

# AL NOOR-ABA NEWS

7th November 2019

## Message from the Head of School

Dear ABA Community,

First and foremost, please note that all households were requested to fill out the census data. This is by Royal Decree and is the national census. Please click link to the [Royal Decree](#). You are required to fill it out so please do that with all due haste.

“Spooktacular” was one of the most joyous and heartwarming school events I have ever attended. Congratulations to the organizers, those who manned the booths, the staff who made sure everything was spic and span the very next morning and to all of you who attended! Mark and I loved it!



MESAC is in full swing and this is a well-orchestrated, high-spirited weekend! Go Vipers! Today is Spirit Wear and there is an Athletic Gold and Navy Blue movement on the campus.

On Tuesday afternoon, I enjoyed listening to the performances of the IB music students as they recorded their Diploma submissions under the watchful eye of Mr. Langrish and Mr. Prakasan. Excellence!

This week, I learned how to serve Omani coffee the right way and the importance of different kinds of dates. I love gearing up for National Day!



Enjoy Sunday with your Family as we celebrate the Prophet's Birthday,

*Sue*

Dr. Susan R. Groesbeck

### Upcoming Dates

10 Nov	Public Holiday
11 Nov	Grade 10 & 11 Parent Information (The Road to University) Secondary Lecture Hall 5:30pm - 6:30pm
12 - 14 Nov	Middle School Explores! (All of MS is off campus)
12 Nov	(Tuesday Talks Travels) Mutrah Shopping Trip & Museum Visit Mutrah Souq  K1- Grade 1 Coffee Morning Elementary Library 7:30am - 8:15 am  Grade 12 University Application Check-In Secondary Lecture Hall 12:55pm 1:35pm
13 Nov	Grade 11 Presentation University Planning PAC 5pm - 6pm
14 Nov	Grade 2-5 Coffee Morning Elementary Library 7:30 am - 8:15am  University Visit University of British Columbia Secondary Lecture Hall 10:25am - 11:05am

# Message from the Elementary School

## Oman Tree Day

We celebrated Oman Tree Day this year in a variety of ways. Children wore green, brown or earth colours and engaged in authentic opportunities reaching far beyond learning facts about trees - learning experiences included identifying types of tree, exploring the impact of trees on biodiversity, appreciating the beauty of the natural world, and getting creative.

We welcomed our special expert visitor Thomas Kleefeld in his role as Senior Project Manager for the SERC Reforestation project in Oman, which is focused on restoring ecosystems, knowledge transfer to the local communities and sustainable reforestation. [SERC on Twitter](#) Affectionately known as Thomas The Tree Man, he made thought-provoking presentations to groups of students, including interesting facts about trees, and the importance of reforestation, before guiding our student Eco-Rangers to plant two trees on our campus, using Wonderbox water-saving technology. The occasion united our community with students from early childhood, elementary, middle and high school involved in the tree planting.



## ES Coffee Mornings - There's no app to replace a lap!

Come to next week's coffee mornings to learn a little about our approach to reading at ABA, to hear about what the library has to offer and how it complements our reading programme and to explore the importance of reading aloud to your child - whatever their age.

- **Tuesday 12th November - K1-Grade 1**
- **Thursday 14th November - Grades 2-5**
- 7:30am in the Elementary Library with Mara Hakim & Sam Cook

## Invitation: 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?

### This evening 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 you thinking.

Reserve your spot by sending an email to: [reception@abaoman.org](mailto:reception@abaoman.org), including names of those who plan to attend, along with your child(ren)'s grade level.

*Sam Cook - Elementary Principal*

# Message from the Middle School



## Middle School Explores!

Activities are organised, rucksacks are being packed, staff are preparing themselves and we have 250 excited students ready to embark on their Middle School Explores! Programme from 12-14 November. Each child in MYP 1-3 has received the link to access their camp presentation and Mr. Barker will send an email to parents with additional information on Monday.



MYP 1 (Grade 6) will travel to Al Raha camp at the edge of the Sharqiyah Sands Desert on Tuesday morning. Once settled, they will spend their days completing skill building activities, cooperative games, engineering problems and SDG related tasks. On Wednesday, there will also be an exciting evening performance of the play 1001 Arabian Nights, where each advisory group will present their scenes for this production. The falaj system, village clock and houses in Al Mudayrib will provide an insight into the traditions of village life and the ingenuity of past generations.

