

# AL NOOR-ABA NEWS

14th March 2019

## Message from the Superintendent

Dear Parents,

Every now and again, an event or a series of events can remind us of the truly important things in life. Sometimes everything can come into focus shockingly quickly while at other times there is a slow realisation that time is passing and we have forgotten to appreciate something. And it is not only sad events that lead to this awareness, happy moments too can move us to reassess our outlook and our efforts.

In a busy world, thank goodness we have children to remind us of many good things in life. Of course, I am not naïve, I know that parenting is not always easy but I am absolutely sure that all of you, as parents, will have warm memories of your children growing up and have found joy in seeing them achieve new things, especially when it has been something unexpected.

For those of you with children in the Elementary School and who attended our musical production "Seussical" this week, I am quite sure that many of you will be extremely proud of the students' achievements. Such magical shows will live on in the minds of parents and students for years to come.

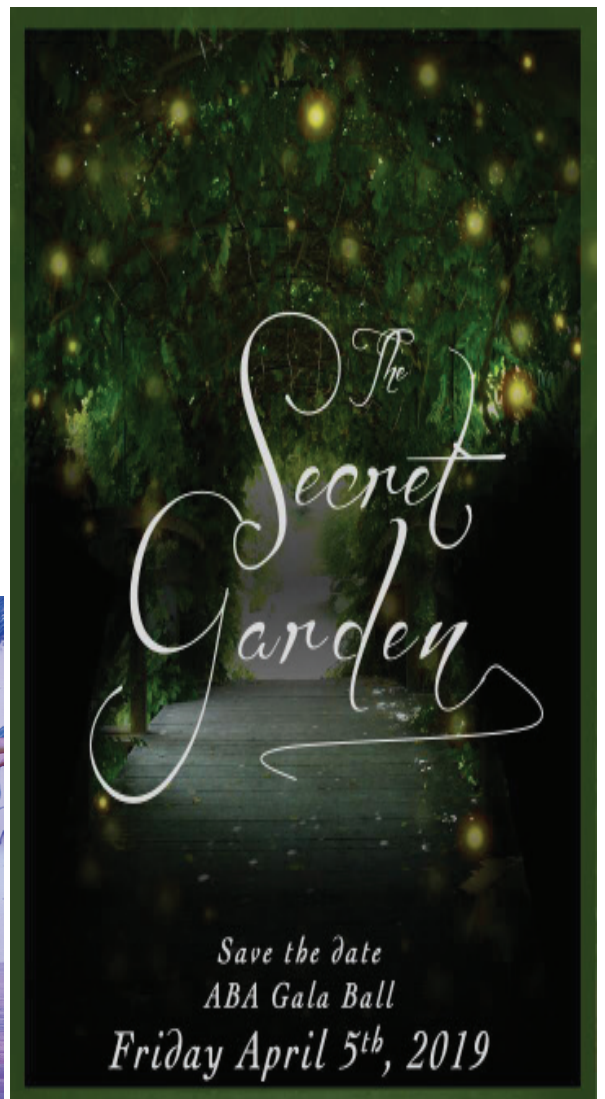
While not always so colourful and dramatic, our students perform great things every day, doing things that they couldn't do before and reaching new heights. These are exciting, satisfying... and memorable achievements. At a time when the careers of many are at their busiest please do take the time to enjoy more moments even if the workload cannot be re-calibrated. Some events only happen once.

*Simon Taylor  
Superintendent*



## Upcoming Dates

- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| 15 Mar | High School PROM<br>Kempinski Hotel   |
| 18 Mar | Booster Club Fundraiser<br>Annual Ice ice Crazy Sale<br>Drama Court<br>11:30 am - 1:00 pm |
| 19 Mar | Grade 11 & 12<br>Parents coffee morning<br>PTA Room<br>7:30 am - 8:40 am                  |



# Message from the Elementary School

## Student Led Conferences

Your child has already begun planning for their Student-Led Conference and these are just a couple of weeks away. Here is a timeline of what to expect:

Monday 18th March	Parents of Grade 1-5 students will receive an email from your child's class teacher with a link to sign up for a conference time. The link will be sent to the email address most commonly used by your teacher.
Tuesday 19th March	If you have not yet received sign-up details, please email your child's teacher.
Wednesday 20th March	Parents of EC students can sign up for a conference time at the classroom doors.
By Monday 24th March	Your appointment times should have been confirmed by your child(ren)'s teacher(s). Please contact teachers directly if there are any problems with your conference times.
Tuesday 26th March	2.30-4.30pm: Student Led Conferences
Wednesday 27th March	<b>No school for elementary students</b> 7.30-4.00: Student Led Conferences

### Please note:

Timings differ slightly for ECE - please check with your child's teacher if unsure

The class-based portion of the conference is expected to last around 45 minutes. If you are making appointments for more than one child, you may wish to leave a hour between appointment times. Spare time before or after conferences is ideal for visiting specialist areas.

Before and/or after the classroom conference, your child will want to share with you their learning in music, library, Arabic and PE. These areas will be set up with learning prompts that your child can follow to share their learning. Please include time in your plans for visits to the specialists.

