



الأكاديمية الدولية - عمان
THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY - AMMAN

Parent News

Monday, 5th September 2022

A Message from The Director

Dear Parents,

Allow me to welcome you to the new academic year 2022/23 at IAA! We are thrilled to be partnering, collaborating, and joining efforts with you and your children as we soar into another exciting and fruitful educational journey. As we step into a new school year, we should all think of renewed hope, new opportunities for exploration, reflection, growth, and gratitude. Whether you are a returning family, a first-time family, or a family transferring from another school, your children will find unlimited opportunities to enjoy this school year by learning, exploring, and engaging together.

Undoubtedly, a productive and prosperous school year cannot be achieved without your continuous and constant support, engagement, and feedback; it is the culmination of the combined efforts of students, teachers, parents, and the school as a whole that always guarantees the desired successful outcome. Therefore, I strongly urge you to participate in our school events and activities in order to build a solid relationship with the school and become more acquainted with it. On that note, please be reminded that the weekly parents meetings with me will be conducted over Zoom between 8-9 am; a link will be provided upon request.

Despite the fact that we have had a very smooth start last week, allow me to emphasize the importance of being prompt when picking up your children to minimize further disruptions to our teachers' duties. In addition, please make sure that all students follow a proper sleeping schedule, as it is vital to the health and well-being of the students; 8-9 hours of sleep are crucial for children to stay alert and focused throughout the school day. As you are aware, this heatwave is taking its toll on everyone, let alone young children! Please ensure that they stay hydrated and encourage them to drink sufficient amounts of water as often as possible throughout the school day even when they do not feel thirsty for "prevention is better than cure". This will aid in protecting the students and prevent any potential health issues such as heat strokes and nosebleeds.

On another positive note, IAA held its Annual Welcome Back Reception last Thursday at our enchanting campus! We met with our returning families and welcomed the new families into our community! In addition, the remarkable achievements of the top IB achievers of the Class of '22 were celebrated and honored due to their outstanding success, which was most certainly worthy of celebration. It was indeed a reflection of the rewards that can be achieved through hard work, persistence, determination, and discipline. It is now the time to anticipate and witness the success that is awaiting our 13th cohort, the Class of '23! May they have a great year ahead; I cannot wait to celebrate another group of extraordinary students.

I look forward to a blessed, safe, and fulfilling year ahead!

Kind regards,

Hana Kanan, Ed. D.
Director

Primary School News

Dear Parents,

A very warm welcome to you all!

It is with pride and pleasure that I welcome back everyone through my first newsletter of this academic year. So far, the start of term one has been seamless and remarkably positive for staff, families, and above all: our students. It has been great to see them back at school and so engaged in their learning, settling beautifully into their new classes and enjoying every aspect of life at school. More so, attendance has been outstanding across the grades from Pre-K and all the way through to Grade 5, as has been the optimistic energy throughout the school.

Primary Senior Management Team

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the primary Senior Management Team (SMT) and their roles and responsibility in order to direct your focus should you require any assistance:

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

Ms. Alia Oweinat; Deputy Principal – Arabic Media Coordinator

Ms. Anna Burgess; Early Years Manager

Mr. Kevin Mace; Pastoral Care Manager

Also, please join me in welcoming **Ms. Sarah Naber**, the Learning Support Coordinator for Primary, who joined our school this year.

Home – School Communications

In regards to communications between home and school, I would encourage parents to continue to dialogue with their child's teachers and our counsellors as necessary. The SMT 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 members are always happy to return your calls or schedule a Zoom meeting 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. All sessions will be in person and shall take place in the Multi-Purpose Room (MPR) next to the theatre. This is a very good opportunity to connect with teachers in your child's grade and inquire about academic and class routines.

The schedules are as follows and invitations will be sent to parents via Moodle:

- Grade 1 - Sunday, September 11th @ 2.45 pm.
- Grade 2 - Monday, September 12th @ 2.45 pm.
- Grade 3 - Wednesday, September 14th @ 2.45 pm.
- Grade 4 - Thursday, September 15th @ 2.45 pm.
- Grade 5 - Sunday, September 18th @ 2.45 pm.
- KG2- Monday, September 19th @ 2.45 pm.
- KG1- Wednesday, September 21st @ 2.45 pm.
- Pre-K- Thursday, September 22nd @ 2.45 pm.

