

AL NOOR-ABA NEWS

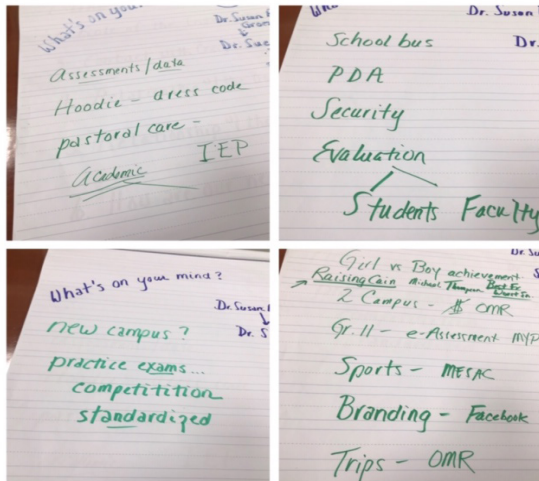
26th September 2019

Message from the Head of School

Dear ABA Community,

Over the course of the last two weeks, I have had four Coffee sessions with a pproximately 65 parents. The lovely cross-section of parents represented brand new parents and those who have been at the school for 18 or 19 years. There were parents of ECE children and those who had graduated two and three former students, and who have high schoolers still in the DP programme. The discussions were rich and participatory. I asked for topics from the floor and also constructed the areas that I thought would be common areas of interest. In each session I covered the following topics:

- *The role of the interim as different from the permanent Head of School.
- *My ongoing and meaningful contact with Craig Williamson.
- *My compliments to this Board for their dedication for governance training and the importance of the relationship between the Head of School and the Chair.
- *My relationship with the Senior Leadership Team and their stability and excellence.
- *The excitement I feel about the new teachers and their backgrounds and capabilities and our commitment to them.
- *Communications - Website, Newsletter, Facebook, Marketing, Branding.
- *What to do with: I have an idea/ comment/ kudos/ complaint...
- *What to do with: I have tickets to...



We talked about all these topics both casually and in depth. You are welcome to ask any of the attendees to walk you through the topics. At the end of each session, I went over additional topics which each group wanted to go over. In two separate groups, the hoodies came up and I affirmed that the Booster Club hoodies are the only hoodies that will be allowed once the delivery of the Viper hoodie arrive. A fruitful conversation was held about pastoral care at ABA which includes the advisor system and learning support. Enhanced Security for events and on the buses was requested, as well as administration support for reducing PDA's among the older students. All questions were honored and discussed.

We all left the coffees feeling that

we were there to improve a school we loved and were invested in. I appreciated the time that the parents gave to the school by coming to the coffees and I feel the information I received will help me and the Senior Leadership Team and the Board going forward. I also feel that the parents who attended went away with confidence that the Board and the administration are here to listen and make improvements with the students' best interest in mind. All in all, it was time well spent!

Can it be that September is drawing to a close so quickly?

Best,
Sue
Dr. Susan R. Groesbeck

Upcoming Dates

29 Sep	University Visit : UK , US & Middle East Group SLH - 10:15 - 11:15 am
01 Oct	ISA Grades 3-9 SLH - 7 am - 3:30 pm Boston University Upper Foyer - 10:25 - 11:05 am Parent Grade 11 Discovery Week Meetings PAC - 6 - 6:50 pm
02 Oct	ISA Grades 3 - 9 SLH - 7 am - 3:30 pm Middle School Coffee Morning Middle School Common Room 7:45 - 9 am
08 Oct	Board of Director's Board Meeting Elementary Library - 4:00PM

Reminder...

Reminder to all Parents that the High School Building entrance is open daily from 06:00 – 08:00 am and again from 14:01 – 15:00 pm. The doors will not be open at any other time during the school day. Please use the front entrance to access the campus at all other times.

Parents to please check their contact and emergency contact details in the Parent Portal and update where necessary. If unable to make certain changes, please email the Registrar (registrar@abaoman.org) with the relevant information.

