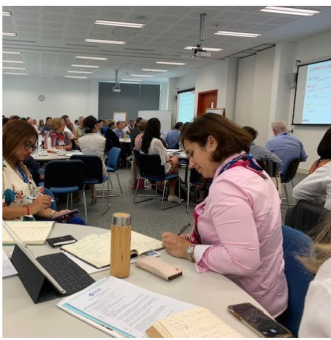


AL NOOR-ABA NEWS

12th September 2019

Message from the Head of School

This past weekend, four members of the Board and I traveled to Hanoi to attend the Governance as Leadership Training Institute. There were 120 delegates from 24 schools with 89 Board members and 31 Administrators. It was very exciting to share Governance issues with schools from Guangzhou, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Dubai and Tokyo, for example. The ABA Board members paid their own fare to attend this prestigious event, and I was proud of our presentation and learning. We will put that good learning to use in our full-day Board Retreat this coming Saturday. This is a hard-working Board!



I also attended the MESAC Conference of Heads and Athletic Directors this week. ABA plays such an important role in MESAC and I know the esteem in which Paul Brace is held by the other 5 schools in our association. The athletes in our school are well-served by MESAC.

I hope to see many of you at next week's Head's Coffees. Please sign up!

Best,

Sue

Dr. Susan R. Groesbeck

Upcoming Dates

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 15 Sep | Career Talk-Data Science
Student Lecture Hall
10:25 am - 11:05am |
| 16 & 18 Sep | Head of Shool Coffee Meeting
PTA Room |
| 17 Sep | Parent Information Session
Oman Ministry of Education
Scholarships
Middle School Common Room
3:30 pm - 4:15 pm |
| | Grade 12 Parent Information
University Applications
PAC
4:30 pm - 5:00 pm |
| | IA Parent Information Session
Student Lecture Hall
4:30 pm - 5:00 pm |
| | Meet the Advisor/Mentor and
the Teacher
Middle and High School
GYM
5 pm - 7 pm |
| | Middle School Ski Trip meeting
Middle School Common Room
4:15pm - 5pm |
| 19 Sep | UK University Fair
Student Lecture Hall
10:25 am - 11:05 am |



Message from the Elementary School

Thanks to those who attended our workshop “What is the PYP?” on Tuesday morning. Participants reflected on the attributes of the learner profile that they relate to or struggle with, explored the six transdisciplinary themes under which we build our units of inquiry for each grade, pondered how the Approaches to Learning are important skills in everyday life, and considered how agency is integral to their children’s learning.

During the recent review of the PYP framework by the IBO, agency was highlighted as an important element of the programme. School as we remember it included many rules and expectations that we were expected to comply with. If we dared to ask ‘why?’ the answer might be ‘because I said so!’ A focus on agency recognises that students deserve to feel fully involved in their learning, and will learn better if they experience self-efficacy.

“Efficacy refers to an individual’s belief in their “capabilities to organize and execute the courses of action required to produce given attainments” (Bandura 1997). This belief is integrally connected to agency because the stronger the sense of self-efficacy, the greater likelihood that the individual will exercise agency (Bandura 1997).

Self-efficacy influences the choices students are confident in making, which, in turn, influences the degree of ownership and impact they have in their lives.

“When teachers acknowledge learner agency and the importance of self-efficacy, students become partners in the learning process. In this partnership, teachers work alongside students, meet with small groups and individuals as needed, and monitor learning and provide feedback.”

Students demonstrate agency when they:

- Influence and direct their own learning
- Make choices
- Voice opinions
- Ask questions and express wonderings
- Communicate understandings
- Construct new meanings
- Participate in and contribute to the learning community



*PYP Principals into Practice (IBO; 2018)

