



الأكاديمية الدولية - عمان
THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY - AMMAN

Parent News

Tuesday, 22nd February 2022

Calendar

FEBRUARY - MARCH 22

22 TUE	Parent Teacher Conferences
2 WED 3 THU	Mid Term Break

A Message from The Director

Dear IAA Community,

I cannot believe how fast this month has passed! It warms my heart to see the school so alive again now that all of our students are back on campus. Following the recent MOE directives, we remain hopeful that soon enough, all school events will also be back on schedule and that our students will get to be a part of all kinds of academic, athletic, and artistic activities. Undoubtedly, events provide an opportunity to bring students together and build a solid school spirit that creates a sense of belonging, which can immediately have a positive effect both on the students' mental health and our school culture.

As you are aware, we've had an unbelievably busy week! The report cards for the first semester were sent out last week and preparations are now finalized for the "Parent-Teacher Conferences" taking place today. In addition, the ISA tests were successfully conducted in Primary and Secondary; these diagnostic tests will allow us to track academic progress in our students, and also offer valuable benchmarking against similar schools on an international level. I fully trust that our future leaders will excel and deliver brilliant results as they have done in the past.

Per our profound commitment and dedication to providing a high-quality education in an international context, I am thrilled to inform you that IAA is seeking Re-Accreditation by the world's top accrediting organizations: the Council of International Schools (CIS), the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) and the New England Association of Schools and Collages (NEASC). Following endless and fruitful collaborations with our stakeholders, we have been preparing rigorously for the virtual accreditation visit expected by the end of March. The Re-Accreditation Status shall assure both the school's constituency and the community at large that IAA is still capable of meeting the CIS, IBO and NEASC stringent requirements, achieving high standards of professional performance, and delivering what is promised in our mission statement and philosophy. I would like to personally thank everyone that took part in said preparations; your continuous support, dedication, diligence, loyalty and efforts are the main reason IAA stands high and tall amongst other schools in the region.

Wishing you all a great mid-term break ahead!

Kind regards,

Hana Kana, Ed. D.

Primary School News

Dear Parents,

I hope this article finds you and your family healthy safe, and well. In lure of the new government relaxing protocols, I trust that will be able to make the most of face-to-face teaching and learning at school. Having said that, it is still important to continue to follow the health and safety measures such as wearing masks and keeping your children at home if they are sick, to limit surges in cases. Hopefully, all of this will soon be a distant memory and that life as we know will resume.

Please remember that we have our second round of Parent-Teacher Conferences scheduled for tomorrow, Tuesday, February 22nd and these will go ahead as planned via Zoom. The links are already up and running and many parents have booked appointments to meet homeroom teachers and specialists. I strongly recommend that our older students be part of this conversation. If you were not able to attend a meeting with any teacher, please contact them or the primary recipient to schedule an appointment.

Despite the challenges of COVID and the impact it had on education, we are still attracting considerable interest from new families in enrolling their children at IAA. Since returning from winter break and especially in the past few weeks, many of our teachers were engaged in “virtual admissions interviews” with prospective students for places in our Early Years programmes as well as students enrolling in Grade 1 through to Grade 5.

I would like to remind our school community that we will be having our monthly non-uniform day this Thursday, February 24th. Students at IAA will be supporting the Orphan Care Charitable Society “جمعية رعاية اليتيم الخيرية”. We thank you in advance for your ongoing support and wish you all safe, healthy, and productive weeks ahead.

Walid AL Bay

Acting Primary Principal

Secondary School News

Dear Parents

Now that we have the Semester 1 Reports distributed, we are looking forward to our second round of Parent Conferences on Tuesday, 22nd February. We do believe that having your child attend the zoom call is very helpful as the conversations that take place will be more authentic with contributions from teachers and students.

Last week, some of our G10 Arabic A students were involved in a zoom discussion with students from other schools in Jordan, centered on the pandemic. It was mediated by Dr. Bassam Hijawi, a member of the National Epidemiological Committee. They shared their experiences on how best to adapt to living and learning in pandemic times. This week, a similar opportunity comes knocking on our students' "zoom" doors, but the focus will be on the Arabic language. This topic was chosen to recognize UNESCO's International Mother Language Day, taking place on February 21st. The purpose of this day is to promote linguistic and cultural diversity. Our students will be conversing with students from other Arab countries. Arabic teachers will mediate this discussion. Topics covered will be on the history of the Arabic language, its instruction and why there has been a perceived disinterest in learning this language. We look forward to our students sharing their experiences with us.

