



الأكاديمية الدولية - عمان  
THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY - AMMAN

# Parent News

## Monday, 27th March

### 2017

### Calendar

Monday	27	--Grade 12 Mocks --Grade 10 Mocks --CIS/NEASC/MYP/DP Visit
Tuesday	28	--Parents Open Meeting with the Director, Director's Office, 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM --Grade 12 Mocks --Grade 10 Mocks --CIS/NEASC/MYP/DP Visit
Wednesday	29	--Grade 12 Mocks --Grade 10 Mocks --CIS/NEASC/MYP/DP Visit
Thursday	30	--Grade 6 Parent Coffee Morning, Library, 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM --Primary Easter Assembly, Auditorium, 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM --Grade 12 Mocks --Grade 10 Mocks --Grade 1 Trip, (Off- Campus) --Grade 2 Trip, (Off- Campus) --Grade 4 Trip, (Off- Campus)
Friday	31	--Grade 12 Mocks
Saturday	1	
Sunday	2	--Holy Quran Competition, Auditorium, 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM --KG2 Trip, (Off- Campus)
Monday	3	--Grade 8 Parent Coffee Morning, Library, 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM --Open meeting with Primary Principal, Mr. Andrew Powell, Primary Principal's Office, 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM --KG2 Trip, (Off- Campus) --Opening of Grade 12 Art Exhibition

### A Message from the Director

It has been another busy weekend for both IAA students and staff. Our Hawks swimmers brought home 14 gold medals and numerous silver and bronze after a tournament at Amman Academy. The team portrayed amazing talent and their morning and afternoon training regimes surely paid off. Bravo!

I was in Madrid last week attending the GLOBAL CONNECTIONS SEMINAR XVIII that took place from March 17-25 entitled “Transformations Through Cooperative Learning Experiences”. It was an eye-opening seminar that highlighted the importance of education through cooperative learning. The event hosted 57 Directors from schools around the globe and included sessions, lectures and a tour of Madrid’s public and private catholic schools to see innovation in education. I also visited the venue for our upcoming athletics trips for Grade 4-9 in April. The trip programme was finalised to one that will be an enriching and cultural experience for our students.

Speaking of students, I would like to applaud our Grade 11 students, Sara Baara and Alsharif Qatada Alluhaymaq, who took part in the Teacher Skills Forum over the weekend. They both shone on stage as they delivered their perspective on innovation in front of a large audience comprising of Dr Siva Kumari, IB Director General, and Prof. Tony Wagner from Harvard University. Since the forum began three years ago, IAA has been a great supporter and sponsor of speakers. Several IAA staff attended the sessions and even gave workshops pertaining educational excellence in their field of expertise, such as developing a Peer Helper programme, entrepreneurship, coding, service-based pedagogies, building a curriculum beyond textbooks and high impact teaching strategies. The forum is an annual regional event organised by the Queen Rania Teacher Academy in partnership with the International Baccalaureate (IB), and is aimed at enriching the educational system and the students' experience in school.

This week, IAA is hosting the accreditation teams from CIS, NEASC, IB and MYP. The teams will observe teaching and learning in action. Evaluation is key to our growth as an educational community. On that note, I will be available on Tuesday for the parents' open meeting at my office. I will be happy to hear your concerns or even a good story to share.

Have a great week.

**Hana Kanan, Ed.D.**

**Director**

### **Primary School News**

Dear Parents,

We’ve had a busy start to the week with a number of our faculty attending the Teacher’s Skills Forum. I know that this was an excellent opportunity for teachers to engage in professional learning. It was also an opportunity for IAA to showcase some of the talent and initiatives that make us one of the leading schools in the Kingdom. Ms Sophie and Ms Maria presented a workshop outlining their successful peer mediation programme while I presented a session on high impact teaching strategies.

I have been incredibly proud to be leading the Primary School of late. After a successful series of science fairs, our Grade 2 students put together a wax museum of prominent international leaders. The event was very well attended and I appreciate all the parents who took time off work to share in this leadership exposé. The quality of research, understanding and presentation shown by our students was incredible and I was overwhelmed by the articulate way many of our students spoke about their idols.

This week, our Student Council have commenced a new initiative. It is the Wheel of Kindness, and is an extension to the successful kindness campaign that featured earlier in the year. Children can spin the arrow and spread kindness through simple acts that will a make a big difference.

