

# AL NOOR-ABA NEWS

25th April 2019

## Message from the Election Committee

YOUR CANDIDATES FOR THE 2019 BOARD ELECTIONS: (in alphabetic order by 1st name)



NAME: Klaus Niazi

PROPOSER: Sohail Niazi

SECONDER: Katherine Clark

NUMBER OF YEARS AT ABA: 6

GRADES OF CHILDREN AT ABA: Grade 8, Grade 10

NATIONALITY: American

## Upcoming Dates

28 April - 2 May MYP 5 Art Exhibition

30 April 1- May Gr.10 Art Show  
Secondary Lecture Hall

01 May AGM and Election  
Candidate Presentation  
PAC  
5.00 pm

### REASONS FOR STANDING:

I wholeheartedly believe in and fully support the non-selective, not-for-profit ABA where the education of the whole child is valued and each child is enabled to achieve his or her potential in a confident and responsible manner. Six years ago my husband and I choose ABA as the best school in Oman for our 2 daughters not only because we wanted an IB education, but also due to the warm welcome we received from the school's leadership, staff and even students when we visited the campus.

I believe in the ABA where caring, respect, open-mindedness, integrity and diversity are valued equally alongside inquiry, knowledge, reflection, thinking and being a life-long learner. I am passionate in my support of ABA's intention to be a community school dedicated to its Mission, Vision and Values and fully support its long-term goals of providing top-quality facilities, continuously improving its arts and sports programs and further enriching the academic programs it can provide to its students.

A critical step in its goals is the completion of its new Secondary Campus at Al Irfan and a successful move of our middle and high school students to this long awaited campus. I have the time, energy, skill set and commitment required to work together with a Board equally passionate about ABA's success and focused on taking our school to the next level. I believe that my skills in leadership, communication, strategy, finance and operations would be of value in supporting ABA's leadership, teachers and staff to continue their work in this regard.

Prior to moving to Oman I had a career that gave me experience in managing multi-million dollar businesses that spanned North America, Europe and Asia. I have worked in a variety of industries including finance, technology and textile and have been responsible for the operations, finance, contract negotiation and strategic planning of a business that grew from 200 to over 2000 people over the course of 8 years.

From the time my children entered elementary school, I have volunteered and helped their schools in a variety of ways. In both Oman and Bahrain, I have had the role of PTA Chair as well as worked as a member in the roles of Homeroom parent, Middle School Coordinator, and event organizer. I have also been part of several committees within ABA taking part in the school's efforts to review its Mission, Vision and Values, gain MIS CIS and IB accreditation and improve

its marketing and communication as well as participate on parent interview panels for several leadership team hires. I have supported ABA's MESAC activities through regular hosting of visiting students and volunteered time to the Booster Club's popular concession stands during the events. Finally, I have spent 2 years on the ABA Board of Directors, one of which as the Chair of the Policy and Planning Committee and the Board Secretary. Through all these experiences I have gained a strong understanding of the core values of the school and the critical importance of good governance, established trusting relationships with leadership, teachers and staff and established a well-balanced understanding of what makes ABA so special.

Should I be elected to serve again on the Board of Directors, I would be honored to work together as a team with fellow Board members to ensure that ABA realizes its long-term goal of being recognized as one of the best, non-selective IB schools, not only in the region, but worldwide. Also, that our children and future ABA children, no matter what their passions may be, are provided with an environment they can flourish in.

#### PREVIOUS POSTS WITHIN THE SCHOOL OR ASSOCIATION, OTHER SKILLS / QUALIFICATIONS OF BENEFIT TO ABA:

- 2018-2019 – ABA Communications Committee, PTA - Homeroom Parent, PTA Event Chair-Spooktacular
- 2016-2018 – ABA Board Member
- 2017-2018 – ABA Board Secretary & Chair of Policy and Planning Committee
- 2015-2016 – PTA Chair, ABA
- 2014-2015 – Middle School Representative, Homeroom Parent
- 2011-2013 – PTA Chair – British School of Bahrain
- Cap Gemini- Sr. Manager- Strategy & Operations in the Financial Services Division for Global Accounts (9 years)
- Account Manager for start-up technology firm – Chicago (2 years)
- Operations and Logistics Manager – Hong Kong (5 years)
- Teacher – ESL – Japan (2 years)

#### EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

- Masters of International Business – The American Graduate School of International Studies (Thunderbird), Glendale, AZ
- Bachelor of Science of Languages – Georgetown University, Washington , D.C.



