

# THE MONTHLY TRAILER



**Editor:** Melek Rania Ercan

**Writers:** Ekin Akman

Simla Kalaç

Serra Aktaş

Nehir Yirci

Mina Mercan Akçora

Eylül Sangu

Ela Arıkan

Irmak Şen

Beyza Tanalp

Mehmet Doğu Çifçi

Almila Dora Koyuncu

Elif Külâh

Selen İnal

Zeynep Ünsal

Orkun Aydıncılar

Nehir Özcan

With supports of Ms. Vardar

For contact: [monthly.trailer@gmail.com](mailto:monthly.trailer@gmail.com)

# **BREAKING CHEMISTRY**

**By Elif KÜLAH 9B**

The 2022 Nobel Chemistry Prize goes to Carolyn Bertozzi, Morten Meldal and Barry Sharpless!

Since 1901, only 186 chemists, seven of which are women, have received the Nobel Prize. Considering that 826 people have won Nobel prizes in the world, the scarcity of awards in the field of chemistry is astonishing. We start taking chemistry lessons at high school. We research chemistry which takes up a very large place in our lives with the experiments we do in the labs at our school and with our chemistry club.

I've received general information about our club and its activities from the founders of our club and our chemistry teachers Ümran Gedikli and Gülsüm Bayır. Each year, different themes are chosen and we develop a project to participate in the History of Science Exhibition organized by St. Michel High School in cooperation with Marmara University.

This year's theme is "Remaking the experiments and models invented by French scientists who made important discoveries under the conditions of their time." With this study we will enable our students to experience the stages which the scientists have gone through before making an important discovery. We aim to present the experiments and models we have prepared in the exhibition in Istanbul's St. Michel High School. Another purpose is to design innovative and economic projects to protect the environment in order to participate in the competition organized by "Hack Ton Future" with high school students who take part in this organization with the contributions of "La French Tech Istanbul". In addition, we want to start projects in our school to raise the interest of our students in chemistry by showing them that chemistry is in every area and everywhere in our lives.



Our club members also write articles in French and in English for the magazines published in our school. At the moment, we are carrying out a project perfume with the 9th grades. We have contacted Man Perfumery about this project. We will realize it 2nd semester. We are planning to make a trip to the Criminology Laboratory for the 2nd term. We are also planning to start a website where we can share our chemistry club work. We would like to invite guests from universities who can speak to us about chemistry. Actually it is our club members who guide our work. Their ideas help us expand and develop our work.



## **We asked club members to comment:**

**Ege Şen 9B:** The topic our group is working on is the generation of energy from human waste. These go into a mechanism and are re-cycled, so we save energy. We didn't work on the functioning of the mechanism further but we decided to compensate the water energy we lost due to the flush in the toilets in this way.

**Selen İnal 9A:** Our project is to design a car wash system. We want to add a rain cover in this system to get enough water. The water passes through the gratings and is recycled in a system. So we can use it over and over again.

**Doruk Karakoç 9D:** We worked on how to improve the environment in the Ideathon competition that we participated in with our robot team. We developed projects about this topic which we have in common with the chemistry club.

**Bora Abashlı 9A:** We are working on a competition with the club. What we do is so enjoyable. Our group is making a system that turns waste into energy. Since our main topic is saving energy, we focused on energy loss in toilets. This issue is both different and appropriate for the economic goal of the competition.

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF TEVFIK FIKRET'S DEATH ORKUN AYDINCILAR 11A**

Not long ago, we commemorated the 107th anniversary of Tevfik Fikret's death. He undoubtedly carries a great importance in Turkish history. But what exactly made him so important to our culture and our values as the Turkish youth? Why was his death such an important loss?



### **Biography of Tevfik Fikret**

Tevfik Fikret (24 December 1867 - 19 August 1915) was a Turkish poet and teacher. He was born in Kadırga, İstanbul. His father, Ahmet Ağa was a government official. His mother was a Greek immigrant whose father had converted to Islam. With the death of his mother and with his father's exile to Arabia, Tevfik Fikret was orphaned at the early age of 12. After these events, his grandmother and his aunt took him under their care..

He began his educational journey in a very conservative and traditional environment and, after his school was dedicated to immigrants who came to Istanbul from Thrace after the Russo-Turkish war, he continued his education at "Galatasaray Sultanisi". In this school, he was introduced to modern ideologies and he began forming his revolutionary identity. He also began writing poems while at high school. His first poem was featured in "Tercüman-i Hakikat" which was a daily newspaper published between 1878-1921.

After his graduation, he began working as a bureaucrat, but after a while, quit his job saying that he was disappointed by the fact that he was working very little for the money he received. Even after his resignation,, the state continued to pay him his overdue salaries which reached a large amount and which he ultimately took and donated to charity. This behavior made him a legend among the common folk by highlighting his honesty.

