



January 2019 edition

AMS JOURNAL



**BROUGHT TO YOU BY
TORCH CLUB**

EDITED BY

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UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF

Mrs. Dina Al Atrash

THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

January 2019 was packed with events and competitions for the students of AMB! We bring you the highlights of this month's events:

Chevron Reader's Cup

January 15 & 23

Chevron Reader's Cup is a reading competition hosted annually by the Emirates Airline Festival of Literature. Every year, our outstanding students participate in both the English and the Arabic versions of the competition. Students compete in teams of four and are given 4 books to read prior to the competition date. During the competition, they are assessed through detailed questions on their books.



Academic Awards

January 23

The academic efforts of students from grades 7-12 are recognized and rewarded every year through the Academic Awards, where students receive a variety of awards and scholarships based on their schoolwork from the previous year. This year, alumni Amna Bin Thaneya and Mohammed Al Mansoori were the special guests at the ceremony.



AUS Sharakah Sports Festival

January 26

The AUS Sharakah Sports Festival is an annual event where students from Sharakah schools compete against each other in a variety of sports. This year, despite fierce competition, our varsity teams won first place in girls' volleyball, third place in girls' football, and third place in boys' basketball.



Sports Day

January 27-31

In this lively event, students of different grades came to school dressed in the colors of their teams and competed against each other in an array of games prepared by their PE teachers. Sports Day 2019 featured three bouncy castle games, a challenging puzzle, and balancing games. The joyful chants of students cheering for their teams could be heard all around the school.



AMSI Voices: Monday 101's

January 28

Six notable AMSI alumni visited the school on January 28 and held several workshops for grade 12 students. The seniors benefited greatly from the experiences of each alumnus and learned valuable life lessons. In addition, they explored specific topics in some fields such as architecture, graphic design, and nutrition.



Othello at Dubai Opera

January 29

The night of January 29, students of grades 11 and 12 arrived at Dubai Opera dressed in their formal wear to watch a contemporary production of Othello, the classical play by Shakespeare. The students thoroughly enjoyed the play and able to identify and analyze its elements.



HMC Dubai 2019

January 24-26

For members of the MUN club, the weekend of January 24 was filled with debates and resolutions as they attended the Harvard Model Congress at the American University of Dubai. The students gleaned invaluable insight on the inner workings of the U.S. government and drafted bills in international and domestic committees. In recognition of their outstanding performance, our students received 8 awards of excellence and 3 honorable mentions. In addition, our school received the Best Large Delegation award.





AMB VARSITY TEAMS TAKE HOME THREE TROPHIES

By Marina Markarian

In the months leading up to the American University of Sharjah's Sharakah Sports Festival, there was non-stop training for the students participating. As the day neared, the excitement did not go unnoticed, with all students ready to bring trophies and medals home. Waking up at 5:30 am in the morning, when the sun itself hadn't awoken yet, was a challenge itself, but it was nothing compared to the competition ahead. The boys' and girls' varsity teams were competing in football, basketball, and volleyball against many different schools.

AUS hosts this competition annually for all high school students in the UAE. Students

arrive early in the morning to register and the games begin, starting with the preliminary rounds all the way to the finals. Schools from different districts join the competition to leave with the first place trophy.

One of the best parts of the sports event is the support team. Of course, the win is like the cherry on top, but having a group of people cheer each other during games creates a new bond. It also shows team spirit and good sportsmanship for our school because of a familial link through our students. We participate as Al Mawakeb. One of my favorite quotes state that "We are not a team because we work together. We are a team

because we respect, trust and care for each other".

It gives everyone great pride and joy to hear the end result of this long and tiring day, with the girls' volleyball team winning first place, the boys' basketball team winning third place, and the girls' football team winning third place. The effort put into winning these games generates great results for ourselves and our school.

To me personally, this competition was a great experience, and I am proud to say that I am a part of a team as great as mine. Every single part of the day taught me so much about friendship, teamwork, and effort and for this I'm grateful to have been given this opportunity. There's great pride in being a part of a school that thrives to be the best through a strong work ethic, dedication and motivation.

FOUR LOGICAL PARADOXES

By Taline Dia

A paradox is a statement, usually in the form of phrases, scenarios and anecdotes, that appears to be reasonable and rational but brings forth logical inconsistencies and self-contradictory conclusions. Paradoxes can serve as logical exercises, as logic is the premise of attempting to unravel the infinite qualities of a paradox. Here are four interesting and thought provoking logical paradoxes.

1. The Grandfather Paradox:

The concept of time travel is the driving force of this paradox. This paradox refers to the main contradictions and inconsistencies that arise from altering past events, and the main hypothetical used to explain this paradox is the event in which one travels back in time, prevents the conception of their parents or “kills their grandfather” therefore erasing their own

existence. This brings a contradiction and inconsistency to light which is expressed through the question: If one’s own existence was erased through one’s own actions of altering the past, then how can one’s actions of altering the past be carried out if one ceased to exist as a consequence of said actions? To further entertain the concept of time travel, parallel universes and new timelines are “answers” that are

often provided to explain said contradictions that arise from time travelling to the past.

