



# ABS TIMES

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Kuwait National Day is always celebrated on February 25th. This holiday marks the day when Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah ascended to the throne in 1950. Liberation Day is always celebrated on February 26th. This holiday marks the day when Kuwait was liberated from Iraqi occupation in 1991.

## Message from the editor

Can you believe it's been a year since we have had students on campus? Who would have thought that the National Day Celebration we had on campus would be the last time we'd see all of our students together in person? Even though National Day was quite different this year, we still hope you celebrated Kuwaiti pride in a safe and blessed manner.

There have been so many changes to acclimatize to so quickly, but you have done remarkably well, and we are all awed and proud of the work you've done to make this year as normal as possible. We are persevering through Online Learning to continue to deliver the highest quality of content as possible for our students. We surely hope that you have found a routine that balances your studies with family and personal time. As we continue to navigate these uncertain times, rely on the support of your loved ones, as they will make anything, even a global pandemic, manageable.

This edition of the ABS Times contains our usual coverage of events that have occurred on ABS's campus during these past several weeks. In addition, we have also added student reviews, artwork, and overall ABS and Kuwait experiences.

Thank you to all of the parents and guardians who continue to help support the ABS Times and ABS community as a whole. Enjoy the second edition, and may Allah continue to bless Kuwait.

ABS Journalism Team



Go to page 18 for more Kuwait National Day pictures



# Spotlight - Events



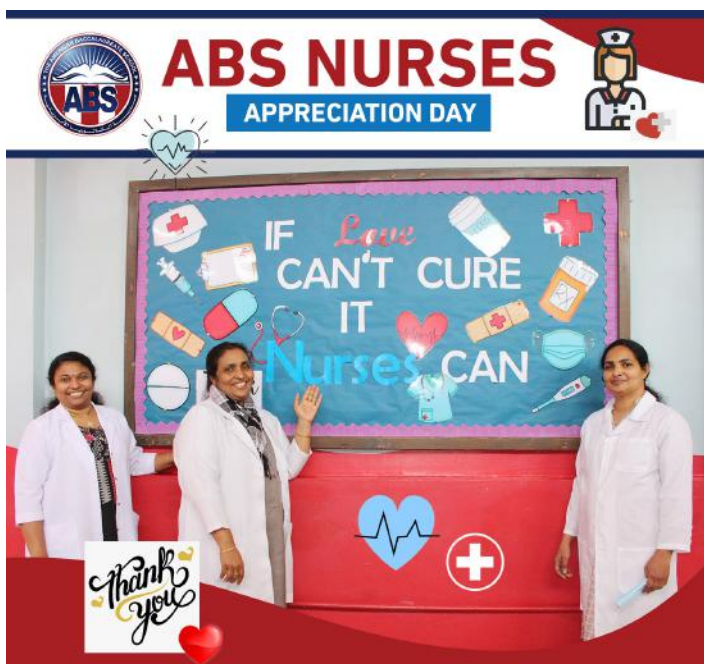
## MUN Virtual Conference

Our Model United Nations students recently attended their first virtual conference hosted by Al-Bayan Bilingual School. The students worked hard and represented ABS wonderfully. Wadah Al-Falah and Abdullah Al-Ghanim excelled and received an "Iconic Duo" award, which was especially impressive as it was their first ever MUN conference. Well done to all students who attended, we are extremely proud!



## Third Parent Coffee

ABS recently held their third annual Parent Coffee. The topic was Powerful Education in Physical Activity - Leading a Healthy Life through Online Learning. Our PE department did an informative presentation to the parents who attended. We would like to encourage all of our students to be active and healthy during this time.



## Nurses Appreciation Day

On March 1st, ABS celebrated our hard-working nurses on Nurses Appreciation Day. On behalf of the ABS community, we would like to express our genuine gratitude to our nurses for the attention and care shown to our students and staff each and every day.





## COVID-19 Updates

All schools and colleges are still doing online learning. Other government requirements are: protective face masks must be worn in public at all times, social distancing measures must be followed to avoid the spread of the virus. Public officials have also decided to close all social gathering places and a curfew pass has been implemented between the hours of the partial lockdown.



The COVID-19 vaccination will help protect you from contracting the virus. Kuwait launched the vaccination drive on December 27th, 2020. Around 137,000 people, including 119,000 Kuwaitis so far have received the vaccine. Kuwait is hoping to vaccinate at least 2.4 million people in 4 months in order to return to normal life.

In order to get the vaccine you are required to register through the MOH (Ministry of Health) website

Website Link:  
[www.cov19vaccine.moh.gov.kw](http://www.cov19vaccine.moh.gov.kw)

## COVID-19 Safety Measures

Basic guidelines for safety precautions:



## ABS Yearbook Pre-Sale

The yearbook is now available for pre-order from the accounts office. This is a valuable opportunity which allows students to view and save their memories for years to come. Refer to the instructions below on how to pre-order.

**Corona won't stop our memories buy the ABS Yearbook!**

Place your order at the accounts office

Created By  
Asamaa Al-Failakawi - Grade 12GA  
Darine Boutiban - Grade 12GA

Pre-Order before May 20th and get 20% off

Swipe left for more information

[www.abs.edu.kw](http://www.abs.edu.kw) @ABS\_KW @ABS Kuwait

<b>Original Price</b> 25 KWD	<b>Pre-Order Price</b> 20 KWD	<b>LIMITED TIME OFFER</b> Until May 20th
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**Instructions to place your order online**

Please visit the ABS website

- ▶ [www.abs.edu.kw](http://www.abs.edu.kw)
- ▶ Quicklinks
- ▶ Online Payment

▶ Input correct price & information

▶ Under remarks mention "Yearbook"

For more information please contact the Accounts Office

[accounts@abs.edu.kw](mailto:accounts@abs.edu.kw)

[www.abs.edu.kw](http://www.abs.edu.kw) @ABS\_KW @ABS Kuwait

# Commendations Elementary

## 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



Badriya Al-Qouba  
Grade 1C  
Student of the Month  
January



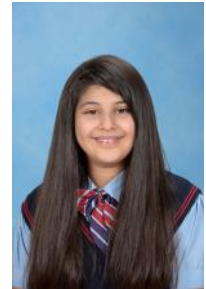
Dalal Al-Nouri  
Grade 2D  
Student of the Month  
January



