



مدرسة البكالوريا - عمان
Amman Baccalaureate School

Kindergarten

September 2011



**A mile long journey begins with a single step.
Chinese Proverb**

Dear Parents,

The school year has already begun; and we're proud to announce that we've started our journey off on the right foot! The children have settled into their routines. We look forward to an amazing school year filled with magical discoveries.

We enthusiastically welcome back all our returning KG2 students and families; and we would like to extend a very special welcome to our new ABS family members in KG1 & KG2!

Who's who in the Kindergarten

Mrs. Sandy Abu-Arja	Head of Kindergarten	sandy@abs.edu.jo
Ms. Maha Ibayyat	KG Executive Secretary	mibayyat@abs.edu.jo
Mrs. Dima Qubain	KG MC/ICT Specialist	dqubain@abs.edu.jo
Ms. Wesam Ta'amneh	KG MC/ICT Specialist Assistant	wesamt@abs.edu.jo
Mrs. Razan Fakhoury	KG 1A & B Arabic Teacher	razan@abs.edu.jo
Mrs. Tamara Shawqi	KG 1A & B Arabic Teacher	tshawqi@abs.edu.jo
Ms. Amira Shawa	KG 1A & B English Teacher	ashawa@abs.edu.jo
Ms. Yasmin Nassoura	KG 1A & B English Teacher	ynassoura@abs.edu.jo
Mrs. Dima Al-Saheb	KG 1C & 2A Arabic Teacher	dima@abs.edu.jo
Mrs. Nadira Al-Assi	KG 1C & 2A Arabic Teacher	nadira@abs.edu.jo
Ms. Farah Tahboub	KG 1C & 2A English Teacher	ftahboub@abs.edu.jo
Mrs. Aida Taminian	KG 1C & 2A English Teacher	aidat@abs.edu.jo
Mrs. Mai Tamari	KG 2B & C Arabic Teacher	mtamari@abs.edu.jo
Mrs. Sahar Haddad	KG 2B & C Arabic Teacher	sahar@abs.edu.jo
Mrs. Gerorgina Said	KG 2B & C English Teacher	georgina_said@abs.edu.jo
Mrs. Bana Yaghmour	KG 2B & C English Teacher	banayaghmour@abs.edu.jo
Mrs. Mona Faouri	KG 1 & 2 Teacher	mfaouri@abs.edu.jo
Mrs. Jessica Schultz	KG 1 & 2 Teacher	jschultz@abs.edu.jo
Mr. Osama Al Maridi	PE Specialist	osama_almaridi@abs.edu.jo
Mr. Mazin Mansoor	PE Specialist	mmansoor@abs.edu.jo
Mr. Ahmed Al-Radaydeh	Music Specialist	aradaydeh@abs.edu.jo
Mrs. Shahnaz Al-Batsch	KG Helper	
Ms. Areej Swais	KG Helper	
Mrs. Nisreen Jabriyeh	KG Helper	

Our First Week of School

The first week was spent getting acquainted with each other. KG1 students are still exploring their new home away from home and are starting to bond with their friends and teachers. Most of the KG2 students have settled into their routine in their brand new classrooms and have hit the ground running.

Units of Inquiry

KG1 students will soon be right in their element when they start their unit that is near and dear to a little one's heart. Their unit will delve into how we use play to express our feelings and ideas and in order to come to new understandings.

KG2 students are putting their social skills to the test during their first unit of inquiry that will revolve around the fact that the way we act affects our relationships with others.

Borrowing Books Procedure

All KG students will be taking 1 Arabic and 1 English book home from the library. The books will be sent home every Thursday to be returned on Sunday. These books are meant to be read by you with your children to support their love of and growth in reading.

We hope the children will learn how to be responsible for their books and return them on time. New books will not be issued until the previous ones are returned. There will be a processing fee charge of JD 5 for any lost or damaged book plus the original price of the book.

Physical Education (P.E.) & Music

Each week, the KG will be a buzz about the P.E. & Music lessons.

Our young athletes can hardly wait to go to the Sports Complex where they know Coach Osama & Coach Mazin have prepared fun-filled games and activities for them to participant in.