NAME: Jinane Helou

PROPOSER: Lamy Al Kiyumi

SECONDER: Maria Eid

NUMBER OF YEARS AT ABA: 12 years

GRADES OF CHILDREN AT ABA: K 3, Grade 6, 8 & 10

NATIONALITY: German/Lebanese

#### REASONS FOR STANDING:

I have joined the ABA Board last year, and I find that my reasons for standing for elections again this year remain true and on target. We have four children attending ABA who are currently in grades 10, 8, 6 and K3. Our family has been at ABA for 13 years, and we have a vested interest in volunteering and adding value to a school we hold in such high esteem. Ultimately, like many parents at ABA, we would like to see ABA continue to thrive, despite the challenges and uncertainty it is currently facing.

I have always had a personal interest in focusing on providing education of the highest quality to our students. I aim to utilize my previous experience as an educator and English teacher to support student achievement and help devise/ implement policies that provide students and teachers with opportunities to develop and reach their utmost potential – be it at the PYP, MYP or DP Level. I would also like to continue help promote greater communication and open collaboration between ABA’s Board and stakeholders. I am a strong advocate of transparency, listening to diverse views, respectful dialogue, and a renewed focus on ensuring all students are receiving quality education.

The past year has been a valuable opportunity for me to delve deep into ABA’s Policies and By-Laws, and I have found the work to be quite rewarding (if at times demanding). Moreover, I had the privilege to chair the Policy and Planning Committee (PPC) and work with some of the most dedicated, committed and brightest group of people on policies and By-Laws in the best interest of all ABA stakeholders, be it teachers, staff, students or parents. I would be honored to resume the hard work we have started on the PPC, should I get the opportunity do so.

**PREVIOUS POSTS WITHIN THE SCHOOL OR ASSOCIATION (E.G., PTA, BOARD), OTHER SKILLS / QUALIFICATIONS OF BENEFIT TO THE BOARD:**

- Current chair of the Policy and Planning Committee on the Board and Board Secretary
- Grade 8 English teacher at ABA (1 year)
- Class advisor at ABA (1 year)
- Substitute teacher at ABA (1 year)
- Grade 6-8 English teacher at the International College of Beirut (I.C.) (1999-2002)
- Advisor for students in Grade 7 at I.C. (2001-2002)
- Active member of the PTA for 8 years
- Home room parent at ABA for 13 years

**EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:**

- Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from the American University of Beirut in Lebanon
- MSc in Educational Leadership from Leicester University in the UK
- Completed course work for an EdD in Educational Leadership from Wilkes University in the USA.



**NAME:** Korisepati Mallikarjuna

**PROPOSER:** Osama Al Abdullatif

**SECONDER:** T. Ganesh

**NUMBER OF YEARS AT ABA:** 4 years

**GRADES OF CHILDREN AT ABA:** Grades 8 and 12

**NATIONALITY:** Indian

**REASONS FOR STANDING:**

1. To further enhance the reputation of the Board of ABA and hence the school’s reputation.
2. To support the school in the present challenging situation at this critical life stage of the school to the best of my abilities.
3. Bring in further professionalism and necessary specialist functional skills to the Board of ABA.

PREVIOUS POSTS WITHIN THE SCHOOL OR ASSOCIATION (E.G., PTA, BOARD), OTHER SKILLS / QUALIFICATIONS OF BENEFIT TO THE BOARD:

Not held any positions in ABA Or Association.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

- Graduated in Advanced Management from Harvard Business School, USA
- Level III Chartered Financial Analyst , CFA Institute , USA
- Master in Business Administration in Finance Specialization from SP Jain Institute of Management, India
- Bachelors in Technology (Hons.) in Civil Engineering from Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, India



NAME: Lamyia Al Kiyumi

NATIONALITY: Omani

PROPOSER: Megel Barker

SECONDER: Neeelmani Bhardwaj

NUMBER OF YEARS AT ABA: 3 years

GRADES OF CHILDREN AT ABA: Grades 3, 4 and 8

REASONS FOR STANDING:

I have always been passionately involved in my children's schools on numerous levels. Two years ago I decided to run for the ABA BoD because I wished to positively enhance my contribution to the school on a more strategic level. I was lucky enough to have succeeded and have since been on the Board, serving ABA: first as a member of the Strategic Development Committee, and then as the Board Chair. The past two years have been amongst the most difficult yet rewarding years for me. I am extremely proud of everything we have achieved as a Board and as a school. Working with an extraordinary group of parents /staff / teachers / SLT has been an enriching experience. Having said that, there is still so much more that needs to be done.

This past year, the Board has worked on: Hiring an external consultant to conduct a peer review to identify the issues (plus solutions) on the Al Irfan campus - Hiring an Interim & a Permanent Superintendent for ABA - Board Governance - Revising & updating of the Policies and Bylaws - Enhancing Communication between the BoD & ABA Community, and much more. I would love the opportunity to continue this work, which was achieved only through the fostering of a positive working relationship between the Board members and the school.

PREVIOUS POSTS WITHIN THE SCHOOL OR ASSOCIATION (E.G., PTA, BOARD), OTHER SKILLS / QUALIFICATIONS OF BENEFIT TO ABA:

- Chair - ABA Board of Directors (2018/19)
- Board Member - ABA Board of Directors (2017-19)
- HRP for all 3 children's classes at different times since joining ABA.

Others:

- President of the PTA in The Sultan's School
- Founder and former Board Member of The Environment Society of Oman (ESO)
- Founder and former Board Member of Al Hayat Association for Substance Abuse
- Former Board Member of The Oman Association for the Disabled

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

- Master of Environmental Studies : University of Strathclyde
- BSC in Science : United Arab Emirates University



NAME: Maria Eid

NATIONALITY: Lebanese

PROPOSER: Jinane Helou

SECONDER: Fouad Eid

NUMBER OF YEARS AT ABA: 7

GRADES OF CHILDREN AT ABA: Grades 2, 4, 6

REASONS FOR STANDING:

I took this job as a board member because I believe in the quality of education that ABA provides for our kids. Having three kids at ABA in grades 6, 4, and 2, and having spent 11 years in Oman, I feel like I can continue to contribute to this lovely school and to this lovely country.

Believe me, when I say this has been a tough job over the last year as we work towards making things better for everybody, especially after all of the turmoil that was experienced previously.

I took the decision to take on the responsibility for the sake of improving conditions at ABA and creating continuity on the board. That's why I have chosen to run again.

I'm not interested in any title or responsibility at a personal level. I'm only interested in our kids' education and the betterment of this lovely school.

With a law degree and training in the finance sector, I feel that I can continue to add towards the advancement of ABA.

Trying to get it all done in the short period of time that I have been on the board, can be challenging, but the rewards are numerous. Serving on a school board provides a unique opportunity to make a real differ-

When boards of school directors demonstrate effective, transparent, and honest governance practices, this has a positive effect on the academic performance of the students in their school systems. I hope that by being re-elected, I can continue to serve the ABA community and play my part to improve our students' wellbeing and educational standards.

As a board and team member at ABA, and in the short time that I have had the privilege to serve, we have achieved the following:

- Interviewing and hiring of an interim school superintendent.
- Interviewing and hiring of a permanent school superintendent.
- Selected and added governance training to our team members and future members of the board.
- Served as a member of the Policy and Planning committee and updated/upgraded many of our school policies and by-laws.
- Helped to plan and organize the ABA ball which raised funds for the school's facilities.

There is much more that is needed to be done, such as alleviating ABA parents' concerns related to the school's future and financial management, getting the new campus and its construction on the right track, and making sure there is a seamless transition for both the interim and permanent school superintendents. I feel that the upcoming years with the new superintendents will bring about noticeable and immediate changes to ABA.

If I were to be re-elected as a board member at ABA, it would be a privilege for me to be a part of the decision making process that gets us to the next level. I feel that there are exciting times ahead and a bright future for our school. I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the confidence you have given to me previously and I look forward to your support in the upcoming election.

