

AL NOOR-ABA NEWS

6th September 2018

Message from the Superintendent

Dear Parents,

Hopefully, all of you have now (re)established your routines for the school year. Thank you for your patience and understanding during the first week or so of the school year.

As ever, safety and security are of the utmost importance for us. Today we held our first fire drill. It was unfortunate that we chose a day of high humidity but all went well and after evacuation of the premises we were not outside for too long. It may interest you to know that the campus of about 1200 people was fully evacuated in just over 6 minutes.

In all aspects of school life our priority is to predict and prevent accidents. One area of potential high risk is the heavy traffic around the school and in the car parks, both outside and inside the campus. I seek your support in a number of areas:

Please ensure you have your parent id card with you if you wish to enter the campus.

Please use seat belts and car seats or booster seats for younger children in line with the law in Oman.

Please only park in designated areas. To help parents further, we have opened the NW corner gate at peak times to make it easier to enter the campus if you park in the front car park or the one on the north side of the campus west of the Philippines school.

Please do not drop off or pick up directly outside the Admin Building. This is our main crossing point.

Please do not leave your car unattended with the engine running and certainly not with children or pets inside.

Please follow the directions of the ABA staff. They only ask drivers to do something for reasons of safety or efficiency of traffic flow.

Please inform all drivers of the students as to what is expected.

Many thanks for your understanding and support for our drive for safety.

All the best for a wonderful weekend.

Upcoming Dates

09 Sep	Elementary School After School Activities Season 1
12 Sep	Grade 6 Meet the Middle School Principal Grade 6 Common Room 5.30 pm

Simon Taylor

Message from the Middle School Principal

We are now at the end of our first full week of school and thanks to our new class Niqash, I have had the opportunity to interact with each class in the Middle School. Niqash has been my favorite part of my days.

Niqash will replace what was known as library time. Niqash is a once a week, forty minute class that will be taught by myself - Middle School Principal, Mr. Megel Barker - MYP Coordinator, Clarie Anthony - Middle School Counselor, Peter Wadsworth - Director of Education Technology & Integration and Courtney Park - Secondary Librarian. Teachers will rotate over five week periods and students will have the opportunity to build relationships, expand their knowledge of MYP, technology integration and research, participate in hands on activities, as well as explore the dynamics of team work.

Thank you to the entire ABA family for the warm welcome. I've enjoyed chatting with many of you during our "Meet the Principal" session these past three mornings and I am excited about getting to know more of you. I will host another "Meet the Principal" session Wednesday 12 September at 5:30pm for any parents that could not make this week's sessions. If you need to contact me, I can be reached at kbowin@abaoman.org or 24955806. Most mornings, I can be found in front of the school during drop off. In case you don't know what I look like, I'm the lady in pink.

Adventure Oman

Ms Jones is currently organising our annual Adventure Oman trips. The aim is for all students to participate. The dates of these trips can be found below. Ms. Jones will send additional information in separate communications directly to parents.

Grade 6: 10 - 12 December
Grade 7: 13 - 15 November
Grade 8: 4 - 6 December

Save the Date: "Meet the Teacher" (informal) - Tuesday 25th September, 5:30pm - 7:00pm
Grade 7 Tanzania trip information meeting immediately after "Meet the Teacher".

Kathleen Bowin

Message from the Secondary School

The beginning of the school year can be likened to maneuvering a large vessel out of harbour. It takes a huge amount of effort behind the scenes and a great deal of preparation from a great many people before the hawsers are cast off, the direction set and the ship is finally on its way. The High School is certainly well on its way. Our first High School assembly this week welcomed new students and teachers to ABA High School as well as the new Grade 9 cohort - the class of 2022! After being musically entertained by talented G12 student Rodion Haataja, with a fantastic composition of his own, High School students were informed about not only the usual fare of results and resulting university places, but the huge range of creative, sporting, outward bound and volunteer clubs at ABA. This week's CAS fair will have advertised over 40 different after school activities for students to try out and enjoy.

