

AL NOOR-ABA NEWS

13th February 2020

Message from the Head of School



Upcoming Dates

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|-------------|---|
| 16 - 20 Feb | Grade11 Discovery Week |
| 17 Feb | PTA Open Meeting PTA Room 7:40 - 8:40am |
| 18 Feb | Tuesday Talks & Travels Majlis Al Shura visit |
| 19 Feb | Head of School Coffee Morning PTA Room 7:30 - 8:30 am |

It's been quite some time since we enjoyed a cup of coffee together. I invite you to join me in the morning after you drop off your son or daughter. Please come to the PTA Room, 7:30 - 8:30am on February 19th. I'll provide some sweets and coffee and you bring your questions. I will be open to your inquiries and will summarize what we talk about in the next newsletter, as I have done in the past.

See you then!

Sue

Dr. Susan R. Groesbeck

Message from the Middle School

MYP 5 students will participate in eAssessment familiarization from 16th - 20th February. Familiarization provides an opportunity for students to experience the atmosphere of an MYP eAssessment. In this way, your child is not unprepared for the actual examinations beginning on 11th May .

The nomenclature "familiarisation" is deliberate and so should not be conflated with the idea of a mock exam. Familiarisation places students in the real context with an expectation that they will be able to transfer the processes that they experience now, to the actual examinations later.



Therefore, students are expected to be on time, have fully charged laptops, have working headphones, pencils and/or pens, and rest well for the day ahead. Additionally, the session will familiarise students with the interface of the onscreen tests coupled with the time pressure that comes with an assessment of this nature.

Importantly, familiarisation is not only for students. For us, it allows us to test our systems, finetune our protocols, improve our communication framework and sensitize students and teachers with the expectations of an onscreen exam. While the examination practice is important, the conditions (being entirely new) will require the same level of planning and organisation.

Accordingly, your role as parent is critical to your child's first experience in this format. Remind your child to organise their device for the next day, keep abreast of the schedule, find out how the day went, and be present to calm when anxieties take over. Working on a computer in an examination scenario can be daunting, so the more you reduce the stress around this the better. Furthermore, our teachers will be using this as an opportunity to further develop learning rather than to decide final levels.

The onscreen examinations will be conducted in the GYM and have two start times based on a two session day. Session 1 will be from 7:30 am - 10: 30 am and Session 2 from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm. Ensure your child is punctual especially for Session 2 with advanced arrangements made for travel to school. Students who need to be in school can use the library or any available space as long as they are mindful of the fact that other classes are still in session.

This is an important time in your child's life so ensure that the things you can control are providing the best atmosphere for their success.

Megel Barker - MYP Coordinator

Message from the High School

Sports-Related Studies and Careers

The consensus among experts is that career choices should be driven by the perfect balance of strengths, interests and market prospects. For many students, the answer to this equation is the field of sports: a pathway which allows them to embark on their professional journey in an area they find genuinely enjoyable and one for which there is growing demand.



Students with a desire to pursue a career in the sporting arena are no longer restricted to the single pathway of becoming professional athletes. They can also choose relevant programmes at university which will prepare them for a range of careers, some of which are listed below:

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Athletic Coaching | Sports Analytics | Sports Broadcasting |
| Sports Communication | Sports Event Coordination | Sports/Fitness Nutrition |
| Sports Law | Sports Management | Sports Marketing |
| Sports Medicine | Sports Psychology | Sports Science |
| Sports Technology | Sports Therapy | Sports Writing |

For students wishing to pursue their studies in other disciplines whilst maintaining their sporting interests, universities present a vast array of extra-curricular activities in which they can engage. Whether it involves playing competitively to represent their institutions or joining a club to maintain their fitness levels, there are many options for students to explore. Sports enthusiasts will, therefore, want to research what opportunities are available at each institution as they conduct their college search.

