



الأكاديمية الدولية - عمان  
THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY - AMMAN

# Parent News

## Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023

### Calendar

## SEPTEMBER 23

<b>19 TUE</b>	<b>Parental Meet and Greet G12-6</b> 14:00 pm Theatre
<b>25 MON</b>	<b>Academic Integrity and Referencing</b> 09:00 am MPR
<b>26 TUE</b>	<b>Prophet Mohammad's Birth Date (PBUH)</b>
<b>28 THU</b>	<b>Service as Action and IDU in the MYP</b> 09:00 am MPR

## *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.

On a positive note, our Sports try-outs for the upcoming season have concluded successfully, and it is with great enthusiasm that I announce the commencement of our Athletics Activities Program! I would like to extend my best wishes to all students participating; I am always proud of our student-athletes and I am looking forward to a busy and successful year for all sports teams. Similarly, I am pleased to announce that registration for the after-school activities in Primary school has started! A schedule consisting of a wide range of activities that your children could participate in has been shared with you already; 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.

Moving on to yet another upcoming event! IAA's Model United Nation (I'MUN)! After almost a month of preparation and training, the annual I'MUN will be taking place next weekend. This successful student-led conference shall involve many schools within Amman, and I am beyond thrilled to see high school students come together to tackle issues from around the region that are relevant, challenging, and controversial.

Lastly, I am thrilled to share an exciting opportunity for our school community to engage in a meaningful discussion and support a remarkable cause! Ms. Arwa Damon, the President of Inara and former CNN senior International Correspondent, who graciously served as our guest speaker at the graduation ceremony for the Class of '23, is hosting a special event at the Fairmont Hotel on the 11<sup>th</sup> of October that promises to be both enlightening and impactful. During this event, Ms. Damon will engage in a thought-provoking conversation with Randa Karadsheh about the profound intersection of reporting the news and taking tangible action. This promises to be a unique opportunity to gain insights into the challenges and opportunities that arise when crossing the line between journalism and humanitarian efforts. The event is also organized in cooperation with Nadia Dajani Jewelry, who will be launching a campaign where 10% of sales will be donated to Inara for a limited time. This initiative provides an excellent opportunity to contribute to Inara's mission. You may find more details about this event and RSVP your attendance [here](#).

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

### **Primary Welcome**

Welcome to our second newsletter of the year. The past few weeks have been filled with noteworthy events as our dedicated primary team has done an exceptional job of ensuring our students have a great start. As always, our staff's teaching approach is inclusive, tailored to the students' needs, and aligned with the principles of High-Quality Teaching and Learning. Additionally, we firmly believe that successful learning depends on the collaboration between the school and home. We sincerely appreciate your ongoing support, positive attitude, and the high attendance rates of our students.

### **Toddle**

You may already be aware that our recently implemented platform, 'Toddle,' is fully operational. The objective behind this initiative is to offer you improved accessibility to all school-related communication and activities, including announcements, events, notifications, and homework, in a manner that is user-friendly and comprehensive. The school is making additional efforts to ensure a smooth transition to the new portal. In order to assist you in navigating the platform effectively, we have arranged an informative session for parents on Sunday, the 24<sup>th</sup> of September, 2023, at 8:30 am. I am confident that the information shared during this workshop will be highly beneficial and enlightening. Therefore, I strongly encourage everyone to attend.

### **Primary Prefects**

Leadership is one of the fundamental pillars of IAA, representing a unique and valuable quality that should be nurtured and promoted. Therefore, it is with pride and pleasure that I announce to you the selection of primary prefects for this academic year. Please join me in congratulating the following newly elected Primary School Prefects:

**Head Girl:** Lana Al- Samaraei. **Prefects:** Talia Yassin Alkhatib, Hana Asali and Reina Al Najdawi

**Head Boy:** Samir Shawareb. **Prefects:** Yousef Ma'ayeh, Abdulla AL-Rabi and Odai Semreen

We applaud the efforts of our young leaders and extend our best wishes as we eagerly anticipate watching them thrive in their roles. A heartfelt thank you goes out to the outstanding teachers and proud parents of the Grade 5 team for their support in encouraging our young leaders to step forward.