Participation in After School Activities and Athletics is such an important measure of the health of a school - it is its life blood, in which the spirit of the school flows. Student, teacher and parent volunteers give up huge amounts of time to organise everything from language learning to paragliding, gardening to coding, learning a new sport; there is definitely something for everyone to enjoy. Creativity, Activity and Service are at the core of the IB's thinking, and especially important to Diploma students for whom it is a mandatory part of their programme.

At ABA, we genuinely aim to educate the whole student - valuing Athletics as much as Academics, understanding that learning happens as much outside the classroom as inside, and ensuring that every student has a vast range of opportunities in which to excel.

Please do look to encourage your children to fully engage themselves in physical as well as academic activities. All the research suggests huge benefits are to be had both academically and emotionally by participation in sport. By the end of the week, MESAC season one squads will have been formed, club members enrolled and schedules settled to enable everyone to enjoy the 2018/19 school year. It promises to be a fantastic voyage.

Discovery Week

During the week beginning Sunday January 20th all Grade 11 students will participate in Discovery Week. All trips must have a CAS focus and over the past two years we have increasing opportunities for discovery here in Oman. Although not yet confirmed we are hoping to be able to offer scuba diving instruction, cooking, an expedition in Oman and an overseas trip to Laos. Providing trips which involve less cost has been difficult due to the price of transport but we continue to try. One additional option this year is for students to self-organise an experience individually or in small groups. Further details will be sent by Ms. Jones and trip organisers in the near future.

Grade 9 Trip

Ms Jones is currently organising our annual Grade 9 outdoor education trip (this was introduced last year). In the same way as Adventure Oman in Grade 8, the aim is for all students to participate. This trip is being planned for February 25th and 26th. Ms. Jones will send a separate communication directly to parents.

Community and Communication

It is important from our perspective to have effective and regular communication with our parent community. We all share the same goal and that is to provide the best education possible for your children and our students, working in partnership will help us to continue achieving this. Our communication will come via the newsletter, emails, coffee mornings and parent events. Whenever possible I am also at the front of the school in the morning and can frequently deal with quick questions at this time in person.

In the High School we will continue to facilitate monthly coffee mornings where we answer previously raised questions from parents. I trust that those who have attended have found this useful. This year we will send a brief summary of the discussion to the parents unable to attend.

Forthcoming High School Parent Events:

Meet the teacher (informal) - Tuesday 18th September, 5:30pm - 7:00pm

Grade 11/12 parent coffee morning - Tuesday 2nd October, 7:30am - 8:30am (PTA Room)

Grade 9/10 parent coffee morning - Tuesday 30th October, 7:30am - 8:30am (PTA Room)

Guy Essex - DP Coordinator

Message from the PE Team

Dear Parents,

The PE kit for Secondary School students is now available in the school shop. As shown, the kit consists of the yellow ABA t-shirt, and navy blue ABA shorts.

Inside both t-shirts and shorts are labels. Please put your child's name and advisory class on the labels so any potential lost items can be easily returned.

PE Team



Message from the Extra Curricular Program

After School Activities (ASA)

This week in the Extra Curricular Program the sign up process began for the Elementary Program. ES ASAs start the week of Sunday 9th September. Raewyn Jack will be coordinating the ES activities again this year. All enquiries for ES ASAs are to be directed to rjack@abaoman.org

The secondary students' process is different from the Elementary School to allow for increased responsibility for the students to manage their own timetables both in school time and in their after school choices. They will sign up with the individual activity leaders on the day of the activity. Supervisors and club leaders will be advertising the various activities over the coming weeks.

All the information for Elementary and Secondary ASAs are available for viewing on the ABA website on the Activities page.

Middle School Sport

This week was the beginning of the MS volleyball program with a fantastic turn out of 75 students coming to training. There was a real energy in the gyms from the enthusiasm generated by our young and upcoming future athletes. We are still looking for more Grade 6 boys and girls to come and join the volleyball fun. Training for the Grade 6 team is on Monday and Thursday 2:30 - 3:30pm in the MPH.