This week I would like to congratulate the following Award Winners:

Bronze Award Winners

Taj Shehadeh 4M	Maya Ghokapsh 2H	Basheer Arabiyat 1L
Kareem Al Taweel 4G	Abbas Hamdan 2H	Faisal Nabulsi 1L
Hamza Abu Salha 2J	Jude Malkawi 2H	Ayla Haddadin 1L
Bishr Maraqa 2J	Fuad Halaweh 2R	Shaden Bundakji 1S
Hussain Al- Daoud 2R	Rakan Imseeh 1F	Nadine Hammoudeh 1S
Ghazi Khalifeh 2R	Naya Akkawi 1L	Aysha Salous 1S
Dania Al- Saraf 2R	Rashed Abu Dahab 1L	

Silver Award Winners

Sarah Al- Assaf 5M	Hashem Al Jazy 3LC	Abdullah Jada'an 3LC
Sultan Hijazi 4D	Ali Abu Rayyan 3LC	Rakan Kardan 2R
Bashir Aljaghbir 4D	Isabella Maroun 3LC	Ahmad Abu Yousef 2J
Mariam Al Saket 4M	Salma Morrarr 3LC	Jasmine Abu Ghalyaoun 2H
Tala Morrarr 4M	Zaid Al Bdour 3LC	Faisal Kardan 2A
Karam Hamad 4M	Saba Hourani 3LC	Jamal Semreen 1L
Michael Imseeh 4G	Hashem Ellauzi 3LC	Christina Imseeh 1S
Sara Al Far 3G	Mouj Hijjawi 3LC	

Gold Award Winner

Aisha Saket 4D	Jude Saadi 2H	Mariel Imseeh 2R
Husam Baloula 4G	Zaid Al Nammari 2R	Saif Al- Awwad 2R

Gold with Merit Award Winner

Andrea Powell 5MM	Husam Baloula 4G	Sadeen Rashid 3LC
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Wishing you a wonderful week.

Yours sincerely,

**Andrew Powell**

**Primary School Principal**

### **Secondary School News**

Dear Parents,

What a busy week this has been! World Poetry Day was a full week celebration. The mornings began with poetry in the pods, where teachers gave a personal context to the poems that they shared with their students. Added to that, Poets Corner was the place to be in first break, where students presented poetry in Arabic and English on topics that ranged from identity to family to life's struggles to happiness, many of which was of their own creations. It was a fun and uplifting experience, bringing us even closer as a community. This week we will carry on with these themes and Thursday first break is going to be a 'Jam Session' at Musicians Corner. We will be putting a call out to all our talented musicians and singers who want to perform in an impromptu fashion and help make our breaks fun and relaxing.

Last week, Mr. Sinan Jarrad, a representative from the King Hussein Cancer Foundation, presented to our G6 to 11 students on the many initiatives of the foundation - Patient Treatment, Academic Research, Dreams Come True and Back to School - just to name a few. On April 4, during periods 6 and 7, our students will participate in the Colour Run, raising money for the Foundation. Parents are also invited. Starting today, our students and parents can fill in the pledge form and purchase the t-shirt either during first break or at Finance. The cost is JD 10, where most of that amount will go to the Foundation. This run will give us the opportunity to join together as a community in honouring those who are affected by this disease. Deadline to purchase the shirt is March 30.

Last week we also had a great deal of inter-disciplinary thinking in school as our Grade 11 embarked upon their Group 4 Project, where they were placed into teams and worked on real life problems through the lens of all the sciences. Our ESS students in Grade 11 also spent Thursday and Friday out of school as they were in the field learning about data collection and getting results that can be used for their main fieldwork project in this subject.

Over the weekend, the Hawks swimming team were in action at a tournament held at Amman Academy. They did an amazing job and our students walked away with 14 gold medals and numerous silver and bronze. There is so much talent and depth in our swimming programme and I know how much effort these swimmers put into their morning and afternoon training regimes. It is certainly paying off.

Yesterday, Sunday, a number of our staff were at the Teacher Skills Forum here in Amman. This huge conference was focusing on a number of themes, one being innovation. Two of our Grade 11 students were lucky enough to have their moment on stage in front of Dr Siva Kumari (the Director General of the IB) and over 1,000 delegates as they gave the IAA perspective on innovation and then introduced the main speaker, a specialist on the subject of innovation, Professor Tony Wagner from Harvard University. It goes without saying- they did an excellent job!

In the last few months, the Grade 9s have had the major elements of the Personal Project (PP) explained to them. They understand that the Process Journal is needed to document their PP journey. They know that they must define a clear goal, product/outcome and global context that link together and based on personal interests. The Grade 9s now have a set of PP deadlines that they have to meet, where they have to decide on their goal, product and global context.

