

# AL NOOR-ABA NEWS

14th February 2019

## Message from the Superintendent

Our home can be defined in different ways. In its most narrow meaning, we can talk about the house or apartment in which we live. In a wider sense, we can talk about Oman. I also contend our school is very much a home. And why not? Students and staff spend 7-12 hours a day at ABA and parents, for the most part, see school as a community centre and extension of homelife in Oman. As such, I hope we can all take pride in our school environment.

In recent weeks, I have noticed that there has been an increase in abandoned food, cartons, plastic bags, plates, cutlery, water bottles and more being left about the campus, including on the new astro-turf. I have spoken with the teachers about this and the student councils will be addressing the matter. However, I wondered whether parents might also find a moment to reinforce with students the importance of looking after one's home environment wherever it might be.

On another matter, this time relating to safety. The authorities have reminded us of the need to use seat belts in the front and back seats of a car, as well as a requirement to use special child seats for young children. ([click here](#)) Fines for not observing the law will follow. While this law is not new, the recommendations of the ROP that cyclists should wear 'hi-vis' reflective jackets is relatively new. ([click here](#)) I have been shocked at what I have seen some cyclists doing here in Oman over the years but recently

delighted to see so many wearing reflective jackets in response to the ROP request. I mention this as we have an increasing number of students who are choosing to cycle to school. I hope they too will wear hi-vis jackets to and from school. On a side note, I will be placing some bicycle racks across campus once they have been sourced.

Have a wonderful weekend.

*Simon Taylor  
Superintendent*

## Upcoming Dates

18-21 Feb	Language Week
18 Feb	Superintendent's Forum PAC 5:30 06:30 pm
18 - 20 Feb	MESAC Meeting AD+HS Principal
19 -21 Feb	Gr. 6 Adventure Oman
19 Feb	PTA Tues Talk and Travel/Parents PTA Room 7:40 am - 09:00 am
20 Feb	Superintendent's Forum PAC 7:40 am - 8:40 am
21 Feb	International Mother Language Day
21 Feb	Grade 12 Parent coffee morning 7:40 am - 8:30 am
22 Feb	Flea market From ABA 03:00pm - 05:00pm

## Message from the Business Office

### Payment of Semester 2 tuition fee

A final reminder to Parents who have not cleared the second-semester fee. Please ensure payment is made before 21st February, 2019. Payments made after this date will incur a late fee.

### Access to the campus

Parents are requested to carry their ID badges when accessing the campus. If you have not obtained an ID-pass please forward the following details:

[idcard@abaoman.org](mailto:idcard@abaoman.org)

1. Name of the student and grade.
2. Parents name:
3. Vehicle number
4. Contact telephone number
5. Soft copy of the passport size photograph.

*Bahul Pillai  
Business Manager*

## Message from the Elementary School

### Mother Language Week 17th-21st February 2019

Next week, elementary students will be learning about and celebrating the many languages spoken in our community. There will be various mother language related activities in classrooms and the library. If you speak another language and would like to share a simple story or song with your child's class, please contact your child's teacher.

We will end the week with a celebration of our host language, Arabic Day on Thursday 21st February. Our Arabic teachers have organised for all the children in Grades 1-5 to participate in a range of games and activities in, and about Arabic. Look out for our "I love my Arabic language" movie that will be posted on Seesaw on Arabic Day!



### Head Lice

Our pesky friends have made a reappearance on the elementary campus recently. Some of you will have received the letter informing you that there has been a case of head lice in your child's grade. There are many myths about head lice and how they are spread. The Once A Week, Take A Peek website ([click here](#)) provides lots of useful information about managing head lice at home and at school. Did you know that at any one time, one in ten elementary children is likely to have a case of headlice?

Here are some facts from the website:

- Head lice are common among young children and their families
- Head lice don't spread disease
- Head lice can be spread from adults to children and back again
- There's nothing to be embarrassed or ashamed about having head lice
- Having head lice has nothing to do with good or bad personal hygiene
- Lice eggs hatch after around 7 days so two applications are always needed to make sure all lice have been killed

Parents are encouraged to support the campaign against head lice by checking their child(ren)'s hair at least weekly, treating immediately, and informing the school. This Once a week, take a peek! Guide for Parents provides information on how to check and treat for head lice.

*Sam Cook  
Elementary Principal*

# Message from the Middle School

## Language Week Festival in the Secondary

We are excited to announce Language Week Festival will be next week 17th - 21st February which will include in school activities throughout the week.