Message to the Whole School

Counselor News for Elementary, Middle and High School Parents

Counselor's, Colette O'Driscoll, Alli Hostetter and Claire Anthony, met with parents on Tuesday of this week and presented information on ABA's Child Protection Policy and Procedures. In addition, an outline of the Safety Curriculum for each section of the school was discussed and additional questions were answered. If you were unable to attend this session, you can access the full presentation [here](#). Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions pertaining to this topic.

Counseling Team

International Schools' Assessment (ISA) - Grades 3-9

Next week, on the mornings of 1st and 2nd October 2019, our students will take part in the International Schools' Assessment (ISA). In Grades 3 - 8, students will take the assessments in their classrooms. Grade 9 will take their assessments in the Secondary Lecture Hall.

International Schools' Assessment (ISA) is an annual assessment program that has been specially developed to measure skills in mathematical literacy, reading and writing of students in international schools. ISA is based on the internationally endorsed reading and mathematical literacy frameworks of the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) developed by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. It is designed and developed in Australia by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER).

ISA is not a test, and cannot be passed or failed. While we give opportunities for practice, students do not 'prepare', since the assessment is consistent with what students learn on a regular basis. The only preparation you can provide is a good night's sleep, a healthy breakfast, and arriving at school on time.

The results of the ISA provide information about individual students' growth, as well as to inform and guide the school's curriculum and instruction. Students complete a reading literacy, mathematical literacy and two writing assessments, each of which takes between 45 minutes to one hour to sit. The assessments include both multiple-choice and open-ended tasks.

ABA will receive an individual report for each student in January. The report is provided by ACER and gives information about each student's performance. Each family will receive a copy of the report to keep, and another copy will be stored in the student's personal file kept with the Registrar. ISA has prepared a Privacy Statement for your information which has been emailed to all parents.

If you have any questions about the ISA at ABA please feel free to contact the appropriate administrator.



<i>Dr. Susan R. Groesbeck</i>	<i>Head of School</i>
<i>Sam Cook</i>	<i>Elementary Principal</i>
<i>Kathleen Bowin</i>	<i>Middle School Principal</i>
<i>Simon Walker</i>	<i>High School Principal</i>

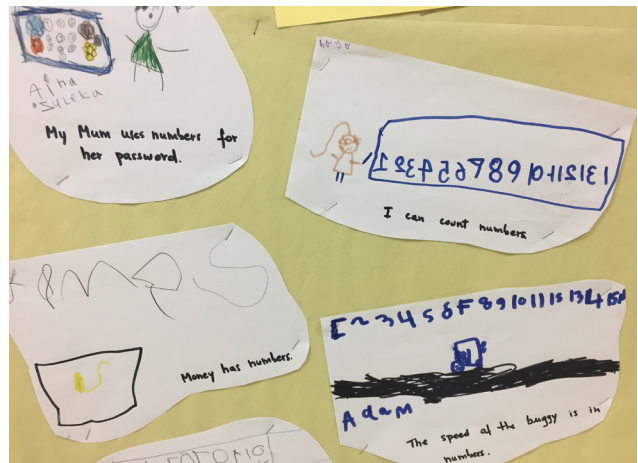
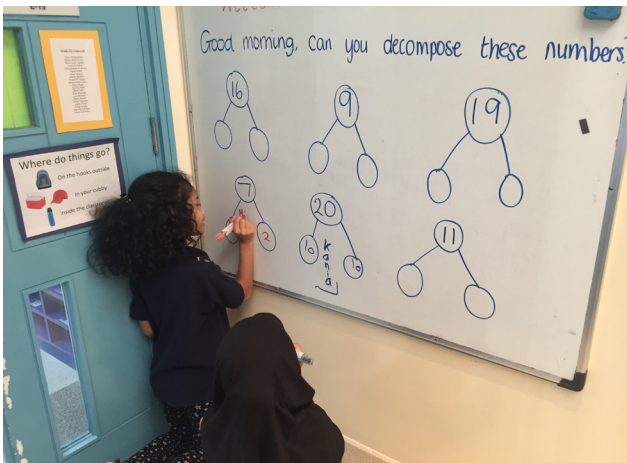
Message from the Elementary School

