



الأكاديمية الدولية - عمان  
THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY - AMMAN

# Parent News

## Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October

### 2018

### Calendar

Monday, October 22	-Grade 8 Trip, (Off- Campus) -Grade 3B Trip, (Off- Campus) -Coffee morning (Grade 9), MPR, 8-9 am -Open meeting with Primary Principal, Mr. Andrew Powell, Primary Principal's Office, 8-9 am -Primary Parent Conferences, 3-6 pm
Tuesday, October 23	-Coffee morning (Grade 7), Secondary Library, 8-9 am -Director's Open Meeting with parents, Director's Office, 8-9 am -Primary Parent Conferences, 3-6 pm
Wednesday, October 24	-Grade 3C Trip, (Off- Campus)
Thursday, October 25	-G2 Rula Assembly, Auditorium, 1:30 pm -Bake Sale and Non-Uniform Day
Sunday, October 28	-Mid Term Break
Monday, October 29	-Mid Term Break
Tuesday, October 30	-Mid Term Break
Wednesday, October 31	-Mid Term Break
Thursday, November 1	-Mid Term Break -HAWKS U16 Volleyball
Friday, November 2	-HAWKS U16 Volleyball
Saturday, November 3	-HAWKS U16 Volleyball
Sunday, November 4	-HAWKS U16 Volleyball -Community Project overview (G8), MPR, 8-9 am
Monday, November 5	-Open meeting with Primary Principal, Mr. Andrew Powell, Primary Principal's Office, 8-9 am

## *A Message from the Director*

Dear IAA Community,

Initially, I would like to thank the PTA for an amazing Family Fun day. I look forward to attending many more events in the future.

I was in Spain during the week of our last newsletter, attending the Council of International Schools (CIS) board meeting in my capacity as Vice Chair. It was a productive two-day meeting in one of Segovia's remarkable archaeological sites at the IE University. The CIS is a non-profit organisation in international education for the accreditation of schools and best practice development. I also had the chance to meet five of our alumni who are currently studying at IE. And I would not miss meeting Jorge de la Calle, Director of Global Development & Internalisation at Gredos San Diego (GSD), where we discussed future plans on strengthening the partnership between IAA and GSD in terms of sports training for IAA students, sports coaches visiting IAA and a language exchange programme. GSD is a cooperative that manages six schools in Madrid based on a vision of fostering tolerance whilst instilling values based on respect for human dignity and promoting interest in Science and Humanity.

Congratulations to the I'MUN 18 team for a well-organised three-day event. Those students amaze me every year with regards to their leadership, management and debating skills. This year's chosen charity was White Beds Society, a nursing home located in Juweideh that was established in 1971. Maysoon Armouti Maani, President of the White Beds Society, received the donation at the opening ceremony and expressed her gratitude for the team's generous support.

The monthly Bake Sale on Thursday will end the week prior to the October break. Do enjoy the week off and spend as much quality time as you can with your children. Put down that phone! Do read this recently published article on what you can do as parents to limit screen time, because it all starts with you. <https://www.stuff.co.nz/life-style/parenting/107143981/put-down-your-phone-and-spend-quality-time-with-family>. On this note, our senior school are currently rehearsing for next month's play called "Brainstorm", that looks into how social media affects our teens and their relationships and choices in life. This is a must watch on November 27 & 28.

Stay connected to more IAA news, events and updates through our social media channels and our IAA mobile application.

Finally, I am available on Tuesday, from 8-9am, for the open meeting at my office.

Have an enjoyable Mid Term Break!

**Hana Kanan Ed.D.**

**Director**

## Primary School News

Dear Parents,

This week we have Parent Conferences scheduled in the Primary School. These meetings should give you a good indication of the way in which your child has settled into the new school year. They also provide teachers, parents and students with the opportunity to better understand aspirations and set achievable goals for the year ahead. Please note that should you be unable to meet with your child's Arabic, Religion or SSA teacher due to their heavily booked schedules, time has been set aside from 2:30 – 3:30pm on Monday, November 5<sup>th</sup> for drop-in visits.

With the October Break quickly approaching, I would like to encourage as many families as possible to consider reading as an alternative or at least as a way to reduce time on electronic devices. A recent study from University College London indicates that young people who read fiction have significantly stronger reading skills than their peers who do not. Professor John Jerrim, the paper's lead author says, "Reading fiction requires us to digest large amounts of long and continuous text which could explain why it helps us to develop not just our reading skills but switch off from other distractions."

