

AL NOOR-ABA NEWS

24th January 2019

Message from the Elementary School



The Elementary Fun Run

On 31st January 2019 every child in the Elementary School will run, jog or walk around the fun run course to raise money for Dar Al Atta and the One World Children's Fund.

There will be two fun run sessions:

Grade 4 and 5 will run between 7:45 and 8:30 am
Grades 1 to 3 will run from 8:30 to 9:00 am.

The event will also be a 'Sporty' MUFTI and hats and sunscreen are a must. An email has been sent that includes further details and the Fun Run donation form.

Parents are most welcome to run along or walk with the students and have fun exercising whilst the weather is cool. Looking forward to seeing you all on Thursday 31st January.

*Sam Cook
Elementary Principal*

Muscat Primary Sports League

Cross Country

Last week ABA had 30 competitors in the MPSL Cross Country event held at The Sultan's School. The course was tough for some, especially after a three week break, but we came away with some good results. Well done to Louis Vallancey and Aqil Zul Shameer for coming 4th and 5th respectively in the U11 boys event. The U9 boys team and the U11 boys team both came 3rd overall.

Mini Volleyball Clinic

This week was the Mini Volleyball Clinic for the U11 girls. For many of our girls this was their first experience of volleyball and for some it was their first experience in an MPSL event. It was great to see some new faces keen to represent ABA in a sporting event. The girls worked on their setting, hitting and serving and then applied these skills to a small sided game.



Upcoming Dates

27-31 Jan	High School Mufti week
29 Jan	PTA Tuesday Talk and Travel PTA Room 7:40 - 9:00 am
31 Jan	Grade 1-5 Fun Run & Sporty Mufti
31 Jan - 02 Feb	MESAC JV Soccer Sultan Qaboos Stadium 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

What's next?

Next week we have the MPSL Biathlon and the following week is the U9 Athletics event.

Raewyn Jack
Elementary PE Department



Message from the Middle School

Parent Onboard Session

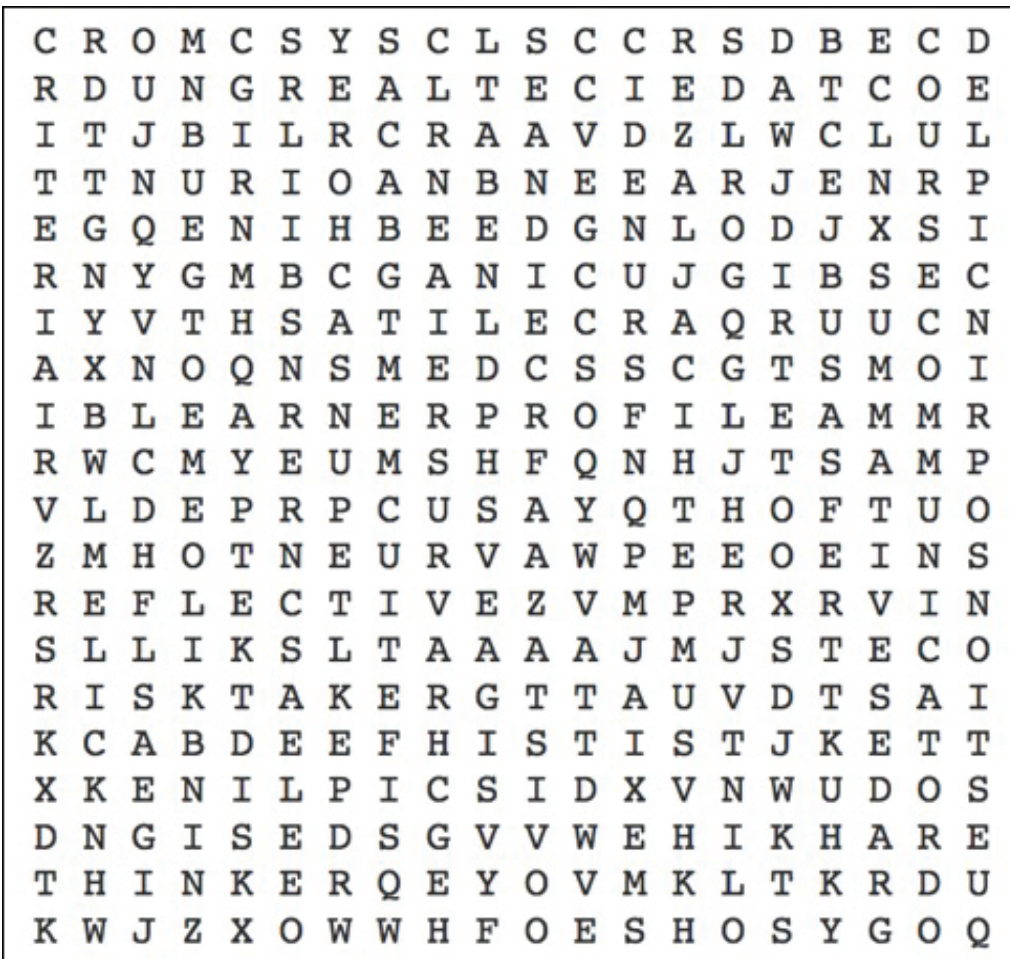
On Sunday, 13th January, the second Parent Onboard Session was held in the Secondary Lecture Hall. As is normal, the session was repeated in the evening to offer as many opportunities for parents to be empowered to support their children. The morning session had about twenty families represented and the evening had thirty-four families represented.



