

IN THE LOOP

AJI news, views and more...

In This Issue



Editorial Team



Ms. Shinu Jose
Teacher in Charge



Riyah Gani
Editor



Ms. Anjana Pillai
Teacher in Charge



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“Hell is empty.
All the devils are here.”

William Shakespeare
“THE TEMPEST”

Teachers Speak



Mr. Jestin Joseph
HOD English Dept.

The English language is nobody’s special property. It’s the property of the imagination, the property of the language itself.

This year, AJI declared January as THE ENGLISH MONTH. We kickstarted the new year of 2022 with a plethora of english month activities that appealed to all students of different grade levels. The students were given a platform to get creative and showcase their talents. From a film making competition to cosplay, there was something for everybody!

Cont'd pg 2

Teachers Speak

The first week of the month, we got tech-savvy and created digital comic strips related to the lessons we learned throughout the year.

The second week, we stepped out of our comfort zones with the 'Just a minute' speech contest, an exercise done to enhance public speaking skills, where the students are given mere minutes to prepare for a surprise topic at hand and then articulately present their speeches.

The third week, we awakened our inner Shakespeare's with the Poem recitation and declamation competitions. Watch out Wordsworth, we're coming for your pen!

A little something for everyone right? For the bookworms, The department organised a readers cup where students came together in groups, were assigned a book, then quizzed on the contents and storylines. Some friendly competition never hurt anyone!

Language is the armour of the human mind and at once contains the trophies of the past and the weapons of its future conquests, but the English language does not have to be all that serious! Language is an art and if we've learnt anything from it, it's that it's the most flexible weapon in history. So go out there and enlighten the world with your newfound skills of literature but keep in mind, the pen is truly mightier than the sword!

Teachers Speak

English Department Secondary Section



Ms. Shinu Jose
English Teacher

"The English Language is a strange paradise; a language that opens an ocean of opportunities, sets you in a corridor for life and opens every door along the way."



Ms. Leena Fernandes
English Teacher

"Language is the blood of the soul into which thoughts run in and out of which they grow."



Ms. Anjana Pillai
English Teacher

"English is a rhythmical language wherein the musical notes of all cultures and traditions meet to create a glorious inheritance open to all..."

Featured

Events

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW!

with Senior EXPO Volunteer AJI Mr. Sayidur Rahman



Riyah: Good morning sir. Welcome to our Exclusive session on Achievers. Congratulations on being the only Expo Volunteer from AJ. Our readers are keen to know more.

At the outset, could you tell us a bit about yourself, your early years, coming to UAE and your experience?



Mr. Rahman: I was born and brought up in Hyderabad, India and completed my education there. Academically, I was an average student; but I excelled at basketball and represented my university in many tournaments during the two years of my post-graduation. After my education, I worked as a lecturer and a principal for 15 years in India, before coming to the UAE. A journey with AJ that started 22 years ago saw me in different capacities: as a teacher, a supervisor, and through hard work and excellent contribution I am now the Head of the Mathematics Department at AJ. I thank AJ for believing in me, giving me the opportunity and helping me grow.

Riyah: How did you become an Expo volunteer? What is the process?

Mr. Rahman: I would like to thank Mr. Ummer Farooq, who informed me about an opportunity to become an Expo volunteer. The opportunity excited me and I applied for it. Out of the 1,80,000 applications that were submitted from across UAE, only 30,000 were selected after application reviews and a series of interviews. The volunteers were of 135+ nationalities out of which 45% were UAE nationals and 55% expatriates. Post the selection process, we were trained for 33 sessions online (due to covid) and two sessions offline.

Riyah: What is your role as an Expo volunteer?

Mr. Rahman: Distinct roles are assigned to the individual volunteers based on their skills and interest. I was entrusted with the role of “Country team member, participant management.” Making me responsible for the delivery and management of daily activities of my pavilion.

The process was highly rewarding and enjoyable. Through my role, I got to meet people from different walks of life and from different countries around the world. This gave me an insight into the various cultures and values that exist. I truly feel proud to be a part of this large international platform. Kudos to the people of UAE and the leaders, for putting on such a great show, well planned with no flaws.



Featured

Events

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW!

with Senior EXPO Volunteer AJI Mr. Sayidur Rahman

Riyah: How does it feel to be the only volunteer from Al Ain Juniors?

Mr. Rahman: Al Ain Juniors School is a school that encourages both its teachers and students to explore new realms and opportunities for their personal growth and for the welfare of society. It's a wonderful feeling and I'm proud to be the only Expo volunteer from AJ. But I would have been happier to see more volunteers from AJ as the teachers are talented.

Riyah: In closing, any words of advice for Gen Z(youngsters)

Mr. Rahman: "Things do not happen; they are made to happen."