Parent Coffee Morning

Mathematics in the elementary school - Tuesday 8th October, Middle school common room, 7:40-8:20am

Last year, the focus of our in-school professional development work was mathematics. We read and researched about best practices in mathematics teaching and learning, reviewed our learning outcomes alongside other established curriculum frameworks, and updated our mathematics resources.

Come to this coffee morning to hear how we have updated our maths curriculum, and how we will report your child's progress this year.



Sam Cook - Elementary Principal

Message from the Middle School Counselor



Middle School Monthly Coffee Morning

Middle School parents are invited to the monthly coffee morning on Tuesday 2nd October. The topic for discussion in October is, "How to Break the Nagging Cycle and Turn Responsibility Over to Your Middle Schooler." The format for the session will be a workshop, with active participation and group discussions.

We look forward to seeing you in the Common Room from 7:40 am-8:30 am on Tuesday.

2020 Ski Trip

Sign up for the 2020 ski trip is underway and places are filling fast. This is the one opportunity for Middle School students to experience an overseas trip this year. This [LINK](#) will take you directly to the parent presentation and provide you with more details on this exciting venture.

Please do not hesitate to contact Claire Anthony: canthony@abaoman.org, Paul Brace: pbrace@abaoman.org or Raewyn Jack: rjack@abaoman.org if you have any questions regarding the ski trip.

Counseling Team

Message from the Extra Curriculum Program

What is coming up?

MESAC, MPSSL, MSSSL are a huge part of our program but the ABA staff and parents are also involved in a Muscat Soccer League. Tonight the ABA parents open their season campaign on the soccer field playing Al Sahwa school team at 5:00pm. If you are in the car park at this time come and support the ABA parents I am sure they will appreciate the support especially in the last 5 - 10 minutes of the game when the hamstrings get a little tight. Good luck parents.

29th September	U19 Boys vs ISM @ ABA	3:30 - 4:45pm
29th September	U16 Boys vs ISM @ ABA	3:30 - 4:45pm
30th September	U12 Boys vs AGS @ ABA	3:30 - 4:45pm
30th September	U12 Girls vs AGS @ ABA	3:30 - 4:45pm
30th September	U13 Boys vs AGS @ ABA	3:30 - 4:45pm
30th September	U13 Girls vs AGS @ ABA	3:30 - 4:45pm
1st October	U19 Girls vs TSS @ TSS	4:00 - 5:15pm
1st October	U16 Boys vs TSS @ ABA	4:00 - 5:15pm
1st October	ABA vs TAISM Dual swim meet.	4:00 - 7:00pm
2nd October	U19 Girls vs ISM @ ABA	3:30 - 4:45pm
2nd October	U16 Girls vs ISM @ ABA	3:30 - 4:45pm
3rd October	U14 Boys vs PSO @ ABA	3:30 - 4:45pm
3rd October	U14 Girls vs PSO @ ABA	3:30 - 4:45pm
4th October	National Volleyball Tournament (Varsity girls)	All Day

National Volleyball Tournament

Our varsity volleyball girls have been invited to the National Volleyball Tournament at Muscat College on Friday, 4th October from 9:00am - 5:00pm. They will be competing against 6 teams in a round-robin. This will be great preparation for MESAC and we wish the varsity girls all the best at the Nationals.

MESAC - Preseason Soccer Training

Preseason soccer will start for the JV Boys and Varsity boys this weekend on the ABA field. These sessions are not tryouts and they are not compulsory to attend. Students have been informed of the pre-season training via email.