PREVIOUS POSTS WITHIN THE SCHOOL OR ASSOCIATION (e.g. PTA, Board), OTHER SKILLS/QUALIFICATIONS OF BENEFIT TO THE BOARD:

- ABA Board member

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

- Law degree



NAME: Moin Amena

NATIONALITY: Indian

PROPOSER: David Weir

SECONDER: Shuchi Malik

NUMBER OF YEARS AT ABA:

GRADES OF CHILDREN AT ABA: Grades

REASONS FOR STANDING:

I am a parent of three ABA kids for the last 11 years and I have invested both financially and emotionally into ABA. One of my daughters has already graduated successfully and at the moment, my other two children are thriving at the school in grade 10 and grade 7. I'm deeply motivated and stand by the mission of ABA to provide an international education of the highest order. I have seen this crystallize in numerous ABA alumni, including my daughter, who have secured places and made their unique ABA mark as global citizens in top-notch universities of the world. They have truly been ambassadors of ABA and Oman. With the technological and digital revolution taking place, there will be enormous and unpredictable challenges and opportunities!!! The ABA vision adequately covers comprehensively and prepares its students to step into the oncoming world.

In the given scenario, with huge academic and administrative experience in Oman both in the Ministry of Education

and for 20 years at Sultan Qaboos University (SQU), I will work with the board to ensure that:  
every child in the school has a high caliber teacher  
finances are managed appropriately  
school goes into the future with prosperity

PREVIOUS POSTS WITHIN THE SCHOOL OR ASSOCIATION (E.G., PTA, BOARD), OTHER SKILLS / QUALIFICATIONS OF BENEFIT TO ABA:

- At ABA, I have had the opportunity to serve as a home room parent for 7 years from 2008 to 2014 for different grades of my 3 kids.
- As a course leader, at the University, I have almost always made sure that my communication, both oral and written is concise, clear and coherent. As a project leader for developing curriculum and testing, I have sharpened my leadership skills and problem solving skills through sustained team work.
- As an assessment committee member, at SQU, I understand confidentiality and security are a top priority in the work place. Also being on the committee has enhanced my strength as a valuable team player.
- I have been a scout leader for British Scouting Overseas from September 2014 to June 2018. During this period, I have helped out in all the local camps as well as district camps for Middle-East region. Also, I was part of the 7 day Poacher Camp in Lincoln, U.K. This experience of interacting closely with teenagers has given me valuable insights into the overall child development.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

- M.A (English), Andhra University, India
- Post-Graduate Diploma in Teaching of English (PGDTE), English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, India
- M.Phil. (Linguistics and Phonetics), English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, India
- PhD (Applied Linguistics), Lancaster University, UK, completed Course Work



NAME: Neelmani Bhardwaj

NATIONALITY: Indian

PROPOSER: Megel Barker

SECONDER: Jinane Bhardwaj

NUMBER OF YEARS AT ABA: 8 years

GRADES OF CHILDREN AT ABA: Grades 9

REASONS FOR STANDING:

When I joined the board in August last year, the main priorities of the board members were bringing in to the parent community more transparency and open communication, the hiring of a new superintendent (interim and permanent), resolving the structural issues in the new campus so that the work could restart, revisiting the financial projections of the school with the new campus and reviewing all the schools governance and policy manuals, to highlight a few.

While a lot has been completed from this list, yet some important work is in pending, which if given an opportunity I would like to see through.

We have built a great relationship with the new interim Superintendent who is looking forward to joining us in 2019 and the same goes for the permanent superintendent who, will be joining in 2020. It is important that the board provides continuity and helps both these individuals settle in quickly into their new roles. I personally give the quality of education for our children utmost priority and during this transition phase it is important to provide stability and reassurance to both the interim and new head of school.

Being on the Strategic Development Committee a lot of time and effort has gone into understanding in depth the issues with the new campus, in appointing and meeting the consultants, contractors and going over numerous briefings. While we have been able to resolve the structural issues, the work on the campus has to restart at the earliest and at the same time the parental concern on financial management of the school with regards to the repayment of the loan need to be addressed.

I see the next 2 years as quite challenging but equally exciting time for ABA with a lot to look forward to. The ABA community as always needs to work together and be an example for our children by upholding its mission, vision and values.

