

JUNE 11, 2020

# AL NOOR - ABA NEWS



Dear ABA Community,

As the academic year draws to a close, plans are well underway to ensure a smooth start to 2020/2021 for new and returning families. However, as we have yet to receive information from the Ministry of Education regarding the reopening of school campuses we are planning for different scenarios. We have been in contact with Senior Leaders of international schools in Germany, Vietnam, Singapore and Hong Kong where students have all returned to campuses in recent weeks to help us plan for the return of students to our campus. In all scenarios our priority is the health and safety of our community.

#### **Scenario 1**

All students return to campus with various measures put into place to reduce risk.

#### **Scenario 2**

Students return to campus, but due to social distancing there are limits to the number who can be on the campus at one time.

#### **Scenario 3**

Continuation of online learning until we are able to reopen our campus.

Once we have received direction from the Ministry of Education we will share our response with the parent community. However, please be assured that we are well prepared to ensure learning continues at ABA no matter the scenario.

Best,

Dr. Susan R. Groesbeck

## ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS

Sixty-one per cent of our families participated in the **ISM Distance Learning Satisfaction Survey** and they let us know how we are doing with online learning. The percentages in this report reflect satisfaction ratings. To see the full report, click [here](#).

[click here](#)

### ECE

86% very satisfied with communication from teachers

### Middle School

88% very satisfied with access to emotional support and counselling

### Elementary School

84% found the work interesting, and 85% very satisfied with assignments from the "specials" and art and music

### High School

85% very satisfied with opportunities to stay connected to classmates

## LEAVING FACULTY

[click here](#)

# FAREWELL

JOIN US IN GIVING OUR BEST WISHES TO THESE FACULTY MEMBERS WHO ARE ONTO NEW ADVENTURES



# CLASS OF 2020 AND AWARDS

Please click [here](#) <sup>click here</sup> to view our Class of 2020 messages from Faculty, Valedictorians, Vox Pox and more. You can also see where our graduates are going on the next stage of their journey.

## CONGRATS



INTERNATIONAL  
UNDERSTANDING AWARD

### SIA JYOTI

ABA grants this award to a Grade 12 student who "is a good representative of his/her country, who has a positive attitude toward the life and culture of others, is able to converse in at least two languages, is a contributing force in the life of the school, and who has the ability to bring differing people together into a sense of community... furthering the cause of international understanding.



PHILIPPA LEGGATE  
AWARD

### ALICE MAXWELL

This Award is presented to a High School student who has, throughout the year, demonstrated a range of recommendable qualities. Among these qualities are good citizenship, consistent effort, reliability, regular participation in extra-curricular activities and a concern for peers. The recipient of this award has made an outstanding contribution to the community of the ABA - An IB World School.

Join us for a live webinar

## THE FUTURE OF SCHOOL EDUCATION IN OMAN

@ 2pm -2:30pm  
Tuesday,  
June 9, 2020

**DR BABY SAM SAAMUEL**  
Chairman, Board of Directors  
of Indian Schools in Oman

**DR SUSAN GROESBECK**  
Head of School,  
ABA International School

**MR NASIR NAWAZ**  
Principal and Secretary Steering  
Committee, Pakistan School System

The webinar will discuss the challenges and plans put in place for schools in the Sultanate.

## ABA IN THE NEWS

This week our very own Dr. Sue represented ABA in a panel discussion with the Times of Oman on the challenges and plans for schools in Oman.

[WATCH](#) <sup>click here</sup>  
The panel discussion starts around the 5 minute mark.

# MS CREATES! - THE VIRTUAL EDITION



## THE VIRTUAL EDITION

Last year this time, our Middle School students and teachers were putting the plan in place for MS Creates! This was an opportunity for students and teachers to explore creative, innovative and interesting activities and then demonstrate their learning. It was two days of excitement, education and engagement with our teachers offering a variety of learning activities to our students. The final MS Creates! [presentation](#) was always received with glee and last year's version was no different. This year due to the current restrictions due to COVID-19 we have had to reconsider MS Creates!