2. The Ship of Theseus:

This paradox is more straightforward and serves as a thought experiment. Suppose there was a ship, and over time the wood of the ship got replaced and the sails got replaced up until every single part of the ship has gotten replaced. Now let’s suppose a curious

person gathers all the old parts of the ship that got replaced and reassembles it into another ship that is identical to the first one. The resulting questions of this logical paradox are “Which ship is the original?” and “What truly grants something the label of being original?” If we apply this thought experiment to humans, all of our cells have been replaced since infancy. Are we truly who we were since birth? DNA replication does

come into play in cell division, but so does growth and development due to parts of the brain and hormones. This paradox leaves us questioning the identity of anything and everything.

3. The Grelling Nelson Paradox:

This paradox uses two words: Heterological and Autological. Heterological refers to a word that does not describe itself, such as “red is not red” (the word red as I wrote it is black not red, so red does not describe itself), while Autological refers to a word that describes itself, such as “ noun is a noun”. Is “heterological” heterological? If the answer is no, then heterological does not describe itself. If it does not describe itself (meaning it is not heterological) doesn't that mean it's autological? If it is autological then it describes itself, making it heterological. The questions don't end there, but it is clear to perceive that the nature of these words bring forth this infinite paradox.

4. The Prisoner Paradox:

Last but not least is The Prisoner Paradox. Suppose a prisoner has been convicted and sentenced to death. The judge rules that the execution must be unbeknownst to the prisoner, and the prisoner is only given the information that he is being executed between the days of Monday through Friday. If this execution is to be a surprise, then Friday can be ruled out because if all the days (Monday through Thursday) have passed, then the prisoner knows that he will be executed on Friday, which ultimately eliminates the element of surprise. By the same logic, Thursday can be ruled out, therefore Wednesday and so on. So can the element of surprise really be retained? Paradoxes are very often results of the deep philosophical thoughts of ancient philosophers; therefore, paradoxes exist as a result of abstract thought. Does that mean that paradoxes don't really exist in reality? Our brains are an essential part of the physical world. Logical paradoxes overall exercise

our ability to use logic, which can be part of the reason why they pique our interest.

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GRIEVE BY PEN

No, never again will the stars align
for Images of Imagination seem so Frail;
yet all I have Left now in my aching heart
is my bold Ballad be it said stale;
Through my sickly sights of vision prescribed,
Pill by pill, dared I to dream, dream Again
Fables untold by Blue I bled inside
to wander by a world, I grieve by pen

LISTENING TO HER SPEAK

By Jana Waleed

Listening to her speak, I was engulfed by the utter tenderness of her color. Just the sight of her speech sufficed to thaw out my frigid emotions, but not for long; I'd wait for months to view this orange color again. In the midst all this orange, I sensed a faint shadow of navy blue. Soon, however, the warmth was disrupted by a prominent presence of it; the assistant was outside the door. I looked down at the earphones then looked back up, piercing a stare into her eyes; I was waiting, yet I was not. Again, the wait proved worthless, and all I was given was a hefty shaking of her head. The end of the conversation had come. I scurried to the window, letting the orange words of farewell penetrate my ears as the last spoken words I would see or hear that day, and in swift action, earphones impeded my hearing, I pulled the handle of the opened window, I smilingly looked back at her

solemn face and finally scaled down; there was no getting used to this.

Nudging some people here and there, displeased eyes followed me, but I continued; nothing would stop me now. Panting, I continued to move quickly until I was standing in front of my house, "You are not welcome here," it told me. "I know," I said, and entered. Walking through the hallways leading to my room, no one greeted me. No matter—I didn't greet them either. As soon as I put my hand on the door knob, a sensation, a voice, came over me. No! The red words! I-I didn't make it on time. I was going die by its hands. I couldn't tell where its voice was coming from; the ringing of my ears would not stop. Where is it?! Getting further away from the door, my senses were still hindered, so I made a run for it. I ran, head first, to my room's door. Bang! Not yet, just a bit more. Bang! Just one more. Bang! There, that's

it. I could finally hear it, but it was the only thing I could hear and see, nothing more. Red took over my senses; my thoughts would not come. I was too late...again. Its larcenous hands wrapped around me, and soon I would be deprived of my health. It left no room for me to breathe; it was suffocating me. "Shhhhh, calm down," the red words threatened me, and it squeezed harder. I kicked and screamed, but nothing; it would not stop. I did not wish to end up with broken ribs again, "Pl-please stop," it said, "Mother won't hurt you for meeting your sister," it lied. A sudden creak of the door caught my attention, "Mom," she said as my vision filled with her orange color, "I called as soon as she left. Hold on, let me get her meds."

ART GALLERY

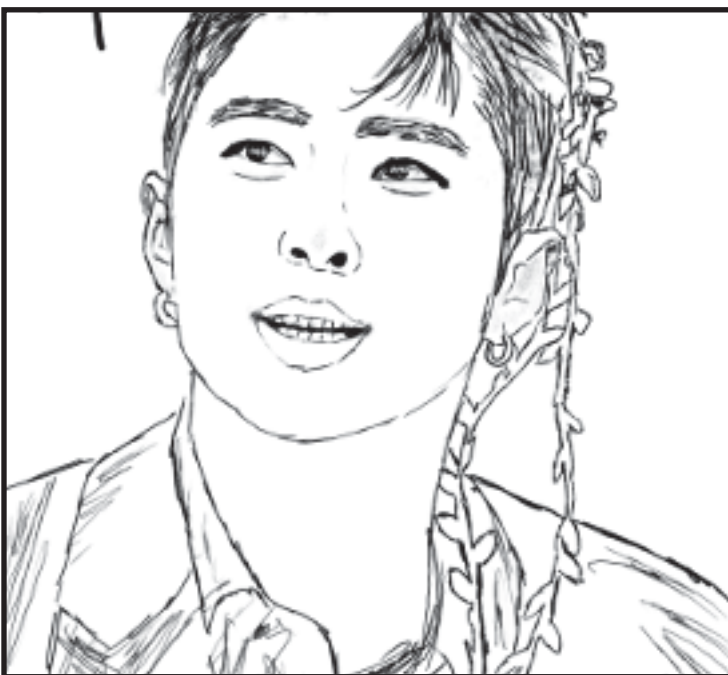
Here, we showcase our gifted students' amazing artwork.