PREVIOUS POSTS WITHIN THE SCHOOL OR ASSOCIATION (E.G., PTA, BOARD), OTHER SKILLS / QUALIFICATIONS OF BENEFIT TO THE BOARD:

- I am on the development committee with Oman American Business Council,
- Director of National Life and General Insurance Company.
- I been part of various projects in my previous employment with AIG where I have expanded the business geographically by opening new markets, build successful partnerships and been on various internal strategic committees and projects.
- In my current role I manage the Group's Investments in Insurance and Technology.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

- Bachelors in Commerce with Hons and Masters In Business Administration with specialization in Marketing and Finance



NAME: Riaan De Bruin

NATIONALITY: South African

PROPOSER: Lamy Al Kiyumi

SECONDER: Leigh De Bruin

NUMBER OF YEARS AT ABA: years

GRADES OF CHILDREN AT ABA: Grades 3 and 4

REASONS FOR STANDING:

As a parent of two scholars at the school and member of the ABA community I am naturally concerned about the future of the school. At this point in time the school is undergoing a transformational period and having to navigate a number of wide ranging matters and challenges. Under these circumstances I believe I can contribute to help the school by drawing on my knowledge and experience in my profession where I deliver strategic planning and transformation change for organizations. On a regular basis I work with the top leadership of organizations, including attendance of Board meetings plus preparation of materials (related to strategy, governance, research and investigate studies with recommendations, operational-and-financial related performance reports) for the executive management and/or board of directors.

PREVIOUS POSTS WITHIN A SCHOOL / ASSOCIATION (E.G. PTA, BOARD, OTHER SKILLS / QUALIFICATIONS OF BENEFIT TO ABA):

- None. I have no formal background / experience working in the Education sector.



## EDUCATIONAL / ACADEMIC BACKGROUND:

- Bachelor Degree in Human Resource Management
- Post Graduate Honors Degree in Business Management

*Election Committee 2019*

# Message from the Superintendent

Dear Parents

As Superintendent, my first priorities are our students and to work with my team of committed professionals to help the school achieve its Mission and Vision. In this work, I am accountable to our Board. The Board's work is more directly steered by our articles and our by-laws while the Board policies provide guidance in the day to day work of the Board and me. Needless to say, our work is expected to embrace the school's values.

The work of a Board Director cannot be under-estimated. The Election Committee will have stated that prospective Board Directors need to be aware that the role entails a commitment not limited to time. A desire to learn about the school and the norms of governance in a not for profit educational organisation and an ability to apply skills in a variety of fields will also be needed. And while experience can certainly be helpful, Board work unquestionably requires much heart and a will for each Director to act as one among equals in the team.

Next week, in line with the Ministry of Education by-laws, all elected positions are open. I encourage all of you to participate in the election and choose those candidates who you feel can help support the school in its ambitions and who will reflect the true spirit of ABA.

## **Booster Club**

This year has been hugely successful for our sports teams and for those participating in the arts. In fact, it has been our best year ever. Our dedicated coaches and leaders of activities have made this possible and deserve much thanks for all their hard work.

However the spirit among the players and in the community at large has been enhanced greatly but the wonderful work of the Booster Club. Through their ongoing efforts, a huge number of students feel very much part of our Vipers whether because of the merchandise they offer, the events they run or in the hospitality events which have won praise from MESAC coaches and students.

I think the following words of thanks sent to the Booster Club today by Paul Brace says much:

Hi All

Though today's lovely lunch organised by the Booster Club and supported by our great ABA parents was to recognise the coaches/directors I think it is also appropriate to thank our Booster Club. The Booster Club team works tirelessly throughout the year. The success of our programs and teams has stemmed from the Booster Club's support. What they have achieved is beyond the set expectations (1- 2 years ahead of schedule). Everyone in the MPSL has received bottles, MSSL training shirts and MESAC travel bags. Those these items are loved by the teams but the Booster Club has achieved something far more special and memorable - Vipers Pride. The spirit and culture they have created at this school is certainly tangible and there is a real sense of community. THANK YOU BOOSTER CLUB.

