

S.M.O.C. GAZETTE



EDITO

الشروق بالدماء والغروب في التراب

من قفص خيط بالدماء نشرق إلى قفص خيط من الهواء. من رحم إلى رحم نلتصق فيه. ففي هذا القفص نبدأ بالإستعداد للغروب، وعندها تبدأ علاقة سمرديّة بين الهواء والدماء والتراب. نبكي للقائنا الدني للمرّة الأولى، فهل نستيق الأسيء؟ فهل نبكي للإفتراق عن المهد الذي لطالما احتضنا بدمعٍ وقدم لنا كل ما يملك، وشاركنا الماء والهواء؟ هل نعني ثقل الحمل اللقي علينا وصعوبة الحصول على اللقمة؟ إننا في هذه الدنيا نرغم غالباً على افتراس اللقمة، فنبداً بالتسلخ. نتدرب على النطق والشهي والإدراك. نتعلم الحرف لتركب الجمال التي تجسد مفتاح الباب الذي يعمرسه ناطور لم يغمض له جفن منذ الأزل. تتذوق الجعاب فتميل إلى الورد العطرة، واللحن الحنون، واللوحمة العبرة، والشعر الموزون. وإذا نحى ليلة التخرج، نرمي القبعة ونطلق العنان للأمل. وعندما نخلع ثوب التخرج ندرّك مجيم الواقعة، وهنا تبدأ المشقة. ولكن بعد فترة قصيرة نرى في أهدم النفس الخلصة، فتمدّ جذورنا المشتركة لتفرخ في أرضنا الشجرة المثالية، حاملة ثمار عمر مرّ بسرعة البرق. وتمرّ أيام تظللها خيمة نرقاء نصبها الله لتعمينا في بريق ذهبه، تفرق أعيننا فيها. ويشاتق العمر إلى التراب ومزجه بالدماء. واستعداداً للغروب، ينتهي الإنسان من تركيب آخر قطعة من لوحته الفنية التي صممها الله له وركله عليها واشترط عليه إتقان تركيبها، ومزج ألوان هجرها، وهيأة إظهارها. وعند الرّحيل، يسلم الإنسان لوحته للعبور... إلى الشروق الأبدية.

نيفين القصار

الصفحة الثاني عشر - علوم الحياة

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

A digital image is made of millions of tiny colored points called "pixels". Pixels are similar in shape but different in colors. Placed altogether in a frame, they create the atmosphere, the shade, the warmth and the form. Although static, they draw a picture, tell a story, or describe an event. In this world, we are the pixels forming the whole picture, telling our own story, and making the event. Children of God in humanity, we are alike but also unique as individuals.

Unfortunately, the global frame, rich in opportunities and challenges, hides behind its promising expectations and enriching potentials the risk of inclusiveness. "Inclusiveness" is the new risk, the risk of forgetting our own gifts, potentials, and personal dreams. We are driven to be like others and behave like them, accept the de-facto situations, and if we feel like doing something, we aim at what is called "interactive" that could easily become "reactive" instead of being simply "active". We invent situations called "proactive" which simply means to start an action that triggers a reaction. Of course I am talking about the misuse of interactivity and pro-activity. The risk of this misuse is so high because we are not trained to use such tools. To illustrate the above I will relate to some examples.

Despite the Unifying potentials of globalization, we have to recognize that the divisions of the world are present among us. The question remains: what have we done until now? Did we properly use the technical potentials to eradicate poverty, promote healthcare, restore dignity of the oppressed, and liberate the prisoners of all kinds of modern slavery? We are all similar "Pixels" but similarity did not lead us to solidarity or unity. Inclusiveness puts us in the same melting pot, but makes us are more divided, scattered, torn and broken into factions, ethnicities, religions, confessions, classes, casts, north and south, poor and rich, strong and weak.

The new generation is challenged to monitor and transform globalization. Our Lebanese youth are called to work alongside peoples of the entire world for a radical transformation of our societies and most of all our hearts and minds.

