

AL NOOR-ABA NEWS

15 November 2018

Message from Acting Superintendent

Dear Parents,

When I started my first teaching job in 1999 at a secondary school in Scotland, I was given wise advice, and that was to ensure I had a good relationship with the janitor (caretaker) and the dinner ladies (cooks in the school). This advice was not purely based upon keeping me fed and to ensure I wasn't locked out of school, it was a nod of respect to the members of staff who were the backbone of the school and had such an impact upon school culture.

Almost 20 years on since receiving that advice I believe it has stood the test of time and truly reflects the culture of our international school. There are many staff here at ABA who have given great service to our school and thus, international education. As a newer member of the ABA community I have appreciated how our longer serving members of staff have ensured that I am aware and understand aspects of our mission, vision and values.

I apologise for any member of staff whom I have missed, however, I do wish to signal a nod of respect to some of the longest serving members of our administration and support staff who often go unseen, but serve as the backbone to providing an 'international education of the highest quality'. When you have a moment, I encourage you to have a chat with some of our longest serving members of administration and support staff about how our school has evolved over time, and share our appreciation of their commitment to ABA.

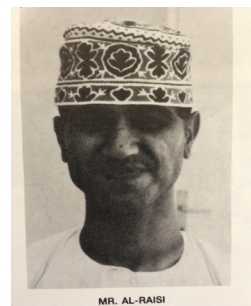
The two photographs show Anwar, who is our current longest serving member of staff and the administration building where he first worked - how things have changed since 1989.

Anwar Raisi (PRO)- since 1989
K. Vasudevan (Business Office Manager)- since 1991
Ann Smith (Registrar)- since 1995 (part-time 1991-1994)
Nandan Kumar (Maintenance Supervisor)- since 1996
Bahul Pillai (Business Manager)- since 1998
Sherry Thomas (Accounts)- since 1999
Patil Rao (Technician)- since 1999
Trindede Menezes (Caretaker)- since 2001
Ghaliya Al Balushi - (IT Support) - since 2002
Mr Ashokan (Bookstore)- since 2002
Anil Kumar- Janitor/Technician since 2004
Sadiq Al Balushi (Assistant PRO)- since 2004
Yousuf Khan (IT Support)- since 2004
Jaya Prakasan- (Theatre Technician)- since 2006
Sathya Vasudevan (Technician)- since 2007

I wish you all a wonderful Oman National Day.

Upcoming Dates

18 Nov	National Day Celebrations
19 Nov	Secondary Conferences 11.00 am - 7.00 pm (No School Gr. 6 - 12)
20-22 Nov	National Day Holiday and Prophet's Birthday
25 Nov	Secondary Conferences 7.30 am - 2.30 pm (No School Gr. 6 - 12)



*Simon Walker
High School Principal*

Message from the Elementary School

A community of learners

On Tuesday evening, some of our parents went back to school. Not the school they remembered, where they had a different exercise book for each subject, answers were right or wrong, and they felt “good at” or “bad at” each subject. During this back to school night, parents experienced school through their child’s eyes. Learning through inquiry, making connections between different subjects, building on prior learning, tackling open-ended tasks, and applying a variety of approaches to learning were all part of the experience. The evening started with a brief overview of the IB Primary Years Programme and key aspects of its philosophy, including:

Inquiry
Transdisciplinary learning
Conceptual understanding
Approaches to Learning (ATLs)

Parents then headed to classrooms to try it for themselves. A range of learning engagements were on offer, under the transdisciplinary theme “How we express ourselves: An inquiry into the ways in which we discover and express ideas, feelings, nature, culture, beliefs and values; the ways in which we reflect on, extend and enjoy our creativity; our appreciation of the aesthetic.”

The traditional subjects of mathematics, reading, writing, design, drama and information technology were interwoven into tasks that required participants to draw on a range of Approaches To Learning, including research skills, communication, self-management, thinking and social skills. These are the tools children use to learn how to learn.

We asked parents to use a thinking routine to share their feedback. Here is a small sample of comments:

I used to think:

Inquiry is just about asking questions and being curious
That having different compartmentalized subjects works better
About education in a more ‘linear’ way
I can get by without attending the ‘education’ sessions for parents
Learning is black and white and boxed
That it was too general and there was no real structure and kind of random
That group work slows learning down

Now I think:

Inquiry is far broader than asking questions; it’s about understanding views from different people and collaborating
Learning is an array of colour with no boxes - think out of the box
That things and disciplines should be more integrated or interrelated
Now I know I must learn by attending parent sessions
That there are so many ways to explore and learn
Mixing subjects, transdisciplinary, makes much more sense
We learn faster with and from adults



*Sam Cook
Elementary Principal*

Message from the Middle School

Problem of the Week

Here is a problem for our long weekend:

A bowl contains 50 grapes of different colors. If 20% of the grapes in the bowl are red, how many grapes are not red?

Please submit your answers on this link: <http://bit.ly/MPW15Nov>

The answer to last week's problem is $\frac{3}{4}$. Thanks for all of the correct answers!

