



الأكاديمية الدولية - عمان
THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY - AMMAN

Parent News

Monday, 1st May 2017

Calendar

Monday	1	--Open meeting with Primary Principal, Mr. Andrew Powell, Primary Principal's Office, 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM
Tuesday	2	--Parents Open Meeting with the Director, Director's Office, 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM
Wednesday	3	
Thursday	4	--Bake Sale and Non-Uniform Day --Grade 4D Assembly, Auditorium, 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM
Friday	5	
Saturday	6	--SAT Test --Grades 9-11 Trip, (Off- Campus)
Sunday	7	--MYP Day --Pre-K Trip, (Off- Campus) --KG1Y Trip, (Off- Campus)
Monday	8	--G10 e-assessments --KG1A Trip, (Off- Campus) --Book Fair - Readers Bookshop On Campus --Open meeting with Primary Principal, Mr. Andrew Powell, Primary Principal's Office, 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

A Message from the Director

It's hard to believe that we only have a few weeks left of school! May is a very busy month as we are wrapping up another year at IAA.

The Spain athletics trip concluded and our last batch of students returned home yesterday. I would like to thank Coach Samer Taha and his team for their hard work in making this trip a success. After all, chaperoning over 80 students is no small deal! The trip provided our young athletes with professional training in football, gymnastics, basketball, swimming and track & field.

We still have more trips, local ones, in the pipeline this month such as the Grade 7 trip to Dana Reserve, KG1 trip to the Animal Welfare, Pre-K trip to The Children's Museum, Grade 8 camping trip to Jerash & Ajloun and Grade 9 trip to Al Mufti Camp. More than ever before, trips are now needed for the student's interactive learning and education for life and remain an integral part of IAA's extracurricular programme.

Make sure you constantly check the school calendar via IAA app, newsletter and website to save the important dates and exciting events taking place this month. This week, we have our final Bake Sale for the year and also our final Habitat for Humanity trip for Grade 9-11.

Speaking of calendar, the week of May 5th – May 9th is Teacher Appreciation week. Please make sure you take a minute to thank all of your children's teachers for their hard work and dedication. I am thankful to each and every staff member for all the energy they put into their job in raising the leaders of tomorrow.

I came across a link yesterday warning parents of an online game called Blue Whale and asking them to get their children, especially those in vulnerable ages, off the game. The game sets them 50 challenges, the last of which is to commit suicide. Please keep track of your children's gaming and online activities. Here is the link: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsbeat/article/39718654/police-warn-parents-about-blue-whale-game-targeting-vulnerable-people>.

Graduation is nearing and emotions are starting to emerge. The theme has finally been revealed; "**Show The World**" is the call for action for the Class of 2017. This cohort are full of talents and skills that I am sure will take them to greater heights as they enter the next milestone in their lives. We are proud of them and want them to showcase their IAA experience to the world as they move on.

Finally, I will be available on Tuesday for the parents' open meeting at my office. I am always happy to hear from you.

Enjoy your short week.

Hana Kanan, Ed.D.

Director

Primary School News

Dear Parents,

I trust that you took advantage of the tremendous weather and extended weekend. This morning we welcomed back a significant number of students that travelled to Spain for the sports tour. Reports from students and staff indicate that this was hugely successful and our students were commended for their athletic success, sportsmanship and general behaviour. Well done!

This connects well to a conversation I had with our students at last Thursday's assembly. During the holidays, I had the opportunity to work with some world-class open water swimmers and coaches in Spain. The humility these people had about what they had achieved was incredible. As an aspiring long distance swimmer myself, no question I asked of these people was too silly or too much trouble. Despite being somewhat slower than these athletes, they always saw the positive in my efforts and shaped feedback around my endeavours.

While we recognise our students for the many wonderful things that they achieve, I trust that they can develop as humble individuals who can appreciate and take pleasure from the success of others. Pride in ourselves and others is a hallmark of IAA and something I believe is imperative that we instil in our children at an early age. Please be reminded that due to the holidays, we have moved our April Bake Sale and non-uniform day to May 4th so please do be aware of this slight change. I am also aware that parents are approaching teachers and counsellors advocating for specific placements for next year. Please refrain from engaging in this. I will send out a detailed letter in the coming weeks outlining the way in which the class placement process will take place for the following school year.

