

AL NOOR-ABA NEWS

6th December 2018

Message from the Superintendent

Thinking about what students will need for life, whether in terms of their personal/ social development, or with respect to skills related to academics, career or 'life in general, is an ever present topic of conversation among staff, particularly in the High School. And we are not alone in thinking about this.

Papers based on research are printed regularly on this topic. The Economist Intelligence Unit's report of 2017 Worldwide educating for the future Index - A benchmark for the skills of tomorrow, is a critical analysis by multiple authors of how well education systems in different countries are faring in preparing their citizens.

The authors identify sets of skills that they believe are needed. These are: interdisciplinary skills; creative and analytical skills; entrepreneurial skills; leadership skills, digital and technical skills; and global awareness and civic education.

While reading the report, I naturally thought about what we are offering at ABA. I concluded that we are well-aligned to the ideas expressed. These ideas are not taught as individual subjects but are found embedded in the approaches to learning in each IB programme. One that I would like to highlight today is the need for critical thinking. The report notes the: "importance of a society's openness in equipping its young with an open, inquisitive and critical mind that is exposed to different attitudes and arguments." (The Economist Intelligence Unit, 2017)

I am sure you will have seen this emphasised in students work in all grades. However, one very important part of the Diploma Programme that I would like to mention is the core of Theory of Knowledge (TOK) and the Extended Essay (EE). Here the quality of student's critical thinking can really be seen and I am sure that many of these essays would elicit thoughts from parents along the lines of "My goodness, I know I could not have done this when I was that age".

In the nine months or so since they began their EE the students have really developed and refined their research skills, particularly in critical analysis. These skills will certainly hold them in good stead in future projects whether at university or in their careers. As our Grade 12 students are now completing their 4000 word EEs they are to be congratulated on their achievements.

For those interested, the benefits of EE can be found here in this paper.

<http://blogs.ibo.org/blog/2013/11/20/ib-diploma-programme-research-shows-extended-essay-improves-student-approach-to-learning-in-higher-education/>

Best wishes for the weekend.

Upcoming Dates

| | |
|--------|--|
| 10 Dec | Grade 10 Personal Project Exhibition Gym 9.45 am - 7.35 pm |
| 11 Dec | PTA Tuesday Talk & Travel PTA Room 7.40 - 9.00 am |
| 12 Dec | Grade 7 Sports Day 11.00 am - 2.15 pm |
| 13 Dec | Whole School Early Dismissal 12.00 pm |

Simon Taylor
Superintendent

Message from the Elementary School

A few reminders

As you know, we take the safety of all students very seriously. Please support us with the following:

If you need to collect your child during the school day, please ensure that you have collected a gate pass from Reception, and handed it to a guard before leaving the campus.

Children from K1 to Grade 1 have supervised dismissal - teachers hand children over to a designated adult. For Grades 2-5, students dismiss on their own, but should not leave the campus without an adult. Please remind your child(ren) to follow your arrangements for being collected from school, and to come to the school office for help after 2.30pm if the usual arrangements do not work.

Last day early dismissal

Please note that on Thursday 13th December, K1 children can be collected from 11.00am, K2 and K3 children can be collected from 11.30am, and Grades 1-5 should be collected at 12.00 noon.

Wishing you all a wonderful winter break.

Approaches to learning (ATL) - a toolkit for the future

Approaches to learning are an integral part of an IB education and complement the learner profile, knowledge, conceptual understanding and inquiry.

- Approaches to learning (ATL) are grounded in the belief that learning how to learn is fundamental to a student's education.
- Five categories of interrelated skills and associated sub-skills support students of all ages to become self-regulated learners.
- Through a variety of strategies, teachers collaboratively plan for implicit and explicit opportunities to develop ATL both inside and outside the programme of inquiry.

The PYP: Principles into Practice (IBO; October 2018)

The ATLs are one of the elements common to the PYP, the MYP and the DP, so children are able to build on these skills as they grow and learn. The adults participating in our recent evening workshop on inquiry were able to identify skills they were using during particular tasks, and the skills are applicable to us all as life-long learners, providing a valuable tool for personal reflection.