The students are approaching the final stages of their Community Project, as they will be presenting their goals and the actions this week in front of their peers. Their last in-class session to complete the process journals will be April 5. They are then required to submit their work on Turnitin, which can be accessed from the Community Project Moodle page. The final deadline for submission is April 6. For more information, please contact our CP Coordinator at r.battikha@iaa.edu.jo .

The grade-specific Coffee Mornings will be starting again soon. The purpose of these sessions would be for you to raise any issues, concerns, suggestions you have regarding the specific grade. All sessions will take place from 8am to 9am in the Library. The dates are as follows:

- G6 March 30<sup>th</sup>
- G7 April 4<sup>th</sup>
- G8 April 3<sup>rd</sup>

Lastly, one of the benefits of the IB is the thorough and continuous review and reflection process undertaken regularly. Since we have been authorized to deliver the MYP and DP, we have undertaken one evaluation, and we are in the process of completing another one this year. Programme evaluation is both a requirement and a service provided by the IB that involves all stakeholders within the community. Its aim is to ensure that the standards and practices of the IB are being maintained. To assist with this review process. we conducted a self-study where we reviewed our practices and rated our progress since our last evaluation. We also surveyed students and parents, who provided valuable input into this process. This week, visitors from CIS and the IB will be visiting IAA to observe the teaching and learning in action. The evaluation informs us of the success of our programme implementation and helps us to continue to make progress in delivering excellent outcomes for all of our students.

Thank you.

**Zena Muhtaseb**

**Martin Thompson**

*Head of Middle Years*

*Secondary School Principal*

### **Library News**

This is an exciting week for the Primary Library because we will be learning about fairy tales and fractured fairy tales. The students absolutely love the classic fairy tales and when there is a twist to its ending or if it's told from someone else's point of view, it is hilarious! They love to learn about the features of a fairy tale and how it came about. We enjoy reading fractured fairy tales such as *The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs*, *Ninja Red Hood*,

*Prince Cinders, and The 3 Bears and Goldilocks.* As for Grade 5, they will be playing a game of Kahoot to review what they have learned in their Arabic lessons throughout the year with Ms. Layal. It will be a fun week for all!

For next week, the KG Library will introduce a new unit “different types of genres”. We will start with fables and short stories which illustrate a particular moral and teach a lesson to children. The theme and characters are often humorous and entertaining. Fables, also called tales or yarns, have a message in the narrative, much like a parable might have. Aesop’s Fables provide great entertainment. These very short (and perhaps the oldest) stories keep the attention of children and feature familiar animals as the main characters.

The Secondary Media Lab classes have been busy creating digital designs in Adobe shop, and the results are amazing. We have seen some very talented and detailed work in designing books covers and board games while examining the question of how technology helps us communicate in different ways.

The Secondary Library has completed its #LISSSY project, which brings to students books, poetry, short stories and other literature from countries that were part of Donald Trump’s proposed immigration laws. Compiling the lists was a wonderful way to see how much literature from around the world we have in our libraries, but it was also disheartening to learn that most of the literature from those predominantly Muslim countries was written in exile. It is also interesting to note that the longer a country is involved in a “conflict,” the weaker the literary outpouring becomes. If you are interested in learning about the world through literature, please take time to see this special collection. Reading other cultures strengthens global-mindedness and leadership skills.

*For the Libraries,*

*Ms. Kathleen, Ms. Dima, Ms. Tania*

## *A Message from the Assistant Director for Curriculum*

Dear Parents,

This year, we have been conducting a self-study for our IB programmes that is a normal part of retaining our authorisation to provide the MYP and DP and to issue credentials to students who complete the programmes. We have also been working on what is called a 'Five Year Review' for our other international accrediting agency, CIS/NEASC, which stands for the 'Council of International Schools', based in Europe, and the 'New England Association of Schools and Colleges,' which is based in the United States. The purpose of this report is to show what we have accomplished as a school since our initial accreditation in 2012. One of the main ideas behind the CIS/NEASC system is the idea of 'continuous improvement': that is that education is always changing, and the school should continuously monitor changes in the field and how they should affect the school. While all academic leaders, and often others as well, contribute to this system, monitoring updates in education and the expectations of these agencies is the main focus of my role.

Reports for all of the programmes were submitted earlier in the year, and this week we welcome representatives of the agencies who will spend three days touring IAA and speaking with various groups here. We are excited to show the team the work we are doing here at IAA and to learn more about how we can improve.

I know that you will join the students and staff in giving the Visiting Team the kind of welcome for which Jordan is famous.

Best regards,

**Lois L. Warner Ph.D.**

**Assistant Director for Curriculum**