

AL NOOR-ABA NEWS

8 November 2018

Message from the Superintendent

Dear Parents,

Our students continue to make the headlines. Those that do will testify that outstanding achievements do not happen by accident; they are the result of much hard work. This is not a new revelation. Many have spoken of this. The most apt in the case of the students shown below would be: "Working hard becomes a habit, a serious kind of fun. You get self-satisfaction from pushing yourself to the limit, knowing that all the effort is going to pay off." (Anonymous).

Back in the spring I was approached by our Computer Science teacher, Leo Tran, who told me that some of his students wanted to break a world record. In short, it meant they would create a computer from dominoes. It sounded fun...but how? Well, they had an idea, determination and support. An extract from Muscat Daily (31.10.18) tells the story.

"A computer is a fascinating piece of technology that can solve arithmetic problems faster than any human can. Instead of making a computer's processor out of electronic circuits, a team of grade 12 students decided to make it out of dominoes.

The team from the American British Academy (ABA) was led by Saatvik Suryajit Korisepati, supported by Alex Freyer, Zoltan Sojitory and other computer students.

The team had planned to execute a 5-bit adder which will be able to add any number up to the sum of 63.

The previous world record was a 4-bit adder that could only add numbers up to 31.

With more than six months of hard work and dedication, the team successfully created a new world record by making the first 5-bit adder using dominoes. They used 15,000 dominoes to build the circuit at Bank Muscat headquarters. Commenting on this world record, Saatvik said, "This is a classic example of perseverance and determination. The previous world record was held by an Australian mathematician and his team for a 4-bit adder. We tried for a new world record with a 5-bit adder. We could not succeed in the first three attempts.

"We were not let down by failures. In fact, we learnt something from every attempt. We improved the design and the construction of the circuit which required critical thinking. On October 20, after eight hours of tireless effort, we set the new world record for a 5-bit domino computer."

Saatvik said this would never have been possible without the support and encouragement from teachers and the Parent Teachers Association at ABA who supported the project. "We are extremely thankful to Bank Muscat management who allowed us to use their premises to attempt this world record."

Commenting on what the team plans to do with the tens of thousands of dominoes lying in cartons, Saatvik said, "Our team has decided to donate some of the dominoes to our elementary school to help students learn some simple adders. "A majority of these will be donated to charities that support school children who are less fortunate than us."

Congratulations to the students and thanks to their teacher and the PTA for supporting this ambitious project. For those of you new to the school, this is the second world record that ABA has held. Do you know the first one?

Upcoming Dates

12 Nov	Grade 9-12 Reports
13-15 Nov	Grade 7 Adventure Oman
13 Nov	PTA Tuesday Talk and Travel PTA Room 9.30 -11.00 am
	Elementary Parent Workshop PAC 6.00-8.00 pm



Simon Taylor

Message from the Middle School

Session two after school activities are underway this week and middle school students are encouraged to get involved. The activities offered at ABA are varied and challenging and provide students with opportunities to be leaders and forge new friendships. Dr. Marilyn Price-Mitchell, discusses this subject in her article 'Beyond the Classroom.'

"After-school programs can increase your teenager's long-term outlook on life and improve their potential to thrive as adults. But helping them find meaningful after-school programs can be challenging. Offering your advice can make a difference - pointing teens to activities that are not only fun but also offer opportunities to develop character strengths, skills, and abilities that will last a lifetime."

Activities available in November to February include middle school drama club, robotics club, ABA Ambassadors, Amnesty, choir, chess, badminton, Middle School MUN, Magic the Gathering, gardening, soccer, cross country and tennis. More activities and information can be found on the activities page which can be accessed through the ABA website or using this [link](#). Encourage your son/daughter to participate in at least one activity beyond the classroom at ABA or in club in the local community. Students can meet, ask questions and get more information during first break this coming Sunday, 11th November, in the middle school common room.



Approximately 30 middle school students assisted the PTA and ABA staff during last week's Spooktacular and Flea Market. All students displayed initiative, leadership and gave up their time in service opportunities for the benefit of others. Congratulations to the PTA team and students who made these events a success.

