



الأكاديمية الدولية - عمان
THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY - AMMAN

Parent News

Monday, 19th September 2022

A Message from The Director

Dear parents,

Three weeks have passed since we have been reunited with our eager learners! As we approach the end of the first month of school, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each member of our community for their unwavering persistence and dedication in ensuring that our students are offered the finest learning experience they could attain. Such great efforts were surely not in vain for one can sense our future leaders' eyes beaming with utter joy and minds still yearning to quench their thirst for learning.

As we move into fall, cold breezes are creeping in and will soon be embracing our students in the morning rather than the sunny rays of sunshine. Undoubtedly, such weather can bring its share of colds and flu. It is exceptionally important to make sure that all children are always properly dressed for the weather. Additionally, I would like to draw your attention to another area of concern, traffic safety. It has come to my attention that unfortunately, some students are crossing the street to get to the main entrance and vice versa. It is vital that you utilize the designated parking areas and encourage your children to exit the car on the curbside of the street instead of stepping out into traffic. By establishing and encouraging responsible routines and habits, you will be helping to create a healthy, safe, and successful school year for your children and our community.

On another positive note, our sports tryouts have started! I would like to extend my best wishes to all students participating! I am always proud of our IAA athletes and I am looking forward to a busy and successful year for all sports teams. Moreover, I am pleased to announce that registration for the after-school activities in Primary school will start soon! You will soon receive a schedule consisting of a wide range of activities that your children could participate in; allow me to stress the importance of academics and extracurricular activities for they go hand-in-hand to raise well-rounded individuals and independent learners. It is imperative that we provide our children with an environment that fosters their overall personality and encourages them to bring out their talent in the limelight and steer it in the right direction.

Lastly, I am delighted to welcome the new members of our PTA Executive Committee and I am eagerly anticipating the many joyous and pleasant events you will be working on this school year starting with the PTA Bike Fun Day next weekend!

Once again, allow me to thank you for your continuous support and involvement; I am in awe of our community's unbridled sense of unity and cohesiveness, which is always essential for IAA's everlasting success.

Kind regards,

Hana Kanan, Ed. D.
Director

Primary School News

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the second newsletter of the year. It has been an eventful couple of weeks as our dedicated team has done a sterling job of providing the best possible start for the academic year. As ever, our staff's instructional approach is focused on the students' needs, inclusive and aligns with High-Quality Teaching and Learning. Just as well, at IAA we truly believe that successful learning relies on the partnership between school and home. We are deeply appreciative of your ongoing support, positivity and the high levels of attendance throughout the school which underscores your commitment and the importance of the provision of quality education.

Parent Information Sessions

One of the many facets of our home – school partnership at IAA is the Parent Information Sessions. Over the course of last week, we have held four face-to-face sessions in the Multi-Purpose Room. Our homeroom and specialists teachers were happy to welcome parents and it has been great to see so many of you there. The feedback from attending parents was that the information shared during these afternoons was very useful and edifying so, I encourage everyone to attend the remaining sessions scheduled for this week. I am sure you agree with me that effective, ongoing communication between teachers and parents is vital for our children's well-being and learning.

Mathematical Focus

As you already know, we always endeavour to challenge our students to excel and encourage them to achieve their potential. Therefore, we have made a considerable amount of improvements to our delivery from previous years for mathematics. We continue to offer our students the knowledge, concepts, and skills that they require to develop their abilities. However, this year the focus will be on the sequence of units, applying concepts in real-life situations, and mathematical literacy competence. More so, our staff will be providing extra opportunities during the week for students to receive regular check-in via the teacher or TA alongside the mathematics clubs after school.

Gate Policy, Drop-off and Pick-up

The drop-off procedures in the morning are flowing nicely, and it has been great to see the maturity in our students as they move to their classrooms with greater confidence and independence. Please note that the gate policy will be effective as of this week. Therefore, the school gates will close at 7:50 am. Late students in KG2 and above will be allowed two late entrances per semester. On the third late, they will not be able to enter the campus. Pre-school and KG1 students may enter the campus until 8:25 am and may be picked up earlier as

arranged with your child's teacher. Please do note that these timing will be strictly adhered to and we appreciate your support in this matter.

Preparing for After School Activities

We are happy to announce the resumption of the primary after-school activities programme which will kick off in early October. Our G1 – G5 students will be able to choose from a wide range of fun and learning activities outside the classroom setting. We will continue to schedule these sessions on Sundays and Wednesdays of each week and carry this through to December. Once you receive the registration letter by the end of this week, please ensure that you sign up your child(ren) as soon as possible to ensure that you get your first choice as the clubs have a set number of spaces.

Wishing you a wonderful couple of weeks ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Walid Albay
Primary Principal

Secondary School News

Dear Parents

These have been an excellent three weeks in which the old routines and daily rhythms of school have been reestablished and students have engaged in their first units of work. It has been lovely to see the whole community settle to the new school year so quickly and to feel the learning taking place. We do hope that your children are enjoying the challenges of their new grades.

Sports and Activities

Speaking to Coach Samer, it is clear that the try-outs were popular and that many students are now involved in the after school sporting programme. This is great to hear. Other activities have already started and it was wonderful to see nearly a 100 students turn up for the first Model United Nations training session. More activities are coming online over the coming weeks and information about them will be communicated to you. Please keep an eye out on your emails.

Trips

We are working with the El Hasan Youth Award to give students in Grades 9 to 11 trips in Jordan as part of the award scheme they run. We are also pleased to be partnering with them to have trips and teambuilding for Grades 6 to 8 take place. We aim to have all of these complete by the end of November. More information will be released soon. Whilst they are optional, we do hope that many students will take up these opportunities.

