



الأكاديمية الدولية - عمان  
THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY - AMMAN

## Parent News Monday, 24th September 2018

### Calendar

Monday, September 24	-Open meeting with Primary Principal, Mr. Andrew Powell, Primary Principal's Office, 8-9 am -Grades 6 to 8 Track & Field Sports Day, IAA Football Field, 8-10 am
Tuesday, September 25	-Director's Open Meeting with parents, Director's Office, 8-9 am
Wednesday, September 26	-Grade 6 Trip, (Off- Campus) -Primary Parent Morning: IAA Technology Platforms, MPR, 8-9 am
Thursday, September 27	-Bake Sale -Pre-K Parent Picnic -Grade 8 Trip (Off- Campus) -'Service As Action and Interdisciplinary Learning in the MYP' session (G6-10), Auditorium, 8-9 am -G3 Laura Claire Assembly, Auditorium, 1-2 pm
Monday, October 1	-Pre-K Arabic Child Day -Academic Honesty & Referencing session (G6-12), MPR, 8-9 am -Open meeting with Primary Principal, Mr. Andrew Powell, Primary Principal's Office, 8-9 am
Tuesday, October 2	-Director's Open Meeting with parents, Director's Office, 8-9 am

Wednesday, October 3	-Primary Parent Morning: Second Step, MPR, 8-9 am
Thursday, October 4	-Grade 11 Trip, (Off- Campus) -G2 Zaina Assembly, Auditorium, 1-2 pm
Friday, October 5	-Grade 11 Trip, (Off- Campus)
Monday, October 8	-Open meeting with Primary Principal, Mr. Andrew Powell, Primary Principal's Office, 8-9 am

### *A Message from the Director*

Dear IAA Community,

I would like to thank all parents who attended the Business Plan presentation last week. It was great connecting with all of you to share the IAA vision and strategic steps for the coming years.

The school routine is in full swing; primary assemblies happening on Thursdays, day and overnight trips scheduled almost every week and even assessments are starting. The first Bake Sale for the year is set for next Thursday. For the newcomers, our Bake Sale takes place on the last Thursday of the month, where a charity is chosen, receiving the sale proceeds.

Note the Primary school mornings taking place in the next couple of weeks as well as the Information sessions in Secondary – detailed in both Mr Andrew’s and Mr Martin’s sections of this newsletter.

I’MUN and Majlis Al Arabi are happening on October 18 and November 23 respectively. These two events excite me, especially when I see the students’ leadership, marketing and budgeting skills in action.

Speaking of excitement, we have our annual PTA Family Fun day on October 12. Stay tuned for more updates via the PTA whatsapp groups.

Stay connected to more IAA news, events and updates through our social media channels and our IAA mobile application.

Finally, I am available on Tuesday, from 8-9am, for the open meeting at my office.

Have an enjoyable fortnight.

**Hana Kanan Ed.D.**

**Director**

## Primary School News

Dear Parents,

It has been great to see our students settle into their school routines so smoothly and this will certainly help to maximise learning opportunities. We have already had the opportunity to share in the learning taking place in our Grade 4 & 5 classes through their hosting of assemblies and our Pre-K parents joining their children in class to celebrate their commencement of their school journey.

As we have been back at school for the best part of a month now, our upper primary students have begun to engage in formative and summative assessments. Moodle is the online platform used throughout the school to communicate information about what is taking place in the classroom. It features details of upcoming assessments and for our Early Years' classes a weekly photo gallery is included so that you have a better idea of how your child is spending his or her day. Please be sure to check Moodle on a weekly basis. If you have difficulty logging-on, we will be holding a Parent Morning on Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup> and staff will be on hand to support you. Alternatively, you may email [ithelpdesk@iaa.edu.jo](mailto:ithelpdesk@iaa.edu.jo).