by Maryam Samir



by Meera Al Sayegh



by Meera Al Sayegh



by Taraf Al Rubaie



by Taraf Al Rubaie



by Maryam Samir



by Maryam Samir



HOW TO DECIDE YOUR MAJOR

By Marina Markarian

The task of choosing your educational path is no easy one. It takes a lot of critical thinking and analysis to understand the person you are and the person you want to become. The average student changes his or her career approximately 5 to 7 times. This normalizes the pressures of narrowing down interests and choices to select a profession. Choosing your major is not a simple task indeed, but there are multiple

methods you can use to narrow down your thoughts and make the choice easier. There are many features to keep in mind while deciding your future occupation, such as whether it uses skills that you've developed, whether it targets your interests and, of course, whether you enjoy thriving in the field that you choose. The first and foremost thing you need to look at before making the final decision are your skills. It all comes

down to the skills that you are able to perform, such as solving mathematical problems, analyzing texts, communicating with ease or interpreting scientific studies. When you evaluate your skills, you quickly grasp an idea of what field you want to go into. For example, if you enjoy taking science courses, depending on which part of the science field you enjoy, you can deduce from your skill that you can go into the medical field if you comprehend biology or the engineering field with chemistry and physics.

Each of these fields have branches of what you can potentially study. It requires in-depth research into each of the courses and understanding of your abilities needed to fulfill course requirements.

To know your interests, it is deemed important to allow yourself to take on a diverse collection of activities and groups that open a window to a wider range of choices and hobbies. Associating yourself with different aspects of dexterities such as clubs in school or extracurricular activities, not only helps you with discovering your passion, but it also allows you to adopt new sets of crucial skills that are important for life, mostly to build your personality. The way that benefits your journey of better self-understanding is that it expands the limit of only focusing on subject-based aptitudes. To many, it is considered a waste of time and energy and as a way to stray off focusing in classes, but in reality, it is proven that joining

activities outside of studying helps students learn in a fun environment as well as focus better during study-time.

When you do something that you love, you automatically adapt to make it even more enjoyable. It is also natural for a person to do way better in a job or learning environment that they enjoy working or learning in than that of a person who is focused on following achievements for pride, glory, and income. There are some families that force their youths on the same path as their ancestors. This narrows the range of paths that students may want to take; however, it is very important to fight for the path that you've chosen. In the end, it is your life and your passion. It is crucial to repeat over and over again the importance of doing something you genuinely like. Just imagine a person that enjoys traveling and learning new things sitting behind the desk instead. Choose your own path and

follow it, a cliché but very true line. There are many signs that will direct you to the right choice, and any path that you take can turn any of these choices into the right one when you learn to make the most of everything. There is always something to be learned from anywhere and everywhere that you go. One thing that should be done frequently is updating your research and general knowledge. One of the most effective methods that I've personally used is making a list. This list contained four sections, three of which are based on the paragraphs above. The fourth column is a list of possible majors I can pursue linked to each of my skills, interests and passions. By research, this helped me narrow down my options to what I truly thought would be in my best interest and the best profession that I'd want to pursue. The enjoyment of learning it and working in the field that I've chosen after long years of thinking excited me.



HMC: AN UNPARALLELED EXPERIENCE

By Ayyan Ali

Over the past weekend, AMSI students went to the American University in Dubai to participate in the Harvard Model Congress. Harvard Model Congress (HMC) is an American government simulation for high school students developed and led by Harvard University students.

The conference lasted for three days, and during this time, students took on the personas of political

leaders. Students performed as Senators, members of the House of Representatives, Supreme Court justices, and other special program government officials. This conference gave AMSI students an eye-opening opportunity to see how the United States government functions, which may inspire our very own students to pursue a career in government. Apart from writing bills

and voting on legislation, the students had time to explore the city of Dubai. Many students went to visit tourist destinations such as the Burj Khalifa, Dubai Museum, and Jumeirah Beach Residence. This Harvard Model Congress Dubai excursion was a major success for AMSI. Several students are anticipating returning next year and learning even more. The biggest takeaway AMSI students

had from this experience is learning much more about the US political system. They read through materials and wrote speeches under the guidance of the teachers. The training sessions were extremely useful to the students, teaching them how to improve on both their content and speaking skills. The takeaways from these sessions really helped them during HMC

discussions, where both the structural integrity of their ideas and their speaking ability were put to the test. I think that the HMC has really broadened my world view and exposed me to new ideas. Lessons I've learnt from this experience will certainly benefit me in the future. With an increased knowledge of global affairs and politics, I will be able to keep up-to-date with the

news and remain in touch with the rest of the world. The public speaking skills I've gained from this experience will give me the confidence and ability to persuasively put forth my ideas in the future.

