



الأكاديمية الدولية - عمان  
THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY - AMMAN

Parent News  
Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Calendar

**MAY 24**



**25 SAT**

**Independence Day**

## *A Message from The Director*

Dear IAA Community,

As we approach the end of another remarkable academic year, I extend my warmest wishes to each of you. Our community has always been the heart and soul of IAA, and it is with great pleasure that I welcome our new PTA members for the next academic year. We recently shared their names with you, and I am confident that their dedication and enthusiasm will continue to enhance our school's vibrant community. The PTA is an invaluable asset to our school, fostering collaboration between parents and teachers to enrich the IAA experience for all.

This period is particularly eventful for us. We are gearing up for our grand Independence Day and 20th Anniversary Fun Day and celebration this Thursday. It is a momentous occasion as we celebrate Jordan's Independence Day on the 25th of May and mark two decades of excellence at IAA. Our students will come together for a fun day filled with activities, commemorating these significant milestones with joy and unity while enjoying an array of food vendors offering free mouthwatering treats.

One of the highlights of this period is the upcoming Graduation Ceremony for the Class of 2024, scheduled for the 28th of May. This year's theme, "Beyond Boundaries," reflects the limitless potential and ambition of our graduates. The Class of 2024 has demonstrated remarkable resilience, dedication, and excellence throughout their time at IAA. They have embraced challenges, seized opportunities, and achieved outstanding accomplishments both academically and personally. As such, the Graduation Ceremony will be a celebration of their journey and the bright futures that lie ahead. Our graduates are poised to venture beyond the familiar, explore new horizons, and make significant contributions to their communities and the world. This milestone event not only honors their hard work but also inspires us all to continue striving for excellence and pushing the boundaries of what is possible.

I also look forward to celebrating the Grade 5 promotion and the MYP Celebration on the 6th of June, recognizing the accomplishments and growth of our students as they transition to new stages in their educational journey.

Reflecting on this academic year, it is astounding how quickly time has passed. Together, we have navigated challenges, celebrated successes, and continued to excel in all our endeavors. Our collective commitment to excellence and our supportive community have been the driving forces behind our progress.

As you are aware already, in celebration of our 20th anniversary, we have begun distributing a special gift to each family: a meticulously crafted wooden box that embodies the essence of tradition and unity. Within its intricate details lie representations of our nation's diverse landscapes, vibrant cultures, and shared experiences. It serves as a poignant reminder of the bonds forged within our school community and the collective journey we have undertaken over the past two decades.

Thank you for being an integral part of the IAA family. Together, we will continue to inspire and achieve greatness.

Warm regards,

Hana Kanan, Ed. D.

Director

## **Primary School News**

### **Warm Welcome**

Greetings from primary school! I hope that you have been able to spend a nice weekend with your families and friends in such wonderful weather. As we enter the final stretch of the school year, which has been long yet productive, it is important that your children remain engaged over the next few weeks so that final assignments and assessments may be completed for the upcoming end-of-semester report. Our teachers will provide ample revisions and remain committed to working with their students until the final day of school. A gentle reminder of the importance of establishing healthy diet and sleep habits to optimize learning potential. Additionally, avoiding last-minute cramming before assessments is key to promoting effective learning. By prioritizing good sleep and avoiding cramming, students can enhance their academic performance and succeed in school assessments more effectively.

### **Sports Day**

Today's Primary Sports Day was another successful event that brought together our students, teachers, and parents in a celebration of physical activity, teamwork, and healthy competition. The atmosphere was charged with energy and excitement as our beloved students engaged in a bid to raise money for the King Hussein Cancer Foundation. They also showcased their athletic abilities, sportsmanship, and team spirit while competing for individual and house team honors. The day was filled with cheers, laughter, and moments of triumph as participants pushed themselves to excel and support their house team. It was pleasing to see how the day fostered a sense of camaraderie and school spirit and promoted the importance of physical fitness and well-being in a fun and engaging way.

### **Independence Day**

More joy is coming our way as we celebrate Jordan's Independence and IAA's 20th anniversary on Thursday, the 23rd of May. Our celebration this year includes various festivities, ceremonies, parades, and cultural events that bring us together to honor our nation's and our school's history and achievements. We will be celebrating this special day with a designated assembly in Dr. Hamdan's Theatre (school theater). Please ensure that you attend to enjoy the performances with your children as they engage in activities including singing, Dabkeh, and poetry. A gentle reminder that primary students are asked to wear traditional or contemporary Jordanian dress of any sort on the day.

### **G5 Promotion**

Please remember to mark your calendar for June 5th for the Grade 5 promotion, another event to look forward to with great pleasure. The event is scheduled for 1:30 pm in the school theater (Dr. Mohammad Hamdan Theatre). All details were shared with you via email last week. Meanwhile, our students across the school have continued to demonstrate our school values with enthusiasm and commitment. We have been delighted with a variety of weekly performances in the class assemblies as our primary students continue to impress us with their artistic talent and stage presence.

