

AL NOOR-ABA NEWS

11th October 2018

Message from the Superintendent

It is said that the world is a different place to the one we knew when we were young. While this may be contested, it is certainly the case that through the internet we are very much aware of a lot more. In the last decade, a number of prominent child protection issues have come to light around the world; a couple of these have involved students in international schools. Various authorities have resolved to tighten regulations to protect children better. About seven years, following one of these cases in the international school world, a task force was assembled to address the issue.

<https://www.cois.org/page.cfm?p=1898>. This, coupled with specific national work, led to a raft of measures to help protect children. One of these was stricter requirements on all who work with children.

Oman requires those applying for a working visa, such as our expatriate teachers and staff, to provide a police clearance. Spouses are not required to provide this while information on Omanis is provided by the state.

At ABA, we require teachers, staff members, outside companies, substitute teachers and some volunteers to provide police clearance before working on campus. Volunteers who will be in a position where they are working with or accompanying students alone will be required to provide police clearance. This measure is something we believe helps ensure child protection and was a condition of our Middle States Association (MSA) accreditation.

ABA volunteers are greatly appreciated and really do help us provide more for our students. As indicated, the requirement for police clearance does not cover all volunteering activities. There are occasions when volunteers working with students in the company of teachers and other adults will not need clearance. As activities vary across a year and throughout each section, the principals will advise volunteers as to when police clearance would be needed. Police clearance in Oman can easily be obtained from the ROP for a fee of RO20. For those who have been in Oman less than one year, clearance from your home country will be required.

I realise that for some of you, this will be a change of culture. For others this will be a requirement with which you are very familiar. I wish that such measures would not be needed but knowing what we know, we feel we must have them in place. I hope you will be able to support us in this.

*Simon Taylor
Superintendent*

Message from the Elementary School

Goal Setting Conferences

On Tuesday and Wednesday 11th and 12th October, you and your child(ren) will be participating in Goal Setting Conferences. Students and parents have been preparing for these important conversations and this will be a valuable learning experience for all.

Upcoming Dates

12-14 Oct	ABA Long Weekend
14 Oct	School Closed
18 Oct	Spike... Strike... Score! 500 BZs Grades 6-12 10.25 - 11.05 GYM
	Grades 2-5 11.30 - 12.05 MPH

A few reminders:

Wednesday 12th October - no school for students
Grade 1-5 students should attend their goal setting conference with their parents
For EC, the conference is for parents and teachers only
There are no after school activities on conference days

We would like to apologise for the technical issues that many have encountered during the online sign-up. If you have not successfully scheduled an appointment by Monday, teachers will contact you directly.

Scholastic/Baker Books Orders

You have until 18th October to place an order. Every purchase earns points for free books for our library. Go to Scholastic Book Club - ABA to browse the latest books and order online.

Costume Day - Thursday 1st November

To coincide with the PTA's Spooktacular fun on the evening of Thursday 1st November, the Student Council are organising a Costume Day.

Children may come dressed in a costume of their choice, but are asked to avoid scary outfits, and witches in particular. There will be some special events to celebrate the costumes, organised by the Student Council.

Please note: no parties or treats during the school day - children are invited to attend the PTA Spooktacular Trick or Treat from 6.00-8.00pm.

*Sam Cook
Elementary Principal*

Message from the Middle School

Mathematics Problem of the Week

Each week you will find a new problem for you and your family to solve and discuss. These problems can be a great way to discuss mathematics and the step we take to solve problems. We will provide the answer to the problem in next week's newsletter. If you are feeling like a risk-taker, take a moment to submit your answer by clicking [here](#):

A, B, C, D and E are all non-zero distinct single digit whole numbers.
What are the values of A, B, C, D and E?

$$\begin{array}{r} A B C D E \\ \times \quad 4 \\ \hline E D C B A \end{array}$$

*Kathleen Bowin
Middle School Principal*

Bullying Prevention

Continuing on from last week's newsletter article and Bullying Prevention Month, the following information addresses the subject of cyberbullying.

The Cyberbullying Research Center (CRC) have been studying cyberbullying since 2002 and their mission is to bring sound research about this topic.

This research center is directed by Dr. Sameer Hinduja and Dr. Justin Patchin who provide up-to-date information about the nature, extent and causes and consequences of cyberbullying among adolescents. Cyberbullying can be defined as “Willful and repeated harm inflicted through the use of computers, cell phones, and other electronic devices.” In an article published by the CRC this week, the most popular social media apps are introduced and discussed. You may be familiar with many of these apps, with several that you may not know of.

