

HARTLAND INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL // ISSUE 5 //

EDITED BY MELINA GARAUD AND JENIN AL SHALABI

From the HART

The background is a complex, layered collage of geometric shapes and colors. It features a dark navy blue base with various patterns overlaid. There are large, irregular shapes in red, orange, and yellow. A prominent feature is a large, textured gold-colored shape that resembles a torn piece of paper or a brushstroke, positioned behind the word 'HART'. The collage also includes several white, angular, cross-like or star-like shapes that appear to be cut out or layered on top of the other colors. The overall effect is vibrant and abstract, suggesting a theme of art or design.

CONTENTS

The background of the entire page is an abstract, textured composition of various colors including deep blues, greens, reds, and yellows. Overlaid on this background is a large, stylized handprint in a light, sandy brown color. The handprint is positioned vertically, with its fingers pointing towards the top of the page. The texture of the background appears to be created with thick brushstrokes or a similar artistic technique.

- 3 Editors' Note
- 4 The Gulf Tiger or The City of Gold?
- 6 Emirate to Emirate
- 8 Evolution via Education
- 12 50 Years of Tradition
- 14 Rising Skylines
- 15 Interview
- 18 Interview with Akari
- 19 The UAE - A Home for all
- 21 5 Great Places to Visit in the UAE
- 23 The UAE, influencing the world.
- 25 50 Years of our Anthem

Editors' Note

“Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home.”

— Edith Sitwell

This issue was particularly special to us - for a plethora of reasons. Firstly, due to our recent National Day celebrations - which allowed us to delve into the rich history of the UAE while also investigating the numerous accolades that the country has planned for the future. We got the chance to take a closer look at the core values of resilience, tolerance and creativity upon which this nation has been built - and examine how these same values can be implemented into our school community. We can all learn something from the UAE's success.

To end this issue, we'd like to wish all our wonderful readers a serene and relaxing winter break after what has been an eventful first term!

THE GULF TIGER OR THE CITY OF GOLD?

**EITHER WAY, DUBAI IS A
WONDERFUL PLACE TO BE!**

BY GAUTAM NAMBIAR

**"ITS INCREDIBLE
TRANSFORMATION
FROM A BARREN
LAND TO A HUB OF
LUXURY"**

BY GAUTAM NAMBAIR

I am sure you have heard it before. But I would still like to reiterate that we are incredibly fortunate to be enjoying the spoils of this indulgent city. Have you ever pondered over why the marvellous city of Dubai is often referred to as the 'Gulf Tiger'? Well, it is because of the extremely thriving economy that is bustling with activity and growth. A tiger-economy refers to a city with a burgeoning economy and wealth-generation potentials. The currency of the United Arab Emirates, which is the AED, has remained stable and strong in comparison with the US dollar.

The city boasts of a steady growth rate with a 5% GDP (Gross Domestic Product) rise every year. This undoubtedly makes Dubai a financially stable city to live in.

Another reason for the nickname 'Gulf Tiger' is due to the city's rapid development. Its incredible transformation from a barren land to a hub of luxury, modern architecture, and shopping has made Dubai attractive to people across the globe. The discovery and export of oil in the UAE in 1962 set in motion several events which led the UAE and the city to diversify, and become a landmark for tourism and regional trading, among others.



**“
UNQUESTIONABLY,
DUBAI IS ONE OF THE
BEST PLACES IN THE
WORLD. EVEN
THOUGH THIS DOES
SOUND QUITE VAGUE,
DUBAI HAS IT ALL.**

Furthermore, Dubai is famously also known as the ‘City of Gold’ as it capitalised on its strategic geographical location and developed itself as an important international port for trade and exchange. The city also holds an abundance of precious resources, and Dubai owns 29% of the gold global trade market. Dubai’s location helps make the city a key trade market. During the span of nine months in the beginning of 2020, gold trade in the UAE was valued at 41 billion euros. Gold is certainly the city’s most lucrative export following oil; thus, the sobriquet perfectly fits the city in all aspects.

Unquestionably, Dubai is one of the best places in the world. Even though this does sound quite vague, Dubai has it all - from the world’s tallest tower to the largest dancing fountain show in the world, the city does fascinate and enthrall residents and tourists alike.

Recently, Dubai has been crowned one of the world’s top five cities. The city has a “alluring blend of over-the-top experiences, Arab heritage, and luxury shopping,” according to the report. Inarguably, Dubai is the go-to city on everybody’s bucket list.

*(Source – Resonance Consultancy
World Best Cities – 2021)*

**“
THE CITY ALSO HOLDS
AN ABUNDANCE OF
PRECIOUS RESOURCES,
AND DUBAI OWNS 29%
OF THE GOLD GLOBAL
TRADE MARKET.**





Emirate to Emirate

BY DAVID WHITE

As a person who has lived in the UAE for their whole life, I can see that there are so many things to explore in the UAE, from the magnificent skyscrapers and glorious skylines to the rich in culture museums and desert landscapes. Why not come along with me, and I will show you why the Emirates of the UAE are so special!

