

AL NOOR-ABA NEWS

10th January 2019



Message from the Superintendent

A school year runs on a particular cycle which means that from December to about April, it is recruiting season.

It is the nature of international schools that teachers will move. Often, it is the desire to see new countries and experience different cultures that takes teachers overseas in the first place and so it is not surprising that some move on "for a change". Others are looking to further their career with new challenges or responsibilities while for quite a few it is for family or other personal reasons that they choose to leave ABA.

With regards to filling these positions the Senior Leadership Team and I attend international school recruitment fairs. These fairs bring together in one venue as many as 600 candidates from around the world with representatives from about 150 schools. Most candidates have international experience and a good number have worked in IB schools. Today I am writing to you from the first of these, in Bangkok. At the end of January, I leave for London and for Cambridge (US) joined by Simon Walker and Kathleen Bowin respectively.

We also have access to various databases and of course advertise. For these applications we now interview via other means, indeed some are local. My aim is to bring the very best teachers to ABA and so is probably the most important work that I do. Without caring, inspirational and knowledgeable teachers, a school will never reach its full potential.

Upcoming Dates

14 Jan	PTA Open Meeting PTA Room 7.40 -9.00 am
16 Jan	Middle School Parent Coffee Morning Grade 6 common Room 7.30 - 8.30 am
	Grade 6 Sports Day 11 am - 2.15 pm
	Diploma Open Evening Grade 10 Course Choices PAC 5.30 - 7.30 pm

Simon Taylor
Superintendent

Message from the Elementary School

Welcome back, and happy new year! It was wonderful to see so many rested, smiling and enthusiastic faces returning to school on Sunday. We are looking forward to a semester full of learning, challenge, inspiration, and fun!



Huge thanks must go to the PTA for funding our Drama Court upgrade! While our young footballers were excited to get playing, many just wanted to enjoy the experience of a new texture as fully as possible! This green multipurpose space is a great addition to our campus!

International Schools Assessment (ISA) results

Parents of children in Grades 3 - 5 will soon receive copies of your child(ren)'s ISA reports. Children participated in these international assessments in October. As we mentioned then, these are not high-stakes tests, but they do provide us with a snapshot of each child's performance at that time, referenced against a 'norm', as well as trends across classes, grades and the school. We use this data in a variety of ways to complement our own internal assessment data and inform us about individual student progress, as well as using the trends identified to reflect on and adjust our instructional programme. Please remember that this data provides only a snapshot of your child's performance. You can learn more about your child's ongoing growth and development through our report cards, Seesaw, or by talking to your child's teacher.

ES Parent Coffee Morning - Tuesday 22nd January 2019 - EC parents invited

In order to enable us to provide more focused information during coffee mornings, we have decided to invite a target group to each, based on grade levels and topics covered.

The next coffee morning is scheduled for Tuesday 22nd January, and is aimed at parents of EC children. It provides an opportunity to hear from Sam (Principal) and Erum (EC coordinator) a little more about the recent developments with the early childhood curriculum, as well as how we plan to keep you updated about your child's progress.

We will schedule future coffee mornings to focus on grades 1 - 5.

Sam Cook
Elementary School Principal

Elementary After School Activities

Sign ups for the Elementary After School Activities (ASA) season three will open on Wednesday 16th Jan at 6pm and will remain open until 6pm Sunday 20th January. An email has been sent to all G1-5 parents regarding the sign up procedure. Season two ASAs will finish on Thursday 24th January.

Note:

The ES Musical group (G3 - 5 students) practice on Sunday and Wednesday. Please keep this in mind when signing your child up for ASAs.