Fatma Al-Ghanim  
Grade 3D  
Student of the Month  
January



Mariam Aburazq  
Grade 4D  
Student of the Month  
January



Joud Al-Mutairi  
Grade 5D  
Student of the Month  
January



Layan Al-Enezi  
Grade 1D  
Student of the Month  
February



Mohammad Al-Fassam  
Grade 2E  
Student of the Month  
February



Abdulaziz Jaragh  
Grade 3E  
Student of the Month  
February



Manal Al-Noumas  
Grade 4E  
Student of the Month  
February



Maryam Al-Saied  
Grade 5E  
Student of the Month  
February

### Staff of the Month - Elementary



Stacey Lynn Murakami  
Teacher of the Month  
January



Wafaa Hamad  
Arabic Teacher of the  
Month - January



Marukh Omer  
Teaching Assistant of  
the Month - January



Sara Green  
Teacher of the Month  
February



Hanan Hasan  
Arabic Teacher of the  
Month - February



Sabeena Shaik  
Teaching Assistant of  
the Month - February

*Great job!*

*Congratulations!*





# Commendations MSHS

## Students of the Month - Middle School & High School



Sarah Al-Habbab  
Grade 6GB  
Student of the Month  
January



Munyah Al-Omran  
Grade 7GA  
Student of the Month  
January



Shouq Al-Shihah  
Grade 8GA  
Student of the Month  
January



Muluke Al-Mazeedi  
Grade 10GA  
Student of the Month  
January



Nadia Aldaran  
Grade 12GA  
Student of the Month  
January



Rashed Al Mazkour  
Grade 6BC  
Student of the Month  
January



Rashed Al-Ossaimi  
Grade 7BB  
Student of the Month  
January



Rakan Al-Watyan  
Grade 8BC  
Student of the Month  
January



Mohamad Al-Qouba  
Grade 9BB  
Student of the Month  
January



Abdullah Al-Ghanim  
Grade 11BA  
Student of the Month  
January



Suad Al-Ghanim  
Grade 6GA  
Student of the Month  
February



Malak Darwiche  
Grade 7GB  
Student of the Month  
February



Jana Al-Mattooq  
Grade 8GA  
Student of the Month  
February



Esam Al-Rifai  
Grade 6BB  
Student of the Month  
February



Mohammad Al-Rasheedi  
Grade 7BA  
Student of the Month  
February



Ali Al-Mutairi  
Grade 8BB  
Student of the Month  
February



Sarah Al-Otaibi  
Grade 9GA  
Student of the Month  
February



Mehrunisa Bilal  
Grade 10GA  
Student of the Month  
February



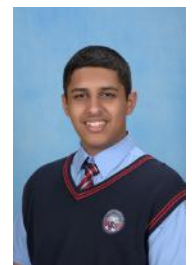
Jouri Al-Jeri  
Grade 11GB  
Student of the Month  
February



Abdulrahman Al-Terkait  
Grade 9BA  
Student of the Month  
February



Rakan Al-Enezi  
Grade 10BA  
Student of the Month  
February



AbdulRahman Al-Oudah  
Grade 11BB  
Student of the Month  
February



Jude AlAlban  
Grade 12GA  
Student of the Month  
February

*Great job!*



Mohammed Al-Kandari  
Grade 12BA  
Student of the Month  
February

*Congratulations!*

# Commendations MSHS & KG

## Staff of the Month - MSHS



Shenile Miles  
Staff of the Month  
January



Abdullah Alghazawi  
Arabic Staff of the Month  
January



William McClurg  
Staff of the Month  
February



Eman Sobhi  
Arabic Staff of the Month  
January

## Staff of the Month - KG

*Great job!*



Aisha Al-Mesbah  
Staff of the Month  
January



Charisse Magallanes  
Teaching Assistant of the  
Month - February



## KG SUPER STARS - JANUARY & FEBRUARY

**KG1 SUPER STARS** ★  
January 7th - 2021

 Jana Al-Refael Grade KG1A	 Abdullah Al-Jassim Grade KG1B
 Abdullateef Al-Maatouq Grade KG1C	 Laura Al-Rashidi Grade KG1D

**KG2 SUPER STARS** ★  
January 6th - 2021

 Najd AL-Osaimi Grade KG2A	 Sohaib Saleh Grade KG2B
 Sulaiman Al-Failakawi Grade KG2C	 Reem Al-Nassar Grade KG2D