*Claire Anthony
Middle School Counselor*

Mathematics Problem of the Week - 8 November 2018

Thank you to everyone that submitted an answer to last week's problem. 50% of our responses were from parents, 25% students and 25% staff. We hope to receive more responses to this week's problem. You can submit your answer [here](#) or with this link <http://bit.ly/MPW8Nov>

8 November 2018

In the ABA car park, there are 2 black cars, 3 blue cars, 4 red cars and 3 green cars. If there are no other cars in the car park, what is the probability that a car randomly chosen from the parking lot is not green?

Last week's problem was:

Find a ten-digit number where the first digit is the number of zeroes in the number, the second digit is the number of ones in the number, the third digit is the number of twos, and so on until the ninth digit is the number of nines in the number.

Answer: Two answers were received: 9,000,000,000 and 6210001000

While both of these are technically correct, we were looking for 6,210,001,000. As one person added in their answer, these numbers are referred to as autobiographical.

*Kathleen Bowin
Middle School Principal*

Message from the High School

Model United Nations (MUN)

From 18th - 20th of November, ABA high school students attended EAMUNC at the Indian School Ghubra. With seven delegates spread between the different committees, two in security council, two in the IMF, two in UNICEF, and one in the GA-2, it made for a fruitful learning and rewarding experience for all the participating students.

The general theme of the conference was sustainable development. All our delegates collaborated with other delegates from different schools to write, present and debate relevant and useful resolutions which could help resolve the issues presented in the forum. The three day conference showed us how to be better diplomats and improved our communication and collaborative skills. Even though the delegates from ABA were well versed with MUN, this exposure enriched each one of us as we learnt to chart new procedures through the Vienna formula. It was also an experience that allowed us to express our knowledge on global issues and represent the countries we were assigned.

Highlight of the Valedictory function was multiple awards won by our ABA students for their diplomacy skills. Rohan Joseph won outstanding diplomacy award from the security council committee. Winners for the best diplomacy award were: Janka Van Der Merwe, Omar Dabbous, Sejal Sridhar, and Tamer Haddadin and an honourable mention for Diya Kumar.



*Anuja Ahuja
Science Teacher*

Message from the Extra Curricular Program

Elementary After School Activities Season One Summaries

Season One Elementary After School Activities have finished and we began our season two activities this week. Below are summaries from the season one activities written by our Activity Leaders.

Lego (G2-3)

The students developed their creativity and team spirit by building with Lego. Some weeks they focused on different themes such as space, future homes and monsters, while other sessions were free and children created according to their own interests and imagination.

Lego (G4-5)

Lego club encourages budding engineers to design, discuss and build. Each week has a theme such 'Amazing Maze' or 'Musical Monsters'. Children work together to demonstrate their flare and passion for Lego!

Scrabble

Scrabble saw some eager students ready to learn about the game. Each week students engaged in challenges that not only allowed them to better understand the intricacies of the game but improve on their own strategic approaches. New words were learned and friends made over the board. The excitement each week was very high as the students shared their word knowledge in this game. Overall, the activity was a lot of fun and a lot of learning.

Movement and Mindfulness

We made calm jars in the first session which we were able to use weekly to focus on our thoughts and settle our minds. We coloured mandalas to help us calm and focus. We practiced mindful movements including yoga poses and movement games. All these strategies can be used to help us be mindful in our everyday lives.

FUNdamental Fitness

In this activity, we used the Sworkit Kids app to practice customized workouts that are age-appropriate and fun. All workouts could easily be done anywhere without gym equipment. Our goal was to strengthen our bodies, increase endurance and build stamina for exercise. Way to go for the young athletes!

Yoga

The children have enjoyed exercising, stretching and balancing their bodies. They had fun learning about different yoga poses and tried creating their own. They enjoyed holding their breath and making themselves calm by listening to relaxing music for young children. They became more flexible by repeating the exercises a few times each.

Arabic Reading Grade (4-5)

Students have read a variety of Arabic books in order to improve their reading skills. They were encouraged to read with confidence and expression. In addition to that they have had different activities and educational games using whiteboards, picture cards and iPads to help them learn new vocabulary and develop their reading and speaking skills.

