

AL NOOR-ABA NEWS

31st January 2019

Message from the Superintendent

Thirty-two years ago this summer, ABA opened with the aim of providing a secondary level education for the children of the expatriate community in Muscat. While it still retains that aim, the school has clearly changed in three respects over the years. First, it offers early years, elementary, middle and high school education to students aged 3-18. Second, it welcomes more Omani children as permission to join the school has been eased by the Ministry of Education. Third, ABA offers a truly international education through the International Baccalaureate (IB) programmes.

However, the international nature of the school is more than a diverse group of students and teachers following an international programme, it is a culture. This culture has been shaped over time by those who have valued the coming together of different people, the sharing of common ground and the interest in learning more about others. Those with that mindset have found the philosophical underpinnings of the IB to be very much in line with their own views, particularly with regards to international mindedness. Needless to say, they have also appreciated the practical benefits of a top-quality international education. The essence of ABA is captured in our Mission, Vision and Values while the culture of ABA is how we live our lives as part of the community. As someone once said, "culture... it's the way we do things around here".

In being part of ABA, I believe it is the responsibility of all of us, whether parents, students, teachers and staff, to nurture this culture, one unique to Muscat, and one valued by all. As 2019 unfolds, I hope that all of you will feel that you can play a role in helping ABA in its goal of continuing to define international education and the true meaning of an active community of international understanding in Oman.

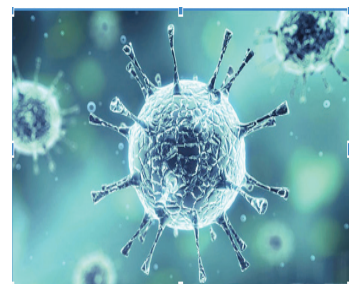
I know many of you are involved this weekend and the next in our MESAC events. This extension of our international community is wonderful, and such events are truly remembered by our students. Thanks to all of you who have stepped up to support MESAC...and indeed other events...whether through the PTA or the Booster Club. This is certainly one important part of that ABA culture.

*Simon Taylor
Superintendent*

Message from the Health Office

Oman: Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV)

We are forwarding information received from the Ministry of Health of four cases of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus which have been reported in Oman. The virus is present in camels and can be transmitted to people who have direct contact with or consume raw/uncooked camel products. The overall risk is low if precautions are taken. Avoid contact with sick people and practice good general hygiene .



Please see below an alert published by the MOH: <https://www.moh.gov.om/ar/-/--951>

Suni - School Nurse

Message from the Extra Curricular Program

Elementary After School Activities

The Makers

The Makers experimented with different resources where they needed to be creative, problem solvers, and communicators. They worked hard creating the Treasure Map game, and experimented with water and tea to make it look old. They loved using the WeDo Lego kits, making a rover and challenging themselves to make it move in all directions. Lastly they imagined an object and used the 3Doodler pen to create a 3D version of it, great work here! A lovely group of children, ready to try something new and not afraid of failure. Well done everyone!

Dance for Fitness

We had a great time in dance class building our muscles while following lively beats. The children learned to follow guided dance moves, body coordination and finding patterns in different dances. The repetitive movements involved in the different dances improve muscle tone, flexibility and balance. What a fantastic way to exercise!

Ball Sports

This energetic group of Grade 2 and 3 students, played a variety of ball games with enthusiasm and vigor. With the help of two secondary school students, the group played small-sided versions of football, basketball and floor hockey, along with larger dodgeball and tag games. The focus for these games was teamwork and sportsmanship and the students had the chance to reflect on the game they played and praise teammates for their efforts.

Boys Soccer

It was great to have 20 enthusiastic Grade 4 and 5 soccer players taking advantage of the cooler weather and enjoying soccer on the grass pitch. We learnt a few new skills, discovered the need to control and move the ball at speed, and finished most sessions with some exciting Grade 4 versus Grade 5 contests which were very close matches and always played in the correct spirit. The same players should consider signing up for Futsal in season 4.

Lego Construction

The students had the opportunity to work collaboratively on a large project such as designing an airport.

They divided themselves into groups and created different areas of the airport.

Once it all came together they shared their ideas, thought process and as a large group reflected on improvements and new projects.

Indoor Cricket

An enthusiastic group of boys worked on developing the skills of bowling, batting, fielding and running between the wicket. Throughout the weeks we started of playing the modified games of continuous cricket and double wicket cricket, before playing more serious games in the last two weeks. All the boys had success at some point, but more importantly we all had a great time.