# KG Super Stars

**KG1 SUPER STARS** ★  
January 14th - 2021



Omar Jaseem  
Grade KG1A



Sanad Al-Waalan  
Grade KG1B



Ajwan Al-Sabah  
Grade KG1C



Othman Al-Roomi  
Grade KG1D

**KG2 SUPER STARS** ★  
January 13th - 2021



Abdullah Boodai  
Grade KG2A



Yaqoub Mataqi  
Grade KG2B



Omar Al-Rashed  
Grade KG2C



Mohammad Al-Sahoo  
Grade KG2D

**KG1 SUPER STARS** ★  
January 21st - 2021



Sula Al-Rasheed  
Grade KG1A



Suad Al-Resheedy  
Grade KG1B



Mohammad AL-Mutairi  
Grade KG1C



Fares Mohammed  
Grade KG1D

**KG2 SUPER STARS** ★  
January 20th - 2021



Nawar AL-Henaidi  
Grade KG2A



Yousef Rashed  
Grade KG2B



Ahmad Al-Nejadah  
Grade KG2C



Mohammad Al-Majed  
Grade KG2D

**KG1 SUPER STARS** ★  
January 28th - 2021



Fahad Al-Suwaleem  
Grade KG1A



Wasmyah Al-Kami  
Grade KG1C



Khaled Khalifouh  
Grade KG1D

**KG2 SUPER STARS** ★  
January 27th - 2021



Yousef Al-Kandari  
Grade KG2A



Nezar Al-Terkait  
Grade KG2B



Roukala Abdelrahim  
Grade KG2C



Sulaiman Al-Fahad  
Grade KG2D

# KG Super Stars

**KG1 SUPER STARS** ★  
February 4 - 2021



Ali Al-Batni  
KG1A



Sara Al-Mutairi  
KG1C



Taibah Al-Noumas  
KG1D

**KG2 SUPER STARS** ★  
February 3 - 2021



Adwan Al-Adwani  
KG2A



Abdulaziz Zaman  
KG2B



Ali Jaseem  
KG2C



Kareem Galal  
KG2D

**KG1 SUPER STARS** ★  
February 11 - 2021



Fatemah Al-Khalifah  
KG1A



Abdullah Al-Enezi  
KG1C



Abdulwahab Al-Anjari  
KG1D

**KG2 SUPER STARS** ★  
February 10 - 2021



Khaled Al-Hajery  
KG2A



Aeshah Al-Howais  
KG2B



Fatmah Al-Sabah  
KG2C



Dalal Al-Abdulsalam  
KG2D

**KG1 SUPER STARS** ★  
February 18 - 2021



Azeezah Al-Munawer  
KG1A



Fatemah Al-Jassar  
KG1C



Jameelah Al-Jabri  
KG1D

**KG2 SUPER STARS** ★  
February 17 - 2021



Mona Al-Anjari  
KG2A



Duajj Al-Own  
KG2B



Abdullah Al-Hamdan  
KG2C



Alghala Esbaitah  
KG2D



# KG Super Stars & Events



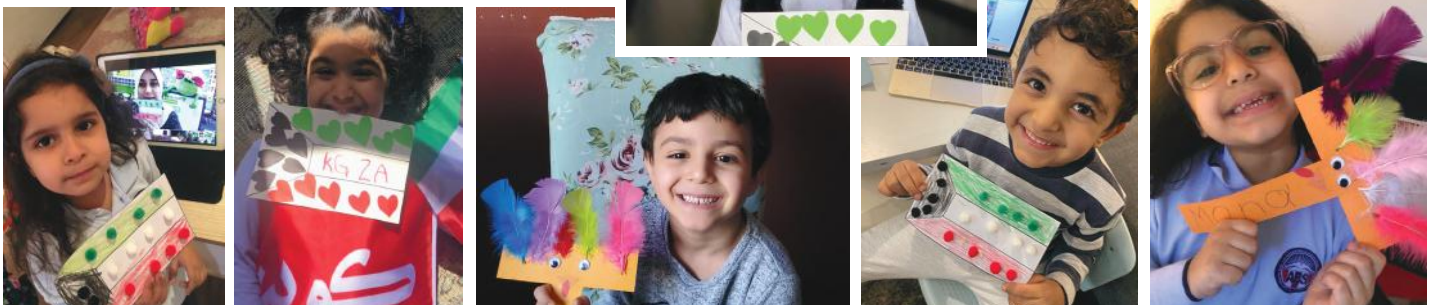
## Character Day

The KG Department celebrated Character Day for KG2 students on Wednesday, February 3rd and for KG1 students on Thursday, February 4th during our KG Assemblies. The students were dressed in their favorite costumes for the assembly and in their online class on their special day. Our virtual assembly was transformed into a fantasy world of superheroes, princesses, and famous characters. Fun, smiles and laughter filled the day!



## Arts Week

The KG Department celebrated Arts Week during the week of January 31st to February 4th. The KG students created many wonderful works of art throughout the week that aligned with curricular content. They had a blast using their creative side in their virtual classes!





# KG Events

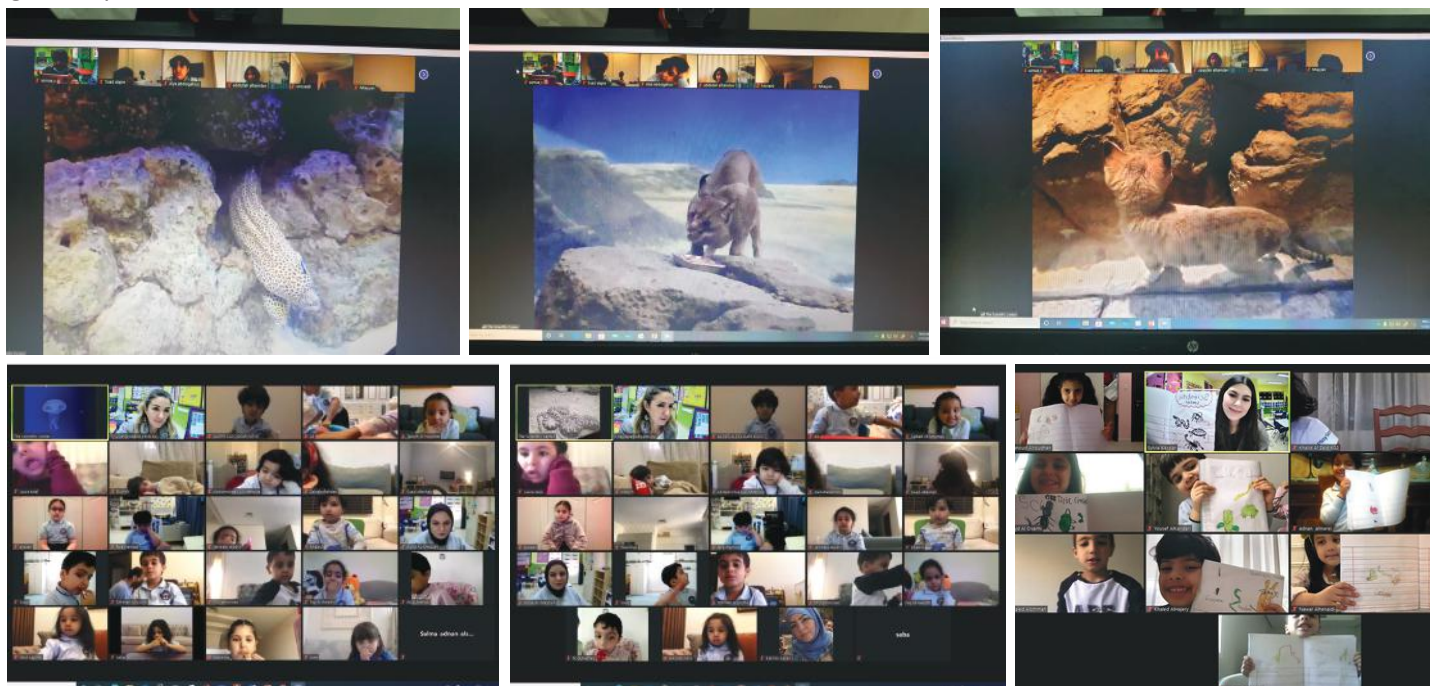
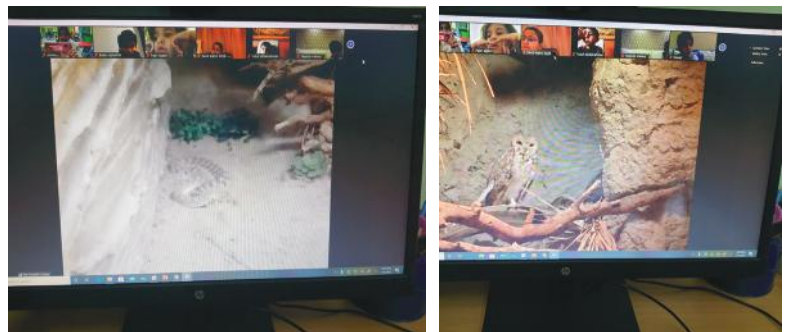
## Winter Assessments