Arabic Art

Students have explored some traditional Arabic arts and crafts. They painted pictures from Arabic culture, decorated small ceramic jars and used geometric designs and Arabic calligraphy to produce beautiful artwork in addition to creating different Arabic traditional decorations.

Girls Football

This group of girls was highly enthusiastic, keen to learn and just loved football. Weekly practices consisted of ball familiarisation drills, as well as basic dribbling, passing and shooting techniques. Small sided games of 3 v 3 were played during the first few weeks but as their game sense progressed, larger games were also played. The girls made pleasing progress and developed not only their ball skills but their spatial awareness and overall game play. Thanks to two high school students, Jessica and Noor, for their commitment and invaluable help over the course of this activity.

Ball Sports

This high energy and fun-loving group enjoyed the non-stop action of this activity. Tag games were played for warm-up and this was followed by a variety of different ball games, including football, benchball, basketball and numerous versions of dodge ball. During these games, a high emphasis was placed on sportsmanship, fair play and honesty. This was challenging for some, but most students worked hard to improve these aspects of their play.

Benchball

This was an amazing group of players who learned teamwork. They learned that short passes and moving without the ball leads to success. The students showed their excitement by playing competitive games with each other. Their passing and catching skills progressed throughout this activity.

Dance for Fitness

The dance for fitness crew were energetic and enthusiastic. During this activity, they learned a variety of dance moves and danced along to their favourite songs. Each song had them up and moving, and gave them a good workout. The girls chose their top three songs and spent a few weeks learning the routines, and rounded off the first dance for fitness season by showing off some of their best moves to their parents!





Booster Club

WOW. The booster club has done an amazing job over the last 3 years pulling the community together and developing a Viper Spirit. This week they presented their finances to the community via the PTA meeting and highlighted that they have achieved their pledge for 2018/2019. Students involved in the MPSSL will receive a water bottle, MSSL will receive a Vipers training shirt and our MESAC students will receive a travel bag. All the above items have been customized, made for the Vipers and donated by the Booster Club. On behalf of the students, thanks to the Booster Club and to the community for making these great initiatives eventuate.



Booster Club Pledges 2018/19



DUE NOVEMBER: 300 x custom designed kit bags



DELIVERED: 250 x custom designed training shirts



DELIVERED: 130 x custom designed water bottles

Season Two Begins

With 574 students in the secondary school, season two has already been a success with more than half of the secondary students, 320, participating in the first week of training/tryouts. Our teams have already started their league fixtures with games against BSM on Wednesday. It will be another busy week for our teams next week I hope to see you there supporting our teams.

Games/events for next week are listed below.

12th November	U19 Boys B'ball vs PSO @ ABA	2:45 - 3:45pm
12th November	U19 Girls Soc vs TSS @ TSS	3:30 - 4:30pm
12th November	U12 Boys Soc vs TSS@ TSS	3:30 - 4:30pm
12th November	U13 Boys Soc vs TSS @ ABA	3:30 - 4:30pm
12th November	U16 Boys B'ball vs BSM @ BSM	4:15 - 5:15pm
13th November	U19 Boys Soc vs TSS @ TSS	3:30 - 4:30pm
13th November	U16 Girls B'ball vs BSM @ ABA	2:45 - 3:45pm
14th November	U19 Boys B'ball vs ISO @ ABA	3:15 - 4:15pm
14th November	U19 Girls B'ball vs ISO @ ABA	3:15 - 4:15pm

*Paul Brace
Athletics Director*

Message from the PTA

A warm PTA thank you to Evelyn for leading the organization of the Flea market and to Clauss and Melanie for organizing Spooktacular. Both events went smoothly and had rave reviews from attendants! The PTA and community send their appreciation and love to these three wonderful volunteers.




Building our community together!

PTA Website:

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

Tuesday Talks & Travels (TTT):


Tuesday Talks & Travels 2018-2019



Bandar Khairan Boat Trip

Jassa Beach Sea Tourism

December 11, 2018 7.30am-1.00pm




Cost: 35 OMR Payable @ ABA finance dept by **November 11 2018**

Max no. of 25 people

Sign-up online @ the ABA PTA TTT webpage

Contact: PTASAct@abaoman.org



Click here to sign-up:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1IPa7kumF-MELcUzkgQPIVkd_8NoDCmSeJD7GrLb_tHqs/viewform?ts=5bc44c4c&edit_requested=true

For any questions contact:
PTASAct@abaoman.org



Oman National Day

Pop up Shop!