Dubai

First, we go to Dubai, the most populated emirate. This emirate has places like Bur Dubai, a history filled area in Dubai where you can take an abra (a boat) and explore the Souqs including the gold souqs, with the most gold you will ever see in one place. It has the second-largest mall in the world (Dubai Mall), and even the tallest building in the world (Burj Khalifa)! Emirates airline is the largest airline in the Middle East and fourth in the world and is also the number one for in-flight entertainment.

Fujairah

Fujairah, which is ruled by Hammad bin Mohammed al-Sharqi, is home to many marvellous scenes like Sandy Beach, where you can snorkel and see the kaleidoscope of colours in the reef. As well as this, an important part of Fujairah is Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque. This extraordinary mosque was built in 1996 as a symbol of tolerance & respect and has 82 domes and over 1000 columns! The Fujairah Fort, which was built in 1670 and is the oldest fort in the UAE, will grant you with a glimpse of the history of this emirate.

"As well as this, an important part of Fujairah is Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque. This extraordinary mosque was built in 1996 as a symbol of tolerance and respect."

Umm al Quwain

Umm al Quwain is the second smallest emirate in the UAE, nevertheless, there is a lot to it! Do you like water parks? Go to Dreamland with rides such as the 'Kamikaze' and the 'Twisting Dragons.'

You can also take a trip to the UAQ national museum and discover the secrets and history of Umm al Quwain. Popular sports here are falconry and camel racing.



"From the market lovers Blue Souq to the rare artefacts displayed at the Museum of Islamic Civilization, Sharjah will reward you will a glimpse of history. "

Abu Dhabi

Abu Dhabi is the largest emirate, and the capital. It focuses on oil and commerce as its main exports and is home to the ruler of the emirates, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al Nahyan. Aside from this, there is the Louvre, a spectacular art museum, Jebel Hafit mountain, which is in Al Ain, and Ferrari world, which has the fastest rollercoaster in the world (Formula Rossa) and will surely raise your adrenaline. Al Ain in Abu Dhabi is where UAE was founded and the birthplace of the first ruler of the nation, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al Nahyan.

Ajman

Ajman, the smallest emirate, is best known for its cultural attractions like the Dhow Yard and the Ajman Museum. It is only 259km² but despite this, it has the best affordable university in the UAE (Ajman University), the beautiful al Zorah natural reserve and Wasit wetland centre.

Sharjah

From the market lovers Blue Souq to the rare artefacts displayed at the Museum of Islamic Civilization, Sharjah will reward you will a glimpse of history. With a population of 1.2 million, it was named the cultural capital of the Arab world by UNESCO. It is also home to the 'Big Red' which is a sand dune of 100 meters and is great fun to dune bash and sandboard.

Evolution via Education

The development of the UAE through diversity in education and technology - an interview with Mrs Fiona Cottam.



BY JENIN AL SHALABI AND SAKINA FAKHRUDDIN

In celebration of the UAE's 50th National Day, we are bringing you an exclusive interview with our very own, Mrs Fiona Cottam. Mrs Cottam has a vast array of experience - positioning her as a forward-thinking educator and a brilliant leader. We asked Mrs Cottam to discuss the development of the UAE from an educational and technological standpoint. She shares her views on the sense of diversity, community and tolerance that sits at the very heart of the UAE.

When did you decide to move to the UAE? And why?

I first came to Dubai in 1998, when my husband and I had spent three days in Dubai for our honeymoon. We found Dubai to be a fascinating place. We stayed at a little hotel down by JBR - the majority of the landscape was just sand, the Burj was half-built, and it was certainly not the Dubai we know today.

The following year, in 1999, my sister-in-law got a teaching job in Dubai. My husband and I would visit her a few times a year in Dubai, and every time we got on the plane to go home, we thought to ourselves 'Why are we going home? Wouldn't this be a great place to stay?'.

And then in 2008, I applied for a teaching job with GEMS Education - they brought me out to Dubai, and that really was the start of it! I worked as a principal at Jumeirah College for 7 years, and then came to Hartland.

"I still have really fond memories of the students there, in terms of their resilience, work ethic and determination - their aspiration was really important."



What has been the most significant lesson you've learnt from students you've taught over the years?

Every school I've been in has been filled with great young people. One of the first schools I was in was a tough school - it wasn't necessarily an easy school to work in. I still have really fond memories of the students there, in terms of their resilience, work ethic and determination - their aspiration was really important.

When I came to Dubai, I was even more impressed. I think that this city imbues confidence in people to have aspirations, to believe that anything is possible. So the young people I've met here have been even more extraordinary - because they had a very positive outlook on life, a positive culture, and they celebrated each other's achievements. There was just a different ethos, a different feel, a different sense of positivity which I think stems from Dubai itself. It comes from the very core of the leaders of the country, but also the people which have chosen to live here.

