



الأكاديمية الدولية - عمان
THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY - AMMAN

Parent News

Monday, 4th September 2023

Calendar

SEPTEMBER 23

4 MON	Criterion-based assessment G6, in the MYP 09:00 am MPR
7 THU	G11 information meeting 09:00 am Theatre
10 SUN	Criterion-based assessment in the MYP G10-7 09:00 am MPR

A Message from The Director

Dear parents,

It is with immense joy and pride that I welcome you to the first biweekly newsletter of the 2023/2024 school year.

First and foremost, I want to commend our incredible students and staff members for making the first week of school such a smooth and positive experience. Their enthusiasm, dedication, and eagerness to learn are truly inspiring. We are off to a fantastic start, and I am confident that this academic year will be filled with success, growth, and memorable moments for all our students.

A warm and heartfelt welcome goes out to all our new students and their families who have joined the IAA community. We are thrilled to have you as part of our family, and we look forward to getting to know you better as we embark on this educational journey together.

This year holds a special significance for us as it marks the 20th anniversary of our school. It's been two decades of dedication, passion, and excellence in education. Our motto for this year is "20 Years of Educating with Purpose," and it encapsulates the dedication and commitment we have to providing a high-quality education that nurtures not only academic growth but also the development of well-rounded, responsible, and compassionate individuals.

I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to all the parents who attended the Back-to-School reception last night. It was a pleasure meeting with those of you who could make it, and it was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our top IB achievers. Your support and involvement in your child's education are invaluable, and I look forward to more opportunities to engage with you throughout the year.

As always, I want to remind you that my door is open to all parents. I am available for meetings every Tuesday between 9 AM and 10 AM. If you would like to schedule a meeting with me, please feel free to reach out to my office manager, Ms. Noor Zash, at n.zash@iaa.edu.jo. Your feedback, questions, and insights are essential to our continued growth and improvement, and I welcome the opportunity to connect with you.

Once again, a warm welcome to the 2023/2024 academic year at IAA, and here's to an extraordinary year of learning, growth, and celebration. Thank you for being an essential part of our IAA family.

Wishing you all the best for the exciting journey ahead!

With heartfelt regards,

Hana Kanan, Ed. D.
Director

Primary School News

Welcome back!

A very warm welcome to all of you as we begin a new school year at IAA! We hope this letter finds you filled with excitement, anticipation, and a renewed enthusiasm for learning. We are thrilled to have each and every one of you as part of our school community.

To our returning students, we have missed your smiles, laughter, and the vibrant energy you bring to our classrooms. Your dedication and hard work inspire us, and we cannot wait to see how you continue to grow and thrive this year.

To our new students, welcome to primary school. We are delighted that you have chosen to be a part of our family. We extend our warmest greetings and assure you that you are in for an incredible journey of discovery, friendship, and limitless possibilities.

Primary Team

Our dedicated team of teachers, staff, and administrators have been working diligently to prepare an engaging and nurturing environment that promotes academic excellence, character development, and a love for learning.

I would like to take this opportunity to present to you the primary leading team and their roles in order to direct your focus if you require any assist:

M.s Rula Abdo: Deputy Principal – Primary Programme Coordinator

Mr. Kevin Mace; Pastoral Care Manager

Ms. Anna Burgess; Early Years Manager

Ms. Rasha Sadia: Arabic Media Coordinator

Ms. Sarah Naber, Learning Support Head for Primary

Ms. Sophie Hamam, Counselor for Pre- K, G1, G2 and G3

Ms. Ebtisam ElArabi, Counselor for KG1, KG2, G4 and G5

Home – School Communications

Communication is key to maintaining a strong connection between school and home. We will keep you informed about important dates, upcoming events, and any changes or updates through our new portal system “Toddle”, newsletters, and emails. We also encourage you to reach out to us with any questions, concerns, or suggestions you may have. Together, we can create the best possible educational experience for your child.

The school leaders, including myself, have been responding to emails and requests to call on a daily basis. To arrange a call or brief meeting, please email primary@iaa.edu.jo with a brief sentence about the topic or issue as well as your child’s name and class. Our staff are always happy to return your calls or schedule should you have an issue related to the curriculum that you want to discuss.

Parent Information Sessions

As always and around this time of the year, we will be holding Parent Information Sessions for each of our grade levels commencing according to the table below so that you may have the opportunity to meet our teaching teams and develop an understanding of key aspects of the curriculum at respective grade levels. This is a very good opportunity to connect with teachers in your child's grade and inquire about academic and class routines. The schedule is below and invitations will be sent to parents via Toddle/ email at a later date:

§ G5 Parents Orientation Session: Sunday, September.17th at 2:45pm.