11 - 15 November

1 BEAT HEART ABA

WINTER MUSIC FEST

CALLING ALL MUSICIANS!

DO YOU PLAY AN INSTRUMENT? DO YOU SING? WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

SEND YOUR AUDITION VIDEOS OR SOUND BITES TO HEND VIA WHATSAPP 96896990748

Deadline: Monday Nov 12th
Event Date: Dec 6th 6-8pm
ABA Pitch

Message from the Booster Club

Booster Club – pledge our support!

Following the success of season 1 across all VIPERS MESAC, MSSL, and MPSL programs, we are looking forward to a great season 2! Gooooooooo VIPERS.

Booster Club are not slowing down any time soon. We are stepping it up a gear and continuing to support our kids both on and off the pitch, field, court, offering additional pop-up shops and great fundraisers throughout the year. 'TWO FOR ONE' fundraiser - 29th NOVEMBER - Sports Gear & Ice Frenzy Sale

Booster Club has been working hard and you will be pleased to see all that hard work, with your continued support, coming back to the kids. As presented to the community in the PTA Open Meeting on Monday, we have achieved our financial pledge for the 2018/19 VIPERS programs. We have now delivered...

- 250 custom designed VIPERS training shirt for all selected MSSL participants.
- 130 custom designed VIPERS water bottles for all selected MPSL participants.
- 300 custom made VIPERS kit bags for all selected MESAC participants and coaches – are due any day and will be handed out to all our participants during the season.

Come show your support at all our fundraising event so we can continue to 'support our kids'!



WANTED
sports gear

DO YOU HAVE SPORTS GEAR YOU HAVE OUTGROWN, NO LONGER USE, OR NO LONGER NEED??

Booster Club will be collecting *'gently used'* sports gear for our inaugural **'Sports Gear Sale'** on **29 November**.

**Collection boxes will be available outside ABA Gym from 04-25 November*

WANTED in all sizes ... football boots, shin pads, knee pads, running spikes, tennis racquets, badminton racquets, swim fins, swim paddles, basketball shoes, travel polo!!

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

The poster is designed to look like a piece of aged, yellowed paper with a torn edge. It features the word 'WANTED' in large, white, block letters at the top, with 'sports gear' written in a cursive font on a piece of paper that appears to be stuck to the main surface. Below this, the text is centered and uses a mix of bold, black, sans-serif fonts and smaller, italicized fonts for emphasis and details. At the bottom, there is a collection of various sports equipment, including football boots, shin pads, knee pads, running spikes, tennis racquets, badminton racquets, swim fins, and swim paddles, arranged in a row. The overall tone is urgent and appealing, aimed at encouraging the community to donate their old sports gear.

Sports Gear Collection: donations welcome from Sunday 4 - 25th November. Collection bins will be available outside the Sports Hall during those dates. SALE 29th November in the Drama Court 10.30-1.00pm!

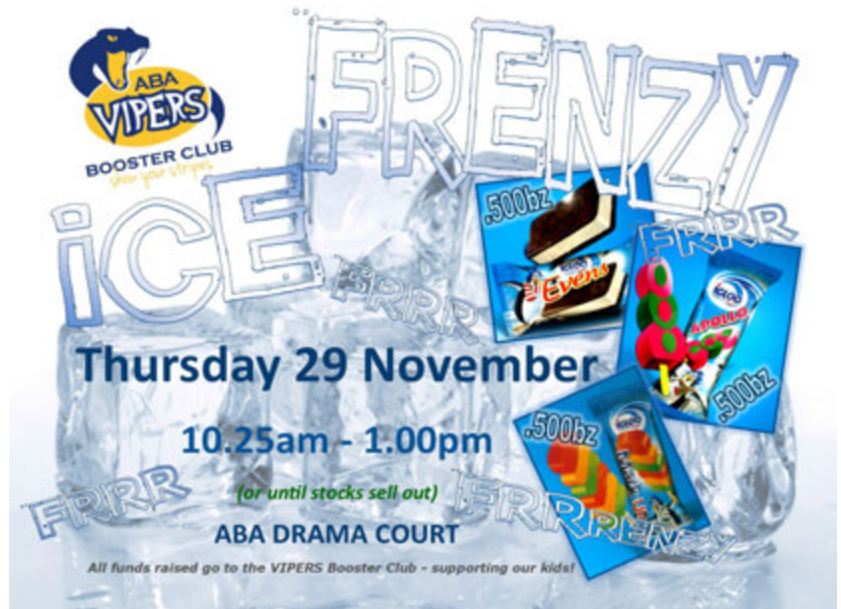
ICE FRENZY: come join us on 29th November in the Drama Court for a fun frenzy of frozen treats. 10.30 - 1.00pm!