Because I think that to come here takes courage. Your parents have to take a risk to pack their bags and move to somewhere that's very different. So they are risk-takers. They are courageous. They've got spirit and ambition. And all of this is passed down to their children. So it creates a positive environment where the sky is the limit. Nowhere else is like Dubai - it just breeds positivity, and so the young people also radiate that same positive outlook.

How do you think globalisation has affected UAE's culture?

I think walls have been broken down in terms of gender and ethnicity and who people are - their colour, their creed. Old Dubai was very white-expat, with many Indians making up the workforce that built the city. But I think that's changed. It has changed the demographic of the typical ex-pat, meaning that we're much more diverse as a city, and that breaks down walls within itself. Take our school, for example, our school is a microcosm for the world: we have 72 nationalities! We have different cultures, faiths and upbringings.

And there aren't really many cities in the world with this kind of diversity. And even in the most diverse places, it often conglomerates into pockets whereas here, it's open to everybody.

What do national subjects such as Moral Education and Social Studies add to the curriculum?

If you were based in the UK, you might often do subjects based around ethics, such as religious education which is very similar to Islamic Education. But I think it's quite forward-thinking to introduce subjects such as Moral Education and Social Studies because they take on many global issues in terms of diversity and the challenges we face in the world, whether that is to do with climate change, geopolitical issues, or immigration - all of these challenges that are vital for young people to be aware of.

Learning about these issues make us very culturally aware of the rest of the world. It also challenges us as individuals in terms of our values, morality, and our sense of being. This links very closely to "The Hartland Way" and concepts that underpin the school. Social Studies gives us an authentic real perspective of UAE's history and its place in the world. The role it has in terms of, political change and influence, both as a negotiator and a peacekeeper, but also as a leading entity - for example, Expo 2020 is a huge accolade, and then, the next COP meeting is being hosted here!

So straight away, this country is making sure that it's right at the front of everything - and of course, that's what Social Studies does, in terms of ensuring we understand our place in the world and the UAE's place in the world.



So I think they're important subjects - as they offer a different breadth. They give students the opportunity to discuss and debate - it enriches us and allows students to realise the difference they can make in the world.

Obviously, the UAE's leadership plays a paramount role in its numerous accolades, what is one lesson we can take away from the UAE's leadership?

You look at the old videos of Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum as a child, growing up surrounded by desert. And today, he is surrounded by wealth and skyscrapers beyond belief. One lesson we can take away from him is the importance of having a vision, having a dream. I know he has immense wealth which perhaps made it easier to implement his vision, but I'm sure there were numerous times when he was told that his vision was crazy, or ridiculous. The great thing about his leadership is that he's forward-thinking. When he introduced the Tolerance Project and invited the Pope in, he demonstrated high levels of compassion. And while there might be an economic reason behind some of these negotiations - does it matter? What does matter is the bravery and the courage to extend a hand of friendship to different faiths and countries. He leads by example - ensuring that the world becomes a more tolerant place and he exemplifies this through his actions.

How does the diversity within UAE schools affect the curriculum & discussion within the classroom?

A lot of students were born here, with their parents having immigrated a long time ago - but our ethnic culture around who we are is still important. I'm very proud to be Irish: I know lots about my history, culture, beliefs and values. All those things influence what you say, your choices, your opinion on things. So that diversity allows us to sit together and explore different perspectives. And perspective is important. Because unless you try to understand how another person feels or thinks, or the challenges they face, then you don't have a real understanding of who we are as mankind. So having that diversity should make us more compassionate, tolerant and empathetic - and more interested in learning about others and their traditions. So it enriches us and allows us to focus less on our differences, and instead have better discussions about what unites us.

"What does matter is the bravery and the courage to extend a hand of friendship to different faiths and countries. He leads by example - ensuring that the world becomes a more tolerant place and he exemplifies this through his actions."

Do attitudes in the classroom vary between the UK and the UAE?

How so?

"It enriches us and allows us to focus less on our differences, and instead have better discussions about what unites us."

It's probably a huge generalisation to say attitudes are different in the UK - attitudes vary based on the school and the environment. I think we're very fortunate from a socio-economic point of view, as we're all quite privileged here. We live rich, vibrant lives here. I think there are different discussions that happen in different countries around the world. I think it is important to recognise that we don't have a vote here - we don't vote on the political system or governance of this country. Whereas in the UK, there will be some discussion about politics and about ethics. The leadership of this country do listen to the people and implement their views into policy changes - but I think the voice of the people is stronger in a country with an elected government. There will naturally be a difference in discussions - is one better than the other? They're different, and they teach us different things. There is definitely good in both.

Where do you think the cultural development of the UAE is headed in 20 years' time?

Look, I think that we all know that within the next 10 years, technology will change exponentially. We keep saying that forever, but actually, the rate of progress is significant. The UAE alone has just announced 21 billion dollars of investment in tech next year - they estimate that will be the budget. The world is definitely changing. In terms of education, I think schools are communities, and communities matter. Do I think we'll have a more blended approach and more flexibility? Yes, I do.

