

AL NOOR-ABA NEWS

13th June 2019

Message from the Superintendent

Reflections on ABA

It has been an honour to serve as Superintendent of ABA.

During my tenure I have met and worked with many wonderful people who truly care about the school and for what it stands. The school's diverse community, with its different cultural and individual perspectives, know that the school offers something special. Indeed, it is unique in Oman. So, what is it that makes it so?

We continue to be the original and only 3 programme IB School in the region with a real global perspective and a culture that promotes inter-cultural awareness and understanding. We have a strong reputation internationally through our accreditation with the Council of International Schools (CIS) and Middle States Association (MSA).

As a not for profit organization, we put students first. This is best seen in our warm and caring environment and the commitment of professional faculty and staff. Our students are accomplished with outstanding results each year. You can read about our graduating class this year later in this newsletter. Our holistic approach to learning and teaching helps students become young adults with a strong sense of self, community and purpose in a world where their leadership is needed. This same approach extends beyond the classroom to our extra-curricular programme which supports these goals by giving students further opportunities to challenge themselves and find success in different fields as individuals and within teams.

This year was an amazing year in both athletics, academics and the arts with students reaching levels never seen before at ABA. As a small school we continue to punch above our weight against much bigger schools in MESAC. In Muscat, our teams generally outshine others.

In different ways, we try to make the educational experience personal by opening worlds for our students and encouraging them to imagine possibilities.

The first paragraph of the IB Missions states "The International Baccalaureate® aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect." I think ABA does this admirably through our programmes but our success in meeting such a goal goes beyond the IB. There is an ABA way, based on sound values, that permeates all we do. The school rests on these and has shown itself to be resolute when needed.

This strong sense of community is very much part of the school and with that the education process and is enhanced by the outstanding work of the PTA and the Booster Club, both of whom were recognized this week at a thank you breakfast. Their ongoing efforts to enrich the community spirit are critical to the success of the school.

I leave feeling that the school is in good shape, having developed in a number of areas and withstood important tests. It is in a wonderful position to become even greater in the coming years. I trust that Dr Sue Groesbeck, faculty staff and community will work together to preserve all those elements that make this school special.

I will very much miss my colleagues, parents and, of course, the students who have kept me young and optimistic about the future. I wish ABA all success and thank you all for the incredible opportunity I have had at ABA. My wife and I will carry warm memories of the school and of this generous and friendly country with us wherever we go. Thank you.

I hope to return to see a thriving international school on two campuses very soon.

Upcoming Dates

16 Jun	MYP 1 (Grade 6) "Welcome to Middle School" Parent Information Session PAC 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm
17 Jun	Grades 1-5 Talent Show PAC 12:15 pm - 2:15 pm Elementary School Reports
18 Jun	Grades 6 - 8 Reports
18-19 Jun	Middle School Creates 8:25 am - 2:30 pm
19 Jun	Middle School Creates Celebrations 12:55 pm - 2:15 pm
20 June	Last Day of School Early Dismissal 11:00 am

Simon Taylor - Superintendent

Parents Appreciation Tea

In appreciation of the unconditional support our parent community offered this year, ABA staff invited all parents to a parents' Appreciation Tea on Wednesday morning, which included student performances.

Thank you to the parents who were able to attend.

Thank you to our Elementary students for their outstanding performances and to Ms. Batool and Ms. Erum for coordinating the event.