<https://cyberbullying.org/most-popular-social-media-apps>

This week in advisory, Grade 6 students began their unit on Safety. Activities for safety in the home and fire safety were discussed and next week will see the students addressing personal safety and bullying prevention.

Claire Anthony
Middle School Counselor

Message from the High School

Effective Learning Principles

ABA’s Effective Learning Principles (ELPs) are driven through the School’s mission, vision and values (MVV), and focus upon how learners can put these ideas into practice with support from teaching. The principles were developed by a group of teachers and are based upon current educational thinking and research.

Effective Learning Principles

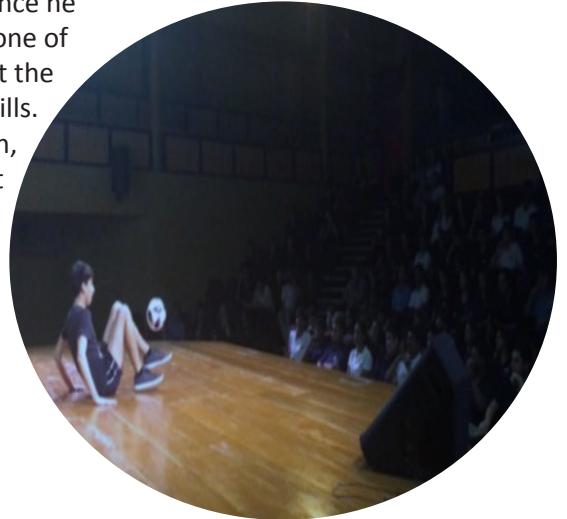


- 1 When learners are **intrinsically motivated** to learn.
- 2 When learners feel **valued**, comfortable and are willing to take risks.
- 3 When learners enjoy and are **engaged** in the learning process.
- 4 When learners are learning in their **zone of proximal development** (ZPD).
- 5 When learners understand how to be **successful**.
- 6 When learners have the **ATL skills** to learn independently and collaboratively.
- 7 When learners are able to **make connections** and create new and deeper understanding.
- 8 When learners use a **common language** for learning and approaches for thinking.
- 9 When learners develop **characteristics** that support their thinking.
- 10 When learners take **responsibility** for their learning.

Intrinsic Motivation

Whilst we have been using our Effective Learning Principles to drive professional dialogue, on Sunday we shared one of the principles with students during our monthly High School Assembly. The main focus of the assembly was intrinsic motivation as referenced above in our Effective Learning Principles.

In the spirit of the International Baccalaureate, Emiliano (Grade 10 student) was a real risk-taker by performing freestyle football in front of around 300 of his peers and teachers. Since he decided to learn freestyle football 2 years ago he has since become one of the best in Oman. However, what we learnt from Emiliano was about the process he has gone through to learn and continue to learn new skills. Emiliano was intrinsically motivated (coming from within) to learn, continuously learns from mistakes and has shown resilience by not giving up when he felt like doing so. There are many examples of students at ABA who demonstrate intrinsic motivation on a daily basis. There is some educational research of the perspective that too much focus upon grades can have a detrimental impact upon intrinsic motivation. This [article](#) is thought provoking and might lead to interesting conversations around the dinner table.



Grade 10 and 11 Coffee Morning

Our next coffee morning will be for Grade 9 and 10 parents, 7:30- 8:30 on Tuesday 30th October in the Middle School Common Room (formerly the Grade 6 Common Room).

Simon Walker
High School Principal

Message from the Fine Arts Department



Aladdin

Tickets for Aladdin will be on sale from Monday 15th October at ABA reception.

This one act musical features students from grades 6 through 12. Guaranteed fun for the entire family! Do not miss out on this great community event. Be sure to purchase your tickets before they sell out!

Natasha Meilunas
Fine Arts Coordinator

Message from the Extra Curricular Program

Next week will see the start of the Muscat Secondary Sports League (MSSL) Volleyball tournaments. Some of the tournaments are mentioned in the table below. ABA will be hosting over 130 athletes in the one afternoon. With our success in the local league, I am sure our teams will step up again in the tournaments. Your support for our ABA teams will be valued by the players.

