



الأكاديمية الدولية - عمان
THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY - AMMAN

Parent News

Monday, 7th February

2022

A Message from The Director

Dear IAA Community,

I am tremendously thankful to be writing the first Newsletter of the second semester while our students continue with their studies on campus! Although we are blessed to have the opportunity of continuing with Face-to-Face learning at such perplexed times where the local positivity rates of the virus are at all times high, I am kindly urging you to adhere to the COVID-19 protocols that were communicated to you in the past week to ensure a safe continuity for your children's education, and to guarantee a safe environment for our community at all times.

Moving forward to brighter news, I am thrilled to announce that the ceremony of IAA's twelfth cohort will be held on **Tuesday, 7th June 2022**! Emotions are starting to emerge and preparations are underway to celebrate the Class of 2022 as they soar to greater heights! Although we cannot confirm the nature of the ceremony yet due to the pandemic, we can assure you that the celebration of our graduates and all they shall accomplish is as important to us as it is to you, and though it possibly may not be an entirely traditional event, we will do everything in our power to make sure it will be a unique and memorable ceremony for our promising graduates and their families.

In other news, recruitment season is looking up with an admirable number of applicants! I am extremely eager to meet the amazing educators this world has to offer who shall soon join efforts with our remarkable teaching staff; I'm certain we will continue to have great success and reach new heights in the years ahead, and I feel confident that IAA will continue to prosper and maintain its exceptional reputation for providing an excellent education to all of our students.

As you are aware already, we have our International School Assessments (**ISA**) taking place next week in Grades 3-9. These tests are used to benchmark our school against other similar schools around the world! Please support the children on the days of the assessments by ensuring that they have slept well and had nutritious healthy breakfast before leaving home. In addition to the International School Assessments, the report cards for the first semester will be sent out this week for Primary and the next week for Secondary. The Parent-Teacher Conferences will follow on **Tuesday, 22nd February 2022**. I trust both parents and teachers will take advantage of these meetings to communicate their achievements, concerns, expectations, and discuss ways in which both parties can better support the students' progress, which always serves as our utmost priority.

Thank you all for your continued support and cooperation, and for being such an integral part of our community! Wishing you a wonderful and fruitful week ahead.

Warm regards,
Hana Kanan, Ed. D.

Primary School News

Dear Parents,

Despite the interminable winter chills, it is business as usual in primary school as we look forward to a busy and productive schedule ahead. In the interim and despite the recent spike of COVID numbers, rest assured that we are trying our best efforts to keep face-to-face learning going in classes while we remain committed to the health and safety of all students, staff, and the school community.

The next few weeks are busy with events so please mark down in your agenda the dates announced in this newsletter.

Reports

The end of term one reports will be issued to parents on **Thursday, February 10th**. As always, we hope that you will find them informing about the growth of your child and detailed in terms of strengths, areas for development, and means to move forward.

ISA Assessment

Grades 3,4, and 5 will be sitting for “International Schools’ Assessments” for reading, writing, and mathematics on **February 14th** and **February 15th**. ISA tests are used to monitor students’ progress over time and confirm that their internal assessments are aligned with international expectations.

Parent-Teacher conferences

We have our second Parent-Teacher Conferences scheduled for this year. The date for these meetings is **Tuesday, February 22nd** from 8 am – 4 pm. The conferences will take place via Zoom and details on the logistics will be communicated to you once finalised.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the [protocol letter](#) emailed to you last week which aims to give as much detail and clarity as possible to simplify the process for parents and students. Your understanding and cooperation are highly appreciated especially in a rapid flux and complex pandemic situation. We count on our partnership as we strive to remain a positive, safe and healthy community.