He continued to write poetry, publishing works at numerous periodicals such as "Mirsad", "Malumat", and "Servet-i Fünûn". Although he had published very important pieces of Turkish literature in each of these, "Servet-i Fünûn" is the publication that is the most related to the topic at hand.

During the decline of the Ottoman Empire, he was the leader of "Servet-i Fünûn", which was a magazine that embodied a movement in Turkish literature which was inspired by a modernized and Westernized way of creating literary work. This magazine also released certain articles related to modern lifestyles and innovations that were forming, mainly in the west. After the release of certain articles regarding the French Revolution, the magazine was ultimately censored and shut down.

After his sister's death, the exile of his like-minded friends and the termination of his literary group, Tecfik Fikret began building a retirement home which he designed, next to the school named Robert College where he was now teaching. He called this place, "Aşiyân", which means home. He continued to keep his revolutionary mindset all his life until his death after a surgery. He was 47 years old.

It is clear that Tevfik Fikret was a revolutionary man with modern ideas that challenged the outdated and conservative ways of life in the Ottoman Empire. But why was his work specifically so important to our history? It is because he influenced many young minds who were also perceiving that the old state of things was not working like it used to and some things needed to change.

### **Tevfik Fikret's influence on Ataturk**

Atatürk said that he took his spirit of revolution from Tevfik Fikret. By looking at Tevfik Fikret's life, it is obvious how Ataturk was inspired by Tevfik Fikret through his ideology.

For example, in 1901, Tevfik Fikret wrote a poem that criticised the state's incompetent rule, the corruption, the constant wars waged in the name of the Sultan Abdulhamid, called "Sis" (Mist). Upon reading this poem, revolutionaries all around the country felt the beginning of an uprising. This poem was one of the key elements that created the first sparks of a possible revolution.

Another poem, which greatly influenced Ataturk, was "Tarih-i Kadim". Ataturk said that this poem was the source of all the revolutions to be made. This is due to the fact that in this poem, Tevfik Fikret shows the reader the bitter realities of the Ottoman Empire. These realities were related to injustice, war, cruelty and corruption.

The great founder of the Turkish Republic also made several statements which were inspired by Tevfik Fikret quotes such as:

"There is only one thing we need, and that is hard work."

"All my hope is in the youth."

"The republic demands generations with free ideas, free conscience, and free wisdom."

### **Conclusion**

The life of Tevfik Fikret is significant due to the fact that he was an outstanding figure who inspired many people, who, in their turn, were successful in liberating and rebuilding the Turkish nation, such as Ataturk with his modern ideas.

---

## **THE HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS**

### **Beyza Tanalp 11-B**

Christmas, which is celebrated on the 25th of December, is the name of the observance of the birth of Jesus Christ. Although the real birth date of Jesus Christ is unclear, the 25th is universally accepted as the date of the religious day. But why is it the 25th? Why was it decided to celebrate Christmas on that specific date? Was it completely a decision made by chance?

Why is it the 25th of December?

Originally, the 25th of December was a Roman celebration called the 'dies natalis solis invicti' (the birth of the invincible sun), which was dedicated to the representative god of the sun, Mitra. The traditions of exchanging gifts, making wishes and kissing under the mistletoe also date back to this festival of the sun. Later on, the Christian church, in its efforts to replace paganism, placed Christ's birth on the day of this festival. It was highly convenient for them as this festival and Christmas carry a very similar name: 'the birth of the sun' and 'the birth of the son'.

Who celebrates Christmas?

Since Christmas is a strictly Christian holiday unlike Halloween, it's not popularly celebrated in our country and other countries with smaller Christian populations. Still, as everyone would like to partake in a happy celebration, many countries including ours carry the traditions and the joy of Christmas to New Years Eve. In Türkiye, when it's the end of the year, most families will have gifts for their loved ones, mistletoe hung up over their doorframes and a decorated and lit up pine tree in their house. So even if it's not the same holiday that we are celebrating, the spirit and the cheer is the same.

<https://imperiumromanum.pl/en/roman-religion/roman-feasts/dies-natalis-solis-invicti/>

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Christmas>

---

## 2022 Nobel Prizes by Nehir Özcan 11A

The awarding of Nobel Prizes began in 1901 by an association founded by Alfred Nobel. They are annual prizes given to award its winners for their contributions to the public. It is awarded by separate establishments: The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences gives the awards in physics, chemistry and economics; The Karolinska Institute awards prizes in physiology or medicine, and The Norwegian Nobel Committee awards the literature prize.

### **The Nobel Prize in Physics 2022**

-Alain Aspect, John F. Clauser, Anton Zeilinger have won the Nobel Prize in Physics for 2022.. Let's take a look at their work. They have studied quantum mechanics and won the prize with their hypothesis, research and experiments with entangled photons, demonstration of the perturbation of Bell inequalities, and pioneers in quantum information science.

