



الأكاديمية الدولية - عمان
THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY - AMMAN

Parent News

Monday, 6th November

2017

Calendar

Monday	6	--Open meeting with Primary Principal, Mr. Andrew Powell, Primary Principal's Office, 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM --Secondary Parenting Workshop, Secondary Group Room, 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM --G6 student-led assembly in PSHE, Theatre, 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM --Pre-K Family Fun Day, 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM --HAWKS Swimming, 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM & 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Tuesday	7	--Grade 11 Trip, (Off- Campus) --CP Info Day for Parents, Theatre, 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM --Director's Open Meeting with Parents, Director's Office, 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM --Primary Parenting Course, Secondary Library, 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM --Grade 10 Community Forum, Theatre, 2:30 PM – 4:00 PM --HAWKS Swimming, 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM & 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM --HAWKS Gymnastics, 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM & 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Wednesday	8	--Primary Parent Morning: BYOD/ Coding, MPR, 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM --HAWKS Swimming, 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM & 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Thursday	9	--Progress Reports 1 (6 to 12) sent out --Grade 8 & 9 parents: "Pathway To University For Your Child.", MPR, 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM --HAWKS Swimming, 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM --Grade 3 Trip, (Off- Campus)
Friday	10	
Saturday	11	--Grade 11 Trip, (Off- Campus) --The Jordanian School Librarians' Conference, IAA Campus, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM --HAWKS Swimming, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Sunday	12	--The Jordanian School Librarians' Conference, IAA Campus, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM --HAWKS Swimming, 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM & 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM --HAWKS Gymnastics, 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM & 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Monday	13	--Open meeting with Primary Principal, Mr. Andrew Powell, Primary Principal's Office, 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM --Secondary Parenting Workshop, Secondary Group Room, 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM --HAWKS Swimming, 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM & 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

A Message from the Director

Dear IAA Community,

I was very proud to hear of Aliya Boshnak, our student athlete, for her remarkable win at the Arab Tournament. Our athletic performance this year has been marvelous in swimming, volleyball and recently Track & Field. Bravo IAA and thank you coaches for all your support!

It is an eventful week at IAA in both our Primary and Secondary schools, starting from our Pre-K Family Fun Day up until planning your child's university pathway for our Grade 8 and 9 parents. Check the **Calendar** on the IAA website, the weekly newsletter and the IAA mobile application to stay in the know of all activities happening at school.

This week, the IAA will host the Jordanian Librarians' Conference, aimed at bringing librarians together and sharing resources, services and programmes that benefit our community and enhance our students' learning experience. The school library is a tool to the teaching and learning process, ensuring that each student has access to a plethora of information. As parents, you play a vital role in encouraging your child to read and in creating a culture of reading at home. The more your child sees you reading, the more likely she/he is to follow suit. And this does not change once your child enters high school. I understand that the use of the web and social media both distract the reading process, but we still need to allocate reading time.

As the weather is getting chilly, make sure that your children have enough layers of clothing to school.

Finally, I am available next Tuesday from 8-9am for parents who wish to see me.

Wishing you a wonderful week ahead.

Hana Kanan, Ed.D.

Director

Primary School News

Dear Parents,

I trust that you enjoyed our recent long weekend and have made the transition from daylight savings. There are still a few tired faces around this morning but I expect that will change once classes commence and students have forged new routines.

I know that many of you are aware of my passion for swimming and other outdoor pursuits. One of a number of elements that defines our school and its success in the region is a commitment to the development of our children's engagement in sport. Building on an already strong programme, Coach Samer has secured two elite Spanish coaches to work with our students in football (Roberto Navarro) and swimming (Carlos Rooney). We are confident that their contributions will assist our children to flourish. Please make them feel welcome when you see them around campus.

