

A Message from The Director

Dear IAA Community,

As we stand at the threshold of the commencement of the second semester, it is with great pleasure and optimism that I extend my heartfelt good wishes to each and every one of you. The first semester has been a journey of intellectual growth, character development, and shared accomplishments, and I eagerly anticipate the continued success that lies ahead.

In the coming week, report cards for the first semester will be issued, serving as a testament to the hard work, dedication, and perseverance displayed by our students. I extend my sincere congratulations to our students for their academic achievements and commend their unwavering commitment to excellence. My appreciation also goes out to the parents who have played an instrumental role in nurturing and supporting their children's educational journey.

A noteworthy event on our academic calendar is the eagerly anticipated Book Week, scheduled for the upcoming week. This annual celebration promises to be a festive and enriching experience, providing our students with an opportunity to immerse themselves in the world of literature and cultivate a love for reading. I encourage students and staff members to actively participate in the various activities planned for this joyous occasion.

As we embrace the joys of Book Week, it is also imperative that we address the practical aspects of our students' well-being. With the winter chill upon us, I urge parents to ensure that their children are appropriately dressed for the weather. Safeguarding their health and comfort is of utmost importance, and your conscientious attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

In closing, I wish everyone a successful and fulfilling second semester. May it be a period of continued growth, academic achievements, and memorable experiences for our students. Your ongoing support and commitment to our shared educational journey are invaluable, and I look forward to witnessing the collective success that will undoubtedly unfold in the months ahead.

Warmest regards,

Hana Kanan, Ed. D.
Director

Primary School News

Primary News

Welcome to the latest edition of the newsletter. It was a busy couple of weeks for our learning community with so many events and activities. I believe our staff did a sterling job of delivering quality education to our beloved students while navigating the inclement weather conditions. We are also very grateful for your ongoing support of our teachers and staff; it really makes a difference. Yesterday, all grade levels posted the primary online schedule on Toddle in case we have snow days. Please check and communicate with teachers about any issues straight away.

Term One Reports

At IAA, we believe that it is very important for parents to be well-informed of their children's progress. Our teachers regularly communicate with you about the academic and social aspects of your child's development. Term One reports form an integral part of the reporting cycle at IAA and these will be issued on February 1st. These reports will depict the holistic growth of your child and will highlight specific strengths, areas for development, and means to move forward. Afterward, you will be able to meet with your child's teachers during the second Parent-Teacher Conferences scheduled for February 15th.

Child Protection Workshop for Parent

As you may already know, we are using the Second Step program in the primary school. To continue our commitment to your child's safety and welfare, we are teaching the Child Protection Unit as an integral part of this curriculum. I strongly encourage you to attend the explanatory session with the School Counselors, Ms. Sophie and Ms. Ebtisam, in which they will discuss child safeguarding and provide an overview of the lessons. This session will take place on Wednesday, January 31st at 8:30 am in the MPR. You will also have the opportunity to meet Ms. Sarah Naber, our Student Protection Lead.

Early Years Events

Pre-K students and their parents delighted in a wintry afternoon full of "Arctic Activities". To conclude their Animals Unit, students explored arctic animals and their habitats. They had the opportunity to create Polar Bears, Snowflakes, and Ice Paintings. Other sensory experiences included tables of fake snow featuring polar animals and trays full of ice for igloo creations. The Library staff added to the fun by providing a range of arctic tales for everyone to explore. The children beamed with pride as they showed their parents around the Pre-K area and guided them through all the different activities.

Non-Uniform Day & Bake Sale

Whatever the weather, our aid efforts continue throughout winter days. I would like to thank our students, teachers, and the entire community for the continuous support during last Thursday's Bake Sale. It was an opportunity to reach out and help others in need while having a bit of fun as well. All funds will be channeled through to the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization (JHCO) to support the relief effort in Gaza, Palestine. Thank you so much for your generosity!

Stay warm, safe, and see you in the next newsletter.

Secondary School News

Dear Parents

Our attention continues to be drawn to the crisis in Gaza. Over the past week, our students and staff engaged in crucial discussions on South Africa's case to the ICJ, accusing Israel of Genocide in Gaza. We delved into the role of the ICJ, the UN definition of genocide, the provisional measures raised by South Africa, the rulings of the case and the next steps of the process. We also discussed the broader impact of this case, where many recognized that its implications have reached far beyond the confines of the ICJ. On Sunday we spent time assessing the findings of the Court that were released on Friday. The urgent message that was emphasized is the need to be strong, active and consistent in advocating for the people of Palestine.

In other ways, our continuing support comes in many forms. Clearly there is just so much need for humanitarian aid and our monthly civvies and bake sales continue to raise much needed funds for JHCO. I would like to thank Grade 8 for all their hard work last Thursday. Can I especially thank the anonymous family who also made a tremendous 300JD donation in our civvies collection last Thursday. We also sold many of our bracelets raising much needed additional funds. We will continue to raise funds for JHCO right through the rest of the year and have also dedicated all profits from the upcoming school production of *Beauty and the Beast* to that cause.

In other areas of school:

Student of the Month: January 2024

Congratulations to all those students who were nominated for being a 'Student of the Month' in January for their positivity in our lessons. Details of who was nominated can be found at this link: [Student of the Month: January](#)

Book Week (4th to 8th Feb)

Can I draw your attention to the Library part of the newsletter where there is a lot of information about what is taking place. Many of the activities will be of particular interest to our Grade 6 and 7 students. Aya Ghanameh (IAA Class of 2015) is a published author and is coming back to give 4 workshops for our students. There are also daily fun activities we urge our students to participate in.