In conclusion, HMCD has been so far one of the best experiences I've ever had. I entered the conference as a normal person and left it as a better one.

PHOTO GALLERY

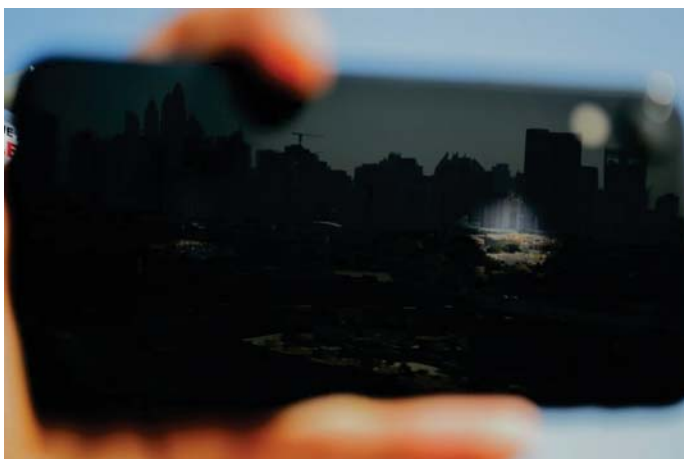
This new segment is dedicated to the talented photographers of our school...



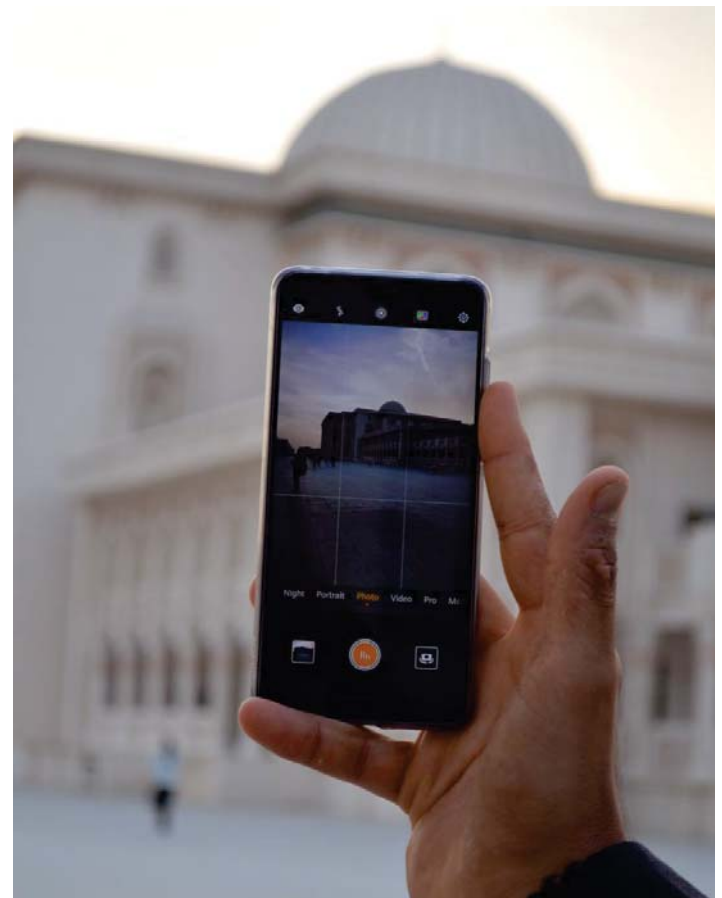
by Hisham Fazail



by Farah Jabir



by Joe Atef



by Joe Atef



by Joe Atef



by Farah Jabir



by Joe Atef



by Joe Atef



by Joe Atef

نبع الحنان

يتساءلونَ في كلِّ حينٍ
وبينَ طيِّباتِ سؤالِهِم تَغفُو الإجابةُ
من ذي التي من مقلتيها
يفيضُ نَهْرٌ من حنانٍ وعطاءٍ ومهابةُ
ومن التي تُزهَرُ حُرُوفِي
حينَ يَمُرُّ اسمُها عندَ الكِتابَةِ
تلك التي في عالمي طيفُ
رقيقٌ هائمٌ يُظلُّني مثلَ السحابةِ
هي نورُ عمري وأيامي الذي
به أهندي ويتوهُّ دربي في غيابهِ
أرنو إليها إذا حلَّ خطبُ
وجادَ زماني بكلِّ صعابِهِ
فتحملُ عني همومَ الحياةِ
لتهدأَ روحي وتزدادَ في الصدرِ الرحابةُ
هي النسماتُ في قيظِ صيفِ

وضوءٌ يقشعُ عن القلبِ ضبابه
فيضُ محبةٍ عطفًا ورحمة
كشلالِ ماءٍ يزدادُ مع الأعوامِ انسكابه
وتنسجُ من عُمرها شالَ حبٍ
و تهديكِ رونقَهُ وزهوهُ شبابه
ويغزو الشيبُ خصلاتِ شعرها
ويبعثُ في جنباته دونَ رقابه
ويحفرُ الدهرُ على جداران
كفيتها حزنًا بكلِ هُدوءٍ وكلِ رتابه
فتسندُ حينها أستارَ النهاية
وتصحو على مشهدٍ لا يُمكنك اجتنابه
هي من تكون الجنةُ تحت
قدميها، ومن يفتحُ لها الرحمن بابه
وتدركُ وقتها جوابَ السؤال
فتعرفُ بأنَّ الأمَ دوماً .. هي الإجابةُ

الطالبة / شهد جمال / المواكب البرشاء - الصف الحادي عشر

فازت شهد جمال بالمركز الأول على مستوى الخليج العربي في مسابقة "قلب شاعري".

