

Roadrunner Express

SPECIAL EDITION: PROFILES IN COURAGE
 JAMES RUTTER MIDDLE SCHOOL

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

This special edition of the Roadrunner Express is called "Profiles in Courage" because it highlights Roadrunners who have faced difficulties that many of us cannot imagine: immigrating to a new country, adapting to an unfamiliar culture, and learning a new language, all while also dealing with the normal day to day problems of being a teenager.

Thanks for reading their stories. If you see them in the halls, say hello!

Mozhgan Hazrati

By: Jazell Johnson

Mozhgan has brown eyes and a soft voice with a slight accent. She wore a colorful hijab when we met in the library and was very open to answering the questions I asked.

Mozhgan's home country is Afghanistan. She lived in "a big house with lots of rooms in Kabul the capital of Afghanistan." Her family had 2 houses in Afghanistan and they moved a couple times.

She misses her grandma because she "had a close bond" with her and she talks to her grandma everyday. Her most memorable moments in her home country were spending time with her grandma. In her home country she had a goodbye party with her friends and family. She didn't go to school for about a month before she

moved. She said, "It was hard in my home country because school was split by gender and she went for 5 hours each day and she used to get hit with a ruler by the teachers if she was bad." All grades were in one school in Afghanistan.

She explained in her home country "there was a war against people wanting freedom." Her dad chose to move due to these wars in Afghanistan and to give his kids a better education. She came to America with her parents and her 5 siblings. Her 21 year old brother, Ahmad, stayed in Afghanistan with her grandma.

She moved in 2016 or 2017 she does not know. Her family traveled to America by airplane and it took 2 days. Due to Mzhgan's mom having more

kids, they weren't ready to move for 4 years. Her mom was scared to go on the plane. Mzhgan, however, was not scared on the plane.

Her first impression of America was that it was "scary and had lots of diversity." When she came to America she knew the ABC's, but it was still hard to learn English. It was easy to make new friends however. She knew 1 person who was already in the United States: her dad's friend, Gurlam Rohima.

She wanted to give up when she came here but her dad kept her going and helped her a lot. She wanted to give up because it was hard to learn English.

Mzhgan feels scared that people don't like her and that they won't like her if she wears her

Zohal Sadat

By Adriana Lopez Zavala

It was a cold afternoon after 5th period. All the yearbook students were heading to the library knowing that they had a potluck with delicious food. There were also other kids coming through to be in-

terviewed from all different countries. Zohal was who I interviewed. She was wearing a grey hoodie and she looked pretty nervous. Her voice is a bit quiet.

Zohal lived in Kabul in Afghan-

istan until moving to the US. Right now there's a war going on. There were bombs, and her parents thought that it was better to move here because it was safer here in the United States.

I asked her if there was one thing to say about your experience, what would it be? She responded that she would travel back, and bring her family that was still in Afghanistan to the US.

Fawziah Samim

By Alondra Ortiz

Afghanistan is a country in South Asia with a population of 35.53 million people. This was the home of Fawziah Samim, an 8th grader at our school. Fawziah moved to the US in 2017 as a 6th grader.

Fawziah Samim sat across from me at a square wooden table in the library. The lighting was very bright which made Fawziah's yellow dress stand out. She wore a dark pink hijab that was wrapped around her head. She didn't

seem too shy; in fact she had a warm smile on her face.

Fawziah states that in her county there was a lot of conflict, a lot of bombings and fighting. I "didn't go to school because there were bombings," quoted Fawziah. But on the other hand her school was wonderful. At her school back in Afghanistan she enjoyed learning about English and math. She also enjoyed staying after school. She felt as if everyone was friendly and

there were no problems whatsoever.

Fawziah had to move away from Afghanistan because of all the violence going on in her country. She couldn't even go to school some days because of all the bombings. Fawziah's journey from Afghanistan to the US was calm. She took a plane to Sacramento and faced no challenges along the way. Fawziah was 11 years old when she moved to the US.

Before arriving in

the states Fawziah thought there wasn't going to be any violence. She also thought there wasn't going to be any homelessness. Even though Fawziah's new environment is safer than her hometown, she likes Afghanistan better. She has family back at home, including her grandmother, cousin, etc. Fawziah enjoys singing and dancing. She would like to be a doctor when she grows up.

Shahla Ruhani

By Tiffany Au

Shahla Ruhani has long brown hair, brown eyes, a voice with a slight accent, and chooses to not wear a hijab. She is an 8th grader at JRMS who immigrated to Sacramento, California in 2016-2017.

Shahla is from Afghanistan and immigrated here by plane along with her family when she was 11 years old. Her family decided to move because of bad situations such as war. It was difficult for her and her family

to get here because they had to do a lot of paperwork. It took them a whole year for her family to get here.

When she lived in Afghanistan, school was terrible for her. She said, "teachers would hit us with rulers and treated us terribly."