Weekly PE Schedule:

Sunday 10:00-10:45 KG2A

Monday 10:00-10:45 KG2C

Monday 11:45-12:30 KG2B

Tuesday 10:00-10:45 KG1C

Tuesday 10:45-11:30 KG1B

Tuesday 11:30-12:15 KG1A

Please make sure your child is wearing comfortable clothes and gym shoes on the specified day. For safety reasons, if your child is not in gym shoes he/she will not be allowed to play.

For hygienic purposes, the school campus' water fountains have been replaced by water dispensers. Each child is required to bring in his/her water bottle and is welcome to refill it as many times as needed throughout the day. They will take their water bottles to and from the PE lessons.

Mr. Ahmad Al-Radaydeh's voice is music to our ears during our music lessons. His lessons are lively, magical & memorable. Soon the little choir will be belting out the notes to the songs like true professionals. They will also get a chance to dance to the rhythm of the music. Before long, they will be playing their musical instruments to the beat.

Weekly Music Schedule:

Tuesday 10:00-10:45 KG1B

Tuesday 10:45-11:30 KG1A

Tuesday 11:30-12:15 KG1C

Wednesday 9:15-10:00 KG2C

Wednesday 10:00-10:45 KG2B

Wednesday 11:45-12:30 KG2A

Open House

We look forward to seeing you all at our annual Open House scheduled for Tuesday 27th September starting at 12:30. Additional details will be communicated prior to the event.

The Open House is for parents only. There will not be anyone to supervise the children after school, so please make arrangements for them to be taken home promptly at 12:15.

Special Announcements & Reminders

School Day Schedule

Sunday, Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 8:55 am-1:15 pm

Tuesday 8:55 am-12:15 pm

Please be punctual for drop-off and pick-up times. We have morning line-up assemblies on Sunday & Thursday mornings. At the end of the day, teachers are required to be on active duty supervising the children, so they are not at liberty to chat about individual queries or concerns, however, feel free to e-mail or set an official appointment with them.

Notes from Home

Due to the large number of requests from parents for us to accommodate the change of routine during pick-up time, we reiterate how important it is that both parties must send in matching, clearly written, dated A4 size notes with the children involved that include, your child's first & family name, his/her class section, who (child's first & family name) he/she will be going home with or taking home with him/her and the class section that child is in, as well as who will be picking the children up. *If ONLY one parent sends a note, then the children will go home as usual without any change to their pick-up routine.* Last minute phone calls, e-mails, voice or text messages are no longer accepted as they may not reach the KG Team in time during their busy schedule with the children. We appreciate your support as our top priority is the children's safety.

Drop-off & Collection of KG Children Procedures

Drop-off logistics for KG1 & KG2 –

- Vehicles are to approach the ABS campus from the Sports Complex Gate
- Upon entry, all vehicles are to circulate in a single-lane only, through the Upper Carpark area, and continuing through to the KG approach road
- Drop-off method is generally “drop & go” only – no parking of cars can be accommodated from within the queue of vehicles
- The drop-off queue will circulate around the KG carpark circle, with students to disembark from the vehicle at the KG entrance in turn, with the vehicle leaving promptly around the carpark circle and back along their entry path
- For those who wish to escort their child(ren) to the KG building: 1. Conductors will proceed through the carpark to park at the stadium parking area, from where they will accompany their child(ren) along the sidewalk and running track to the door in the fence at the KG building
- Upon completing their drop-off, vehicles are to exit the campus following the external road leading from the Sports Complex to the campus side exit onto the local roadway
- Pick-up logistics for KG1 & KG2 – see Map B i. Vehicles are to approach the ABS campus from the Sports Complex Gate
- Upon entry, all vehicles are to circulate in a single-lane only, through the Upper Carpark area, and continuing through to the KG approach road
- Pick-up method is generally an announced pick-up – no parking of cars can be accommodated from within the queue of pick-up vehicles 1. The pick-up queue will circulate around the KG carpark circle, with the vehicle’s family being announced in advance to the KG entrance, such that the students will be brought forward for embarking into the vehicle at the KG entrance in turn, with the vehicle leaving promptly around the carpark circle and back along their entry path
- For those who wish to escort their child(ren) from the KG building: 1. Conductors will circulate through the back half of the Upper Carpark and proceed through to park at the stadium parking area, from where they will go on foot to the KG building to collect their child(ren) and then accompany them back along the sidewalks and running track to the stadium parking area

Upon completing their pick-up, vehicles are to exit the campus following the external road leading from the Sports Complex to the campus side exit onto the local roadway

Class and Volunteer Mothers Programme

The participation of Class and Volunteer Mothers in the Kindergarten activities is a tradition, which has been enjoyed by all involved.