Do I think that's a good thing? Yes, I do. But do I think that schools as entities will continue to exist? Yes, I do. Because human beings are social animals - we enjoy the company of other people and we feed off of it. So I think schools will continue, but I think education will have to change in terms of better skill development. And I don't mean soft skills like empathy and communication, but I mean skills in terms of technology, and how we use it - things that you and I can't even dream about because they don't exist yet. So, will there still be exams in the same way there are today? At some point, I'm sure they'll change completely.

At some point, we'll all have a little microchip behind our ears that allows us to just speak our exams! We laugh about ideas like this now, but why not? Wouldn't it be far easier for me to write an essay through oracy?

Things will definitely change. There will be that capacity to switch to different languages instantaneously and communicate in different ways and I think that will impact who we are.

Overall, Mrs. Cottam's marvellous answers have allowed us to reflect on the values that stand behind the greatness of this country. She has taken us through the UAE's rapid rise to become a power player on a more global scale. At the end of the day, no matter who you are or what you do - everyone can learn something from the UAE. Whether that be from the ambitious attitudes of its people to the resilience of its leaders.

By Parvathy Nair

SPOTLIGHT ON ARABIC



Many people tend to question the rule of having to study Arabic in school. They believe it is not significant to our learning. Yet, what most do not know is that Arabic is just as important as English or Maths. In my opinion Arabic is just as valued and important as any other subject.

1) Arabic speakers are in high demand

If you are fluent in Arabic, you will be in high demand for a substantial number of jobs and opportunities in the world for which Arabic is an essential requirement.

2) Arabic is spoken in many countries

The United Language Group reports that, "Arabic is the official language of over 20 countries and has nearly 300 million native speakers."

3) Arabic can be a bridge in helping us learn other languages

The Arabic language is related to other world languages. Which means that knowing Arabic will give you an easier time learning other languages. This includes, Turkish, Urdu, and Hebrew.

"IN MY OPINION ARABIC IS
JUST AS VALUED AND
IMPORTANT AS ANY OTHER
SUBJECT."

Mrs. Hashim, Head of Arabic B gives us her view on Arabic in schools.

Parvathy: **Why do you believe Arabic is important?**

Mrs. Hashim: We are living in an Arabic country and at least during one point in our lives we will have to communicate with the locals around us. Also, Arabic has become one of the important languages worldwide.

Parvathy: **How is the Arabic language important to UAE's history and past?**

Mrs. Hashim: In the UAE, everything has changed. The buildings, the people. One thing that has managed to stay the same is the language and it is crucial that we must keep it.

In addition, it's a language that has been used from a long time ago. In fact, Sheikh Mohammed has made a day to celebrate the Arabic language.

Parvathy: **How will Arabic help us in the future?**

Mrs. Hashim: Of course, it will. In the future, the jobs that need you to speak Arabic will grow. It could even be a decider on whether or not you get a job. So, it will help us a lot in the future.

Overall, we can clearly see that Arabic is a language that will benefit us all in the future. It can improve and widen our knowledge, help us to communicate. Most of all, the ability to speak a few useful phrases in Arabic allows us to show respect and honour the country that we live in.

50 Years of Tradition

CELEBRATING THE RICH HERITAGE OF THIS NATION.



BY SOPHIA NAFID

The UAE. A place often portrayed as a place of the future, a country that has been creating history every day, since its birth 50 short years ago. Often associated with contentedness, while being perceived as new but already more developed and ahead of its time than most pre-existing nations. Time slowly establishing what it has become today, while carrying its culture and traditions along the way with great pride. Traditions of great importance among not only the locals but other residents who get to experience a taste of the past forged long ago.

Emiratis practice a variety of customs and traditions that are distinct and unique to their country. For instance, Arab coffee is served in Dallah - the Arabic coffee pot to guests in this country as a symbol of hospitality. It is deemed rude and disrespectful to refuse it as it is offered in a welcoming gesture.

Falconry is another tradition in UAE that reflects the Bedouin culture of UAE, dating back to hundreds of years before its declared formation. The falcon called as 'Saqr', is considered a symbol of bravery, resolution, strong-will, elegance, and contentment.

**"TRADITIONS
OF GREAT
IMPORTANCE
AMONG NOT
ONLY THE
LOCALS BUT
OTHER
RESIDENTS
WHO GET TO
EXPERIENCE A
TASTE OF THE
PAST FORGED
LONG AGO."**

Henna is also considered a huge part of UAE culture and traditions. The beauty ritual of painting the hands and feet with henna dye is an important part of the lives of Arabic women here. The women wear henna at any time but more especially at weddings and special occasions.

Another great tradition often performed in major celebrations and events including national ceremonies and weddings is the traditional Emirati dance, Al Ayyalah, also known as the 'stick dance'. This is the national dance of the UAE and something that is perceived with great pride and honour within the UAE and among its locals.