It was difficult for her to learn English, but her old school taught a bit. The language she spoke in her home country was Farsi.

Some difficulties she faced when she had to leave was having to say goodbye to people she cares about like

her grandma, family and friends, and leaving the place she grew up in. She has not been back to Afghanistan since moving.

The Ruhani family moved to Sacramento once they were allowed to move, and Shahla noticed that people treated them differently in the US. Many people treated them badly: calling them names, bullying, harassing. Shahla felt so scared, sad and upset, she even stopped wearing her hijab so that she

wouldn't get bullied anymore. She has lived in America for 3 years.

Before she moved, she thought it would be easy to live here, but it was difficult for her dad to find a job. Some things she likes about living in America is that there are many things she can learn.

In the future, Shahla is hoping to become a doctor or artist, and she would visit, but never live in Afghanistan again.

Lima Shafaq

By Annaliese Daranykone

What if you had to leave the place you grew up in and start living your life almost completely differently? This is what happened to Lima Shafaq when she had to leave her home country, Afghanistan, in 2016.

Lima immigrat-

ed to Sacramento, California four years ago. Her family had planned for this for about two to three months. When Lima and her family came, they took four planes in two days. Lima was sad when she found out she was leaving

her home country.

She and her family came here because in Afghanistan there were a lot of shootings and bombings, and because the Taliban it made it dangerous for Lima to get an education because they don't allow women and girls to go to

school.

She has liked it here in Sacramento so far and especially has liked school, although she still misses her home country since it was the place she grew up.

Ke Sen Pei

By Ayden Xiong

Imagine this: you move to America from China, and you don't even know why you moved. How would you feel? This is what happened to Ke Sen Pei.

Ke Sen Pei is an 8th grader at Rutter who moved from Guang Xi, China to the US. He has one brother that he moved to America with. Now he is happy that he left because he can explore another country, but he misses

his home and where he grew up for half his life. He speaks Mandarin and he has other family members in America.

His favorite class in school is English because he says it helps him communicate with others. His favorite food in America is chips, and his favorite dish in China is chicken.

He likes this school because the people around him help him when he needs

it. When he went to school in China, he wore a uniform, but in America he can wear whatever he wants. He likes that he can wear what he wants because it shows what kind of person he is.

He soon hopes he can visit his hometown of Guang Xi, China again.

Ke Sen Pei, again

by Jacob Lau

Imagine this: you move to America from China, and you don't even know why you moved. How would you feel? This is what happened to Kensen Pei.

Ke Sen Pei is an 8th grader at Rutter who moved from Guang Xi, China to the US. He has one brother that he moved to America with.

Now he is happy that he left because he can explore another country, but he misses his home and where he grew up for half his life. He speaks Mandarin and he has other family members in America.

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wants. He likes that he can wear what he wants because it shows what kind of person he is.

He soon hopes he can visit his hometown of Guang Xi, China again.

Ramesis Anidreb

By Dylan Alcartado

The Marshall Islands are a separate chain of 30 islands and 800 reefs located in Oceania. The population is about 68 thousand people. This was the home of Ramesis, a 7th grader at our school, who moved to the US in 2019.

Ramesis' "first day in America was very nice. He saw a lot of cool things like bright lights

and lots of cars. Ramesis already had aunts and uncles in America before he came. Ramesis came to America to learn English.

When Ramesis came to school, he made a lot of friends. Also he was not treated badly because of what language he spoke. Ramesis speaks Marshallese. Ramesis' old school was

very big and had a lot of teachers. When Ramesis came to our school he liked it better than his old school.

Since coming to America, Ramesis' favorite fast food is Burger King. In Ramesis opinion the stores in the Marshall Islands are better than the stores in America. Ramesis' old house was big and it had a lot of

rooms. In the Marshall Islands they have apples, seafood, rice, and many greens.

Ramesis does not go to the Marshall Islands to visit. Ramesis had a great time in America and is still making memories everyday and having fun. Ramesis' dream/goal is to become a police officer.

Soraj Karimi

By Julian Ochoa

Soraj sat right in front of me at the table. We first talked about where he is from and his Tik Tok account. He was kind of nervous when we talked at first.

Soraj is an 8th grader at James Rutter who immigrated from Kabul, Afghanistan. He came to the United States when he was in

the 5th grade. He came with his cousins and his parents and lived with them for a while.

His family moved because his parents thought that it was better for Soraj and his siblings to experience school in America. Soraj also said that school is

more smooth-as in no drama- than at his old school. Soraj also said that he hates bullying here because that would remind him of being in his home country.

He did not directly come from Afghanistan. Before he stopped in Sacramento, he came to Los An-

geles in southern California. When he first went to school in LA, he said he got treated the same as everybody else he went to school with.