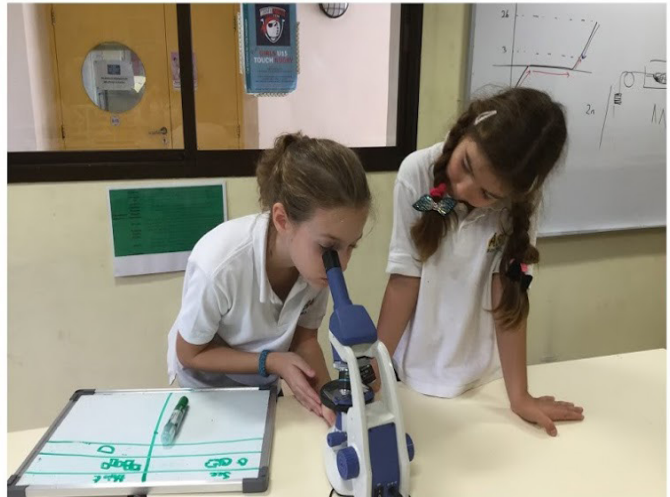


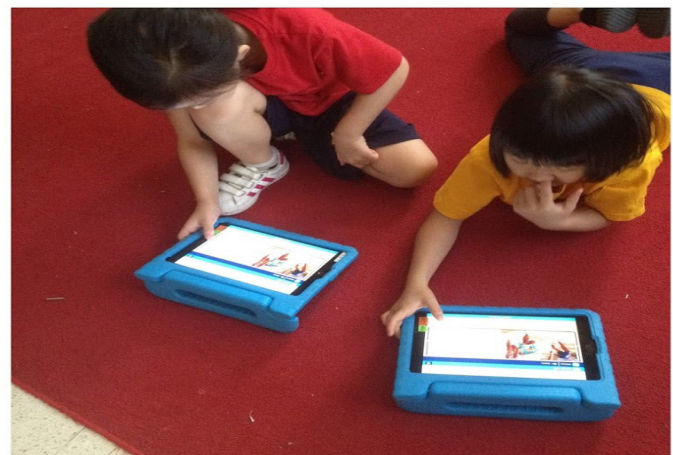
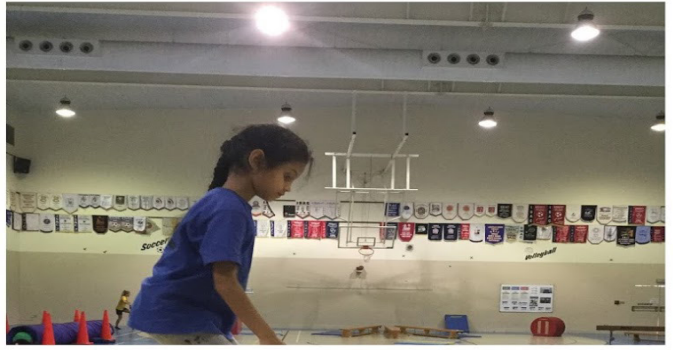
Message from the Elementary School

Elementary After School Activities

Season Four has come to an end this week. Our G1-5 students have had the opportunity to participate in a large variety of activities such as; gymnastics, science club, Hero's Quest, Literacy Club and more.

Raewyn Jack- After School Activities Coordinator





Message from the Middle School

Teenage Safety

Alli Hostetter, Peter Wadsworth and Claire Anthony gave a presentation on Tuesday this week to discuss Teenage Safety. Health (e-cigarettes), Risk-Taking Behaviour and Online Safety were the main topics discussed. The parents who attended were able to discuss these important issues in a small group setting, sharing insights and concerns about the 'new norms' faced by all stakeholders in our rapidly changing world. This presentation will be offered to the ABA community again early in the new academic year. A link to the slide show can be accessed [HERE](#) and in the final 2 slides, additional parent resources are available to read at your leisure during the summer vacation.



Middle School students leaving ABA this term have been meeting in small group settings this week to share their stories, consider the pros and cons of moving and preparing for the next exciting adventure in their lives. The counseling department posted an article several weeks ago with information about transitions. As a community, we will all be affected by the upcoming changes with friends leaving, others staying and new classes. This article gives further insight for families as the school year comes to a close. <http://www.thecultureblend.com/the-transition-that-never-ends-the-ongoing-cycle-of-expat-stayers-goers-and-newbies/>

Below are some fun activities for Middle Schoolers to do on long, hot summer days or wet weather (depending on where you are travelling to).

