

# AL NOOR-ABA NEWS

10<sup>th</sup> May 2018

## Superintendent's Message

Dear Parents,

ABA is a welcoming community. We have always seen our role as being more than a school for academic purposes but one that lives by its values, celebrates diversity and aims to bring people together. This is captured in our Vision and indeed reflects Oman's perspective on the world. I believe that we have an environment of intercultural understanding and respect. This has not happened by accident but as a result of a community committed to this aim.

However, understanding and respect is not only a cultural matter. Over the last month or so, we have seen various issues and concerns raised. Putting aside the rights or wrongs of the specific issues and whether the format of the meeting on 23 April was good or bad, I think many would agree that the meeting was a shock to a community that has always taken pride in its respect for "the other". Indeed, it has led some to question what is happening at ABA.

While it is acknowledged that there are issues and concerns, it is a worry about disunity among the community and the lack of politesse that was seen at times in the meeting, that has led to the question.

I truly believe that our school spirit is strong. The ideals of the school will prevail. We will address the issues and be stronger for it. However, we must agree that the respect shown by many must be shown by all. Respect for "the other" whether that be an opinion, a person or a culture is central to our school and to the education in which we believe.

I want to close with a word of assurance. The education of your children has not been affected during this difficult period. My team of caring and talented teachers continue to provide an excellent education supported by a hard-working and committed staff. Their professionalism is noteworthy.

As Superintendent, I encourage everyone to work together as a community for ABA. We all know that at its heart, it is a great school with strong values.

*Simon Taylor*

## Upcoming Dates

17 May	Ramadan Begins
21 May	PTA Open Meeting PTA Room 7:40 am
22 May	Parents Appreciation Iftar MPH 6:30 pm
24 May	Grade 12 Graduation Ceremony PAC 4:00 pm
27 May	Board Election Meet the Candidates Forum & Polling  Annual General Meeting (AGM) PAC 8:00 pm  All Parents & Staff Welcome

# Message from the ABA Election Committee

## Voting Frequently Asked Questions

### WHO AM I VOTING FOR?

There are two board member position to be filled this year, so you will be electing two candidates from the prospective nominees. The candidate with the highest vote will be eligible for a two year term and the candidate with the second highest vote will be eligible for one year term due to mid-term resignation. You are not electing a candidate to any particular board position, as the positions are determined by the newly elected board members.

### HOW MANY VOTES DO I HAVE?

You will have two votes this year.

### WHAT MAKES A GOOD CANDIDATE FOR THE BOARD?

Potential candidates should be responsible persons of the community who display intelligence, experience, special professional expertise and an interest in the school's welfare. Candidates with a wide scope of vision and the ability to carefully consider all aspects of issues make successful board members. While those wishing to pursue narrow or special interests are not assets to the board.

### WHO CAN VOTE?

Parents or legal guardians of children currently enrolled at ABA.

### WHEN CAN WE VOTE?

The ABA Board of Directors' Annual General Meeting will be held on **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2018 from 8:00 pm in the PAC.**

Following the "Meet the Candidates" forum, there will be the AGM report. The candidates in the upcoming election will speak on their decision to run for the board. Subsequently the candidates will make themselves available to speak with members of the association.

Voting will begin immediately following the meeting and continue until all present have cast their votes. There will be additional voting sessions conducted inside the Admin building, on the following dates:

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May, 7:00 – 8:00 am and 2:00 – 2:30 pm**  
**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May, 7:00 – 8:00 am and 2:00 – 2:30 pm**

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May, 7:00 – 8:00 am and 2:00 – 2:30 pm**  
**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 7:00 – 8:00 am and 2:00 – 2:15 pm**

**The proxy form is now available on the parent portal or Admin for those who are unable to attend during voting times. Please note that only your spouse can vote by proxy on your behalf.**

*Board Election Committee 2018*

# Message from the Elementary School

## Ramadan

Ramadan begins on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May and will continue until the end of the school year. In preparation, the school has developed various guidelines for teachers and students, to ensure that we demonstrate appropriate respect at this important time.