Shahd Jamal (grade 11) wrote this poem and won first place in the "Poetic Heart" competition at the Gulf level.

LIBRARY NEWS

In this new segment, you can find all the announcements from the school library.

Arabic Classes Visit the Library

Over the past month, Arabic classes of grades 4-12 visited the library to read from a wide selection of books covering a variety of topics and shared valuable information from what they've read.



Winners of Monthly Library Competition

Every month, the librarian posts a new knowledge question in the library. A box is provided under the question for students to put their answers. At the end of the month, the answer and the winners are announced. Here are the winners of December's competition:

From Grade 4:	Michael Atallah	Reyn Santos
Lara Hussein	From grade 6:	Maxim Hussein
Lea Jaber	Marc Sabbagh	From grade 8:
David Anaie	Eil Daoud Hajar	Jane El Khoury
Lucia Kakoun	From grade 7:	Nadeem Baqade
From grade 5:	Marcel El Masri	



"The UAE Reads" Initiative

In contribution to "The UAE Reads" initiative, some books about the UAE and others written by Emirati authors have been placed in a corner of the library.

Students and staff are invited to contribute to this initiative as well by providing some books about the UAE to the library.



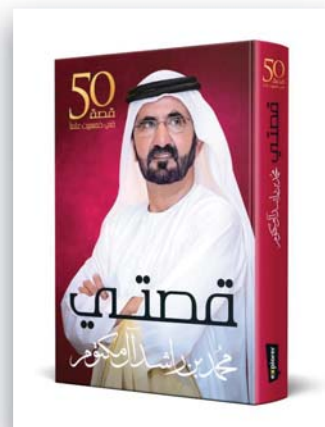
New English Books Added to the Library

The library has just received a new batch of English books! Here is a list of the new additions to the library:

- Big book of When
- House of Horrors
- House of Robots
- Frankie's Magic Football: The Premier Picks
- Frankie's Magic Football: The Trophy Winners
- Robots , Robots Everywhere
- Beast Quest: The Warrior's Road
- Beast Quest: Nixa the Death-Bringer
- Beast Quest: Sepron the Sea Serpent
- Beast Quest: Arcta the Mountain Giant
- Beast Quest: Luster the Acid Dart
- Beast Quest: Kyra the Metal Warrior
- Beast Quest: Tikron the Jungle Master
- Beast Quest: Torgor
- Beast Quest: Xerik the Bone Cruncher
- Beast Quest: Tusk the Mighty Mammoth
- Team Hero: Lair of the Fire Lizard
- Team Hero: The Island of Doom
- Team Hero: Battle for the Shadow Sword
- Team Hero: Fight for the Hidden City
- Team Hero: Army of Darkness
- Team Hero: Reptile Rewakened
- Team Hero: Revenge of the Dragon
- Team Hero: Attack of the Bat Army
- Sea Quest: Hydror
- Sea Quest: Shelka
- Sea Quest: Gort
- Sea Quest: Manak
- Sea Quest: Skalda
- Sea Quest: Sephalox
- Sea Quest: Drakkos
- Sea Quest: Nephro
- A Hat Trick of Horrid Henry
- A Handful of Horrid Henry
- A Helping of Horrid Henry

My Story- HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Releases a New Book

To mark 50 years of service to the UAE, beginning when he was appointed Dubai's Minister of Defence in 1968, HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum has just released a new collection of anecdotes titled 'My Story', which chronicles 50 memories from his 50 years of public service.



Credits to Twitter:
@Mohamedbinzayed



WINTER WONDERLAND

By Sara Tahlak

"Ow", I said as I began to lift myself up off of the ground smothered in snow. "Where am I?" I asked myself, placing a hand on my throbbing forehead.

Everything around me was covered in a blanket of white, where icicles hung from pine trees, and crystal-like snowflakes that came in a variation of shapes and sizes fell from the majestic twilight sky, tickling my nose and rosy cheeks as they fell. Where young

wolves ran and jumped about in the snow- joyfully, as if they were engaged in a game of hide and seek.

It was such a beautiful scene to look at; I felt as though it were taken out of my wildest dreams. I didn't know where I was, or how I'd gotten here, but I never wanted to leave. As I was about to pick an apple from the tree nearest to me, the sound of jingling bells attracted my attention. Letting go of the apple, I went to follow the jubilant

tune.

I ended up in a hut where a hearth was burning and a delicious feast lay on a vintage-looking dining table. The smell of cinnamon apple pie filled the air, giving me a sense of thrill and familiarity. It felt almost as if I'd landed into my deceased grandmother's house in Gross-Gerau, Germany.

At this point, I'd become very curious- which led me on a journey. I decided to climb up the red velvet covered stair case, only to find myself standing in front of my dead ancestors. Now, I knew where I was... I'd joined my past ancestors in the after life.



