

# AL NOOR-ABA NEWS

23rd May 2019

## Message from the Superintendent

It is my pleasure to announce that our new Board is up and running. The last Board Meeting of the year is traditionally in two parts: the first being the last of the “old” Board and the last being the first of the new “Board”. I hope you are keeping up.....This year’s transition meeting was held on Wednesday 21st May.

After my summary of the year, a number of policies that had been withdrawn at the March Board Meeting for further review were passed by the “old” Board. There then followed a presentation to Mukhtar Hasan and Rahul Arora for their services to the school. I want to take this opportunity to recognize their contributions over many years. Though more recently appointees of the British Embassy, they have also served on the Board as parents of students in the school. Throughout their time they have given an uncountable number of hours to the school to help in its development. Recognition of their contributions is well-deserved.

The Election Committee gave a report on the elections, highlighting that they had lead to a large increase in voting. It was then time to welcome the new Board: Lamya al Kiyumi, Jinane Helou, Neelmani Bhardwaj, Clauss Niazi, Riaan de Bruin and Mallikarjuna Korisepati and to vote for their offices. These were as follows.

Chair: Lamya Al Kiyumi  
Vice Chair: Jinane Helou  
Treasurer: Neelmani Bhardwaj  
Secretary: Clauss Niazi

Exciting times lie ahead. As I prepare to leave ABA after four years, I can say that the school is in good shape. It has a competent, hard working Board, an amazing group of teachers and staff and a supportive community. While the last two years have been challenging in some respects, we have moved on and now look forward to a bright future. The education we offer our students, our main reason for being, continues to be of a high standard. As a reminder, two highlights were the best IB Diploma results for twelve years and the best year ever in sports, with an increase in participation, great success in the MS and a record haul of MESAC medals. The move to the campus for MS and HS students will only offer more opportunities for students in all sections of the school. With that more success will follow. There is good reason for optimism.

I wish the new Board all success in fulfilling our dreams.

*Simon Taylor - Superintendent*

### Upcoming Dates

26 May	PTA Tues Talk and Travel PTA Room 7:40 am - 9:00
27 May	PTA AGM Grade 6 Common Room 7. 40 am
28 May	Elementary School Pyjama Day
31 May	Grade 12 Graduation Ceremony 3 - 4 pm
01 - 13 June	Tanzania Trip -(Grade 7)



# Message from the Counseling Department

## Change in Routines

Summer vacation brings about change in routines and the possibility of new and exciting experiences through travel and family reunions. As we look forward to the new school year, classes and teachers will alter and new friendships will be formed. For some families, summer also means the inevitable 'goodbyes' that are part and parcel of expatriate life. Over the coming weeks, all students who are leaving ABA will meet with their counselor to help prepare them for their move. For most children/adolescents this is not their first transition; however, it is important to remember that no matter how many times an individual has moved, each move brings about a great deal of change. For our seniors, the move may also incorporate moving to a different country, leaving home and starting university in a new destination.

It is important to remember the children who remain here need the chance to say farewell and affirm the experience that they had together. In-school activities such as class parties, memory books, signed mementoes help both leavers and stayers to celebrate the time they had together. At home you can plan a special activity or experience to mark the transition.

The most important factor in any move is your family unit. The family is the constant in the transition process and below are some ideas to help guide you through. (Adapted from <http://www.iched.org>)

1) **Talk about the upcoming move as a family.** Allow each person the freedom to ask questions and to express their feelings. Younger children often reflect the attitudes of their parents so it is important to remember that you set the tone for your family. Adolescents may enter a 'silent' stage where they will not discuss the move. Good communication is always important and may need to be even more intentionally encouraged during times of transition.

2) Whether you are going to another country or returning home, **investigate where you are going and consider how your life will change once you get there.** Talk to those who have lived/are living there, research the country or culture. Make plans regarding how to integrate into the new community, make friends or learn the language. Remember that returning to your passport country may feel like going to a foreign country to your children.

3) **Look for the best ways to keep in contact with the significant people you leave behind.** Today's technology has made communication easier, faster, and more reliable than ever. Establish what methods of communication work best before you go so that there is time to create new accounts, exchange mail addresses or numbers.