Hoodies: due to ongoing issues with suppliers, we are currently not taking new hoodie orders. We will keep you up to date on when these will be ready for order in the coming weeks.

If you would like to know more about the Booster Club, simply email us boosterclub@abaoman.org.

Booster Club is a great way to 'support our kids' while making new friends and having fun.

*Yours in community spirit
VIPERS Booster Club*

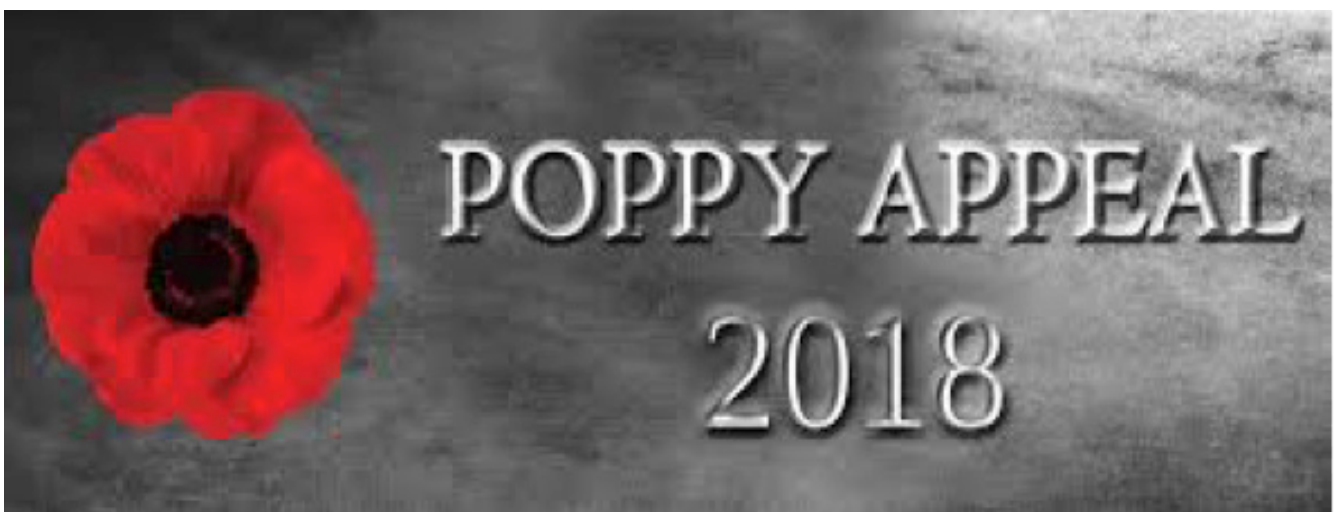


Message from the Community

The Poppy Appeal began this week on campus and provides parents, faculty and students the chance to wear poppies and buy wristbands in the lead up to November 11th Remembrance Day and America's Veterans Day. The two links below will provide you with information about the significance of poppies and how many different countries around the world use it as a symbol to honor individuals who died in conflicts. Although this began many decades ago, it continues to this day. Middle School Ambassadors will continue to distribute items on Sunday morning from 7:00 - 7.30 am.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-15637074>

https://www.va.gov/opa/vetsday/vetday_faq.asp



Claire Anthony