EAT SMART

By Sanad Haddad and Hashim Riyan

It's crucial that we clearly understand what role proper nutrition plays in our lives. With this understanding, we can begin to digest our nutritional issues and eventually solve them effectively. The benefits of proper nutrition have an astounding effect on the quality of our lives, affecting not only our physical health but also our focus, mental health, spiritual well-being and most of all, our attitude. It is our responsibility to notice what habits we tend to form with food, and how can we glean the most beneficial outcomes by realizing how

powerful food actually is. Thus, we can give life and love again to the thing that begets us life.

The effect of nutrition on humans surpasses great expectations. It does not just provide us with a better, healthier lifestyle, but it also has a positive out-turn on multiple things many people nowadays are not aware of. These things include your mind and spirit. Eating beneficial food with a lot of nutrients increases blood flow to your brain and protects brain cells, so a person becomes more aware, his mental state becomes

good and healthy, which allows him to work or study properly and decreases chances of brain diseases such as Alzheimer's. Moreover, nutrition plays an important role in the spirit of the person. It increases his energy levels, which makes him feel more positive, productive, and energetic. Also, it can brighten someone's mood and increase happiness and soothing feelings.



BOOK REVIEW: LAND OF STORIES

By Angelina Kakoun

The Land of Stories is a series of children's fiction books written by Chris Colfer. There's a total of six books: *The Wishing Spell* (2012), *The Enchantress Returns* (2013), *The Grimm Warning* (2014), *Beyond the Kingdoms* (2015), *An Author's Odyssey* (2016), and *Worlds Collide* (2017).

The story follows the enchanted journey of the twins Conner and Alex Bailey as they fall into other dimensions through

a magical book. The world of the twins undergoes a major change as they indulge themselves in the reading of a magical book handed to them by their grandmother. As they read the book, they discover new worlds they could have never imagined. They realize that all the fairytale characters they had read about were real and alive in these worlds but did not have the same endings.

After experiencing the different colors of the magical worlds, the twins desperately want to go back to their home in the real world. However, they are impeded by fairytale villains who are determined to stop them. Over the course of the books, Conner Bailey and Alex Bailey encounter a series of wolves, witches, trolls, and goblins, that make them realize that getting back to their normal life is going to be much more difficult than they had imagined. Each book in the series has a colorful cover that depicts a set of fairytale

characters, and there's either a timeline, a map, or a spell on the first page of the book. The books are about 300-520 pages long each and don't include pictures. I advise middle-grade readers and even adults to read The Land of Stories because I find it to be very entertaining and educational. The stories depict historic events and introduce new vocabulary

words which will improve the reader's knowledge in history and the English language. In my opinion, this series is whimsical and very imaginative. It also features surprising plot-twists and gripping suspense. To learn more about the books and where you can find them visit:

www.thelandofstories.com



AN EXPERIENCE TO REMEMBER

By Hisham Fazail

MUN has always been this wonderful, stressful, delightful experience from the hours of research to the wonderful debate all the way to that rush of adrenaline at the award ceremony. HMC Dubai 2019 was perhaps the perfect embodiment of all of this. We as a delegation were given our topics and immediately pushed into a whirlwind of assignments and research. The stress and the excitement all lit a fire of passion inside our

minds and urged us forth to do our best at the conference, and so, night after night, we put hours of work into our massive binders, our assignments, and our research. HMC was unlike any other conference; the competition was fierce and the rules were rigorous. The prospect of arguing and cooperating with well-versed and articulate young men and women from all over the globe was both fascinating and

intimidating. Who were these people? What innovative ideas can they bring upon the table? Will they be friendly? The questions bounced around our charged heads like ping-pong balls. With our minds set on victory and learning and our hearts fixed on making both our school and ourselves proud, nothing could stop us from marching down the paved path to triumph. As the conference that both frightened and thrilled us drew closer upon the calendar, the heads of our MUN club were adamant on preparing us for what was to come.

They organized mocks and practice debate sessions which many of us attribute to our success and engagement at HMC. We spent hours practicing our stances, our speaking skills and, most importantly, our ability to cooperate. The mocks prepped us for the hours of debate and discussion that HMC was to bring forth.

Finally, the day of the conference came upon us. We had been expecting the day for so long, yet we were caught off guard. I still remember the rush of excitement as I bolted out of math class, put on my one and only suit and hopped around with the passion that the past weeks of suspense had charged me with. I was both afraid and hopeful for the event that had finally come. We loaded onto the buses and off we went.

The first day of the conference was filled with debate and discussion about topics ranging from the South China Sea all the way to the rights of women in education. The wonderful chairs gave us the ability to shine and make our mark on the committee. The social night was perhaps the most

interesting part of the 3 days. All the delegates were given loads of pizza and fries, enough to fill us for days to come, and we were pushed onto the dance floor and given a brief time to loosen up and jump around like bouncing balls of stress. The second day was filled with aggressive debate and creative solutions as the fire within all of us began to grow. The mocks and practice rounds that had been imposed on us all began to come back to us as we remembered debating with our fellow delegates in practice for HMC. Even as the competition and fierceness of the event peaked, the heads and the faculty members were always there to guide and support us. All our heads were like teachers and friends through our stressful 3 days; they were there to lift our spirits as we lost hope and to nudge us onto the path of success when we went astray. As the second day drew to an end, we all were excited about the prospect of winning awards and recognition from the board in acknowledgement of our hard work.

