

Oct.11

ISSUE 1

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Letter from the Principal



Mr. Stuart Bryan

Welcome back! It was a great pleasure to welcome all of the students back to the school and particularly to welcome our new families! We gave welcome back assemblies throughout the school, where we re-enforced the importance of our AI TARBIYEH acronym and our new ABS Experience Model, which we hope encapsulates all the key experiences of an ABS student IB Learner and Round Square Explorer throughout their time at ABS.

Council of International Schools (CIS)/International Baccalaureate (IB) Synchronised Team Evaluation Visit

As you will no doubt be aware, ABS hosted the first-ever worldwide CIS Team Evaluation Visit under the revised international protocol, from Saturday 23 September to Thursday 28 September 2017, with its much tougher standards and requirements. The visit started with a meeting of the 16 IB/CIS evaluators with the whole ABS community, in the presence of HRH Princess Sumaya bint El Hassan, and it was really splendid to see all sections of the ABS community represented for such an important meeting, including representatives of the Board of Trustees, Staff, PTA, Booster Club, Alumni Board and, of course, our wonderful Student Council Members, who gave the Evaluation Team a full tour of the school.

The IB/CIS Evaluation Team spent the following week reviewing the school's Self-study, curriculum documentation, policy handbooks, meeting with the Board of Trustees, Leadership Team, teachers, support staff, parents and students and, of course, visiting lessons, including that of the Principal! There can be no doubt that the Evaluation Team carried out a thorough review of all aspects of the ABS, especially its learning and teaching during this week.

We now await the full reports from both CIS and the IB (for all 4 IB programmes) and, whilst there will certainly be recommendations for development from both reports, which will help us in our journey of continuous school improvement, as mentioned by the CIS Team Chair in the draft feedback to all the school staff at the end of the week, there will also be many more commendations. Indeed, it was highlighted that the school had been meticulous in its production of the CIS Self-study and that the school had exceeded all the requirements for the revised CIS Accreditation protocol, which is praise indeed given the much more demanding requirements of the revised CIS international protocol.

This is a fantastic accolade for the whole ABS community and many congratulations and thanks go to all who made this possible, including the Board of Trustees, staff, parents and especially our wonderful students, who made a fantastic impression throughout the whole week. Many, many congratulations!



Communications Arrangements and Compliments and Complaints Portal for 2017 - 2018

As usual, we ask you to contact the most appropriate person who is able to deal with your question and/or concern. In order to facilitate this and give you the best response, we have developed the following communications structure, which we would ask you to follow at all times. Click [here](#) to view the Communications Structure 2017-2018.

In addition for more serious issues, issues of a more generic nature or, indeed, issues that have remained unresolved, in collaboration with the PTA, we have developed, as part of our upgraded website a Compliments and Complaints portal. I would urge all of you to use this portal if you have a serious issue to raise with the school, as it will not only direct your comment to the right person to handle it, but will also make an official record of the communication, which will be invaluable for us as a school in tracking our effectiveness in resolving serious issues. Please also remember that the portal can be used for making official compliments as well as complaints, which are always very gratefully received.

New Staff Members for 2017 - 2018

I am delighted to inform you that our new staff members have already settled into the life of the school and are making a very positive contribution. Please click [here](#) to view the list of new staff.

Annual Report 2016-2017

Please refer to our [Annual Report](#) for 2016-2017 where we celebrate how successful the last academic year was. In particular, congratulations to all students (and their parents) in Grade 10 last year on their superb IB MYP eAssessments results and also to our Grade 12 graduating class of 2017 (and their parents) on, once again, achieving superb IB Diploma, Courses and Career-related Programme results. The latter results are not just significantly above IB worldwide averages, but are also significantly above our CEM centre predictions from the University of Durham (see later in this newsletter) indicating that our students performed considerably above expectations. We were also delighted with the final confirmed university destinations of our graduating class, confirming, yet again, that an ABS IB education can open the doors to the absolutely most prestigious and competitive tertiary institutions worldwide.

Whole School Renovations

As mentioned later in this report, we are absolutely delighted (as are the students) with our facilities that have been renovated this summer.

Our renovated track and field looks wonderful and really gives a bright and uplifting feel to the whole campus, not to mention being a greatly enhanced surface for all our sports activities, including the recently highly successful FCB Escola Football Camp, which was held at the school.

Our Design Technology Department has benefited from a total renovation, transforming this area of the school into one of the best learning and teaching spaces on the whole campus. We are delighted with this renovation and look forward to an official opening of these renovated facilities later in the academic year.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to the Board of Trustees for providing the funds to complete such exciting changes to support our students' physical and creative learning, to our generous donors, including the Booster Club, for their fundraising support and, of course, to our Facilities and Maintenance Team for overseeing the completion, on time, and to such a high standard of two major projects over the summer.