Figure ATL01: The five interrelated approaches to learning

The table shows just some of the sub-skills teachers can develop with students, and the enhanced PYP gives us flexibility to add other sub-skills relevant to our context and our children's stages of development.

| Categories | Sub-skills |
|------------------------|--|
| Thinking skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical-thinking skills (analysing and evaluating issues and ideas) • Creative-thinking skills (generating novel ideas and considering new perspectives) • Transfer skills (using skills and knowledge in multiple contexts) • Reflection/metacognitive skills ((re)considering the process of learning) |
| Research skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information-literacy skills (formulating and planning, data gathering and recording, synthesizing and interpreting, evaluating and communicating) • Media-literacy skills (interacting with media to use and create ideas and information) • Ethical use of media/information (understanding and applying social and ethical technology) |
| Communication skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchanging-information skills (listening, interpreting, speaking) • Literacy skills (reading, writing and using language to gather and communicate information) • ICT skills (using technology to gather, investigate and communicate information) |
| Social skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing positive interpersonal relationships and collaboration skills (using self-control, managing setbacks, supporting peers) • Developing social-emotional intelligence |
| Self-management skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization skills (managing time and tasks effectively) • States of mind (mindfulness, perseverance, emotional management, self-motivation, resilience) |

The World Economic Forum’s most recent analysis of [analysis of skills](#) needed for the future came up with the following list. The connections between these and the IBO’s ATL are easy to spot.



Top 10 skills

in 2020

1. Complex Problem Solving
2. Critical Thinking
3. Creativity
4. People Management
5. Coordinating with Others
6. Emotional Intelligence
7. Judgment and Decision Making
8. Service Orientation
9. Negotiation
10. Cognitive Flexibility

in 2015

1. Complex Problem Solving
2. Coordinating with Others
3. People Management
4. Critical Thinking
5. Negotiation
6. Quality Control
7. Service Orientation
8. Judgment and Decision Making
9. Active Listening
10. Creativity



Source: Future of Jobs Report, World Economic Forum

Which ATL can you spot our students, teachers and parents using in these photos?



Sam

Cook



Elementary School Principal

Message from the Middle School

Middle School Coffee Morning - Rescheduled

Our monthly MS Coffee Morning for December has been rescheduled to 16th January 2019, 7:30 - 8:30 am in the Middle School Common Room . This is for all middle school parents. In order to prepare for the meeting, we have asked that you continue to submit your questions [here](#) or through this link <http://bit.ly/DecMSCM>

Mathematics Problem of the Week - 6 December 2018

All of our answers for last week's problem were correct. Find the sum of all the whole numbers between 41 and 50 inclusive, which are multiples of either 2 or 3 or 5. The answer is 275. (42, 44, 45, 46, 48, 50 are the multiples of 2 or 3 or 5)

A big shout out to 4C! Thanks for submitting an answer. Let's see if any other classes can answer this week's question:



You must cut a birthday cake into exactly eight pieces, but you're only allowed to make three straight cuts, and you can't move pieces of the cake as you cut. How can you do it?

Please submit your answers [here](#) or with this link <http://bit.ly/MPW6Dec> Check back here next week for the answer and a new problem. (if you would like to submit a problem for consideration, please send them to kbowin@abaoman.org).

*Kathleen Bowin
Middle School Principal*

Message from the High School

Choices, choices....

Deciding on subject choices for the final two years of High School can feel like a daunting task, both for students and for parents. A whole future seems to depend on the choices made, whereas other students seem so sure of what they want to be when they grow up, it can cause real anxiety in those who weren't lucky enough to realise they were going to become a doctor from an early age.

On Wednesday, January 16th from 5.30 to 7.30pm we're holding the course options evening for Grade 10 students and parents. The event will begin in the PAC for an informative presentation on the pathways through Grades 11 and 12, the subjects available and the unique structure of the IB Diploma. After that, parents and students will be guided



to the Secondary Lecture Hall to meet the subject teachers, Heads of Department and counsellors who can give more information about subject content and choices. In discussions with students, who are not sure on a career path, I often refer them to the Japanese 'Ikigai' model to help with decisions. The Ikigai model simply asks "What does the world need?", "What are you good at?", "What do you love?" and importantly "What can you get paid for?". Answering these pertinent questions positively will help in any decisions about a future career.

