



The Islamic Eye



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Islamic Academy of Alabama

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Accepting Others

Menet Elbahrawi
Newsletter Team

Most of us tend to judge people without really getting to know them. It's like what authors say. Don't judge a book by its cover. It is very important to accept others without any judgment, because that will help us in living in

peace and in harmony. Just because someone is different than you or does something in a different way doesn't mean they are weird.

We are living in a very mixed cultural environment. There are very many different races and ethnicities in the America. It might

seem weird or odd when someone is doing something different than others. You have to accept someone for who they are and not for what they do. You wouldn't like it if someone was mean to you just because you are not the same race as them.

When you treat someone treat them like

you would want them to treat you. Whenever you come to talk to someone you have to stop and think, and say to yourself.

"Would I want someone to treat me like I am treating this person?"

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A Thank You from our Principal

Culture Day was on May 4th, and was attended by many members of the community.

Dear IAA Family:

Asalaamu Alaikum.

In the Culture Day, IAA Family was great, and I confirm that you were greater than the pyramids of Egypt and the Great Wall of China; you sacrificed as much as the Palestinians of Palestine and the Syrians of Syria; your work was as sweet as the mangos of Bangladesh and India; your performance was as significant as the presence of the kaa'ba and Medina in Saudi Arabia; your role was as authentic as the City

of Petra in Jordan or as the Dam of Marib in Yemen. We have the diversity of all of the continents; as from the rivers and mountains of Paraguay to the beautiful flowers of Costa



Rica, the Tigris and Euphrates rivers of Iraq and to the great mosques of Turkey.

Our Culture day has great faith as the people of Pakistan and Sudan...IAA family, you will have great

memories of this day because it is as beautiful as the summer days of Lebanon and your kindness was as the people of Guinea and Sierra Lion all right here in Amer-

ica, the Land of the free and the home of the Brave where we all reside and are offered opportunities such as this day to express our cultures. We were able to visit all of these countries us-

ing our unique IAA Passport! This is what it represents – a great experience for IAA students to learn with action, fun, happiness and practice. It is an opportunity to instill tolerance and acceptance of one another's differences; to be leaders in preventing the bad and working together to accomplish a mission – in essence, this is practicing our deen, it is supporting the mission of Islamic Academy and **many thanks** are extended to **all** of you for making this day a day that will be fondly remembered by all.

Sincerely,

Ziyad Awad

IAA Principal

A Word from the President of the Student Council

Assalam uallaikum my dear bother and sisters in Islam.

It seem like it was only yesterday that I was elected. The year just seemed to speed by and here we heading towards the end of the year and summer break. The council members and I have done many things this year. Mostly our work was behind the scenes. Our accomplishments so far include:

- Helping fund mul-

tiple projects including helping in the sports day and the U12 party.

- Buying two I-pads which are in use in 2nd grade.
- Building a successful relationship with the MPTO.

We are still planning more Inshallah, we plan to finish this year then we will begin next year and remain in office until the next election.

This position has made me appreciate the amount of work people in high positions put in.

During the year, there were many times when I got stressed thinking of the activities to plan and my own school work besides. When this happens sometimes you just have to stop and marvel at how the Prophet managed being a leader, teacher, husband and warrior at the same time. Despite the (now seeming) trivial trials I faced we all pulled through and had a successful school year.

We had many

school activities that sometimes included other community members. Many of the activities were initiated mainly by MPTO, but we contributed to some as well. Although many people enjoyed the activities, others said there was room for improvement and they are correct.

Nothing is perfect and we will learn from our mistakes Inshallah. I would like to thank everyone for this great school year and hope everyone has a nice summer and good Ramadan Inshallah.

Accepting from pg 1

If everyone stops and thinks about their actions, the world would be a better place. Rasulullah

(sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said: None of you is a believer until he loves for his brother (his fellow Muslims) what he loves for himself.☞

(Sahih Muslim) In Islam you have to love for your brother what you love for yourself. If you want people to respect and accept you. You have to start

by respecting and accepting others.

