



الأكاديمية الدولية - عمان
THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY - AMMAN

Parent News

Monday, 28th August

2017

Calendar

Monday	28	--For Parents, overview of MYP, Theatre, 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM --Open meeting with Primary Principal, Mr. Andrew Powell, Primary Principal's Office, 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM --KG2 Parent Information Afternoon, MPR, 2:45 PM --Football Try-out - G6 Boys, 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM --Football Try-out - G7-8 Boys, 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM --Badminton Try-Out - G6-12 Boys & Girls, 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM --Track & Field Try Out G8&9 - Boys & Girls, 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM
Tuesday	29	--Director's Open Meeting with Parents, Director's Office, 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM --For Parents, Languages in the MYP, Theater, 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM --Football Try-out - G6-9 Girls, 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM --Football Try-out - G10-12 Girls, 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM --Volleyball Try-Out G9-12 Girls, 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM --Volleyball Try-Out G9-12 Girls, 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM --Swimming Try-Out G6-12 Boys & Girls, 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM --Track & Field Try Out G10-12 - Boys & Girls, 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM --Grade 1 Parent Information Afternoon, MPR, 2:45 PM
Wednesday	30	--Secondary School Eid Assembly, Theater, 11:00 AM --Football Try-out - G9-12 Boys, 3:30 PM -4:30 PM
Thursday	31	--Eid Al-Adha Break
Friday	1	--Eid Al-Adha Break
Saturday	2	--Eid Al-Adha Break
Sunday	3	--Eid Al-Adha Break
Monday	4	--Eid Al-Adha Break

A Message from the Director

Dear IAA Community,

Welcome to our second week at IAA.

We had a splendid Welcome Back Reception last Wednesday at our beloved Moon Garden. It was great to meet the returning and new parents who shared their stories of pride and success. It was also an opportunity to recognise our top IB achievers who did exceptionally well in their IB Diploma, scoring 40+. As a token of appreciation and pride, these seven achievers were refunded their 2016-17 tuition fees. Well done!

This week wraps up on Wednesday, August 30 on the occasion of Eid Al-Adha. I am sure you have sensed the festivities around the school and you should not miss the PTA's coffee & ma'moul morning that day. I wish you all a blessed Eid Adha and look forward to seeing you back on Wednesday, September 6.

At IAA, we strive to keep you continuously in the know of all events, trips and activities pertaining your child. I urge you all to stay connected with us via our website, IAA Mobile application, email, weekly newsletter and social media platforms. Check our calendar often to save important dates like Grade Parent afternoons, Parent MYP sessions and much more. There is a lot happening on a daily basis and it is healthy that you are informed of all these dates. Your involvement as a parent is one important factor in your child's success at school and the link to the article <http://www.greeleytribune.com/news/local/how-to-get-involved-and-stay-involved-in-your-kids-schools/> will give you great ways to stay involved and connected. It concludes stating that, "while the route to successful involvement is not rocket science, it may lead to some rocket scientists down the road."

Finally, I am available next Tuesday from 9-10am for parents who wish to see me.

Hana Kanan, Ed.D.

Director

Primary School News

Dear Parents,

We had a smooth commencement to the school year last week and I am proud of the way in which our students have been able to transition back into their school routines as if they had returned from a short break rather than the long summer holiday. I have been especially proud of those students that have gone out of their way to support our new students by acting as a formal buddy or simply a friend in the classroom and on the playground. Our new teachers have settled in nicely and many have made remarks about how positive our students are.

It was great to be able to touch base with new and returning families at our Back to School reception in the Moon Garden last week. Over the next couple of weeks there will also be formal opportunities to hear from our teachers at the various Parent Information Afternoons. These 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 know that at times during the year issues crop up in which parents feel that they need to approach a senior member of staff. I am typically available from 8am – 9am on a Monday morning for short drop-in meetings about important issues that you feel need to be brought to my attention. This year, Mr Walid Albay (Deputy Principal), Ms Alia Oweinat (Arabic Medium Subjects Coordinator), Ms Rene’ Claassen (G1-5 Curriculum Coordinator) and Ms Anna Burgess (Early Years Coordinator) will also be available during this Monday morning time should you require their assistance. Of course, in most instances, should you have an issue pertaining to a classroom matter, we encourage you to contact your child’s teacher, the appropriate Grade Leader or School Counsellor as they will be best placed to support you and your child.

