



الأكاديمية الدولية - عمان  
THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY - AMMAN

# Parent News

## Monday, 4th February

### 2019

### Calendar

Monday, February 4	-Grade 9 Trip, International -Open meeting with Primary Principal, Mr. Andrew Powell, Primary Principal's Office, 8-9 am -Book Fair (Visiting Authors), MPR, 8:30 am-3:30 pm -Visiting Authors
Tuesday, February 5	-Grade 9 Trip, International -Director's Open Meeting with parents, Director's Office, 8-9 am -Book Fair, MPR, 8:30 am-3:30 pm -Visiting Authors
Wednesday, February 6	-Grade 9 Trip, International -Book Fair, MPR, 8:30 am-3:30 pm -Visiting Authors
Thursday, February 7	-Grade 9 Trip, International -Visiting Authors
Friday, February 8	-Grade 9 Trip, International
Saturday, February 9	-Grade 9 Trip, International -Grade 11 Trip, (Off- Campus) -Primary & Secondary Parent Conferences, 9 am-3 pm
Sunday, February 10	-Grade 9 Trip, International -ISA Tests - Grade 6 to 9
Monday, February 11	-Grade 9 Trip, International -ISA Tests - Grade 6 to 9 -ISA Tests, G3-5 -Open meeting with Primary Principal, Mr. Andrew Powell, Primary Principal's Office, 8-9 am
Tuesday, February 12	-ISA Tests, G3-5 -Director's Open Meeting with parents, Director's Office, 8-9 am -Primary Library MakerSpace (Grades 2-5)
Thursday, February 14	-G1 Firdausia Assembly, Auditorium, 1:30-2 pm
Sunday, February 17	-Mid Term Break
Monday, February 18	-Mid Term Break

## *A Message from the Director*

Dear IAA Community,

Welcome to the second week of Term 2! We have two more weeks to go until the February break.

You must have all read and heard about the road safety awareness at IAA last week. We hosted the EU Commissioner for Transport Violetta Bulc and UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for Road Safety Jean Todt who shared with IAA students ways to contribute to safer roads and save lives. I was shocked to hear that the World Health Organisation estimates that 2,306 people died on Jordan's roads in 2016; meaning 2,306 lives wasted, lives of mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, husbands, wives and children! The visitors were on a tour spreading awareness on the UN initiative designated to road traffic safety that aims to cut the number of deaths from traffic accidents, which exceed one million fatalities per year, globally, and cost more than \$500 billion, according to World Health Organisation data.

Speaking of loss, I was saddened to hear of the passing of Dr James Patrick Craig last week. James was the founder of our libraries and worked at IAA for over two years back in 2010. He also chaired the CIS accreditation committee. I recall his guffaws that filled our corridors and his love for Turkish coffee. Those who knew him surely miss him. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this difficult time and may he rest in peace.

I am proud of our Grade 9 students who travelled to Japan yesterday to take part in the Rits Global Summit 2019. Our students will give a cultural exchange workshop and perform on stage during the summit. Good luck!

It is Book Week at IAA this week. Please visit our book fair with your child during pick up times. Ask yourself when was the last time you visited a library or book fair with your child. Some of us do not do it often enough. This recent article sums up the benefits of reading <https://readingagency.org.uk/about/impact/002-reading-facts-1/> and as they say: *"When you open a book, you open a new world."*

Finally, I will be available on Tuesday from 8-9am for the open meeting at my office for those who wish to see me.

Lots happening in the coming two weeks Check our events and activities through the IAA mobile application's CALENDAR. Enjoy your coming week.

**Hana Kanan Ed.D.**

**Director**

## Primary School News

Dear Parents,

I hope that you've had a lovely weekend. We've had a busy start to the week with two guest authors on campus to work with our students. Ruth Eastham is the author of a number of mysteries set in Medieval England while Matt Dickinson sets his series of books in the mountains of Nepal. In addition to talking about writing his novels, Matt also spoke about his incredible summit of Mount Everest, which was an inspiration for his writing.

Our last two assemblies have been especially good and featured some important messages. Ms Jamela's Grade 2 class showcased their talents while stressing the importance of dedication and hard work in realising achievement. Ms Iona's Grade 2 class presented a rendition of Dr Seuss' The Lorax which was incredible to watch. The importance of the environmental message "unless" in this story is crucial.

Semester 1 reports were issued last week and on Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup> teachers are available for Parent-Teacher Conferences. Please book through your child's Moodle account. The booking system will close on Thursday at 12pm so teachers have time to prepare for their conferences.

