

AL NOOR-ABA NEWS

31st October 2019

Message from the Head of School

Dear ABA Community,

Addams Family the Musical was Fantastic! From the special tango scene to the whole troop singing and dancing, I enjoyed every minute! We are so lucky to have talented students who profit from the dedicated faculty who bring out both obvious and hidden talent. Often under-recognized, the backstage crew had a very difficult role and accomplished their tasks with excellence! Congratulations!



I had a professional “high” this past weekend as I was treated to good lectures and seminars by world renowned specialists. In our community, we are respected at ABA for the support of professional development. Yale Professor Sorensen states: “Show me a school where the adults are learning and I will show you a school where the students are learning.” One of my favorite lectures was by Harvard professor Dr. Robert Kegan who spoke on: “The Deliberately Developmental Organization: Messengers from the future?” He charged us with doing Business as UNusual! I went to a second session by Dr. Kegan called: “Understanding Immunity to Change”. I just couldn’t get enough of his wisdom! There were many other gifted speakers at the Bangkok Fall Leadership Conference. Thank you for supporting professional leadership at ABA.



Today is Oman Tree Day and we are celebrating in many appropriate ways. I am also looking forward to Spooktacular along with the other 500+ folks who have signed up for this evening’s festivities. What fun! See you at 5:00pm!

Best,
Sue
Dr. Susan R. Groesbeck

Upcoming Dates

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 3 Nov | University Visit - Canada
Student Lecture Hall
10:15 am - 11am |
| | University Visit - Europe
Student Lecture Hall
12:20pm - 1pm |
| | MESAC Travel Meeting
Student Lecture Hall
5:30 pm - 6pm |
| | MESAC Hosting Meeting
Secondary Cafeteria
6pm - 6:30pm |
| 4 - 7 Nov | PTA Open Meeting
PTA Room
7:40am - 8:40am |
| 4 - 11 Nov | MESAC Week |
| 6 Nov | Middle School Coffee Morning
Secondary School Library
7:45 am - 9am |
| 7-8 Nov | TSS MUN Conference
The Sultan School |
| 7 Nov | MESAC Varsity Volleyball
Spirit Day
BBQ at ABA |



Message from the Elementary School

Digital Citizenship Week



During the month of October, schools around the globe support the Digital Citizenship campaign, which educates children in the use and safety of online resources.

Last week the Elementary Tech-Team supported this campaign. The team created an online resource where teachers and students could find informative videos and quizzes. They visited other classrooms to address topics such as Internet Safety, Privacy and security, and Relationships & Communications safety. Furthermore, they delivered a message of caution when working online with a short performance during break times on Wednesday and Thursday.

It was a very busy week for the Tech-Team, but we are all proud of

their genuine initiative to provide advice and tips on how to be safe while exploring the world wide web. Thank you Elementary Tech-Team for a great week of learning.

Mrs. Gloria

Save the Date: Maths Workshop for Parents Tuesday 19th November 5.30-7.30pm

An opportunity for you to walk in your child's shoes for a while - how is learning maths today different than during our school-days? How do we encourage learners to see themselves as confident mathematicians who focus on thinking, puzzling, constructing ideas and deep understanding, rather than simply the correct answer? The evenings workshop will:

- Provide you with an experiential overview of our approach to learning mathematics in the elementary school
- Introduce you to our new continuum of learning outcomes and explain how this will be used to report to you on your child's progress
- Give you opportunities to work on practical, hands-on problem-solving activities by playing with ideas, constructing understanding, and explaining your thinking.

Please save the date - more information and sign-up will follow.