We have become apathetic to suffering and injustice. Among us are many who suffer the consequences of economic globalization: persons, abused and yet caring for life and children who are denied their rights; youth living in economic insecurity and unemployment; those laboring under exploitative conditions; the many caught in unjust trade relationships and debt slavery. There are people with disabilities and others living at the margins of society. People of color are often the first and most painfully hit by poverty, those pushed away and alienated from the land, the earth - battered, depleted and exploited. Denied of their sustenance, these people are often the most vulnerable to diseases. We have to confess that many of us have failed to respond in solidarity.

We are tempted to give in to comfort and its empty promises when we ought to choose costly discipleship and change. We are driven to accept oppression and suffering as a given when we should keep our hope and advocate for justice and liberation. We are tempted to give in to materialism and the reign of money. We play to the rules of greed and conform to political and military power when we should align ourselves with the poor and excluded people. Let us not be afraid of change, or seek alternatives. Let us work for justice by resisting destructive global structures, proclaiming with hope the transformation of our world.

God, you send us out to care for the earth and to share all what is necessary for life and the community; to resist and to denounce all that denies life; to love our neighbors and to do what is just, so that where there was death, there will be life; so that your "Imprints" become "Happenings". So let Thy will on earth be.

FATHER GEORGE DIMAS



Teacher's Day: An Inspiring Celebration

Everyone hurried into the lunch hall sweeping the rain drops off their shoulders, taking the week's fatigue off along with their coats. It was an opportunity for all the family of the Four Sister Schools, without any exception, to gather in order to celebrate teacher's day. The celebration was organized by the Teachers' Committee in the Four Sister Schools and the schools' administration, and took place in the Gefinor, Rotana Hotel on Wednesday, March 8th. Father Dimas commenced with an inspiring message where he highlighted the very demanding yet achievable mission of educators whose ultimate reward is raising a generation we can rely on and be fond of. He indicated that our primary focus and concern will always be the learners since they are to take care of us when we grow old and to serve our country. He added that the current hardship faced by our country can be defied primarily through education. Ms. Dalida Rizk, a member of the Administrative Support Department, was afterwards honored for her 25 years of service. Then, Lunch was served and all the teachers, staff and monitors enjoyed the meal and the jolly music played by the band. The celebration was colored with lots of smiling, picture-taking, and warm wishes.



إلى زهرة قلبي، لك أمي

لكك عام ينتظر قسم الروضات نهار؟ أذار بفارغ الصبر.
لكك عام يمضي متعلمو ومعلمات هذا القسم تسطاً كبيراً من هذا
الشهر في التحضير لهذا اليوم.
لكك عام يمتلئ مبنى قسم الروضات بضحكات، ودموع فرحة،
وأغاني وموسيقى...

ولم يخبرج هذا العام عن الألووف، فقد كان ممتلاً بالفاجآت
والنشاطات. نبدأ بصفوف الحضنة حيث رقصت التعلومت مع أمهاتهن على أنغام
الموسيقى، ومن ثم تعاونوا على تزيين الدسوقة التي حملت في قلبها صور
الأطفال. قالت احدى التعللمات: «ماما ضعبي اللفظ مكانه، حان وقت الانتقال الى
زاوية اخرى». وكانت تلك التعلمة تمسك بيد امها لتقودها الى زاوية الألعاب
الحرة حيث كانت التعلومت يجمعون اجزاء الورد المبعثرة للإكمال الصورة.
«فأحلى وردة لأحلى ماما». وبعد انتهاء النشاط، كان لابد من تناول الحلويات
التي صنعتها أيدي متعلمي صف الحضنة.