Sports Day

Menet Elbahrawi
 Newsletter Team

On May 10, 2012 the school had its annual Sports Day. All the students were very happy that they could take a break from school work and do what they enjoy most: play. The day was as perfect as can be—the weather was enjoyable; the sun was shining and the wind was giving us a nice breeze. There were hamburgers on the grill and refreshingly cold Gatorade and bottled water for the students to drink and rehydrate.



Thanks to the combined efforts of the school, MPTO, and student council, this event was free to all students. In the morning, we put on special “Sport’s Day” T-shirts that we wore throughout the entire day, and then we went to our assigned activities. There were many things to do, ranging from *Fun*

Source inflatables that suited the young and old, to little games and competitions. Additionally, there were extensive kickball and basketball competitions that brought out the students’ inner competitiveness. At noon, we all

retired to the lunchroom and courtyard for a mouthwatering burger, corn cob, and bag of chips, which we all devoured pretty quickly.

After prayer, the younger students in the school went back to their classrooms, for it had been a long day for them. But as for middle and high school, the day hadn’t ended. We set up a game of volleyball that everyone enjoyed playing and watching. The day was just fantastic, and we couldn’t have asked for a better day. Thank you to all who made this day a success, and may Allah reward you!

Wacky Trivia

- .”Albert Einstein's parents were worried that he was mentally too slow because he took a long time to learn how to speak.
- Coca cola would be green if coloring wasn't added to it.
- Every US president has worn glasses.
- The human brain is 80% water.
- A cockroach can survive days without its head.
- You are more likely to be killed by a donkey than in a plane.
- The weight of a blue whale's tongue is greater than most elephants.
- A Watermelon is completely edible. While most of us relish the flesh part, the watermelon seeds can be roasted and eaten. Watermelon rind is used for making preserves, pickles and relish.
- Mount Everest grown 4 millimeters a year.
- Human thigh bones are stronger than concrete.

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Summer Problem

Yasmin El-Husari
Newsletter Team

When we think of summer break, we think of a couple months to be as lazy as we want to be.

The heat, the long days, and the idea that school is months away brings every sluggish bone in your body into attack mode, and by the middle of the summer, it looks like couch potatoes invaded every house in the nation. Although summer is a time to relax, taking relaxation to the extreme is wrong, and the resulting laziness is not pretty.

As Muslims, we know that there is a time for everything, and we know that moderation is the

best road to take when doing anything. Try to moderate laziness with these tips:

- **Don't sleep the summer away!** Sleep at a reasonable time



and wake up early. This way you are not too tired for Fajr, and have more time during the day to do what you enjoy.

- **Set goals for yourself.** Write down something you really want to accomplish in the summer and try to work towards it each day. Remember that each day you don't make progress or at least review your work is a day you slip back.

- **Read a book every**

week. This helps you practice your reading, and keeps you from falling behind in the next school year. A fun way to do this is to join a summer reading program at your local library, where you can earn prizes for reading.

- **Spend less time in front of the TV.**

The TV isn't called the "idiot box" for nothing. The TV hypnotizes your brain and leaves your eyes to do all the work, and studies show that even one hour of TV a day lowers academic achievement in school. With American households in 2007 watching an average of 8.2 hours a day of TV, it's no wonder we have such low levels of academic achievement in the country!

- **Don't forget your Islam in the break.** A break from school is not a break from Islam, and we make the most of our free time. Try to read at least half a page of Quran each day, and add more as it gets easier.

- **Spend time outside every day.** The best time to go out is either early in the morning before ten, or in the afternoon after four. Remember that playing outside with the intention of making your body stronger will earn you good deeds. Now wasn't that easy?

Culture Day

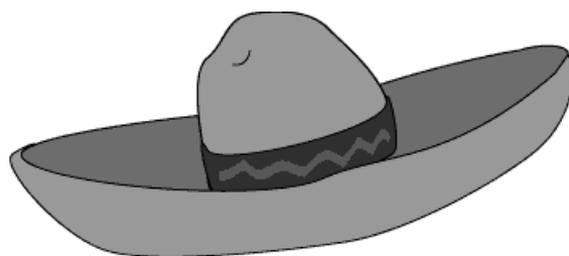
Menet Elbahrawi

Newsletter Team

On Friday May 4, 2012 I attended Culture Day at the Islamic Academy of Alabama. Each classroom represented a different country which included: - U.S.A, Yemen, Palestine, Jordan, Sudan, Turkey, Guinea, Saudi Arabia, Paraguay, Costa Rica, Lebanon, Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Pakistan, India, China, Bangladesh. Every country that was portrayed could claim rights to the roots of at least one student in the school. It was truly amazing....

