

Newsletter homepage



Sunday, 13th September 2015

Message from the Director

Dear IAA Community,
International Academy – Amman: Learners of Today, Leaders of Tomorrow. This is the IAA creed.

As you are surely aware, we place significant emphasis on **cultivating leadership skills** within our students – abilities which we believe are resting just beneath the surface, patiently awaiting an opportune moment to reveal themselves, in all of their glory, to the world. It is with great pleasure, then, that the Primary and Secondary schools launch their respective **formal leadership programmes**, offering diverse opportunities to students to lead their schools in positive and productive ways. These include positions in **Student Council, Eco-Group, House leadership, Peer Mediation and more**. Please encourage your children to take part in the election process, and for those students who already have, I congratulate you on your admirable sense of citizenship at IAA. Congratulations go out to our new leaders, **Head Girl Czara Awad** and **Head Boy Oday Billeh**. We look forward to another year of wonderful student initiatives!

Last week, two students from IAA Grade 11, **Lina Abu Taweeleh** and **Tala Sabbagh**, were afforded a unique opportunity to join the **Youth Delegation** accompanying **His Majesty King Abdullah Bin Hussein** on an **official trip to China**. The purpose of the weeklong trip was to enhance economic and security relations between the two countries. This opportunity allowed students' to become acquainted with Royal Protocol, international diplomacy and economic development goals, while also supporting their university applications. We hope that our students were able to take full advantage of this learning experience!

Also, please note that IAA offers **many enrichment opportunities** to our students, as we are well aware that each individual possesses a unique set of talents and interests. Please do work with us to encourage each child to experiment with the many options available at IAA, so as to ensure that all students identify those distinct talents and interests. **Sports, music, art, drama, leadership, travel and spirituality** are all important. Alternatively, explore the **STEM-related activities** (i.e., Robotics, F1 for Schools, etc.) if your child exhibits an interest in hands-on experience with **science and maths**. **In today's modern environments, a good education, while rooted in academics, nevertheless must journey beyond academics.** It is incumbent upon all of us to support this learning disposition within our students. Thank you for partnering with the IAA team to help your child realize his/her potential.

Enjoy your week,

Hana Kanan, Ed.D.
Director

Secondary School News

Dear Parents,

SRC Elections: We had a busy week with the elections for the Head Boy and Head Girl. Competition was extremely close and all candidates spoke eloquently on their plans and vision for the SRC. All who heard were very impressed. As ever, there has to be two who win, and my congratulations go to Head Girl Czara Awad and Head Boy Oday Billeh. I wish them the very best for a productive year, and this week we are holding the elections for the Class Representatives who will make up the rest of the SRC team.

Meetings: This week there are a great deal of meetings: Grade 12 Parents on Sunday and Grade 11 Parents on Thursday (I would urge all DP parents to attend these) with two MYP Meetings that Ms Zena will elaborate upon in her message.

Enrichment: I am very pleased with the amount, variety and quality of enrichment activities that we are offering this year. Later this week, you will find the full details posted on Moodle and students can sign up through Moodle. This information also includes the times of academic support activities and when the sports teams practice. Late buses will be provided for students that stay until 4:30 pm. Our Robotics and Raspberry Pi STEM activity require payment, and this should be made to the Finance Department at school before the start of the Eid break.

Food brought to school: I have been concerned when observing the diet of our students at school. There is a lot of crisps, chocolates and generally unhealthy food being brought to school in lunchboxes, and I would like to ask parents to take time to double-check what your children are taking from your cupboards!

Gaming (and screen time in general): I found this study by Cambridge University very interesting reading as they found a strong negative correlation between student performance and screen time. What was most interesting was that even students who spent a great deal of time on school work, yet still had a lot of screen time, also suffered a drop in performance. If you would like to read more follow this link: <http://www.bbc.com/news/education-34139196>

Next week I will be releasing the information for our planned international trips this year. I know students have already started to ask!

Martin Thompson
Secondary Principal

Primary School News

It has certainly been a very interesting week with the dust, which led us to keep the children in during breaks. It serves as a timely reminder that the weather here in Jordan can be variable and at times extreme. Please ensure that children are properly prepared for extreme weather. At this time of year, it is with hats for sun protection. On some winter days, students need school jackets, jumpers and sweatshirts. This layering is a very good idea, as it helps children keep an appropriately warm

temperature as they move between activities.

Thank you very much to everyone who has attended our Teacher Information Sessions. Every grade has now completed their session discussing their processes. It is also good to see the Grade 1 will shortly be on Moodle, completing this important communication link in the school. It is also really pleasing to note the numbers of parents at the workshops. Thank you, Ms Dima, Ms Afia and Ms Leigh, for your writing workshop. Next week Ms Rene' will be taking a hands-on workshop on using the new Hotmaths program.