Touch Rugby

Students played both Touch and Tag Rugby. They learned the basic rules of the game, such as passing the ball backwards and built up their skills of passing, catching and kicking. There was a range of experience and everyone worked together to play games and help their teammates. Everyone showed progress and improvement in skills.

Arabic Reading Grades 2-3

Students had fun as they have improved their Arabic reading skills. They were put in different groups according to their levels where they read simple Arabic books and had interesting activities and competitions after reading them.

Homework Club

Homework Club took place once a week on Mondays in E23. It was an opportunity for students in grades 3-5 to do their assigned home learning tasks alongside their peers and with the support of older students and a teacher. It has been a fun, engaging experience where elementary students showed their independence and responsibility within a caring and encouraging atmosphere.

Congratulations to those that attended for working hard and showing ABA spirit.

Knitting

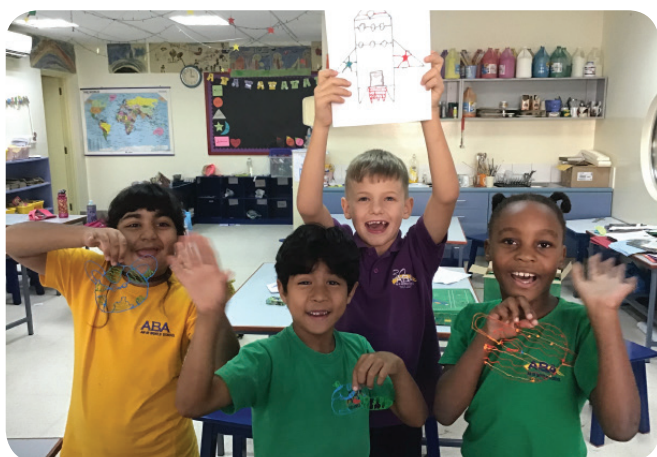
Most of the students have never knitted before and did really well learning this new skill. Finding suitable needles and wool/ yarn was a challenge for some, but they did their best with what they had. They learnt how to do the basic cast on stitch as well as the knitting stitch. A couple of students really got the hang of it and managed to complete, or almost complete, lovely creative items.

Casting off proved to be the quickest and easiest skill they acquired.

Arts and Crafts

The children channeled their inner artists by painting and making a variety of crafts. They had an opportunity to work with colors by mixing and matching paint to make their desired color. The children were very proud of their work, it helped them explore and get creative as they used different materials and tools.

*Raewyn Jack
Elementary PE Department*





Middle School Basketball

Basketball starts the week of Sunday 17th February. The training times are below.

Gr 6 Boys	DAA	Monday and Thursday 2:30 - 3:30
Gr 6 Girls	ABA	Monday and Thursday 2:30 - 3:30
Gr 7 Boys	AS Dubai	Monday and Thursday 3:30 - 2:30
Gr 7 Girls	ACS Abu Dhabi	Monday and Thursday 2:30 - 3:30
Gr 8 Boys	ABA	Sunday and Wednesday 3:00 - 4:00
Gr 8 Girls	ACS Abu Dhabi	Monday 3:30 - 4:30 and Wednesday 3:00 - 4:00

Middle School Track

Track for the Middle School team will start on Monday 18th February. For training, students will be bused to the Sultan Qaboss Sports Complex on Mondays and will train at ABA on Wednesdays. The MSSL Track meet will be held at TSS on Tuesday 12th March.

Muscat Secondary Sports league (MSSL)

Our teams once again have shone at the MSSL tournaments this week. The cross country team conquered a tough course achieving some great times.

U14 Boys (3km)	Gold: Josu Vallenacey Silver: Oscar Vallenacey Bronze: Christian Sutton
U16 Girls (4km)	Silver: Hanah Islam Bronze: Doga Cobanoglu
U19 Boys (5km)	Gold: Yusef Loughrey Silver: Will Maxwell Bronze: Eugenio Miotto
U19 Girls (5km)	Gold: Jade Meijssen



Our JV Boys Soccer team after playing three games in a row during their MSSL tournament came second with some great performances ABA 3-0 TAISM, ABA 2-5 TSS , ABA 1-0 BSM. The varsity boys soccer team would have gained some confidence leading into their MESAC tournament with a great game against TAISM finishing in a 2-2 draw.



The U14 girls - A comment from their coach Mr Wood: Second place; didn't lose a game, didn't concede a goal and played amazingly. The girls were superb! Ran non-stop, battled for every ball, should have won first game 6-0 and second game 7-0, but came up against some really good keepers!!!