أما في صفوف الروضة الأولى، فقد تنقل التعلومت وأمهاتهن من
صف إلى آخر مع قرع كلك جرس كك خمس عشرة دقيقة. فتشاركوا في تزيين
الصعوت التي حملت صور فضك الربيع، وأنشدوا الأغاني التي تعبر عن هذه
المناسبة، كما تسابقوا في صف الرياضة. وتعالق هتافات التعلمت تشجيعاً
لأمهاتهن: «يلا يا ماما، انت الألووف، انت الألووف». فكانت كك متعلم يمتنى أن
تفوز والدته على الأخريرات. وفي ختام هذا النهار قدم الأولاد لأمهاتهن
قلوباً تحمل أسماءهم.

وبالوصول إلى صفوف الروضة الثانية، قام التعلومت وأمهاتهن
بالتدوين على كتاب، كان قد أعد مسبقاً، للأهبة بالأشياء المفضلة لدى الأمهات،
فذكر منها على سبيل المثال: الوجبة المفضلة، اللون المفضل، العطر المفضل. فلنا
نسمع صوتاً من هنا يقول: «ماما؟ ما هي وجبتك المفضلة؟» وآخر من هناك
يتساوك: «يا ماما! أي عطر تفضعين؟». كما صنعوا آلات موسيقية من أدوات بسيطة
تعالق أنفاسها في أرجاء الغرفة وكأنها في حفلة موسيقية. وعلى أورات وردة
ظهوراً معاً أجمل التعابير أرفقوها بصور لهم. أما الختام فكانت بالغناء والإتشاد.

A visit to the Central Bank

On March 23rd, Grade 12 Sociology and Economics learners visited the Central Bank. They were received by a guide there who introduced them with the bank's structure. Afterwards, the learners attended a presentation where they were informed about the functions and responsibilities of the central bank which was the subject under discussion in their economics classes. They took a closer look at how the bank is responsible for the production of the Lebanese money bills, protecting and supervising other private local banks, maintaining the value of the Lebanese Lira with respect to other currencies, following the government's money and assets issues, etc...

The second presentation they attended was conducted by the foreign exchange head manager who briefed them with the relationship between the Lebanese economy and the global economy. He discussed the fact that trading and politics have a major impact on the stability of the Lebanese economy.

The final presentation was given by an employee from the Information Technology Department at the bank. He explained that the various departments and sections of the bank function through systems, software, and machines.

The visit was finalized by a tour of the central bank's mini museum where the learners had the chance to see money bills which date 100 years back.

Sara Raydan - Salim Jurdi

Grade 12 SE

محاكمة في الصف السادس «ب»

في سياق مادة التربية المدنية التي تُدرّس في الصف السادس، نمة محور بعنوان «الدولة اللبنانية، أسسها ومؤسساتها» يشرح دور كلٍّ من المدعي، والمدعى عليه، والمحامين، والقضاة، والحضور. واعترافاً بأهمية الجانب التطبيقي الذي يرافق مرحلة التعلم، مثل متعلمو الشعبة «ب» في نهاية الحصّة محاكمة حضرها كلٌّ من منسق المادة، ورئيسة القسم، ومعلمات الصف.

تمت المرافعة بحضور محامي الادعاء المتمثل بالتعلمة «ملا مصطفى»، ومحامي الدفاع «يارا شدياق»، تحت إشراف القاضي «أحمد شمسي». مثلت التعلمة «دينا لادقي» دور المدعى عليها التي أدمنت بسبب غشها في الامتحان. أما الشهود فكانوا عبارة عن المعلمة، والشاهدة، والمساعدة في المحكمة. وقد مثلت هذه الشخصيات على التوالي «سارة نابلسي» و«فريح ناصر الدين» و«مريم محمود». وشكّل سائر متعلمو الصف الحضور.

نالت المحاكمة إعجاب الجميع نظراً للواقعية التي تخلت بها وللأداء الرائع الذي أظهره المتعلمون استناداً إلى ما تعلموه من نظريات خلال المحور المذكور أعلاه.

جويس شرفان

مدرسة مادة التربية المدنية

Creative Imprints

From November 2005 up till Saturday March 18, 2006 a large number of our Upper Elementary, Intermediate & Secondary learners at the Sister Schools were busy preparing for the Science, Technology & Math Fair. In fact, the fair helps us educators help our learners develop many skills including the scientific process, logical thinking and group work. It can also be considered as the barometer of creativity.