If your child might fast for some or all of Ramadan, please contact your child's teacher as soon as possible with the following information:

- Name of student
- Is s/he fasting?
- Is s/he able to drink water?
- Is s/he able to eat a snack if feeling ill or too hungry?
- Is s/he able to participate in PE class?
- Is s/he able to participate in Swimming?

We will do our best to support your family's expectations for your child throughout this Holy month.

### Request

ABA community members who are keen to volunteer their time within Student Support Services and/or who would be interested in substitute teaching at elementary level are encouraged to respond to [scook@abaoman.org](mailto:scook@abaoman.org) with a brief description of their background and experience.

*Sam Cook*

## Message from the Extra Curricular Program

### Muscat Primary Sports League (MPSL)

We have had two MPSL Clinics held over the last two weeks. This week was the Handball Clinic held at ASIS. The coach leading this event worked through progressive skills leading up to small-sided games of Handball. He focused on ball skills as well as invasion game concepts.

Last week was the MPSL Gymnastics Clinic for our G2-5 students. Coaches from a local Muscat club attended this event to help teach the students different gymnastics elements on the vault, bench and floor. Our students worked hard to improve their skills and have returned to the gymnastic after school activity (ASA) to continue practising. A number of students from this ASA will have the opportunity to compete in the MPSL gymnastics competition at the end of the month.



### Success in the Community

#### The Karate National Competition

Alia Sadiq Khan, Grade 7, won 2 bronze, one in Kata and the other in Kumite.

Muna al Mugheiry of Grade 8 won a bronze in Kumite.

Both the students train with Ivana the coach, pictured along with Alia.



The award ceremony was held under the patronage of HE Rashad Al Hinai - Undersecretary at the Ministry of Sports Affairs.

We are very happy that in addition to academic excellence our children are pursuing sports (Vipers swim team and Karate).

Raewyn Jack

## Message from the University and College Counsellor

### Important Dates:

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May:** Grade 11 University Application Presentation in the PAC 6:00 – 7:30pm

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May:** Grade 11 University Application Presentation repeat PTA Room 7:30 – 8:30am

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May:** Grade 12 Transition Workshops and Iftar 11:00 – 20:00

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May :** Grade 12 Transition Workshops, Graduation Practice and Awards 8:45 – 14:30

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May :** Grade 12 Transition Workshops and Graduation Rehearsal 8:45 – 16:00

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May :** Grade 12 Graduation Students arrive at 14:00, Ceremony starts at 16:00

*Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May (date to be confirmed next week). Coffee Morning for parents of Grade 12 Leavers: What to expect with University Transition.*

Rachel Keys

## Message from School Cafeteria

Wholesome meal of the day (Daily Vegetarian & Non Vegetarian options)

Adult portion – Meal of the day  
RO 1.800

Junior portion – Meal of the day  
RO 1.000

Soup of the day RO 0.700bz  
Salad bar counter RO 0.900bz

Gluten free & Vegan option available upon request

### Cafeterias and lunch service timings:

**Primary Cafeteria:** 7:00 am - 15:00 pm

Hot line food service: 9:00 - 9:30 am / 10:25 - 11:05 am / 11:30 am - 12:00 pm / 12:25 pm - 12:55 pm

**Secondary Cafeteria:** Hot line food service: 10:25 - 11:05 am / 12:25 - 12:55 pm

**NOTE:** Due to ongoing exams from 18<sup>th</sup> April only the elementary cafeteria will be operational

### School Meal Plan Week: 14<sup>th</sup> May – 17<sup>th</sup> May

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
School holiday	Slow roasted chicken with gravy <b>Or</b> Spinach & pumpkin wellington <b>Choice of Side:</b> Steamed vegetables White rice /cous cous	Penne alfredo with chicken & mushrooms <b>Or</b> Mac & Cheese <b>Choice of Side:</b> Roasted vegetables Garlic bread	Coconut beef curry <b>Or</b> Palak paneer <b>Choice of Side:</b> Mashed potato White rice /cous cous	Beef burger <b>Or</b> Mixed vegetables burger <b>Side:</b> Cajun Potato wedges Asian coleslaw



### Grab & Go chillers offering

Homemade Vegetarian & Non vegetarian: Sandwiches/Wraps/Salads/Healthy snacks

Beverages: Fresh fruit Juices, Fresh Fruit Smoothies, Bottled juices, Fresh milk

### Catering & Events

We cater for every occasion! Canape receptions, cocktail parties, barbeques, garden parties and formal dinners, boat trips, afternoon tea, breakfast, brunch, business lunches, corporate events, bespoke banquets and more.....



