



الأكاديمية الدولية - عمان
THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY - AMMAN

Parent News Monday, 18th March 2019

Calendar

Monday, March 18	-Open meeting with Primary Principal, Mr. Andrew Powell, Primary Principal's Office, 8-9 am -Grade 6 Parent Coffee Morning, Tiered Classroom – Secondary Library, 8-9 am
Tuesday, March 19	-Director's Open Meeting with parents, Director's Office, 8-9 am
Thursday, March 21	-HAWKS U14 Basketball
Friday, March 22	-HAWKS U14 Basketball -HAWKS ALL Swim
Saturday, March 23	-HAWKS U14 Basketball -HAWKS ALL Swim -AlHadaf children's visit to IAA, 9:30 am-12 pm
Sunday, March 24	-HAWKS U14 Basketball
Monday, March 25	-Open meeting with Primary Principal, Mr. Andrew Powell, Primary Principal's Office, 8-9 am -MYP Drama Production (THE ADDAMS FAMILY) Morning Show, Auditorium, 10 am -MYP Drama Production (THE ADDAMS FAMILY) Evening Show, Auditorium, 6 pm
Tuesday, March 26	-Director's Open Meeting with parents, Director's Office, 8-9 am -MYP Drama Production (THE ADDAMS FAMILY) Morning Show, Auditorium, 10 am -MYP Drama Production (THE ADDAMS FAMILY) Evening Show, Auditorium, 6 pm
Wednesday, March 27	-MYP Drama Production (THE ADDAMS FAMILY) Morning Show, Auditorium, 10 am -MYP Drama Production (THE ADDAMS FAMILY) Evening Show, Auditorium, 6 pm
Saturday, March 30	-AlHadaf children's visit to IAA, 9:30 am-12 pm
Monday, April 1	-Open meeting with Primary Principal, Mr. Andrew Powell, Primary Principal's Office, 8-9 am

A Message from the Director

Dear IAA Community,

The disturbing news and horrific footage of the recent mosques' shootings in New Zealand was shocking. The video spread on social media and was available for hours after the attack, as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube scrambled to remove the violent scenes that resembled a shooter on some video game like Fortnite. As I extend my condolences to the families of those who lost their lives, my fear has grown as to how much violence our children – and us- are exposed to and the lack of internet safeguarding, thus spreading aggressiveness and anger in our society. I pray for global peace which I believe can only be achieved through finding one's inner peace, as Dalai Lama said: ***"We need to take action to develop compassion, to create inner peace within ourselves and to share that inner peace with our family and friends. Peace and warm-heartedness can then spread through the community just as ripples radiate out across the water when you drop a pebble into a pond."***

Speaking global, the IAA hosted the CIS Middle East Institute on International Admission & Guidance conference last weekend that brought together professionals from over 20 different countries. The two-day event provided a platform where participants interacted, shared and learned about education systems in the region as well as admission requirements in the US, UK, Europe and beyond.

Quite a few annual competitions coming up soon. We have the Robotics and the Bridge Building, the latter happening for the second consecutive year in Secondary. I wish all students concerned the best of luck. Also, coming up is the long-awaited The Addams Family – a musical comedy that should be a treat for the IAA community. Stay tuned to our communication channels for ticket sales.

On the trips front, I would like to restate that the new regulations of the Ministry of Education have been published, stipulating clear instructions and simultaneously banning certain sites across Jordan like forests, wetlands, wadis, adventure and challenge parks, just to name a few. Whilst challenging and limiting, we will always strive to find ways to enhance learning beyond the classroom. At the end of the day, these measures are for the safety and well-being of our children.

Finally, I will be available on Tuesday from 8-9am for the open meeting at my office for those who wish to see me.

Hana Kanan Ed.D.

Director

Primary School News

Dear Parents,

Many of you will have had a troubling weekend with the news of the abhorrent act of terrorism that took place in New Zealand on Friday. As a community, I know that we stand firm in condemning this act and expressing our condolences to those people and families that have been impacted by this tragedy. Quite a few parents have asked how to explain it to their children who have heard versions of what happened from various sources such as the news, social media, friends and older siblings. While different ages benefit from different approaches the article below does have sound advice. In short, ascertain what your child knows, keep things simple and be sure to point out the heroes.

<https://theconversation.com/how-to-talk-to-children-about-terrorism-78290>

I was truly humbled by the incredible contributions our teachers made to the professional learning of educators throughout Jordan and the Middle East last weekend. Our staff presented a wide range of workshops and the creativity and knowledge demonstrated by our team worked perfectly with the conference theme. It was pleasing to see the positivity and pride in our school, which certainly cemented its reputation as a leading school in the region.

The last couple of weeks have been busy on campus with a variety of student/ parent events. Our Grade 1 students showcased their work on 'The Earth - Our Home' with detailed information about what they had learned about different habitats, while our Pre-K children invited their parents to a Pirate Scavenger Hunt. Last week ended with a wonderful Maths activity session in KG2 where students and parents partnered each other in their learning.