However, the learners were not the only ones working hard for this event; several committees of Science, Math and Technology teachers were formed to facilitate the learners' work and ensure the success of the Fair. The judging committee included teachers, administration, and parents. It checked the projects and rated them according to previously set criteria. As for the data entry, we would like to thank the volunteer learners from G12 at SMOC whose output was very fast and reliable. Finally, the winning projects were announced and they were: Cloning, Saving the Bay, Wind generator, Solar System, Solid Figures, Le Cercle, Extremom Problem, and Towers of Hanoi.





Zoom in on the Activities

Where are all the learners going? It's not time to leave yet! Are you wondering what's happening? It's activity time! The learners are busy joining their different activity-areas. Some seem excited but then some are not. They are becoming more demanding every year. Nevertheless, the activities are being updated yearly to satisfy their needs and fit all tastes and interests. Though it's a tough job, but the outcome is always rewarding, for the ultimate purpose of those activities is to broaden the learners' horizons and introduce them to real life applications.

Some of the new activities launched this year are: Engraving, Puppet-Making, Mosaic, Artistic Make-up and Interior Design.

To sum up, I'll leave you with few excerpts written by our learners about their activities:

"Engraving made me proud because it helped me in my difficulties in drawing." **Mohamad Mehio-G5B**

"Puppet-Making is easily understood; it reflects who we are. It's filled with life, colors and beauty...It was an interesting experience....to make a non-living puppet a living one..." **Ghida Itani-G7B**

"we were introduced to Artistic Make-up in general and how we can use it in our daily life... it gave those interested in pursuing this domain at a tertiary level a great idea of what it's about..."

Youssef Al-Zein-11SB

"Though interior design is personally not what I aim to do at university, we can't deny the fact that this activity has widened our concepts. For instance, we learned how to divide the rooms of a house, scale its furniture, chose the appropriate colors, etc... only in few sessions!"

Riwa Kabbani & Dania Hariri-G12 LS

My book, My Treasure

Joseph Addison, the famous English politician and writer, once said, "Reading to the mind is what exercise is to the body." The raving technological storm has made its way primarily to the means our young generations resort to for entertainment. With the introduction and the fast spread of video games, computer games, internet chatting, ...etc, learners' reading habits have diminished. Because we highly believe in the importance and the benefits of reading as a leisure activity, we decided to conduct various projects and activities which help today's educators redirect and encourage learners of all ages to read on their own.

The first step was to increase the number of story telling activities and library visits. Moreover, a storytelling techniques workshop was conducted where Teachers shared their storytelling skills and ideas. Another step in this process was the preparation and the launching of the National Reading Week in the Preschool and Lower Elementary Divisions under the motto "My book, My Treasure". The various extended reading activities aim at showing the learners first hand evidence of how fun and beneficial reading is as well as encouraging their parents to read to them. On the other hand, we suggested that the story of the first day in this week be about reading. Thus, Ms. May Shbaklo came up with the idea of writing a book, «أنا لا أحب القراءة», about a child who doesn't like to read and how he reached the realization that reading is fun and useful after he spent a National Reading Week in class. The book was illustrated by Ms. Rania Al Kurdi and is to become part of every Lower Elementary class's mini classroom library.

In conclusion, and as Walt Disney said: "There is more treasure in books than in pirates' loot on Treasure Island."

Missan Stouhi - IEN Assistant



About the Cultural Program...