### **The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2022**

-Carolyn R. Bertozzi of Stanford University in the USA, K. Barry Sharpless of the Scripps Research Institute, Morten Meldal of the University of Copenhagen in Denmark have been awarded for having asserted the idea of "click chemistry" by developing a new method known as directangular reactions. Bertozzi found a way for click chemistry to work within living organisms but without disturbing them. Such reactions are now used to recruit cells, monitor biological processes, and in the view of drugs to target diseases such as cancer.

### **The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2022**

Svante Paabo has been awarded for his study on the history of human genes. His study basically explained where we humans come from and how we are related to extinct hominins. He also found that gene transfer had occurred from these now extinct hominins to Homo Sapiens following the migration out of Africa around 70,000 years ago. This ancient flow of genes to present-day humans has physiological relevance today, for example affecting how our immune system reacts to infections.

### **The Nobel Prize in Literature 2022:**

The Nobel prize in literature has been awarded to French author Annie Ernaux "for the courage and clinical acuity with which she uncovers the roots, estrangements and collective restraints of personal memory". Anders Olsson, chair of the Nobel committee, said that in her work, "Ernaux consistently and from different angles, examines a life marked by strong disparities regarding gender, language and class"

### **The Nobel Prize in Peace 2022:**

The 2022 Peace Prize has been awarded to human rights advocate Ales Bialiatski from Belarus, the Russian human rights organisation Memorial and the Ukrainian human rights organisation Center for Civil Liberties.

There is a presentation of the Nobel prize which was given in 2022 on the first floor of our school if you may want to check it out..

---

# THE NAME THAT COMES TO MIND WHEN YOU SAY PROPAGANDA:

## **GOEBBELS** By Elif KÜLAH 9/B



Hitler wasn't alone when he exposed his horrific practices that affected the entire world. In fact, it was someone else; Joseph Goebbels, who planned it all.

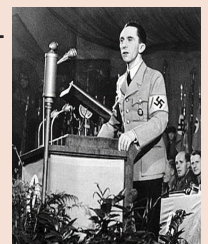
Paul Joseph Goebbels was a German politician who served as the Minister of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda from 1933 to 1945. He was also the second chancellor of Nazi Germany. He was the master of lies who put Nazis brought power and supported Hitler behind the scenes with his propaganda methods. Have you ever heard the statement **"If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it."**? If your answer is yes, you already know Goebbels. Goebbels was born in 1897 in Mönchengladbach. His father was a secretary in a factory. When he graduated from high school in 1917, he didn't get drafted because of his physical defects. He suffered from lung disease as a child, and his right foot was congenitally inverted and anatomically malformed. Because of these conditions, Goebbels was excused from military duties and was given desk jobs. In fact, Goebbels wanted to be a writer. He tried journalism. The most interesting characteristic of Goebbels was his deep loyalty to the idea of the **'Aryan race'**. He was deeply attached to the ideology. He was so attached he failed to remember his own defects. He wasn't blond, and in addition to being quite short, he was a lame legged Catholic.

He officially enrolled in the Nazi party at the age of 27. Goebbels, who was a university graduate, was passionate about both reading and writing. He was afraid of all kinds of violence. He decided to follow the Nazi ideology and supported violence. After he joined the party, he started to hate everyone who was similar to himself.

He met Hitler in 1926. After a few hours of conversation, he became essential to his idol. Hitler had foreseen what Goebbels could do for the Nazi party, so he promoted him with an offer to lead the Berlin Nazi Organization which Goebbels gladly accepted.

He became the head of Nazi propaganda unit and he spread fear across Berlin. The violence that he hesitated became his best friend. He was so dominant that his name began to be mentioned right after Hitler in the Nazi party. Racism, hostility to immigrants...

You could find whatever one could fear in Goebbel's propaganda. Thanks to his literary abilities people listened to him for hours and his propaganda texts were effective. He took his place in the party government by making everyone believe in himself. Finally, he was authorized to direct all propaganda.



While his propaganda was getting more and more aggressive, Goebbels influence was rising in politics. **"One nation, one state, one leader, great Germany!"** As a cultured leader, he did everything to keep people illiterate. Radio was the most prevalent communication vehicle at the time; that's why Goebbels often talked about the importance of the radio. He often aired manipulative broadcasts. According to Goebbels; a lazy mind accepted propaganda more quickly. The more you repeat something, the more people will there be to believe it. And he thought that the public's mind should be kept busy.

The evil mind behind Hitler was Goebbels. He influenced millions of people with his terrible propaganda methods. He did everything to spread the nazism and unfortunately he was successful. And I think the terrifying propaganda methods that Goebbels used are still used today. This proves the great impact that Goebbels had on the world.

## Happy New Year by Simla KALAC 11-C



This year a private ball was held at our school to celebrate the New Year. All students enjoyed and danced at this ball. For two hours, they danced as they wished, and enjoyed themselves with their friends. Students also enjoyed the privilege of coming to school in their stylish clothes.