Related to this (and just as important) taking ownership, and stamping one's own personality on the Diploma is an essential part of being successful on it. It is a hard enough qualification to achieve, without the feeling that some subjects are being reluctantly dragged along. Trying to achieve the best mix of necessary subjects and subjects to really enjoy is not an easy task. Sometimes Arts Subjects get pushed out for something more 'pragmatic'; however, studies show how [Arts Subjects](#) are

incredible at teaching those essential 21st century skills outlined below. As for careers, it is essential to do something you enjoy, otherwise the many years of working hard at a career can seem like a very daunting prospect indeed. Really, job satisfaction, dedication and enjoyment are important considerations; it is not simply a matter of remuneration. Lastly, although some subject choices are essential for some 'traditional' careers such as Engineering, Medicine or Architecture, in the jobs market of the future, it will also be skills learned from having an IB education that will come to the fore. At the Core information evening last week, I showed a slide of 2020 Skills to Thrive, produced by the World Economic Forum, skills that both the Diploma Core and all Diploma subjects have at their heart. Whether it is the full Diploma, or taking IB subject certificates, we will do all we can to ensure that our students are armed for the future, no matter what challenges or opportunities that future provides.

World Economic Forum: skills to thrive 2020

- 1) Complex problem solving
- 2) Critical thinking
- 3) Creativity
- 4) People Management
- 5) Coordinating with others
- 6) Emotional Intelligence
- 7) Judgment and decision making
- 8) Service Orientation
- 9) Negotiation
- 10) Cognitive Flexibility

Guy Essex
IB Diploma Coordinator

PSAT score release update (Grade 9, 10, 11 students)

If your son or daughter took the PSAT exam this October, please remember that scores will be released on 11th December, 2018 (this is the international release date). Due to the international release location/time zone, the date may vary by a day. It is helpful for students to have their College Board account set up before this date. I have sent all students a reminder email and have encouraged them to come see me throughout next week for any account set-up questions.

Please see the link below (video included) outlining how to view PSAT scores

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10/scores/getting-scores>

Please see below another useful link outlining how to best understand your scores

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10/scores/understanding-scores>

I will receive student's paper copy score reports after we leave for the winter holiday and will plan to distribute them, along with their original test booklet, when we return from the break. Rachel Keys and I will plan to hold an optional brief presentation and question/answer session in January for parents of students who completed the PSAT and who plan to take the SAT in the future.

Please do let me know if you have any questions. Wishing you all a wonderful winter holiday!

*Alli Hostetter
High School Counselor*

Message from the Extra Curricular Program



U11 MPSL Football

ABA entered two teams in this tournament hosted at The Sultan School. Eleven teams entered in total, so schools were split into two groups. Team 1 remained unbeaten throughout their group, with three wins and two draws, which meant they qualified for the semi-finals. Team 2 had mixed results in their group, the standout game being a draw with BSM, the eventual winners.

Play games were exciting affairs, with Team 1 narrowly losing out to TSS but then beating MIS to finish with a very creditable third place. Team 2 eventually finished in eighth place. Both our teams proudly represented ABA and can be pleased with their efforts against some very tough opposition. Well done boys!