Wishing to look at the Cultural Program through learners' eyes, we asked them to evaluate the program; here is what some wrote:

I have been asked to comment on all aspects of the cultural program. At first it sounded hard since transmitting the message this program carries is not an easy task, as the subjects, discussions and presentations sometimes get lost due to constant distractions. Then I came to realize the one big problem which is quite perceptible. Certain individuals have lost the will to listen, comprehend and evaluate, whereby they also influence their friends thus spreading the plague. What shocks me the most though is that many treasures may be hidden inside the minds of those unwilling people which may prove useful for others. I have constantly realized that when the same concerned people come up to present and participate in triggering the discussions, they then show utter wisdom and concern since it is for their own benefit. This proves that despite the fact that they sometimes try to be a parasite and distract others, they in fact have great capabilities. Coming to the brighter side of the program, we must realize that some people make it very rich by presenting their ideas, opinions and comments. That is what keeps the program going. These people are willing and determined to make a change no matter what.

This feeling I kept inside for long, as I sat in the chair of our auditorium watching each and every head turn left and right, trying to keep track of all what's happening. I choose to remain silent, to observe and absorb and weigh, and express myself afterwards.

Mira Abou-Hachem - G11H



في عالم الدمى

موزار، باباغينو، الكمان، البيانو، ألف وردة، البذرة الصغيرة، الأرض، الريح،... عبارات ربما تحمل معاني متنوعة لكثيرين، ولكن لها مدلول خاص لتعلمي قسم الروضات ومتعلمي المرحلة الابتدائية - الحلقة الأولى؛ فهي تجسد مضمون المسرحيتين اللتين شاهدوها في مسرح مدرسة البشارة اللارثوذكسية.

ففي مسرحية الشجرة الذهبية، رافق متعلمونا عيوق، بطل المسرحية، في بحثه عن شجرة الحياة من خلال التمييز بين مقطوعة «باباغينو» ومقطوعات أخرى لموزار معزوفة على آلات مختلفة (كالبانو، والكمان، وغيرها من الآلات الموسيقية). وهكذا دخل متعلمونا عالم الموسيقى الكلاسيكية وتعرفوا إلى بعض المقطوعات من معزوفات أحد عباقرة الموسيقى «ولفغانج موزار» الذي نحتفل هذا العام بذكرى ميلاده المائتين والخمسين. ومن جبهة أخرى، أخبرت مسرحية «ألف وردة ووردة» المتعلمين عن تلك البذرة الصغيرة التي لا تطيق الانتظار طويلاً لتكبر، فترفض النزول إلى الأرض وتفضل الذهاب مع الريح. سررنا بمرافقة تلك البذرة في رحلتها ومغامراتها مع الريح، وتعلمنا أن نحترم الوقت والتغيرات وأن نعي أهمية المراحل التي يجب أن تمر بها البذرة لتصبح وردة. فلنتعلم إذاً أن نتنظر المواسم في أوانها و لننتذكر دائماً أنه علينا أحياناً أن ندع الأيام تفعل ما تشاء.

أعتقد أن البرنامج الثقافي في مدرستنا له أهمية كبيرة وتأثير عالٍ علينا بصفتنا متعلمي اليوم وشباب الغد في وطن التحديات والمصاعب والمسؤوليات. يعكس هذا البرنامج المواضيع التي تطرحها تساؤلاتنا الغامضة وأفكارنا الحرة حول إشكاليات أسرار الحياة وما ترمز إليه من مبادئ وأهداف وعقائد وقيم وأخلاق. وأرى أن هذا البرنامج هو برنامج توجيهي تثقيفي يكشف لنا ما نخشيه لنا الحياة من خبرة وأسرار وسمات، وينير لنا الدروب ومفارقها في زمن التحولات على كل المستويات، كما يتيح لنا أن نتعمق في شؤوننا اليومية وتقومها من أجل رسم أفضل لعالم حياتنا المستقبلية. ولكن إناء هذه الأبعاد العميقة التي يحملها البرنامج الثقافي لهذه السنة، يسعني القول إن ما عرض على خشبتنا قد ظل مضمونه على الرغم من الأفكار التي تضمنتها؛ فقد تعاطينا معه بسطحية، ولم نتعمق في جذور المواضيع المطروحة فلم نكتف لها وكأنتها مواضيع جامدة لا علاقة لها بحياتنا اليومية.

