



الأكاديمية الدولية - عمان  
THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY - AMMAN

# Parent News

## Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019

### Calendar

Monday, March 4	-Open meeting with Primary Principal, Mr. Andrew Powell, Primary Principal's Office, 8-9 am -Science Fair Parent Information Session - Grade 4, MPR, 8:05 am
Tuesday, March 5	-Director's Open Meeting with parents, Director's Office, 8-9 am -Science Fair Parent Information Session - Grade 5, MPR, 8:05 am -Careers Day G10 and 11, 11 am-3 pm
Thursday, March 7	-G4 Jonas Assembly, Auditorium, 1:30-2 pm -World Scholars Cup, IAA Campus, 2-10 pm
Friday, March 8	-World Scholars Cup, IAA Campus, 9 am-6 pm
Monday, March 11	-Open meeting with Primary Principal, Mr. Andrew Powell, Primary Principal's Office, 8-9 am
Tuesday, March 12	-Director's Open Meeting with parents, Director's Office, 8-9 am
Thursday, March 14	-HAWKS U16 Basketball
Friday, March 15	-HAWKS U16 Basketball -HAWKS ALL Track & Field -CIS Middle East Institute Conference
Saturday, March 16	-HAWKS U16 Basketball -HAWKS ALL Track & Field -CIS Middle East Institute Conference
Sunday, March 17	-HAWKS U16 Basketball
Monday, March 18	-Open meeting with Primary Principal, Mr. Andrew Powell, Primary Principal's Office, 8-9 am

## *A Message from the Director*

Dear IAA Community,

My heartiest congratulations goes to our U18 girls' basketball champions who played last weekend and managed to win all matches.

Prior to the February break, 15 Grade 9-11 students completed the Youth Leadership Program offered by Toastmasters International. During the final ceremony, they each delivered an inspirational speech that touched the heart of everyone in the audience. Congratulations to our young speakers who have unlocked their speaking potential and started their professional journey in eloquent speaking.

This week, the Ministry of Education released their latest trips/visits amendments. The regulations restrict trips/visits to many places including forests, valleys, adventurous parks and wetland areas, just to name a few. We will look at alternative venues in order to enrich education beyond the classroom.

Speaking of enrichment, we recently acquired 'Encyclopaedia Palestinnica', the largest documented academic work in the history of Palestine published to date. It contains previously unpublished information, documents, photographs and drawings that make it one of the most important publications on Palestine in the last one hundred years. We will be inviting the author, Dr. Mohammad Ghosheh to IAA. Stay tuned for more information from the Libraries.

We have a busy week ahead with the World Scholar's Cup this weekend, Career's Day and the CIS Middle East Institute Conference that will be held at IAA next week. The latter event is expected to bring over 75 university recruiters from all over the world.

As every year, IAA staff are taking part in this year's Teacher Skills Forum which will happen at Dead Sea this weekend. An initiative of Queen Rania Teacher Academy, the forum has gained regional and international recognition for its unique approach that focusses on teachers and classroom needs in order to enhance education quality. IAA staff will be exploring and sharing experiences with some of the world's most renowned educators and scholars. We are certain that this in turn will reflect in your child's classroom.

It gives me great pleasure to announce that I was appointed as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Alliance for International Education (AIE). AIE brings together all those who are committed to advancing international and intercultural understanding through education and promotes collaborative ventures that enhance the learning of relevant concepts, skills and values. Internationally, I will continue to serve as Vice Chair at the Council of International Schools (CIS) and locally, I will remain on the Queen Rania Foundation board, the National School Classification Committee and the National Curriculum Review Centre. Being a member in these renowned institutions, representing Jordan abroad at the school and college levels, will certainly nourish the international educational system at IAA through that remarkable exchange and networking. This has put IAA on the international map, positioning it as a well-recognised international educational institute that supports education through its open-mindedness and exposure to the key players in education. It has opened more avenues to IAA to experiment, exchange and even influence general educational policies.

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,

I hope that you kept warm over the rather wet and chilly weekend.

#### **Last Bake Sale**

Given the challenges that many in the Kingdom faced due to the extreme weather, it is appropriate that Thursday was set aside for our fundraising day. The students raised close to 1,200 JD, which they have assigned to “Hands-On Hope”, a local community service and humanitarian NGO providing critical support to those suffering from poverty and hardship.