Preparing our students for the future

As always, IAA is always striving to equip our students with the skills and knowledge that they require for the future. The Grade 4 BYOD which was introduced as of this year is running smoothly and the students are adapting to the new routines of their studies accordingly. In addition, all primary classes will be learning 'Coding' as an integral part of the curriculum as well as typing lessons both in Arabic and English language. Rest assured that teachers will be running students through the platforms that will be used and this will become a regular feature of our preparedness throughout the year. Our IT staff are happy to help you via ithelpdesk@IAA.edu.jo if you require any assistance.

Health & Safety!

Finally, as the temperature is still soaring, 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 factor (+40). It is also important to remind your children to drink plenty of water during the school day and especially at break times. If you have any questions about any health-related matters, our primary nurses are always happy to provide guidance and assistance.

Wishing you a wonderful couple of weeks ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Walid Albay
Primary Principal

Secondary School News

Dear Parents

It has been wonderful to have a normal start to the school year, even with the heatwave! We hope your children have enjoyed their first week back. There certainly has been a positive buzz about the building and campus that we have not felt for a very long time. The fact that we are bigger than ever before, with over 580 students, is also adding to that feeling!

Rescheduled Teambuilding

A reminder to Grade 6 to 8 that the rescheduled teambuilding activities will take place on:

Grade 7: Tuesday 6th September, 8.00 a.m. to 10.20 a.m.

Grade 8: Wednesday 7th September, 8.00 a.m. to 10.20 a.m.

Grade 6: Thursday 8th September, 8.00 a.m. to 10.20 a.m.

It is important that students come to school in their PE kit and have hats and sunscreen as needed.

Head Boy Head Girl Elections

These took place on Thursday afternoon. Speeches focused on rebuilding student activities and bringing in a sense of enjoyment through doing things together. Over the course of the coming week, we will elect the rest of the Student Representative Council (SRC). We are looking forward to working with them in order to best serve our community and make the academic year 2022/2023 one to remember.

Routines and Uniform

We have started the morning line-ups in community square. It is such a nice way to start the day as a whole school. The National Anthem plays at 7.47 a.m. and it would be great to have everyone on campus for that. For those who are turning up later, we ask for that to change. The only aspect of uniform that is unsatisfactory at the moment is the number of students not wearing appropriate black shoes. We will be focusing on this, and students will be required to follow the code.

Reporting Covid

We really hope that the incidence of Covid continues to decline. However, it is inevitable that some students will contract it. Please report any Covid cases directly to the school nurse (d.mdanat@iaa.edu.jo) and follow this up by sending through a PCR result. If a case is identified using a rapid test, then we will count the 5 days from that moment, however, this must be confirmed with a PCR test.

Sports and Activities

As we work through the coming week, our attention will be turning to our activities and what it is we can offer to add value to the student experience. More information will be coming out about this. A long list of opportunities for different sports have been shared with students and parents. The 'try-outs' will be held on Saturday 10th September. That is going to be a busy day at school!

Parent Meetings and Meet and Greet

A reminder that this week we have a number of meetings involving parents. Recordings of these sessions will be made available under the Student Parent tab on Moodle should you not be able to join live.

Sunday 4th September: An important zoom meeting on understanding criterion-based assessment in the MYP (9.00 a.m.). Invitations have been sent.

Tuesday 6th September it is the **Meet and Greet for Grades 6, 8 and 10**. This will be done over zoom and separate letters have already been sent home with information (2.30 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.)

Thursday 8th September: Grade 11 IB Information Session (9.00 a.m.) Invitations will be sent.

Welcome again to all our new students and staff. We hope it was a good first week for everyone in IAA. We look forward to making this a memorable year for the whole community.

Sincerely

Mr Martin and Ms Zena

Library News

We are so happy to be back and to welcome our students in the libraries! I'd like to start off by welcoming three new members to our libraries team. Ms. Patricia Power is our secondary librarian and she is excited to work with our students and support their learning. She will also be working on the Extended Essay with our DP students. Ms. Malak Kari is our new Media Lab teacher who will be teaching coding in the primary along with media projects and presentations with the secondary students. Last but not least, Ms. Ala Qaralleh, not new at IAA, but new to the team, will join me in the Primary Library as a library assistant.

Along with information literacy, library skills, research skills, use of resources, and digital citizenship, our focus in our libraries this year will be 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. The Secondary Library continues to welcome students on a teacher-requested basis. This week, Grade 6 English classes will be coming to select books of personal interest for quiet reading time.

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.

Have a wonderful week!