



المدرسة
الوطنية الأرثوذكسية
الشميساني

The National
Orthodox School
Shmaisani



Oct 2021 | Issue 1 | Year VII | No. 13


EVOLVE


NOS STUDENTS' NEWSLETTER



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WE'RE

ROLLING

AGAIN!



WELCOME to Issue 1 Year VI - No. 13!

Q: What is 'EVOLVE'?

EVOLVE is an NOS newsletter, run by NOS students with the school's help. It's a space where students can express their thoughts and feelings and share their take on what's happening at school and beyond with our school community and the rest of the world.

Q: Who can join, and how?

The EVOLVE team consists of Grade (9-12) students. You can apply to join by e-mailing: (editor.newsletter@nos.edu.jo). You can also ask any team member (listed in the "Meet the Team" page) for advice. Although the EVOLVE team consists of Grade (9-12) students, any student from any stage who is interested in writing is welcome to contribute an opinion piece.

Q: Where can I find the previous issues?

Our school administration sends Evolve to NOS students, parents and staff by email. So, you can look for it in your NOS school e-mail inbox. We also post the issues on our Facebook page (Evolve: NOS Student's Newsletter) and the NOS website (www.nos.edu.jo), under News & Publications/Publications

A message from EVOLVE Advisor, Dina Ra'ad-Yaghnam:

Dear EVOLVE Readers,

After almost two years of studying from home, NOS students - and many students around the world - are back on their school campus. What a wonderful sight it is to see NOS adorned with its students and teachers once again. For some, going back to the school routine has been difficult; for others, it's what they have been waiting for. There's no question, it's wonderful for everyone to meet face to face again (or should I say "mask to mask"). Nevertheless, Corona Times are not completely over yet, but the world is learning to adapt to "Life with Corona". At EVOLVE, our student team ploughed through last year with admirable determination, managing to publish an issue in the second half of the year, and organising an online seminar with NOS Alumni and award-winning journalist Rana Hussein (which you can watch on the NOS YouTube Channel).

This year, the EVOLVE Team is off to a great start. In this "jump-start" issue, which is partly a wrap-up for last year, and a look at the beginning of this one, the team tried to capture what our school has been doing to help the school community return to its sense of normalcy. Part of that is not letting Corona stand in the way of us celebrating historical milestones, like the 50 Graduation of NOS Golden Graduates (Class of 2021). The other part is looking at how NOS is "getting its on-campus groove back" on different fronts, as well as moving forward with new ideas and growing, such as the first Arabic Language Conference. Along the way, sadly though, Corona reminds us that it is still hovering somberly over our heads, as we bid farewell to our beloved son Ahmad AlAwajin, God bless his pure soul, to whom the EVOLVE Team pays a special tribute in this issue.

We invite you to read on, and we look forward to hearing what you think of this issue on our social media pages.

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THE WHEELS ON THE BUS ARE FINALLY GOING ROUND!

-SAMIR ABUSAADA

The moment we have all talked about has finally come, we are officially back at school and on campus. For some, being back in school is something they've anticipated all year round so they get back into their groove. For others, it takes more time to re-adapt to the school environment. Online learning was truly a unique experience. Students have survived isolation and continuous scholastic pressure over the past year. Now that we are finally back, how do we get the ball rolling again? Here are some of the events that took place at our school recently in the spirit of the back-to-school season, and also what to look forward to.

ENTERTAINMENT AND EVENTS

The Last 1st Day of School for NOS Seniors parade has been an annual tradition for many years, in which the senior class of the NOS celebrate the beginning of their last school year, and their life-long memories created over the past eleven years in school. It also honours their achievements and dedication, as soon,

they will disperse into the world to create a life of their own. Moreover, senior year for students is really special. It gives the students one last year to spend together in the best and most memorable way possible throughout their activities. For example, they already had a playful water fight with slides and water guns and began with their pranks.

There were a myriad of organized games for the other grades too. For instance, telematch games were held for grades (2-9) in the spirit of the first week of school, where the students enjoyed the games with their friends and classmates to create a more welcoming and enthusiastic environment for the children and enhance teamwork and sportsmanship. Also, there were football and basketball games organized and played by the faculty, seniors, and juniors. These matches took place during breaks for other students to watch and enjoy with their peers.





CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

After-school activities and clubs, whether athletic, scientific, artistic, or intellectual have long been a fundamental element in the NOS students' lives. They give the pupils a chance to elevate their knowledge, intensify their passion, and gain experience from skilled teachers. It also gives a chance for participants to make new friends and enhance teamwork skills.

In September, announcements were sent via email to all NOS parents and students about the available clubs. Tryouts were held and after school practices started for sports clubs, such as football, basketball, volleyball, handball, table tennis, athletics, and cross country running. Chess Clubs and Science Club meetings have also started during recess. Don't miss your chance to sign up to learn more about a scientific field with the Photography, Friends of Archaeology, Astronomy Environment, Meteorology, Science Experiments, and Robotics club! Furthermore, Artistic programmes and clubs have also begun welcoming new students. School bands, instrumental practice, choirs, art, drama and Dabke are just some examples of the various types of activities held after school for interested students.

And of course, there's the Community Service Club, the NOS Model United Nations Club (NOSMUN) and our very own NOS Student's Newsletter: EVOLVE.

ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Our school is continuously evolving and adapting its teaching methods. Over the past two months, many workshops took place for the professional development of teachers in all Stages. NOS Counselling gave workshops to help Teachers help students cope with going back to school.

Another one of the workshops was about planning for assessment and effective feedback, where teachers shared their professional experiences on types of assessment and focused on keys of effective feedback from students. NOS is always looking to add something new. On the 18th of September, the 1st Arabic Language symposium (In Arabic We Excel), as part of the Michel Sindaha Arabic Language Literary Creativity Award, took place. The conference was entitled "How to Develop Creative Writing Using Modern Strategies". 10 schools participated in this significant event. This is a huge milestone for the development of teaching the Arabic language in schools.





STUDENTS WITH RESPONSIBILITIES

Many distance support groups have been formed to soften the disconnection of absent students, whether sick or travelling, through social media by having some classmates record and send the information taken in class. This initiative portrays the students' care and consideration towards others.

For the parents of students that might be worried about the spreading of the coronavirus, NOS has taken the following measures to ensure a safe and secure environment for its students to learn in. There are multiple hand sanitiser dispensers stationed in every region of the school. Also, the water dispensers have been disabled to prevent infection. Additionally, everyone inside the school is required to keep their mask on and practice social distancing from their peers. Moreover, recently, one of the NOS Alumni and a Board member of our parent organisation the Orthodox Educational Society, Dr. Ghassan Habash generously donated an Air Sanitiser (Dr Clo) that has been placed in every classroom and office, in order to disinfect the atmosphere and maintain a safe virus-free environment.

Students with responsibilities is a proposal, suggested by a dear member of our student's newsletter, that includes diverse support groups for NOS students grades (6-12), that would be run by older NOS students that are selected by a board. This is meant to aid students in multiple aspects, such as mental health, communication, and academic skills. It will be a genuinely great opportunity for older students to pass down their knowledge, or lend an ear to their peers or younger students. There are many things to be taught. For example, notetaking and efficient studying, social networking and its importance and raising awareness for the importance of standing up for yourself. Specific applicants with a select set of skills could lead a student workshop during the break to discuss a popular voted topic. As a result, students could be more at ease at school, and learn better.

NOS has prepared immensely for its reopening by creating a welcoming atmosphere for its hard-working students and teachers through its workshops, activities and events. Personally, it was weird in the beginning to be back, but now I am truly grateful for finally being back on campus. NOS has made a transition from online learning to campus learning easier, allowing us to regain our momentum and evolve.

50 GOLDEN GENERATIONS

-NOURA ALNASSER



Our school, the 'National Orthodox School', has prospered and thrived for 50 graduating classes, 51 with the next graduating class of 2022. NOS was built on bringing in new ideals to society successfully, and that has been a part of our vision ever since.



The founding of NOS, in 1960, was on the basis of introducing co-education to Jordan. Co-education is basically a classroom that teaches both female and male students at the same time, and back then, it was not really accepted to have both genders present in the same classroom, not until NOS. Our school not only introduced co-education to Jordan, but was also one of the first schools to teach both religions, Christianity and Islam, at the same time.

Starting out more than half a century ago in a society that was hesitant to accept this new idea, NOS made a name for itself, as one of the top schools, offering some of the best education in Jordan. Our school was also among the first to introduce the IGCSE and A-level international programs in the Kingdom.

And now, 50 graduating classes later, the first IBDP (International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme) class graduated, with six students, all of whom graduated with flying scores, half of them getting a total overall score above 90% and all of them above 80%.