It is performed strictly by local men and is an important part of UAE culture and heritage. The Al Ayyalah is a performance, accompanied by traditional Arabic music and drumming and is a privilege to observe. Dancers face each other in two rows signifying the unity and co-operation amongst tribal people. They sing and chant whilst twirling thin sticks up and over and around their bodies.

The UAE has forged many new traditions but has guaranteed to keep in check the ones established years ago, dating back to as far before the UAE was officially declared a unity among regions. Whether it be its provisions, its wildlife or its art forms, the UAE has it all and takes great gratification in presenting and sharing it amidst its people.



"The UAE has forged many new traditions but has guaranteed to keep in check the ones established years ago."



BY CAN KHAN

RISING SKYLINES

The growth of the United Arab Emirates

"NOW THAT THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES DOES NOT NEED TO RELY ON THE STEADILY DECREASING AMOUNT OF OIL, IT CAN CONTINUE TO GROW... SO IT CAN CONTINUE BEING THE GLOBAL POWERHOUSE THAT WE KNOW AND LOVE. "



On December 2, 1971, a contract was signed that would change the Trucial States forever. But why, you might ask, did the UAE form in the first place? Well, in simple terms, the Trucial States were in a tight spot. Other neighbours were eyeing their resources, like oil, and the British treaty was going to permanently expire, since Britain's imperial overreach was being exhausted politically and financially.

As a result, all the Emirates, 6 at the time, decided to join to become the independent United Arab Emirates that we know and love today. But who founded the United Arab Emirates? Sheikh Zayed, of course. After the formation, there were only 6 Emirates until a year later, Ras Al Khaimah joined the UAE, and the evolution began.

The wise Sheikh Zayed used the valuable resources of the country, building hospitals, schools, communities and many more root establishments that made the United Arab Emirates become such a successful country with tourist attractions, diverse job options, rich heritage and many more wonderful things. Now that the United Arab Emirates does not need to rely on the steadily decreasing amount of oil, it can continue to grow using businesses, hotels, tourist attractions, shopping experiences and more so it can continue being the global powerhouse that we all call home.

WHAT DO **YOU** DO DURING *the Winter Break*

By Ema 9R and Victoria 7H

SO, THE BIG THREE WEEKS OF HOLIDAYS ARE COMING UP SOON! HOW WILL YOU SPEND IT?

LIVING IN A MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY, CELEBRATIONS DURING THE WINTER SUCH AS CHRISTMAS MIGHT NOT APPEAL TO EVERYBODY. HOWEVER, OTHER HOLIDAYS ARE CELEBRATED DURING THIS FESTIVE TIME TOO AND THERE ARE SO MANY MORE ACTIVITIES YOU CAN GET UP TO DURING THE WINTER IN THE UAE, SO WE'VE DECIDED TO INVESTIGATE AND ASK SOME OF OUR STUDENTS HOW THEY SPEND THEIR HOLIDAYS.

What are your favourite after-school activities?

My favourite thing to do after a long day of school is just to relax, or I also enjoy doing ballet. This holiday I might go to a dance studio and practise there a bit.

Gabriella Blumberg YR8

I like swimming and I get to do it a lot during the holidays by going to the pool.

Isaac Kriel YR9

Usually, I go home and just chill and watch tv, but sometimes I take gym classes, which I also enjoy doing during the holidays. **Sophia Nafid YR10**

I like reading, playing sports and just going out in general. I love playing volleyball and running, now that the weather is better. **Habiba Badran YR11**



How do you spend the winter holidays?

Usually, we go to my grandparents' house, but that's in New Zealand, so here we make our own Christmas tree out of paper card, pass out presents to each other and I'd dress up as a fairy!

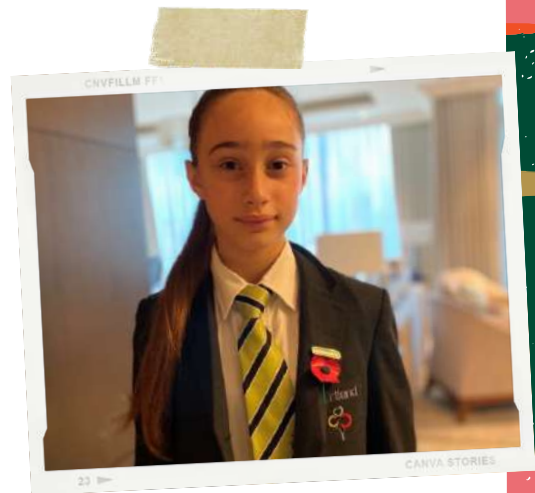
Gabriella Blumberg YR8

I celebrate Hanukkah, which is around the same time as Christmas. You light a candle each day to celebrate how God turned a glass of oil so we could keep the Holy Temple lit for eight days before we got fresh oil. **Isaac Kriel YR9**

I don't celebrate Christmas, but during this time, I usually go back home to Amsterdam. I love it there during these times, because the city is lit up with Christmas lights and it's very cosy.