The conference is truly student-led, and is a special time to focus on your child and their unique learning journey. For this reason, siblings should not be in the classroom during the conference.

We are sure you and your child will find the student-led conference experience to be a powerful and enjoyable one.

### Kindness Week

Next week, elementary students will focus on and celebrate Kindness in a variety of ways. This event has been organized by the elementary Share the Kindness Club and each day is devoted to a different recipient of our kindness.

Sunday - our friends

Monday - people who help us

Tuesday - our school environment

Wednesday - ourselves

Thursday - our families

Look out for ways to spread and share the kindness!

Sam Cook  
Elementary Principal



# Message from the Extra Curricular Program

## Basketball and Track meet next week

I hope to see you at the basketball court or at the track to support our vipers.

18th March	U12 Girls vs TAISM @ ABA	4:00 - 5:15
18th March	U12 Boys vs TAISM @ TAISM	4:00 - 5:15
19th March	U14 Girls vs TAISM @ ABA	4:00 - 5:15
19th March	Track Meet at TAISM	4:00 - 6:30

## MSSL Track Meet by Alice Maxwell

On Wednesday, a team of ABA Vipers participated at the MSSL Track and Field meet held at the Sultan's School. ABA took 26 boys and girls from age 14-19, who participated in various field events, long distance and short distance running races and a 4x100 relay. ABA did very well coming in 3rd place overall, placing 1st in the U19 boys. ABA dominated most of the track events and stamped their final mark with a 30m victory in the U19 boys relay. A special mention to one of our senior athletes, Chucks Iluyemi, who jumped an impressive height of 1.73 meters (scissor kick technique) in the high jump. As said by Matthew Deverall, a U16 boys athlete "I really enjoyed the meet. It was great to see all the ABA spirit and we hope to see more people joining track in the future". Well done ABA!



## Nautilus Invitational Meet

Thirty-one Vipers swim team members participated in the Nautilus Invitational Swim Meet held at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex, on 8th and 9th March. The annual, 2-day meet featured more than 400 swimmers from local and international club teams.

Coaches Semple and Nadia are pleased with the overall individual results and both agreed that the competitions show the areas that are needed to improve on during practice and both are looking forward to better results at the upcoming meets on the schedule.

Thank you to all parents, friends and family members who supported the team throughout the weekend.



*Paul Brace  
Athletics Director*

## Message from the University Counselor

### Summer School Options for High School Students

Students in Grades 9 – 12 may be interested in some of the wealth of summer schools out there. Summer schools are big business and some of them are very expensive, but there are also some reasonably priced options available. Below are a selection of summer courses that have come my way – But a Google search in the area that you are interested in will yield more tailored results, e.g. Art Summer Schools in France.

For students who are mid-way through their IB Course, it is always good to consider a holiday booster such as <https://www.lanternaeducation.com/> or <https://osc-ib.com/> (Oxford Study Courses). I don't know a single student who hasn't felt their understanding and grades both improved as a result of attending one of these courses. Additionally, for Grade 10 students who are about to embark upon the IB Diploma but whose grades are more 4s and 5s, than 6s and 7s, a Pre-IB Course can do wonders for confidence, enthusiasm and academic skills. Both companies offer Pre-IB as well as Mid-IB Courses.

Summer courses can be found all over the world and a good website for a general search is the Short Courses Portal : <https://www.shortcoursesportal.com/> Another handy website is Summer Schools in Europe that provide information on a wide range of courses:

<https://www.summerschoolsineurope.eu>

For students who are looking for a summer programme that adds to their eligibility for competitive degree programmes, a new company called Invest in Education have a good number of options: <https://investineducation.co.uk/>

### Internship-Style Summer Schools in London and New York

#### One Day Spring Programmes

The Young Doctor Programme  
The Young Lawyer Programme  
The Young Business Leaders Programme  
The Young Engineer Programme  
The Young Politician Programme  
The Young Journalist Programme

#### Programmes for Ages 12 – 14

The Beyond Science Programme

#### Five-Day Programmes

The Young Investment Banker Summer Internship (London)  
The Young Investment Banker Summer Internship (New York)  
The Young Doctor Summer Internship  
The Young Engineer Summer Internship

The Beyond Maths Programme

Another good option for would-be **Medicine** students is a company who organize summer trips that provide essential medical experience: <https://www.medicalprojects.co.uk/>

BP Global Stem Academies offer other programmes that any Science, Technology, Engineering or Maths student might find enjoyable <https://afs.org/programs/stem-academy/>

Of course, one of the favourite places to take a summer school is in the US. If students are very focused on obtaining entry to a particular university then taking a university pre-college course can be a good way of drawing attention to your applications as well as earning college credit (it means you can skip a required class!). Most of the high-profile universities offer these. It can also be nice to something just for fun – many of those below look interesting and fall into the fun category.

Wishing you an exciting summer whatever you choose!

