



الأكاديمية الدولية - عمان
THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY - AMMAN

Parent News

Monday, 7th September

2020

Calendar

SEPTEMBER

8 TUE	Staff Meet and Greet for G7, 9, 11 2.30pm -4pm on zoom
10 THU	DP Information Session for G12 Parents 12pm - 1pm on zoom
15 TUE	Staff Meet and Greet for G6, 8, 10 2.30pm -4pm on zoom

A Message from the Director

نورت الاكاديمية بطلابها

It was a mix of excitement, delight and slight apprehension welcoming our beloved students back to campus last week. But as we roll into our second week of teaching, life seems to have nicely settled for everyone, particularly our students. This has certainly made all those sleepless nights preparing

our school for reopening worthwhile!! You would agree it has been a difficult time for us adults coping with the new normal; it comes as no surprise therefore when we find our young children cautiously navigating their way through the newly imposed restrictions. Knowing our kids and how resilient they are, I am assured they will be just fine – trust me. For the majority, coming back to school was a priority that outweighed any limitations there might be. And a testament to this, our attendance was recorded at its highest this fall. Thank you!

It goes without saying that, you, the parents and major stakeholders, have played a huge role in helping us make the transition a seamless one. I thank you greatly for your trust, patience and ever support. As a mother and grandmother, I understand the difficulty making such choices and acknowledge the uncertainty you face every day. You ought to be assured however at IAA we take all precautionary measures very seriously and have adhered to every policy very strictly to mitigate any health risks as much as possible. It is for this reason also that we have restricted parents from being on campus. And as much as I realize this may have been frustrating for some, especially Primary parents, it is a decision that we took with your child's best interest in mind; I hope you can understand.

This leads me to highlight the need to keep a watchful eye over your kids during such turbulent times. We have recently noticed a rise in the number of anxiety cases amongst student – and understandably so. It is imperative therefore that you open all communication channels, perhaps now more than ever, to help ease their concerns. Naturally our school Counselors are also here to help you if you needed that extra support, so please reach out to them directly.

As much as I pray we remain settled and in our daily school routine, our continuation to work from campus remains a decision that only the Ministry of Education can take. It is worth noting that if it becomes necessary to switch to e-learning, the IAA is fully prepared and ready to make such a transition. Please ensure that your child's laptop device is aligned with all e-learning requirements; you may need to regularly refer to files on Moodle to stay updated with the status quo and to familiarize yourself with information on the adopted Platform. In the meantime, I ask that we try to maximize the time we spend on our beloved campus and appreciate the things we take for granted, not least of which, our health!

I'd like to add a small thank you note to our wonderful teachers who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure a safe return for our students. A special thank you goes out to all our returning Expat staff who have opted to remain in Jordan throughout the summer and miss time with their loved ones abroad. Equally important is to recognize the newly hired Expat staff who, despite weeks of quarantine, were still willing to travel to Jordan to honour their contracts with us. Their loyalty and commitment are greatly appreciated.

Finally, I would like to add that similar to previous years I will continue to make myself available every Tuesday for any concerns you may have. Given our restrictive policies however we will hold such meetings virtually through 'Zoom'. Please reach out to my Deputy, Dana Hamzouq on d.hamzouq@iaa.edu.jo to book a suitable time.

Until next time, I wish you all a blessed academic year; full of good health, peace of mind and happiness.

Dr. Hana Kanan
Director, International Academy Amman

Primary School News

Dear Parents,

We've had an incredibly positive start to the school year, and it has been great to see our students back at school and so engaged in their learning. Attendance has been outstanding, as has been the positive energy throughout the school. We have also very much appreciated your support with the changed drop-off and pick-up procedures.

Parent Information Sessions

We will be holding Parent Information Sessions for each of our grade levels commencing this week so that you may have the opportunity to meet our teaching teams and develop an understanding of key aspects of the curriculum at respective grade levels. The "live" sessions will be recorded in case parents are unavailable at the scheduled time. You may then watch these sessions at your convenience.

The schedules are as follows and individualised invitations will be sent to parents via email:

Pre-K	Monday, September 7 th @ 3pm
KG1	Tuesday, September 8 th @ 3pm
KG2	Wednesday, September 9 th @ 3pm
Grade 1	Thursday, September 10 th @ 3pm
Grade 2	Sunday, September 13 th @ 3pm
Grade 3	Monday, September 14 th @ 3pm
Grade 4	Tuesday, September 15 th @ 3pm
Grade 5	Wednesday, September 16 th @ 3pm

Preparing for Virtual Classes

We're so happy to be back at school but recognise the need to have a backup plan should schools close for any reason. As such, it is important that children from KG2 – Grade 5 have access to a device such as an iPad/ tablet or computer so that they may continue lessons virtually.

Throughout the week teachers will be running students through the platforms that will be used and this will become a regular feature of our preparedness throughout the pandemic. If children bring their devices to school on the days listed below, our IT staff will happily download the apps needed to make accessing platforms easier. For children that forget their device, a school laptop will be available for them to work on.

