



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ARKIS' ENGLISH DEPARTMENT



FIRST TERM 2024- 2025



ARKIS STARTS THE 2024-2025 S.Y. WITH EXCITEMENT AND GREAT NEWS

The Principal, Ms. Kate, welcomes new school year.

Shauna Vandersay and Sondos Zakzouk

An interview was conducted on the 4th of December by the Editors-in-Chief Shauna Vandersay and Sondos Zakzouk with Ms. Kate Moskwa , the school's Principal. The transcripts of the interview follow:

What is your vision for our school, and how do you plan to achieve it?

Our vision is to create a joyful and nurturing school environment where students can thrive, flourish, and confidently embark on their unique paths. We aspire to cultivate a team of dedicated and fulfilled staff who teach with passion, form meaningful connections with students, and inspire lifelong learning. Additionally, we aim to foster a supportive and proud parent community, united in partnership to empower every child's success.

What is the most rewarding aspect of being a Principal?

No two days are ever the same as a principal. At heart, I started as a teacher, and my favorite moments are those when I get to interact with and spend time with my students—it reminds me of the joy I found in teaching and the connections that make this role so fulfilling.

How do you involve parents, students and teachers in the decision making process of the school?

I maintain an open-door policy, welcoming anyone to meet with me by scheduling an appointment. Additionally, I make it a priority to be visible throughout the school, particularly during my morning walks. These walks provide opportunities to engage with parents, students, and caregivers, fostering meaningful connections and open communication. While I encourage feedback and questions from everyone—whether during school hours, events, or classes—I also value seeking input from specific groups, such as parents or students, when planning certain activities. Our school is a vibrant community, and a true community thrives when every voice is heard and valued.

How would you describe the school in 3 words?

Happy, vibrant and a community.



"The BQA evaluation was a tremendous success for us, and receiving an "Outstanding" rating for student development was a particularly proud moment for me as a Principal."

Can you share an accomplishment or initiative that you are particularly proud of this term?

The BQA evaluation was a tremendous success for us, and receiving an "Outstanding" rating for student development was a particularly proud moment for me as a Principal. This achievement was a testament to our students' dedication and growth. Earning an overall grade of "Good" was a significant milestone, reflecting the remarkable progress we've made since our last evaluation. Additionally, hosting the Minister of Education as the first school he visited this academic year was a prestigious honor for our entire community. These accomplishments are just two highlights of what has already been an incredible year for our school.

What message do you have for the students, teachers and the school community?

As a parent, all you want is for your child and students to do their best and be happy. We're all unique, which is a wonderful thing—our different strengths are what make a community truly rich. However, it can be challenging as a student to embrace those differences, especially when there's a desire to fit in. Over time, you realize that these differences are what make you special.

My message to students is to find happiness within themselves and understand that giving their best effort is always enough. For example, I was never particularly strong in science, but I had other strengths, and that's okay. When you're a student, it can be easy to overlook your talents, especially during the tough years of being a teenager or young adult. Would I want to go back to that time? Probably not! But with the benefit of hindsight and working with young people now, I've learned that challenges often teach us resilience.

It's important to remember that things aren't always as bad as they might seem. Having a growth mindset is key—you truly can achieve amazing things when you believe in yourself and put in the effort.

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مدرسة عبدالرحمن كانو الدولية
Abdul Rahman Kanoo International School

EDITORIAL

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First Term
2024-2025

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ARKIS Values: Nurturing Minds, Building Futures

Nevan Neeliyara

ARKIS has earned a stellar reputation as one of Bahrain's leading educational institutions, offering students a world-class education that fosters excellence across academics, extracurricular activities, and beyond. With outstanding IB and IGCSE results, along with numerous accolades from external competitions, ARKIS empowers students to excel in a rapidly changing world.

At the heart of ARKIS's success are its innovative teaching methods, which blend theory with practical application using cutting-edge technology. These techniques engage students in active learning, allowing them to develop both critical thinking and creativity, while their teachers bring a combination of expertise and passion to the classroom.

The campus itself plays a crucial role in nurturing well-rounded students. With state-of-the-art facilities, including football fields, basketball courts, and dedicated learning spaces like labs and kitchens, students have the opportunity to grow physically and intellectually. Additionally, various clubs promote leadership, community service, and teamwork, helping students build the essential values of responsibility, resilience, and confidence.

ARKIS's commitment to excellence, with a strong focus on student well-being, creates a solid foundation for shaping the global leaders of tomorrow.

“With outstanding IB and IGCSE results, along with numerous accolades from external competitions, ARKIS empowers students to excel in a rapidly changing world.”