The activities were interactive with parents engaged in word searches, group discussions, independent tasks and sharing. The focus of this Parent Onboard was to improve parents' understanding of MYP assessment practices. For that reason, parents were guided through the scoring procedure in school that leads to an MYP achievement grade. This enabled parents to have a better grasp of how the achievement grades in their child's report could be interpreted.

Additionally, parents were required to share their previous knowledge of the MYP and engage in activities that ensured they inquired as in the inquiry-based learning process promoted in IB. Students in MYP are exposed to the growth of ATL Skills, learning within Global Contexts and the development of IB Learner Profile Traits. This is deliberately interwoven in lessons and in interactions between teachers and students.

The parents who attended felt that the session was worthwhile, they described it as informative and enlightening.



Please look out for the next Parent Onboard Session that will focus on how teachers use the MYP rubrics to determine your child's level of performance. The date for that event will be released soon. This important workshop will provide hands-on engagement in the assessment process.

Here is the word search that was shared with the workshop's participants. The challenge was to find as many MYP words as possible. As a true inquiry, you will not know how many words are hidden and what those words are. Enjoy!

*Megel Barker
MYP Coordinator /
Assistant Principal*

Message from the High School

Grade 10 (MYP 5) E-Assessment Week

This week our students in Grade 10 (MYP 5) participated in a familiarization session on e-assessment. The aim of the session was to directly address students' and parents' anxiety about onscreen tests as well as to test our logistical readiness for the May Examination session.

The MYP e-assessment examination is the external benchmark for students leaving Grade 10 (MYP 5) at ABA. All students sit examinations in MYP subject groups of Mathematics, English Language, Individuals and Societies (History and Geography), Sciences (Biology, Physics, and Chemistry) and Interdisciplinary. Additionally, students are required to complete a second language course and at least one e-portfolio from the Arts (Drama, Music and, Visual Arts) and Design. With the MYP certificate as the goal, students also need to complete their Personal Project and meet ABA's requirement for community service. The MYP results are available in August 2019.

So far the feedback from students and teachers is that this was a useful exercise with many learning opportunities for the real session in May.

Megel Barker
MYP Coordinator / Assistant Principal



Message from the Extra Curricular Program

Come and support our teams over the MESAC weekends.

We wish all our teams a fulfilling and successful tournament as we know they have spent many hours preparing before and after school. The MESAC experience is challenging and rewarding and will provide our students with a unique opportunity to make lasting friendships. We are sure our teams will represent our school with pride.