لذلك يتوجب علينا نحن المتعلمين أن نكتف قراءاتنا وحواراتنا وتواصلنا الفكري والثقافي. كما علينا الاستفادة من كل التجارب الثقافية والفكرية والعلمية، سيما تلك التي تُعرض خلال البرنامج الثقافي.

زياد ذبيان

الصفحة الحادي عشر «ب»

What are we but little pixels occupying a tiny part of God's Creation? Our essence is but a bunch of abstractions: beliefs, behaviors, talents, cycles, knowledge...What counts are our values and faith in Him and His wonders. We come, and go, and leave an imprint behind, hoping someone would pick up from there. We blend, multiply and diminish. We live by this hope, surpassing hardship, and praying that every action will be taken for the sake of the Creation!

Mar7aba, shu bye3neelkon hal 2ousloub?

Imagine living with no advanced technology: no TV, no cellular phones, no Internet. Many will find it hard to survive, right?

The luxury of technology has been taking over our lives for quite some time; however, few agree that it may backfire at us in the future if it develops out of control. Consider this article's title. This is the writing mode used in chatting and in text messaging and it's spreading quite fast. Do you think this is a potential threat to our language and culture? The purpose of this essay is to show you what the arguments for and against this approach are all about.

Teenagers, especially chatters, support this technique. Their outlooks basically state that this whole method was developed to make chatting easier and more fun to use since typing Arabic characters can be quite complex to some. They also argue that this form of typing is not meant to be formal in the first place, and thus it doesn't pose a problem. It's as if we invented a new method to communicate in our own language, thus reflecting our resourcefulness and creativity.

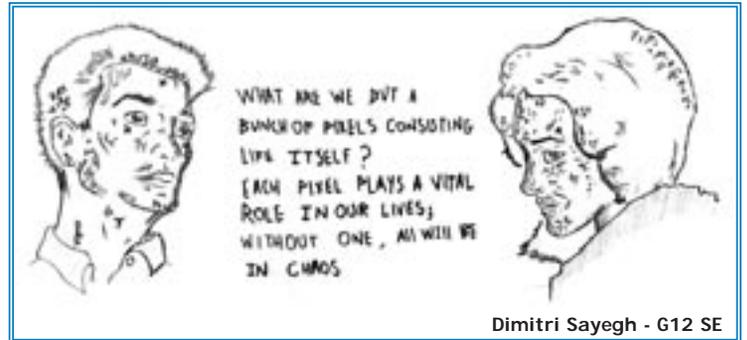
On the other hand, some people argue that this originated because certain chatting programs are not Arabic enabled, as they were established in the west. So this method is used as an alternative to Arabic. Here, there exist complaints about the fact that Arabs are considered as followers in this sense because they are not acknowledged in Western technology and they are believed to contribute very little to it. Typing Arabic characters can be just as easy as typing in English once someone practices it over and over. Yet, will anyone bother to start typing in Arabic after he/ she got used to typing in English and using the above mentioned method?

This is a constant controversy. Is typing the Arabic language in English characters a method that facilitates our lives or does it strip us of our language which is our cultural essence? It's left for us to decide and act accordingly, and it's about time we take a stand.

We should realize that we are capable of innovating and contributing rather than merely adopting and adapting.

Laure Makarem and Omar Daou

G9 B



The Missing Pixel

In our differences, we come together
To put together a picture that would last forever
Of all shapes and sizes that come to mind
A formation of an imprint humanity leaves behind.
Yet when all the parts have been collected
One very miniscule part has been neglected
It fits in the middle, the only one with straight sides
But its place in the structure is hollow.
Many of our actions have accumulated to its loss
Such as fighting over control
and who should be the boss
The wars and destruction that we have created
Are because of power and hatred.
When this search finally dawns to an end
The result is a structure in which we all blend and the
middle piece keeps us united in harmony; Regardless of
our differences, we will be one for eternity.

