

# AL NOOR-ABA NEWS

16th May 2019

## Message from the Superintendent

Volunteers play a significant role in the quality of experience for students at ABA. While the teachers and support staff are primarily responsible for the programme we offer and the associated services and support needed to keep the school running, volunteers play a major role in both academic and community support.

Throughout the school, parents volunteer to help in the classroom, on field trips or at events. The Parent Teacher Association, offer not only a community focal point for new and old families but also a social network through their activities that recognise and celebrate key celebrations and events for our diverse community. All their work has the aim of bringing people together.

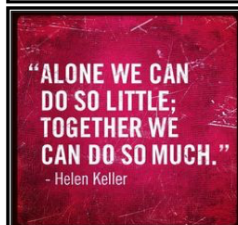
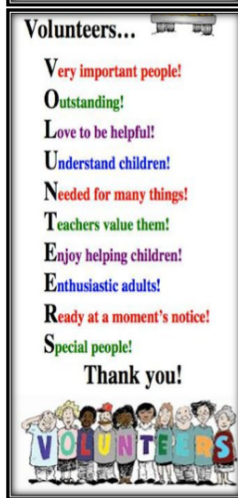
Our Booster Club has in the last few years established itself as a major contributor to school spirit. Through its hospitality at sports events, sales of spirit items, fund-raising events and donations it has truly helped boost the Vipers participation and success.

For all those and more who are not mentioned, the school would like to say "thank you".

Simon Taylor - Superintendent

### Upcoming Dates

21 May	Vipers Swim Team Awards PAC 2:45pm - 4:35pm
	Board Meeting Elementary Library 4.00 pm
27 May	PTA AGM Grade 6 Common Room 7. 40 am



*"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they are Worthless, but because they are PRICELESS" - Sherry Anderson*

In appreciation of the unconditional support you offered this year, the ABA staff would like to invite all parents to the:

**"Parents' Appreciation Tea"**

on

Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019

7:40am to 10:00am

Lecture Hall by The Secondary cafeteria

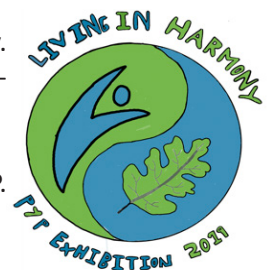
Student-Led Performances will begin at 8:15 am

# Message from the Elementary School



## PYP Exhibition - Living In Harmony

Last week the Grade 5 students presented the PYP Exhibition to the ABA School Community. The Exhibition is the culminating event of the PYP representing the student's efforts throughout their years in this program. Therefore, the students are given the opportunity to demonstrate their personal levels of achievement as they apply all of the Approaches to Learning and the IB Learner Profile to present their understandings of all elements of the PYP. The Exhibition involved individual research, creativity, information technology and collaboration, performance and action.



The students were busy throughout the week taking student's on tours and performing for students from Kindergarten1 to Grade 6. On Thursday they presented the Exhibition to their parents and the School Community, sharing their ideas about Living in Harmony. A big thank you to the Grade 5 teachers and all of the other PYP teachers who supported the students along the way. Congratulations to the Grade 5 students for all of your hard work, the School Community is proud of you and you can now think about joining MYP next year.

*Wayne Derrick - Assistant Principal / PYP Coordinator*

# Message from the Middle School



## History made!

The first cohort of MYP 5 students at ABA are now sitting their onscreen examinations. So far the examinations have been running smoothly with many students expressing satisfaction with their preparation. It is clear our teachers have done an immense job, immaculately preparing students for this new experience!

MYP onscreen tests are the terminal assessments for MYP 5 students. It is unique because they are entirely computer-based and they focus on assessing students' critical thinking and transfer skills. Importantly, onscreen tests measure what really matters. It helps us "make judgments about our students' development as global learners, their ability to transfer understanding to unfamiliar situations and their capacity to connect academic study with the world beyond their classrooms( IBO 2018)."