Below is the schedule for all the MSSL Volleyball Tournaments:

15th October	U16 Boys MSSL Volleyball Tournament @ ABA	3:45 - 6:45pm
15th October	U16 Girls MSSL Volleyball Tournament @ TAISM	4:00 - 6:30pm
16th October	U13 Boys MSSL Volleyball Tournament @ BSM	3:20 - 6:15pm
16th October	U13 Girls MSSL Volleyball Tournament @ ABA	3:30 - 6:00pm
17th October	U19 Boys MSSL Volleyball Tournament @ TAISM	4:00 - 6:30pm
17th October	U19 Girls MSSL Volleyball Tournament @ ABA	3:45 - 6:15pm
22nd October	U14 Boys MSSL Volleyball Tournament @ BSM	3:20 - 6:15pm
22nd October	U14 Girls MSSL Volleyball Tournament @ TAISM	4:00 - 6:30pm
29th October	U12 Boys MSSL Volleyball Tournament @ BSM	TBC - 6:15pm
29th October	U12 Girls MSSL Volleyball Tournament @ TAISM	4:00 - 6:20pm

Games/events outside of the MSSL tournaments for next week are listed below:

15th October	U 14 Boys Vs BSM @ BSM	4:25 - 5:25pm
15th October	U14 Girls Vs BSM @ BSM	4:25 - 5:25pm
18th October	U12 Boys Vs BSM @ ABA	2:45 - 4:00pm
18th October	U12 Girls Vs BSM @ ABA 2:45/3:00	2:45 - 4:00pm
18th October	Strike, Spike, Score	10:25 - 11:00am 11:30am - 12:10pm

Middle School Tennis

The weather is starting to cool down. Every Monday starting on the 15th October 2:30 - 3:30pm the Middle School tennis recreational program for all students in Gr 6 - 8 will begin. The main focus will be working on the basics of the game, footwork, stroke work, serving and positions on the court. This all will be done through mini games in a fun environment. There is no competitive games against other schools in this program, it is a recreational club.

*Paul Brace
Athletics Director*

Elementary After School Activities

Sign ups for the Elementary After School Activities (ASA) season two will open on Wednesday 17th October at 6pm and will remain open until 6pm Sunday 21st October. An email was sent to all G2-5 parents last week regarding the sign up procedure. Season one ASAs will finish on Thursday 1st November.

Below you will find the activities on offer for season two:

Season Two

Grade	Sunday	Monday	Wednesday
2	The Makers Dance for Fitness Ball Sports	Arabic Reading	Arts and Crafts Just Jump Logo / Construction
3	Dance for Fitness Ball Sports	Arabic Reading Homework Club Knitting	Arts and Crafts Just Jump Indoor Cricket
4	Arabic Reading Soccer - Boys	Homework Club Knitting	Just Jump Indoor Cricket Touch Rugby
5	Arabic Reading Soccer - Boys	Homework Club Knitting	Just Jump Indoor Cricket Touch Rugby

Note:

1. The Elementary School Musical will begin in November and the practise sessions will be on Sunday and Wednesday for G3-5 students. Please keep this in mind when signing your child for ASAs.

2. Further details about each activity can be found on the school website under Activities.

Raewyn Jack
Elementary After-School Activities Coordinator

ABA Aquatics

The ABA swimming pool was the site for the 2018 Vipers Sprint meet held on 5th October. The age group competition included more than 200 swimmers participating in the competitive 50 and 100 meter Individual Medley events. The ABA Vipers were joined in competing with the TAISM Eagles, BSM Marlins, and Nautilus swim club. The day's action included many great swims from all swimmers, and our ABA Vipers continued to show improvement by recording personal records throughout the meet.

The event ran smoothly, and all made possible by the many volunteers who assisted to help make this meet a success. Thank you to all Viper Volunteers!

Charlie Semple
Aquatics Director

Message from PTA

PTA Website

Check out all the new information available on the PTA website.
Visit <http://abaoman.org/wp-site/pta/>

TTT

Sign-up form online for Sidab Women's Group Breakfast. Payment of OMR 5 at ABA.



Building our community together!

Finance:



Please upload a picture of your receipt with your sign-up form.

Deadline: 27th October, 2018.

Click [here](#) to sign-up:

For questions contact PTASAct@abaoman.org

TUESDAY TALKS & TRAVELS 2018-2019



OCTOBER 22-23 2018
TIME: 7.30-12.30
VENUE: PTA Room

Priority sign up at PTA Open Meetings
Places confirmed after payment.
Payments made in ABA finance office.