### **Grade 5 Transition Days**

As part of the routine preparations for the next academic year, Grade Five students will have the opportunity to spend a full day in the secondary school and experience the next phase of their learning journey. They will meet secondary staff and participate in activities organized for them by the secondary senior leaders. Please note that no requirements on your part are necessary for these visits. The transition day for Grades 5A & 5B is Tuesday, the 28th of May, and Wednesday, the 29th of May for Grades 5C & 5D.

### **Bake Sale**

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that we will be having our monthly non-uniform day and bake sale on Thursday, May 30th. This could be the last event of the year of this kind, so we are counting on your support for our community aid efforts. Our primary school student council representatives have elected to support KHCF for their efforts to provide medical treatment for Gazan cancer patients. Thank you in advance for supporting such events; it makes all the difference.

Wishing you all pleasant couple of weeks ahead.

Walid Albay - Primary School Principal

## **Secondary School News**

Dear Parents

**A LOT has happened since we last wrote!** Every week IAA is buzzing with a variety of activities: academics, athletics, arts and extracurriculars. **In brief:**

### **Sports Day & Colour Run**

Just prior to the break, the PHE Department organized a well-received Sports Day. Along with the regular track and field events, we introduced obstacle courses, a spinning walk path and a hamster wheel! The day also featured the traditional Colour Run, planned by our SRC. The outcome was vibrant (messy?!) and exciting – students left feeling exhausted but very satisfied. Overall, a really successful Sports Day.

### **Grade 9 to 11 Sleepovers**

Since returning from the Spring Break, we hosted three sleepovers at the school for Grades 9 to 11, in response to a special request from the SRC. Students biked around the track and took part in sports and team-building activities. The term “sleepover” is a bit misleading as most students stayed up and only started to doze off after sunrise. These events certainly fostered unity within the grade and created many wonderful memories and will have to be repeated next year.

### **DELE exams**

At the weekend we had nearly 30 students sitting their DELE exams at the Cervantes Spanish Institute here in Amman. The students have diligently been taking extra lessons since January to prepare and we hope they did

very well. It is fabulous to see that so many of our students are pushing to become tri-lingual. What an amazing gift that is in today's globalized world!

### **Spring Concert**

We had our Spring Concert last Wednesday. As always, it was inspiring to see the musical talents of our students on stage. Many of them shared their original creations or adaptations, showcasing their creativity and dedication to their crafts. The concert was a lovely celebration of their hard work and artistic expression.

### **Green Flag Award**

Last week, the school was very pleased to receive confirmation of our Eco-Schools Green Flag status from the awarding body here in Jordan. We now join a network of schools in over 100 countries who have this accolade and we hope that this is just the start to IAA becoming a flag carrier for sustainable practices through student engagement in Jordan.

### **Athletics, Volleyball and Football**

The "Gaza Solidarity" athletics competition took place last week as well. Many schools in Jordan united to raise money for Gaza through the medium of sports. The atmosphere at the Opening Ceremony was poignant as every school stood only for one team: Gaza. The outcome surpassed mere victory, embodying a powerful sense of unity and support for Palestine. We also hosted our annual athletics meet at school on Saturday, congratulations to all who participated in these events.

### **Assessments: ISA, DP, MYP and external Chemistry Competitions**

We had Grades 6 to 9 complete the online ISA assessments last week; Grade 11 Chemistry students also sit for University of Waterloo's Avogadro competition; and Grades 10 and 12 completed their external IB exams. Feedback from students has been positive, and we look forward to the results- of all of these. The Grade 10's still have their school-based exams to sit for and their Diploma orientation before the year end.

**Even though time seems to be ticking by, the year is not yet done.....looking ahead:**

### **Independence Day/20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

On Thursday this week we have our Independence Day/20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations. We urge students to come wearing their national dress. The school is providing fun activities that each grade will have some time to enjoy during the day. We are also looking forward to seeing our Secondary students participating in the special assembly for parents. Finally, we will take time to focus on the 25<sup>th</sup> Jubilee with a special lesson for all students that day.

### **Grade 12 Graduation**

Our annual Grade 12 Graduation takes place on Tuesday the 28<sup>th</sup> May. We are looking forward to celebrating this momentous day with the cohort and their families and friends. We are sure that amongst the excitement of finishing and the excitement of university plans, there will be a few sad moments as their time at IAA comes to an end for our Grade 12.

**Early Release: Please not that on Tuesday the 28<sup>th</sup> May there will be an early release for the whole school at 1.30 pm.**

### **End of year assessments**

Grade 10 have already started their end of year assessments. Grade 11 will start on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May. Following that Grade 9 will start on 30<sup>th</sup> May, with Grades 6 to 8 starting shortly after on 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Specific details for each grade have been shared with parents. Exam revision booklets for Grades 6 to 10 have been uploaded on their PSHE Toddle pages.