Sam Cook - Elementary Principal

Maths is learned best when:

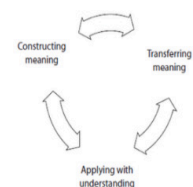
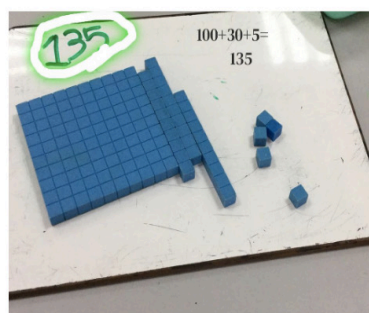


Fig 1: How children learn mathematics (MTPYPH; 2009; pg 82)

- Learners *construct ideas* about mathematical concepts before they *transfer their understanding into symbols*

Parent Handbook page 12-13

Message from the Middle School

MS Parent Coffee Morning - The Secrets of the Library

Wednesday 6th November 7:45 - 9:00

Middle School parents are invited to join Courtney Park, the Middle School Teacher Librarian, for this month's coffee morning. Come learn about:

- Ways to get / keep middle schoolers reading for pleasure
- Library resources to support research and classwork
- Books for adults - You can check out library books, too!

We will meet in the Middle and High School Library. Please bring a computer or tablet so you can explore and bookmark resources while you are here.

Service as Action

ABA as part of the MYP requires that all students engage in Service as Action. In this way, service is seen as an action that students engage in that demonstrate their understanding of the need to be caring in a global community. Students are expected to personally commit to service and to make a difference in the lives of others and the environment. MS Serves! Is one of the avenues through which service is fostered in each student.

On Monday this week, the Middle School assembly welcomed the experience of H.H. Sayyida Tania Bint Shabib Al Said, President of the Environmental Society of Oman (ESO). Mrs Al Said, shared her immense experience of setting up a service organisation and some of the work she was currently coordinating. Her talk with our students included some of the challenges facing organisations like hers, the need to understand government regulations and the value of persistence. From her presentation, our students can take heart that any one of them could be the change in the world.

The Middle School team and our Middle School students extend a heartfelt thank you to Mrs Al Said for offering her time and sharing her journey. It was an interesting, inspiring and insightful presentation and we are very grateful.



What is MS Serves?

As part of MS Serves!, our middle school students are required to consider one of the 17 UN's Sustainable Development Goals and suggest an idea for a Non-Governmental Organisation that would help to address it. Throughout the year, our students will experience different activities that provide more stimulus for responsible student action on world issues.

Middle School Team - Claire, Kathleen & Megel



House of Music Competition

Thank you to all who voted for Sarah in the House of Music Singers Challenge, she won! Here she is receiving her prize on Friday evening after singing her version of "Shallow" to a packed audience at their open mic night.

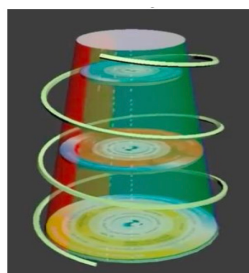
Zita Gange - Music Teacher

Message from the High School

Last weekend the other two Assistant Principals, Programme Coordinators and I arrived once again at the 2019 IB Global conference, this time held in Abu Dhabi. I say 'once again' as our return was in part contingent on our experiences of attending the 2018 conference in Vienna.

In Vienna, as we reflected on our various experiences having attended a variety of breakout sessions from practitioners from around the globe, listening to plenary and key note speakers from the wider world of education and hearing information sessions from the IB, we sought to work closer together as Coordinators in order to engender closer continuum ties between our three programmes. That we are one day to have a split campus, this kind of unifying work is of particular importance to the culture of ABA as a whole school.

And so we put forward a proposal to lead a session of our own, which the IB accepted and ABA Head of School, Dr. Sue Groesbeck mentioned in the last newsletter. At the conference we presented: *The Core: Sustaining Agency through the Continuum*. Our presentation detailed how, by working together, the kind of student voice, choice and ownership (agency) that is at the heart of the PYP can be maintained and sustained as much as possible all the way through MYP to the Diploma. What this means is that students have more personal investment in their studies, that their work is not merely hoops we are making them jump through but are meaningful, authentic, real world learning experiences. As a result of this, strong links between the 'Core' elements (a long term project, service activities and interdisciplinary learning) of the three programmes have been forged and strengthened and continue to be so. It was fantastic, at our last early release day, not only to see Elementary and Secondary colleagues working together on the continuum of Approaches to Learning Skills (students' self management, research, social, communication and thinking skills) and how they are manifested at the various stages of a student's journey through ABA, but also for the first time, seeing colleagues representing Service, Action, and CAS; Exhibition, Personal Project and EE, and Trans-disciplinary, Interdisciplinary and ToK, coming together to see how by creating closer links we can further enhance our students' experiences at ABA.