Up Next!	Date & Time	Notes
Breakfast at Sidab Women's House	Nov 27 2018 9am-11am	Max of 20 people
Bandar Khairan Boat Trip	Dec 11 7.30-1pm	Max of 25 people
CPR & First Aid Course	Jan 8-9 2019 7.30-12.30	Must have 10 people
Wadi Hike & Picnic	Jan 29 7.30-1pm	Wadi TBD.
CPR & First Aid Course	Feb 19-29 7.30-12.30	PTA Room
Exploration of Muttrah Souq & Visit to Majlis Al Shura	Mar 26 TBD	Mattrah
Days for Girls Charity Workshop	Apr 30 7.30-10am	PTA Room
Jumpstart to Summer (Zumba/Yoga)	May 28 7.30-10am	@ABA

table registration now open

MARKET and BAKE SALE

Book and pay for your table at the Accounts Office

For further details, contact Evelyn @ 95231828

ABA FLEA

FRIDAY 2 NOVEMBER 3-5PM

Spooktacular

ABA PTA's Spooktacular Trick-or-Treat is back and scheduled for Thursday 1st November from 6pm - 8pm.

In preparation for that event the organizers are looking for parents interested in volunteering to be a "Trick-or-Treat door" for our kids!

Being a "door" means decorating a table or an area along the trick-or-treat route and handing out treats to all the children that come along. Your spot along the route can be as simple as a table with some Halloween decorations and you're dressed in Orange and Black or you can come up with a theme and decorate accordingly. Being a door gives you a front row seat to enjoying all the children walking around in their costumes and trick-or-treating.

Past years have seen themes like Harry Potter, Frozen, Cookie Monster, Alice and Wonderland, Star Wars, Wizard of Oz, Jailbreak, Underwater Wonderland, Snow White, Juggling Scarecrows, Fortune Tellers, Hungry Caterpillar and many more.

The treats are supplied by the parent community who donate candy and chips which we then put together for the doors to be handed out.

TRICK OR TREAT

A SPOOKTACULAR EVENT

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 6-8pm



SAVE THE DATE

Trick-or-Treat, Pumpkin Carving Contest, Games, Food

The more doors we have, the more fun for our children, so please join in and help make this year's event a success!

If you would like to take on a "Trick-or-Treat" door or would like more information about the event please email Clauss at: trick-or-treat@abaoman.org or give me a ring at 99171863.

Your PTA
'Building Our Community Together'

Trick-or-Treat Door's Needed

If you enjoy watching kids revel in excitement then this is the event for you!
We need fun-loving volunteers to make our Trick-or-Treat 'neighborhood' a memorable one!

The "TrT" neighborhood consists of around 25 stops (called doors) mapped out from Admin through the grades 4, 5 and 6 areas, around the drama court back to the PAC and ending back in the parking lot.

Each stop is decorated thematically by parents, teachers, or students who then greet our eager Trick-or-Treaters and hand out treats!

To sign up for a door or to find out more, email Clauss at trick-or-treat@abaoman.org



Message from the Booster Club



Inspire, Encourage, Support!

The Booster Club aim is to inspire, encourage, and support our VIPERS athletes / artists and with a busy season of activities already on the calendar, the Booster Club is shifting up a gear ready to inspire, support & encourage our MESAC JV Volleyball from 25th - 27th October. With over 150+ athletes, coaches and support staff, as well as spectators and supporters from Abu Dhabi, Dubai, New Delhi, & Qatar on campus, the atmosphere will be palpable. We are very excited to once again showcase our ABA hospitality and VIPERS pride to our international guests.

We are seeking your support to help make this MESAC Season the best yet. More information will be emailed over the coming weeks on how you can get involved, but in the meantime, if you would like to know more about any of our events, please drop us a line at boosterclub@abaoman.org.

MESAC Achievement Awards

Tuesday 30th October – grab your tickets for SEASON 1 Awards Night from Admin 22nd - 29th October, or the Booster Club from 26th - 27th October. NO TICKET SALES ON THE NIGHT!!!!

Don't forget our popular **SPIKE STRIKE SCORE** next week, Thursday 18th October during breaks!!



Thursday 18 October

COMPETITION OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS

Grades 2-12

Grade 6-12 (first break) 10.25-11.05am - GYM

Grade 2-5 (second break) 11.30-12.05am - MPH

VOX Movie Tickets to be WON!



Get your tickets at the door!!

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

Yours in community spirit – VIPERS Booster Club