

AL NOOR-ABA NEWS

27th February 2020

Message from the Head of School

Dear ABA,

Wednesday was incredible in many ways. I had the pleasure of having personal conversations with most of the Seniors as they came to my office to celebrate 100 days until Graduation Day! It was a nice, steady stream of students and I was able to chat with many and hear their university plans. Several students even got to learn a bit about me.



Upcoming Dates

03 Mar	Study in Canada Presentation & Exhibition Student Lecture Hall 10:15 am - 11:05 am
04 Mar	Mentor meeting ABA 7:00 am - 7:25 am MS Coffee Morning Middle School Common Room 7:45 am - 9:00 am
05 Mar	USA Study Presentation PAC 10:15 am - 11:00 am



Later that afternoon, I went with Kathleen Bowin to the Sustainability Fair at the Grand Hyatt where an ABA Team under the able leadership of Ruairidh MacKenzie demonstrated how one could make recyclable bags out of formerly-loved T-shirts. I enjoyed making my own bag at the fair.



Important Information

Responding to questions

We are being asked increasingly elaborate questions about quarantine and Leaves, among other things, as you all respond to your own individual situations. We are doing our best to help but hope you understand that we may not have all the answers. In the meantime, we ask for your patience as we try to respond to the queries coming in. As always questions pertaining to the health of your children should be directed towards medical professionals.



On a similar note, there is an inevitable increase in the spread of misinformation, through WhatsApp groups and other channels. We are all working to deal with the impact of coronavirus on our community, rather than with speculation and discussion, and we respectfully ask all parents to support us in this.

This elegant message just simply asks that we not spread misinformation. It is a very anxious time for parents. The children are also worried. They bring their worries to school and their teachers are prepared to explain, at the appropriate grade levels, about health and hygiene, science and eventually in the high school about the spread of diseases. What we won't tolerate is any form of bullying or cultural inappropriateness. We have put sanitizers around the buildings. We support the Ministry of Health mandates.

Non-essential travel will be curtailed until after Spring Break (March 28th) when we will re-evaluate the situation. The Finance team will work through the significant number of cancellations as quickly as they are able. We appreciate that this will feel frustrating but bear with us as the volume is exceptional.

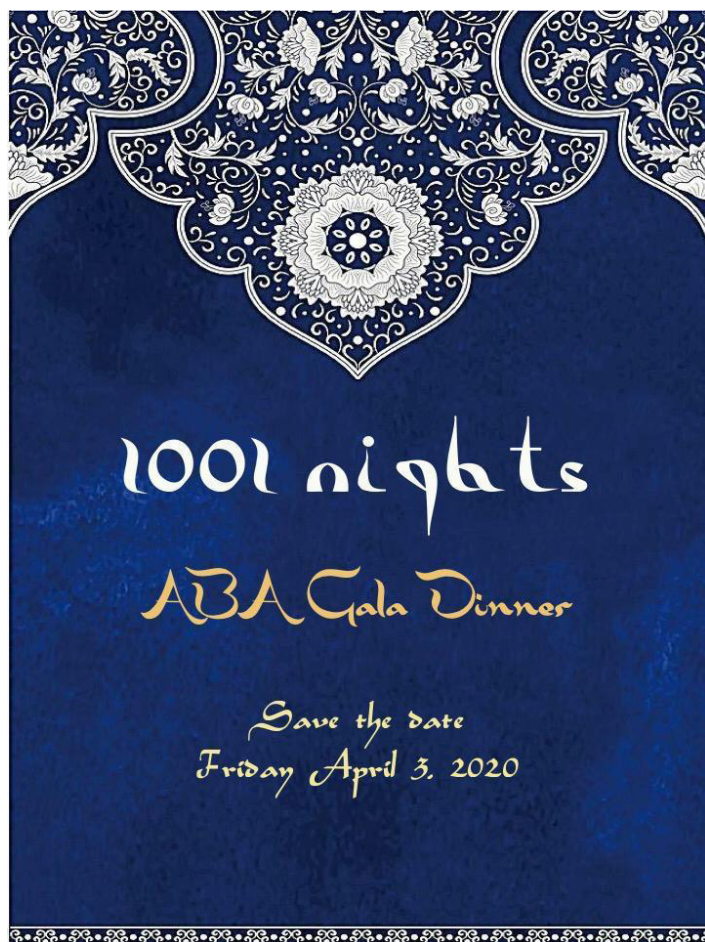
Thank you for your support. This is where the community pulls together and demonstrates our mission, vision and values.

