AL NOOR-ABA NEWS -29th August 2019 Important Note: Return from Winter Break is January 5th 2020

Message from the Head of School

Dear ABA Community,

It has been a great start to the 2019-2020 school year! I am very pleased with the opening days of school. Thank you for welcoming me so graciously and I look forward to really getting to know you and your children over the next months.



I would like to begin one of the most important parts of my tenure here -Listening. I invite parents to join me in one of four opportunities over the next few weeks to come for Conversation and Community. Please sign up for one of the offered focus groups. I will have a framework for our conversation to keep us on task and then I will open it up for your comments and questions. I'll take notes so that I can develop recommendations and observations for going forward.

The dates are:

Monday, September 16	7:45 - 8:45am
Wednesday, September 18	5:30 - 6:30pm
Tuesday, September 24	1:00 - 2:00pm
Wednesday, September 25	7:45 - 8:45am

RSVP to the date of your choice to <u>admin@abaoman.org</u>. I will cap each group at 20 people so that each voice will be heard. I look forward to chatting with you.

Please know that I will work hard for ABA and that my goals for the year are supported by the Board, with whom I communicate regularly. I will share those goals with you at the coffee mornings. Always know that your comments and concerns will strengthen the ABA community as we work together.

Enjoy your weekend,

Sue

Dr. Susan R. Groesbeck

(Pictured right - Flowers in ABA colours sent to Dr. Groesbeck from the Board of Directors at her former school).

01 Sep	Islamic New Year (Tentative - look for official announcement)
02 Sep	Grade 3 Parent Orientation Middle school common room 7:40 am - 8:20 am
03 Sep	Grade 4 Parent Orientation Middle school common room 7:40 am - 8:20 am Parent Swimming Briefing PTA Room
04 Sep	7:30 am - 08:00 am Grade 2 Parent Orientation
	Upper foyer 7:40am - 8:20am Middle School Coffee Morning Middle school common room 7:45 am - 9:00 am
05 Sep	Grade 1 Parent Orientation Upper foyer 7:40 am - 8:20 am

Upcoming Dates





Message from the Business Manager

Dear ABA Parents,

For the safety and security of our students, access to the ABA campus will be restricted through ID card effective starting September 8, 2019.

You can find the information for obtaining an ID card here: (<u>https://drive.google.com/file/d/1v069NBzu5x5pvQL0_Md_DI0btvUIE_31/view?usp=sharing</u>)

New Parents are requested to provide information in an email: idcard@abaoman.org

- 1. Name of father and mother
- 2. Soft copy of your passport-size photograph(s), preferably with a white background, to the email address .

3. Use the student's code (found in school invoices) as part of the name of your photo as explained below:

Example: If your child's school code is D12345 then: Father's photo should be named as "FD12345.jpg" Mother's photo should be named as "MD12345.jpg"

4. Provide the other required information via the following: <u>https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/99FCN3G</u>

Note: Just one sibling's information is sufficient for the parent's' ID card if you have more than one child in school.

Parents who are continuing from last school year but have lost the ID cards need to re-apply for a new card. Use the information above, stating that last year's ID card is lost. An amount of R.O 2 will be levied for the lost ID cards.



School Cafeteria Services

Introducing Al Nahda Catering for ABA Cafeteria Service Al Nahda Catering offers you a flexible approach for catering needs.

Al Nahda Catering has extensive 9 years of experience providing food & service of the highest possible standard. They bring their individual expertise, creativity, and passion of the Al Nahda team to ABA.

You can find the menu selection with prices here: <u>http://abaoman.org/wp-site/cafeteria-menu/</u>

Cashless Payment System – Meal Card

Managing school meals can now be effortless by a cashless payment system - meal card. Please see the cafeteria staff to obtain a meal card.

Bahul Pillai



ABA Social Media Update

Dear Parents,

Our ABA Facebook site is now being transferred to a public Facebook page which can be followed at: <u>https://www.facebook.com/ABAOman.IBWorldSchool/.</u>

Please follow us and keep updated with all the latest news and events at ABA.

You can also follow us on Twitter at <u>https://twitter.com/</u> <u>ABAWorldSchool.</u>

We look forward to sharing with you all the wonderful happenings here at ABA.

Peter Wadsworth - Director of Technology



Message from the Elementary School

And we are off!