My advice for the younger generation is that one must not hesitate to grab an opportunity, be it big or small. Volunteering for an event like the Expo is a once in a lifetime opportunity and I took it, and it has been a wonderful learning experience. I would tell you to make every moment a learning experience. Never think that you have learned everything because there is always something new that you don't know about. Our world is one that is full of competition. If you do not constantly reinvent yourself you will become redundant. This is what I have learned from my visit to the Expo and it is what I want the younger generation to ponder upon.

You, the 'Gen Z' are the future and so adopting a healthy lifestyle avoiding junk food, exercising daily, playing field games, avoiding unnecessary laptop exposure, minimizing the use of gadgets, sleeping early at night and getting up early in the morning is necessary as admissions to top universities require you to not only excel in academics but also require your participation in different events, seminars, competitions and voluntary services.

Riyah: Thank you for taking time out and sharing your experience and inspiring us to achieve our dreams!

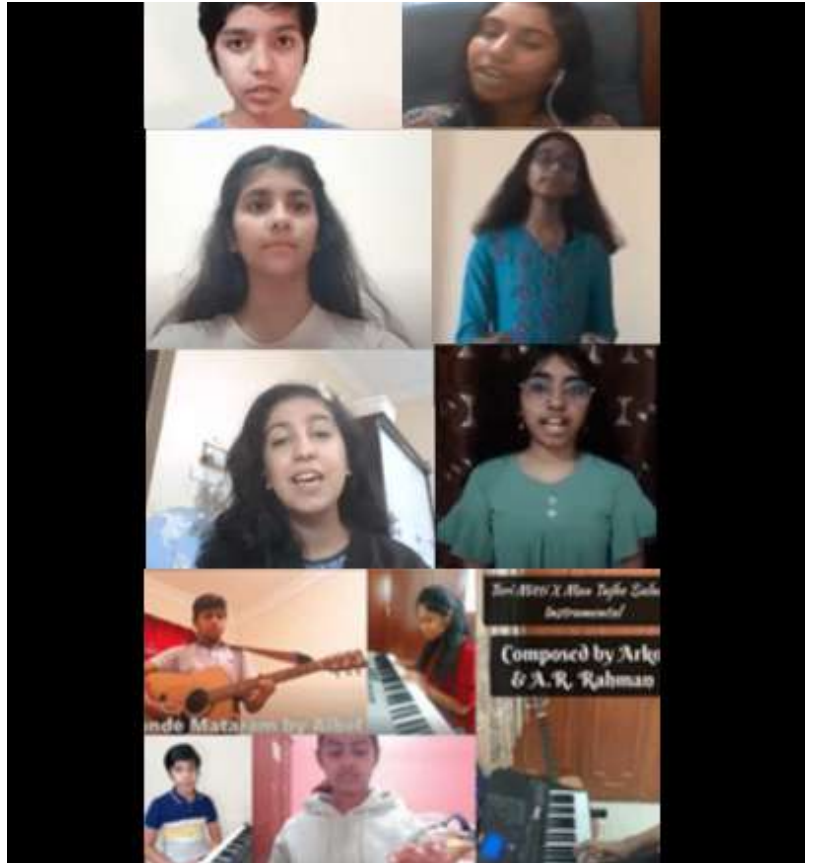
Mr. Rahman: It was a pleasure, thank you for having me.



On a Roll

Events

This month Al Ain Juniors celebrated English Month and Republic Day. Here are some snippets-



Deep Dive

Developing Self Confidence

Self-confidence is an attitude about your skills and abilities. It means you accept and trust yourself and have a sense of control in your life. You know your strengths and weakness well, and have a positive view of yourself



Here are five ways to nourish your self-esteem when it is low:

- Use positive affirmations correctly.
- Identify your competencies and develop them.
- Learn to accept compliments.
- Eliminate self-criticism and introduce self-compassion.
- Affirm your real worth.

Top Picks

PECULIAR BOOK

"Diggory Herman Jones is a fellow from London who was staying in New York. He always loved New York and its beauty. It was a place where he always had felt stable.

He was an incredible and intelligent guy with blond hair and a well-built body. His friends saw him as a hefty yet kind-hearted hero.

Diggory walked over to the window to see the reflection of his beautiful surroundings. The snow flurried a bit heavily.

Then he saw something in the distance or rather someone. It was the figure of Alex John. Alex was a handsome man with well-groomed hair and a fit body. But most important of all, Alex was Diggory's best friend and soul mate that he ever had. They were best friends since they were born. Funny though, they were born in the same hospital at the same time and their parents had been best friends too, as a matter of fact, their families were close friends.

As Diggory stepped outside and Alex came closer, he could see a glimpse of sadness on his face.

