

A Message from The Director

Dear IAA Community,

As we step into the festive embrace of December, I extend my heartfelt wishes to each member of our esteemed community; may this month unfold its wonders, and gift you moments of joy, reflection, and fulfillment.

Commencing our newsletter for the month on a note of commendation! I am elated to celebrate the stellar projects unveiled by our Grade 4 students during the Rovers Exhibition last week. Their ingenuity and dedication were nothing short of remarkable, a testament to the nurturing environment that defines our educational institution. Similarly, anticipation builds as we eagerly await the unveiling of the Grade 5 STEAM projects, poised under the compelling theme of the "circulatory system." I have unwavering confidence that our students will present awe-inspiring demonstrations of scientific inquiry and creativity.

In the spirit of cultural exchange, our corridors were graced by the esteemed presence of the Mexican Ambassador to Jordan, His Excellency Roberto Rodriguez Hernandez. His visit brought forth an invaluable opportunity for our Spanish Language students to immerse themselves in the rich tapestry of Mexican culture. Such encounters are the building blocks of a truly global education.

On another positive note, our community is privileged to welcome back one of our distinguished alumnae this week, Aya Ghanameh! Aya, now an accomplished author and illustrator, will share the enchanting narrative of her published picture book, "These Olive Trees" with our Grades 4 and 5 students this week. This poignant tale, rooted in her grandmother's connection to the Palestinian land and its olive trees, promises to inspire young minds and deepen their understanding of heritage.

The coming week holds yet another exciting chapter with the G10 MYP Personal Projects scheduled for the 12th of December. This initiative not only underscores the culmination of our students' academic journey in MYP, but also serves as a testament to their individual growth, creativity, and commitment to excellence.

As our community navigates the array of events and accomplishments, we continue to foster a culture of curiosity, inclusivity, and aspiration within the walls of the International Academy-Amman. Together, let us uphold the spirit of exploration and excellence that defines our collective journey.

Wishing you all a December filled with warmth, discovery, and the boundless possibilities that education unfolds.

Warm regards,

Hana Kanan, Ed. D.

Director

Primary School News

Primary School Welcome

Greetings from the primary school to all members of our beloved community. It has been a productive couple of weeks since the last article, with many events taking place across the grades. For the remaining three weeks leading up to the holiday, we will maintain our usual focused teaching and learning environment. I would like to thank you for the support you have provided to our staff and students since the beginning of the term. The maturity exhibited by our students is well noted, and it is pleasing to see them doing their best to commit to a high level of engagement and learning.

Recap of Primary Events

Last week, we had an array of activities in the primary school that reflected the high-quality teaching and learning that takes place in the classroom. Our students were eager to showcase their skills in a variety of academic activities. These events included:

Grade 4 Science, Technology, and Engineering Fair: This was an amazing affair in which students had the opportunity to showcase their Mars Rover project. It was pleasing to see so many parents attending and celebrating with our Grade 4 students' knowledge and skills. Truly, the designs were original, and the presentations were fitting for such talent.

G2 "Seeds of Change" Workshop: The event, which occurred last Thursday, provided an excellent opportunity for our children to showcase their artistic talents and engage in meaningful learning outside the classroom. As a follow-up, G2 students will be selling the "Eco-Friendly Cards" created at the workshop to support the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature in Jordan (RSCN).

Hour of Coding: We were fortunate to witness yesterday's event, which involved all Grade 1 and G2 students. The parents who joined us were very impressed with the proficiency of our young programmers as they navigated the various levels to earn their coding certificates.

KG2 "World Children's Day" Assembly: We were truly captivated by the performance, which coincided with "World Children's Day." The songs, costumes, and speeches were remarkable, especially as they were delivered in Arabic. What made the event particularly special was its association with the plight of children in Palestine, Gaza.

Winter Campaign

Our annual campaign this year is dedicated to supporting AS-Sukhnah Camp in Zarqa. I am truly grateful for your support and the generous donations received so far. However, we still need more items such as blankets, jackets, and cash contributions to reach our target. Any donations, whether big or small, would be greatly appreciated. If you wish to provide larger quantities of items, they will be warmly welcomed; nothing will go to waste! The campaign will continue until the 14th of December. Please send any items to the canteen and submit cash donations to the Finance Department.

Bake Sale & Non-Uniform Day

The Bake Sale and Non-Uniform Day last week was a meaningful event, and it was heartening to see our students participate with such enthusiasm. I extend my gratitude to all members of our school community for their generous contributions and support. The proceeds will be donated to the "Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization," which coordinates various initiatives to aid the people of Palestine and Gaza.