So many smiles this week as children met their new teachers, reconnected with their friends, welcomed our new students, and got straight into fun and learning.

While children have been delighted to rediscover all the familiar things about school, they have been just as excited by some of the changes they have noticed. The shade along the roadway is a big hit with our Grade 3 and 4 students, who, thanks to a kind donation of proceeds from the ABA Ball, have another option for active play in the hotter weather. The playground upgrades include a new safety surface, astroturf and a sensory path. And our new cafeteria menu offers lots of delicious choices.

Be sure to attend your child's grade Parent Orientation this coming week. Check the school calendar or a message from your child's teacher for details.



Sam Cook - Elementary Principal





Message from the Middle School

MS Explores! - Formally Adventure Oman

Our Offsite Experiential Learning Program includes MS Explores! MS Explores! (formerly Adventure Oman) provides our students with the unique opportunity to explore Oman's rich geographical treasures. Students are immersed in diverse landscapes and enchanting environments as they traverse our Middle School.

Each year group is exposed to a different learning experience to ensure that the learning develops necessary independence as well as individual and collective responsibility. Each MS Explores! camp represents an increased responsibility for your child, providing the conditions for the organized development of essential skills needed later in life. The camps are staffed by their advisors and subject teachers, along with expert and certified trainers.

MS Explores! is fun and exciting, with activities clearly focused on students enjoying themselves, thus fostering a love of the outdoors. Additionally, our camps are focused on encouraging service, respect for the history of Oman, and respect for the local environmental issues. Finally, MS Explores! is about bonding and friendship. The experience of looking at stars in the desert sky, or listening to the waves under the moonlight or hiking through the picturesque Hajar mountains, is not one to be missed.

MS Explores! is an integral part of our holistic academic programme and all Middle Students are strongly encouraged to participate. MYP 1 (grade 6) will head to the desert, MYP 2 (grade 7) will be off to the beach and MYP 3 (grade 8) will reach new heights in the mountains.

In our September MS Coffee morning, our Athletic director Paul Brace will outline After School Activities (ASA) and Middle East South Asia Conference (MESAC) followed by additional information about MS Explores!

Please join us at 7:40am in the MS Common Room.

Kathleen Bowin - Middle School Principal

Message from the High School

Much to celebrate

Firstly, a warm welcome to new and returning families. We are delighted that our students have again achieved a strong set of results from the DP and MYP examinations taken in May.

We congratulate the Class of 2019 and our Grade 10 (now Grade 11). Again for DP, we were well above the world average and to achieve this with over 90% of the cohort taking on the challenge of the full DP and 97% successfully achieving the IB Diploma is fantastic. Of course, the numbers only tell part of the story and we are particularly proud of the students whom it was borderline whether they would achieve the full DP or not, and with effort and support they were indeed successful.

We wish the class of 2019 every success as they begin a wide variety of courses in universities such as Stanford, Penn State, Columbia, Warwick, Exeter, St Andrews, McGill and Erasmus.

It was the first time students from ABA have completed the MYP onscreen examinations, the fact that all subject averages in these onscreen examinations were above world average is a real testament to the efforts of students and their teachers.

Start to the academic year

It has been a great start to the academic year, one full of energy, spirit and learning. During my daily classroom visits I have been impressed with the engagement of students and as always, the relationships between classes and their teachers.

Our Grade 11 students were introduced to the IB Diploma this week, and from my own perspective I was impressed with my Theory of Knowledge class and their curiosities. With a high number of new students to ABA in Grade 11, the orientation was important to support the Class of 2021 make a good start to the year.

Thank you to parents for reinforcing and students for following the dress code, there is a marked improvement from last academic year. Please keep this up. In addition, I thank students for following instructions to ensure the cafeteria and morning registration are device free zones. We are of the opinion that students will benefit from some time when they are disconnected with devices but are connected socially. This video from Simon Sinek is worth watching if you have not seen it already.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hER0Qp6QJNU.

In classes we have insisted that mobile devices are away unless students have been asked to use them for a particular learning task.

I wish you all the best for the year ahead and look forward to meeting you at the gate in the morning or at the Meet the teacher event on Tuesday 17th September.