Yours sincerely,

Walid ALBay
Acting Primary Principal

Secondary School News

Dear Parents

Thank you for all that you have done to keep our community at school. Every day we have parents calling to inform us that they have kept their children at home as precaution. As a result, we have been able to continue face to face school for the vast majority of our young learners. For those who are interested, the status of positive cases and close contacts in the Secondary school at the end of Sunday, 6th February was the following:

2/6/2022					
Grades	# students	Covid Cases	Contact Cases	Percentage of Positive Covid Cases	Percentage of Contact Cases
G6	87	4	5	4.60%	5.75%
G7	100	3	4	3.00%	4.00%
G8	82	7	7	8.54%	8.54%
G9	80	8	4	10.00%	5.00%
G10	74	3	3	4.05%	4.05%
G11	63	6	13	9.52%	20.63%
G12	74	2	5	2.70%	6.76%
All Secondary	558	33	41	5.91%	7.35%

Every day we are in school is important. I would like to urge parents to continue to be vigilant and to mitigate risk outside of school and to remind your children to be careful in school. It is hard for teenagers not to want to socialize. Whilst we are generally happy with mask use and behavior inside the classes and buildings, we do have some concerns with how our students 'forget' their best practice in breaktimes when mask wearing is not mandatory as students eat together. We will continue to urge students to be careful and would appreciate your support with this.

We have a busy fortnight ahead of us. Next week we will be conducting our annual diagnostic ISA tests at school. A separate letter will be coming out about this to explain more. We could not conduct them last year. Nevertheless we are happy that we will, once again, be able to gauge the progress of our school community using these tests. The ISA tests give an indication of the mastery of skills in English, Maths and Science and not only allow us to track progress in our own students, but offer valuable benchmarking against similar schools in the region and worldwide. Our students do not need to do anything to prepare. All we ask is that they try their best on the day.

It is lovely to see some of our school traditions carrying on. On Thursday we had our postponed, monthly civvies day and I am sure the families that struggle to cope providing medicine for their diabetic children as well as providing for other necessities will really appreciate the donation we can now make. We also have our monthly student of the month awards, recognizing those students who have shown an exemplary approach in some aspect of their learning or to the learning of others. The names can be found here: [Student of the Month: January 2022](#)

We would just like to confirm what was previously announced in the newsletters. Due to the delayed start of school in January, we have pushed the release of Semester 1 reports until Thursday 17th February. Parent Conferences will now take place on Tuesday 22nd February. Instructions on the process for booking Parent Conferences will be released along with the Reports. Collecting summative data has been a challenge with the

number of students out of school, online days and late starts. However, with the flexibility demonstrated by teachers and students we are making excellent progress and are confident that our reports will give an authentic picture of student attainment in Semester 1.

The situation we face, with all the anxiety and disruption it brings, is unlikely to subside in the very near future. However, we are sure that as a community, working together for the benefit of all, we can continue to ensure the best possible education for our students. It has been so very heartening to see how everyone has shown responsibility and resilience this year. Thank you.

Mr Martin and Ms Zena

Library News

The secondary library has lots of great resources to support students at home. We have a large and growing collection of eBooks, including popular fiction titles for all grades and study guides for many subjects. Browse [this small sample](#) of the many eBooks available via the library's website. Parents and students can also request physical books for pickup at the front gate. Need suggestions? Check out this list of our new [English](#) and [Arabic](#) books. Being quarantined or isolated at home can be very difficult. Make the time go by a little faster by reading aloud as a family. They may pretend otherwise, but even older students still like listening to stories. Trust us.

For research needs, students can still access all our great databases with high-quality and reliable information through the [secondary library website](#). Students can find more information about the individual databases and instructions for home access on the library's Moodle page.

The primary library also has a great collection of eBooks and resources that can be accessed through its [library website](#). Our [primary library page](#) and [KG library page](#) have lots of great educational resources and games for our younger students whether in school or quarantined at home.

If you have any requests for books to pick up or questions about library resources, please contact Secondary Librarian Melissa Cline at m.cline@iaa.edu.jo, Dima Shaka'a at d.shakaa@iaa.edu.jo (Primary) or Suha Hadidi at s.hadidi@iaa.edu.jo (KG).

Respectfully yours,

IAA Libraries