#### **Science Fair**

This week, Ms Rene’ and the respective Grade 3-5 teams are running Parent Workshops in preparation for the upcoming Science Fair. While students should be able to complete all facets of their experiments and associated presentations independently, we know that parents are keen to support their children where possible. The Science Fairs will take place as follows:

Grade 3: Monday, 15th April  
Grade 4: Tuesday, 16th April  
Grade 5: Wednesday, 17th April

#### **Teachers Skills Forum**

This weekend, we have a considerable number of teachers presenting at the Teacher Skills Forum. This is Jordan’s premier professional development conference for educators and is held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Rania. While this event is an opportunity for our teachers to contribute to the professional learning of their colleagues at other schools, it is also an opportunity for IAA to showcase the incredible teaching and learning that is taking place at our school.

## Momo Challenge

Various news sites and social media posts have recently drawn attention to the “Momo Challenge”, which often depicts a grotesque figure and warnings about children being encouraged to self-harm. Although such allegations have not been proven, the numerous warnings and rumours, accompanied by the disturbing picture can certainly trigger very real feelings of fear and anxiety. Our teachers have been briefed by Ms Maria about ways to support their students should this be talked about by children in class. As always, we will continue to help our students navigate the increasingly complex medium that the Internet presents through planned and responsive activities.

An independent article from Forbes about the Momo Challenge is featured below:

[https://www.forbes.com/sites/andyrobertson/2019/02/27/dont-panic-what-parents-really-need-to-know-about-momo-challenge/?fbclid=IwAR02m5-glnhJXB33vkKZR9WteK0XaaH8gcsgeObneLYB639zJFV0oLvz\\_eM#613ddf9a3a4b](https://www.forbes.com/sites/andyrobertson/2019/02/27/dont-panic-what-parents-really-need-to-know-about-momo-challenge/?fbclid=IwAR02m5-glnhJXB33vkKZR9WteK0XaaH8gcsgeObneLYB639zJFV0oLvz_eM#613ddf9a3a4b)

## Award Winners

I would like to recognise the following award winners:

### Bronze Award Winners

Hala Al Qaimari 5B	Aisha Al Naser 3A	Haya Al Shdeafat 1B
Ayman Hailu 5B	Hannah Fathalah 3A	Jad Al Qasem 1B
Ahmad Al Rabi 5B	Rakan Imseeh 3A	Sultan Al Adwan 1B
Yara Al Smadi 5B	Ali Toukan 3A	Hashem El Oqaili 1B
Rene Bader 5B	Shaden Bondagji 3A	Faisal Al Manasir 1B
Mouj Hijjawi 5B	Yara Saoudi 3A	Hashem Al Salehi 1B
Nabila Karyouti 5B	Ayah Abdin 3B	Lareen Kawar 1B
Omar Al Ghawi 5B	Salam Zuriekat 3C	Mariam Elfayez 1B
Salma Barhoush 5B	Jaffar Zalatimo 3C	Mohammad Al Omari 1B
Talia Shanti 5D	Haya Sunnaa 3C	Rashid Al Rabi 1B
Zaina Toghoth 5D	Abeer Dajani 3C	Reema Kalouti 1B
Hashem Zalloum 5D	Leen Dahleh 3C	Ryan Oran 1B
Mohammad Dajani 5D	Omar Toukan 3C	Salma Nasereddin 1B
Randa Al- Fayez 5D	Ryan Barhoush 3C	Noor AlNims 1B
Abdel Kareem Abu- Khajil 5D	Ahmad Asali 3D	Bana Qutob 1B
Fuad Halawa 4A	Maria Al Zraiqat 3D	Fares Khirfan 1B
Hashem Dahleh 4A	Mira Tbakhi 3D	Amin Mohsen 1C
Bishr Maraqa 4A	Rashed Abu Dahab 3D	Bassam Khoja 1C
Mohammad Karyouti 4A	Omar Dajani 2A	Faisal Al Saheb 1C
Zaid Al Namhari 4A	Anas Mar'ee 2B	Giorgio Fontana 1C
Sanad Al Khawaldeh 4A	Yasmin Sukhtain 2B	Hashem Al Amadi 1C
Sammy Al Nasser 4A	Tia Ghaith 2B	Joy Haddadin 1C
Sanad Damrah 4A	Sarah Al Bay 2C	Laith Odeh 1C
Amal Nazrieva 4B	Natalie Maslamani 2C	Mansour Kloub 1C
Rakan Qawasmi 4B	Bana Bashir 2C	Naya Imseeh 1C
Talia Kanaan 4B	Juman Samhoury 2C	Saifeddin Nassereddin 1C
Hamza Abu Salha 4C	Ahmad Salem 2C	Salah Al- Din Al- Bkeirat 1C

