

MAY 7, 2020

AL NOOR – ABA NEWS

confident courageous
kind talented inspirational patient
thoughtful dynamic sensational intuitive
hardworking caring fabulous
fantastic amazing **teacher**
empathetic smart exceptional
dedicated awesome
understanding
humorous
warm
fair



Dear ABA Community,

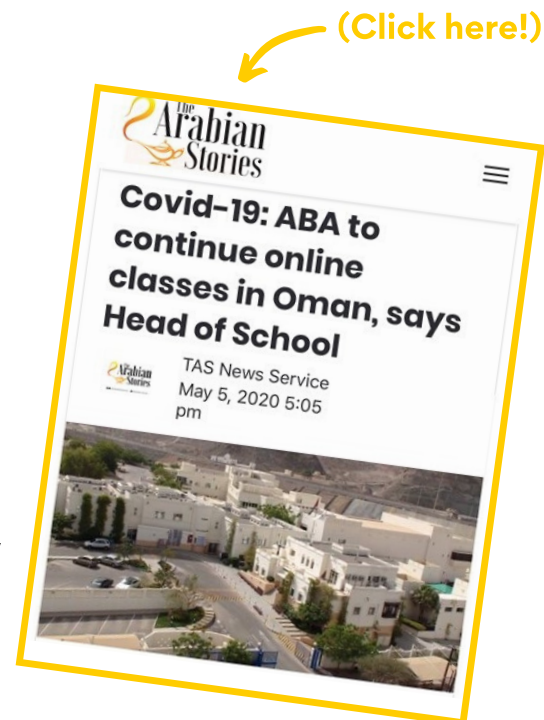
As you know, all private and independent schools in Oman will be closing today for the rest of the school year. Because ABA is an international school, we are allowed to stay open through to our published calendar. No sooner had I sent out the email that ABA would remain open than I started getting emails back from elated parents - and even two students saying that they were grateful to ABA teachers for continuing to teach students at the excellent level they had come to expect through our online program.

Adjectives flowed in about the teachers - talented and creative, tireless and deeply caring, adaptive and inspiring. I realized even more than before that it is not the building, it is the teachers. They are the heart of this school. The deep connection between a teacher and his/her student is something that makes the mini-miracles happen every day.

I read the comments from our teachers to their students when I can. They are nuanced and suggest that each teacher knows the student. I took some time this week to understand how important that connection is in our work here at ABA. It sets ABA apart.

Have continued good health.

Dr. Susan R. Groesbeck
Head of School



CLASS OF 2020 UNIVERSITY UPDATE

This year's graduating class of 73 students applied for a range of undergraduate programmes across 15 countries. Here is just a sample of the institutions to which they have been accepted. Students are still in the process of making a choice from the range of institutions to which they have received offers.

Look out for announcements about their final university destinations in the coming weeks.



GRADE 5 2020 PYP EXHIBITION - A FUTURE FOR ALL

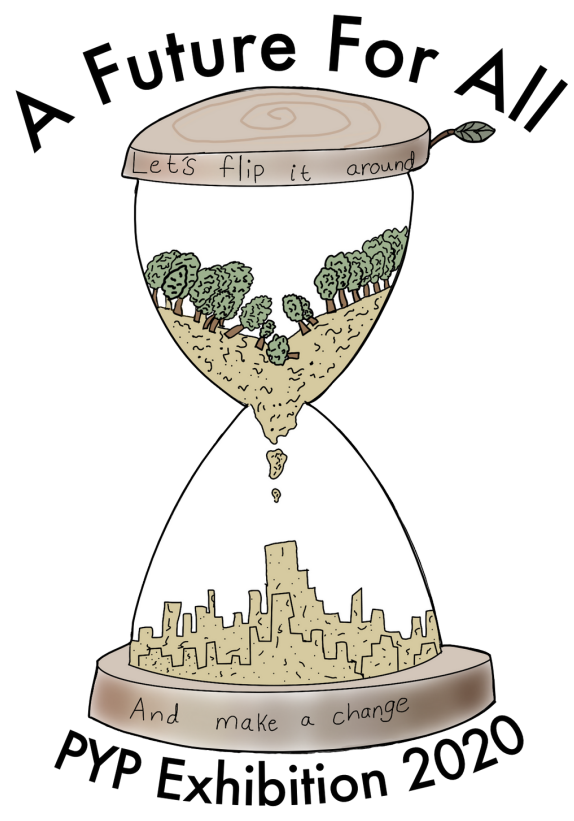
Last week was an extraordinary week in the history of ABA. The first ever online exhibition went live - and is a real testament to the resilience and determination of our students and teachers! The journey was bumpy - children had passed the initial planning stages and were ready to research and develop their ideas - when the school campus closed. The exhibition team tackled the challenge with determination and a positive outlook - their workload was hugely increased by the time spent adjusting expectations and tasks, planning, reflecting and responding to feedback. Their attention to each individual child - what would amount to a series of quick chats in a classroom - became hours and hours of viewing work, providing feedback and suggestions, answering students' and parents' barrage of questions, emailing, webexing, calling...

