

Newsletter homepage



Sunday, 23rd August 2015

Message from the Director

Dear IAA Community,

With great affection and enthusiasm, **I welcome you**, our students, staff and parents, back into the warm embrace of the IAA. I am truly thrilled to begin this new and promising academic year! We look forward to continuing to work closely with our parents, **ensuring every child receives the necessary support, guidance and attention** needed to promote and nurture their holistic development. I would like to personally **invite all parents and staff to the annual IAA Welcome Back evening soiree on Thursday, 3rd September at 7:00 pm in the Moon Garden of the IAA campus**. I look forward to spending time with you in a more informal setting!

This year, IAA also welcomes **new staff members**, among the finest at home and abroad. As they readjust to their new environment, we extend **our best wishes and support** for a seamless transition and a fruitful year. IAA presents ALL of us with an opportunity for continued growth, staff and students alike, and we do hope our new staff finds the IAA as inspiring as I have over the years.

Last week, IAA was so proud to host the IAA Alumni for their **first official IAA Alumni Reunion!** The campus was absolutely buzzing with excitement as the members of the five graduating classes arrived to reunite during a fun-filled evening of music, food, photos and words of wisdom too. An unforgettable event wherein the past, present and future converged to reveal **the enduring nature of this community** and its contributions to our world...

The first day of school also affords us an opportunity to revisit the Class of 2015. Over the summer, IAA received our graduates' **IB scores**, and yes, we were very impressed! Congratulations to the graduates of the Class of 2015 for achieving a 100% passing rate and an average score of 35. Five students scored above a 40, with the highest score a 43. **Thank you to the many teachers and parents who supported our students throughout their academic careers here at IAA, enabling them to reach for nothing less than their best!**

Have a wonderful first week!

Hana Kanan, Ed.D.
Director

Secondary School News

Dear Parents

Welcome back! I hope you had a lovely summer with family and are looking forward to a very good year. We have been working hard to make the school ready for your children. The secondary school focus is to consolidate on the excellent 2014/2015 year and build on our results (academically, in activities and in sports). Over the summer our Diploma results were released, and we were extremely pleased with them. Our class of 2015 have started their journeys to university, and we wish them all the very best at this exciting time. On 1st September our next MYP results come out, and I look forward to celebrating them with you.

This year there are some significant changes school: we have the new MYP e-assessments in Grade 10, new options in Grade 9 that allow students the opportunity to personalize their learning and in Grade 11, we have introduced structured SAT classes and new Diploma subjects. It is good to be continuing to expand the breadth and quality of our curriculum as the school grows in order to best serve the learning needs of our students.

Last week I was very happy to be switching between the new and the old! We have many new students in Secondary this year and I met with them and their parents. I have also enjoyed getting to know our new staff. We hope they are going to really enjoy being part of our community. At the same time, we had an amazing Alumni Reunion on Wednesday with so many of our old students coming back to IAA. It was just wonderful to hear their stories and see them again.

Next week I will be writing much more with reminders and information about events for the coming year. For this week, the focus I would ask for parents is twofold:

Students in Secondary do not have planners. Therefore it is essential that all parents have access to their child's Moodle (please take the login information and password from your child).

Our most important communication channel with parents is the Weekly Newsletter and then by email through the Moodle system. If you know of parents who have not received this newsletter, please ask them to check their email details with Ms Farah or Ms Natasha in Secondary Reception.

It is going to be a busy year, and I am looking forward to telling you all about it in the newsletter. It is important that parents do glance through it each week, as there is going to be a lot of important information in it this year.

So – roll on the academic year of 2015/2016. We have high expectations for ourselves and for our students and will work hard to ensure they are met.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Thompson
Secondary Principal

Primary School News

Welcome back to our school year! It has been wonderful meeting again with so many familiar faces and welcoming new parents, students and staff to the IAA family. Once again we have enjoyed a very positive start to the school year. It was wonderful to see the school celebrating its first Alumni Reunion on Wednesday. It was also fantastic to meet up with the staff, new and existing, and I have been delighted with their hard work and dedication during Induction.