Before the party, there was a very successful performance of our school orchestra. When the ball began, everyone went to the ballroom and the program began with the chosen students' waltz show. All students then enjoyed the music and danced to the popular songs that they DJ'ed themselves. It was a very pleasant and successful programme, I think, because no one on the floor stopped dancing. It made me very happy to see such scenes at my school. Everyone, including our teachers and the school board members took part in it and we all celebrated the new year. Students danced with the precious teachers of our school and enjoyed some joyous moments. I tried to help with the organization as much as I could and shoot pictures and I got the chance to capture a lot of frames from both dance scenes and the joyful moments of the students on the dance floor.

I believe and hope that this event, which I think everyone enjoyed, will happen again next year. And I think that these projects which are meant to be entertaining and suit our school, bring students from all classes together. After the fun ended, students who were chosen the best of the party were given roses. And this was the sweetest moment of the day.. I hope that we will have more such year-round conceptual events in the future.

## The Living Past

by Dođu ifti 10D

These days of the year witness the celebration of the new year's arrival and new hopes as well as wishes voiced by all the people around the world. Some of us wish for love, success, perhaps money, others just wish for a better life.

The notable thing is, however, I do not remember in any moment of my life people have been this prepared to let go of the past year. It all makes sense though, these last 3 years have been quite menacing for all of us. The constant pressures that the pandemic and its consequences have imposed upon our minds and bodies are immeasurable.

Upon these consequences, the every-day life stress and challenges add up. We as students may be one of the most stressed groups of the whole society for that reason. In fact, it may also be a major cause as to why students come first in many emotional problems among other categories.

This new year, these people hope, will not be the same. I don't think any of us claim that these hopes are based on anything but just the slim happiness of a terrible year ending. Seeing the sun set over a day full of failures and disasters could be a lot refreshing for us. But the main idea behind it is, when we open our eyes to the first day of the new year, something will have changed. Something will be different, miraculously, out of nowhere!

When I woke up in the morning on the first day of the year, I seriously made the joke "Well, nothing's different though!" in my mind. Part of the reason was because I look at the issue the same way Italian intellectual Antonio Gramsci did when he said [\*"I want every morning to be a new year's for me."\*](#) . *What he means is that he wants to have the ropes of his life to be in his hands. Time should neither be the master of our doings, nor our doings be our masters.*

We should become absolutely free, not even the abstract limitations we set upon time shall limit us. We hold the ropes when it comes to our daily activities. Therefore, we must not wait for bad days to end, we must end the bad days.

Happy New Year, I wish for all of you a year in which you will not have to endure helplessness until the sun rises over the darkness of your sufferings.





**VEX V5 tournament, in our school!****Nehir Yirci 11D**

If you've been to school these last few weeks you might have seen very subtle posters about a robotics tournament that took place on 17-18th of December. But I've noticed not many people actually were aware of like we are about other events at our school. That is because we cramped the whole week-end into our humble green hall, and may have spilled outside a little bit. So I'm here to tell you first hand!

The preparations started months and months ago when the robotics team of our school, team 3390 Anatolian Eaglebots decided to form a sub-team among us to recruit new members before jumping into the big competition. Hence, 33900A was born. The VEX team had been working since last summer and at the beginning of this year we decided it would be best for us to organize a tournament ourselves since we were already experienced in that area, having organized an Off-season FIRST robotics tournament in 2019.

The experience had felt surreal until the evening of December 16th. That was when the arena equipment arrived, and the entire team gathered up. To be volunteers in the tournament, we invited many of our graduates, a.k.a. the 'alumni'. And all of us took a piece of a job to finish until the next morning. Our excitement gave itself up to stress and fatigue as the clocks showed 7pm. We would have to wake up early in the morning to welcome the 20 teams coming and press the start button.

The tournament was filled with expected joy and thrill and sometimes stress as everyone awaited the results of the matches. The winners would win... "a grater(!!!)" I mean, an award that looks like one. And so did our VEX team! They won second place! Now they're invited to many (by many I mean like, two) other competitions in and out of the country.

It was super fun being part of such an opportunity and we await for you to come next time and see some robots fight to throw some discs as uncontrollable teens scream around them, as soon as we find a place to fit many more people!

---

---

**CGI in anime; Is This a Good Choice? by Mina Mercan Akçora 11B**

---

People always search for things to entertain them in their free time. It can be a hobby, a book or an outdoor activity. For most, the best way to fill this time is to stay at home and watch a TV show or a movie. In addition, among these watchable media elements, there are also anime shows which are becoming popular in our country, especially in recent years. Moreover, this genre has such a passionate follower group that there is a term for people addicted to anime and manga: "otaku".

A recent debate has divided this audience into two. Is 3D visualization a good design choice for anime? Why does CGI look pretty cheap and bad in a lot of series?