MS Creates! The Virtual Version captures the spirit of the original MS Creates but introduces a slight twist due to the unavailability of the physical space at school. We have shifted the focus from students working in groups to learn together, to providing opportunities for students to develop [agency](#) through this learning experience. The Virtual Version empowers student thinking with voice, choice and ownership. A real opportunity to showcase their development of [Approaches to learning \(ATL\)](#) skills and display attributes of the [IB Learner Profile](#).

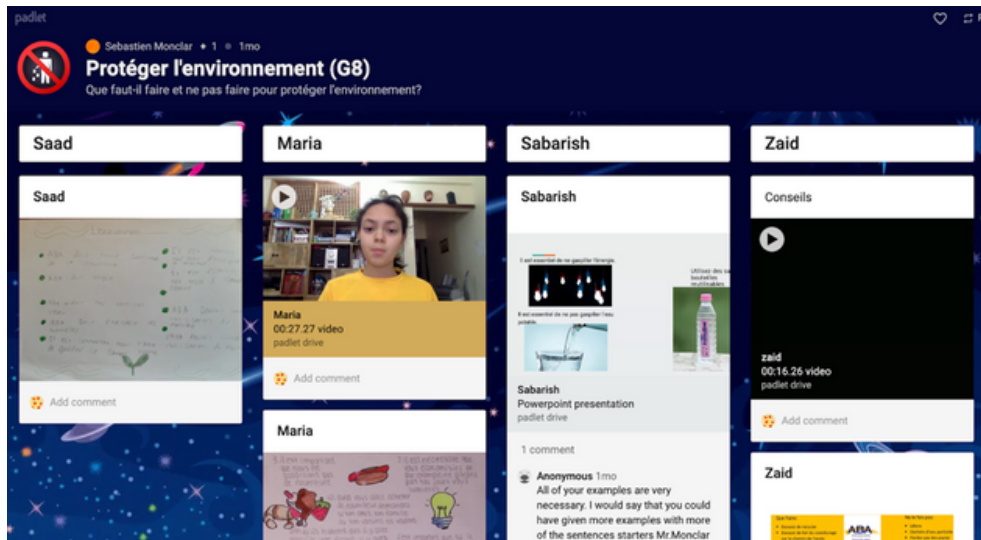
We have decided to offer students the opportunity to focus on one thing they would really like to learn about and decide how they will share what they learn. We call it a "Passion Project". A passion project is a focused inquiry where learners investigate an area of fascination and make it a reality. In order to ensure that success is a real possibility, during advisory [this week](#), our students watched a video about [Genius Hour](#) and had some time to consider what their Passion Project would be. Next week, they will be given the chance to share their ideas in advisory. On June 17, they will 3 hours to research and create something that will showcase their learning for the time allotted.

We hope that the students will grasp this chance to own their learning, choose a pathway to success and feel confident about their choices. In that way they would have demonstrated the value of agency to ensure that students reach their full possibility.

