



الأكاديمية الدولية - عمان
THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY - AMMAN

Parent News

Monday, 3rd April 2017

Calendar

Monday	3	--KG2 Trip, (Off- Campus) --Grade 8 Parent Coffee Morning, Library, 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM --Open meeting with Primary Principal, Mr. Andrew Powell, Primary Principal's Office, 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM --Grade 2 – Emergency Helpers, Sports Field, 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Tuesday	4	--Bake Sale & Non Uniform Day --Grade 8 Trip, (Off- Campus) --Grade 7 Parent Coffee Morning, Library, 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM --Parents Open Meeting with the Director, Director's Office, 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM --Secondary School- Run for Life/Colour Run, 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM --Opening of Grade 12 Art Exhibition, MPR, 6:00 PM
Wednesday	5	--Grade 6 Trip, (Off- Campus) --Grade 2 Trip, (Off- Campus) --Grade 12 Art Exhibition, MPR --"With Awareness We Can Face The Peril of Drugs" PTA Lecture, 8:00 AM, Tiered room/ secondary library
Thursday	6	--Grade 6 Trip, (Off- Campus) --Grade 2 Trip, (Off- Campus) --Grade 12 last day at school --Progress reports G6-11 --Grade 12 Art Exhibition, MPR --Grade 9-12 Trip, (Off- Campus) --Primary Production, Auditorium, 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM
Friday	7	--Grade 9-12 Trip, (Off- Campus)
Saturday	8	--Grade 9-12 Trip, (Off- Campus)
Sunday	9	--Spring Break (Holiday)
Monday	10	--Spring Break (Holiday)

A Message from the Director

As you were all aware, we had the accreditation visit by CIS, NEASC, IB and MYP last week. The visiting team was impressed by our standards and genuine sense of community and their preliminary brief was positive. I

want to thank our staff, students and parents who took time from their busy day to meet with the visiting team while they were on campus. We should be receiving their final reports in a few weeks.

Speaking of pride, I was amazed on Sunday to see our students participating in our annual Holy Quran Memorisation competition. Even Grade 1 students were reciting the holy verses confidently in front of the panel of judges. Bravo IAA students!

As we close the week for Spring Break, please note that Tuesday will be Bake Sale and Non-Uniform Day. We will also have our Run for Life/Colour Run event in support of cancer patients. That evening, we invite you to support and meet our Grade 12 talented artists during their Visual Art Exhibition.

The PTA will hold a workshop on Wednesday entitled, "With Awareness We Can Face The Peril of Drugs." Thank you PTA for organising it. Finally, on Thursday, the Primary school will hold its annual production, "Jack & The Beanstalk."

I will be available on Tuesday for the parents' open meeting at my office. I will be happy to hear any feedback from you.

Enjoy your Spring Break!

Hana Kanan, Ed.D.

Director

Primary School News

Dear Parents,

As you'll note from Dr Hana's newsletter, we hosted several visitors from various international school accrediting bodies last week. They met with numerous stakeholders and spent a considerable amount of time in classrooms ensuring that we meet the very high standards they set, and we hold ourselves to. They were pleased with what they saw and I was extremely proud during the debrief with the way in which they spoke about our students. In addition to noting how bright and engaging our students are, they praised their ability to articulate their understandings of concepts such as internationalism and inter-culturalism. They were also impressed with the way students across the grades spoke about the School Pillars and how they are at the heart of what we do at IAA. One girl noted, "I like the four pillars because that's how we live."

We ended last week on a bright note with a splendid Spring Assembly. Our Religion and Music teachers did an incredible job putting together a high-quality performance. This week we have the Primary Production to look forward to. We have also had over fifty students participating in the Holy Quran Competition on Sunday, which was an increase from last year. Our students were impressive in their ability to memorise and recite verses from the Quran.

A variety of field trips have taken place of late. Many grades attended the Super Scientific Circus at the Children's Museum and we also have students attending the Jordan Museum with the intention of exploring the 1001 Inventions exhibition which highlights the contributions of Ibn Al Haytham. On Monday, our Grade 2 students are hosting an Emergency Helper Fair as they inquire into how communities support each other. Please be reminded that last month's Bake Sale was postponed until this Tuesday.

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

Bronze Award Winners

Taj Shehadeh 4M

Daniel Atassi 1F

Yara Saoudi 1F

Israa Al Abdullah 3G

Silver Award Winners

Diala Abu Al Haj 4D

Saif Audi 4G

Maia Cubeisy 1F

Karam Fakhouri 4M Yousef Shahrouri 3LC Maria Al Zraiqat 1F
Yasmeena Al Saket 4G Hashem Al- Rashdan 3LC Ali Kachakeche 1F
Bana Sakijha 4G Basel Al Qusus 2H Alisha Zakarneh 1F
Natalie Al Abed 4G Gabriella Gourgourinis 2H

Gold Award Winner

Tina Hinnawi 5M Hashem Al- Kurdi 5M Hisham Al- Nsour 3LC

Reina Imseeh 5M Faisal Abu Tayeh 4D

Gold with Merit Award Winner

Omar Toukan 1F

Wishing you a wonderful week and a restful Spring Break.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Powell

Primary School Principal

Secondary School News

Dear Parents,

Last week, we had our combined CIS/NEASC/IB visit as part of the evaluation cycle. We have not received the official report; however, the feedback was informative and positive. The visitors agreed with our self-study and were impressed with the many initiatives that IAA has implemented since the last visit. They were particularly impressed with the commitment that our staff, students and parents displayed to the philosophy, standards and practice of the IB. Our school success is based upon a partnership between all of us. Thank you for your input. It is always valued and appreciated.

