

## Newsletter homepage



Sunday, 6th March 2016

## Message from the Director

**Dear IAA Community,**

Let me begin by congratulating the **Grade 7 parents'** for their impressive **victory at the PTA Quiz Night** over the weekend! Also, thank you to all who organised, attended and supported this annual social event. We do look forward to next year's evening of trivia, competition and prizes.

I would also like to recognise the amazing **IAA World Scholars! The World Scholars Cup** is an international competition hosted for the second consecutive year in Amman and at IAA. IAA welcomed 190 participants from around the world, who engaged in rigorous debate and public speaking sessions during this remarkable celebration of learning. **Congratulations to the IAA student Scholars** who took home trophies for their outstanding performance.

Please be aware that, due to **high demand**, the IAA **Primary School has expanded to a 4-class entry** system in place of the current 3-class entry system. This is a very exciting development, as it allows IAA to accept more students while simultaneously reducing class size. Congratulations to the Primary School for its impressive **growth and focus**.

On another note, **Academic Honesty** is a key element of the IAA Code of Conduct. It not only teaches our students to **respect the work and ideas of others**, but it also **prepares them** for the rigorous and stringent expectations of universities and the workplace in the future. This is extremely important for our students' success. Academic Honesty is an integral part of **scholarly integrity**. In addition to ensuring **students get the most from their learning**, it is also reflective of one's **character**; as such, it is taken very seriously at IAA. This week, Secondary parents are invited to attend a very useful **presentation on Academic Honesty** in order to support their children more effectively at home:

Date: Wednesday, 9 March 2016

Time: 8:00 am to 9:00 am

Location: IAA Theatre

This week, **IAA parents** will also be attending the weekly Primary Wednesday **Workshop on 'Building Oral Skills'**, the **'How to Help Your Child with Their School Life' Workshop** for parents of Grades 6 to 12, the **ONE SCHOOL/ONE STORY/ONE VOICE Lecture Series** organized by the IAA Libraries, and the **Primary Music Assembly** on Thursday. The **KG2 fund-raising Art Auction** also invites parents to get involved, and this fun event is scheduled to begin next week.

Also, please do come out to support the **IAA Dead-to-Red Team** this weekend for the exciting annual marathon! Our students and staff have been working hard to get ready for this intense challenge, and **we wish them the very best!**

Sincerely,

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

## Secondary School News

Dear Parents,

March is always a busy month on our school calendar, and this year is no different. Our Grade 6 students enjoyed their trip organized by the Religion Department on Thursday, and a good number of our students participated in the World Scholars Cup at the weekend. We also had some Grade 11 students taking part in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the INTEL ISEF science competition, and if they are successful will be invited to a final round overseas. The PTA were also busy on Thursday evening, and their Quiz Night was fun and the prizes were amazing!

Looking ahead to this week, we have a Drama Trip to RNES and then a very busy weekend again for our students. MUNs are taking place at Al Assryiah, and we are also sending a delegation to the Harvard Model Congress in Rome. We wish both sets of students good luck. In addition we have a number of teachers and students competing in the annual Dead-2-Red relay marathon on Thursday and Friday. Again, we wish all participants good luck and I would like to thank all those who supported the staff team in their fundraising by buying a T-shirt.

As Ms Zena mentions in her newsletter, it is great to see so many of our students involving themselves in extra-curricular activities like this, as they are all valuable learning experiences and will help build a wide range of skills.

We have one parent workshop this week, and that is on Academic Honesty. This topic is becoming increasingly important in schools, universities and in public life, and I would urge parents to attend so that you can understand what we mean by academic honesty and why it is so important. The workshop will take place at 8.00 am on Wednesday in the MPR.

Yours sincerely,

**Martin Thompson**  
*Secondary Principal*

## Primary School News

As you know, the Primary is moving to 4-class entry next year and reducing class sizes to around 22, which I know we all agree is a very good thing. There are two by-products of this decision. One is that there is going to be a major building project in and around the Primary. The second is that classes will be divided four ways instead of the usual three next year. We will be looking at student distribution between classes and class lists next month. We have a very firm protocol here. If you have any concerns or students you would like your child to be with, you are to speak to Ms Sophie. Please note that no other member of the senior team will have these conversations, and no discussions about the merits and demerits of different teachers will be entered into by any staff member.