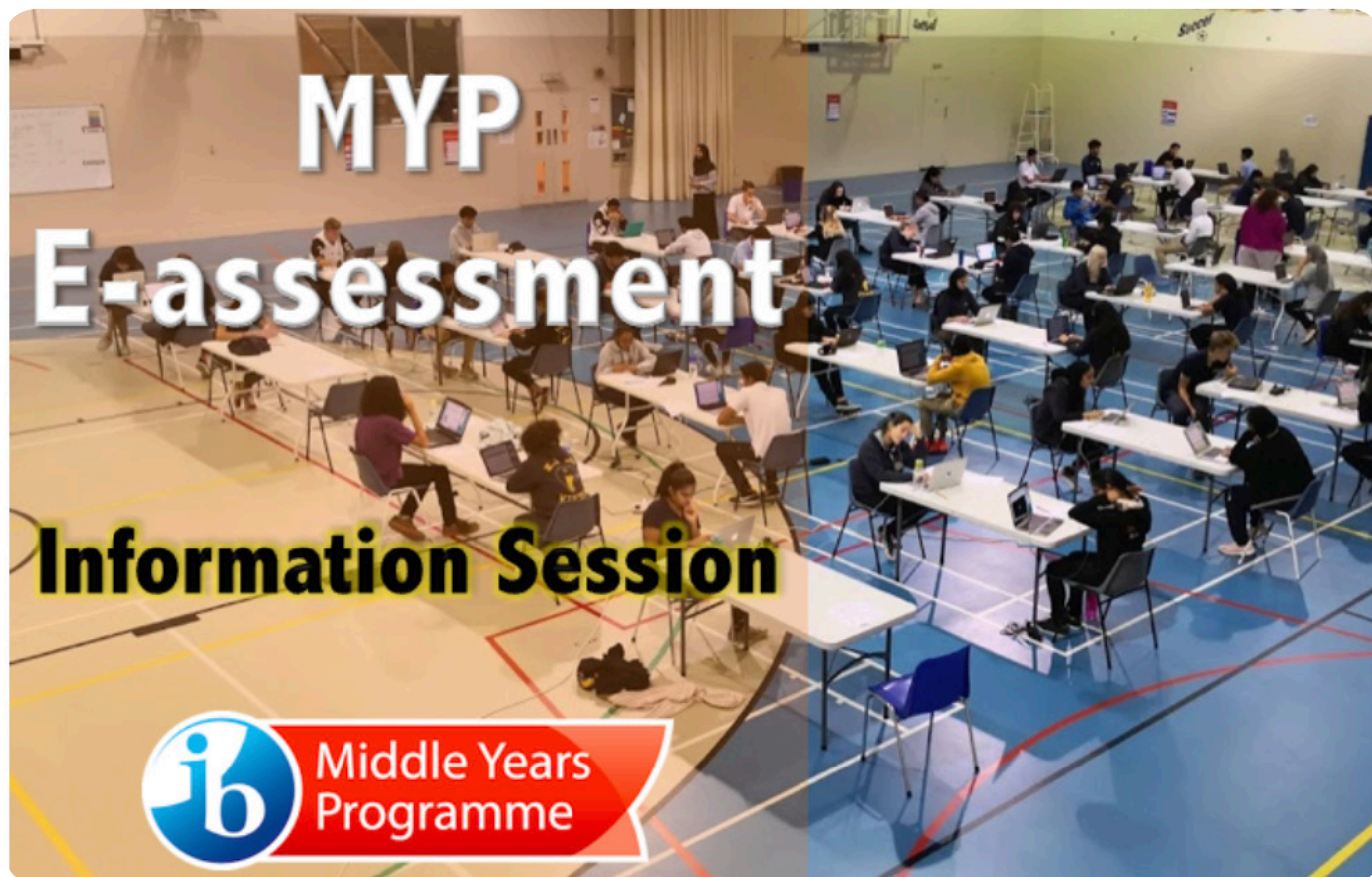
What can you do to acknowledge agency in your child’s life? For some inspiration, read [The Key to Raising a Happy Child Corey Turner, 2018](#)

*Sam Cook
Elementary Principal*

Message from the Middle School

The MYP eAssessment registration process has officially commenced. The deadline for returning completed forms to the Middle and High School office is Monday, 23rd September 2019.

On Monday this week, an informational meeting was convened to share guidelines for the registration process. The session was led by Mr. Barker, our MYP coordinator. Parents who attended the meeting asked clarifying questions and also were able to collect the registration forms.