A couple of weeks ago, our students learned about one of Jordan's strongest civil society organisations, the King Hussein Cancer Foundation. On Tuesday April 4th (12:30-2:30pm), we will have a Run for Life/Colour Run to celebrate life. You are also invited to attend to support this worthy cause. Let's all unite in the fight against cancer. We are hoping that all students will support the event by also purchasing a T-shirt for 10JD. Many have been sold but it would be great to show the strength of our community for all students to be wearing one on the day. Please note that Tuesday is also a civvies day and if we could all wear the t-shirts it would be fantastic!

A number of students from Grades 8 and 9 participated this past weekend in the Modern American School MUN. Meanwhile, planning for IMUN 2017 is well underway. For the next academic year, the current Grades 6 to 10 students have the opportunity to be Peer Helpers for the younger grades. We ask 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. Applications for Peer Helpers can be downloaded by accessing the "Students-Parents" tab on Moodle and follow the path that leads you to the Peer Helper website.

The Grade 12 Visual Arts Exhibition has its public opening at 6.00 on Tuesday 4th April in the Multi Purpose Room. Our group of talented artists have explored many media and artistic styles on their learning journey over the past 18 months and it will be a wonderfully varied and vibrant exhibition. We hope you can come and support the students and enjoy their work.

As part of Grade 8 Christian Studies, students will visit the Our Lady of Peace Centre in Amman; a place that offers its hospitality to refugees, youths and delegations from all over the world. Our students have planned various activities with the children that include reading, sports and team-building. They will also be handing out gifts to the children as they get an early start on some Easter celebration.

G6 Trip – Petra: On April 5th, the Grade 6 students will be going on an overnight trip to Petra as part of an interdisciplinary unit between Individuals and Societies and Arabic. Petra, also known as the Rose City, is famous for its “rock-cut” architecture and water conduit system. It is believed to have been established as early as 312 BC as the capital city of the Arab Nabataeans. Students are expected to design a leaflet about Petra, which includes pictures of relics left by the Nabataeans. They will then present their findings in class and reflect on the impact of the achievements and innovations of the past on today’s world.

Grade 8 students have started to present their Community Projects (CP) to their peers and tutors during PSHE. The CP allows students to develop awareness of needs in various communities and address those needs through service learning. The topics presented varied from book drives, to volunteering in vulnerable communities, to donations of equipment to schools in need and to raising awareness on environmental issues in Jordan – just to name a few. Students who engage in a sustained and in-depth inquiry that lead to service-as-action in their community have successful CPs. Presentations that are strongly communicated and that demonstrate responsible action through learning will be selected to present on MYP Day on the 2nd of May. Stay tuned for further information.

The Grade 10 students have just completed their mock e-assessments. For the next three weeks, they will be revising concepts for the various subjects and linking them with Scientific and Technical Innovation. In addition, they will be taking the “Interdisciplinary Learning” e-assessment, where they have to make connections between Individuals and Societies and Mathematics, with a focus on adaptation, ingenuity and progress. The IB has recently published the “interdisciplinary pre-release material”, which contains background information and offers disciplinary and interdisciplinary sources that students need to understand in order to successfully complete this examination. Students can access this information from the G10 e-assessment page on Moodle. Interdisciplinary sessions will be given to students, where we will explore the material and discuss the questions raised.

The grade-specific Coffee Mornings have started again. This is an opportunity for you to raise any issues, concerns, suggestions you have regarding the specific grade. All sessions will take place from 8am to 9am in the Library. The dates are as follows:

- G7 April 4th
- G8 April 3rd

We have reached the half-way point of second semester. This means that the 2nd progress report card for G6 to G11 will be emailed to parents on the 6th of April. G12 students will receive their final report card on the 30th of April.

It just remains to wish everyone a wonderful break. If you are travelling, we wish you safe journeys.

Zena Muhtaseb

Martin Thompson

Head of Middle Years

Secondary School Principal

Library News

Dear Parents:

This is a kind reminder to those who have signed up for the MakerSpace Programme. We will meet on Tuesday, April 25, from 2:30pm to 3:20pm, in the Primary Library.

For the Libraries,

Ms. Kathleen, Ms. Dima, Ms. Tania

A Message from the Assistant Director for Curriculum

Dear Parents,

As you know, last week was a very busy week at IAA, as we welcomed six visitors from four different accrediting programmes. Everyone in the school was busy because we had extra meetings with the visitors to talk about what we do here at IAA, and we also had to make sure that the team had everything that they needed to get their work done. Although accreditation visits are busy times for everyone involved, the actual team members usually travel from another country, which may involve crossing time zones, spend the entire working day in the school and then return to their hotel to work late into the night to complete their reports, which must be finished by the last day of the visit. When I served on these teams in other countries, I considered myself lucky when I could stop working by 10 pm and get a reasonable nights' sleep!

Although we will have to wait several weeks to get the full written report, the visiting team discussed key parts of their findings with the Senior Management Team before they left, which is normal practice. CIS and NEASC were here as a regularly scheduled 'midpoint' check, and they found that we had completed the items they suggested we look at during their accreditation visit in 2012. The focus of their feedback was an update on changes in accreditation requirements, which help us plan for the future and 'stay ahead of the curve.' The MYP and DP IB team told us that we have a high level of integration of IB ideals in our practice, which means that IAA understands and practises the IB philosophy on a deep level.

As I've mentioned, being accredited by CIS and NEASC in addition to being an authorised IB World School ensures that we maintain a high level of educational standards at IAA and keep up with important educational trends. Although these accreditations involve hard work, we are happy to be reassured that we are providing the highest quality education for your children.

I hope you and your families have a restful Spring Break.

Lois L. Warner Ph.D.