Upcoming dates

Monday 9th September Grade 10 parent and student information presentation on MYP eAssessment 5:00pm- 6:00pm

Tuesday 17th September Parent presentation on the International Award 4:30pm- 5:00pm

Tuesday 17th September High School meet the teacher event 5:00pm- 7:00pm

Tuesday 24th September Introduction to the MYP (HS parents) 4:00pm- 5:00pm

Monday 30th September Grade 11 Discovery Week trips (Grade 11 parents) 6:00pm- 7:00pm

Tuesday 1st October Grade 11/12 parent coffee morning 7:30am- 8:30am

Simon Walker - High School Principal

Message from the Extra Curriculum Program

Elementary After School Activities

Season One Elementary After School Activities (ASAs) are open to all Grade 2-5 students. They will begin on Sunday 8th September and finish on Wednesday 6th November. Our Elementary ASAs are held on Sunday, Monday and Wednesdays and run from 2:15-3pm.

Sign ups for these activities will open today, Thursday 29th Aug at 4pm and will remain open until 6pm Tuesday 3rd Sept. An email was sent to all G2-5 parents this week regarding the sign up procedure. Below you will find the activities on offer and the descriptions of each activity can be found on our ABA website under Activities in the Student and Parent tabs (here).

Season One

Grade	Sunday	Monday	Wednesday
2	Drama and Story Club Just Dance Big Blocks	Fun Yoga Construction	Arabic Reading Benchball
3	Drama and Story Club Just Dance Big Blocks	Fun Yoga Homework Club Dolnk Green Screen Construction	Arabic Reading Benchball Lego
4	Drama and Script Writing Ballsports	Homework Club Dolnk Green Screen Cooking	Arabic Reading Lego Girls Soccer
5	Drama and Script Writing Ballsports	Homework Club Cooking	Arabic Reading Lego Girls Soccer

Raewyn Jack - Elementary After School Activities Coordinator

ABA is proud of its After School Program and the many contributions our students, coaches, directors, supervisors have made in building a strong sense of community. We expect that all students will embrace the school's tradition of outstanding sportsmanship, pride, dedication and fair play. We believe the opportunity to participate in any activity is a privilege and comes with the responsibility that each student maintain a high standard of behavior as well as achieve academically to their highest potential.

It is important that students and parents know what is expected. This week and next the secondary school students will be given a small booklet with the requirements for participation in a ABA team. We ask that you please sit with your child and go through the expectations. The expectations can be found in the Parent Student Handbook, Appendix 8 for the Middle School and High School will receive a hard copy. The information can also be found on the website <u>MS Booklet</u>, <u>HS Booklet</u>. MS students need to return the forms to their advisory teacher and HS students return their forms directly to their coaches or to the Activities Office.

What sport is on offer for secondary students Gr 6-12

The overall sport schedule can be found on the website Sport Season Schedule .

Registration for the swim team was sent out on Tuesday 27th and can also be found in this week's newsletter.

Middle School Sport

Next week Grades 6,7 and 8 students begin their sporting journey. Training will be every Monday and Thursday from 2:30pm-3:30pm for Gr 6 & 7 and 3:30pm – 4:30pm for Gr 8. It is still very hot so we are putting Tennis on hold at the moment. The Middle School teams will compete in the Muscat Secondary Sports League (MSSL) where they play the local schools in Muscat.

Start date for Middle School Sport

Grade 6	Volleyball	Monday 2nd September	2:30 - 3:30	МРН
Grade 7	Volleyball	Monday 2nd September	2:30 - 3:30	GYM
Grade 8	Volleyball	Monday 2nd September	3:30 - 4:30	GYM
Grade 6-8	Tennis	TBC weather permitting		

MESAC

What is the Middle East South Asia Conference (MESAC)?

In brief the MESAC organisation seeks to create, promote and foster cooperation among its member schools. This is done by providing a forum for communication and discussion, by promoting activities and by seeking to serve as an extension of each members schools' program to enhance the development of the students, the schools and the organisation through:

- A. Academic and Intellectual Pursuits
- B. Sports Competition
- C. Fine and performing arts activities

D. Cultural and intercultural opportunities ABA is one of six member schools of MESAC. MESAC runs on three seasons per year, competing against schools in Qatar, India and United Arab Emirates. Students in Gr 8 -12 compete in the MESAC tournaments.