### **Grade 10 Work Experience**

Next week, after their final exams, our Grade 10 will embark on their work experience. This is a really valuable exercise for students as they begin to navigate the world of work. Sometimes the experience affirms the aspirations of students, sometimes it makes them realise that this is definitely not the career for them. Either outcome is equally valuable!

### **Guest Speakers**

We still have time for some guest speakers to come and enlighten our students. This week we have a celebrity chef, Jo Barret, coming from Australia to share her experiences of how to make a success in what is now a very attractive profession around the world. Next week, we also have Dr Asil Jallad coming to speak to our students about careers in Medicine. At the same time, she will share her experiences of volunteering in Gaza, which will be simultaneously uplifting through the positive impact a person can make whilst being disheartening when considering the conditions in which she was made to work.

### **Celebration Assemblies**

Over this week, each of our Grades 6 to 8 are having celebratory assemblies to recognize the many achievements of each grade this year. It is a time to reflect on the many memorable experiences and moments that make up a year at school. We will also have a final assembly on the 29<sup>th</sup> May for Grades 6 to 9 where we can recap on the year, say thank you to everyone and wish those leaving the very best wherever they may be next.

Sincerely

Mr Martin and Ms Zena

## **College Counselling News**

Last week was a busy one working on a schoolwide test called the International School Assessment. The ISA is a test that the IAA conducts to its Grade 3 – 9 students annually. It is a set of tests used by international schools and schools with international focus to monitor student progress over time and confirm that their internal assessments are aligned with international expectations of performance. It assesses students in Mathematical Literacy, Reading, Narrative Writing, Expository Writing and Scientific Literacy. Designed and developed by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER), the ISA Reading, Mathematical Literacy and Scientific Literacy assessments are based on the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). With over 90 000 students from more than 400 schools participate in the ISA each year, the data it provides us with is invaluable. Similar to previous years, we administer the test over the course of one week (two days for each school) entirely online and results are usually released by the end of June. Over the years our results have compared positively to world averages and this is reflective of quality teaching and learning we have at our school. We feel confident that this year will once again be a successful one and we wish every student the best of luck!

Beginning the week of 26<sup>th</sup> May until June 7<sup>th</sup>, our Job Shadowing programme begins for our Grade 10 students. The expectation is for each student to secure an employment opportunity in a field s/he is hoping to pursue at university. Over the last few weeks our students have been actively seeking jobs by contacting employers and preparing CVs in preparation for their first practical experience and a taste of the real world. We know that you'll be great ambassadors for IAA and we wish you an enjoyable two working weeks.

I would like to finally bid our Class of 2024 farewell. With Externals finally over, they can now relax and enjoy a stress-free summer packed with excitement for the coming chapter. I look forward to seeing you all on stage on the 28<sup>th</sup> May.

Sincerely,  
Aya Abdel Hadi

## **Library News**

Dear parents,

As a school library dedicated to fostering a love of reading and learning, we deeply appreciate the rich literary and cultural heritage of Jordan. On Jordan's Independence Day in a few days, we celebrate not only the historical achievements of Jordan but also the contributions of Jordanian authors, poets and scholars who have enriched the global literary community. Their works, much like the independence we honor, are a testament to the enduring spirit and intellectual vitality of the Jordanian people.  
Happy Independence Day to our beloved Jordan!

As we approach the summer break, we are thrilled to announce our Summer Reading Challenges for students in PreK through Grade 8! Reading is an adventure that knows no bounds, and we want to keep the reading momentum going strong throughout the summer months.

Anyone who registers and is a returning student, will be allowed to check out books from the IAA libraries over the summer and return them at the beginning of the academic year in August. This is an exception that the Libraries and IAA are making to encourage participation in the summer reading program. Please make sure you do not travel with any of the books. We will celebrate our Summer Reading Champions and award prizes to students who have completed the challenges at the beginning of the next academic year.

We encourage students to explore a variety of books and genres to expand their reading horizons. Whether it's fiction, non-fiction, poetry, or graphic novels, there's a whole world of stories waiting to be discovered. Students should read picture books, chapter books, informational books, biographies, poetry, Arabic books or any other language if they prefer. You can also find hundreds of quality books on the internet. Here are some digital resources for students you may want to use:

[Primary Summer Reading Links](#)  
[Secondary Summer Reading Links](#)

We believe that reading is the key to unlocking a world of imagination and knowledge, and we're excited to embark on this reading adventure with your child. Let's make this summer a season of reading, learning, and fun!