CGI (Computer Generated Imagery) is a new technology which allows us to use computer models and visual effects in the movies. It is a lot cheaper than traditional methods of making animated movies - drawing every scene by hand- and using CGI is the fastest way of finishing a project. The most prominent opinion among the anime lovers community on this subject is that 3D visuals are not the right choice. Even if we don't have enough CGI-based work to compare with the original 2D style anime, many people think that the bad examples we have now will multiply and won't improve in quality. Also, many of the examples they gave to support their views were actually popularized as manga, but ridiculed by anime adaptations made with CGI. One of the best examples of this is the Ex-Arm manga, which began to be published in 2015 and has its own fan base. Studio Visual Flight, which was put forward for the anime adaptation of the manga, actually had the potential to give life to Ex-Arms anime as a successful 3D anime. However, fans realized how poor the quality of the show would be as a 3D series. Even just by looking at the trailer they realized that the facial expressions of the characters and the ridiculous movements of the models would look pretty bad as 3D animations. Other elements of the list of anime that look bad because of CGI are as follows: Berserk(2016, walking animations), Vampire Holmes.

Even if there are people who argue that CGI is bad, it is also possible to encounter groups who argue the opposite and even the necessity of it. What these people say is that before we can decide whether a job is good or bad, we should give it time to develop. Examples they give to prove that CGI work is decent given enough time and budget are Dorohedoro, Beatstars, Hi Score Girl, and Land of the Lustrous. However, it is a fact that hybrid works that mix 2D and CGI are of better quality than works with only CGI content. For example; Ghost in the Shell 2: Innocence, Promare, Demon Slayer...

What determines whether CGI is good or bad? Lighting and harmony with the environment. Often, the reason for the bad look is that the CGI characters don't seem to belong to that world. Although they are computer models, the biggest reason for this is that when they cannot show their own depth on the screen and appear lifeless, the reason is usually the bland colors. If we are looking for a job that proves this thesis, we may come across Klaus, a children's cartoon on Netflix. Despite being 2D, they were able to show themselves in 3D with shading and light plays, and moreover, by applying the same lighting to the 3D objects they placed inside, they ensured that we could not select them in the environment. At the end, Klaus succeeded.

To sum up, CGI in anime is still fairly new and will certainly continue to evolve. That's why we should support developers who are trying to follow the process and bring innovations to the sector in this regard.

**NOSTALGIC MOVIE REVIEW:**  
**HOME ALONE -1**  
**by Almıla Dora KOYUNCU**

“Home Alone” is my childhood Christmas movie. It is amazing because of the memories it brings back; a variety of recollections of unforgettable moments and emotions. If by some bad luck you haven't seen it I recommend you do. This has got to be one of the best Christmas movies ever made. The story is about a young boy whose name is Kevin. He is small in size but a big trouble-maker. In this film he makes a lot of crazy, good and bad things, which you will see when you watch this great film. I think Macaulay Culkin (Kevin) was created for this role. He is a really good actor. In this film you can see how Kevin made traps for two robbers, who want to break into his house. It is really entertaining.

The movie is a 1990 American Christmas comedy film directed by Chris Columbus . An eight year old boy is left home alone at Christmas when his family leave for a vacation in France, not realizing he isn't on the plane with them. Two burglars attempt to rob the family home, and it is up to Kevin to protect the place. Home Alone is one of my all time favorite Christmas movies, I couldn't get enough of it as a kid growing up. There was something powerful as a child seeing another child around the same age stand up to the bad guys and be able to defeat them.

Kevin wakes to find the house empty, and the family cars still in the garage, unaware that they had rented vans to take them to the airport. Thinking that his wish to be alone in the house has come true, he is overjoyed with his new freedom. While the family take off for Paris, Kevin wakes up to find that he is all alone in his big house. It's all fun and games at first for Kevin, until he discovers that a pair of thieves plan on robbing his house, thinking that the place is empty. Smart kid Kevin sets up a number of traps and set ups that severely injure the bandits. For instance, one of the thieves named Harry gets his head caught on fire, the other Marv is hit in the head with an iron. These kinds of stunts could kill a person in real life, but the magic of movies allows the bandits to shake it off and continue their mischief.

The acting in Home Alone is perfect. Macaulay Culkin is brilliant as Kevin McCallister, the scared yet courageous young boy who takes on the "Wet Bandits". The bandits are played by Joe Pesci and Daniel Stern who add so much to the film with their performance. And you get some good screen time from stars such as Catherine O'Hara, John Heard and even John Candy. The traps that Kevin sets are smart and witty, and the location shots are perfect for the tricks he has planned for Harry and Marv.

All in all Home Alone is a classic film not only for Christmastime, but all year round. Thus, I highly recommend "Home Alone" to everyone, especially during the Christmas season. If you have a list of "Must-See" holiday movies, this one should be number one. Finally, I think that this film was especially made for children and young teenagers .

---

## **Exploration of an unknown land: France, through the visit of “Book Fair of Brive” Nehir Yirci 11D**

We gathered sixteen explorers some time ago to inspect the scripts of a land far far away. We would learn their language, their culturally praised storytellers and try to blend into their activities to learn what the French were up to.