On the evenings of 17th, 18th and 19th February beginning at 6pm, we will host foreign language movies with English subtitles. All members of the ABA community are welcome. We look forward to seeing you there.

Sunday 17th February:

French comedy : L'ascension: A young Senegalese-French man sets out to climb Mount Everest to impress the woman he loves.

Tuesday 19th February:

Arabic Drama : THEEB : In 1916, Theeb lives with his Bedouin tribe in a remote part of the Ottoman Empire. When his older brother has to escort a British officer across the desert, Theeb tags along for the adventure. 2016 BAFTA Award for Outstanding Debut by a British Writer, Director or Producer.

Wednesday 20th February:

Spanish drama: TBA

## Mathematics After School Help

Peer tutoring in mathematics is now available Sunday-Wednesday after school from 2:30-3:30 pm. All students in grades 6-12 are welcome to come by room SF02 (Mr. Willms's room) for any math help they may need. Strong math students in grades 11 and 12 (supported by a teacher) will be ready to help with homework, revision, assessment preparation, SAT/PSAT preparation, or general math enrichment starting Sunday, 17 February. If you have any questions, please contact Daniel Willms at [dwillms@abaoman.org](mailto:dwillms@abaoman.org).

Grade 6 (MYP 1) Adventure Oman - Al Raha Desert Camp

Next Tuesday 19th February - Thursday 21st February, Grade 6 (MYP 1) will be off campus with their teachers, Ms. Bowin and Ms. Anthony. The presentation that was shared with students and parents this week can be found here. Mr. Barker will be on campus while we are away.

## A note from the Principal

Last week I shared an article that outlined some ideas and questions for engaging adolescents in conversations about their day. This week I would like to share an article that may be uncomfortable for some of us. As children progress through adolescence, there is a possibility of more risk taking and at times we are not sure what has happened to their common sense. This is not unusual, and it is a common conversation I have had with parents over the years. Vaping is not legal in Oman, however it has made its way into the country. How do we speak to teenagers about vaping in a way that may reach them? Here is a [2018 article from the New York Times](#) that provides some suggestions. While the topic is about how to speak about vaping, the ideas and suggestions could be used to facilitate open communication about many difficult topics you and your adolescents may be facing. Please remember, [Claire Anthony](#) and I are always available to speak with you about these topics and how to approach difficult conversations with your Middle School child.

*Kathleen Bowin  
Middle School Principal*

# Message from the Extra Curricular Program

## MESAC Success

Once again, last weekend enabled our students to showcase our school. The comments I have had from Coaches, Athletic Directors, visiting families and Principals of other MESAC schools highlight what great ABA ambassadors our students and parents are.

“A massive thank you to your housing parents who provided for our teams for 4 days.....they were superstars! Nothing but praise for their warm hospitality. ACS Athletic Director

To all those involved in the MESAC weekend at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex, thank you! The standard of soccer was outstanding over the weekend, as was the support from all those involved: Activity Council, Booster Club and parent volunteers, OIG staff, ball collectors, officials, senior leadership team, site directors Nurses, Operations team, hosting parents, ABA supporters, cameraman, our coaches and most importantly our teams for the hours of entertainment.



Varsity Boys Basketball



Varsity Girls basketball

Our XC team competed in Abu Dhabi and were also outstanding. Yusef Loughrey collected a silver medal on Day 1 and the boys team achieved silver overall. Six boys ran an impressive sub 20 minutes in the 5km run. The girls were great contributors to the overall school result. ABA won Bronze.



XC Team



Varsity girls soccer

The varsity soccer and basketball teams competed against some tough opposition. The coaches from the other schools all commented on how ABA has cemented their

position in the MESAC league and are a real ‘threat’ in every tournament. Our teams battled away throughout the tournament and need to be commended for giving it their all.



Varsity Boys Soccer

## MESAC Achievement Awards

WOW! Wednesday night was a very powerful and special night for our Basketballers, Footballers, XC runners and Tennis players. All the teams were recognized and honoured in front of their peers and families. A huge thanks to Michelle Bourne and the Booster Club for making this evening so successful. The Booster Club's preparation was similar to that of organising a wedding; from the tables and table centerpieces, to the decorations, banners, food, ticket sales, music, lucky door prizes, organisation etc. Thanks to Chuks Iluyemi and Bilge Demerci, Seniors in the Activities Council for being the MC for the evening.

From the coaches speeches it was evident from the evening there is more to sport than just winning or losing. Our players have developed strength derived from sharing challenging situations with their fellow peers and learnt what it takes to be a true team member. The pride our players showed in our school, our teams and themselves over season two was infectious and inspiring.