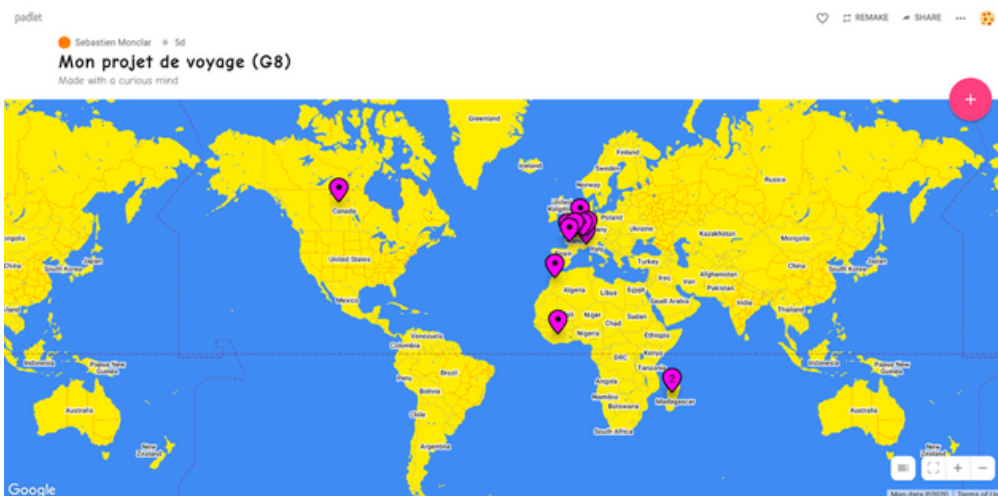
# MYP 3 LANGUAGE ACQUISITION: FRENCH

Bonjour ABA Community,

In our unit about the Environment, students in MYP 3 (grade 8) learnt key specific vocabulary required to discuss some of the environmental problems we face in two stages. They were first asked to design a poster about the things you should or shouldn't do to protect the environment. Then they recorded themselves giving tips on how to save energy and water at home. Our students' learning can be viewed on this [Padlet](#).



In the same unit, students also learnt how to form the future tense and have been using it in context to plan a trip to a French-speaking country. They had to choose one country of their choice, had a daily budget of 150 euros per day for one week and had to plan hotels, restaurants, visits in 3 different cities and monuments, show the itinerary on a map and talk about their transports and activities. Take a moment to explore our MYP 3 students' itineraries [here](#).



Merci!  
Monsieur Monclar

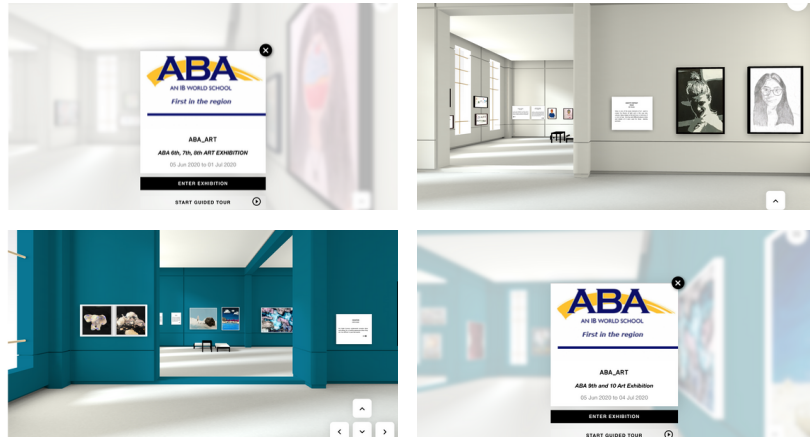
# SEMESTER 2 VIRTUAL ART EXHIBITIONS

Ms. Malena and Ms. Andrea put together a virtual art exhibition to share the work that students created during the second semester, mostly as part of online learning.

There will be two different rooms where you can have a 3D experience to view the artwork:

[Grades 6, 7, 8](#)

[Grades 9 & 10](#)



## PSAT/NMSQT UPDATE

The Preliminary SAT, also known as the PSAT/NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test), is a practice version of the SAT exam that we historically offer to our high school students every year. Due to Covid-19 and our current school closure, we are unsure if we will be able to offer the PSAT exam to our Grade 9,10 and 11 students this coming October 14, 2020. For continued planning purposes, we will still provide information and poll student's (current Grade 8, 9 and 10) interest next week. If we are back on campus this Fall and we can safely administer the exam, please understand that the structure and availability may look different from the past years. The High School Counseling team will continue to monitor the situation and feasibility over the summer months and we will update you as soon as we have more guiding information.

## MESSAGE FROM THE NURSE

### The Do and Don'ts of using a mask

The two main ways to prevent catching or spreading coronavirus, other than social distancing and isolation, is washing your hands regularly, and wearing a mask.

Here we show you some do's and don'ts about using and wearing a mask properly to ensure the best protection.

### HOW TO WEAR A MEDICAL MASK SAFELY

**Do's →**

- Wash your hands before touching the mask
- Inspect the mask for tears or holes
- Find the top side, here the metal piece or stiff edge is
- Ensure the colored-side faces outwards
- Place the metal piece or stiff edge over your nose
- Cover your mouth, nose, and chin
- Adjust the mask to fit face without leaving gaps on the sides
- Avoid touching the mask
- Remove the mask from behind the ears or head
- Keep the mask away from you and surfaces while removing it
- Discard the mask immediately after use preferably into a closed bin
- Wash your hand after discarding the mask

Remember that masks alone cannot protect you from COVID-19. Maintain at least 1 metre distance from others and wash your hands frequently and thoroughly, even while wearing a mask.