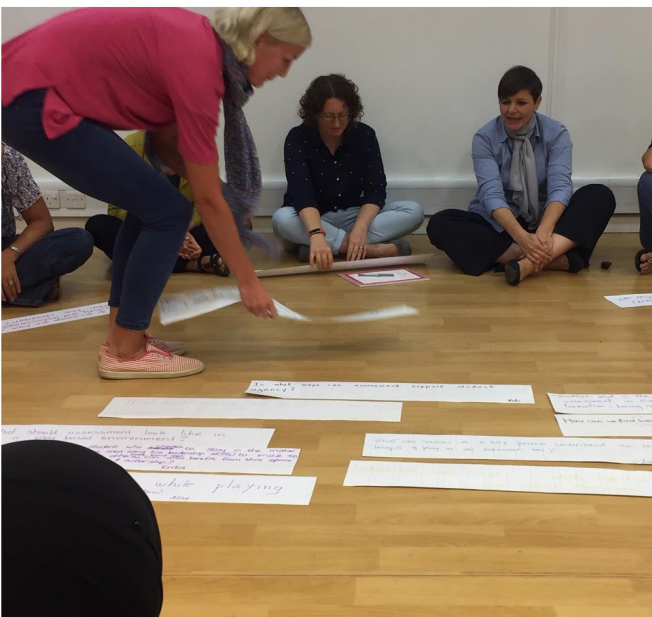
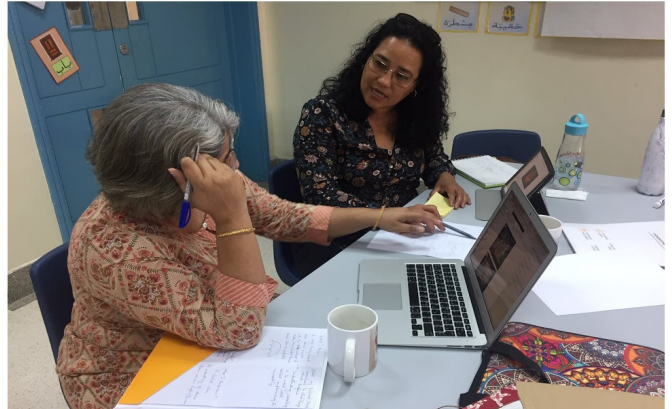
*Simon Taylor - Superintendent*

# Message from the Elementary School

## Lifelong Learning at ABA

On the weekend of 5th and 6th April, the elementary school hosted three teacher workshops provided by [4Generations4Education](#). Three highly regarded workshop leaders who have extensive experience as IB educators and curriculum developers, led nearly 50 teachers in some deep exploration and reflection on three significant areas of effective learning and teaching. While most participants were from our elementary staff, some secondary staff also joined in and we welcomed others from schools in Muscat, Saudi Arabia and the UK.

Anne van Dam worked mainly with our early years teachers, but explored principles of effective assessment that are applicable for students of any age. Ali Ezzeddine's workshop was offered in Arabic and focused on effective strategies for differentiating learning for students with a range of learning profiles. Anne-Marie Evans, a consultant with Corn, took her group through the importance of all learning being rooted in conceptual understanding and connected to global issues. Participants left the workshops inspired and motivated to develop areas of their practice to improve student learning.





## Genius Hour Showcase

Grade 1 students were gifted an hour each week to inquire about anything their heart desires. After many weeks of researching, creating, negotiating, problem-solving, making, reflecting, and fixing... they presented their learning in ABA's first ever Genius Hour Showcase.

From slam dunks to "sparkly" stuff, "How to Become a Pilot" to "My AWESOME Robot," "The Unicorn Machine" to abstract paintings, the solar system to ZV the Robot--- there was something for everyone!

Parents, students and teachers all visited the event and were impressed and inspired by the children's processes, creations and the skills they had used to explore and share their individual passions. [Browse the photos here.](#)

## Ramadan

This year, Ramadan is expected to start on or around 6th May and will continue until the Eid break in early June. In preparation, the school has developed various guidelines for teachers and students, to ensure that we demonstrate appropriate respect at this important time. Teachers will be sharing arrangements with students in due course.

If your child might fast for some or all of Ramadan, we ask you to contact your child's teacher with the following information.

