

# AL NOOR-ABA NEWS

5th September 2019

## Message from the Head of School

Dear ABA Community,

Starting off the week with our New Year celebration and holiday at the sighting of the crescent moon, we had the surprise of a four-day week. Sunday, our school was closed and everyone enjoyed the holiday!

A compacted week just makes every day seem a bit busier. I enjoyed the full High School Assembly, where I had the chance to speak with the students there. I have visited grade level and Division morning coffees in order to introduce myself to as many parents as possible. It has been a productive week!

I had a fruitful meeting at the Ministry of Education, accompanied by Anwar Moosa from the school. We met with Ms. Sadiqa Al Lawati, Director of International Schools Office and Mr. Alazahr, Asst. Director of International Schools. I was able to share the 2019 yearbook with them and highlight current successes at ABA. The meeting was an excellent way to start off the year.

### Upcoming Dates

- |        |                                                                                       |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 09 Sep | PTA Open Meeting<br>PTA Room<br>7:45 am - 8:45 am                                     |
|        | Grade 10 E-assessment<br>Information Evening<br>PAC<br>5.30 pm                        |
| 10 Sep | Parent Workshop:<br>What is the PYP<br>Middle School Common Room<br>7:30 am - 8:30 am |
| 11 Sep | Elementary IT Parents<br>Workshop<br>Student Lucter Hall<br>7:45 am - 9:00 am         |



Sports and the Arts are in full swing on campus. Getting involved actually improves student achievement, so I recommend extra-curricular commitment with as much enthusiasm as I honor academic excellence.

Week Two - Check!

Best,

*Sue*

*Dr. Susan R. Groesbeck*

# Message from the Elementary School

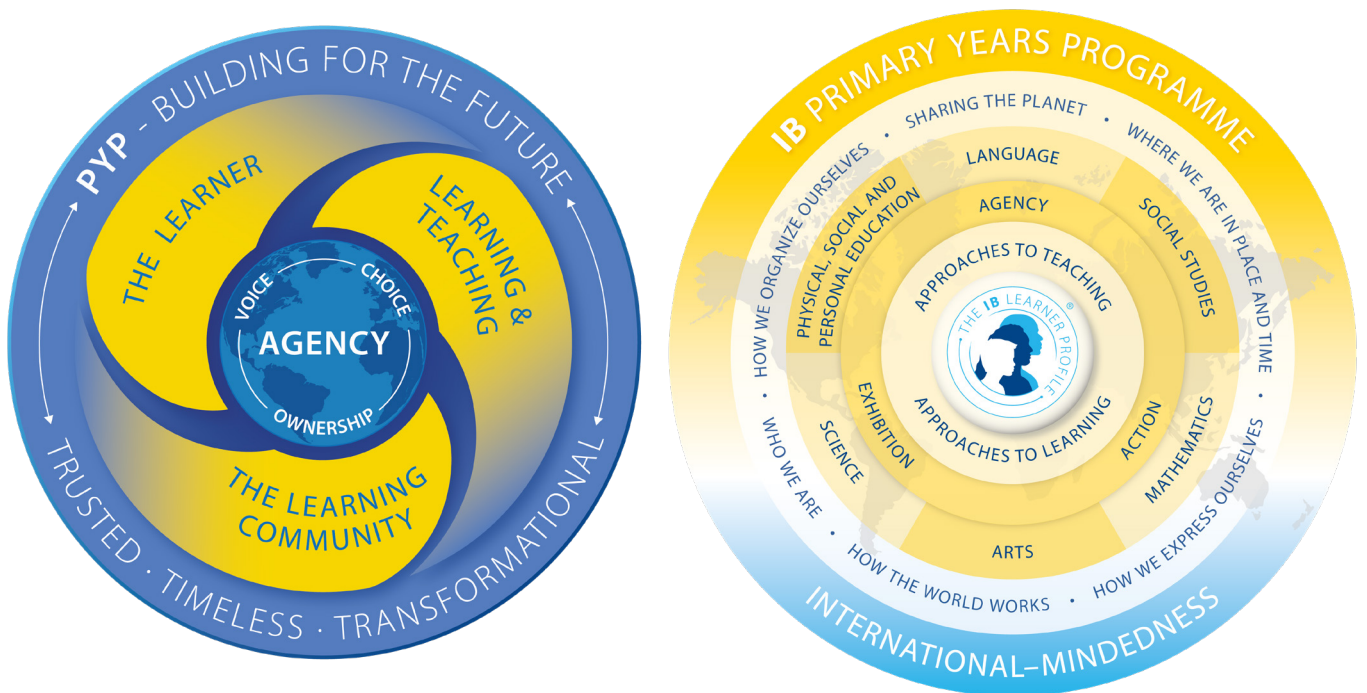
Our Parent Orientation sessions this week were very well attended and parents heard important grade specific information about the curriculum and procedures from all the teachers before going to their child's classroom. If you were unable to attend, please look out for the presentations teachers have shared on Seesaw.

