



الأكاديمية الدولية - عمان  
THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY - AMMAN

## Parent News Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023

### Calendar

## NOVEMBER 23

**14 TUE**

**Parent Teacher Conference**

### A Message from The Director

Dear all,

In my thoughts and prayers, I hold the people of occupied Palestine, particularly Gaza, close to my heart; wishing for their safety and freedom in these challenging times. As we embark upon the threshold of a new month, our prayers, fervent wishes, and blessings extend to all those who yearn for peace and stability in their homeland. On that note, allow me to express my profound gratitude to all parents for your invaluable contributions to the noble cause of aiding the people of Gaza. Your donations, alongside your active involvement in the preparation of food packages and healthcare parcels, serve as a beacon of hope. These donations, in partnership with the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization (JHCO), stand as a testament to the collective compassion and humanitarian spirit that defines our community.

Now that the dawn of a new academic year is on the horizon, I am thrilled to announce that IAA shall be hosting its annual Information Day on the 20th of November. I eagerly anticipate the opportunity

to meet with prospective parents and students and extend a heartfelt welcome into our nurturing community. This event promises to be an informative and enlightening experience, one in which parents shall witness firsthand the excellence and dedication that pervades every aspect of our academic institution.

On another note, it is with great pleasure that I welcome back our globetrotting students from their recent international trips which took place during the October break. The experiences they have gathered from these ventures will undoubtedly enrich their perspectives and contribute to the diverse tapestry of knowledge within our academic community.

Moreover, I am pleased to inform you that our upcoming Parent-Teacher Conferences will be taking place next week. A detailed letter will be dispatched to you shortly, containing all the needed information and scheduling details. These conferences provide a valuable platform for fruitful discussions regarding your child's progress and development, and I encourage your active participation.

Lastly, in light of the forthcoming change in weather, I humbly implore your assistance in ensuring that our beloved students are attired in appropriate clothing. The approaching cold demands a conscientious approach to dressing, and your guidance in this regard is deeply appreciated.

Once again, I extend my deepest appreciation for your unwavering support and cooperation. It is your collective commitment and enthusiasm that forms the bedrock upon which we build the future of our cherished students.

With profound respect and warm regards,

Hana Kanan, Ed. D.  
Director

## **Primary School News**

### **Primary News**

I pray that this newsletter finds you and your family safe and well. With the heartbreaking situation in occupied Palestine, particularly in Gaza, I thought it is important to outline some of the activities that we introduced to support our children in an age-appropriate manner. In Arabic Religion, SSA, and Art, students have been studying the map of Palestine, the borders of Palestine, and the continuous injustices, including the displacement of the citizens. Students are also learning about the religious and historical places in Palestine and the Hashemite role in protecting those religious places, as well as the relief aid that the kingdom always offers. This will be done in the context of human rights, and we encourage you to build on this in your discussions with them at home.

### **Community Camaraderie**

I am very proud to report on last week's Bake-Sale and Non-Uniform Day, where our students wore their Palestinian T-shirts to show solidarity with the people in Palestine. It was such a meaningful event and it was eye-watering to see our students participating and engaging in this activity with such passion. My appreciation and gratitude go to all members of our school community for their generous contributions and support in

making this event successful. The revenue from the T-shirts and the bake sale will be accumulated and donated to the "Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization," which coordinates a variety of initiatives to support the people of Palestine and Gaza.

Today, students from student council, community and service along with our vice-captains helped with loading the truck with the food and care packages for Gaza which will be sent through JHCO (Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization). Thank you so much for your donations,

One final piece of community and service news from primary school - today our Grade 4 & 5 CAS students lent a helping hand with the distribution of vital school supplies for a school in need, in Madaba named Al-Ma'amounieh Al- Gharbieh Secondary School. These supplies will go a long way in ensuring that the school has a successful and productive year.

### **Assemblies**

We all agree that it is essential to provide a platform for our students to engage with and reflect on the world around them and foster empathy, understanding, and critical thinking among them. Our school assemblies have always been a space where we come together as a community to share ideas, discuss current events, and foster a sense of unity. Therefore, we are committed to maintaining our regular school assemblies and our dedication to addressing important global issues through these gatherings. I am looking forward to seeing you in the primary school assembly scheduled for Thursday, the 9th of November at 1:00 pm in the theater.

### **Parent-Teacher Conferences**

I would like to remind you that next week we will be holding the first round of Parent-Teacher Conferences for this academic year. As always, these meetings present a valuable opportunity for Pre-K to Grade 5 parents to connect with classroom and specialist teachers to discuss the progress and development of our students. The event is set for Tuesday, the 14th of November, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, and the conferences will take place in person, at school. The booking platform will be available for parents from 12:00 pm on Thursday, the 9th of November, and will remain open until 3:00 pm on Monday, the 13th of November. Kindly note there will be no school for students on this day.

Wishing everyone a peaceful couple of weeks ahead

Walid Albay

Primary School Principal

## **Secondary School News**

Dear Parents

Thank you to everyone who supported our initiatives in support of Gaza last week. It was wonderful to see so many students wearing our Palestine t-shirts and sporting the colours of the flags on Thursday. We also raised a significant donation to the JHCO with our civvies and bake sale, and our care packages are really going to make a difference to those who receive them.

