

AL NOOR-ABA NEWS

13th September 2018

Message from the Superintendent

The Middle and High School campus continues to take shape and generates conversation and excitement. For those associated with the project and have had the privilege of seeing it first-hand know it will open a wonderful new era for the school.

As reported last spring, the work on site slowed down in some areas with the discovery of a structural issue. Work on rectifying this will begin quite soon once we are absolutely sure that the solution is optimal. To this end, we have engaged new project managers, Turner Townsend to work with us. They will not only look into resolving this issue as soon as possible but also help us take the project over the line.

We had understood that a move in December might be possible, but it is clear from Turner Townsend's assessment that this will not be possible. As the project unfolds, we will keep you abreast of building news and associated time-lines. Further updates from the Board on this topic, will follow.

Transition Committee

Last year I was delighted that a good number of our parents stepped forward to help with the planning of the move. The Transition Committee, as it became, divided the work into four domains: Transport, Culture and Identity, Communication and Logistics. The committee will pick up their work again at 2.30pm on 24 September. If you would be interested in supporting one of these teams, please would you contact me so I can give you more information.

Simon Taylor

Message from the Middle School

Cultures of Thinking in our ABA Community

How impacting is the MYP on students' learning? The ABA community has committed to an "international education of the highest quality". The MYP is the educational programme that has been chosen to deliver this high-quality education for our learners, yet, what do we mean by the "highest quality"? How do we measure this outcome? Is results in final exams enough to justify a high-quality education? Or is it the exemplifying of the IB Learner profile, or the mastery of ATL skills?

One question that a high-quality educational program seeks to answer as a measure of its success is:

Who are our students becoming as thinkers and learners as a result of their time with us?

Upcoming Dates

17 Sep	PTA Open Meeting Grade 6 Common Room 7.40 - 9.00am
18 Sep	High School Meet the Teachers Gym 5.30 - 7.00 pm
19 Sep	PYP Parent Workshop Grade 6 Common Room 7.30-8.30 am



This question serves as a beacon to our educators as they prepare learning opportunities, it challenges our thinking about how we share experiences, contents and concepts in our classrooms. Who are our students becoming? How are we as teachers shaping their thinking processes? Our success is measured by how we help our students, your children, to think differently, independently and critically. These thinking attributes permit learners to engage effectively with challenges in a “rapidly changing world.” With this in mind, we as educators strive to create an atmosphere in ABA that promotes a unique culture of thinking.

A culture of thinking is defined as places where a group or individual thinking is valued, visible and actively promoted as a daily experience (Perkins & Ritchart, 2015).

As parents, you too can support our culture of thinking by engaging in conversations with your children that value critical thinking and cognitive independence. Encourage your child to expound on their thoughts on new ideas and items in the news, include them in discussions and highlight moments when their thinking behavior is exemplary. You can facilitate their growth in a collaborative effort by also fostering a culture of thinking at home. It is a challenge, but if our students, your children, are to be the leaders in the future, then how they think is fundamental to their success. This is not easy, however, a commitment to promoting a culture of thinking at home will support our goals in school.

The quality of our MYP cannot exceed the knowledge of our parents about the MYP. An uninformed parent body, is continually anxious, worried and concerned. Especially as the MYP departs from traditional approaches to learning, focusing more on inquiry-based teaching. Anxious parents share feelings of doubt about how to support their children and they bemoan a genuine lack of familiarity with the terms used in the MYP. At ABA, we have understood this issue and have taken transparent steps to inform, educate and include the community. Each year, a number of parent engagement events are facilitated to provide opportunities for questions and to explain the goals of our MYP. These are titled: Parents Onboard. Parents Onboard events occur throughout the year, two of which are happening in September. The details are outlined below:

September 18, 2018: E-assessment information for Grade 10 parents.

September 25, 2018: MYP information for parents that are new to MYP

Both events begin at 4:30 and finish in time for our “Meet the Teacher” event. The venue is the Secondary Lecture Hall. If this is your first time in the MYP at ABA, I look forward to discussing the MYP with you. In the meantime, focus on promoting a culture of thinking at home to support our programme in school.

Here are some websites that share some exciting ways to promote a culture of thinking in your home:

Bright Horizons

Harvard Project Zero

Ritchhart, R. (2015). *Creating cultures of thinking: The 8 forces we must master to truly transform our schools*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass & Pfeiffer Imprints, Wiley.