We are never to old

Not only are our students playing in a MSSL league, so are the teachers. The staff soccer team played TAISM last weekend. ABA were up 2 nil in the first 5 minutes but the wheels started to come off soon after that going into half time 2-4. Some inspirational words from the skipper Mario Giraldo had the ABA staff back on track drawing the second half 1-1. BSM is next, look out.



Come and support our teams over the MESAC weekends

Final preparations are being put in place for all the MESAC teams. There is less than one week to go before our Cross Country and Varsity basketball teams depart to their tournaments. Today ABA welcomed the MESAC JV Soccer teams. There have been some great games at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex (Bousher).

Location: <https://goo.gl/maps/YawH5ENHBL52> . I hope you will be able to come and support our Soccer players over the weekend. The game schedule for this weekend. is the same as the varsity schedule (paragraph below).

Next week we welcome the MESAC Varsity Soccer players on 7th February. Click on the link for the schedule of the varsity soccer games. [Soccer Schedule](#) The games for the Varsity Soccer Tournament is also held at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex (Bousher).

Games/events for next week are listed below.

4th February	MSSL Soccer Tournament U12 Girls @ MIS	3:10 - 5:10
5th February	MSSL Soccer Tournament U12 Boys @ TSS	3:30 - 6:15
5th February	MSSL Soccer Tournament U13 Boys @ RG	3:30 - 6:30
6th February	MSSL Soccer Tournament U13 Girls @ MIS	3:15 - 4:20

*Paul Brace
Athletics Director*

BSM Winter Short Course Invitational

27 members of the Vipers swim team represented ABA at the BSM Short Course swimming competition held at BSM on Friday, 25th January. Vipers Coaches, Semple and Nadia, are happy with the results and look forward to the team's continued improvement at upcoming meets.

A BIG Viper THANK YOU to all parents and family members who supported the team throughout the day's competition!

Middle East Unity Cup

The Vipers swim team will represent ABA at the upcoming Middle East Unity Cup swimming competition scheduled for 8th and 9th February. The long course meet will be held at the Hamden Aquatics Center in Dubai.

Vipers Swim Team

Season 3 registration will begin soon. Current participants will be sent registration information directly. Students interested in participating are asked to contact ABA Aquatics Director, Charlie Semple, for details at csemple@abaoman.org

**Season 3 dates:
10th February - 31st May**

Season 3 Vipers Competition Schedule (see opposite)

8th & 9th February	MEUC at Hamden Aquatic Center, Dubai
12th February	TAISM Dual Meet (13yrs. & under) at ABA
24th & 25th February	ABA 400's (Internal)
5th March	TAISM Relays
8th & 9th March	Nautilus Meet

*Charlie Semple
Aquatics Director*

Message from the PTA

Spring Fest / ICF (International Cultural Festival) is happening!

We have over 20 countries that will be part of this spring festival. Please mark the date in your calendar!

Date: 7th March 2019
Time: 6.00 - 8.00 PM
Venue: ABA Tennis Court



Building our community together!

The PTA will contact all the parents who are interested and have filled out the form over the last few days. If you haven't filled out the forms and are still interested, please contact our PTA Chair on Ptachair@abaoman.org

Tuesday Talks & Travels

15 amazing ABA moms and a couple out of town visitors joined the PTA TTT Wadi Hike. We walked from Ghala hot springs to Bowshar and the hike led to a surprise visit to Bait Al Maqham Castle nestled in the palm groves of Bowshar village.

We received wonderful feedback from a few moms. Here's what they had to say -

****Thank you for organising this lovely hiking trip... had an awesome morning!**

**I must say that in the past the thought of going out on a walk/hike with a group of women I didn't know would have terrified me and there are probably a few of you who feel the same way. This morning was just fabulous! Putting names to faces I have seen around school, having the opportunity to chat to some of you etc... was a lot of fun and I look forward to attending the next hike and making new friends.

Thank you all for a lovely morning x

**Thank you for the beautiful hike..... had a refreshing & awesome day

**Thanks you all for lovely morning , nice photos and big thanks to the PTA for organizing this awesome hiking trip. It's pumped me up with a lot of refreshing energy for our daily routine and school-run. Xxxx

**What a lovely day we've had exploring new areas in beautiful Oman with you amazing people!

**Starting with the mineral hot springs, walking through the picturesque alley ways, admiring the local flora and fauna and ending at the the Beit Al Makham fort - it was just the right hike for beginners who wanted a bit of mild challenge coupled with breathtaking views.

**Who would have thought that such beauty was to be found just a few minutes away from ABA?

**Yet another successful event organized by the marvelous ABA PTA. A big thank you to Lama and her team for a great experience!

