



الأكاديمية الدولية - عمان
THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY - AMMAN

Parent News

Monday, 11th December

2017

Calendar

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| Monday | 11 | --Open meeting with Primary Principal, Mr. Andrew Powell, Primary Principal's Office, 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM --Grade 5C and 5T parents – Hour of Code, MPR, 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM --HAWKS Swimming, 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM & 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM |
| Tuesday | 12 | --Director's Open Meeting with Parents, Director's Office, 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM --HAWKS Swimming, 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM & 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM --HAWKS Gymnastics, 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM & 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM |
| Wednesday | 13 | --Portrait of a Graduate parent workshop, MPR, 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM --HAWKS Swimming, 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM & 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM --Grade 5 Trip, (Off- Campus) |
| Thursday | 14 | --Grade 2Z Assembly, Theatre, 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM --HAWKS Swimming, 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM |
| Friday | 15 | --Grade 6 Trip, (Off- Campus) |
| Saturday | 16 | |
| Sunday | 17 | --Grade 2 Trip, (Off- Campus) |
| Monday | 18 | --Open meeting with Primary Principal, Mr. Andrew Powell, Primary Principal's Office, 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM --Grade 10 Personal Project exhibition, MPR |

A Message from the Director

Dear IAA Community,

Standing in solidarity with **Jerusalem**, the IAA devoted time on Sunday to discuss the Jerusalem crisis with both Primary and Secondary students. The move comes with an aim to instill awareness of the holy city's importance amongst our learners.

Speaking of the region, the IAA hosted **Al Majlis Al Arabi** last weekend and it was yet another fabulous student-led event for the third year in a row! Guest speakers, Mr Maher Kaddoura and Ms Ayat Amer inspired the audience. Even our own students were role models for the others. I am proud of their leadership, commitment and level of acceptance. I saw our **pillars** in each one of them and this is what truly makes our students stand out. Their skills and traits are beautifully personifying IAA to form the vision that was set 13 years ago.

Taking that portrait further, I encourage you all to attend the "**Portrait of A Graduate**" morning workshop that will be run by Dr Lois Warner next Wednesday, 13 Dec at 8am in the MPR. As stakeholders, we want your valuable views on what makes an IAA student unique. We are in the process of developing our own portrait and at a stage where we want the feedback from our entire community.

We have a little more than a week left of school, filled with assemblies, a Personal Project exhibit and preparation for international trips. **Stay connected** to our calendar and news through our website, mobile application and social media channels.

I am available this Tuesday from 8-9am for parents who wish to see me.

Wishing you a peaceful week.

Hana Kanan, Ed.D.
Director

Primary School News

Dear Parents,

Our students have started the week with a reminder of Jordan's important role as custodian of Jerusalem's Holy sites. Our Arabic, SSA and Religion teachers have all engaged with our students in age appropriate activities which highlight the importance of Jerusalem as a city for people of all faiths.

Over the past couple of weeks, our Counselling and Library teams have facilitated two important workshops on character development and digital citizenship. In an ever-changing world, the significance of maintaining strong, close relationships based on trust is of the utmost importance for our children. A letter will go out this week from Ms Maria and Ms Dima which outlines ways in which we can support our students as they engage with digital technologies.

This week, our Parent Morning will be facilitated by Dr Lois. She is developing a portrait of an IAA graduate and is soliciting input from all community stakeholders. Please join her in the MPR at 8am on Wednesday, December 13th.

I would like to recognise our award winners this week. They are:

Bronze Award Winners

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|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Yahya Hoozeer 4G | Talia Al- Kurdi 3G | Yulixa Houkayem 2H |
| Mira Al Agha 4G | Kareem Ghnimat 3G | Yousef Abu Obeid 1S |
| Hisham Al- Nsour 4G | Zahraa Al Dulaimi 3LC | Sadine Al Bustami 1S |
| Rakan Kardan 3G | Basheer Arabiyat 2H | |

Silver Award Winners

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|-------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Abdullah Shami 2Z | Yara Saoudi 2Z | Abdelrahman Al Ahmad 1S |
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I hope that you have a positive week!

Yours sincerely,
Andrew Powell

Secondary School News

Dear Parents,

Thank you to everyone who supported our production of 'Into the Woods'. 1,500 plus people watched our students perform over the 5 performances. They were treated to some excellent acting and singing, in what was our most demanding production to date. Thank you also to the parents of the cast and crew who have supported our students through the arduous rehearsal process, and a special thanks to those parents who supported the production in practical ways or through sponsorship. Great memories have been created!