Best,

Sue

Dr. Susan R. Groesbeck

Message from the ABA Gala Committee



Save the Date!

ABA Gala Dinner

Reserve your seat with Merrin at Admin

More details to follow...

Message from the Middle School

This month grade level assemblies were introduced in the Middle School. Each assembly was centered around our mission of enabling our students to be confident, responsible, caring, life-long learners, as well as an intentional focus on developing kindness throughout our Middle School community. We would like to share a few of the videos your children have seen in order for you to engage with them at home as well as share some of the [Visible Thinking Routines](http://bit.ly/VisibleTR) (<http://bit.ly/VisibleTR>) that are being utilized in the Middle School.

MYP 1 (Grade 6) - [Silent](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_an9alryJb8) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_an9alryJb8) This video was shown to students with no sound. They were asked two questions: "Can you find the truth in this story?" and "Can you find the beauty in this story?" ([Beauty and Truth - Visible Thinking Routine](http://bit.ly/VTRBT)) (<http://bit.ly/VTRBT>)

MYP 2 (Grade 7) - [Pay it forward](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PT-HBl2TVtI) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PT-HBl2TVtI>) Students watched this video in clips and were asked these questions along the way: "What do you See?" "What do you Think? And What do you Wonder?" ([See, Think, Wonder Visible Thinking Routine](http://bit.ly/STWVTR)) (<http://bit.ly/STWVTR>)

MYP 3 (Grade 8) - [Lollipop Moment](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_wxjBSaP8Mw) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_wxjBSaP8Mw) Students were asked, "Are you a leader?" and "What makes you say that?" (What makes you say that? [Visible Thinking Routine](http://bit.ly/WMUSTVTR)) (<http://bit.ly/WMUSTVTR>)

All grade levels in the Middle School were shown this Kid President video - [20 Things we should say more often](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m5yCOSHeYn4) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m5yCOSHeYn4>) They were asked, "What do you think we should say more often?"

Monthly Middle School Coffee Morning

Please join us next Wednesday, 4th March, 7:45 - 9:00 am in the Middle and High School Lecture Hall (located next to the High School Cafeteria) for our monthly Middle School Coffee Morning. In preparation for the meeting, please submit your question and points for discussion on this form (<http://bit.ly/MSCMMarch2020>) by Tuesday 3rd March.

Kathleen Bowin - Middle School Principal

Message from the High School

On 26th February, the ABA Mathematics Department provided the opportunity for nearly 20 students to participate in the **Pascal** (grade 9), **Cayley** (grade 10), and **Fermat** (grade 11) mathematics contests. These highly-regarded international contests are organized by the Centre for Education in Mathematics and Computing (CEMC) at the University of Waterloo in Canada and involve over 1,400 schools and 60,000 participants worldwide.





Future contests (also organized by the CEMC) are:

- **Euclid** for grade 12 on 8th April;
- **Fryer, Galois, and Hypatia** for grades 9, 10 and 11, respectively, on 16th April;
- **Gauss**, for grades 7 and 8 on 14th May.

More information will follow closer to the contest dates but interested students should contact their mathematics teacher or Mr. Willms. Further details, including past contests, can be found at: <https://www.cemc.uwaterloo.ca/contests/contests.html>.

A sample of a medium-level question from last year's **Pascal** (grade 9) contest:

Hagrid has 100 animals. Among these animals,

- each is either striped or spotted but not both,
- each has either wings or horns but not both,
- there are 28 striped animals with wings,
- there are 62 spotted animals, and
- there are 36 animals with horns.

How many of Hagrid's spotted animals have horns?