Salma Bkirat 4C	Huda Shahrouri 2C	Salma Fraij 1C
Salma Kasih 4C	Faisal Shawareb 2C	Zaid Al Ghazawi 1C
Jyda Kamal 4C	Majed Rudeni 2D	Tatiana Faydi 1C
George Akkawi 3A	Zaid Al Akash 1A	Tarek Al Adnani 1C
Imad Al- Baghal 3A	Yousef Allaham 1B	Salma Al Kayed 1C

### Silver Award Winners

	Talia Al Kurdi 4B	Jude Haddadin 2B
Faisal Al Samariraie 5A	Hayma Al Abadi 4B	Mariam Al- Hawamdeh 2B
Hashem Al- Jazy 5A	Adam Abu Lughod 4B	Norah Ghnaimat 2B
Masa Fraij 5A	Jyda Kamal 4C	Sema Farhan 2B
Rashid Shami 5A	Sarah Al Salaimeh 4C	Laith Smadi 2C
Saba Hourani 5A	Kareem Ghnaimat 4C	Yaseen Kilani 2C
Tala Attari 5A	Ali Ziada 4C	Mohammed Aljazairy 2D
Taj Bustanji 5A	Gabriella Gourgourinis 4C	Haya Al Zraiqat 2D
Israa Al Abdullah 5A	Kenzi Kalbouneh 4C	Masa Al Maslamani 2D
Wasem Al Lozi 5A	Salma Ellauzi 4C	Zaki Sayed Ahmad 2D
Faris Ziadat 5A	Ghazi Khalifa 4D	Rashed Friej 1A
Omar Nashashibi 5A	Omar Hyasat 4D	Fares Khirfan 1B
Massa Madi 5D	Abdulla Abu- Hasan 4D	Yousef Allahham 1B
Natalie Hammoudeh 5C	Rakan Kardan 4D	Jad Al Qasem 1B
Yousef Abdo 5C	Haya Sunnaa 3C	Haya Al Shdeafat 1B
Aws Al Salahat 5C	Jazmine Aljamal 3C	Qais Smadi 1B
Lamar Sarah 4A	Sara Hijazi 3D	Zeina Alsharouf 1B
Leema Barakat 4A	Sasha Abu Sawwa 3D	Saif Ayoub 1B
Maya Ghokapsh 4A	Hussein Faouri 2A	Taliya Allaham 1B
Daoud Al Daoud 4A	Abdelfattah Al Najjar 2A	Nabeel Sakkijha 1B
Faisal Kardan 4A	Limara Al Asad 2A	Reema Kalouti 1B
Abdullah Abu Halimeh 4A	Faisal Hijazi 2A	Mariam Elfayez 1B
Al Anoud Al Jazy 4A	Abdul Salam Jebrel 2B	Faisal Al Manasir 1B
Bana Raad 4A	Jafar Abdullat 2B	Sultan Al Adwan 1B
Sumayah Makanai 4A	Yousef Mustafa 2B	Bana Qutob 1B
Raya Oweis 4A	George Al- Nims 2B	Salma Zalloum 1C
Salma Toghoth 4A	Haya Al- Ghezawi 2B	Mansour Kloub 1C
Noor Asali 4A	Haya Al- Majali 2B	Leila Abu- Lughod 1C
Nour Alansari 4A	Ibrahim Al- Oudat 2B	Yasmeen Wahdan 1C
Salma Haj Ahmad 4B	Juana Zeidan 2B	Talal Bilbeisi 1C

### Gold Award Winners

Tayma Abu Al Issam 5A	Celine Ghazal 4D	George Al- Nims 2B
Zena Amarneh 5A	Zahraa Al Dulaimi 4D	Haya Al- Ghezawi 2B
Bana Houry 5A	Abdullah Fraij 3D	Haya Al- Majali 2B
Salma Aberer 5A	Maia Gourgourinis 2A	Hussein Hamdan 2B
Joud Zeidan 5A	Hiam Kharouba 2A	Yasmeen Houry 2D
Nadine Baqain 5C	Faris Al Karaki 2B	Sadine Al Bustami 2D

Nasser Abu- Ragheb 4D	Jude Haddadin 2B	Nadine Bakri 2D
Haya Halawa 4D	Juana Zeidan 2B	Katy Hijazi 2D
Joud Saadi 4D	Talia Asfour 2B	Ameen Al Taweel 1A

**Gold with Merit Award Winner**

Sadeen Al Daoud 5A	Zaid Jaber 2B	Abdelrahman Al Ahmad 2C
Mohamed Morrar 2B		

I hope that you have a wonderful week.

