

Newsletter homepage



Sunday, 3rd April 2016

Message from the Director

Dear IAA Community,

I would like to begin this letter by recognising the **Class of 2016**, as this **Thursday will be their final day** on the IAA campus as full-time IAA students. We are simultaneously delighted and saddened to see this day approaching. While the excitement of the commencement ceremony is right around the corner, there is still much work to be done, as IAA, graduates and parents begin preparation for exams, and then later, our community celebrations. **To the Class of 2016, I say this: Thank you for being part of the IAA legacy. You are all exceptional in your own ways, and success is yours if you simply choose to claim it. We wish you luck on the upcoming IB exams, and we look forward to hosting you and your families on Graduation Day. We are honoured to have been such an integral part of your journey, a journey that has only just begun...**

On another note, as you may know, the **second version of the IAA mobile application** has been released on the **Google Play and Apple App stores**. Please do **download** the IAA app update, as I am sure you will find its features quite convenient. In the interest of innovation, we will continue to develop this app to enhance its functionality as time passes. Also, please be aware of the **many other channels of communication** IAA regularly uses to disseminate information to the IAA community and/or public.

They include:

- Moodle
- Weekly Newsletter
- IAA Website
- Tapestry
- Facebook
- YouTube
- Twitter
- LinkedIn
- SMS
- Email
- PTA WhatsApp groups

This wide range of platforms serves to support the **interpersonal communication** that also occurs during **on-campus workshops, coffee mornings, parent-teacher conferences, scheduled meetings, book clubs, etc.** Opportunities to receive and exchange information are abundant, and we do hope that members of our community will take full advantage of them. Our doors are always open...

Wishing you the best always,

Hana Kanan, Ed.D.
Director

Secondary School News

Dear Parents,

Tickets for Annie are selling fast I am told, with 50% selling out in the first 3 days. If you are considering supporting the show, then I suggest you buy your tickets from Finance quickly.

I would like to congratulate my colleagues in Primary for their Science Fair earlier in the week. The foyer of the auditorium and MPR were packed full of tables showing off the creativity and enquiry of Grades 4 and 5 and it was obvious to see that they had really enjoyed their scientific journey and wanted to share it. Another group of people who 'shared' this week were the professionals who spoke with our Grade 9 to 11 students on Careers Day. This started with an inspirational speech by the Executive producer of *Theeb*, Ms Nadine Toukan, who spoke about the need for students to embrace risk-taking and creativity if they are to truly forge their own path in today's fast paced and competitive world. The day finished with our students having the opportunity to ask questions from visitors who represented all the major professions and it went very well – the booths were a hive of activity.

Over the weekend, we had our last MUN conference of the year, and our Grade 8 students really showed their potential, picking up six best delegate awards. It would appear we have a very talented and confident group of students beginning their MUN journey. I hope their exposure this year will have encouraged them to read widely and engage with the news, as doing so will have significant benefits to their studies as well.

Our sports season continues, and last week our boys under 16 basketball team were finishing off their first tournament. They achieved second place, another good result for the Hawks. I know many of our students are going to be involved in the big track and field tournament in a fortnight and I wish them well in their preparations.

On Thursday last week, our Student Support staff hosted a conference in school to which colleagues from many schools in Amman attended and listened to specialists in many fields. They shared their opinions and research on the latest developments in supporting students who have particular learning needs and I would like to thank them for organising this conference.

Students went on a trip last week to the UN-run Makani centre in the Baqaa camp near Amman. It was a real eye-opener for them as they came to realise the sheer scale of looking after the needs of those from many conflicts who have been so fortunate as to find peace and security inside Jordan. We are proud that our MUN donation this year is buying food and educational parcels for the families who have been identified by the UN as most at risk in the community served by this centre. On the subject of giving, our Grade 8 students also had an experience along these lines with the Religion trip on Thursday, where they had the opportunity to bring some joy to a group of orphans.

This coming week is the last for our Grade 12 students and I would like to take this opportunity to wish them well in their exams. Next week their study leave starts and the countdown is really on for the finals. They were able to relax a little on Thursday night as they had a 'sleepover' at school which went really well and I hope will set a tradition for our graduating classes.

This week we also have meetings for parents of Grade 8 (on Sunday) and Grade 11 (on Tuesday,) both at 8:00 am in the MPR. I hope you will be able to attend. Grade 12 will have final reports sent on Thursday, 7th April, and the second Progress Reports of the year for Grade 6 to 11 will be emailed out a week later on Thursday, 14th April. In the next five days we have universities visiting to speak to our Grade 11 students, we have trips going out to see Theatre in other schools, we have the Bible reading competition IAA is hosting on Thursday and many of our students have been rehearsing hard and been very creative for the GamePlay production taking part next weekend. As ever, it is a busy week at IAA.