Name of student

Is he/she fasting?

Is he/she able to drink water?

Is he/she able to eat a food/snack if feeling ill or too hungry?

Is he/she able to participate in PE class?

Is he/she able to participate in Swimming?

We will do our best to support your family's expectations for your child throughout this important month.

*Sam Cook - Elementary School Principal*

# Message from the Middle School

## [Amazing Race Interschool Competition at the Museum of Illusions](http://bit.ly/ARphotos2019) (<http://bit.ly/ARphotos2019>)



On Wednesday this week three grade 8 students (Aarushi Saikumar, Ayaan Nadamal, Vaishnavi Manivannan) and two grade 9 students (Erik Christensen and Om Prathikantam) represented ABA in a problem-solving competition at the Museum of Illusions in Muscat Grand Mall. The five other schools involved were: The Ahmed Bin Majid Private School, Seeb; The Bangladesh School, Muscat; The Indian School, Al Ghubra; The Pakistan School, Muscat; and The Pakistan School, Seeb.

Initially the students had a tour of the museum in which they were encouraged to carefully observe the illusions, find out who originally created them and think about how each of them worked. After that, they took

part in the main event, a ten-problem activity based on the popular TV series *The Amazing Race*. The challenging activities enabled our students to demonstrate many of the IB learner profile attributes that set them apart as learners from other

students in the Muscat area. Throughout the competition they were knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, inquirers, risk-takers and reflective.

After lunch the teams had to create and perform a 'jingle' based on their experiences in the morning, which was judged as a separate competition.

As usual, the students waited nervously for the results of the *Amazing Race* and the jingle competition... we are very proud to announce that ABA was awarded first place in both competitions!

The staff and students from ABA would like to thank the staff at the Museum of Illusions for organizing such an amazing event.

*Kathleen Bowin - Middle School Principal*

## **Health (e-cigarettes), Risk-Taking Behaviour and Online Safety**

Alli Hostetter, Peter Wadsworth and Claire Anthony invite parents of secondary school students to attend a presentation on Tuesday, June 11th at 7.40 am to discuss Teenage Safety. Health (e-cigarettes), Risk-Taking Behaviour and Online Safety will be the main topics for discussion. If you would like to attend this event, please use this link to RSVP. Once we know approximate numbers, we will communicate the on-campus venue with you.

*Claire Anthony - Middle School Counselor*

## Ski Trip

During the Spring Break holiday, a group of Grade 6, 7 and 8 risk-takers travelled to the ski slopes of Verbier, Switzerland. Throughout the 9 day trip, they experienced European alpine conditions and had fun on and off the slopes during afternoon and evening activities.

The middle school students enjoyed developing their independence, international travel, looking after each other and communicating with Les Elfes staff and instructors. Each student displayed perseverance and determination to develop and master a difficult new skill. Students on this trip have been given access to a google folder containing hundreds of photographs and many videos to enjoy and tell stories about their adventures.



*Paul Brace, Raewyn Jack and Claire Anthony, 2019 Ski Team*

# Message from the School Librarians



## World Book Day

ABA libraries celebrated World Book Day on Tuesday 23rd April, 2019 with a day filled with fun and exciting events such as the " I Spy" challenge, Sharing Stories, a Literary Bake-Off competition, Literary photo booths and a Living Library. Students from across the whole school participated and the exhilaration and excitement were contagious. It was a wonderful scene to see the ABA community come together to ensure the day's success. Thank you to all those who volunteered to be our Living Stories, helped support and run the different events taking place around the school, judged the Bake-Off and supported the library staff -the day would not have been a success without you!

*Mara Hakim and Courtney Park - Librarian*

## Message from the Extra Curricular Program



### MESAC Success

Wow ! What an achievement by Stefan Klefasz, Gr 10, winning four gold medals at the MESAC track meet in Abu Dhabi last weekend. Stefan needed to compete in a registered track meet to obtain some official times. After no luck in searching in Oman and Dubai, Stefan on his own initiative was lucky enough to find a place in the MESAC track meet.

Stefan was outstanding in all his races, winning the 400, 800, 1500 and the 3000. To highlight his performance Stefan ran the 3000m in 10:11.34. Stefan also received a 'MESAC Moment' reward for his initiative, courage and athleticism.