**Yours sincerely,**

**Andrew Powell**

**Secondary School News**

Dear Parents,

We hope that you were able to enjoy some quality family time during the February break which now seems a long time ago. The last week was great for Jordan with all the rain, but the conditions were unable to dampen our enthusiasm for events at school. Last week we had:

**International Mathematics Competition – University of Waterloo**

The IAA Maths club, MATHLETHICS@IAA, registered IAA in an international mathematics competition sponsored by the University of Waterloo, which includes participants from all over the globe. It was held on the 27th of February, and over 100 IAA students took part! We eagerly await the results.

**SRC Talent Show**

The SRC organised and ran the first talent show since three years, with acts from Grades 6 to 11. It was an entertaining afternoon. The ‘troika’ of judges looked amazing, and it took some quite a while to work exactly which teachers were disguised by the “fancy” dress and exaggerated accents. A huge thank you to all who participated and especially to those talents (singers, dancers, musicians, comics, artists and others) who went out of their comfort zones to entertain on Wednesday afternoon.

### **Grade 9 Arabic Assembly on 'A Doll's House'**

The Arabic Department and Grade 9 took their learning of the famous play by Ibsen, The Doll's House, which explores issues of female equality and emancipation to give it a contextual slant and consider issues that are current in Jordan. The special assembly also benefited from the insight of Dr. Salma Nims, who spoke with passion and depth of the progress made and the challenges still to be overcome to bring real equality for all to society in Jordan.

### **Civvies and Bake Sale**

We had the Civvies and Bake Sale, organised by the G10s, on Thursday February 28<sup>th</sup>. The Grade 10s will be donating proceeds of the Bake Sale, over 500JD, to the rehabilitation of the Oncology Department at Al-Bashir Hospital, as part of the "Himmetna" campaign, to achieve better quality services for all cancer patients.

### **Hawks under 18's Girls Basketball – CHAMPIONS!**

This was a busy weekend for our all star girls basketball team. Three matches were played back to back on Saturday and we won them all. What stood out for those watching was the grit and determination showed by the players who, at times, had to dig deep and compete hard to stay in the game and then how students from Grade 7 to 12 played with such team spirit and togetherness. It was truly inspiring to watch.

Looking forward to the weeks ahead!

### **MUN - Asriyya and King's Academy**

The Asriyya MUN conference took place this past weekend. Our Grades 8, 9 and 10 once again served as delegates and chairs for various countries and developed their skills of diplomacy and argumentation through discussion about significant global and regional issues. Only one MUN remains this year from March 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, hosted by the King's Academy focussing on their theme of "Shift the Paradigm".

### **Grade 10 and 11 Careers Day, Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March**

On Tuesday, we have a number of specialists from a great variety of fields coming to school to discuss their work with our students. The day will take the form of interactive presentations followed by Q & A. We hope our students will gain further insight into professions they have an interest in. For Grade 10, this information may well prove to be useful when thinking about their work placements later in the year.

### **World Scholar's Cup**

We have a large number of students from Grades 6 to 10 participating on March 7<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> in the World's Scholars Cup. The WSC has a comprehensive, thematic curriculum that changes from year to year. It invites participants to learn about, research and debate serious global issues based on the theme "A World on the Margins". It focusses on collaboration and critical thinking and encourages students not just to work on their existing strengths and skills, but to discover new ones. All the best to our students in their preparations for the upcoming WSC. A reminder that training sessions take place after school Monday and Wednesday this week (3.20pm – 4.15pm).

### **SAT Tests**

Good luck to all our students sitting their SAT tests on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Many in Grade 11 have already made a solid start to getting scores they are happy with. We hope that many more will achieve their hoped for targets this weekend and be finished with this part of the US University application process.

## **CIS Middle East Institute – 16<sup>th</sup> March**

As part of the IAA hosted CIS School and University Counsellor conference that is bringing over 150 delegates to IAA from all over the world, there will be a special session at which **over 75 University Recruiters from all over the world** will be available for parents. This will take place on the 16<sup>th</sup> March from 2.30 to 4.30 pm. An email was sent to parents of Grades 9 to 11 with information about this, if you did not see it, please check your inboxes!