Joining an established sporting association and potentially earning a scholarship are also options that are available to talented athletes. The websites below provide a great starting point to doing the necessary research:

- www.athleticscholarships.net
- www.collegescholarshipsusa.com
- www.ethosrecruiting.com
- www.fulbright.org.uk
- www.naia.org
- www.ncaa.org
- www.ncsasports.org
- www.oua.ca
- www.therecruitingcode.com
- www.thescholarshipub.org.uk

For more information, visit the University and Careers section of the ABA Website:
[\(http://abaoman.org/wp-site/hs/university-and-career-counseling/\)](http://abaoman.org/wp-site/hs/university-and-career-counseling/).

Denise Barker, University Counselor



2020 Graduation

On behalf of the 2020 Graduation Committee we would like to wish all our 2020 Graduates the very best for their mock exams next week.

2020 not only marks a huge milestone for our young graduates but also marks the 30th Anniversary of graduates from ABA. Don't miss your opportunity to celebrate our amazing graduates and the incredible achievements of the past 30 years. We would like to invite all our Class of 2020 graduates, family, and friends to join us on Friday 5th June 2020 at the Muscat Ballroom of The Kempinski Hotel, Al Mouj, Muscat.

Tickets will go on sale at ABA reception from Sunday 23rd February from 7:30 am till 2:00 pm. Tickets are RO.30 per person and include a delicious buffet dinner, juice, tea, coffee, and an unforgettable evening with your graduates.

*Cash bar will be available on the night.

Tickets are LIMITED, so DON'T MISS OUT! Tickets are required for graduates, and all attending family members, and friends. Ticket sales will close mid MAY 2020 unless sold out prior!

For more information please contact **Shuchi Malik (99772132)** and **Sumaiya at Reception** .

Professional Learning

We were delighted to welcome Mark Church to ABA for three days of professional learning. Based upon the idea that there is a strong correlation between how adults learn and the quality of student learning, this is an area on which we choose to invest time and thought. Previously, Mark Church and I worked together for a number of years at the Future of Learning summer institute at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. From first hand experience I can share that we are very fortunate to have someone of his calibre working with teachers. Mark is the co-author of '[Making Thinking Visible](#)' and in the coming months will have a second book, '[The Power of Making Thinking Visible](#)' published. His work is strongly aligned with our own Effective Learning Principles. Atiq Hussein captured the professional learning of the Middle and High School teachers in this fantastic short video (thank you Atiq) which I hope you enjoy.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=kjW1azbLzcs>

Simon Walker - High School Principal

Message from the Athletics Director

MESAC Success

On behalf of the entire ABA Community and MESAC organization let me start with congratulating our JV and Varsity Soccer players and our XC runners for entertaining us with their athleticism and skills during the tournaments in Muscat. The support at the National Stadium for the soccer and for the XC runners at Ghala and Qantab has been amazing and appreciated by our players/runners and coaches.

Our MESAC teams were not just here in Muscat but also in Dubai, Delhi and Abu Dhabi. Whether it was the highs of a hard fought win or the lows of a disappointing loss each team worked through adversity at some point and became closer as a team. The past weekends has presented an opportunity for our players and artists to showcase themselves, their team and our school. The collaborative performance at the Senior Fine Arts Festival typifies what MESAC is all about - A group of students and teachers coming together to work to a common goal. All our teams were great and respresented our school with pride. Our school's reputation amongst the other MESAC students/coaches/directors has soared to the highest level.

Below are the results from the weekend:

Tennis

Boys Overall- Bronze

Girls Overall- Bronze

Girls Singles Seed 3 - Gold (Alix)

Girls Singles Seed 2 - Gold (Maria)

Girls Singles Seed 1 - Bronze (Zara)

Girls Doubles Seed 1 - Bronze (Anushka and Ishita)

Boys Singles Seed 3 - Bronze (Matteo)

Boys Singles Seed 2 - Bronze (Janathan)

Boys Singles Seed 1 - Silver (Thomas)

JV Soccer

Boys 5th

Girls 6th

JV Basketball

Boys Bronze

Girls Bronze

V Soccer

Boys Bronze

Girls 5th

V Basketball

Boys 5th

Girls 4th

Cross Country

Boys Overall- Bronze

Senior Fine Arts

A great final performance which is definitely worth watching.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_FkOJnluBLI&list=PL_XzGY43DNOBso8Iga_K8vb_otUOXJQMI&index=5



MESAC Achievement Awards

WOW! Wednesday night was a very powerful and special night for our Basketballers, Footballers, XC runners and Tennis players. All the teams were recognized and honoured in front of their peers and families. A huge thanks to Michelle Bourne and the Booster Club for making this evening so successful. The Booster Club's preparation was first class, from the tables, decorations, table centerpieces, banners, food, design, ticket sales, lucky door prizes, organisation etc. Thanks to Dani Owen and Aymen Abdalla for being the MC for the evening.

From the coaches speeches it was evident from the evening there is more to sport than just winning or losing. Our players have developed strength derived from sharing challenging situations with their fellow peers and learnt what it takes to be a true team member. The pride our players showed in our school, our teams and themselves over season two was infectious and inspiring.



Paul Brace - Athletics Director

Message from the PTA



Building our community together!

Volunteer for the PTA or PTA events:

<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

Thu. Mar. 12th @ TBD
ICF - A World without Borders @ 6-8 pm

Tuesday Talks & Travels (TTT)

This week's hike club consisted of one group climbing Mount Heed and another walking from Ghala to Bowshar and visiting the Bait Maqham fort. The climb was an amazing challenge that rewarded the climbers with fascinating views of Muscat and the surrounding areas.

For the group that walked, many were first timers and their discovery of a gem in their backyard was more than they expected. Both groups were greeted by endless wildflowers, green grass and butterflies galore.



To receive updates on hiking destinations and to join the upcoming hikes, email Laila at PTAVice@abaoman.org .

Coming Up...

Teacher/Staff Fund Requests- Round 2 - Voting on the fund requests will take place next week on 17th February, 2020 in the community meeting. If you have any questions that you would like raised at the meeting but cannot be present please send them to PTAChair@abaoman.org

1. Lost & Found Closet

Request by: PTA

Cost: 500 omr (3 quotes recieved)

Benefits: Moms and all children

Expected Delivery: March

Purpose: To organize all the lost and found items in one location at school in a closet that will be easily accessible by the parents and students. To get rid of the buckets that hold and mold the clothing and items in multiple areas of the school.

2. Sensory Pathway

Request by: Sue Grosebeck

Cost: \$1450 US + shipping (RO.558 + shipping)

Expected Delivery: June

Benefits: Elementary, Staff, Teachers, Parents love it as they walk through, Admissions

Purpose: It POPs the areas and makes movement fun through the hallways for children and adults.

Items to be purchased: Recenter Reset Sensory Path, 112 pcs, by 3M. 7ml commercial grade adhesive vinyl with protective, anti-skid coating.

3. POP UP Open Mic

Request by: Zita Gange

Cost: RO.650

Expected Delivery: March

Benefits: All students, MESAC, ISTA, Teachers, Booster Club, PTA Events

Purpose: I am requesting funds for sound equipment to provide a "Pop Up Open Mic" for the students. This equipment would be stored near the drama court so it could be easily accessed by the students when they wanted to run lunchtime concerts and open mic events during and after school.

Why do we need this? Students are often requesting equipment which we are unable to provide either due to resources being used elsewhere or staff not being available to support them for that event due to other obligations.

This would be hard wearing and simple to use equipment which students could assemble and operate (selected students would be trained) and it could also be used for many other outdoor occasions including, MESAC, ISTA, Sports Days, PTA events, to name a few. Plus, it would be a fantastic addition to our new campus in the Arts courtyard where we hope to have a permanent open mic area. The mixing desk also has an SD card so the students can record their music live as it happens.

This project is important because music is LIFE. No seriously, music is a big part of our student's school life. Whether they want to make music or listen to music or just be around music, that opportunity should be there for them as much as possible. We hate saying no to students because of logistics. This equipment would allow students greater agency when they wanted to take action, take risks and take pride in making music.

Items to be purchased:

2 x Mackie Powered Loudspeaker 1300W 2 x Platinum Speaker Stand w/reversible Pole 2 x XLR-XLR 10m Pro Speaker Cable 2 x XLR-XLR 5m Pro Mic Cable 1 x Presonus Studiolive USB Mixer Live / Recording Sennheiser Stage Microphone with switch 1 x Custom RCA to aux cable

4. Live Streaming Equipment for ABA

Requested by: Andrews David

Cost: RO.1790

Expected Delivery: March

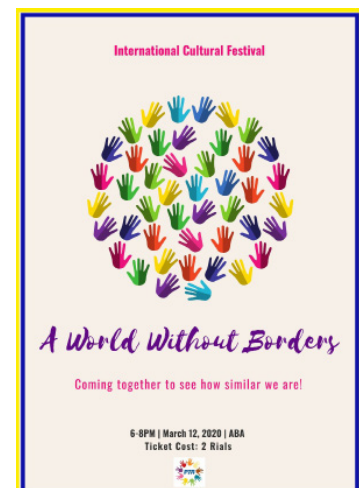
Benefits: All Students, Booster Club, PTA, MESAC, Marketing

Purpose: Live streaming any event ABA wishes to be viewed by the world. Needed for marketing and communications.

International Cultural Festival - *A World without Borders*

ICF is edging closer. Please do volunteer to represent your culture and help us weave a community culture. Each cultural volunteer will be the point of contact to bring together the food donations, decorations, music and a stage performance (optional) from that specific culture. Please [click here](#) to volunteer to represent your culture.

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 for any queries.



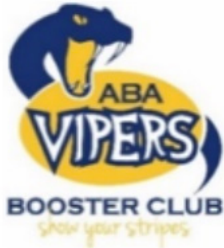
Your PTA

"Building our community together"

Message from the Booster Club

WOW....What a season!

WOW! What an amazing season 2 for our VIPERS MESAC participants! Over the past two weekends, the Sultan Qaboos Stadium was alive with the presence of supporters for our soccer teams, cheering on our JV boys and Varsity boys as the Varsity boys brought home the bronze medal! Our Cross Country boys' team came in second with a silver medal! Our VIPERS athletes returned from international competition sporting medals and having made their coaches and parents proud with the way they represented ABA. In tennis, both boys and girls won Team Bronze and within both teams, there were bronze, silver and gold individual medals.



CONGRATULATIONS to ALL our MESAC participants for your determination, dedication, and VIPERS spirit. On Wednesday night we celebrated the success of the VIPERS season 2 participants with the MESAC Achievement Awards. Over

260 participants, parents, and family members came together to recognize the dedication and achievements of all our MESAC students. Thank you to all our VIPERS families for your support over the last two weekends of MESAC soccer. Thanks for the amazing food donations, time, energy, and enthusiasm. The feedback from participants, coaches, and visiting parents from all schools has been incredible. Without our community these events will not be possible.



Thanks to the Activities Council and ABA Ambassadors for your time and energy to help wherever needed over the weekend. And a HUGE thanks must go to our Booster Club team of volunteer parents that have worked tirelessly the past three weeks ensuring all our VIPERS and visiting teams, coaches, and families were well fed, watered, welcomed, and celebrated. VIPERS pride and community spirit is alive and thriving at ABA.

Pop-Up Shop: our next pop-up shop will be MONDAY 24th FEBRUARY outside the ECE as usual.

If you would like to know more about the Booster Club, simply email us: boosteclub@abaoman.org. Booster Club is a great way to 'support our kids' while making new friends and having fun.

Yours in community spirit – VIPERS Booster Club