Our Science Fairs are drawing closer and we have amended the original timing of those events after consultation with parents. Please note that they will take place as follows:

Monday, April 15 th	Grade 3 Science Fair	MPR	12:45 – 2:00pm
Tuesday, April 16 th	Grade 4 Science Fair	MPR	12:45 – 2:00pm
Wednesday, April 17 th	Grade 5 Science Fair	MPR	12:45 – 2:00pm

I would like to recognise the following award winners:

Bronze Award Winners

Nour Damrah 5B	Munira Al- Hashimi 5D	Haya Al Soury 3C
Yousef Shahrouri 5B	Yazan Al- Rawi 5D	Baher Al Adnani 1D
Zaid Al Bdour 5B	Basheer Arabiyat 3C	Faris Al Kasih 1D
Mohammad Al Hussein 5B	Fares Rashid 3C	Saad Janabi 1D
Selena Al Shakshir 5B	Salma Kloub 3C	Saeed Al Daoud 1D
Hashem Ellauzi 5B		

Silver Award Winners

Hala Al Qaimari 5B	Sadeen Rashid 5D	Noor Al Nims 1B
Eleina Imseeh 5B	Rania Yasin 5D	Rashid Al Rabi 1B
Omar Al Manasrah 5B	Adam Khzai 3A	Mohammad Al Omari 1B
Hisham Al Nsour 5B	Yara Saoudi 3A	Hashem El Oqaili 1B

Layla Agha 5C	Mohammad Al Lozi 3A	Sarah Alsallakh 1D
Naya Aryan 5C	Yulixa Houkayem 3D	Hashem Al Qaryouti 1D
Nazeeh Abdul- Hadi 5C	Taj Qusous 3D	Wael Shokerat 1D
Mustafa Al- Ma'ayta 5D	Sayar Hijawi 1B	Omar Shawareb 1D
Lara Kilani 5D		

Gold Award Winners

Yahya Hoozeer 5C	Bana Qutob 1B	Yousef Allaham 1B
Hamza Al- Adwan 5C	Fares Khirfan 1B	

Gold with Merit Award Winners

Qais Smadi 1B	Jad Al Qasem 1B	Saif Ayoub 1B
Nabeel Sakkijha 1B	Taliya Allahham 1B	Haya Al Shdeafat 1B

Gold with Excellence Winner

Nadine Baqain 5C

I hope that you have a wonderful week.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Powell

Secondary School News

Dear Parents,

Hawks News

This has been a very busy weekend of Sports for the Hawks. Our under 16 girls and boys basketball teams were in action and our teams carried on with their winning ways. The girls continued with the dominance shown by the under 18 team in the last tournament and progressed to the final untroubled and unbeaten. The boys had to fight their way and in the semi-final came up against the team everyone thought would easily win the tournament. The beauty of sport is you never know what might happen and in an incredibly tense game IAA triumphed! Our boys are now in the final too. We wish both teams all the very best in their finals.

Over the weekend, Shahd Audi in Grade 10 won Bronze for Jordan at the FAMC International Taekwondo Competition in Spain. Next weekend the Hawks are in action again. We have the Under 14 girls and boys basketball teams in action. Our swimmers are competing in a tournament, and there is a track and field meeting at IAA. We wish all our talented sportsmen and women the very best of luck.

Last MUN of the year

This weekend also saw the last of the MUN conference for the year. It was the turn of King's Academy and 19 students from Grades 8 to 11 enjoyed a weekend full of spirited debate under the umbrella of the theme: Shift the Paradigm. With best delegates in the International Court of Justice and the Historical Criminal Court, a few runner ups and with two of our students chairing committees it was a successful end to the MUN season.

Amman Design Week

Last week we also received the news that the design entries of 6 of our students, from Grades 9 to 11, were accepted for the Amman Design Week. This is a great opportunity where they are paired up with mentors who help guide them in preparing their ideas and prototypes for the Design Week later in the year. We wish our young designers all the best on their journey.

Pi Day

The 14th of March is Pi Day, and this year students celebrated in numerous ways. Students constructed a long sequence of Pi down the corridor. There were some wonderful and informative posters about Pi. In the break, we held a competition to see who could memorise the greatest number of digits of this infinite number. The winner recounted over 100 digits! Very impressive!

Bridge Building Competition

Last Thursday afternoon, students worked collaboratively within their groups to design the bridge with the highest structural efficiency. 8 groups signed up, totaling to 40 students! This week, the groups will be meeting to bring their design to life, creating simplified versions of real-world bridges. Stay tuned to find out the day when they will put their bridges to test.