The third day was the

saddest; we had made new friends and learned new things about ourselves. The third day yielded awards but also bid us farewell as HMC2019 came to an end. We filed into the auditorium and had the pleasure and honor of listening to wonderful speakers motivate and encourage us. Finally, the time we had all been waiting for had come. The Awards. Winning an award does not make one a good delegate; it is, in fact, the effort you put into the conference and the knowledge you take out. Many of our finest delegates were called upon the stage to collect their marks of recognition for the hard work they had put into the 3 days.

HMC2019 was truly amazing. It marked not only the starting point for many new delegates but also helped us learn new things about ourselves, meet new friends and discover that we are all amazing speakers when given the mic. HMC was the very essence of MUN, teaching us the spirit of cooperation and hard work. I hope to attend next year.



EUPHORIA

By Salma El Etreby

For Hind and Iyaa

Anxiety. Fear. Fright. Confusion. Exhaustion. Those were just a few of the things I felt on my way to the Chevron Reader's Cup Competition.

The Chevron Reader's Cup is a reading competition held every year by the Emirates Airlines Literature Festival. I had already participated in it back in the 8th grade; in grade 9, I decided it was better if I didn't. This year, though, I had the chance to apply for it.

Do I regret it? Absolutely not. My teammates and I had

agreed to focus on one book each; that way, it'll be easier for us to complete the assessments. I had taken a book titled "The Last Dragonslayer". I wasn't too excited, as it seemed boring. Regardless, I began reading.

Exams week came around and I had become busier than ever. I never glanced the book's way, let alone read it. It was only when we received the date of the competition that I completely focused on reading the book. I knew exactly what the questions would be like, and I knew it would take more than just reading the book to

be prepared. I knew how excruciatingly detailed the questions would be, so I studied the book. I did some research on the book, looked up mock exams on it, and even read it three times. I was not worried in the least bit; why should I be? I had been preparing for weeks, always flipping through the pages.

Fast forward a couple weeks, it's only a week until the competition. My schedule had become messier. I began to wonder whether my teammates were ready for it either. Did they read all four books? Did they memorize everything? Did they—

"Salma, to the library," I was asked. A meeting, of course.

How do I tell the coordinator that I am in no way near finishing the books? I was panicking. Albeit knowing there was no way I'd be kicked off the team since we're so close to the date, I still panicked. Maybe I'll just tell her I'm re-reading all of them just to make sure?

I made my way around the corners of the halls and finally, into the building where the library would be.

No one was there. Strange.

I sat for about fifteen minutes, idly flipping through the pages of one of the Maze Runner books, not really paying attention to the words.

Someone opened the door. It was the coordinator. It had then occurred to me that my teacher gave me my note a bit too early, and that I was not meant to be there for the past few minutes.

She took a seat across from me as the rest of my teammates walked in, too.

We discussed our tactics and explained the way it worked for the new students. I was frantic with worry.

We bid our goodbyes and made our way back to class. There shouldn't be anything to worry about, right?

It was now only six days until the competition would take place. My friends had grown tired of me counting down. They thought I was annoyed, but I wasn't. I grew more scared by the minute, and venting was the only way for me to let off some steam. I read and read, writing down each detail I assumed would be significant enough to memorize. My notebook was covered in numbers and letters, each holding a meaning that no one else really understood, save for me.

Four more days.

I was tired. Tired of reading, tired of folding the pages, tired of making sure I had memorized every letter in the book. But it'd be worth it, right? Perhaps it would, perhaps it would not. I wasn't really sure why I was doing this, anyway. I liked reading, and I liked it the first time I participated in this whole thing.

Three more days.

I had found some exams online regarding my book. The questions were extremely detailed, so detailed that I highly doubted any of them would make an appearance on the

actual exam.

Two more days.

I had begun asking everyone around me to evaluate me on all three-hundred-and-twenty-one questions until I was confident that I knew the answer to each and every one of them. I had asked my sister, my mom, and even my friends to text me the questions, sometimes at late hours in the night. They knew how important this was to me and they were more than willing to help me get through this, and for that, I am so thankful.

One more day.

I memorized and wrote every question and folded almost every page in the book. I've grown to loathe the book. I stayed up until two or three in the morning, and woke up at six to review everything. I'd still have time at school, right?

Apparently not. We were called to the buses right after the national anthem. This was it. I felt completely unprepared. My friends were reassuring me that I'd be okay, but my mind was all over the place to hear them.

We were now seated in a spacious hall. There had to be at least 200 people there,

all from different schools. My books were splayed on the table, but I only focused on one. Suddenly, a voice boomed through the speakers. "If you'd all please direct your attention to the stage, our students have prepared a special presentation before you begin," one of the supervisors said. A familiar melody hummed softly soon after. I knew this song, but I couldn't quite put my finger on what it was. I was so caught up in my book that I almost missed the chorus. That's when I realized what they were singing. It was "Euphoria," by BTS's Jungkook. Strangely, even though it was one of my least favorite songs by them, hearing it was disarming. I

immediately relaxed; I felt sure that I would ace this exam.