Parent Workshop: What is the PYP?

Tuesday 10th September | 7.30-8.30am | Middle School Common Room

PYP? ATL? Central idea? Transdisciplinary Theme? what does it all mean?

If you are new to ABA, new to PYP or simply want a refresher, please join us for this workshop. To help us plan for numbers, please indicate your planned attendance by completing this quick form: Sign-up: [PYP Parent Workshop](#)



## I.T. Parent Workshop - Secure set-up for your child's device

Wednesday 11th September | 7.30-8.30am | Secondary Lecture Hall

You are invited to the Elementary IT workshop next Wednesday 11th September 11th. This is a hands-on workshop where you will be able to add security settings to your child's tablet and learn about other online safety recommendations at home.

We will focus on:

Tablets: Setting security restrictions to ensure students can only access appropriate content

YouTube: Setting restricted mode on and removing advertisements and recommendations

At Home: Managing children's use of internet and technology

Sam Cook  
Elementary Principal

# Message from the Middle and High School

## **Middle and High School Save the Date - "Meet the Teacher" Evening**

Tuesday 17 September 2019 17:00 - 19:00 Middle and High School will host a "Meet the Teacher" evening in the Gym and Multi-Purpose Hall for parents.

Middle School parents will begin at 17:00 in their child's advisory room from 17:00 - 17:30. After which they will be able to meet all of their child's teachers. This evening is for parents to put a face to the name, as well as have a brief general conversation about the upcoming year.

High School teachers will be available in the gym between 17:00 - 19:00. As these are brief meetings, no appointments are necessary.

Again, this is an informal meeting of teachers in which parents have the opportunity to ask general questions about the upcoming year. We hope to see you there.

## **Attention Middle and High School Parents:**

When your child is unable to attend school, it is of the utmost importance that you notify the school. Please call (24955853) or email the Secondary office by 8:00am. Starting next week, parents will be called when a student is not present and the secondary office has not been notified of this absence by the parent/guardian.

*Kathleen Bowin and Simon Walker  
Middle and High School Principals*

## **After-school Activities**

There is a plethora of after-school activities available to Middle School students at ABA. The advantages of participating in group activities are numerous. We recommend that each student is involved in at least one activity on campus during the term. Extra-curricular activities 'help students to develop healthy behaviours and can further develop a strong sense of identity and passion for learning.'

Opportunities for students in Grades 6-8 at the moment include:

**Eco-Soc & EcoWarriors (Environment club)**  
**Open Art Studio**  
**Amnesty (Gr 8)**  
**Math Enrichment Club (mentors)**  
**Arabic & French Clubs**  
**Badminton Club**  
**MS MUN**  
**Robotics & Botball Challenge**  
**V3C Club (video content creation)**

**Student Council;**  
**Concert Band (Gr 7 & 8)**  
**Middle School Drama & Production**  
**Chess Club (Gr 8)**  
**Seasonal Sports-volleyball & tennis**  
**Supervised Study Hall**  
**Choir- The Tribe**  
**Gardening Club**  
**Makerspace**

The link below allows you to view the whole year's activities on campus for Middle School students as well as times and venues for each activity: <http://abaoman.org/wp-site/secondary-asas/secondary-seasonal-and-year-long-clubs/>

This link provides a description for many of the activities:  
<http://abaoman.org/wp-site/secprogram/secondary-activity-descriptions/>

This link gives details of Middle School sports each, including dates and times:  
<http://abaoman.org/wp-site/secathleticprogram/sports-season-schedule/>

## PSAT Date Change Reminder for Grades 9-11

A gentle reminder that if your son or daughter signed up for the upcoming PSAT examination (October 2019) please note that the date is now October 30th.

The change to 30th of October from the 16th of October is due to ABA being closed for the fall break (12-17, October), which was noted in the June 13th, 2019 Newsletter.

Please look forward to next week's newsletter with information about when registered students will pay the exam fee (10 OMR) and where they will pick up their PSAT student study guide.