- (A) 8 (B) 10 (C) 2 (D) 38

Dan Willms - Mathematics Department

Message from the Athletics Director

Season 3 Begins with Large Numbers

Season three started this week with a huge turn out, over 190 students. There was plenty of energy in the gyms and at the national Stadium as our coaches organised structured sessions to develop the skills and fitness of our athletes.

Games/events for next week are listed below.

1st March	U12 Boys vs BSM @ BSM	4:20 - 5:30
2nd March	U13 Boys vs BSM @ BSM	4:20 - 5:30
2nd March	U13 Girls vs BSM @ BSM	4:20 - 5:30
3rd March	TAISM Swimming Relays @ TAISM	3:15 - 6:30

Paul Brace - Athletics Director

Message from the PTA



"Building our community together!"

March promises to be a busy month; hiking, ICF and the CPR and First Aid workshops! The Flea Market will be rescheduled.

Tuesday Talks & Travels (TTT)

This hike was absolutely one of the best hikes yet. To be able to drive just down the road and around the bend to a private beach, swim in the pristine waters of Oman and be back at school in time for lunch and school pick up; what more can you ask for?

Bandar Khairan viewpoint and the beaches below were beautiful and well worth the 40 minute drive. The hike down was easy and can be done with children and it's the perfect place to spend a day; swimming, snorkeling and just enjoying the weather- all of which the hike club did this week.

PTA DATES

Tue. Mar. 3rd

TTT - Hiking Club continues @ 7.40 -1 pm

Fri. Mar. 6th @ MPH

Flea Market @ **rescheduled**

Tue. Mar. 9th @ PTA room

Community meeting @ 7.40 -8.40 am

Thu. Mar. 12th @ Grasspitch

ICF - A World without Borders @ 6-8 pm

Thu. Mar. 17th & 18th @ PTA room

CPR & First Aid @ 7.30 am - 1.30 pm



"Another gorgeous place and fun company! I just love Tuesdays now! Thank you all!"

"Had a fun hike with a refreshing swim with lovely ladies . Really enjoyed it. Special thanks to PTA."

"Thanks ladies for another privileged morning ❤️ stunning Oman, lovely company, all who couldn't come were missed. Have a great week ahead everyone"

"You think these pictures are amazing. You should see the pictures we can't show you."

We hope the cool weather lasts a few more weeks because there are still some gems waiting to be discovered. To receive updates on hiking destinations and to join the upcoming hikes, email Laila at PTAVice@abaoman.org.



A World Without Borders

There are only 3 weeks left until the 2020 International Cultural Festival. PTA is coordinating with the language department and they have organized a week of movies, football, music and mufti to celebrate all the beautiful cultures during school.

The event countdown from 8th to 12th March, 2020 International Cultural Event themed - 'A WORLD WITHOUT BORDERS':

- Sunday, 8th March - Ticket sales start at 7:00 am and 2:00 pm and throughout the day with Sumaiya in Admin. Tickets are OR. 2 each. The Language World Cup Football matches will begin with mixed groups from Middle and High School
- Monday, 9th March @ the PAC: Screening of **TinTin**- French movie with English Subtitles as a part of international movie festival for kids and parents during language class times
- Tuesday, 10th March @ the PAC: Screening of **Campeones** - Spanish with English Subtitles
- Wednesday, 11th March @ the PAC: Screening of **The Three Idiots** - Hindi with English Subtitles
- Thursday 12th March @ the Drama court - first musical performances of the day during breaktime and from 6:00 - 8:00 pm the fun unfolds with the main ICF event.

At the event from 6:00 - 8:00 pm:

- 5.30 pm - at the door ticket sales start
- 6:00 pm - the fun begins
- Bring your own water bottles. Water coolers will be available for refills.
- Turn in your ticket and get a plate and utensil.
- Cups will be provided at the drink table.
- Walk through our Trivia Trail and learn about cultures, languages and foods from around the world.
- Buffets of food from all of you: Appetizers, soups, salads, drinks, rice, noodles/pasta, stews/curries, breads and desserts.
- Live cooking stations
- Music from every culture
- Cultural performances
- Prizes for best dressed- We want to see what's traditional with a capital T! Don't just put on a sari, bring out the dupatta, your best bindi, a nath, jutti, your bangles and anything else. For those rootin' tootin' cowboys, don't just show up with a hat, bring out the chaps, the silver belt buckle, the boots and vest.
- Games from different cultures

Q & A

I want to participate, how do I get started?