Furthermore, our CAS team and student council are still selling solidarity bracelets for 2 JD, with all proceeds going toward supporting community aid efforts.

School Policy on Gifts

We understand and appreciate the desire to recognise our teachers for their exceptional work. We kindly ask that gifts to teachers be thoughtful and meaningful, as they are most valued when they are heartfelt and sincere. Furthermore, involving your children in the process of creating or selecting a gift can make it even more special and personal. Please keep in mind that the value of any gift should not exceed 30 JDs. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Walid AL Bay

Principal – Primary School

Secondary School News

Dear Parents

School maintains a busy feel as we move into December with much going on.

We don't have space to highlight everything, although we would like to congratulate those who completed their **Toastmasters Public Speaking Workshops** this weekend. Our school kitchen is also quite busy with three separate **cooking clubs**, all taking place during the week. We have to say that the results so far have been very tasty! Finally, congratulations to all those students recognized for their excellent approach to work in the month of November. **Our Student of the Month** presentation can be found here: [Student of the Month: November](#)

Last week:

Social Media Parent Meetings/Support

We hope you received the IAA Social Media Family Plan. It can also be accessed here: [IAA Social Media Family Plan](#). We hope this has proven useful in starting conversations about appropriate use in your families. As we continue to discuss how best to support the community in navigating the benefits and drawbacks of social media, a second meeting with parents took place on Thursday 30th. It was a very fruitful conversation with many action points coming out from it. One of them is that we would like to run some sessions where parents who are very adept/familiar with the software tools that can be used to control and monitor social media use of our children, introduce and train other parents on them. If you are someone who would like to volunteer for this, please email your interests to r.hariri@iaa.edu.jo. We will collate names and set up these workshops.

Fall Music Concert

The Fall Concert last Wednesday was a spectacular showcase of the immense musical talents of our Secondary students. The diversity of talent on display was exceptional, and it was lovely to see our Choir make its debut. The audience was enthralled from start to end, a testament to our students' outstanding musical skills. It was inspiring and heartening to witness the unwavering support for Palestine as our students passionately expressed their solidarity through soul-stirring songs. This Concert not only celebrated our students' musical expertise, but served as a platform for our community to use the universal language of music to express profound sentiments as we stand united for Palestine. You can watch a recording of this concert by accessing this link: [Fall Music Concert Video](#)

Visit of the Mexican Ambassador

Our Spanish students from Grades 8 to 10 enjoyed a visit from the Mexican Ambassador on Wednesday. The conversations were wide ranging and our students clearly enjoyed the challenge of communicating in their third language. The Ambassador commented on how impressed he was with the linguistic skills of our students and had clearly enjoyed the experience of promoting his language to the students at IAA.

Visit of G9 and 10 DD students to HTU

Our Digital Design students visited the Hussein Technical University on Thursday 30th. They thoroughly enjoyed experiencing some of their more advanced VR equipment and seeing how the skills they are learning now, are being built on in higher education to develop a workforce that can adapt to the future demands of employment.

Civvies Day and Bake Sale

Our Thursday Civvies Day and Bake Sale raised money for Tkiyet Um Ali which will be used for their Gaza Appeal. As the situation continues to worsen, we must continue to support those so badly impacted by the violence. Over the coming weeks, we will continue to make this an important aspect of school life as we look to build on our response. The generosity from Secondary on Thursday was great and **we raised 1,978 JD on the day.**

Hawks Success

Our Sports Teams have been busy again. There are many friendly games taking place and over the weekend our U14 Girls Football, U16 Boys Football and U18 Girls Volleyball were in action. Both football teams ran out winners in their tournaments and the girls volleyball placed third in their tournament. So, an extremely successful weekend of sport to cap an extremely successful first semester of AAC tournaments. Congratulations to all who took part in all sports, friendly and competitive, so far this year and we look forward to continuing our winning run in Semester 2!

Grade 12 Updates

In addition to a wonderful few days away in Wadi Rum last weekend, to give the students the opportunity to relax and let off some steam, they are very busy with their university applications. Thursday last week was the deadline for the California Universities. This week, we have two students interviewing for Oxford. The very best of luck to them. Many students who applied early to the UK and USA are receiving very positive offers with the rest due later in December. As usual, we expect the vast majority of university applications to be made by the December break, so it really is exciting times for the cohort.

