

AL NOOR-ABA NEWS

9th May 2019

Message from the Election Committee

THANK YOU to all candidates and all voters for your participation and support in making this year's ABA Board election another success. For the newly elected Board Directors for the school year 2019-2021, we would like to congratulate:

Clauss Niazi
Jinane Helou
Lamya Al Kiyumi
Mallikarjuna
Neelmani Bhardwaj
Rian De Bruin

Election Committee 2019

Upcoming Dates

13 May	PTA Open Meeting PTA Room 7.40 am
21 May	Board Meeting Elementary Library 5.00 pm
27 May	PTA AGM Grade 6 Common Room 7.40 am

Message from the Superintendent

I have always said that "recruitment is the most important work I do". Without great teachers you will not have a great school. Therefore, my highest priority has always been to build a team of professionals and then to support their professional development.

I do not work alone on this. Though I am ultimately responsible for all those who work at ABA, I discuss the needs of the school with my leadership team and work closely with them. I seek new teachers through international agencies supporting international schools and via our website. The task of screening and interviewing candidates is shared with the principals and usually with heads of department too.

From all potential candidates interested in working in Oman, most are now interviewed over distance. I also attend international recruitment fairs in different parts of the world to meet candidates specially convened for the fair. This allows face to face interviews which are still preferred.

Each year, we have teachers and staff who leave. On average this is just under 20%. Though typical for the region, I would prefer fewer. In Europe it is about 5-15%. The reasons for leaving vary and include career moves, such as promotion; family matters such as joining a spouse or looking after relatives; lifestyle choice, where there is a wish to experience another country; and retirement. In a few cases, the school encourages change and in a few others, the school or the country has not suited the faculty member. It should be remembered that most international school teachers leave their own countries in order to "see the world", not specifically to settle in Oman. Therefore turnover is to be expected.

The following faculty members will not be with us at ABA in the next academic year. From the Elementary School we have Angela Langlands, Shannon Eves, Alexis Williams, Tom Chambers, Anna Kooyman, Helen Bartlett and Kamila Al Marhubi leaving. From Middle School, Glenda Semple, Liz Lee, Sally Burns and Rula Haddad will be moving, while from the High School, Richard Keys, Rachel Keys, Jodie Chambers, Charlie Semple, Natasha Meiliunas, Rob Langlands, Leo Tran, Dave Mulholland, Sally Ann Ganley and Anuja Ahuja will be saying goodbye to Oman.

On behalf of all parents, students and colleagues, I would like to take this opportunity to thank these faculty members for their unique contributions to the school. In line with our Mission, Vision and Values, each have enriched the intercultural learning environment at ABA and helped our students fulfill their potential. I wish them all success and happiness for the future.

To fill their positions, the SLT and I have been busily recruiting. I am delighted and very excited to welcome the following to ABA:

To the Elementary school, we have Vicky Beech, (UK) Bronwyn Matamu (NZ), Alby Matamu (NZ), Sophie Gamage (AUS), Amy Ivany (CAN), Viveca Smith (US) and Catherine O'Connor (IRL). In the Middle School, Viv Owens (UK), Jeff Cole (US) and Bryan Schwer (US) will be joining us and in the High School, Andrea Zarate Pardo (COL), Joe Kerrigan (NZ), John Pugh (UK), Dana Schwarzkopf (US), Nikhil Narayanan (IND), William Fullerton (JAM), Micheal Poirier (CAN), Aida Nausia Bonet (ES), James Lawless (IRL) and Samantha Cole (US) will complete our team.

I am only sorry that I will not be here to work with this new team. However, I am sure that my successor, Sue Groesbeck, will find a strong, energetic and talented group to complement the quality staff who will be returning for the new year.

Simon Taylor - Superintendent

Message from the Middle School



Karate Events

Congratulations to our MYP 3 (Grade 8) student Alia Khan who recently claimed double gold in different karate events. Over the past year she has competed in several competitions, going from bronze to gold (and remaining unbeaten during the whole competition).

Kathleen Bowin - Middle School Principal

Student Transition Preparation

At this time of year, we begin to prepare students for the transition to the next step of their learning. As part of this transition, former teaching sets are disbanded and new classes are created for the start of the new school year. MYP 1 and MYP 2 students have the opportunity to complete a 'buddy form' and suggest 5 students with whom they work well and have a good relationship to be in class with. Teachers will use this information to organise teaching/advisory groups and endeavor to place students with one of the students on their list.