Ms Sophie sent a letter to parents announcing the dates of elections for the roles of Student Councillors (21st September), Eco Representatives (21st September), House Captains and Vice Captains (1st October). The letter contained the other requirements and electioneering rules and regulations. I have asked Grade 2-5 teachers to post it on their respective Moodles. This is an instance of where the process is as important as the product. Please encourage your child to stand for election.

After-school activities are coming soon (starting the week after Eid) with all the excitement they bring to our students. Please remember to make 3 choices and submit as early as possible, as we operate on first-come, first-serve basis. You also need to ensure that your choices don't clash with any activities run by the Sports Complex.

The week before last, Grade 5M had an assembly themed on the Four Pillars. Two students have submitted work to me based upon them, which I have included:

Cultural Heritage is what makes us shine as Jordanians. It is all about whom we are and what makes us special. It is celebrating our past, present and future, protecting our heritage and that's why I'm proud to be Jordanian! Acceptance is the big magic word in this world. It's living equally in a healthy, safe, accepting loving environment. Yes everyone is special in his or her own way! Leadership is being able to respect, listen, take action and being a role model. Being a leader is being able to make a positive change in people's lives. If you can do it, I can do it! Duty is serving my country freely, lending a hand for the ones in need and making the world a better place. Elias Telegraph 5M

Leadership: Leadership is all about being responsible and to be a leader among smaller children and to be at your best behaviour all the time.

Duty: Duty is being reliable and committed to your work and to never give up, Duty to me means to finish my homework and to hand it in on time.

Cultural heritage: Cultural heritage means to have pride in your country and to accept everyone for their culture after all cultural heritage is loving your country and there are many different countries.

Acceptance: Acceptance is to accept everyone for how they are what really matters is on the inside.-
Tamer Tash 5M

Thank you very much to these students and to grade 4D for their assembly last week.
Have a great week

Martin Blackburn

Primary Principal

Middle School News

We want to thank the parents for their positive feedback this past Tuesday at the "Meet and Greet". Last week, our Heads of Departments for Sciences and Design gave a presentation on the objectives and assessment criteria of their subject groups. Ms Nadia and I presented an overview of criterion-based assessment and explained how grades were reported in the MYP. We also met with the parents of the Grades 9 and 10 to outline the new changes that the IB is implementing this year, and the procedures that we put in place to support our students. The PowerPoints for all these sessions can be found under the "MYP Parent" Section of Moodle.

This week the information sessions for parents are as follows, so mark your calendars:

Monday, Sept. 14th from 8 am -9 am in the Theatre: Mathematics and Physical & Health Education

Thursday, Sept. 17th from 8 am -9 am in the Theatre: Individuals & Societies & the Arts

**Please note that this session was changed from the 16th to the 17th of Sept*

We are in the process of finalizing the list of extra-curricular activities. We have a nice balance between athletics, enrichment activities and academic support. Activities will either take place during first break or after-school (3:30pm - 4:30pm). Most of these activities will commence on the week of 27th Sept.; however, some have already started. For example, our "Drum Jam" session takes place every Wednesday during first break, where the rhythmic and harmonious sounds of the drums loudly resonate in our hallways. The Model United Nations for the Grades 9-11 will start on 20th Sept. This is a great opportunity for our students to research current events and to practice their communication and teamwork skills. A full list of all the activities, along with their descriptions and timings, will be posted on Moodle this week, so stay tuned for further information!

Now that the Head Boy and Head Girl have been announced, the elections for the class representatives

(Grades 6 to 11) for the Student Representative Council will take place this week. We wish those students who put their names forward all the best. We applaud them on their courage to stand in front of their peers and teachers to present their ideas and initiatives for this academic year. Lastly, for those parents who are new to the MYP or who want to learn more about the new changes that are currently being implemented, a clear summary can be found at <http://www.ibo.org/globalassets/digital-toolkit/brochures/1503-myp-factsheet-for-parents.pdf>. We look forward to seeing you at our next session!

With kind regards,

Zena Muhtaseb
Head of Middle Years

Calendar

| | | |
|-----------|----|--|
| Sunday | 13 | |
| Monday | 14 | -Primary Yearbook Photography -MYP – Mathematics and Physical and Health Education Meeting for Parents, Theatre, 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM |
| Tuesday | 15 | -Primary Yearbook Photography -Lebanese American University & American University Beirut Visit -Parents Open Meeting with the Director, Director’s Office, 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM |
| Wednesday | 16 | -Primary Yearbook Photography -Primary Parent Workshop-Hotmaths, MPR, 8:00 AM – 8:50 AM |
| Thursday | 17 | -Primary Yearbook Photography -MYP – Individuals and Societies and the Arts Meeting for Parents, 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM, Theatre -Presentation for the Parents of the Grade 11 Students, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM, Theatre -Grade 3R Assembly, 1:15 PM – 2:00 PM, Theatre |
| Friday | 18 | |
| Saturday | 19 | |
| Sunday | 20 | -Primary Yearbook Photography |

Sports News

Secondary Library

It was a pleasure to meet many of you at the MYP Information Sessions and the Secondary Back-to-School Afternoon. Along with every other department, the Libraries have been increasingly busy these past few weeks in order to bring more resources to our students. Students have been coming to discuss Personal Projects, research needs for class assignments and checking out fiction books. Keep in mind our "Extended Hours" in the Secondary Library. We are open until 4 pm, Sunday through Thursday, for Research Help.

