



ABS TIMES

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Congratulations to the New Emir of Kuwait

Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

Crowned on 30 September 2020

Online Education at ABS

Welcome Back Students!!! Greetings for the New Year and online distance learning. As the year begins at ABS, we look forward to connecting with students and staff virtually until everyone is back on campus. We wish everyone a safe and happy 2021.



[More information on page 2](#)

Message from the Editor

Welcome to the first edition of the ABS Times for the 2020-2021 Academic Year.

It seems like such a long time since we were producing the last edition of ABS Times and none of us could have predicted the global, national and local events that would occur since our students were last on campus looking forward to the National and Liberation Day holidays nearly a year ago.

We have endeavored during the current pandemic and ensuing period of Online Learning to deliver an educational experience as close to normal for our students as possible. This edition of the ABS Times contains our usual coverage of the events that have occurred during the first Semester of the school year. In addition, we have also added extended articles including: students and teachers discussing their experiences during the National Lockdown and Online Learning, details of the preparations taking place on campus for the return of our students. There are interviews with some of our newest members of the ABS team and some examples of student's work that have been created during the period of Online Learning.

We have also taken the opportunity to include our tributes to mark the tragic passing of the late Emir, Sheikh Sabah Al-Sabah in September 2020. This was a great loss and was felt by every member of the ABS family.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year and hope that 2021 finally allows us to begin the journey to the return to normality that we all crave.



Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

June 16, 1929 - September 29, 2020

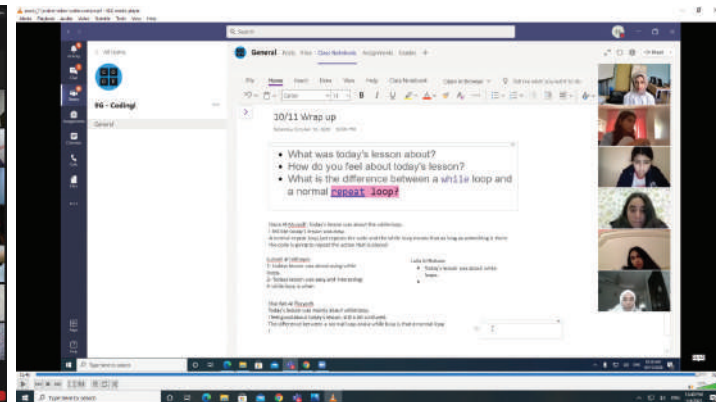
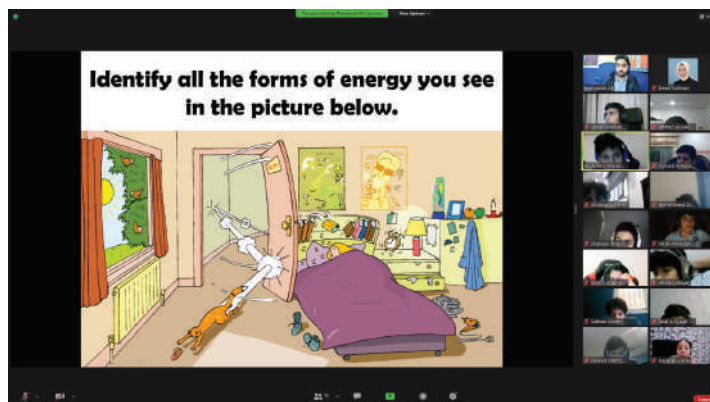
He was the 15th Ruler of Kuwait and the 6th Emir of the State of Kuwait.

For more information regarding the late Emir please refer page 3

Online learning at ABS

What is Online Schooling in Kuwait?

Online schooling is a way for students to study at their own homes. ABS began the online journey before many other schools in Kuwait, as soon as the Corona Virus pandemic occurred. Students in all departments of ABS get to attend classes virtually using Zoom and doing their work using Microsoft Teams. Attendance in class is mandatory, good behavior is expected, and work must be done in order to maintain and improve GPA scores and to graduate successfully. All of this has been put in place in order to allow us to stay safe in our homes during the pandemic.



How are ABS students dealing with this change?

ABS has a detailed schedule with 3-7 classes a day. Online schooling starts at 8 am and ends at 2:30 pm. Students in ABS have mixed feelings about online school. Some students miss school and wish to get back to school as soon as possible while others are happy with the extra freedom they have and enjoy staying in the comfort of their homes.



Student's View of Online Learning

"Online School has been a very big change. The students had to adapt to the change quickly and get used to it. It is just like regular school where we wake up early and have classes. Out of all the classes, Journalism is my favorite, because I enjoy writing and learning about different styles of writing. Another class I like is Environmental Science, because our teacher makes it fun and I enjoy learning about it. Finally, I love English because our teacher is very understanding and the way she teaches, is great fun."

Student's Opinion

"In MSHS, we have four long classes every day. Each class is 1.5 hours long. Honestly, I think if Online Learning continues much longer that the school should make the lessons 1 hour in length because 1.5 hours is a very long time to spend in one class and the students can get bored and tired of the class. In conclusion, online classes are very practical; it is also good fun. I prefer it over actually going to school. The idea and concepts are extremely good and I don't mind doing it the whole year!"

"In our experience, we think online schooling is practical during this situation. Although we do miss our friends, our health should always be our number one priority!

We have found Online Learning to have many advantages. It is simpler and also provides more freedom, since students can be anywhere for classes: their chalets, homes, or even relative's homes. Online schooling has been an interesting new experience that we students get to enjoy."

Who decided online schooling is a better alternative to no school?

Online schooling began in March 2020. Private schools such as ABS, decided to continue school virtually and public schools followed later. Online school is still continuing until further notice. Governments all over the world decided that online schooling is a better alternative to keep the citizens safe. Kuwait's government is one of the countries that is continuing online schooling, until the situation can be dealt with.

Kuwait is taking the situation very seriously, because they care about people's health and welfare. The government decided to cancel normal schooling to reduce the COVID-19 cases in Kuwait.

Online Learning has been important for the welfare of the student's health and learning. Students have been able to study in the comfort of their homes without being a danger to themselves or others. Students have learned just like they would do in schools thanks to the technology and facilities at ABS. Because we have followed the safety precautions, we have been kept safe.



*In Memory of***Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah**

نظرا للمصاب الجلل بوفاة
المغفور له باذن الله تعالى
حضرة صاحب السمو الشيخ
 صباح الاحمد الجابر الصباح
 "امير البلاد
 و بناء على الاعلان الرسمي
 بالحداد لمدة ثلاثة ايام ،
 تعلن مدرسة البكالوريا
 الامريكية بتعطيل الدراسة
 و اغلاق المدرسة ليوم غد
 الاربعاء و الخميس .



The Emir of Kuwait, Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who ruled the country for 14 years, died at the age of 91, on September 29, 2020. "Sheikh Sabah was an extraordinary symbol of wisdom and generosity, a messenger of peace, a bridge-builder," said UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal wrote "We lose a wise leader who devoted his life to service of his country and to Arab and Islamic nations." With the passing of Al-Sabah, The United Arab Emirates announced a three-day mourning period. The cabinet later confirmed his brother, Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, as the new Emir of Kuwait.



Commendations Elementary Students

Exceptional Members of the ABS Family

Here at the American Baccalaureate School, we believe in showing our appreciation for hard work and doing an exceptional job. Each month both the students and the staff are recognized for going above and beyond as role models for what exceptional members of the ABS family should be. These individuals are honored by being named the students, teachers, or staff members of the respective month. Here at the ABS Times, we appreciate these outstanding individuals and want to recognize them once again for everything they do for us and for ABS. Take a look at the pictures, and next time you see one of these wonderful Wildcats, tell them how much you appreciate them and congratulate them for being student of the month.

