

The Excalibur

The Online Nazareth RHS Student Newspaper



International Day!

By: Jovanne Myke

It's International Day at Nazareth, and this year everyone is decked out and having a wonderful time! It's like a big party where everyone is embracing their own cultural heritage and the heritage of others. Students are interacting with each other and sharing stories that their families passed down to them. The food smells amazing, and the decorations are wonderful.

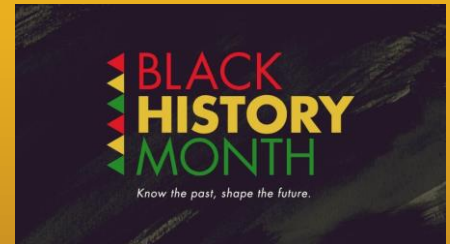
International Day, also known as "Peace Day," is a worldwide opportunity for all of us to commit to the peace that transcends our differences and to contribute to building a culture of peace in our local and global community. Nazareth allows their students to celebrate International Day with each other, parents, faculty, staff and alumni and to learn about so many different cultures. International Day is one of my favorite days as we share meals and music from around the world.

International Day at Nazareth is a great example of how to understand and embrace other cultures without judging them. Instead of judging each other because of our different cultural and ethnic backgrounds, we should celebrate our diversity and learn from others.

Roudenie, one of our sophomores, says, "International Day is great, but I think it could be even better. I would like to have more performances." I agree that International Day could use a few improvements. We should always strive to make what we have better! Another student exclaims, "How about we have International Day every day? Or at least have the food every day!" I know everyone's ready for 2020's International Day, and I know it's going to be even better.

February 2020, Issue 1

**Black History Month
Assembly: 2/28/20**



- Upcoming 2020 Events -

2/17-21 President's Week -
School Closed
2/24 Classes Resume
2/26 Ash Wednesday
3/6 PSAT 10
3/8-12 XBSS Junior Retreat
3/12 Science Fair
3/20 Career Day
3/26 Underclassmen Awards
3/27 3rd Quarter Ends

International Day (cont.)



The facial expressions of the freshmen, experiencing International Day for the first time, say it all: They look so happy as they interact with the other students, making new friends and learning how to fit into their new community.

Adrianna, a sophomore, says, "International Day is a very special and important day. It's great to show off the cultures of people ... International Day should be a day everyone celebrates. It's important to celebrate our own cultures and not judge anyone ..."

International Day keeps getting better and better. I can't wait to write about 2020's International Day and interview the new freshmen there.

One day, International Day will become a much more important day, and when that happens, racism will cease to exist, and we will all come together and celebrate. We live in a rough world, but seeing young students at Nazareth happy and learning more about each other's culture without judging is amazing. Nazareth helps inspire these dreams and gives me hope to believe that they will come true one day. International Day at Nazareth is truly an inspiring day.



Ms. Aponte Goes to South Africa!

By: Julissa Devonish

While most of us were sleeping for the entirety of the summer, Ms. Aponte had the opportunity to go to the beautiful and culturally diverse country of South Africa. Through a volunteer program, the Nazareth science teacher had the chance to be a stand-in teacher for a class of 40+ first graders. Their hardworking teacher was at first hesitant to allow a volunteer into her classroom, but she finally gave in and took a much needed break. Being a single teacher, striving to give 40+ kids all the attention they need, can be exhausting at times!

Ms. Aponte boarded in a house with other volunteers and taught classes from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Monday to Friday). When she wasn't teaching, she enjoyed experiencing the local community and touring the country. Her class was filled with more than forty caring, vibrant, and unique personalities, each with their own ways of learning. It took a little time for Ms. Aponte to get adjusted, especially because the children were so much younger than the students she usually teaches. "Now I had to talk about boogers and

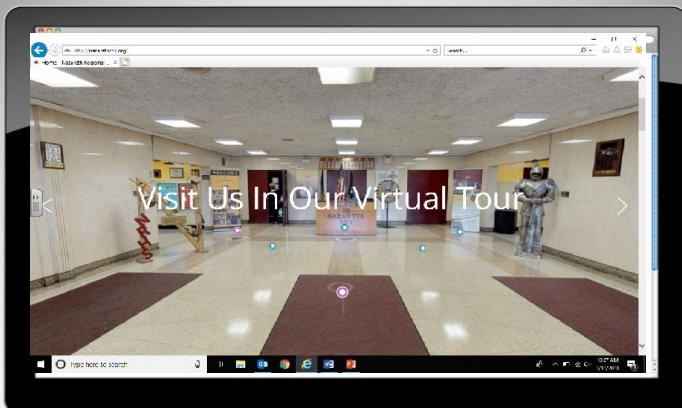


sharing, but again it was really special because the minute I walked into the classroom I was greeted with hugs."

The kids there do not have the abundance of resources we have here at Nazareth or in the U.S. They do not have access to technology, school lunch, basic school supplies, and other things that can easily be taken for granted. "You'd see several kids who'd come in with nothing, but it was beautiful in a way because you'd see the other kids are so willing to share without being prompted . . . these kids are six to seven years old." As I listened to Ms. Aponte talking about the trip, it became so clear that the kids were a really big part of her experience.

When her three weeks came to an end, it was an emotional moment, having to leave all the amazing and gentle souls she formed bonds with there.

Ms. Aponte has learned more about stepping back and truly appreciating each moment and all that we have in the U.S. She also recognizes with deeper understanding the importance of patience and of catering her teaching to the individuality of each student. She has drawings from some of the first graders on her fridge, reminding her of how special and unique each one is, and she continues to stay in contact with their amazing teacher.