Each classroom had transformed into the country that it had been assigned. In U.S.A. they had a huge drawing of the Statue of Liberty, Hollywood with a red carpet, and all the American deserts you can think of. In Yemen, they had a life size skeleton dressed up as a Yem-

eni man. They had traditional daggers and the beautiful jewelry, and best of all, they had a henna and face-painting station where you could be painted up as well as the 8th graders could manage to draw. Pal-



estine and Jordan featured dabke dancing, an abundance of food, some traditional clothing, and a traditional sitting area, and the class was a big hit with everyone. According to the poll on the next page, the students of IAA thought Palestine to be the best culture setup in culture day.

Sudan boasted many handmade items that ranged from furniture to jewelry. An inspiring bean mosaic of the map of Sudan hung on the

wall. The students in Turkey built a replica of a famous mosque and dressed in traditional Turkish clothing. Creativity in Guinea resulted in a replica of a famous waterfall. Saudi Arabia reminded every-

one of the Kaba we face in every prayer. Egypt was quite fascinating; the students built models of the pyramids, the sphinx, and Masjid Al-Azhar, and dressed in Egyptian clothing.

Lebanon featured the dukane and great food. Costa Rica could be found in the library, where a video explained Costa Rican facts and artifacts. There were also real Costa Rican flowers. Paraguay had a hand painted picture of the flag with the country

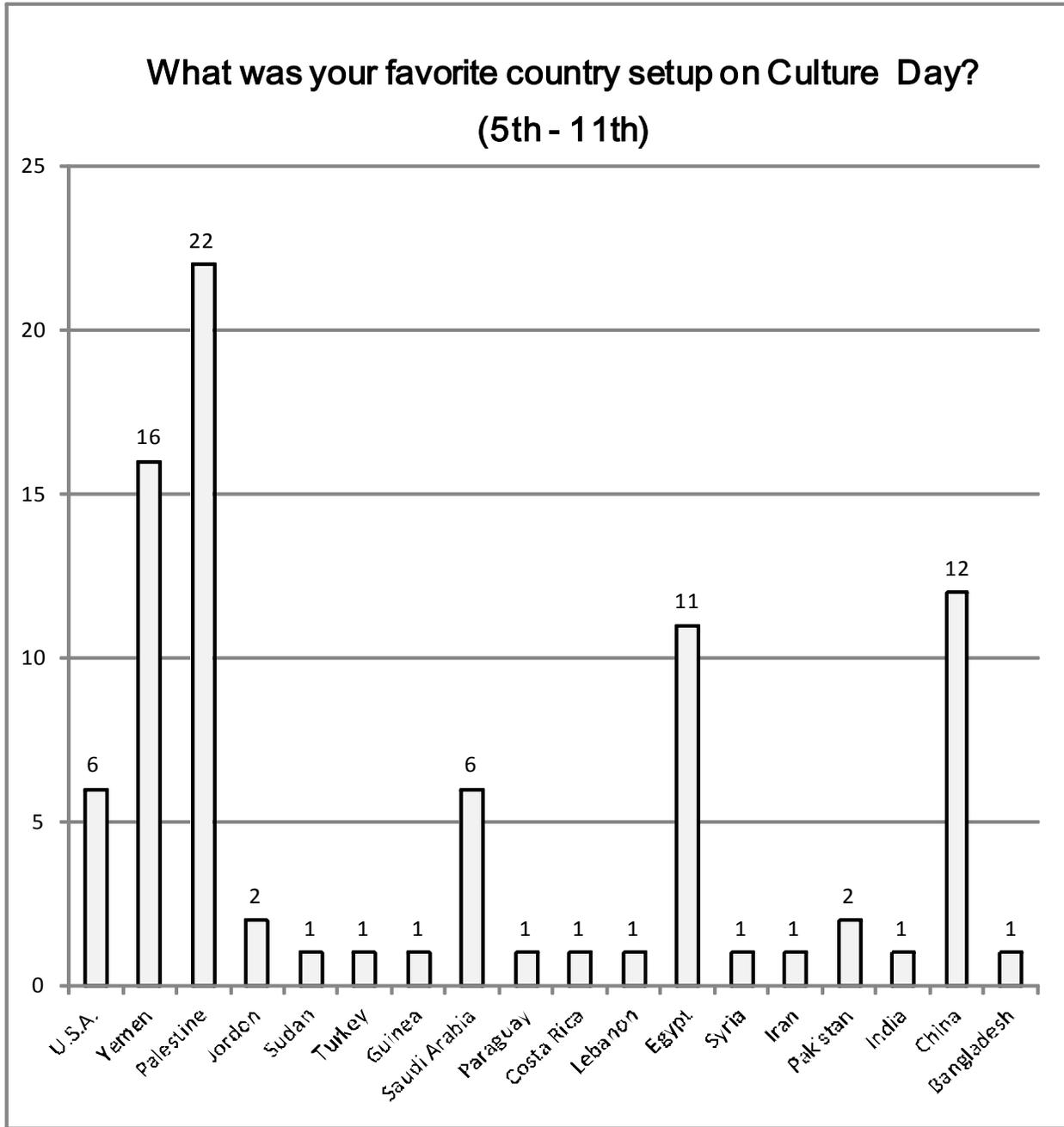
flower on it. Iraq had artifacts and a wall of facts. Syria also had a picture display of artifacts and presidents on the wall. In India and Pakistan, the students dressed up and made a replica of the Taj Mahal. The Wall of China could be seen in 3rd grade where visitors were served green tea and green tea cookies. In Bangladesh the students were wearing Bangladesh hats. As you walked through the classroom, the children would tell you facts about the country.