IB MYP onscreen results are accredited by OFQUAL (UK) allowing them to be used as external benchmarks on student learning in MYP 5. Additionally, students are developing unique skills allowing them to work with multi-media content, use a variety of media-rich resources, and solve complex, and authentic problems by thinking creatively. In the age of computers, technology is ubiquitous, it is only right that our students are experienced in computer-based assessments.

As we traverse this our first e-assessment session, please email your feedback if you have a child who has been involved in this examination cycle. As part of our ongoing interest in improving MYP provision at ABA, I will be convening a focus group consisting of parents to better understand what the experience is like for you.

A similar activity will be facilitated for students.

If you are interested in being part of the focus group, feel free to send an email to: [mbarker@abaoman.org](mailto:mbarker@abaoman.org), to arrange a suitable time for the meeting.

Good luck students!

*Megel Barker - Assistant Principal / MYP Coordinator*

# Message from the Extra Curricular Program

**'The banter at the end of the game was the winner'**

Last Saturday there was standing room only at the field (there were no seats) to watch the staff and parents play the decider in the footie series. The game was very evenly matched with the game locked up after the first 30 minutes at 2-2. The staff then set the tempo for the rest of the game with the motto 'if you are seen walking you are subbed off the field'. Two quick goals by the staff in the final 20 minutes helped secure the game with the staff victorious in the end 6-3. Some magic moments in the game from tickle toes and razzle dazzle down the sidelines from Tamer Melek to a parent that popped out his shoulder but like in the movie Lethal Weapon was able to put it back in with the help of the goal post and play on. Poetry and tough stuff!

*Paul Brace - Athletics Director*



# Message from the PTA

The PTA AGM is at 7.40 AM on 27th May 2019.

If you are interested in joining the PTA 2019- 2020, please join us on the day.

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



Building our community together!

**CANCELLED**

*Ramadan*  
**IFTAR**

Enjoy Iftar in a traditional (and air conditioned) tent and experience Omani Cuisine the Omani way!

- 23 May 2019
- 5:30pm - 8pm
- Grass Pitch
- Tickets:
  - KG - Grade 5: 5 OMR
  - Grade 6 - Adults : 7 OMR
- Tickets go on sale from May 12th -16th with Sumayya in Admin

Vegetarian and Non-Vegetarian options available

## Ramadan Iftar

In the past, the administration has held a free Volunteer Appreciation Dinner since Ramadan had fallen at the end of the school year. It has been a free Iftar for those who have dedicated their time and energy to the school.

This year, Ramadan is earlier and the idea of the Iftar was adopted by the PTA. In turn, the PTA contacted the Omani Community and received generous donations for the tent and a member of the Omani Community spent countless hours negotiating an unbelievable price for the absolutely scrumptious food from one of the best Omani restaurants in Muscat.

Unfortunately, the response has been disappointing and less than 5 families have come forward to buy tickets. Perhaps this Ramadan many families are busy with exams, others are committed to family Iftar and perhaps some prefer to stay home. Whatever the reason, due to the lack of interest, the PTA had to cancel this event for this year.

## Summertime Eid Market

20th, Middle School Common Room from 8am - 2pm.

This is the perfect chance for your kids to shop for your families for Eid as well as for all those summer holiday presents you take when visiting abroad. We have sourced wonderful gift items all priced at 1 & 2 Rials only. This will give the children a chance to purchase a wide array of amazing gifts for their loved ones. Beautiful gift bags will also be available at wholesale prices of 300bz for large bags and 200bz for small bags. You can also bring your own bag.

Make sure the kids have enough riyals for 20th May 2019 for this first ever Summertime Eid market at school!

We will need volunteers to sell the items. Please sign up here: [Volunteer Sign Up Form](#)

## Ramadan Food Drive

We are grateful to the Omani community for all their effort and donations. Looking at the calendar, Ramadan will be during the school year for the next 25 years. I hope with your feedback and participation, we can make this a special event for the entire community in the coming years.