## Messages for the PTA

Dear parents,

We would like to thank you for your generous donations and time taken to help us celebrate our teachers and staff. It was an eventful and memorable day. It reinforces the faith we have in the community and gives us confidence to work together. A special thank you to Mae Ballout for offering the spa massages from Ayana Spa.

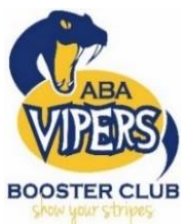
On another note, we at PTA are still looking for your support in forming the next PTA executive committee. Elections for this are scheduled with the PTA AGM on Monday, the 21<sup>st</sup> May in the Grade 6 Common Room.

Thank you.



Your PTA

# Messages for the Community



## BULLSEYE!

The demands for this year's MESAC program have been extraordinary for our small community, but one that we have risen too with great enthusiasm, pride and a 'can do' approach. The Booster Club have led the way, but our community hospitality, warmth and generosity has set a bench mark unmatched by any of our competitor schools this past year.

Our aims and objectives to inspire, support, and encourage our athletes and artists, while raising funds to support the MPSL, MSSL, and MESAC programs have been surpassed this year with the support of our generous, hardworking and dedicated parent / teacher community. In a presentation to the community at the PTA Open meeting on Monday, we presented our financials for the year and our pledges for the next academic year. Please see information attached!

On behalf of our kids, thanks for your support! We look forward to another new and exciting year in 2018/19!

## What we achieved in 2017/18



- ✓ Oct 2017 – Fundraiser – 'Spike Strike Score'
- ✓ Oct 2017 – MESAC JV Volleyball @ ABA
- ✓ Nov 2017 - MESAC Varsity Volleyball & Golf @ ABA – ADDITIONAL
- ✓ Nov 2017 – MESAC Achievement Awards – Season 1 – NEW
- ✓ Jan 2018 - Middle School Band Festival – NEW
- ✓ Jan 2018 – Fundraiser - 'Half Shot Hot Shot'
- ✓ Feb 2018 - MESAC JV Basketball @ ABA
- ✓ Feb 2018 – MESAC Soccer @ ABA – ADDITIONAL
- ✓ Feb 2018 – MESAC Achievement Awards – Season 2 – NEW
- ✓ March 2018 – PTA ICF
- ✓ March 2018 - Fundraiser – 'Ice Ice Crazy'
- ✓ April 2018 – MESAC Badminton @ ABA
- ✓ April 2018 – MESAC Track & Field @ Sultan Qaboos Stadium – ADDITIONAL
- ✓ April 2018 – MESAC Achievement Awards – Season 3 - NEW
- ✓ April 2018 – Coaches Appreciation Lunch

**NEW this year!!!**



## Booster Club Investment / Pledges 2018/19



### INVESTMENT:

#### Continue to offer high quality merchandise

- Customised & exclusive to ABA VIPERS community
  - new merchandise under revision
- NEW SECONDARY CAMPUS
  - NEW Booster Club Shop + additional merchandise

#### Booster Club equipment

- New Pop-Up Banners
- New long wearing table clothes (*purpose made for BBQ / Concession*)
- New printer (*when new shop comes on line*)

### PLEDGES:

#### Sponsorship of quality merchandise for MESAC participants

- VIPERS Kit Bags = target 300 (students & staff)

#### Sponsorship of spirit wear for VIPERS participants

- MPSL participants (apparel i.e. cap/water bottle) = target 100 students
- MSSL participant shirt (apparel i.e. shirt) = target 250 students

#### Sponsorship of Sports Inspiration Artwork – Both Campus'

- Original framed artwork – ABA students – both elementary / secondary campus = target 16 pieces

***Yours in community spirit – VIPERS Booster Club***