



Winter 2021 Edition

Football Champions!



Editor's Note: Congrats to these middle school champions! Below is an interview with Coach Andrew Wyly.

By Jayda Green and Alanah Burris

Q: OK, coach, every year is different and every team is different. What is special about this year's team?

A: The discipline and the focus of the team is really big. That's what we try to focus on as coaches, so their focus on the field plays a significant role in this year's action and outcome.

Q: What are some confident words or quotes you have said to make them feel better?

A: I try not to make them feel better, I try to let them know that every day is tough and every day is different. Just keeping them focused in the mind state of task at hand, that's how they've been able to cope. Just by the coaches being there guiding them through the process, because the process is hard that they go through, that we put them through as coaches. So it's not about what we said, it's about us just being there.

Q: What are your feelings about Raa winning the championship?

A: I am very proud of each and every one of the players for enduring and never giving up. They showed tremendous will and heart through out the entire season. The championship is just a result of the hard work and grind we went through together as a team. I am very blessed, honored, and proud to have coached Raa middle school football team. I am excited to take the next group of Raa student football athletes back to the championship.

Great Job, Lady Rams!



Lady Rams played a competitive season this year and made it to the playoffs, where they brought home a win. They also played a tough game against Swift Creek, in which they fought until the last minute but unfortunately lost by 6 points. It has been a pleasure coaching with Coach J and watching the girls transform from tryouts to the end of the season. I am looking forward to another great season and a championship win in the 2022-2023 Basketball Season. — Coach Jasmin Binion

WAY TO GO, CROSS COUNTRY!

By Nongnapat Pinkum

Congratulations to the Cross Country team for making it to the state championship! They've worked so hard. Special recognition goes to Kennedy Bell for placing in the top 10! The team ended the season with great memories.

We asked Kennedy: How do you feel about making top 10 in your last race? "It was actually amazing to get in top 10 for the first time, I tried for 2 years and finally did it!"



Cross country kids getting some much deserved break time.

KUDOS TO BOYS SOCCER!

Congratulations to the boys soccer team on an outstanding season. They worked hard and ran harder, and most importantly they got better every day.



Spotlight on Steel & Mr. Sahely

By Josie Phillips and Lily Sapp

Mr. Sahely is the Steel Drums teacher. RAA Middle School is one of the only middle schools that teaches Steel Drums. Steel Drums are made from 55-gallon pans. The tenors are the smallest steel pan and the bass is the largest. There are also double and guitar steel pans. Some of the sound created from steel pans comes from your mallets hitting different notes on the drum, and sound can be created from mallets hitting different notes.

The tenors play really high notes and they usually play the melody. The doubles have two pans and play some high notes and some low notes. The guitar has three pans and plays low notes. The bass has six pans and are a lot bigger. The bass also plays really low notes. Next time you walk by the steel drums room, try to hear the music!

Q: Why did you want to start teaching steel pan?

A: I wanted to teach steel pan because it is the instrument from my country, Trinidad and Tobago.

Q: What is your favorite song to play or teach on the steel pan?

A: My favorite song to play on the steel pan is "Rant and Rave" by Christopher Tambu Herbert.

Q: What are a few things about yourself?

A: I love to play board games. Dr. Sahely and I own 425 board games. Dr. Sahely and I have been married for six years. I like to play video games; my favorite game is Warzone. I used to play football as a linebacker and a running back.



Discover the Beauty of Arabic Calligraphy

By Zainab Sallahuddin

“What is Arabic Calligraphy?” you may ask. Well, if I was to describe it, it would be a way of Art showing your feelings using God's words. I say this because most Arabic calligraphies are Islamic. Meaning they hold a message from the Holy Quran (The Muslim Holy book). Now, I have always liked painting and art. During lockdown I was watching some old documentaries. In one of them they mentioned Arabic Calligraphy. I was very intrigued. So, I went to the store, bought the supplies I needed and began writing words. Surprisingly I did pretty good. My first piece that I wrote was Allah, meaning “God” in Arabic. I didn't know how Arabic calligraphy was done. I thought you just wrote in Arabic. It was way more than that! There is a very specific way of writing each letter. It is so specific that it may take 8 years at most to learn how to be a master at it. I don't do Arabic



Some of Zainab's calligraphy. This means, "I seek forgiveness from God."

calligraphy because I want to be a master at it, but I do it because I love the peace that comes with it. Arabic calligraphy takes diligence. I think that is why it's so peaceful. You must be so focused while you are writing. If you mess up one letter you must start all over again. Even the smallest mistake can change the whole meaning of the word. In the end, Arabic calligraphy is way of art that has been done for thousands of years and it still interests people like me.

CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE

By Diana Yanez

Do you know what Hispanic Heritage is? Well, let me tell you. National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated from September 15 to October 15. The date September 15 was chosen because of the anniversary of independence of Latin American countries. For example Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, etc. We celebrate our Hispanic history and culture and contributions of Hispanic Americans. This Heritage is important for recognizing all the Hispanic Americans who made a difference in the United States. A good



The Mexican flag.

example is Salma Hayek, who is helping so many kids with her charity works. But she is not the only one doing these things, there are so many others that are helping in other things. It does not matter who you are, we can all make a difference.