If you could not make it to the meeting, the registration form can be collected from the Middle and High School office or downloaded [here](#)

Additionally, a video was shown that shared our experiences of the eAssessment last year. The video was produced by Mr Atiq Hussain, with special thanks to Harshita, Petar and Alya for sharing their experiences. The video can be seen at this [link](#).

More information about the eAssessment will be shared with you throughout the year.

*Megel Barker
MYP Coordinator*

2020 Middle School Ski Trip

We are pleased to announce that the annual Middle School Ski trip to Switzerland will take place during the Spring Break, 21st- 28th March, 2020. This trip enables your child to develop new relationships, cultivate new skills in skiing or snowboarding, problem solve in unfamiliar situations, develop physically in a healthy outdoor environment as well as experience risk and responsibility in a European location.

As an introduction to this trip, we invite Middle School parents and students to a meeting on Tuesday 17th September from 4:15-5:00 pm in the MS Common Room.

During this meeting details of the trip, accommodation and costings will be provided. Following this, the sign up google form will be accessible on the ABA website (from 6.00 pm onwards) for students to register and gain a place.

The number of students able to attend is limited to 40 and early registration and deposit payment is recommended as demand is always high. We look forward to seeing you and answering any questions you may have.

2020 Ski Trip Team

Message from the High School

Adult learning

I have been fortunate enough to learn from and spend time with some great minds. One of those is a gentleman by the name of Daniel Wilson who is now the Director of arguably the most respected and influential research bodies, Harvard Project Zero. During one conversation with Daniel, I asked how he gets a sense of the quality of education provided in a school when he might only be visiting for a few days, or conducting research over a fairly short period of time. I was surprised with Daniel's answer, although what he shared has stuck with me since. His perspective was that rather than looking at student learning, look at adult learning and how the adults in a building collaborate with each other regarding students and student learning. From his experience, he shared that there is a strong correlation between adult and student learning. How and what the adults learn influences how they teach and how students learn.



When recruiting new teachers, I am frequently asked about school investment in professional learning and can share with confidence that ABA invests in the professional learning of its' team. In addition to the various courses that teachers can access we have also progressed from the more traditional appraisal systems to one of professional learning, inquiry and collaboration. As a parent, you might be familiar with our PYP exhibition, MYP Personal Project Exhibition or the DP Visual Arts Exhibition, however you may not have been aware that we held a mini exhibition of adult learning. Through the academic year, all teachers inquired into a professional learning goal which was connected to one of our Effective Learning Principles. (see next page).

Throughout the academic year, teachers participated in peer observations, visited different areas of our school to learn from colleagues, considered feedback from classroom walkthroughs, surveyed students about the impact of teaching strategies, reflected upon professional articles and took part in a wide variety of internal and external courses.



- 1 When learners are **intrinsically motivated** to learn. Their individual professional inquiry culminated in a professional learning exhibition before the summer when all teachers shared their professional learning with colleagues. We know that education is a key part of our rapidly changing world and to keep pace, a focus upon adult learning is crucial. Education has changed greatly since we were at school as students. To help provide parents with an insight into these changes we continue to offer a number of different parent events which you can see in the dates below.
- 2 When learners feel **valued**, comfortable and are willing to take risks.
- 3 When learners enjoy and are **engaged** in the learning process.
- 4 When learners are learning in their **zone of proximal development** (ZPD).
- 5 When learners understand how to be **successful**.
- 6 When learners have the **ATL skills** to learn independently and collaboratively.
- 7 When learners are able to **make connections** and create new and deeper understanding.
- 8 When learners use a **common language** for learning and approaches for thinking.
- 9 When learners develop **characteristics** that support their thinking.
- 10 When learners take **responsibility** for their learning.

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 (SLH) 4:30pm- 5:00pm
- Tuesday 17th September, Grade 12 parent presentation on university applications (PAC) 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

MESAC- Preseason Training

In our continuing efforts to promote healthy living and develop lifelong skills ABA offers a range of sports throughout the year. The sports are placed in seasons to match our competition schedule. To ensure our athletes have the necessary preparation for the MESAC tournaments some our programs run before and after the season. Opposite is the preseason schedule to date.

