especially when you draw something, and, it doesn't turn out how you expected. So you get frustrated and don't draw for the next two weeks. It is called 'art block'. I feel like all artists relate to that. You'll be super inspired for one week, and the next day, you don't even want to touch a pencil. There was a point where I suffered; through the entire tenth grade. I didn't draw for the entirety of the tenth grade academic year. My way of dealing with it, which I don't recommend, is looking at talented artists and comparing myself to them. When someone is really good at something, he/she inspires you to work harder.

MIST: DOES THAT MEAN THAT YOU FEEL INSECURE REGARDING YOUR OWN ART? IS INSECURITY AN IMPORTANT TRAIT FOR AN ARTIST TO HAVE?

Maya: That's so normal. It's so normal... Every artist is jealous of other ones. There's no single artist who thinks he/she is the best. And it definitely helps. When you look at other artists and think that they are much better than you, it motivates you to excel at what you do. When I started taking art seriously, I'd always copy art styles and themes until I found my own. Looking back, I wish I had been more authentic.

MIST: ANY WORDS OF ADVICE FOR BEGINNING ARTISTS?

Maya: Don't let the world stop you practicing your passions. I know many talented artists who have no choice but to pick a major other than art because of their parents, or whatever the reason might be. If you are genuinely passionate about it, you should pursue it. Don't be afraid of any possible failure. People start from nothing and become something. Take Pablo Picasso as an example. You think he was known in his first steps? He made those beautiful artworks and made history out of them. He's in the books now! Take him as your muse, or whatever. You could put your art in a museum one day. You might never be as famous as Picasso, but you'll always be as important as many other artists are.