Suffice to say the presentation went fantastically well, especially due to the digital imaging skills of Marcus Freestone, a Grade 11 student who animated the idea beautifully for us (see image). Feedback from attendees was excellent, with many colleagues from around the world approaching us for contact details and further information about how to make this innovative work happen in their own school contexts. This work on forging closer vertical links through the IB continuum takes many forms at ABA: via the on going work on the Core elements, our Effective Learning Principles, through our ATLs, International Mindedness and the Learner Profile. With our whole school Book Clubs, Eco-Societies and professional development sessions, as a result of concerted hard work, we have created, at ABA, a genuine culture of learning that binds us together as an international school with a methodology that facilitates and maximizes the learning experiences of our students, from KG1 through to G12 – it's the ABA way.

'Sustaining agency throughout the Continuum via ATLs and the IB Core strands.' A still from a digital animation by G11, ABA student Marcus Freestone.

Guy Essex - DP Coordinator



National Honor Society (NHS) Update

NHS students have now split into two service groups. One will support the Pediatric Oncology Ward at the Royal Hospital and the other will continue on in support of the OIG workers at our school.

The OIG group set up a feast for the workers after school today in honor of Diwali. (see photo). More good works to come.

Jean Melek

Message from the Extra Curriculum Program

Elementary After School Activities

There is one more week of season one after school activities (ASAs) remaining. The rosters for season two ASAs are now finalised. Season two will run from the 10th November through to 30th January.

U9 and U11 MPSL Girls Football Tournament



This tournament was hosted by ABQ and for the first time included a separate tournament for Grade 2-3 girls as well the usual Grade 4-5 competition. After a number of breaktime practices the girls were ready and excited to play tournament football.

The grade 4-5 team came up against ABQ, TAISM and PDO schools and drew two of their games and lost one finishing in third place. The girls have come a long way in a very short time and should be happy with their efforts.



The grade 2-3 team played against the same schools, and managed to finish first in their group, scoring plenty of goals along the way. This meant they qualified for the final. Cheered

on by a large, vocal group of parents, the ABA girls triumphed 2-0 against PDO to finish in a very well deserved first place. Congratulations to the girls on a magnificent effort in what was for many of them their first taste of competitive football.

The U9 Benchball Tournament will be held at ABA on Tuesday 12th November and our U9 boys have begun their training for their football tournament on Wednesday 20th November.

Whole School Spirit Day

Thursday Nov 7th is NOT A MUFTI, it is a Spirit Day. Students are encouraged to wear their ABA navy blue, yellow (athletic gold) school uniform, MSSS

Viper shirts or their MESAC polo. The Activities Council and Booster Club will be at every entrance of the school with face paint and stickers on Nov 7th. Come and support the MESAC teams playing in the MESAC Volleyball tournament on Nov 7th - 9th. Go Vipers



Dates for your diary

3rd November:

- MESAC Travel meeting (Golf, Swimming, Academic Games and JV Volleyball) in the Lecture Hall, 5:30 - 6:00pm
- MESAC Hosting for Varsity Volleyball meeting in the HS Cafe, 6:00 - 6:30pm. Host families are essential to a successful and memorable experience for our visiting students. Thank you for opening your doors.

17th November:

- Season one MESAC Achievement Awards in the MPH, 6:00 - 7:30pm

MESAC

Final preparations are being put in place for all the MESAC teams. There is less than one week to go before our swim, golf, JV volleyball and academic games teams depart to their tournaments in New Delhi and the UAE. On Wednesday 6th November ABA will welcome the MESAC Varsity Volleyball teams.

We wish all our teams a fulfilling and successful tournament as we know they have spent many hours preparing before and after school. The MESAC experience is challenging and rewarding and will provide our students with a unique opportunity to make lasting friendships that are cherished and nurtured. We are sure our teams will represent our school with pride.

