

# AL NOOR-ABA NEWS

## 9th January 2020

### Message from the Head of School

Dear ABA,

Welcome back to 2020! We were very excited to greet 13 new students to our school on Sunday, 5th January. They come from the US, Kazakhstan, Germany, India, Iran, and Oman. Please go out of your way to bring our new families into the ABA circle. The fervor of the MESAC competition will be upon us again at the end of the month. Please note the sign ups. This time, we will host tournament play in two venues - both on our campus and at the National Stadium - making it even more compelling for our own athletes. Stay tuned for all the action! And look forward to the famous Booster Club Burgers!

I want to commend the phenomenal EC Sports Days this week. The organization and commitment by the faculty and staff was exemplary. I was copied on a comment by a parent and I agree: "Beautiful weather, happy faces, positive energy - so much work goes into leading these events - well done!"



There was another great event this week that I loved: The returning Alumni. About 18 or 19 Alumni from the classes of 2018 and 2019 came back to talk frankly to the Class of 2020 about what they appreciated from ABA and tips about how to manage freshman year. These remarkable Alumni hailed from the most selective colleges and universities around the world (University of Toronto to Brown to Berkely to Columbia... see full list in Denise Barker's report) and several students extolled the advantages of taking a Gap Year. Our own teacher and Alumnus Nikhil Narayanan spoke about the gift of giving back time and information to ABA. It was wonderful to have our Alumni back on campus to share their information with the Class of 2020.

Plan on being at ABA next Thursday the 16th for the Parent Art Exhibition and on Friday evening the 17th to enjoy a wonderful Band Concert with representatives from other international schools.

As promised in the final Newsletter of 2019, I will be informing you of calendaring for admissions and funding issues from the last Board meeting. Look for that in next week's Newsletter.

Best wishes for a prosperous and healthy 2020,

*Sue*

Dr. Susan R. Groesbeck

#### Upcoming Dates

13 Jan	PTA Open Meeting PTA room 7:40 - 8:40 am
	Booster Club Fundraiser Half Shot Hot Short MPH 10:30 am - 1:00 pm
15 Jan	Middle School Coffee Morning Student Common Room 7.45 to 8.30 am.
16 Jan	Parents Art Exhibitions Secondary Cafeteria 5 :00 - 7:00 pm
17 - 18 Jan	ABA Concert Band PAC 9.30 am - 5.30 pm

# Message from the Elementary School



## Sports Days 2020

It has been a busy week in the elementary school with all students involved in the annual Sports Days. After the disappointment of these events being cancelled in December, this time the weather held and each day went ahead as planned.

The grade 1-3 event on Monday saw a mixture of fun-based and athletic activities with students collecting points for their house along the way. The competition was fierce but friendly and the students demonstrated a variety of skills along with a sense of fair play. At the end of the event, as the children ate their well-deserved ice lollies, the final standings revealed Mirani in first place, Nizwa second, Jabrin third and Jalali fourth.

Tuesday's event for grade 4-5 took place in much cooler weather. This competition included more technical athletic activities (high jump, javelin,

discus) as well as an increased emphasis on teamwork in problem-solving activities. When the final scores were announced, Mirani triumphed once again, with Jabrin second, Jalali third and Nizwa fourth. On Wednesday, K1-3 took part in a fun morning of play-based PE activities and a large group of enthusiastic parents came out to support, and with a little persuasion, join in. The students enjoyed sharing all their favourite PE skills games with parents. Tag games, parachute games and obstacle courses all proved to be favourites and there were some very tired little legs out there by the time the lollies were dispensed.

As ever with a large event such as this, a huge team effort is required. A big thank you must go to our ancillary staff for their help with set up, the PTA for providing ice lollies, teachers and assistants for filling the various roles on the day, parents for turning out in great numbers to support and our amazing students for their effort and endeavour.

*Neil Cook - Elementary PE Teacher*





# Message from the Middle School



The Middle School Team welcomes you to 2020 and wishes you the very best in the coming year.

Middle School students have already settled into the routines of school after their winter holiday and have embarked on their CAS programme for this year. Every student in secondary school at ABA is expected to participate in and reflect on activities outside the classroom which broaden horizons and develop life-skills. The three components of this programme are Creativity, Action and Service (as action). There are numerous opportunities available to students on the ABA campus and in Muscat city, to join groups and work with, and for others. In order for you as parents to understand the expectations of CAS for your young adult, Claire Anthony will host the **Middle School coffee morning on Wednesday 15th**

**January** in the Student Common Room (near the Grade 6 area) from 7:45 to 8:30 am. During this meeting, parents will view the presentation shared with students this week, and have the opportunity to ask any questions you may have regarding this important and worthwhile programme.