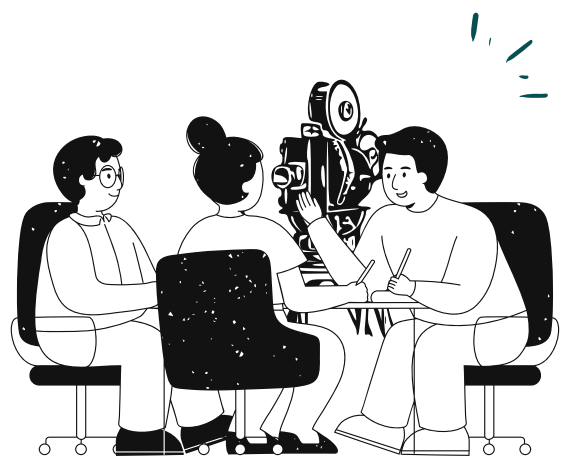
Miss May Goussous did not only preside over the graduation for the 50th class, she was one of the graduates of the first class to ever study and graduate from NOS. She spent her life at our school... returning as a teacher then becoming the Principal; this is her home, along with many of the alumni that have returned to teach at NOS.

Our principal, Miss May Goussous, stated in an interview with Evolve, that the 50th graduating class from our school was not unlike the first. “We were exactly ten students, five from the literary stream and five from the scientific stream. We had with us one boy and nine girls, we ended up like that when we graduated. And it was only the National Programme (Al Tawjihi).”

Miss May said that when the IGCSE /A-Level programmes opened in our school in 1973/1974, there was only one class with 12 students; while today there are 124 students in Grade 12 IGCSE/IAS, and 366 students in IGCSE/IAS Grades (9-11). It is one of the most successful IGCSE programmes in Jordan, with tens of students getting A stars and world ranks every year. But NOS did not stop there; we earned accreditations from many scholastic organizations internationally.

In addition to the IGCSE/EDEXCEL-Pearson and IB accreditations, we acquired accreditation from the CIS (Council of International Schools) in 2014, marking our school as a national school with International standards. NOS also holds a number of other accreditations related to school life such as: Eco-schools, and Healthy Schools (Golden Tier). Miss May explained that we have gained all of these accreditations because NOS always works to keep up with new developments and trends, and seeks to make sure that each student can find the programme that suits them best. This is part of the school’s vision. NOS is always open to more developments in education.

Over the decades, NOS has grown so much. Today, the school has a population of over 2000 students and 300 teachers, in comparison to the beginning when there were 10 students graduating and 10 teachers total.



As a final note to 50 generations of NOS Alumni, staff, students, teachers that have passed through our prestigious educational institute, Miss May says, "I would tell them thank you for all the efforts because actually it's never an effort of a person, it's (founding a school) ... a joined effort from everybody, so I would tell them thank you, we're all proud of you, and do send your kids to our school always."



NO. OF
GRADUATES IN
FIRST GRADUATING
CLASS (1972)

→ 10

NO. OF
GRADUATES IN
50TH GRADUATING
CLASS (2021)

→ 137



TOTAL NUMBER
OF GRADUATES
(1972 - 2021)

→ 5375



NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

~~PART I~~




- NATALIE NASRAWIN



I'm Natalie Nasrawin, a tenth-grader in the IB system at NOS. I joined the school in the second semester of the last school year. I was at my previous school my whole life; I never thought that changing schools would be an option. Luckily, I made the right decision to come to NOS. I technically joined online and didn't meet anyone in person. In fact, people only went to school for the first two weeks; and the rest of the year was online. Despite joining the school virtually (in the middle of the pandemic), my experience was great. Even though online learning is difficult, most of the teachers handled the situation really well. They truly tried their hardest to give us the best learning experience. The students in my class and the people I've met from the EVOLVE team have all been really welcoming; it made me feel like I was a part of a huge family. Getting to know people was easy; many students in the class have reached out to me many times. I never once felt like the odd one out or unwelcomed in any form. I definitely don't regret moving to NOS. I highly appreciate all the help I received last year.



