



الأكاديمية الدولية - عمان  
THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY - AMMAN

# Parent News

## Monday, 25th September

### 2017

### Calendar

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
Tuesday	26	--Director's Open Meeting with Parents, Director's Office, 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM --For G10 Parents – e-assessments in the MYP, Theatre, 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM --Grade 11 SAT exam, MPR, 10:30 AM – 2:30 PM --NYU Visit, 1:30 PM
Wednesday	27	--Grade 6 Trip, (Off- Campus) --Primary Parent Morning: Mathematics, MPR, 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM
Thursday	28	--Bake Sale and Non-Uniform Day --Grade 8 Teambuilding Trip, (Off- Campus) --Grade 3G Assembly, Theatre, 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM
Friday	29	--Grade 8 Teambuilding Trip, (Off- Campus) --IDG Leadership Course 1
Saturday	30	--IDG Leadership Course 1 --Gymnastics Try-Out G1-2, 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM --Gymnastics Try-Out G3,4,5, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM --Track & Field Try-out G 4-5, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM --Swimming Try-out G4,5, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
Sunday	1	
Monday	2	--Open meeting with Primary Principal, Mr. Andrew Powell, Primary Principal's Office, 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM --Grade 6 to 8 Sports Morning --Secondary Parenting Workshop, Secondary Group Room, 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM

## **A Message from the Director**

Dear IAA Community,

I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations to all IAA student athletes who participated in the 2017 Asian Indoor & Martial Arts Games last weekend. I am certain that their athletic achievements will lead them to greater goals in sports. Speaking of sports, I came across an article last week that highlights the benefits of sports for students, and especially its impact on academic success as well as character building - <http://www.livestrong.com/article/515163-the-importance-of-sports-in-our-lives/>.

We have had a couple of team-building activities in Secondary since the start of the academic year and this weekend is another in Jerash for Grade 8. Such trips promote critical thinking and creative collaboration among our students and clearly encompass our four pillars at IAA: leadership, duty, cultural heritage and acceptance. The trips programme at IAA is truly a comprehensive one that broadens our students' horizons and perspectives, molding them into global citizens with a sense of belonging to the emerging world community, its values and practices.

In Primary, this week is more mathematics-focused, with a Wednesday parent workshop on that topic as well as the visit of Dr. Hanna Haydar, a specialist in Primary School Mathematics, who has been working with our Primary staff this week on the latest techniques pertaining mathematics teaching.

All upcoming activities, trips and workshops are included in our calendar that is available on our website and the IAA mobile application. Stay connected!

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

Wishing you a great week.

Hana Kanan, Ed.D.

Director

## **Primary School News**

Dear Parents,

Our staff has had a busy weekend with Dr Hanna Haydal working with classroom teachers in the area of mathematics. He presented an excellent workshop and helped further develop our knowledge and understandings of the ways in which we can support a deeper level of mathematical thinking in the classroom.

Dr Hanna will continue working with us over the next two days, observing classes, meeting with teachers and providing us with feedback on our programme.

This week, we commence taking class and individual photos. The respective dates are listed below. It is important that children come to school in their appropriate school uniform on those days and that their hair is neat and tidy.

Day	Date	Classes
Sunday	24 <sup>th</sup> September, 2017	Pre-KK, Pre-KM, KG1J, KG1R, KG1Y
Monday	25 <sup>th</sup> September, 2017	KG2O, KG1I, KG2A, KG2B, G1C
Tuesday	26 <sup>th</sup> September, 2017	KG2J, G1F, G1S, G1L, G2Z
Wednesday	27 <sup>th</sup> September, 2017	G2M, G3A, G2H, G2J, G3G
Sunday	1 <sup>st</sup> October, 2017	G3M, G3L, G4C, G4P, G4M
Monday	2 <sup>nd</sup> October, 2017	G4G, G5CE, G5CS, G5M, G5T

This week we are holding our first Parent Information Session, which will focus on Mathematics. We will also be starting the Active Parenting course next week, which is facilitated by our counsellors and covers such things as understanding children’s behaviour, building courage and character in children, and examining ways to enhance communication before children reach their teenage years. To reserve your seat, please register at Finance. The cost of the course is JD20 and includes a course booklet.

The dates and times of upcoming Parent Morning 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

Please remember that we will be holding a fundraiser for cancer research on October 12<sup>th</sup>. The dates that students may order t-shirts from Finance has been extended until Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>

I hope that you will have a wonderful week!

Yours sincerely,  
Andrew Powell

## **Secondary School News**

Dear Parents,

This past weekend, the Grade 9 students came back from their adventurous journey at Wadi Rum, which fulfilled one of the criteria of the El Hassan Youth Bronze Award. They certainly demonstrated grit, resilience and teamwork when hiking under the blazing sun in the hot desert. They also displayed a willingness to go beyond their comfort zone and an open mind to try new things and to learn new skills. The Grade 8s will have a busy weekend ahead as they attend the Rangers Camp in Jerash, where the focus will be on risk taking and leadership

We see the return of our sporting stars this week from the Asia Games in Turkmenistan where we had students competing in Athletics and Swimming. Congratulations to all our athletes. There is more information on the school’s social media about their success.

Once again, we have a busy week ahead. We will continue with our MYP information sessions for this week. On Monday September 25<sup>th</sup>, from 8-9am in the Auditorium, we will have a presentation on Interdisciplinary Learning and Service as Action. On Tuesday September 26<sup>th</sup>, from 8-9am in the Auditorium, we will have a session on e-assessments for the parents of our Grade 10s. We will give examples of e-assessment types of questions, along with sharing our plan to support our Grade 10s in their final year of the MYP.