If you are unable to attend this meeting, you can access additional information about CAS and the activities on offer via this link: <http://abaoman.org/wp-site/extra-activities/>

*Claire Anthony - Middle School Counselor*



We are proud to share that Ayman Al Busaidi participated in the under 13 category at the GCC golf championship that was held at Ghala Golf course over our school break. Ayman finished in first place. He finished with a score of +20 over 2 days of play earning the Gold medal.

His team of under 13's also finished in first place earning a Gold medal with a score of +60.

Ayman was greatly assisted during the tournament by Armaan Verma who caddied for him and helped keep him focused over the 2 days of play - a successful ABA partnership to attain the Gold! Congratulations!

*Kathleen Bowin - Middle School Principal*

# Message from the Extra Curriculum Program

## Marathon

To all those running in the 5km, 10km, relay, half and full marathon next weekend all the best. It is great to see so many ABA community members recognise the benefits of sport and a balanced lifestyle. It is inspiring to hear so many ABA community members involved in the event not only with target to finish the race but the courage to try something new.

I have heard from many of you that you have spent many hours training and preparing for the event. Though at times there will be challenges during the race (mentally and physically) I know you will be able to overcome them and soldier on. You are ready - good luck and enjoy the experience.

## Dates for Your Diary

January and the start of February is going to be a busy time for our athletes. There are 15 Muscat Secondary Sport League tournaments, 30 fixtures, Booster Club events, three MESAC tournaments in Muscat, two swim meets, Awards evening and more. I hope to see you at the field/courts/pool supporting our vipers program.

Sunday 26th January: We will be hosting a meeting for the parents of the children that are travelling to MESAC season two (JV Basketball, Senior Fine Arts, Tennis and Varsity Basketball). The meeting will be held from 6:00 - 6:30pm in the lecture hall (beside the HS cafeteria).

Sunday 26th January: Meeting from 6:30 - 7:00pm in the HS cafeteria for all the parents who will be hosting our visiting MESAC JV Soccer athletes. Host families are essential to a successful and memorable experience for our visiting students. Thank you for opening your doors.

*Paul Brace - Athletics Director*

## Games/events for next week are listed below:

12th January	MSSL Tournament Basketball U16 Boys @ TAISM	4:00 - 6:30
12th January	MSSL Tournament Basketball U16 Girls @ ABA	3:30 - 5:30
13th January	U12 Boys Soccer vs ABQ @ ABQ	3:00 - 4:00
13th January	U12 Girls Soccer vs ABQ @ ABQ	3:00 - 4:00
13th January	U19 Boys Soccer vs Storm @ BSM	7:00 - 8:15
13th January	MSSL XC @ Muscat Hills ABA	3:30 - 5:00
14th January	U13 Girls Soccer vs TAISM @ TAISM	4:00 - 5:00
14th January	U16 Boys Basketball vs BSM @ BSM	4:20 - 5:30
15th January	MSSL Tournament Basketball U19 Boys @ TAISM	4:00 - 6:15
15th January	MSSL Soccer U13 Girls @ BSM	3:30 - 6:15
16th January	U14 Boys Soccer vs TAISM @ TAISM	4:00 - 5:00

## Message from the ABA Alumni



### An Afternoon with Alumni

Twenty alumni were warmly welcomed by our Head of School, Dr. Groesbeck, as well as Mr. Walker (HS Principal) and Mr. Essex (DP Coordinator). The group included students pursuing studies in Canada, Malaysia, the Netherlands, the UK and the USA. Among them were also graduates who have taken a gap year and at least one who just completed military service in his home country, Switzerland. The young men and women spoke eloquently and frankly about their experiences since leaving ABA and offered sage words of advice to the seniors.

The group was comprised of graduates from the classes of 2018 and 2019 as well as our own Mr. Nikhil Narayanan (Physics and Computer Science Teacher) from the class of 2012. Among other things, they provided tips on time management, getting involved while at university, making the most of a gap year as well as practical pointers about interactions with roommates and making meal arrangements.

Plans will be underway soon to organize a similar event later this semester. Any members of the ABA alumni who wish to get involved in this, or in other ways, can make contact by emailing: [alumni@abaoman.org](mailto:alumni@abaoman.org).

Denise Barker - University Counselor

## Message from the PTA



"Building our community together!"

Happy New Year and welcome back! We hope that you had a wonderful holiday and a relaxing break!

We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming PTA meeting open to the community on Monday, 13th January. These meetings are an opportunity to share news

and information with the community and a great time for you to ask any questions that you may have.