### End of Season Basketball tournaments next week

The Middle School Basketball season is coming to an end next week. The teams have made huge improvements over the last 10 weeks and we wish all the teams the very best in their tournaments.

29th April	U12 Girls MSSL Tournament @ TSS	3:30 - 5:45
29th April	U12 Boys MSSL Tournament @ BSM	3:40 - 6:15
30th April	U13 Girls MSSL Tournament @ ABA	3:30 - 6:30
30th April	U13 Boys MSSL Tournament @ BSM	3:40 - 6:15
1st May	U14 Girls MSSL Tournament @ ABA	3:15 - 5:50
1st May	U13 Boys MSSL Tournament @ TAISM	3:40 - 6:10

*Paul Brace - Athletics Director*

# Message from the Fine Arts Department

## **IYP 5: E PORTFOLIO and COURSEWORK VISUAL ART EXHIBITION**



**TUESDAY 30TH APRIL 2019  
10.00-11.00 AM - SENIOR LECTURE HALL**

*“Art has the power to  
impact the world”*

**Open:  
2nd Break Tuesday  
18.00-19.00 Tuesday Evening**

image by Ryan Dean

# Message from the PTA

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

## PARENT ART EXHIBIT

We would like to start off by thanking Bokomoso and the ladies from the PTA who organized a wonderful evening with a myriad of special homemade treats.

The Parent Art Exhibit was a wonderful opportunity for 15 of the ABA parent community to share their talents. In addition to the ABA parents, this year's exhibit included three Omani guest artists. With an array of styles, textures and mediums, the art exhibit was truly a success.



Building our community together!





FLEA MARKET

Flea Market is on Friday 3rd May 2019. This is the last flea market before the summer break! Please contact Evelyn on ptasrep@abaoman.org for your table registration.

Your PTA

**ABA FLEA MARKET & BAKE SALE**  
 Friday, 3 May 2019  
 3:00 - 5:00 pm

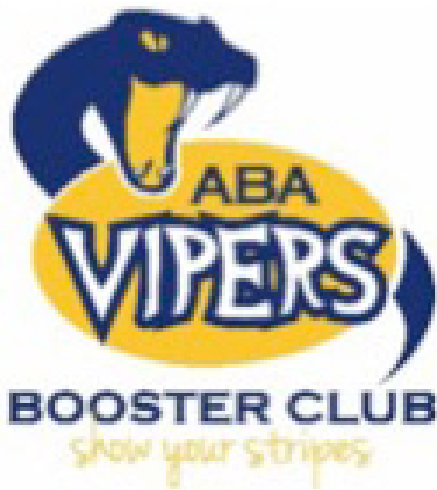


Table Registration is Open

RO. 7/- Per Table & RO. 3/- Per Clothes Rail  
 Book & Pay for your table at the Accounts Office

For further details, contact Evelyn - 95231828

# Message from the Booster Club



**Booster Club Pop-Up Shop**  
 Get your official **VIPERS MERCHANDISE**

**Monday 29 April 2019**  
 07.00-7.45am  
 come see our friendly team outside the ECE Building  
**LAST HOODIE ORDERS for the year!!**

VIPERS Merchandise 2018/19			
AVAILABLE NOW... ONLY from VIPERS Booster Club!			
 <b>€8</b>	 <b>€10</b>	 <b>€15</b>	 <b>SPECIAL OFFER 2 X PAIRS OMR.16</b>
 <b>€15</b>	 <b>€7</b>	 <b>€1.2</b>	 <b>€3</b>
<b>AVAILABLE NOW</b>		 <b>€1</b>	 <b>€5</b>

**Limited Stock on ALL ITEMS**

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

**PERSONALISED VIPERS HOODIE**

**LAST ORDERS for 2018/19 season 29 APRIL POP-UP SHOP**

**SIZES**  
 Elementary (K = Kids)  
 K-S, K-M, K-L, K-XL, K-XXL  
 Secondary (Adult sizes)  
 S M L XL  
 (Sample sizes available)

**€15**

**ONLY available from VIPERS BOOSTER CLUB pre-paid orders ONLY - get yours NOW!**

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