Tryouts have already begun this week, coaches have already informed the students of the training days. The full schedule can be found on the ABA website <u>Practice Schedule Season One</u>.

This year the MESAC teams are invited to attend a strength and conditioning program every Wednesday morning in the main gym. The first session starts on Wednesday September 4th, 6:00 - 7:00am for season one athletes.

Leading a balanced lifestyle is essential for the development of a child. Please continue to encourage your child to participate in a MESAC event. The dates and venues have been set for MESAC season one.

Dates and locations of the tournaments are listed in the table.

Golf	Golf at As Dubai Arrival: 4th November Depart: 7th November	V Volleyball	V-volleyball at ABA (Muscat) Arrival: 6th November Depart: 10th November
Swimming	Swimming at ACS (Abu Dhabi) Arrival: 6th November Depart: 10th November	Academic Games	Academic Games at DAA (Dubai) Arrival: 7th November Depart: 11th November
JV Volleyball	JV-Vball at AES (Delhi) Arrival: 7th November Depart: 11th November		

Secondary After School Activities (ASAs)

Running a comprehensive and successful After School Program requires a lot of time and dedication from the activity leaders and full commitment from the students. We hope you will join us in encouraging your child/children to become responsible risk takers when it comes to their extra curricular choices.

The secondary students' process is different from the Elementary School to allow for increased responsibility for the students to manage their own timetables both in school time and in their after school choices. They will sign up with the individual activity leaders on the day of the activity. Supervisors and club leaders will be advertising the various activities over the coming weeks.

The list of Secondary Year Long Clubs and Seasonal Activities and the Activities Descriptions is available for review on the Activities website. <u>Secondary ASAs</u>

Muscat Football Academy K3 - Grade 5

Registration for Muscat Football Academy for season one will open on Sept 3rd. If you are interested in having your child participate in this great opportunity you need to sign up per season directly with Sumaiya at the ABA main reception and pay 54 OMR – Numbers are limited. Once the maximum number of students are signed up, registration will close.

Muscat Football Academy is a professional football school that offers courses specifically designed to enhance and develop football skills whilst ensuring a fun filled experience in a safe environment. The manager and head coach Chuck Martini has had a professional career spanned over 20 years. He has played for some of the biggest clubs in Europe (Tottenham Hotspurs FC, Wimbledon FC and Leicester City FC in the English Premier league.) He also has played for the Dallas FC and represented Morocco internationally and was part of the squad that reached the Word Cup 94.

Muscat Football Academy will run for three 9 week seasons at ABA. The season timings are below:

Starting dates based on 9 week sessions.

Season One: 17th Sept - 19th NovSign up 3rd SeptSeason Two: 3rd Dec - 18th FebSign up 12th NovSeason Three: 25th Feb - 28th AprilSign up 4th Feb

Time: Tuesday 2:30pm - 3:15pm Age range: K3- Grade 5 Location: ABA field and MPH All questions and enquiries about Muscat football Academy need to be directed to <u>chuck@muscatfootbal-</u> <u>lacademy.com</u>.

Pro Tennis

Pro Tennis will again be setting up programs for our ABA community on our courts this year. They will also be coaching our MESAC tennis team. Below is what Pro Tennis has on offer for our community. All questions and enquiries about Pro tennis need to be directed to protennisoman@yahoo.com or Phone: 976 089 60.

Paul Brace - Athletics Director

Vipers Swim Team

Meet our new coaching team!



Nadia Baghdadi

Nadia has been the backbone of the Vipers program last season, delivering a strong skill based focus to the program. A former Lebanese National team athlete, she has competed at Arabian and International competition. Drawing from her extensive experience as an athlete she is qualified as a coach through FINA (Level 1-3), ASA Level 1 and 2. Nadia has owned a swimming school, assisted on the Lebanese national program and is eager to ensure that we build a world class school program here at ABA.

James Lawless

James comes to ABA as the former Head Coach and Club Manager of the largest competitive swim team in Ireland. He was also the aquatics director for a large independent school in Dublin. He is a qualified ASA/Swim Ireland Level 3 Senior Coach, NASM corrective exercise and performance enhancement specialist. He

has produced multiple Irish National Age Group champions. He has also been involved in qualifying youth athletes to international competition (European Youth Olympic Festival, UK Schools Games) along with regional and national squads. James is passionate about the sport and is committed to developing the program into a world class school based team.