### PTA Website

Looking for a dentist, embassy phone number, specific after school activity, or other details about businesses used by ABA community members, check out the 'Parent Info' button on the PTA section of the ABA website.

### PTA DATES

**Mon. Jan. 13th** @ PTA room  
Community Meeting, 7.40 - 8.40 am

**Thu. Jan. 16th** @ Secondary Cafeteria  
Parent Art Exhibition, 6 - 8 pm

**Tue. Jan. 21st**  
TTT - Hiking Club kicks off @ 7.40 - 1 pm

## Parent Art Exhibition

**January 16, 6-8 pm**  
**Secondary Cafeteria**

We invite illustrators, painters, photographers, sculptors, potters singers and musicians from the parent and staff community to share their work on this evening.

To participate, please contact  
**Bokamoso** at  
[ptasec@abaoman.org](mailto:ptasec@abaoman.org)

Calling All Artists

### Teacher/Staff Fund Requests - Round 2

The second round of Teacher/Staff fund requests is now open. All requests need to be submitted along with details and quotes by 26th January, 2020. You should find the fund request form in your email. All requests will be discussed and voted on in the community meeting on 17th February, 2020.

### Events for January 2020! The Parent Art Exhibition

Scheduled on 16th January, the parent art exhibition celebrates amazing works of art from the community. Many of our parent artists have been busy preparing to participate. This event promises to be a window into their amazing creative talents and it's a great time to pick up a masterpiece for your home.

Tickets sales start 12th January in the mornings outside the ECE or throughout the day with Sumayya in admin and are RO.1 for adults and children grade 5-12 are free but must be accompanied by a parent.

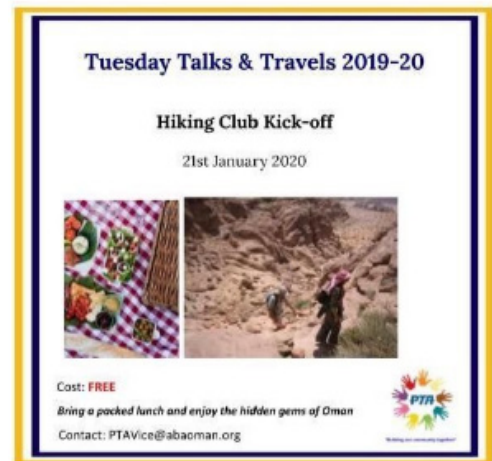


Tickets will also be sold at the door. Please contact Bokamaso at [PTASec@abaoman.org](mailto:PTASec@abaoman.org) for information or to participate as an artist.

### Tuesday Talks & Travels (TTT)

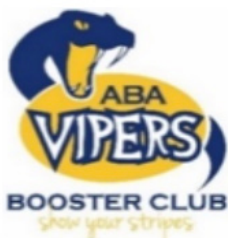
The much acclaimed and popular TTT hiking club kicks off Tuesday 21st January.

The hikes take you on new trails and picturesque sites within Muscat. These will continue until 31st March if the weather permits. Make the most of the good weather and join the hike club whatsapp group to receive updates on hiking destinations by emailing Laila at: [PTAVice@abaoman.org](mailto:PTAVice@abaoman.org).



Your PTA - 'Building Our Community Together'

# Message from the Booster Club



### Dream big and aim high in 2020!

Welcome back! We hope all our VIPERS families had a relaxing winter break! A big Booster Club welcome to all our NEW VIPERS families. We look forward to meeting you during the season.

The Booster Club team are ready to kick start 2020 with lots of exciting events, merchandise, fun, and plenty of smiling faces. Next 13th Monday we have our first Pop-up Shop outside the ECE from 07:00 am. Later that morning we have our inaugural 'Half Shot Hot Shot' event during break for students in Grade 2-12.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR – Booster Club Events for January / February 2020:

**13th January** - Half Shot Hot Shot – Main Gym Gr 6-12 and MPH Gr 2-5 (see flyer attached)

**13th January** - Pop Up Shop - Outside ECE from 7:00 am - 7:45 am as usual

**30th/31st January - 1st February** – MESAC JV Soccer @ Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex – BBQ & Concession Stand – come join in the fun!!!

**6th /7th /8th February** - MESAC Varsity Soccer @ Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex – BBQ & Concession Stand– we need you!!!

**12th February** - MESAC Achievement Awards Season 2 – MPH from 6:00-7:30pm – tickets on sale from 9th February from Sumaiya in Admin!!!

**24th February** - Pop Up Shop - Outside ECE @ 7:00 am as usual

**HOODIE ORDERS** – If you have ordered your personal VIPERS hoodies, an email will be sent directly to you for date of collection.

Yours in community spirit – *VIPERS Booster Club*