

# AMPS NEWSLETTER

*"Bringing school stories at your fingertips"*



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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As always, we want everyone to become excited and prepared for school. We can't expect drastic changes, and I won't be making any drastic changes because a lot of what's going on here is doing very well. Tweaks will come, like I said, in instruction and learning and getting our teachers to think outside the box. But again, that has to come slowly with workshops, exposure, and successes and failures. We're going to fail to make change. And that's okay, as long as we kind of figure out what to do differently. So I hope to bring in more opportunities for students to think about the future and where they want the school to be.



A chat with our principal Ms. Danielle Pinkerton, brought to you by Laya Kanafani

- Dare to try to do something different.
- Always be open to the others around you
- Don't just do the bare minimum

### What should parents and students expect for this year?

So obviously, I'm still in a watching, talking, and observing kind of time. But if I have goals, one of them would be to help us get a good rating from KHDA, because then a lot of possibilities and opportunities open up for the school. That being said, some of the areas I hope to support are more engaging teaching and learning. and integrating more student voice and choice. And so as soon as I get some initial understandings and meetings done and get to know the key leaders in the school, I'm going to shift to teaching and learning in the classroom, providing support and strategies to teachers, deconstructing how some teachers currently do things, and helping them think differently.

## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS:

- FINISH HOMEWORK AND TESTS ON TIME – NO MORE LAST-MINUTE WORK.
- TRY NEW CLUBS OR HOBBIES
- BE NICE TO EVERYONE – SPREAD GOOD ENERGY!
- EAT MORE VEGGIES FOR BETTER HEALTH.
- EXERCISE A COUPLE OF TIMES A WEEK – STAY FIT AND FEEL GOOD.
- STAY ORGANIZED WITH BINDERS AND PLANNERS – NO MESS.
- LEARN SOMETHING NEW, LIKE CODING OR A SPORT
- SAVE MONEY BY BEING SMART ABOUT SPENDING.
- READ ONE BOOK A MONTH – EXPLORE DIFFERENT STORIES.
- GET ENOUGH SLEEP – IT'S ESSENTIAL FOR FEELING GOOD.



# MONTHLY BUZZ

## ARABIC WORLD LANGUAGE DAY

احتفالاً باليوم العالم للغة العربية؛ أقام الطلاب معرضاً للغة العربية عرضوا فيه مشاريعهم المختلفة في شتى فروع اللغة، كما صاحب المعرض بعض الاستعراضات الفنية والمسابقات اللغوية للاحتفاء بلغتنا الجميلة.

In celebration of the World Arabic Language Day; Students held an Arabic language exhibition in which they presented their projects in various branches of the language. The exhibition was also accompanied by some artistic performances and linguistic competitions to celebrate our beautiful language.



## AMPS DELEGATES & CHAIR IN GEMS WSSMUN

We're thrilled to highlight our student's exceptional participation in the WSS Model United Nations (MUN) at Gems Westminster School. Throughout the event, they delved into challenging simulations, refining diplomatic communication, negotiation, and conflict resolution skills. This experience provided a unique platform for applying academic knowledge to practical scenarios, fostering a better understanding of global issues. Their engagement in complex diplomatic discussions and collaborative problem-solving showcased a commitment to developing essential skills for effective leadership. Congratulations to our students for their excellent performance, reflecting their dedication to becoming well-rounded global citizens.



## DUBAI AQUARIUM TRIP FOR KINDERGARTENERS

Embark on an exciting adventure with our little explorers! Our Kindergarten trip to the Dubai Aquarium was a magical journey filled with underwater wonders and delightful discoveries. It was a day of laughter, learning, and aquatic amazement with our youngest scholars!



# MONTHLY BUZZ

## CRAZY HAIR DAY

AMPS kindergarten and elementary students celebrated the highly-anticipated crazy hair day, where imagination had no limits and students unleashed their creativity with all types of unusual colors and hairstyles that transformed the hallways into a vibrant showcase for all types of crazy and wild hairstyles!



## SHARK TANK

Almaaref's young entrepreneurial students showcased remarkable ingenuity and poise in the Shark Tank, presenting an innovative proposal that captivated the investors. Their strategic approach, coupled with a deep understanding of market dynamics, secured not only funding but also admiration from the esteemed panel. This success highlights Almaaref's commitment to fostering entrepreneurial excellence among its students.