FROM THE EDITORS' DESK



Shauna Vandersay
Editor-in-Chief

Every corner of our school tells a story, every hallway resonates with laughter, and every classroom buzzes with the energy of curious minds at work. Being a part of The Vanguard Magazine has given me the privilege of uncovering these stories, showcasing the passion and dedication that define our ARKIS community. This magazine is more than just a collection of articles—it's a reflection of who we are, a celebration of the creativity, determination, and dreams that bring us together.

As Editor-in-Chief, this journey has been both challenging and incredibly rewarding—an experience I will always treasure. A heartfelt thank you to Sondos Khamis, whose unwavering support and commitment have made this journey truly unforgettable.



Sondos Zakzouk
Editor-in-Chief

Attending school each day may feel like a routine we've grown accustomed to, but when we take the time to uncover the stories within the walls we learn in and understand the vision driving our school's growth, it transforms our perspective. We begin to develop a deeper passion for the learning journey we embark on daily.

Working on The Vanguard Magazine has been a beautiful and enlightening opportunity, offering me hands-on insight into our school's future and our principal's inspiring vision. I believe this magazine stands out as one of the most informative publications in our school because it highlights what truly shapes us—students, parents, staff, teachers, and the entire ARKIS community.

Being entrusted as one of the Editors-in-Chief of The Vanguard Magazine is a true honor, and I am proud to contribute to a platform that reflects and celebrates our shared journey.

"This magazine is more than just a collection of articles—it's a reflection of who we are, a celebration of the creativity, determination, and dreams that bring us together"
---Shauna Vandersay

"Working on The Vanguard Magazine has been a beautiful and enlightening opportunity, offering me hands-on insight into our school's future and our principal's inspiring vision." ---Sondos Zakzouk

ARKIS Embarks on an Enriching Trip to Malaysia

Nevan Neeliyara

From October 17 to 23, 2024, students from Abdul Rahman Kanoo International School embarked on a vibrant educational journey to Malaysia, exploring three key destinations: Kuala Lumpur, Penang, and Putrajaya. ESS teacher, Mr. Alfredo Rivera said, "This week-long excursion was designed not only as a Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) initiative but also as part of an innovative collaboration between the Environmental Systems and Societies (ESS) and Global Perspectives (GP) programs."

The itinerary was packed with diverse and immersive activities. Highlights included visits to iconic landmarks such as the Petronas Towers, Batu Caves, and Zoo Negara, alongside thrilling experiences at the Genting Highlands Theme Park and the Aquarium. The trip also offered unique adventures like a hill train ride to The Habitat and relaxing beach activities in Penang. Students further enriched their cultural understanding with visits to museums and a serene river cruise.

The primary aim of the trip extended beyond sightseeing. It provided students with an opportunity to experience different environments and cultural settings, aligning with the core objectives of the ESS and GP subjects. By fostering cultural understanding, diversity, and the components of global perspectives, the trip emphasized the importance of international-mindedness in line with IB standards.

Reflecting on the trip, Mr. Alfredo described it as a resounding success. "All the planned activities were conducted seamlessly, and the students actively participated with great enthusiasm. While it wasn't perfect, the memories and experiences gained will last a lifetime," he further shared.

The students' enthusiasm was palpable throughout the journey, making every moment unforgettable. As they returned home with a wealth of knowledge and cultural insights, thoughts are already turning to the next adventure. Europe is on the horizon for the next CAS trip, with hopes set on Vienna, Austria, for the next academic year.



“By fostering cultural understanding, diversity, and the components of global perspectives, the trip emphasized the importance of international-mindedness in line with IB standards.”

---Mr. Alfredo Rivera
ESS Teacher





ARKIS Celebrates Success at 'A Book is the Best Companion' Competition

Nevan Neeliyara

On November 5, 2024, the halls of Al-Falah School, A'Ali Boys, resonated with the spirit of literary celebration as students from various schools gathered for an engaging competition titled "A Book is the Best Companion." The event aimed to celebrate the joy of reading and inspire students to develop a deeper connection with books through creative and dynamic presentations.

Six students from Abdul Rahman Kanoo International School participated in the competition, showcasing their analytical and presentation skills with remarkable enthusiasm and preparation. Representing the secondary section were Sarah Alramadhan, Juna Asfuroglu, Fatima Ali, and Fatema Bucheery.

The highlight of the day was Fatima Ali's exceptional achievement. Competing in the preparatory stage, she secured second place, a testament to her dedication and hard work. Her accomplishment brought immense pride to the school community.