This link is a unique way of visiting museums around the world:

<https://www.common sense.org/education/top-picks/best-museum-apps-and-websites-for-students>

This site promises a summer beach bag of activities to promote reading and fun research projects:

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/get-ready-summer-ideas-teachers-share-families>

Finally, this site promotes learning experiences to reduce the 'summer slide' that can develop over the holidays. STEM learning, coding and virtual college tours as well as ideas for family activities:

<https://www.mother.ly/parenting/37-ingenious-summer-learning-resources-for-your-kid>

Message from the High School



Grade 12 Students Graduation Ceremony

The big day finally arrived for our Grade 12 students on Friday 31st May with the formal graduation ceremony in the afternoon in the PAC and party in the Grad Hyatt's Afrah Ballroom, on Friday evening. The students presented themselves fantastically well, had rehearsed thoroughly and it clearly showed in the flawless way they executed their role in proceedings. Valedictorians Mimi Kabir and Daniel Delghandi gave a funny and heartfelt speech, with due gratitude freely given to the parents, teachers and the wider ABA family. Guest of Honor, H.H Dr. Mona Fahad Al Said, the mother of graduate, Sultan Al Said, spoke warmly about ABA and how the virtues it nurtures in our graduates are so important in a world of rapid change and self-evident challenges. The sense of well-deserved pride in this cohort was palpable and the visible demonstration of the myriad achievements, enterprises, service and engagement simply proved what a fantastic group of young people they clearly are. Mr. Taylor, in what might be his last ever graduation speech as an international school superintendent, spoke of the graduates' potential to change the world for the better. Given the incredible range of skills, academic achievements and desire to contribute displayed on the stage, the Class of 2019 becoming the change they



H.H Dr. Mona Fahad Al Said receives a gift from valedictorians Mirall Kabir and Daniel Delghandi

want to see in the world is not in any doubt whatsoever.

Great thanks must go out to Mrs. Evelyn Hon and her team for an absolutely first rate evening party at the Grand Hyatt. With ABA's 'faculty alumnus' Adam Cole and our own inimitable Mr. Sen Jose, MC-ing proceedings between them, we were treated to wonderful performances by our IB Diploma Music graduates Santruph Verdanthi and Zach Sueyoshi as well as the angelic voice of Angel Tan accompanied by Rodion Haataja. Rodion then spoke with heartfelt thanks and affection when introducing guest of honor Leona West, whose speech clearly illustrated the incredible relationships ABA teachers forge over the years with their students. It was, as we've come to expect, an eloquently delivered, warm and wonderful send off and a genuine tribute to a well-deserving group of young people.



International Award winner Charlotte Hahn receives her award from HS Principal Simon Walker (L) and Superintendent Simon Taylor (R)

Our best wishes go to all of the Class of 2019 for all their hard earned success as they move on to the next stage of their journeys – but not, I hope, before a well needed rest.

Guy Essex

Student Leadership

The High School community at ABA has always had the privilege of being served by a group of dedicated and industrious student leaders. With each graduating class that we usher out into the world of further study and various career pursuits, we also say farewell to the outgoing High School Student Council (HSSC) members. On that note, we would like to thank the HSSC team, under the leadership of President Saatvik Korisepati, for their superb work over the course of this school year.

Looking Ahead

The incoming student leaders have undergone a rigorous selection process including interviews, speeches to the student body and a competitive voting period. All candidates had much to offer and outlined their ideas in articulate and convincing ways. Hopefully, those who did not attain executive leadership roles this time around will still contribute to the important work of student leadership next year. I am pleased to introduce to the school community the members of the HSSC Executive for 2019-20:



- President: Mark Braganza (Grade 12)
- Vice President: Naman Khan (Grade 11)
- Secretary: Maya Sueyoshi (Grade 11)
- Public Relations Officer: Adly Al-Sharif (Grade 11)
- Treasurer: Sidak Dhanju (Grade 10)

We look forward to an exciting new school year under the stewardship of this enthusiastic executive team, supported by the various class Representatives who will be elected in August. In the words of the new President, Mark: "We feel honoured to have been elected and will work hard to ensure that next year is a positive and eventful one."