This year, fortunately, I was able to join in person. Here is when I actually felt the change, new faces, new teachers, new students. It was weird looking at people I was supposed to know but really didn't. I didn't feel the change before but now I do, which wasn't a bad thing. I finally met the people behind the computer screens. It's so great getting to know everyone and building amazing friendships. I was still technically considered new, which I didn't mind as I felt new. I'm excited to continue the year and make lifelong memories. Last year, while writing this I said "However, at times I wish I was able to join the school in person and get to know people properly but so far this has been a great experience. Currently, the online school year is almost over. Hopefully, I will start fresh next year and finally meet everyone in person!" That's exactly what I did.



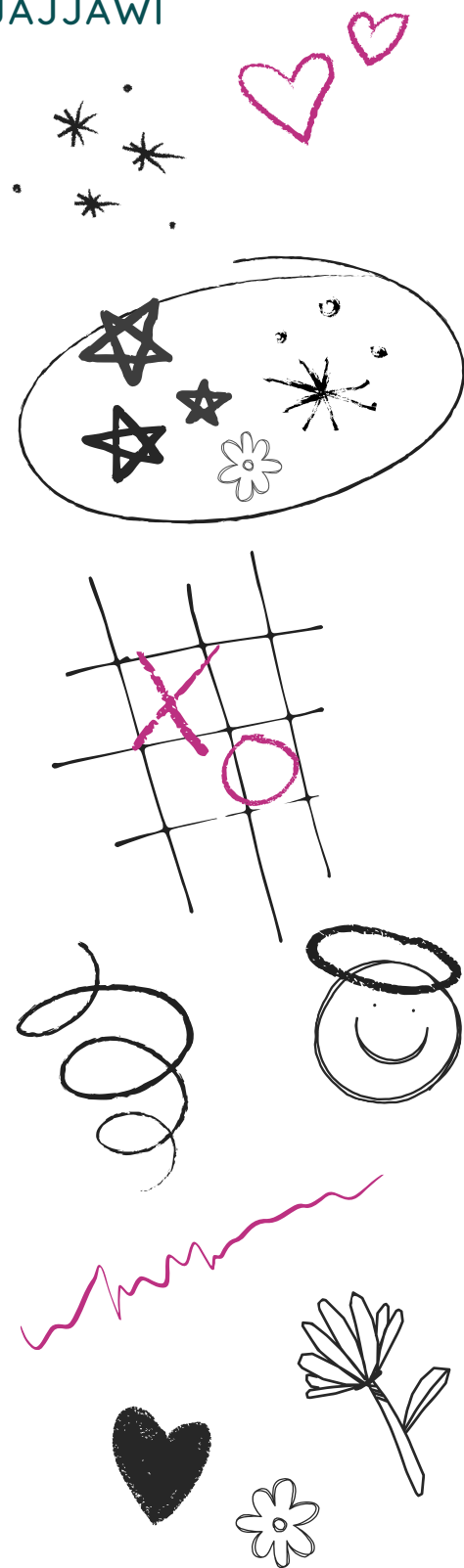
NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

PART II

-SARAH JAJJAWI

Entering a new school is always filled with many emotions. It's often scary yet exciting. My first year at NOS - which was last year- was interesting to say the least. I wanted to find a school that would challenge me academically but also challenge me to find myself; and it's safe to say that this school has done both. Yes, it was rather difficult to engage in school work online, especially since my first year here was virtual for the most part, and there's not much to motivate us, but I was constantly surrounded by wonderful people. Within my first week of school I felt at home. I met these great people that 10 months later have become key parts of my life, and really, I think that's what I value so much about NOS: the love. It's understandable that I was scared to enter a new school, especially knowing that it could be online, but after completing my first year here, I love. Online could have made it harder for me to make friends and be part of the community, but it was completely the opposite. Each and every single person at NOS, whether a teacher or student, or any type of staff member, has made sure to push through and give us a year full with memories and joy despite everything.

Stepping back onto the campus this new school year, I felt like I was new; but being at school in real life made all the difference. I was no longer the "new girl" but going to school was still something fresh. I found it hard at first to truly connect with people but in the back of my mind I knew that my love for the community hadn't changed and that made it all the less scary. Two months into my 2nd year at NOW - but my first year on NOS campus - I am no longer the new girl or the girl who feels new.