I really enjoyed the Science Assembly on Thursday. It was wonderful to see the students demonstrating their knowledge of and enthusiasm for science to the rest of the school and really setting the scene for the upcoming Science Fairs. This year marks our fifth annual Science Fairs. They will be held in the Multi-Purpose Room on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of this month.

We have made a re-arrangement to the upcoming workshop schedule.

Date	Topic	Presenter
9/3/16	Developing oral language skills in the Early Years	Ms Leigh and Ms Helen
16/3/16	Building student resilience	Outside provider
23/3/16	Writing Genes	Mr Gordon

Thank you to the PTA for their outstanding Quiz Night on Thursday night.

The KG2 Art Auction is being held next week. The Auction is a combined art effort by all children in KG2. Each class has worked on 5 pieces of art which will be auctioned to raise money for the King Hussein Cancer Foundation. The auction will begin on Sunday with an initial information session for parents. After this, parents can view the artwork in the KG2 grade area and place 'bids'. The winning bid for each piece of art will be announced at the end of the week, and the money will be presented to a representative from the King Hussein Cancer Foundation during a KG2 assembly.

Please look out for the write-up from our Grade 3 students about the "Explorers and Adventurers" units, as well as the photos.

Next Thursday our two school Dead-2-Red teams, comprising both students and staff, will leave to run the event. Students and staff who have purchased the t-shirts may come dressed in them on Thursday to bid farewell to the teams. We will organise a combined student and team photograph. We wish the teams all the best of luck and remind you that it is still possible to make a donation to Atfaluna at Finance.

Congratulations to our Smart award winners including our first Gold with Merit.

#### Bronze Award

**Hamzah Sakkijha 5S**  
**Kinan Ali 4M**  
**Autmn Cullen 3R**  
**Ahmed Al Namhari 3R**  
**Abdullah Tahabsem 3R**  
**Sam Sabri Al Bay 3R**  
**Salma Hamzeh 3R**  
**Salma Armouti 3R**

**Nemat Fakhouri 3R**  
**Mohammed Al-Hadid 3R**  
**Mohammad El-Fayez 3R**  
**Hashem Asfour 3R**  
**Dana Yasin 3R**  
**Dana Darabseh 3R**  
**Bashir AlJaghbir 3R**  
**Hashem Ellauzi 2Z**

**Lea Zuhair 1D**  
**Hussain Al Daoud 1D**  
**Riyad Said 1D**  
**Mahdi Al Sarraf 1D**  
**Ameer Hlyel 1D**  
**Lara Matraji 1D**  
**Hazem Matouk 1D**

#### Silver Award

**Shaden Qaffaf 5S**  
**Zain Kousayeh 5S**  
**Ghazi kardan 4D**  
**Idries Odeh 4M**  
**Tania Al-Akabi 3G**

**Salma Bawalsa 3R**  
**Rashed Samawi 3R**  
**Laya Baloula 3R**  
**Karam Hamad 3R**  
**Jana Zalatimo 3R**

**Dani Madanat 3R**  
**Rakan Kardan 1M**  
**Ghazi Khalifeh 1M**  
**Salma Toghth 1M**  
**Sumaya Makanai 1M**

#### Gold Award

**Ihsan Atallah 5S**

**Jana Madi 4M**  
**Gold with Merit Award**  
**Husam Baloula 3G**

Have a great week.

## Martin Blackburn

### Primary Principal

#### Grade 3 Explorers and Adventurers Project

In Grade 3 we did a research project about Explorers and Adventurers. We had to present it to our classmates and teachers, and then to our parents. It taught me not to be shy when talking in front of people. We had to present our research in the form of a booklet by answering five questions. Before we presented our information to our parents, we rehearsed by presenting to a partner. We also came dressed up in costumes that our explorer or adventurer might have worn. We had fun selecting our explorers and adventurers' names from a bag! My explorer's name was James Cook. Abdelmajeed Al-Shedaifat

In IPC we have been learning about Explorers and Adventurers. We had to do presentations to a partner, our teacher and also our parents! For our presentations to our parents, we dressed up in a costume as our explorer or adventurer. The boys were male explorers/adventurers and the girls were female explorers/adventurers. One of the five important questions was, "How did their journey change the world?" The presentations were so much fun because we got to see all our friends in costume, and we listened to their presentations. Most of the research was done at school, and we presented it in the form of colourful booklets. The project taught us how to be independent researchers and how to speak with confidence.