Next week we welcome the MESAC JV Soccer players on 30th January and the MESAC Varsity Soccer players on 6th February. All the soccer matches will be played at the Sultan Qaboos Sport Complex. It should be a great weekend.

Live streaming over the MESAC weekends:

Tournament	Hosting school	Streaming
JV Basketball	DAA	http://daalive.wordpress.com/
JV Soccer	ABA	No streaming available - off school site
Senior Arts	AS Dubai	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5viUfrcpA3s
Tennis	ACS Abu Dhabi	No streaming available - off school site
Varsity Soccer	ABA	No streaming available - off school site
Cross Country	ACS Abu Dhabi	No streaming available - off school site
Varsity Basketball	AES Delhi	https://sites.google.com/aes.ac.in/varsityvolleyball2018/live-stream

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 29th January

MESAC Travel Meeting 5:30 - 6:00pm (Secondary Lecture Hall)

MESAC Hosting Meeting 6:00 - 6:30pm (High School Cafe)

Wednesday 13th February

MESAC Achievement Awards 6:00 - 7:30pm (MPH)

Games/events for next week are listed below.

27th January	MSSL Soccer Tournament U16 Boys @ TSS	3:30 - 7:00
28th January	MSSL Cross Country Meet @ behind Muscat Hills	4:00 - 5:15
28th January	U19 Boys Soccer vs TAISM @ TAISM	4:00 - 5:00
29th January	MSSL Soccer Tournament U14 Boys @ TSS	3:30 - 6:25
29th January	U19 Girls B'ball vs TAISM @TAISM	4:00 - 5:00
30th January	MSSL Soccer Tournament U14 Girls @ BSM	3:30 - 6:00

Muscat Football Academy

Registration for Muscat Football Academy for season three will open on 6th February. If you are interested in having your child participate in this great opportunity, you need to sign up, per season, directly with Sumaiya at the ABA main reception and pay 54 OMR – Numbers are limited. Once the maximum number of students are signed up, registration will close.

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The Muscat Football Academy 9 week season timings are below.

Season Three: 19th February - 30th April - Sign up 6th February.

Time: Tuesday 2:30pm - 3:15pm

Age range: K3 - Grade 5

Location: ABA field and MPH

All questions and enquiries about Muscat Football Academy need to be directed to:

chuck@muscatfootballacademy.com

*Paul Brace
Athletics Director*

Vipers Swim Team

Season 3 registration will begin soon. Current participants will be sent registration information directly. Students interested in participating are asked to contact ABA Aquatics Director, Charlie Semple, for details at csemple@abaoman.org

Season 3 dates: 10th February - 31st May

Season 3 Competition Schedule:

January 25: BSM Short Course Invitational	March 5: TAISM Relays
February 8 & 9: Middle East Unity Cup Swim Meet (Dubai)	March 8 & 9: Nautilus Meet
February 12: TAISM Dual meet at ABA (Under 13's only)	April 5: ABA 100's Invitational (tentative)
February 24 & 25: Vipers 400's (Internal)	May 3: Vipers Internal

*Charlie Semple
Aquatics Director*

Message from the Fine Arts Department

Last weekend, eighty students from TAISM, BSM, PDO and ABA participated in the second annual Weekend Band Festival hosted by ABA. The purpose of this event was to bring together a community of like-minded students and educators that share a love for music, and provide them with a focused amount of time to develop their performance skills.

Students worked together for a total of ten practise hours to play five different pieces. They played with local teachers and musicians who served as section leaders for each instrument. ABA invited special guest conductor Chris Ward from Chicago, where he is studying his Masters in Conducting at Northwestern University. Chris guided and supported our young musicians through the process of working as an ensemble. His approach to music education was inspiring to witness as he lead the young musicians through a challenging and collaborative process, while at the same time, nurturing a growth-mindset in each individual child.

The festival culminated in a thirty-minute concert where students had the opportunity to share the outcome of their learning process.

Thank you to the conductor, Chris Ward, for flying all the way to Muscat for this event. His passion and expertise were well received by all participants. Also, a very special thank you to the organiser of the festival, Mr. Anthony Langrish, without whom this festival would not be possible. His dedication to community building, and love for his subject makes us at ABA very proud.