Students of the Month - Elementary



Shaikhah Al-Ghanim
Grade 1E
Student of the Month
October



Abyar Buhamad
Grade 2A
Student of the Month
October



Jawa Kattan
Grade 3A
Student of the Month
October



Nourah Al-Asousi
Grade 4A
Student of the Month
October



Layan Al-Mashaan
Grade 5A
Student of the Month
October



Alzain Al-Masoud
Grade 1A
Student of the Month
November



Mariam Al-Kandari
Grade 2B
Student of the Month
November



Saoud Esmaeel
Grade 3B
Student of the Month
November



Eisa Al-Shaheen
Grade 4B
Student of the Month
November



Othman Al-Failakawi
Grade 5B
Student of the Month
November



Khaled Al-Dalali
Grade 1B
Student of the Month
December



Sana Al-Taleb
Grade 2C
Student of the Month
December



Mona Al-Rasheedi
Grade 3C
Student of the Month
December



Mohammad Al-Hassem
Grade 4C
Student of the Month
December



Ahmed Al-Marshed
Grade 5C
Student of the Month
December

Congratulations!

Great job!



Commendations MSHS Students

Students of the Month - Middle School and High School



Nizar Al-Nusif
Grade 6BB
Student of the Month
September



Muneerah Al-Marei
Grade 7GA
Student of the Month
September



Sarah Al-Noumas
Grade 6GB
Student of the Month
October



Nizar Al-Ibrahim
Grade 7BC
Student of the Month
October



Maan Al-Zawawi
Grade 10BC
Student of the Month
September



Dima Al-Nafisi
Grade 10GA
Student of the Month
September



Haya Al-Munaifi
Grade 12GA
Student of the Month
October



Mishari Al-Duwaisan
Grade 12BA
Student of the Month
October



Latifa Al-Theyaib
Grade 8GA
Student of the Month
November



Shaheen Abdullah
Grade 8BB
Student of the Month
November



Salah Khalefoh
Grade 6BA
Student of the Month
December



Heyam Al-Khalifah
Grade 7GB
Student of the Month
December



Athba Talal Al-Majed
Grade 10GB
Student of the Month
November



Abdulaziz Al-Aslawy
Grade 12BA
Student of the Month
November



Sami Mahmoud
Grade 9BA
Student of the Month
December



Jude Al-Suliaman
Grade 12GA
Student of the Month
December



Commendations ABS Staff

ABS has outstanding teachers, administrators, and support staff, that contribute daily to ensuring we provide the best education for all of our students. They are committed to continually improving and adapting to best serve the needs of our student body. We would like to thank them for the hard work and dedication they provide to students and their families on a daily basis!

Every month teachers and teaching assistants are nominated by their peers and administrators to be recognized for their exceptional and outstanding hard work. They are bestowed this award during faculty meetings at the beginning of every month. Although we could choose many teachers for this monthly recognition, one teacher receives this honor for each department.

Staff of the Month - Elementary Department



Sam Jannan
Staff of the Month
October



Sarah Mis'aad
Arabic Staff of the Month
October



Rabia Ejaz
Teaching Assistant of the
Month - October



Elena Kapila
Staff of the Month
November



Al-Zahra Ali
Arabic Staff of the Month
November



Ayesha Qazi
Teaching Assistant of the
Month - November



Ashleigh Garman
Staff of the Month
December



Abeer Mustafa
Arabic Staff of the Month
December



Safa Anjum
Teaching Assistant of the
Month - December

Staff of the Month - MSHS Department



Demarian Williams
Staff of the Month
September



Eman Soliman
Staff of the Month
October



Kevin Jones
Staff of the Month
November



Mohamed Ibrahim
Staff of the Month
November



Darlene Urena
Staff of the Month
December



Ehda'a Mohamed
Staff of the Month
December

Staff of the Month - KG Department



Nada Al-Mousawi
Staff of the Month
November



Mary Fawzy
Teaching Assistant of the
Month - December

Thank You
For The Job Well Done!



Special Events

Parent-Teacher Conferences

ABS would like to thank the parents, teachers, and staff for working together to make this quarter Parent-Teacher conference a successful one. Parents had the opportunity to meet their child's teacher and enhance the communication between school and home. Parents were informed about their child's current progress, while outlining plans and recommendations for the future. We were delighted to see our teachers and parents come together to discuss student progress and their child's academic achievements. We are looking forward to seeing students back on campus for classes in the future, when it is safe.



Special Visitor - Professional Development Day

ABS Faculty enjoyed a desert and winter-themed morale event on December 10, 2020. Among the professional and team building activities, faculty welcomed a three year old camel named Shaheen and his friendly trainer. Shaheen, the camel, did not mind posing for photographs with all departments. In fact, he seemed to join in on the fun. Shaheen was a curious camel, as seen in his expressive photographs. Mr. Manoharan Manu, ABS Head of Security, stated "This is the first time that faculty welcomed a camel to campus."



Kindergarten Events

Initial Assessment Visits

During the week of November 22nd-26th, the KG students completed their Baseline and DIBELS assessments. It was a great opportunity for teachers to gain valuable data to help determine the student's level and ability. These assessments help to set targets for future teaching and planning.



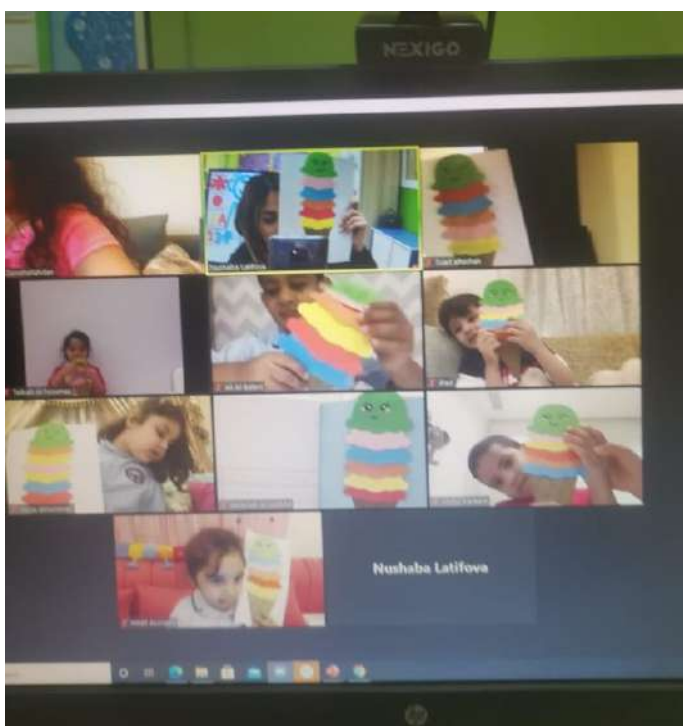
KG Open House and Curriculum Night

On Thursday, November 12th, the KG Department held Open House and Curriculum Night. It was a great opportunity for parents to come to ABS, meet their child's teacher and receive information about this school year and curriculum. On this day, parents received their child's remote learning kits and parent packs which included the student schedule and parent calendar. It was lovely to see so many parents turn out for this wonderful event.



KG Favorite Color Day - Online

KG Favorite Color Day was celebrated online for KG2 on Wednesday, December 2nd and for KG1 on Thursday, December 3rd. The students were encouraged to wear their favorite color during our special assembly and in their online classes. During class time, teachers presented fun color lessons and created colorful crafts with their students. It was a colorfully-fun day had by all!



