



الأكاديمية الدولية - عمان  
THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY - AMMAN

# Parent News

## Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> October

### 2019

## OCTOBER - NOVEMBER

<b>28 MON</b>	<b>Open meeting with Mr. Andrew Powell</b> <b>Primary Principal's Office</b> <b>8:00 - 9:00 AM</b>  <b>G6A Trip, (Off- Campus)</b>
<b>29 TUE</b>	<b>Director's Open Meeting with parents</b> <b>Director's Office</b> <b>8:00 - 9:00 AM</b>  <b>G6B Trip, (Off- Campus)</b>
<b>31 THU</b>	<b>G3 Miss Cathy Assembly</b> <b>Auditorium</b> <b>1:15 - 2:15 PM</b>
<b>3 SUN</b>	<b>Community Project (for G8 parents)</b> <b>MPR</b> <b>8:00 - 9:00 AM</b>
<b>4 MON</b>	<b>Open meeting with Mr. Andrew Powell</b> <b>Primary Principal's Office</b> <b>8:00 - 9:00 AM</b>
<b>5 TUE</b>	<b>Director's Open Meeting with parents</b> <b>Director's Office</b> <b>8:00 - 9:00 AM</b>  <b>Parent Teacher Conferences</b>
<b>9 SAT</b>	<b>Prophet Mohammad's Birth Date (PBUH)</b>
<b>11 MON</b>	<b>Open meeting with Mr. Andrew Powell</b> <b>Primary Principal's Office</b> <b>8:00 - 9:00 AM</b>

## **A message from the Director**

Hello IAA!

I hope you are enjoying this beautiful weather in Amman as it gets a bit chillier with October coming to an end. My travels last week reaped highly positive outcomes for IAA's future. I attended the CIS board meeting in Vermont and also got the chance to visit SUNY Plattsburgh and the Pomerleau Alumni Center at St. Michael's College to meet with their admissions officer. I also attended the School-University Partnership Summit in Boston that was highly focused on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education and equipping our children with the right tools for the bright and progressive future ahead. We also met with Higher Ed Officials to discuss cooperation between schools and universities. My visit to the States verified the importance of always opening our doors to expand the IAA network and constantly learning how to better our systems of education.

This month brought high energies of collaboration and being a team player. One of the best examples of this would be our remarkably organized I'MUN. I am so proud of our students and what they were able to achieve on and off the debating floor. I look forward to November and wish you a prosperous fall.

"Don't let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do." – John Wooden

Best,  
Hana Kanan, Ed.D  
Director

## **Primary School News**

Dear Parents,

I hope that you were able to enjoy some quality time with your children over the long weekend and that they are recharged for the weeks ahead.

It was great to see so many people at the PTA Family Fun Day enjoying themselves and the activities and food on offer. My thanks to all of the PTA committee members for their hard work, as well as all of our volunteers that helped on the day. In addition to being a memorable community experience, it is a key fundraiser that helps support various initiatives in the Primary and Secondary schools.

Next week we have Parent Conferences scheduled on Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. 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 if you have been unable to meet with your child's specialist teacher due to a heavily booked schedule it is always possible to make an individual appointment through our receptionist.

This week we have our monthly bake sale fundraiser, which will be used to raise funds for the Atfaluna Organisation, a non-profit organization established in 2015 dedicated to the identification and support of children in need of treatment and medical care who lack the resources. While the day does coincide with Halloween, we would like to make it clear that costumes, accessories, makeup and hairstyles associated with Halloween will not be permitted. Students should dress as they usually would for a Bake Sale. We do also want to focus our efforts on the act of giving.

Over the past week there have been some lovely celebrations and activities taking place. Our Library staff have recognised the record number of students that successfully completed the Sumer Reading Programme, our KG1 students and their families hosted a hugely popular Teddy Bear's Picnic and our Grade 3 students visited the King Hussein Mosque and The Holy Ascension Greek Orthodox Church. This field trip is very important as it provides children with firsthand experiences of two of the world's key religions and fosters the seeds of interfaith understanding and acceptance.

