



الأكاديمية الدولية - عمان
THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY - AMMAN

Parent News Monday, 26th February 2024

Calendar

FEBRUARY - MARCH 24

**27 WED -
28 THU**

Mid Term Break
Wednesday, 28 February 2024 to Thursday, 29 February 2024

10 SUN

First Day of Ramadan

A Message from The Director

Dear IAA Community,

As we anticipate the sacred month of Ramadan, a time of reflection, compassion, and giving, I extend warm greetings to each of you. Our annual Ramadan Campaign is on the horizon, and I am truly grateful for the spirit of generosity that defines our community. Whether you contribute in the form of monetary donations or food packages, know that your offerings will be valued and deeply appreciated by those in need. The deadline for donations is March 15th, and I encourage each of you to participate in this noble endeavor.

In alignment with our commitment to compassion, we will continue our annual tradition of hosting an Iftar for orphans and disadvantaged children. Additionally, the much-anticipated IAA Prayer Night will once again bring us together in reflection and unity. Stay tuned for further details on these meaningful events that serve as a testament to our shared values.

On another note, I am thrilled to commend the remarkable efforts and stellar performance of our students during the annual drama production, "Beauty and the Beast." Their dedication and creativity illuminated the stage, showcasing the exceptional talent that thrives within our school.

Moreover, a resounding congratulations is in order for our volleyball girls' team, who emerged victorious in the Sportology championship during their recent participation in Doha, Qatar! This triumph is a testament to their hard work, skill, and sportsmanship. This academic year, our international trips have been diverse, offering our students a plethora of educational and personal opportunities. I am proud of the enriching experiences they have gained, fostering growth and global awareness.

As we approach the upcoming mid-term break, I extend my best wishes to each member of our IAA family. Though it may be a brief respite, it is a valuable time for recharging and returning with renewed vigor. May this break be a source of rest and rejuvenation, ensuring we come back to school next week with fresh enthusiasm and energy.

Thank you for your continued commitment to excellence and community at IAA.

Warm regards,

Hana Kanan, Ed. D.
Director

Primary School News

Welcome to this edition of our newsletter! I hope this article finds you warm, well, and happy. As we approach the mid-term holiday, I feel it is necessary to share with you the package of events coming your way soon from various primary grade levels. Indeed, March is going to be buzzing with excitement!

Our STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) approach is proving to be a powerful and engaging way to foster creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration among our students. The two events below are prime examples of how integrating 'STEAM' into our curriculum can inspire a lifelong love for learning, spark curiosity, and instill important 21st-century skills.

For starters, we will have the **Grade 3 Science Fair** scheduled for **Tuesday, February 27th**. The fair will be split into two timings: 8:45 am for G3D & G3A and 1:15 pm for G3B & G3C. This is a highly anticipated event that showcases the creativity and scientific prowess of our Grade 3 students, who will proudly present their projects to parents, teachers, and peers.

The second STEAM event is the **Grade 1 Crazy City Exhibition** on **Monday, March 4th**. The event's venue is the Multi-Purpose Room (MPR), next to the theatre. It will be taking place at the following times:

- 10:15 am for G1C
- 11:00 am for G1B
- 11:45 am for G1A

Through these projects, our Grade 1 students have been exploring concepts of urban planning, architecture, engineering, and learning the value of thinking outside the box and pushing the boundaries of creativity. Be ready to be wowed!

Another exciting event coming soon is the **Senior Walk** (Grade 12 graduates) which will be taking place on **March 5th**. It will be great to see our students' smiling faces as they watch the Seniors parading along the corridors of the primary building. Surely, you agree with me that this is a wonderful opportunity for our young learners in Early Years and Primary to look ahead to the end result of their schooling years.

Other important events are coming our way from the Religion Department. The annual **Bible competition** is scheduled for Sunday, **March 3rd** at 8:30 am. In addition, the Holy **Quran Competition** is taking place on Tuesday, **March 5th** at 8:30 am. The venue for the two events is the theatre. I am certain that our students will impress the audience with their reciting efforts and skills.

Last but not least, the primary **Choir Assembly** is commencing on Thursday, **March 7th** at 10.15am. in the theatre. Students will showcase an array of singing performances and will include an Art exhibition at the entrance of the theatre. Our sincere gratitude goes to our dedicated music and art teachers, who work tirelessly with the students to help them develop and highlight their collaborative talent and spirit.

School Trips

It is now open season for school excursions. We all agree that these off-campus adventures provide students with unique opportunities to expand their knowledge beyond the confines of the classroom and have always been a cherished part of the educational experience. These outings also foster curiosity, critical thinking, and teamwork while creating lasting memories. We ask for your cooperation by returning consent forms for any trip as soon as possible to ensure smooth and seamless proceedings.