Visit the virtual tour of
our school at:

<http://www.nazarethrhs.org>

Student Opinion: Immigration

By: Josiah Suber

If the rights of immigrants coming into our country are important to you, then our current immigration laws should be a cause of great concern. We have a history of laws that are not favorable to immigrants, legal or illegal, and the immigration laws that have been passed since 2006 have continued that trajectory.

On May 15, 2006, President George W. Bush declared, "We're a nation of laws, and we must enforce our laws," adding that "we're also a nation of immigrants, and we must uphold that tradition, which has strengthened our country in so many ways." He then enacted laws to crack down on illegal immigration. By the time he left the White House, the size of the border patrol had been doubled, 6,000 national guard members had been sent to the border, a system had been set up for quicker deportations, and the "catch and release" program had come to an end.

The catch and release program was a program in which an illegal immigrant would be caught and given a court date, at which time his deportation status would be determined. With the ending of this program, an illegal immigrant who was caught would be immediately put into a detention center. Recently it was discovered that these detention centers have as many as 900 people, including children, kept for weeks and even months in a space designed for 125 people. The people in these detention centers have little or no access to soap, showers, toothpaste, or beds (Department of Homeland Security [DHS] 2019).

These policies have been in effect for a much longer time than President Trump's three years in office. Barack Obama had a nickname given to him by an immigration activist: "The deporter in chief." Donald Trump, for all his apparent bigotry and tough talk on immigration, has overseen the deportation of fewer than 800,000 people through his first three years as president, compared to the 1.18 million people that were deported during the first three years of Obama's presidency (Immigration and Customs Enforcement [ICE] 2019). Obama actually set a record for the number of deportations: around 3 million by the end of his second term.

The state of the detention centers is not a Democratic or a Republican issue. The conditions are deplorable and the treatment of immigrants has been careless. To make matters worse, the Congress and the presidents who have perpetuated these conditions have been complicit in what may be seen as a criminal act. In the same report that detailed the conditions of these centers, it was noted that the sick are not separated from the healthy and that the sick are not being properly treated.

When we take into account the way that immigrants are being rounded up in raids targeting those who are clearly not a threat to our safety, is it too extreme to fear that these events are eerily similar to the treatment of Jewish people in 1930s Germany? In a recent raid of Mississippi businesses, 680 immigrants were taken to detention centers, leaving many children with no parents in their home and no one to take care of them. What will happen to these parents and children? During the Obama administration, 56 people died in detention due to suicide attempts and lack of medical care (American Civil Liberties Union [ACLU] 2015).

What are we going to do about these abuses of human rights? As a Catholic school, we have a mandate to follow God's command to help the helpless and to strive for social justice. We may not be directly affected by the plight of immigrant families, but we have a responsibility to do what we can to help our fellow human beings.

Our senior class will be eligible to vote for the next president. Let your preferred candidate know that if he or she does not seriously value the rights of immigrants, he or she will not get your vote. Even if you are not old enough to vote in the next election, you can campaign on social media, join a protest and make your voice heard. There have been multiple protests in New York City alone against President Trump, his rhetoric against immigrants, and his immigration policies. You can join a protest and make a difference. As Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "The measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

Music Around the World

By: Nadia Cadet

Music transcends languages, ethnicities, nationalities and regions. Mr. Bomzer, the new music teacher at Nazareth Regional High School, experienced the global appeal of music firsthand during the summer when he traveled to Greece and Brazil. Through the music he encountered and played during his travels, he learned about the unique culture of each country.

During his time in Greece, Mr. Bomzer immersed himself in traditional Greek music, including the music played by a Greek version of a Mariachi band, which is equipped with traditional Greek instruments such as the Bazuki. He visited four Greek islands, where he had the opportunity to be part of a band that played traditional Greek music in local bars. He was amazed that most people knew all of the lyrics of the songs they played. The culture in Greece was more "laid back" and at a slower pace. Typically the bars did not close their doors until 7:00 in the morning! Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and get lost in the music for hours.

Mr. Bomzer's second trip was to Brazil, where he explored the country and experienced the local Latin music. Latin music is becoming more popular globally, with Latin artists recently topping the charts with the songs "Con Calma," "Con Altura" and "Ritmo." He enjoyed the festive music that was played with instruments such as the flute and saxophone at the forefront. The music he encountered in Brazil was more "contemporary" than the music he played in Greece.

When reflecting on how these two different styles and cultures of music would be perceived in America, he stated that Brazilian music would probably be more popular. He also stated that in Greece American music was quite prominent, with Greek versions of American Hip Hop and Rap songs. In addition to Greece, other non-English speaking countries are being influenced by American music.

The Music of Alan Cavé

By: Winnie Pierre-Louis

Wherever we find ourselves, we usually listen to the music around us. Many people also listen to music in their native language or other languages. As a Haitian-American, I often listen to music from the U.S. and to Haitian music, mainly Kompa.

One of my favorite Haitian musical artists is a Haitian-American singer named Alan Cavé, who is well known in the Caribbean, France, United States and Canada. Some of Cavé's most famous songs are Chokola, Se Pa Pou Dat, Je Femen, J'ai Besoin de Toi, and so many more!

For most Haitians on their birthday, family members play Happy Birthday by Alan Cavé to celebrate. His music has brought the people of Haiti and many other countries together.



Music is crossing cultures more and more. Between the new wave of Korean music and the continuous rise of Latin music, there has been an abundance of non-English music topping the charts this year. Music is becoming a universal language in America and around the world, a global dialect that reflects the different cultures of the world and all they have to offer.



Mr. Bomzer playing his saxophone in Greece



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