Next week we are conducting our annual International School's Assessment (ISA) diagnostic tests for students in Grades 3 to 5. They test core skills in reading, writing and mathematical literacy. As we use these tests to benchmark the quality of our programmes, it is essential that students arrive at school on Monday and Tuesday on time. Please be sure that they have slept well and have had a healthy breakfast. We look forward to continued success and affirmation of the teaching and learning that takes place at IAA.

Last week's Bake Sale raised close to 1,400 JD for the Atafaluna Organisation. This group supports children that are in need of treatment and medical care who lack the resources. We trust that our contribution will be well utilised to provide children with the chance to live a better life.

A number of parents are unfamiliar with our Gate Policy, which we strictly adhere to for all of our students' learning and the continuity of classes. Students that arrive after 7:55am are considered late and if this happens three times, they will be denied access to the school. Students that arrive to school after 8am when the gate is closed will not be allowed entry to the school regardless of the number of lates they have incurred. We do understand that on occasion there may be extenuating circumstances behind a student being late for school and ask that you contact our receptionist about this ahead of time, preferably the day before. Pre-K students are exempted from this policy, but we do appreciate them being at school as close to 8am as possible.

A letter regarding Semester 2 Clubs will be sent out this week. Please be sure to promptly return your child's preferences.

I would like to recognise the following award winners:

### **Bronze Award Winners**

Taj Al Bustanji 5A	Nadine Dajani 3D	Masa Al Maslamani 2D
Wasm Al- Lozi 5A	Bashir Abu Hejleh 3D	Talia Alawneh 2D
Israa Al Abdullah 5A	Leen Samhouri 3D	Rahmah Beiruti 2D
Talal Al- Asad 5D	Karam Hamdan 3D	Jessica Wakim 2D
Karim Kawajah 5D	Jehad Atwan 3D	Zaid Saleh 2D

Celina Al- Laham 4D	Ayla Haddadin 3D	Zeina Alshrouf 1B
Al- Anood Haddadin 4D	Muhyeddin Al Ghezawi 3D	Nabeel Sakkijha 1B
Karam Imseeh 4D	Husni Al Omari 2D	Hashem Al Qaryouti 1D
Faisal Qawasmi 3D	Sameer Kashour 2D	Salma Al Kayed 1C
Talia Shanti 5D	Shaden Bondagji 3A	Fares Khirfan 1B
Zaina Toghoth 5D	Yara Saoudi 3A	Amin Mohsen 1C
Hashem Zalloum 5D	Ayah Abdin 3B	Bassam Khoja 1C
Mohammad Dajani 5D	Salam Zuriekat 3C	Faisal Al Saheb 1C
Randa Al- Fayez 5D	Jaffar Zalatimo 3C	Giorgio Fontana 1C
Abdel Kareem Abu- Khajil 5D	Haya Sunnaa 3C	Hashem Al Amadi 1C
Rakan Qawasmi 4B	Abeer Dajani 3C	Joy Haddadin 1C
Talia Kanaan 4B	Leen Dahleh 3C	Laith Odeh 1C
Hamza Abu Salha 4C	Omar Toukan 3C	Mansour Kloub 1C
Salma Bkirat 4C	Anas Mar'ee 2B	Naya Imseeh 1C
Salma Kasih 4C	Yasmin Sukhtain 2B	Saifeddin Nassereddin 1C
Jyda Kamal 4C	Tia Ghaith 2B	Salah Al- Din Al- Bkeirat 1C
George Akkawi 3A	Sarah Al Bay 2C	Salma Fraij 1C
Imad Al- Baghal 3A	Zaid Al Akash 1A	Zaid Al Ghazawi 1C
Aisha Al Naser 3A	Yousef Allaham 1B	Tatiana Faydi 1C
Hannah Fathalah 3A	Haya Al Shdeafat 1B	Tarek Al Adnani 1C
Rakan Imseeh 3A	Jad Al Qasem 1B	

#### Silver Award Winners

Massa Madi 5D	Yousef Mustafa 2B	Mariam Al- Hawamdeh 2B
Natalie Hammoudeh 5C	George Al- Nims 2B	Norah Ghnaimat 2B
Yousef Abdo 5C	Haya Al- Ghezawi 2B	Sema Farhan 2B
Aws Al Salahat 5C	Haya Al- Majali 2B	Rashed Friej 1A
Gabriella Gourgourinis 4C	Ibrahim Al- Oudat 2B	Leila Abu- Lughod 1C
Kenzi Kalbouneh 4C	Juana Zeidan 2B	Yasmeen Wahdan 1C
Salma Ellauzi 4C	Jude Haddadin 2B	Talal Bilbeisi 1C
Jazmine Aljamal 3C	Jude Al- Hussein 5A	Sadine Al Bustami 2D
Sadeen Al- Daoud 5A	Jordan Donnelly 5A	Dawod Abu Sawwa 2A
Joud Zeidan 5A	Celine Ghazal 4D	Hamzah Mansour 2A
Marwan Al Kayed 5A	Haya Halawa 4D	Taraf Al Qudsi 2D
Zena Amarneh 5A	Zaina Hassuneh 4D	Yasmeen Khoury 2D
Bana Khoury 5A	Nadia Issa 4D	Hasan Al Sarraf 2D
Tayma Abu Al- Issam 5A	Abdallah Fraij 3D	