Wishing you a wonderful week.

**Andrew Powell**  
**Primary Principal**

## **Secondary School News**

Dear Parents/Guardians

We hope the October break brought time for some relaxation and a chance for students to recharge, to be ready for the next eight weeks until the winter break. These weeks are going to be a busy time with much happening in and out of school.

### **First Progress Reports**

These will be sent home on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October and are designed to give an indication of progress to date in subjects that are being taken. As it is still early in the year, not all criteria have been assessed or Approaches to Learning covered. Thus the more important information in the report pertains to the general attitude shown to the subject and the advice on how to improve.

### **Parent Conferences**

As usual, these will be held the week after the reports are released. This year we are altering the format, as we will hold them during the day on the 5<sup>th</sup> November. As such, there will be no lessons taught that day, but we would hope that students will accompany their parents/guardians to the conferences. The booking system will be through Moodle as usual, and the instructions on how to make bookings will be emailed with the reports on Thursday.

### **Bake Sale and Civvies Day on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October**

This Thursday, our Grade 7s will host the bake sale. The money raised will be given to support the upgrading and renovating of the poorly equipped cancer department at Al Bashir Hospital as part of the "Himmetna

Campaign". Please ensure students come to school with money for civvies (if they choose not to wear school uniform). **We would also like to remind you that students may not dress to a Halloween theme as this is not an occasion that IAA celebrates.**

### **Promoting Empathy and Raising Awareness**

1. This week the SRC will be selling postcards from the KHCF. On these cards, students can write a message of support (in Arabic or English) to the children who are currently undergoing treatment in their centre. These messages will really help the children feel like they are not alone and are in the thoughts of others. Cards cost 1 JD
2. This is the last week of Breast Cancer Awareness Week. Grade 11 students will also be selling the ribbon that can be worn to show support for this initiative. The ribbons cost 1 JD

If you would like your child to be part of this initiative, please give them 2JD, so that they can write their card and wear their ribbon.

### **Trips**

**Grade 6:** We are pleased that some trips are taking place. Last week Grade 6D spent time enhancing their Arabic as well as interacting with children with disabilities and the feedback from the trip was very positive. This week the rest of the classes in Grade 6 will have the same opportunity.

**Grade 9:** On Monday, members of the El Hassan Youth Award will be in school to give our Grade 9 students some preliminary training for their Bronze Award Trip to Wadi Rum that is taking place this coming weekend. Training will focus on orienteering and first aid. We wish Grade 9 all the best as they head off to experience one of the most beautiful places in Jordan.

### **Majlis Al Arabi and Model United Nations**

**Majlis Al Arabi:** preparations are well under way for our Majlis Al Arabi conference in mid-November (22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>). We are pleased to have more students than ever participating in this important conference. The involvement of local schools whom we sponsor and train to participate makes this conference very rich and rewarding for those that take part. Training for our IAA delegates will take place every Wednesday (3.20pm – 4.20pm), starting on October 30<sup>th</sup>.

**I'MUN 2019:** the weekend before the break we had our annual I'MUN conference. With more delegates than ever before taking part and with two schools coming from Palestine the conference was definitely one of our most successful. I would like to congratulate our new delegates in particular, and especially those from Grade 8 who took part. The feedback we received on their participation was excellent.

### **Grade 7 Teambuilding Evening**

A reminder to parents of Grade 7 that the postponed Teambuilding evening will take place this Thursday. The focus of the evening, which also involves working with and learning from ambassadors from Kursi Wa Kitab, is important as it will develop understanding and empathy for those with disabilities in our society. A letter will be sent out shortly to remind parents of the requirements and timings.

### **Grade 8 Community Project Information Session**

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November: 8.00 am in the MPR.** Please mark this in your calendars. The Community Project is an important aspect of the Grade 8 experience and begins to foster skills and ideas that can then be transferred to the Personal Project that begins in Grade 9. Parents of Grade 8 students are urged to attend this information session.