Kathleen Bowin

Message from the High School

Symposium Announcement

I'm happy to announce this year's grade 10 leadership symposium ambassadors.

From left to right: Sarah Al Barwani, Abhinav Ganesh, Ryan Wilmor, Sophie Keys, Judith Haavkes, and Farah Patzelt. In March they will be traveling to Uplands College, South Africa to discuss the topic of Illegal Trade with other 10th grade students from China, Belgium, South Africa, Germany and the United States.

Jeff Lowman

MYP/DP Individuals and Societies



Message from the Extra Curricular Program

Nautilus Swim Meet

The Vipers swim team represented ABA with 51 swimmers at the annual Nautilus swim meet held 9th and 10th November at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex. The long course meet featured more than 400 local and international swimmers. Congratulations to all swimmers for their participation and outstanding results! Also, a big Vipers THANK YOU to all parents and family members who showed up to support the swimmers during the meet. Go Vipers!

Charlie Semple



Games from the 25th - 27th November

25th November	U16 Girls B'ball vs TAISM @ ABA	4:00 - 5:00pm
26th November	U 12 Boys Soc vs BSM @ ABA	2:45 - 3:45pm
26th November	U12 Girls Soc vs BSM @ ABA	2:45 - 3:45pm
26th November	U14 Boys Soc vs BSM @ BSM	4:20 - 5:20pm
26th November	U14 Girls Soc vs AGS @ AGS	3:30 - 4:30pm
27th November	U19 Boys Soc vs TAISM @ TAISM	4:00 - 5:00pm
27th November	U19 Girls B'ball vs TAISM @ TAISM	4:00 - 5:00pm
27th November	U16 Boys Soc vs TSS @ TSS	3:30 - 4:30pm
27th November	U12 Girls Soc vs TSS @ ABA	3:30 - 4:30pm

Paul Brace
Athletics Director

Message from the PTA

PTA Website:

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

Winter Music Fest:

There will be many things to look forward to at this year's Winter Music Fest. This year we celebrate with the theme of, 'One Beat, One Heart, One ABA.' A celebration of all the holidays and festivities happening this autumn/winter season. Ticket sales will start the last week of November.

How to make your mark this Winter Fest:

If you are an amazing musician or vocalist, we need to hear from you!
Contact Hend @ 96990748
If you have an amazing craft or home business and would like to sell your unique items; come out and rent a table at the, 'Winter Bazaar.'
Contact Evelyn @ 95231828

The PTA is also accepting donations of baked goods and sweets to sell at our holiday, 'Sweets & Drinks' table. Some of the wonderful treats will include: Xmas Mince pies, Diwali sweets and Eid Kaak and Kunafa.

We're sure you would love to share your favorites as well.
Contact: PTAlog@abaoman.org



Building our community together!

- | | |
|--------|---|
| Nov 18 | Oman National Day celebration in school |
| Dec 2 | Santa's Workshop |
| Dec 3 | PTA Open Meeting |
| Dec 6 | Winter Music Fest |

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

1 BEAT HEART ABA
WINTER MUSIC FEST

Winter Bazaar
Table Registration now open!

Book and pay for your table at the accounts office
Only 10 Riyals
For more details - call Evelyn (95231828)

Event Date: Thursday, Dec 6th (6-8pm)
ABA Pitch

Santa's Pony & Helpers:

On 25th November Santa's pony and his helpers will come to meet the ECE children and get some love. Children can write a letter to Santa and drop it off in the mailbox near the ECE entrance, 25th - 29th of November.

Santa's Workshop:

Every year Santa's Workshop opens for business and this year is no different! Children from grades 1 - 6 will have the opportunity to visit the Middle School Common Room on 2nd December and choose from a wide variety of 1 riyal gifts for the whole family. The students will be brought to the Common Room by their teachers. Santa will be waiting to take a class picture with those that wish to. Students must bring a their own shopping bag to carry all their goodies. Participation in this activity is optional.

Parents that would like to volunteer as Santa's elves, please contact:

PTA treasurer@abaoman.org or PTAerep@abaoman.org

Message from the Booster Club

Two for One Fundraiser!

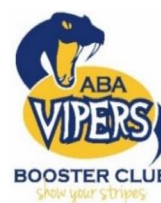
With all the activity around campus it is easy to see why spirits are high! Celebrating Oman national day allows us to reflect on what an amazing country we live in and the opportunities availed to us. A few days break to enjoy some down time is also great to rest active bodies after a busy start to season 2 preparations.

Booster Club continues to create events that inspire, encourage, and support our VIPERS

programs. **On THURSDAY 29th** November we are providing 'Two for One' fundraiser with our Ice Frenzy and Sport Gear Sale. Both events will run simultaneously in the Drama Court

between 10.30am – 1.00pm. Come check out the great selection of 'gently used' sports gear kindly donated by our ABA community. Lots on offer, most sizes available!!

SPORTS SOCKS will also be available to purchase at the Sport Gear Sale stands = RO3



ICE FRENZY

Thursday 29 November

10.25am - 1.00pm

(or until stocks sell out)

ABA DRAMA COURT

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