Coach Mr. Vinod said, "I was thrilled to witness the students' passion and commitment. Their preparation reflected their love for reading, and their performances left a lasting impression on the audience. Fatima Ali's success serves as a source of inspiration for her peers and reinforces the importance of perseverance and dedication."

The students' journey was further enriched by the guidance of Ms. Fatima Qassim, Head of the English Department. Her meticulous review of their presentations and her unwavering support ensured the participants were well-prepared to give their best. She also played a pivotal role in introducing the competition to the team.

Events like these not only celebrate the joy of reading but also foster critical thinking, creativity, and confidence among students. Abdul Rahman Kanoo International School remains committed to nurturing such opportunities for holistic growth and excellence.





English Department Hosts Thrilling Language Competition to Celebrate Student Talent and Proficiency

Nevan Neeliyara

In November 2024, the English Department organized a dynamic language competition for students in Grades 6, 7, and 8, showcasing their linguistic skills and enthusiasm for learning. Mr. Vinod, the key organizer and the Assistant Head of the Department, described the event as "an excellent platform to enhance language proficiency and celebrate student talent."

The competition featured three exciting stages: the Classroom Round, the Grade Level Round, and the highly anticipated Grand Finale, held on December 2, 2024, in the school's Palace Hall.

The competition celebrated outstanding achievements, with Daniyal Abdulali crowned the champion of Grade 6, Fatima Murtadha taking first place in Grade 7, and Ahmed Maki Mahdi emerging as the winner in Grade 8. Their dedication and passion were evident, as they prepared diligently and participated with zeal in every round. The energy and enthusiasm of the competitors inspired not only their peers but also the audience.

The English Department headed by Ms. Fatema Qassim extended heartfelt congratulations to the winners for their remarkable accomplishments and applauded all participants for their hard work and commitment. The event proved to be a tremendous success, fostering a love for language, sharpening linguistic skills, and creating unforgettable experiences for students and teachers alike.





MOVIE REVIEW

UNCHARTED: A TREASURE HUNT THAT JUST MISSES THE MARK



Muhammad Zolldahn

"Uncharted" (2022), directed by Ruben Fleischer, brings to life the thrilling adventures of the beloved video game character Nathan Drake. Starring Tom Holland as Nathan Drake and Mark Wahlberg as his mentor Victor "Sully" Sullivan, the film takes the audience on a globe-trotting quest for historical treasures and hidden secrets.

The film follows the young and resourceful Nathan Drake, a bartender with a knack for history and puzzles, as he is recruited by the seasoned treasure hunter Sully for a daring mission. Their goal is to find a legendary treasure that has eluded many throughout history, as they travel from city to city, facing dangerous adversaries and solving intricate puzzles, they uncover not only treasures but also hidden truths about Nathan's past.

Direction and Acting: Ruben Fleischer brings his action-comedy expertise to the film, creating a fast-paced and engaging narrative. Tom Holland shines as the charismatic and agile Nathan Drake, capturing both his adventurous spirit and vulnerability. Mark Wahlberg adds a dose of humor and grit as Sully, creating a dynamic duo.

The screenplay effectively balances action, humor, and character development. The dialogue is sharp and filled with witty banter, staying true to the playful tone of the video game series. The storyline, while familiar to fans, offers enough twists and turns to keep both new and seasoned audiences entertained.

The film boasts stunning visuals, with breathtaking landscapes and expertly choreographed action sequences. From high-flying stunts to intense chase scenes, the cinematography captures the excitement and danger of treasure hunting. The visual effects seamlessly blend with practical stunts, creating a visually immersive experience.

Music and Sound: The score, composed by Ramin Djawadi, adds to the film's adventurous tone, enhancing the tension and excitement during key moments. The sound design is equally impressive, bringing the action sequences to life with crisp and dynamic audio.

At its core, "Uncharted" celebrates the thrill of adventure and the quest for discovery. The film emphasizes the importance of perseverance, courage, and curiosity in uncovering the mysteries of the past.

Family and Friendship: The relationship between Nathan and Sully evolves throughout the film, highlighting themes of trust, loyalty, and the bonds that form through shared experiences. The subplot involving Nathan's search for his lost brother adds an emotional layer to the story.

"Uncharted" delivers what fans of the video game series would hope for—non-stop action, clever puzzles, and a sense of wonder.

Tom Holland's portrayal of Nathan Drake is both charming and believable, making him a perfect fit for the role. The chemistry between Holland and Wahlberg is a highlight, adding humor and depth to their partnership.