Culture Day was a wondrous event that everyone enjoyed. There was food for all and the environment was just right. This will definitely be a memorable day.



School Poll

Finding out more about our students....



Hadith of the Issue

قال النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم: " اغتتم خمساً قبلَ خمسِ حياتِكَ قبلَ موتِكَ وصِحَّتِكَ قبلَ سَقَمِكَ وشبابِكَ قبلَ هَرَمِكَ وِغْنَاكَ قبلَ فقركَ وِفْرَاغَكَ قبلَ شغْلِكَ."

The Prophet (pbuh) said, "Take advantage of five matters before five other matters: your youth, before you become old; and your health, before you fall sick; and your richness, before you become poor; and your free time before you become busy; and your life, before your death."

First of all, the Prophet (pbuh) mentioned youth. In Islam, youth is any age under the age of 40, because that is the age at which energy peaks, then starts to fall. When a person is young, they seem to have endless store of energy. Islam does not label youth the way we do it now. Youth also have a huge potential for planning their lives. The hadith is saying to take ad-

vantage of this blessing before old age saps away the energy of youth, and the forgetfulness stops any kind of extensive planning. This is the time that knowledge should be acquired in large amounts as well.



The second point is to take advantage of health before illness. Sickness reaches everyone at some time or another, and everyone knows what it feels like to be so sick that every effort seems to take twice the amount of energy. Health is a blessing we take for

granted, and we hardly notice it as a blessing until it is taken away. The Prophet (pbuh) said, "The majority of mankind do not appreciate these two blessings. They are good health, and free time." Think

about it, would you ever sell your health for any amount of money? That is one of the greatest blessing Allah gave us- health. We should use it to perfect our

prayers, and perform hajj or umrah as well as fast.

The third point is to take advantage of wealth before poverty. Money is not known to be a very loyal companion. What money is here today may not be there tomorrow. Mus-

lims should always plan ahead. Islam strongly discourages begging, and saving is a good way to prevent any extreme effects of crises. We should use our money to buy what is halal, and to build up good deeds. Zakah and Sadaqah are ways to take advantage of the blessing of wealth, because we must remember that the money belongs to Allah. Allah told us to share with the less fortunate, and we should show that we are up to that responsibility.

The fourth point is to take advantage of free time before we become busy. Think about how much free time we have, then think about how we use it.