*Raewyn Jack
Elementary PE Department*

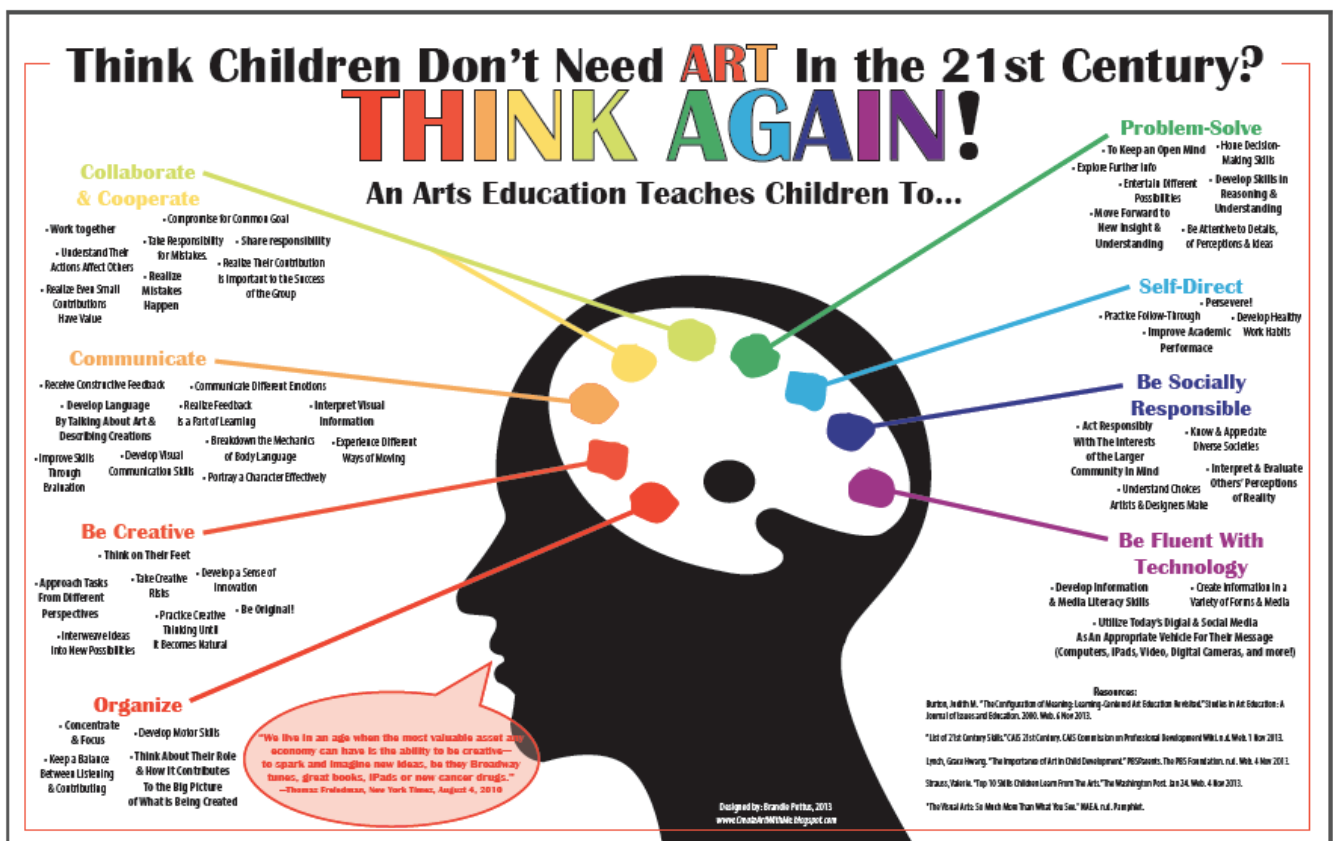


Games/events for next week

| | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| 10th December | MSSL Soc Tournament U19 Boys @ TSS | 3:15 - 7:00pm |
| 10th December | U19 Girls Soc vs BSM @ BSM | 3:15 - 4:15pm |
| 11th December | U13 Girls Soc vs TAISM @TAISM | 4:00 - 5:00pm |
| 11th December | U16 Boys B'ball vs ISO @ ABA | 3:15 - 4:15pm |
| 11th December | U16 Girls B'ball vs ISO @ ABA | 3:15 - 4:15pm |
| 12th December | MSSL Soc Tournament U19 Girls @ BSM | 4:15 - 6:00pm |
| 13th December | U16 Boys Soc vs BSM @ BSM | 3:15 - 4:15pm |

Paul Brace
Athletics Director

Message from the Fine Arts Department



Course Selections Coming Soon!

As current grade 8 and 10 students are beginning to think about course selections for grades 9/10 and grades 11/12, remember the value that critical and creative thinking have on a student's future in university as well as in the work-force.

Visual Art Trip to Jebel Sifah December 3rd 2018

We are very fortunate to have been offered an opportunity to work with a 'real world' client in the form of Muriya, the company that is developing Jebel Sifah.

They have some interesting design briefs for our Grade 9 artists to tackle. Before we begin this process we are running a unit about Landscape. This will provide us with the 'fuel' to be able to address the design briefs.

As a start to this unit we were invited to Jebel Sifah to collect visual source material. We took 52 Grade 9 artists, all armed with cameras and a sheet of tasks to help students capture their experience of the site. The goal of the unit will be to produce art works that evoke a 'sense of place'.

