



الأكاديمية الدولية - عمان  
THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY - AMMAN

# Parent News

## Monday, 11th September 2017

### Calendar

Monday	11	--Open meeting with Primary Principal, Mr. Andrew Powell, Primary Principal's Office, 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM --Grade 4 Parent Information Afternoon, MPR, 14:45 PM to 16:00 PM
Tuesday	12	--Director's Open Meeting with Parents, Director's Office, 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM --Back to School afternoon – an informal gathering where parents meet staff to include a presentation on criterion based assessment in the MYP, Theatre, 14:30 PM to 16:00 PM
Wednesday	13	--Grade 5 Parent Information Afternoon, MPR, 14:45 PM to 16:00 PM
Thursday	14	--Grade 6 Trip, (On- Campus) --For Parents, Sciences and Design in the MYP, Theatre, 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM --Grade 4G Assembly, Theatre, 13:00 PM to 14:00 PM
Friday	15	--Grade 6 Trip, (On- Campus)
Saturday	16	
Sunday	17	
Monday	18	--Open meeting with Primary Principal, Mr. Andrew Powell, Primary Principal's Office, 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM --For Parents, Maths and Arts in the MYP, Theatre, 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM

## *A Message from the Director*

Dear IAA Community,

I hope your children have finally settled in their classrooms following the interrupted school days. As every year, I wish to stress on the pillars that the IAA is based upon. Our philosophy has always been to firmly ground our students in their true cultural heritage, while teaching them acceptance of others' points of view so that they are equipped to be leaders and prepared to do their duty. With your support, I am certain that these solid values can carry your child through the IAA years and even beyond.

We have several exciting trips and activities in the pipeline this year and we encourage you to stay in the know by connecting with us through our various communication channels in order for your child to benefit and not miss out on the plethora of activities that will be offered. Make sure that your phone numbers and emails are constantly up to date at both our Admissions Office and Primary/Secondary Secretaries.

Also as the year commences, I feel that it is important that you encourage your child to attend school daily and avoid unnecessary absenteeism, which is on the rise in many schools across the globe and has been proven to affect student performance. The links <http://www.ocregister.com/2017/03/10/how-chronic-absenteeism-affects-school-childrens-performance/> and <http://www.kappanonline.org/absenteeism-school-matters/> conclude "the more kids are in school, the better they do academically." They are worth a read and your support in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Finally, and as usual, I am available next Tuesday from 9-10am for parents who wish to see me.

Here's wishing you a great week!

Hana Kanan, Ed.D.

Director

## *Primary School News*

Dear Parents,

I trust that you had an enjoyable break with family during Eid. School is now back in full swing and it is important that our students arrive on time, ready for the national anthem which takes place at 7:45am, followed by classes which commence promptly at 8am.

Over the summer holiday and Eid break we had a number of students compete internationally in a variety of events. Congratulations to Talia Al Kurdi and Maya Sharaiha who travelled to the United States to compete in a hip-hop dance festival and competition. Rashed and Salman Abu Dahab have just returned from Scotland where they received bronze medals in a taekwondo competition. Nadine Baqain also competed in this tournament and was awarded two silver medals and one bronze medal. Congratulations!

Student leadership is an integral part of IAA and I would like to congratulate the following students for being elected as prefects for the 2017-2018 school year: Issam Al-Saket, Natalie Al Abed, Nadeem Rawashdeh, Laya Bloula, Abdel Majeed Al Shdeafat, Haya Hyasat, Ahmad Odeh and Salma Bawalsa.

At our assembly on Thursday our students were presented with a variety of leadership opportunities that they may engage in. These include the Student Representative Council, House Captains and Vice Captains, Eco Club and Community Action Service. A letter was sent home last week regarding the election process for these various opportunities.

We continue with our Parent Information Session this week and also look forward to a Parent Information Session taking place later this month which focusses on our Mathematics programme.

These sessions will provide you with an overview of our academic programmes and what you can expect from the year ahead. The dates and times are as follows:

Date	Event	Time
Sunday, September 10 <sup>th</sup>	G3 Information Afternoon	2:45 – 4:00pm
Monday, September 11 <sup>th</sup>	G4 Information Afternoon	2:45 – 4:00pm
Wednesday, September 13 <sup>th</sup>	G5 Information Afternoon	2:45 – 4:00pm
Wednesday, September 27 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Morning: Mathematics	8:00 – 9:00am
Wednesday, October 4 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Morning: I Read Arabic	8:00 – 9:00am

Have a wonderful week!

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Powell

## *Secondary School News*

Dear Parents,

Despite the slightly disrupted start to the year, with the short weeks and breaks, we are pleased to see that classes have settled quickly and that we are making good progress with our first units of work. At the same time, we have quickly commenced our extra-curricular activities and this is what the rest of this newsletter deals with. We would urge that students engage with the trips and activities that are offered, since this balance at school is very important.

This past Thursday, the Grade 7 students spent the night at IAA, where they took part in teambuilding activities, some of which focused on making them more aware of how life is like when faced with a physical disability. Congratulations to the Grade 7s for raising over 500JD for Kursi Wa Kitab, a local NGO aimed at not only raising awareness on the needs of children in Jordan with severe disabilities, but also on making the streets of Amman accessible to everyone. Many thanks to our special guest Ms. Hawazin Khataybeh and to Coach Samer for organising this learning experience. The takeaway for our students was that it is everyone's duty to break down barriers, so that everyone has the right to live as normal a life as possible.

Now that the Head Boy and Head Girl have been announced, elections for class representative for the Student Representative Council will take place this week for grades 6 to 11. 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.

Once again, our extracurricular activities offer a nice balance between athletics, enrichment activities and academic support. Activities that have already started include Athletics, Model United Nations and auditions for this year's drama production *Into The Woods*. A letter will be emailed to parents listing and describing all the activities available during the first semester. We encourage our students to take part in our activities, since they can further develop their creativity, communication, leadership and social skills. Stay tuned for further information!

Many overnight excursions are also taking place in the upcoming weeks.

- The Grades 6 and 8 students will be attending separate overnight trips on Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, respectively. In collaboration with Jordan Echo, Grade 6 will be working on various skills that include communication and team-building. The trip will take place at school. Grade 8 will be with the Rangers Camp in Jerash, where the focus will be on risk-taking and leadership.

- The El Hassan Youth Award was established by H.R.H Prince El Hassan bin Talal. Its objectives are for students to initiate their own activities; to set their own goals; to develop practical and social skills; and to challenge themselves. To achieve the Bronze Award, our Grade 9s must participate in a weekend expedition in Wadi Rum from Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> until the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Training will focus on hiking, orienteering and first aid.

For all the trips indicated above, a letter has been emailed/will soon be emailed to parents which provides more information regarding its purpose, itinerary and cost. If you have any questions about the above trips, please call Secondary Reception or email Ms. Susanne ([s.marchant@iaa.edu.jo](mailto:s.marchant@iaa.edu.jo)) or Ms. Zena ([z.muhtaseb@iaa.edu.jo](mailto:z.muhtaseb@iaa.edu.jo)).

Lastly, this week our information sessions for our parents will continue. On September 12<sup>th</sup> (2:30pm-4pm), we will have our annual Secondary Meet and Greet, where you will have the opportunity to meet your child's teachers. On that same day, from 3:15pm to 4pm, a presentation on criterion-based assessment and grading in the MYP will take place. This is a must attend to parents who are new to the MYP. On September 14<sup>th</sup> (8am-9am), the Science and Design departments will present their MYP objectives and assessment criteria, along with an overview of the units covered in each grade. We look forward to seeing you there.

Mr Martin and Ms Zena

### **PTA Corner**

Eid Adha Mubarak from the PTA to the IAA community! We hope you enjoyed your holiday and are ready to continue an awesome school year!

One of the main objectives of having a PTA is to enhance the communication and strengthen the relationship between the school and the parents in order to build a stronger community. To help achieve this objective, every year a parent from each grade volunteers to become the class representative for that grade. He/ she facilitates the daily communication between the school and the parents using social network groups to post school announcements in addition to providing support to the PTA during major events.

Class Reps for 2017-2018 school year are:

Pre K: Farah Masri

KG1: Nisreen Askoul

KG2: Reham Zaghier Qaryouti

G1: Rania Gussous

G2: Lama Sha'sha'a  
G3: Jennifer Abu Lughod  
G4: Jada Horani  
G5: Muna Sakkijha  
G6: Loulwa Al Khalifa  
G7: Yasmine Saket  
G8: Leen Alam  
G9: Reem Abu Lughod  
G10: Maha Shomali  
G11: Yasmine Ghezawi  
G12: Muna Masri

Good luck to all!

### *Library News*

Dear Parents,

The results of the Summer Reading are in! Participation certificates will be sent home to all students who signed up for this fantastic programme. Students in Grades 2-5 who completed their passports will receive recognition at the Primary Assembly on Thursday, 12 September. Grade 1 students will be recognised separately at a Grade 1 Assembly, as well as the PreK, Kindergarten and MYP students. We would like to thank Readers Bookshop for sponsoring our Summer Reading these past two years. The programme has grown exponentially and has been an immense benefit to students who have taken part in it.

Secondary English classes have begun the rotation of 6-week checkouts for personal reading. It has been joyful to see so many students in the library who are comfortable and happy to visit. Book clubs will begin this week.

**Grades 9/10:** every Sunday—first break

**Grade 6:** every Monday—first break

**Grade 7:** every Tuesday—first break

**Grade 8:** every Wednesday—first break

**Place:** Secondary Library, Ms. Kathleen's office

The students at the Primary Library were very excited because they got to check out books for the first time this year! Classes will learn about parts of a fiction book and nonfiction book and how they are different. For all grades, we are also concentrating on how to pick the right book using the 5 finger rule. Students are asked to open to any page in the book and start reading. If they find more than 3 words on a page that they don't understand, then they should try and find another book. There are also age-appropriate books on tables for each grade.

The beginning of the school year gives the KG Library staff the perfect opportunity for teaching students how to pick books that are “just right” by connecting this lesson to a story they will learn about, “Goldilocks and the Three Bears”.

## The Goldilocks Rules for Choosing a Book That is “Just Right”



### Too Easy Books

- I have read the book many times before.
- I understand and can retell the story without much effort.
- I know and understand almost every word.
- I can read the book smoothly and fluently without much practice.

### Too Hard Books

- There are five or more words on a page that I do not recognize.
- I am confused about what is happening in the story.
- When I read the words I sound choppy.
- I need help when reading this book.

### Just Right Books

- The book is new to me and the topic is interesting to me.
- I understand what is happening in most of the story.
- I can retell what I have read.
- I recognize most of the words on the page, but there are some words to work on.
- I can read the book by myself but may need help if I hit a tough spot.