Alex eyed Diggory and said (in a hushed tone), "Diggory, I'm going to London, now."

Diggory felt his heartbeat stop. He asked "Alex, what's up?" (clearly concerned).

They looked at each other. Alex was fingering a book in his hands. Diggory understood that something was wrong and his friend wanted to tell him something important.

So Diggory invited Alex inside the house and Alex told Diggory about the book in his hands.

"This book was the diary of my great-great-great-grandfather" he told him. "That is amazing.... but why are you worried so much and why do you want to go to London?" asked Diggory. Alex said " It's great...Look what I found." he continued (his voice a bit shaky) But what matters is whose it is". "Well, whose is it?" asked Diggory (calmly). "Its..its John Smith's" said Alex his voice (quite shaky) John Smith was the legendary inventor/ blacksmith. His invention and forged weapons were known to be the most powerful weapons ever known. With the help of John Smith's swords, battle axes and shields, even the army of Napoleon could be defeated. The weapon was so balanced and powerful and was made with the most secret metal known only to Smith. He used to call it the Smith steel. Rumors say that he had written down the contents of his Smith steel in a secret book. "Ohh," said Diggory "John Smith.... the man who made the world's most powerful weapons" (clearly astonished). "Yeah, that's the exact one," said Alex (who was clearly a bit relieved that he didn't have to carry the burden alone)

"Where did you find it? Does it have the blueprints and contents of the Smith steel?" were the questions Diggory had in his mind but he decided that was what Alex was afraid of , people demanding to know these secrets but he could stop himself asking.

"Can I see it?" asked Diggory (eagerly) "I mean it's fine... it's personal and you want to keep it a secret." But Alex surprised him by shoving it into Diggory's hands.

Top Picks

Diggory was really surprised. He didn't expect Alex to just give it to him but this was really peculiar. It was a smooth book with a leather cover.

Then when he opened it, he saw confetti all around him. Alex had burst a small thing which was filled with it. His face was full of glee and his eyes sparkling with joy. Then Diggory understood it was a surprise and when he carefully read the contents in the book, he saw that Alex had given him not an old diary but a scrapbook which read 'Happy Birthday My Best Friend Diggory' and he spotted behind him all of their friends and family. They had bought a huge cake and had filled one side of the room with decorations. Of course, it was his birthday. Diggory had forgotten that. He was surprised and fell for Alex's diversion and his acting.

It was his 35th Birthday! and he had gotten the best surprise party of his life

"You sneaky little rascal", said Diggory "you almost gave me a heart attack". That was necessary" said Alex "after all you are my best friend"

Diggory said "I'm glad to be your friend Alex" "I'm glad to be your friend too" replied Alex.

- Ahmed Atif 10A



A CAWING DARK FEATHERED VAGABOND

The remote outlands of Australia,
Once came across a cawing dark feathered
vagabond;

Who last took off from Malaysia,
Taking a sip of water from a pond.

Having gone absurd with thirst,
And having no spirit to caw,
Saw a jug of water and curst;
For, the feathered vagabond was in need of a
straw.

The jug was curst,
And so was the water.

Although, having so low to fulfill the thirst,
One look at the water made the vagabond lustre.

The vagabond began to ponder,
For ways to obtain the much desired solution.
And then came a thought, for it to wonder,
Although lazy by nature, the vagabond did no
procrastination.

Pebble by pebble, stone by stone,
Went in the jug, everything he saw.
The water was up till the rim, by dawn.
He sipped it all and let out a loud caw.

Having regained his spirit,
He soared and took off to the African Savannah.
His will was definite,
So his way became lucid.

- Amna Furkhan 10C

Top Picks

YOUTH

Youth is a worthwhile phase of one's life. It is a very important phase in which one executes their goals alongside with many other side activities that they carry out. It is one of the stages in which a person's identity and character are formed in relation to society in order to function in it later. Their personalities are difficult to pin down, or they could be a mix of good and bad in equal measure. Youth are cognitively capable, but they should be encouraged to use and nurture their abilities.

Youth is described as the period of time between childhood and adulthood, both socially and scientifically (adulthood). Young people make up the youth community. The kids of today are among the most passionate and inquisitive of all previous generations. The good, however, is accompanied with the negative.

Today's youth is exposed to a greater world than previous generations. This is one of the main reasons why they are regarded as "arrogant" or "rebellious," but in reality, we are exposed to a highly poisonous and hazardous atmosphere that has both mental and physical consequences.

But, despite the criticism, we, the youth, are the most powerful generation of all time. Gender equality, antibullying, Black lives matter, rights for all backward communities, and everything else that has to do with rising up all people and offering equal rights to all humans are all started by today's youth.

