

## Newsletter homepage



Sunday, 20th March 2016

## Message from the Director

**Dear IAA Community,**  
**Congratulations IAA Hawks Under11 and Under12 Boys football teams!** Two more impressive victories over the weekend in **Dubai!** Under the guidance of Head Coach Samer Taha and his coaching team, our fighting Hawks battled their way to **TWO Silver Medals** during two separate tournaments. We are, as always, **proud** of our athletes, who always wear our mascot with great dignity when competing abroad on behalf of IAA. Well done!

This week I would like to highlight the beginning of the **Middle Years Grade Coffee Mornings for MYP parents**, commencing today with Grade 6. These sessions are hosted by **Ms Zena Muhtaseb** and **Ms Susanne Marchant**, who have been very effectively leading the Middle Years grades this year. Parents are encouraged to attend them, as they afford parents an **opportunity to share valuable feedback** with those in a position to respond to that feedback. I am very proud of the **open culture of the IAA**, wherein parents are constantly encouraged to share their experiences and recommendations through well-organised school channels. The **Coffee Morning schedule** is as follows:

Grade 6: Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> March in the MPR  
 Grade 10: Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March in the Library  
 Grade 7: Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> March in the MPR  
 Grade 9: Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> March in the Library  
 Grade 8: Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April in the Library

You may have heard: **Annie is coming to campus!** That loveable red-headed, curly-haired, freckled orphan has stolen the hearts of many over the decades. This year, our **Middle Years drama students**, led by Ms Titania Khoury, have been working hard to put on a show to remember! If you were lucky enough to see last year's spectacular *Mary Poppins* performance, you will know what I mean! **Details** are:

Place: IAA Theatre  
 Dates: Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> April & Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> April  
 Time: 6:00 pm  
 Tickets: 5 JD at Finance (commencement of ticket sales to be announced)

The **PTA** have also commenced the **Ithraa workshops**, which are designed to guide parents towards self-awareness and effective life strategies. IAA is a place of **knowledge and growth**. I think it is wonderful that the PTA works hard to extend that experience beyond the student community to include that of the parents as well. Surely, **our children do better when we as parents do better too**. Also, this Monday, students will be participating in the **Secondary School Poetry Competition, commemorating the UNESCO World Poetry Day**. Poetry has historically been an important cultural tool used to relay personal experiences, address social issues and understand the state of our societies. This is an exciting initiative which will surely promote **student creativity, public speaking and social awareness**. The **IB Art Exhibition** begins this week as well, featuring four of our very talented Art students' works. Please **stop by the MPR** in your free time to peruse this celebration of **creativity and expression**. Good luck to all!

Have a great week.  
 Sincerely,

**Hana Kanan, Ed.D.  
Director**

Dear IAA Community,  
The increased commonality of diabetes across the Middle East and Jordan is threatening the well-being of both children and adults alike. Communities around the world can no longer afford indifference or inaction. *Eradeh*, a Jordanian organization dedicated to maximizing awareness and minimizing incidence of diabetes in Jordan, has requested help from the IAA Community. As more information is needed to act, *Eradeh* asks that we each complete the below survey. It will be used to gather information regarding healthy eating at schools as a means to developing effective legislation and enforcing helpful change in Jordan. The more responses received, the more accurate the data. Please join *Eradeh* in combating diabetes in Jordan. Together we can make a difference for our children. Thank you for your support.  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1xDmN-MHv4DamdBrU4jayY9a1SxgA9eFK0SYSvID38Nc/viewform>

Best regards,  
**Dr Hana Kanan  
IAA Director**

In cooperation with:  
**Dr Sima Kalaldehy MD  
Pediatric Endocrinologist  
President of Eradeh for Children and Youth with Diabetes**

## Secondary School News

Dear Parents,

After a busy week, there was little going on this weekend. Some of our SRC students were involved in the ABS Leadership Summit, and our Global Politics students attended a lecture by the world renowned Joseph Nye at the Colombia Research Centre. Our Grade 6 students were busy in Dubai with their football tournament and will be bringing home a silver medal. Well done!