#### Gold Award Winners

Nadine Baqain 5C	Hiam Kharouba 2A	Faris Al Karaki 2B
Maia Gourgourinis 2A	Miryam Kanber Agha 2D	

**Gold with Merit Award Winner**  
**Zaid Jaber 2B**

I hope that you have a wonderful week.

**Yours sincerely,**

**Andrew Powell**

### **Secondary School News**

Dear Parents

#### **Reports and Parent Conferences**

Semester 1 Reports were sent out on Thursday. We encourage our students and parents to take this opportunity to reflect on how the school year is going. The report card provides important indicators of progress in both academic achievement and the “Approaches To Learning” skills. Please note that the grades for both Coding and the Interdisciplinary Unit have been included in the GPA.

This week we are trialling having the Parent Conferences on the weekend and Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February between 9.00 am and 3.00 pm is when the conferences will take place. We hope this proves a more suitable time for parents than the late afternoons of previous years. The purpose of the conferences is to celebrate progress and more importantly to identify what can be done moving forward to consolidate, or even improve, the grade. Please ensure to make bookings using the Moodle system and clicking on the *Parent Conference* tab on the dashboard.

#### **Bake Sale**

We would like to thank our Grade 9 students who worked together to deliver a successful bake sale, raising 470JD. Their efforts will be much appreciated by their chosen charity - “The White Beds Society”. This nonprofit Jordanian organisation “considers caring for the elderly is the responsibility of the community as well as it is the responsibility of the family...where elderly men and women can

enjoy sheltered membership where they can meet with their peers and participate in programmes and activities". A worthy organisation to support.

## **Hawks News**

Swimming: Over the weekend, we had a large number of students involved in the swimming competition hosted by IAA. Students from all grades were involved in races for the Under 12, 14 and 18. Our students did very well, the atmosphere at the competition was so warm and friendly and I am sure competitors from all the schools participating had a great time.

Basketball: Four of our talented grade 7 girls represented Jordan last week in Basketball. The team played really well and got third place in the competition. Congratulations!

## **IAA represents Jordan in Japan**

We are very excited that three of our Grade 9 students are currently representing Jordan at a Global Summit held at the Ritsumeikan School in the beautiful and historic city of Kyoto in Japan. During the summit, they will be performing traditional Jordanian music and dance for all the delegates and running classes from their stall to bring to life particular Jordanian customs and art. The summit is an opportunity for young minds to come together in one place to gain exposure to other cultures and ways of thinking, nurture friendships and build skills such as leadership and teamwork that will benefit our students not only now, but also in the future. We are sure that our students will be excellent ambassadors for Jordan.

## **UN Envoy for Road Safety visits IAA**

Jean Todt, a famous champion in motorsport, FIA President and the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety accompanied by Violeta Bulc, EU Commissioner for Transport, visited IAA last week. A special assembly was held for Grades 10 to 12, at which our students presented both lecture and film on the issues of road safety in Jordan. Then our guests did the same, taking questions from the floor. It was both enlightening and frightening to be made to think about the consequences of poor decision-making of our driving. We hope this powerful assembly made a lasting impression on our students, and that you have heard about it at home. We aim to take the presentations and message to other schools, private and public, to spread the word, change behaviours and make the country a safer place for all.

## **Visiting Author**

On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February we are hosting a visiting author in school. Matt Dickinson will be presenting to Grade 6 and 7 and he is a real life explorer, who writes for National Geographic, has been to Antarctica and stood on the roof of the world as he summited Mt Everest! His children's novels are wrapped around such adventurous themes and we hope his tales of travel and adventure will inspire our students to not just read, but to write as well.

## **International Mother Language Day**

UNESCO officially declared February 21<sup>st</sup> to be International Mother Language Day as an initiative to promote linguistic and cultural diversity, both essential for sustainable development. At IAA, we will be raising awareness on this day in certain subjects, focussing on the consequences of a language going extinct.

### **Toastmasters**

We will have our final Toastmasters session on Feb 13 (Wed) from 4.00 to 5.00 pm at the MPR. 15 students have been taken through a challenging course to hone and sharpen their public speaking and leadership skills. In this final session, they will deliver inspirational speeches to their parents and friends. We look forward to hearing them and would like to thank the Toastmasters organisation for their commitment to building skills for the students.