Saturday 28th September: JV Boys Soccer 10:00- 11:00am,
Varsity Boys 3:30-4:30pm

Middle School Sport

Success in sport is measured in many ways: Sportsmanship, team morale, number of participants, performance on and off the court/field, enjoyment of players and coaches, building a culture, support from fans etc. Season one volleyball has already hit many of the aforementioned targets. The most noticeable improvement from previous years has been the success of the middle school teams on the court and the support surrounding the teams. Our Middle School Volleyball have huge numbers in the program, a big spectator following and have yet to be beaten.

Well done to the Middle Schoolers and coaches.

Paul Brace - Athletics Director



Message from the Mother Language Program



Dear ABA Community,

Our Italian and Malyaalam families are looking for a teacher to take on the Mother Language program.

Please contact Diana on mlp@abaoman.org if you are interested.

Erum Banatwala - Mother Language Program Coordinator



Dual Meet 1 2019

Tuesday 1st October 2019 - ABA Pool
4pm - 7pm

Come Support **YOUR** Vipers Swim Team!



Message from the Eco Team

ECO SPOT



As an ABA school community this year, we aim to reduce the waste we throw away.

Simple swaps

- Eat cafeteria food in the cafeteria
- Use reusable containers to bring lunch to school
- Cloth napkins & metal cutlery
- Reusable drink containers - even for juice
- Choosing food that is unpackaged!

Waste Free Lunches

For more information, visit here: <http://www.globalstewards.org/waste-free-lunch.htm>

Message from the PTA



Iding our community together!

Homeroom Parents (HRPs)

Parents, it's time to check your inboxes and spam folders! Your fabulous HRPs will be emailing you this week. They have just completed their orientation and are well aware of the processes and procedures for setting up events, whatsapp groups and end of year parties. They can even let you know how and what to prepare for your child's in-class birthday.

They are an amazing source of information and a great way to stay connected to your classroom community.

Your HRP's email will be similar to the following: PTA-hrp-k1a@abaoman.org

This is the K1A HRP email address.

PTA DATES

Mon. Oct. 7th @ PTA room
PTA Open meeting: 7.40 to 8.40 am

Thur. Oct. 31st @ ABA
Spooktacular: 5.00 to 7.00 pm

If you cannot find it, search your email account using the following search phrase: **PTA-HRP**

Make sure to add this email to your contacts so that you receive all the necessary communications. Additionally, if you are not receiving emails from your HRP or you are receiving them from the wrong HRP, you can contact your PTA section representative and they will help you.

ECE & Elementary Minita: PTAERep@abaoman.org

Middle school Rebecca: PTAMRep@abaoman.org

High school Kami: PTASRep@abaoman.org

To all the HRP's that have volunteered and attended the orientation, please review the guidelines and the presentation sent to your official school email. We look forward to working with you throughout the year. Thank you for all your time and effort.

thank
you!

SPOOKTACULAR

Spooktacular preparations are coming along nicely, but we still need some additional help with Trick-or-Treat lane! This opportunity is open to parents, teachers, staff and students! Gather a group of friends, come up with a theme (can be very simple!!!!) and then let us know where you would like your spot along the route to be. We currently have 10 groups signed up to be a Trick-or-Treat stop, but we would like to get closer to 25 to really make this fun for our community.

If you are not able to be a door, there are other opportunities to help out! You can donate candy to the event (more on this in next week's newsletter) help sell tickets to the event, help out on the eventing, selling tokens, food or managing the line. To get involved simply contact us through our email address trick-or-treat@abaoman.org.

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 "TorT" 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@abaoman.org.



TRICK OR TREAT A SPOOKTACULAR EVENT THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 5-7pm



SAVE THE DATE

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

SPOOKTACULAR CAS OPPORTUNITY

Looking for a fun way to to complete some CAS requirements? Look no further! What can be more fun than dressing up in costume and handing out candy!

To get involved is simple! Gather a group of friends (no more than 5 please), think about a theme and then you can choose a spot along the route to decorate as you wish!