Sophia Nafid YR10

I don't celebrate Christmas, but I do celebrate Eid, which is when we all gather as a family and eat. Sometimes we visit our relatives in Abu Dhabi as well. **Habiba Badran YR11**



**"YOU LIGHT A CANDLE
EACH DAY TO
CELEBRATE HOW GOD
TURNED A GLASS OF
OIL SO WE COULD
KEEP THE HOLY
TEMPLE LIT FOR EIGHT
DAYS BEFORE WE GOT
FRESH OIL."**

What is your favourite thing to do during the winter in the UAE?

I'm not the biggest beach fan, but I've been there a few times and it was nice. I like going to the pool and to waterparks as well.

Gabriella Blumberg YR8

I go on fishing trips to the moon island, which is about an hour drive with a boat. It has a bunch of tropical fish, which are very nice.

Isaac Kriel YR9

Going for a run, biking just any outdoor activities since the weather is much better.

Sophia Nafid YR10

Just chilling, you know. Also, I work part-time for an art center, which I visit during all the holidays we have. **Habiba Badran YR11**

What is your favourite thing to cook or eat during the holidays?

I love pasta. Anything related to pasta I usually love. Also, I like baking macaroons, cakes and muffins.

Gabriella Blumberg YR8

Eggs are always nice. Rice, pasta- I like pasta because it's easy to cook, but overall anything really.

Isaac Kriel YR9

I like baking cookies a lot- especially with my sister.

Sophia Nafid YR10



I like Boba and my favourite thing to cook just because it's easy and delicious is pasta. **Habiba Badran YR11**

What is the funniest thing you've done during the holidays?

I went to a waterpark once and I was preparing to go down this slide, but we got on the wrong one. I panicked and when I got down I could barely walk and had to lie down.

Gabriella Blumberg YR8

Once, me and my friends got stuck in the middle of the ocean on a paddleboard for one hour and the lifeguards had to come and get us. **Isaac Kriel YR9**

When I was younger, the most fun thing was building snowmen and the weirdest, I don't know, probably sliding in the snow. **Sophia Nafid YR10**

I don't know- I went to Sri Lanka once, which was very fun. **Habiba Badran YR11**

Interview With Akari

By Victoria ten Cate



I interviewed Akari Tanaka from Year 7 to get some insight on both her and her way of celebrating holidays. Akari is from Japan and talks about her friendship with Rika Yoshida, who was interviewed in the previous issue, as well as her love for traditional Japanese tradition of origami. But how does Akari's way of celebrating holidays differ from others? Read more to find out.

After school, what is your favorite thing to do?

Well, first I do homework if I have it, and then when I have free time, I can do something that I enjoy doing, for example origami and drawing.

If you celebrate Christmas, how do you celebrate it?

In my city, where I was born, Christmas is the time for friends and family to have a wonderful time together. Usually, we invite friends for dinner, or they invite us. Usually, I have lots of fabulous time in New Year.

What is your favorite thing to do during the winter holidays in the UAE?

I am here for my first year, so I have not celebrated Christmas in the UAE yet.

This year, are you planning to travel anywhere during the holidays?

I am not sure, but we can go somewhere.

What is your favorite food to cook or eat during the holidays?

We eat chicken, because in Tokyo there is no turkey, so we can't eat turkey. Also, I like potato salad. It is delicious!



The UAE – a home for all

BY SAKINA FAKHRUDDIN

Through celebrating 50 years of UAE. We are also celebrating 50 years of positive change, development, innovation, hard work, tolerance and joy. We thought we could exhibit this positive change in interviewing two students Rawdah Bin Sulaiman and Natsuha Toyoda. Natsuha Toyoda is new to Dubai, her first year living here. Whereas Rawdah is a proud Emirati living in the UAE all her life. Their unique difference in perspective gives a proud and inspiring narrative towards the UAE's development.

Three words to describe UAE

Rawdah – futuristic, progressive, safe

Natsuha – modern, international, gorgeous

What is your favorite place in UAE?

Rawdah– Emirates Towers

Natsuha– Souq and Global Village.

What is one Arabic word that resonates with you?

Rawdah– Al Wasl– it means connection and was a huge attraction at Expo.

Natsuha – inshallah– it helps remind me not everything is in my control, and that's okay.

How have your aspirations flourished in UAE?

Rawdah– I love politics and despite the UAE being new, it's starting to get more involved in politics and provide lots of opportunities for the youth to explore global issues in a political setting.

Natsuha– I have visited many well-designed buildings throughout the UAE. I have also found modern technology to be of use everywhere! I am enamored with both technology and architecture and so the UAE's development in both sectors has been fascinating to me!

How have you seen your own culture and values respected and celebrated here?

Rawdah – My culture is definitely still recognized and seen as sacred however, it's important to still stay connected to our roots and culture to ensure it isn't forgotten amidst the plethora of globalization and development that will ensue within the UAE's next 50 years.