Our assemblies last week allowed for us to come together as a community and address what we can do, how we can make our voices heard and to develop our understanding of the awful events taking place. We followed these up with a lesson built around the CNN interview with HMQ designed to further deepen an appreciation of the multi-faceted difficulties facing those in Gaza and those who wish to support them. We will continue to keep the people of Gaza uppermost in our minds through weekly initiatives at school.

### **Progress Reports for Grades 6 to 11**

These will be released by **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November**. They will be delivered electronically through the Toddle platform and clear instructions on how to access them will be sent to you on the day of release.

**Parents of Grade 12:** please note that Grade 12 progress reports will be released on November 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **Parent Conferences for Grades 6 to 12.**

On **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November** we will be holding in person parent conferences for all Grades 6 to 12 on campus. Details for how to make bookings on Moodle will be sent to you on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November. The parent conferences will run from 8.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. that day. We strongly recommend for our students to be with you, so they can be part of the conference.

### **Student of the Month for October**

Congratulations to all those students who were recognized for their positive contributions to learning in October. Their names can be found here: [Student of the Month: October](#)

### **Majlis Al Arabi – Delegate sign up continues**

Majlis Al Arabi will be taking place at IAA on Nov 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>. The Secretariat Team has been quite active in training our Delegates to better prepare them for writing resolution and debating on the topics assigned. If your child is interested in participating as a Delegate, please follow up directly with Ms. Zena ([z.muhtaseb@iaa.edu.jo](mailto:z.muhtaseb@iaa.edu.jo)).

### **School events continue:**

#### **Rescheduled Grade 12 Design Exhibition**

This will take place on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November from 2.30 p.m. Our Grade 12 students will be showing off their design thinking skills and their prototypes of their products. All are welcome to come and critique as all feedback will be valued in the further development of their ideas.

### **Busy Sporting Schedules**

The trip to Antalya over the October break was a great success, and the Hawks were right back into action this weekend. We had numerous participants in a Cross Country competition, and we had teams representing the school in U14 Girls, Under 14 Boys (Grade 7) and Under 14 Boys (Grade 8). This week we have a number of friendly matches for our Girls Volleyball teams, and we wish them success. Congratulations to every participant.

**EHYA Grade 10 Silver Award**

Our Grade 10 left for their EHYA adventurous journey. The weather was kind and the conditions perfect for hiking through the beautiful Ajloun areas. Students took the challenge very positively and many surprised themselves with their resilience. I hope all enjoyed exploring some of the hidden gems of this beautiful country.

**EHYA Grade 9 Bronze Award**

This coming Thursday, our Grade 9s will be embarking on their EHYA adventurous setting. The setting will be Wadi Rum. They will have their preliminary training this week with El Hassan, where the focus will be on navigation – primarily map reading and using the compass.

Yours sincerely

Martin Thompson  
Secondary Principal

**Sports News**

Our school's football teams have returned from Antalya after a series of competitive matches. During these matches, our players gained valuable experiences, particularly in playing strategies and effective field deployment. This was a unique experience, and I hope our students will take on the responsibility of assessing their technical and physical abilities. They should strive to identify their weaknesses and strengths, using this as a foundation for a more promising sporting future.

Meanwhile, the AAC Cross Country event commenced with the participation of our Hawks team. It was a wonderful achievement for our students participating in this event, with Hiam Tannous taking 1st place in the U14 Girls category and Husam Baloula taking 3rd place in the U18 Boys category. This accomplishment is truly commendable, and we deeply appreciate the effort of our IAA coaches.

The AAC tournament also began with the participation of girls' and boys' teams under 14 years of age. Our team took 4<sup>th</sup> place in the girls' championship. In the U14 boys' round-robin tournament for grade 7, our boys achieved 2nd place.

For further details, please click on the link below

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/16YwR0L5whb85QKQEnqAZvCUFdwmngUi5i/viiew?usp=sharing>

Thank you.

## **College and Career Counselling News**

Welcome back everyone! I hope you had a restful week.

Over the last couple of weeks, we were able to complete two major milestones: The Early Decision applications to US and PSAT exam for all G10 & G11. This year the early round was the largest ever with almost one third of this year's class submitting an early application. We have already started to receive acceptances from the UK including: University of Manchester, Leeds, Exeter and Newcastle and with many more to follow inshallah. The US early applications had a deadline of November 1<sup>st</sup> and students who applied did a great job completing applications, writing Supplements and uploading work. We await these decisions in mid-December and we wish everyone the best of luck.

This year's PSAT exam was made digital, and this has cut short the lengthy process of registration and the very complex paper work involved. Almost 160 students sat the two-hour exam this year, testing in English and Mathematics. We will be receiving their results in December with a thorough report covering each student's performance in both areas. These reports provide an excellent point of reference when assessing student's areas of strength and weakness for any future tests.

