



الأكاديمية الدولية - عمان
THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY - AMMAN

Parent News

Monday, 3rd October 2022

Calendar

OCTOBER 22



4 TUE

Grade 8 Community Project Session for Parents

Time: 09:00 am to 10:00 am

Location: Zoom

8 SAT

Prophet Mohammad's Birth Date (PBUH)

**16 SUN -
20 THU**

Mid Term Break

A Message from The Director

Dear IAA Community,

A new month arrived bearing a heap of blessings with it! This Wednesday, October 5th marks a wonderful occasion that is praised, cherished, and celebrated worldwide; World Teachers' Day! I would like to extend my thanks and heartfelt gratitude to all of our persistent and dedicated

educators for providing our students with an inspirational learning experience while dedicating their lives to shaping those of the next generation. May you keep on igniting imaginations and instilling the love of learning in our future leaders' minds. I could not possibly be more proud of the growth and progress you have relentlessly demonstrated during these past few months, enabling our children to have such a prosperous academic semester thus far.

The beauty of the IAA community is that it consists of devoted individuals that are in constant pursuit of improving the learning experience we provide our young learners with. Undoubtedly, the academic aspect has a colossal impact in shaping this experience, however, ensuring that students grow fond of the environment in which they receive their knowledge through transforming it into a delightful and entertaining one is just as vital. As such, allow me to specifically acknowledge and thank our PTA for their valuable contributions in ensuring the latter; they wasted no time in bidding farewell to the summer with an outstanding fun Bike Day which was a huge success! Thank you for your selfless and loving collaborations and contributions.

On another note, I would like to draw your attention to a worrying subject that is affecting students and teenagers in particular worldwide; the viral TikTok Challenges. While these challenges can be tempting to carry out, a lot of them are disturbing, gruesome, and even quite dangerous as they pose a threat to our children's physical safety and mental well-being. Just recently, a new TikTok Challenge made it to the scene: [The Deodorant Challenge](#), also known as the Aerosol Challenge, which is causing permanent burn scarring on students as they try to compete to see how long they can tolerate having the deodorant sprayed in the same spot; even seconds can cause second-degree burns and scarring. While I understand that monitoring the children's usage and access to the internet is nearly impossible in such times, it is important to talk to your children and raise awareness about the horrendous effects of such challenges to prevent them from participating in any activities of this nature.

Lastly, allow me to wish you all a restful, well-earned, and great Mid-Term break ahead! A much-needed time for our students to recharge after a busy start to the year!

Warm regards,

Hana Kanan, Ed. D.
Director

Primary School News

UNESCO Teachers' Day

While UNESCO celebrates World Teachers' Day this Wednesday, October 5th, it is a fitting time to recognise the incredible faculty we have. Over the past 5 weeks, they have gone above and beyond to ensure that the students are settled and motivated to learn. Our teachers have led the way as innovators and created happy and safe learning environments with the goal and commitment to supporting your children. Please do take some time to recognise their efforts over the next week or so. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the PTA for organising an appreciation breakfast to show gratitude to our staff.

Teaching & Learning

As we draw closer to the mid-term break, it has been pleasing to see the way in which our students and teachers have been engaging in learning in such a meaningful manner. I have had the opportunity to drop into a variety of primary classrooms and what I have seen has been incredible and this has been supported by a great deal of positive feedback from parents. With the first round of assessments commencing across the grades, I would like to remind parents to avoid cramming for the exams as this has been proven to increase stress levels, and can lead to panic and anxiety, making it more difficult to take in information. The better alternative would be daily revision, completing the class assignments and homework on time.

Primary Prefects

It is with pride and pleasure that I announce in this newsletter the selection of primary prefects for this academic year 2022/ 2023. Please join me in congratulating the following newly elected Primary School Prefects:

Head Girl: Yasmine Wahdan. **Prefects:** Talia Riyal, Leila Abu Lughod, Noor AL Nims

Head Boy: Zaid Al Akas **Prefects:** Sammy Madanat, Abdullah ALKhawajah, Hashem ALZoubi

We commend their efforts as young leaders and we wish you all the best as we look forward to seeing you grow in your various roles. A very big thank you to the grade 5 team of excellent teachers and proud parents for encouraging our young leaders to step up to the plate. Leadership is one of IAA's pillars, a unique and rare quality that needs to be encouraged and it takes a brave heart to assume that position!

House Captains

After the selection of the prefects, there are still many leadership opportunities that we offer to our primary school students. The House captaincy and Vice Captaincy elections are taking place this Thursday, October 6th. It is delightful to see the campaign flyers and posters all over the school and most of all, the enthusiasm of our students running for these positions. Very soon and within the next couple of weeks, the Student Council elections and the Primary Community and Service selection will feature on our calendar. We are doing our best to spread these leadership posts as much as we can to provide our students with the skills, opportunity, experience, responsibility, and sense of duty which accompanies holding such roles at this young age.

Events in Primary

The long-awaited after-school activities have commenced this week and already the excitement and joy on our students' faces is apparent in abundance. Please keep in mind that the collection point at the end of the clubs is the atrium in the primary building. Another reminder is that bus students will catch the Secondary School round at 3.20 pm.