### **House Captains, Student Council and Community & Service**

Following the selection of prefects, there are still numerous leadership opportunities available for our primary school students. The elections for House Captains and Vice Captains will take place on Thursday, the 28<sup>th</sup> of September. In the coming weeks, we will also have the Student Council elections and the Primary Community and Service selection on our calendar. We are making every effort to distribute these leadership positions widely, providing our students with the chance to develop essential skills, gain valuable experience, shoulder responsibilities, and cultivate a strong sense of duty.

### **Preparing for After School Activities**

I am happy to announce the resumption of the primary after school activities programme which will kick off on Monday, the 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2023. Our G1 – G5 students will be able to choose from a wide range of fun and learning activities outside the classroom setting. We will run these sessions on Mondays and Wednesday of each week and carry this all the way through to the end of November. Once you receive the registration letter, 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.

### **Bake Sale**

I am delighted to inform you that we will be having our monthly non-uniform day and bake – sale on Thursday, the 28<sup>th</sup> of September 2023. This will be the last event of the year so we are counting on your support for our community aid efforts. Once elected, the primary school student council representatives will meet to vote and select the charity that will be benefiting from this month's revenues. Thank you in advance for supporting such events, it makes all the difference.

Wishing a pleasant and productive couple of weeks ahead

## **Secondary School News**

Dear Parents,

We hope that your children feel settled and are into the rhythm of the new school year and are enjoying their new classes and teachers.

## **Meet & Greet**

We are looking forward to hosting parents on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September for our Meet & Greet. We will start with a presentation in the Theatre at 2.45. If you are attending, please try and be in the Theatre shortly before 2.45 so that we can have a prompt start. The main purpose of the afternoon is for you to meet teachers and put a face to the name.

## **Yearbook Photos**

Our PR Department shared a letter with you regarding the Yearbook Photo schedule for this week. There was particular information about student appearance in the letter, please do look over the details.

## **Sleepovers**

Our sleepover programme has been a success and Grade 6 and 7 had wonderful nights. Thank you to all the staff who have given up time to be with our students through the night so that they can enjoy some teambuilding and social activities. Grade 8 is having their turn this coming weekend, and we hope they too have a wonderful evening.

## **Try-outs**

Our try-outs were very well attended and we look forward to seeing our students represent the Hawks in their teams. School team practice times will be released shortly.

## **Activities**

Students really can be as busy as they want at school. We have already written about the Jordan Young Scientists competition and are now working with our team on that. A number of other letters will be released this week about activities that are being offered on campus and after school. In brief they will comprise:

- Grade 9 to 11: F1 for Schools
- Grade 9 to 11: Toastmasters: Youth Leadership Speaking
- Grade 9 to 12: El Hassan Youth Award
- Grade 8 to 12: Majlis Al Arabi
- Grade 6 to 8: Robotics
- Grade 6 to 8: Origami and Quilling
- Grade 6 to 8: Toastmasters: Youth Leadership Speaking

In addition, the deadline for students to register their interest in an audition for the cast of our production of **Beauty and the Beast** is the 21<sup>st</sup> September.

## **MUN calendar for 2023/2024**

Thank you to everyone who has allowed their child to participate in our I'MUN conference. There are many more opportunities for students to attend MUN conferences in Amman throughout the year. For the purposes of helping you plan, a letter will be sent home to identify those conferences to which we will send official delegations.

## **Upcoming Information Sessions for Parents**

### **1) Library Resources and Academic Integrity for G6-12 Parents**

Ms. Trisha, our Secondary Librarian, and Ms. Zena will be presenting on school's databases and academic integrity. The focus will be on the online sources that will support our students with their research. In addition, they will present the school's academic integrity policy, focusing on referencing and appropriate use of Artificial Intelligence tools.