The deadline for submission of this form is 2.30 pm on Monday 13th May and, to make it fair to all students, the deadline will be strictly adhered to. Your child has received an email outlining the steps to take to collect the

buddy slip from the secondary office and they are responsible for returning it there and signing their name on the year group envelope. A parental signature is also required to allow conversation and communication with your middle school child and the choices they are making moving forward.

Claire Anthony - Middle School Counselor

U14 Boys and Girls Basketball tournament

What a great way to finish the competitive season with the Grade 8 boys and girls winning the end of season basketball tournament. ABA was lucky enough to register two teams for the boys tournament at TAISM. Unfortunately both the ABA teams met each other in the semi finals meaning only one of the teams could play in the final. Both teams dominated the tournament with the ABA Gold team winning the final convincingly 12 - 2. The ABA Blue team came third.



The girls final was a thriller at ABA. The atmosphere in the gym was electric. The ABA girls were down 6 - 13 to their main rivals BSM with only five minutes left on the clock. The girls remained composed and crawled their way back with some sharp shooting scoring in the final ten seconds of the match to win the game 14 - 13.

MESAC Preseason training

Last week in the newsletter, MESAC preseason volleyball was highlighted. Currently, along with the swim team and Protennis, basketball and football is also on offer.



Basketball training is on Friday and Saturday from 4:00 - 6:00pm (MPH)

JV football is on Thursday 5:00 - 6:00pm (ABA Field)

Staff vs Parents Footie, Saturday 11th May @ 5:00pm

This game is bigger than the Joe Fraizer vs Muhammad Ali fight in the heavyweight title in boxing or the friendly rivalry between Chris Evert and Martina Navatilova in women's tennis and Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus in golf. On Saturday afternoon at ABA a studded field of fine players, staff vs parents, will do battle to determine the footie champions for 2018/2019. The series is locked up at 1-1 so the game will no doubt be a cracker - beautiful passing, strategic movement of players, sensational footwork, pulled hamstrings, a lot of huffing and puffing, the old miss kick but the passion and determination to win will be irreplaceable. I am sure the banter at the end of the game will be the winner.



Paul Brace - Athletics Director

Elementary After School Activities - cancellations

Over the next few weeks the High School Exams will be held in a number of our large indoor spaces. As a result there are some adjustments/cancellations to our Elementary After School Activities programme. Please note the following changes:

Judo has been cancelled for the rest of the year with their final grading being on 27th May in the gym.

Futsal is cancelled on Sunday 12th May.

Gymnastics, both G1-2 and G3-5 groups will be held in the MPH on Sunday 12th May and will be cancelled on Sunday 19th May.

Mini-volleyball will move to half of the MPH on Wednesday 15th and 22nd May. They will share this teaching space with Unihoc.

Raewyn Jack - Elementary After School Activities Coordinator

Message from the Fine Arts



Dear ABA Community,

The Fine Arts department is excited to announce the Addam's family as next year's High School Musical. Performance dates will be on 29th and 30th October, 2019.

Auditions will take place on 29th May, 2019. All current grade 8-11 students are welcome to audition. No experience required.

If your child is interested in auditioning, please tell them to sign their name on the document located outside of the Black Box Theatre door. They will then be added to a google classroom whereby all of the audition information and material will be shared.

If you are a parent that is interested in helping out with costumes, set, hair and/or makeup, please contact Ms. Meiliunas at nmeiliunas@abaoman.org.

The Fine Arts Department

Message from the PTA

The PTA open meeting at 7.40 AM on 13 May 2019.
If you are interested in joining the PTA 2019 - 2020, please join us this Monday.

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



PTA Structure

After a year with the new PTA structure, we have discovered what works and what doesn't. This open meeting we ask the community to join us as we discuss a temporary structure change that we would like to test next year. Voting to accept this change will happen at the PTA AGM. However, your input is essential.

Flea Market

The flea market was a huge success and would not have been a success without efforts from Evelyn and Meeta from the PTA. Thank you for all the hard work. Unfortunately, this will be Evelyn's last flea market and we are truly sad to see her leave but wish her all the best.

Ramadan Food Drive

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 Atta or Eshraquat Amal Charities here in Oman for immediate delivery to registered families in need.

Summertime Eid Market

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 and 2 Ri-als 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.

Save the date for 20th May 2019 for this first ever Summertime Eid market at school!

We will need volunteers to sell the items. Please keep your eyes open for a roster sent by your HRP.