Kindergarten Events

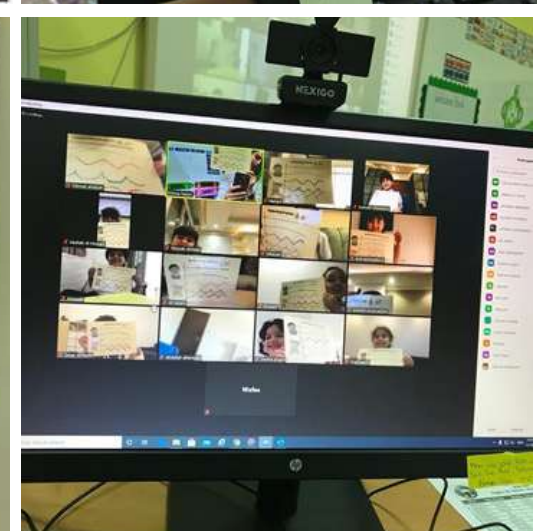
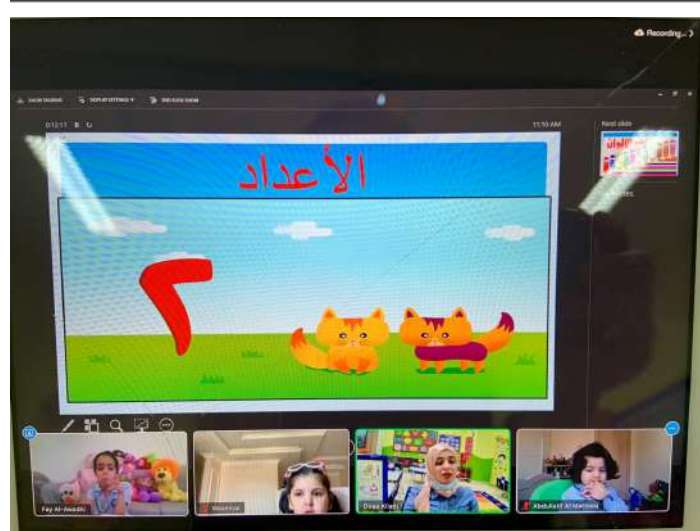
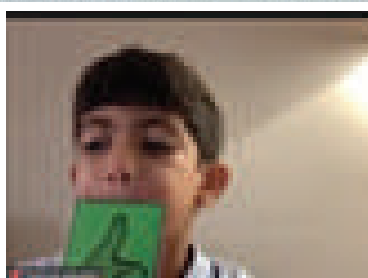
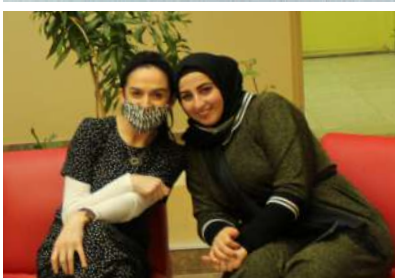
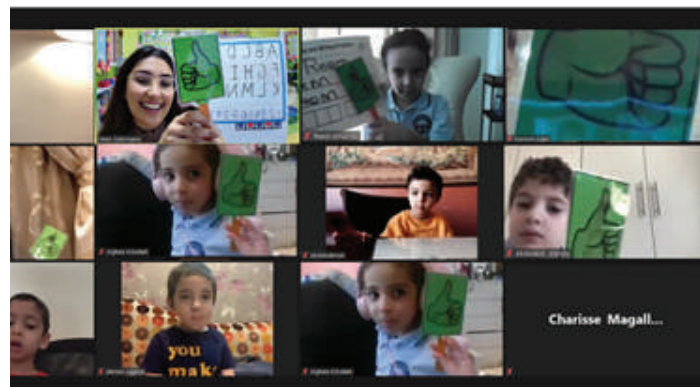
KG First Day-Character Visit!

KG celebrated the very first day of the school year on Tuesday, November 17th with a big surprise for our students. The characters, Subway Surfer and a cute, rainbow unicorn paid a special surprise visit in our English and Arabic classes. We were so happy to start the first day of school in such a fun, interactive way and see the smiles on our students' faces!



KG Spotlight

The current global situation delayed our start of the school year in Kindergarten. But, we are back! Our students and families have made a great start to the year, enjoying the exciting, fun and creative learning activities that our teachers have planned for the time of Online Learning. "Students and parents have embraced the online learning platform and we are so happy to have a smooth and successful start to the school year." It has been fabulous to welcome our students on to campus for initial visits and assessments. We hope to see students back on campus when it is safe.



Elementary Vibes

Science Fair

Every year at ABS, Grade 4 and 5 students have the chance to demonstrate their inquiry and problem-solving skills in the Science Fair. This virtual school year is no exception. Grade 4 and 5 students utilized the scientific method to explore topics such as Chemistry, Engineering, Physics and more. Students shared their projects during homeroom and in the Morning Assemblies. We are so proud of our 4th and 5th grade students!



Elementary Science Fair Project 2020-2021

Student's name: Hissa Mervat
Class: 5B
Science Fair Topic: Sinking and Floating eggs



NAJEEBA ALREFAEI
5D
SCIENCE FAIR TOPIC: WHY DO SOME FOODS MOLD FASTER THAN OTHERS?/TO MOLD OR NOT TO MOLD THAT IS THE QUESTION.



Elementary Science Fair Project 2020-2021

Student's name: Manar Al Enizi
Class: 5C
Science Fair Topic: Does temperature the size of crystal?



ELEMENTARY SCIENCE FAIR PROJECT 2020-2021

Student's name: Mohammed Jassem
Class: 5E
Science Fair Topic: Melting Ice



Elementary Science Fair Project 2020-2021

STUDENT'S NAME
SUAD AL- NUSIF
CLASS: 5D
SCIENCE FAIR TOPIC:
SKITTLES AND LIQUIDS!



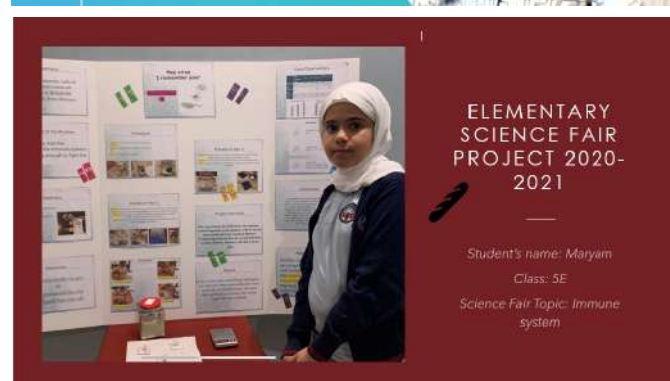
Elementary Science Fair Project 2020-2021

Student's name:
Abdelaziz al jasser
Class: 5E
Science Fair Topic:
using recycled water on plant



ELEMENTARY SCIENCE FAIR PROJECT 2020-2021

Student's name: Maryam
Class: 5E
Science Fair Topic: Immune system



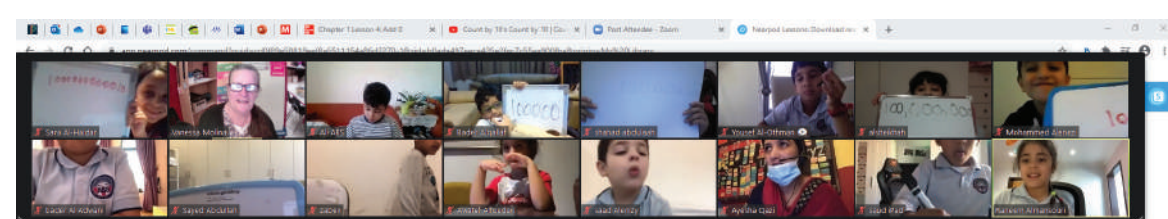
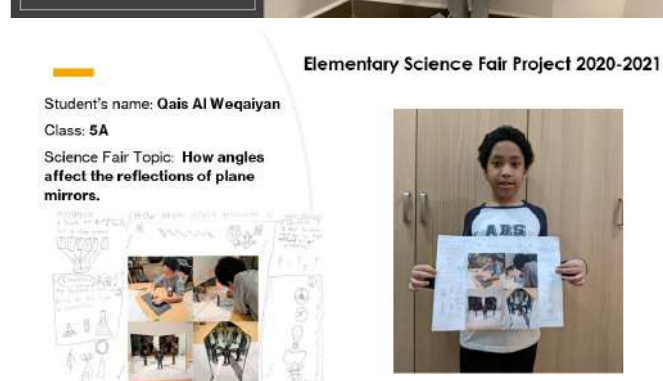
Elementary Science Fair Project 2020-2021

Joud Almutairi
5D
Rainbow in a Jar (Liquid Density)



Elementary Science Fair Project 2020-2021

Student's name: Qais Al Weqaiyan
Class: 5A
Science Fair Topic: How angles affect the reflections of plane mirrors.