Furthermore the coaches of season two need to be commended for giving their time and talents to coach.



## Season Three

EAC Track and Badminton have already started training. Middle School Basketball and Track start next week. The Middle School Badminton Recreational ASA will go from May - June starting on Monday 6th May.

Track Teams: A bus will transport the teams to and from Sultan Qaboss Sports Complex (SQSC) on Mondays. Athletes will need written parental permission given to the coach if they walk home from training from SQSC. Parents picking up their child at SQSC will need to be at the venue before the end of training (4:00pm). If a parent is not present at SQSC for the end of training, the students will be bused back to ABA. Parental permission is also needed if a student is picked up from the SQSC by another parent. The bus from SQSC will return to ABA by 4:30pm.

## Muscat Football Academy (MFA)

The final season for MFA for K3 - Gr. 5 starts on 19th February. The season will finish on Tuesday 30th April.

*Paul Brace  
Athletics Director*

## Grade 4-5 Girls MPSL Basketball

This competition, hosted at ABA, marked the first-ever MPSL basketball tournament for girls. Eight schools took part with two teams entered from ABA, meaning all the girls who had taken part in training had the opportunity to play. For many, this was their first experience of a basketball tournament and the girls were excited but a little apprehensive, although they soon found their feet once the first games started. On four mini courts, group games were played, followed by play-offs to decide final standings. ABA teams finished 4th and 6th, with a strong and well organized MIS team taking first place. Thanks must go to Paul Brace, Ruslan Shaymardanov and Julia Hall for refereeing and members of the JV Girls' Basketball team who helped out with coaching.

*Raewyn Jack  
Elementary PE Department*

## ABA Vipers vs TAISM Eagles Dual Meet

40 members of the ABA swim team ages 13 years and below participated in a dual meet competition on Tuesday, 12th February at the ABA swimming pool. This "friendly" allowed younger swimmers from TAISM and ABA to compete and have fun while earning personal bests.



## Middle East Unity Cup

The Swim Team represented ABA at the Middle East Unity Cup meet at the Hamden Aquatics Center in Dubai over the weekend, 8th and 9th February. The meet featured 29 teams and more than 790 swimmers from several countries.

This event is gaining popularity and features amateur swimmers with a variety of developmental and advanced skills. In addition to ABA, MESAC schools; ASD (Dubai) and Dubai American Academy (DAA) participated and brought many of their younger swimmers. In addition to development, major events like this are important for team building. Congratulations to the following swimmers who participated and put forth outstanding effort at this year's MEUC meet:

Rana Al-Habsi (Grade 5)  
Daniel Doyle (Grade 7)  
Christian Sutton (Grade 7)  
Emma Durbin (Grade 9)  
Nicolas Giraldo (Grade 9)  
Stuart Sutton (Grade 9)  
Julia Semple (Grade 9)  
Mathew Deverell (Grade 9)



## Seacon 3 Vipers Competition Schedule:

February 8th and 9th: MEUC at Hamden Aquatic Center, Dubai  
February 12th: TAISM Dual Meet (13yrs. & under) at ABA  
February 24th and 25th: ABA 400's (Internal)  
March 5th: TAISM Relays  
March 8th and 9th: Nautilus Meet  
March 15th and 16th: BSM Open w/ Hamilton Aquatics at BSM  
March 29th and 30th: Emirates International Swimming Championships (Tentative)  
April 5th: ABA Invitational (Tentative)  
May 3th: Vipers Internal Meet



*Charlie Semple  
Aquatics Director*

# Message from the PTA

Check the ABA PTA website for updates on all upcoming information.

SPRING FEST 2019 is INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL FESTIVAL (ICF)

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



Come represent your country! Look for the email from your HRP and contact the PTA Chair on: [Ptachair@abaoman.org](mailto:Ptachair@abaoman.org) for more information. Second informational meeting will be 25th February at 7.40am.

## TUESDAY TALKS & TRAVELS

This week's hike took the Hike Club on the Riyam/Matrah hike. The group of 11 women finished the hike in an hour and fifty five minutes with a cool down break at one of the juice shops in Matrah souq. The hike was extremely enjoyable and full of challenges that were joyously overcome. The Hike Club has decided to continue these hikes on a weekly basis as long as weather permits.