Visiting Artist

On Thursday 25th Jan Dana Barqawi, a well-known local artist, came to school to present her work and discuss her inspiration and techniques with our Grade 9 to Grade 11 Visual Art students. She then went to the Art Rooms to critique the work of our own students. The morning was a great success.

MUN Back in full swing This excellent activity that hones so many important skills in our students is in full swing for the weeks before Ramadan. Last weekend we had a great delegation participating at the National Orthodox MUN. This coming weekend we have a very large Delegation attending the King's Academy MUN. We only have two MUN left after that:

- AsrriyaMUN: 22nd to 24th February
- MASMUN (Modern American): 7th to 9th March

Letters for both of these will be sent soon. We would urge students who want to give MUN a go or who want to build their experience to sign up to these last two events.

Hawks – good luck

The basketball season is starting and many of our Under 14 and Under 16 boys and girls are involved in friendly warm-up matches and tournaments over the coming weeks. Wishing them the best of luck. Also, we are continuing with volleyball matches to extend the competitive season which is great for our teams.

End of Semester 1: Reports and Parent Evenings

Just a reminder that **Reports will be sent out on Thursday 8th February** and we will have face to face **Parent Conferences on Thursday 15th February**. More information about these events will be sent in separate letters.

Thank you

Mr Martin and Ms Zena

College & Career Counseling News

Over the last two weeks the Counselling office has been busy conducting the one on one meetings with G11 and G10. In our G10 meetings we discuss the IB Diploma subject choices by trying to cater to the student's personal study preference at university bearing in mind their current academic performance and potential. During these meetings also, we highlight the Tawjihi equivalency requirements and the CV. We remind students and their families of the importance of Job Shadowing and volunteer work for making the CV competitive for college applications. If you haven't already done so, it is imperative that you book your appointments with the Counsellors now through Moodle.

Along with our G10 meetings, we are holding meetings with G11 students and their families. These meetings provide students with individualized presentations aimed at setting realistic goals for the future. With college applications due to start in August this year for the Class of 2025, planning properly in the coming months is crucial. We hope that these meetings prove beneficial and continue to be a point of reference throughout the coming months. Students in G11 need to now focus on, aside from maintaining a strong academic standing, completing a couple of internships, meaningful volunteer projects and perhaps register for free online courses available through Unifrog.

Please remember to register for the next SAT (March 9th) if you intend to apply to any US institution. Use this link to apply: [Account Sign In - College Board](#)

We look forward to seeing everyone in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,
Aya Abdel Hadi

Library News

Dear Parents,

It's Book Week next week! Book Week is a celebration of books and reading and our theme for this year is **'Read Books, Make Connections'**. This is a great opportunity for students to explore the world of books and link what they read to what they already know. This makes them more engaged with the text they're reading to better understand it. Like every year, we like to emphasize our cultural heritage and our language so most of our activities and events will reflect that. We are excited for the many activities that will be going on in the school next week. In the primary along with daily library questions and prizes, we have invited talented local authors to share their stories with our students. There will be puppet shows in Arabic and a hakawati (a storyteller) that will mesmerize our students with stories from our folklore. We will also be hosting a storyteller and picture book rapper that will most definitely keep our young students engaged and on their toes! On Thursday, February 8th, primary students are invited to come dressed as their favorite book character and are encouraged to bring the book.

We are bringing back one of our very own IAA alumni, the talented Aya Ghanameh, who wrote and illustrated her debut book, *'These Olive Trees'*, which is a story inspired by her grandmother's love and connection to her land, Palestine. When we hosted her earlier, she interacted with our primary students, but this time she will be engaging our secondary students with some exciting workshops on her literary and artistic journey. For one of her workshops, Aya will guide students through a process to create journalistic and graphic narratives that can record family histories. Others will be about storytelling, writing and illustrating a book, and one for our Visual Art students about creating visual narratives. I am sure they will be amazing! Our wonderful Hakawati will be telling folklore stories to our 6th graders to revive this ancient Arab art of storytelling. There will also be a scavenger hunt and fun questions with prizes as well in the secondary library.

We will be having a Book Fair in the Theater lobby throughout the week with book vendors so make sure you pass by in the morning or afterschool to buy some books from our local vendors. There will also be a Book Drive so please donate any books you do not need and we will get them to underprivileged schools. A table will be set up in the primary reception area and the secondary library for this. We hope you enjoy this week as much as we've enjoyed planning it!

We encourage you to grab a book, your primary or secondary child, and share a moment reading together during Book Week.

Warm Regards,
The IAA Libraries Team

Sports News

Greetings,

In light of the latest and most significant sports events news from IAA Hawk's, the volleyball league matches for the U14 and U16 female categories were initiated last week. Our teams continue to showcase a high level of performance, excelling in all their matches. Our players are distinguished by superior skill levels that have the potential for significant development through ongoing team training, both at the school level and through collaboration with numerous school hawks and the Jordanian Junior Women's team.

Moving on to basketball and the latest updates on our sports teams for this season, the U14 AAC basketball tournament for boys and girls is set to commence next Wednesday until Saturday. The girls' tournament will take place at Hawks IAA Hall from Thursday to Saturday, while the boys' tournament will be held at MIS from Wednesday to Saturday. Our team is poised to participate in this event with young, aspiring players aiming to achieve positive results. For many of them, this tournament represents a new and valuable experience that can significantly contribute to the long-term development of their competitiveness.

Regarding the swimming tryouts for grade 4 & 5 held on Saturday, January 27th, 2024, from 11 am to 12 pm, the young group of students participating in the tryouts is still in the developmental stage of their age. Even if they did not make it this time, there is ample room for improvement, and they can succeed in the next attempt.

For further details, please click on the link below

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bscrUCG5Vbiyl660Ph8Zy9TXugO-csjB/view?usp=sharing>

Thank you.