Last week we also started a new initiative, with which I am very pleased. A number of our students are now going over to Primary during breaks to read to children in the lower grades. It is a 'win-win' situation; the feedback I am getting from our students is great, as they are loving the experience. Hopefully our Primary students are not only enjoying it, but are improving their listening and reading skills too. This is a programme we hope to expand over time.

Looking ahead to this week we have much happening, there are coffee mornings for Grade 6 and 10 parents (Sunday and Wednesday respectively – more details are in Ms Zena's newsletter). We have a Theatre trip to ICS on Wednesday and Grade 6 are taking a trip on Thursday to the Citadel.

We are also celebrating student achievement in two events this week, and I am really looking forward to both:

The Grade 12 Art Exhibition opens at 5:30 pm on Sunday in the MPR.

We will be celebrating UNESCO World Poetry Day with an assembly on Monday. In addition there will be lots of poetry recited around school on this day.

Looking further ahead, we are into the final few weeks of rehearsals for our school play: *Annie*. I had a sneak preview of the stage set the other day, and it is amazing. I know the cast and crew are putting in some very long hours at the moment to bring a wonderful performance to you. The performance dates are 12<sup>th</sup> April and 13<sup>th</sup> April, and tickets will be going on sale soon. Please pencil in those dates, and come and support our talented actors and actresses.

I would like to remind Grade 8 Parents that the deadline for returning the Option Forms for next year is the Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> March, and should you have any questions about the choice options that can be made, please contact Ms Zena or myself.

**Martin Thompson  
Secondary Principal**

## Primary School News

We have had another really great week of activities, despite the weather. The KG2 Art Auction finished on Thursday and appears to have been really successful in promoting both art and charity. I also need to mention the Grade 2 team whose Living Museum showcased a number of really important literacies. The children prepared their work well, spoke very confidently, but also reinforced this with great research and IT skills. Above all, it was lots of fun and extremely engaging. Well done to both teams.

Last week our parent workshop was by outside provider Kids Empowered. It was followed by a workshop for the teachers. Next week our Grades 3 to 5 children will participate in similar workshops. It is good that a consistent message is going out to the whole community. It is also good that the message is a positive one aimed at building self-reliance, enforcing positive self-image and developing appropriate and effective strategies for dealing with conflict.

The next huge event on the calendar is the Science Fair. An enormous amount of work has gone into this event, which is usually one of our biggest. This year the Grade 3 students will have their fair on Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> March from 10:45-12:00 pm and the Grades 4 & 5 students on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> March from 11:00-12:15 pm. Both fairs will be held in the Multi-Purpose Room. The Grade 5 students will be using much more IT in their presentations this year in what promises to be an interesting and exciting event. The workshop this week will be run by Ms Carmel, the Mathematics Coordinator. She will be taking a practical session in the Multi-Purpose Room on the process of teaching addition. The workshop returns to its normal time of 8:10 am.

Congratulations to our Smart Award winners:

<b>Bronze Award</b>		
<b>Ameer Al-Bustanji 5S</b>	<b>Riyad Said 1D</b>	<b>Omar Hyasat 1F</b>
<b>Hashim El Akabi 3J</b>	<b>Yaqout Abu Al Haj 1D</b>	<b>Jaffar Al Armouti 1F</b>
<b>Silver Award</b>		
<b>Mohammad Shaban 5S</b>	<b>Abdel Majeed Salameh 4C</b>	<b>Raad Sunnaa 4M</b>
<b>Farah Abu-Taleb 5S</b>	<b>Juan Al Lozi 4M</b>	<b>Aisha Saket 3G</b>
<b>Gold Award</b>		
<b>Marian Khubeis 5S</b>	<b>Sanad Kamal 4C</b>	<b>Karam Fakhouri 3G</b>
<b>Gold with Merit Award</b>		
<b>Laith Baqain 5S</b>	<b>Leah Halabi 4C</b>	<b>Julia Haddadin 3G</b>
<b>Nadine Haddad 4C</b>	<b>Karam Fakhouri 3G</b>	<b>Yasmeen Halawa 3G</b>

Have a great week.