Martin Thompson
Secondary Principal

Primary School News

Thank you very much to everyone who helped to make the Science Fair such a great success. The quality of the science once again represented a great step up with the children demonstrating increased sophistication in their understanding of scientific concepts and their utilisation of scientific method. A huge amount of credit needs to be given to the Grade 3 to 5 teachers who have really emphasised the scientific learning objectives in the IPC. Credit also needs to go to our IPC Coordinator, Ms Emma who has really helped with the re-organisation, and to Mr James who headed the Science Fair project ably assisted by Ms Shorouq and Ms Maram. The close relationship we have with the Secondary School is really paying off with the children demonstrating excellent knowledge of scientific concepts. It was great to see the curriculum integration with the increased use of ICT and QR code readers. To me though, the best part was seeing how engaged our children were and how confidently they were able to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of their application of scientific method.

Last week I wrote about the Kids Empowered workshop. This week I want to add my thoughts on cyberbullying. Our children are still learning about the appropriate way to relate to one another. Putting them in a situation where they have free and unfettered access to social media is asking for trouble. Please ensure that your child is properly supervised when online to avoid some of the unpleasantness that unfortunately we are seeing spill into the school.

My thanks to Ms Carmel for her work with the mathematics workshop on Wednesday. At the request of the participants, the presentation is included with the newsletter. Next week Mr Gordon will take his workshop on writing genres.

It has been lovely having our senior secondary CAS students work with our primary children. Here are a few of their comments...

"This experience is wonderful in which the children are enjoying reading. I am strengthening my relationship with the little children."

"It has been both an enjoyable and great learning experience for me."

"I was surprised how amazing their reading was, truly amazing..."

Thank you to Mr Martin (Secondary) and Ms Helen for organising this.

Congratulations to our Smart award winners including our first Gold with Excellence!

Bronze Award

Ali Kubba 5S	Rami Khleifat 5M	Naya Aryan 2Z
Zaid Zalloum 5S	Ayla Akkawi 3J	Masa Sakkijha 2Z
Reina Imseeh 4M	Jamal Jallad 3J	Saba Hourani 2Z
Omar Tahabsem 4M	Mark Khouri 3J	Al Anoud Al Jazy 1D
Noor Al Souri 4M	Rashed Darabseh 3J	Abdallah Abu Halimeh 1F

Haya Nasereddin 4M **Yousef Al-Shahwan 3J**

Silver Award

Maria Haddad 5M	Natalie Hadadeen 2R	Khairy Al Saudi 1D
Dayan Al Bazaz 4M	Fulla Al Farhood 2R	Al-Anoud Abu AlHaj 1M
Tala Morrar 3J	Masa Fraij 2Z	Rakan Qawasmi 1M
Massa Al Kilani 3J	Jyda Kamal 1D	Dania Al Saraf 1M
Mariam Saket 3J		

Gold Award

Tamara Fhakhoury 5M	Farah Saadi 4M	Noor Al Muntheri 1M
Mariam Al Saraf 5M	Maya Sharayha 3J	Zahraa Al Dulaimi 1M
Zaid Manasra 4M	Mohammad Baghal 1M	

Gold with Excellence Award

Ihsan Atallah 5S

I have included the following message from the Head of Libraries at her request.

The Primary and KG Librarians have expressed a concern that some students have not returned books for several weeks, even though we are sending out invoices for overdue books every week. There are some students who have not been able to check any books out of the Library for 2 or 3 months because they are not returning library books. Not being able to check out a book is often an embarrassing and negative situation for a child. We want your children's experience with the Libraries to be positive, so they can be readers for life. Please, if you can help us by teaching your children to be responsible in returning their library books, it will keep your kids happy in the end.

Definition ~ Concept MAT or Graphic Organiser

Parent Workshop 30 March 2016

Have a great week!

Martin Blackburn

Primary Principal

Middle School News

Dear Parents,

At IAA, we are excited about the upcoming drama production of *Annie* – a heartwarming classic! It will take place on 12th and 13th April. The cast, directors, prop collectors and makeup artists have been working hard for many months to give us an unforgettable experience. Check out the trailer at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=viBCg_PO_Sk. Do not delay. Purchase your tickets right away!

Of course, in the midst of all the *Annie* excitement, school work and activities are carrying on. A large number of students participated this week in the Modern American School Model United Nations.