During the weeks of February 7th and 14th our KG students took their Arabic and English Winter Term assessments. These assessments were valuable tools in evaluating students' progress and performance as well as provided insight on how to guide teaching and adapt lesson content. Our KG students were tested on Math and ELA concepts taught to date.



## Virtual Field Trips

The KG Department students had the opportunity to "visit" the Scientific Center for their Winter Term field trips on January 11th and 12th. The KG classes attended virtually via Zoom and were taken on a visual tour of the desert habitat. The students were able to see sand cats, fennec foxes, owls, hedgehogs, snakes, beetles and so much more! It was such a great experience!





# Elementary Vibes

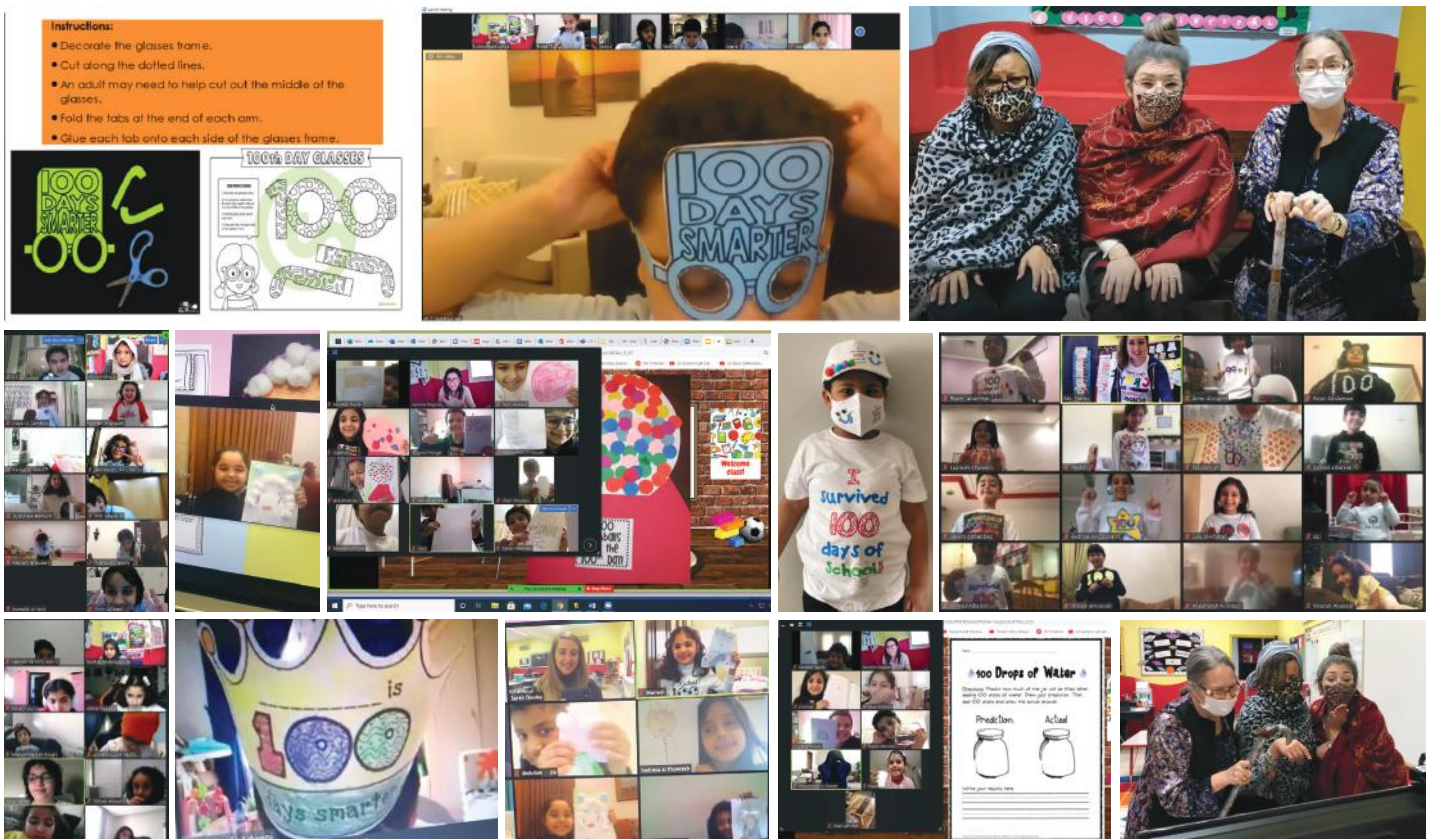
## Grade 1 Campus Visit

From January 17-21, Grade 1 students were invited on campus to take their DIBELS assessment. While they waited, they met their teachers in person and practiced a variety of skills they have been learning during online classes. Students and teachers practiced all appropriate health measures including wearing masks and social distancing. Students were able to engage in hands-on learning while in the company of their teachers and peers. We look forward to when learning on campus is possible again.