§ G2 Parents Orientation Session: Monday, September 18th at 2:45pm.

§ G3 Parents Orientation Session: Tuesday, September 19th at 2:45pm.

§ G4 Parents Orientation Session: Wednesday, September 20th at 2:45pm.

§ G1 Parents Orientation Session: Sunday, September 24th at 2:45pm.

§ KG2 Parents Orientation Session: Tuesday, September 26th at 2.45pm

§ KG1 Parents Orientation Session: Monday, September 25th at 2.45pm

§ Pre-K Parents Orientation Session: Wednesday, September 27th at 2.45pm

Preparing our students for the future

All primary classes will continue to have device days and have 'Coding' as an integral part of the curriculum as well as typing lessons both in Arabic and English language. Rest assured that we will educate our students about responsible internet use and online safety. We will be reinforcing these topics through various activities and discussions to ensure that our students develop the necessary skills to navigate the digital world safely. Furthermore, I encourage you to engage in conversations with your child about their experiences with coding and technology. By showing an interest and discussing their learning, you can further support their development in these areas.

Meanwhile, if you have any concerns or questions regarding accessing Toddle, please feel free to reach out to our IT help desk or the school administration. We are here to assist you and ensure a smooth and enriching educational experience for your child.

Health & Safety!

As the temperature is still in the thirties, I would like to remind you of the importance of sending your child to school with a sunhat and applying sunscreen with ample UV protection. It is also important to talk to your children about drinking plenty of water during the school day particularly at break times. If you have any questions about any health-related matters, our primary nurses are always happy to provide guidance and assistance.

In conclusion, we are excited to welcome you back to school. Let us embrace this new school year with enthusiasm, curiosity, and a commitment to excellence. We look forward to witnessing the growth and achievements of each and every student. Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education. We are honored to be a part of their journey.

Walid Albay
Primary Principal

Secondary School News

Dear Parents

Welcome to a new academic year full of promise and excitement. We hope your children have enjoyed coming back to school and meeting their new teachers. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all our wonderful new staff to IAA. After a summer of excellent Diploma and MYP results, we look forward to another year full of achievement in and out of the classroom. As ever, things have started apace and it feels like we have been back for much longer than a week. In summary:

Grade 6 to 8 Teambuilding

Thank you to our colleagues in PE who put on some lovely teambuilding and fun sports and activities for our students in Grade 6 to 8 in week one.

Student Council Elections

We have already had the elections for Head Boy and Head Girl, and the rest of the Student Council for 2023/2024 will be chosen this week. A big thank you to everyone who stood for election and for wanting to serve for the benefit of their colleagues.

Hawks: Try-outs

The schedule for try-outs can be found at **this link** https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SpOogA_sXy6eMjpjce5j0cNc-4YNxu56/edit. We hope that we will be able to put out multiple teams for each sport in each age group and would urge all students who want to participate as a Hawk for IAA to come to the try-outs.

Choir Auditions

We are planning to have a really active choir in Secondary this year. If your children have previously been members of choirs or just love to sing, then please encourage them to attend the auditions taking place on Wednesday from 3.45 to 4.45 in the music rooms (a letter was sent home about this).

Academic Competitions

We have been actively recruiting students who want to develop and showcase their ideas for two competitions. The Jordan Young Scientist (run by the Irish Embassy) and the Biotech Future Challenge (run by the University of Sydney) and we hope that we will have more inventors stepping forward with their ideas. There are going to be many more competitions as the year unfolds, and we hope that our students will step forward to participate.

I'MUN (September 28th to 30th)

Our annual MUN conference is only 4 weeks away. We will start training for interested students on Wednesday this week and a letter will be coming home shortly about the conference. The deadline for registering interest and paying the conference fee (100JD) is Thursday September 14th. We will hold our special Mini'MUN for Grade 7 and hope that as many of our Grade 8 to 11 students as possible will attend as delegates.

Grade 6 to 8 Sleepovers!

Planning for our Grade 6 to 8 to have a series of activity evenings (on Thursdays) at school, followed by a sleepover in tents is nearly complete. These will take place throughout September and more details will be shared soon. We hope that as many of each grade will take part as they will be fun times and a lovely way for the students to start making some great memories for the year.

International Trips

A letter was shared with parents at the end of week one detailing the trips we hope to run this year. A non-binding form asking for expressions of interest was included and if you would like to send your children on one of these trips. Please let us know so that we can plan accordingly. We really hope to boost the number of trips this year as they all leave such lasting, positive memories for those students that participate.

