



الأكاديمية الدولية - عمان  
THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY - AMMAN

## Parent News Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023

### Calendar

## OCTOBER 23

**22 SUN -  
26 THU**

Mid Term Break

### A Message from The Director

Dear parents,

As we approach the much-anticipated October break, I extend my warmest wishes to each and every one of you. May this break be a time of rest, rejuvenation, and the creation of lasting memories.

I want to take this opportunity to wish the best of luck to our students who are embarking on exciting journeys during this break. To those traveling to KSA for Umrah, may your spiritual journey be filled with reflection and serenity. To our football enthusiasts heading to Antalya for the tournament, may you play with passion and sportsmanship, bringing pride to IAA. And to our budding artists and designers exploring the UAE, may your creative endeavors flourish in the vibrant landscapes of inspiration.

In the spirit of growth and forward-thinking, I am thrilled to announce that our Admissions Department has opened its doors to accept applications for the upcoming academic year. We look forward to welcoming new faces into our diverse and dynamic community! Should you like to register your child, please contact our Admissions Department at [admissions@iaa.edu.jo](mailto:admissions@iaa.edu.jo)

On a personal note, I am honored to have recently represented our school at the International Symposium of Harmony & Educational Hope in Costa Rica. It was a privilege to wave the Jordanian flag among educators from around the globe, fostering dialogue and collaboration towards a harmonious and hopeful educational future. As we pause for the break, let's also take a moment to appreciate the collective efforts that make IAA a thriving hub of learning and discovery. I am immensely proud of our students, faculty, and staff for their dedication and achievements.

Wishing you all a restful and joyful October break.

Warm regards,  
Hana Kanan, Ed. D.

## **Primary School News**

### **Mid Term Wishes**

As the mid- term holiday approaches, I want to take a moment to wish you an enjoyable and memorable time. This is an opportunity for our children to step away from the daily routines and immerse themselves in activities that bring them joy and relaxation. Please take this opportunity to recharge, rejuvenate, and reflect on the accomplishments and growth achieved since the beginning of the academic year. I look forward to welcoming back our beloved students with renewed energy and enthusiasm as we continue our educational journey together.

### **School trips**

While I was writing this article, it was delightful to hear our grade 3 students happily getting off the buses and coming back from their trip to the Jordanian Museum. These off-campus adventures provide students with unique opportunities to expand their knowledge beyond the confines of the classroom. Additionally, these outings foster curiosity, critical thinking, and teamwork while creating lasting memories. Whether it is exploring historical landmarks, visiting museums, or immersing in nature's wonders, excursions also offer a hands-on approach to learning that engages students in a way textbook simply cannot.

### **Leadership at IAA**

In line with our commitment to providing opportunities for primary students to exercise their leadership skills, I am pleased to announce the Student Council elections results. In addition, please find below the G4 and G5 students who were selected for the Community and Service committee in primary school. Please join me in congratulating the following leaders of today:

#### Student Council Reps:

G2A: Mazin Abu Jbarah, G2B: Yousef abu Khazneh, G2C: Jad Azzeah, G2D: Jad Al- Said  
G3A: Natalie Badawieh, G3B: Masa Qutob, G3C: Rashed Zidan, G3D: Sarah Samhouri  
G4A: Hashim Al Abbadi, G4B: Ali AlSalehi, G4C: Yousef Kanbar Agha, G4D: Tia Abdullatif  
G5A: Salma Dirani, G5B: Jurie Al Qadi, G5C: Aileen Al Naimat, G5D: Lyana Alayyan

#### Community & Service Committee:

Grade 4: Zaina Arabiyat, Ayla Alasad, Sara Sabri, Raihan Alhaj, Zaid Abdo, Yasmina Alakash, Leen Wahbeh & Kenzi Haddad

Grade 5: Maryam Fareed, Mustafa Al Assad, Masa Agha, Saif Jaber, Alya Adwan, Sand Suradi, Mirna Sarah, Dina Al Saadi, Youssef El Sheikh, Rayan Azzeh, Lulwah Al Jasem, Sarah AlFarouki & Waleed Tbakhi

#### **Primary Workshops**

I would like to thank you for attending the workshops that we had since the start of the academic year. These workshops are designed with your child's educational journey in mind, aiming to provide valuable insights and practical tools that can enhance their learning experience. By joining us, you will have the opportunity to collaborate with our dedicated teachers, and fellow parents in an environment that fosters open dialogue and shared knowledge. These workshops cover a wide range of topics, including assessment, effective study strategies, navigating technology in education, and promoting a growth mindset. Therefore, I am hopeful that you will be able to join us in the upcoming workshops.

