



الأكاديمية الدولية - عمان
THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY - AMMAN

Parent News

Monday, 21st August

2017

Calendar

Monday	21	--Open meeting with Primary Principal, Mr. Andrew Powell, Primary Principal's Office, 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM --Grade 12 Bootcamp, MPR, 8:00 AM – 10:30 AM
Tuesday	22	--Director's Open Meeting with Parents, Director's Office, 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM
Wednesday	23	--IAA Annual Welcome Back Reception & Recognition Ceremony, Moon Garden, 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Thursday	24	--For Parents, Grade 12 information morning, MPR, 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM
Friday	25	
Saturday	26	
Sunday	27	--KG1 Parent Information Afternoon, MPR, 2:45 PM
Monday	28	--For Parents, overview of MYP, Theatre, 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM --KG2 Parent Information Afternoon, MPR, 2:45 PM --Open meeting with Primary Principal, Mr. Andrew Powell, Primary Principal's Office, 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

A Message from the Director

Dear IAA Community,

It is my pleasure to welcome everyone back for another great year at IAA. I hope you enjoyed a summer vacation filled with fun and exciting memories with your loved ones. We are all excited to have students back in our classrooms and hallways filling them with energy and enthusiasm for learning.

As every year, I want to personally invite you to attend our **Welcome Back Reception & Recognition Ceremony** on Wednesday, August 23 at 7pm at IAA's Moon Garden. This will be a great time to strengthen our IAA community, meet teachers and other families, and learn about the upcoming school year. We will also recognise this year's top IB achievers during the event.

Speaking of recognition, I would also like to congratulate last year's Grade 10 students for their **MYP performance**. Our students scored above the IB world average in most of our subjects and the average MYP total was significantly higher than that attained around the world. Undoubtedly, your support as parents to these ambitious and hardworking students, coupled with our qualified and dedicated staff will inevitably achieve highly. It is no surprise!

Last Wednesday, we held our second **alumni reunion**. Over 100 alumni gathered at IAA's Sports Courtyard to reminisce their times at IAA and share their success. Each had a story to tell and I was extremely proud to hear

about their leadership, duty, cultural heritage and acceptance stories; the 4 IAA pillars that were continuously instilled in each and every one of them throughout their years at school. These alumni have now become our ambassadors, showing the world our values and demonstrating our slogan, **Learners of Today – Leaders of Tomorrow**.

Finally, I urge you to **stay connected** with the school news and calendar via our website www.iaa.edu.jo, the IAA mobile application, social media platforms and email. Please feel free to pass by my office every Tuesday effective August 22 from 8-9 am if you have a suggestion, concern or just a "good story" to share.

Looking forward to working with you this year in nurturing our relationship that will assist in the growth of your children.

Happy 2017/18 IAA year and have a wonderful week.

Hana Kanan, Ed.D.

Director

Primary School News

Dear Parents,

It was a wonderful feeling to be greeted by so many of our students who were keen to return to school after a relaxing summer break. Our classrooms and playgrounds were filled with smiling, happy children as our students reconnected with old friends and made new ones. Our teachers are also happy to be back at school and I look forward to a positive year ahead.

On a personal note, I'd like to thank the entire school community for their support and the recognition I have received for my solo swim from England to France. While this was an incredible personal accomplishment, it was very much a team effort that would not have been possible if it were not for being based at IAA. We have incredible facilities and a dedicated Athletics Department who were instrumental in supporting me over the past twelve months. I'm hoping that this swim and the many other achievements of our faculty serve as inspiration for our students.

