

The Red and Silver

I-bex you'll love it!

Editorial

Nothing is impossible. You can be anything you'd like to be, as long as you have faith. If you believe in what you do, every single door in your path will be held open just for you. If you dream to become an astronaut, then be one! You want to be an author? Go for it! You want to open a business? Go! Nothing can stop you from being who you are. Follow your ambitions, live your own life.

Sports News

U16 basketball boys

17th of October: They played away against Jumeirah College. They won 47-18.

31st of October: They played against Cambridge and won again, 62 to 17.

14th of November: They played their first match against GEMS Metropole and won 47 to 27.

U16 football boys

29th of October: They won against DIA, 4-0

5th of November: Won against Kent college, 8-1

11th of November: Lost against JBS, 1-2



RESPECT

"Start [respecting me] when you come home or you might walk in and find out I'm gone".

Even if Aretha Franklin, the singer, is talking about her husband, it still applies to this situation. In our esteemed school, many students have yet to learn this seemingly alien concept: respecting other people, and that is shown through bullying. It might seem like this disease hasn't contaminated SISD yet, but it all happens behind closed doors and fake smiles. More than a few students are targeted every day, and it is an issue to address. First, what exactly is a bully? As the Oxford dictionary puts it, a bully is "a person who habitually seeks to harm or intimidate those whom they perceive as vulnerable".

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Picture of the month

Want to get featured here next month? Send your picture to simaa160884@stu.sisd.ae to submit it to the contest! More information by e-mail.

Important events

The 6th of December, the first ever Winter Formal in SISD will take place in the auditorium, from 6:30 to 10 pm. Grades 6 -11 are welcome! Remember that it is a school event, therefore strapless dresses aren't allowed. Go wild! And most importantly, have fun.

Sit back, get smart

Steve Jobs (Feb 24, 1955 – October 5, 2011) was an American businessman and inventor who played a key role in the success of Apple computers and the development of revolutionary new technology such as the iPod, iPad and MacBook. Steven was adopted by Paul and Clara Jobs, whom he always considered to be his real parents. Steven's father, Paul, encouraged him to experiment with electronics in their garage. This led to a lifelong interest in electronics and design.

Usually, they're just insecure kids, who feel empowered by treating their peers poorly. They feel the need to belittle other people to feel good about themselves. Most of the time, they want acceptance from a group of friend, or want to be "popular". Let me tell you, that is *not* the right way to go at it.

The abuse is mostly psychological, and can leave deep scars behind. It can destroy someone's entire school experience. It isn't a common thing throughout our entire school, but there are still many victims. In the end, the bullies are the ones who need help and support...

I often see some bullying, and always try to stop it, even if the "bad guy" is a head taller than me, and I urge anyone to not get scared and STAND UP FOR YOURSELF AND OTHERS! Don't let your classmates be undermined! Be strong for everyone, and believe in yourself at all times. Don't make it easier for them to get to you. And please, please, never walk away from situations where someone is being hurt in any way, show your humanity, don't aid the bully, because not helping is participating.

Interview

Do many students come to you with bullying issues?

Mr Wessel: Honestly no, some but not many. I don't get a student every week.

Do you feel like there is a lot of bullying in this school? How could we fix it?

Mr Wessel: I wouldn't say a lot but there is some, like in every school. Like you said, there are lots of different kinds of bullying, some more subtle than others. The best way is to address it directly and speak out for others. They (the bullies) maybe do need some help, maybe they have something going in their life and they do this for attention. I did a lot of research on how to fix it, there is no clear answer of how to eliminate successfully, based on all research that I've done. The most successful way is to address the whole school, tailor the consequences to each case...

Compared to other schools, is the bullying here high or low?

Mr Wessel: All the international schools I've worked in, including this one, had much less bullying than I saw in public schools that I taught in. International schools and the students in them, in my experience, are very accepting of others differences, which was not the case when I was in public schools, it wasn't crazy-crazy but it was still there.

Have you stopped many bullies in your years here? What is the protocol when a bully is caught?

Mr Wessel: Not really. We start with communication with parents, but then the consequences escalate: detentions, mediations, and most times we help the bully, in order to find out what causes the behavior.

Should it be harsher?

Mr Wessel: We don't kick out in first instance, but there is a protocol, if it escalates, if it continues. It starts with detention, then suspension, and at the end they are asked to leave...

Do you agree with line 27: "not helping is participating"? Why?