*Natasha Meiliunas
Director of Fine Arts*



Message from the University Counselor

University Acceptances

The New Year brought some good news to a number of ABA students with regard to their university applications. A good many students now have firm offers from at least two or three of the universities they applied to last year. The UK universities make conditional points offers, based on school grades and IB predicted grades; students need to obtain these grades in their final IB exams in order to be finally accepted.

Those students who applied to US Colleges Early Decision or Early Action (Deadline for this is usually around 15th October), have now heard whether they were accepted, deferred or not accepted. We are delighted to report that Jessica Coutinho was accepted into Columbia College, and three other students hold offers that they are considering. The vast majority of universities release their final decision regarding applications in March. For more detailed information about what makes a winning US application please see next week's newsletter!

United States

Major	University	Applied with:
Languages	Columbia College, NY, USA (Early Decision)	SAT I and SAT IIs, School Transcript Common App Essay Individual University Questions Additional Courses Notable Achievements
Computer Science	Purdue (Early Action)	
English	University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign Case Western Reserve (EA)	
Sociology	Georgia Tech University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign (EA)	

United Kingdom

Subject	University	DP Points Required
Biochemistry	Manchester, Sheffield, Sussex, Warwick	35
Biological Sciences	Aberdeen Scotland	34
Classics	Newcastle	35
Civil and Environmental Engineering	Exeter, Surrey	35-36
Computer Science	Glasgow University	36
Environmental Science	Cardiff, Portsmouth and Swansea	32-34
International Law and Globalisation / International Relations	Edinburgh, Birmingham and Sussex Universities	32-34
Human Biology & Nutrition	Glasgow University	32
Journalism, Media and Culture	Cardiff, Leeds, Newcastle	34 - 36
Law	Birkbeck, City of London	29
Economics and Management	Bristol University	36
Economics with Finance	Bath, Edinburgh, Warwick University	36 - 38
Psychology	Glasgow, Surrey, Sussex, Kent	32 - 38
Physics with Astrophysics	Bath, Bristol, Manchester,	36 - 38
Sports Management and Development	Portsmouth University	Pass IB Courses

Netherlands

University	Subject	Applied with:
Vrije University Amsterdam	Artificial Intelligence	Official predicted grades Official school transcript Letter of motivation CV or Resume Some universities require an interview Some universities require an additional exam or 'placement test'. Typically students should be achieving around 30 – 34 points on the Diploma
Gronigen University	International Law International Business Administration	
Radboud University	Artificial Intelligence	
Erasmus University College	Liberal Arts & Science	
Maastricht University College	Liberal Arts & Sciences	
University of Amsterdam	Medicine	
University of Amsterdam	Communication Science	
Tilberg University	Business Administration	
Hanze University of Applied Sciences	Marketing Management	
University of Leiden Leiden University College	International Relations and Organizations Liberal Arts and Sciences	

Noteworthy Achievements this Application Season

A number of students found that an early application got them off to a flying start. First to apply to the UK was Zoltan Sojtory, who was offered a place at Glasgow University to study Computer Science; and first to apply to the Netherlands was Nikola Maksimovic who also received an immediate offer from Vrije University in Amsterdam. The quickest response so far goes to Waleed Bushara who gained an offer of 34 points from Surrey University to study Economics 8 hours after he sent his application. Surrey also made Pierina Annia Ugarte an unconditional offer to study Psychology if she will make them her first choice.

Creative Pathways

I am also delighted to report that a number of students will be leaving ABA to follow a creative pathway. Taqwa Al Futaisi has applied to the US to study Animation, and Omar Dabbous is headed to Florida to study film; Roche Rabie has been accepted into IE to study Architecture; Rahul Khimji is also going to study Architecture and is currently holding an offer from Kent University. Rhea Bhacka is taking a BA in Culinary Arts at the International Management Institute in Switzerland and Ishan Bhadra has been offered a place at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire to study Music (Although he will have a tough decision as he has also been offered places at Newcastle and Exeter Universities to study Classics). Lastly we are crossing our fingers for Frank Tirimacco who has just returned from two auditions in New York, one at Tisch NYU and one at AMDA, (The American Musical and Dramatic Academy). We wish Frank the very best of luck with his continuing career on the stage.