## 100th Day of School

On February 4th students and staff celebrated the 100th day of school. The Elementary principals turned into 100-year-old principals and visited each homeroom class. Highlighted are some pictures from the wonderful celebration and the cross curricular “100-themed” activities students engaged in.





# Elementary Vibes

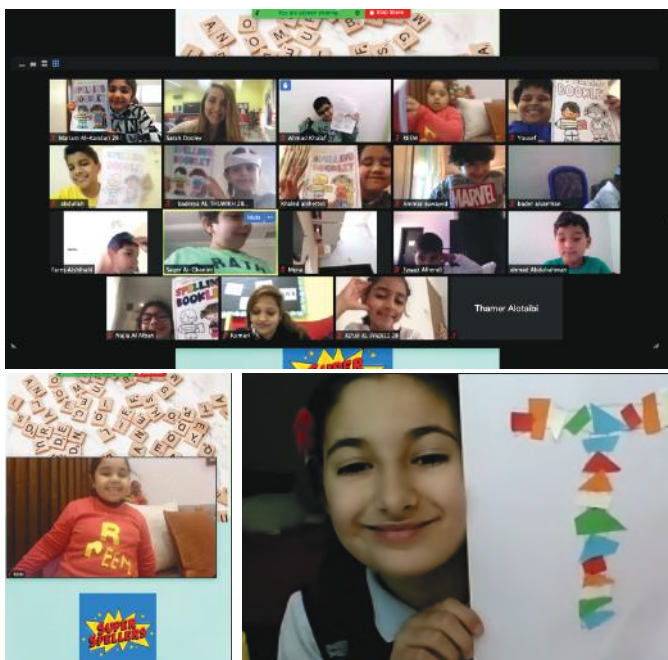
## STEM Superstars

ABS values its STEM focus. Daily, teachers are working with students to embed the 4 C's of STEM—collaboration, communication, creativity, and critical thinking. The 4 C's are foundational for successful STEM challenges. Highlighted are some of our STEM Superstars!



## Super Spellers

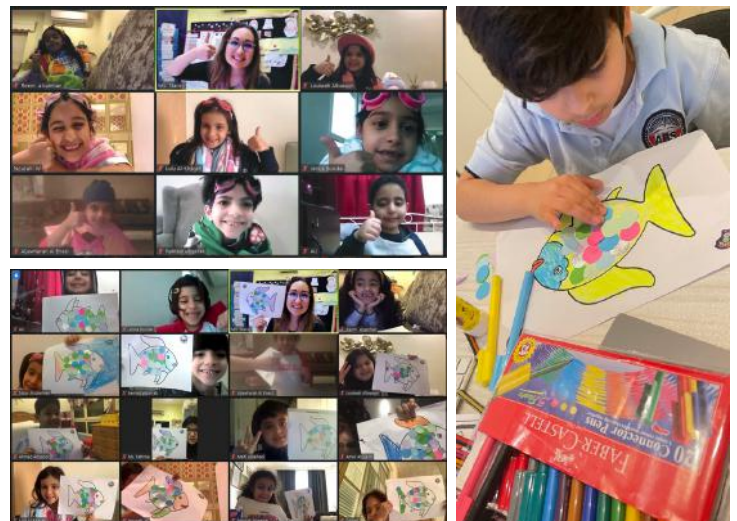
On Wednesday, January 27th, students from grades 1-5 participated in Super Spellers Day. Some students dressed up in decorated shirts covered with letters or words. Utilizing several resources, students were able to play games and complete fun spelling activities with their ELA teachers.



## Virtual Fieldtrips: Grade 1

In January, homeroom classes went on their second round of virtual fieldtrips.

Some grade 1 students dove into the ocean for their virtual field trips. They showed up to class wearing their goggles and towels as they prepared to dive into the deep blue sea! In addition to learning about underwater creatures, they created their own Rainbow Fish which highlighted sharing with others. Here, Khaled Al Asaker works diligently from home to decorate his rainbow fish.





# Elementary Vibes

## Virtual Field Trips: Grade 4

4E had a hands-on field trip as they prepared French toast following the instructions of Ms. Hana. The activity integrated math and science standards of using tools to measure ingredients. Students were also able to practice communication and listening skills. Students' creativity shined as they put their personal touch on decorating their dishes. Highlighted here are some of the students' delicious creations!



## Virtual Field Trips: Grades 2, 3 & 5

Other grade levels grabbed their "passports" and explored other continents and regions. Some visited the zoo, while others stopped by for the 2021 inauguration of President Joe Biden in the United States. Overall, it was another great round of virtual field trips. While we look forward to going on field trips again together in person, we are proud and thankful that with the creativity and innovation of our teachers and technology, our students are able to travel the world!





# Elementary Vibes

## Elementary MAP and DIBELS Testing

In late January, students were invited on campus to take part in diagnostic testing including MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) and DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy) tests. Diagnostic tests are used by educators to help identify students' learning needs. By having students briefly on campus, teachers were able to evaluate students' academic levels and areas of development in English and Math. Because of the pandemic, strict procedures were implemented upon arrival including but not limited to temperature reading, mask wearing, and social distancing. Students and staff were diligent and cautious. Grade 1 students were assessed on campus by our reading interventionists Ms. Nadiya and Ms. Perwin. Grades 2-5 took MAP tests in Reading, Language, and Math while being supervised by their homeroom and elective teachers. Highlighted here are the top scoring students per homeroom. We are so proud of ALL our students and the efforts they continue to make this challenging year.