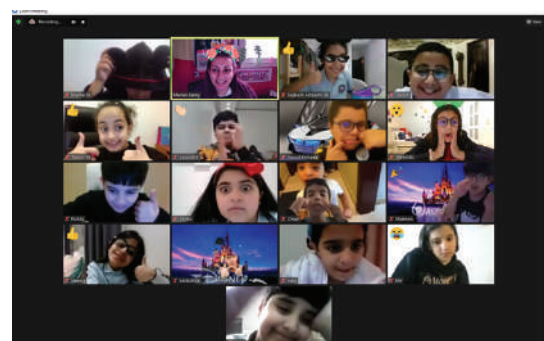
Making Predictions: The Legoland Death Star



Virtual Field Trips

During the last week in November, homeroom classes went on virtual fieldtrips across a lot of different subjects. There were opportunities to travel around many continents. Teachers utilized resources like Nearpod, Google Tour Builder, YouTube 360, virtual tours, and more to connect with their students on an academic and a social-emotional level.

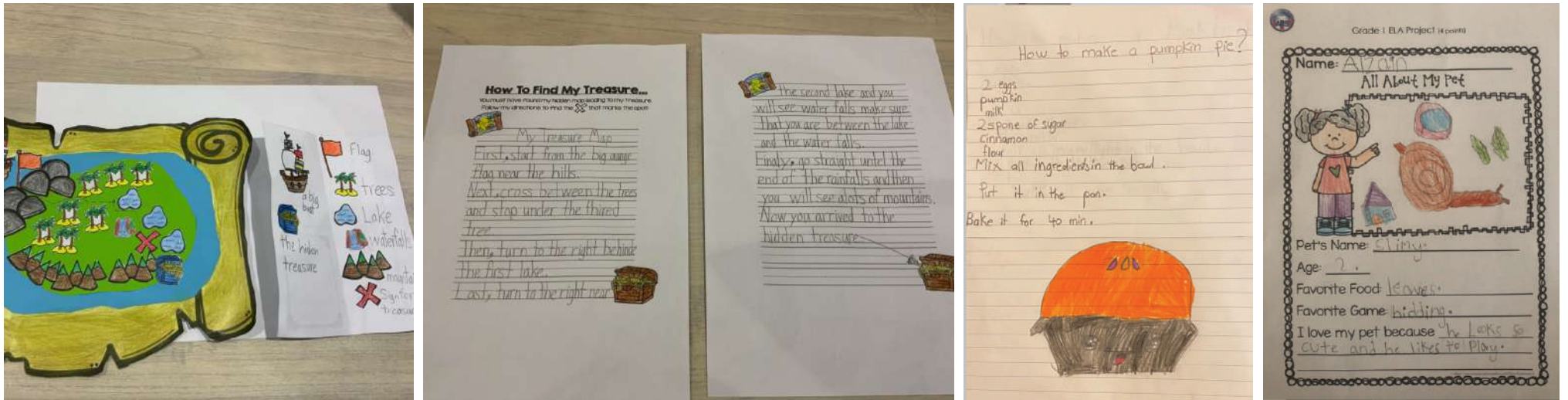
During these field trips, students were able to experience new topics and new places all while building on classroom instruction, gaining understanding, and growing in cultural awareness within the global community.



Elementary Vibes

Student Writing Samples

Exercising writing skills support the development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills. This year, the Elementary Team is focusing on increasing writing instruction across the curriculum. This instructional focus improves planning, organizational skills and can be beneficial for our lifelong learners.



Faeqah Al Refaei 5E (WPP Personal Narrative) Writing Sample



It was the first day of summer break, June, 2018 ,7. I was sleeping in my comfortable bed, dreaming about going to the airport. I suddenly heard a strange sound in my dream. Beep! "Ahh! please help me! There are batteries flying, While chasing me!", I shouted. I opened my eyes and saw my mother holding batteries trying to fix my broken alarm clock. "Oh you're finally awake! Sorry, I was just fixing your broken alarm clock because the old batteries have been making really crazy sounds." Said my mother. "I guess the whole thing was just a dream.", I said. My mom looked confused and said, "What dream?". "Oh, I had a weird dream about flying batteries chasing me in the airport!", I laughed. My mom remembered about that trip to America, so she told me to go get ready for the airport.

I got ready in a rush because I was very excited to go. Two hours later, my family was ready, and so we rushed to the airport. We arrived to the airport, checked and did everything, and lastly got in the plane. When we first got into the plane, my ears started to squish and hurt because of the pilot shouting instructions in the microphone. The plane was full and squishy. I had nowhere to go but follow my parents to my seat. We finally got into our seat the same time the pilot came to wave at everyone before taking off. Five minutes later, the plane took off in a rush.

I really disliked the airplane's chair and service, it was terrible! First of all, the chair wasn't comfortable, and there wasn't any television screen in the airplane too! Secondly, the food was really cold! I had no choice but to sleep the whole -15hour flight. The plane landed with a loud "BOOM!". The airplane pilot told us that it's time to stand up and exit the plane. I felt like the happiest person in the plane. My family and I left the airplane happily, then we got into the airport in a rush and waited for our bags.

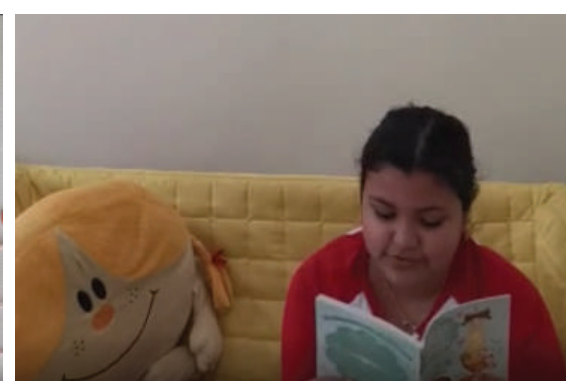
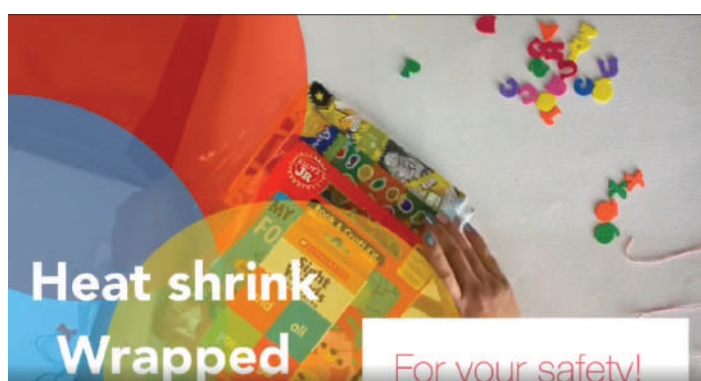
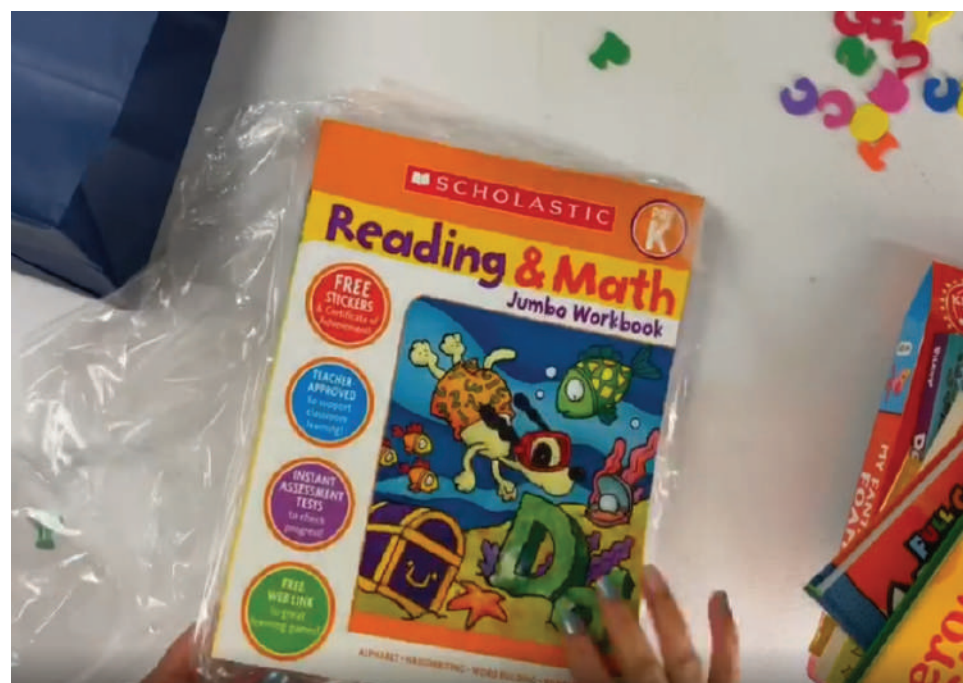
We finally arrived at the five-star hotel in America. We didn't do much the day we arrived, the only thing we did was stare at the city from the large glass window. I was sleepy, so I jumped in bed. I had a dreamless, deep sleep. The next morning, I brushed my teeth and did everything. I had no clue on where we were going today, so I guessed we were going to a mall today. My mom suggested we were going to an outdoor mall that's near the hotel. My family and I were ready to go to the outdoor mall.