The group has decided to continue these hikes on a weekly basis as long as weather permits.

Next hike will be Tuesday, 5 February to Hammam. Anyone interested in joining this newly formed HIKE CLUB, email Ptachair@abaoman.org

Flea Market

Flea Market is on 22nd February 2019. Please contact Evelyn on ptasrep@abaoman.org for your table registration.

Parent Art Exhibit

This event is a wonderful chance to exhibit your talents as parents. It has been a major success over the last few years and we look forward to seeing your artistic creations on display once more! Do mark your calendars for 24th April 2019.

Contact Bokamoso Kumwenda at PTAESec@abaoman.org for further details.



Parent Art Exhibition

April 24, 6-8pm
Secondary Caffeteria

We invite illustrators, painters, photographers, sculptors, potters, singers and musicians from the parent and staff community to share their work on this evening.

To participate please contact
Bokamoso:
ptaesec@abaoman.org

Calling all Artists



ABA FLEA MARKET & BAKE SALE



Friday, 22nd February
3:00 - 5:00 pm



Table Registration is Open

RO. 7/- Per Table & RO. 3/- Per Clothes Rail

Book & pay for your table at the
accounts office

For further details, contact Evelyn - 95231828

Your PTA

Message from the Booster Club

VIPERS going for GOLD!

We wish our travelling VIPERS basketball, cross-country, tennis, and senior fine arts teams all the best for a sensational weekend of competition. Bring home the GOLD VIPERS!!!

The Booster Club will be on the ground this weekend supporting our MESAC JV Soccer teams all day 31st January – 2nd February. We are expecting over 180+ athletes, coaches and support staff, as well as spectators at the Sultan Qaboos Stadium. We are looking forward to a great weekend of competition and to once again showcasing our ABA hospitality and VIPERS pride to our international guests.

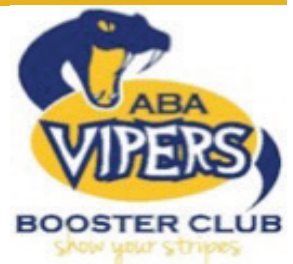
If you can spare some time this weekend to come support our VIPERS, we would love to see you there! Grab a burger, cold drink, refreshing ice cream, or some official VIPERS merchandise and watch the action LIVE!!!

We will do it all again the following weekend for the MESAC Varsity Soccer at Sultan Qaboos Stadium 7th - 9th February.

MESAC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS – Wednesday 13th February – grab your tickets for SEASON 2 Awards Night from reception ALL DAY 11th and 12th February and 07.00-7.30 am 13th February. NO TICKET SALES ON THE NIGHT!!!!

HOODIE ORDERS – If you have already ordered your personal VIPERS hoodies, an email will be sent directly to you for date of collection!

Yours in community spirit – VIPERS Booster Club



ALL MESAC WEEKEND 31 Jan-02 Feb

ICE COLD

ABA VIPERS
BOOSTER CLUB
show your stripes

FRRR

500bz

ABA VIPERS
BOOSTER CLUB
show your stripes
All funds raised go to the VIPERS Booster Club - supporting our kids!

MESAC JV Soccer

Sultan Qaboos Stadium
31 Jan-02 Feb **ALL WEEKEND**

BOOSTER CLUB
show your stripes

B B B Q

Thurs 3.00-5.00pm
Fri-Sat 1.00pm - 5.00pm

BURGER = 1.500ea
HOT DOG = 1.500ea
VEG BURGER = 1.500ea
(Until sold out)

ABA VIPERS
BOOSTER CLUB
show your stripes

All proceeds from sale of BBQ items go to VIPERS Booster Club - supporting our kids!

MESAC Achievement Awards

Wednesday 13 February 2019 @ 6.00pm

SEASON 2

Ticket
R03

OPEN TO PARTICIPANTS, PARENTS, & PEERS

come celebrate the dedication & achievements of the MESAC teams to be held in the ABA Multi-Purpose Hall (MPH)

... enjoy a delicious buffet catered by MANI'S CAFÉ

show your ticket on the night for a chance to win a lucky door prize sponsored by the VIPERS Booster Club

Middle East South Asia Conference
ABU DHABI MUSCAT NEW DELHI DOHA DUBAI
MESAC

This event is proudly supported by the VIPERS Booster Club. Ticket price covers food & drinks only.
Thanks for your continued support!

Tickets can be purchased **ALL DAY @ reception 11 & 12 Feb and 7.00-7.30pm on 13 Feb 2019 ONLY**

NO ticket sales on the night!