The ocean and beautiful coastline of Bandar Al Khiran beckons for our MYP 2 (Grade 7) students. Their days will be filled with adventures on the water, kayaking, beach olympics, snorkeling and hiking. After a short bus journey to the coast, the group will walk into the beach campsite and settle in their tents on the sand. Each group will rotate around the numerous activities with peers in their advisory class, coming together in the majlis tent for mealtimes and campfire songs. Buses will return MYP 2 students to campus on Thursday afternoon at approximately 1:45 pm.



MYP 3 students will be challenged in the beautiful region of Jebel Shams. Working with specialists from Desert Summit, our older Middle schoolers will hike, navigate using GPS and maps. In addition, they will also learn about adaptations and recent changes that have been made by the local Omani families living in the area. During this camp, the students are expected to pitch their own tents and display a higher degree of independence and resilience than those in MYP1 and 2.

The Middle School Explores! experience aims to develop self-management, risk-taking, independence and communication as well as a deeper understanding of Omani culture and our host country. On Monday 11th November, MYP 1-3 students will follow an Alternate Day Schedule - timings for the school day will be unchanged and each year group will complete activities to help them prepare for their specific camp. Parents are reminded to review the details in the camp email and ensure their child(ren) have their camp bag packed and brought to school on Monday morning ready for departure on Tuesday.

*The Middle School Team  
Ms. Kathleen Bowin, Mr. Megel Barker and Ms. Claire Anthony*



## Message from the Secondary School Counselor

### **Child Protection safety curriculum lessons, Grades 9-12**

This week during advisory, your son or daughter participated in ABA's child protection safety lessons with either a Learning Mentor or a counselor. These lessons are delivered annually and provide a great opportunity for discussions around personal safety in school, in the community and while away from Oman. The four core components include students identifying safe/unsafe situations, accessing trusted adults, staying safe and valuing yourself and the community. Under these core components, more specific topics addressed were online safety, grooming, healthy/unhealthy relationships, responding to risky situations and consent. Please take a moment to ask your son or daughter about the lessons and use this opportunity to further discuss the importance of child protection and safety in and outside of school. Additional parent information can be accessed in the 26th September newsletter.

Alli Hostetter - Secondary School Counselor

# Message from the Extra Curriculum Program

## Elementary After School Activities

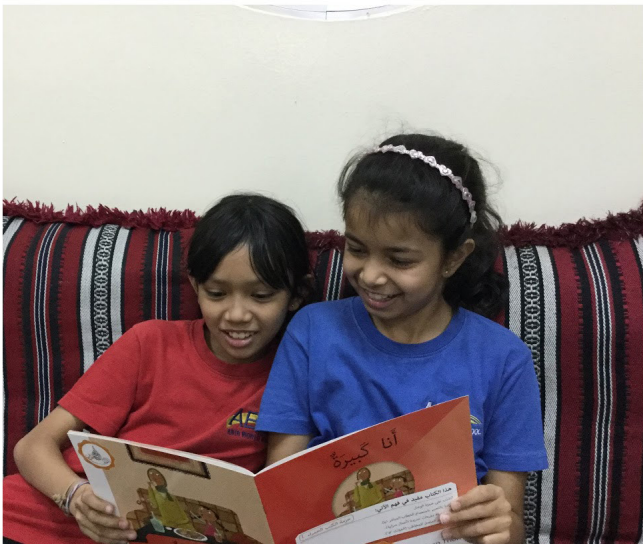
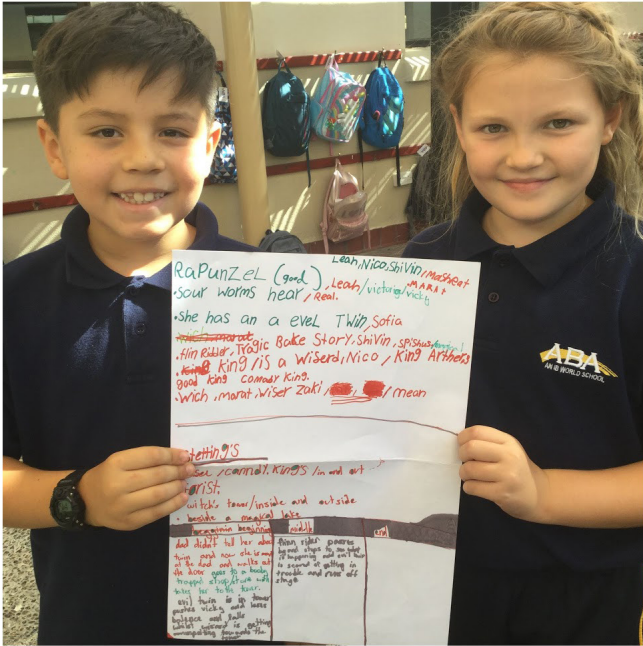
Season One Elementary After School Activities finished this week. We had a number of different activities on offer.