Student Representative Council

Our new Student Representative Council (SRC) met after the elections for the first time last week. It was a productive meeting and the group has many plans to help improve the student experience at IAA. We want to congratulate everyone who put themselves forward for election, in all the grades, as it shows a great willingness to serve from all. We wish the new SRC the very best for the coming year and look forward to working with them.

Meet and Greets and MYP/DP Information Sessions

We have now had our meet and greets, with additional individual meetings taking place for Grades 11 and 12 and for other special aspects of the MYP Programme. We are aware that not everyone is able to attend these sessions and so they have been recorded. The links to these sessions can be found under the Parent tab on Moodle, in the appropriate MYP or DP subfolder.

Please note the upcoming information sessions that will be taking place via Zoom:

- **Wed Sept 21st: MYP Service as Action and Interdisciplinary Learning at 9am**
- **Tues Sept 27th: MYP/DP Library Databases and Academic Integrity at 9am**

Food deliveries

We are receiving growing requests from parents or messages from Security about the dropping off of cakes/crisps/chocolates at the school gate during the school day. These foods can't be let onto campus and will be held at the gate until the end of the day. Please ensure your children come to school in the morning with a healthy and balanced amount of food, enough to last the whole day.

Uniform – some reminders

Expensive Jewelry – we have noted that a lot of students are wearing what looks to be expensive jewelry. School can take no responsibility for such items if they are lost and we advise parents to consider this.

Nails and make-up – if any make-up or nail varnish is used, it should be subtle and natural in colour

Shoes – thank you to everyone who has purchased black shoes/trainers. However, we have a number of students who still try and wear white or other coloured shoes, or who try to come to school in crocs/sandals. Please check your children are wearing appropriate footwear that meets the colour of the uniform code.

Dr Hana's letter regarding attendance

Please do look through the letter sent by Dr Hana on Thursday regarding attendance. Simply put, if students are on campus by 7.45, in time for the National Anthem and an orderly start to the school day, then our expectations are met. A large number of students still need to set their alarms 15 minutes earlier!

Wishing you all a wonderful week.

Mr Martin and Ms Zena

Library News

Hello from the libraries!

The libraries are preparing for a small celebration for our summer readers next week and the students are so excited! In the secondary library all of Grade 6 have visited the library and checked out books for the first time. New students have had an orientation and discussion about Academic Honesty, being ethical in your choices and acknowledging where your information is coming from. Our 12th graders just had a deadline for completing their extended essay draft so that will lighten their load only temporarily as they continue with the IB Programme.

Our primary students are settling in nicely into their library routines and are always happy to come in and find books that interest them and keep them curious. The libraries have some amazing databases and resources that will help your children with their research and learning. To access our libraries, go to <https://library.iaa.edu.jo>. All 3 libraries use Destiny Discover to search and access library books, eBooks, websites and online resources.

Whole School

[Britannica School](#)

A citable, online learning resource trusted by teachers and students. It uses safe, up-to-date, and age-appropriate information resources for both primary and secondary students. Here they'll find leveled encyclopedia articles, multimedia, primary sources, and other learning resources that support student research and reinforce curriculum standards.

Primary Library

[PowerKnowledge LifeScience](#)

This is a content-driven, visually stimulating, and media-rich online science resource specifically designed for students in grades 3 to 6.

Secondary Library

[Gale Databases](#)

Gale gives us access to many popular magazines and news sources like The New York Times and The Economist, in addition to media sources from all over the world for a better global perspective.

[JSTOR](#)

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary sources.

Please contact your respective librarian for any questions. Have a wonderful week!

Sincerely yours,

Dima Shaka'a
Head of Libraries/Primary Librarian

Sports News

We start the year with new achievements for our student athletes. In the past few weeks, our student athletes were involved in different news for different sports.

Noor Al Asali participated in the United Dance Organization, which is a street dance championship which took place in Blackpool, England. Her team, which represented Jordan, the Amman Dance Force, managed to finish sixth overall – worldwide – after competing with teams from 30 different countries. She went home with a medal and a special trophy for reaching the finals.

The Jordanian Gymnastics Federation organized a Clubs competition in Amman, and our students Hiam and Nouf Kharouba managed to win multiple colored medals with their performances.

Our new student, Nizar Al Soufi, managed to win bronze in the First Arab Aquatics Championship in Cairo. He managed to finish the Breast 50 meter race in 31.49 seconds.

Our amazing student athlete, Pheona Dadson, who was part of IAA sports activities, and then school teams in football, track and field and basketball, managed to get her first call up to the Jordanian Basketball National Team. Pheona was an IAA student from grade 3, and she left IAA when she got an athletic scholarship for basketball in the United States. You can read more about Pheona and her IAA story on this link: [Pheona is a star in the making - Jordan News | Latest News from Jordan, MENA](#)

Aliya Boshnaq, our first IAA Olympian, is now Yale University's Track and Field Captain. We would like to congratulate Aliya for her continuous achievements, on and off the track.

Our IAA school team tryouts have produced new names that we aspire to see grow, as well as previous student athletes that are continuing to show progress. Our IAA Primary sports activities letter has been sent, and registration started, with our activities beginning on the last week of September.

On the second week of the students' school year, our grade 6, 7, and 8 students participated in team building activities and we had an amazing time with the students. We also found students that had ambitions and capabilities that needed discovering, and we managed to uncover the hidden potential and guide them to the sport that would suit them best.

We are proud to add Pheona to the list of homegrown athletes that have developed at IAA from primary years, into our national teams and/or on the international stage. We are confident more student athletes will excel this year and in the future, and follow the footsteps of Noor, Nizar and Pheona, like they did with our huge alumni of student athletes.