Furthermore, planning for IMUN 2016 is well underway. For the next academic year, the current Grade 9 students have the opportunity to mentor the Grade 8s. We ask of our Grade 9 parents to encourage their children to participate in this great opportunity that allows them to build on their MUN career, whilst giving something back to their school community.

As part of Grade 8 Christian Studies, 12 of our students visited "Our Lady of the Mountain Church" in Anjara city, near Ajloun Castle. The church also houses a school and an orphanage for the local children. Our students had pre-planned various activities such as reading, sports and team-building that they conducted with the children. It was a great experience for all involved.

All Grade 8 Parents should have received a progress report that highlights their child's progress with the Community Project. The expectation is for students to hand in the signed report to their CP teachers. If you have any questions about the CP, please contact our Coordinator, Ms Randa (r.battikha@iaa.edu.jo).

The science labs have been super busy as our scientists prepare for the upcoming Science Fair on Tuesday, 19th April. This year, students need to show how science can be applied to address the UN's Sustainable Development goals, adopted in 2015 "to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all". Students have formulated their research questions, hypotheses and methods. They are currently in the process of collecting data, on a mission to see what their findings will reveal.

The El Hassan Youth Bronze Award expedition is a couple weeks away. With support from professional trainers from the Jordanian Army, from Thursday, 14th April to Saturday, 16th April, the trip will take place in the *Sharhabil Bin Hassneh* Ecopark. Training will focus on hiking, orienteering and first aid. A letter has been sent out to parents that provides more information on this trip and its purpose. If you have any questions about this trip, please contact our Coordinator, Mr Ashraf (a.gharaibeh@IAA.edu.jo). USAID Jordan Local Enterprise Support Project is supporting the Aqaba Diving Association in organizing the first Jordan Dive Show to help local businesses who work in this industry to grow and thrive. We are fortunate to have organizers and guest speakers from this event visit our school this coming Monday to present to our students about the marine environment in Aqaba, specifically diving in the Red Sea.

The Grade 10s have completed their e-portfolios. The focus for the next two weeks will be on revision for the onscreen examinations. The exam revision booklet and sample e-assessments have been posted on the Grade 10 Moodle page, both of which are valuable studying tools. The Grade 10s will sit for their mocks from 17th to 21st April. With the exception of the Arabic e-assessment, where they are allowed to use their own laptop, all other e-assessments will be done using the school computers in the IT labs.

We have almost reached the half-way point of second semester. This means that the second progress report card will be emailed to parents on the Thursday, 14th of April. Please also note that in the End of Year report card, the grade for Coding and the Interdisciplinary Unit will count towards the final GPA.

Zena Muhtaseb

Head of Middle Years

Calendar



- Sunday 3 -Grade 8 Parent Coffee Morning, 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM, IAA Secondary Library
-‘How to Help Your Child Succeed in Life’ Workshop (For Parents of 5 to 12-Year-Old Students), 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM, IAA Secondary Library
- Monday 4 -Grade 1 Jordan Museum Trip, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM
-KG2 Automobile Museum Trip, 10:30 AM – 12:30 AM
- Tuesday 5 -PTA “Relational Needs” Workshop Series for The Parents (Overcoming Obstacles), 8:00 AM – 1:00 AM
-‘How to Help Your Child with Their School Life’ Workshop, 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM, IAA Secondary Library
- Wednesday 6 -Primary Parent Workshop (Writing Genres by Mr Gordon), 8:00 AM – 8:50 AM, MPR
-Grade 4 Attending a Play, 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM, Al Mashrek School
-Grade 6 Attending a Play, 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM, Al Mashrek School
- Thursday 7 -Grade 1 Jordan Museum Trip, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM
-Last Day Grade 12 – Full Reports Emailed Out
-Grade 1 Jordan Museum Trip, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM
- Friday 8
- Saturday 9
- Sunday 10 -‘How to Help Your Child Succeed in Life’ Workshop (For Parents of 5 to 12-Year-Old Students), 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM, IAA Secondary Library



Sports News

A really great website encourages children and parents to read together. Found at www.startwithabook.org, Start with a Book

Ms Kathleen, Ms Dima, Ms Tania for the Libraries

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More News

For the second year in a row, the IAA brings home the First Place Trophy at the Middle East Unity Cup Football Tournament – last year in Oman and this year in Dubai. Our Grades 7 and 8 athletes played five exciting games over two days, scoring 9 goals and not conceding a single one throughout the tournament. Special thanks go to Coach Mohammad Qadoumi and Coach Saeed Karmi for their support and hard work. Congratulations, boys, on a fight well-fought and a victory well-earned. We just can't hide that Hawks pride!

Coach Samer Taha
Athletic Director