

Newsletter homepage



Sunday, 20th September 2015

Message from the Director

Dear IAA Community,

IAA is a proud member of the prestigious **Council of International School (CIS)**, a global membership community "working collaboratively to shape international education through professional services to schools, higher education institutions, and individuals." This year, the IAA is pleased to be **hosting the Board of Trustees** of this organization for their annual **October Board meeting**, to take place next week on Sunday and Monday. Additionally, IAA will be hosting the **CIS workshop** for the aspiring chairs of the accreditation committees, to which members of the CIS community throughout the region and world are invited to attend this Saturday.

We are thrilled for the opportunity to provide these global leaders in education with a first-hand experience of **our beloved IAA**, its programmes, staff and students. Also, we look forward to introducing them to the **richness of our great kingdom** – its illustrious heritage, renowned generosity and important contributions on the world stage. In addition to touring the campus, they will also be visiting **Petra** on Tuesday, one of the celebrated Wonders of the World and an important Jordanian archaeological and historical treasure.

We hope to offer an authentic understanding of the achievements of Jordan, as we cope uniquely with the many challenges demanding our attention today.

Finally, the **IAA Board of Directors will be hosting the Board and members of all CIS sister schools across Jordan** for an evening of dining and socializing, an ideal opportunity to extend our legendary Jordanian hospitality!

Please join us in welcoming our esteemed visitors if you happen to encounter them around campus.

You can **learn more about the individual members of the CIS Board of Trustees here:**

<http://www.cois.org/page.cfm?p=1802>

Finally, I would like to commemorate **World Teachers Day**, taking place tomorrow on **5th October**. The importance of teachers around the world surely cannot be understated. It is my humble view that teachers indeed make the world go 'round! **Thank you to our dedicated team of IAA teachers – nothing at IAA is possible without you!**

Best wishes to all

Hana Kanan, Ed.D.
Director

Secondary School News

Dear Parents,

Before the holiday we had the first of our Bake Off competitions and 6B became the champion bakers, raising over 300JD for their chosen charity. 6A and 6C were not far behind and we raised over 1,000 JD in total – a fantastic effort! On the same day, we had Grade 10 visiting an oil refinery which really helped them put theory into practice and of course we had a wonderful Eid Assembly. It was a very busy day indeed!

The Track and Field morning was a great success on Thursday. We wanted to ensure participation by everyone and at the same time identify talent in the student body. The morning proved successful on both counts, and I really liked seeing the students enjoying themselves and entering into the spirit of healthy competition so enthusiastically. Well done to all who took part. This week we are doing the same again on the 8th October as Grade 9 to 11 take to the track to see who is the fastest!

The weekend was very busy. We had the real SAT exams taking place at school, Grade 11 were in for their practice SATs and most of Grade 10 were at Eco Park for their Individuals and Societies coursework. The next few weekends are going to be as busy as we start the MUN season with a number of our students attending the New English MUN and with the rest of Grade 10 heading off to Eco Park.

This is a very busy time for college counselling, and there are events taking place in October that involve all Grade 10 to 12 students. Ms Aya has written more about this, and if you are a parent of Grade 10 to 12, please look over her message carefully.

The SRC are now in place and already working hard on some initiatives. I know they are working on celebrating the UN Day for Teachers, which is the 5th October, and I would like to thank them in advance for this initiative. I know they have a lot of ideas for the year, and I wish them all the best.

Overseas Trips: Every year we offer a good range of overseas trips to complement our curriculum. Whilst not all dates are set as yet, a brief summary to help with any planning is presented below:

| Trip Name | Location | Grade Restrictions | Time |
|----------------------|-------------|--------------------|----------|
| Chelsea Trip | London | 5 to 8 | October |
| Arts Trip | London | 9 to 12 | December |
| Ski Trip | Switzerland | 9 to 12 | December |
| International Action | Cambodia | 10 and 11 | February |
| MUN (advanced) | Madrid | 10 and 11 | March |
| MUN (beginner) | Istanbul | 9 to 11 | April |
| Spanish Trip | Valencia | 9 to 11 | April |

NB: Finance for the trips will be collected at least two months in advance of the trip taking place, and letters will be sent out with details at the appropriate time.