Once again, we received wonderful feedback from our amazing parents -

"Thank you so much for this wonderful opportunity and experience"

"As a mother to a Special Needs child, it's such a brilliant chance for me to explore as most of the time it's difficult for us to do such explorations as a family, me and my husband usually then have to take turns. I must say that these hikes have made me unwind and get my energy/motivation back. All of you have helped me and looked after me so well, making it all so smooth. Thanks a lot"

"Looking forward to as many such opportunities as possible"

Next hike will be Tuesday, 26th February, location TBD. Anyone interested in joining this newly formed HIKE CLUB, email [Ptachair@abaoman.org](mailto:Ptachair@abaoman.org) or [PTAlog@abaoman.org](mailto:PTAlog@abaoman.org)



## FLEA MARKET

Flea Market is on 22nd February 2019. Please contact Evelyn on [ptasrep@abaoman.org](mailto:ptasrep@abaoman.org) for your table registration.

## PARENT ART EXHIBIT

Mark your calendars for 24th April 2019. 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!

We would appreciate if you could confirm your interest in participating. We have received interest from only one artist. This event requires at least 20 artists to make it interesting. Please send your desire to participate as an artist to Bokamoso Kumwenda at [PTAESec@abaoman.org](mailto:PTAESec@abaoman.org) for further details.

**ABA FLEA MARKET & BAKE SALE**

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

**Table Registration is Open**

Book & pay for your table at the accounts office

For further details, contact Evelyn - 95231828

*International Cultural Festival*

**Celebrating the Cultural Diversity of our ABA Community**

6-8PM | March 7, 2019 | ABA Tennis Courts  
Ticket Cost: 2 Rials

**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**

*Your PTA  
Building our community*

## Message from the Booster Club

### WOW....What a season!

WOW! What an amazing season 2 for our VIPERS MESAC participants! Not only was the Sultan Qaboos Stadium alive with the resounding cry of VIPERS supporters for our soccer teams, cheering on our JV boys as they brought home the silver medal, but to our VIPERS athletes returning from international competition sporting gold, silver, and bronze in both tennis and cross country. CONGRATULATIONS to all our MESAC participants for your determination, dedication, and VIPERS spirit. Congratulations to our VIPERS swimmers returning from Dubai with a host of medals. GO VIPERS!!!!

Wednesday night we celebrated the success of the VIPERS season 2 participants with the MESAC Achievement Awards. Over 250 participants, parents, and family members came together to recognize the dedication and achievements of all our MESAC students.

Thank you to all our VIPERS families for your support over the last two weekends of MESAC soccer. Thanks for the amazing food donations, time, energy, and enthusiasm. The feedback from participants, coaches, and visiting parents from all schools has been incredible. Without our community these events will not be possible.

Thanks to the Activities Council and ABA Ambassadors for your time and energy to help wherever needed over the weekend. And a HUGE thanks must go to our Booster Club team of volunteer parents that have worked tirelessly the past three weeks ensuring all our VIPERS and visiting teams, coaches, and families were well fed, watered, welcomed, and celebrated. VIPERS pride and community spirit is alive and thriving at ABA.

**Pop-Up Shop:** our next pop-up shop will be MONDAY 18TH FEBRUARY outside the ECE. Parent support shirts, student training shirts are NOW available in ALL sizes. Limited stock. Don't miss out!





**Hoodies:** we will be taking hoodies orders at the pop-up shop on Monday 18th February.

If you would like to know more about the Booster Club, simply email us [boosterclub@abaoman.org](mailto: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*



AVAILABLE NOW...  
ONLY from VIPERS Booster Club!



**Parent Support Shirt**  
SIZES: S / M / L / XL  
RO10



**Student Training**  
SIZES: XS / S / M / L / XL  
RO8

**Available NOW**  
in ALL sizes!  
Limited Stock!

NO pre-payment - GRAB YOURS TODAY!

All proceeds from the sale of VIPERS merchandise go to the VIPERS Booster Club - supporting our kids!

**VIPERS BOOSTER CLUB** show your stripes

Get your official **VIPERS MERCHANDISE**

**Monday 18 February 2019**  
07.00-7.45am

come see our friendly team outside the ECE Building  
**HOODIE ORDERS AVAILABLE!!**

**VIPERS Merchandise 2018/19**  
AVAILABLE NOW... ONLY from VIPERS Booster Club!

Student Training	Pencil Cases	Towel	Sports Bags!	Custom Slides
RO8	RO3	RO6	RO15	SPECIAL OFFER 2 x PAIRS ONLY RO16
Parent Support Shirt	Water Bottle	BAM BAM Sticks	Car Sunshades	Decal Stickers
RO10	RO7	RO1	RO5	RO5

**AVAILABLE NOW**