## UMRAH TRIP

AMPS Secondary School boys Embarked on a Umrah trip to Mecca and Madinah where these young minds delved into the historical significance of Islam, gaining a profound understanding of their faith and strengthening their relationship with Allah. The students engaged in the sacred rituals of Tawaf and Saiee between the Safa and Marwa and formed tight friendships and felt the unity of the whole experience.



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## ISLAMIC COMPETITION

An Islamic competition occurred on the 6th of November, 2023 within the school. It contained the memorization of some Chapters of the Holy Quran, as well as the memorization of a few narrations from the Prophet (PBUH.) The winners of the competition from each grade in middle school have been announced on the 15th of January, 2024.



## ENGLISH:

## Spelling Bee Competition

For this academic year, AMPS has decided to host a spelling bee competition for all middle school students. This spelling bee will have three rounds that go on from a competition in class and so on to the whole middle school. The first round will take place on the 11th of January; the second round is to take place on the 30th of January; and the final round will be held on the 14th of February. In each round, there will be a word list of the words the announcer will call out. These words will get trickier the further the round goes, so always be up for a challenge. The top 5 students will be qualified to advance into the next round, so it's all about being consistent with all the words to keep yourself in a high position. Good luck to all students participating in this competition, and always remind yourself to always try your best.



## STEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

On the 1st of December 2023, Al Maaref Private School participated in the STEAM Champions UAE 2024 competition, which was outstanding and memorable. Our students have set an example in challenging spirit, high courage & self-confidence, great discipline in following the rules and most of all, a winners' mindset.

### AI Innovators

- **Purpose:** creating solutions to real-world problems.
- **Grade-level participated:** 9.
- **AMPS team:** 3 teams
- **AMPS Achievement:** 1 team won first runner-up place.
- **Coached by:** Ms. Suha.

### AI Seniors:

- **Purpose:** designing and programming robots.
- **Grade-level participated:** 6.
- **AMPS team:** 2 teams
- **AMPS Achievement:** 1 team won first place.
- **Coached by:** Ms. Suha.



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## Winter break Reading Adventures

During winter break, middle schoolers enthusiastically accepted the school's reading challenge, showcasing a remarkable commitment to reading. Many students immersed themselves in diverse genres, completing multiple books and displaying a genuine love for reading.

The success of the winter break challenge has set the stage for more reading adventures in the upcoming academic sessions. The school is excited about fostering a culture of reading and intellectual curiosity among its students.

*Celebrating the champions of our Winter Reading Adventure!  
Congratulations to the Grade 6-8 winners who embarked on a literary journey and emerged victorious.*



## Football Competition at Al Nasr Club

Celebrating victory as our Under-14 boys clinch first place in the Dubai Schools Games football competition at Al Nasr Club! 🏆⚽ Proud of our talented team's hard work and dedication



Exciting news! Our school is participating in CleverTech's 4th Annual Reading Competition, promoting a love for reading across the UAE. Students from KG1 to Grade 8 can join the challenge, reading age-appropriate books and earning stars on Raz-Kids and Vocabulary A-Z for 30 days. Prizes await Top Readers, Top Teacher, and Top School, with a special medal for the Top Student in each school. The competition runs from January 29 to February 29, with winners announced on March 20.

## Winter Break Reading Competition

**A huge congratulations to all our students who participated in the Winter Break Reading Competition! Their dedication to exploring new worlds through books has been nothing short of inspiring. Their journey through the pages has not only enhanced their knowledge but also ignited a lifelong passion for reading. Keep turning the pages and let the adventures continue!**



**TAKE IT  
FROM US**

# Staying Focused

**S**taying focused and on track in school can be a challenge, especially with so many distractions vying for our attention. However, by implementing a few key strategies and techniques, you can improve your focus and stay on track with your studies.



One of the most important things you can do is set clear goals for yourself. This could be completing a certain number of assignments each week, studying for a certain number of hours each day, or working towards a specific grade in a particular subject. Having clear goals gives you something to work towards and helps you stay motivated. It's also helpful to break larger goals down into smaller, more manageable tasks. This can make them feel more achievable and help you stay on track.



Another important strategy is to create a schedule that outlines the tasks you need to complete each day. This can help you stay organized and make the most of your time. Consider setting aside specific blocks of time for studying, and try to be as consistent as possible with your schedule. For example, if you find that you are most productive in the morning, make a habit of studying first thing in the morning.