NB: If it is the case that trips are oversubscribed, then student behaviour records will be taken into account.

Thank you

Martin Thompson
Secondary Principal

Design Technology Student of the Month Award

The Design Technology department nominates preferably a boy and a girl from each grade every month for this award. This award is a way for the department to reward students who consistently demonstrate the right attitude to their learning. The first recipients of this award for the academic year 2015-16 are:

Grade 6: Samir Farraj and Ghaleb Al Qussus

Grade 7: Kamil Batshon and Rober Mouradian

Grade 8: Faris Khoury and Mona Salah

Grade 9: Jude Bajali and Mira Issa

Grade 10: Ali Khalifeh and Sa'ad Daoud

Grade 11: Aya Afaneh and Hani Al Khaiyat

Grade 12: Mohammad Abu Kadra and Zaya Dakhqan.

Mr Yaaseen Hoozeer
Head of Design Technology

Primary School News

Congratulations to all the students who stood for the Student Council or the Eco Committee. You have made the school a stronger place through your candidacies. Congratulations to those who were elected. They are:

| Grade | Student Council | Eco Representative |
|-------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 2R | Rashid Shami | |
| 2E | Sarra Abu Tayeh | |
| 2Z | Saba Hourani | |
| 3R | Michael Imseeh | Ahmed Odeh |
| 3G | Husam Baloula | Sanad Al Shedaifat |
| 3J | Akram Abu Khajil | Saif Samahouri |
| 4D | Hashem Al Kurdi | Alam Al Hadid |
| 4C | Abdel Majed Slameh | Abdalla Ragab |
| 4M | Noah Jihayel | Omar Tahabsem |
| 5M | Abdullah Fraij | Elias Telegraph |
| 5S | Mazen Al-Saleh | Ihsan Atallah |
| 5MM | Jiezel Billeh | Aiysha Tarawneh |

On a similar vein we held the House elections on Thursday. The results will be announced in next week's newsletter.

On 11th and 12th of October, you have the opportunity of meeting with your child's teacher. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss your child's progress to date and to set some targets for future development. The premise behind these meetings is that, when home and school work and cooperate together, academic outcomes are enhanced. From Grade 1 upwards, the teachers have prepared notes on every child to help guide the discussion. They will handwrite any other comments or insights that come out of the discussion. The papers will be copied the following day and one copy sent home, whilst the other is placed in the assessment portfolio. You received a letter about the report evenings last week along with a return slip to help organise times. Information about the report evenings is also on the grade level Moodle. As always if there is a larger issue that requires more than the ten-minute time slot, please organise an appropriate time to meet with the teacher through primary reception.

We have seen the first signs of the weather cooling off after a long and very hot summer. With this change I have also seen the non-uniform jackets and coats appearing. Please note that children are expected to wear our school uniform at school. There are school uniform jackets, sweat shirts and pull-overs that can be worn separately or in combination to keep children warm. If for any reason your child can't wear the correct uniform, please let the teachers know via note.

This week is the first full week of clubs. I am really grateful to the staff who volunteers their time to run clubs, the children who engage in them so enthusiastically as well as the organisers, Mr Walid and Ms Rana. The children have a wide range of sporting, cultural and educational opportunities available to them, thanks to their hard work. Thank you also to everyone in the Pre-K family for the lovely coffee afternoon last Thursday. It was wonderful to mix with the parents, teachers and children and to see the amazing progress the children have made in such a short time.

Finally, thank you to Ms Sophie for her workshop on Wednesday. Next week Ms Dima and Ms Tania will hold the workshop, "Building Research Skills with the Library."

Have a great week.

Martin Blackburn

Primary Principal

Middle School News

Dear Parents,
September proved to be a great month of welcoming our staff and students and establishing routines and expectations in order to provide the foundation for our success stories throughout this academic year.