The Ramadan food drive is back again from 12th until the 30th of May in admin. We look forward to your generous donations during this month. Donate non-perishable food items or food boxes that can also be purchased from hypermarkets throughout Muscat. All food will be delivered to either Dar Al Aata or Eshraquat Amal Charities here in Oman for immediate delivery to the registered families in need.



**20th May**  
*Eid*  
**MARKET**

GRADES 1 -6 CAN  
SHOP  
FOR FRIENDS AND  
FAMILY DURING SCHOOL  
HOURS

FIND GIFTS FOR

1 Rial OR 2 Rial

MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMON ROOM



رمضان  
**Ramadan**  
**Food Drive**

Donate nonperishable food items  
or the 9 riyal food boxes available at  
hypermarkets.  
Drop off your donations in Admin  
May 12 to 30th

## PTA Structure

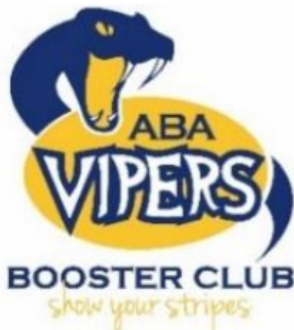
Last year the community decided to change the PTA structure, however, after a year of using the new structure, the PTA found that some positions were redundant and others unnecessary. At the open meeting the community discussed a PTA proposed trial structure. The main suggestion being the return of the position of Middle School Rep. The new trial structure would be as follows:

Chair  
Secretary  
Communications Liaison  
Treasurer  
Logistics Coordinator  
Elementary Rep  
Middle School Rep  
Secondary Rep  
2 Teacher Reps (Elementary & Secondary)  
New Parent Liaison

This would be the basis of the PTA, however, each of the 13 possible events should also have a lead that may or may not be part of the executive. If the event does not have a lead, the event will not be part of the schedule the coming year. Please watch your emails for full details on this trial structure, the events, how much work they entail and what you can do to help support the PTA. A final vote on this structure will happen at the PTA AGM on 27th May @ 7.40am, as well as the usual final report of all PTA activities and the nomination and voting for all PTA positions. Hope to see you all there to build our community together!

*Your PTA - Building our community together!*

# Message from the Booster Club



## Boosting our kids and community...one smile at a time.

Each week we highlight and celebrate the achievements of our kids, the medals, the certificates, the improvement in times, personal bests, academic achievements, sporting accolades, leadership, team work, dedication, and commitment to their chosen quest. We applaud loudly when they receive a trophy at the awards ceremony and cheer when they are handed their certificate on presentation day. And we smile broadly when they attain personal success that is not publicly recognized but quietly achieved.

We acknowledge and applaud our kids' achievements...because as parents that's what we do! But as a community... we do it so much better!!!

The Booster Club was created to inspire, encourage, and support our kids, but also to inspire school spirit, encourage parent support and increase community involvement. Our aims and objectives have been exceeded this year and we would like to thank the ABA community for your continued involvement and support in helping raise the profile of the VIPERS programs. A very special thank you must go to the VIPERS Booster Club Committee who have worked tirelessly all year to make this year our best one yet.

### 2018/19 Booster Club Committee include...

**Ghida Moussa** was a great addition to the team for the first half of the year.

**Gundi Thum** (our first Alumni Mum and 'Hoodie Queen') has been instrumental in coordinating, ordering, and delivering the VIPERS hoodies to our community. Her role with the club has been invaluable.

**Jinane Helou** ('Miss Congeniality') divides her time and energy between her many roles within the community, always with warmth, strength, and a great sense of humour.

**Kami Lamki** ('Little Miss Happy') brings an abundance of energy, person flair and joviality which is extremely contagious.

**Kathja Keunig** ('Concession Queen') has unwittingly assumed the role as the 'queen' of all areas of concession management with eagerness, passion, and a warm smile.