**Regards**

**Mr. Martin and Ms. Zena**

## Library News

Dear Parents,

In the KG Library last week, Ms. Dana read الفرشاة الذهبية (*The Golden Paintbrush*) retold by Dr. Albert Mutlaq. The students were quickly absorbed in the story, and I wondered what they wish they could paint if they had their own magic paintbrushes.

I was reminded of the importance of such stories – of imagination, creativity and convergence – at the recent conference of the International Association of School Librarians in Dubrovnik, Croatia last week. One of the sessions I attended was about MakerSpaces, how they encourage student inquiry and how they can connect students. In particular, the workshop presenters focused on how their MakerSpace projects this year were tied to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. I was happy to share the document the IAA Libraries have worked on this year, as we have vertically aligned our curriculum using the UN Goals to guide our lessons. Now, we are connected to other library communities around the world who are doing the same thing. This will make learning more powerful for students, even though one girl from the Primary Library told Ms. Dima she wants to work for the UN when she grows up.

Our upcoming goal is Equal Education, which Malala Yousefzai, has particularly championed for girls. Imagine my delight as I read her new book, *Malala's Magic Pencil*. When Malala was a child, she, too was inspired by *The Golden Paintbrush* series on BBC TV, but decided that she would use her pencil to write about how it felt to be denied access to education and share her experiences with the world. As she notes in her Nobel Prize acceptance speech, "One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world."

On that note, the Libraries are happy to invite you to "A Literary Evening with Ibtisam Barakat," Saturday, 2 November, at 7pm. Seats are limited, but you can reserve your tickets via [library@iaa.edu.jo](mailto:library@iaa.edu.jo). That evening, Ibtisam will share her story of attending a UNRWA Girls' school in Ramallah, and how her teacher, Ms. Lilian Hanhan Ishaq (grandmother of IAA students Michel, Maya and Fadi Ishaq), changed her world. Ibtisam has now authored two young adult novels in English and four children's books in Arabic.

Finally, the IAA Libraries are excited to host the 3<sup>rd</sup> Jordanian School Librarians Conference. This year, our conference theme is "Sparking Change." Our conference aims to empower librarians to enhance student learning. This year, around 80% of our workshops and keynotes will be in Arabic. We have received approval from the Ministry of Education to provide 5 scholarships to Jordanian Public School Librarians to attend. Each year, the conference, which was begun as a joint venture between IAA, American Community School and Global Reach Libraries, has become a major networking and informative conference for librarians across Jordan. To see more about the Conference, you can check our website at <https://sites.google.com/view/jslcon/home?authuser=0>.

## **PTA Corner**

The PTA would like to share with you two very exciting events

**Mark your calendars and join us at our first IAA/PTA Wednesday talks:**

### **“MY STOMACH HURTS\***

**Back-to-school belly aches** may be more than just nerves. Is it **gluten**? Is it the **milk**? Is my child using the toilet too little or too much? Is homework stress causing the tummy aches?

### **WHAT CAN I DO AS A PARENT**

Join **Dr. Dina Al Zubeidi** (Pediatrician Gastroenterologist) on **Wednesday, November 6th 8:00 am at the MPR** to get your answers and enjoy a healthy problem-free digestive process.

Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible!

- **PTA Cookbook**

We are also thrilled to announce that the PTA are creating a cook book dedicated to our community.

The book will be divided into four sections:

- Appetizers
- Soups
- Main meals
- Desserts
- Healthy School Snacks

## **Your assistance and participation will be needed to make this a success!**

### **HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

- Please submit your favorite recipe for inclusion in our cookbook. You can either email the recipe to [rund.fanek@gmail.com](mailto:rund.fanek@gmail.com) or send it on WhatsApp 0777111223. If you have pictures, send them in too. Don't forget to include your full name so we can include it in the recipe!
- The cookbook will offer parents the chance to promote their business/organization through advertisement space. If you are interested, please drop us an email.

A 'food' committee will test and taste the recipes to ensure we have the best homemade recipes. The deadline for receiving the recipes will be December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 so please share them with us as soon as possible!

Have a great week!

PTA