(X, Y) in today's social concerns and challenges with rights and regulations. This generation is known as Generation Z because we believe we are the last to have to cope with racism and other harsh or discriminatory practices.

Despite the fact that the kids support everyone and every issue that arises in society, they also have their own problems at such a young age. The following are some of the issues that today's teenagers face:

- Growing Up Too Quickly
- School-based violence.
- Time management and stress management.
- Political & Social Issues, and so on.

All young people should be sought out and given a sense of the economic and environmental advances of society at this stage in their lives, as they will be expected to function in this community after a few years. Young people are constantly interested in the community, which is why it is critical to keep our society safe and less poisonous, but they are instead exposed to an environment that is hostile to everyone and everything that is different. If parents and family members do not provide the youth with a comprehensive view of society, they will take it upon themselves to do so, but they will also see the negative aspects of society, which will have an impact on their character development. As a result, parents are advised to show their children the community and its environments on both sides, but within reason, so that they do not see the violence but are aware of it in order to learn how to withstand it and to help others withstand it.

Top Picks

Finally, this era is fortunate to have such talented youngsters. Adults, on the other hand, should support today's youth in any way that will help them develop physically, socially, and psychologically.

- Angela Dadine 10C

A SCANDAL IN BOHEMIA - BOOK REVIEW

To Sherlock Holmes, she is always the woman. So opens *A Scandal in Bohemia*, a Sherlock Holmes short story contained within *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*.

The story is written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who was born in Edinburgh and studied medicine prior to pursuing his career as a writer. Aside from meeting writers such as James Barrie and Robert Louis Stevenson, he also met Dr Joseph Bell. Bell was a master of observation, logic, deduction and diagnosis. And as you've probably guessed, he was the inspiration for Arthur's greatest creation: Sherlock Holmes.

Dr Watson is now married, and in civil practice, when his footsteps lead him past 221B Baker Street, where he calls in on his old friend, Holmes, on 20th March 1888, and the chemistry between the two partners is instantly rejuvenated. I liked the idea of giving an exact date to their rendezvous as it not only gives the story a periodic appeal but also a journalistic feel.

Holmes is about to take on a case for Wilhelm von Ormstein, the King of Bohemia that has the potential to cause a great deal of, well,

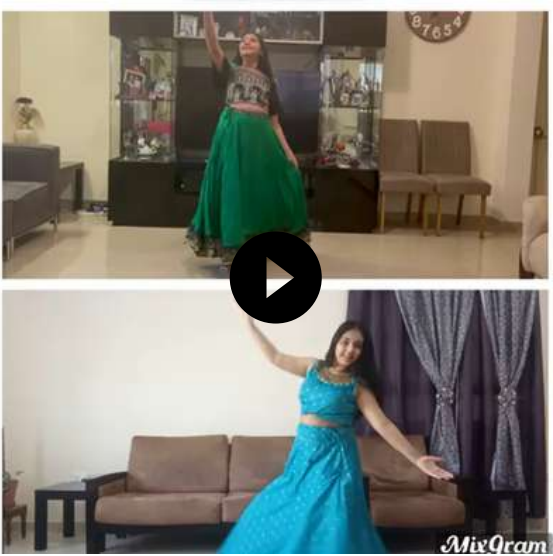
scandal, and invites Watson to help him solve it, just like old times.

Before going further, I would say that the astute observation skills of Holmes do deserve an applause. He is able to deduce a number of minute details of Watson's life within the first few seconds of seeing him. As to how he deduces that, I will leave to the reader to find out. Not only that, even before he meets the potential client, he has been able to guess the identity and motive of his guest. Leaving me, as always, mesmerized with his sheer genius.

A few years previously, the King had been involved with an opera singer of surpassing beauty - Irene Adler, who possessed a photograph of the two of them together - the only proof that the relationship took place - and was now threatening to expose him. Holmes is confident that he can recover the photo without any damage to the King, who is set to marry very shortly. However, he reckoned that without the resourcefulness of one Irene Adler. Though the story might only be a few pages long, it's definitely an entertaining read, as Holmes goes to what might be considered extreme lengths to recover the King's photo, only to be outclassed at the last moment by the somewhat shadowy Miss Adler.

A Scandal in Bohemia is definitely worth a read. Dr. John Watson makes for an excellent narrator and Holmes is the sort of know-it-all that we love to read about, but would probably hate in real life. This story is particularly engaging because Holmes's unparalleled genius is pitted against a woman who shares his brand of cunning.

- Riyah Gani 10B



Anokhee Shah & Saanvi Sharma 7C

U Belong Here



Parvati & Lakshmi Vikas 10B, 12A



Ibrahim Firozi 7C



Alayna Gani 7C

On a Lighter Note



Riddle

What bank has no money?

Ans: A blood bank