My family and I arrived to the outdoor mall, observing stuff we have never seen before with a shock in our faces. Everyone in my family was distracted including my mother. I decided to explore by myself while my family go observe some more. I walked around, and got distracted by a lake inside the mall. I started at the very clear and blue lake, until I heard someone. "Hello there! I see you're new!", said a voice calling me. I turned around surprisingly and said, "Oh hi! Yes, I am new here!". The girl looked about my age. "Well, come with me I'll show you around and I hope we can be friends! Oh, I also forgot, what's your name? Mine's Stephany!", said Stephany. I introduced her myself, then we boosted around, introduced our families, and stayed the whole day at the outdoor mall! It was midnight. It was time for my family and I to go to our hotel. We sadly said goodbye to each other and hoped to see each other tomorrow or another day.

Elementary Vibes

Virtual Book Fair

ABS Virtual Book Fair took place in the first week of Quarter 2. Students and their families were invited to our Virtual Book Fair. The fair was held online through Spectra Wide Books and coordinated by the Elementary Department. The link was shared as well as a video to advertise the variety of books and reading material for purchase. It was, of course, a first of its kind as it was all remotely experienced. There were a huge number of books on various subjects and different publishers. The main thing about a book fair is not only the selling of books but also the display of books on different subjects. Many novice writers want to start their career from a book fair.



BE A SPECIAL EVENTS VOLUNTEER
Help plan and decorate for any one of our special events such as International Day or National Day

READ TO A CLASS
Join your child's class on zoom and read a favorite book to his or her class.

SOLICIT FUNDS FOR THE SCHOOL CARNIVAL
Call on local businesses to be a sponsor at our Annual ABS Charity Carnival



☒ **MAKE THE PLEDGE!**
All we ask for is 3 hours of your time online during the school year.

☒ **REMEMBER!**
By taking these steps you are on the way to showing your kindergarten child that school is important to you as well as setting the tone of your child's future!

☒ **FIND AN INTEREST!**
Whether it be organizing a field trip or reading to your child's class just check the area that you would like to volunteer in by completing the Volunteer Pledge Card.

☒ **SIGN UP!**
Commit with your signature.

☒ **READ!**
Three for ME Guidelines.



Parent Volunteers

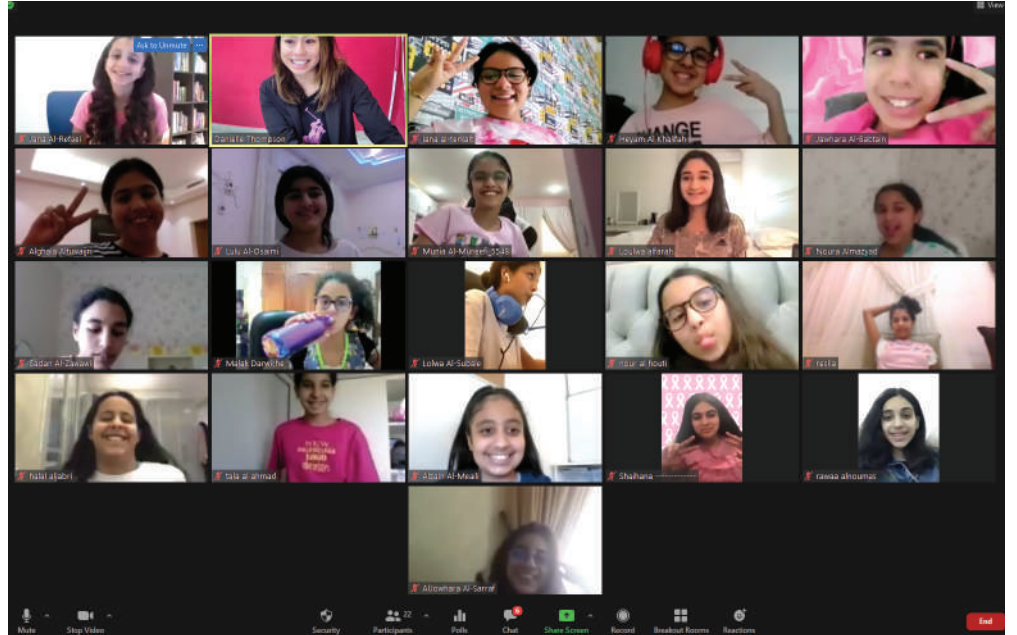
ABS's parent volunteer program, Three For Me, continues to build relationships between parents and our school community. In December, Dr. Dina, the mother of Ali and Waleed Khateeb, joined the online classes and read stories to Grade 1 and Grade 3 students. We are so grateful for the partnership of our parents, like Dr. Dina, and the impact it has on our students and community as a whole. Also, we would like to thank the father of Lamar Yassin 4E for his donation of four (4) cartons of masks totally 8000 masks for both students and staff. This is so greatly appreciated.



MSHS Events

Women's Cancer Awareness Day

October 2020 was designated as Women's Cancer Awareness Month. The MSHS Community dedicated October 28th as a Pink Day. Teachers and students wore pink throughout the day in their online classes to show support for this cause, and the professionals seeking a cure for this illness which effects many. Mr. Mahmoud Al-Hariri, MSHS Science Teacher, gave an informative presentation to staff about cancer, it's causes and the preventative measures that can be taken to lower the risk. We would like to thank Ms. Diana, Mr. Mahmoud and all of our ABS families who supported this event.



HS Charity Drive

Thanks to everyone who helped to make this year's HS Student Council Charity Drive a success! With your help, we were able to collect over 750 food items and 250 KD in cash donations for families in need. MSHS students and teachers, participated in this charity drive.



A Very Special Thank You

Sami Mohmoud - 9BA

Single-Handedly donated over 300 items!

thank you



MSHS Events

Administration Charity Pieing

Every donation to the highly successful High School Council Charity Drive allowed donors to vote for one of the members of the Administrative Team that they would like to have pied in the name of charity. The Charity Drive collected over 750 food items and 250Kd in cash donations. On December 14th the willing volunteers from the Administration Team, Dr. Marlayna, Ms. Diana, Mr. John and Mr. Duncan waited nervously for the Student Council members to count the votes. The live Zoom audience waited as Ms. Kayla was given the task of delivering the pie to the chosen victims. This year the lucky chosen ones were Dr. Marlayna and Mr. Duncan, as shown below.

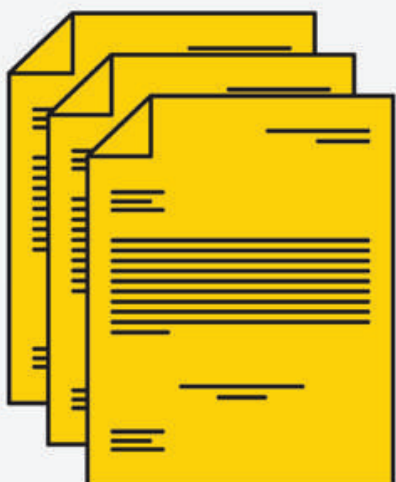


Avoiding Plagiarism in your writing

To avoid plagiarism in your research papers, projects, and schoolwork: all you need to do is credit the writers for their work and ideas. Many students have points taken off and are required to resubmit their work, or receive zeros, due to not citing their information correctly. If you did not write it yourself, it must be cited. Any idea or thought that you learned during your research, will need to be acknowledged on the works cited page at the end of your paper. Essentially, plagiarism is taking someone else's ideas or words, intentionally or not, and presenting them as your own. This could be a quote or passage that you forgot to cite, an entire paper, or even ideas. "Yes, ideas can be plagiarized! If you read an article and take the same stance or position as your own without crediting the article, that is considered plagiarism. You are taking someone else's position and ideas instead of creating your own. You cannot grow as a student, thinker, and person if you plagiarize from someone else's work." (Cain, p.25, 2011).