*Counseling Department*

## ABA Social Media Update

Dear Parents,

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

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

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

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

*Peter Wadsworth - Director of Technology*



## Message from the Extra Curriculum Program

### **Middle School Sport**

This week was the beginning of the MS volleyball program with a fantastic turn out of 78 students coming to training. There was real energy in the gyms from the enthusiasm generated by our young and upcoming future athletes. We are still looking for more Grade 6 boys and girls and Grade 7 girls to come and join the volleyball fun. Training for the Grade 6 and 7 team is on Monday and Thursday 2:30 - 3:30pm in the MPH.

### **Middle East Sports Accociation Championship (MESAC)**

It has been a positive start to the year with over 120 students turning up for MESAC season one (volleyball, swimming, golf and academic games) tryouts. There was a real buzz and a positive vibe amongst all the students. Leading a balanced lifestyle is essential for the development of a child.

Please continue to encourage your child to participate in a MESAC event. We still need more students, especially female swimmers.

Letters for the travelling team will be sent home over the coming weeks to MESAC season one families outlining the costs. As the tournaments are not far away please ensure payment for the MESAC tournaments are made by the due date.

The first MESAC Strength and Conditioning session on Wednesday morning, consisting of 30 season one Athletes was a huge success. Our strength and conditioning coach, Mara Hakim, took the students through a circuit of various workouts focusing on core stability and technique. These sessions are a great platform for the students to enhance and maintain their fitness levels in the season.

**Events next week - Come and support our teams**

Our first games for the year start next week against our local rivals TAISM. Come and support the boys Volleyball teams.

11th September	U19 Boys vs TAISM @ ABA	4:00 - 5:15pm
11th September	U16 Boys vs TAISM @ ABA	4:00 - 5:15pm

*Paul Brace - Athletics Director*



## Message from the Fine Arts Department



Rehearsals have already begun for The Addams Family which will be performed on 29th and 30th October in the Performing Arts Centre. Performing in a musical is an experience that young people will remember for the rest of their lives, and it will truly be our pleasure to work with the students on this exciting project. School shows really are something that the whole community can get involved with. Do you have a hidden talent you'd be willing to share? There are a number of roles we would welcome parental support on: costume, hair/makeup, photography, back-stage to name a few. We are also looking for someone who is able to help us choreograph a Tango dance! Please do get in touch with Anthony Langrish on [alangrish@abaoman.org](mailto:alangrish@abaoman.org) if you feel you are able to support our production team.

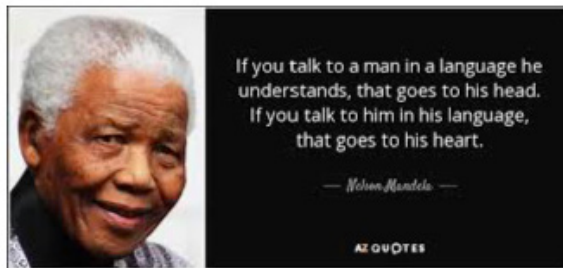
We look forward to seeing you all at the performances.

Zita & Peter Gange

# Message from the Mother Language Program

Welcome back everyone!

After all the great feedback we received from parents last year and with the growth of the program over the years, we are so excited and looking forward to starting our after school Mother Language program for students from K2-Grade 10. We offered 8 different languages last year and we hope to continue growing the program even more this year with your support.



The program is offered for students from K2 to grade 11. Please visit our website to learn more about our program. <http://abaoman.org/wp-site/mother-language-program/>

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN and will be closed on Thursday, September 19 at 6pm. Please click on the link below to register your child.

<https://docs.google.com/a/abaoman.org/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScmj5lgpfLJJBvp8hpXfqHNPn4UynMtW9NDOUTl4cRBx-EWLKA/viewform>

We are also delighted to announce that Erum Banatwala will be taking over the Mother Language Program Coordinator teacher role to help support the program.

*Erum Banatwala and Diana El Bizri  
Mother Language Program Coordinators*

# Message from the PTA



Building our community together!

We hope you had a great first week! We have a lot of exciting ideas that we are eager to share with the community. So don't forget to come to the upcoming PTA meeting on Monday, 9th September at 7:40am in the PTA room!

## New Parents:

Stay a little longer for coffee and a chat with our New Parent Reps. This forum is especially for you. We know you have questions or might need some help getting settled at school or in Oman. We are here to help!

## Spooktacular

PTA's much awaited first event is round the corner. Please be on the lookout for an email and information in upcoming newsletters.

## 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 CALENDAR On Sale Now!



Only 3 omr!

