



الأكاديمية الدولية - عمان  
THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY - AMMAN

# Parent News

## Monday, 18th September 2017

### Calendar

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
Tuesday	19	--Director's Open Meeting with Parents, Director's Office, 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM --For Parents, Individuals and Societies and PHE in the MYP, Theatre, 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM
Wednesday	20	--Grade 9 Trip, (Off- Campus)
Thursday	21	--Grade 9 Trip, (Off- Campus) --Islamic New Year (Holiday)
Friday	22	--Grade 9 Trip, (Off- Campus)
Saturday	23	
Sunday	24	
Monday	25	--Open meeting with Primary Principal, Mr. Andrew Powell, Primary Principal's Office, 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM --For Parents, Service as Action and IDU in the MYP, Theatre, 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM

## **A Message from the Director**

Dear IAA Community,

It is leadership month at IAA with both primary and secondary students running for leadership posts in Student Council, Eco Committees and House teams. As early as 7 years, an IAA student is exposed to one of IAA's most basic values; leadership. This IAA pillar stems from the fundamental principles of dignity, respect, peace, humanity, prosperity and belonging.

More on leadership is underway as preparations for I'MUN conference, competitions, projects as well as extra-curricular activities that include Toastmasters workshops, Leadership courses as well as Strength-Finder Courses are due to take place this term.

Our week ends on Wednesday, due to the Islamic New Year on Thursday. I hope that this year will bring along success and brilliant achievements to our community. Also, ending our week is our annual El Hassan Youth Award for Grade 9 students. This adventurous journey aims at encouraging a spirit of discovery and developing the important soft skills vital in today's society; from personal development to realising the importance of the environment and volunteer work.

On the international front, we have two trips this term; the first is pertaining to Art, Drama and Music in London and the other is an adventurous one to the Les Elfes Resort in Verbier, Switzerland. It is through such trips that students have the opportunity to learn from the experiences of others around the world as well as broaden their horizons.

Stay in the know by connecting to the school's various communication platforms to learn more about events, activities and school news.

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

Wishing you an enjoyable long weekend!

Hana Kanan, Ed.D.

Director

## **Primary School News**

Dear Parents,

We finished another busy week at school with a lovely assembly led by Mr Graham's Grade 4 class, which focussed on some of the talents that our students possess. This was fitting given that many of our students had been campaigning for leadership positions within the school last week, which culminated with elections for Student Council and Eco Team positions on Thursday. House elections will take place this week and I look forward to sharing the results of these formal leadership positions in next week's newsletter.

Our staff has been engaging in a series of professional development activities since they returned from the holiday break and over the weekend our Arabic, Early Years and specialist staff attended a variety of sessions aimed at improving our programs and classroom practice. Those parents with children in the Early Years may soon hear about Dough Disco and Squiggle While You Wiggle, initiatives aimed at improving students' fine motor skills, which are necessary to develop dexterity and strength crucial for handwriting and other associated activities. This Saturday, our classroom teachers will be supported in their professional learning by Dr Hanna Haydal, a Columbia University specialist in Childhood Education Mathematics.

Last week, a note was sent home about a collaborative effort between IAA and ICS to raise funds for cancer research as both communities have been deeply affected by cancer over the past year. Families are encouraged to support this initiative by ordering t-shirts from finance between September 17<sup>th</sup> and September 24<sup>th</sup>. As Primary aged students are unable to participate in the Amman Marathon due to their age, we will be holding our own walk around the field on October 12<sup>th</sup> at which time students may wear their t-shirt.

The Parent Information Sessions held over the past few weeks were well attended and I appreciated the positive partnerships fostered between parents and teachers. As indicated, during the information sessions, we will be facilitating a number of parent mornings over the next couple of months which will provide you with the opportunity to engage in a variety of topics. The dates and times for these sessions are as follows:

Date	Event	Time
Wednesday, September 27 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Morning: Mathematics	8am
Wednesday, October 4 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Morning: Importance of fine motor skills	8am
Wednesday, October 18 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Morning: I Read Arabic	8am
Wednesday, October 25 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Morning: Active Learning in the Early Years	8am
Wednesday, November 8 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Morning: BYOD/ Coding	8am
Wednesday, November 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Parent Morning: Digital Citizenship	8am

Have a wonderful week!

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Powell

## *Secondary School News*

Dear Parents,

Last week, we completed our elections for the Student Representative Council. We thank all the students who participated in the election and presented their ideas and initiatives to their grades. We congratulate those who were voted in to serve their peers. We are looking forward to meeting the whole group soon.

It was a busy weekend for the school community. On Thursday, we had a sleepover for Grade 6. The students had a lot of fun and participated in challenging team activities that brought them closer as a group. Certainly, the photos made it look like a wonderful time was had by all.