Below are photos from the following ASAs; Just Dance, Yoga, Benchball, Drama, Big blocks, Construction, Ballsports, Cooking, Homework Club, Lego and Arabic Reading.

Please note Season Two Elementary After School Activities will begin on Monday 11th November.







Raewyn Jack - Activities Coordinator

## Reminders

Sunday 17th November: MESAC Achievement Awards, 6:00 - 7:30pm in the MPH - See flyer in the Booster Club Section of the newsletter

Sunday 17th November: Season 2 Training begins

## MESAC

Our MESAC Golf team has returned from Dubai with Silver medals proudly worn around their necks. The boys were in overall second place after day one and played consistent golf on day two to hold their team ranking. This is a huge achievement playing a course which their competitors play on on a regular basis. Our top scorer, Max Coventry came 4th overall narrowly missing the bronze and our team had 4 players in the top 11 best total scores.





This week ABA welcomed the MESAC Varsity Volleyball teams. Results from the MESAC tournaments will be in next week's newsletter. Today there has been some great volleyball games in the gym and MPH. Our teams are playing this afternoon - Boys at 4:00pm in the main gym and the girls at 6:30pm in the MPH. Come and support our teams over the weekend.

The game schedule can be found on the link below:

<https://sites.google.com/abaoman.org/mesac/mesac-volleyball-nov-2019/results?authuser=0>

### **Muscat Football Academy**

Reminder Registration for Muscat Football Academy for season two will open on Nov 12th. All questions and enquires about Muscat football Academy need to be directed to [chuck@muscatfootballacademy.com](mailto:chuck@muscatfootballacademy.com)

Season Two: 3rd December - 18th February. Sign up on Tuesday 12th November

### **Clash of the Titans - Staff vs Parents**

The stage was set for an epic battle. There was plenty of banter before the match and game plans were set. The conditions were perfect (cool and dry with a slight breeze). It was now up to the 24 players to stamp their mark on the game and to claim victory....and that is exactly what Mr James did scoring 4 amazing goals. The staff throughout the game had a comfortable lead but the parents emptied their tank on the field and battled their way back but the staff hung on to win 5-3. All smiles at the end of the game and a few sore muscles.



Vipers Swim Team were competing at the Nautilus Annual Meet last weekend at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Centre. 42 athletes represented team and school in a great learning experience for some, and race preparation for our Mesac team heading to Abu Dhabi this week.



#### Summary Achievements

83.33% PB for the weekend....

- 1 Gold - Connor Mc Carron (50 Fly)
- 2 Silver - Connor Mc Carron (50 Free) and Zoe Niazi (200 Back)
- 8 Bronze - Muna Al Mugheiry (100 Back), Tane Brace (200 Free), Jose Garcia Corrales (50 Brs), Nicholas Giraldo (200 IM), Danil Ivanov (50 and 100 Brs), Declan Mc Carron (100 Fly) and Stuart Sutton (50 Free)

**62 Top 10 finishes** across the age groups

The squads are progressing well with huge improvements across the groups. We now look forward to taking on the best of the middle east at MESAC! Watch this space!