*One is not enough!*

Available outside ECE  
Drop-off (7.00 - 7.30 am)  
Pick-up (2.00 - 2.30 pm)  
Limited Supplies





### Homeroom Parent (HRP) Network

PTA invites volunteers to take on roles of HRPs and Asst. HRPS for ECE, Elementary, Middle School and High School. Send an email no later than 12th September, 2019 to the parent representatives:

ECE & Elementary Minita: ([PTAERep@abaoman.org](mailto:PTAERep@abaoman.org))

Middle school Rebecca: ([PTAMRep@abaoman.org](mailto:PTAMRep@abaoman.org))

High school Kami: ([PTASRep@abaoman.org](mailto:PTASRep@abaoman.org))

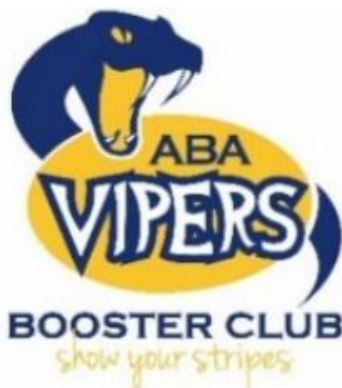
You can also volunteer by filling the form in the PTA-Volunteer section of the ABA website (<http://abaoman.org/wp-site/pta-volunteer/>) - we will reach out to you!

Have a wonderful weekend!

*Your PTA*

*'Building Our Community Together'*

## Message from the Booster Club



### Mark Your Calendar!!!

The VIPERS program is off and running for another year! Between swimming, volleyball, golf, academic games and ASA sign up, the sports halls and pool are full every afternoon. We anticipate an exciting year ahead for our VIPERS!!!!

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR.....**see the list of all the exciting events planned for this year and don't forget...**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!!

### HOODIES

Hoodie orders will be taken at our September Pop-Up Shop. Keep an eye on the newsletter for dates and times! If you have ordered a hoodie, we will email you directly when it is ready for collection.

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

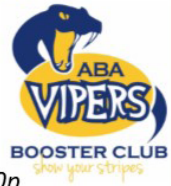
## VIPERS BOOSTER CLUB EVENTS CALENDAR 2019/20

### 2019

- 26 SEPTEMBER - **FUNDRAISER – 'Ice Frenzy'** - Drama Court - 10.30a-1.00p
- 24 OCTOBER - **FUNDRAISER - 'Spike Strike Score'** - GYM & MPH - 11.30a-1.00p
- 07/08/09 NOVEMBER - **MESAC Varsity Volleyball** - GYM & MPH
  - ABA Campus - Spirit Day + BBQ + Concession Stand - ALL WEEKEND 09.00a-4.00p
- 13 NOVEMBER – **MESAC SEASON 1 AWARDS** - MPH - 6.00-7.30p
- 25 NOVEMBER – **FUNDRAISER – 'Ice Frenzy + Sports Gear'** - Drama Court - 11.30a-1.00p