The weeks ahead

Grade 10 PP and Transition

Grade 10 have a very busy couple of weeks as they prepare for their Personal Project Exhibition on the 12th December. We are really looking forward to seeing our students showcasing their ideas and products that have been nearly a year in development. In addition, our Grade 10 students are going to start their transition journey to the DP and Grade 11. This will start on Tuesday 5th December in the Theatre with a DP information session for parents and students, starting at 8.30. At that session we will also explain how the school will then continue to support students as they make those important decisions about the course choices and pathways available in Grades 11 and 12.

Winter Campaign

Thank you to all parents who have responded to the IAA Winter Campaign. The deadline for the Campaign is the 14th December and a reminder that blankets and jackets can be sent directly to the cafeteria, whilst cash donations can be made through the Finance office. Hopefully our collective generosity will bring much needed warmth and comfort to those at the As-Sukhnah Camp in Zarqa.

Yours sincerely

Mr Martin and Ms Zena

Sports News

The IAA Hawks emerged as champions in the AAC U16 Boys' Football 2023 and U14 Girls' Football. Additionally, our Volleyball team secured third place. This week marked the conclusion of all AAC events for the 1st semester. With this conclusion, the Hawks clinched first place in the under 16 male football category, showcasing a remarkable performance characterized by courage, enthusiasm, and adept control of play tempo in both offensive and defensive plays.

We extend congratulations to the girls' team for their triumph in the U-14 championship. Their performance stood out due to exceptional teamwork and a high level of technical prowess, offering a promising outlook for our school teams in the long run.

Let's not overlook our volleyball team's achievement in securing third place in the U-18 championship. It's noteworthy that this is the same team that secured first place in the U-16 and U-14 AAC championships in preceding weeks.

Congratulations to everyone on these remarkable achievements! Let's strive to continue this momentum in the upcoming championships.

For further details, please click on the link below

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GRxrq1XTm7n5IKb2ANoyZPDk0mydKewK/view?usp=sharing>

Library News

Dear parents,

The KG library started an Arabic book reading challenge with our youngest readers a few weeks ago. Their theme was 'Color your Life with Reading' or 'لون حياتك في القراءة' and the students had to read different colors of Arabic books. We were so happy to see the efforts our youngest students put in and they received certificates for their accomplishments.

The Primary Library is thrilled to be hosting one of our own IAA Alumni, Aya Ghanameh, on Wednesday, December the 6th and Thursday, December the 7th, who has written and illustrated her debut picture book, 'These Olive Trees'. It is a beautiful story about her

grandmother's memories of Palestine and her ties to the land and to the olive trees. Aya currently lives and works in New York. She will read her book, share her literary journey, and engage in discussions with our students. I'm sure she will inspire many of our students!

Our annual overseas book orders have arrived in the Primary and Secondary libraries and our shelves are brimming with the latest and popular reads. Our latest Arabic books are also available in all libraries and we are continuously adding new books and editions to the Arabic collections.

Stay tuned for upcoming events in the libraries such as 'Family Reading Night' in a few weeks and our popular annual Book Week in February.

Warm Regards,

Dima Shaka'a
Head of Libraries & Primary Librarian

College Counselling News

During the month of December, the work we do with G12 intensifies as we aim to finalize all university applications by the Christmas break. Please remember that the majority of application deadlines fall during the first week of January when our school will be off. It is crucial therefore that all required work is checked and approved by the Counselling Office before we go on vacation. This year our graduating class is 74 students with the majority applying to UK, Europe and Canada. As such, we have had a number of application sessions this week focusing on the Netherlands, Switzerland, Ireland and Spain. We encourage students to now finish off the applications we started, write up their essays and send through the completed work for our review. Last week we had a very busy weeks meeting with G12 parents. It was a time to discuss students' progress, university options and CVs. We have also had the pleasure of hosting Syracuse University on our campus where students from G11 and G12 attended to listen to what institution had to offer from scholarships to programs.

The coming weeks the Counselling Office will be conducting information sessions targeting G10 students and parents. The goal is to familiarize our G10s with the college application process early on to help them make informed choices when selecting their Diploma subjects as well as their respective career paths. We will also be holding a session to introduce the Unifrog platform which will be an essential tool for college counselling. Interviews for selecting Diploma subjects are scheduled to take place in January. Please keep an eye out on the dates for when these sessions will be – everyone is highly encouraged to attend.



Best regards
Aya Abdel Hadi