مدرستنا تنظم أول مؤتمر للغة العربية في المدارس

-غيداء عطاري

في مؤتمر كان الأول من نوعه في مدارسنا الخاصة الذي يحفل باللغة العربية، نظمت المدرسة الوطنية الأرتوذكسية بتاريخ 18 أيلول عام 2021 مؤتمر اللغة العربية الأول بعنوان "كيف نطور محاور الكتابة التعبيرية باستخدام إستراتيجيات حديثة"، وكان المؤتمر المنبثق عن جائزة ميشيل سنداحة للإبداع الأدبي برعاية وزير التربية والتعليم السابق معالي الدكتور تيسير النعيمي، حضر المؤتمر تسعون معلّمًا للغة العربية من عشر مدارس وبعض المهنيين المهتمين باللغة العربية.

اشتمل حفل الافتتاح سلسلة من العروض المستوحاة من اللغة العربية، قدمتها مجموعة من الطلاب، منها إلقاء شعر لشعراء عرب مشهورين: علي الجرم، وأبي الطالب المتنبّي، ومحمود درويش. بالإضافة إلى مشهد درامي عن اللغة العربية أغنية مُعرّبة لفرقة كلامسك.

وقال الدكتور نعيمي في كلمته في حفل الافتتاح عن سعادته وفخره بالمشاركة في افتتاح هذا المؤتمر الذي أعده مبادرة مهمّة؛ حيث قال: "إنّ اللغة حاملة للفكر، لذلك إذا لم يتقن الطلاب لغتهم الأمّ ولم يتعلموها أو يتقنوها أو يمارسوها، فإنّ التعليم يكون سطحيًا". و أضاف أنّ اللغة العربية هي المفتاح لجميع مجالات الدراسة، سواء كانت الرياضيات أو العلوم أو الفن أو أيا كان و أيضًا قال إنّ تعلّم اللغة الأم لا يعني أنّنا بقي أنفسنا بعيدًا. ولكن تعدّد اللغات يمنحنا بالتأكيد قدرًا أكبر من المرونة، لذا فإنّ الانفتاح على الثقافات الأخرى مهم وضروري أيضًا".



في كلمة الترحيب في حفل الافتتاح قالت مديرة مدرستنا ومربيّتنا الفاضلة مي القسوس: "إنّ اللغة العربية من أهم اللغات التي عرفها الجنس البشري منذ زمن طويل. فمن أراد الحضارة كان عليه أن يتعلّم العربية فهي كانت الأهم والأكثر شهرة، فهي طبيعية.



وتحدثت باسم عائلة المعلم والكاتب ميشيل سنداحة ابنته المهندسة نرمين سنداحة عضو الهيئة الإدارية في جمعيتنا الأم، جمعية الثقافة والتعليم الأرثوذكسية ومقررة اللجنة المدرسية فيها وقالت: " علمني والذي أنّ النجاح يبدأ بفكرة ورغبة، ويتحقق ذلك بالعمل الجاد والمثابرة والتفاني والإخلاص"، وأصبحت تعاليمه أسلوب حياة ونقمة، ويفتخر والذي بانتمائه إلى هذا الجزء المقدّس والجميل من العالم. أحبّ اللغة العربية وغناها في كتاباته وقصائده، وكان يؤمن بعمق أنّ لغتنا هي هويتنا.

كان الهدف من المؤتمر تطوير محور الكتابة التعبيرية، والتواصل بين معلمي اللغة العربية والمختصين المحترفين، وتبادل الخبرات بينهم بأحدث التقنيات، لعرض الوسائل والاستراتيجية التعليمية. وتضمن المؤتمر جلستين رئيسيتين، الجلسة الأولى كانت للمستشارة في شؤون التعليم مغير الحطبة، حيث تناولت الكتابة المنهجية، وجلسة حوارية مع الدكتورة هنادا طه التي تشغل حاليًا كرسي الأساتذة في اللغة العربية في جامعة زايد، بالإضافة إلى اثنتين وعشرين جلسة عمل تمحورت حول الكتابة التعبيرية وإستراتيجيات تدريس محاورها.

ولدت فكرة جائزة ميشيل سنداحة للإبداع الأدبي لإحياء ذكرى المعلم والكاتب ميشيل سنداحة اتباعا للمسار الذي كان يحاول تحقيقه. وهدف إلى تعزيز هويتنا العربية وتعزيز الإبداع لدى الطلاب. مرت ثماني سنوات على إنشاء جائزة ميشيل سنداحة للإبداع الأدبي ، وشارك فيها أكثر من (12000) طالبًا حتى الآن.



Highlights

لمزيد من الأخبار، زوروا الحسابات الرسمية للمدرسة على فيسبوك وإنستغرام ويوتيوب.