Megel Barker - MYP Coordinator

Settling-In and Independence

The start of a new school year is different for every student on campus. Many students cope with changes in teachers and classmates with relative ease, yet for others it can be a difficult and anxious time. At ABA we have a strong programme in place to assist all students at this time of year. Middle School advisors and teachers are working through day to day issues, as well as getting to know your child and understand them as an individual. In addition, new students will be invited to attend a group meeting with me and other new students in their year group. The purpose of this 'Meet & Eat' is to ensure that each student is settling into this unfamiliar environment and that they know who they can go to for help and advice. As you know your child best, if you feel that they are not settling at school as you would expect and continue to find the transition process difficult, please contact me canthony@abaoman.org

During this week, your child will settle in to their Middle School routine. The article below discusses the parent perspective of a child's transition to secondary school and urges us to,

"recognize the right time to take a step back, breathe, and allow your preteen to make her own decisions."

The article continues to offer advice for parents to enable their children to assert their independence and build life-skills. During this week, as you 'take a step back,' allow your middle school child time to socialize at the locker areas, be independent and organize their own belongings. Arrange to meet them in the car park at the end of the day, rather than at the lockers, this allows them their 'breathing space' before they see you and tell you all the news from their day.

<https://www.scholastic.com/parents/family-life/social-emotional-learning/social-skills-for-kids/letting-middle-schoolers-assert-their-independence.html>

Claire Anthony - Middle School Counselor

2019 Middle School Ski Trip

We are pleased to announce that the annual Middle School Ski trip to Switzerland will take place during the Spring Break, 12th- 21st April, 2019. This trip enables your child to develop new relationships, cultivate new skills in skiing or snowboarding, problem solve in unfamiliar situations, develop physically in a healthy outdoor environment as well as experience risk and responsibility in a European location.

As an introduction to this trip, we invite Middle School parents and students to a meeting on Monday 17th September from 5:00 - 5:45pm in the PAC. During this meeting details of the trip, accommodation and costings will be provided. Following this, the sign up google form will be accessible for students to register and gain a place.

The number of students able to attend is limited to 40 and early registration/deposit payment is recommended as demand is always high. We look forward to seeing you and answering any questions you may have.

2019 Ski Trip Team.

Message from the Extra Curricular Program

Under the watchful eyes of our great coaches, our teams have been working on their skill and game understanding. It has been wonderful to watch our MS athletes and MESAC participants develop so quickly from only two weeks of training.

We have a big week coming up. I hope to see you at the volleyball court.

16th September	U16 Girls VBall vs TAISM @ TAISM	4:00 - 5:15pm
16th September	U16 Boys VBall vs PSO @ ABA	3:00 - 4:15pm
16th September	U19 Girls VBall vs PSO @ ABA	3:00 - 4:15pm
17th September	U12 Boys Vs PSO @ ABA	2:30 - 3:30pm
17th September	U12 Boys Vs PSO @ ABA	2:30 - 3:30pm
19th September	U19 Girls V'Ball vs TAISM @ ABA 4:15	4:15 - 5:30pm
20th September	U13 Boys Vs PSO @ ABA	2:30 - 3:30pm
20th September	U13 Girls Vs PSO @ ABA	2:30 - 3:30pm
20th September	U19 Boys vs BSM @ BSM	3:30 - 5:00pm

MESAC- Preseason Training and Season Three

In our continuing efforts to promote healthy living and develop lifelong skills, ABA offers a range of sports throughout the year. The sports are placed in seasons to match our competition schedule. To ensure our athletes have the necessary preparation for the MESAC tournaments some our programs run before and after the season. Below is the preseason schedule.

Trying to match up the six MESAC schools calendars from different regions of the world is not an easy task. Unfortunately the dates of the competition for MESAC season three has been placed in our spring holiday in April. To ensure we still have an international experience for our season three athletes we will join the Emirates Athletic Conference (EAC) in the UAE for our track and badminton teams. The competition dates will be as follows: Track, 21st - 22nd March hosted by AS Dubai, Badminton, 22nd - 23rd March hosted by American Community School Abu Dhabi.

MESAC Basketball	Saturday 10:30am - 1:00pm
MESAC Badminton	Saturday 1:00- 3:00pm
MESAC Girls Soccer	Thursday 3:00 - 5:00pm Friday 9:00 - 11:00pm Starts 28th September
MESAC Varsity Boys Soccer	Monday 4:00 - 5:00pm
MESAC JV Boys Soccer	Saturday 10:00 - 11:30am Starts 22nd September

ABA Aquatics

Excitement at the swimming pool! Primary and Secondary PE/Swimming classes have started, the MESAC swim team (students grades 8 & above) is hard at work, and tryouts for the Vipers Swim Team (open to all ABA Students) are taking place. Swimmers are being evaluated and placed, by skill level, on to the Swim Team Readiness and Competitive team rosters.