El Hassan Youth Award

We met with the EHYA representatives last week and are pleased that we will be holding Bronze, Silver and Gold expeditions for Grade 9 to 12 this year. Feedback from students is that these weekend expeditions are real highlights

for them. More information will be shared about these later, but they will take place from late October through November and into early December.

Criterion-based Assessment in the MYP for G6 Parents

This presentation will be an overview of criterion-based assessment in the MYP for Grade 6 Parents. The focus will be on how achievement levels are calculated and reported in the MYP. We strongly recommend this session to parents who are new to IAA and new to the MYP.

Mon Sept 4th: 9.00 am MPR

Criterion-based Assessment in the MYP for G7-10 Parents

This presentation will be an overview of criterion-based assessment in the MYP for Grade 7-10 Parents. The focus will be on how achievement levels are calculated and reported in the MYP. We strongly recommend this session to parents who are new to IAA and new to the MYP.

Sun Sept 10th: 9.00 am MPR

DP Information Sessions

These important sessions for parents will be hosted by Ms Mariam, our IBDP Coordinator on the following dates.

- Grade 11: Thursday 7th September at 9.00 a.m. in the Theatre.
- Grade 12: Sunday 10th September at 9.00 a.m. in the Theatre

It's going to be a great year!

Sincerely

Mr Martin and Ms Zena.

Career and College Counseling News

Welcome back!!

Another year and yet another application cycle. Though the process remains more or less the same year on year, the kids are what makes the journey very different and worthwhile every time. And the *Class of 2024* is no exception. I look forward to working with this group of vibrant and aspiring young individuals.

We ended our last semester with two strong sessions about essay writing: one focused on UK, Europe and Canada, while the other was mainly US. Over the summer break, I was pleasantly surprised by the number of students who sent in their written drafts for feedback. I was assured then that this *Class* means business! The beginning of this year, we had our G12 come in to school earlier than everyone else to begin the application process and we were able to complete the online application to UK and US. All other regions remain closed for now.

Over the coming weeks we will be focusing on students who wish to apply to university's Early round. Those students are primarily Medicine and/or Oxbridge applicants. To guide them, we will be arranging individual meetings to discuss in detail the list of institutions to aim for and highlight any specific work outstanding. It is note-worthy to mention that if students feel they are in good standing in terms of IB grades, CV, entry exams and essays, they are encouraged to take the plunge and apply by October 15th. This can free up their overcrowded schedule and allow them to turn to IB instead. However, those who prefer to wait a bit longer, need not worry about being late since most application deadlines are set for January 2024. Only 10% of IAA students usually apply early, the majority prefer to use the beginning of G12 months to improve their grades and apply after November's Progress Report. There are advantages and disadvantages to either routes, and every student's case is different, you can arrange a meeting with the Counselors if you prefer to discuss your child's individual case.

Finally, please encourage your children to use the coming months wisely, manage their time prudently and adhere to all deadlines given to them to ensure a smooth application ride!

Library News

We are so happy to be back and to welcome our students in the libraries!

At IAA, we understand the significance of reading in a child's development and our rich and varied collection of books in our 3 libraries are curated to offer a wide selection of books that cater to various interests and reading levels. Whether your child is a budding scientist, an aspiring artist, a detailed detective, or a fan of fantasy tales, we have something for everyone.

In addition to our diverse book collection, we offer digital resources that are curated for reading, research, and learning beyond the physical library space.

Along with information literacy, library skills, research skills, use of resources, and digital citizenship, our focus in our libraries is on reading and supporting the literacy programme in the primary and supporting the MYP and the IB programme in the secondary. We will be planning events in the libraries so watch out for more information throughout the year.

It's an exciting week for our primary students as they begin to check out books this week. It is so heartwarming to see the smile and enthusiasm on their faces when they find the book they want! We will soon be celebrating the achievements of our students who participated in the Summer Reading Challenge with gifts and certificates so please remember to bring in your child's reading packet by **September 11** at the latest. We don't want to leave anyone out! The Secondary Library continues to welcome students on a teacher-requested basis. Last week, Grade 6 students visited the secondary library and were introduced to the space and the resources available to them.

The libraries are here to support your children's learning, so please feel free to stop by any of our libraries to acquaint yourself with the programs and resources we have. We look forward to a wonderful journey together in the world of books and knowledge.

Have a wonderful week!

Warm Regards,

Dima Shaka'a
Head of Libraries & Primary Librarian