Live Streaming

- Swimming : <http://acschannel.com/mesac-swimming/>
- Academic Games: <https://sites.google.com/gemsdaa.net/mesacdaa/home>
- Varsity Volleyball: <https://sites.google.com/abaoman.org/mesac/>
- JV Volleyball Tournament website: TBC
- Golf: [No streaming](#)

Middle School Sports League (MSSL)

Our Grades 6, 7 and Gr 8s have now finished their Volleyball season. The teams fought gallantly in the tournaments but some missed opportunities at crucial times in the tournaments was costly. Our teams all played with passion and purpose. The improvements all the teams have made over the season has set a solid foundation for the future.

Our JV boys and girls came second on Sunday night. They will be ready for MESAC.

Season Two for Middle School and High School

Season two begins the week of November 17th for MESAC and Middle School teams. Messages via the daily bulletin and email will be sent to the students outlining the first day practice schedule.

The practice schedule can be found on the ABA website- <http://abaoman.org/wp-site/secathleticprogram/3190/>

Season two		
Middle School	High School	
Gr 6 Boys and Girls Soccer Gr 7 Boys and Girls Soccer Gr 8 Boys and Girls Soccer Gr 6-8 Cross Country	JV Boys and Girls Soccer JV Boys and Girls Basketball Boys and Girls Tennis Cross Country	Senior Fine Arts

We are needing to hire fields for the soccer season. A bus will transport some of the teams to and from ABA to the MQ field. Players will need written parental permission given to the coach if they walk home from training at these fields. Parents picking up their child at the fields will need to be at the field before the end of training. If a parent is not present at the field for the end of training, the students will be bused back to ABA.

Parental permission is also needed if a student is picked up from the field by another parent.

Soccer players need to ensure they have shin pads, soccer boots, long socks and a water bottle for every training and game. The ABA school socks will be sold from the uniform shop 3.5 OMR per pair. Gr 6-8 players will need a Blue pair only, MESAC teams will need a Blue and Athletic Gold pair.

Players are to sign up directly with their coaches on the first day of training. We have tried our best to schedule MS sports on Monday and

Thursday however some teams eg. XC need to train on Monday and Wednesday.

Practice And Try Outs:
MESAC Sunday November 17th

Team	Time	Location	Coach
JV Girls Soccer	3:00pm - 5:00pm	ABA Field	Amar Wishah
Varsity Girls Soccer	2:45pm - 4:30pm	MQ Field (A bus will transport the students to and from ABA)	Cat Lukan
MESAC Cross Country	2:30pm - 3:30pm	Meet outside the main gym	Adrian O'Byrne and Kristin Westby
MESAC Tennis	2:30pm- 4:00pm	Tennis Courts	Pro Tennis, Kathleen Bowin
JV Boys Basketball	3:00pm - 5:00pm	MPH	Tamer Melek
MESAC Girls Basketball (Jv and Varsity)	3:00pm - 5:00pm	GYM	Julia Hall, Fred Pralus

MESAC Monday November 18th

Team	Time	Location	Coach
Varsity Boys Basketball	2:30pm - 4:30pm	Main Gym	Nicole Morgan and Mark Sueyoshi
JV Boys Soccer	3:15pm - 4:30pm	ABA Field	Gareth Owen

Middle School Monday November 18th

Team	Time	Location	Coach
Cross Country	2:30pm - 3:30pm	Meet outside the main gym	Mayada Lowman, Kathryn Dillion
Gr 6 Boys soccer	2:30pm - 3:30pm	ABA Field	Megel Barker
Gr 6 Girls soccer	2:30pm - 3:30pm	ABA Field	Cesar Roldan
Gr 7 Boys soccer	3:30pm - 5:00pm	MQ Field (A bus will transport the students to and from ABA)	Mario Giraldo
Gr 7 Girls soccer	2:45pm - 3:30pm	MQ Field (A bus will transport the students to and from ABA)	Hiba Al Khalaileh
Gr 8 Boys soccer	3:30pm - 5:00pm	MQ field (A bus will transport the students to and from ABA)	Neil Cook
Gr 8 Girls soccer	2:45pm - 3:30pm	MQ Field (A bus will transport the students to and from ABA)	David Wood

MESAC Tuesday November 19th

Team	Time	Location	Coach
Varsity Boys Soccer	4:15pm - 5:30pm	ABA Field	Gareth Owen

Muscat Football Academy

Registration for Muscat Football Academy for season two will open on Nov 12th. 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 has also played for the Dallas FC and represented Morocco internationally and was part of the squad that reached the World Cup 94.