Have a wonderful week!

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Powell

Primary School Principal

Secondary School News

Dear Parents,

We really enjoyed the first week back at school. There was a very positive feeling around campus as we all swapped holiday stories. I hope your children enjoyed it as much as we did. The rhythm of school came quickly, and we are looking forward to some productive days in the short week ahead.

Some of our students had a busy weekend receiving extensive training from Ms. Liz, our School Counsellor, on being a Peer Helper for this year. The Peer Helpers are a great asset to IAA as they help students build and maintain connections with their peers. They do this by listening to those who are struggling with problems or difficult circumstances and by resolving student conflicts collaboratively. We thank our Peer Helpers for their commitment in fostering feelings of belonging and acceptance that will only enhance our school climate.

We are also looking forward to the elections for the Student Representative Council. We start this week with the Head Boy and Head Girl. We are pleased with the enthusiasm from Grade 11 who want to get involved, and

they will be presenting their speeches to the school during PSHE this week. As well as their elections this week, we are taking in nominations for the Class Reps in each grade and these will be elected when we get back from the Eid break.

We do seem to have started the year at pace. A number of our students are shortly going to overseas swimming tournaments, and we wish them all the very best. We introduce our overseas trips in this second week, so parents can get some idea of what is on offer in case they want to plan. This year we are confirmed to have:

- Theatre Trip (December) London and open to Grades 9 to 11
- Ramallah MUN (January) invited senior MUN students
- International Action Trip to Nepal (February) open to Grade 11
- Spain Trip (April/May) open Grades 8 and 9 students taking Spanish

In addition, there are a number of sports trips that will be overseas this year, and they are currently being finalized. More details will follow.

Auditions: Our auditions for the annual Musical, *Into the Woods*, will start shortly (open to students in grades 6 to 11). Information will be available in posters around the school and in the student bulletin. We anticipate demand for places will be high, so it is important for students to sign up for auditions before the deadline given on the posters. Students can also help out with behind the scenes –choreography, costume, makeup, lighting and props.

Hawks try-outs: They have started, and posters are around school. The schedule is on Moodle and tutors are letting students know in morning registration. It is important that students wishing to be considered for our teams attend the sessions they are interested in.

Activities: We will begin introducing other afterschool activities to students shortly and anticipate writing to parents about them shortly after the Eid break.

MUN: For Grade 8 students who are interested in MUN, it is important that they register with Mr Phil (preferably this week). For Grades 9 to 11 students interested in participating in the first local MUN, again it is important that they register for the RNESMUN with Mr Phil this week. We ask our parents to encourage their children to participate as it is a great opportunity to research current issues and to debate and negotiate such issues in a cooperative and diplomatic manner.

The Grade 9 students have the option to either study the “Discrete Sciences” or “Integrated Sciences”. If Grade 9 students want to change their subject package, they must collect the “subject choice” form from the Secondary Receptionist. The form must be signed by parents and handed back to the receptionist before any changes can be made. Grade 9 students have until September 14th to change their subject package. However, please note that some changes may not be approved as some classes have reached their maximum capacity.

Homework helps our students consolidate their learning, maximize their progress and achieve their potential. The homework set by our teachers should be meaningful, linking to the objectives of the subject and challenging. Students are not expected to exceed the following maximum of time allocation per school week night completing out-of-class work: Grades 6-7: 1 hour; Grade 8: 1.5 hours; Grade 9: 2 hours and Grades 10-11: 2.5 hours. Under the student-parent tab of Moodle, the homework timetables have been posted for grades 6 to 8.