While the film is highly entertaining, some plot points may feel predictable to avid fans of the series. Additionally, a deeper exploration of the supporting characters could have added more richness to the story.

In conclusion, "Uncharted" is a thrilling and enjoyable ride that successfully brings the beloved video game to the big screen. With its engaging plot, stellar performances, and stunning visuals, it's a must-watch for fans of action-adventure films and treasure hunting tales. Whether you're a die-hard fan of the game or new to the franchise, "Uncharted" offers an exciting escape into a world of mystery and adventure.

Uncharted also shows how greed can change people's priorities and how it can potentially lead people to unethical actions, it could be argued that it implies a sort of importance on not letting greed get a hold of you.





FEATURE

MOVIE REVIEW

MOANA 2: SAILING INTO A NEW WAVE OF ADVENTURE

Noor Alzayani



Noor Alzayani

Moana 2 brings us back to the colorful and exciting world of Motunui, where we get to see Moana take on a brand-new adventure full of magic, heart, and discovery. This sequel, which fans have been waiting for, continues the story from the first movie and dives into deeper ideas about being a leader, leaving a legacy, and how Moana keeps growing as a navigator and protector of her people.

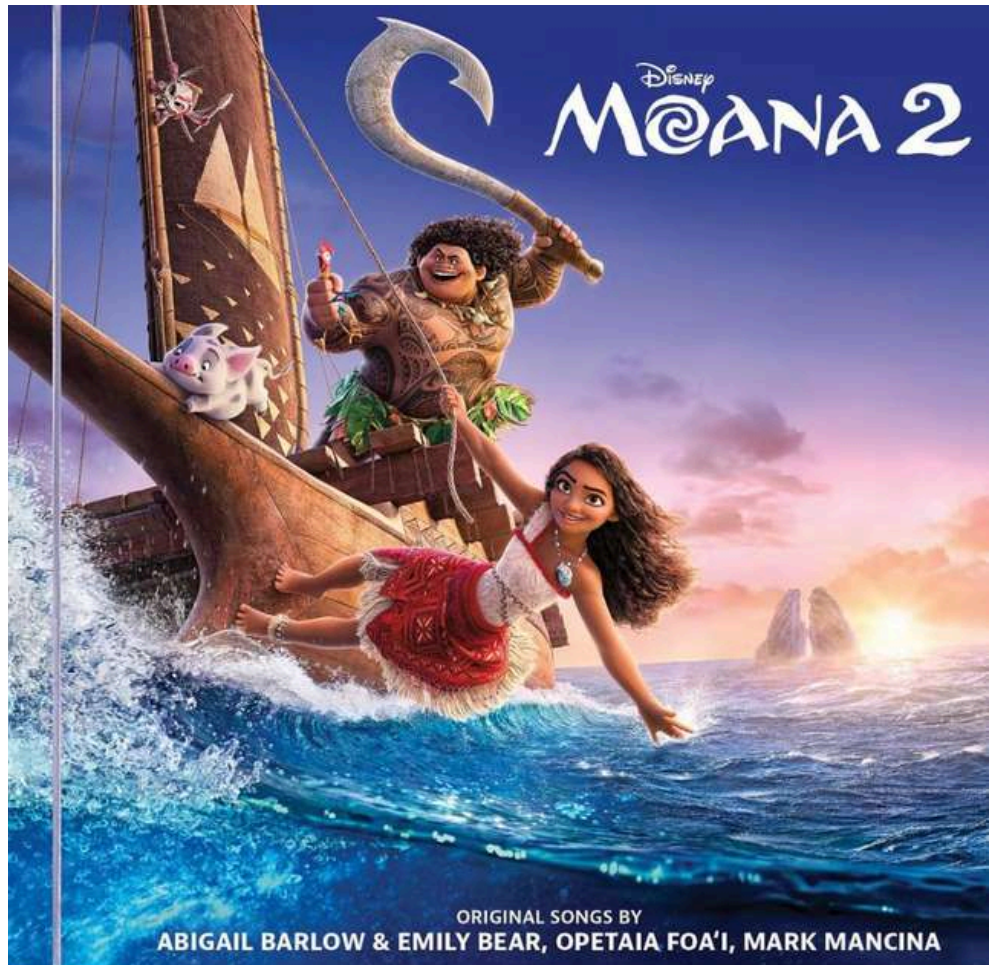
The story in Moana 2 expands the world we saw in the original. Moana is now a more experienced leader, but she faces new problems that could upset the balance of her island and the ocean around it. The challenges are bigger this time. Moana finds out about legends and lands that aren't on her map—places that might hold the answers to saving her home.

