



الأكاديمية الدولية - عمان
THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY - AMMAN

Parent News

Monday, 27th August

2018

Calendar

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| Tuesday | 28/8 | -Director's Open Meeting with parents, Director's Office, 8-9 am |
| Thursday | 30/8 | -MYP Information session (Grade 6-10), MPR, 8-9 am -Information session for G12 parents, Auditorium, 8-9 am -Welcome Back Reception, Moon Garden, 7 pm |
| Sunday | 2/9 | -Parent Information Afternoon (KG1) -Criterion-based Assessment session (Grade 6-10) Auditorium, 8-9 am |
| Monday | 3/9 | -Parent Information Afternoon (KG2) -Open meeting with Primary Principal, Mr. Andrew Powell, Primary Principal's Office, 8-9 am |
| Tuesday | 4/9 | -Director's Open Meeting with parents, Director's Office, 8-9 am |
| Wednesday | 5/9 | -Parent Information Afternoon (Grade 1) |
| Thursday | 6/9 | -Parent Information Afternoon (Grade 2) -Information session for G11 parents, MPR, 8-9am |
| Sunday | 9/9 | -Parent Information Afternoon (Grade 3) -MYP Languages Information session (Grade 6-10), Auditorium, 8-9 am |
| Monday | 10/9 | -MYP Sciences & Design Information session (Grade 6-10), Auditorium, 8-9 am -Parent Information Afternoon (Grade 4) -Open meeting with Primary Principal, Mr. Andrew Powell, Primary Principal's Office, 8-9 am |

A Message from the Director

Dear IAA Community,

Welcome back to another great year at IAA. I hope you enjoyed a summer vacation filled with fun and exciting memories with your loved ones. It was great feeling the energy in the classrooms yesterday and the enthusiasm for learning.

As every year, I want to personally invite you to attend our **Welcome Back Reception & Recognition Ceremony** on Thursday, August 30 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.

Speaking of recognition, I would also like to congratulate last year's Grade 10 students for their MYP performance. This year, they scored above the IB world average in most subjects and the average MYP total was significantly higher than last year. And this comes as no surprise!

We have a busy year ahead full of trips, events and after school activities. 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 28 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 2018/19 IAA year and have a wonderful week.

Regards,

Hana Kanan, Ed.D.
Director

Primary School News

Dear Parents,

It was wonderful to be able to greet many of our new and returning students at school today. There was lots of positive energy and our students were clearly happy to reconnect with classmates and teachers. I'm excited about the year ahead.

With the addition and retention of quality faculty this year, we are well positioned to strengthen our academic and social-emotional programmes at the school. A big focus for the year will be on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths). We will be piloting a 45-minute timetable, which enables us to ensure that as in previous years we have comparable amounts of time devoted to key subjects such as Maths, Arabic and Literacy while also enabling us to offer the dedicated teaching of Art from Grades 1-5, and a Science specialist to work closely with our Grade 3-5 students in the Science Lab on a weekly basis. We have also added an engineering component to at least one IPC unit at each grade level.

Last year, we piloted *Second Step*, a wellness curriculum in the Early Years and I am pleased that this will be adopted throughout the school. Led by our counsellors and facilitated by our teachers, this programme is designed to promote school success, empathy and a sense of personal wellbeing.

We are also dedicated to the development of our Early Years programmes and Ms Anna Burgess joins us in a full-time capacity as our Early Years Leader. I'm excited about this appointment as Anna has an incredible amount of enthusiasm and passion for the role and will be a great support in utilising her extensive experience to mentor our teachers while also consolidating various curriculum initiatives.

As in previous years, we have Parent Information sessions scheduled for each grade level. They will be held in the MPR at 3pm on the following dates:

- *Sunday, September 2nd* *KG1 Parent Information Afternoon*
- *Monday, September 3rd* *KG2 Parent Information Afternoon*
- *Wednesday, September 5th* *G1 Parent Information Afternoon*
- *Thursday, September 6th* *G2 Parent Information Afternoon*
- *Sunday, September 9th* *G3 Parent Information Afternoon*
- *Monday, September 10th* *G4 Parent Information Afternoon*
- *Tuesday, September 11th* *G5 Parent Information Afternoon*

As in previous years, the Leadership Team in the Primary is open to meeting with you when you feel that after trying to resolve a matter at the classroom/ counsellor level, further support is warranted. Mr Walid, Ms Rene', Ms Alia, Ms Anna and I are available on a Monday morning from 8:00 – 9:00am for drop-in visits.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Powell
Primary Principal

Secondary School News

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to another school year at IAA.

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. 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.

Now that we have moved to a fortnightly newsletter, there is quite a bit in this first one!

MYP and DP Results

Congratulations to our current Grade 11 students for completing the MYP. We are confident that their learning experiences, culminating in the e-Assessments, have prepared them well for the rigorous demands of the Diploma Programme. We are particularly pleased with our overall pass rate given that we include every student in the grade for the full MYP Certificate. We are also very pleased with those students who took a voluntary third language and came away with 11 subjects to their name at the end of Grade 11, a fantastic achievement!