Charity Effort

I would like to draw your attention to the letter that was sent out today regarding the annual Ramadan Campaign. We are aiming to support families in 'Al Ghour Al Shamali' area. Monetary donations will be accepted at the school's Finance Department. Alternatively, specific food items can be brought to school but,

please check the letter for specifications. As ever, I am very proud of the way in which our school community rallies together to aid people in need around Jordan and beyond.

Secondary School News

Dear Parents

Congratulations Grade 9!

The Grade 9 students came out in full force last Thursday and put on a successful Bake Sale. Their enthusiasm and collective efforts resulted in raising over 750JD for UNRWA, dedicated to supporting the people of Gaza. A heartfelt thank you extends to all the parents who supported their children with this valuable initiative.

Continuing our support for Gaza

We anticipate another sweet and savoury Bake Sale on March 7th, organized by our Grade 10 students. Once again, we will continue to raise money to support the people in Gaza. On that note, proceeds from Beauty and the Beast (see below for more on that) are being donated to JHCO and are a very significant.

Beauty and the Beast

Everyone who attended Beauty and the Beast left the theatre with expressions of wonder and awe. The stage came alive with a show-stopping production, starring students across all secondary, that touched our hearts. The state-of-the-art lighting and sound, the authentic set design, creative costumes and captivating music transported us to an enchanting castle, weaving for us a timeless tale about the enduring power of love. Our actors shone as they delivered witty lines with impeccable precision, executed choreographed dance routines with enthusiasm, whilst singing songs that took us back in time. There is no question that taking part in such a production promotes collaboration, stimulates the imagination, allowing actors and audience a chance to experience something truly special. Now that is transformative power of theatre. Heartfelt congratulations to the exceptional cast and crew for taking us on a tale as old as time. We eagerly anticipate what you have in store for us come next year.

Ramadan at IAA

With the Holy Month of Ramadan approaching we will be writing to parents about the annual Ramadan Campaign where we aim to gift boxes of food to needy communities in Jordan. We also have a number of Iftar events this year (we ask students participating to give 20JD to Finance to cover all costs) and our usual community prayers. Dates as below:

- Wednesday March 13th: Grade 6 & 7 Iftar
- Wednesday March 20th: Grade 8 & 9 Iftar
- Wednesday March 27th: Community Prayer Evening
- Wednesday April 3rd: Grade 10 & 11 Iftar

We appreciate Grade 12 are in their DP Mocks during this period and they are invited to attend any of these Iftars that best suit their schedules.

Visit by the members of the Jordan National Football team

On Thursday we were privileged to have three members of the Jordan National Football team visit IAA. Excitement levels were high given the teams amazing run in the Asia Cup and the passion this generated in the

country. Both students and the team's Captain spoke about the importance of sport and the incredible unifying force it can be for communities. This could be seen in our students, whose excitement was reminiscent of scenes of 'Beatlemania' or Elvis fans!

Music Concert and Masterclass

On Thursday last week we had a specialist guitarist come to school and perform for our students in Grades 7 to 9. He then took a masterclass with students who play the instrument. The students really engaged with him and the feedback from the guitarist was that he was impressed with our students and their level of musicality. I hope this opportunity inspired many to develop their talent.

Congratulations to the Hawks

Our travelling team to Qatar had an amazing unbeaten run to their final in Qatar and came out victorious in that without dropping a game.

Grade 8 Community Project

The Community Project provides a valuable opportunity for our grade 8 students to pursue service learning. This process is scaffolded to support them as they decide on their goals and develop their action plans. Currently, our students are in the "Taking Action" part of the project, as we are seeing their service projects come to life. These projects span a wide range of initiatives that include book drives, promoting healthy living, raising awareness on environmental issues, addressing certain stigmas and supporting our people in Gaza. These projects not only showcase the thoughtful planning and creativity of our Grade 8s, but underscores the purpose of service learning – fostering a sense of civic responsibility through positive contributions to our local and global communities.

Reminder that we have a short holiday this week

Wishing everyone a relaxed four day weekend as we take a short break on Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th February.

Sincerely

Mr Martin and Ms Zena

Library News

Dear parents,

AI technologies are being increasingly integrated into our daily lives. Whether it is through our smartphones, virtual assistants, transportation, or playing a game against the computer, we cannot deny the use of this important technology. In simple terms, AI, or Artificial Intelligence, is like teaching computers to think and learn like human beings. It's a technology that lets machines perform tasks that typically require human intelligence, such as recognizing patterns, understanding language, and making decisions. In education and learning, AI can be quite effective and helpful for students in different ways. The best way I can see it being used in education is that it can become personalized to students' needs and interests that can match individual strengths and weaknesses. The accessibility of

this technology to everyone depending on their need makes this a great learning experience for students and educators alike. It gives students ideas for innovation. We, as educators, are also learning this new technology just like our students, and I believe it will get better and empower students to reach their full potential and prepare them for more success in our digital world. At the same time, it is important to recognize that with this advancement comes great responsibility and ethical use and it's crucial to discuss this with your children.