Denise Barker and Alli Hostetter - High School Student Council Advisors

PSAT (2019)- Important date change update

Please note the date for the administration of the PSAT in October 2019 has been changed from 16th October to 30th October. ABA is on Fall break during the week of October 16th and fortunately, the College Board offers an alternative test administration date for international schools.

Please contact Alli Hostetter (ahostetter@abaoman.org) with any questions regarding the PSAT exam.

Alli Hostetter - High School Counselor

Message from the PTA

A huge thank you to all the parents and parents of alumni for supporting our PTA events throughout the year. None of the events would have been possible without the support of our volunteers. The new PTA will hit the ground running, so look for a new PTA calendar with even more dates and information. You will not be organized without it! Additionally, the PTA website will be updated soon so keep checking in and don't forget to send a thank you note to your HRP who made sure you received all the relevant school information. We wish you a wonderful summer vacation and look forward to seeing you in August and if you really miss us, sign up on the PTA website to become a volunteer.



Building our community together!

Teacher Appreciation

The Staff appreciation was held on 10th June 2019. The delicious treats were enjoyed by the entire ABA faculty. A heartfelt thanks to all the wonderful parents who delivered the best their homes had to offer. It was appreciated by all.

We are grateful to Mae, the owner of Ayana Spa for providing 3

massages to give head and shoulder massage sessions to the teachers and staff. A special thanks to Anjum Khan for leading this event and to the rest of the PTA team for helping give the staff room a royal makeover.

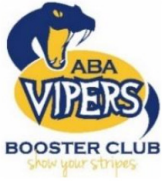
Special Thanks

The PTA would like to recognize the 10 years of service Evelyn Hon has given to ABA. Each year she has organized the Flea Markets and helped with the Bazaars. She has played an integral role in serving the community. We wish her all the best in Qatar and we hope she comes back to visit.

Your PTA - Building our community together!





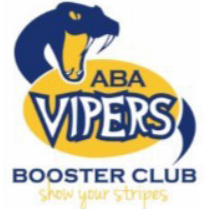


Message from the Booster Club

VIPERS Event Calendar 2019/20

VIPERS BOOSTER CLUB EVENTS CALENDAR 2019/20

- 25 AUGUST 2019 – New family orientation – presentation
- 26/27/28 AUGUST 2019 - 'BACK TO SCHOOL' POP-UP SHOP (outside ECE)
- 26 SEPTEMBER 2019 - FUNDRAISER – ICE FRENZY
- 24 OCTOBER 2019 - FUNDRAISER - 'Spike Strike Score'
- 07/08/09 NOVEMBER 2019 - MESAC Varsity Volleyball
- 13 NOVEMBER 2019 – MESAC SEASON 1 AWARDS
- 25 NOVEMBER 2019 – FUNDRAISER – ICE FRENZY + SPORTS GEAR SALE
- 13 JANUARY 2020 - FUNDRAISER - 'Half Shot Hot'
- 30 /31 JAN - 01 FEBRUARY 2020 - MESAC JV SOCCER - Sultan Qaboos Stadium + MESAC CROSS COUNTRY
- 6/7/8 FEBRUARY 2020 - MESAC VARSITY SOCCER– Sultan Qaboos Stadium -
- 12 FEBRUARY 2020 – MESAC SEASON 2 AWARDS
- 16 MARCH 2020 - FUNDRAISER - 'ANNUAL ICE ICE CRAZY SALE'
- 02 APRIL 2020 - COACHES APPRECIATION LUNCH
- 16/17/18 APRIL 2020 - MESAC TRACK & FIELD – Sultan Qaboos Stadium -
- 22 APRIL 2020 – MESAC SEASON 3 AWARDS



NOTE: the above does not include additional monthly pop-up shops & special pop-up shops / travel polo + sock sales for MESAC participants

For more info on how you can support the VIPERS - boosterclub@abaoman.org