*Paul Brace - Athletics Director*

## Message from the Fine Arts Department



The **Addams Family** High School Musical thrilled an audience of over seven hundred at ABA last week. High School students demonstrated what it is like to be critical thinkers and how to collaborate to achieve the highest level of excellence. Congratulations to them and thanks to the staff and student crews who worked tirelessly to ensure that the stage actors were able to do their job effectively. The stage set was built at the start of term and overseen by Mr Kumar. Ms Malena was straight in with her paint team to add the finishing touches to a stunning scene. Thank you to Mr Rosslee and Ms Schwarzkopf for prop design,

great grave stones! Thanks too to Ms Gamage for overeeing the costumes. Mr JP worked tirelessly to train student sound and light technicians and we hope that this activity will continue for the whole year. Mr JP also liaised with all external helpers for the musical and was able to find props when all sources were exhausted! Cassidy Babcock volunteered to be Stage Manager and gave up five hours per week to help out from an unseen place backstage! From the first day of term students were working on the script, but work started way earlier than this between the Director, Mr Gange and the Musical Director, Ms Zita as they planned and edited the play, conducted auditions, all before the end of last year. Huge thanks to them for facilitating the students to produce such an enthralling evening of entertainment. Thank you, parents, as ever, for your total support.



The MYP Art Exhibition will be in the Gym for the duration of Student Parent conferences the week after next (November 20-21). Please use the opportunity to come and see what your children have been working on this semester.

Anthony Langrish - Fine Arts Director

## Message from the PTA



"Building our community together!"

### Thank You

A warm thank you to Claus Niazi and Melanie Pitcher for putting together a spectacular

Spooktacular! The event was a wonderful success as always. Thank you to the leads and to all the volunteers from the PTA, the CAS students, the Ambassadors and the students that organized the

Haunted Houses and the Ghoulish Games; you have all helped in, 'building our community together.' Your time and effort are truly appreciated.

**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](mailto:PTALog@abaoman.org)

### Tuesday Talks & Travels (TTT)

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 souq 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 / 5 omr for Non-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](mailto:PTALog@abaoman.org)

**PTA DATES**

**Tue. Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> TTT**  
Visit to Muttrah & National Museum: 7:40 to 1.00 pm

**Mon. Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> @ABA**  
National Day Celebrations

**Fri. Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> @ MPH**  
Flea Market: 3.00 to 5.00 pm

**Mon. Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> @MS common room**  
Santa's Workshop: 7.40 - 2.00 pm

**Mon. Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> @ PTA room**  
Community Meeting: 7.40-9.00 am

**Thu. Dec 5<sup>th</sup> @ ABA Pitch**  
Winter Festival: 6.00-8.00 pm

Omani National Day



It's only two weeks away. A day to celebrate Oman, this lovely country we live in. All activities will be during school hours and children have the option to wear the traditional Omani clothing or colors of the Omani flag. Two Omani women will be baking Omani bread (khubuz irkhal or khubuz gag) all day long for the children to enjoy free of charge.

A big thank you to ABA's Omani community for donating the cost of the band that will lead the in-school parade.

In ECE and Elementary we are looking for parents to help set up craft and provide one Omani snack for their classes.

In Middle School, we are asking parents to provide one snack each class after 9:40am. Please organize with your classroom HRP if you would like to volunteer.

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 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.



For those of you that couldn't make it to Spooktacular, above are a few snippets from the evening:

Your PTA - 'Building Our Community Together'



# Message from the Booster Club



Be part of the action **NEXT** weekend **07-09 November**  
as we cheer on our **VIPERS Varsity Volleyball**



**ABA GYM & MPH 08.30am to 6.00pm**

**ALL WEEKEND!!**



**VIPERS...GO GO GO!**



**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!



## MESAC Achievement Awards

**Sunday 17 November @ 6.00pm**

**SEASON 1**



OPEN TO PARTICIPANTS, PARENTS, & PEERS

come celebrate the dedication & achievements of the  
MESAC teams in the ABA Multi Purpose Hall (MPH)

... enjoy a delicious buffet catered by MANI'S CAFÉ

show your ticket on the night for a chance to win a lucky door prize sponsored by the VIPERS Booster Club

This event is proudly supported by the VIPERS Booster Club. Ticket price covers food & drinks only.  
Thanks for your continued support!

**Tickets can be purchased from ABA Admin & from VIPERS Booster Club**

**NO ticket sales on the night!**




*Yours in community spirit - VIPERS Booster Club*