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**Martin Blackburn**

**Primary Principal**

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## Middle School News

Dear Parents/Guardians,

There is rarely a quiet moment in the Middle Years School! The Grades 6 to 8 are working diligently in planning their Science Fair Projects, which focus on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. The Grades 8 and 9 are busy with their Community and Personal Projects, respectively. The Grade 10s are finalizing their e-portfolios for Arts, Design, Spanish and Physical and Health Education. And amidst all of that, we have students practicing and preparing for athletic competitions, drama productions, music concert and MUN. We wish our students continued success as they approach the final few months of the school year. Progress reports that highlight how the Grade 8s are proceeding with their Community Projects will be sent home this week with each student. It is expected for parents to read the report, sign and return it with their child to submit to their Tutor. For questions regarding the Community Project, please contact our CP Coordinator Ms Randa ([r.battikha@iaa.edu.jo](mailto:r.battikha@iaa.edu.jo)).

The Grade 8 students need to decide whether they want to go down the path of "Discrete Sciences" or "Integrated Sciences" for Grades 9 and 10. The "subject choice" form was handed out during PSHE last week. It has also been posted on Moodle. Please spend some time with your child to decide upon the course options for next year. If you have any questions, or are looking for advice in this area, please contact Mr Martin or me. The form must be submitted to Ms Natasha by Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> March.

Last week, the Grade 9 students visited the refugees at the Azmi Al Mufti camp as part of their "Migration Narratives" interdisciplinary unit between English and Individuals & Societies. To many of our students, this experience was an eye-opener. Some students reflected on how the people there seem to be happy but have so little, while we have so much yet we are never content. We look forward to reading the narratives that our students produce to depict the lives of refugees in Jordan.

The El Hassan Youth Award was established by H.R.H Prince El Hassan bin Talal. Its objectives are for students to initiate their own activities, to set their own goals, to develop practical and social skills, and to challenge themselves. To achieve the Bronze Award, our Grade 9s must participate in a weekend expedition. With support from professional trainers from the Jordanian Army, from Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> April to Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> April, the trip will take place in the [Sharhabil Bin Hassneh](#) Ecopark. Training will focus on hiking, orienteering and first aid. A letter will be sent to parents this week which provides more information on this trip and its purpose.

On 21<sup>st</sup> March, we will celebrate World Poetry Day; an official day marked by UNESCO that recognizes the "unique ability of poetry to capture the creative spirit of the human mind" (<http://www.un.org/en/events/poetryday/>). Students and teachers throughout the week will be sharing their favourite poems in morning registration and class. We encourage you to do the same at home. Furthermore, Grades 6 to 11 will attend an assembly. Guest speaker, Mr Jeryes Samawi – the Former Minister of Culture who is also a poet, writer and journalist, will share some of his poetry with our students. Students will also have the opportunity to perform poetry in either Arabic, English or Spanish at the assembly. This allows us to achieve one of the aims of this important day – "to support linguistic diversity through poetic expression".

One of the most well-known poets of all time is Khalil Gibran, an intellectual and philosophical giant known for his insights on topics of life and spirituality. A favorite of mine is titled "On Children", which I would like to share with you.

*Your children are not your children.  
They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself.  
They come through you but not from you,  
And though they are with you yet they belong not to you.  
You may give them your love but not your thoughts,  
For they have their own thoughts.  
You may house their bodies but not their souls,  
For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow,  
which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.  
You may strive to be like them,  
but seek not to make them like you.  
For life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterday.  
You are the bows from which your children  
as living arrows are sent forth.*

*The archer sees the mark upon the path of the infinite,  
and He bends you with His might  
that His arrows may go swift and far.*

*Let your bending in the archer's hand be for gladness;  
For even as He loves the arrow that flies,*

*so He loves also the bow that is stable. central figure of Arabic literary modernism central figure of Arabic literary modernism central figure of Arabic literary modernism*

Lastly, a reminder that the grade-specific Coffee Mornings will be starting again this week. The purpose of these sessions would be for you to raise any issues, concerns or suggestions you may have regarding the specific grade. All sessions will take place from 8am to 9am. The dates are as follows:

G6 Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> March in the Library  
G10 Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March in the Library  
G7 Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> March in the MPR

G9 Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> March in the Library  
 G8 Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April in the Library  
 We look forward to seeing you there.