ABS students should be using The Modern Language Association (MLA) for all their papers and projects.

5 types of plagiarism to avoid



- 1 Missing quotation marks and author attribution
- 2 Buying a paper from an essay-writing website
- 3 Turning in someone else's work as your own
- 4 Having somebody rewrite sections of your paper
- 5 Using old work you previously wrote as "repurposed" content



Student's Corner

COVID-19 To Vaccinate or Not?

Covid-19 has been a hot-topic during High School lessons this Semester, especially in Journalism and Global Issues lessons. At the time of writing, 90,702,906 people around the world had been infected by the virus resulting in 1,943,432 deaths worldwide. Many countries are currently being affected by a "second-wave" of the virus with an increasing number of countries having to return to strict lockdown rules to combat a new mutant strain of the original virus. In Kuwait, the actions of the government have kept cases to 152,000 with 938 deaths. Cases continue to fall in Kuwait, but still the impact of the virus continues to be felt and effects our everyday life.

One of the solutions put forward to help to return the world to normal has been mass vaccination. On December 14, 2020, the Government approved the emergency use of the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine. On December 24, 2020 Prime Minister Sabah al-Khalid al-Sabah received the first jab to mark the beginning of the immunization program by the end of December, 100,000 people in Kuwait had registered to take the vaccine.

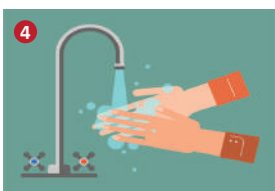
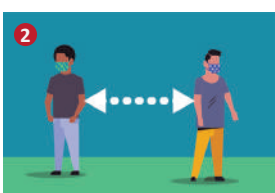
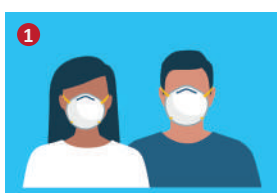
After the pandemic broke out, many people were at the state of panic. There wasn't a cure found to treat the people other than treating most of their people's symptoms. From the beginning of the pandemic, many doctors suggest that getting a vaccine is the best way to "treat" the virus since there is no cure. Many scientists have had many clinical trials throughout 2020 and have found a way to create a vaccine in less than a year. Usually when creating a vaccine, it takes at least

5-to-6-years max or less. Now the question is, should everyone get vaccinated? People that are the ages of 18 and up should get vaccinated. The reason why is that the people in these ages interact with other people from the outside a lot versus the people that are younger in age. When a person gets sick, their body knows how to fight it and that means that the person is immune to the virus. If you are not vaccinated, your body will have trouble fighting the virus and you potentially will need to be placed into critical care or even worse. With the vaccine, it prevents being in critical care because your body knows how to fight it. It is better for people to get vaccinated because what happened in 2020 was disastrous to say the least. When you get the vaccine and there should be another virus breaks out, not many patients will be in the hospital because they are vaccinated, and their body is fighting the virus. This year when vaccine didn't exist, people lost their jobs, people died, and many problems have arisen this year. With vaccine, it makes the doctors lives and people's lives much easier. There may be side effects for some people when being vaccinated, but if another virus has spread, their bodies know how to fight it. Thus, the amount of death and times in quarantine would lessen.



Article by Jena Al-Mishari and Joory Al-Jeri

COVID-19 Safety Measures



1. Wear masks in all public places.

2. Increase the physical distance between individuals (1.8 meters is the general recommendation.)

3. Avoid cluster gatherings.

4. Wash your hands for 20 seconds.

5. Use an alcohol-bases hand sanitizer that contains atleast 60% alcohol.

6. If you feel symptomatic or have a fever, visit your nearest hospital.

Stay healthy

Student's & Teacher's Corner

Staff Morale Sports Events

Ms. Roxy and the PE department have been working enthusiastically with everyone to ensure that students and teachers remain active during the time of Online Learning both during class time and with the Step Challenge. The teachers have not escaped the PE Department's quest for all of the ABS family to be active while the campus is closed to students. In November, soccer was the chosen sport with an MSHS versus Elementary friendly match. As it was a friendly match the score will not be mentioned in this edition of the ABS Times, but it is fair to say that the MSHS team worked on the idea that taking part and enjoying it was far more important than winning! Elementary versus MSHS was again the theme in December. This time the chosen sport was Volleyball. A competitive and close match followed. Although the result was closer than the soccer match, the Elementary team again ended up as the winners of the friendly competition.



Staff Interviews



As we continued to get to know our new teachers, **Hoor Al-Qouba** decided to interview MSHS Department Secretary **Ms. Gina Faison**

Do you love Kuwait and it's people?

Yes I love Kuwait, and what made me come to Kuwait is that the people are so nice.

What are some places you visited in Kuwait?

I have been able to visit lots of places so far. I have visited Downtown, Mubarakia market, the Beach, Sabah Village (Al-Moroth, Al-Shaabi, Salmi desert), and The Avenues Mall.

How is the weather so far and are you exited to experience Kuwait winter season?

I love the weather, and I am exited to experience the winter season here in Kuwait.

Did you try any Kuwaiti dishes if yes what are they?

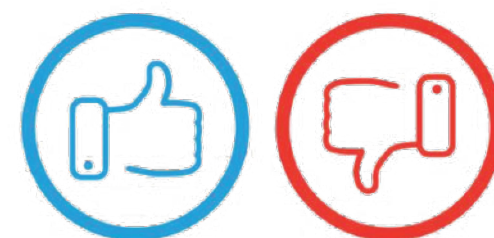
Yes, I've tried Shwarma and Mixed Grill. Love the Fatayer and It is my favorite!

How is ABS, and how is your experience with it?

I love the students and staff at ABS, I have found that there is a lot of administrative work to get done.

Are you going to stay in Kuwait or go back to North Carolina?

I'm staying in Kuwait as long as I can, as my husband and I enjoy being here.



Student's & Staff Corner



Meet Longtime KG employee **Mr. Ruben Ruiz**

By **Bandar Al-Lafi and Khalid Al-Mansour**

Mr. Ruben started working at ABS 15 years ago. He has seen many students come through the school from various starting points. He says "all of the students with whom I have had the privilege to see grow and develop into independent, world citizens reaching their full potential through the expertise and support of staff at ABS." He has enjoyed teaching fundamental life skills of swimming to students from KG through elementary school. Mr. Ruben has also found pleasure in supporting school wide events and helping out in the Physical Education Department wherever he was needed. He plans on retiring this year and moving to Akron, Ohio but will always remember his time at ABS. Mr. Ruben says "the greatest satisfaction for me has been countless times a student has told me they remember me from their KG swimming lessons. I hope my lessons have imprinted into the lives of the students at ABS and in years to come they will not only use some of the wisdom I impart on them but also remember me."

We all know that relationship are very important in a school. With classes being held online during Semester One, it has been more difficult to build these relationships than usual. Our Journalism class decided that it was time to get to know some of our new teachers a little bit more.



Reem Taqi & Badryah Redha in 11GA decided to interview one of our new MSHS Social Studies teachers, **Mr. Brendan Kedie**

How did you find out about ABS?

I was sent an email about the job at ABS and applied online.

What subject do you teach in ABS and what class?

At ABS, I'm teaching History to Grade 10 and Grade 11 to both the girls and boys classes.

What is your experience in Kuwait and ABS? Good or Bad?