[who.int/epi-win](http://who.int/epi-win)

### HOW TO WEAR A NON-MEDICAL FABRIC MASK SAFELY

**Do's →**

- Clean your hands before touching the mask
- Inspect the mask for damage or if dirty
- Adjust the mask to your face without leaving gaps on the sides
- Cover your mouth, nose, and chin
- Avoid touching the mask
- Clean your hands before removing the mask
- Remove the mask by the straps behind the ears or head
- Put the mask away from your face
- Store the mask in a clean plastic, resealable bag if it is not dirty or wet and you plan to re-use it
- Remove the mask by the straps when taking it out of the bag
- Wash the mask in soap or detergent, preferably with hot water, at least once a day
- Clean your hands after removing the mask

**Don'ts →**

- Do not wear the mask under the nose
- Do not remove the mask where there are people within 1 metre
- Do not use a mask that is difficult to breathe through
- Do not wear a dirty or wet mask
- Do not share your mask with others
- Do not use a mask that looks damaged
- Do not wear a loose mask

A fabric mask can protect others around you. To protect yourself and prevent the spread of COVID-19, remember to keep at least 1 metre distance from others, clean your hands frequently and thoroughly, and avoid touching your face and mask.

# MESSAGE FROM THE ELEMENTARY LIBRARY

Dear Parents,

To continue to support you and your child over the summer holidays, the elementary library has put together [these guidelines](#) to help you access and use the websites found on the elementary library homepage.

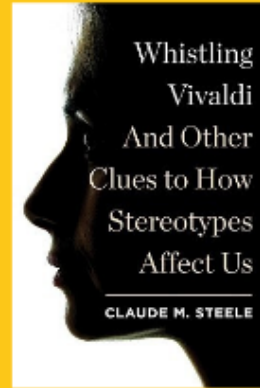
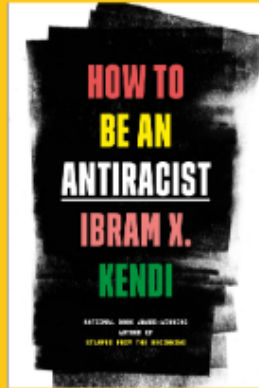
You can of course still browse the library homepage on your own to see all of the websites that are available to you by clicking on [this link](#).

Wishing you all a happy summer holiday. Keep safe and healthy.

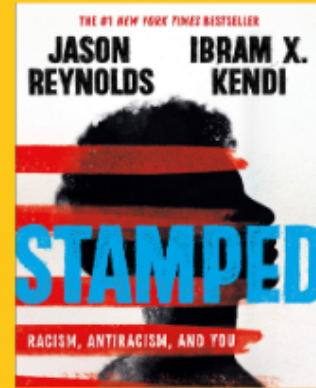
Kind Regards,  
Mara Hakim

We've been asked for some reading recommendations around what's going on in the news and here they are:

ADULT



HIGH SCHOOL/  
YOUNG ADULT



UPPER ELEMENTARY/  
MIDDLE SCHOOL



EARLY CHILDHOOD/LOWER  
ELEMENTARY



## SWIM TEAM

It was a fun and active week for the Vipers Swim Team with their online, pre-recorded workouts and weekly challenges. We are impressed with their physical development.

The Cha Cha slide Plank challenge was the last challenge of the year. Vipers Swim team will continue with their workouts next week (last week of school), and are encouraged to login to the pre-recorded workout videos and stay fit throughout the summer break. The ABA family is also encouraged to workout with us Vipers Workouts



# BOOSTER CLUB



We are delighted to announce that our final hoodie order has been delivered to school this week and has been successfully distributed to all of the students.