Congratulations also to our DP class of 2018. They did really well in the final exams and we had 20% of our students gain 40 or more points. Overall, the results were very strong and our cohort is now departing these shores for some very fine institutions indeed. At the Welcome Back event on Thursday 30th August in the Moon Garden, we will be celebrating the success of the class of 2018. I hope you will be able to join us for what is always a lovely evening.

Important information letters that have already gone home

We have sent three letters recently. All of them containing very important information. Please check your emails to make sure these have arrived and look over them carefully:

1. One about stationary and other materials that must be brought to school every day so that learning can take place as effectively as possible
2. One for the school try-outs so that budding sports men and women can take a place in our very successful Hawks teams
3. Another covering absence and medical protocols.

Lockers

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.

Access to school e-platforms

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.

Parent-Student handbook

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.

Elections for Student Representative Council

We are also looking forward to the elections for the Student Representative Council. We start next week with the Head Boy and Head Girl. As well as their elections next week, we are taking in nominations for the Class Reps in each grade. We hope that a good number of students will come forward to stand for election as it is important that student voice is heard in the school.

Homework protocols

Homework helps our students consolidate their learning, maximise 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.

Information sessions for MYP and DP

Lastly, our Information sessions for parents will start this week. All of them can be viewed on the school website. We have put those until the end of September in a table below. We will also be holding our annual Meet and Greet on the 4th September which offers you an informal opportunity to meet the teachers of your child(ren) for this academic year. We hope to see you there.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Martin and Ms Zena

Sessions will run from 8am to 9am in the Auditorium or Multi-Purpose Room (MPR).
We look forward to seeing you there!

Information Sessions for Parents

| Topic | Date | Time | Venue |
|--|----------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Grade 12 DP Information Session | August 30 th | 8 – 9am | Auditorium |
| Overview of MYP (G6-10) | August 30 th | 8 – 9am | MPR |
| MYP Criterion-based Assessment (G6-10) | September 2 nd | 8 – 9am | Auditorium |
| Meet and Greet (G6-12) | September 4 th | 2:30 – 4pm | Auditorium |
| Grade 11 DP Information Session | September 6 th | 8 – 9am | Auditorium |
| Languages in the MYP (G6-10) | September 9 th | 8 – 9am | Auditorium |
| MYP – Sciences and Design (G6-10) | September 10 th | 8 – 9am | Auditorium |

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| MYP – Mathematics and the Arts (G6-10) | September 17 th | 8 – 9am | Auditorium |
| MYP – Individuals and Societies and the Physical and Health Education (G6-10) | September 18 th | 8 – 9am | Auditorium |
| MYP –E-assessments (for G10 Parents) | September 23 rd | 8 – 9am | Auditorium |
| MYP – Service As Action and Interdisciplinary Units (G6-10) | September 27 th | 8 – 9am | Auditorium |

Library News

Dear Parents,

Welcome back from the IAA Libraries. The KG and Primary Library have already begun with new classes for this year and students will be able to check out books beginning next week!

I've heard excellent reports from parents about Summer Reading. One super-duper reader finished 28 books, while another went to the beach specifically to read there. Students were reading in trees, in the kitchen, aloud to a family member—all of this to avoid the summer reading slide. Way to go! The deadline to turn your summer reading bingo in is Sunday, 9 September. Please drop them off at any of the IAA Libraries directly.

We would like to welcome our new KG Librarian, Ms. Suha Hadidi. Ms. Suha comes to IAA with a background in English Literature and Education, having taught as a classroom teacher as well as previous experience as an Events Planner. We are sure she will use these invaluable skills to make our youngest readers from PreK to G1 feel at home and safe in the Library. In addition, Ms. Ethar Al Rababah will join Ms. Dima as the Primary Library Assistant. Ms. Ethar has a love for children's literature and students. I am sure the IAA community will do all they can to make our newest librarians welcome.

The Library Hours are from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm during school days. Parents are welcome to visit before and after school to use our collection. The KG and Primary libraries will see students on a fixed schedule during the week, while the Secondary library will continue to integrate as necessary to support the MYP and DP programmes. Ms. Rawan is beginning Digital Citizenship lessons with students in Grade 5 this week, in order to get them started in the right digital direction.

For first-time parents and parents of younger students, please take note of the tips below for discussing the library with your child:

- *Your child will be borrowing books from the school library very soon. This is an exciting moment for a young child. Being allowed to choose a book, bring it home, and have the personal responsibility of properly caring for the book is a very "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.*
- *Mark on your calendar (possibly taped on the refrigerator, at eye-level for your child) your child's assigned library day and make sure to return books to the library on that day.*

- *Please see that your child carries his/her library books to school in a book bag or backpack. Carrying books in some sort of bag is easier for a small child and will help keep the books protected.*
- *For a young child, learning to read 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.*

For the Libraries,
Ms. Kathleen