**Zena Muhtaseb**  
*Head of Middle Years*

## Calendar

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|-----------|----|--|
| Sunday    | 20 | -Grades 5, 6 & 7 Football Competition, Dubai-Grade 6 Middle School Coffee Mornings, 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM, Library-‘How to Help Your Child Succeed in Life’ Workshop (For Parents of 5 to 12-Year-Old Students), 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM, IAA Secondary Library<br>- Annual Grade 12 Visual Arts Exhibition Opening, at 5:30 PM in the MPR. |
| Monday    | 21 | -PTA “Relational Needs” Workshop Series for The Parents (Intimacy and the importance of gratitude in our lives), 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM-UNESCO World Poetry Day, 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM, Theatre  |
| Tuesday   | 22 | -Parents Open Meeting with the Director, Director’s Office, 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM-‘How to Help Your Child with Their School Life’ Workshop, 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM, IAA Secondary Library-Grade 2 Children’s Museum Trip, 10:00 –11:00 AM<br>-Grade 9 & 11 ICS Play Trip, 10:30 – 1:20 PM  |
| Wednesday | 23 | -Grade 10 Middle School Coffee Mornings, 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM, Library-Grade 5 Children’s Museum Trip, 10:00 – 11:00 AM<br>-Grade 4 Children’s Museum Trip, 11:30 – 12:30 PM  |
| Thursday  | 24 | -Grade 5 Orphan School Trip, 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM-Grade 6 Citadel and Museum Trip, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM   |
| Friday    | 25 |  |
| Saturday  | 26 |  |
| Sunday    | 27 | -Grade 7 Middle School Coffee Mornings, 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM, MPR-‘How to Help Your Child Succeed in Life’ Workshop (For Parents of 5 to 12-Year-Old Students), 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM, IAA Secondary Library   |

## Sports News

The more that you READ,  
The more that you KNOW,  
The more that you LEARN,  
The more places you'll GO!  
-Dr Seuss

Please notice, we have changed the date of our MakerSpace for KG and Primary to Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> March, from 2:30-3:30 pm. Parents are encouraged to attend with their children for "Making Pop-Up Cards". MakerSpaces are always a great time. Please sign up at [library@iaa.edu.jo](mailto:library@iaa.edu.jo).

For the rest of March, the Primary and KG Libraries are celebrating Poetry Month with Dr Seuss. Stories, games, lessons—all of them are designed to encourage our students to have fun with language.

Did you know that many of the Dr Seuss books have very easy reading levels that young readers can use to practice reading? We love Dr Seuss at my house because the words are familiar, and the rhymes are funny. It's easy for my youngest ones to sight read, using the "sound it out" techniques they are taught in school, especially when words rhyme. Perhaps the easiest to begin with is HOP ON POP! They are always happy to sit through a Dr Seuss book because it gives them the confidence they need to become good readers. As soon as they realize that they can read 80-90% of the words in some of the Dr Seuss books, they are so proud!

In the Secondary School, we gathered the Grade 6 and Grade 11 classes to discuss using library resources and proper MLA citation. The purpose of such lessons is to aid students in achieving academic honesty. The Secondary Library resources make it very easy to locate good resources for any topic, and all of them can be found on the Secondary Library homepage, <http://library.iaa.edu.jo>. Grade 11 Extended Essay students are making appointments this week to review Annotated Bibliographies before their Literature Reviews are due. This is a very important time for you to encourage your students to use the library resources. We love to see students at any time, but especially now!

Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> March is World Poetry Day. We have put together a display of some prominent world poets. You are invited to come and take a look.

**Ms Kathleen, Ms Dima and Ms Tania for the Libraries**