Tala Kardas - G10 B

A Tick and a Tock

A magical tick that turns tadpoles into frogs,
princesses into maids, mountains to red rivers,
breadcrumbs into gold, dollars into ashes, sorrows
into memories, dreams into dust, life into pixels...

A haughty tock which hits and simultaneously
strikes a man's nerves; an everlasting enemy, a
materializing friend, a motivation into the unknown,
a leader into the future, a source of prestige...

A tick which circles for as long as time
cannot run, over and over again, periodically, until
it tocks, leaning over my back, with pride, laughing
out loud, "your time is up!"

Dima Rashid

G12 GS

The Kordz: pixels in "Interaction"

They started out as members of the 92-93 AUB music club. "People in the club sing, play, perform, and then just quit once they graduate..." argues Moe, the lead singer of The Kordz. "The difference between us and them is that we chose to commit and to maintain no matter what," he adds. When asked about the members of the band, Moe highlighted the importance of each and everyone. "Each member of the band adds his own artistic touch on our music and performances," argues Moe.

All the members were behind the motivation of their hit single "Last Call" which was released in Lebanon and France and proved to be a success. He argues that the song was a very rewarding accomplishment.

When asked about where the idea of the song came about, Moe said that it was originally recorded as a potential sound track for the movie "RollerBall". After it was not included in the soundtrack, the song stayed "in the drawer" two years before it was released. The song was produced over a single weekend.

This proves that when someone determines to finalize something, they will be able to do that if they direct all their efforts towards it. The song attained the status of a bestselling single. Its oriental aspect spiced it up and contributed to its success.

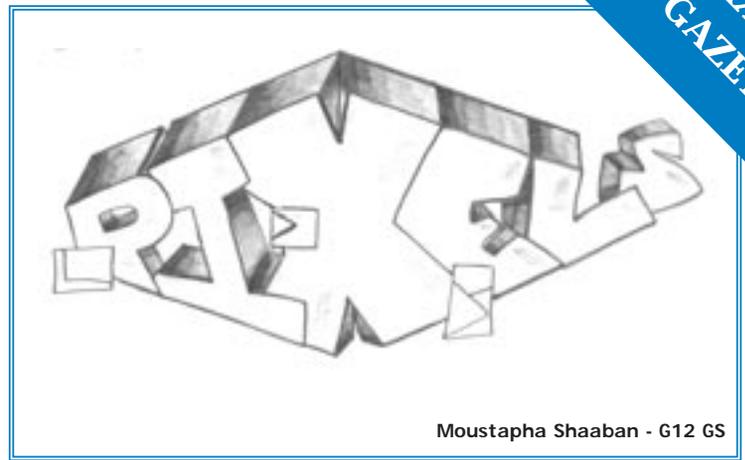
Some people still find it hard to believe that this oriental/ rock combination is the product of a purely Lebanese band. "We insisted on adding the Oriental touch that makes us unique," says Moe.

The track has a deceptively tranquil opening with the sound of a violin to resemble the sound of the rababa and a background distortion. Then suddenly, an alternative rock touch breaks out. It's a smooth fluctuation between oriental romance and western rock music.

Moe points out that Lebanon doesn't give bands which don't sing mainstream music the opportunity to flourish as desired and this is why none of the band members could afford to be a full time musician.

However, he is convinced that good music imposes itself on the individual. The Kordz are thrilled that they have created something new instead of being followers.

Moe concludes, "It's not just about one band



Moustapha Shaaban - G12 GS

A Movie about Lebanon

Bosta is not just a movie about a group of dancer friends reunited to dance after the war. Zooming into the smallest pixel, one realizes that it represents Lebanon, in all its aspects and regions. The people in the Bosta have nothing in common but their talents and association with the Lebanese Dabké.

The Bosta, we are told, was manufactured in the year 1943, thus depicting with perfection a country on the road to independence.