Continued on page 9

Hadith from page 8

Most often, it is wasted away watching TV or gossiping, or performing other useless pursuits. It is not to say that we should only do purely religious things, but we should try doing things that are beneficial, or at least with the proper intention. Learn something useful like cooking, sewing, or computer. Spend time with your

family and try to build strong relationships in the home rather than focusing all your energy on your friends. Of course, try to pray some Nafl salats as well.

The last point in the hadith is to take advantage of life before death. This summarizes the whole thing. It's saying do what you have to before it is too late. We know that the Prophet

(pbuh) said, "If the son of Adam dies, all his deeds are cut off except three: a continuous charity, useful knowledge, and a pious child who makes dua for him." We should try to build up as many as these three things as possible so that death will not be the end of our earning good deeds. That way, when we are met with death, we will, inshaallah, be

ready and have no regrets.

We should learn to take advantage of all our blessings before we lose them. I ask Allah to help us realize our blessings and use them to the fullest on the road to Jannah inshaallah.

Wacky from page 4

- According to research, about 40 percent of twins invent their own languages to use together. Usually their special lingo disappears as their vocabulary expands and by the time they start school, but not always.
- A raisin dropped in a fresh glass of soda will bounce up and down continually from the bottom of the glass to the top.
- Celery has negative calories! It takes more calo-

- ries to digest a piece of celery than the celery has in it to begin with.
- Mosquito repellents don't repel. They hide you. The spray blocks the mosquito's sensors so they don't know you're there.
- You burn more calories sleeping than you do watching television.
- Walt Disney was afraid of mice.
- Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.
- A snail can sleep for three months.

- Americans eat on average 18 acres worth of pizza every day.
- If you keep a Goldfish in the dark room, it will eventually turn white.
- No piece of dry paper can be folded in half more than 7 times.
- During your lifetime, you'll eat about 60,000 pounds of food, that's the weight of about 6 elephants.
- The US purchased Alaska from Russia for approximately

- 2 cents an acre.
- The word "pound" is abbreviated "lb." from the Latin "libra pondo", meaning weight or balance, where the constellation got its name.
- The human body has 70,000 miles of blood vessels.
- The fingerprints of koala bears are virtually indistinguishable from those of humans, so much so that they could be confused at a crime scene.

Field Trip!

Ali El- Husari

Student Council President

On the 26th of April, the IAA high schoolers took a field trip to the Aniston Museum of Natural History. We rode in 2 buses and one personal vehicle. We left school at 9, and although the trip was long, time flew by. We got there at 10 o'clock and assembled inside the building. After we walked in the students each got into their own groups and explored the Museum.

We saw many different sections each with a unique exhibit. The first exhibit was the dinosaur exhibit; the best part was most probably the

recreation of a pterodactyl hanging from the ceiling. The next exhibit was the forest with real stuffed animals in all their proper habitats. After that was the predator prey exhibit, the best part was the stuffed moose and wolves placed in very realistic battle positions. Later was the African Savanna exhibit where they had a stuffed elephant and many different types of stuffed African deer. Finally was the Ancient Egyptian Exhibit complete with 2 real mummies.

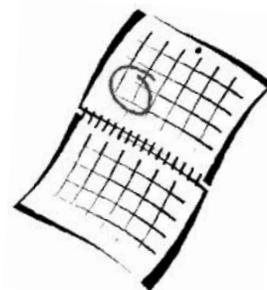
After the teacher rounded us up, they allowed us to enter the gift shop. The rock candy was very popular, and after we all bought what we wanted, we went outside.

Outside, there were trails with owls and other animals to see, so we spent half an hour roaming around. When we finished looking, we got into the vans to go have lunch at a restaurant called "China Luck", which is owned by relatives of a few of our students. Therefore, we were able to request that everything in the buffet be halal.