Every child successfully presented their learning in a variety of creative and informative ways, and we are proud of each of them. Browse their achievements through this website, and leave them some feedback: [Grade 5 PYP Exhibition website](#).

So many teachers contributed to this outstanding achievement, but extra special appreciation must go to the Grade 5 teachers, Ms V, Mr White and Ms Megan, as well as Mr Derrick, Ms Gloria and Ms Mara. Thank you!



Central Idea: "The sustainability goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all." Each student chose to focus their individual inquiry on one of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. They created their own central ideas, and their inquiries developed with a focus on their personal interests. The Exhibition is the opportunity for the students to demonstrate all of the skills and Learner Profile Attributes that they have developed throughout their time in PYP. This year's Exhibition was a big challenge as the students adapted to online learning, working independently and ultimately presenting a virtual Exhibition. As a school community we are incredibly proud of all that they have achieved.



NEWS FROM THE MS!

Every Tuesday is an exciting time in the Middle School as this is the dedicated time for [social-emotional learning](#). These interactions are very important for our Middle School Students, especially during this uncertain time. The engagements allow for students, advisors and Middle School Leadership to stay connected, continue building relationships and nurture our Middle School community. They would normally occur throughout a school day and are of the utmost importance in the development of our preadolescents and adolescents. Unfortunately, in light of the current situation, such exchanges are not readily available. Advisory is designed to support and foster our students' autonomy as they begin to establish their identity, away from their immediate family. The skills that are taught and practised during Advisory time support our students' success in all of their future endeavours.

We recognize that to some people a Middle School Student can be described as 'unique' and 'perplexing', these are the reasons we LOVE Middle School. This "Armchair Expert" [podcast](#) with Jessica Lahey may help with unlocking some of the mysterious behaviours of the Middle Schooler's mind and further highlights the importance of our Advisory time.



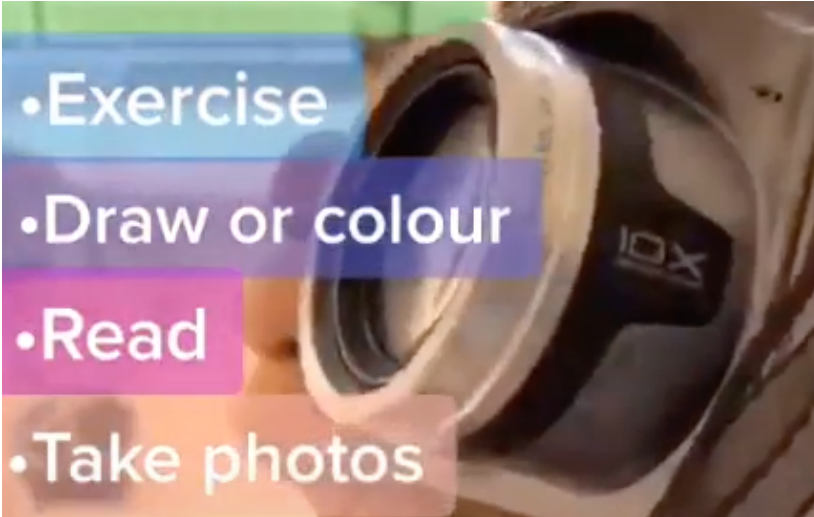
During last week's Advisory, the entire Middle School visited the PYP Exhibition. We were honoured to be included. Before visiting the [PYP Exhibition website](#), students and their advisors explored this [presentation](#) that included the components of providing meaningful feedback as well as revisiting the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) as Grade 5 students' Exhibitions focused around one of the SDGs. Afterwards, each Middle School student was assigned three Grade 5 students' Exhibitions to visit and provide meaningful feedback through a guided [Google Form](#).

