

# AL NOOR-ABA NEWS

16th January 2020

## Message from the Head of School

Dear ABA Community,

During these days of mourning, another of Sultan Qaboos's gifts to us is the gift of connection. We have reached out to each other and told each other how His Majesty has touched our lives and hearts. Even though a new resident of Oman, I stayed glued to the TV to watch the processions and the seamless handover of the government.

As I left the very quiet school grounds on Monday evening (with everyone home in their private mourning), I had occasion to share a moment with Security Guard Nasr Al Balushi. He has been at the school for 16 years and is so proud of his Sultan and proud of his school. As we walked to my car together, we talked about the rain both before and after the Sultan's Grand Mosque service in the sunshine and how fitting it was that the weather on Saturday afternoon reflected our tears. And then we shared a moment. This beautiful security guard and I started to cry together. We both loved the Sultan in very different ways and we shared a very brief moment, given to us by the Sultan.



Wednesday was another difficult day on campus, complicated by torrential downpours. Thank you to every family for their flexibility. The good news is that our day of attendance "counts" and we won't have to make it up on a Saturday!

When the children returned to school Thursday morning, I asked them, over the PA system, to be reminded when we see the flags at half mast to think every time of the wonderful human being His Majesty Sultan Qaboos and know that it is by his good work that we are all here today.

*Sue*

Dr. Susan R. Groesbeck

### Upcoming Dates

19 Jan	University of La Verne, California Secondary Lecture Hall 10.30 - 11.00 am
21 Jan	PTA Tuesday Talks & Travel Hiking Club 7.40 am - 1.00 pm
22 Jan	Grade 10 to 11 Choices Evening PAC 5.30 pm

*DID you know?  
There were 100  
SCHOOL days until  
graduation on  
December 12th, 2019?*

There are 100 days  
until graduation on  
February 26th,  
2020!

# Message from the ABA School Counselors

All of us at ABA are deeply saddened by the death of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos, may his soul rest in peace. Our condolences to the family of His Majesty and the people of Oman.

It can be very difficult for all of us to understand the process of loss. ABA faculty and counseling staff will work closely with the school community over the coming days to provide support. This link provides additional information for parents to discuss bereavement and grief with their child(ren).

*ABA School Counselors  
Colette O'Driscoll, Claire Anthony and Alli Hostetter*

# Message from the High School

## **Important Information for Parents of Grade 10 students**

The annual Grade 10 information evening will be held on Wednesday 22nd January starting in the PAC. This is a very important evening for all Grade 10 students and parents where the choices and options available to students will be introduced for the first time.

Choosing courses for Grades 11 and 12 can seem like a huge and daunting task. We will ensure that we help all our returning Grade 10 students and parents, providing as much information and guidance as possible to guide them in their decision making. Every new student to Grade 11 will be interviewed by either DP Coordinator, Mr Essex, or College and Careers counsellor, Mrs. Barker during February. We will hold these interviews both during and after school hours, to enable parents to be able to attend and join in the discussions. Decision making on courses and potential pathways is not always easy, but we will ensure that students are coursed appropriately, for their potential career and university aspirations and onto a pathway through their final two years at ABA. Beginning promptly at 5:30pm in the PAC the evening will move onto the Secondary Lecture Hall. In the Secondary Lecture Hall, teachers from all the subject groups as well as representatives of CAS, Theory of Knowledge and the Extended Essay will be on hand to demonstrate the kind of work that goes on in the Diploma, and again offer advice, guidance and help for students considering taking those subjects.

We look forward to seeing you, Wednesday 22nd January, 5:30pm in the PAC.

## **Grade 10 into 11 Course choices process:**

January 22nd: Grade 10 Information evening. Course choice forms distributed.

February: Grade 10 Interviews arranged with either Mr. Essex or Mrs. Barker

February 26th: ToK and Core information evening.

March: Timetabling begins. Subject choices confirmed.

Many thanks

*Guy Essex  
DP Coordinator/ HS Assistant Principal*

# Message from the PTA



"Building our community together!"

It is with the utmost sorrow that we write today. A great leader has left us, revered by so many-- at home and throughout the international community. Sultan Qaboos was such that the United Nations and numerous countries are flying their flags at half mast and joining Oman in its time of mourning. We the

people, Omanis and expats, have been blessed with all Sultan Qaboos has done in these short 49 years to make Oman a beacon of peace and a haven for all walks of life . During this time, we reflect on Sultan Qaboos's accomplishments and look forward to the continued greatness that Sultan Haitham bin Tarek will bring. May Sultan Qaboos rest in peace. May Oman remain the beauty we know it to be and may we all continue to contribute to its safety and prosperity.

The PTA Community Meeting has been rescheduled to Monday, January 20th.

## Teacher/Staff Fund Requests- Round 2

Deadline for submission extended to February 2nd, 2020. You should find the fund request form in your email. Voting will take place in the community meeting on February 17th, 2020.

## The Parent Art Exhibition - **POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

Contact Bokamaso at [PTASec@abaoman.org](mailto:PTASec@abaoman.org) for any queries you may have pertaining to this event.



## PTA DATES

**Mon. Jan. 20th @ PTA room**  
Community Meeting, 7.40 - 8.40 am

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

## Tuesday Talks & Travels 2019-20

### Hiking Club Kick-off

21st January 2020



Cost: **FREE**

Bring a packed lunch and enjoy the hidden gems of Oman

Contact: [PTAVice@abaoman.org](mailto:PTAVice@abaoman.org)



## Tuesday Talks & Travels (TTT)

Scheduled to start January 21st with the Wadi Kabir Viewpoint hike. To receive up dates on hiking destinations, email Laila at [PTAVice@abaoman.org](mailto:PTAVice@abaoman.org).

Your PTA  
'Building Our Community Together'

# A Tribute to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos

