

# AL NOOR-ABA NEWS

## 23rd January 2020

### Message from the Head of School

Dear Parents,

Good News for parents! The Board and School management have been actively investigating ways to make the School's tuition structure more attractive for parents and also more supportive of the financial needs of the school. This delicate balance will always be a challenge. At the last Board meeting, the following decisions were made:

#### Tuition Fee Discount

A 2% discount was approved for payment of full tuition upfront. For families who would like to pay all the tuition at once, we have approved an incentive with a percentage discount.

#### BCARF name change, Discounts and Installments

BCARF, which is applicable to new admissions, will be renamed as Enrollment Fee. With the renaming of BCARF to "Enrollment Fee", companies are more likely to include payment of the facilities fee in their packages.

There is now a sibling discount in the BCARF which is positive news. There will be a discount for siblings' BCARF payments - 5% for 2nd sibling, 10% each from 3rd sibling onwards.

If a child is transferring from another IB school in Muscat, there will be a 10% discount for each student. Maximum reduction is 10% per student.

#### Tuition Fee Installments for Self-paying Parents

We also know that paying the whole semester Tuition fee at once is very hard for self-paying families and have therefore approved that for self-paying families and new students, the semester fees can be paid in two installments, if requested by parents. While paying the first installment, a post dated check will be collected for the second installment.

#### Upcoming Dates

28 Jan	University Bournemouth Visit UK - Art Secondary Lecture Hall 10:30 - 11:00 am
29 Jan	Elementary School Coffee Morning PTA Room 7:30 - 8:40 am  Early Release School Dismissal 12:15pm
29 Jan - 1 Feb	Senior Arts ACS Abu Dhabi
29 Jan - 2 Feb	JV Soccer ABA
30 Jan - 2 Feb	Cross Country ABA
30 Jan - 3 Feb	AES Delhi
31 Jan - 1 Feb	TASIM MUN Conference TAISM
04 Feb	Board Meeting Elementary Library 4:00 pm

## Re-enrollment Deposit

In order to support faculty and staff salaries and plan for the future academic year, employee contracts have to be awarded in a timely manner. This depends on the number of sections and classes to determine how many teachers/assistants we hire in the Spring of each year. This in turn is dependent on finalization of student reenrollment and subsequent new student enrollment registrations.

We want to give our current families the first opportunity to re-enroll before we ever fill up available spots with new students. Therefore, we want to make our cut-off dates for re-enrollment be very clear and strict. The payment date for RE-enrollment deposit (applicable and mandatory for all continuing students) for the next academic year (2020-21) is 15th February, 2020. The deposit will be 10% of next year's tuition fee. It is to our re-enrolling students' advantage to sign up before the cut-off date. Once we open up enrollment for new students there is always a possibility that the class will fill-up with new students and those who could not RE-enroll will be at risk of losing a seat in the school.

### In case you are transferred or have to move ...

We also realize that companies in this volatile economy are whimsical so we have to provide back-out plans for families who take advantage of early enrollments. We are therefore very explicit that a family can withdraw from enrollment without penalty for a full refund of enrollment deposit up to May 15th, 2020.

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to come to see me or anyone in the Business Office or a Board member for clarification.

*Sue*

Dr. Susan R. Groesbeck

# Message from the Business Office

## Safety and Security of the School Campus

The ABA leadership team evaluates the safety and security arrangement at the school campus on a regular basis. We wish to compliment the parents for their contribution in achieving the above objective. In order to remain diligent and safe, here are gentle reminders:

- Always wear your parent ID while you are on campus.
- Maintain a maximum speed of 15km/hr while driving within the campus and outside parking area.
- Follow requests from the security staff and support staff in parking and drop off zones.
- Avoid parking that obstructs cars parked on the parking lot.
- Do not leave the vehicle parked with the engine running.
- While driving, wear seat belts and obey child safety seat laws.

## Second Semester Fee

Tuition fees for the second semester were due for payment on 5th January, 2020. Parents who have not cleared their tuition obligations are requested to pay the amount with all due haste. If the tuition fee is not paid before 31st January, 2020, the school policy is to levy a flat rate of 5% of the amount remaining. Please email [business\\_office@abaoman.org](mailto:business_office@abaoman.org) for any questions.

*Bahul Pillai - Business Manager*

# Message from the Elementary School



## Parent coffee morning - what to expect from your child's report

A workshop for parents of Grade 1-5 students  
 Wednesday 29th January | 7:40 - 8:00am | PTA Room

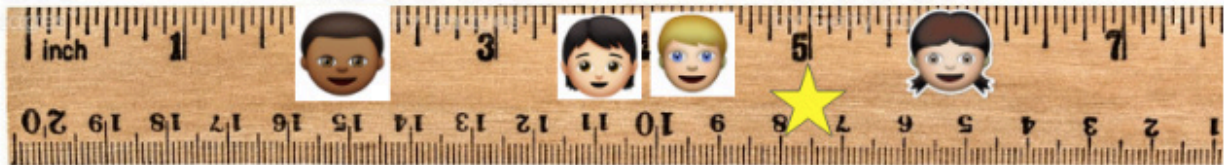
What is the importance of report cards? How and why have they changed? What other ways are there for me to remain informed of my child's learning? Join us for this coffee morning to learn more and have your questions answered, before reports are published in early February.

## Reporting on progress

Move away from a fixed measure at end of each semester

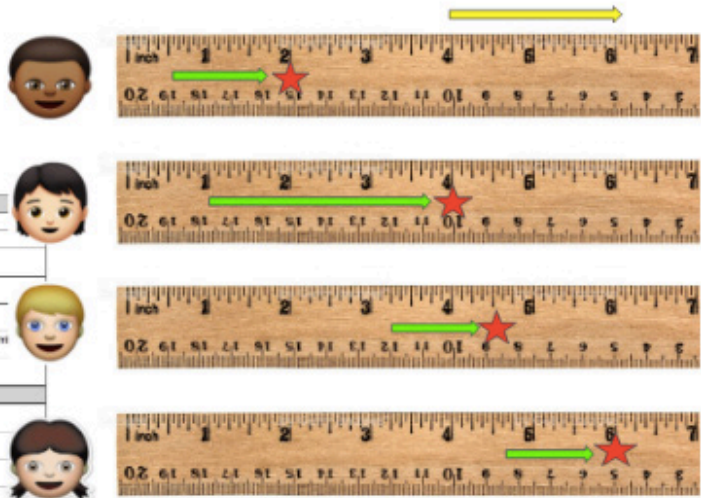
### Mathematics

Number	W	M	E
Checks the reasonableness of answers	✓		
Uses a variety of strategies to add 2 and 3 digit numbers with regrouping		✓	
Uses a variety of strategies to subtract 2 and 3 digit numbers with regrouping	✓		
Uses a variety of strategies to multiply 2 digits by 1 digit	✓		
Uses a variety of strategies to divide 2 digits by 1 digit		✓	
Has a working knowledge of the multiplication facts 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10		✓	
Clearly communicates strategies when solving word problems		✓	
Reads and writes fractions		✓	
Orders and compares fractions		✓	



Move towards measuring individual student growth within a normal range

Significant Achievements this Semester
Pattern and Function Phase 4a - Fluently recalls multiplication facts 1 to 10
Number Phase 4b - Read, write, compare and order whole numbers up to the millions and beyond
Number Phase 4c - Compare, order, sequence and round off whole numbers, decimals, and fractions
Number Phase 4a - Multiply <u>1 digit</u> numbers by 2 digit numbers using more than one strategy
Data Handling Phase 4a - Collect, display and interpret data in pie graphs and line graphs
Shape and Space Phase 4b - Graph and interpret coordinates on a grid using quadrants, negative and positive units
Measurement Phase 4a - Measure and construct angles in degrees using a protractor
Next Steps
Number Phase 4b - Compare, order, sequence and round off whole numbers, decimals, and fractions
Measurement Phase 4b - Develop, describe and apply formulas for finding perimeter, area and volume
Data Handling Phase 4a - Use mode, mean, median and range as a way of summarising data



# Message from the Athletics Director

## MESAC Housing 29 January - 2 February

We are still looking for 22 homes (8 boys and 14 girls homes) to house our visiting MESAC athletes for the JV Soccer Tournament. We will have 160 students from the 5 visiting schools to host for the tournament that lasts 4 days.

The schools will arrive on **Wednesday 29th January in the afternoon/evening (depending on their flight arrival time) and depart on Sunday the 2nd February in the morning.**

There will be a housing meeting on January 26th at 6:00pm in the secondary cafe to take you through what is needed. Host families are essential to a successful and memorable experience for our visiting students. If you are able to help out with housing please contact Abi Wilson: [awilson@abaoman.org](mailto:awilson@abaoman.org)

## MESAC Parent Meetings

**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 5:30 - 6:00 pm in the lecture hall (beside the HS cafeteria)

**Sunday 26th January:** Meeting from 6:00 - 6:30 pm in the HS cafeteria for all the parents who will be hosting our visiting MESAC JV Soccer athletes. Thank you for opening your doors.

Come and support our teams over the MESAC weekends.

Final preparations are being put in place for all the MESAC teams. There is less than one week to go before our, SFA and JV basketball teams depart to their tournaments.

Next week we welcome the MESAC JV Soccer players on 29th January. Click on the link for the schedule of the JV soccer games. [Soccer Schedule](#) The games for the JV Soccer Tournament will be held at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex (Bousher) Location: <https://goo.gl/maps/YawH5ENHBL52>.

The MESAC XC teams arrive in Muscat on 30th January. The teams will be running at Ghala Golf course (Friday 31st January 8:30 - 10:30 am) and the mountains in Qantab (Saturday 1st February 8:45 - 10:45 am)

I hope you will be able to come and support our Soccer players and XC runners over the next weekend.

Games/events for next week are listed below.

26th January	MSSL Tournament Basketball U19 Boys @ TAISM	4:00 - 6:00 pm
27th January	U19 Boys Basketball vs PSO @ ABA	3:00 - 4:15 pm
27th January	U19 Boys Soccer vs RGO @ RGO 7:00	7:00 - 8:15 pm

*Paul Brace - Athletics Director*

# Message from the ABA School Counselors

## Middle School Summer School/Camp Information

With the winter holiday behind us, many families will begin to prepare for the summer holidays and the exciting opportunities available to secondary school students. Throughout the year, we receive information from numerous organisations and international summer camps in the UK, North America and Europe. These camps offer courses in a plethora of activities including rock climbing, hiking, horse riding, language classes, multimedia, Artificial Intelligence, water sports as well as cultural and academic experiences. Mrs. Denise Barker provided information for high school students before the winter break in the 12th December Newsletter.

Please note: ABA receive information and emails from organisations promoting their summer camp and it is the responsibility of individual families to research and find a camp best suited to the needs of their middle school child.

## Adventure, Sports and Cultural Focus

<http://www.villagecamps.com/> (languages also offered)

[www.leselfes.com](http://www.leselfes.com) (This is the company we use for the Middle School ski trip)

<http://www.nacel.org/cd/Summer-Camps/Germany.php>

[www.campbeaumont.com](http://www.campbeaumont.com)

**The following programmes provide students with academic, cultural and activities on a daily basis.**

<https://www.issos.com/summer-schools/at-yale/>

<https://oxfordsummercourses.com/>

<http://www.supercamp.com/summer-programs/>

## Technology Focus

Stanford University: Digital Media

<https://www.digitalmediaacademy.org/meet-dma/>

Whizzkids, Ireland: <http://www.whizzkids.ie>

Description: Whizzkids is a multimedia training company focused on teens and pre-teens. We deliver courses and camps that cover web design, movie making, desktop publishing, video game programming and mobile technologies. Whether it is an after-school program or a summer camp we mix education with entertainment in a way that allows you to explore the creative side of technology.

**Cybermath Academy (AI, Math and Coding): US based in Boston and Silicon Valley sites**

<https://cybermath.org/>

## Camps with an Environmental Focus

U.S. <https://www.wholeearth.org/youth/>

Iceland: <http://worldwidefriends.is/>

### Language Focus Camps

Teenagers Abroad (language immersion study programs), various camp locations throughout Germany and Europe

Ages: 9-18

Webpage: <http://www.teenagersabroad.com/>

Description: Our programs offer a full language immersion for teens: a schedule of language lessons, sports, leisure and cultural activities and are open to individuals or groups.

### Village Camps, locations throughout Europe

Ages: 7-18

Webpage: <http://www.villagecamps.com/>

Description: Learning While Having Fun... and Having Fun While Learning... are at the center of the VILLAGE CAMPS philosophy. These principles, instilled daily to campers, counselors and staff, ensure the highest level of a rewarding, enjoyable and beneficial summer camp experience to all participating.

### Spanish Language Camps

[https://www.studyabroadinternational.com/Summer\\_Camps\\_in\\_Spain/Spain\\_Junior\\_Summer\\_Camps.html](https://www.studyabroadinternational.com/Summer_Camps_in_Spain/Spain_Junior_Summer_Camps.html)

<https://www.donquijote.org/specialized-spanish-courses/summer-camps/>

<https://www.enforex.com/summercamps/>

Claire Anthony - Middle School Counselors



### ABA Careers Fair

Monday March 16 at 12:30 – 2:15 pm

*For the benefit of our students, we'd like to showcase the widest possible range of professions. If you're available to set up an exhibition and be present to answer any questions students might have, we'd love to hear from you!*

Email: [dbarker@abaoman.org](mailto:dbarker@abaoman.org)



# Message from the PTA



"Building our community together!"

The Community meeting took place on January 20th. Thank you to all those who attended and made it meaningful. Next meeting is scheduled on 17th February. Look forward to seeing you there.

## 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

## Tuesday Talks & Travels (TTT)

The hiking club kicked off last Tuesday with a group of enthusiastic mums hiking up to the Wadi Kabir Viewpoint and being awed by its panoramic views. We aim to continue the hikes until the good weather ends. To receive updates on hiking destinations, email Laila at [PTAVice@abaoman.org](mailto:PTAVice@abaoman.org).



*"To know Oman is to love Oman... and what better way than to go hiking with this group of fantastic n fun ABA mums!"*



*"Looking forward to the next one and getting to know areas around Muscat and a lovely bunch of ABA mothers!"*



*"Little did we know what we had in store for us today! Blue skies, warm sun, a birthday and lots of adventure! Well done to all for completing your first hike of the season! 😊 We also had a few new ladies joining the Club, and they did exceptionally well! All in all, it was a great morning! Thank you PTA."*



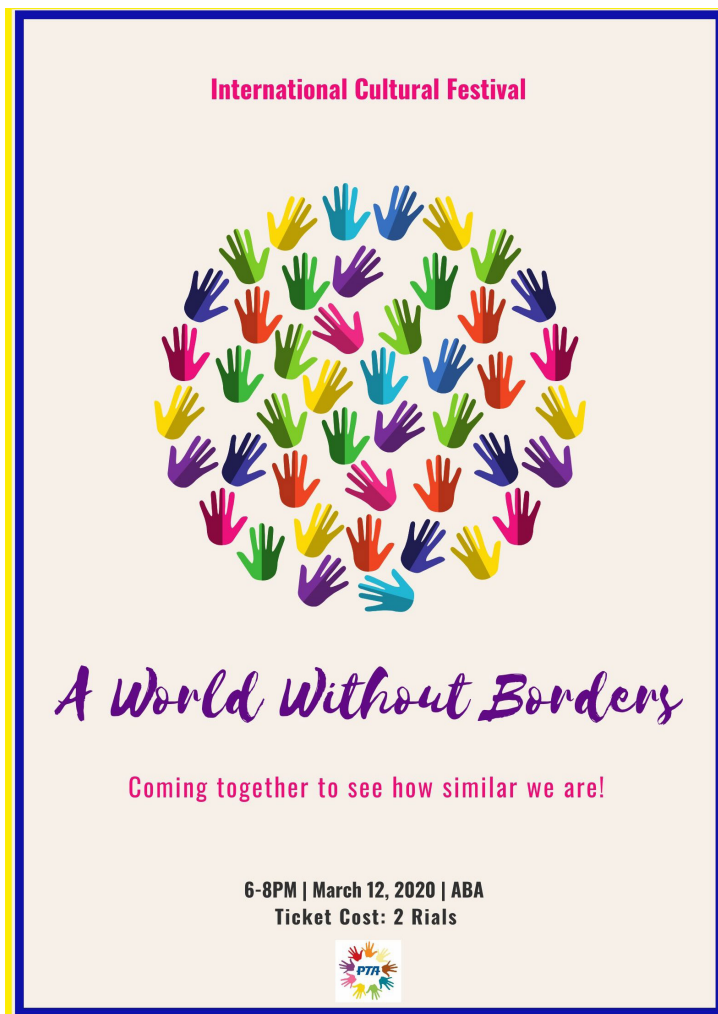
Coming Up...

### Teacher/Staff Fund Requests- Round 2

As shared in the last newsletter, the deadline for submission has been extended to 2nd February, 2020. Voting will take place in the community meeting on 17th February, 2020.

### The Parent Art Exhibition

This event is tentatively rescheduled for 20th February 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.



### International Cultural Festival -

*A World without Borders*

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. How we share traditions and foods although we are from different parts of the world. Please feel free to contact Lama at: [PTAChair@abaoman.org](mailto:PTAChair@abaoman.org) for any queries.

Your PTA  
'Building Our Community Together'



# Message from the Booster Club

## Going to the Movies!

We had another HUGE VOX Movie ticket giveaway this Sunday at our annual Half Shot Hot Shot event with 6 winners = 9 tickets. These kids have surely been practicing their skills! Congratulations to Xandre (Gr4), Khalid who won two tickets (Gr5), Kya (Gr7), Andrea who won three tickets (Gr10), Daniel (G11) and Nabil (G12). For the rest of the kids who took part, well done for trying! Better luck next time!

*Pictured left to right: Kya (Gr7), Xandre (Gr4), Khalid (Gr5), Andrea (Gr10), Nabil (G12) and Daniel (G11).*



## Dates for your Diary:

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

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

**12 February** – MESAC Achievement Awards Season 2 – MPH from 6.00-7.30pm – tickets on sale from 09 February from Saimaya in Admin!!!!

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

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



## Show Your Support!

Our JV and Varsity Soccer Boys and Girls compete against international teams from Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Qatar, and New Delhi on the weekend of **30/31 January - 1 February** and **06-08 February**.

Why not come and join the fun and watch all the action LIVE all weekend. Grab a burger from the Booster Club BBQ and an array of official VIPER merchandise and be there to cheer on our VIPERS!

**The Booster Club will once again be looking for your support in the way of volunteers and food donations for both weekends. Keep your eye out for our email next week!**

**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.



*Signing of the Condolence book for His Majesty Sultan Qaboos*