Subsequently, some members of the Dabké group try to enforce a "Digi" touch, where the Dabké steps are merged with some western/ techno moves, and so is the music. They were fighting for adding a foreign twist to the mentioned traditional dance. Through the course of the movie, the idea of the Digi-Dabké induces contradictory feelings among group members, each with his/ her own worries and opinions.

The Digi factor was rather supposed to add some flavor to the performance instead of dissecting the group. Disputes may lead to the aggravation of conflict, and the result is war! Yet, we are guided through the characters' quest into resolving their conflict. The group decides to defy hardship and to crown their Bosta with something authentic and precious.

Nadine Tayyour
G12 HP

in one country. It's not just about us being from the Arab world. It's about people- everywhere- this entire universal thing."

The Kordz have succeeded to bring worlds-apart together through their music, even through a single song.

Rana Abi Abdalla
G12 SE

Melting Pot or Salad Bowl?

In an attempt to examine learners' views about the future of the world we conducted a poll among G12 learners who were introduced with two models which tried to anticipate what our future "globe" would look like.

The theories are rooted in the fact that various technological breakthroughs (Internet, cellular phones,...) have inevitably brought the various countries of the world closer to each other. As a result, the first model suggests that our future globe would look like a Melting Pot. It pictures the world as a cake, a new product with unique characteristics that are different from those of its ingredients. The countries of the world will blend and merge to become a new country with new traits and a new culture.

The second proposed model is the "Salad Bowl". Cheerleaders of this theory agree that the world will succeed to become one unit, a "pleasant combination", yet each country or each "ingredient" would preserve its own characteristics.

Apart from these two models, we had to include an alternative in the poll which highlights the fact that there are many countries in conflict and they will remain so and will never come together as a "pleasant combination".

As a result, only 9% of the learners hoped that the world will become a melting pot. In the course of the discussion however, they said that this model, like every other, has its advantages and disadvantages as it will always be nice to have different countries to visit and learn about. 38% of the learners were rather pessimistic, and choose the alternative argument expecting that the world will never be free of conflicts.

The Salad Bowl model got the highest percentage -53%- where learners insisted that when countries join together in a pleasant combination, each will preserve its own culture and characteristics.

This relatively higher percentage reflected the fact that our learners are hopeful that the countries of the world will resolve their conflicts one day and that "World Peace" is actually attainable!

The global picture can be constructed, and each pixel would be independent and different, yet, coherent and crucial.

A Tiny creature... A Breathtaking Trip

A turtle is believed to be slow, shy and ignorant to some. The slightest movement or sound would startle her, and she would immediately bury her head and her limbs in her shell. But the turtle this time decided to defy and face her fears. She wanted to wander around her country, Lebanon, to observe and get to better know it. It was a sunny winter day, right after the rainstorm has surrendered and retreated. She walked slowly, leaving a footprint on the snow and on the wet grass. She roamed, silently, slowly, taking in every scene, every sound, and every smell. The turtle saw beautiful landscapes getting ready to wear their green glittery gowns. She came across rocky mountains with unbelievable shapes and sizes. She kept on walking and didn't stop, reflecting on the beauty she had missed out on before she decided to get out of her shell and take the chance to see what she has missed out on. It has been said that "the treasures of life are hidden in God's smallest and weakest creations." The tiny turtle has made the effort to witness what no one else had seen. Her trip was never-ending. There is much more to see. She kept going. She thought that the wonderful nature of Lebanon is a priority for anyone to see before searching for beauty somewhere else.

Lama Fadda - Gr 12 HP

U unique

All humans are pixels of the same picture,
They all lust for the same future,
Some are really annoying,
Others are unnaturally amusing.
Some are soul mates,
It's in the hand of fate.
Many are like valuable gems,
They are too perfect to let us get to them.
There are few with hearts of gold,
But most humans carry a heart stone cold.
Even though we differ in our personality,
We all live in the same reality.
You may find many who are romantic,
You may find many who are poetic.
But our goal is the same,
We are not after the fame.
You see, our personality is what makes us unique,
Put us all together, we'll be complete.

Dania Ghalayini - G9 B