**Kim Sutton** ('Aussie Sheila') was initiated mid-year bringing with her loads of energy, warmth, and zest.

**Malinka Van Der Gaauw** ('Accounts Queen') works quietly and very efficiently behind the scenes keeping our numbers in check.

**Mele Biggs** ('BBQ Queen') can be found cooking up a storm or manning the merchandise stand, always with a warm smile, abundant joy, and a large pair of tongs.

**Michelle Bourne** ('Awards Queen') has been instrumental in coordinating the MESAC achievements awards with loads of energy, attention to detail, and endless good humour.

**Reem Amin** ('Burger Queen') can create the perfect burger to go with your ice cream, always with a broad smile, sincerity, and warm sense of humour.

**Vanessa McCarron** ('Admin Queen'). Vanessa is, for the most part, behind the scenes coordinating all things admin and communication related, liaising with the school, or allocating jobs to unwitting committee members.

The Booster Club committee are so much more than their 'fun' titles. They are the essence of the ABA community. A group of volunteer parents dedicated to inspiring, encouraging, and supporting the kids and the community, quietly and selflessly giving their time and energy. The Booster Club would not have achieved all that has been achieved without their continued commitment and belief in the Booster Club values. Thank you!

If you would like to know how you can be part of the committee and be more involved in the Booster Club for 2019/20, simply drop us a line at [boosterclub@abaoman.org](mailto:boosterclub@abaoman.org).

Our End of Season SALE POP-UP shop (and last for the year) will be on Monday 27 May from 07.00-7.45am outside the ECE. More details on sale items in the next newsletter.

Ramadan Kareem to all our VIPERS families celebrating this special time of year.

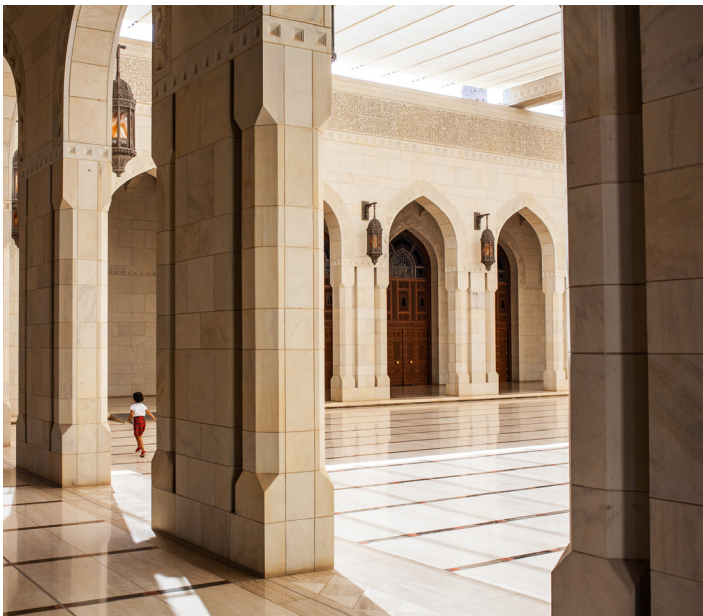


*Yours in community spirit – VIPERS Booster Club*

# Message from the Community

## Fiji Age Group National Swimming Competition

Our Grade 3 student, Anahira McCutcheon participated in the Fiji Age Group National Swimming Competition last weekend, swimming 12 events over three days. Anahira won 6 Gold, 3 Silver and 3 Bronze medals for her effort. She just missed the Fiji National record for the 50 meter Butterfly by 0.5 seconds. Well done, Anahira.



## Grade 5 Elementary Teacher, Ian White, Wins Photo Contest

This week the winners for the 20th Annual Bait Al Zubair Photography Contest were announced. The contest focuses on Omani architecture and challenges photographers to submit work that they feel best showcases Oman's unique, and often incredibly artistic, structures. There were three winners in total with Mr. White taking second place overall. Congratulations, Mr. White!

An article discussing the contest this year can be found here: [Oman Daily Observer](#)