MESAC

It has been a positive start to the year with over 110 students turning up for MESAC season one (volleyball, swimming, golf and academic games) tryouts. There was a real buzz and a positive vibe amongst all the students. Leading a balanced lifestyle is essential for the development of a child. Please continue to encourage your child to participate in a MESAC event. We still need more numbers.

The dates and venues have been set for MESAC season one. Dates and locations of the tournaments are listed below:

Golf	Golf @ ACS (Abu Dhabi) Arrival: Oct. 22th Depart: Oct. 25th or late 24th	V Volleyball	V-volleyball@ AES (Delhi) Arrival: Oct. 25th Depart: Oct. 29th
Swimming	Swimming @ DAA (Dubai) Arrival: Oct. 24th Depart: Oct. 28th	Academic Games	Agames@ AS Dubai (Dubai) Arrival: Oct. 25th Depart: Oct. 29th
JV Volleyball	JV-Vball @t ABA (Muscat) Arrival: Oct. 24th Depart: Oct. 28th		

Letters will be coming home over the coming weeks to MESAC season one families outlining the costs for the MESAC tours. As the tournaments are not far away please ensure payment for the MESAC tournaments are made on the due date.

Events next week - Come and support our teams

16th September	U16 Boys vs Oman Club team @ ABA	4:15 - 5:30pm
16th September	U19 Boys vs Oman Club team @ ABA	4:15 - 5:30pm

Paul Brace

Message from the University Counsellor

PSAT- October 10, 2018

Dear Parents,

Students who registered for the PSAT at the end of last school year have now been contacted and informed on how to make their payment and collect their study booklet.

Please see below the following steps that were sent to the students on September 2nd. If your son or daughter did not register last May, they can contact me and be added to our waitlist.

Payment - The cost is 9 Rials (please try and bring correct change). You should take your payment to the Secondary Administration office.

Deadline for payment to Ms. Gaitha Al Yarubi in the Secondary Administration office is 1 P.M. on Thursday, September 13th.

If you have not made payment by 1 p.m. on Thursday, September 13th, your place may be given to the first person on the wait list.

French, Spanish, History, Mathematics and Physics. For a full list of subjects please refer to the website.

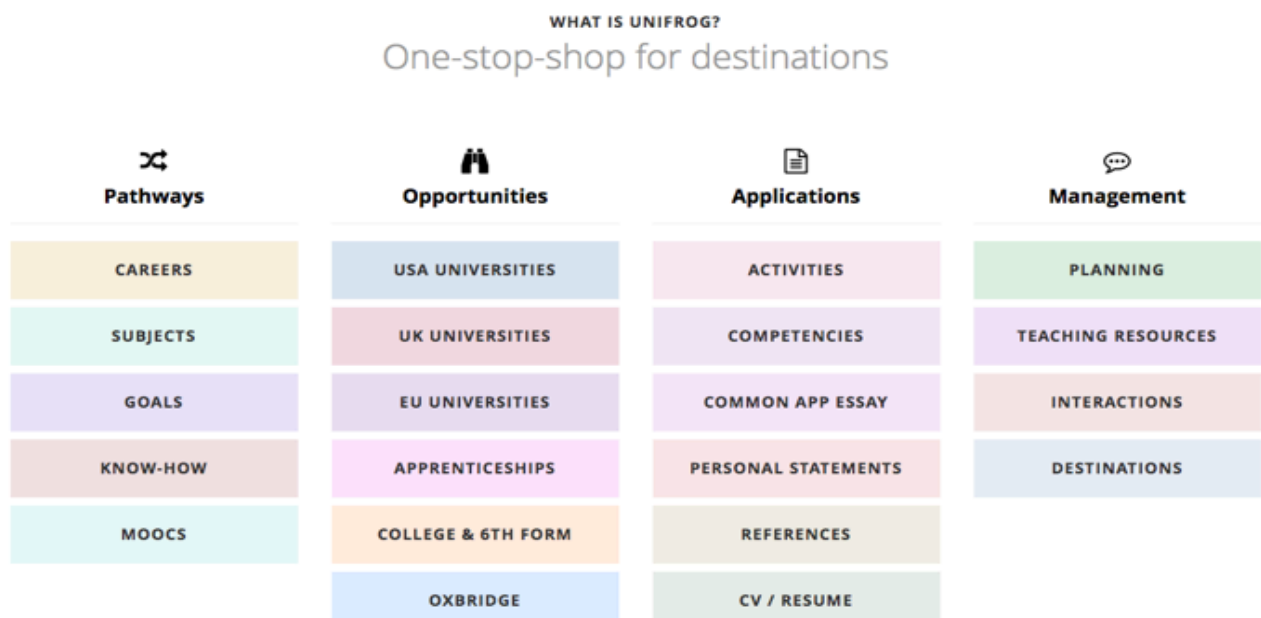
Step 3 -Once you have paid your 9 Rials, you will be given the official practice booklet.