[Click here](#). Fill out the form to get started.

Will I be able to decorate an area to represent my culture?

Absolutely. Every culture will be given a space 2-4 meters wide by 1 meter deep along the fence in the pitch.

What time will set up be going?

PTA will begin set up as soon as classes on the pitch end. Set up for cultural representatives begins at 2.30 pm.

What happens to the dish(es) I bring to ICF?

They will be placed on a table according to the type of food (appetizer, soup, salad, rice, noodles/pasta, stews/curries, breads, desserts and drinks).

Do I need to bring a serving spoon for my dish?

Yes. Please bring an inexpensive serving utensil.

Do I need to individually pack the food in small portions?

No. In an effort to decrease the amount of waste, plates and eating utensils will be provided to everyone coming so you do not need to individually pack the food.

Do I need to bring cups for the drinks I will serve?

No. PTA will provide tasting cups for all the drinks except water.

Will water be sold at the ICF event?

No. You must bring your own water bottle. Water coolers for refilling will be provided at the event.

Who will serve the dishes?

Either you or one of the volunteers that is serving at that particular table.

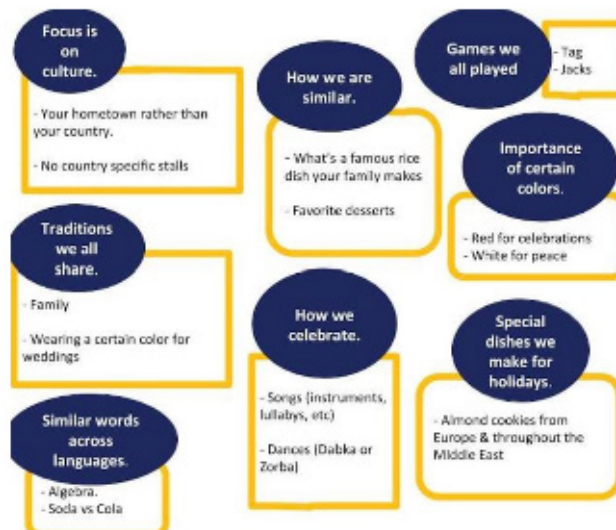
I want to participate in ICF, where can I get more information?

Wednesday 26th February from 7.30 to 9:00 am, PTA will have an information session for all those that are or would like to participate.

Why no country stalls?

You don't have to be stuck behind a stall all evening. You enjoy the evening, watch the shows and walk around! You can participate on your own. You can do it in a group.

Not sure what to do, below are examples of ways to represent your culture at the event:



Sign up and represent your culture! To be your cultural representative [Click here](#).

Other ways to volunteer at ICF

- Ticket sales
- Food distribution
- Set up
- Clean up
- Decorations
- Games
- Managing CAS students
-

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, email Lama at PTAChair@abaoman.org

Have a great weekend!

Your PTA
"Building our community together."

Community Message



Class of 2020

Invitation

*You are cordially invited to come celebrate
ABA Class of 2020 Graduates*

Friday 05 June 2020

**Muscat Ballroom Kempinski Hotel
Al Mouj, Sultanate of OMAN**

7.30pm - 12.30am

*Purchase your tickets from ABA reception from
20th February 2020 from 07.30am - 2.00pm*

OMR 30pp

*Price incl. delicious buffet dinner, water, juice, tea, coffee
& a night of celebration with your graduate*

**Cash bar available on the night*

Dress: Formal / Omani National Dress

Celebrating ABA 30th Graduation

'It's almost as if handblown and conchoidal were substituted into a more exquisite perfume than that obtained by cooling and passering the tree with nutrients and water.' - Anna S. Eric