Grade 4:	Sunday, September 6 th
Grade 3:	Monday, September 7 th
Grade 2:	Tuesday, September 8 th
Grade 1:	Wednesday, September 9 th

International School Assessment

The results of last school years' International Schools Assessment, which is taken from Grade 3-5 were once again outstanding with our students' averages placing them at or above students in similar schools throughout

the world. Due to the uncertainty brought about by COVID-19, we will not be taking these tests during the 2020-2021 school year but our commitment to ensuring high standards of teaching and learning will continue.

Wishing you a wonderful week.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Powell
Primary Principal

Secondary School News

Dear Parents

Who would have thought that the 2020/2021 school year would be starting in the circumstances under which we find ourselves today. It is a credit to all in the community that we have started so smoothly and adapted to the new routines so quickly.

What to do if your child is running a temperature or displaying symptoms of Covid-19?

If your child has a temperature of 37.5°C or over, or is displaying symptoms that are associated with Covid-19 please keep your child at home. We ask that you call the Nurse to report that you are keeping your child at home, just like you would for any other health issues under normal circumstances.

Grade 6: congratulations! They often talk of 'silver linings' coming out of adversity and perhaps this is one. Because we had to orientate much later in the year and there is greater structure to teaching and break spaces now, the Grade 6 transition has been one of the smoothest we have experienced. We are really pleased with how our new grade has settled.

Grade 12: at the other end of the spectrum, it is great to see Grade 12 back on campus for this most important of years. Also wonderful to see them holding onto traditions and enjoying the delivery of their Senior jackets this week. Let's hope the temperatures drop and they can actually wear them soon!

We have sent a great deal of information home over the past few weeks and I would like to thank you all for reading and acting upon it. The vast majority of students are coming to school prepared to learn, with the right materials, with enough food for the day and with their masks. As we move to week two, many of the new school ways will start to become normal. However, I must ask that you continue to stress the importance of wearing masks properly to your children if we are to truly mitigate potential transmission.

The first of our annual set of general MYP meetings have gone very well, Ms Hala and Ms Zena have been very pleased with the number of parents attending and the focus of the discussion.

Parent Meetings this week

- **Grade 11** – Meet and Greet – 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday 8th September. Letters with the zoom link have been sent.

- **Grade 9** – Meet and Greet – 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday 8th September. Letters with the zoom link have been sent.
- **Grade 7** – Meet and Greet – 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday 8th September. Letters with the zoom link have been sent.
- **Grade 12** – Parent Information Session – 9.00 a.m. on Thursday 10th September. Zoom details will be released shortly.

Looking ahead, we will not be participating in the ISA exams this year. With the uncertainties surrounding the school year, we have suspended ISA for this academic year. It is quite common for schools to only test on alternate years as they collate diagnostic data so this decision will not impact negatively on the value of the testing.

It was a wonderful first week, seeing our students back in school. Let's hope we have many, many more.

Yours sincerely

Mr Martin and Ms Zena

Library News

The Libraries are excited to be back in school, and this year, we are taking the lessons to the students.

KG Library

Unfortunately, it is not safe to open the library due to limited space and distancing, so Ms. Suha has been visiting PreK to G1 in their classrooms. It is also possible for them to check books out to students in the classroom. If, as parents, you would like to request that we send home books (specific titles or a collection about "frogs," for example), please email s.hadidi@iaa.edu.jo or library@iaa.edu.jo to learn how to place holds on books. Once a request is received, we will check the book(s) out to your child's name. The child will be responsible for bringing the books home and back on time.

Primary Library

Ms. Dima is also teaching library lessons in the classroom. When the lesson is over, the class divides into two groups to go to the library to check out 2 books each. So far, the system is working well. We would like to welcome our new library assistant, 2020 grad Maysoon Ghazal, who is temporarily stepping in while Ms. Layal is on maternity leave.

The students have seen two very important screencasts that explain how to access the library's electronic resources. One about logging into Destiny Discover can be found here <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Uq-NSig5nIen3Pb9oPxGyBPJfeSZLgU4/view>.

Another about using Britannica School is located here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1o7INmGPzEemYKnFQ88tpKZKHFRi1VZIs/view>

Secondary Library

The Secondary Library continues to welcome students on a teacher-requested basis. This week, Grade 6 English classes will be coming to select books of personal interest for quiet reading time. Ms. Obeida has created a collection of research materials for her music classes using nonfiction books, eBooks, and a new Oxford Premium Reference product *Grove Music Online*. You can see more library resources on the Senior Library Moodle page. This morning, G6 was introduced to two library resources, Destiny Discover and Britannica School via screencast located here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GYslFyndgsnBkXPS6OEbbdonGBhTg3i5/view?usp=sharing>

More resources are located on our school library website www.library.iaa.edu.jo. Please do not hesitate to write library@iaa.edu.jo if you have any concerns or questions.

Coming Soon!

- A brand new Destiny Discover Reading App, much more user-friendly with easy access to our eBook collection.
- An update on our Summer Reading Challenge.
- An update on our Media Lab checkout and return policy.

Library Literacy Quote: “Why does [book] choice matter? Providing students with the opportunity to choose their own books to read empowers and encourages them. It strengthens their self-confidence, rewards their interests, and promotes a positive attitude toward reading by valuing the reader and giving him or her a level of control. Readers without power to make their own choices are unmotivated.” – Donna Lynn Miller, *The Book Whisperer*