### 2020

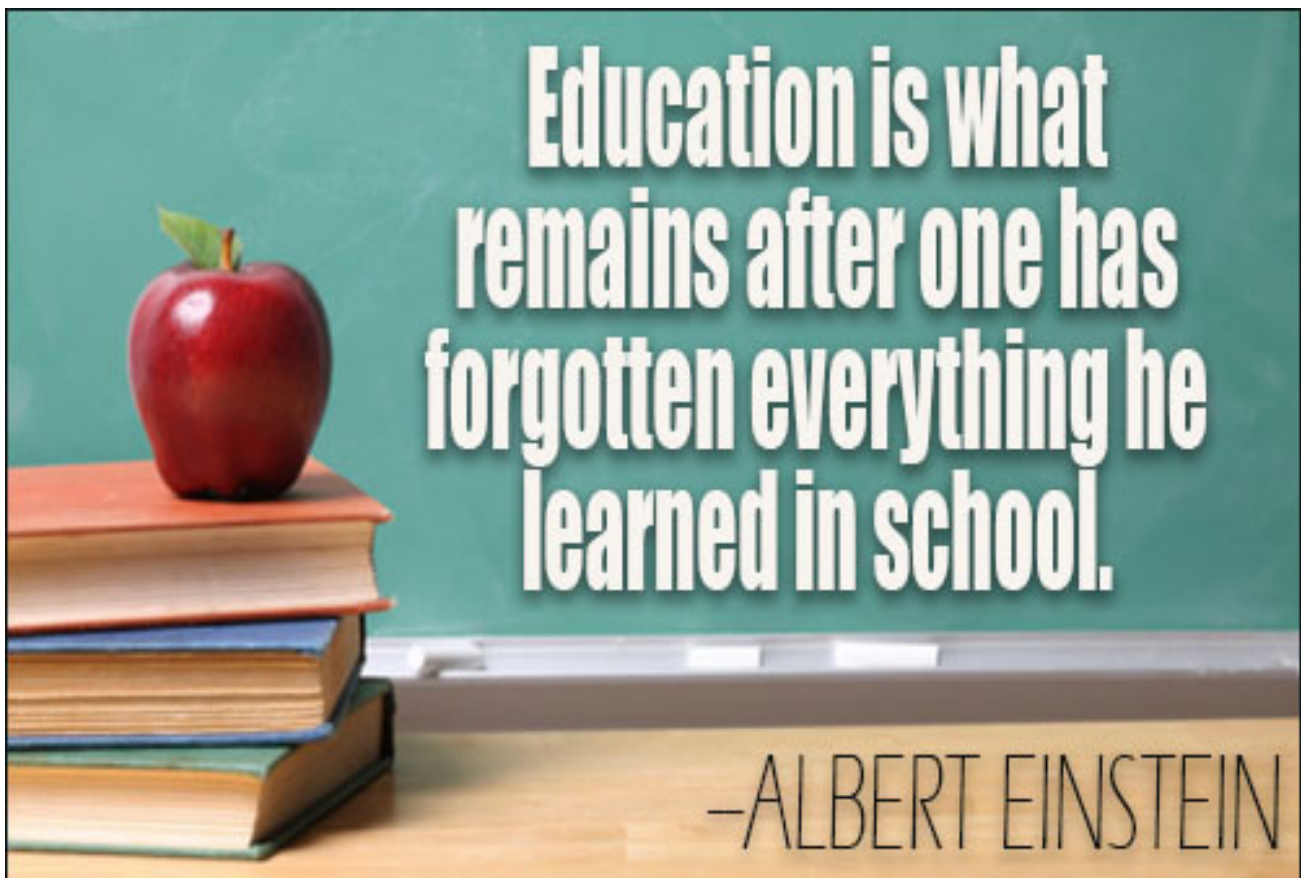
- 13 JANUARY - **FUNDRAISER - 'Half Shot Hot Shot'** - GYM & MPH - 10.30a-1.00p
- 30 /31 JAN - 01 FEBRUARY - **MESAC JV SOCCER + MESAC CROSS COUNTRY**
  - Sultan Qaboos Stadium - BBQ + Concession Stand - ALL WEEKEND 09.00a-4.00p
- 6/7/8 FEBRUARY - **MESAC VARSITY SOCCER**– Sultan Qaboos Stadium
  - Sultan Qaboos Stadium - BBQ + Concession Stand - ALL WEEKEND 09.00a-4.00p
- 12 FEBRUARY – **MESAC SEASON 2 AWARDS** - MPH - 6.00-7.30p
- 16 MARCH 2020 - **FUNDRAISER - 'Annual Ice Ice Crazy'** - Drama Court—11.30a-1.00p
- 02 APRIL 2020 - **COACHES APPRECIATION LUNCH** - PTA Room - 11.30a-1.00p
- 16/17/18 APRIL 2020 - **MESAC TRACK & FIELD**
  - Sultan Qaboos Stadium - BBQ + Concession Stand - ALL WEEKEND 09.00a-4.00p
- 22 APRIL 2020 – **MESAC SEASON 3 AWARDS** - MPH - 6.00-7.30p



NOTE: the above does not include additional monthly pop-up shops & special pop-up shops / travel polo + sock sales for MESAC participants

*For more info on how you can support the VIPERS - [boosterclub@abaoman.org](mailto:boosterclub@abaoman.org)*

Yours in community spirit  
VIPERS Booster Club





# Community Message

## School-Wide Professional Development Book Clubs



This year ABA staff will be participating in an exciting new initiative - PD Book Clubs. A team of teachers and librarians selected 12 book options covering a wide selection of topics including educational pedagogy, wellbeing, critical thinking, and Third Culture Kids. There are also 2 books that will better help us to understand our host culture and the history of Oman. ABA's Mission, Vision, and Values were used alongside the Effective Learning Principles to guide the choices - [you can see the 12 options here!](http://bit.ly/ABAPDBookClub) (<http://bit.ly/ABAPDBookClub>) All ABA staff members will choose one book to read, then have two opportunities during the year to meet off campus with other staff members to discuss the book and its impact on their professional development. All of the books are available in the Secondary Library if you'd like to read along!

*Courtney Park and Mara Hakim  
School Librarians*