4) Try to **maintain the basic elements of your family's regular routine** (e.g., mealtime, playtime, celebrations, bedtime rituals, chores, discipline, etc.). This helps provide some stability in times of change.

5) **Plan to take some familiar things with you and allow your kids to do the same.** Pictures and knick knacks can help make your new house a home. A stuffed animal or favorite toy can help your kids adjust to their new surroundings.

6) Give each person opportunity and time to **say appropriate goodbyes to the people, places, and things that are significant** to them. Be prepared for feelings of loss and grief associated with these farewells. Also include reconciliation of hurts or restoration of broken relationships if necessary; it is important not to leave any such "unfinished business" behind.

7) **Plan for the educational future of your children.** Investigate the school options available and the entry requirements at the school you are planning to use.

8) **Students moving on to university.** The majority of our seniors will be moving onto university in a different country in September. It is an exciting phase and as parents we want to make sure they have all the skills and qualities they need to make that transition to life away from home. Spend time helping prepare them for independent living, research their university location, discuss finances and any fears or concerns they may have about moving on. Discuss with your family the impact of this change in family dynamics.

Please get in contact if you have any questions.  
[codriscoll@abaoman.org](mailto:codriscoll@abaoman.org) (Elementary Counselor);  
[canthony@abaoman.org](mailto:canthony@abaoman.org) (Grades 6-8 Counselor);  
[ahostetter@abaoman.org](mailto:ahostetter@abaoman.org) (Grades 9-12 Counselor)

For further information please check out the following resources.

Transitions

<http://www.slurpingsoup.com/>

<https://www.figt.org/>

### Third Culture Kids/Cross Cultural Kids

<http://www.tckworld.com/>

<http://tckid.com/what-is-a-tck.html>

<https://globallygrounded.com/third-culture-kids/>

*Counseling Department*

### Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT)

ABA will again be offering the PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test) examination to grade 9, 10 and 11 students this coming school year on 16th October, 2019. Mrs. Anthony and I recently had an opportunity to meet with grade 8 students (new to PSAT) to share information about the test, who may benefit from taking it and the sign-up process. Grade 9 and 10 students have been given reminder information in Advisory and by email. **The PSAT is not a requirement for any student, however, a beneficial opportunity for any student who is planning to take the SAT in the future and is applying or thinking about applying to the United States for university/or a US university that is based abroad.**

This [Link provides information on the content](#) of the PSAT examination and will provide information to you and your child.

Additionally, this [LINK](#) will provide practice tests and sample questions.

#### Next Steps:

Similar to years before, students will register their intent to sit the PSAT exam before the end of this school year. Students who are currently in grade 8, 9 and 10 have received a google sign-up form today (23rd May, 2018). This form will close on 10th June. Please discuss this with your child and encourage them to complete it before the deadline. It is important that all students who plan to sit the PSAT in October sign-up no later than 10th June, as I will need to make the final order of the exam materials by this date. Payment for the exam (approximately 10 Rials) will be collected in September 2019.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding the PSAT and the sign-up process at:  
[ahostetter@abaoman.org](mailto:ahostetter@abaoman.org).

*Alli Hostetter, High School Counselor*

# 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.



### Summertime Eid Market

The summertime Eid market was a wonderful success. The children from grade 1 to grade 8 visited and purchased gifts for their family. We offered amazing bargains! A big shout out to the parent community who volunteered to be around throughout the morning. Nandita, Paula and Lama, this event wouldn't have been possible without you! Thank You for taking the time to source these wonderful gifts.

*Building our community together!*



### Ramadan Food Drive

The Ramadan food drive is in action from now until 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'a or Eshraquat Amal Charities here in Oman for immediate delivery to registered families in need.



# 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 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. As we previously mentioned in the newsletter and the last PTA open meeting, the final vote on the trial structure for the upcoming year will take place at the PTA AGM on Monday morning at 7.40am, 27th May. There will be no immediate change to the PTA Articles of Association. Any changes will become part 2 of this process if the new structure is deemed viable.