Salma Bawalsa

In IPC we have been researching about Explorers and Adventurers. Our project was to research an explorer or adventurer and prepare a speech to present in front of our parents and classmates. We needed to prepare a booklet with all the information to use in case we got stuck while presenting. We had a lot of fun researching and finding answers to five important questions about our explorers and adventurers. When we completed the research, we took our information home to be typed into a booklet

form. We did two presentations on two different days. First we presented our research to the class, and then on Thursday morning, we came dressed in costumes to present to our parents. This project was wonderful because we learned how to do research, how to organise our research and how to present it using full sentences and good expression. We had a marvellous time!  
Dani Madanat

## Middle School News

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We would like to thank our Grade 10 students who worked together to deliver a successful Bake Sale. Their efforts will be much appreciated by their chosen charity – "Tkiyet Um Ali". We want to also thank our hard-working PTA for organizing a challenging and entertaining Quiz Night this past Thursday. Reflecting on this past week, we cannot help but notice the large number of students who stepped out of their comfort zone to explore new ideas and participate in activities that challenge their thinking and expose them to new knowledge and skills. This truly embodies the IB Learner Profile attribute of being a "risk-taker".

At the start of last week, we welcomed back the Grades 10 and 11 from Cambodia, where they learnt about its history and culture and explored its many sites. Students agreed with the country's nickname, the "Land Of Smiles", since it aptly reflected the hospitality of its people. Overall the trip left a delicious aftertaste, and many of our students crave to go back for another visit after making such a strong personal connection with the country and its people.

Last week, for the fifth year in a row, students from Grades 6 and 8, under the supervision of Mr Mohannad Maswady, took part in the First Lego League (FLL) competition at the Jubilee School. The aim of FLL is for students to work collaboratively to research a real-world problem in order to develop a solution that is addressed by applying science, technology, engineering and maths. IAA's "Robodiction" team created a robot that carried various items and moved them to specific places for sorting as part of the "Trash Trek Challenge". The performance of Robodiction was exceptional, where they earned points from the judges greater than any when compared to the past five years. They definitely set the bar high for the years to come.

This weekend, IAA once again hosted 140 students from six schools for the World Scholars Cup. The World Scholars Cup aims to motivate students to discover strengths and to practice new skills in a competition designed to celebrate learning. The atmosphere was full of energy and enthusiasm. Thirty students from grades 6 to 10 pitched their wits in academic competitions ranging from collaborative essay writing to the scholar's challenge, culminating in an exciting round of team debates. Our IAA students performed extremely well. If your child did not participate this year, we strongly recommend for him/her to take part next year.

A variety of other challenging activities are pushing our students to take healthy risks to become better problem solvers, creative and critical thinkers. Our students have been working hard rehearsing for the upcoming *Annie* production. We cannot wait to see the fruits of their labor shine on centre stage. Furthermore, later next week we have students embarking on an "international" MUN experience, both in Italy or Turkey. We wish them safe travels and look forward to hearing about their learning experiences.

Parents, you can also play a role in developing the "risk-taker" attribute in your child. If your child is hesitant about trying something new, encourage them to attempt it. Then have them reflect on how it felt to try it. However, be mindful of the difference between taking "healthy" risks and doing dangerous things. Healthy risks are approached with forethought and determination, where students work independently and cooperatively to explore new ideas and innovative strategies (quoted from the IB Learner Profile).

As part of their English summative, the Grade 9 students are required to put together an informative campaign about fast food. Some of them will be presenting their campaign to the Grades 6 and 7 this week during PSHE. Kareem Khalil, Saleen Khraishi and Awn Al Hadidi invite you to visit their website <http://www.fastfoodfenomena.weebly.com> and leave you with this message – "To all of you parents trying to keep your family away from a fast food habit, and to all the kids that are trying to, have a look and decide, for the famous idiom goes: 'It is what's on the inside that matters'". Also Rina El-Shanti, Zaid Awad, Michel Ishaq and Bisher Kayali invite you to visit their "Is Fast Food Really What It Is?" website at <http://fastfoodinformativecampaign.weebly.com/>.