### DIBELS High Achievers - Grade 1



Bader Al-Adwani  
Grade 1A



Sarah Al-Munaifi  
Grade 1B



Amer Al-Osaimi  
Grade 1C



Layan Al-Anezi  
Grade 1D



Suhaib Al-Roomi  
Grade 1E

### MAP High Achievers (Grades 2-5) - Reading



Mohammad Al-Azemi



Ghala Sewaiseh



Feras Boukhamsin



Ghzayyel Al-Mutairi



### MAP High Achievers (Grades 2-5) - Math



Amnah Abdullah



Sayed Behbehani



Waleed Khateeb



Ali Al-Mazeedi



Nayef Al-Otaibi



Mohamed Abdulrahman

### MAP High Achievers (Grades 2-5) - Language



Amnah Abdullah



Ghala Sewaiseh



Nour Al-Babtain



Faeqah Al-Refaei





# MSHS Student Reviews

## The day has come, AP students

The AP Mock Exam has arrived! The dates for the AP Mock Exams for AP students were scheduled across three months (January, February, and March). Overall, there are four AP Mock Exams that are scheduled between these three months. There were around 60 different students total who took at least one AP Mock Exam. These exams primarily focus on testing the AP students' knowledge on what they have learned in Semester 1 and at the beginning of Quarter 3. Teachers prepared their students for this day, and teachers would get feedback to know their students' strengths and weaknesses. The four Mock Exams that were given are, AP Calculus, AP English, AP Technology, AP Chemistry. The AP Calculus Exam was January 20th, AP Technology was on February 8th, AP English was on February 21st, and AP Chemistry was on March 4th. AP Calculus had a 100% turnout with all of the AP students attending the test. For the other three Mock Exams, students had two choices: to either come to campus and take it on paper or stay at home and handwrite their tests.



In addition, students who came to campus or did the test online were to be present to the exam at 7:30am. During the Mock Exam, students had 1 hour to complete the Multiple Choice Question section and 2 hours to do the Free Response Questions section (with the exception of AP Technology, which doesn't have an FRQ section) which requires students to write up to seven questions. The students had a 15-minute break to clear their minds and prepare for the next part of the exam. Later, the students finished their exams and were dismissed around 11:30am.



Written by: Talal Al-Zayed, Abdullah Al-Refai, & Ahmed Al-Asfour

## Character Education Assemblies

The counselors at ABS, Ms. Sharinet and Ms. Diana, spearheaded Character Education Assemblies for students. They wanted to provide information about how to stay vigilant and positive during the online learning process. The first assembly was about mental health and how to keep school and personal life balanced. Ms. Shar says, "Our priority as counselors are the students and how well they are progressing each year. Online learning has been a challenge for many students, and it has affected more than their academics. Mental health is extremely important, and we believe that a strong balanced mind can handle any situation. We wanted to provide information to the students about how to successfully balance life and school." Feeling overwhelmed is normal and we wanted to highlight that it is ok to ask for help. The Mental Health assembly was held the week of December 6, 2020. It was held during the students first period classes. The second assembly was about avoiding plagiarism. Ms. Shar says, "Cheating and plagiarism only add additional stress to a student's workload. Before a student makes the decision to plagiarize, we wanted to show that there are other options and correct ways to use "borrowed" information. This year the ABS students have shown that they are resilient and capable of being successful, even during a pandemic. The counseling department will always work hard to assist and provide information that our students can use in their everyday lives. Students must remember that indulging into cheating or dishonest acts adds up to the mental burden instead of diminishing it."



Plagiarism is an offence which is equivalent to stealing. It means the stealing of some research work without any credit being given to the creator of the information. For the benefit of students of ABS, the school has mentioned the ways to borrow information from reputed and trusted sources. The plagiarism policy of the school mentions the consequences of plagiarism. ABS students have made the school proud by cooperating and continuing the academic year at the same level as normal school before pandemic. The Plagiarism assembly was held the week of February.



# MSHS Student Reviews

## Air Pollution in Kuwait

With all the riches oil has brought to Kuwait throughout the past 90 years, it has seriously impacted the country's environmental health for the worse. For almost the past one hundred years, Kuwait has heavily relied on oil and natural gases to generate revenue for the country, as oil has been the largest source of income for Kuwait's economy, accounting for around 60% of the GDP and 92% of the country's exports. This dependence on oil has severely polluted the country's air with the whole process of drilling and exporting oil contributing to it, with oil tankers frequently entering and exiting the country's ports. These processes combine to create a very toxic and dirty sky and air, which has been reported as a major factor in the rising number of asthma cases in the country with residents inhaling ash coming from the burning of oil.



This large-scale production of oil in such a small country like Kuwait can be a much bigger problem in the near future. While Kuwait isn't as polluted as other countries, this issue should not be overlooked to make sure the situation doesn't get worse, and one way of helping this situation is diversifying the Kuwaiti environment. This relieves some pressure off the oil sector and ensures that Kuwait can sustain its wealth after oil will eventually run out. Another way of healing this situation is to rely more on solar energy and cleaner sources of energy like wind mills. But, this issue will never be completely solved until the whole world decides that there is no need for oil anymore.



Article by:  
Abdullah Al-Refai 11BA

## Green Ambassadors

The Journalism students interviewed Mr. Francisco Perles about the Green Ambassadors club at ABS.

Green Ambassadors is a global initiative to get students to be agents of change in their communities. It inspires students to be aware of the issues that their communities' environments are facing. It offers students the chance to clean their communities and figure out solutions to combatting global warming. Mr. Francisco said, "Working remotely this year in green ambassador has become somewhat of a challenge. During our first meeting the Green Ambassadors and I decided to work in the safest way by promoting environmental awareness in school. To do this the Green Ambassadors have been encouraged to create art representations that showcase environmental issues or using recycled materials. The Green Ambassadors have also been attending school monthly to create bulletin boards inspired by the environment, and bulletin boards to educate on different animals in the world. These bulletin boards have been placed in both the girl's and boy's campus. We are also looking forward to collaborating with the school newspaper treating environmental issues. Two students, Jawan Al-Saleh and Layan Al-Rokhayes, came to campus to decorate bulletin boards that illustrate ways to eliminate waste: recycle, reuse, and reduce. They also showed how much waste is being wasted daily and yearly. They also highlighted the wildlife that is special only to this region.