Natsuha- I like how all people of different cultures, creeds and religions show immense respect for one another. This is evident in many of the celebrations that take place in Dubai. For example, though this is a Muslim country, Christmas is still celebrated. Also, even though the UAE is heavily international, UAE National Day is celebrated on a rather large scale. I think it's wonderful that so much pride is taken in Emirati culture.

What is one tourist attraction you really enjoyed?

Rawdah – I'm not a tourist, but a lot of tourists have started to go on desert trips with buggy cars, it's so fun!

Natsuha- fireworks at Burj Khalifa during the New Year's celebrations, as well as water fountain at Dubai Mall.

How is it studying with different cultures and nationalities? Is there anything you have learnt from having such diverse peers?

Rawdah- Honestly, I think the number of things young Emiratis learn from other nationalities and cultures is not recognized enough. Being surrounded by students from all over the world opened my eyes to an array of perspectives, traditions and viewpoints that I wouldn't have otherwise been exposed to. I think the diversity within UAE classrooms emphasizes that although we live completely different lives, we still share a deep connection: "Al Wasl".

Natsuha- Firstly, I have found my way of thinking to be extremely different, what I believe to be "normal" is not actually normal, instead there is no such thing as "normal". Everyone is just themselves. Everyone is immensely proud of their own culture and religion. Because I have never thought of my background in a proud way, looking at the way everyone accepts themselves so kindly helped me do so. In addition, I started looking at my everyday news feed from multiple viewpoints – and not only what I was expected to think. Those new views were developed via everyday conversations with friends, where I was enlightened to the plethora of perspectives one could have on typical, everyday news. Overall, this diversity has allowed me to deeply interpret and consider the things I hear, read and watch.



5 GREAT PLACES TO VISIT IN THE UAE

BY ARYAN RAJAGOPAL



I've lived in the UAE for most of my life, and I have travelled to many amazing places throughout my life in the UAE. Although most people think of UAE as an arid, scorching desert, we live in such a diverse and amazing country with a melting pot of nationalities and amazing places to explore. The UAE is an amazing place; its not just desert! We have everything from crystal-clear beaches to foggy mountains. Here are what I feel are the top 5 places to visit in the UAE:

1

Shipwreck Beach, Abu Dhabi: What comes to your mind when I say Abu Dhabi? A sprawling city, crowded and dense? Well, this place couldn't be any more different! Shipwreck beach is a beautiful beach located about 2 hours South of the City. It may be a long drive, but it's certainly worth it for the crystal-clear water, beautiful scenery, and the ancient shipwrecks.

2

The Retreat, Fujairah: To me, it was the closest thing to a perfect getaway. Picturesque scenery, lots of greenery amid the desert and sandy beaches that line the coast. Rabbits freely roam the premises while all the food there is homemade. The accommodation is large and spacious, with ample space to fit everything that's needed. The one drawback is that there is no wifi on the premises.

"IT'S DEFINITELY
A SIGHT TO
BEHOLD AND
ONE YOU'LL
NEVER FORGET."

3 DoubleTree by Hilton, Ras Al Khaimah: It's been a long time since I have stayed here, but the memories are still fresh in my mind. Great scenery, amazing service, a large room and good food. All the things that make a good hotel good are in this one. This is a stay that you will definitely be pleased with.

4 Wadi Ghalilah: Although I have never been here before, this place looks amazing. Straying away from the idea of the concrete jungle that most people see the UAE as, this place offers what can only be described as true natural beauty. This wadi looks beautiful and will definitely be loved by everyone.

5 Ras Al Khaimah's Pink lake: Usually, when we think of something like a lake, we think of something blue, maybe a little bit green, right? Well, this lake will change your perception on what a lake is. Located in Ras Al Khaimah, this lake is surrounded by swathes of deep orange sand and sticks out like a sore thumb. It's definitely a sight to behold and one you'll never forget. Plus, it's only been discovered recently, so crowds aren't that huge.



THE UAE, INFLUENCING THE WORLD.

BY SAKINA FAKHRUDDIN

HOW THE UAE'S INFLUENCERS ARE AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE DIGITAL
TECHNOLOGY REVOLUTION

As we are celebrating 50 years of UAE, I thought we could address the role of social media influencers in UAE - who have officially contributed towards mainstream media. We have gotten used to seeing influencers largely based in countries such as the US and UK however we are now looking at Arab Tiktokers dominating the media. This is a huge milestone for UAE as it contributes towards the country's development.

Khalid and Salama

Khalid and Salama are some of the UAE's top tiktok influencers who skyrocketed during quarantine. Their content is based around entertaining via making comedy videos mostly based on the topic of their relationship.

By gaining popularity on Instagram for their inspirational and humorous posts, Khalid Al Ameri and Salama Mohamed are always at the top of their game when it comes to the world of content creation.

This couple has amassed a large following, with 3.5 million followers on tiktok. From donating funds to a UAE resident battling breast cancer to playing a crucial role in being the digital role models, Khalid and Salama have always been down to earth with tremendous and consistent contributions to the UAE's wider society. They contribute to charitable events, financially help their workers, and make it a priority to give back to the community and those less fortunate.