We started to make preparations by gathering twice a week in our school library, bringing our personal devices to do research since the computer labs were usually taken, and it was a nice experience, being surrounded by books, researching about them. While trying to maintain the silence in the library, we still managed to form weak bonds of friendships that would blossom into week-long companionships once we flew to our destination.

The day of flight was special, because it was the birthday of not one but two of our friends. They got plenty of birthday wishes throughout the day, because we were awake for almost 24 hours of it! During that time, starting from 2 am in the morning, we were in various airports: in Ankara, Istanbul and Toulouse. Then we tried to fit tightly into a small bus with our enormous bags and I need to give credit to the nice gentlemen of our group that helped us transport the bags whenever needed. In the bus, the very kind driver decided to give us a simulation of hell itself I suppose, because there was a beeping sound in the bus that would NOT STOP FOR THE LOVE OF GOD.

We arrived at our first destination: Brive-la-Gaillarde and were set free of the hellish torture around lunchtime and did a tour of the city with a precious cute family that would guide us that and every other day of our stay. A couple and their two children: a girl our age who provided us a friendship so special, and her little brother that enlightened our days with his drawings. After we unpacked, we ate our first meal in a cute restaurant and tasted a weird beverage the French consumed: Oasis. It was basically a cool kind of fruit juice.

---

**UPCOMING EVENT: TFL MUN****Ela ARIKAN 11B 1628**

As most people know, TFL MUN(Model United Nations) conference will be held in our school between 14-15 January. The agenda items and committees in this conference, which will be attended by 8th graders and high school students, are hung on the wall opposite the canteen.

There will be four different committees; United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) , Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (SOCHUM) and Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and the agenda items to be discussed in each of them have been sent to the participants via email.

The purpose of this interview with Ms. Duygu Ünal is to help the students who will attend or plan to attend this conference to find answers to the question marks in their minds.

Q: What is MUN?

A: Shortly, MUN is a simulation of the United Nations. Students make discussions about worldwide problems and try to find solutions.

Q:What does attending MUN conferences add to the participants, what are the advantages for them? It gives students a new and different perspective for sure. How?

Firstly, since the official language of the conference is English, students have a chance to practice the language within a different environment. Speaking in front of a crowd can be a bit challenging for some, it is a good opportunity for many to overcome this fear.

In addition, as young ladies and gentlemen, students not only get more familiar with worldwide problems but also become a part of the possible solutions.

Last but not least, an MUN conference can be seen as a sociable environment as it is a natural opportunity for students to meet new friends.

Q:What topics are discussed at TFL MUN?

A: Our main topic is one of the most important problems of the world: Responsible Consumption and Production. Different committees will discuss the topic and try to find solutions.

Q:What awards can be received at the end of the conference, what are the differences?

A: At the end of the conference, we have three awards for each committee: BEST DELEGATE, OUTSTANDING DELEGATE and HONORABLE MENTION.

The delegate who makes the most contribution to the committee and shows the best performance during the discussions gets” the best delegate” award.

The delegate who performs efficiently in the committee gets an “outstanding performance” award.

The delegate who shows great efforts to participate in the discussions gets honorable mention.

Finally, I would like to express my own thoughts. The first conference I attended was a TFL MUN conference when I was in 8th grade. I had some difficulties on the first day as I didn't have a good grasp of what to do in general, but after I got used to the environment and its functioning, my second day was much more comfortable and enjoyable. Afterwards, I started to attend other conferences in Ankara individually. These conferences, which had more serious and strict rules, helped me develop my skills in expressing myself in another language, speaking in public, and meeting many different people. But none of these would have happened if I hadn't attended the conference at school. I think everyone should seize this opportunity, as the organization takes place in the school environment, with people you know. You would actually understand the nature of MUN conferences. I strongly believe it would help us be more comfortable and confident which we could make use of in the future.

---

## **Christmas Break** **Eylül Sangu 11-A**

As always, this year has been a busy one. Assignments, performance tasks, lessons... I really think that it is pleasant to take a one-week-break from all these. The students can relax a little and they are able to take time for themselves. On the other hand, we cannot ignore the exams that will start after the holidays. Christmas holidays are a break that gives us the opportunity to both rest and study. These are my personal opinions, now let's see what other students think. I asked a few of my friends what they thought of Christmas holidays and their answers are here.

**Q: Eylül:** Are you having fun during the Christmas holidays?

**Arzu:** Honestly, I'm not having much fun because exam week is going to start right after the holidays. Since I study for the exams, this holiday does not feel like a holiday at all. If I didn't need to study, I'm sure this vacation would be very enjoyable.

**Q: Eylül:** Is this little break beneficial for you?

**Ela:** This holiday is very useful for me. One of the reasons is that I have plenty of time to study for the exam week. I have the opportunity to study more during the Christmas holidays. Furthermore, for me, another benefit of this holiday is that it provides a break from the tiring school environment. After busy school days, I can relax a little and I certainly have more time for myself during this little break.