The hardest thing about leaving Afghanistan was leaving all the rest of his friends and family.

Mustafa Zaki

By Isaias Munoz-Montejano

What would you do if your country suddenly broke out in a war with another country? What if it was in your own backyard, what would you do, where would you go?

This is what happened to Mustafa Zaki. His family moved here from Afghanistan.

Their learning chances weren't so great hence why their parents brought them here. For example, Mustafa told me "we would only go to school from 9 in the morn-

ing to about 12." Their schools didn't have offices for the principals; instead, they would walk around the halls making sure the teachers wouldn't be having a hard time, and if students were giving them a bad time, they would hit students' hands. Before moving and while moving to the States, Mustafa and his family experienced a large series of emotions and events. His family got here on a 2-3 day flight, first making their way to Dubai then on a plane to Sacramento. His parents moved here for multiple

reasons such as a better education; another reason their parents moved here was because of the war in Afghanistan.

While moving, Mustafa stated that he wanted to go back to Afghanistan and wished he didn't have to move here. When Mustafa first moved here he only spoke Dari/ Dari Persian which is a variety of Persian languages in one language. He says he was sort of mocked for being an immigrant when he first moved

here and didn't know English.

Mustafas's life now in America has changed so much over the last three years. For starters he now speaks two languages: Dari and English. Mustafa says he loves it here because "you can do whatever you want and no one cares about it." Mustafa says, "When I first moved I just wanted to go back to Afghanistan and I hated it here; but now over time I have started to like it and don't want to go back to Afghanistan."

Bless Hilton

By Himani Johal

Imagine moving to a different country and not knowing their culture or their way of living. That's the story of a student here at Rutter. Bless Hilton is an 8th grader at Rutter from Liberia and she speaks English and Beli.

She says, "My dad wanted to move out

of Liberia." Her dad won a "DV", or sweepstakes, of a plane ticket to come to America and her mom and dad liked it here and wanted to stay. She moved with her parents and sister four or five years ago.

Things are very different in America than Liberia. Back

home they had to wear uniforms unlike Rutter. At home, she liked to color. Here, she enjoys going to the park since there aren't any in her hometown. She also likes basketball.

Although she knows America will bring many opportunities for her, and a good

life, Bless says she misses her home and all her friends there.

Shagofa Khan

By Dalida Pham

Shagofa is a quiet and calm girl with a beautiful smile and eyes that shine like the sun. She wore a hijab. She wasn't talkative, but looked very cheerful. She smiled a lot while she answered the questions during our interview. She attends JRMS and moved here from Afghanistan.

Shagofa's first impression when she arrived in America was satisfied, but also nervous about making new friends, but in the end she made a lot.

She used an airplane for

transportation. She came here with her parents and four siblings. They've been living in America for six years now. She stated that her family moved here because her dad wanted them to learn and get better at English.

One of the challenges she faced while going to school in America was speaking English. Most people should know that going to a different country and having to learn a new language can be very hard.

Shagofa speaks Pashto, Hindi, and of course now English.

A place she would like to visit is India, she wants to hangout with her friends from there. Shagofa had said that her future goals is to, "do my own thing and what I want to do."

Although she's made new friends here she misses her country and all her friends and family members back there.

Teresa Castaneda Angel

By LILIANA FLORES PLASCENCIA

Michoacan is the most dangerous states in Mexico due to drugged-fueled violence. It's also known for producing the most avocados. Teresa, a 7th grader, came to America because of lots of violence that was going on and for a better life.

Teresa came to America half way in a car and halfway in an airplane. She stopped in Tijuana and then got on an airplane straight to Sacra-

mento. She came to America with her sister, her nieces, and her dad. A challenge she faced coming here is that she was a refugee and they might get locked up.

She feels good about living in America because her family is finally together now. But, she would rather go back to Mexico then live here because she misses her lifestyle and all her friends. Her life was easier in Mexico because she

knew everything unlike here where she needs to learn a new language (she speaks Spanish).

At the school she used to attend, a lot of the kids ditched school. They would have to bring their own lunch or they could buy snacks that her school sold. What she likes about school here is that she gets all the support she needs. She said, "I get treated well; everyone has been nice to me."

She doesn't know

how long she has been here but she lived in Mexico for almost her whole life. She's still learning English right now and only knew "okay" before coming here. Her favorite food here so far is burgers; she said they taste different from the ones in Mexico.

Her mom sadly passed away when she was eleven and she misses her a lot.

Adithya Krishnamurthy

By Phillip Lee

How would you feel if your father got a new job in a different country and you had to move to that country? This is the story of an 8th grader at JRMS, Adithya.

