

# AL NOOR-ABA NEWS

## 30th January 2020

Please note that the revised date for the upcoming Board Meeting is 11th February at 6.30pm

### Message from the Head of School

#### Projects Big and Small!



#### Big Projects:

During our Professional Development 1/2 day on 29th January, 60 of us got to take a tour of the Al Irfan campus.

Donning hard hats in the construction zone, we first had a safety lesson and then were split into three groups for

efficient tours. Most of the faculty and staff members on the tours had never been on the new campus before and were wowed by many of the features. The beautiful indoor swimming pool will make ABA totally unique in Oman.



From the rooftop tennis courts, one can see the airport and feel the seabreezes. There is a magnificent open feeling on the campus and the three-story atrium is stunning.



Much work has been accomplished and there is still much work yet to be done. The projection for the sports area is to have the MESAC competitions on the new campus in Fall, 2020. The opening of the campus for students will continue to be updated through communications from the Board.

#### Upcoming Dates

30 Jan - 2 Feb	JV Soccer ACS, Abu Dhabi
	MESAC JV Soccer + BBQ Sultan Qaboos Stadium
30 Jan - 3 Feb	JV Basketball AES, India
2 Feb	Activities Council ABA PAC Upper Foyer 10.25 - 11.05 am
3 Feb	MYP Parent Information Meeting Secondary Lecture hall 5.15 - 7.00 pm
4 Feb	Grade 12 Parent Teacher Conference Secondary Lecture hall 1.00 - 6.00 pm
5 - 9 Feb	Season 2 - MESAC Varsity Cross Country + BBQ Sultan Qaboos Stadium
5 - 9 Feb	Tennis AS, Dubai
11 Feb	Board Meeting Elementary Library 6:30 pm

## Small Projects:

During morning greetings, an idea was brought to me by a very forward thinking young student. She was concerned that the monkey bars created calluses on her hands. We brainstormed how that could be remedied and a solution was born.



We ordered chalk packets, like the ones gymnasts use. When the packets came in, we had another hurdle to overcome: how to protect the chalk packets from rain and other elements. Again, ideas were floated and her Dad got involved in the solution. I am so proud of this young student who has identified a problem and has sought a solution. We celebrated with her classmates and some treats in my office. Bravo to this IB Thinker and Inquirer.



*Sue*

Dr. Susan R. Groesbeck

# Message from the Elementary School

Last week, Grade 5 students had an authentic opportunity to demonstrate real understanding of their unit of inquiry. After exploring the concepts of economic systems, supply and demand, business and trade, the children came up with ideas for their own businesses before developing and costing proposals. They created budgets and requested loans from the Student Council, enabling them to bring their business ideas to life.

On Thursday, they demonstrated true entrepreneurship at an extraordinary business fair. From toys and art, to slime and fridge magnets, every business experienced success, and calculated their profits after paying back their loan and subtracting the float.

Just some of the feedback received from happy customers:

*It was an incredible experience. They learnt a lot, they had a lot of enthusiasm! I wanted to say thank you to all grade 5 teachers for all the work you have done!*

*... hearty congratulations!*



*It was so nice to see [the children] working so nicely with [their] friends, they invented, they problem solved, they marketed, they calculated costs and revenue, they did art work, they physically made their product. Just an awesome effort.*

*My warmest congrats to all the grade 5 entrepreneurs and faculty for a spectacular fair... So impressed especially with the fact that most were sold out within the hour! The vibe was awesome, excitement was contagious and I shopped a lot ! If any of the entrepreneurs would like to keep on making and selling their products and service I would love to welcome them at Souq es Sabt farmers market.*

## **Report Card Update**

From Tuesday 4th February, you will be able to access your child's report online from the iSAMS parent portal located on the ABA website. In an effort to reduce environmental impact, we do not print reports to send home. Instructions for how to access the report will be sent to you by email when they are available.

Parents of children in Early Childhood will receive report comments describing their child(ren)'s growth in the four domains of learning: personal, social and emotional development, physical development, cognitive development and creative development.