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

Please see the list of activities on offer for season three below:

Grade	Sunday	Monday	Wednesday
1	Construction Ball Sports	Fine Motor Arts and Crafts	Arabic Reading Lego
2	Construction Ball Sports Boys Soccer	Fine Motor Arts and Crafts	Arabic Reading Lego TBall
3	Line Dancing Boys Soccer Drawing	Homework Club Sensory Play	Arabic Reading TBall
4	Line Dancing Drawing	Homework Club Sensory Play	Arabic Reading Chess
5	Line Dancing Drawing	Homework Club Sensory Play	Arabic Reading Chess

*Raewyn Jack
EC and Elementary PE*

Message from the Middle School



The Oman National Golf Team in the GCC Under 15 Golf Championships was held at Ghala Golf Club from 10 - 13th December. One of our very own Vipers, Ayman Al Busaidi was a member of the team. Our national team was the youngest team taking part in the Under 15 competition. It was a heated match that include 54 holes of golf, which finally ended with Ayman's team taking home the Gold.

Congratulations to the entire Under 15 Team, especially Ayman!

Middle School Coffee Morning - Wednesday 16th January 7:30 - 8:00 am

Please join us in the Middle School Common Room on Wednesday 16th January 7:30 - 8:30. This is for all middle school parents. In order to prepare for the meeting, please submit your questions [here](#) or through this link <http://bit.ly/DecMSCM> by Monday 14th January.

Reminder: MYP 'Parents Onboard!'

The second session in our 'Parents Onboard!' Series will be focusing on MYP Grades & Criteria, and an explanation of our Semester 1 Report to be held on Sunday, 13th January.

This interactive workshop will be informative for parents of students new to the MYP at ABA. In this workshop, the following critical questions will be openly addressed:

- How are grades determined in the MYP?
- How does MYP assessment support conceptual learning in classrooms
- What to expect in the Semester 1 report?

There will be a session in the morning, and then it will be repeated later the same day. This provides an opportunity for you to choose the time which you find most convenient.

When: Sunday, 13th January

Time: Session 1 – 7:45 to 9:00 am Secondary Lecture Hall / Session 2 (repeat of Session 1) - 5:30 to 6:45 pm Secondary Lecture Hall

Purpose: MYP Grades, Levels and Criteria & Middle School Reports

Presenter: Megel Barker – MYP Coordinator/Middle School Assistant Principal

Since the same session will be in the morning and afternoon, it is important that you RSVP by clicking on the link below by Saturday, 12th January, to register your interest. [Take me to the form](#)

*Kathleen Bowin
Middle School Principal*



Grade 8 Annual Sports Day

On Wednesday 9th January, Grade 8 had their annual Sports Day. The event was planned, organized and lead by the Grade 10 students as part of their studies. The activities were challenging, the competition was fierce and at the end of the day, Grade 8.2 walked away as champions.

Future Middle School Sports Days:

Grade 6- Wednesday 16th January (11:00 am to 2:15 pm)

NOTE- All students must bring a water bottle, cap, and sun screen.

PE Team



Message from the High School

Happy New Year from the High School!

The new calendar year always starts with a bang in schools, and it's no different at ABA. With Discovery Week for Grade 11, Mock Diploma Exams for Grade 12 and our first full scale trial of the MYP eAssessments all during the week 20th - 24th January, there's no easing into the new Semester – it's light the touch paper and go.

January is also the time for decisions about the future and promises to the self, as we look to make resolutions to improve ourselves and with the best of intentions try to lay off the cake for a month, a week... perhaps a day or two. For students in Grades 10 and 12 it's a time where positive decisions made now will have long lasting effects.

For the Seniors, things are starting to get very real – graduation and leaving ABA cease to be abstract ideas in a distant future – the mock exams bring the real thing, just a short while later, very much into clear focus. Like an athlete peaking as they make their way through a tournament, Grade 12 students start to notch up the effort, clear the DP Assessments one by one and begin focusing on those final exams. For Grade 10, deciding which pathway and which courses to take in their final two years of school is a big part of the next couple of months. We begin the process with the Grade 10 Choices and Diploma information evening on Wednesday 16th January in the PAC. Following this, we will have conversations with each student and their parents individually to help students navigate the uncharted waters of the diploma, university choices and future careers, in order to make the most informed choices they can.