All students who sign up will get a packet with reading challenges to cross off as they read. There are also activities that go along with the packet to make it fun and enjoyable. Summer Reading packets will be sent to primary students in June and secondary students will be emailed to pick up their Summer Reading Challenge.

Please sign up below by May 23rd according to your child's grade for this academic year 2023-2024:

<https://forms.gle/cm4zj9QfumNXqPWz9>

Here is a reminder of the libraries end of year timings:

<b>Thursday, May 23</b>	Last Day of Library Lessons (KG/Primary) - emails will be sent home to return overdue books and missing materials.
<b>Thursday, May 30</b>	Last Day for students to return books before we send invoices (all libraries).
<b>Tuesday, June 4</b>	Invoices will be sent for unreturned/lost books and lists shared with Finance. As per IAA Policy, students with unreturned books and unpaid balances will not receive their report cards.

Kind Regards,

Dima Shaka'a  
Head of Libraries/Primary Librarian

### *Sports News*

#### **Gaza Solidarity Football & Basketball Tournament**

It was an exceptional tournament in all respects, marked by excellent organization and spirited competition among the participating schools. The event also showcased the humanitarian side of all participants and organizers, who expressed their solidarity with our brothers in Gaza by collecting financial donations. This initiative helped demonstrate to the students their constructive role in supporting just causes.

#### **U12 Future Stars Conference (FSC) @ IAA**



Last Saturday marked one of the most beautiful sports events, particularly notable for the friendly competitions that united our school with Al Asriyah School and the English Talent School. Whether in football or badminton, the majority of the objectives set for this sports gathering were met. Among these objectives, the most significant was providing players with a competitive experience aimed at bolstering their motivation, especially as we approach the end of the school sports season. This, in turn, encourages them to sustain their sporting pursuits through the summer.

### **Sports Day – Primary**

IAA, in cooperation with the King Hussein Cancer Foundation, will organize a sports day event titled "Run for Gaza." The event will take place in two intervals: from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. for KG1, KG2 and G1, and from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for G2, G3, G4, and G5. Students are encouraged to participate in this sporting event aimed at raising donations to support the "Gaza Fund," which provides treatment for cancer patients from Gaza at the King Hussein Cancer Foundation.

### **Sleepover activity for Grade 9, 10 and 11**

The past few weeks have been filled with joy for the ninth, tenth, and eleventh-grade students, thanks to the sleepover activity held at the school. This event provided an engaging experience that helped strengthen social connections among the students and their supervising teachers.

### **AAC Track & Field for U12 and U14 Tournament**

It's wonderful that the Track & Field Championship, especially on our home turf, was the final AAC sports event of the 2024 season. The organization was exceptional, and the turnout from all schools was impressive. The results were outstanding for our promising athletes, and we anticipate further progress and development from them in the future.

### **Sports Day – Secondary**

Sports Day wasn't just about getting active – it was about boosting morale, enhancing psychological well-being, and fostering a sense of camaraderie. And what better way to do that than by encouraging teachers to join in the fun alongside their students? We created an atmosphere where everyone felt connected, energized, and filled with love for our school! Everyone left tired, with a lot of color on their hair and clothes, and the biggest of smiles. To catch a glimpse of the event highlights, simply click [Here](#) for a summary viewing.

### **AAC Gymnastics Tournament May**

Prepare to be amazed by the incredible performances of our Hawks Gymnastics team as they prepare to take advantage of new competitive chances! They're excited to display their skills at the event organized by AAC with cooperation of Montessori school on May 19th, 2024. Let's send our sincere wishes for their success.

### **IAA Hawks External Achievements**

Alongside the external sports achievements of our champion Hawks in various sports, our students have demonstrated remarkable prowess. Hashem Al Jawhari, a fourth-grader, earned four medals in the Dubai International Swimming Championship. Additionally, in the open kingdom swimming tournament, Jad Massimi secured second place in the 50-meter backstroke for juniors.

In Taekwondo, Danial Abu Omar, a fifth-grader, reached a remarkable milestone by earning his third Dan black belt after successfully passing the rigorous test. Following in his footsteps, third-grader Youssef Obeidat achieved the impressive feat of obtaining his second Dan black belt. Such accomplishments are truly exceptional for individuals of their age.

Last but not least, an exciting match took place last Wednesday in the final of the Jordan U-14 Basketball Championship. The Orthodox team, featuring our student Djeylani, emerged victorious against the Al-Ittihad team, which included Adam Abu Lughod, another of our school's talented athletes. This victory was a wonderful achievement for both players and a testament to the strength of our school's sports program.

For further details, please click on the link below

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/14qWxlZC5HrVrzOpKvsmEnKpV1jJ\\_omtt/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/14qWxlZC5HrVrzOpKvsmEnKpV1jJ_omtt/view?usp=sharing)

Thank you.

**Dr.Eyad Makanai**

Athletics Director and Head of PE Department