The Booster Club would like to thank our wonderful community for all of their support throughout the year. It has been a fantastic year and although challenging towards the end we all have shown phenomenal resilience and true VIPERS spirit. If you would like to become part of our fantastic team next year please contact us by emailing [boosterclub@ababoman.org](mailto:boosterclub@ababoman.org). We wish you and your families a very happy holiday and look forward to welcoming you back in the new school year.

GO VIPERS!!!!



Booster Club Financial Information	2019-20
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	12,789.455
<b>INCOME</b>	
<b>MESAC Events</b>	
Concession Stand	6,257.960
Athletics Dept Contribution for Coaches	461,466
<b>Fundraisers</b>	
Half Shot Hot Shot	57.500
Spike Strike Score	92.200
Ice Frenzy	611.600
<b>Merchandise Sales</b>	
Merchandise sales	1,106.800
Hoodie sales	4,740.000
Items sold on behalf of Athletics Dept/Swim Team	225.000
<b>Award Ticket Sales</b>	1,545.000
Reversals/float	50.000
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	15,147.526
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
<b>MESAC Events</b>	
Food and consumables - community	2,252.967
Food and consumables - coaches	461.356
<b>Fundraisers</b>	
Spike Strike Score	33.500
Ice Frenzy	112.620
<b>Merchandise</b>	
General Orders	556.500
Hoodie Orders and Duty	4,249.521
Trf to AD for shirts and socks	144.700
<b>Awards Expenses</b>	1,545.000
Other Expenses/Admin	102.950
<b>Last Year's Pledges</b>	2,727.500
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	12,236.614
<b>NET PROFIT /LOSS FOR PLEDGES</b>	2,910.912
<b>BALANCE c/f</b>	15,700.367

## Booster Club Pledges for 2020/2021

Sponsorship of Tracksuits to participants in the MESAC program  
- 110 tracksuits @ 21 OMR each = **2310 OMR**

Continued Sponsorship of MESAC kit bags  
- 110 bags @ estimated cost 30.940 OMR each = **3403.4 OMR**

Continued sponsorship of the MESAC bag tags  
- 374 tags @ 1.300 = **486.200 OMR**

**MPSL & MSSL SPONSORSHIP ITEMS STILL TO BE CONFIRMED DUE TO COVID 19** we were unable to receive costs and shipping information of potential spirit wear however we have budgeted and additional 500 OMR to be allocated to these items.

**New merchandise** to be acquired for our POP UP shop however again COVID 19 restrictions has delayed the process of sourcing new stock but rest assured we are working towards bringing new and exciting VIPERS merchandise to our new year POP UP shop.

**TOTAL SPEND ON PLEDGES FOR THE YEAR 20/21**  
**6699.600 OMR**



Dear Teachers and Staff ...

We are glad you are enjoying your gifts. If you haven't done so already, please stop by Admin to pick up your gift as you come to campus for the year end checkout.



“Thank you to the PTA and ABA parent community for organizing teacher appreciation and end of the year gift even during these uncertain times. ☐”



**Specialist Teacher Gifts**

The gifts for specialist teachers in Elementary were personally delivered. Thank you Alaa, Sylvia & Diana for all your efforts. The HRP's have been busy finalizing the year end gifts for their homeroom teachers and will be coordinating to deliver them in the coming week if not already done so.

Dear ABA Parents,

It is with great sadness that we hear of families from our community leaving Oman. The economic situation has not been kind to expats and locals alike. As a PTA, we will try our best to help you through this transition period in any way we can. Contact us and let us know if there are resources you need and cannot find. For those that need to sell cars and furniture, please look to the following links:

- [Oman-Muscat Downsizing for good quality second hand items](#)
- [Ikea Buy & Sell in Muscat families in oman](#)
- [Muscat Buy, Sell & Rent](#)
- [ABA Stuff for Sale](#)

- Other useful links:
- [How else can we help you?](#)
  - [Online ordering/ Home delivery options](#) **UPDATED!!**
  - [Fun for Teachers, Parents and kids of all ages](#)

**The PTA Annual Report.**

Click on the image to the right to access the 2019-20 Annual Report.

Your PTA  
'Building our Community Together.'