For Grades 10 and 12 there is no denying that the next few months are crucial, and will be demanding, difficult and stressful at times. On Tuesday, the High School students hosted TedX Youth, for the second year. As well as impassioned and eloquent speakers and talented musical performances from ABA students, we heard from keynote guest speaker HRH Dr. Mona Al Said who spoke of how change is inevitable and how adversity and difficult times are facts of life that can be a force for the good - for self-betterment and reflection; that if approached in the right way will lead to great rewards, both for the self and society. All students, not least Grades 10 and 12 go through difficult and demanding times, but approached in the right way, these adversities will doubtless lead to brighter futures and the betterment of the world. And it's probably easier than giving up cake.

IB Diploma and Grade 10 Course Choices Open Evening

Wednesday 16th January 5.30 - 7.30 pm
In the PAC and Secondary Lecture Hall
(For parents of Grade 10)

Meet the teachers and students
Huge range of subjects
Find out about the subjects offered and discuss choices for study
Find out about university requirements

*Guy Essex
Assistant Principal*

Message from the Extra Curricular Program

Marathon

To all those running in the 5km, 10km, relay, half and full marathon next weekend we wish you all the best. It is great to see so many ABA community members recognise the benefits of sport and a balanced lifestyle. It is inspiring to hear so many ABA community members involved in the event not only with the target to finish the race but the courage to try something new.

I have heard from many of you that you have spent many hours training and preparing for the event. Though at times there will be challenges during the race (mentally and physically) I know you will be able to overcome them and soldier on. You are ready - good luck and enjoy the experience.

Games/events for next week are listed below

13th January	MSSL Tournament B'ball U16 Boys @ ABA	3:10 - 5:30
13th January	MSSL Tournament B'ball U16 Girls @ TAISM	4:00 - 5:40
13th January	U16 Girls Soccer vs BSM @ BSM	4:15 - 5:15
14th January	U12 Girls Soccer vs TAISM @ ABA	4:00 - 5:00
14th January	U14 Boys Soccer vs BSM @ BSM	4:15 - 5:15
14th January	U14 Girls Soccer vs TSS @ TSS	3:45 - 4:45
14th January	U19 Boys B'Ball vs BSM @ ABA	2:45 - 3:45
14th January	U13 Boys Soccer vs BSM @ MQ	2:45 - 3:45
15th January	U16 Girls B'ball vs PSO @ ABA	3:30 - 4:30
16th January	MSSL Tournament B'ball U19 Boys @ ABA	3:10 - 6:30
16th January	MSSL Tournament B'ball U19 Girls @ TAISM	4:00 - 6:15
16th January	U16 Boys Soccer vs BSM @ BSM	4:15 - 5:15

Dates for your diary

January and the start of February is going to be a busy time for our athletes. There are 15 Muscat Secondary Sport League tournaments, 25 fixtures, Booster Club events, 5 Muscat Primary Sports League events, 2 MESAC tournaments in Muscat, 2 swim meets, an Awards evening and more. I hope to see you at the field/courts/pool supporting our vipers program.

MESAC Parent meetings

Tuesday 29th January: We will be hosting a meeting for the parents of the children that are travelling to MESAC season two (JV Basketball, Senior Fine Arts, X-Country, Tennis and Varsity Basketball). The meeting will be held from 6:00 - 6:30 pm in the lecture hall (beside the HS cafeteria)

Tuesday 29th January: Meeting from 6:30 - 7:00 pm in the HS cafeteria for all the parents who will be hosting our visiting MESAC Varsity Soccer athletes. Host families are essential to a successful and memorable experience for our visiting students. Thank you for opening your doors.

*Paul Brace
Athletics Director*

Message from the PTA

Happy new year and welcome back!

We hope you had a wonderful winter break. The PTA team are so excited to be back and are looking forward to all the upcoming events of this year.

We are happy to announce that the PTA is expecting! One of our moms is anyways and we couldn't be happier! Alaa, we wish you all the best and we are praying it will be an easy pregnancy. We need you back here quick!




