



الأكاديمية الدولية - عمان  
THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY - AMMAN

# Parent News

## Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022

### Calendar

## MARCH - APRIL 22

**3 SUN**

**First Day Ramadan**

**رمضان مبارك**



### A Message from the Director

Dear IAA Community,

Next week marks the auspicious occasion of the Holy month of Ramadan! It feels like it has been ages since we were truly able to fully experience Ramadan with the previous years' strict measurements and lockdowns that were imposed on by the pandemic. It is certainly refreshing and restorative that this year, we will be fortunate enough to enjoy the blessings of this month in all its holy, glorious, and social aspects alongside our immediate and extended family members and loved ones. On that note, allow me to extend my warm wishes to every single member of our loving community who will be observing Ramadan this year; may you and your families have a blessed month filled with peace and serenity! Ramadan Mubarak.

As we continue our journey to excellence and further achievements, I would like to remind you that we are currently undergoing the Re-Accreditation process through synchronized visits by the Council of International Schools (CIS), the International Baccalaureate (IB), and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). A team from the CIS, IB, and NEASC is currently meetings with IAA students, parents, staff members, alumni, and board members. In addition to the thorough meetings, the team is also conducting virtual tours, observing day-to-day practices, and even attending classes through live streaming. The long prepared for virtual visit shall be concluded by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. With such remarkable IAA representatives in place, I am confident that we shall fulfill our commitment to provide high-quality education in an international context, and that we shall gain the Re-Accreditation Status by the world's top accrediting organizations.

Allow me to thank you for your continuous support and involvement; I am in awe of our community's unbridled sense of unity and cohesiveness, which is always essential for IAA's everlasting success.

Kind regards,  
Hana Kanan, Ed. D.

### **Primary School News**

This week, it delights me to write to you about the resumption of our regular celebrations associated with this time of year. For the first time since October, we have been in the theatre and were thoroughly entertained by the performance of Grade 5A. It was a pleasure to see the joy in the eyes of the students, parents, and staff attending the assembly in person. As of this week, we will be having two assemblies on Thursdays to fit in assemblies for the rest of the primary classes and make up for the slots that were missed during the restriction period. The happy days are back and hopefully for good!

More so, for the remainder of this term, each of our grade levels has been assigned a celebratory assembly for Ramadan & Eid, Easter, and Independence Day in which student contributions will feature. These events will be organised by our talented music teachers, the wonderful Religion staff, and the dedicated homeroom teachers. As the challenges that we were facing seem like a distant memory, the festive spirit is very much alive and present amongst our community. This is a season of giving and I have encouraged our students to think about how they can give by being kind to others.

Another occasion on our agenda for this week is the Council of International Schools(CIS), New England Association of Schools and Colleges(NEASC) synchronized visit. We welcomed our colleagues from the CIS/NEASC accreditation team that are virtually visiting our school for this cycle of re-accreditation. As a leading school, we are very much committed to external accreditation led by organisations such as CIS and NEASC. The accreditation visitors are meeting with teachers, students, and parents as well as conducting learning observations by virtually visiting classrooms. We have already received constructive assertion on our reflective self-study and are looking forward to showcasing the quality of our programmes.

In keeping with our monthly tradition, we will be having a non-uniform day this Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. The money raised will go to our Ramadan Campaign aiming to support 150 families. Many thanks go to Ms Sahar and the primary CAS who have taken us through an informative presentation during last week's assembly to summarise and reflect on our charity contributions since the beginning of the year. A gentle reminder that this

Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup> IAA will be hosting the “Run for Life” event to support King Hussein Cancer Foundation. Tickets are sold at the Finance Department so come join us on the track and enjoy the sunshine.

## *Secondary School News*

Dear Parents

We hope this newsletter finds you well and that you are enjoying the return of some spring weather!

### **IB/CIS/NEASC accreditation visit**

This week is very important for the school. We have our 5 year synchronized IB/CIS/NEASC accreditation visit. We welcome nine colleagues from schools all over the world to discuss with us our self-study and to help guide us in developing our next 5 year strategic plan. Over the course of this week the visitors will be speaking with numerous parents, alumni and students as they get a sense of what education at IAA looks like. Can we thank all those who have given up valuable time to be part of these discussions with the visiting team.

### **Civvies Day – March 31<sup>st</sup>**

On Thursday this week we have a civvies day. Students are asked to bring in 2JD as a charitable donation if they wish to participate. Last month we supported the White Beds Society and were able to donate 1,000JD to them. This month we are hoping to raise a similar amount to support an organisation called Al Kheir, who donate food to those less fortunate in society.