Once the song was over, they handed us the papers. I didn't want to look at the questions, I didn't want to see how hard it would be, I didn't—

I peeked. The questions weren't as bad as I thought they'd be, and I actually knew how to answer them. I was waiting for the announcements to come to an end so I could get it over with.

The competition had ended an hour ago, and we were rewarded with breakfast. I really did worry for nothing. The exam was easy, and now we wait until we know

whether we've made it to the second round or not.

To my teammates who may or may not be reading this, you all did great, and I couldn't have asked for better ones. Good luck to us!

And to anyone who'd want to participate next year, do it, but don't say I didn't warn you.

LOVE IS A LIE

I often stand along and ask myself, what is love
Is it the feeling that fills the emptiness in our souls,
Or is it the butterflies that in thy stomach evolve,
Oh, maybe it is just a way to ourselves console
How many times do you fall in the dark
Once, twice, or infinite times
Is love truly an ever-fixed mark
Or is it just a feeling that with time declines
Does love deserve all the tears wasted,
Or all the nights spent with misery
But what about all the moments with joy painted
Oh, I am afraid I can't solve this mystery
Love is a lie, an illusion that's created by fairy tales
But only believes in it whose heart is frail

INTERVIEW WITH MRS. RITA MOUSSA

By Hanan Al Hammal

1) How did you start your career?

- When I was still in my second year of college, all of my classes were in the afternoon, and I used to feel bored at times, which is why I decided to start teaching. I also used to teach some kids in my neighborhood.

2) Are there any difficulties you have to face in your current job/position?

- Yes, of course. There are always difficulties, especially since you're dealing with human beings and you have to make sure they are

reaching their goals and maintaining their ethical values.

3) Do you feel really pressured and stressed by your job sometimes?

- That is definite. And it is normal in every job to feel that way. I have to deal with many different types of human beings and I get to hear their thoughts and emotions, and I feel like I am feeling the pressure and/or sadness they are feeling. That is definitely the main reason I feel stressed. On the other hand, work-wise, I do not

feel as pressured because I organize my time properly.

4) How did you feel when you found out you will be positioned as a head of section for girls section (9-12)?

- I never take things in an intimidating, nervous or anxious way, never. For me, it was a challenge, and I like taking challenges. Plus, I already had experience being head of section back in Lebanon, so I did have an idea about the job.

5) Some students claim that the boys section is being treated better

than the girls section. What is your response to that?

- Define better. The boys section also claims that the girls section is being treated better.

6) If you weren't head of section, what other job would you be working in?

- A doctor.

7) How do you see the role of a teacher in the learning process?

- The teacher is a key reference for the students. Students are the learners, they are the key elements. And the teacher is like a book. The students choose whether

they will open that book and read it or not, but they should not completely rely on the teacher.

8) How do you prepare for a staff meeting?

- I sit with Miss Rania (head of boys section) and we point out the points that require the most attention.

9) What is one place you've always wanted to take your students to but have never been able to?

- Disneyland.

10) What is one memory you had in our school that you will never forget?

- Last year, I talked with Andrea (a student in grade 12) about a famous Broadway musical where the main persona was Puerto Rican like her. After coming back from her vacation, Andrea gifted me the book of the play and told me how she asked her grandma about it and searched for it... That day, I got to see the true sincere feelings of a person I never knew had such feeling for me.

11) Do you have a plan to

help students struggling with certain subject before contacting their parents?

- Yes, for sure. I try to give them advice but it goes back to them if they want to listen to it or not.

12) How do you describe an ideal student?

- Hardworking, committed, polite, respectful, kind, loving, and always positive.

13) In your opinion, what are our students entitled to or not entitled to in school?

- They are not entitled to hurt other's feelings, they are not entitled to be disrespectful, and they are not entitled to rank and/or judge each other. However, they are entitled to learn to the maximum, enjoy their learning to the maximum, love what they're learning, find everything positive in each other, and make as many friends and advisors as they can. Lastly, they are entitled to enrich their future experience with what they build in school by making sure everything they do makes them happy.

14) If you could give your students one piece of advice, what would it be?

- Enjoy what you do, that is the only way you make a difference.



OTHELLO: A TALE OF JEALOUS MINDS

By Fadi Chahine

On the 29th of January, Al Mawakeb high-school students headed to the Dubai opera for an experience that was a first for many of the attendees. Students and teachers alike filed into the theater in anticipation of a play they'd booked for months ago: Othello.

As everyone settled into their seats, the lighting slowly reached a dimness that foreshadowed nothing but tragedy to the main character Othello. The play begins with a hearty

conciliation between two lovers and continues by introducing the audience to one Iago and Roderigo. With this introduction, the audience is pointed towards the point of conflict of the play, a mutual desire for the lovely Desdemona. As Othello progresses, the actors and actresses display an amazingly realistic expression of emotion to a concussed audience. Yet, if you just listened to the hall as the plays rolled out on the theater, you wouldn't know it was a tragedy. It could be

due to Iago's downplayed evil and more casual delivery of "I hate the moor". Or it could be due to the musical number in between. Yet, as amazing as the play goes, the actors are even more phenomenal. Despite Desdemona and Roderigo's bland performance, Othello and Emilia together had the audience on the edge of their seats with every move and word they made and said. Newcomers to Othello, or Shakespeare in general, will certainly feel the essence of the play and the depth and meaning of a Shakespearean tragedy.