Step 4- practice! practice! Also look out for an email with details of an afternoon school practice session that will be held on Sunday, September 30th.

Please do not hesitate to contact Alli Hostetter (ahostetter@abaoman.org) if you have any questions regarding this process.

Grade 11 and 12

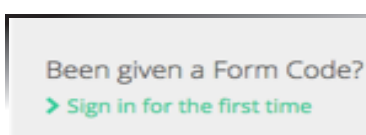
This Monday our Grade 11 and 12 students had a presentation from the providers of our new university search engine, "Unifrog" (www.unifrog.com). Unifrog will replace 'Naviance / Family Connection' completely, as of next year. However, all High School students will have full access to using Unifrog. The name comes from the idea of using a simple search engine to 'hop' from one informative page about universities to another. Unifrog is simple and intuitive to use; its main functions could be simplified as being:



- a) Research universities from Canada, Europe, UK and US. (For other universities worldwide there is still Google as well as a fairly comprehensive counseling library in my office!)
- b) An ability to search for universities based upon the number of points students are likely to achieve from their IB subjects.
- c) An ability to search for careers based around interest in a particular subject.
- d) A guide to MOOCs (free online courses across multiple subject courses)
- e) Many videos from university admissions officers to careers talks.
- f) An ability to track application progress, and a place to store all the achievements, accolades and activities that accumulate over the High School years; a CV builder.
- g) A guide to completing your UCAS statements and Common App Essays.

Parents can check out Unifrog for themselves by logging in as 'ABAOmanparents'. Simply log on to www.unifrog.com and then enter the FORM Code (ABAOmanparents); sign up and then you too will be able to use Unifrog to search universities and careers!

This is what you will see on the right-hand side of the screen page, after you click: 'Sign In'



SAT Dates

For students applying to the US, (as well as those going to Canada and applying with IB Courses, rather than the IB Diploma), it is advisable to plan to take at least two SAT tests. SAT (I) tests English and Maths and are marked out of 1600 (800 x 2). Because the tests are very formal and contain lots of multiple-choice questions, which students do not habitually encounter during their IB courses, they usually need quite a lot of practice to obtain the highest scores possible. SAT practice classes will take place after school on a Tuesday between 2.30 and 3.30 in Mr Tran's classroom, S37. If there is no holiday called on Tuesday 11th we will start then; if it is a public holiday then we will begin on Tuesday 18th September.

Please find opposite a quick overview of testing dates from the College Board:

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/international>

The Subject Tests are also known as SAT II, and where students wish to apply for highly competitive universities it is advisable to take these in addition to SAT I's. Subject Tests are taken in such subjects as Biology, Chemistry, French, Spanish, History, Mathematics and Physics. For a full list of subjects please refer to the website.

