



Modern Knowledge Schools Office of the Student Activities Coordinator

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14 March 2020

Dear Cast & Crew of Disney's *Aladdin*,

"*The Show Must Go On!*" This has been the rallying cry of theatre people around the world for 200 years. The phrase reflects the theatre community's commitment to persevere in the face of challenging circumstances. Each year has brought new challenges and opportunities to our own theatre program, and each year we have persevered and done everything in our power to create the best performance possible, regardless of the circumstances. As the theatre-makers, we take our responsibility very seriously to support you and create a program that is fun, educational, and (most importantly), safe.

The current Coronavirus crisis has presented circumstances that are unprecedented in our lifetimes. The production team and school administration have been monitoring news outlets and government sites in order to stay informed with the latest updates. **Despite the theatre mantra of "The Show Must Go On!", it should go without saying that nothing is more important than the health and safety of our cast, crew, production team, audience, and community.** Whether due to the risks posed by the Coronavirus or any other cause, if people cannot safely perform a show or attend a performance, common sense says that they should not do so. In addition, we must adhere to governmental restrictions on large gatherings and school-related events which are carefully designed for the health of all citizens and residents of the Kingdom of Bahrain. With that in mind, we are sad to inform you that the MKS production of Disney's *Aladdin* has been cancelled. The impact of cancelling the musical production weighs heavily on each of us. We absolutely love singing, dancing, acting, and learning with each of you. This program is the highlight of the year for many, but this is the right decision in light of recent developments in Bahrain and the region to maintain your safety.

We sincerely hope that each of you continue to find ways to express yourselves in the future- be it in theatre, dance, music, or other forms of art. Being creative is a worthy pastime and a lifelong joy. On a personal note, I would also like to give a resounding thank you to our incredible production team who dedicated themselves to making this show a reality. In particular, Ms. Umetsu and Mr. Tyler committed hundreds of hours outside of school making preparations for this production, and their efforts should not go unnoticed. Thank you for your commitment. Should you have any questions about this or other activities, please do not hesitate to reach out. We are available to support you in any way we can.

Best wishes always,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brandon K. Bankes".

MKS Theatre Production Team
Mr. Brandon Bankes- Producer
Ms. Umetsu- Director
Mr. Tyler Tvrdy- Music Director
Ms. Miah Winterfeldt- Choreographer
Ms. Jahida Siddiqui- Stage Manager