On Saturday, the Secondary staff was in school. The focus was on bringing the practice of mindfulness to our classrooms. For our Grade 6 Teachers, they were trained on MindUP by a certified MindUP trainer. MindUP is a curriculum framework grounded in research-based practices that focus on Neuroscience, Positive Psychology, Mindful Awareness and Social-Emotional Learning. It aims to teach vital and valuable social emotional learning skills that will enhance their resilience for a lifetime. We plan on implementing MindUP in our Grade 6 classes. We will also be organising a MindUP workshop for our parents in second semester, so stay tuned for more information.

Our series of MYP seminars continue this week:

- Monday 8.00 to 9.00 (Theatre) Maths and Arts
- Tuesday 8.00 to 9.00 (Theatre) Individuals and Societies and Physical and Health Education

If you were unable to attend these sessions, a pdf copy of the PowerPoints have been posted on Moodle under the "Students - Parents" tab.

This week also sees the start of a busy time for university visits. Some will involve selected students in Grade 12, some will involve all of Grade 12 and when we have multiple universities visiting at once, we will involve Grade 11. Grade 10 will start attending in Semester 2. This week we have one of the top ranked business schools from the US, Bentley, visiting. Our alumni who have been there rate the experience very highly.

You will have noticed on Moodle and on other platforms that we are teaming up with the International Community School in Amman to raise money to support those with Cancer and Cancer Research. This is because both schools have been so touched by the terrible condition in the last 12 months. We hope the community will support our efforts and buy T-shirts for students on the civvies day on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October. For those students who are 14 or over, we urge them to take action and sign up for the Amman Marathon. We recommend the 10km run. If you have a good level of fitness and are prepared to train properly, then aim to do the 21 km run.

Wishing you all the best for the long weekend, and for our Grade 9 students heading to Wadi Rum for their El Hasan Youth Award Bronze Expedition, a lot of challenge and fun.....with some amazing moments under those fantastically starry desert night skies.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Martin and Ms. Zena

### **PTA Corner**

Dear IAA Community:

The PTA Executive Committee is planning a Family Fun Day on Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017 from 11:30 a.m-5:30 p.m. There will be many exciting activities for kids, a variety of mouthwatering food and snacks, as well as a bazaar where IAA parents may display and sell arts, crafts, t-shirts, souvenirs, etc.

Terms of participation in the [bazaar](#) are as following:

- Booking a table is on a first come first served basis with a limited number of tables
- Items on sale should not exceed the value of JD 25
- Items on sale should be pre- approved by the PTA committee
- Table size is 180cm x 80cm
- The rent cost per table is JOD 75.

To book a table, please send an email to [pta@iaa.edu.jo](mailto:pta@iaa.edu.jo) or call Mrs. Isabelle Beiruti no later than Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> on 0777299411.

Regards,

IAA PTA

## Library News

### Leadership: Our Pillar of the Month

Whenever I put together a collection to encourage leadership, I always include **biographies** of great leaders. True stories can be even more inspiring than fiction. Plus, they provide that all-important background knowledge that helps your kids across subjects. Here's why they work so well:

**They're about real people doing very real things.** A factual tale of a courageous person overcoming challenges can inspire kids to face their own obstacles with hope and determination. It can even spark a desire to make the world a better place, says Suzanne Litrel, a social studies teacher from Long Island, NY. More than anything, biographies prove that one person can make a difference, and that small steps can lead to big things — great life lessons for little ones.

**They make history come alive.** A bunch of names and dates won't keep anyone's attention long, but learning about history through the lens of a specific person's life and accomplishments can help kids see how it matters. Key events become real moments that affect the people living through them instead of empty facts.

**There's one for everyone.** Got a kid who loves animals? Give her **Me . . . Jane** by Patrick McDonnell, a stunning picture book bio of Jane Goodall. A budding techie? Try **Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different** by Karen Blumenthal. From accounts of sports superstars to books about presidents and pioneers of change, there are as many types of biographies as there are people! Just hook into your child's interest to get him going.

### Primary Library

Grade 5 will be talking about one of the IAA Pillars – Leadership. We will be having discussions on what a leader is, what he does, and how each one of us can be a leader every day. Digital Citizenship is continuing in the library. Grade 2 will learn about online safety and how to be a good digital citizen. Grade 3 will start their first lesson of the Digital Passport – Evolve, which is about cyberbullying and how to handle it and what to do if it happens. Grade 4 will also be discussing cyberbullying and its dangers with a lesson called 'The Power of Words'.

### Kindergarten Library

The KG Library used the classic children's book, *Harold and the Purple Crayon* by Crockett Johnson. The students listened to the story and connected how Harold's use of imagination is also leadership. Harold is a leader because he solves problems, thinks quickly and acts bravely. When given their own purple crayons to draw their own adventure, our young leaders went to outer space, Taiwan, the zoo, Disneyland, and Lego Land. Amazingly, most of them wanted to go home! It was a wonderful lesson we hope you can discuss with your children.

Our first MakerSpace will begin in October. Please keep an eye out in this newsletter as well as the PTA WhatsApp groups for registration information.

Finally, a last thank you to all of you who participated in our very successful Summer Reading Programme. Every year, it gets better and better because of you.

Ms. Tania, Ms. Dima and Ms. Kathleen  
For the Libraries