



الأكاديمية الدولية - عمان
THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY - AMMAN

Parent News Monday, 18th December 2023

Calendar

DECEMBER 23

**24 SUN
- 4 THU**

Winter Break

Sunday, 24 December 2023 to Thursday, 04 January 2024

25 MON

Christmas Day

A Message from The Director

Dear IAA Community,

As we approach our winter break, and in the spirit of this holiday season, I would like to extend my thanks and heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for turning yet another year into an inspirational learning experience for all of our students! I could not possibly be more proud of the growth and progress you have relentlessly demonstrated during these past few months, enabling our children to have such a prosperous academic semester thus far.

In conjunction with these reflections, I am thrilled to highlight today's observance of the International Arabic Language Day! This day holds significant meaning for our school, grounded as it is in the commitment to preserving our cultural heritage—one of the foundational pillars of IAA. The Arabic language, a conduit to our rich history and traditions, remains a steadfast link to our collective identity, deserving of our continued dedication.

On another note, I take immense pride in sharing the commendable achievements of our Grade 10 MYP students, who recently showcased their ingenuity and creativity through their Personal Projects. It was truly heartwarming to witness the students' excitement and pride as they shared their projects with us, expressing themselves eloquently and presenting their projects entirely in Arabic. This choice of language is fitting considering today's celebration of the International Arabic Language Day, further emphasizing the connection between our cultural heritage and the vibrant ideas our students brought to life. The resilience and creativity displayed by the Class of '26 fill me with pride, and I await with anticipation their continued growth as they evolve into lifelong learners and future leaders.

In acknowledgment of the remarkable achievements of our alumni, I would like to spotlight HRH Princess Salma Bint Abdullah II, who recently led a humanitarian mission alongside her brothers in arms in southern Gaza, facilitating the airdrop of urgent medical supplies. Her commitment to humanitarian causes and leadership exemplifies the essence of our school motto, "Learners of Today, Leaders of Tomorrow," and serves as a source of inspiration for our entire community.

As I extend my wishes for a reflective and serene winter break, let us be mindful of the ongoing challenges faced by our global community. The recent events in Gaza serve as a stark reminder of the fragility of peace, and I express my solidarity and empathy to those affected in Palestine. May the approaching year bring solace, healing, and a renewed commitment to fostering compassion and understanding in our shared world.

Wishing you a thoughtful and contemplative winter break.

Warmest Regards,

Hana Kanan, Ed. D.
Director

Primary School News

Festive Wishes

As we embrace the customary celebrations of this time of year, we eagerly anticipate the joy our children will experience. This season embodies the spirit of giving, and I have encouraged our students to contemplate how they can contribute by showing kindness to others. Consequently, I urge you to take a moment this Christmas to discuss with your children the hardships faced by the people in Gaza, and to consider those who find themselves gathered around makeshift fires with no respite from the cold and the bombardment.

As a community, let us, together with our children, reflect on the support we have extended through our various initiatives, such as the Palestine T-shirt campaign, bake sales, and non-uniform days. I take great pride in our individual and collective endeavors, and I hope and pray that our contributions will swiftly reach their intended recipients and make a meaningful impact.

In the remaining days leading up to the holiday, we will maintain our customary focus on teaching and learning both inside and outside the classrooms. I extend my gratitude for the support you have provided to our staff and students since the start of the term. I have observed the maturity exhibited by our students, and it is heartening to see that nearly all of them are striving to engage in learning at a high level.

Winter Campaign

Once again, I am at a loss for words to describe the overwhelming support and the incredible volume of food donations received thus far. With three days remaining before the holiday, there is still time to make further contributions in order to meet our targets. Therefore, any donations, regardless of size, would be greatly appreciated. Students can leave the items either at the Primary Reception or in the Cafeteria. If you wish to donate larger quantities of a specific item, it would be most welcome; nothing will go to waste!

Teacher Appreciation

While we all acknowledge that our teachers deserve special recognition for their incredible work, I would like to gently remind you that gifts to teachers are most appreciated when they are simple yet meaningful. Additionally, involving your children in making or selecting the gift adds value and a personal touch. Please remember that any gift should not exceed the value of 30 JDs. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Bake Sale & Non-Uniform Day

A gentle reminder that this Thursday, December 17th, we will be hosting our monthly non-uniform day and bake sale. We are relying on your support for our community aid initiatives. The charity benefiting from this month's proceeds is the Al Sukhneh Refugee Camp. Thank you in advance for supporting such events; your contribution makes a significant difference.

To all members of our community, I wish you a delightful and peaceful festive season.

Walid AL Bay
Principal – Primary School

Secondary School News

Dear Parents

The winter break is upon us. So much has happened since we started the school year in August and our Grade 6 to 8 students have been reliving some of these accomplishments in their recent assemblies. We hope that the Second Semester will prove to be equally full of learning and activities for all our students, in and beyond the classroom. In particular, we eagerly anticipate our annual school musical and many more successes for our Hawks teams.