Don't delay! Come help us make our Trick or Treat "neighbourhood" a memorable one. We need at least 20 stops (called doors) around school for ABA families to trick-or-treat through.

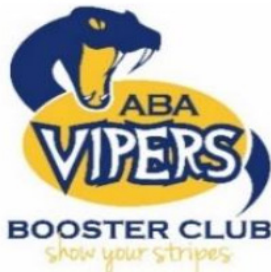


Reminder: PTA Calendar Edit : Winter break ends Jan. 4th.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Your PTA - 'Building Our Community Together'

Message from the Booster Club



VIPERS Frenzy.....

It was a busy week for the Booster Club! We held our first advertised pop-up shop for the year with a great show of VIPERS community pride selling a variety of official VIPERS merchandise, including new swim gear and taking over 75 hoodie orders! That's a record order for the club and our small committee of dedicated volunteer parents.

If you ordered your custom personalize hoodie on Monday, we will contact you directly via email in the coming weeks to advise when your hoodie has been delivered, checked and is ready for collection!

We held our first ICE FRENZY fundraiser for the year in the drama court during break today. Lots of smiles, sticky faces, and VIPERS support from our students and staff. The drama court was abuzz as the whole student body celebrated Peace Day adding to the atmosphere of the day. Thanks again to the ABA faculty and community for supporting our kids!

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



Oman Cancer Association announced the date of its 16th Annual Cancer Walkathon to be held on Tuesday 29th October, 2019 from 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm with a symbolic walk of 3 km at Qurum Nature Park.

A family event, the walkathon with the theme, 'Together we win' is organized yearly to support cancer patients and their families.

"This is our 16th annual walkathon event to spread awareness for all cancers. This is the culmination of the Annual Global October Pink Ribbon, a whole month of events dedicated to breast cancer awareness," said Dr Wahid al Kharousi, Chairman of Oman Cancer Association.

"In Oman, every 100 cases of Breast Cancer there are one to two cases of male breast cancer reported. These cases are looked into further with genetic testing because most of them have a familial component. So it is a routine in our hospital," said Dr Taha Mohsin al Lawati, Sr Consultant General Surgery and Surgical Oncologist as well as Head of Breast and Surgical Oncology Unit, Royal Hospital.

This year for the first time OCA's branches will organize regional walkathons namely Salalah, Dhakhiliya, Al Dhahira and South Sharqiya.

Last year more than 8, 400 people registered and OCA this year hopes to reach a target of 10,000 registrations. The registration fee is RO 3.5 that comes with a cancer awareness t-shirt in long and short sleeves; raffle draw coupons, where-as child registrations also get a free entry coupon to the children corner for the first half hour. The allocated places for registration are the OCA head office in Al Ghubra, commercial malls during the month of October as well as online.

For the whole month of October the association will be holding awareness programs at the malls - Muscat City Centre, Qurum City Centre, Oman Avenues Mall, Mall of Muscat and Muscat Grand Mall during the weekends offering awareness and educational materials, clinical breast examinations, all free of charge and at times have the Mobile Mammography unit offering free mammograms for ladies over the age of 40 years.

During the month of October various awareness campaigns will be conducted in schools, colleges, universities, private and corporate institutions.

"This is a very important cause and we are more than happy to accept invitations to organize talks and campaigns. We want to hear more from the organizations," said Dr Manal al Zedjali, Dean at the Higher Institute of Health Specialties, at the press conference.

"We would like to thank our patrons, our partners and sponsors without whom this event would not be possible. The association also wants to thank all the government bodies that granted us permission to hold this important annual event; the Malls for accommodating the Pink Ribbon Initiative; our volunteers for their important support; our staff of the Association; the registrants for their participation and their support indicating their care for their support for the cancer patients and their families," said Dr Kharousi.

Planned for the day is a well defined walking tract, in very safe surroundings for children and adults, a food court selling healthy food to raise funds for the association, children's corner, a display of classical and vintage cars and a bazaar.