In secondary, we have had some time to get used to this new wave of Artificial Intelligence with innovations such as ChatGPT, Dall-e2, Elicit AI and the many other tools that are now at our fingertips. So, beyond the excitement of its speed, capacity, creativity, what does this mean for our students and their learning? Our students are experimenting, playing and embracing this technology. The IB has issued the following guidance:

The IB understands that there will be many reservations about allowing the use of Chat GPT and other artificial intelligence tools in IB World Schools. However, we believe that these tools can provide great opportunities to enhance the skills of IB learners. Critical thinking, for example, is a skill that will grow in importance when using artificial intelligence tools. We therefore need to work with these tools, rather than against them, and embrace what the technology is capable of. The IB strongly believes that we should find appropriate ways to include such tools in teaching and assessment, which are complementary with learning aims. (IBO, 2023)

So, you will see your students using Chat GPT, and other AI for homework, assignment work, fun and creative pursuits. Ask them about it. See what they are learning. See how they are using it and talk to them about integrity and learning.

Opportunities created by AI tools reinforce that academic integrity is an ethical choice that students must make. Students cannot learn about acting with integrity by being given a list of rules for the examination room or learning a particular format for referencing. They learn by talking about what it means to act with academic integrity and seeing it role-modeled around them (IBO, 2023).

If you are unsure or have questions, please reach out. Remember this is new for everyone, and we want our students to be prepared for such an innovation and opportunity to further their learning. Here is the link to the full IB publication [THE IB AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE \(AI\) TOOLS \(IBO, 2023\)](#) for your access.

Other links that may help.

[IAA Secondary Library AI Tools](#)

[How to cite use of AI using MLA](#)

Have a wonderful week!

Dima Shaka'a & Trisha Power
IAA Libraries

College and Career Counselling News

As the second semester rolls, we dive deeper into college counselling with our G11 and G10. This week we invited universities to come speak with our students to introduce them to new skills and professions that industries now a days are finding necessary. One such example is the lecture by IE university titled: *Creative Intelligence: An Unfair Advantage* by Dr. Yazan Hijazi. Dr Hijazi holds a PhD in Electrical Engineering with extensive experience leading multimillion-dollar projects resulting in propriety technologies for the US Air Force, Seagate Technologies, and the US Nuclear Safety Agency. The students found the lecture extremely informative with its focus on upgrading the creative mindset and skillset, while equipping people with some frames to awaken the dormant creativity and enhance work and play so one can stand out and achieve better results.

We had the pleasure of hosting Trinity College Dublin; one of the leading institutions in the world and highly ranked in the medical sector. Admission Officers sat with our students to answer their queries highlighting key factors in the application process. This week also we had St George's university come to our campus. SGU is a medical school with campuses in London and Caribbean.

Sports News

Greetings,

The accomplishments of our sports teams vividly demonstrate the depth of passion ingrained within the Hawks community. Take, for instance, our Volleyball team's stellar performance, clinching the top spot in the fiercely contested "Sportology International Schools Championship", in collaboration with the Qatar Foundation. This prestigious event drew competitive athletes from various nations, including the intense U16 Female Volleyball tournament. Our girls, embodying resilience and fervor, soared to victory with four remarkable wins, solidifying their dominance on the court.

Beyond the realm of competition, this sports trip also serves as a conduit for our girls to immerse themselves in enriching social and cultural exchanges, fostering camaraderie with fellow teams.

Meanwhile, at the AAC U12 Boys Basketball tournament hosted at the ICS courts over the weekend, the debut appearance of our U12 boys proved to be nothing short of extraordinary. Despite being their maiden outing, the Hawks showcased remarkable prowess, displaying a progressive improvement in performance throughout all their matches. This experience served as a catalyst for honing and elevating their skills to new heights.

And who could overlook the electrifying visit from esteemed members of our national football team - Ihsan Haddad, Salem Al-Ajalin, and Baraa Marei. Their presence at the "International Academy - Amman" was met with resounding enthusiasm from students, faculty, and administrators alike, under the leadership of School General Director, Dr. Hana Kanaan. The ceremony honoring these sporting icons was filled with heartfelt accolades, expressed both by Dr. Hana and Karim Saudi, a senior student, brimming with admiration and gratitude for the national team's stellar performances that have brought joy to the hearts of all Jordanians.

For access to pictures and videos showcasing our U16 Girls Volleyball achievement, please click [Here](#).

To relive the excitement of the AAC Basketball U12 boys' tournament, click [Here](#)

And for highlights of the visit from members of the Football national team to IAA, click [Here](#)