Lastly, a reminder to all of our Secondary parents that on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> March, from 8am to 9am in the Theatre, we will present our Academic Honesty policy. The emphasis will be on how to promote in our students personal integrity and a respect for the work of others. We look forward to seeing you there.

Zena Muhtaseb

**Head of Middle Years****Calendar**

Sunday	6	-Grade 12 Mock Exams, MPR
Monday	7	-Grade 12 Mock Exams, MPR-Grade 3 The Jordan Museum Trip, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM -Parent Orientation-Rome trip/Secondary Library(Samsung Classroom), 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM
Tuesday	8	-Grade 12 Mock Exams, MPR-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, IAA Secondary Library, 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM
Wednesday	9	-Grade 12 Mock Exams, MPR-Primary Parent Workshop (Building Oral Language Skills), Secondary Library/Tiered Classroom, 8:00 AM – 8:50 AM -Grade 3 The Jordan Museum Trip, 10:00 AM -11:30 AM
Thursday	10	-Grade 12 Mock Exams, MPR-Grade 3 The Jordan Museum Trip, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM -Primary Music Assembly, Theatre, 1:15 PM – 2:00 PM -Grades 10 & 11 Harvard Model Congress MUN Trip, Rome/Italy
Friday	11	-Grade 12 Mock Exams, MPR-Grades 10 & 11 Harvard Model Congress MUN Trip, Rome/Italy
Saturday	12	-Grade 12 Mock Exams, MPR-Grades 10 & 11 Harvard Model Congress MUN Trip, Rome/Italy
Sunday	13	-Grades 10 & 11 Harvard Model Congress MUN Trip, Rome/Italy-'How to Help Your Child with Their School Life' Workshop, IAA Secondary Library, 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM

**Sports News**

This week, I have had the great pleasure to teach research classes for both our Extended Essay and Personal Project students. Grade 9 students were very engaged in evaluating and ranking the relevance of various types of resources using the criteria of authority, accuracy, and bias. This practice prepares them to better complete Criterion A of the Personal Project, which is investigating. Our Grade 11 students are being introduced to the various databases and ebooks they can use for researching their Extended Essay topics. The IAA Libraries provide a variety of databases in every subject matter. Parents and students can locate them 24/7 via the Secondary Library website at [library.iaa.edu.jo](http://library.iaa.edu.jo). There is a

Library Class on Moodle that includes tutorials on how to use the databases as well as information on Academic Honesty.

Just as a reminder, here are the major databases available to IAA Secondary students:

eLibrary Science

Newsbank World Access Newspapers

SIRS Knowledge Source

Oxford Premium Reference Online

Questia

I will be meeting with each Grade 11 student very soon to review their resources and Annotated Bibliographies as one of the earliest steps in their inquiry process for the Extended Essay.

The Media Lab has been busy with various media projects. Last week, Language B Arabic students created PowToon videos, and Ms Rawan is paying special attention to the issue of giving credit to source material in the proper format as it applies to various types of media.

The Primary and KG Libraries are celebrating Dr Seuss month with the theme OH, THE PLACES YOU'LL GO. In KG, several learning strands intertwine. Ms Tania and her staff will be reading *THE LORAX* with students and combining it with caring for the earth, "If I was the Lorax, this is how I would help our earth...". Each student will fill out a grade-level appropriate worksheet and learn that it is important to put your name on your own paper, as the first step in Academic Honesty is claiming your work as your own.

In the Primary Library, students are free to celebrate Dr Seuss by choosing from a wide variety of his work. Ms Dima will teach the features of a biography, as students learn more about the life of Theodore Geisel, the man behind all these wonderful books. There are many activities at [Suessville.com](http://Suessville.com), if parents want to get an idea for Dr Suess-related activities, on-line games and more.

What an exciting month we have ahead. If you have any comments or questions, please contact us at [library@iaa.edu.jo](mailto:library@iaa.edu.jo) or come visit any of our staff. We are happy to help you.

**Ms Kathleen, Ms Dima, and Ms Tania**