Congratulations to all of our future MYP 1 (grade 6) students, their teachers and Wayne Derrick, PYP Coordinator, for the completion of the PYP Exhibition!

The MS Team,
Kathleen, Megel and Claire

ABA LIVING HISTORY

(click here!)



ABA MIDDLE SCHOOL PRESENTS LIVING HISTORY I

Thank you Ms. Shih for this video compilation of students' video journals and some of their quarantine tips. Click on the picture to watch the video!

GRADE 9 BIOLOGY

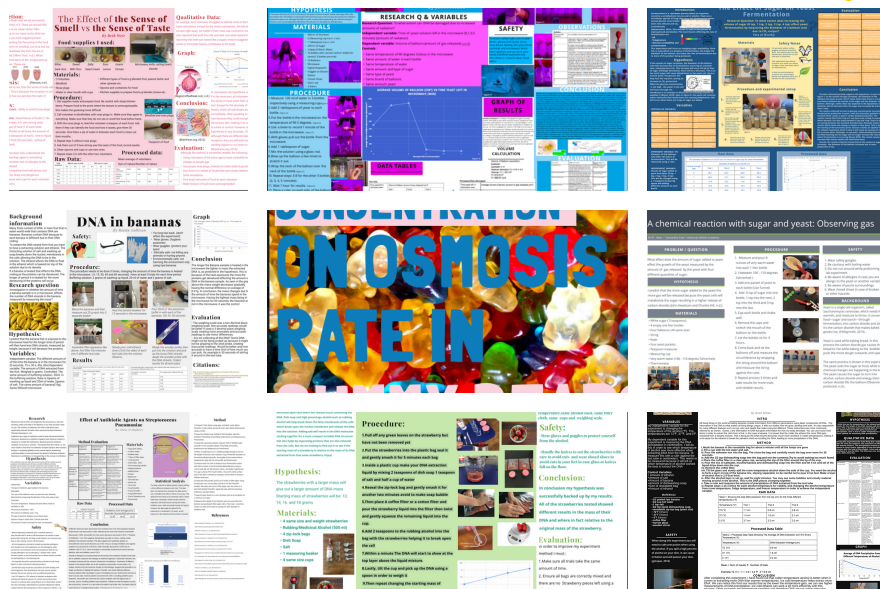
(click here!)

During our online sessions in Grade 9 Biology, students have been exploring the respiratory system. Ameerah has created this awesome model to show how the different structures work together to let air in and out of our lungs during ventilation, volume up to listen to her great explanation! We hope some of you take the challenge of building this model at home and share it with us as well.



GRADE 10 BIOLOGY

(click here!)