MESAC Basketball	Friday 2:30 - 4:30pm
MESAC Basketball	Saturday 10:30am - 1:00pm
MESAC Badminton	Saturday 9:00 - 11:00am
MESAC Strength and Conditioning	Wednesday 6:00 - 7:00am

Under the watchful eyes of our great coaches, our teams have been working on their skills and game understanding. It has been wonderful to watch our MS athletes and MESAC participants develop so quickly from only two weeks of training.

We have a big week coming up. I hope to see you at the volleyball court.

15th September	Under 19 Girls vs TAISM @ TAISM	4:00 - 5:15pm
15th September	Under 16 Girls vs TAISM @ TAISM	4:00 - 5:15pm
15th September	Under 14 Boys vs TAISM @ ABA	4:00 - 5:15pm
15th September	Under 13 Boys vs TAISM @ ABA	4:00 - 5:15pm
18th September	Under 19 Boys vs TAISM @ TAISM	4:00 - 5:15pm
18th September	Under 16 Boys vs TAISM @ TAISM	4:00 - 5:15pm
19th September	Under 14 Girls vs TAISM @ ABA	4:00 - 5:15pm
19th September	Under 13 Girls vs TAISM @ TAISM	4:00 - 5:15pm
19th September	Under 12 Boys vs PSO @ ABA	2:30 - 3:30pm
19th September	Under 12 Girls vs PSO @ ABA	2:30 - 3:30pm

MESAC: Heads of School and Athletic Director Meeting

This week the MESAC Heads of School and Athletic Directors met to collaboratively plan the MESAC year. I wanted to share one powerful statement that will be put on a banner and displayed in the gyms, pool and fields in the near future. It is a good reminder to all of us on the philosophy behind MESAC.

A REMINDER TO THE MESAC COMMUNITY

- These are student athletes
- Respect the officials, coaches, players and spectators
- It is just a game

*Paul Brace
Athletics Director*



Message from the Fine Arts Department

ABA Jukebox

Our jukebox will keep you up to date with what's being played in music class.



Grade 6 George Ezra - Budapest

Linking with their statement of inquiry "Effective communication gives life meaning."

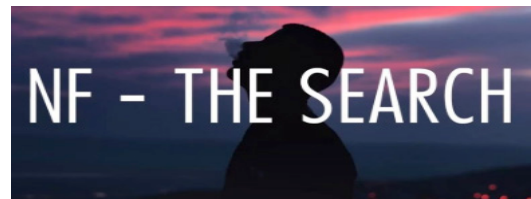


Grade 7 Ed Sheeran FEAT Yebba - Best Part of Me
Linking with their statement of inquiry "We are more powerful when we empower each other."



Grade 8 NF - The Search

Linking with their statement of inquiry "The mind and body are not separate, what affects one, affects the other."



*Zita Gange
Music Teacher*

Message from the Mother Language Program

Dear ABA parents,

Registration for our after school Mother Language program for students from K2 - Grade 10 is still open! We offered 8 different languages last year and we hope to continue to grow the program this year with your support.

You can also request to start a class for a new language! Just click on "register" button on our webpage and mention it in the registration form.

The program is offered for students from K2 to grade 10. Please visit our website to register and learn more about our program.

<http://abaoman.org/wp-site/mother-language-program/>

REGISTRATION WILL BE CLOSED on Thursday, September 19 at 6pm.

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

Message from the PTA



Building our community together!

Thank you to all the parents that attended the first PTA Open meeting and the New Parents' Coffee morning. These meetings are a great source of information. The minutes of the open meeting will be posted on the PTA website:

<http://abaoman.org/wp-site/pta/>

Next Open Meeting: Monday 7th October @ 7:40am

PTA Agenda

Monday, September 23rd 2019
@ PTA room

HRP Orientation : 7.40 to 9.40 am

Thursday, October 31st 2019

Spooktacular : 5.00 to 7.00 pm

Volunteering opportunities are limitless!
HRPs



Missing HRPs

Elem:
2L & 30

ECE:
K1 & K3P



Volunteer before
12th September!