Over the next couple of weeks, there will be a number of events at IAA, which I encourage you to attend. We have a welcome reception at 7pm on Wednesday, August 23 in the Moon Garden. There are also a series of Parent Information Afternoons scheduled that will provide you with the opportunity to meet your children's teachers and members of the Primary School Senior Management Team. The sessions will provide you with an overview of our academic programmes and what you can expect from the year ahead. The dates and times are as follows:

Date	Grade	Time
Sunday, August 27 th	KG1 Information Afternoon	2:45 – 4:00pm
Monday, August 28 th	KG2 Information Afternoon	2:45 – 4:00pm
Tuesday, August 29 th	G1 Information Afternoon	2:45 – 4:00pm
Wednesday, September 6 th	G2 Information Afternoon	2:45 – 4:00pm
Sunday, September 10 th	G3 Information Afternoon	2:45 – 4:00pm
Monday, September 11 th	G4 Information Afternoon	2:45 – 4:00pm
Wednesday, September 13 th	G5 Information Afternoon	2:45 – 4:00pm

I look forward to reconnecting with many of you over the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Powell

Primary School Principal

Secondary School News

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the 2017-2018 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 Counsellors have partnered up each new student with a buddy, from the same grade, to help with his/her transition into IAA.

Congratulations to our current Grade 11 students for completing the MYP, where they scored above the IB world average in 16 out of the 18 e-assessments. Our students performed extremely well on the interdisciplinary exam, confirming that they are able to draw on knowledge and skills from many disciplines to address real-world issues. We are confident that their learning experiences in the MYP, culminating in the e-Assessments, have prepared them well for the rigorous demands of the Diploma Programme.

Congratulations to our DP class of 2017. They did really well in the final exams and we had 7 students gain 40 or more points. That was the case in 2016 when we also had 7 students gain 40 or more points. The marker has been firmly placed for our current Grade 12s! At the Welcome Back event on Wednesday 23rd in the Moon Garden we will be celebrating the success of the class of 2017 and I hope you will be able to join us for what is always a lovely evening.

We had a wonderful alumni reunion last week and it was great to see so many of our old students on campus, excited to be back and sharing their stories. They are really doing well! I was quite amazed to hear that five of them have either got married or engaged over the summer – congratulations. It does not seem that long ago that they were all in school.

A reminder that we are a “Bring Your Own Device” school. Students have been assigned an individual locker to store their laptop, textbooks and personal belongings. However, a combination or padlock must be brought in. Grade Leaders and Tutors, particularly for Grades 6 to 8, will use morning registration time to ensure that students organise themselves for the day by taking only what they need for their morning classes and storing everything else in their lockers.

Our students need to be able to access their school email and Moodle account. If your child is unable to access one or more of these sites, they should inform their Tutor. Alternatively, on our Moodle login page, there is a “Help Desk” tab that students can use to send messages to our IT Department if they encounter any difficulties.

All schools have their own rules, routines and policies. Please do take time to read through the updated parent-student handbook, which can be accessed on Moodle via the “Students and Parents” tab. It contains important information such as the expectations of school uniform, assessments and student absences.

Lastly, our Information sessions for parents will start this week. All of them can be viewed on the school website. On August the 24, Mr Antony will be holding a session for Grade 12 parents dealing with important deadlines and other information for the year. On August 28, Ms. Nadia, the MYP Coordinator, will present an overview of the MYP – a must for parents who are new to IAA. Furthermore, the Arabic, English and Spanish Departments will present on August 29. They will discuss the objectives, units and assessment criteria for Language & Literature and Language Acquisition.

Sessions will run from 8am to 9am in the Auditorium. We look forward to seeing you there!

Information Sessions For Parents

Topic	Date	Time	Venue
Grade 12 DP Information Session	August 24 th	8am – 9am	Auditorium
Overview of MYP (G6-10)	August 28 th	8am – 9am	Auditorium
Languages in the MYP (G6-10)	August 29 th	8am – 9am	Auditorium
Grade 11 DP Information Session	Sept. 7 th	8am – 9am	Auditorium
MYP – Sciences and Design (G6-10)	Sept. 11 th	8am – 9am	Auditorium
Meet and Greet (G6-12) and MYP Criterion-based Assessment (G6-10)	Sept. 12 th	2:30pm – 4pm	Auditorium
MYP – Mathematics and the Arts (G6-10)	Sept. 18 th	8am – 9am	Auditorium
MYP – Individuals and Societies and the Physical and Health Education (G6-10)	Sept. 19 th	8am – 9am	Auditorium
MYP – Service As Action and Interdisciplinary Units (G6-10)	Sept. 25 th	8am – 9am	Auditorium
MYP –E-assessments (for G10 Parents)	Sept. 26 th	8am – 9am	Auditorium
Academic Honesty and Referencing (G6-12)	Oct. 3 rd	8am – 9am	Auditorium
Theory of Knowledge (G11-12)	Oct. 8 th	8am – 9am	Multi-purpose Room