2019-20 Season Enrollment

Returning Swimmers

Please complete this form. <u>(https://forms.gle/jiJazXqMn56SKaaHA)</u> Returning swimmers start back 2nd September (as per last years squads). Adjustments and move-ups will be made at the end of the first week of practice.

New Swimmers

We would love to hear from you!



PRO TENNIS OMAN AT ABA SCHOOL

PROGRAMS

ABA MINI TENNIS - 4 TO 10 YEARS OLD (5 OMR / CLASS) JUNIOR PROGRAM - 7 TO 18 YEARS OLD (5 OMR / CLASS) PRIVATE LESSONS - 16 OMR/CLASS ABA MESAC

> FOR MORE INFO AND REGISTRATION: Phone: 976 089 60 protennisoman@yahoo,com www.protennisoman.com

Try-outs will take place as below:

Grade 1 and 2 – Tuesday 3rd September 2:30pm – 3:15pm

Grades 3, 4 and 5 – Monday 2nd September 2:30pm-3:30pm

Middle School – Wednesday 4th September 2:30pm-3:30pm

High School – Thursday 5th September 2:30pm – 3:30pm

To register for an assessment simply complete this form (<u>https://forms.gle/3CWBeQC7DCniMcKGA</u>) and turn up to your designated session!

Go Vipers!

Swim Team

Message from the Counseling Department

Introduction to School Counseling Department

To the new ABA families, welcome to ABA and Oman! For the returning families, welcome back! We are looking forward to an exciting year in school counseling department. As school counselors, our role is to serve as advocates for all students. Please take an opportunity to review our mission, beliefs and philosophy listed below.

Our school counseling team includes:

School Counselor	Grades	Office	Email
Colette O'Driscoll	K-5	Elementary Counseling Office	codriscoll@abaoman.org
Claire Anthony	6-8	Secondary Counseling Area	canthony@abaoman.org
Denise Barker University and Career	9-12	Secondary Counseling Area	dbarker@abaoman.org
Alli Hostetter Personal, Social, Emotional	9-12	Secondary Counseling Area	ahostetter@abaoman.org

Comprehensive School Counseling Program K-12

Mission Statement

Our comprehensive school counseling program advocates for all students and enhances ABA's mission, vision and values by promoting academic, career, personal/social and global perspective development.

Beliefs and Philosophy

The ABA school counseling department believes:

- the comprehensive school counseling program is preventative in nature and plays a critical role in supporting the academic, career, personal/social and global perspective for all students.
- our program complements and enhances the mission, vision and values of ABA as students develop K-12.
- that counselors are advocates for all students.
- that all students are unique and will support them in achieving their maximum potential according to their learning styles and strengths.
- that counselors at ABA are committed to ongoing professional development in their field and current best practices in the international context.
- that our program promotes intercultural understanding and respect for the various backgrounds and beliefs of all stakeholders.

Counseling Department

Message from the University Counselor

Welcome to our students and families for the start of the 2019-20 academic year. You have all heard of the remarkable successes of the class of 2019 in both their DP exams and admission to the universities of their choice. The Counseling team is here to support you in your own journey towards academic excellence and your transition into various pathways after High School.

The University Counseling office works directly with High school students and offers support with:

- career exploration
- the college / university application process
- planning for graduation and beyond

Events



Earlier this week, the Grade 11 students had their first University talk as part of the DP Transition programme. Many such events are planned for the rest of the year. For September, these include:

9th September	School Visit: University of Chicago & Barnard College, USA
10th September	Grade 12 University Application Information Session
11th September	School Visit: Lynn University, Florida
17th September	Grade 12 Parent Information Evening (University Application Process)

Making Connections

Check the ABA newsletter, our school's Facebook as well as our new Instagram page (aba_collegecounseling) for details about the Counseling programme and upcoming events. Along with these online platforms, the University Counselor will also use school email and will share regular updates with students via Google classroom.

Above all, however, do get in touch by email (dbarker@abaoman.org) or stop by the office to arrange a face-to-face meeting.



Mrs. Denise Barker - University and College Counselor

Message from the PTA



Building our community together!

