



الأكاديمية الدولية - عمان
THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY - AMMAN

Parent News
Monday, 15th May 2023

Calendar

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Independence Day



A Message from The Director

Dear IAA Community,

I cannot fathom how fast this academic year has passed! Hard to believe we have a few weeks left to wrap up the year. I would like to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you. Your unwavering support, admirable dedication, and hard work have contributed immensely to the success of our school thus far. With only five weeks left, it is incredible to reflect upon the progress we have achieved together which benefited our students who have shown remarkable growth and achievements, thanks to the guidance and encouragement provided by our exceptional teachers and staff; their commitment to our students' education and well-being is truly commendable.

Allow me to extend my warmest greetings on the upcoming and auspicious occasion of Jordan's Independence Day, which is celebrated on the 25th of May. Since we take pride in our nation's rich heritage, we shall celebrate this important day with our students on Wednesday, the 24th of May. Further details will be confirmed soon.

In addition, I would like to remind you about the upcoming IAA PTA Fun Day on Friday, the 19th of May. It promises to be a day filled with laughter, games, and enjoyment for all as any other event planned and organized by our remarkable PTA. I encourage you to join us for this fun-filled event and strengthen our school community bonds!

I would also like to send my fervent wishes to the students who will be representing our school and beloved country in Loches, France next week during their participation in the 16th European Festival of Arts and Sciences organized by Saint-Denis International School. Their participation in this international event is a testament to our vibrant trips program, and I am confident that they will make both their school and country proud; may their experiences be enriching, and may they continue to excel in all their endeavors.

In these final weeks, let us continue to support one another, cherish the remaining time we have together, and ensure a smooth end to a successful school year. I have no doubt that the upcoming weeks will be filled with joy, growth, and memorable experiences for all.

Kind regards,

Primary School News

Warm Welcome

Greetings from primary school, I hope that you have been able to spend a nice weekend with your families and friends in such wonderful weather. As we enter the final stretch of school in what has been a long yet productive year, it is important that your children remain engaged over the next few weeks so that final assignments and assessments may be completed for the upcoming end of semester report. Our teachers will remain committed to working with their students until the final day of school.

Grade 5 Transition Days

As we begin preparations for next academic year, Grade Five students will have the chance to spend a full day in the secondary school and get a feel of the next phase of their learning journey. They will meet secondary staff and engage in activities organised for them by the secondary senior leaders. Please notice that no requirements on your behalf are required and that these visits are taking place according to the dates below:

- Sunday, May 14th: G5A
- Monday, May 15th: G5B

- Tuesday May 16th: G5C
- Wednesday, May 17th: G5D

Grade 5 Science Fair

We remain with Grade 5 as we have another exciting event coming your way. Our students are eager to display their scientific skills and knowledge in the form of the presentations they have prepared for us. The event has been spread out over 2 days to fit in all the attending parents. The details are as follows:

- **Tuesday May 16th: Grade 5B**
Group 1 from 8:45-9:15 am and **Group 2** from 9:30-10:00 am
- **Tuesday May 16th: Grade 5A**
Group 1 from 1:15-1:45 pm and **Group 2** from 2:00-2:30 pm
- **Thursday May 18th: Grade 5C**
Group 1 from 9:45-10:15 am and **Group 2** from 10:30-11:00 am
- **Thursday May 18th: Grade 5D**
Group 1 from 1:15-1:45 pm and **Group 2** at 2:00-2:30 pm

Early Years News

Last Thursday Pre-K had yet another glorious event in the shape of Bugs Dress up Day when the children and staff arrived dressed as bugs and spent the day busily buzzing about in their garden! The children, who had planted the flowers with their parents, have been tending to them with great care and proudly show off their garden to all our visitors!

Stay tuned as on Sunday, May 21st we have KG1 Community Helpers Dress up day. The children have been exploring the various occupations that they may do in the future. We wonder what they will become, but whatever they decide, we are sure they will be amazing!

Independence Day

More joy is coming our way as we celebrate Jordan's Independence next week. While there will be a public holiday on Thursday, May 25th, we will be celebrating this precious occasion with a designated assembly in the theatre on Wednesday, May 24th at 1:00 pm so please ensure that you attend to enjoy the performances. Students will engage in activities throughout the week and the performance will include singing, Dabkeh and poetry. Primary students are asked to wear traditional or contemporary Jordanian dress of any sort on the day of the assembly.

Class Placement Requests

A gentle reminder that the deadline for submitting your class placement recommendations is May 18th. We will not be able to consider class placements emails sent after the cut off date. Kindly note that we are not able to accommodate all requests sent to us, particularly requests for multiple classmates. Likewise, please refrain from sending specific requests for teachers as we are also unable to accommodate those, as we believe all of our educators are equally capable and skilled.