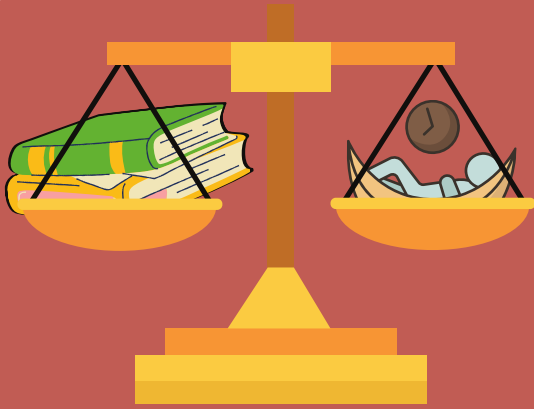
Finding a quiet, distraction-free study space is also crucial for staying focused. This could be a dedicated study room or a quiet corner of your home, but the important thing is to find a space where you can minimize distractions and focus on your work. If you are easily distracted by noise or other distractions, consider using noise-cancelling headphones or finding a more isolated location to study.



One technique that can be particularly helpful in maintaining focus is the Pomodoro Technique. This involves working for 25 minutes and then taking a 5-minute break. After four "pomodoros," you can take a longer break of 15-30 minutes. This can help you stay focused and prevent burnout, as it gives you regular breaks to rest and recharge. The Pomodoro Technique can also be a helpful way to track your progress and stay on track with your tasks.



In addition to setting aside time for review and staying organized, it's important to find what works best for you. Everyone is different, and what works for one person may not work for another. Experiment with different techniques and strategies to see what helps you focus and stay motivated. This might include using specific study tools or resources, or finding a particular study environment that helps you concentrate.



It's also important to remember to take breaks and give your brain a rest every once in a while. While it's important to be consistent and work hard, it's also important to find a balance between work and relaxation. Taking regular breaks can help you recharge and stay motivated, and can even improve your focus and productivity in the long run.

By following these strategies and finding what works best for you, you can stay focused and on track in school and achieve your goals. Good luck with your studies!



# Committees Agenda

## MUN CLUB WEEKLY SESSIONS



The MUN club welcomed back its members with an interactive session where they mimicked the events of a real MUN conference to deepen the understanding of future delegates. The session encompassed the process of roll call, the opening speech, and examples of the different motions and points present in a MUN conference. In addition to a position paper workshop to help students understand the position paper formats and understand the committee agendas, the number of students, and their feedback.

## PODCAST



The "Senior Speak" podcast has collaborated with the MUN club to prepare a set of podcasts before the conference, these podcasts will include interviews with delegates, chairs, and organizers to gain an understanding of their expectations, and the challenges they will face.

## ECO AMBASSADORS

The Eco-Ambassadors team is a dedicated group organized by our school to promote environmental sustainability. Their aim is to foster a culture of environmental awareness within our community. This team works towards promoting sustainable practices and raising awareness about environmental issues. Through various initiatives and activities, the Eco-Ambassadors will encourage other students to contribute to a more eco-friendly school environment. Stay tuned for any upcoming activities or initiatives as they continue to lead the way towards a more sustainable future for our school!



## NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE



Our Newsletter team is dedicated to create student written and produced content monthly that covers activities and events in school, featuring student and teachers achievements and talents. Stay tuned for all the latest updates, news, and exciting events!

## YEARBOOK COMMITTEE

The yearbook is a type of book made to record all memories and activities throughout the school year. There is a group of seniors from our school who are working on designing the yearbook. We have some students whose main task is to document every event that happens in the school, which includes field trips, national events, and competitions. As of now, the yearbook committee has divided itself into groups to get pictures and messages from each teacher through 6th to 12th grade.







## SHOWCASING STUDENTS TALENT:

**Youssef Qandil - 5B**  
**Swimming Champion**



- 1ST place BREAST 50 M
- 2ND Place BACK 50 M
- 3RD Place FREESTYLE 50 M



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**05-07** | Spelling Bee (Round 2)  
MON-WED

**07** | World Read Aloud Day  
WED

**09-11** | AMPSMUN  
FRI-SUN

**12-15** | Sports Day  
MON-THR

**19-21** | English Week  
MON-WED

**29** | Global Day  
THR

## Newsletter Team

Middle & High School

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Khadijah Alshamsi



Navigate your academic journey  
with curiosity and resilience.  
Here's to a semester of growth  
and success!