

# Parent News Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021

## **Calendar**

## **FEBRUARY 21**

9 TUE	Parent Teacher Conferences On zoom
17 WED - 18 THU	Mid Term Break

## **Primary School News**

Dear Parents,

It was wonderful to be able to welcome our students back to school yesterday. The many smiles on our children's faces were sure to have melted a few hearts. I was touched by the greetings I received from students and parents alike.

While the large majority of our students are back with us I recognise that there are a small few in each class that are unable to do so. We are doing our best with the staff we have available to us to provide Distance Learning to those children but please recognise that we are unable to do it to the degree in which it was taking place over the past few months as our teachers are now teaching face-to-face. We appreciate your understanding, and in the coming days will look at ways in which we may be able to expand our offerings.

As I have previously mentioned, now that we are back at school, everyone's health is very much in the hands of each member of our community. I can't impress on you enough the importance of keeping your children at home if they are sick and quarantining family members for 14 days if they have been in close proximity to people with COVID-19.

Please remember that we have Parent-Teacher Conferences scheduled for Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> and these will go ahead with the exception of Pre-K and KG1 who will have a regular school day. The conferences are taking place via Zoom and we do recommend that our older students are part of this conversation.

I'd like to end by thanking you for all of your support over the past week as we underwent our Council of International Schools accreditation visit. We received a glowing preliminary report which is testament to the incredible community of teachers, parents and students we have at IAA.

Wishing you and your family a safe and productive week.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Powell Primary Principal

## Secondary School News

**Dear Parents** 

#### **CIS and NEASC Accreditation**

Our visit is now over. The representatives from these two agencies were very complementary of the whole community when they spoke to us at the exit interview. I would like to share with you that they had really enjoyed speaking to both parents and students. They felt that both groups had really understood what IAA stands for in terms of our underlying beliefs and values. This made a big impression upon them and we are pleased that the focus on our pillars of Leadership, Acceptance, Duty and Pride help define everyone in our family that is IAA.

#### **Parent Conferences**

Parent Conferences take place on Tuesday. As mentioned previously, please do come to those zoom meetings with your child as it is very important that everyone is party to those conversations. Can I also ask that if you are not joining from your child's school account, that you ensure the Zoom name is easy to identify for teachers. It is impossible to know who 'iPhone1' or 'iPad2' actually are. Thus they are unlikely to be admitted to conferences.

#### Student of the Month: January

This link <a href="https://padlet.com/yhoozeer/2d1ckkfgazs5">https://padlet.com/yhoozeer/2d1ckkfgazs5</a> allows you to see the Student of the Month for January. Congratulations to all those who were nominated. It won't be long before we are doing this exercise again for February!

### **Change of Holiday Dates**

We would just like to remind parents that the February break is now Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> and Thursday the 19<sup>th</sup>. The week starting Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February is a normal school week.

#### **MYP Projects**

We were pleased to see that our Grade 10 did such an amazing job at handing in their Personal Project reports by the deadline. As their Personal Project journey comes to an end, the journey has started for the Grade 9. In PSHE, they are in the process of brainstorming their "learning goal" (what they want to learn) and "product" (what they want to do). Of course, their learning goal should be meaningful and personal to them. Meanwhile, our Grade 8 are making good progress with their Community Project. They are currently brainstorming and researching various ways on how they can serve their community, made even more challenging as face-to-face interactions are limited. A challenge that we know they will meet.

#### Learning continues apace, in school and beyond

Students from Grade 8 to 10 have been involved in a number of virtual MUNs this past month, performing very well. We are currently putting together a delegation for KAMUN. We have a large group of students involved in an excellent international design challenge project from the UAE. A group of Grade 11 are preparing for their online international conference to be hosted by a school in Romania. This week we have guest speakers zooming into our ESS lessons and much more. Congratulations to all those students who have been involved, it is good to be busy!

#### A return to face-to-face education

After what seems like too long, it has been wonderful to have Grade 12 back on campus. We are looking forward to the staggered return of our other grades. We also hope that the situation continues to stabilize, so that we enjoy being a more physical community again. This will involve maintaining a heightened sense of caution beyond school. Minimising disruption in school does rely on all of us continuing to be very cautious with our interactions outside of school, so that classes/grades do not have to return to the online world.

Mr Martin and Ms Zena