#### **Parent – Teacher Conferences**

It is worth mentioning now that we have Parent Conferences scheduled for Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> so please mark the date on your calendar. As always, these meetings present a good opportunity for Pre-K to Grade 5 parents to connect with classroom and specialist teachers. The conferences will go ahead with plans to hold them in person. Booking details and important information will be shared with you soon once they are finalised in a detailed letter. A gentle reminder that there will be no school for students on the day as teachers will be available for these meetings.

#### **Bake Sale & Non - Uniform Day**

Following on from the success of our first bake sale where we raised an incredible 1037 JD, we would like to remind you that this week's bake sale will take place on Thursday, the 19th of October. Our wonderful Grade 4 students will be providing us with the goodies. All funds will be channeled through to support the aid efforts to the people in Gaza. Thank you in advance for your support.

#### **Weather & Nutrition!**

Finally, as the weather is turning cooler, I would like to remind parents about sending children to school wearing warm clothing. Please ensure that you label the jackets to make it easier to find when it eventually resides in the lost and found cabinet. Just as well, this is a good opportunity to revisit the balanced diet for our children as it is imperative that students come to school having had a nutritious healthy breakfast. This will help our children maintain their concentration and ensure they have enough energy to keep them going throughout the day.

**Stay safe, healthy and enjoy every moment of the holiday.**

## **Secondary School News**

Dear Parents

In these dark times, our deepest thoughts go out to all who are affected by the events unfolding in Gaza. We held special prayers last week and are doing so again this week to give our students the opportunity to offer their spiritual support. We have also invited students to work on a beautiful mural that will remind us all of the struggle. Finally, we are holding a special lesson with all our students on Monday in order to give context: historical, social and political to the events that have brought us to the current situation today. As the events continue to develop, we will endeavour to offer support for our students should they need.

### **Supporting Gaza**

Our Bake Sale and Civvies Day this Thursday (19<sup>th</sup> October) will be focused on supporting the work of the **Jordan Hashemite Charity Organisation**. Given the scale of the humanitarian suffering we are witnessing, we are asking students to donate more than the usual 2JD and hope that this can be raised to **at least 5JD per person** so that our community can offer more immediate help to those in need.

Against the sobering backdrop of the suffering we read and see on a daily basis, there has been a lot going on at school. We are in a very busy assessment time, and I am sure our students are ready for their October break next week. The assessments are in preparation for the distribution of report cards and our first Parent Conferences that will take place in November. More information will be released about those in our next newsletter.

**MUN in full swing:** our students participated in the Montessori MUN last weekend. We have a good delegation attending the Ahliyyah and Mutran MUN in the October break. Letters have just gone out for the ABS MUN in November (please note that this one is restricted to Grades 9 to 11 only) and we are hoping for excellent support from our students for our own Majlis Al Arabi also in November.

**Trips ready for departure:** we wish all our students heading to Dubai, Saudi and Turkey over the October break a wonderful experience - be it spiritual, sporting or for inspiring our young designers and artists. Thank you to all the staff giving up their holidays to make these happen.

**Grade 12 Design Exhibition:** our Grade 12 students will be showing off their Design thinking and prototyping skills this Wednesday. The exhibition will take place in the area behind Finance/Admin straight after school. All are welcome to come and view their work.

**EHYA under way:** our Grade 11 took part in a very successful Silver Award in Ajloun this weekend. On our return from the break it is the turn of Grade 10 (Ajloun) and Grade 9 (Wadi Rum) to have their adventurous journeys. Letters about these tips will be going out soon.

**Grade 12 trip:** a new addition to our calendar is a trip to Wadi Rum for our Grade 12. After the Extended Essays are in and the Early University Applications are sent, we are taking Grade 12 for an exciting weekend in Rum to enjoy a weekend of camaraderie and fun. Hopefully this will re-energise them for the next period that is heavy on internal assessments and regular university admissions.

**Hawks in action:** our sporting calendar is well underway and a number of friendly games have taken place. We wish our U14 and U16 girl's volleyball teams all the best for their games against ABS on Wednesday this week.