Himmetna Campaign

Grade 10s were fortunate to have Dr. Fadia Samara, Secretary General of the Patient Protection Coalition, present to them on the progress of the Himmetna Campaign, which they donated their Bake Sale proceeds to. The aim of this campaign is to renovate the Oncology Department at Al Bashir Hospital. Dr. Fadia shared with us how one visit with a 30-year-old cancer patient, within a worn-out setting, inspired her to take action to ensure that his care and that of others follows international recognised health standards. Dr. Fadia urged our students

to take action by spreading word of this initiative, as achievement of such a worthy goal needs to have everyone on board.

Looking ahead to the next two weeks...

Grade 6 Coffee Morning

On the 18th March we will have the first of our coffee mornings for Semester 2. This is for Grade 6 and will take place from 8.00 am to 9.00 am in the Tiered Classroom in the Library. We hope to see many parents there.

Grade 11 College Counselling

An email was sent out to all Grade 11 Parents indicating times during the week when the College Counsellors are available to meet to discuss this very important time for Grade 11 students. As ideas firm up as to the future, it is important that all additional tests are understood and taken and that summers are used to build excellent portfolios. All parents in Grade 11 are urged to make use of these meeting times in the next two months.

Mock Exams Grade 10 and 12

It is that time of year again when Grade 10 and Grade 12 students sit for their mock exams. These will take place from the 24th of March to the 4th of April inclusive. Students are only expected in school for their exams (although they are very welcome to use the Library for revision and the Library has extended opening hours until 5.00 pm during this time) but they must wear full school uniform when on campus. Separate letters will be sent home by the appropriate coordinators with more details.

School Production 25th-27th March

The Addams Family is coming to a stage near you! IAA is proud to announce that the next school production, the Addams Family will be playing on the evenings of the 25th to 27th March. Tickets will be on sale soon and it is suitable for all ages. We imagine sales will be strong and the shows will sell out like in previous years. Please get tickets early to avoid disappointment.

World Poetry Day

The UNESCO World Poetry Day is being celebrated in numerous ways over the next couple of weeks. We will be sharing favourite poems with each other in school and holding a special assembly on the 31st of March where we will bring the different subject areas to life through the spoken word. It should be fun!

Civvies Day – Grade 11 Al Hadaf

On the 28th March we will be holding a Civvies Day and Bake sale. This one is being organised by Grade 11 in support of Al-Hadaf. Al Hadaf's mission is to inspire children and their families, placed in the Kingdom of Jordan and are affected by the world's injustice, to achieve positive change in their lives. They do this for people from Jordan and beyond of any and all faiths. I hope we raise some good funds for them on this day.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Martin and Ms. Zena

Sports News

Closing in on our academic year, our IAA Hawks teams were on call for the AAC U16 Basketball tournament.

Both our boys and girls teams performed amazingly well and had great sportsmanship throughout the tournament, reaching the finals for their respective tournaments.

Our U16 Girls team played a very tough final match and eventually managed to win the tournament. The boys, however, lost their match by one point but nevertheless had an amazing final match.

I would like to thank the coaches, staff and everyone that came to support our Hawks. We are proud of our student athletes.

Here's wishing our U14 Basketball Hawks team a successful tournament ahead.

Samer Taha

Athletics Director

Library News

Congratulations to the winner of the Secondary Library “Fortnite in a Fortnight” Challenge, Faisal Abu Tayeh, G6D, who wins a llama full of chocolates. Faisal read 6 books: *The River* by Gary Paulsen, *Fever Code* by James Dashner, *Chaos Unleashed* by Alec Silliphant, *Brian’s Winter* by Gary Paulsen; and *North Face* by our visiting author Matt Dickinson. Faisal enjoyed the Gary Paulsen books the most because they are about teenagers who have to fight for survival in the wilderness.

Thank you to those who turned out for the official introduction of the *Encyclopedia Palestinnica* to the IAA Library Collection. This resource covers the history of Palestine during the Ottoman period, and is a collection of 24 volumes full of primary documents. The encyclopedia not only upholds the IAA pillar of Cultural Heritage, but it also encourages students to meet the qualities of IB Learners, who are inquiring, thinking, and knowledgeable. It is my hope that students will realise the importance of preserving the past in order to change the future.

For parents and students working on Science Fair Projects, don’t forget that the library has many helpful resources, including *Britannica School*. You should be able to access *Britannica* via Moodle from home; however if that doesn’t work, our remote username and password are available from Ms. Dima in the Primary Library.

For the next few weeks, the Libraries will be celebrating World Poetry Day, 21 March. For me, poetry is a celebration of words – there are so many fun ways to use words! We have great collections of Arabic and English poetry books in all 3 libraries. We hope the students will have fun with activity stations like book spine poetry, magnetic poetry, LEGO poetry and black-out poetry. Anyone is welcome to add a verse or poem to the Secondary Library *Poet’s Tree*. The Children’s Poetry Archive, online at <https://www.childrenspoetryarchive.org/>, is a source of inspiration and ideas about how to help your child enjoy poetry – and words.

Our next IAA Community Book Club will be 22 April. Any IAA parent is welcome to join. The book to be discussed is *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker. Please see Ms. Kathleen in the Secondary Library for more information.