After months of preparation and training, the 3rd annual Majlis Al Arabi took place this past weekend at IAA. In collaboration with Al Asriyya Schools, this student-led conference that involved eight schools and over 220 participants was a resounding success. The conference followed the same format as that of the Model United Nations, but Arabic was the language of communication.

Our guest speakers Mr. Maher Kaddoura and Ms. Ayat Amer were thrilled to see high school students from different schools come together to tackle issues that were relevant, challenging and controversial in the Arab region. Both of our speakers shared their personal narratives and delivered a common message to our students. Simply stated - when you know your purpose in life, you are active in creating, shaping and pursuing opportunities, consequently living each day to the fullest. Mr. Kaddoura summed it up nicely when he quoted Khalil Gibran – “do not live half a life”.

We are so proud to see our students take on active roles, be that of Secretary General, Chair, Delegate, Staff, Media or Security. Their hard work and efforts translated into a wonderful learning experience for many students, as they worked together to address some of the most pressing issues in the Arab world. They are certainly living up to IAA's guiding principle - “learners of today, leaders of tomorrow”.

Looking ahead to this week, we have the postponed Grade 6 Trek to Ajloun heading out on Friday. Hopefully, the weather will be kinder to us this week. After a few weeks which have been very busy with trips and speakers, this week is quiet although Grade 12 are having some time off timetable to work on their Theory of Knowledge essays and numerous deadlines looming. Looking beyond the daily tasks, it is pleasing to see some excellent offers starting to come in from the UK, with many of the Russel Group of research-led universities giving our Grade 12 students very achievable targets.

I would like to remind parents that students are expected to wear school jumpers and coats. Both of which are excellent at keeping students warm. Most students who come to school wearing other clothing are often wearing inferior garments in terms of their protection against the elements.

On Wednesday 13th parents are invited to a meeting in the MPR run by Dr Lois to work on our initiative to define the 'Portrait of a Graduate' of IAA. This meeting is open to all. We want to hear how parents see their children compared to others, as the idea is to try and identify what makes us unique.

In the mission to create independent, life-long learners, the Personal Project (PP) is one of the IB milestones, and the efforts and hard work involved should not be underestimated. We ask our parents to mark their calendars for the PP Exhibition that will take place on the 18th December from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm in the Multi-purpose Room. The students have the opportunity to discuss their projects, answer questions and generally celebrate and be proud! We look forward to having you join us to celebrate the accomplishments of the Grade 10s in this MYP culminating project.

Thank you
Mr. Martin and Ms. Zena

Library News

We have had visitors in the Libraries. Last week, the KG Library invited parents to read to their children. It was such a fun activity! The parents chose a fiction book to read. To add to the lesson, Ms. Tania paired a nonfiction book that talked about the same subject. This session reinforced the difference between fiction and nonfiction books for students.

The Secondary Library has created a resource list of books applicable to the recent controversy over Trump's announcement to move the US Embassy in Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Books include non-fiction, fiction, poetry, graphic novels and more. We have displayed only a fraction of the resources we have on this topic in the Secondary Library. From a library point of view, we want our students to be informed, critical thinkers. Parents are invited to browse the collection as well.

The Primary Library has been busy working with teachers to promote kindness and empathy at IAA. Pass by the library to see a wall overflowing with acts of kindness.

A Message from the Assistant Director for Curriculum

Dear Parents,

A rather exciting project that I'm working on this year is IAA's 'Portrait of a Graduate'. The consultant we had last year to help us with our Strategic Plan suggested that we develop one so that the entire school community would have a shared vision of what we want the graduates of our school to become. If you Google 'Portrait of a Graduate', you will find many examples that other schools have developed.

The exciting part of this project is that it is shared between all parts of our school community. From the Administration side, Public Relations and Admissions will use IAA's Portrait to show prospective parents and the wider Amman community who we are. At the same time, those of us in leadership of the academic side of the school will use the 'Portrait' to help our teachers understand exactly what we are trying to accomplish and our students know where they are headed.

To make sure that our Portrait represents the ideas of everyone in the IAA community, we are holding workshops to tell everyone about this project and to give groups a time to develop their own 'Portraits'. We have already held workshops for teachers and senior students and plan to hold a session for alumni in upcoming weeks. This week, on Wednesday, 13 December, at 8 am, we will hold a session for parents. This is your chance to contribute to the future of IAA by helping us shape our Portrait of a Graduate. Please don't miss this opportunity!

Warmest regards,

Lois L. Warner Ph.D.
Assistant Director for Curriculum