Welcome to another new school year! As you start the year, remember that our focus is building the community; you, your children, the teachers, the staff and everyone around us are essential parts of the foundation.

We have a trial PTA structure in place this year - a trimmer version of the previous year based on last year's experience. The 2019 - 20 PTA team

has worked together through the summer to outline an exciting year for the community.

We ask for your support to continue making great strides that benefit the ABA community.

PTA DATES

Monday, Sep. 9th @ PTA room First Open Meeting: 7.40 - 8.40am

New Parents Coffee Morning: 9 - 10am

Monday, Sep. 23rd @ PTA room HRP Orientation: 7.40 - 8.40am (mandatory for all HRPs)

PTA Executive Committee Contacts

Chair

- Vice Chair
- Treasurer
- Communications / Liaison Secretary

New Parent Representative

ECE & Elementary Parent Rep Middle School Parent Rep **High School Parent Rep** Logistics Coordinator

- : Lama Samman
- : Laila Al Mawali
- : Paula Colaco
- : Nandita Shukla
- : Anjum Khan & Penny Chien
- : Minita Sampat
- : Rebecca Mitchell
- : Kamilya Lamki
- : Laila Al Mawali

ECE & Elementary Teacher Rep : Kendra Glider Middle & High School Teacher Rep : Peter Lawton

- : PTAChair@abaoman.org
- : PTAVice@abaoman.org
- : PTATreasurer@abaoman.org
- : PTACom@abaoman.org
- : Bokamaso Kumawenda : PTASec@abaoman.org
 - : PTANew@abaoman.org
 - : PTAErep@abaoman.org
 - : PTAMrep@abaoman.org
 - : PTASrep@abaoman.org
 - : PTALog@abaoman.org
 - : kglider@abaoman.org
 - : plawton@abaoman.org

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

A Shout out to Volunteers! The number one reason to join the PTA is to benefit your children!

Want to get involved in school but not ready for a huge time commitment? Become an HRP (Home Room Parent)! Please contact your parent representatives from PTA. ECE & Elementary, Minita: (PTAERep@abaoman.org) Middle school, Rebecca: (PTAMRep@abaoman.org) High school, Kami: (PTASRep@abaoman.org).

Planning on renewing your supply of holiday decorations? The PTA would love to have your slightly used decorations that you will not be using! Please ensure they are in good condition and labeled according to holiday. Contact our logistics coordinator, Laila AlMawali (PTALog@abaoman.org) do drop

them off.

Ready to take on an entire event...or maybe just the slushy stand or even just some phone calls?

You can volunteer by signing up a form in the PTA section on the ABA website (<u>http://abaoman.org/wp-site/pta-volunteer/</u>) - we will reach out to you!

A big "Thank you" in advance for your support. Feel free to drop us an email at PTAVice@abaoman.org should you have any concerns / ideas.

Have a wonderful year and we look forward to seeing you at school, PTA meetings, and all community events!

Your PTA - 'Building Our Community Together'



Message from the Booster Club



Welcome to the ABA VIPERS family!

With the start of another academic year the ABA campus has been buzzing with lots of activity and many new faces. The campus looks great, the teachers are excited, and the Booster Club were front and center welcoming back our VIPERS and their families. We are looking forward to another sensational year at ABA. To our new students and parents...Welcome to the VIPERS family!

'VIPER' is the name given to our students when they represent ABA both home and abroad. The VIPERS Booster Club is here to inspire, encourage, and support our VIPERS. Booster Club volunteers and the ABA community have worked tirelessly over the past 4 years to support the VIPERS program and part of our

pledge for 2019/20 is now completed with the VIPERS logo proudly emblazoned on the walls in the main gym and MPH.

The Booster Club will once again be offering a great selection of merchandise at our monthly pop-up shops including popular items like our sports bags, hoodies, swim bags, training gear, parents support shirts, and so much more, along with lots of fun activities and events planned throughout the year, so keep an eye out for details in upcoming newsletters.

WE NEED YOU... come be a part of the exciting Booster Club family, join the committee, lend-a-hand at pop-up shops, BBQ's, and special events, offer your skills, and help support our kids!!

To find out more simply drop us a line at boosterclub@abaoman.org. Booster Club is a great way to 'support our kids' while making new friends and having fun.

Yours in community spirit – VIPERS Booster Club



Community Message