United States of America

Duke University

<https://summersession.duke.edu/high-school-students>

Journalism Taster at Boston University

<https://combeyond.bu.edu/workshop/bu-summer-journalism-institute/>

Bucknell

<https://www.bucknell.edu/BASE>

Arts Options

Columbia College Chicago for the Arts <http://colum.edu/sac2019>

SCAD for the Creative Arts <https://www.scad.edu/academics/pre-college-summer-programs>

Project Fashion: <http://fashion.experienceamerica.com/project-fashion-2019-counselor/>

Game Experience: <https://game.experienceamerica.com/game-experience-2019-counselor/>  
[www.experienceamerica.com](http://www.experienceamerica.com)

Medical Options in the US

[Rosetta Institute of Biomedical Research UC Berkeley and UC San Diego in California, USA](http://www.rosettainstitute.org/biomedical-summer-camps/)

[https://www.rosettainstitute.org/biomedical-summer-camps/](http://www.rosettainstitute.org/biomedical-summer-camps/)

*Rachel keys  
University Counselor*

## Message from the PTA

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

**Dates to remember:**

Tuesdays Hike Club

26th March TTT trip to Matrah and Majlis Al Shura

**FUND REQUESTS & UPDATES**

Congratulations to the Elementary Library! Your fund request for a STEAM corner has been approved!  
Once atop the mountain, the majestic views made it all worth it!



Building our community together!



## TUESDAY TALKS & TRAVELS

This week's trip took us to Saal steps. It was a test of our willpower and stamina, and I'm glad to say we all made it up the steep 700 - yes, 700 steps! Very proud of each and everyone of the ladies who took part today.

This is a challenging hike that pays off in the end with beautiful views of Muscat and the surrounding area. Legs that feel like jello are an added bonus effect of this hike. Nevertheless, the elated feeling of accomplishment dulls the aches and pains until someone asks you why you are walking funny.

"I can't thank you enough Lama for all of the encouragement you gave me today. I was going to give up from the first few steps upwards, but you kept pushing me, I had a lesson that with some patience, time, and effort you can do ANYTHING you want to!"

"Thanks Lama and the team...for encouraging and helping us discover ourselves."

"It was challenging.. but worth the effort"

"The climb felt difficult at the beginning, but the constant encouragement from Lama and the fellow hikers made it much easier to reach the top. Felt a great sense of achievement today ! Thank you all for all the support!"

"The ascent was challenging...in parts.....climbing 700 steps was the highlight of the trek....at one point it even seemed unachievable but got inspired by the group....feel a sense of accomplishment. Thanks Lama and team"

We look forward to seeing more parents on our next hike. No jello legs. PTA pinky promise!

Anyone interested in joining this HIKE CLUB, email [Ptachair@abaoman.org](mailto:Ptachair@abaoman.org) or [PTAlog@abaoman.org](mailto:PTAlog@abaoman.org). The hikes will continue as long as weather permits.

**Tuesday Talks & Travels 2018-2019**  
*Monday*

**Majlis Al Shura & Muttrah**

25 March 2019 | 7.40 AM - 1 PM



Cost: Free  
Max no. of people : 23  
Sign-up with [PTAlog@abaoman.org](mailto:PTAlog@abaoman.org) or the TTT tab of the ABA-PTA webpage







## SPRING FEST / INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL FESTIVAL (ICF)



I would like to start out by thanking the people that made this event a success. Janki Sampat for helping organize the event, Ms. Bowin, for crowd control, Bokamoso Kumwenda for helping run the event on the night, Elaheh Karimi, Clauss Niazi, Jinane, Francisca and Camino for spending the entire night on ticket sales and Evelyn and Meeta who kept whipping out slushies.

In addition to those mentioned, there are the silent heroes, Mr. VASU, JP, Kumar, Turinder and his crew of OIG workers who make the magic of all our events come to life.

Thank you to all the parents who presented their cultures, food, fashions and songs to all our community. Without your efforts, this cultural event would not have happened.

### PARENT ART EXHIBIT

Mark your calendars for 23rd 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 a few artists. 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.

*Your PTA  
Building our community together!*

# Message from the Booster Club

## ICE ICE CRAZY!

The kid's favorite event of the year is here once again and the BOOSTER CLUB will be there delighting the kids with their choice of tasty ice lollies, ice creams and iced teas.

Come chill with us at the Drama Court from 10:25 am until 1:00 pm or while stocks last and don't forget to BRING YOUR BAIZAS!

What a fantastic night was had by all at the International Cultural Fair on Thursday night. The turn-out was outstanding and you could feel the community spirit in the air. The BOOSTER Club was also on hand supporting the PTA and all their hard work.

Make sure to read next week's newsletter for the next BOOSTER CLUB Pop-up shop date coming soon!



**Yours in community spirit – VIPERS BOOSTER CLUB**

**ABA VIPERS BOOSTER CLUB**  
Show your stripes

# ANNUAL

# ICE ICE CRAZY

## Monday 18 March

**10.25am - 1.00pm**  
*(or until stock sell out)*

**ABA DRAMA COURT**

*brrrr...ing your baizas!*

**500bz**

**400bz**

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