**"KHALID AL AMERI AND
SALAMA MOHAMED ARE
ALWAYS AT THE TOP OF
THEIR GAME WHEN IT
COMES TO THE WORLD OF
CONTENT CREATION. "**



Mariam George

An Indian influencer who makes comedy videos on Tiktok, her current follower count is up to 1.5 million. She started off creating humorous scripts and videos based on Indian culture and addressing the stereotypes with a fresh, witty take. Her videos are notorious for their joyful tone and hilarious dialogue. She has also begun her own modelling agency in Dubai. The idea to create such an agency arose after Mariam faced rejection and constant body shaming as a former model – opening her eyes to the fractured sense of body image that the industry was infused with.

At the core of the agency is the belief that "modeling is in the heart of the performer". Modelling is Attitude. Modelling is Authenticity. Modelling is Art. The Mariam George Modelling agency is the only agency in the U.A.E. that does not categorize models based on size, looks, or skin color. Instead, they use confidence, representation, and passion. Their business is a body positive, ethical business. This agency is a quintessential example of how tiktokers have utilised their voices and audiences as tool to ignite change. This is definitely an account worth checking out if you are into fashion, comedy, or modelling.

“
**AT THE CORE OF THE AGENCY IS
THE BELIEF THAT "MODELLING
IS IN THE HEART OF THE
PERFORMER". MODELLING IS
ATTITUDE. MODELLING IS
AUTHENTICITY. MODELLING IS
ART.**

”

Supercar Blondie

For all our car and technology lovers, we got you, next up is Alexandra Mary Hirschi or publicly known as super car blonde. Described as "Dubai's social media phenomenon" by Gulf News, she is best known for her automotive videos where she exhibits all kinds of luxury cars and explores fascinating advances in technology.

She is a 34-year-old Australian sensation with a staggering 45 million followers.

"I'm a country town girl!" lets on Alexandra Hirschi, far removed from Supercar Blondie's spitting urban chic persona. "I grew up in a small country town of 2,000 people in Australia. I was on a hobby farm with cows and sheep and spent most of my free time with animals. "Hirschi, who went on to study broadcast journalism in college, recalls how she first came to Dubai in 2008 to work as a co-host of a radio show. "I really loved my career but I found something I loved more, took the chance and went for it. I always loved cars and I got the opportunity to drive a luxury car for the first time while I was on the radio," she mentioned in an interview with Gulf News.

Subsequently, she said she did everything she could in her spare time to track down super cool cars to film and started sharing her personal experience of driving these cars online.

By now, something about her car posts had already made them click-worthy. "One of the things I was doing differently was speaking about cars in an everyday manner, not like a car expert, so people could relate to it. I still do that."

These are some of the biggest influencers of UAE who are dominating the industry. These social media stars influence all the impressionable young people who struggle every day and are often told what they are unable to do.

50 Years of Our Anthem

By Isla Evans



عيشي بلادي عاش اتحاد إماراتنا
عشت لشعب
دينه الإسلام هديه القرآن
حصنتك باسم الله يا وطن
بلادي بلادي بلادي بلادي
حماك الإله شرور الزمان
أقسمنا أن نبني نعمل
نعمل نخلص نعمل نخلص
مهما عشنا نخلص نخلص
دام الأمان و عاش العلم يا إماراتنا
رمز العروبة
كلنا نفديك بالدماء نروي
نفديك بالأرواح يا وطن

The beginning:

Following the formation of the U.A.E, a music piece, composed by Mohammed Abdel Waheb, was born and found its way into our former leaders' hearts. Thus, the U.A.E's national anthem was born! This song is called عيشي بلادي (or Ishhi Biladi) and is sung in recognition of those who had passed and to commemorate them, honour them and show respect.

Then to now:

Despite the long years that have passed, the national anthem is something that has stayed the same and always been remembered. Previously, the singing of the anthem echoed through deserts and tribes as they all came together and showed thanks to their ancestors. Think how much has changed since then? Yet not changed at all...

Now, we stand in respect for the national anthem to thank those who gave us a place to live and a school to go to during, both, the start of the school day but also in assemblies!

Although much has changed in the U.A.E, one thing that hasn't (and never will) changed is our everlying honour for this anthem and the way in which we praise it.

Translation of UAE National Anthem

Live my country, the unity of our Emirates lives

You have lived for a nation

Whose religion is Islam and guide is Quran
I made you stronger in God's name oh homeland

My country, my country, my country, my country

God has protected you from the evils of the time

We have sworn to build and work

Work sincerely, work sincerely

As long as we live, we will be sincere, sincere
The safety has lasted and the flag has lived oh our Emirates

The Symbol of Arabism

We all sacrifice for you, we supply you with our blood

We sacrifice for you we supply you with our blood

We sacrifice you with our souls oh homeland



Capturing the beauty of the UAE through art
By Sakina Fakhruddin

This Term in photos...





HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