Congratulations to Grade 10 who have completed their Personal Project reports and have handed them in. Grade 9 are about to start their Personal Project journey and Grade 8 are now working towards their Community Project. In the last weeks Grade 11 have been pitching their ideas for their Extended Essays. All of these are excellent examples of how the curriculum at IAA fosters student agency and project management skills. We wish all grades good luck in their continued endeavours.

The change in covid protocols for schools has been welcomed and we look forward to experiencing less disruption to learning over the coming months. However, a cautionary approach is still encouraged and should your child be exhibiting symptoms please do organize for a test. For the benefit of all in the community we still urge a prudent approach to social mixing to reduce the risk of contracting covid.

Finally, two reminders for the coming week.

1. Thursday 24th is a civvies day and students are encouraged to come to school in non-uniform and pay the usual 2JD donation for a charitable cause.
2. Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd March are well deserved holidays.

Yours sincerely

Mr Martin and Ms Zena

Library News

The primary library is having a 'Reader of the Month' challenge each month by encouraging all students to read as many books as they can throughout this month and the coming months as well. Students will fill out a short book review for each book they read and a winner will be announced from each grade at the end of every month. Students are encouraged to read all types of books - fiction, nonfiction, Arabic books and graphic novels.

The secondary library has started a great initiative to reflect student ownership of their learning and allow for students to contribute to their learning process by displaying their work both physically and digitally in the library. The goal is to develop a collection of poems, stories, artwork, videos and posters and any work that showcases our students as creators and provides an archive that the community can continue to learn from in the future.

Being able to provide our students with the latest books and resources is a privilege and responsibility. Through them, we expand our student's knowledge, feed their curiosity and allow them to explore the world and become lifelong learners. As I look at our recent book orders, I see so many great books that I'd like to share with you, but can only highlight a few. Before placing our orders every year, the librarians survey teachers, read reviews from trusted sources, and identify new curriculum support needs. We also ask our most important customers - the students - what they would like to see in the library.

Our House Is on Fire: Greta Thunberg's Call to Save the Planet -written and illustrated by Jeanette Winter

A book that connects kids to global issues, specifically climate change and empowers them to do something about it.

There's a Superhero in your Book written by Tom Fletcher and Illustrated by Greg Abbott

A great picture book about a superhero who must stop the Scribbler from writing in the book. Children use their imaginations to help the superhero throughout the book.

Tek: The Modern Caveboy by Patrick McDonnell

Tek is a cave boy that is obsessed with his electronics and never plays with his friends until his devices shut down and then gets to reconnect with the real world.

The Undefeated by Alexander Kwame and Illustrated by Kadir Nelson

Originally a poem that aims to inspire black communities while also a tribute to the struggles and triumphs of black Americans past and present.

All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team by Christina Soontornvat

Winner of numerous prestigious awards, this book recounts the amazing cave rescue of 12 young soccer players who got stuck for over two weeks in a cave. A thrilling page turner!

Balcony on the Moon: Coming of Age in Palestine by Ibtesam Barakat

A sequel to 'Tasting the Sky,' this book continues the journey of Barakat's life from 1972-1981. Despite the political issues in Palestine, Barakat dreamed of becoming a writer and this memoir shows us that dreams can come true through perseverance and hope.

Many requested more graphic novels, including the inspiring series **Ms. Marvel** by G. Willow Wilson about Kamala Khan, a Muslim teenager who uses her superpowers to fight evil while learning how to balance family, school, and faith. The secondary library also worked with teachers to add stunning graphic novel versions of classics like Homer's The Iliad and Orwell's 1984, to ensure all our readers can access these great works. [Research shows](#) that reading graphic novels not only supports the development of text-based literacy skills, but it also strengthens student's higher-level graphic literacy skills, an important tool for critically evaluating the information they consume online. All our books are available through <https://library.iaa.edu.jo/>

Have a wonderful rest of the week,
IAA Libraries Team

Sports News

Omar Nashashibi, 8B, participated in the Jiu Jitsu National Team Selection tournament for the under 42KG weight category.

Omar performed exceedingly well and managed to get the Gold Medal in his weight category. We would like to congratulate Omar from the outstanding achievement in becoming part of our Jordanian Jiu Jitsu National Team.