This week I would like to congratulate the following Award Winners:

Bronze Award Winners

Tamara Sboul 5M
Hamzeh Quweider 5M
Naser Abdallah 2J

Raya Abu Issam 1F
Salman Abu Dahab 1F

Daniel Atassi 1F
Hasan Malkawi 1E

Silver Award Winners

Faisal Barakat 5M
Jane Shomali 5M
Noor Saeed 4M
Sunny Kirreh 4D
Khairy Al Saudi 2Z

Ahmad Abu Yousef 2J
Tarek Al Jamal 2J
Hana Abu Rayyan 1F
Imad Al Baghal 1F

Nadine Dajani 1F
Natalie Khatib 1F
Nadine Hammoudeh 1E
Nora Sharaan 1E

Gold Award Winner

Farah Al- Hashem 5MM
Ali Abu- Lughod 4D
Issam Al Saket 4G
Hala Al Qaimari 3M

Haya Al- Salehi 3M
Masa Fraij 3M
Hani Samman 3M
Talia Shanti 3M

Sanad Hijawi 3M
Aalia Al Manasreh 3G
Sarah Dahleh 3G

Gold with Merit Award Winner

Salma Abu Dahab 5MM
Issam Al Saket 4G
Tala Attari 3M

Nadine Baqain 3M
Noor Asali 2Z

Raya Oweis 2R
Saif Al- Awwad 2R

Gold with Excellence Award Winner

Abdullah Kanber Agha 5T

Ghaya Madanat 5J

Wishing you a wonderful week.
Yours sincerely,

Andrew Powell

Primary School Principal

Secondary School News

Dear Parents,

IB DP exams started this weekend and despite all the preparation and experience, it is still a nervous time for all of us. Happily, the first exams went well with plenty of smiles outside of the exam rooms. It would also appear the reactions of our students mirror those from other schools, which is always reassuring. Grade 10 have their last full week of school before their external MYP exams that start on the 9th of May. Good luck to everyone!

All of our sports students have returned safe and sound from the trip in Spain. It was a busy time full of many activities. As stated in last week's newsletter, we will assess the benefits of going to Spain to access their specialised training facilities and hopefully make this an annual event.

It has been a few years since IAA hosted a fashion show, so I was very happy when our enterprising Grade 11 students came forward to organise one this year. The show took place on Friday night and it was a full house. Ticket sales went very well. I would like to thank everyone who supported. Participants enjoyed the experience, and I know the main student organisers learned a lot. We also raised over 2,000 JD that will go for charity, Habet Al Ameh, which is amazing!

We have a busy weekend coming up, in addition to our DP exams. We have SAT tests going on (good luck Grade 11!) We also have our final Habitat for Humanity trip of the school year. This is a great initiative that gets our students out into the community. It helps them understand and appreciate all the broader context of society where we live. Thank you to the parents who have supported their children by allowing them to go on our Habitat for Humanity trips. We look forward to having more next year!

Looking ahead to next week, our MYP Day on Sunday May 7th, is drawing closer and preparations are under way. We hope to see you there. The projects we are celebrating fall under the categories of Science Fair (G6), Technology Fair (G7), Service As Action (G6-9), Interdisciplinary Units (G6-8) and Community Projects (G8). The agenda for the day will be as follows:

- 11:45am - 1:20pm G6-9 Assembly in the Theatre to kick start MYP Day
- 1:40pm - 2:30pm G6-9 Gallery Walk
 - G6 Science Fair in Science Area
 - G7 Technology Fair in the Design/Arts Area
 - G8 Community Projects in the Multi-purpose room
 - G9 Personal Projects in the English Pod in the Secondary Building
- 2:30pm - 3:30pm: COMMx - Community Projects presented by some of our Grade 8 students in the Theatre

On Thursday 4th of May, we will have our last Civvies Day and Bake Sale for this school year; organised by our energetic 8th graders. They are continuing with their “End Polio Now” Campaign to eradicate polio worldwide. All proceeds from the Bake Sale will be donated to Rotary Club of Amman West. Our Formula 1 (F1) Team are also selling ice cream on the same day, and half of their proceeds will be donated to this global initiative. They are in the process of building their miniature F1 car, making sure that it follows the specifications set forth by the competition to the finest detail. To raise awareness on the “End Polio Now” campaign, they will also showcase the logo of Rotary International on their F1 car. We wish them all the best in their preparations. The F1 event will take place on the 12th of May.