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

Omani Culinary Experience- Iftar



**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



**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

Thursday 23rd May from 5.30pm to 8pm. Bring your friends and family and come join us in an abaya, dishdasha, jalabiya, comfy pants, in an air conditioned tent, on the floor and with clean hands. This is your chance to experience Omani cuisine the Omani way! Tickets will be sold at Sumaiya's desk in Admin starting 9th - 16th May. No tickets at the door.

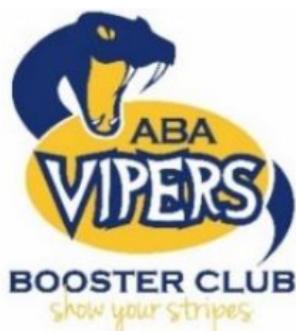
Ticket prices:

KG - G5: 5 omr.

Middle School - Adults: 7 omr

Your PTA - Building our community together!

Message from the Booster Club



Achievements and Accolades

As we wind down a busy 2018/19, preparations for 2019/20 are well underway! We are finalizing the Booster Club calendar of events, reviewing and sourcing exciting VIPERS merchandise, finalizing our pledges for next year, and making preparations to welcome new VIPERS families to ABA.

It has been a busy year for the Booster Club, one filled with many achievements and milestones. Some of which included the biggest turnout for the MESAC achievement awards in season 2 with over 260 attending participants, parents, and peers. We introduced new merchandise including parent support shirts, student training shirts, custom slides, branded water bottles and custom noise makers. We held 3 MESAC weekends, including two at the Sultan Qaboos Stadium. The logistics alone are no small feat. Not to mention the pledges!

We handed out over 220 custom VIPERS kit bags to all MESAC participants, 250 custom VIPERS training shirts to MSSL students and over 180 custom VIPERS water bottles to the MPSL programs. We love seeing our kids displaying their VIPERS pride.

This has all been possible with the support of our amazing ABA community. Thank you for continuing to inspire, encourage and support our kids and the VIPERS programs.

Thank you again to the Booster Club committee for their continued time, dedication and commitment to supporting our kids and our community! If you would like to know how you can be more involved in the Booster Club for 2019/20, simply drop us a line at:
boosterclub@abaoman.org.

Our End of Season SALE POP-UP shop (and last for the year) will be in late May. More details to follow closer to the date. Keep your eye out for dates in the ABA newsletter. Ramadan Mubarak to all our VIPERS families celebrating this special time of year.

Yours in community spirit –
VIPERS Booster Club

VIPERS Booster Club - 2018/19 Achievements

Booster Club Events 2018/19

- AUGUST 2018 - **NEW YEAR POP-UP SHOP** (start of new school year)
- SEPTEMBER 2018 - **FUNDRAISER – ICE FRENZY**
- OCTOBER 2018 - **FUNDRAISER - 'Spike Strike Score'**
- OCTOBER 2018 - **MESAC JV Volleyball** - BBQ & Concession
- OCTOBER 2018 – **MESAC SEASON 1 AWARDS** - 220+ guests
- NOVEMBER 2018 – **FUNDRAISER – ICE FRENZY + SPORTS GEAR SALE**
- JANUARY 2019 - **FUNDRAISER - 'Half Shot Hot Shot'**
- JAN/FEBRUARY 2019 - **MESAC JV SOCCER** - Sultan Qaboos Stadium
- FEBRUARY 2019 - **MESAC VARSITY SOCCER** - Sultan Qaboos Stadium
- FEBRUARY 2019 – **MESAC SEASON 2 AWARDS** - 250+ guests
- MARCH 2019 - **PTA ICF**
- MARCH 2019 - **FUNDRAISER - 'ICE ICE CRAZY'**
- APRIL 2019 – **FUNDRAISER – ICE FRENZY**
- APRIL 2018 - **COACHES APPRECIATION LUNCH**

ADDITIONAL:

- 10 x Pop-Up Shops** - over 250+ hoodies
- + 9 x Merchandise days at MESAC**



New VIPERS Merchandise

Booster Club Pledges 2018/19

MESAC Program

Specification

- 400D heavy duty fabric.
- Rubber base protectors.
- Internal wet kit compartment.
- Large side pocket.
- Double zippered end pockets.
- Adjustable shoulder straps.
- Double zips.
- Full access main section.
- External name card for easy identification.

MSSL Program

MPSL Program

DELIVERED: 300 x custom designed kit bags

DELIVERED: 250 x custom designed training shirts

DELIVERED: 180 x custom designed water bottles

VIPERS Booster Club - supporting our kids!

boosterclub@abaoman.org

Message from the Community

A number of families are seeking one-to-one learning assistants to support their children at school next year. If you are interested in supporting a student in this way, please send a message to +968 99019163.