We are starting our MYP seminars for parents this week and I would urge you to attend if you want to learn more about the nature of our programme in Grades 6 to 10. On Monday we have an overview of the MYP and

then on Tuesday the first of the subject specific talks as we address Languages in the MYP. Both start at 8.00 in the Theatre.

We would like to thank the PTA in advance for hosting Eid snacks for the staff on Wednesday. We are looking forward to our Eid assembly on that day. It just remains for us to wish you all a very happy and celebratory Eid break.

Yours sincerely,

Zena Muhtaseb
Head of Middle Years

Martin Thompson
Secondary School Principal

PTA Corner

A warm welcome from the PTA to the IAA community! We hope you enjoyed your summer and are ready for an awesome school year! First of all, a special 'thank you' goes to the previous PTA members for chipping in with their time and effort to help children and families succeed!

As parents, we all support our children with their education. As PTA, we work collaboratively to support the school community through many events and volunteer opportunities to further enrich our children's school experience. The new IAA/PTA members for the 2017-18 school year have been elected and are looking forward to a great year of activities. They are:

Acting Chairperson: Muna Sabbarini/ Said
Acting Vice Chairperson: Rana Imam

Treasurer: Hani Saadi
Secretary: Azza Rajjal/ Abu Al Ragheb
Members: Isabelle Beiruti
 Hiba Joudeh
 Shireen Halaweh

On another note, Eid-Al-Adha is around the corner, so the IAA/PTA would like to invite you for coffee and ma3mool on Wednesday, August 30th, at 8:00 am at the Community Square to share the joy of the festive season with the IAA community in the decorated IAA campus.

Library News

Summer Reading

The Summer Reading deadline is this Wednesday, 30 August. Please return all passports by then.

KG Library-Ms. Tania

The PreK and KG students have been learning how to care for their books. Early Years students benefit from this unit at the beginning of each academic year. Respecting library property is one aspect of life-long learning habits the library teaches IAA students. Hopefully, this lesson will transfer to your homes and your children will start being attentive to their own personal libraries as well. The following are the guidelines we share in Unit 1.

When I check out a book, I take care of it by doing these things:

1. I wash my hands so they are nice and clean before touching my book.
2. I keep my pencil and colouring pencils away from my book.
3. I mark my place in a book with a bookmark. I don't bend the pages.
4. I turn the pages by using the top corners so they don't rip.
5. I always carry my book in a book bag or any other plastic bag.
6. I keep my water bottle closed tightly when I have a book in my bag.
7. I keep my book in a safe place at home.
8. I always return my books to the library on time.

Primary Library

It is going to be an exciting week because the students will be able to check out books from the library! They will be learning how to use the library and its vocabulary. Students will learn to use new words like 'check in', 'check out' and 'circulation desk'. Students will be playing library vocabulary bingo and matching words with definitions in a fun interactive way. As part of the digital citizenship unit, Grade 5 students are continuing to discuss a more serious topic: **cyberbullying**. They will learn about the differences between regular bullying and cyberbullying and also identify words such as 'target', 'upstander', and 'bystander'. They'll also generate solutions for dealing with situations they encounter online.

Media Lab – Ms. Rawan

Grade 5 began with information literacy the first week back. Ms. Rawan and Ms. Dima used Common Sense Media to help students learn the basics of cybersafety and acceptable use. The lessons were capped off by a Grade 5 session in the MPR last Thursday. Ms. Melinda and the Grade 5 Team, in addition to counselors and librarians attended to facilitate student discussion regarding these important issues.

Secondary Library-Ms. Kathleen

We've been off to a great start with DP students researching for their Extended Essays. We have such a wide assortment of topics, from politics in Venezuela to Harry Potter to vegetable encapsulation formulas for extended release/suspended release medicines. It keeps the library on its toes, to be sure. Students are using Questia, Oxford Reference, and traditional print sources to add depth and credibility to their writing.

Grades 6-9 are beginning their library rotations to check-out English books to read for a book report assignment due in 6 weeks. Students are using our new library catalog interface, Destiny Discover, to find appropriate and interesting books.

We are very pleased with our readers and the reading culture at IAA. It's going to be a wonderful year.