Lastly, this past weekend IAA hosted a MindUP workshop for teachers from different schools, led by the MindUP team. This evidence-based, social and emotional learning framework and curriculum focuses on helping students recognise and manage emotions, develop compassion, make responsible decisions and maintain positive relationships. Mindfulness was the common theme as it is dedicated to help students deepen their understanding of their own mental processes. By being mindful of ourselves, others and our environment, we are creating joyful learning, academic success and a powerful sense of self and community. We will continue to focus on mindfulness and positive well-being this year and in the years to come.

Zena Muhtaseb
Head of Middle Years

Martin Thompson
Secondary School Principal

Library News

The Libraries are hosting a Spring Book Fair exclusively with Readers Bookshop in the Primary Atrium. Mark the dates, Monday and Tuesday, 8-9 May, from 8 to 3:30. Readers will offer a wide selection of books and educational materials for Pre-K through Young Adult. You can also pick up copies of our One School/One Story books, which will be unveiled at the Book Fair. Also featured is a wide selection of "Ramadan Reads" to help fill those gaps between school and Iftar with meaningful readings for your children.

Secondary Library

I have enjoyed teaching a few Common Sense Media lessons for Grade 9 PSHE. We have been reviewing the possible dangers of social media and risky online relationships to help students learn the warning signs of potential online predators and be prepared should they happen to sense any unusual activity or conversations on Snapchat, Instagram or whatever the newest app is. These lessons come with "Family Tip Sheets," so please send an email to k.mckim@iaa.edu.jo if you would like to receive them.

Makerspace finished the year by creating Dr. Seuss-themed picture frames. The Libraries have enjoyed this year's programme, our students and parents. We will run the programme next year, extending to two groups, one for junior-ages and another for our younger Primary students. The sign up will be published monthly so that more of you can experience the fun of MakerSpaces.

Primary Library

This is going to be a great week for the Primary Library because Grade 2 will be experimenting with LEGO poetry! We will be introducing students to different poems, and then they will get to make their own poems out of LEGO bricks that have words on them. Older students loved this activity, and I'm sure Grade 2 will, too! As for the Grade 5, they will be learning about the Reference section and what it is used for.

The latest *Guinness Book of World Records* is part of the Reference section in our library and what better way to get a feel for these outstanding achievements than by attempting to break some Guinness Records? Some of the records students will try to break include stacking the most coins in 1 minute, fastest time to arrange a chess set, most star jumps in a minute, fastest time to type the alphabet and many more! Grade 3 will finish their Digital Passport with Ms. Rawan and Grade 4 will be working on the library Symbaloo and Destiny Quest. It will be a fun week for all!

KG Library

As part of the last unit "Ready, Steady...Go to KG1", the Kindergarten Library allows students to take library books home. The borrowing process will only be for 2 weeks and the students must return their library books according to the schedule on Tapestry. If a book is lost or damaged, a fine will be issued and must be paid for in the Finance Office. If you would like your child to borrow books from the library, please let us know.

Ms. Kathleen, Ms. Dima and Ms. Tania for the Libraries

A Message from the Assistant Director for Curriculum

Dear Parents,

This year, I have had the opportunity to help students in both the Primary and Secondary schools improve their writing. Although I love my role at IAA, and what I do is meant to help every student in the school learn, I've enjoyed the chance to once again work with students directly. I especially enjoy helping students with writing because it's so important. Sometimes students see writing as a tedious chore, and they don't understand why they should try to do it well. Other times, they just want to find out 'the right way', when of course, in reality,

there are many right ways. So the students have to come to care about things like grammar, spelling and punctuation, yet also care about using those skills to communicate exactly what they want to say in their own way.

Another important part of communication is speaking and listening. When I'm working with students, I expect them to speak clearly, in a voice loud enough for all to hear and in one language. I do not allow students to interrupt me or each other. As you know, effective speaking and listening skills are even more important than writing skills because we use them all day, every day.

The importance of communicating effectively is a key part of every class at IAA. Whether the class is in English, Arabic or Spanish and whether the subject is a language, science, math or something else, communication is the core of everything we do. We need to know how to listen to what other people are saying and say what we mean clearly. We also need to understand what others say indirectly by being sensitive to vocal inflection and body language.

Because communication is so important, it is part of the curriculum, the Essential Question 'How can I communicate effectively?' is a part of the curriculum for the Pillar of Leadership. Without effective communication, nothing else is possible.

With warm regards,

Lois L. Warner Ph.D.

Assistant Director for Curriculum