### **Ramadan**

Next week we will be following a Ramadan timetable as we enter the Holy Month. The full details of the Ramadan timetable will be shared with students through their tutor time and Moodle. However, the key times are: **the school day will start at 9.00 a.m. and will finish at 2.15 p.m. Sunday to Thursday**. A big thank you to all those families who have contributed to our Ramadan campaign this year.

Over the past week we have enjoyed numerous trips and activities, some of them being:

### **Qur’an and Bible Competitions**

Congratulations to all our students who participated in the annual Qur’an and Bible competitions. It was wonderful to see how well they prepared and how much commitment they have towards their faith. Thank you to our Religion Department for organizing such important and valuable events.

### **Celebrating UNESCO World Poetry Day**

Last week staff and students shared their favourite poems with each other, whether during morning registration or in their lessons. Younger grades participated in black-out poetry and our Creative Arts Department organized a Music Corner during break. After all both music and poetry use rhythm to bring out emotions. The English Department held an assembly and students and teachers recited poetry based on “War and Peace”. Our G8 Arabic teachers have an assembly this week. They have invited a guest-speaker to share his experience with poetry and have been working with our students to perform a poetry-themed debate and story. These learning experiences have confirmed to us the importance of poetry to help us understand and appreciate the world we live in.

### **El Hassan Youth Award trip to Wadi Rum**

Grade 10 went to Wadi Rum for the “Adventurous Journey” part of the El Hassan Youth Bronze Award. Its spectacular sandstone mountains, dunes and valleys are unlike any other place in this world. Our students certainly demonstrated perseverance when hiking in the sand, putting their orienteering skills to test. They also cooked galayet bandora over the fire, each group claiming their dish to be the tastiest. The toughest part was reaching the top of a steep hill – it took us almost 2 hours. However, the stunning view from the top and tumbling down the soft sand dunes made the ache in our muscles magically disappear. Though their footprints in the sand were temporary, the permanent imprint this desert made in their hearts made them all yearn for another visit.

Ramadan Mubarak!

Mr Martin and Ms Zena

### **Sports News**

Our second term season is underway, with our student athletes participating in different tournaments already.

Our IAA Track and Field team participated in the AAC tournament this week. It was amazing to see our students back on the track, even though some of them had difficulties with MOCK exams starting for grade 12, and others yet to peak physically. Nonetheless, our student athletes proved once again that the HAWKS character is always present, and they managed to bring back different medals back home.

In gymnastics, Joanna Bani Younis, 2D, continued her impressive performances. Following up on her achievements in Dubai, she participated in the GX tournament in Amman. Joanna continued to show progress and improvement, and managed to get Bronze in Floor, Silver in Beam and Bars, and Gold in Vault. Joana was impressive throughout and was second in the All Around ranking.

### **Library News**

March has been a busy and cold month this year and I’m glad the weather is warming up and our beautiful spring is here. It is always great to see the excitement of our younger students when our secondary students come in for buddy reading. A group of dedicated 11th graders have committed to coming to read both Arabic and English books during their break time every week and it couldn’t be more successful! I believe the older students enjoy it just as much as the younger ones!

Our Pre K and Kindergarteners have been learning and reading about plants and insects complementing their IS units while KG2 has been reading about the circus.

In the primary library, grades 2 and 3 have been learning about the features of nonfiction books and biographies while grades 4 and 5 are doing research, evaluating websites and citations. The secondary library celebrated World Poetry Day by getting the students to make their own artistic blackout poetry. Students are provided with text and they have to narrow down the words they don't want then arrange the words that are left to create a new poem. Next week is the holy month of Ramadan and I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a blessed month filled with forgiveness, prayer, generosity and spirituality. I hope you will take a look at the suggestions for Ramadan reading in our libraries.

**KG Ramadan collection**

<https://collections.follettsoftware.com/collection/623859c73658d40012396595?h=6e97f0434706fc9f31e55d563828b86b2718bf0046654e56e1b905bcc5bdc334>

**Primary Ramadan collection**

<https://collections.follettsoftware.com/collection/5d909e4d9aa23300121bf9a4?h=f54ab793c6cbff18a9eb1ea1ea61f2db2dd0dd2457412e16f0c404a73e2bdcbb>

**Secondary Ramadan collection**

<https://collections.follettsoftware.com/collection/6240423233593c00121333b4>

Ramadan Kareem!

Dima Shaka'a  
Head of Libraries/Primary Librarian