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

Season Two: 3rd December - 18th Feb Sign up 12th November
Season Three: 25th February - 28th April Sign up 4th February

Time: Tuesday 2:30pm - 3:15pm
Age range: K3- Grade 5
Location: ABA field

All questions and enquires about Muscat football Academy need to be directed to:
chuck@muscatfootballacademy.com



Vipers on Tour!

It's been a busy few weeks for the Vipers Swim Team crew. Training has continued over the break in preparation for the MESAC Swim Championships in Abu Dhabi next week.

The team has been selected, with huge improvements in both skill and conditioning being made over the last 7 weeks.. Congratulations to Alice Maxwell (Cpt Girls), Katie Beniston, Zoe Niazi, Leticia Rizzini Roisin Gallivan, Dia Krishnan, Lydia Madieh, Muna Al-Mugheiry, Elodie Chan, Lila Coventry, Sofia Beckman, Will Maxwell (Cpt Boys), Nicolas Giraldo,

Declan McCarron, Danil Ivanov, Connor McCarron, Trung Doan, Mathew Deverell, Carlos Gomez, Stuart Sutton, Oscar Vallancey, Mohamed Mourad on their selection to this years team - we are confident this squad will represent the school exceptionally well. Meanwhile swimmers from V3-V1 will be competing in the Nautilus Swim Team Annual Long Course Meet in Sultan Qaboos stadium this weekend. For many it is a first opportunity to swim long course, and for others it is a prime opportunity to develop LC experience. We wish them the very best of luck!

Paul Brace- Athletics Director

Message from the ECO Team

ECO SPOT

High-School ABA Garden Club

We have had a busy time since the start term increasing the composting capacity of the garden, getting new beds made ready for planting and increasing the number of indigenous trees and shrubs to help with overall biodiversity. New composting containers have been made from 'repurposed' filing cabinets and three are now up and running. Waste is collected every other day from the elementary cafeteria as well as daily from the elementary classrooms. We had a visit from an respected Omani horticulturalist Mr Abdullatif, who kindly donated some trees and shrubs as well as talked to us about sustainable garden design in desert climates.



Message from the PTA



"Building our community together!"

Thank You

Thank you to all the volunteers - Puja, Kiran, Vandana, Ekta, Kavita, Debjani, Rubina, Rajshri, Rashmi, Shuchi, Jane, Minita, Paula, Sujatha - for putting together a Diwali experience for the ABA community.



PTA DATES

Mon. Nov. 4th @ PTA room
PTA Open meeting: 7.40 to 9.00 am

Tue. Nov. 12th @ Muttrah
Visit to Muttrah & national Museum:
7:40 to 1.00 pm

Fri. Nov. 22nd @ MPH
Flea Market: 3.00 to 5.00 pm

PTA Community Meeting

Quick reminder for the PTA Open meeting on Monday, 4th November 2019 at 7:40 am in the PTA room. We look forward to seeing you.

Tuesday Travel & Talks (TTT)

TTT kicks off this month!

Our first trip will start our National Day celebrations with an exploration of Mattrah Souq followed by a guided tour of the National Museum.

We will meet at 7:40am in the ABA parking lot, organize the carpooling and head out. We will leave from the souk for the Museum at around 10:00 am. The visit to the National Museum will start at 10.30 and last 90 minutes.