We are excited to continue working together to make IAA a warm and welcoming place where students can realise and achieve their full potential. We encourage our students to participate in school activities and leadership opportunities. We wish our students the best in a successful school year.

Zena Muhtaseb
Head of Middle Years

Martin Thompson
Secondary School Principal

Secondary Counselling News

Welcome back to a new year at IAA! We hope you all had wonderful summer holidays and we are looking forward to a great year!

There have been some big changes here in the Secondary Counselling department; we have new offices that we are calling “The Wellness Center” and we have hired a wonderful second counsellor, Ms. Devon! We also have online scheduling through Moodle. Exciting stuff, right?

The Wellness Center is a great resource for students and parents and we are committed to creating a year full of success, positivity, and growth for the IAA Secondary community!

Ms. Devon and I will be dividing students alphabetically by last name. I will serve students and their parents with last names starting with A-F and Ms. Devon will be serving G-Z.

A Parent Counselling Handbook will be up on Moodle soon to give you an overview of what to expect from the Secondary Counselling Program. Please feel free to contact either Ms. Devon or I through email or phone with any other questions.

Library News

The IAA Libraries send a warm welcome to new and returning students and parents. This year, we have several literary activities planned for the entire IAA community, including parent information sessions, book fairs, reading clubs, MakerSpaces and the return of the One School/One Story programme.

To start the months of August and September, we will celebrate Leadership, one of our IAA Pillars. Leadership Coach Michael Hyatt has identified 5 ways that reading makes you a better leader:

1. Reading makes us better thinkers.
2. Reading improves our people skills.
3. Reading helps us master communication.
4. Reading helps us relax.
5. Reading keeps us young.

IAA students have a reputation for being leaders, and it starts at an early age. This summer in our travels to the US, I was very happy to represent the IAA community when several friends mentioned my children’s strong literacy skills and also their care for the environment. I was a proud parent, to be sure, but I also realised that all IAA students have had the advantage of robust curriculum, which is creating learners of today and leaders of tomorrow. Strong library programmes are one indicator of an academically successful school, and IAA is committed to building strong library programmes that impact student learning. It really helps our school stand out in a crowd.

For an idea of what your child’s library experience will be like during the next two weeks, please note the following from Ms. Tania and Ms. Dima.

Kindergarten Library – Ms. Tania Antranigian

Your child will be borrowing books from the school library very soon. This is an exciting moment for a young child. Choosing a book, bringing it home, and taking personal responsibility of properly caring for the book gives students a “grown-up” feeling.

We will spend time at school discussing library citizenship and how to take care of books. Although the children will learn many library rules and considerations, they will need your help with reminders.

Learning to read for a young child is a thrilling experience. You can foster this attitude by reading to your child and encouraging your child to look at and enjoy books. This is a memorable experience for both parents and children.

Primary Library – Ms. Dima Shaka’a

We are thrilled to start the year at the Primary Library! We will begin with an orientation of the different sections of the library - this will be very exciting for our new 2nd graders. We’ll go over the rules of the library as well. We’ll also have some story time to get into the routine of reading, and I’ll be reading *Library Lion* by Michelle Knudsen, *Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes, and *The Name Jar* by Yansook Choi. Grade 5 will also be learning about cyberbullying: what it is, how harmful it can be, and ways it can be resolved through being positive role models.