Vipers Adult Fitness Swimming



The coed adult program is designed for Adult swimmers who are interested in improving stroke technique, cardiovascular endurance, understand how to read a workout board and plan a swimming workout. Swimmers may choose to swim on their own or be “Coached” during the session with a planned workout under supervision. The program began on Monday, September 10, and spaces are still available.

THIS IS NOT A LEARN TO SWIM PROGRAM.

Register here: <https://goo.gl/forms/GnMEV4YScTaELIMI3>

Aquatics Emergencies

This course is designed to teach the skills needed to prevent injuries, prepare for and respond to drowning, injury, breathing and cardiac emergencies. Participants will learn the skills and gain the confidence necessary for providing the proper care when it's needed the most.

Interested participants are to contact Mr. Semple for details or complete the course registration at the link below.
Register here: <https://goo.gl/forms/mkkeKMyRHUECPdkj2>

Contact: Charlie Semple, at swimmingteam@abaoman.org for swimming information.

Charlie Semple - Aquatics Director

Message from PTA

Parents in Grade 6, 8, 9 & 11.

If you are interested in becoming an HRP please contact, Evelyn, the Secondary Parent Representative,
PTAsRep@abaoman.org



Building our community together!

HRP Workshop

OCT 2, 2018 @ 7.40am in the PTA Room

Santa's Workshop

The PTA is looking for someone to lead the efforts on 'Santa's Workshop'. If you or someone you know are interested, please contact the Elementary Activities Coordinator, Rund: PTAeAct@abaoman.org

Tuesday Talks & Travels

September 25th, 2018 @ 7.40am in the PTA Room. Topic: TBD. This one is free!

Booking the PTA Room

All bookings for the PTA Room for a coffee morning or meeting can be done by emailing the PTA Secretaries:

PTAeSec@abaoman.org

PTAsSec@abaoman.org

As of next week, via the booking forms in the PTA Room. Bookings for the PTA room cannot be done in admin.

Your PTA
'Building Our Community Together'

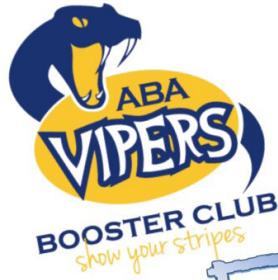
Message from the Booster Club



VIPERS FRRRRRRenzy

Our first VIPERS spirit event for the year is our ICE FRENZY, held during break times in the drama court on the 27th September. A great way for the kids to 'be cool' after a busy start to a new year....don't miss out!!

If you would like to be part of the Booster Club family and lend-a-hand, offer your skills, or would just like to know more about what the club is all about, simply drop us a line at boosterclub@abaoman.com. Booster Club is a great way to 'support our kids' while making new friends and having fun!



FRENZY

ICE

Thursday 27 September

10.25am - 1.00pm

(or until stocks sell out)

ABA DRAMA COURT

All funds raised go to the VIPERS Booster Club - supporting our kids!



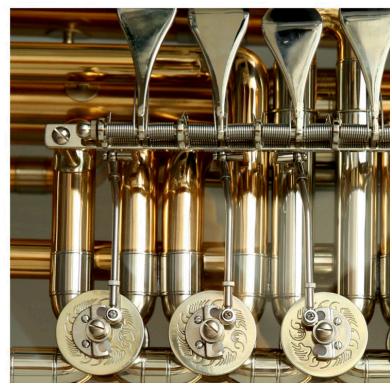
Yours in community spirit – VIPERS Booster Club

Message from the Community

Big Brass Weekend

ABA students have been invited by TAISM to participate in an incredible festival at the end of September. Taism's BIG BRASS weekend utilises the skills of the top brass players and teachers in Oman over two days, to meet together, learn and socialise. Participants will also work collaboratively towards performing a short culminating concert for parents to come and enjoy. All students who play a brass instrument at ABA are encouraged to sign up and come work with our local community of musicians. Application forms may be obtained in person from Mr Langrish.

Anthony Langrish



SEPTEMBER 28-29

**BIG BRASS WEEKEND
WITH
MUSCAT BRASS**

WORLD CLASS
TEACHING ARTISTS
AND MUSICIANS

BRASS WORKSHOPS
AND MUSIC
EDUCATION

COLLABORATION
ACROSS AGE
GROUPS AND
NATIONALITIES

FREE PERFORMANCE
SATURDAY @ 17:00
IN THE BOSCH
CENTER

FREE TO
PARTICIPATE

Visiting artists and teachers from
the Royal Oman Symphony,
TAISM, ABA and BSM