**Mon Sept 25<sup>th</sup>: 9.00 am MPR**

## 2) **Service As Action and Interdisciplinary Learning in the MYP for G6-10 Parents**

Service As Action is an integral part of the MYP, where a structured approach is used to integrate service into the curriculum. Students are expected to apply subject matter to develop plans and/or partnerships that meet the needs of others. We will also present on interdisciplinary learning, which takes place between different subject groups to encourage broader perspectives on complex issues and deeper levels of analysis and synthesis of information. Students complete one interdisciplinary unit per semester, which is assessed against the Interdisciplinary assessment criteria. This session is strongly recommended for parents who are new to the MYP and to IAA.

**Thurs Sept 28<sup>th</sup>:** 9.00 am MPR

## 3) **eAssessments for G10 Parents**

This year, our G10 students are required for external onscreen examinations in May 2024 for Mathematics, English, Arabic and Interdisciplinary. We will be sharing samples of eAssessment type of questions, along with the plan that we have put in place to best prepare our students for these upcoming eAssessments. A must attend for all of our G10 parents.

**Sun Oct 1<sup>st</sup>:** 9.00 am Theatre

Yours sincerely

Mr Martin and Ms Zena

## **Sports News**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1m5FaG5EWwWWHPo2G8vkttOh5x036gBO2/view?usp=sharing>

## **College Counseling News**

A few weeks into the semester and the college application process is now well under way. With no time to waste, we've started our work with a number of online applications including UK, US, California and McGill in preparation for early submission. All other applications will soon follow as of when they become available. Students have also been diligently working at finalizing their CVs, which is due on the 19<sup>th</sup> September. CVs are a culmination of all the work they've been involved in since G9. And although students sometimes feel that there's more that needs to be done, once they begin to document their activities, they'll realize how much was accomplished over the years. We always say include everything because everything matters.

Once students' CVs are completed, we turn our focus to essay writing, which tends to take more time than other components of the application. Students need several drafts to perfect. Every student will receive thorough feedback so there's no need to worry if you feel your child is struggling with their writing.

The early application deadline is Oct 16<sup>th</sup> – Nov 1<sup>st</sup>. Students in G12 choose whether they wish to submit an early application or not is based primarily on how well prepared they are. Those who performed well academically at the end of G11 and have utilized their summer break working on projects, entry exams and internships often choose to submit early. Those who feel they need more time to work on their university portfolio usually wait till December to submit. Either way our Counselling office is here to support, guide and facilitate the process to help our students achieve their goals.

The month of September is packed with university visits. Daily we have admission officers come to campus to present to our G12 and G11 to promote their select institutions. We highly recommend for our students to make use of these opportunities and attend the colleges they are interested in. Alternatively, if they are unsure where to apply, they can attend these sessions to learn about the options available.

Although it is a very busy time of year for us at the Counselling office, I would like to reiterate that we have an open-door policy to help those who feel lost, overwhelmed or who simply want to chat.

Attached are some photos from recent university visits



IE University visit



Swiss Education Group visit

## **Library News**

Hello from the libraries!

I hope all your children are settling into the new academic year nicely and smoothly. As we embark on another year of learning and growth, I'd like to inform you about some of our library digital resources available to our students. We understand the importance of providing students easy access to a range of educational materials in today's digital age. Whether they are in the classroom or at home, these resources offer endless possibilities for exploration and research. Here are some of the digital resources your child can access through the library:

### **Whole School**

#### **[Destiny Discover](#)**

All 3 libraries use Destiny Discover to search and access library books, eBooks, websites and online resources.

#### **[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.

### **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.

As we settle into the school year, I encourage you to take advantage of these valuable resources. Discuss with your child the benefits of using the credible and trustworthy library sources and help them explore the different options available. By incorporating these resources into their daily routines, students will strengthen their research skills and deepen their understanding. These are fundamental skills for secondary students in order for them to excel in their studies.

If you have any questions or need more information about these resources, please do not hesitate to contact your respective librarian. We are here to help and support your child's educational journey. On another note, the libraries are preparing for a small celebration for our summer readers next week and the students are so excited! Have a wonderful week!

Warm regards,,

Dima Shaka'a  
Head of Libraries/Primary Librarian