Our extracurricular activities have officially started. There are a wide range of activities for our students to enjoy. Participating in such activities has many benefits, some of which include time management and prioritizing, trying something new, making contributions and building solid relationship skills. Please encourage your child to participate in the activities. To sign up for these activities, students must access the link found on moodle using the username and password of their IAA school account.

Last week, Ms Leslie, our Secondary School Counsellor, conducted an interactive workshop with our parents on how to actively listen to their children. This form of communication lets your child know that you are aware of what they are saying and that you acknowledge their feelings. It is not the time to object, solve the problem or ask many questions. Instead it is the time to let your child talk without interruptions or judgment, while you listen to what they have to say. Consequently this should allow them to focus on their own feelings and hopefully clarify their own thoughts. Our next MYP Information Session will focus on interdisciplinary and e-assessments. It will take place on Monday October 5th from 8am to 9am in the Theatre. We look forward to seeing you there.

Starting on the week of 18th October, Ms Susanne and I will be having grade-specific "Coffee Mornings" in the MPR. The purpose of these sessions would be for you to raise any issues, concerns, suggestions you have regarding the specific grade. It also gives parents the opportunity to meet one another.

| Coffee Morning for Parents of | Date | Time | Venue |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------|-------|
| G6 | Sunday, Oct. 18 | 8am -9am | MPR |
| G10 | Thursday, Oct. 22 | 8am -9am | MPR |
| G7 | Sunday, Oct 25 | 8am -9am | MPR |
| G9 | Thursday, Oct. 29 | 8am -9am | MPR |
| G8 | Sunday, Nov. | 8am -9am | MPR |

During PSHE this week, Grades 6 to 8 students will be discussing cyber bullying. Cyberbullying is the use of digital media tools such as the Internet and cell phones to deliberately upset or harass another person. A take-home sheet will be given to students. This is a great opportunity for you to discuss this issue with your children.

G10A and G10C had a busy weekend conducting fieldwork at Sharhabil bin Hassneh Eco Park. The local landscape gave them the opportunity to apply the content and skills of the "Resources" unit of the Individuals and Societies course, as well as to experience the natural world. The focus of the trip was to assess the efficiency and sustainability of the agricultural and water systems in the area. We look forward to seeing the findings of our G10s. G10B will be going on the same trip on Friday, 9th Oct.

The G10s were required to submit their final product/outcome of their personal project this past Wednesday, 30th September. The focus now is for our students to work on their report and process journal. Progress reports of how the students are doing on their personal project have been sent home last Thursday. It is expected for the parents to see the reports, sign them and return them with their child back to Ms Hala by Sunday, 4th Oct. We are devoting many PSHE sessions for the G10 students to work on their report; however, it is important that they meet with their supervisors to receive feedback on their work.

Lastly 5th October is World Teachers' Day! We would like to thank our teachers for the care and the commitment they demonstrate in the classroom.

With kind regards,

Zena Muhtaseb
Head of Middle Years

Calendar

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Sunday 4
Monday 5 -MYP-Interdisciplinary and E-assessments Meeting for

| | | |
|-----------|----|--|
| Tuesday | 6 | Parents, Theatre, 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM –Parents Open Meeting with the Director, Director’s Office, 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM |
| Wednesday | 7 | –Primary Parent Workshop- Library, MPR, 8:00 AM – 8:50 AM |
| Thursday | 8 | –Primary School – UN World Teachers Day Assembly, Theatre, 1:15 PM – 2:00 PM |
| Friday | 9 | –Grade 10B Eco Park Trip, Al Shuneh |
| Saturday | 10 | –Grade 10B Eco Park Trip, Al Shuneh |
| Sunday | 11 | –Grades 4-7 Chelsea Football Camp Trip, London –Universities Visit, 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM –Primary Parent Conferences (A-G), Primary School, 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM |

Sports News

I recently had the pleasure of re-reading a wonderful article in the *Guardian* by award-winning children’s author and graphic novelist Neil Gaiman on why reading fiction is important. I want to share some of his thoughts with you because they illustrate quite clearly how IAA Library programs support the IAA community Pillars.