The new PTA structure would include only the following PTA executive positions:

Chair (can be co-chaired due to greater time commitment)

Communications Liaison

Treasurer

Logistics Coordinator

Secretary

High School Rep

Middle School Rep

ECE/Elementary Rep

New Parent Liaison

Two Teacher Reps (ECE/Elementary & Secondary)

Should any of the people that come forward and are chosen for these positions have to resign during the 2019/2020 school year, their work would be spread over the other members of the executive. Additionally, this trial structure would now be supported by EVENT LEADS. The event leads could be from the PTA executive or from the PTA members (all other parents).

If a lead does not come forward at or before the AGM, the event will not be part of the 2019/2020 school calendar and the event will not take place. Below is a list of events by month and tentative date as well as the people that have come forward as leads:

August 26th is first day of school.

Sept

Oct Spooktacular Oct 31st Clauss & Melanie

Nov Flea Market Nov 8th Meeta

Omani National Day Nov 20th Lama

Dec Santa's Workshop Dec 2nd Paula & Nandita

Winter Festival Dec \_\_\_\_\_

Jan Parent Art Exhibit Jan 17th Bokamoso

Feb

Mar Int'l Cultural Festival Mar \_\_\_\_\_

Flea Market Mar 6th Meeta

Apr Ramadan Food Drive Apr 23-May 23 Lama

May Eid Market Nisreen Doughan

May 11

PTA AGM May \_\_\_\_\_ PTA

Jun Teacher Appreciation Jun PTA

June 18th 2020 Last day of school

Tuesday Talks & Travels - program runs once a month throughout the year. The CPR courses, the trip to the Majlis AlShura and the hikes were considered some of the highlights of the TTT.

Winter Fest - The event has taken two forms. A Christmas only event with the winter market or a festival of the major religious holidays represented at the school.

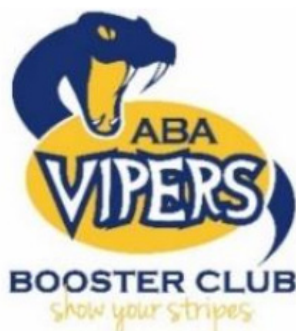
(December is also time for Diwali and the Eid Al Adha would have been during the summer, there are a few other religions that can be represented at this event as well.)

International Cultural Festival - Food and fashions of the world are shared. People from all cultures are represented. The key here is the focus on cultures of the world and not on the flags people wave or borders that separate us.

If you are interested in joining the PTA or being a lead for one of the many possible events but still have some questions, please email the PTA Chair at [PTAChair@abaoman.org](mailto:PTAChair@abaoman.org)

Your PTA - Building our community together!

# Message from the Booster Club



## End of Season...

With the end of the academic year fast approaching the Booster Club offer one final Pop-Up Shop for the year. Come visit your friendly Booster Club team on Monday 27th May from 07.00 - 07.45 am outside the ECE for your last opportunity to grab VIPERS merchandise before the summer break.

Lots of great merchandise on SALE including custom VIPERS slides, pencil cases, cooling towels, highlighters, wrist bands, and caps. Great gift ideas for your favourite teacher, coach, or faculty member. Great memorabilia as a reminder of your time with the VIPERS.

Next hoodie orders will be available from first week back to school in August 2019.

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).

## Booster Club Pop-Up Shop

# END OF SEASON SALE

Last Pop-Up Shop for 2018/19

## Monday 27 MAY 2019

### 07.00-7.45am

come see our friendly team outside the ECE Building

### NEXT HOODIE ORDERS - AUGUST 2019

## VIPERS Merchandise SALE

AVAILABLE NOW... ONLY from VIPERS Booster Club!

<p>Student Training no.8</p>	<p>Pencil Cases no.2</p>	<p>no.2</p>	<p>no.5</p>
<p>Parent Support no.10</p>	<p>no.500</p>	<p>BAM BAM Sticks no.1</p>	<p>Custom Slides</p>
<p>Sports Bags no.15</p>	<p>NAME Cooling Towels no.2</p>	<p>Wristbands no.500</p>	<p>String Bags no.5</p>
<p>Spray Water Bottle no.7</p>			<b>END OF SEASON SALE</b>
<p>no.1</p>			

Limited Stock on ALL SALE ITEMS

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

Yours in community spirit – *VIPERS Booster Club*