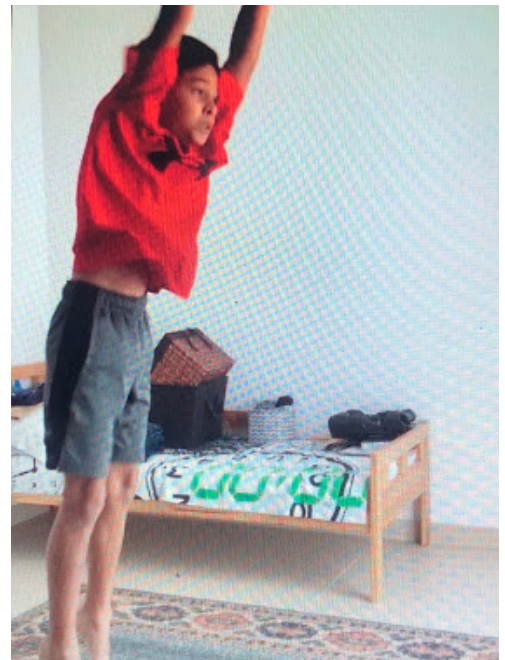
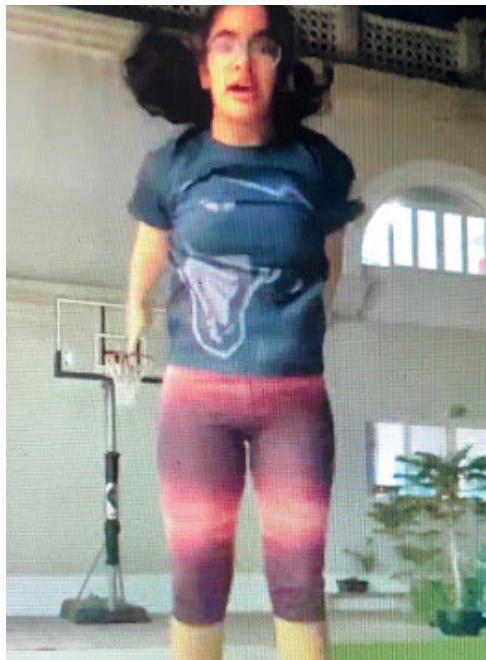
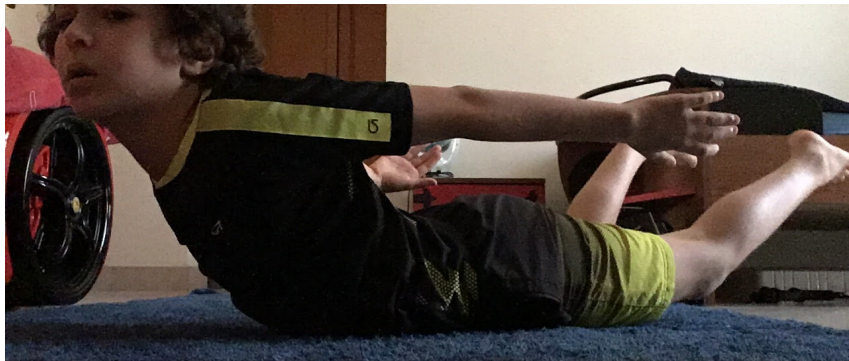


Ms Cole's and Ms Nausia's Grade 10 Biology classes have been working on their skills designing, performing and evaluating their own experiments at home. They have presented their work in a visual poster format just like experimental posters in university. Here are some examples, we hope you like them and try some of the experiments at home!

VIPERS SWIM TEAM

With Pool or without pool... We still gonna workout! V1-V5 Swimmers are expressing vipers spirit through their commitment to working out every week. We are all together in this, and we are all working out together in this. Can't wait to see your big muscles when we're finally Back to School. Well done Champs we are Proud to have you!! bet you all know by now how keen our Vipers are when it comes to working out.

Here's last week's VIPERS WEEKLY CHALLENGE results. Well done swimmer, keep up the good work. **This Week's Challenge will be SIT-UPS.** How many can you do in **45 sec** (no need to keep your hand behind your head)



Swimmer	Vipers Squad	Burpees 45s
Stuart Sutton	V1	29
Mohamed Mourad	V1	25
Daniel Doyle	V1	25
Yelena de Coevering	V1	23
Ali Zeinelabdin	V1	22
Muna Al Mugheiry	V1	21
Zoe Niazi	V1	18
Tane Brace	V2	28
Asser Mourad	V2	27
Kya Brace	V2	24
Liam Robinson	V2	19
Christiaan De Bruin	V3	22
Abdullah Khurram	V3	20
Tia Sampat	V3	19
Rashid Al Barwani	V3	18
Vincent Rabie	V3	17
Jashovardhan Khimji	V3	14
Nye Khasawneh	V3	14
Yukta Matai	V3	14
Allison Andrade	V4	20
Ishaal Marghub	V4	19
Emelina Vansteenkiste	V4	13

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL

April of each year marks the transition of leadership within the High School Student Council. Today we say a big thank you to the outgoing Executive Team (President Mark Braganza; VP Naman Khan; Treasurer Sidak Dhanju; Secretary Maya Sueyoshi and PRO Adly Al-Sharif) who worked hard over the course of this school year to address matters of importance and boost school spirit.