First, Gaiman says that fiction is the gateway drug to reading because stories make us want to know what happens next. Once, readers begin down that road, they are on their way to learning new words, thinking new thoughts. He says, in these days, “words are more important than they ever were: we navigate the world with words, and as the world slips onto the web, we need to follow, to communicate and to comprehend what we are reading. People who cannot understand each other cannot exchange ideas, cannot communicate, and translation programs only go so far”. This function of literacy actually supports three IAA Pillars: **Leadership** through character, **Acceptance** through empathy, and **Duty** through service. In his moving speech before the United Nations last Monday, 28th September, King Abdullah epitomized these pillars by emphasizing the need for embracing an ‘Internet of Humanity—a hyper-connection, bringing us together in collective consciousness and common cause’. We cannot achieve this global vision if we cannot use language, and language will not come to us unless we enjoy what we read and desire to read on. This is why the IAA Libraries work very hard to create the most positive reading and learning environment for our students. We need students to get onto the reading ladder, moving rung by rung, into literacy (Gaiman).

To further the point above, reading fiction builds **acceptance** through empathy. When we view a picture or watch a video, we are seeing things happen to other people, but when we read a book, we use our imaginations. “You, and you alone, using your imagination, create a world and people it and look out through other eyes. You get to feel things, visit places and worlds you would otherwise never know” (Gaiman). People who build better worlds in their minds tend to look around at their reality and ask what they can do to make the world they actually live in a better place. Again, **leadership** and **duty** like this is encouraged and is seen by our students in CAS, in religion classes, in Personal Projects, in Recycling Programs, and supported by the IAA Libraries when we encourage reading, aid in the enquiry process, help with digital citizenship, work in the media lab and offer resources to broaden student understanding of their world.

Mark your calendars now for Book Week, from 25 to 29 October. Students in KG and Primary will enjoy fun literary activities in class all week long and be exposed to the enjoyment of reading while parents can take advantage of visiting with six quality booksellers from Jordan, to see what they have to offer in both English and Arabic titles.

We will have a special MakerSpace program in the KG Library on Tuesday of that week. Parents are invited to bring their children for a session in Quilling with Ms Dana, from 2:30-3:30pm.

For the entire article by Neil Gaiman referenced above, please click on the following link. It really is worth the time. Gaiman, Neil. “Neil Gaiman: Why our future depends on libraries, reading and daydreaming.” *The Guardian*. (Tuesday, 15 October 2013). Accessed 1 October 2015 from

<http://www.theguardian.com/books/2013/oct/15/neil-gaiman-future-libraries-reading-daydreaming>

“The Libraries will be featured in the Wednesday Workshop, Ms Tania and Ms Dima will be speaking on “How to Navigate the IAA Library Digital Learning Environment”. This seminar will show parents how to use our online resources for early literacy development and research skills as students move into the Primary grades”.

Ms Kathleen, Ms Dima & Ms Tania

IAA Librarians

More News

Dear Parents,

The IAA/PTA would like to thank you for your participation in Eid Al-Adha celebration. We strive for your active involvement in school events because research shows how important it is for your child's success. Students with parents who are involved in their school tend to have fewer behavioral problems and better academic performance.

Open the link below to find more about this issue:

<http://www.ptotoday.com/pto-today-articles/article/399-involvement-matters-what-to-tell-parent>

IAA/PTA

More News

More News

Important information for Grade 10, 11 and 12 parents, I hope you all had a restful Eid break surrounded by your loved ones. Coming back from this short break we must hit the ground running! October for many G12 students is a time when application essays begin to take shape and the list of colleges is finalized. Indeed for some, October marks the final month for sitting prerequisite exams like: UKCAT, SAT, SAT Subject and LNAT in time for those early deadlines: October 15th (UK Medicine, Oxford and Cambridge Universities) and November 1st (US Early Decision). For everyone else, the final deadline for all remaining applications is 15th December 2015. On the whole, students seem well on track with their timelines. I wish those who will soon be pressing that 'send' button the best of luck with their offers!