Bake Sale

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that we will be having our monthly non-uniform day and bake – sale on Tuesday, May 23rd. This could be the last event of the year so, we are counting on your support to our community aid efforts. Our primary school student council representatives will be meeting soon to vote and select the charity organisation that will be benefiting from this month's revenues. Thank you in advance for supporting such events, it makes all the difference.

Wishing you all a pleasant couple of weeks ahead.

Walid Albay - Primary School Principal

Secondary School News

Dear Parents

Last week

Fashion Show

Congratulations to our Fashion Show organisers who turned plans into reality and hosted their show last Tuesday night. The event was buzzing with excitement as our Grade 11s created a professional ambience with stunning lights, captivating music and an amazing set. It was a memorable experience for everyone. As a result of the generosity of sponsors and the support of those who bought tickets, we were able to give a 3,000 JD donation to the Gift of Life. Who work to provide vulnerable children, who have heart conditions, with medical treatment.

Congratulations to our staff athletes

Congratulations to our mixed team of Primary and secondary staff who ran for IAA in the Dead Sea Ultra Marathon Relay Race this weekend. Despite the hot conditions on Friday they morning they still managed to pace third in their category.

Grade 7 Trip to Iraq Al Amir

On Saturday, Grade 7 students went to Iraq Al Amir for their Earth Day activities. They participated in a clean-up activity organized by Ahl Al Balad and visited the Qasr Al Abd for cultural learning. They also took part in a ceramic and paper workshop at the Iraq El Amir Women's Cooperative Association, where they learned about recycling and enjoyed making handcrafts from clay.

Himmetna Half JD Campaign

This has started well. We hope that for the next few weeks the habit will form to put all those half JD coins aside and bring them into school so that we can fill our donation box by the end of May. Thank you.

This week

Music Concert

On Wednesday we have our spring musical concert in school. A combination of students performing what they have been creating in class, along with students who learn their instruments in their own time will be entertaining our student audience. We are really looking forward to hearing what our Music Dept has in store for us.

Grade 5 Transition

As we speed to the end of another year, we begin to prepare for another. We are really looking forward to welcoming the Grade 5 classes to Secondary this week. They will get to see our facilities, experience some new subjects and have opportunities to ask about anything they want to know about their transition to being a Secondary student. **A parent session will be held on Thursday 18th at 8.30 a.m. in the Theatre.** A separate message will be sent with more details about that later.

University of Waterloo Chemistry Competition

Every year, our students participate in the International Avogadro Chemistry Competition organized by the University of Waterloo in Canada. This year is no different. We have our best chemists taking the competition on Thursday 18th. We are looking forward to seeing how they compare to their peers around the world!

Grade 6 Bridge Building Competition

As part of the Forces unit, our Grade 6 Science students have been working diligently in groups to build bridges out of balsa wood, following specific criteria. To help with their designs, they have looked at many bridges from all over the world. On May 18th, we look forward to seeing which bridge can withstand the most amount of mass before collapsing on the ground.

Next Weekend

Grade 10 and 12 external exams finish

Friday 19th is a busy day for our Grade 12 and 10 students as we have our last DP external and all of Grade 10 are in school for their MYP Interdisciplinary Eassessment. We wish them all the very best.

PTA Fun Day

Friday 19th is also the day of our annual PTA Fun Day. This event gets bigger and better every year. I am sure 2023 will be no different. It's a great opportunity to come together and have some relaxed and fun time on campus. We hope you and your children will be able to come along and enjoy all that has been organised for us.

IEEE Competition Workshop

As part of our collaboration with the Hussein Technical University, we have run two very successful courses on Saturday 6th and Saturday 13th May covering Game Development and utilizing Google Developer skills. The final workshop will take place on Saturday 20th. It will introduce to the students the IEEE competition that HTU organizes to allow our students to pit their IT skills and imagination against students from universities and schools across the Kingdom.

Next week

Independence Day – early dismissal

On the 24th May we will have an early dismissal for Secondary at 2.15. From 2.15, there will be activities and music in the community square and families are welcome to enjoy them if they wish. More information about our Independence Day programmes will be released shortly.

Spirit Week and final Bake Sale

The dates of Sunday 21st to Wednesday 24th will be the Secondary Spirit Week this year. Wednesday 24th will be national dress – of course! The Student Representative Council will be emailing their peers with more information about the theme for the other days. On Tuesday 23rd, we will have our final bake sale of the year and Grade 10s are organizing this one. They have chosen to support the Jordanian chapter of Save the Children with their takings.