On the community outreach side of matters, last week the Primary School arranged the first Non-Uniform Day of this academic year. I would like to thank all of our students for participating and thank the parents for their support. The whole school will be having a "Pink Day" as part of efforts to support the King Hussein Cancer Awareness Campaign.

I look forward to our next newsletter and wish you all a pleasant mid-term holiday.

Walid Albay

Primary Principal

Secondary School News

Dear Parents,

Civvies Day

On Thursday, we had our first civvies day of the year. We split the donation between two causes this month. One was a fund set up for the families affected by the Weibdeh building collapse. The second was for a society working with children and young adults who need support due to disabilities. Thank you all for your support.

Student of the Month

As we end September, we have celebrated our first 'Students of the Month' for the academic year. You can find information about those who were recognized for their contributions to learning in our classrooms here: <https://padlet.com/yhoozeer/2d1ckkfgzs5>

Parent Meeting this week

On Wednesday 5th October, there is a Q&A for parents who would like clarification on any aspect of the MYP. This will be hosted in person by Ms Rana, our MYP Coordinator. The location will be the Multi-purpose Room, which is found beside the Theatre and it will start at 9.00 a.m.

Trips

It was wonderful to start our trips again this weekend with Grade 11 completing the El Hassan Youth Award's (EHYA) Adventurous Journey for the Silver Award. Despite the weather forecast underestimating the temperatures somewhat, the students showed a lot of determination to complete a demanding two days of hiking through some of Jordan's' most historic and prettiest of areas. On the third day, they learned about Ecotourism in the north of the country, walked a little more and then returned home, with a great sense of achievement. We wish our Grade 10 students all the very best on their trip to Wadi Rum this coming weekend as they embark upon their EHYA Bronze Award journey.

Guest Speakers adding value to learning

We are also enjoying a number of guest speakers coming to school, through zoom or in person. Sometimes these guests can be other subject teachers as it happened in Global Politics, or it can be students from other classes coming together for interdisciplinary learning as we saw with our Economics and Global Politics classes. Our ESS class in Grade 12 connected with a game ranger in Indonesia last week to learn about the community management of resources. On Sunday we have an alumna coming to present about the dangers of vaping to young children as part of a Grade 10 Personal Project. It is great to see learning taking place in so many different ways.

Majlis Al Arabi

The 9th annual Majlis Al Arabi will be taking place from November 12th -12th, in collaboration with the Al-Asriyya in their school. The theme continues to be "Our Future Unites Us". Social, environmental and economic issues related to the Arab region will be dissected using the Arabic language as the mode of communication. Please encourage your children, if they are in Grades 8 to 11, to participate as delegates as it is necessary that they think for themselves and develop their own opinions on issues that are literally taking place in their backyard. Deadline to sign up to participate in Majlis Al Arabi is Thursday Oct 13th.

A note on a concern for boy's health

On the topic of health, we had an incident in school where a student took protein powder inappropriately. On investigation it would appear that a lot of our students are using such products to 'bulk up'. This raises the questions:

1. Should they? (the answer, in my opinion, is that no child under 18 should)
2. Do parents know their children are using such products?
3. Are parents aware of the doses their children are taking?

Misused, these products are unhealthy and can lead to psychological issues whereby young children look in the mirror and are 'never big enough'. A dangerous place for a teenager to be.

This is the last newsletter before the October break. Wishing all our families a good holiday.

Sincerely

Mr Martin and Ms Zena

Library News

I'd like to start off by giving our PTA a big thank you for sponsoring our Summer Reading Programme. All of our libraries have awarded all the participants who returned their activities with certificates and gifts to acknowledge their achievements. Please continue to encourage your children to read daily as research has shown that children who read improve brain connectivity, increase their vocabulary and comprehension and also boost their academic performance. You can see some happy smiles here - https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1II5_J-hU-WtbBoxRfu-yK5sky8_XrVvK?usp=sharing.

The library staff visited the Amman International Book Exhibition last month and we have added a great and varied collection of Arabic books to all 3 libraries. It is unfortunate that our Arabic books are not as popular among our students as our English books, but the newest publications are becoming lively, creative and the stories are more engaging and captivating. You can see the secondary collection below. Please encourage your children to read Arabic books and pass by the libraries to check them out!

<https://collections.follettsoftware.com/collection/633551106a50a00012a1f155?h=494328aa00a0681387810c0e0d1010fbb00499d9c8f493d848bf15572dd98697>

We are kicking off our library makerspace programme next week. This is an opportunity for our students to explore, innovate and create. We will be having sessions twice a month and it will be per

grade level each time. Our first session will be for our KG1 students who will be making an alien craft to go along with Ms. Anna's own book, "Michael The Martian".

We are also continuing our 'Buddy Reading' initiative that we started last year as a collaboration between the primary and secondary students. As part of their Community Action Service (CAS), a group of 11th graders will be coming to read Arabic and English books to our younger primary students. Both our older and younger students thoroughly enjoy this and benefit from this biweekly short, but effective reading activity.

Last but not least, our Media Lab is up and running and this month our secondary students will be coming in to do a variety of projects involving Photoshop, animation and book cover designs.

Have a wonderful week!

Sincerely yours,

Dima Shaka'a
Head of Libraries/Primary Librarian