**Q: Eylül:** What kind of activities are you planning to do during this break?

**Ekin:** Of course, I'm studying for exams like everyone else this holiday. But besides that, I also do a few activities. For example, yesterday I watched a movie called "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button". It was a really beautiful and impressive movie. And today, we decided to go out for dinner with my friends. Finally, at the weekend my cousins are coming. I adore playing volleyball with them. I can't wait for them to come!

---

**Commemoration Ceremony for Tevfik Fikret****by Selen İNAL**

A commemoration ceremony for Tevfik Fikret, after whom our school is named, was held in our school recently. I interviewed three who took part in this ceremony.

**Q: “What can you tell us about the preparation process?”**

**Beyza Tanalp:** “During the preparations, we improvised a few things. Our teachers let us use our imagination, they only gave us the texts we must read and told us who would come on stage in what order. They let us change our texts for easier reading. We could only rehearse twice but I think everyone did a good job.”

**Nil Randa:** “Our preparation time was short. We had a lot to do in a short amount of time. That was hard, but the result was great, in my opinion.”

**Elif Külah:** “Our rehearsals were tiring, to be honest. But I think we managed to produce a great ceremony. I also think that both students and teachers enjoyed watching it.”

**Q: “What was your favorite aspect of the commemoration?”**

**Beyza Tanalp:** “My favorite aspect of the commemoration was that everyone who took part in it was happy to be there and they got along well. Thanks to this, we got on the stage with good energy and we made a programme which wasn’t boring for other students and teachers.”

**Nil Randa:** “My favorite aspect of the commemoration was that it was original. The shadow play, the use of myths, the pianist and the soloist, our friends who read our poems; all made this ceremony unusual and pleasant.”

**Elif Külah:** “My favorite aspect of the commemoration was the shadow play. It made the ceremony more interesting, and I thought it was enjoyable..”

**Q: “Can you briefly tell us about your feelings on the commemoration and how it felt to be a part of the ceremony?”**

**Beyza Tanalp:** “Being the narrator in the ceremony was a little stressful and tiring, I had the chance to go backstage and rest only once. But it was a wonderful experience, it felt so good to present something we’ve all been working on for some time and see people’s reactions.”

**Nil Randa:** “It was a great honor to be a part of the ceremony and commemorate Tevfik Fikret.”

**Elif Külah:** “It was a great honor to take part in the commemoration ceremony of the poet after whom our school is named and has left a major impact on Turkey. It was an incredible experience for me to take part in the ceremony as a poet. I really feel encouraged to see that art and poetry are given great importance at our school.”

## **BEWARE!!! A BRAND NEW CONFERENCE IS RISING UP...**

**By Irmak ŞEN 11D**

Our school hosted its very first MUN conference “TFLMUN’23” on 14th and 15th January. It was solely organized by our teachers and students. Because it was the first time for our organization and academic team; it was exclusive for our school. There were seven committees, two of which were held in French. Delegates discussed the most popular agenda items while representing UN countries.



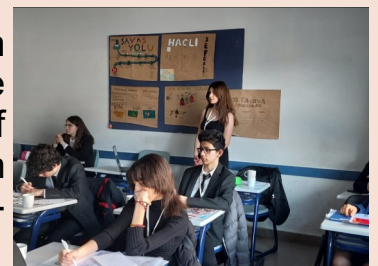
As every participant knows by heart, MUN conferences not only are academically hard work, but are also famous for the fun it provides.

All through the weekend, we all worked and partied and exhausted ourselves joyously.

The conference started with an opening ceremony which included guests’ speeches and colorful speeches. Then our honorable Secretary General, Pelin Alan finished the ceremony and declared the opening of the conference. After a beautiful show, delegates were finally able to go to their committees. Everyone was extremely excited and worried at the same time. But thanks to our amazing chairs, co-chairs and entertainment team; delegates got all warmed up in no time by playing ice breaking games like “never have I ever” or “soulmate”. When chairs decided that the committee was ready, they immediately began discussing their issues. In between sessions our entertainment team amused every single person at school, including Artem members, with their amazing skills. They organized marshmallow challenges, limbo, karaoke and many more games which actually proved that TFLMUN’23 was both similar and different from other model UN events. Our PR and press team was on non-stop duty, they caught countless important moments of the conference then shared them simultaneously on Instagram with lovely captions for the ones who weren’t there could see what was happening at TFLMUN’23.

Even MAFNU was an ongoing TFL tradition; with COVID-19 pandemic it had been postponed for an unknown timeline. Unfortunately other events came back up but MAFNU didn’t. This startled Pelin and she decided to talk her friends into reorganizing it. they worked so hard in their final year of high school; they planned and went with their perfectly-fine-functioning- event. Pelin said that it had always been a dream to plan and realize a complicated yet fun event like MUN. happily, her dream came true beautifully with the help of her friends.