High Fliers

There was also great news for Charlotte and James Hahn, who were both accepted into FTE Jerez, a professional pilot school in Spain for their Airline First Officer program lasting 16 months. This course will take them direct from graduation and end with them as professional flight crew on Boeing 737 or Airbus A320 aircraft. Their IGCSE and predicted IB results got them both through to the selection round which lasted two days and finished in a celebratory acceptance for both. Good luck also to Armando Aizparua as he chooses between returning to his native Panama for Flight School, or continuing his international adventure in Kansas, US.

Important Dates Coming Up

The process of considering university options now begins in earnest for Grade 11 students. Each one will be invited to sign-up for a 1:1 discussion about university options, and the application process for each one. Parents are very welcome to attend.

Week Beginning 27th January Grade 11 Sign up for University Counseling Session

Thinking about Summer Courses for your High School children? Consider Kingdom Education who run university tours combined with Pre-IB and IB preparation:

Wednesday 6th February - 7.30 – 8.00am in the Parent's Lounge.

Grade 10 IB Diploma or IB Course choices: Sign up with Mr Essex or Mrs Keys to discuss Grade 11 Course options and also to start to think about Work Experience Options. A GoogleDoc will be shared with you to choose a convenient slot.

Weeks Beginning 10th February - 21st February Grade 10 Sign-up for IB Choices

Rachel Keys
University College Counselor

Message from the PTA

Since announcing via the newsletter that the Spring Fest/ICF (International Cultural Festival) would be canceled, we received a couple of emails and some personal feedback from a few parents about the decision and, in our continued efforts to include the parents in a finalization of this decision we have sent all parents a form to gauge the communities excitement and readiness for ICF.



Building our community together!

If you would like to organize a country for ICF, please fill out the form sent to your email. If you haven't received it, please contact your HRP. We need a minimum of 20 countries to make this happen on March 7th!

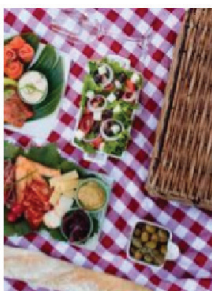
The deadline for filling out the form is 7th February. However, if 20 countries do not come forward we will confirm the cancellation of this event. (In previous years close to 30 countries have been represented.)

As a PTA, we look forward to seeing all the countries in our community represented.

Tuesday Talks & Travels 2018-2019

Wadi Hike & Picnic

29th January 2019



Cost: **FREE**

Maximum 25 Persons

Contact: PTACHAIR@abaoman.org



Building our community together!