*Sam Cook - Elementary Principal*

# Message from the High School

## **Grade 10 Subject Choices – Helpful Tips**

While our seniors are busy with the final steps of the university application process and juniors have begun their college search, Grade 10 students are also at a crucial point in their education: choosing subjects for the IB Diploma. Last week the Options process was explained at an Information Evening hosted by our DP Coordinator, Mr. Essex and in Advisory sessions this week, our High School Counselor Ms. Alli gave guidelines about decision-making. Ahead of Options Interviews which begin next week, some of our current and past DP students have also offered words of advice for Grade 10 students.

### **From members of the High School Student Council:**



Maya Sueyoshi – Secretary, Adly Al-Sharif - PRO and  
Naman Khan - VP (Grade 11);  
Mark Braganza - President (Grade 12)

- Choose subject areas you will enjoy as this will keep you motivated.
- Your HL subjects should be a combination of what you're good at and what you like.
- If possible, select subjects that are linked in some way or complement each other well.
- Consult with teachers and students to get a clear picture of what courses will involve.
- If you find that you need to make a switch, do so as early as possible.





Having a good idea of what you'd like to do at after High School should inform your choices. Check university websites with care to ascertain specific subject requirements.

Rita is one of our seniors who has so far been offered a place at Oxford University, Warwick University and Imperial College, London.



Choose your subjects based on the career you have in mind. Don't make the mistake of opting for a course simply because you think it's easy.

Kiran is a Grade 12 student who plans to study Business Administration or Commerce in Canada (offers so far from Alberta, Saskatchewan and Acadia Universities).



Read course descriptions carefully so you know what you're signing up for. Your choices should reflect a balance of your interests and strengths.

Salma is a recent graduate who, since leaving ABA, has studied in the Netherlands and will continue her undergraduate course in the UK.



Examine university publications to ensure that you take the right courses for programmes with prerequisites. If you are uncertain about your career pathway, choose DP subjects that will allow you to keep your options open.

Adam is a Grade 11 student who currently takes Business Management, Math Applications and Biology at HL along with the SL subjects Music, English Language & Literature and Spanish.

*Denise Barker - University Counselor*

## Message from the PTA



"Building our community together!"

Volunteering for events and activities are a great way to get involved in the school and it gives children a sense of pride. You can volunteer for whatever amount of time or kind of activity you enjoy; donate food, manage an activity or help with set up at an event. Want to volunteer but don't know how or for what - visit the link:

<http://abaoman.org/wp-site/pta-volunteer/> and submit the form on the page. We would love to hear from you.

### PTA DATES

**Mon. Feb. 17th @ PTA room**  
Community Meeting @ 7.40 - 8.40 am

**Tue. Feb. 18th**  
TTT - Hiking Club continues @ 7.40 - 1 pm

### Coming Up...

#### Teacher/Staff Fund Requests- Round 2

As shared in the last newsletter, deadline for submission has been extended to 2nd February, 2020. You should find the fund request form in your email. Voting will take place in the community meeting on 17th February, 2020.



### The Parent Art Exhibition

The event is tentatively rescheduled for February 20th, subject to at least 10 artists signing up. Please contact Bokamaso at [PTASec@abaoman.org](mailto:PTASec@abaoman.org) for any queries you may have pertaining to this event.

### Tuesday Talks & Travels (TTT)

This week's hike was absolutely blissful. We visited the Oman Botanical Gardens, explored the 300 year old Al Khod castle, peaked through the date palms at a massive 200 year old house, experienced wadi bashing and discovered the green hills of Muscat; all only 20 minutes away from ABA.