My experience has been good so far, and I'm enjoying it more as the weather is cooling down, it's easier to get around and not worry about the heat and sunshine. I would like to visit the cultural centers, but most things seem to be closed at the moment due to the virus.

Did you make friends with the ABS staff?

I've made friends with other staff from Ireland, America, the UK, Egypt and Syria.

Does the ABS staff treat you well?

The other staff have been very helpful and given me a lot of advice about to deal with the systems and what's required by the school.

What was different from your last job?

The most obvious thing is teaching online instead of teaching in class. Also I'm not teaching adults and at degree level at ABS like I did in my previous job. The students here are similar in many ways to teenagers back at home in the UK.

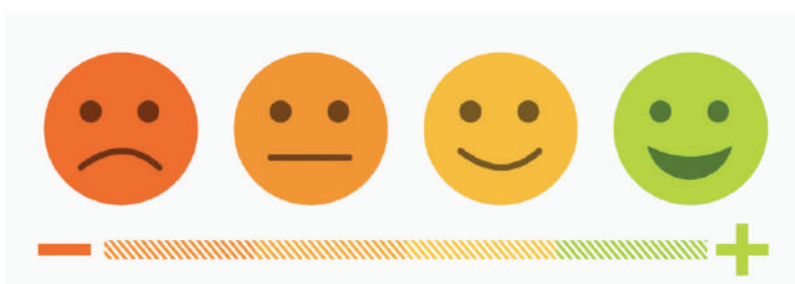
Did you have any difficulty adjusting with the system?

There have been different ways of doing certain things and the paperwork is different, Also, I'm setting many more assignments here than I would in the UK.

Was your last job easier than working at ABS? Is it difficult, easy, or the same?

I would say the demands are quite similar but obviously teaching online is a very different experience to the students being in the room. I'm used to the teaching online now, but it took a bit of getting used to. It still feels strange sat in a room on my own talking to a screen.

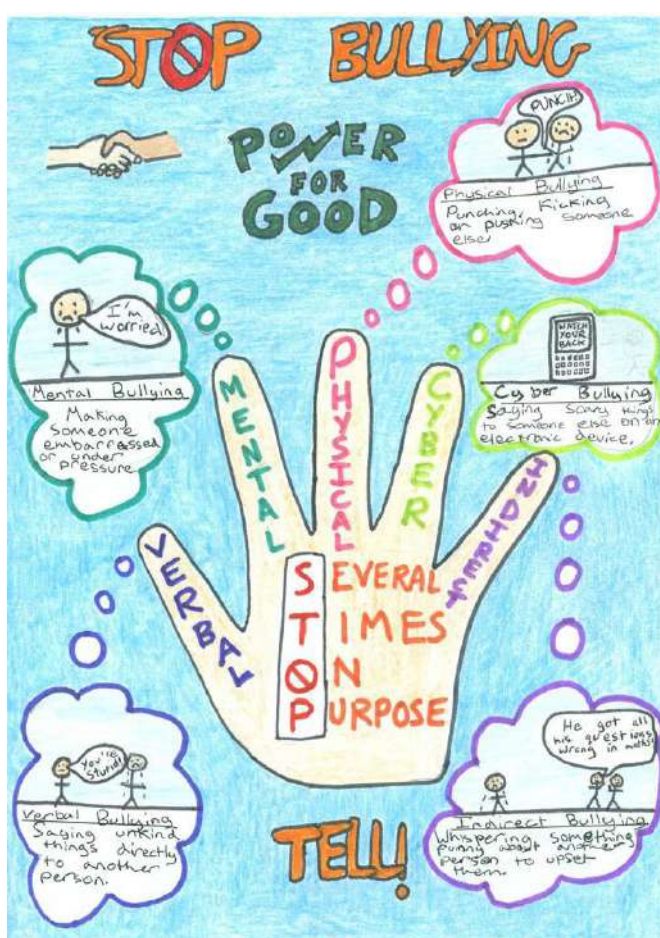
Thank you for agreeing to be interviewed Mr Brendan. Welcome to ABS, we hope that you enjoy your time here in Kuwait as part of the ABS family.



Artwork & Promotions

Student Artwork - Anti Bullying

In December, Elementary students worked on "Anti-Bullying" posters during their Art classes. ABS has the motto, "**Be a buddy, not a bully!**" The following Grade 4 and 5 student artworks highlight the anti-bullying themes including the power of good, caring, and standing up for others. We are so proud of our students for contributing to the global community in both their artwork and their actions. Keep up the great work.



Introducing the new ABS Website

The IT department in conjunction with ABS staff, launched the NEW ABS Website on January 5, 2021. The website has many new features and links for everyone to explore. It is user friendly and provides a wealth of information for parents, students, and staff. Visitors can take a virtual tour and discover all the new options of the ABS Website.

Check out the new ABS Website by going to www.abs.edu.kw

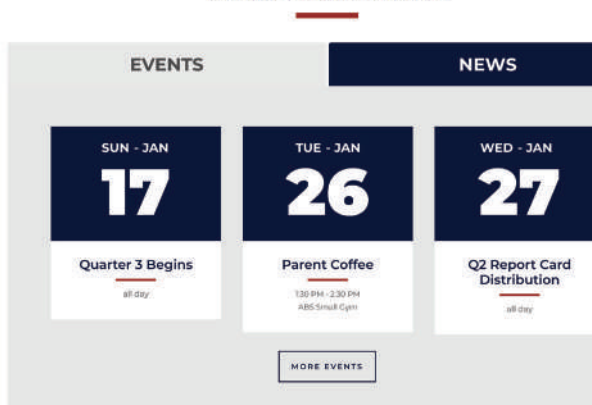


At the American Baccalaureate School, we highly value the learning process and strive to offer our students access to the most current developments in Education. We work with partners and stakeholders to offer a wide variety of technology in the classroom, extracurricular activities, and a wonderful learning environment full of engagement.

Quick navigation tabs



WHAT'S HAPPENING



- interactive and user friendly
- Quick access to all the information
- Online Photo Gallery
- and much more...

Deans' & Counselors' Section



With all the unprecedented circumstances and changes upon the educational system, ABS has provided our students advanced e-learning platforms such as Microsoft Outlook, Teams and Zoom. As an Elementary Counselor, distance learning benefits students who may have attendance issues, it creates an atmosphere where a student can learn at his/her own pace and suits a variety of learning styles. Some of our students are visual learners, some prefer auditory learning, and other learners get distracted by large groups. The online learning environment, with the support of our well-trained teachers, has been successful for this first semester.

Dima Khaddage
Elementary Counselor



Since the switch to remote learning at the end of March 2020 due to the pandemic, I have witnessed tremendous progress made by admin staff, teachers, and students with the usage of technology in ABS. The use of technology was already implemented for the fifth grade students in the elementary department so the transition to E-Learning was seamless but our younger grades have had to quickly adapt to E-Learning. Students and teachers developed tremendously with usage of technology from learning how to log in to zoom, transitioning from Google Classrooms to Microsoft for education, and conducting online field trips. The whole of ABS adapted very well to online learning and continue to deliver quality education without any disruptions.

Mahad Hussien Ahmed
Elementary Dean of Students



Virtual learning has allowed students to learn invaluable lessons in adaptation, and an opportunity to become more self-reliant while refining their use of technology. Using an online platform has boosted the confidence of many of our students, which has given them more ways to express themselves without hesitation and reach out for help when they need it. There is no doubt that this experience will make our students more self-assured and self-directed learners with a resilience to change in the future.