Mr Wessel: Yes, because you need to speak up. Also, one thing that your definition leaves out is that bullying is about abusing an imbalance of power, so if other people speak up and that imbalance can be balanced out, it will hopefully stop the bully. If they don't feel like they have the power, they will stop.

Hide your bags or they'll be hidden from you:

The new rule everyone is talking about

Early in September, a new rule has been issued: Backpacks are forbidden. If you get caught with one, you get a departmental exercise, it's as simple as that. Instead, what you should do is leave everything in your locker and take what you need between each lesson, leaving your backpack there. You should only use it to bring books and homework in the morning and take your stuff home later, that's it. Many people are seriously confused as to why this rule even exists in the first place, and we asked a few random students to write some pros and cons, from their point of view, as well as Mr Wessel's thoughts.

PROS

Less strain on back
Aesthetically pleasing corridors
Fire safety
Dangerous
Takes less place in a classroom

CONS

Hurts the shoulders, could cause hunchback
Wastes time, especially for 2nd floor lockers
Tripping in stairs becomes way more
Can drop or forget things more easily
Ladies stuff (hygiene, chapstick etc) where?

Now, here's what Mr Wessel thinks:

"Even though we have stressed the rule vociferously, many students have continued to flaunt that, and wear their backpacks anyway. It's been a bit frustrating honestly. I know that the teachers who have tried really hard to enforce the rule have been made to feel disrespect by the students not doing what's expected of them. One of the most important reasons, that I think the students don't appreciate very much, is that by having the bags locked in their lockers they keep their possessions safer.

But then people could argue that for some of the older grades, there are more books to carry...

It does build on your planning skills for the future, to plan for when is the right time to go to the locker, making sure you're not carrying too much, to not go back and forth etc. People get lazy when they get a backpack, and tend to carry everything, everywhere. If I saw effective use of lockers and backpacks, but I see so many students logging around backpacks that weigh 30 kilos...

Backpacks are not healthy for the back, especially the way many students wear them ; because it's not cool to wear a backpack up on your shoulders where it's supposed to be, the healthiest way; it's on one side, or hangs way down low at the hips and the waist.

The thing that happens a lot is the arms are full, and I trip in the stairs and I'm like, uh oh, how do I keep myself from falling all the way down on the steps if my stuff is in my arms?

That is a drawback, there is no doubt about it, having your hands occupied while you're walking...

There were many rule changes this year, and the response was largely... negative. Especially the mobile phone policy [...]

It's perfectly acceptable to not agree, [but] revolutions don't always work, and they certainly don't inspire the leadership team to provide leniency or compromises"

He then went on to explain that if he just gets complaints, complaints, complaints, he won't listen to them, but if it's an organized, rational argument, that makes sense and is worth listening to, he would be open to feedback. And now, you know: wearing your bag just to spite the leaders is *not* a good idea, if anything it might make them way less inclined to taking the rule down or make it a bit more stretchy.

This then begs the question: in the end, is the rule really that bad? If we look at it from the student's point of view, it might seem like the devil's spawn, the most unnecessary rule in the history of schools, but if we see the other side it actually makes a lot of sense.

The teachers just want to look out for us, that's it. They don't want us to grow all crooked and unorganized they'd like to raise upstanding*, planned young people. The students, though, collectively think that this isn't the best rule the school has come up with, and believe it should be changed. As in every argument, there are two very valid sides, and everyone is entitled to their own opinions, but this isn't a debate, rather a pretty strong rule, and continuing to wear your bag just might make it worse.

Camila Simao

*pun intended.

Movie of the month

The Avengers

Marvel Studios, 2012

"There was an idea...to bring together a group of remarkable people..."

Resume:

After Loki, the Norse god of mischief, decides that taking over the earth with an army of aliens would be great idea, director Nick Fury of SHIELD has to put together a team of super powered individuals to save us all. From there came the Avengers Initiative. There is Iron Man, Captain America, the Black Widow, Hawkeye, the incredible Hulk and Thor. Will they be able to save New York? And what happens when you mix the most powerful beings on earth?

Why we chose it:

After Stan Lee, the creator of most of the superheroes we know and love today, died on the 12th of November, it seems fitting that this month be filled with marvel marathons, and for lazy people just the three Avengers movies. They are a timeless, wonderful saga, with incredible characters, anti heroes and villains included, and developed in ways DC could never.

Kris Fade in SISD

The craziest assembly!

Students went wild on Wednesday, Oct. 31st, when Kris Fade along with his team came to visit SISD. After giving the radio superstars an enthusiastic welcome outside, students were given a passionate performance of "Rise till we fall" sung by Mr Osborne along with Mr Wessel, drums, and Mr Beyer, piano.

This was followed by our talented students leaving Virgin Radio speechless at their singing and instrumental skills. The first to perform was a grade 8 band with a vocal and instrumental version of "buffalo soldier" by Bob Marley. Next, the grade 6 choir sang "A Million Dreams" from *The Greatest Showman*. Their voices impressed even the hardest to please.

Finally, grade 11s Rhea and Josephine shared the spotlight with "A Million Reasons" by Lady Gaga, mixing their lovely voices with a piano accompaniment.

To make the day even better, Kris Fade orchestrated a teacher plank challenge that displayed the students and teachers school spirit. Mr Osborne, who won, decided to charitably give the tickets to Mr Hazlett, which left his entire home room with tickets to Warner Bros World Abu Dhabi.

Soon after there was a face off between Arianna in grade 9 and Mahmoud in grade 7 for a Dell computer, courtesy of virgin radio. The two showing off their knowledge in a 5 question quiz. Since they had a tie, the result was decided with the questions "how old is Will Smith", resulting in Mahmoud earning the computer. Virgin Radio's time at SISD came to an end with a game of Yes and No, the goal of which being that the person playing can't say yes or no for an entire minute. Several students played, but only one was able to succeed for the full 60 seconds.

All in all, it was a memorable assembly in the history of our school, an unforgettable experience.

Aaliyah Mohseni

Book of the month

Now You See Her

Lisa Leighton

"I'm not me. I'm not Amelia Fischer. I'm the girl in the mirror. I'm Sophie Graham."

Resume:

Amelia has always felt like a happy life is just out of reach. Sophie has always had a perfectly curated, Instagram-ready life. Though they are tennis teammates, the two girls almost never speak. When Amelia's car breaks down on the side of the road and a man she thinks is a Good Samaritan tries to abduct her, she escapes into oncoming traffic and inexplicably switches bodies with Sophie. Now she needs to find a way to switch back into her own life, but she must also unravel the mystery that is her mother's past....

Why we chose it:

If you're looking for a chilling, but interesting, book, this one is for you. The mystery is sure to capture your attention and you won't be able to put the book down after starting it. It might seem a bit tedious at the beginning, but once you get started you can't stop. Really good book for young adults.

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF HARVEY WOOD

After coffee

and dinner, Harvey decided to ask her where she was staying. Nina swallowed hard.

"I am actually staying in a motel right now." Harvey was mildly surprised She didn't look like someone who didn't have a place. Not sure how to react, he decided to say the first thing that came to his mind.

"Would you like to come and stay with me for a while?". Nina was relieved, but didn't like pity. "That's not necessary" she said, blushing.

"Nonsense! You are going to stay with me. Let's go." Said Harvey, pleased.

"I mean, if you insist!" Nina was touched that her baby brother had grown into such loving gentleman. they stayed in the restaurant until it closed and they were sent giggling outside like two old geese. Harvey took care of the bill and they finally went to the parking. He backed out of the space, and started driving. His house wasn't far, only a few blocks away. Unfortunately, luck wasn't on his side that night. As he was going to take a right, a dark blue car came out of nowhere, speeding at over double the speed limit, its bright headlights blinding the poor sibling. The two cars collided with a big noise. Both hoods scrunched up, exploding the front windows. With a screech, the cars went out of control and wound up against a lamp post. When they finally came to a stop, smoke billowed out of the cars. They were so damaged that it was pointless to even try and save them. The driver in the blue car came out and made his way to Harvey's car, When he got to the driver's window, he dropped his keys in shock. The inside of the demolished vehicle was noted with blood and glass shards, and the two people slumped on the seats were, in fact, dead. There was nothing the paramedics could do, by now they were long gone. It was ironic indeed, that their fate had twice been twisted by a car accident. No one was there to remember them anymore, they had no family, no real friends. It was a quiet funeral to say the least.

Riddles

(find the answers in next month's issue)

Last month's answer:

1. *The living room*
2. *Because it always let you down*
3. *A stamp*

WHAT COME ONCE IN A MINUTE, TWICE IN A
MOMENT BUT NEVER IN A THOUSAND YEARS?

WHICH WORD IN THE DICTIONARY IS
SPELLED INCORRECTLY?

WHAT HAS FOUR FINGERS AND A THUMB,
BUT IS NOT LIVING?



<https://garfield.com/comic/2012/05/11>