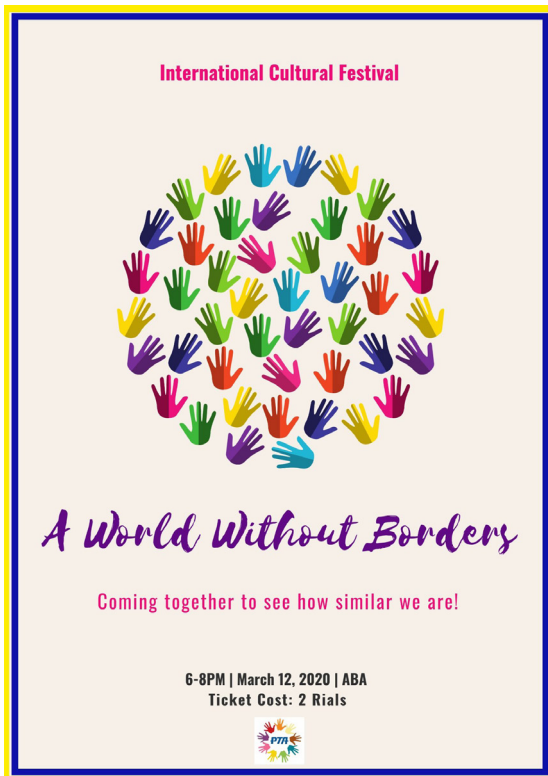
A big thank you goes out to Annette Patzelt, an ABA mom and director of the Oman Botanical Gardens and her team for the tour and the donation of her book, Oman Plant, Red Data Book, to the PTA book shelf.

Quotes from this week's hike and a sample from the record breaking 385 pictures that were taken.

Next week we will be hiking through Wadi Adai. The rock formations are amazing, there are numerous caves to explore and unlimited hills and peaks to climb and discover their breathtaking views.

To receive updates on hiking destinations and to join the upcoming hikes, email Laila at [PTAVice@abaoman.org](mailto:PTAVice@abaoman.org).





## International Cultural Festival - *A World without Borders*

***"I have a vision of the world as a global village. A world without boundaries."*** - Christa Mc Auliffe ~

(2 September, 1948 – 28 January, 1986) an American teacher and astronaut.

One of the most popular PTA events, ICF will be held on 12th March. This year's theme aims to bring the community together by highlighting how similar we are and how we share traditions and foods although we are from different parts of the world.

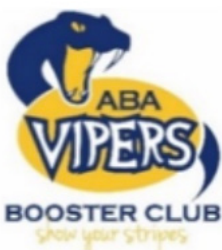
This year the PTA is working with the language department to make it a week of cultural experiences culminating in Thursday nights gastronomically entertaining festival and in order to break down the borders, this year's event will not feature individual stalls for each country. Instead, similar types of foods will be grouped together, your childhood games will be enjoyed and decorations from all cultures will be distributed throughout the event.

Please feel free to contact Lama at: [PTAChair@abaoman.org](mailto:PTAChair@abaoman.org) for any queries. In the meantime, enjoy the lovely weather and have a great weekend!

Your PTA

*"Building our community together."*

## Message from the Booster Club



### VIPERS going for GOLD!

We wish our travelling VIPERS basketball teams all the best for a sensational weekend of competition. Bring home the GOLD, VIPERS!!!

The Booster Club will be on the ground this weekend supporting our MESAC JV Soccer teams all day 30th January – 1st February. We are expecting over 160 athletes,

coaches and support staff, as well as spectators at the Sultan Qaboos Stadium. We are looking forward to a great weekend of competition and to once again showcase our ABA hospitality and VIPERS pride to our international guests.

If you can spare some time this weekend to come support our VIPERS, we would love to see you there! Grab a burger, cold drink, refreshing ice cream, or some official VIPERS merchandise and watch the action LIVE!!!







We will do it all again the following weekend for the MESAC Varsity Soccer at Sultan Qaboos Stadium 6th - 8th February.

**MESAC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS** – Wednesday 12 February – grab your tickets for SEASON 2 Awards Night from the Booster Club Stand at the Stadium ALL WEEKEND. Ticket sales will continue in Admin up to 11 February. NO TICKET SALES ON THE NIGHT!!!!

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

**Gooooooooo VIPERS!!!!**

*Yours in community spirit – VIPERS Booster Club*

# Community Message



## Thinking about our new Al Irfan Campus...

Much good work has been done by the Transition Committee which was established by Simon Taylor, our former Superintendent. I'd like to reconvene that committee and add to it. If you are a logistics thinker, if you want to guard ABA's culture, if you are a city planner.... you are needed! All types of "thinkers" are needed to be on the Transition Committee in different groups.

Please give your name to Jasmin Wadsworth in Administration if you would like to think about the transition to the new campus.

Thank you.  
*Sue*