Our Grade 9 students were excellent ambassadors for ABA and our community and we are excited by the possibility of continuing to work with our 'real world' client in the new year. Many thanks to ABA Visual Art teachers Malena Belston and Richard Keys for their innovation and leadership with this exciting unit of study.

Details of the unit and the design project can be found here:

<https://visualartaba.weebly.com/unit-2-the-edge---landscape.html>



Natasha Meiliunas
Fine Arts Director

Message from the PTA



Building our community together!

Santa's Workshop

A big shout out and thank you to Paula, Nandita, the PTA team and parent volunteers that helped make Santa's Workshop an amazing success! A special thank you goes out to Marcel, our Santa for the day; you were the icing on top, thank you Marcel! This year the grade 6 students were invited to participate as well. PTA sold out of all the gifts even after additional gifts showed up.



Winter Music Fest

There will be many things to look forward to at this year's Winter Music Fest. This year we celebrate with the theme of, 'One Beat, One Heart, One ABA.' A celebration of all the holidays and festivities happening this autumn/winter season. If you didn't get your tickets last week, pick them up at the door.

This year's Winter Music Fest is also a shoppers paradise with entertainment and food to top it off. It doesn't get better than this:

- Musicians and vocalists
- Over 40 Winter Bazaar vendors with unique finds perfect for gifts of any season
- The PTA's Sweets and Drinks table. Some of the wonderful treats will include: Xmas Mince pies, Diwali sweets and Eid Kaak and Kunafa.
- PTA Children's craft area
- Food court with all your favorite restaurants
- 3 Grottos- One for each: Eid, Diwali and Christmas
- Wonderfully chilly weather

Don't forget the cardigans, cash & bug spray! Look forward to seeing you all there.



Your PTA

Message from the Booster Club



'Tis the season to be jolly...

We would like to thank the community for your continued support of our Ice Frenzy sale and for getting behind our inaugural Sports Gear Sale last Thursday. The feedback was fantastic with lots of 'gently used' sports gear snapped up by eager students, teachers, and parents. This initiative is not only community friendly, but positive for our environment encouraging recycling and reusing, while promoting an active lifestyle.

Don't miss our last Booster Club POP-UP shop for 2018 this Monday 10 December from 7.00-7.30am outside the ECE. Lots of great gift ideas for the festive season. Grab a pair of our NEW custom VIPERS Slides! Hoodie orders are available as well as parent support shirts, student training shirt orders, water bottles, sports bags, caps, sunshades, and much more. Limited stock on most items!!!

If you would like to know more about the Booster Club, simply email us boosterclub@abaoman.org. Booster Club is a great way to 'support our kids' while making new friends and having fun.

Festive Season

ABA VIPERS BOOSTER CLUB
show your stripes

SALE

POP-UP SHOP
Mon 10 Dec
Outside ECE 7-7.30am

- WRIST BANDS = 3 FOR R0.2
- STRESS BALLS = .500bz
- HIGHLIGHTER = .500bz
- COOLING TOWEL = R0.2.5
- CAPS (white) = R0.1.5
- CAR SUN SHADE = R0.2
- STRING BAG (original) = R0.2
- BAM BAM STICKS = R0.1

Shirt / Hoodie orders available NOW

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

VIPERS CUSTOM SLIDES

Available NOW!!
MONDAY 10 DEC
Booster Pop-Up Shop

SIZES ADULTS: EU 38 / 40 / 42 / 43 / 45 / 46

LIMITED EDITION!!

ONLY available from VIPERS BOOSTER CLUB

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

PERSONALISED VIPERS HOODIE

HOODIE ORDERS
Monday 10 Dec
BOOSTER CLUB POP-UP
ORDER NOW!!!

SIZES
Elementary
32 34 36 38
Secondary
XS S M L XL
(Sample sizes available)

ONLY available from VIPERS BOOSTER CLUB
pre-paid orders ONLY - get yours NOW!

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

Yours in community spirit
VIPERS Booster Club

Message from the Booster Club

Oman Scrabble Championships 2018 held at ABA

ABA participants who were prizewinners noted below.
Morgan Barker (G2) finished 2nd in the Under 10 Division
Aurin Bhadra (G7) finished second in the Teenager Division
Megel Barker finished 3rd in the Masters Division