During the Open House, interested mothers are asked to complete and return a form.

We randomly draw a name from each class section for "Class Mothers". Class Mothers are expected to liaise between school and volunteer mothers. They will also be called upon to highlight issues of importance to the class as a whole and not with individual cases. In addition, both the Class and Volunteer Mothers will be involved in carrying out special activities like the 100th Day of School Celebration, Characters Alive, etc.

Nut-Free Environment

There are children in our school with a severe peanut and nut allergy. For some children, the allergy causes swelling, hives, etc. and in other children it is life-threatening. Some children react to ingesting the allergen, while others will react by touching the allergen or inhaling it...so, for the safety of the children, please ensure that the children in your class bring nutritional snacks that do not contain peanut and nut products.

Also, for birthdays or other class parties, please ensure that treats that are sent for the entire class are peanut and nut-free. Prepackaged treats and snacks are acceptable as long as they are peanut and nut-free.

For additional information, please visit the following link
<http://www.calgaryallergy.ca/Articles/English/peanutsoyahp.htm>

Please note, we also have children with other allergies. All parents concerned have educated their children as to what they can and cannot eat. The KG Team and I should support them. We have taken it upon ourselves to suggest a peanut and nut-free school environment for the safety and well-being of these children.

Change of Clothes

Please send a spare set of clothes including underwear & socks, clearly labeled with your child's name in a large ziplock bag, to keep at the K.G. in case of "small" accidents.

Medical Forms

If you have yet to do so, please return the completed school medical form to the KG no later than next week. Dr. Fatena Al-Muhtaseb, the school doctor, will compile a list of all allergies and special medical cases we need to be aware of.

Passport-size Photos

Kindly send as soon as possible, four recent passport-size photographs of your child to be used in school.

Lunchboxes

Each child should bring in a lunchbox filled with a healthy snack and water bottle. It's highly recommended to send in a small plastic plate that will fit in the lunchbox for your child to place his/her snack on while eating. The plate will come and go with your child daily.

Denim Bags

Each year, we order monogrammed denim bags for each child to carry his/her schoolwork to and from school. We would like to remind any KG2 students who has yet to send in the ones they used last year, so that we do not have to order new ones.

As soon as we verify the correct spelling of the KG1 & new KG2 students' names, we will place an order for them.

Class Lists

It is a tradition in the KG to circulate all six sections of class lists to all KG Parents at the beginning of the school year for your convenience. If you prefer that your confidential information (name, e-mail address, or phone number) NOT be included, please inform Ms. Maha Ibayyat, KG Executive Secretary via e-mail at mibayyat@abs.edu.jo prior to Monday 12th September 2011. If that is the case, only your child's name & birth date will appear on his/her class list. If we do not receive any e-mails concerning this issue prior to that day, we plan on sending out the class lists to you all on Tuesday 13th September 2011.

Professional Development

Ms. Amira Shawa, Ms. Farah Tahboub and I had the opportunity to attend the IB PYP Category 1 Workshops in Paris, France at the end of June 2011 where we had the opportunity to mingle with hundreds of educators from around the world and attend three full days of hands-on training about standards & practices and the curriculum model.

As we truly believe in sharing is caring, we have shared our experience in two structured informative sharing sessions with the entire KG & JS Teams. We have two more hands-on sessions scheduled in the near future.

ABS Website

To keep abreast of what all is taking place, please visit our ABS website at www.abs.edu.jo We also have a spectacular KG section specifically for our KG families and friends that can be accessed from the ABS Home Page.

Thanks for your support!

Sincerely,

Sandy Abu-Arja

Head of Kindergarten