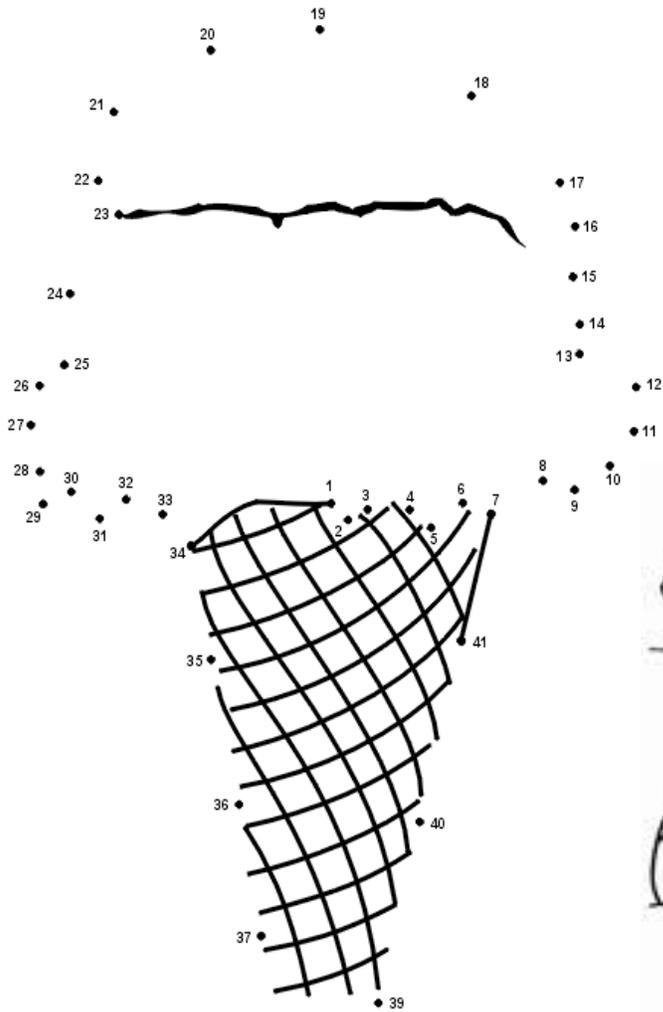
After an enjoyable meal, the students piled back into the vans one last time to go back to school. We arrived at three o'clock, prayed thuhr, and then got ready for pickup.

Mark your calendars!

- **No school** on Monday, May 28th. Classes resume Tuesday the 29th.
- **Awards Day and the Last Day of School** will be on June 6th. Parents are invited to attend their child's ceremony in the masjid.
- **IAA Graduation** will be on June 7th.



Game Room



Riddle

What goes around the world but stays in a corner?

Answer to riddle:
A Stamp



Did You Know?

- A lobsters blood is colorless but when exposed to oxygen it turns blue.
- Macadamia nuts are toxic to dog.
- It's possible to lead a cow up stairs but not down
- Apples are more effective at waking you up in the morning than coffee.
- Pearls melt in vinegar

Special News

K-5

“What I think about K5”

By Smood Almansoob

K5 is fun. You can play in the kitchen. You learn letter sounds. You learn to read words and take spelling tests. You can color. You can have fun and give the teachers flowers. The teachers are nice. I play in the playground with my friends. But sometimes subtraction is kind of hard.



I love school!
School is fun.

I have it in my dictionary.
So have fun.

It is the end of the school
year, so let us all cheer!

It is almost the end of school,
Try your best to be smart and
friendly,

And read so much things be-
cause

School is not over yet.

Learn, Learn, Learn,

Whatever the teacher is saying,

And please be smart!

- Widad Eljishi

1st Grade



Roses are red,
Violets are blue,
Are you ready for
school to end?

I am too!!!

- Ismael Mekdad

I love school and I love my teacher.

But it's almost the end of school so I will
miss my teacher.

Have a good summer break folks!

- Ayman Mahdi

2nd Grade Book Report By Sura



Book Report by: Sura

Title: Junie B. First Grader Dumb
Author: Junie B. First Grader Dumb Bunny.

Setting: It happened in the school.



Characters:	Character Description
Junie	Junie is a small girl.
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Plot:

She wore rabbit clothes. The people laughed at her. Then she was sad.

I like it because it was funny. I like the funny things.

Climax and Resolution:

It was funny because she wore a bunny clothes. She was happy she got to go home.