Building our community together!


Tuesday Talks & Travels 2018-2019

Wadi Hike & Picnic

29th January 2019



Cost: **FREE**
Maximum 25 Persons
Contact: PTACHAIR@abaoman.org



PTA Fund Requests:

Artificial grass has been installed near the Drama Court. Thank you Mr. Wayne Derrik for making the request to the PTA and following it through with Mr. Vasu and Mr. Kumar and a big thank you to the Student Council for donating a portion of the cost. It is always a pleasure to see the PTA funds hard at work and benefiting the community. We are happy to report, the new artificial grass area is being used by all grades and for PE classes as well.

We look forward to the second round of voting for Fund Requests happening in February.

Schedule Change:

The PTA team has been working hard and brainstorming on the upcoming events listed in the calendar. Due to the number of trips, events and the demand for parent volunteers, it is with a heavy heart that we have decided to cancel the Spring Fest (ICF) that was scheduled for 7th March, 2019.

Further details regarding all other planned events will be posted closer to the event date.

Flea Market

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

Your PTA

Building our community together!

Message from the Booster Club

Shoot for the stars in 2019!

Welcome back! We hope all our VIPERS families had a relaxing winter break! A big Booster Club welcome to all our NEW VIPERS families. We look forward to meeting you during the season.

The Booster Club team are ready to kick start 2019 with lots of exciting events, new merchandise, fun, and plenty of smiling faces.



Next Monday 14th January we have our first Pop-up Shop outside the ECE from 07.00 am. Later that morning we have our inaugural 'Half Shot Hot Shot' event during break for students in Grade 3 - 12.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – Booster Club Events for January / February 2019 include:

- January 14 – Half Shot Hot Shot – Main Gym Gr6-12 and MPH Gr3-5 (see flyer attached)
- January 31- February 1-2 – MESAC JV Soccer @ Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex – BBQ, Concession Stand, Merchandise – come join in the fun!!
- February 7-9 – MESAC Varsity Soccer @ Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex – BBQ, Concession Stand, Merchandise – we need you!!
- February 13 – MESAC Achievement Awards Season 2 – MPH from 6.00-7.30pm – tickets on sale from 01 February!!!!

WE NEED YOU!! If you would like to know more about the Booster Club, and how you can be involved, simply drop us an email. Booster Club is a great way to 'support our kids' while making new friends and having fun.

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



MONDAY 14th JANUARY

ABA Sports Halls



Open to ABA students Gr 3-12

GYM - Gr 6-12 @ 1st break 10.25am - 11.05am

MPH - Gr 3-5 @ 2nd break 11.30am - 12.05pm

Are you a HALF SHOT HOT SHOT?

Sink the ball from the half way line & win VOX MOVIE TICKETS!

every participant receives a PRIZE!

COME WATCH THE ACTION!!



All funds raised go to the VIPERS BOOSTER CLUB—supporting our kids



Monthly Pop-Up Shop
Get your official VIPERS MERCHANDISE

Monday 14 January 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!			
Pre-order YOURS today! e18	Student T-shirt e3	VIPERS Pencil Cases e3	Sports Bags e15
Parent Support Shirt e10		Spray Water Bottle e7	Custom Slides e10
Parent Support Shirt e10		BAM BAM Sticks e1.2	Decal Stickers e1
Parent Support Shirt e10		Wristbands e1	String Bags (Embroidered) e5

AVAILABLE NOW

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

VIPERS CUSTOM SLIDES



MONDAY 14 JAN
Booster Club Pop-Up Shop
SPECIAL OFFER!
2 x pairs for RO16

SIZES ADULTS: EU 38 / 40 / 42 / 43 / 45 / 46

LIMITED EDITION - LIMITED STOCK!!

Available NOW in Black & White

ONLY available from VIPERS BOOSTER CLUB

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

Yours in community spirit – VIPERS Booster Club