Written by: Mahdi Hussain, Abdulaziz Jamal, & Feras Al-Awadh



## National Honors Society Red Crescent Society Trip

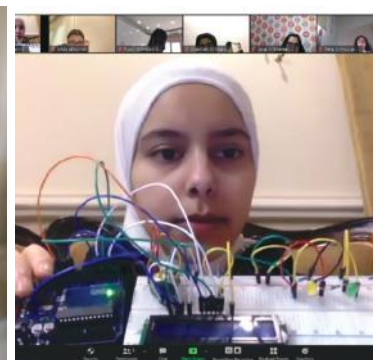
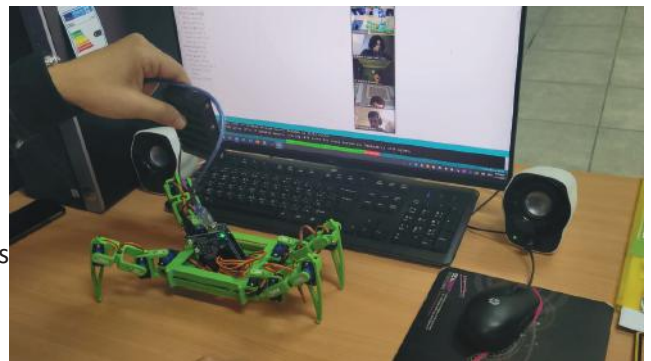
A few weeks ago, some students from the National Honors Society volunteered at the Crescent Society in Kuwait. The Kuwait Red Crescent Society is one of the leading Kuwaiti organizations in the field of humanitarian work. It plays an essential role in activities and projects both inside and outside Kuwait. High school young men and women represented ABS and volunteered at the warehouse. The students and humanitarian workers filled cardboard boxes with supplies such as clothes, kitchen equipment and healthcare products which were donated to families in need. After being filled up, they were then sealed by the students, and finally taken away by the workers. Carried by huge trucks, these boxes made their way to the poor families located in Kuwait. The students showed impeccable leadership and communication skills whilst at the field trip. The NHS has many benefits for both the students in the committee and for the school. In order to participate in the committee, you must be one of the highest academic achieving students in the school. NHS ultimately aims to build four key attributes in their members: scholarship, service, leadership, and character. All students want to be actively involved in the community and are committed to making it a better place. Needless to say, during the visit, the participants showed diligence, leadership and were willing to take charge. Even with the restrictions of the pandemic, the NHS have tentatively scheduled other future activities including: The Autism Center, Direct Aid, Elementary Book Club, and an Elementary After-School Study club. We look forward to seeing all the future ventures they are going to part in.



Written By: Hessa Al-Deraan – 11GA, Mariam Al-Noumas – 11GA, Jana Al-Matouq – 11GB

## STEM Day

The school celebrated their annual STEM Day on February 18th, 2021. This posed some difficulty to plan as learning is taking place online and STEM is very much a hands-on learning experience that is usually interactive and collaborative. However, teachers worked hard in preparing and delivering the best STEM activities. Students received an entire day of STEM lessons and lots of fantastic projects were produced. Every department had their own individual plan and came up with some very creative ideas. Students could dress up in their favorite STEM career as a way to make the day more enjoyable. All lessons tried to incorporate the four 'C's which are: critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity. These are skills that are needed in all aspects of life and enable the students to deal with real-world problems. Although we annually have an entire day dedicated to STEM, it is something all teachers try to incorporate in their day-to-day teaching. Here at ABS, we are extremely proud to be a STEM-based school and have it at the heart of all our teaching.





# Kuwait National Day Celebration

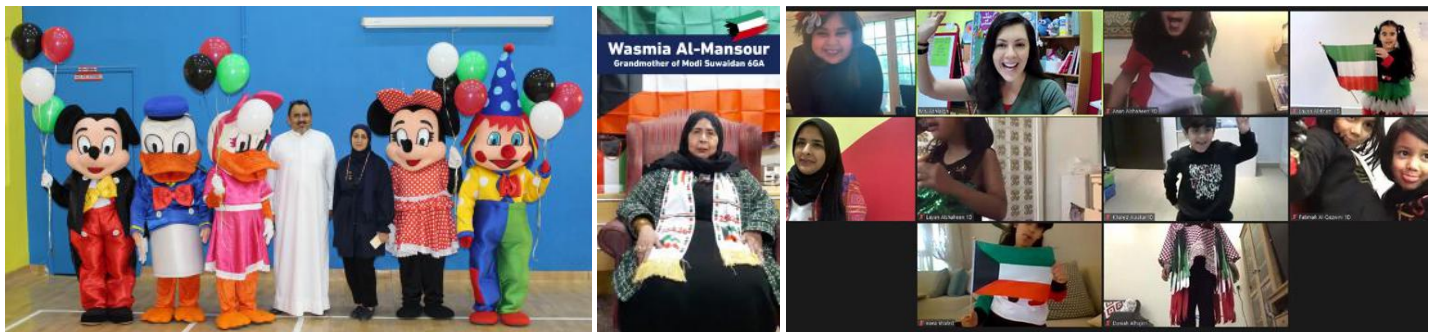
On February 24th, the whole school took part in a tremendous National Day Celebration. It was unfortunate that we could not celebrate together in person, but nevertheless, it was a fantastic day! All the students were dressed in their national dress and country colors and took time to honor Kuwait, its history, and its culture, they joined grade-level assemblies prepared by their Arabic and homeroom teachers highlighting Kuwait National and Liberation Day.



KG assembly was filled with music, videos, a puppet show, a special guest speaker (the father of Bibi Al-Shemali), and a character dance party.



Elementary department had special cartoon characters to join the morning assemblies, it was filled with fun, laughter, and joy. Arabic teachers gave a brief presentation during their assemblies about the cultures and diversities of Kuwait.



MSHS students had spent weeks preparing for the day and each homeroom had a special competition to submit presentations about: Traditional Folk Music, Art, Traditional Clothing, Cuisine, Famous Citizens, Places to Visit and Rulers of Kuwait.



Following the assemblies, all students spent time with their homeroom teachers celebrating together and reflecting on what it means to be a citizen of Kuwait. They also found great enjoyment in watching numerous videos prepared by ABS staff. It was amazing to see everyone in such high spirits and celebrating Kuwait. We hope that next year is just as wonderful and that we will all be celebrating together on-campus.



# Deans' / Counselors' Section & Advertisements



"Good citizenship makes a person a good citizen by properly fulfilling his or her role as a citizen following the rules of their country. One important aspect for being a good citizen is to help people. All around us, we can see there are always people in need of our help. Another important thing we have to remember for being a good citizen is to have active participation in the community. Good citizens are the heart and the soul of a country. In ABS we implement several programs such as Character Education and Student Council to prepare our students to practice good citizenship. Elementary students through these programs learn to serve with pride, lead with confidence and inspire to impact lives."