We have finalised the various student leadership positions for the 2018-2019 school year and I would like to recognise the following:

### Prefects

Lara Kilani (Head Girl)	Omar Nashashibi (Head Boy)
Sadeen Rashid	Mohammad Dajani
Jordan Donnelly	Ali Abzakh
Salma Morrar	Ahmad Al-Rabi

### Student Council

Grade 2: Maia Gourgourinis	Zaid Jaber	Ayla Haddad	Tia Naghawi
Grade 3: Nora Sharaan	Leanne Badreddine	Salma Kloub	Rashed Abu Dahab
Grade 4: Al Anoud Al Jazy	Yasmine Abu Omar	Tarek Al Jamal	Hamza Abu Salha
Grade 5: Tia Shehu	Mira Al Agha	Talal Mansour	Mustafa Al-Ma'ayta

### House Captains and Vice Captains

Aqaba Dolphins:	Nadine Baqain (Captain)	Jude Saadi (Vice Captain)
Pella Falcons:	Hani Samman (Captain)	Talia Al Kurdi (Vice Captain)
Rum Wolves:	Elia Al Nims (Captain)	Noor Asali (Vice Captain)
Zara Wild Cats:	Omar Manasra (Captain)	Mariel Imseeh (Vice Captain)

This week I would like to recognise the following award winners:

**Bronze Award Winners**

Nadine Baqain 5C	Abdelrahman Al- Ahmad 2C	Miryam Kanber Agha 2D
Aws Al Salahat 5C	Laith Smadi 2C	Lamia Al Awad 2D
Zaid Jaber 2B	Basma Al- Hashem 2C	

I would also like to recognise our cross-country runners who recently competed at ICS. Nadine Baqain (G5) came fifth overall and first for her age. Basheer Arabiyat (G3) came third overall and first for his age. This is incredible as both students were competing against Middle School students. Congratulations!

Wishing you all a wonderful week.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Powell

**Secondary School News**

Dear Parents,

**I'MUN 2018**

I'MUN 2018, *Political Parallax*, has officially come to an end. These past three days were filled with constructive dialogue and exchange on urgent global issues dissected from various perspectives. The Human Rights Council exposed modern slavery in the Middle East. The Economic and Social Council discussed the impacts of the US-China tariff war. The Arabic League debated means of resolving the diplomatic crisis in Qatar. These were just a small fraction of the topics that were researched, negotiated and debated on. Congratulations to the I'MUN 2018 Team. Rest assured that you have led by example and have fostered an environment for all participants to express their viewpoints on political, economic and social issues, thus positively impacting on their development as citizens, social actors and leaders.

A special thank you to our keynote guest speakers- Mr. Robert Jenkins (Unicef Jordan Representative) and Mr. Lex Takkenburg (Chief of the Ethics Office at UNRWA). They both delivered powerful messages, reminding us that our world today is very young- the largest young generation to date. They stressed that our youth must be encouraged and empowered to act as they are a source of innovation, ideas and solutions. It is their civic responsibility to understand the different perspectives, engage and speak out to address head on the challenges that emerge from new technologies, environmental change and globalisation.

## **Majlis Al Arabi**

A great conference came to an end, but our students continue to work to prepare for the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Majlis Al Arabi on November 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, in collaboration with the Al-Asriyya School. The theme will be “Our Future Unites Us”. It follows the MUN framework, where controversial issues related to the Arab region will be dissected using the Arabic language as the mode of communication. Our Secretariat Team will begin this week training a large number of students from private and public schools on the rules and procedures. We encourage our Grades 8 to 11 students to participate as delegates as it is necessary that they think for themselves to develop their own opinions on issues that are literally taking place in their own backyard.

## **Hawks**

**Cross Country:** Our students competed in the annual ICS cross country competition last weekend. We have enjoyed considerable success in this event over the years and this time was no different. We picked 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the main event and our students across the Grades were very competitive.

**Volleyball:** After a series of friendly matches in the past few weeks, this weekend saw the start of the AAC championship. There is very strong competition between the schools this year and our under 18s and under 14s have had some memorable games. As this newsletter goes out, there are still more matches to play and the results are in the balance. Good luck!