As expected from Disney, the animation in Moana 2 is amazing. The ocean feels alive again, like it's its own character, and the animators did an awesome job making the water, sky, and landscapes look so real and beautiful. The green forests of Motunui and the huge, endless ocean are just as stunning as they were before, and the parts with sea creatures and magical elements are really cool to watch.

Moana 2 is a great sequel to the first movie. It has jaw-dropping animation, a story that's emotional and exciting, and music that will stick with you. Moana's growth as a character and her stronger bond with the world around her make this sequel more than just a repeat of the original.

Instead, it builds on the Moana story in a way that feels fresh and exciting. Fans of the first movie will love it, and people new to Moana's world will be drawn in by the amazing visuals and powerful story. It's the kind of sequel that feels both familiar and brand-new, keeping the magic of one of Disney's most loved characters alive.

“Moana 2 is a great sequel to the first movie. It has jaw-dropping animation, a story that's emotional and exciting, and music that will stick with you.”





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Abdul Rahman Kanoo International School

OUR MOMENTS

Highlights of Term 1: School Year 2024-2025





Did You Know?

Antarctica Desert: World's Largest Desert



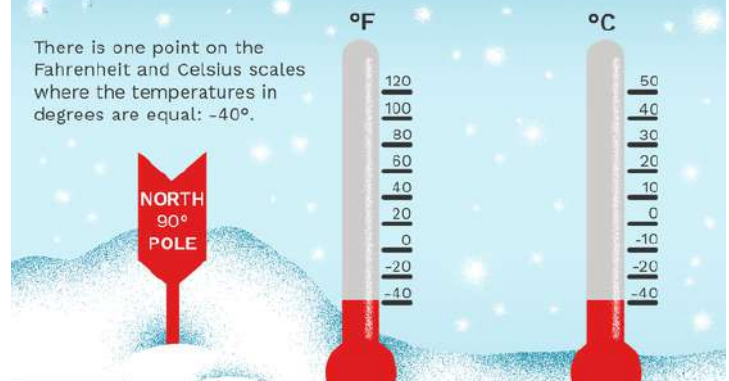
Do diamonds last forever?

No. Diamonds do not last forever. They'll eventually degrade to graphite, though the process takes over a billion years

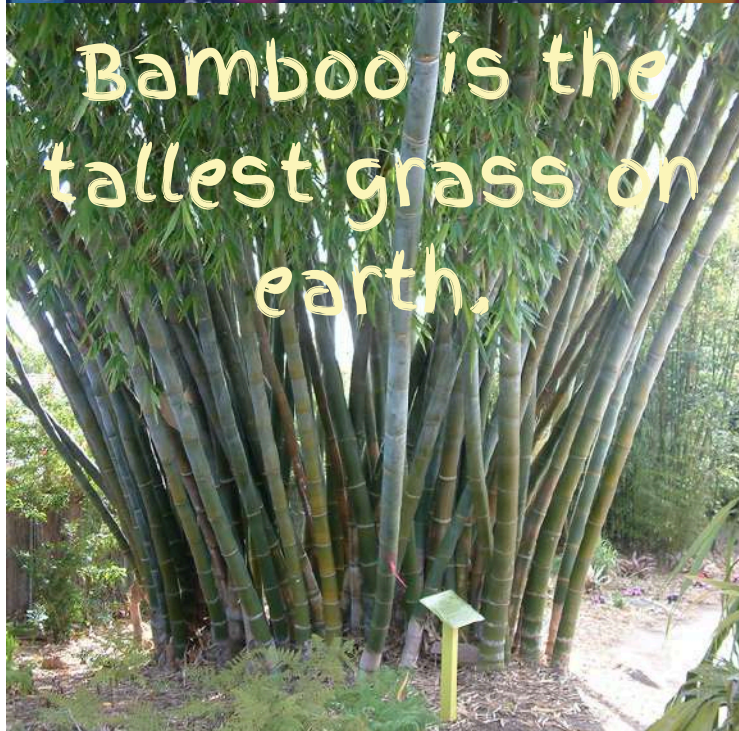
"Laser" is actually an acronym that stands for **Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation**. Lasers concentrate light waves, not sound waves.

When Are Fahrenheit and Celsius Equal?

There is one point on the Fahrenheit and Celsius scales where the temperatures in degrees are equal: -40° .



Bamboo is the tallest grass on earth.



The "black box," which records flight data, is actually bright orange to make it easier to find in the event of a crash.