IAA Musicians travel to France

Next week a small group of IAA musicians are travelling to Loches, in the Loire Valley of France to participate in an international cultural conference. They will represent IAA and Jordan both on stage, at the cultural fair and in the classes of the host school. It will be a memorable experience, and we wish those taking part a wonderful week.

Yours sincerely

Mr Martin and Ms Zena

Career and College Counseling News

With IB Externals finishing this week, visits from our G12 students to campus have become less frequent. As sad as we are to see this, we understand that many of them are off celebrating an end of an era; making every moment with loved ones count, before they bid each other (and us) farewell and leave to their respective universities. We would like to congratulate them once again for the work they have done at IAA and we look forward to seeing them on stage in a few weeks-time, as we recognize their achievements during their much anticipated graduation ceremony. As our alumni numbers rise, we are thrilled by the spread of our graduates on the world map. This year we have students matriculating to universities in Australia, Canada, US, Europe, UK, Ireland and Middle-East; and the list continues to grow. A couple of reminders for our G12s: please make sure you submit the *Issue of IB Results* form to Ms Farah Younis by the 21st May, otherwise your official IB scores will not be sent to your institutions in time. Secondly, be sure to empty your school emails of any important documents / attachments before your accounts become inactive in September.

Moving forward, our work with our G11 continues to be our top priority. This week we have invited Dartmouth College to speak with our rising Seniors about Ivy schools. Our guest, Ms Anna Dechert, will be highlighting elements of a successful application and the importance of the college essay. It is a valuable workshop that I hope will serve our students well before we begin the application process next August. Speaking of the application process, we will be holding sessions over the coming weeks about writing the Personal Statement; an essay that is required by almost all institutions around the world (except the US). Since these sessions are lengthy and include plenty of details, we have decided to bring our G11s on Tuesdays after school in order to do this. I do hope I see everyone on May 30th at 2.30 pm for the first session.

Last Saturday, we held the SAT exam on campus, which has now become digital and much less time consuming. I was happy to see the majority of students in the examination room were from IAA. I encourage all other G11s, who are considering to study at an American university, to register for the coming SAT on 3rd June to get the test finished with; before the pressures of Grade 12 begin. With IB requirements and college applications around the corner, managing the time well, is key. We believe that scoring high in the SAT is dependent primarily on the hours of practice a student spends; it is therefore wiser to work on all standardized tests now and while students still have the luxury of time available.

Please be reminded that our Counselling office is always open to any queries you may have and I look forward to seeing you all in the coming weeks.

Library News

It's time for the libraries Summer Reading Challenges! We have been excitedly preparing for this and it is going to be so much fun for our students!

Reading may not be the first thing that comes to your child's mind when they think of the summer, but it is important for our students to continue reading so they can maintain literacy skills and vocabulary developed throughout the year. The benefits are huge. Please encourage reading so it becomes an enjoyable and lifelong habit.

Anyone who registers and is a returning student, will be allowed to check-out books from the IAA libraries over the summer and return them at the beginning of the academic year in August. This is an exception that the Libraries and IAA are making to encourage participation in the summer reading program. Please make sure you do not travel with any of the books. After students return their papers in August, our readers will be recognized and awarded a special prize in September.

For the Early Years, students will have a space inspired theme that they will have to complete and cross off or colour as they read or are read to.

For grades 2 & 3, students will play a **BINGO** game and they'll have to cross off 5 boxes to get prizes. The goal is to finish all reading tasks and cross off all the boxes. For grades 4 & 5, students will get a list of reading tasks that they'll have to cross off as they do them. The goal is to cross off all of the tasks.

For Grades 6-8, the IAA Secondary Library is very excited to announce the return of the *Summer Tales*. Your children will receive information about the program, including an animated guide to the activities and their own tracker. *Summer Tales* encourages students to read, watch, share, rate books

with 16 different activities. Students can get book ideas from the attached guide below, which links them to [Collections](#) on Destiny Discover.

Summer Reading packets will be sent to primary students in June and secondary students will be emailed with their Summer Reading Challenge. Students should read picture books, chapter books, informational books, biographies, poetry, Arabic books or any other language if they prefer. You can also find hundreds of quality books on the internet. Here are some digital resources for students you may want to use:

[Primary Summer Reading Links](#)

[Secondary Summer Reading Links](#)

Please sign up below according to your child's grade for this academic year 2022-2023:

<https://forms.gle/sR2wo3TJit64mdCJ6>

Please contact me if you have any questions at d.shakaa@iaa.edu.io

Have a great week!

Dima Shaka'a

Head of Libraries/Primary Librarian