Sharinet Lee
HS Counselor



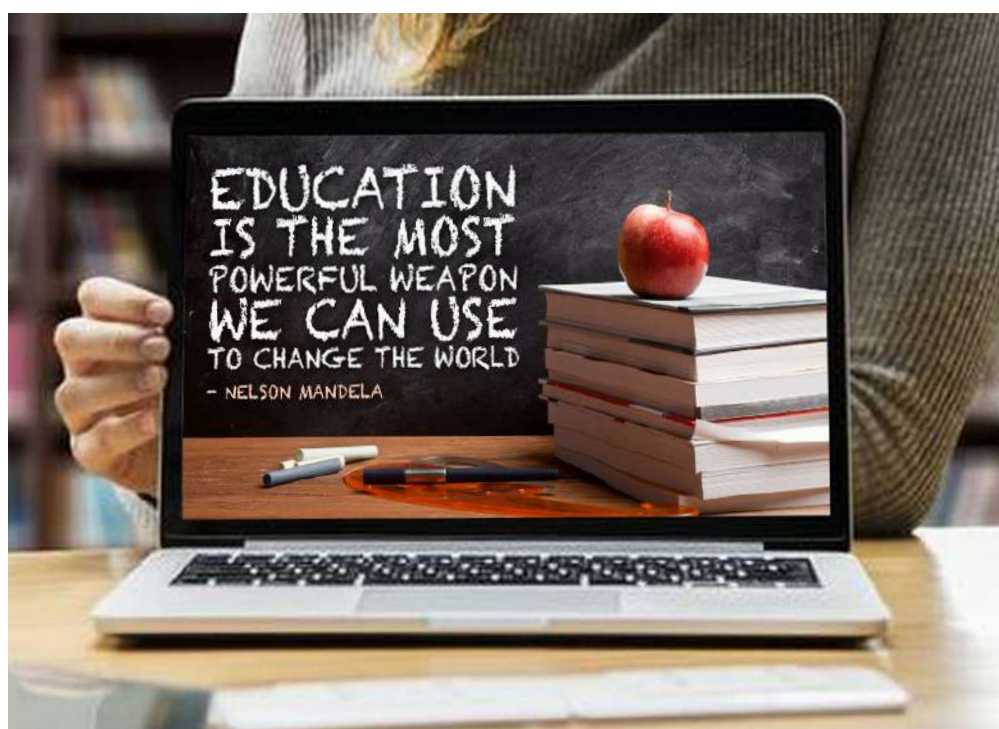
Online learning has been a success this semester, which we strongly believe was facilitated by the long-established advanced use of technology at ABS. We are in awe of how our students and staff have handled these unexpected changes and the challenges that accompany them. They have risen to every challenge and continually work hard to find ways to motivate students and help them find value in what they do. As the year has progressed, we have witnessed students that were previously struggling in their academics, shine. This is indicative of their ability to refocus their energy, even in a challenging situation.

Diana Garcia
HS Counselor



Online learning has been a new challenge to the students, but they have risen to the occasion and conquered several obstacles. I am proud of the way students conduct themselves online during learning time. Teachers have been creative with learning and executing new ways/techniques to build rapport and interacting with the students. The technology enhancement that ABS has offered has taught the students ways to communicate and express themselves while learning and staying safe at the same time. This was not something we foresaw coming but I feel it has been a rather smooth transition for the students. While sticking together as an ABS family, we are overcoming the obstacles and making them victories!

Arlisha Bailey
MSHS Dean of Students



Successful Online Practices

Time Management:

- Use class time wisely
- Force yourself to pay attention during lectures/explanations.
- Lessens the amount of time you'll spend revising.
- Engage by taking notes & asking questions.
- Use class time to complete coursework.
- The more you do in class, the less you'll have to do after school.

Emails for communication and information:

- Stay up to date with course updates by checking your email/Teams at least once a day.
- Delete emails you no longer need to stay organized
- Create folders for important emails you may need to reference later
- Reach out to your teacher via email with questions/concerns
- Keep in mind that a 24-hour response time is customary
- Use the subject line to communicate what the email is about
- Sign off with your full name, the course you are writing about, and your section number
- Remember: politeness and proper grammar and spelling go a long way.

Administrators' Corner



"Dear all, we successfully finished the last school year facing of all the obstacles and difficulties caused by the pandemic together. This year, the students, families and staff of ABS have continued to thrive while online learning has continued. I have seen this year, that students are settling into their routines and becoming more comfortable with the online environment. Our students are incredibly special individuals and are making the most of this time as an opportunity to use the skills of critical thinking, creativity, and discipline. I am really pleased to see an increased level of student engagement using cameras during online classes this year. Despite Covid-19, We will not give up and remember that "Success doesn't just find you, you have to go out and get it ". Stay positive, Stay healthy."

Amal Al-Minawi - Senior Principal



"This academic year began with a continuation of the distance learning environment. The process of how we do schooling will forever be altered due to the pandemic crisis that we find ourselves presently in. I am so proud of how our students have adapted to this new learning community that we have developed here at ABS. Because our students had the ability to quickly adjust to the changing times, the transition from in person to online lessons was a smooth process for teachers. This year at ABS we will face many situations that require flexibility, adaptability, and patience. I am positive that each student will be prepared to meet and conquer these new learning conditions!"

Marlayna Randolph - HS Principal



"Hello ABS Students, the move to online learning has been a huge change for all of us. Things changed at a great pace during the pandemic leaving everybody involved in the school having to quickly learn and implement new skills. You have adapted fantastically not letting the changes affect your academic progress but also showing great qualities of perseverance, patience, tolerance and understanding as all of the changes took place around you. However, the campus is simply not the same without you, we all miss you not being here. I hope that you are able to safely return to campus as soon as possible, we are looking forward to seeing you. Best wishes"

John McGrath - HS Vice Principal



"Dear ABS Students, I would like to give you all a huge congratulations for adapting to the online learning environment so diligently. As you are aware, it has not been easy, but teachers and students have shown pure solidarity in making the switch as seamless as possible. It has been wonderful to explore new and creative ways to continue the development of teaching and learning here at ABS. We have of course faced challenges in the transition, but students have exceeded expectations! Although you have excelled during the online learning, we are anticipating your return and truly hope to have you back on campus soon."

Calicia Daniel - HS Vice Principal



"Dear ABS students, We are excited that our learning process wasn't interrupted due to the pandemic of Covid 19 and we acknowledge your zeal for education during this unusual time. Since communication is asynchronous, expectations in student performance may also differ between student and teacher. We understand the challenges of distance learning and then adapt our instructions accordingly. By using the best available platforms and resources, we are ensuring that students are having the same educational experience during their online classes as it was in face-to-face classes. We hope to see you back on campus soon."

Mian Sadiq - MS Principal



"The Elementary Department teachers have been working with enthusiastic students online this year. Learning online has become more manageable. Our students have adapted and shown more independence and accountability. We are preparing for upcoming MAP testing in January to be conducted on campus. We are also preparing for the eventual return to campus, observing a special schedule and health precautions. We look forward to working in person with all our students."

Alicia Sydlowski - Elementary Principal



"Staff and Families of ABS have held it together throughout our online learning Journey! As much as there was a major hindrance of inadequate opportunity for human interaction which was necessary for establishing peer support and developing in-depth group discussion on subject matter, communication through sunshine calls and parent emails was and continues to be the heart and soul of the ABS Community."

Shereen Kroutz - Elementary Vice Principal



"We are so proud of our students and teachers in the Elementary Department. Our ABS community has adapted to online learning. And while it may not be the ideal situation, students are engaged and making efforts to contribute to their classes. Although we do not know the exact time, we look forward to seeing the students on campus again. If anything, this time apart has given us the opportunity to recognize the worth in learning on campus at ABS."

Jackie Guzman - Elementary Vice Principal



"KG has kicked off with a Zooming great start! It is not without saying that this year is definitely unique. Our first day was November 17th and it was so precious to see our students and their smiles on camera. For our young KG students, we wanted to provide a simple and easy solution to connect with teachers and for that reason, we chose Zoom. Students and parents alike have embraced the online learning platform and we are so happy to have had a smooth and successful start to the school year. On behalf of the KG team, I can say that the best part of our day is to see the enthusiasm and smiles of our students. We are looking forward to the time that we can all be together again at school!"

Jennifer Naser - KG Vice Principal



"The Kindergarten teachers and students have impressed us so much so far in this online year! Our students are eager to interact with their peers and teachers through Zoom each day. They have been signing on ready to go with their Remote Learning Kits, student whiteboards and notebooks, and Zoom Signs. The classes review their daily online procedures and are finding creative and fun ways to learn, play games, and complete art and craft activities together. We are proud of everyone for their great efforts and participation."

Rachelle Parsons - KG Coordinator