This week Ms Melinda and Ms Reham will be running a session for parents on our Bring Your Own Device programme and Coding. This is an important workshop for 5th Grade parents but may also be of interest to those families with children in Grade 4. The list of upcoming workshops is as follows:

Wednesday, November 8th @ 8am BYOD/ Coding

Wednesday, November 22nd @ 8am Digital Citizenship

Wednesday, December 6th @ 8am Second Step Character Education

I would like to recognise our award winners this week. They are:

Bronze Award Winners

Yousef Al- Ahmad 5C

Ayah Abdin 2Z

Ahmad Salem 1F

Salma Al Faraj 3A

Hamzah Mansour 1F

Talia Asfour 1F

Saif Saleh 5T

Laith Saoudi 5T

Abdullah Shami 2Z

A'isha Saket 5T

Nasser Abu Ragheb 3A

Hashem Saket 2Z

Nadeem Al Rawashdeh 5T

Ali Abzakh 4G

Naya Bilbeisi 2Z

The International Academy – Amman and Ta3zeeleh – a non- profit organisation are working together to support education and entrepreneurship in marginalised communities across Jordan using second hand clothes. Starting this week, there will be a large branded box in Primary and Secondary to collect clothes. These clothes are then resold through Souk Ta3zeeleh at symbolic prices. Funds generated are used to provide scholarships and support mini projects in underprivileged areas like Ghor Al Mazra'a and Al-Koora. So far, two scholarships have been secured. Your support is highly appreciated. Please spread the word.

I hope that you have a wonderful week!

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Powell

Secondary School News

Dear Parents,

Congratulations to our Grade 7 students, who worked as a team to raise over 800 JD in their bake sale. Their chosen charities are the King Hussein Cancer Foundation and the Nature Conservancy. The money raised will be used to buy some acres of Tropical Rainforest and to fight against cancer. Worthy organisations to support.

Thank you to all parents who attended the Middle School Coffee Mornings. Your feedback was extremely valuable, and we are in the process of sharing it with our staff. It is important that we know what we are doing well, and what we could do to ensure that our students' learning is optimised.

It was a wonderful sporting weekend at home and internationally for IAA and the Hawks. Our under 16 Girls volleyball dominated their competition, only dropping a single set in their 4 games. This tightknit and talented group of Grade 9 and 10 students are really going to be a force to be reckoned with in the next few years. Aliya Boshnak continues to push her personal best times: she broke more Jordanian national records and picked up a Gold medal in the 400 metres at the Arab Youth Championships in Tunisia over the weekend. Jordan's first ever gold in this competition! We are very proud of all.

This past weekend, many of our Grades 8 to 11 students took part in AMMUN, organised by Amman Baccalaureate School, where the theme was "At The Forefront". Topics that they drafted resolutions for and debated included "Limiting the flow of weapons from terror groups operating in West Africa", "Formulating oil regulation policies in the MENA region to sustain oil price ranges", "Finding effective measures to strengthen water management in LEDC nations in accordance to the sustainable development goals" – just to name a few. Congratulations to all those who participated. I'MUN will be taking place at the end of November (23rd to 25th). A large number of students have already signed up to take part in committees that will be debating more significant issues affecting Jordan, the region and the global community.

This week, Grade 11 have a lot happening. Our Art students are heading out to Darat Al Funan to learn skills in the field, those of curatorship and photography and to draw inspiration from our local art scene. As we get closer to the first real SAT exam in December, there are additional practice sessions scheduled for this week. Finally, many of Grade 11s are taking part in a team building adventure day at the weekend. This will be a lot of fun, will take many out of their comfort zones and will hopefully build many good memories.

Last week was very busy for our Grade 12 students. We completed early applications and many students were taking additional entrance tests for Medicine, Engineering and other subjects for UK universities in addition to the SAT subject tests during the weekend. Grade 10 parents will soon be starting the Grade 10 transition programme. We are also holding an information session for Grade 8 and 9 parents on Thursday November 9th between 8 and 9 in the MPR to offer some insights into how they can begin to think about the pathway to university for their children.

IAA is continuing the tradition of the "One School...One Story...One Voice." This year, we are reading *Wonder* for G6-7 and *Face* for G8-9, both of which explore similar themes. *Wonder* requires readers to consider sensitive issues related to growing up, family relationships and school life. *Face* is a story about a boy who has a terrible accident leaving his face severely disfigured, which places him at the receiving end of other people's prejudices. Both books will encourage our students to share feelings of empathy and to speak out against discrimination.

As the G10s are working on their reports for the Personal Project, the G8s will soon be embarking on their Community Project (CP) journey. The CP challenges our students to engage in issues facing Jordan or the global

community and to address them through service learning. There are many forms that service can take including direct service, advocacy or research. Ms. Randa Battikha, our CP Coordinator, will present to the Grade 8 Parents on Tuesday November 7th, from 8am to 9am in the Theatre, on the expectations of this project.