**Competitions beginning:** congratulations to all those who put through proposals for the Jordan Young Scientist competition. A panel of Science and Design teachers are working through them to shortlist those that will move forward.

Yours sincerely

Mr Martin and Ms Zena

### **Sports News**

**One of the most significant pieces of news from the Hawks this month is the large number of preparatory matches for most of the IAA school teams, through which it helped the coaches to identify the strengths and weaknesses, both from the readiness of physical and skill capabilities in order to determine the goals of the next stage and create greater areas for development and improve the level of performance of each sport.**

**For further details, please click on the link below**

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yShbso8NoozL-3eGv5MrDliOR9W9KF31/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yShbso8NoozL-3eGv5MrDliOR9W9KF31/view?usp=drive_link)

### **College & Career Counseling News**

Deadlines deadlines.... This week our Counselling office is overflowing with students as they press that final 'submit' button. The two main dates that are approaching are October 16<sup>th</sup> for all UK med schools as well as Oxford and Cambridge. The date after that is the American early application round of Nov 1st. This year we have the largest group of students (26) who will submit an early application to either UK or US or both. Applying early has its benefits. Students get the work for colleges finished early in the year to focus on the IB and the demands of the Diploma. Also, US applications in the early round tend to have a higher acceptance rate than regular. However, not every student feels ready at this early stage of the year to commit to a college and most prefer to wait a while before they finalize their choices.

Last week we carried out the 'Digital Readiness Check' for the upcoming PSAT test which is scheduled to take place 19<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> October. This year Collegeboard have introduced the digital version of the test and the trial we did was to familiarize our G10 and G11 with the process of registration as well as give students access to practice tests. Needless to say, the PSAT is a very important test in English and Mathematics as it provides

students with an identical experience to the regular SAT. SATs will be reintroduced for most colleges in US next year, taking the PSAT seriously and preparing for it is highly recommended for all students. The month of October is the busiest with University visits. We have been welcoming delegates from all regions and this exposure has helped our students make informed choices. Many have been offering scholarships at their institutions which is opportunities our kids will no doubt benefit from.

As always, I share some photos of the highlights from the last two weeks.



## **Library News**

Hello from the libraries,

We hope you are well as we transition into the vibrant season of fall. The libraries have just finished their annual book orders for both Arabic and English books and they will all be on the shelves soon. But, you don't need to wait because our shelves are brimming with books and timeless classics across various genres to complement different tastes in reading. Pass by the libraries with your children to discover their next favorite book or audio book. For secondary students, please prod them to check out books and enjoy leisure reading fitting to their taste. Our friendly librarians are always ready to help.

Don't forget to make the most of our digital resources that are accessible anytime, anywhere. Explore our vast collection of ebooks, audio books, magazines and online databases through our library website - [https://iaalibrary.follettdestiny.com/common/welcome.jsp?context=saas908\\_8500260](https://iaalibrary.follettdestiny.com/common/welcome.jsp?context=saas908_8500260)

In line with recent events and as part of our commitment to fostering a love of reading and learning, I would like to share a couple of recommendations for both primary and secondary students about Palestine. We also have a great resource called Encyclopedia Palestinnica in the secondary library that documents the history and culture of Palestine in the Ottoman period. I encourage you to read with your kids.

### Primary

- Tunjur Tunjur! A Palestinian Folktale retold by Margaret Read MacDonald ; collected by Ibrahim Muhawi and Sharif Kanaana
- Sitti's Secrets by Naomi Shihab Nye
- Young Palestinians Speak: Living Under the Occupation by Anthony Robinson
- A Little Piece of Ground by Elizabeth Laird and Sonia Nimr

• إسمي لوبيا - قصة ساري عبد الرزاق

### Secondary

- Balcony On The Moon: Coming of Age in Palestine by Ibtesam Barakat
- Unfortunately, It Was Paradise: Selected Poems by poet Mahmoud Darwish
- In Search of Fatima: A Palestinian Story by Ghada Karmi
- Palestine by Joe Sacco
- Men In the Sun: and other Palestinian Stories by Ghassan Kanafani

• قول يا طير : حكايات للأطفال من التراث الشعبي الفلسطيني - إبراهيم مهوي

Wishing you a peaceful October break.

Dima Shaka'a  
Head of Libraries & Primary Librarian