We have been tremendously fortunate in the large number of expatriate staff who opted to extend their contracts. The type of stability and continuity this gives the school is invaluable. Despite being few in number, I do want to take this opportunity to formally introduce our new staff. Ms Lisa is a new

teacher in Pre-K. Ms Mariam joins us in KG-1. Ms Eran and Ms Reen join us in KG2. Ms Fi joins us in Grade 1, Mr James in Grade 3, Ms Camille and Mr Michael in Grade 4 and Ms Stacy in Grade 5. Our new Social Studies teacher is Ms Asma'a, and Mr Issam is our new Music Teacher. Our new TAs are Ms Maha, Ms Sarah Saffi, Ms Sarah Tou, Mr Chris and Ms Hiba.

You will get to meet these staff members, as over the next two weeks different cohorts will host parent information evenings. These are designed to give general information about the expectations for each grade level. Please note that if you have specific questions you want to ask of a teacher, you should make a separate appointment, as this is a time for general information. The dates and times are:

DATE	GRADE	TIME
Sunday, August 30 th	KG2	2:45 pm – 4:00 pm
Monday, August 31 st	Grade 1	2:45 pm – 4:00 pm
Tuesday, September 1 st	Grade 2	2:45 pm – 4:00 pm
Wednesday, September 2 nd	Grade 3	2:45 pm – 4:00 pm
Sunday, September 6 th	Grade 4	2:45 pm – 4:00 pm
Monday, September 7 th	Grade 5	2:45 pm – 4:00 pm
Tuesday, September 8 th	KG1	2:45 pm – 4:00 pm
Wednesday, September 9 th	Pre-K	2:45 pm – 4:00 pm

Please note that Dr Hana and the Board will also be hosting a Back- to- School evening on Thursday, 3rd September from 7:00 pm. The first parent workshop of the year will be held on 26th August in the Multi-Purpose Room from 8:00 am -8:50 am. Mr Walid and I will host this workshop, where we will focus upon the Parent Handbook we sent home as well as some of our major goals for the year. This workshop will give you an understanding of our systems and the reasons for them, as well as some insight into the philosophical direction of the Primary School.

Grade 2 to Grade 5 students will have the opportunity to stand for elections as Student Council and Eco Group Representatives on Monday, 21st September. Elections for House Captains and Vice Captains will be held on Thursday, 1st October. I want to encourage students to stand for election whilst remembering the rules we have for electioneering here in the school. Ms Sophie will send a letter home regarding the upcoming elections.

Thank you for your help and cooperation with dismissal. Every person picking up a child must have the family card, and designated bus students must go home on their bus. Finally, in this hot weather and while in the playground, please encourage your child to wear a hat.

It has been a lovely start. Have a great year!

Martin Blackburn
Primary Principal

Middle School News

Dear Parents,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the 2015-2016 school year! We hope that the summer break has been enjoyable and has provided you with an opportunity to rest and rejuvenate. We would like to extend a special welcome to our new students, families and staff. Our Secondary School Counsellor, Ms Leslie, has partnered up each new student with a buddy, from the same grade, to help with the transition into IAA.

New changes will be implemented this year. As Head of the Middle Years School, I will be primarily involved with academic and/or pastoral matters dealing with Grades 9 and 10. As Deputy Head of the Middle Years School, Ms Susanne will be involved with academic and/or pastoral matters dealing with Grades 6 to 8.

We will also be implementing the "Common Sense Media" curriculum in the "Physical Social and Health Education" lessons for Grades 6 to 9. The focus will be on students making safe, smart and ethical decisions in the digital world, a world where change is the only constant.

Furthermore, this year's Grade 9 students have the option to either study the three sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) separately or to sign up for "Integrated Sciences", which explores different concepts that link the different domains of Science. Both the "Discrete Sciences" and "Integrated Sciences" follow the MYP framework of conceptual-based learning.

Our Grade 10 students have a busy year ahead of them. They will be working on their e-portfolios for subjects such as Spanish, the Arts, Design and Physical and Health Education. They also have the Personal Project, which is the culminating task of final year of the MYP. Lastly in early May, they will be sitting for onscreen e-examinations for subjects such as Language and Literature (Arabic and English), Mathematics, Sciences, and Individuals and Societies as well as an interdisciplinary exam. Parents will be provided with more information on these e-assessments as the year progresses.

When wearing the IAA uniform, our students are representing themselves as ambassadors for our

school. All students must be in uniform every school day, unless otherwise announced. Please refer to our "Student Parent Handbook" found on Moodle regarding our expectations for the school uniform. Once again, we want to welcome our students, staff and parents for another exciting year of learning at IAA. As a school, we will continue working together to make this the best school possible and increase learning for everyone!

The IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) has evolved over the years and is now recognized as one of the best educational programs in the world. At the IAA, we have over 400 MYP students who take part in this outstanding program. The IB came to IAA last year and interviewed a few of our teachers and students to create a short documentary that has now become the official IBMYP video for the 2015-2016 academic year. Check it out!

<https://vimeo.com/iboorg/review/133023312/90f043ad93> MYP Video

At the IAA, we are lucky enough to have been one of the first schools in the world to pilot the IB Middle Years Programme E-assessments with our current Grade 10 students. Through that experience, our students have been prepared to sit their official IBMYP E-assessments in May 2016. To learn more about their experience, click on the link below!

<https://vimeo.com/iboorg/review/130068430/3089c1a493> E-assessment video

With kind regards,

Zena Muhtaseb
Head of Middle Years

Calendar

Sunday	23	
Monday	24	
Tuesday	25	
Wednesday	26	-Primary Parent Workshop Parent Manual-SMT, MPR, 8:00 AM - 8:50 AM
Thursday	27	
Friday	28	
Saturday	29	
Sunday	30	-KG2 Parents Information Evening, Grade Area, 2:45 PM - 4:00 PM

Sports News

The Libraries are super-excited to open our doors to all IAA readers, from the youngest to the oldest.

We plan to have a very colourful library year, packed with book clubs, our new Makerspace after-school programme, parent workshops, Love2Read afternoons, the Annual Book Fair, extended hours and more. We are planning activities to engage every member of the IAA Community. We want to be known as a school that reads.

You might notice each of the libraries this year will highlight a "colour" of the month. How many times have you walked into a bookshop or library and thought, "I can't remember the title or the author, but the cover was...". Well, this year we can help. Visit the libraries or ask your children what the library colour is for this month. We hope this approach creates an imaginative, energetic atmosphere in which students can inquire and develop their personal reading habits for life.

Speaking of reading, I hope you had success with our Summer Reading Programme. The cut-off date for completing the reading will be Saturday, 12th September, for those who have participated. We will collect the forms the week of 13-17 September to see which children have won the "Golden Ticket".

Already, Secondary teachers have been working in the Secondary Library to develop Interdisciplinary Units. We have welcomed several new students and parents being led on tours given by IAA student leaders, who are sure to tell them the Library is one of their favorite spots on campus. We have received the latest model in Canon Digital camera/video equipment and have been told our Green Screen will arrive soon. The Green Screen will allow students to film themselves and then use the latest video editing software to project themselves into any digital background they choose. The buzz is already out there, and this is an exciting addition to our Media Lab.

The Primary Library is getting the collection ready for students. This year, Ms Dima will be instrumental in teaching information literacy through our newly adopted Common Sense Media curriculum. These are lessons designed to teach students positive digital citizenship and cyber safety.

The KG Library welcomes all parents and students. Students will be able to check out books once they come to school, and we encourage moms to borrow books too, with a reminder to return their books within 2 weeks. If a student forgets to return his or her book on library day, the library will send a slip home as a reminder. For moms, we will send you an email note as a kind reminder.

We can't wait to share our plans with you throughout the upcoming year. Be sure to follow our boards on Pinterest. Search for IAA Libraries. We've gathered quite a following over the summer. As always, if you have questions or suggestions, stop by for a visit or write us at library@iaa.edu.jo. We love hearing from you and look forward to a fantastic new year together.

Ms Kathleen, Ms Dima & Ms Tania
IAA Librarians

More News

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Ms Kathleen, Ms Dima & Ms Tania
IAA Librarians

More News

Grade 3 has had an amazing experience taking part in their Chocolate for Charity Enterprise project. It all came about when we brainstormed the idea of the IAA Pillar Pack – 4 Chocolate bars representing the Pillars. The Grade 3 students then worked in pairs to create designs for the wrappers. Primary classrooms voted on the winning designs that are featured on the Pillar Packs. The students conducted an in-school marketing campaign, designing and distributing posters and speaking to other grades. The students were responsible for collecting and distributing the order forms. With collaboration among parents, students and teachers, chocolate bars were wrapped and placed into boxes. Finally on Wednesday and Thursday, students delivered the chocolate to the happy customers. Each pack has raised money for charity.
Thank you, IAA for all your support and a very big thank you to Samar Hamdan for assisting us with the project!
Grade 3 Team

Photo Gallery