Given the circumstances this year, elections were done virtually for the first time at ABA. Candidates presented their campaign speeches by video and voting was done online last week. We are pleased to announce the High School Student Council Executive for 2020-21:

President - Naman Khan (G12)
Vice President - Maya Sueyoshi (G12)
Secretary - Alyaa Al-Salmi (G12)
Treasurer - Ghazi Helou (G12)
PRO - Adly Al-Sharif (G12)
Assistant Treasurer - Aditya Bhardwaj (G11)
Assistant PRO - Zaina Dabbous (G11)

The team of keen students leaders already had their first meeting via Webex and are looking forward to the year ahead in which they will continue to serve the interests of the student population and the school community at large.

Denise Barker & Alli Hostetter, HS StuCo Advisors.



Dear ABA Community,

We hope that you have been keeping well and safe.

Appreciating our Teachers!

No words can adequately express our appreciation for our teachers and staff who have risen to the unexpected challenges with the sudden shift to online learning. As parents, we acknowledge the structure that the daily learning schedules bring to our child's day. [This](#), in a lighter way, sums up what we would ideally like to say to our teachers.

Quick reminder: Due to the new law, all donations for the Ramadan drive need to be sent directly to the Dar AlAttaa COVID 19 relief account. Payment methods are as listed.

[How else can we help you?](#)

Please feel free to write in to our Parent reps - PTARep@abaoman.org , PTAMrep@abaoman.org , PTASrep@abaoman.org with your queries.

We will try our best to answer them if within our purview or at the least point you in the right direction.

[Online ordering/ Home delivery options & Fun for Teachers, Parents and kids of all ages](#)

You can refer to the above links, we keep them updated. Do note that we have tried some but not all the items posted.

In case you do order online, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI) and Riyadh have asked customers to follow preventive measures when receiving orders from delivery companies.

Some delivery times may be a week away others deliver within 48 hours. Please drop us an email if you find a vendor that is not listed or if one of the vendors on this list is no longer operational.

Stay home, stay safe!

Your PTA



Building our community together!



Choose electronic payment.



Ask the delivery person to leave the products in front of the door.



Wear gloves before taking the products.



Sterilize the products before using them.



Make sure to wash your hands with soap and water.



Wipe the surface which the products were placed on with detergent and then sterilize it.



PTA 2020-21 AGM AND ELECTIONS

Owing to the current COVID19 situation, the PTA will be issuing a year-end report. However, the AGM and the elections will be held as soon as school opens.



Building our community together!

We invite volunteers for all PTA positions for the coming year 2020-21. If you are interested in becoming a PTA member and taking on a position, please contact the person currently in that position to answer any questions you may have.

Chair - PTAChair@abaoman.com

Vice Chair - PTAVice@abaoman.org

Secretary - TASec@abaoman.org

Treasurer - PTATreasurer@abaoman.org

Logistics - PTALog@abaoman.org

Communications Liasion - PTACom@abaoman.org

EC & Elementary Parent rep - PTAErep@abaoman.org

Middle School Parent rep - PTAMrep@abaoman.org

Secondary School Parent rep - PTASrep@abaoman.org

New Parent rep - PTANew@abaoman.org

A MESSAGE FROM THE NURSE

COVID-19 is no joke.
Be a leader by protecting yourself,
your loved ones and others.

Staying at home and away
from others today can help bring
a brighter tomorrow.



Stay well by:

- Staying home as much as possible
- Taking your prescribed medications

If you must go out for work or essential items:

- Avoid close contact with others
- Wash your hands often

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2020-21

August 2020						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2020						
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October 2020						
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November 2020						
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December 2020						
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January 2021						
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February 2021						
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March 2021						
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April 2021						
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May 2021						
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30	31					

June 2021						
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July 2021						
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Aug 1-4 Eid El Adha (tentative)
 Aug 24 New Family Orientation
 Aug 25 First Day of School
 Oct 25-29 Holiday/Prophet's
 Birthday
 Nov 18-19 National Day Holiday
 Dec 17 Last Day of Term
 (12pm dismissal)

Dec 20-Jan 7 Winter Break
 Jan 10 First Day of Term
 Feb 10-11 PD Days
 March 7-11 Spring Break
 March 11 Isra Wal Mi'raj

April 4 Holiday (Easter)
 April 13 Ramadan Begins
 (tentative)
 May 12-16 Eid Al Fitr (tentative)
 June 17 Last day of Term
 (11am dismissal)
 July 19-23 Eid Al Adha (tentative)