2018-19 International Dates and Deadlines

Deadlines expire at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time, U.S. To see U.S. test dates, [visit Test Dates and Deadlines.](#)

2018-19 International SAT Administration Dates and Deadlines				
SAT Date	SAT Subject Tests Available	Early Registration via Representative	Registration Deadline	Deadline for Changes
October 6, 2018 Register	See SAT Subject Tests available on this date	August 22, 2018	September 7, 2018	September 26, 2018
December 1, 2018 Register	See SAT Subject Tests available on this date	October 17, 2018	November 2, 2018	November 20, 2018
March 9, 2019 Register	See SAT Subject Tests available on this date	January 23, 2019	February 8, 2019	February 27, 2019
May 4, 2019 Register	See SAT Subject Tests available on this date	March 20, 2019	April 5, 2019	April 24, 2019

Message from PTA

Dear ABA Parents,

Due to the grade specific orientations and numerous meetings scheduled during the first few weeks of school, the PTA has moved the New Parent Coffee Morning and the PTA Open Meeting to Sept 17th at 7.40am.

PTA Open Meeting: 7.40 to 9am in G6 Common Room.

New Parent Coffee Morning: 9 to 10am in the PTA Room.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Flea Market

The PTA Flea Market is scheduled for 2nd November 2018. Table registration is open. Please contact and register with Afrah at the Admin accounts office.

Each table is priced at R.O. 7.000 and clothes rail at R.O. 3.000.

Want to get involved in school but not ready for a huge time commitment? Become an HRP (Home Room Parent)! Please contact our parent representatives from PTA.

For ECE and Elementary, contact Nandita or Hend (PTAERep@abaoman.org)

Middle and High school, contact Evelyn (PTASRep@abaoman.org).

Ready to take on an entire event...ok...maybe just the slushy stand or even just some phone calls? We're looking for volunteers for two main events - SPOOKTACULAR (1st Nov) & WINTER FEST (6th Dec). We'd love to hear from you!

Do contact our activity coordinators for your volunteering needs at:

PTAEAct@abaoman.org (Elementary) and PTASAct@abaoman.org (Secondary).

Your PTA
Building Our Community Together'

Message from the Boost Club



Mark Your Calendar

The Booster Club have an exciting year ahead full of fun activities. 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!

The Booster Club will once again be offering a great selection of merchandise throughout the year, so keep an eye out for all the details for Pop-Up Shop, special events, and where to find us in weekly newsletters. Popular items like our sports bags, hoodies, towels, along with NEW supporter's gear, training gear, and study gear will all be on offer in the coming weeks, exclusively from the Booster Club.



VIPERS Booster Club

Calendar of Events 2018/19

GOOOOO VIPERS!

- 27 SEPT 2018 - **FUNDRAISER** – ICE FRENZY - Drama Court 11.30-1.00pm
- 18 OCT 2018 - **FUNDRAISER** - 'Spike Strike Score' - MPH / Gym
- 25/26/27 OCT 2018 - **MESAC JV Volleyball** - BBQ / Concession
- 30 OCT 2018 – **MESAC SEASON 1 AWARDS** - MPH 6-7.30pm
- 29 NOV 2018 – **FUNDRAISER** – ICE FRENZY + SPORTS GEAR SALE
- 14 JAN 2019 - **FUNDRAISER** - 'Half Shot Hot Shot' - MPH / Gym
- 31 JAN /1-2 FEB 2019 - **MESAC JV SOCCER** - BBQ /Concession
- 7/8/9 FEB 2019 - **MESAC VARSITY SOCCER** - BBQ / Concession
- 13 FEB 2019 – **MESAC SEASON 2 AWARDS** - MPH 6-7.30pm
- 18 MARCH 2019 - **FUNDRAISER** - 'ANNUAL ICE ICE CRAZY' - Drama Court
- MARCH 2019 – **MESAC SEASON 3 AWARDS** - TBC
- 24 APRIL 2019 – **FUNDRAISER** – ICE FRENZY—Drama Court 11.30-1.00pm
- 25 APRIL 2018 - **COACHES APPRECIATION LUNCH** - PTA Room

NOTE: the above does not include additional monthly pop-up shops & special pop-up shops / travel polo + sock sales for MESAC participants

FOR MORE INFO ON HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT - boosterclub@abaoman.org

Yours in community spirit – VIPERS Booster Club