The Secondary Library has opened a Moodle Course which contains tutorials on how to access and use each of our subscription databases. In addition, we have electronic access to the following publications posted on our Destiny Catalog Home Page: *The Economist*, *Foreign Affairs*, *ACS Journal of Chemical Education* and *New Scientist*. Our Media Lab has also sent an announcement to teachers regarding the availability of our Samsung Tablets. We are privileged to facilitate use of our IT resources to meet IAA's goal of "effectively developing 21st Century Learning across the school by increasing the use of technology to support Inquiry-Based Learning".

Primary Library

In the Primary library the students are learning how to use the library and its vocabulary. Grades 2 and 3 played Library Bingo using new words like 'check in', 'check out' and 'circulation desk'. Grade 4 learned about the similarities and differences of fiction and nonfiction books and their locations. As part of the Digital Citizenship Unit, Grade 5 students discussed a more serious topic: cyberbullying. They learned what it is, how harmful it can be, and ways it can be resolved through being positive role models.

KG and Pre-K Library

Our youngest learners have been learning the basics of 'How to Care for a Book.' The following guidelines are good for any reader:

1. I wash my hands so they are nice and clean before reading my book.
2. I keep my school supplies away from my book.
3. I mark my place in a book with a bookmark.
4. I turn my pages using the top corners so they don't rip.
5. I always carry my book in a book bag or a plastic bag.
6. I keep my books in a safe place at home.
7. I always return my books to the library on time.

Dates to Remember:

13th – 17th September: final week for students to hand in their completed "Bingo Cards" from the Summer Reading Program.

7th October, 8-9 pm, MPR: Wednesday Workshop on IAA Libraries and the Digital Learning Environment

28 September from 2:30-3:30 pm, Primary Library: Jewelry MakerSpace. The MakerSpace programme is open to students from KG1 to Grade 5, with only 30 slots available. Please call the library to reserve a space for your child or email library@iaa.edu.jo.

25th-29th October: Book Week!

Ms Kathleen, Ms Dima & Ms Tania
IAA Librarians

More News

"On the lovely occasion of Eid Al Adha AIMubarak, the IAA/PTA invites you all on the 21st of September at 7:45 am for a morning coffee and some delicious ma3mool as we share this joyous occasion with our beloved IAA community. We are looking forward to seeing you all in the Community Square in front of the Cafeteria."

Thanks,
IAA/PTA

More News

More News

Third week into the year and Grade 12 students are showing a serious attitude towards their studies. We have, so far, completed registration for UK and US applications; students are now expected to fill in any missing parts of their applications themselves. University applications to Canada will become available 15th September; interested students can stay behind this Tuesday to register. I am pleased that the majority of students have submitted drafts of their Statements, and feedback has been given on how to improve the work. Progress is steady. I would like to thank all parents who have attended the 'one-on-one' meetings – your involvement is appreciated. Please continue to follow-up on your child's progress from home to ensure he/she remains on track.

We have received a number of calls from parents of G11 asking about SAT exams. Please note that registration is done online through www.collegeboard.org. Students must create an account and select the preferred date for testing. Upon registration, you will also be given a choice of test centers available in Amman, and the IAA is usually in that list (unless seats are full). Do keep your credit cards at hand for payment. It is recommended that G11 students register for the December 2015 testing, once the SAT course is completed.

Finally, IAA will be welcoming a number of universities on campus this semester. Below are some of dates of the expected visits so far.

| Name | Date |
|---|---------------------------------|
| St George's Medical School | 8 th September 2015 |
| Baylor University from Texas | 9 th September 2015 |
| Babson College from Massachusetts | |
| Case Western Reserve University from Ohio | |
| Chapman University from California | |
| University of Rochester from New York | |
| Bentley University | 10 th September 2015 |
| Lebanese American UniversityAmerican University Beirut | 15 th September 2015 |
| Yale - NUS | 17 th September 2015 |
| Northeastern UniversityWheaton College | 29 th September 2015 |
| Penn State University | 30 th September 2015 |
| Virginia Commonwealth UniversityWeill Cornell Medical College in QatarTexas A&M University at Qatar | 1 st October 2015 |
| Carnegie Mellon University Qatar Georgetown University in Qatar Northwestern University in Qatar | |
| A group of 40 universities from USA(List will be made available soon) | 11 th October 2015 |
| SEG Swiss Group | 13 th October 2015 |
| American University - DC | 20 th October 2015 |
| University of the Arts London | 26 th October 2015 |
| Canadian Exhibition | 2 nd November 2015 |

Ms Aya Abdelhadi
Career & College Counselor

Photo Gallery