The PTA are also busy this week hosting a brunch for teachers on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> and we would like to thank all who have been involved in the planning and execution of this event. It is very much appreciated.

As part of the “Tools for History and Geography” unit for Individuals and Societies- Arabic, the Grade 6 students will visit the Citadel this Wednesday. This area sits on Jebel al-Qala’a; the highest hill in Amman. Our students will take in the striking sites of the Roman Temple of Hercules and the Ummayyad Palace. At the museum, they will study various artifacts left by the Moabites and Ammonites. 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. The Grade 6 students are also preparing for their upcoming Thursday Bake Sale. They are in the process of choosing charities to support by donating the money raised.

Grade 11 also have a busy week ahead of them – we have the second diagnostic SAT test on Tuesday and then on Thursday we are collapsing part of the day so that we can explore links between TOK and CAS. This should be an interesting exercise as they share narratives and we look to make links between the CAS concepts of Creativity, Identity and Reflection with the TOK concepts of Arts, Truth, and Language. We are hoping that students will leave with deeper and more individual ideas for their CAS programmes.

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 are struggling with a subject, they must take initiative by coordinating with the teacher a suitable time for additional help.

Lastly, 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 can be very heavy around school from 7:30 am, so leave in good time for school.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Martin and Ms. Zena

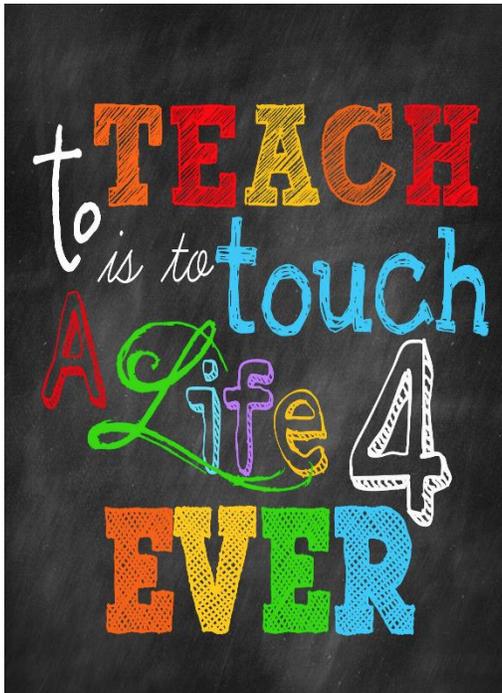
### **PTA Corner**

## **IAA’s Teachers Appreciation Day** September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Every year, the IAA/PTA assigns a day to show appreciation to the invaluable contribution made by our teachers to the society. At IAA, teachers impart knowledge as

well as enlighten and shape the career of students in an attempt to pave the way for learners of today to evolve into leaders of tomorrow.

This year, on this special day, we are inviting all our beloved teachers to a special brunch that we hope would perhaps spice up their day. Thank you teachers!



### Library News

Secondary Library: The book clubs have started, and it's been my pleasure to meet so many avid readers from Grades 6-10. The Grade 10 book club in particular, has been making the most of their conversation time for completing their Personal Projects. Last week, Mona Salah shared her chapbook of original poetry with a selected audience for feedback, and her poems triggered strong emotions for many in the audience as they personally related to it. This week Jana Dabbas shared her publication of poems and short stories for feedback which sparked some heated discussions about the use of foreshadowing and genre. Basem Tash created a fantastic mixed-media exhibition about teenage stress and what adult can do to help. His images and texts were as informative as they were creative. I am proud to claim these students as leaders in the IAA Library Programme.

KG and Primary Libraries: The MakerSpace Programme will begin this year with Quilling in the Libraries. This year, we will notify parents and students a week in advance of each session. We will have room for 10 students from KG1-G1 and 10 from G2-G5. Quilling is always popular, so be sure to watch this space and the PTA WhatsApp groups for more information.

After-School Enrichment Programme: The Library will be hosting an after-school club called "Happiness Journals" for students in G3-G5. The journaling topics will be based around the theme of #choosekindness

which is found in the book, *Wonder*, by R.J. Palacio. Each week, we will focus on a different precept of kindness and think of ways we can support IAA's pillar of Acceptance. Students who have read the book are particularly encouraged to join; however, it is not necessary to read the book in order to join the club.

For the Libraries,

Ms. Kathleen, Ms. Dima, Ms. Tania

### ***A Message from the Assistant Director of Curriculum***

Dear Parents,

This week has been an especially busy and exciting week in the Primary School. We were pleased to have Dr. Hanna Haydar, Head of Childhood Mathematics Education Program at Brooklyn College, with us from Saturday until Monday to provide professional development in Primary School Mathematics. Dr. Hanna is a specialist in Primary School Mathematics and runs teacher training and graduate school programs on this subject.

On Saturday September 23<sup>rd</sup>, Dr. Hanna conducted a 6 hour workshop with the teachers called 'Hands on Problem Solving in Primary School Mathematics'. The teachers extended their knowledge on the use of hands-on mathematics activities, teaching children to justify their problem-solving and defining real-world problems. I joined in for some of the activities, and I found them challenging since no clear answer was given...in fact, at times, I was under the impression that there might be an answer that didn't actually exist, which really made me stop and think!

We want our students to struggle with mathematics in a similar way and encounter activities in which the answers are not always clear and the children are forced to think for themselves. This is how they really internalise mathematical concepts and apply what they learn in real-life situations.

Dr. Hanna spent Sunday and Monday in the Primary school observing maths classes and meeting with teachers to give them further feedback and suggestions. We are all pleased to have a specialist in the school who can help us with our ongoing mission of improving the education we provide for your children.

I hope that you look forward to seeing how the teachers' learning appears in the classroom as the year unfolds!

Best regards,

Lois Warner