As part of their Service as Action project, G10s will explore topics on the role of government, society and the global community in providing and ensuring fairness and development. In doing so, the students will be conducting local and regional research on the following topics: mental health/illnesses, female empowerment, poverty, homelessness, child labour, and social security. They will then present their research findings and actions plans on November 7th from 2:30-4:00pm in a Community Forum.

The first progress report will be sent electronically to you on November 9th. The purpose of this report is to give an initial indication of your child's progress since the beginning of the school year. It is important to pay close attention to your child's "Approaches To Learning" skills, which include research, thinking, communication, self-management and social. There is often a link between these skills and the grade.

The Parent-Teacher Conferences will take place on the 14th and 15th of November. This is an important time to share ideas and information with your child's teacher. You should also discuss ways to help your child develop strengths and overcome challenges. Students are encouraged to attend. Information will be coming out soon about how to register for meetings.

Sincerely,

Martin Thompson and Zena Muhtaseb

Library News

Author Joyce Carol Oates has said, "Reading is the sole means by which we slip, involuntarily, often helplessly, into another's skin, another's voice, another's soul." Literacy and reading help readers develop empathy and understanding.

The IAA Libraries are launching the **2017 IAA One School/One Story Programme**. This year's books are *Wonder* (G2-7) and *We're All Wonders* (KG1-G1). Secondary G8-9 will be reading a book called *Face*, which explores similar themes. We've already been using the book as a starting point for a "Kindness Journaling" Club in Primary, and this month the KG and Primary Librarians will begin a small unit in which they share parts of the story and related activities with IAA students.

Wonder is a captivating narrative, which is amusing, poignant and inspiring. It requires readers to consider sensitive issues related to growing up, family relationships and school life. A focussed study of *Wonder* will help students look beyond the book and encourage them to share feelings of empathy and compassion. To help reinforce this theme which supports IAA's Pillar of Acceptance, I encourage all parents to focus on how our students and community can [#choosekind](#).

In addition, the movie, starring Julia Roberts and Owen Wilson, is coming out this November. Check out the [trailer](#) on Youtube. It looks like it will be an incredible movie for the whole family.

Thanks for your support and don't forget to [#choosekind](#).

A Message from the Assistant Director for Curriculum

Dear Parents,

This weekend IAA's Libraries will sponsor the first conference for school libraries in Jordan. We are thrilled to have the honour of being a leader in the Amman community in emphasising the value of the school library and bringing training, resources and ideas to schools in our community.

If it's been a while since you have visited one of our libraries, also please take this opportunity to take advantage of this valuable resource. IAA is lucky to have one of the finest school collections in Jordan; the range of books we feature in our three libraries is amazing.

As a former English teacher and lifelong avid reader, I relish every trip I get to take through our Secondary library. When I first came to IAA, I thought it was funny that the school had placed me, of all people, in an office so close to the library, because libraries are a huge distraction for me. I still remember the first time I realised I could read on my own...I wanted my mom to read me a story, and she told me to go read it by myself. I think I can even remember what book it was...and I definitely haven't stopped reading since.

Even in the United States, we didn't really have bookstores back in those days, but my mom joined monthly book clubs that sent books to our home each month, and we made regular trips to the local public library, where I checked out a large stack of reading material each week!

In my adult life, I have never had more than one television in my house at a time because no one in my family wanted the distraction from reading (well, the adults anyway).

No one needs to be as extreme as I am, but I do hope you have time to come by one (or more) of our libraries soon and see what we have to offer!

Best regards,

Sports News

Go U16 Volleyball Hawks Girls!

Congratulations to the U16 girls who participated in the AAC tournament this weekend.

Our U16 girls not only managed to entertain with their spirit and performance, but won the tournament 1-0 without losing a single set.

Congratulations to our student athletes, our coaches and staff!

Go Aliya Boshnak!

Congratulations to our very own student athlete Aliya Boshnak for winning 2 gold medals in 2 days!

Aliya participated in the Arab Tournament's Track and Field in Tunis and won a gold medal in the 400 meters and another in the 200meter event.

Thank you Coach Hussein for your support and determination to build on Aliya's athletic abilities, taking her to new heights.