### **World Scholars Cup**

We have a large number of students from Grades 6 to 10 who have signed up to participate in March for the World's Scholars Cup (WSC). The WSC has a comprehensive, thematic curriculum that changes from year to year, and invites participants to learn about, research and debate serious global issues. It focusses on collaboration and critical thinking and encourages students not just to work on their existing strengths and skills, but to discover new ones. This year's theme will be "2019: A World on the Margins". Our students are about to start training for this competition every Monday and Wednesday after school, under the leadership of our Grade 11s.

### **Mr Martin and Ms Zena**

## **Sports News**

### **Hawks Swimmers Participate in ASL**

Last Friday, our IAA Hawks swimmers participated in the first ever ASL competition, which was hosted at IAA. Our swimmers from different age categories performed amazingly well with great sportsmanship. Thank you IAA Hawks swimmers, parents and Coach Samer and his team for the tremendous effort and work put in.

### **Basketball National Team Coaches Visit IAA**

Coach Joey Stiebing, Head Coach for the Jordanian Basketball National Team and Coach Tom Shueberth, Skill Development Coach visited the IAA on Tuesday to give a 2-hour session on skill development and drills to our student athletes. We would like to thank Coach Joey and Coach Tom for their valuable time and efforts in developing and promoting basketball and a huge thank you goes to Samer Taha for organising this great event.

## Library News

The IAA Book Fair is in full swing. Students and parents are getting used to having more space for a greater selection of books. The Book Fair will remain on campus until Wednesday, 7 February. For library classes this week, students in G2-5 will visit the Book Fair to see if there are books they would like. Parents are welcome to the Book Fair at pick-up Sunday to Wednesday, as the tables will be open until 3:30pm. This year, participating vendors include Dar Al Hayat, Maktabetcom.com, Yarmouk Book Distribution Centre, University Books, Dar Al Manhal and Mzaya Books. All of them will offer a wide variety of quality fiction and nonfiction books in Arabic and English.

On Sunday, 3 February, Grades 1-4 attended writing workshops with author Ruth Eastham. Ruth's books have won many awards. Her debut, ***The Memory Cage***, was shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize and nominated for the Carnegie Medal. She is Patron of Reading at schools in the Midlands and Cheshire. She has been a visiting author in schools across the UK and internationally, and been a speaker at many literature events, including the Edinburgh Book Festival.

Ruth revealed the exciting real-life dramas and mysteries behind her books - the legendary warrior queen, Boudicca, and her tribe's fight against Roman invaders, superstitions surrounding the mysterious Will o'the Wisps, dead Viking bodies entombed in glaciers, secret wartime codes, and manuscripts that tell of lost, treasure-laden South American cities. Students learned about the life of a writer and how they find inspiration, as well as draft and shape their stories.

On Monday, 4 February, Grades 5-7 will attend workshops with author Matt Dickinson. Matt is an award-winning writer and filmmaker with a passion for climbing and adventure. During his filmmaking career, he has worked as a director/cameraman for National Geographic television, the Discovery Channel, the BBC and Channel 4. His film projects have taken him to Antarctica, Africa and the Himalaya, often in the company of the world's leading climbers and expeditioners. His most notable film success was *Summit Fever* in which Matt reached the summit of Everest via the treacherous north face. His book *The Death Zone* tells the true story of that ascent and has become a bestseller in many different countries.

Matt is currently patron of reading at Eltham College and continues to climb and explore. In January 2013, he summited Mount Aconcagua, which, at 6,965 metres, is the highest peak in the world outside the Himalaya. In 2016, and again in 2017, he was back on Everest as writer in residence with Jagged Globe's South Col Expedition. Currently, he is planning an ascent of Denali in Alaska, one of the 'seven summits'.

Recently Matt has started writing fiction for teenage readers. His debut thriller series *Mortal Chaos* was well received by critics and readers alike. Matt has followed this up with *The Everest Files*, a dramatic and popular trilogy set on the world's highest mountain. *Lie Kill Walk Away* is his latest teen thriller. When he's not writing, Matt tours the UK, speaking at schools and colleges and inspiring a new generation of adventurers.

The Primary Arabic Department has worked especially hard to schedule authors Taghreed Al-Najjar, Zeinat Al Karmi and Dima Eimesayel to read locally-written Arabic children's stories. We are looking forward to a week of celebrating literacy at IAA!



Further Dates to Note:

**IAA Community Book Club, Monday, 11 Feb, One Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hussein**

- Afternoon Group: 1-2pm
- Evening Group: 6-7pm

**Primary Library MakerSpace (Grades 2-5)**

- Tuesday, 12 February-more information to follow

For the Libraries,

**Kathleen McKim**

**Head of Libraries/Secondary Librarian**