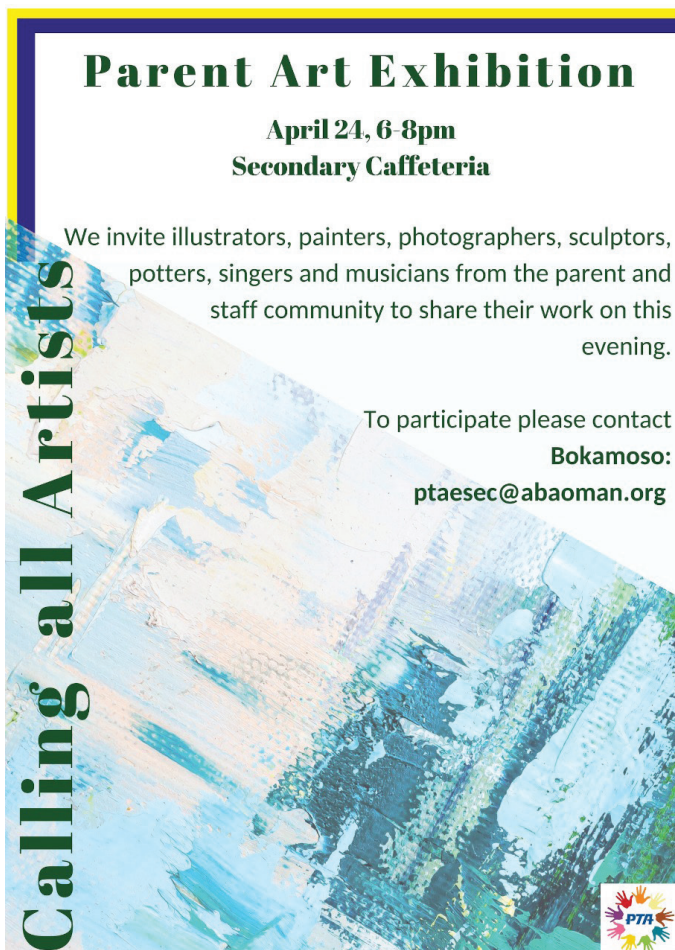
Tuesday Talks & Travels

Ghala Hot Springs Wadi Hike on 29th January 2019. Time: 7.30am to 1pm

Please send your name and phone number to the PTA chair on ptachair@abaoman.org to sign up for this trip and receive the latest details.

Flea Market

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




Calling all Artists

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



ABA FLEA MARKET & BAKE SALE

Friday, 22nd February
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

Parent Art Exhibit

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! Do mark your calendars for 24th April 2019.

Contact Bokamoso Kumwenda at PTAESec@abaoman.org for further details.

Your PTA

Message from the Booster Club

VIPERS ready to 'kick it' out of the park...

Our VIPERS MESAC Season 2 participants are ready to take on their international competitors in what should be a great season of sport. We wish our travelling VIPERS basketball, cross-country, tennis, and senior fine arts teams all the best for a great weekend of competition. Bring home the GOLD VIPERS!!!

The Booster Club will be on the ground here at home to inspire, support and encourage our MESAC JV Soccer all weekend 31st January – 2nd February. We are expecting over 180+ athletes, coaches and support staff, as well as spectators and supporters ready to take over the Sultan Qaboos Stadium. The atmosphere will be palpable. We are very excited to once again showcase our ABA hospitality and VIPERS pride to our international guests.

We are seeking your support to help to make this MESAC Season the best yet. More information will be emailed to you directly on how you can get involved. Keep your eyes out for the signup sheet for food donations and volunteers. We will do it all again the following weekend for the MESAC Varsity Soccer at Sultan Qaboos Stadium 07-09 Feb. DON'T MISS ALL THE ACTION!!!!





MESAC Achievement Awards

Wednesday 13 February 2019 @ 6.00pm

SEASON 2



OPEN TO PARTICIPANTS, PARENTS, & PEERS



come celebrate the dedication & achievements of the MESAC teams to be held in the ABA Multi-Purpose Hall (MPH)

... enjoy a delicious buffet catered by MANI'S CAFÉ

show your ticket on the night for a chance to win a lucky door prize sponsored by the VIPERS Booster Club

This event is proudly supported by the VIPERS Booster Club. Ticket price covers food & drinks only. Thanks for your continued support!



Tickets can be purchased ALL DAY @ reception 11 & 12 Feb and 7.00-7.30pm on 13 Feb 2019 ONLY



NO ticket sales on the night!



MESAC JV Soccer

Sultan Qaboos Stadium

31 Jan-02 Feb ALL WEEKEND

BBQ

Thurs 3.00-5.00pm

Fri-Sat 1.00pm - 5.00pm

BURGER = 1.500ea

HOT DOG= 1.500ea

VEG BURGER = 1.500ea

(Until sold out)



All proceeds from sale of BBQ items go to VIPERS Booster Club - supporting our kids!

MESAC Achievement Awards

Wednesday 13th February – grab your tickets for SEASON 2 Awards Night from reception ALL DAY 11-12 Feb and 07.00 - 7.30am 13th February. NO TICKET SALES ON THE NIGHT!!!!

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

Yours in community spirit
VIPERS Booster Club