M. School
6.1 & 7.2

H. School
All Classes!

A big thank you to everyone that has come forward and volunteered to be a Home Room Parent. We still have a few classes that need volunteers. Sign up by 12th September, 2019 with the parent representatives:

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

Middle school Rebecca: (PTAMRep@abaoman.org)

High school Kami: (PTASRep@abaoman.org)

Confirmation emails will be sent out after the deadline.

All volunteer opportunities can be found on the form at:

<http://abaoman.org/wp-site/pta-volunteer/>

SPOOKTACULAR

Our first big event is right around the corner. Contact trick-or-treat@abaoman.org to participate, volunteer or just to get more information.

We look forward to hearing from you! Have a wonderful weekend.

Volunteers Needed!

If you enjoy watching kids revel in excitement then this is the event for you! We need fun-loving volunteers to make our Trick-or-Treat 'neighborhood' a memorable one!

The "TrT" neighborhood consists of around 25 stops (called doors) mapped out from Admin through the grades 4, 5 and 6 areas, around the drama court back to the PAC and ending back in the parking lot.

Each stop is decorated thematically by parents, teachers, or students who then greet our eager Trick-or-Treaters and hand out treats!

To sign up for a door or to find out more, email Clauss at trick-or-treat@aboman.org



TRICK OR TREAT A SPOOKTACULAR EVENT

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 5-7pm

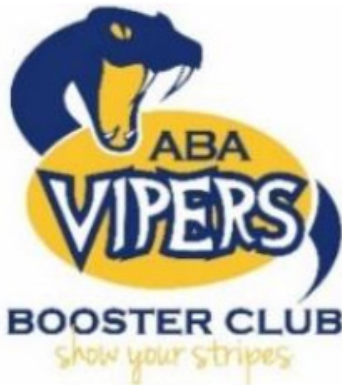
SAVE THE DATE

Trick-or-Treat, Pumpkin Carving Contest, Games, Food



Your PTA
'Building Our Community Together'

Message from the Booster Club



Booster Club – Pledging our Support

Booster Club was established to inspire community spirit, encourage our athletes, artists, and parents, and support the VIPERS program. One of our objectives is to raise funds to enhance the VIPERS programs and we are pleased to announce that with the support of the ABA community the Booster Club pledges have been met for the 2019/20 academic year.

These pledges include MESAC program– sports bags / badges for over 350 students / coaches, MSSL program – quality custom training shirts for over 200 students, MPSSL program – quality custom water bottles for over 200 students, and quality custom painting of the Gym and MPH walls with the VIPERS Logo. Thank you to the ABA community for your continued support of the VIPERS program. These items will be allocated to students, selected to represent ABA through the VIPERS program, by the Athletics department throughout the coming seasons.

Our next VIPERS Booster Club Pop-up Shop will be on Monday 23rd September – 07:00-7:45am outside the ECE. Hoodie orders will be taken.



2019/2020

MESAC Program

- 350+ Sports Bags
- 350+ Badges
- 350+ Badges
- 350+ Badges
- 350+ Badges
- 350+ Badges
- 350+ Badges
- 350+ Badges
- 350+ Badges
- 350+ Badges

MSSL Program

MPSSL Program

2019/20
Booster Club Pledges

Booster Club Pop-Up Shop

Get your official **VIPERS** BOOSTER CLUB **MERCHANDISE**

Monday 23 September
07.00-7.45am

come see our friendly team outside the ECE Building
HOODIE ORDERS AVAILABLE!!

VIPERS Merchandise 2019/20
AVAILABLE NOW! ONLY from VIPERS Booster Club!



BRACE YOURSELVES! AVAILABLE NOW!

All proceeds from the sale of VIPERS merchandise go to the VIPERS Booster Club supporting our ABA!

Our first event for the year will be our 'Ice Frenzy' on Thursday 26th September – 10:30-1.:00pm in the Drama Court. Don't forget to brrrrrrrrrrring your baiza's and support our VIPERS programs.

To find out more about the Booster Club and how you can help, 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

Carpool

Mother with child in grade 1 is looking to form a carpool for anyone living near KGIS or The Sultan's School. Please contact Subashi @ 96187134

Reminder: Head of School coffee morning

Don't forget to sign up for the Head of School Coffee.

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 admin@abaoman.org.