October is a crucial month for universities too. During this time of year, college recruiters from all around the globe flood to Jordan to meet with our students, always hopeful to exert a last-minute influence and sway choices to their advantage. Throughout the year, we receive visitors on campus on a continuous basis. During these visits, colleges are afforded the time to present their institutions to our students in detail as well as respond to many individual queries. At IAA we tend to also accommodate the larger groups of universities that tour the region yearly. Whether it's groups of 25-40 institutions or single colleges, we make sure our students receive the personalized attention they deserve. Over the coming months, we will be hosting numerous such visits, including large exhibitions to cover regions like: UK, US and Canada. (Please refer to the attachments for details of dates and timing). Parents and guardians are welcome to come and meet with colleges themselves.

It has come to our attention that G11 students have not been utilizing the SAT online tool available to them. In brief, the online tool is quite an extensive programme and a valuable one at that. It analyzes individual's performance, highlighting areas of strengths and weaknesses. It also provides detailed explanation of answers and steers towards questions where the student is clearly underperforming. We believe this tool is quite important, as it guarantees improved scores when used properly. We ask that you encourage your child to log on to practice more often – remember it is only through regular practice that one can reach full potential so practice practice practice!

I would like to inform G11 and G10 parents of the coming Preliminary SAT (PSAT) test taking place on the 28th October 2015. The PSAT, similar to SAT, tests students in Critical Reading and Math. Results from PSAT give an indication of students' standard in those two components and specific areas to address, if any. The test will be administered during school hours and is mandatory for all students in that grade level. Practice booklets will be handed out to students in due time, to help them become more familiar with the test format.

Canadian University Exhibition November 10:15 – 11:00 am

Carleton University
 Concordia University
 Dalhousie University
 McGill University
 Ryerson University
 University of British Columbia
 University of Waterloo
 University of Canada West
 York University
 Seneca College
 Sheridan College

UK Universities Exhibition

21st October 2015 – 9:30 -10:30 in the Multipurpose Room

| # | Uni/ Coll. |
|----|--|
| 1 | Aberystwyth Univeristy |
| 2 | Cambridge Education Group |
| 3 | Cardiff University |
| 4 | Cardiff Metropolitan University |
| 5 | Coventry University |
| 6 | INTO |
| 7 | INTO University of Gloucestershire |
| 8 | INTO University of Exeter |
| 9 | Kaplan International Colleges |
| 10 | London School of Commerce |
| 11 | Loughborough University |
| 12 | Northumbria University |
| 13 | Nottingham Trent University |
| 14 | Regent Language Training |
| 15 | Study Group, UK and Europe International Study Centres |
| 16 | Teesside University |
| 17 | The University of Nottingham |
| 18 | The University of Sunderland |
| 19 | University of Brighton |
| 20 | University of Central Lancashire |
| 21 | University of Glasgow |
| 22 | University of Kent |
| 23 | University of Leicester |
| 24 | University of Lincoln |
| 25 | University of South Wales |
| 26 | University of Surrey |
| 27 | University of the West of England |
| 28 | University of York |
| | USA |
| 29 | Ball State University |
| 30 | Green River Community College |
| 31 | Shorelight Education |
| 32 | Shoreline Community College |

US University Exhibition 11th October 8:30 -9:30

American University in Cairo
 Arizona State University
 Bowling Green State University
 DePaul University
 DePauw University
 Doha Institute for Graduate Studies
 Full Sail University
 George Mason University
 Hofstra University
 Hult International Business School
 Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis
 Kent State University
 Marquette University
 Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
 McNeese State University
 New York Film Academy
 North Carolina State University
 Ohio University
 Old Dominion University
 Pace University
 Pepperdine University
 Portland State University
 Purdue University
 Roger Williams University
 Savannah College of Art and Design

33
St. Ambrose University
Stony Brook University
Suffolk University
Syracuse University
University at Buffalo –The State University of New York
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Northern Iowa
University of Portland
Western Kentucky University
Woodbury University

Shoreline Community College

Aya Abdel Hadi
Career and College Counsellor