**Dima Khaddage - Elementary Counselor**



"This is my 3rd year in Kuwait celebrating National Day although this year a bit different from the previous years due to the pandemic. I have enjoyed everything that Kuwait has to offer from the enriched culture, traditions, Arabic cuisines, to the hot summer and friendly people. Kuwait feels like a second home and I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in Kuwait, celebrating National Day together and being part of the community."

**Mahad Hussien - Elementary Dean of Students**



"Living in Kuwait for the past 3 years has allowed me to learn about the Kuwaiti culture, religion, the people, and their traditions. I have found this experience to be exciting, interesting, and influential. More surprising, however, is that living in a culture other than my own has allowed me to recognize my own cultural beliefs and allowed me to rethink them. I think that this is the most powerful aspect of living abroad and I am grateful that Kuwait has provided me with such an opportunity."

**Diana Garcia - HS College Counselor**



"I arrived in Kuwait 1 year and 7 months ago. I am eagerly awaiting to fully celebrate National Day because what I have experienced the last two February's has been good. Therefore, I can only imagine the great experience I will have with attending celebrations, the decorative night lights, meeting more people from Kuwait, and trying more local foods! I am looking forward to celebrating National Day in 2022 and learning more about the historic culture of Kuwait!"

**Arlisha Bailey - MSHS Dean of Students**



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# Administrators' Corner



"Dear Students, Kuwait celebrated the Sixtieth (60th) Anniversary of National/Liberation Day on February 25th -26th, 2021. I would like to wish all of Kuwait's citizens especially the families of ABS a wonderful, safe, and prosperous year. I would like to remind my students of the importance of citizenship. It is essential to understand the principles of being a loyal citizen of your family, school, society, and country. As an educator, I encourage young people to be loyal to their country as well as their school. Together with the help of teachers and students, we can create a wonderful community where each one is involved in a range of interactions and experiences that promotes the development of citizenship and identity to appreciate and care for the world around us. "My honor is my loyalty."

**Amal Al-Minawi - Senior Principal**



"Kuwait holds a special place in my heart. I have been fortunate to live in this glorious country for 20 years and it is truly my home away from home. My heart truly belongs to two places but ultimately, I feel that I am a citizen of the world. I have been fortunate to travel to many fascinating places which has deepened my level of understanding and perspective of the world in which we live. I believe that we can learn from one another and build bridges of compassion, understanding, trust, respect, and acceptance across cultures."

**Jennifer Naser – KG Vice Principal**



"I came to Kuwait six years ago. It has been an incredible experience getting to know more about the people, the culture, and the traditions of Kuwait. My life has been enriched by this chapter, which I hope continues for years to come. Kuwait is a wonderful place to live and I am proud to be celebrating my 6th National Day together with all of you."

**Rachelle Parsons – KG Coordinator, MS Vice Principal**



"Congratulations to the citizens of Kuwait on account of celebration of its independence, February 25 & 26. It is gratifying to be part of the community of Kuwait among all who live here, earn their living, raise their children, become educated and help one other. This year of the pandemic has been a turning point in history; Kuwait is among the exemplars of cooperation, volunteerism, and compassion. All members of the community; both citizens and residents, are encouraged to continue their efforts to keep Kuwait safe and secure. "

**Alicia Sydlowski - Elementary Principal**



"Kuwait National & Liberation Day symbolizes a great part of who you are. This is your culture, and this is what makes you unique and diverse. Diversity does not encompass different, but respect and acceptance of others, who are different to your culture. As members of the ABS family, let us understand that everyone is unique, and recognizing our individual differences is why we can say, at ABS, we welcome DIVERSITY."

**Shereen Kroutz - Elementary Vice Principal**



"The beauty of the world lies in the diversity of its people." The ABS community is rich with diversity. This community provides students and staff the opportunity to practice being honorable global citizens. While celebrations were different this year, in light of the pandemic, the rich pride and love for the country lived on in the hearts of those who live here. As global citizens, we can come together and celebrate the rich cultural wealth Kuwait has to offer! "

**Jackie Guzman - Elementary Vice Principal**



"I have been witnessing \*Kuwait National Day\* celebrations spanning over a period of more than 20 years but this year \*Kuwait\* celebrated \*National Day\* with the same enthusiasm and vigor amid COVID-19 pandemic . Citizens and expats together spread good spirits of harmony, peace and integrity. We virtually celebrated this day with unity and pride. All our student and ABS community that includes teaching staff, accounts office, IT, school nurses and support staff were fully indulged in celebrations as well. This reflected our passion and love for Kuwait."

**Mian Sadiq - MSHS Principal**



"This will be my 6th National Day that I get to celebrate in Kuwait. Each year I was excited to be engulfed with the Kuwaiti culture as Kuwait is now my second home. I was especially excited for National Day as it is always celebrated with vigor and enthusiasm, certainly a remarkable day."

**Kayla Johnson - MS Vice Principal**



"I hope you had a wonderful holiday celebrating National Day and Liberation Day. It is lovely to be a part of a nation who's citizens have such a sense of belonging and are proud of their nation's heritage. To me the idea of citizenship goes beyond national identity. At this time of a global crisis, we should also recognise our role as citizens of the world. Kuwait is fortunate that it is able to help other nations. It is a pleasure to be part of a nation that takes this global responsibility so seriously. To quote the former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon – "Kuwait may be small country in size but she has a big and broad and compassionate heart!"

**John McGrath - HS Vice Principal**



"Kuwait National and Liberation Day brings about such joy for its citizens and visitors from around the world. I have been in Kuwait for almost two years now and it is a pleasure to be part of such a harmonious celebration. It is truly amazing to witness the pride Kuwait has in its extraordinary culture; I am forever grateful to feel as welcome here as a citizen as I do in my own country. I look forward to many more celebrations in Kuwait whereby we can celebrate in unison. I wish you all safety, love and prosperity in these trying times."

**Calicia Daniel - HS Vice Principal**