### **The latest disturbing news from teenage social media**

It has come to our attention that there is a new 'challenge' game programme doing the rounds. This one is called 'Momo' (a quick internet search will pull up lots of stories – some more sensational than others) and seems to be spliced into WhatsApp, Fortnite and other popular platforms to avoid detection. The challenge itself does urge those participating to self harm and worse. We do advise that parents remain vigilant and perhaps discuss this with their family. Unfortunately, it would appear those creating content for our children do not always have the best of intentions!

**Yours sincerely,**

**Mr. Martin and Ms. Zena**

## **Sports News**

The IAA Hawks Girls Basketball U18 team participated in the most recent "Wings of Hope" championship that was held last weekend.

The girls showed tremendous character in all their matches, winning all to become champions in their first ever participation during this tournament. The girl athletes showed an ability to command games under pressure.

A huge thank you goes to the organisers, staff, referees and coaches as well as parents and spectators for their support.

## **Library News**

The IAA Libraries are proud to house a new collection, the ***Encyclopaedia Palestinnica***, the most important documentary work of Palestine in 100 years. At 24 large-sized volumes, this is the largest documented academic work on Palestine world-wide. Dr. Mohammad Ghosheh has spent 20 years of meticulous research to gather over 7,000 pages and 30,000 drawings, images, documents and maps that tell the history of Palestine between 1516 and 1918. Dr. Ghosheh will work with students from Grades 9-11, teaching them the importance of primary documents and the process of research used in creating this phenomenal collection. The encyclopaedia was first brought to the attention of Dr. Hana by Ms. Sana' Shaban, Head of Secondary Humanities, and Ms. Muna Darwish who attended a viewing of the work and had the vision for introducing it to

students as a way to promote cultural heritage as well as enhance their understanding of primary sources and the role of research in academic scholarship.

The Secondary Library is keen to promote **newly created reading lists** across all subject areas for Grades 6-8. Secondary teachers, students and parents should all have access to these lists via the library Destiny Discover catalog system. Categories cover a range from books about science and history to contemporary, historic and even some classic fiction. We are also excited about a new reading initiative in the library, called '**Fortnite in a Fortnite**'. We have selected around 60 books that would be of interest to students who enjoy playing the popular online game. Students who choose one of the recommended "Fortnite" books will have 2 weeks, a fortnite, to read the book. Special prizes to those who survive the challenge! The challenge begins Sunday, 3 March.

Throughout the month of March, the Primary and KG libraries will be discussing the story of Ivan, the gorilla. *Ivan: The Remarkable True Story of the Shopping Mall Gorilla* is a nonfiction picture book (Interest level: K-3) based on the true story of a young gorilla who was captured in Africa and grew up on display in a shopping mall in Tacoma, Washington. The story is told simply and beautifully, from Ivan's happy days with his family in the jungle to his confinement at the mall to his transfer to a more natural habitat in a zoo in Atlanta. G. Brian Karas' illustrations are as moving and sensitive as the text. Author Katherine Applegate won the 2013 Newbery Medal for her fictionalised middle grade novel (age 8+) on the same subject, *The One and Only Ivan*, which is written from the gorilla's point of view. The books can serve as a thoughtful jumping-off point for family discussions about animals and our relationship to nature. Bonus: there is a movie for the book in production at Disney!

May I join in with Mr. Andrew in urging parents to attend the **Elementary Science Fair Parent Information Sessions** next week? Ms. Melinda will be introducing you to various resources the library has invested in for helping students find ideas, information, images and inspiration for the best projects to date. Ms. Dima and the Primary Library staff can be especially helpful to you in learning to use the online resources *Britannica School* as well as Rosen PowerKnowledge Life Sciences database, which will introduce students to research skills and information literacy whilst helping them complete their projects.

Finally, I would like to announce that the **Secondary Library will have Extended Study Hours** for Seniors during mock exams and exams. This is after 30% of Seniors surveyed responded positively to using the library during this somewhat stressful time. It is a pleasure to work in a library that is responsive to the needs and suggestions of its student body. The new hours are listed below:

#### **Extended Library Hours for G12 Mock Exam Study**

24 March through 3 April

7:30am to 5pm

Sunday through Wednesday

#### **Extended Library Hours for G12 Exams**

5 May through 23 May (Ramadan Timings)

8:30am to 4:30pm

Sunday through Wednesday