On the first day, committees started their discussions on their agenda items and sessions went on naturally. Some committees began a lot more quickly than others because of the enthusiasm of the delegates. but still every one of them was aware of the current agenda items and yet they were willing to participate.





Even in the first debates, the rising heat of discussions were on board. alliances have been made and questions started to be addressed perfectly according to the current political status of the member states. Every single moment of the conference the delegates fought so hard within debates; even “crisis” interferences weren’t able to fade their concentrations.

From USGs to organization team members, every single participant of TFLMUN’23 was more than satisfied with the conference that had gone successfully. Entertainment team members Turgut Efe Bilgin and Yankı Baykan said a few words about it. they shared approximately same ideas and agreed on the same point which is *“As the entertainment team, we worked so hard to make TFLMUN’23 more fun than it already is for everybody.”*



Irmak Çağlar used the words *“During our school’s first ever MUN conference, I was the president chair of the committee UNEP. This was my first chairing experience and it couldn’t be more special. We were the only lucky committee because our dearest USG Ezgi came to the conference these two days and she has helped us a lot through the process. I’m so glad that I got the chance to experience managing a committee with two of my closest friends, Hayal and Eren. This weekend, our school has started a new tradition thanks to the inspiring twelfth graders. So, I would be honored to carry this tradition next year and one day be invited as a USG to our school’s MUN. ”*. One of her co-chairs Ahmet Eren Güler was also kind enough to be a part of this interview. He said for this year’s conference *“It was a great experience for me to be present at such a respected conference as TFLMUN. I had two enjoyable days in my first chairboard experience thanks to the successful delegates in my committee. At the same time, coffee breaks were even more fun with the activities organized by the entertainment team and the music they played. Therefore, I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the TFLMUN organization...”*

Bensu Bükülmez was on the chairboard to a French committee and she evaluated the event. She declared: *“Even if it was the first experience for most of our delegates, it has been a conference that was beyond our expectations. Thanks to the hard work of the delegations; it was very delightful for us. I personally thank our 12th graders who we might not be able to work together again and of course all the delegates of every committee for making this day so enjoyable and memorable. It was an event that I always will remember with a huge smile on my face.”*

Alp Duman, the academic advisor of the conference, claimed that he had always dreamt about the day where he would finally be someone more than a delegate in a model UN conference. He didn't only achieve his dream, he took it to another level and organized one. We are more than thankful to them for making us all experience such a lovely event.

Our deputy secretary general who was responsible for the French committees, Zeynep Yetkin thanked the staff and the delegates by saying *"This conference, which started with a dream and is now a reality, is such a joy that it is very difficult to put it into words. Literally I don't want to believe that the conference is over, and I want to return to our committees alongside our staff and dear delegates. All committees and delegates have done a great job and this is an amazing opportunity to be part of this conference which was enriched by the enthusiasm of the delegates and their debates. I want to thank everyone who made the first edition of TFLMUN so perfect and I'm so happy that the last MUN of my high school life went so well. Dear delegates, staff members, organization team, academic team and many other people that I cannot count, I thank you all and I love you very much."*

All the people in the school building were happy and having fun during the conference. From the delegates to security guards or from ARTEM members to our dear teachers on duty everyone was satisfied and sure that they were gonna re-



member these two days with more than happiness. all of us knew by heart that these were the two days that were gonna last forever in our memories.

When I think all the participants and helpers, including our beyond special sponsors; I know, I won't be alone doing that. Once again I am sending my gratitude to every single person who helped this organization become this spectacular. And I hope this beautiful event won't share the same path as MAFNU and it will be an even longer staying TFL tra-

dition.

Last but not least, we would like to thank our lovely and amazing English department. During the whole process they were the ones who spent an enormous amount of time and helped us to make this conference perfect! We must not forget Madame Rahime who gave us her caring guidance throughout the preparations and made the conference extra special. We would like to express our gratitude to each and every teacher that made this conference possible.

**\*Christmas Eve\*by Carl Larsson(1904-1905)****by Zeynep Ünsal 11D**

Carl Olof Larsson is a Swedish painter who was born on May 28th 1853 and died on January 22th January 1919. He was a representative of the "Arts and Crafts" movement. He's mainly known for his use of watercolors and usually painted detailed drawings of family life. In his painting "Christmas Eve" we can also see a professional use of watercolor in details. In the painting we see a Christmas tradition taking place. A feast which is about to begin to celebrate Christmas and the new year with close relatives and friends. On the right we see a man who's probably the head of the house with his wife and daughter and on the left we can see guests gathering around the table, also a maid who's bringing in food. On the table, we see the traditional main course of a Christmas dinner; a turkey. Under the table there's also a cute detail which is a kitten waiting for its share of the dinner.

Long story short, many paintings of Carl Larsson are usually underrated but should be noticed more since the details and his art style are mesmerizing. I recommend everyone who's interested in art to study his art works.