3rd Grade

For the school year 2011- 2012 has been a busy one for us. We've been to four Children's Theater productions, craft place for a science lesson, and are planning to go to DeSoto Caverns later this month. We've had our unit study of the rainforests and Native Americans. We read "Charlotte's Web", "Sign of the Beaver", and "Mr. Popper's Penguins". We've taken IAA to China and enjoyed this experience. But one thing that our class is proud of is mastering cursive writing. We are in the process of creating poetry books in cursive (taking all the poems we have written in manuscript all year and rewriting them in cursive) with illustrations. We have worked hard and are proud of it. At the beginning of the year, we came up with *our* phrase of "We're IAA's Best." We like to think that we are just that, IAA's best.

Everyone have a terrific summer break!

قادر الذئب

خرج الراعي ذات صباح ليرعى الغرغان.

تعب الراعي ونام تحت الشجرة نومًا عميقًا.

الذئب الصغير يتتبع عن الغرغان.

جاء الذئب فحمل الغرغان وجرى بعيدًا.

رأه الكلب فنبه مالكًا.

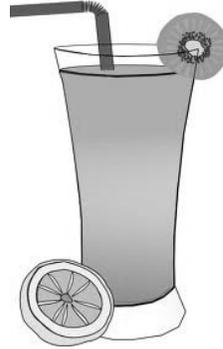
فرمى الذئب الغرغان ونجى بنفسه.



Cool Watermelon Slushie

Courtesy of allrecipes.com

- 6 ice cubes
 - 2 cups cubed seeded watermelon
 - 1 teaspoon honey
 - (optional) a splash of 7-UP
- Place the ice cubes into a blender. Cover, and pulse until crushed.
 - Add the watermelon and blend for about 1 minute, until slushy.
 - Add the honey and soda (optional), and blend for about 10 seconds.

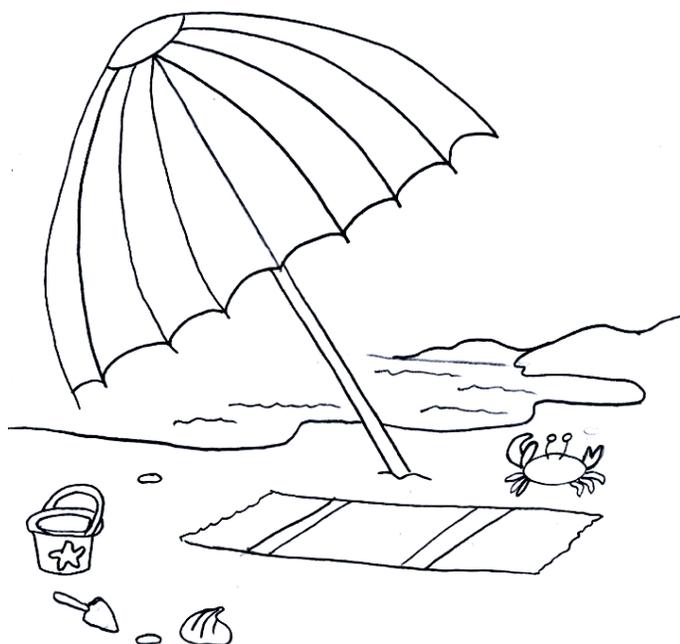


Check This!

- Not only does watermelon quench your thirst, it can also quench inflammation that contributes to conditions like asthma, diabetes, colon cancer, and arthritis.

- Watermelon is an ideal health food because it doesn't contain any fat or cholesterol, is high in fiber and vitamins A & C and is a good source of potassium.
- Watermelon is a vegetable! It is related to cucumbers, pumpkins and squash.
- Early explorers used watermelons as canteens.
- By weight, watermelon is the most-consumed melon in the U.S., followed by cantaloupe and honeydew.





Hello, Summer! – (A Last Day of School Poem)

by Gregory K.

Goodbye, classroom!
Goodbye, Teach!
You can find me at the beach...
Or in the park or at the pool
Or any place that isn't school.

Goodbye, quizzes!
Bye, reports!
Hello days packed full of sports
And days when I'm just lazy-
bones
While eating melty ice cream
cones.

Goodbye, homework --
Lunchroom, too.
There's so, so much I wanna do.
I know the school year flew on
past...
But please, please summer --
last and last.

The Official Newsletter

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