Adithya was born on January 28, 2006 in Karnataka, India. It is located on the western coast of India and has a population of 64.06 million people. He speaks Telugu and English. He went to school in Karnataka. The transportation that

his family used in Karnataka was a car and a motorbike. He said that he left India because of his dad's job. When he left India he felt sad because he left all his friends and family in India. He said that some of his family members did not come to the U.S. because they work in India. He also said that, "I would have stayed in India if I did not come to America." When he came to America,

he said that he knew a little bit of English because his school taught English. "When people would talk to me in English I would not understand it the first time." He also said that people in America treated him well because he was new.

Adithya said that his school in India is different from school in America because they would hit him if he made a mistake. He also said that America is different

from India because when he used to live in India he would talk to everyone like they were his friends. When he came to America, it felt like everything was new.

When Adithya first sat across from me for our interview, he looked very nervous. In the end, he turned out to be a really cool person.

Sayed Latif Agha

By Anthony Cross

What would you do if one day you had to move to another country and leave some of your family behind because your parents had a job there? This is what happened to Letif, a 7th grader at James Rutter Middle School.

Letif came here from Afghanistan on a plane because his dad had a job here. His family was crying when he left. He was 11 years old and started school at Samuel Kennedy Elementary. He didn't speak good English, but he spoke Farsi. People helped and in time he was better.

In Afghanistan their style is like ours. They also have what we have like cars, phones, and computers. But the prices are better. He thought their food was better. At his old school there were more people in each class, and their punishments were worse. His old country has some of the sports we have.

He handled moving very well.

Heven Marcaeg

By P a c h i a Y a n g

How would YOU feel if you were taken out of your hometown and put into a whole new environment and language? This very same thing happened to Heven Marcaeg, an 8th grade student at Rutter.

Before moving from the Philippines, she only knew three languages: Tagalog, Ilocano and Panasinan. She had to learn how to speak English so things wouldn't be so difficult for her. It was difficult for her to learn English, but once she knew how to speak English, she had more confidence speaking up.

Back in the Philippines, she would talk and hangout with her friends. A struggle for her back in her country was people bullying her. They would call her offen-

Aroosha Amin

By Kore Contreras

Aroosha, an 8th grader at Rutter who immigrated from Pakistan, sat before me. Her light cyan hijab with small glitter sequins on the fabric popped out, complementing her face. She was a little shy and nervous but she had a soft voice as she answered my questions.

She moved here about 3 months ago not knowing the reason why. Her parents forced her to live in the United States. Before she lived here she thought about the good life here.

She came here by train and airplane with her aunt. She was nervous to move here. Her native language is Urdu. It was hard for her to learn English but she is getting the hang of it. Now she feels comfortable living here.

I think she is a wonderful addition to our school!

Sindy Gomez Calderon

By Yamileth Camargo Beltran

Honduras has the highest crime rates and violence in Latin American. Most of the incidents of violent crime are drug- and gang-related. Sindy, a 7th grader at Rutter came to America from Honduras because of this violence and for a better life.

She enjoys living in the US since all her family is together. Her family drove for fifteen days to get here. Some challenges she faced while coming to the US was she had to eat nasty food. The hardest thing that Sindy went through leaving Honduras as that most of her family is still there and coming to the US she had to start eating different food which she didn't like.

When she arrived in the US with her siblings and parents, she felt good about living in a new country where she could have a better life. She didn't know any English before coming to America. Her life was difficult before she came

to the US since there was a lot of violence going on in her country.

She has been in the United States for 8 months. Sindy said she enjoys being here and learning to speak English. She says people treat her well in the US. Her favorite food so far here is burgers. Any places she would like to go outside of Sacramento is San Francisco. One of her goals is to become a teacher so she can help kids learn more things.

Sohila Ahmad Zai

By Y a r e l i R o d r i g u e z

sive names.

In her previous country, she went to school and she says it's harder for her because of the tests. She also said that if you didn't pass the tests then the teachers would hit you with a stick, which was a punishment for the kids in the Philippines.

When she moved, it changed her life because America has different choices than the Philippines. She wants to work hard so she can succeed and have a better life. In the Philippines it was hard because there was little food because they didn't have much money for them to buy groceries. But everything became better because she moved to America.

Now that she lives in America she has a goal is to

Sohila sat at a medium table across from me in the library. I looked up to see her smile. Her voice and laugh were very soft spoken. Sohila is a 7th grader at James Rutter Middle School who migrated from Afghanistan to Sacramento, California on November 21, 2017.

Sohila came to Sacramento because she wanted to learn English and experience new things. The language she speaks is Pashto and a bit of English that she learned in Sacramento. She felt uncomfortable coming to school because she didn't speak English when she came to Sacramento.

Her whole family did not come here. She still has one sister in Afghanistan right now. She felt okay with that

because she has other family members to talk to.

There are no similarities between schools here and in Afghanistan. The subjects like Math and English are different, and schools don't have a lot of rooms. She feels like she has been treated fair here because she is allowed to do everything everyone else does when she is in Afghanistan with all of her friends.