Last week we also welcomed a large group of UK universities. The group covered all institution levels and offered an array of majors and even scholarships. The exhibition was attended by G12 and G11 students who had the opportunity to speak to representatives and ask questions related to requirements and campus life. Some pictures of last weeks events to share:



## Library News

Hello from the libraries!

The KG library has started an Arabic reading initiative to get more of our younger students reading Arabic stories and books. Students are already excited about reading a different colored Arabic book and ready to get an achievement certificate for doing this.

In the primary library Grades 2 & 3 are learning about the different features of Destiny Discover and finding the books they want in the library. Grade 4 and 5 will be learning about the awards that authors and illustrators get for their books. The libraries have many award books, but we discuss the Caldecott Medal (given to the artist/illustrator of the most distinguished picture book for children), the Newbery Medal (given to the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children), and the Coretta Scott King Awards (given to outstanding African American authors and illustrators of books that demonstrate an appreciation of African American culture and universal human values).

From our secondary librarian and Extended Essay coordinator, Trisha Power:

Grade 12 students and their supervisors are celebrating the conclusion of a long and complex process of decision making, research, analysis and writing with the submission of the Extended Essay for the IB Diploma. The Extended Essay gives students a great opportunity to explore topics of personal and academic interest. As always, the breadth and diversity of their interests show through their choices of topics and research questions across all subject areas. It is always exciting though, to see when students' curiosity makes them explore an aspect of their own cultural heritage. The EE gives them this opportunity. I will share a few.

This year Haya Nasereddin remembered stories from her childhood as she explored artist Dana Barqawi's reflections of Palestinian Culture – creating a narrative around 'forgotten faces and stolen places' (Visual Art).

Juan Allozi saw through the eyes of the Lebanese writer Emily Nasrallah in *Birds of September*, meaning that resonated with familiar stories *كيف برزت أزمة الهجرة في الرواية العربية؟ (طيور أيلول) لإميلي نصرالله* (Studies of Language and Literature - Arabic)

Mira Matraji explored themes through poetry:

*كيف ظهر الاغتراب السياسي والثقافي عند الشعراء أبي القاسم الشابي وإبراهيم طوقان في قصائدهما؟* (Studies of Language and Literature A - Arabic)

Mohammad Khater analysed newspaper articles to determine the extent to which the use of language in the *Guardian* and the *Washington Post* have a role in reinforcing 'Orientalism' in the Palestinian Israeli conflict commentary and reporting. (Studies of Language and Literature A - English)

Hasan Ghoti has analysed the extent to which depiction of Muslims in western media cartoons has encouraged the growth of Islamophobia in some western countries. (Studies of Language and Literature A - English)

Abdullah Qatarneh used his biology knowledge to investigate the veracity of his grandfather's claim that miswak (*Salvadora persica*) kept his teeth free of decay. The research question: how do different concentrations of Miswak (*Salvadora persica*) solutions, (0.00, 3.00, 6.00, 9.00, 12.00)% affect the growth of *Staphylococcus Epidermidis* by measuring zone of inhibition, using a caliper mm  $\pm 0/01$  mm, colony counting using Quebec Colony Counter, and turbidity test using Spectrophotometer to measure absorbance at 66 nm  $\pm 0.001$  Abs? (Biology)

Sarah Al Assaf assessed architect Ammar Khammash's success in creating sustainable projects in Jordan with an emphasis on Feynan Ecolodge. (Design Technology)

Ghazi Kardan has presented a case study of Circassians in Jordan during the second half of the 20th century) guided by the question to what extent were Circassian migrants in Jordan able to preserve their cultural and social identity following their forced expulsion by the Russian Tsarist regime in the 20th century? (History)

Rabab Barboush explored Susan Abulhawa's novel *The Blue between the Sky and the Water* looking at generational trauma and healing. (Studies in Language and Literature - English)

Hashem Ismail took on a history topic investigating the actions and strategies of Richard the Lionheart during the Third Crusade and how they contributed to the outcomes of the Battle of Arsuf, Siege of Acre and the Battle of Jaffa. (History)

Laila Kasih has investigated a young female Arab entrepreneur (UAE) who has managed her brand while growing her cosmetic company to a global level. (Business Management)

Tiana Zakarneh looked at our IAA Cafeteria from the point of view of user experience. Her question: to what extent can the incorporation of parametric design in the interior of a school cafeteria benefit user centered design? (Design Technology)

Ebrahim Shanti chose to explore his interests through film:

كشف معاناة الشعب الفلسطيني في فلم فرحة و مسلسل التغريبة الفلسطينية (Language Acquisition - Arabic)

Congratulations to these and all Grade 12 students for the achievement of completing their Extended Essay. I know that they will look back and realise that they have done something challenging and rewarding. Thank you also to their many talented and encouraging supervisors who have patiently and expertly guided students through this process.

Thank you Trisha! What a great range of topics! On that note of Cultural Heritage and its significance to our students, I'd like to point out that there is a wonderful display of books on Palestine in the Secondary library if you would like to check them out.

Warm Regards,

Dima Shaka'a

Head of Libraries & Primary Librarian