## **G8 Jordan Museum Trip**

On Oct 21<sup>st</sup>, as part of the unit on the Abbasids era in Individuals and Societies, Grade 8s visited the Jordan Museum in Ras Al Ain. They were exposed to the accomplishments of great Arab and Muslim scholars. This trip has proven to take our students back in time where women and men truly pushed the limits of critical and creative thinking to produce technology that we cannot live without today.

## **G10 – Personal Project**

The G10s are now working on their written report for the Personal Project. Progress reports of how the G10s are doing with the PP have been emailed home. We are devoting many PSHE sessions for G10s to work on their report; however, it is important that our students meet with their supervisors to get feedback on their work. The deadline to hand in their draft for the PP is on November 7<sup>th</sup>.

## **G10 – Service As Action Community Forum**

If someone was to ask what is the value of MYP then maybe this initiative encapsulates it all. As part of their Service as Action project, G10s are exploring 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 as it applies in Jordan: mental health/illnesses, female empowerment, poverty, homelessness, child labor and social security. They will then present their research findings and actions plans on November 15<sup>th</sup> from 12:00-3.15pm in a Community Forum in the MPR. Parents are welcome to attend.

The foundation for this comes from the interdisciplinary learning taking place in English and Individuals and Societies (IAS) where in English, students are studying of Mice and Men and learning about a couple of characters on the fringes of society and the problems they face. Add to this the historical learning that is taking place in IAS where students learn about the Great Depression in the USA (which is the socio-economic backdrop to Of Mice and Men, and then bring into this mix the work on social justice movements that students take in IAS. All you really need is the modern and local context to make it all become real and a very authentic and rich learning experience, hence the SAA Community Forum. That is the beauty of the MYP.

### **Middle School Coffee Mornings**

Ms. Susanne and I held coffee mornings last week for the parents of students in grades 6 and 10. Many thanks for those who attended and provided us with valuable feedback. We will continue to have the morning sessions for Grades 7, 8 and 9, which will take place from 8am to 9am on the days listed below.

<b>Coffee Morning for Parents of</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
G9	Monday Oct. 22	Multi-Purpose Room
G7	Tuesday Oct. 23	Library
G8	Thursday Nov. 8	Multi-Purpose Room

### **Progress Report and Parent-Teacher Conferences**

The first progress report will be sent electronically to you on November 8<sup>th</sup>. 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 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Bake Sale and Civvies Day**

Lastly, this Thursday we have a Civvies Day and Bake Sale. It is the turn of Grade 7 to host the Bake Sale, and we wish them all the best in raising money for their chosen charities. We also have our midterm break next from Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> – Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>. We wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable midterm break.

Yours truly,  
Mr. Martin and Ms. Zena

## **Library News**

### **IAA Community Book Club**

The IAA Libraries invite you to join the IAA Community Book Club. This year, you have your choice of a daytime club or an evening club. Both Book Club groups will take place on Monday, 26 November, in the Secondary Library Conference Room. The book to be discussed is *The Monk Who Sold His Ferrari* by Robin Sharma. According to the Oman Times, "*The Monk Who Sold his Ferrari* is not a book, it is set of guidelines for personal growth. And a slow read of this bestselling novel by Indian-born Canadian author and motivational speaker, Robin Sharma, can be itself considered a course in personality development."

All are welcome to join. You may register at the Secondary Library or by email to [k.mckim@iaa.edu.jo](mailto:k.mckim@iaa.edu.jo). We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

Reminder to Parents: The KG and Primary Library policy about returned books is very strict. Students are not allowed to check out a book during their library time if they have not returned their book from the week before. When this happens, it is difficult on the student, the library staff and the parents because often the child is very disappointed and can become emotional. It is the Library's goal for all IAA students to feel happy and safe in a relaxed reading environment to support them in becoming life-long readers and learners. I am very concerned that an unpleasant library experience may negatively influence a child's impressions of libraries and reading in general. We do our best to locate books within the school and notify parents when students are late returning their books. Please talk to your children about the importance of protecting and returning their library books to avoid possible fines. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to talk to your librarian or to Ms. Kathleen, Head of Libraries.

**Mark the Date: The IAA Book Fair will be held 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> December, just in time for the Holidays.**