We have a number of Parent Mornings scheduled over the next month, which take place in the MPR from 8am. They are:

Wednesday, September 26 <sup>th</sup>	Supporting parents with the school's online platforms
Wednesday, October 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Second Step Wellness Curriculum
Wednesday, October 17 <sup>th</sup>	Grade 5 Bring Your Own Device programme

Last week, a note was sent home about the need to update car stickers by October 1<sup>st</sup>. The email also made reference to our gate policy which will be enforced as of this week. Please note that students, with the exception of Pre-K and KG1 children, will not be able to gain access to the campus if they arrive after 8am.

As part of our commitment to fostering student leadership within the school, children have the opportunity to put names forward for our Student Council by Tuesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. Grade 2-5 elections will then take place on Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. Over the following weeks, students will also have the opportunity to nominate themselves for Community and Service roles as well as House Captains and Vice Captains.

This week we are holding our first Bale Sale and Non-Uniform Day on Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. It is a day for students to enjoy an opportunity to support others in need. This month's proceeds of the bake sale will be donated to the Iraq Al-Amir Women Cooperative Society.

Wishing you a wonderful week.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Powell

## Secondary School News

Dear Parents,

It now seems like the summer holiday was a long time ago, as we settle into the routines of the school year!

### **Thank you PTA**

I would like to thank the PTA for offering the teachers some treats last week to show their appreciation of their work at school.

### **Student Representative Council**

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 met on Thursday, and we looking forward to seeing what this group of dynamic students can do to enhance the school this year.

### **Student Punctuality to School**

We are observing that too many students are turning up to school and running the risk of being late, which is also impacting the effectiveness of our registration time. Our students are expected to be on campus by 7:45 am for the National Anthem and to allow for an orderly start to the school day. The school gates will close at 7:50 am. Students who are late will be allowed two late entrances per semester. On the third time, the student will not be able to access the campus. Students who arrive after 8am will be sent home if the reason for being late is not valid. Please be reminded that traffic is heavy around school from 7:30 am, so students should leave home in good time.

### **MYP seminars continue over the next two weeks:**

- Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September: 8.00 to 9.00 (Theatre) E-assessments for Grade 10 Parents
- Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September 8.00 to 9.00 (Theatre) Interdisciplinary and Service as Action Units
- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October 8.00 to 9.00 (Theatre) Academic Referencing and Academic Honesty

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

### **Sports Mornings**

On Monday 24<sup>th</sup>, Grades 6 to 8 will participate in a Sports Morning. The objective is twofold, for students to have some fun and competition and for Coach Samer and his staff to identify early those who are showing significant progress and who could be offered speciality coaching to bring on their athletic skills.

On Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October it is the turn of Grade 9 to 11.

**On both mornings, students participating may come to school dressed in their PE Kit, but they MUST also bring their normal school uniform to change into later.**

### **Bake Sale and Civvies Day: Thursday 27<sup>th</sup>**

Grade 6 students are preparing for the first upcoming Thursday Bake Sale of this year. The charities that they chose to support are the King Hussein Cancer Foundation, SOS Children's Village Amman and Mar Mansour Charitable Society. Please be reminded that students should come to school with 2JD to give to charity if they are wearing Civvies on Thursday and to also bring some money if they wish to purchase from the bake sale.

## **Music in Secondary**

This year, we continue to raise the profile of music in Secondary. There are so many opportunities for students to participate. We have the Choir and the School Band. Ms Leah can answer any questions about those. Grade 11 students can tutor younger students in instruments, bands can practise during the school day and then we have our monthly informal 'music corners' and more formal concerts. Our school band has already been in action this year at this weekend's Battle of the Bands, and we would like to see many more students being part of our programmes or just using our facilities to practise with their friends. Students and parents should contact Ms Leah if they have any questions.