FOR MORE NOS NEWS, VISIT NOS SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS: FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM & YOUTUBE.

مشاركة طلبة من الوطنية الأرثوذكسية في مؤتمر الأيدي الواعدة السابع عشر
NOS Students take part in the 17th Promise Welfare Society Conference



جلسات إرشاد جامعي لطلبة صف (12) البرنامج البريطاني
University Counselling Sessions for Grade (12) IG Students



أول يوم تطوير مهني في الوطنية الأرثوذكسية للعام الدراسي 2021-2022
The 1st Professional Development Day @NOS for the School Year 2021-2022



صغارنا في حضانة الوطنية الأرثوذكسية، يستمتعون بيوم ترفيهي بمناسبة بداية العام الدراسي الجديد
Our little ones in the NOS Nursery, enjoyed a fun day on the occasion of the beginning of the New School Year



فوز طلبتنا في بطولة الأكااديمية الأردنية
السويدية للشطرنج لطلبة المدارس عن بعد
NOS Students Win in JSCA Online
Chess Tournament for Schools



ورشة عمل "التخطيط للتقييم والتغذية
الراجعة الفعالة"

"Planning for Assessment and
Effective Feedback" Workshop



فخورون بالنتائج المشرفة التي أحرزها خريجوننا
لعام 2021 في البرنامج البريطاني في
الامتحانات الخارجية.

Very proud of the outstanding results
achieved by our NOS Seniors 2021
on the external examinations of the
British Program.



آخر "أول يوم مدرسة" لخريجيننا فوج 2022.
The Last 1st Day of School for our
Seniors-Class of 2022.



مشاركة مجموعة من طلبتنا في المسابقة الفنية
للكليّة العلميّة الإسلاميّة
NOS Students Participating in the
Music/Poetry Recital Competition
Organized by Islamic Educational College



لمبارك لطلبة الوطنيّة الأرثوذكسيّة على
نتائجهم المشرفة التي أحرزوها في امتحان
شهادة الثقافة العامة البريطانيّة لعام
.2021-2020
Congratulations to our NOS O-Level
Students on their outstanding
results on the external
examinations of the British
Program (IGCSE)



احتفال عيد رفع الصليب المُكْرَم في
الوطنيّة الأرثوذكسيّة
The Feast of the Exaltation of the
Holy Cross Celebration @NOS



المدرسة الوطنيّة الأرثوذكسيّة تعقد مؤتمراً
اللّغة العربيّة الأوّل (بالعربيّة نبدع) "كيف
نطوّر محاور الكتابة التّعبيريّة باستخدام
إستراتيجيات حديثة"
NOS Holds the 1st Arabic Language
Conference (In Arabic We Excel)
entitled "How to Develop Creative
Writing Using Modern Strategies"



IN LOVING MEMORY OF AHMAD AL AWAJIN



- KIRA YAGHNAM

"Death is nothing at all.
It does not count.
I have only slipped away into the next
room.
Nothing has happened.

Everything remains exactly as it was.
I am I, and you are you,
and the old life that we lived so fondly
together is untouched, unchanged.
Whatever we were to each other, that
we are still.

Call me by the old familiar name.
Speak of me in the easy way which you
always used.
Put no difference into your tone.
Wear no forced air of solemnity or
sorrow.

Laugh as we always laughed at the
little jokes that we enjoyed together.
Play, smile, think of me, pray for me.
Let my name be ever the household
word that it always was.
Let it be spoken without an effort,
without the ghost of a shadow upon it.

With a heavy heart I dedicate this poem by Harry-Scott Holland, to dear Ahmad & to all his loved ones... I didn't really know Ahmad myself but his loss has deeply affected me along with so many others. We'll meet you on the other side <3

Life means all that it ever meant.
It is the same as it ever was.
There is absolute and unbroken
continuity.
What is this death but a negligible
accident?

Why should I be out of mind because I
am out of sight?
I am but waiting for you, for an interval,
somewhere very near,
just round the corner.

All is well.
Nothing is hurt; nothing is lost.
One brief moment and all will be as it
was before.

How we shall laugh at the trouble of
parting when we meet again!"



THIS ISSUE'S TEAM



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Special Thanks: Arabic Teacher Ms Alia Nofal, Acting Head of Communication Carla Demerjian & Social Media Officer Hiba Khnouf, for their help and support.