Only 24 spots (first come basis) are available for the tour of the National Museum. Entry to the Museum costs:
1 omr for Omani nationals
2 omr for Non-Omani Residents

Sign up for this amazing opportunity by paying your Museum entry fee in ABA finance and emailing your name and receipt to PTALog@abaoman.org

Tuesday Talks & Travels 2019-20

Muttrah Shopping & Museum Visit

November 12, 2019 7.40 am-1 pm

Cost: Museum Entry charges payable at Admin
Contact: PTALog@abaoman.org

table registration
now open

ABA FLEA MARKET

Book and pay at the Accounts Office
7 OMR - Table
3 OMR - Clothing Rail

Contact Meeta @ 97893131

FRIDAY 22 NOVEMBER 3-5 PM

Flea Market

Looking to declutter? Here's your chance to do away with some of your things! The first flea market of 2019-20 is coming up on Friday 22nd November.

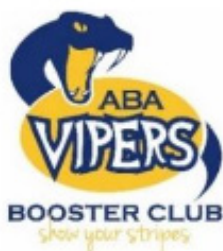
We are also looking for volunteers to help at the popcorn and drinks tables.

Table reservations are open - remember to reserve yours! For queries or to volunteer please contact Meeta at 97893131.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Your PTA - 'Building Our Community

Message from the Booster Club



Spike Strike Score Winner!

Congratulations to Danny Helou (Gr 9) for winning a VOX Movie ticket last Thursday at our annual Spike Strike Score event! Fun event all around!



MESAC Varsity Volleyball at ABA

Our Varsity Volleyball Boys and Girls have been practicing hard and gearing up for their upcoming MESAC tournament on Nov 7-9. The Booster Club will be there all the while offering unwavering support to the players and mouthwatering food to our hungry crowds and teams!

ALL WEEKEND
07-09 November
 (from 10:30am - 4:00pm)

YOU'VE BEEN SERVED!

BEEF BURGER = 1.500ea
 HOT DOG = 1.500ea
 *VEG BURGER = 1.500ea (limited stock)

All proceeds from sale of BBQ items go to VIPERS Booster Club - supporting our kids!

Come sample the community's culinary delights and various beverages from our concession stand, grab one of our famous juicy burgers fresh off the grill, shop from an array of official VIPER merchandise or just come to show your stripes and cheer on our VIPERS!

The Booster Club will once again be looking for your support in the way of volunteers and food donations for both weekends. Keep your eye out for our email today!

GOOOOOO VIPERS!!!

Hoodie Orders

PERSONALISED VIPERS HOODIE

MONDAY 04 NOV
from 7:00am - 7:30am

SPECIAL POP-UP HOODIE ORDERS ONLY!
 DON'T MISS OUT!!!

SIZES
 Elementary (K-Kids)
 K-S, K-M, K-L, K-XL, K-XXL
 Secondary (Adult sizes)
 S M L XL

(Sample sizes available)

ONLY available from VIPERS BOOSTER CLUB pre-paid orders ONLY - get yours NOW!

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

VIPERS HOODIES

ORDERS - only taken at Booster Club MONTHLY Pop-Up Shops / Special Pop-Up Shops - NO email orders.

COST - OMR15.000 pre-payment ONLY

- quality cotton navy blue hoodie with front pocket (NO Zip)
- light grey cotton hood insert
- full colour embroidered VIPERS logo on front
- left label personalised custom name on back (see requirements)

DESIGN - by the students in coordination with Booster Club.

SUPPLIER - Booster Club work with a reputable supplier in Dubai. Orders coordinated by Booster Club volunteers. ALL hoodies are made to order!

ABA HOODIE POLICY - hoodie / clothing policy are implemented by the school administration. Booster Club provides hoodies to the ABA community as part of our continued support.

PERSONALISED VIPERS HOODIE

NAME options (only):

1. First Name (PAUL)
2. Surname (BRACE)
3. Initial & Surname (P. BRACE)
4. Name & Initial (PAUL B.)
5. NO Name

SIZES
 Elementary (K-Kids)
 K-S, K-M, K-L, K-XL, K-XXL
 Secondary (Adult sizes)
 S M L XL

(Sample sizes available)

ONLY available from VIPERS BOOSTER CLUB pre-paid orders ONLY - get yours NOW!

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

The VIPERS Booster Club will have another Hoodie order stand on Monday, November 4 from 7:00 - 7:30 am in front of the ECE.

Yours in community spirit - VIPERS Booster Club