## **Weekend Trips**

This past weekend, the Grade 9 students came back from their adventurous journey at Wadi Rum. They certainly demonstrated grit, resilience and teamwork when hiking under the blazing sun in the hot desert. Grade 7 had a wonderful overnight experience this weekend at the Forest Park in Jerash. Some of the activities certainly took them beyond their comfort zone and taught them new team and personal skills. Grade 8 and Grade 11 both have their turn for adventurous day and overnight trips in the next fortnight. Letters have been sent home. I hope these trips will be well supported as these kinds of experiences form the bedrock of so many good memories from school.

## **Grade 6 Trip**

As part of the "Tools for History and Geography" unit for Individuals and Societies- Arabic, the Grade 6 students will visit the National Museum on Wednesday. The purpose of this trip is for them to reflect on how the achievements and innovations of ancient history impact and affect our lives today.

## **Grade 10 Trip**

On 4<sup>th</sup> October our Grade 10 Biology students will be going to Azraq to study the rehabilitation of the wetland ecosystem and to understand the ongoing pressure that continued water extraction brings to the sustainability of this national park.

## **Model United Nations**

Next weekend sees the start of the MUN calendar with the Montessori Conference. We wish all our delegates attending a productive and challenging weekend. We are now only one month away from our own school conference and preparations are well under way.

Training for the next generation of delegates has already started on Sunday after school with Grade 8. We hope those involved are enjoying their first taste of this demanding but rewarding activity.

## **Teacher Office Hours**

As the first month of school comes to an end, students are starting to sit for summative assessments in some of their subjects. Teachers have posted their office hours, which are taking place during lunch and/or after school. If students would like any further help with a subject, they must take initiative by coordinating with the teacher a suitable time for additional help.

Busy times!

Sincerely,  
Mr. Martin and Ms. Zena

## *Library News*

### **Summer Reading**

This summer, 127 IAA Primary students participated in our Summer Reading Programme. The results are in and 69 students completed the readings. These students will be recognised in Assembly for G1-5 on Thursday, 27 Sept., whilst the KG2 students as well as G6 students will be recognised separately in their own assemblies. Congratulations and well done to all of our Summer Reading Stars!

### **Arabic in the IAA Libraries**

One common misconception of the IAA libraries is that we work mostly in the English-language medium. This is far from true. The IAA Libraries' Collection fully supports our pillar of 'cultural heritage' with a collection of well-over 5000 Arabic titles.

Each library is staffed with an Arabic Language Information Specialist who is responsible for purchasing and cataloging our Arabic books. Ms. Dana is our KG Arabic Specialist; Ms. Layal works in the Primary Library; and Ms. Tamara works in the Secondary Library. Not only do these Library Team members help students select Arabic books, but they also create lesson plans and lead library lessons in the Arabic language.

In the Secondary library, Ms. Tamara has been helping Arabic classes choose Arabic books for pleasure reading on a monthly basis. In addition, G8 Arabic Social Studies classes have been researching the Abbasid period in our Arabic materials while G8 SSA will be researching Arabia before Islam. We have actively added to our Arabic non-fiction collection to make more information available to such classes.

Next week, the Primary Library will start a unit on 'Parts of a Book', which will be taught in Arabic to complement the same in English. Students will learn the Arabic terms for the parts of a book while also listening to Arabic stories.

In the KG Library, students will soon be introduced to the tradition of Juha stories. In looking to give our students truly authentic Arabic reading experiences, we try to stay away from the orientalism of the Arabian Nights tradition and introduce them to other lesser-known Arabic folklore and stories written by Arabic authors.

The entire library team has just completed Professional Development from on Follett Destiny entitled 'Developing Your Arabic Library with Follett'. The seminar, offered in Arabic and English, was designed to help librarians find authentic Arabic materials to add to our collection as well as discuss best practices in Arabic cataloging and searching.

The IAA Parent Book Club also reads Arabic in Translation. Members of the club have the option of reading a book in either Arabic or English. When we meet to discuss the book, issues of meaning and translation often prompt great dialogue among the group. It is a wonderful way to understand the power that reading and language hold.

From the Libraries,  
Kathleen McKim