However, our happiness and pride in student achievement this year has obviously been overshadowed by the events in Palestine. Whilst the coming holidays bring much needed time for our school community to relax, recharge and enjoy shared family time, I am sure our thoughts will not be far from those who are suffering so much, so close to here.

Looking forward to this week and reflecting on some events from last week, we have:

Winter Assemblies

In our last assemblies of the calendar year, the focus remains on Gaza – how we can continue to show support through this ongoing devastation. For these particular events, we are bringing in the voices of our Alumni, where they will share with our students what they have done to support and promote the Palestinian cause. We are also bringing in guest speakers from organisations that advocate and educate about the wider Palestinian cause. We hope that this sharing of their impactful initiatives in solidarity with Palestine will inspire and enlighten our own students to use their voice for support.

Civvies Day and Bake Sale

Also, our last civvies day and bake sale of 2023 will take place on 21st December. It will be organized by the Grade 7 students. The money collected will be split 50:50 with funds being directed to to the JHCO, to support the families in Gaza and with funds going to the IAA Winter Campaign to support families closer to home. As usual, if students wish to wear civvies, we ask for a minimum donation of 2JD.

Congratulations and Good Luck to Grade 12

There have been a lot of positive acceptances for our Grade 12 students from their chosen universities. But the work does not finish there. Pre-mocks begin on Sunday January 7th, the first in a series of exam sessions to prepare our students for the final exams in April/May.

Personal Project Exhibition: Thank You

The Grade 10s presented their Personal Projects last week to their school community. We enjoyed the PP exhibition that showcased our students' work - a blend of innovativeness, creativity and service. We do hope our Grade 10s will continue with this work in Grade 11 as many projects would be suitable for CAS and maybe even Internal Assessments. Thank you to everyone: students, supervisors, librarians and parents who supported our students through this journey. At this stage, our G10s should be working on finalizing the PP report, where the deadline is due in early February.

Wishing you all the very best for the coming holidays. For those of you celebrating at this important time of year, may you have the gift of faith, the blessing of hope and peace on earth.

Sincerely

Mr Martin and Ms Zena

College & Career Counseling News

Congratulations to all the students that have received offers so far and to those who have completed the submission of their college applications. They can now relax, if only for a few days 😊 I suspect that all others are now working very hard to finalize the work required of them to make sure their applications are submitted before the Christmas break. The 21st December deadline is quite an important one for us at the Counselling office, particularly since G12 students will be using the break to focus on their Pre-Mock exams. The Pre- Mock grades (also known as Mid- Year grades) are crucial for universities in US and Canada whose decisions come out in Spring 2024, once they've received G12 marks.

We are now actively working with students who will be submitting a new round of applications to US universities through the Regular round. Their deadline is fast approaching - due on January 1st 2024. Starting on the 21st December our school and all higher education institutions will still be closed and will not be back at work till after that deadline. We are therefore urging our students to set time aside to work on their Supplements this week so they receive their feedback in time.

Allow me to wish everyone at IAA a peaceful Christmas! This year, unlike any other, we need to be extra thankful for all we have, appreciate the little things and make time for family and loved ones.

Sincerely,
Aya Abdel Hadi

Library News

Dear parents,

We are so happy to announce that we are having a 'Family Reading Night' in the Primary Library tonight. Our youngest students, PK-G2 will come to the library in their pajamas and soft toys and spend some quality reading time with their parents. This event is a wonderful opportunity for fostering the love of reading within your family. We will also be hosting local author, Ms. Wafa'a Qussous who will be reading one of her culturally rich Arabic stories. Ms. Wafa'a is a children's Book Author and Theater Director. She also holds a Master's Degree in Fine Arts/Puppet Theater, from Connecticut College. Ms. Wafa'a has a vast experience in children's culture, and has served in different positions in this field.

As we approach our upcoming winter holiday, I'd like to remind you that you, as a parent, are welcome to come to the libraries to check out books for yourself and for your children. Let's make this winter break a time for stories, imagination, and the joy that comes from getting lost in the pages of a good book. We look forward to sharing the magic of winter reading with you and your family. So come to the libraries, grab some extra books and cozy up for some reading memories with your family.

Warm Regards,

Dima Shaka'a
Head of Libraries & Primary Librarian

Sports News

With the conclusion of the first season of competitive events for the year 2023, encompassing the Hawks' participation in the sports of football, volleyball and cross-country running, and notwithstanding the distinguished results and remarkable excellence showcased by our male and female players, the benefits surpassed mere championship victories. They extended to encompass numerous advantages that the Hawks acquired, notably several health and social aspects. The most significant of these are:

- Improved physical fitness and overall health due to regular training and participation in sports.**
- Enhanced camaraderie and teamwork among the players fostering a strong sense of community.**
- Development of leadership skills and resilience through facing challenges in competitive environments.**
- Opportunities for personal growth and skill enhancement in both individual and team settings.**
- Positive mental health outcomes resulting from the social interactions and shared achievements within the team.**

For a snapshot of all the exciting sports activities and events lined up in the first season of 2023, simply click on this link.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-pVnNSx-4AZA3acq6nhwEXXXWLk3yjeU/view?usp=drive_link