It has certainly been a highly positive and productive start to the new school year!

With best wishes,

Stuart Bryan

Principal

Facilities Update



Mr. Chris Webb

This has been another busy summer for improving and maintaining our facilities. A large number of small projects have been completed together with three large projects: the track, field and stadium; renovation of Design Technology floor and the Photo-Voltaic system (still in progress).

Track, Field and Stadium

As many of you will have seen, the renovation of the Track, Field and Stadium is now complete. In just 42 days, the old surfaces were removed and then 8000 m² of FIFA PRO quality artificial turf was laid, together with 6,800 m² of new rubberised surface for the track and 'D' areas. The lining was completed by a UK specialist who works to IAAF standards. The 1600 new seats were fitted and are numbered for assigned seat events.

The field had its first real test during the FCB Escola Football Camp with the team coaches commenting that it's one of the best fields they've ever held a camp on! We hope that ABS students and community will now enjoy these fantastic new surfaces for many years to come.



Facilities Update

Design Technology Renovation

The renovation of the Design Technology area has taken place with a large amount of work being undertaken over the summer vacation. The project is now in its final stages with the functionality of each space being completed.

The area now includes 3 classrooms (previously we had only 2), workshop, computer room, electronics/3D printing room, Lego/robotics room, dedicated rooms for the laser cutter and CNC machines, paint room, staff office, student lounge area and numerous storage areas. The area has been designed to let in as much natural light as possible and to allow high visibility into the department as well as having a proper ventilation and fume extraction system.

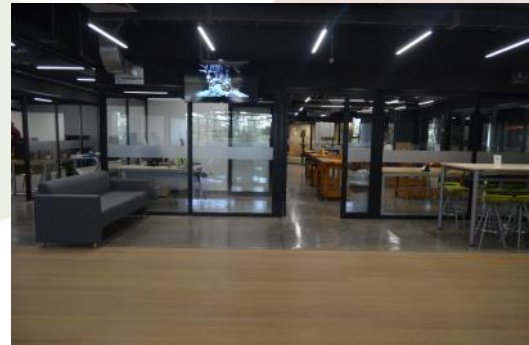
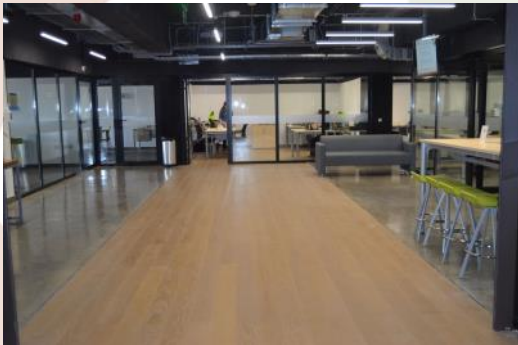


Photo-Voltaic (PV) System Phase 2

Approval from the Electricity Authority to proceed with the second phase of the PV system was obtained in early August and since then preparation of one of the larger areas (by the top car park) has been in progress. The next stage is to install the steel structures and the panels themselves. This will happen during the remainder of this term with full functionality expected by the end of the term.

Minor Projects this summer have included the completion of the shaded walkway outside the Sports Complex, a new classroom in the Additional Educational Needs Department, various safety improvements on campus, improved signage, the installation of three new boilers plus all the routine maintenance and painting that goes on all through the summer period.

Updates from the Assistant Principal (Development)



Ms. Sandy Abu-Arja

Welcome to another year of learning at Amman Baccalaureate School (ABS)! I have a total of 25 years of experience in the field of education, fifteen of which have been at ABS. I consider myself fortunate to work with such an amazing team of educators and support staff who strive to create the most conducive teaching and learning environment possible.

As Assistant Principal (Development), my responsibilities include, but are not limited to oversight of Health and Safety, Staff Performance Management, External Relations, Publications, Educational Trips and Visits, House System, and Co-curricular Activities.

Strategic Objectives 2017-2018

In addition to carrying out the responsibilities aforementioned, I will work collaboratively with my team members to achieve the following strategic objectives:

- To ensure a mutually supportive home-school partnership with all relevant stakeholders so as to support student learning and welfare.
- To ensure the effective mapping of all school co-curricular programmes and that they meet the highest international standards
- To ensure that all school "outreach" events, conferences, meetings and media and publication materials are of the highest possible standard in English and Arabic

Updates from the Assistant Principal (Development)

ABS Yearbook 2016-2017

The 2016-2017 yearbook theme honoured the 35 years of teaching and learning at ABS. The yearbook's front cover featured a montage of graduation photographs spanning over the years while the inner pages were filled with page after page of educators and learners actively engaged in a plethora of hands-on experiences.

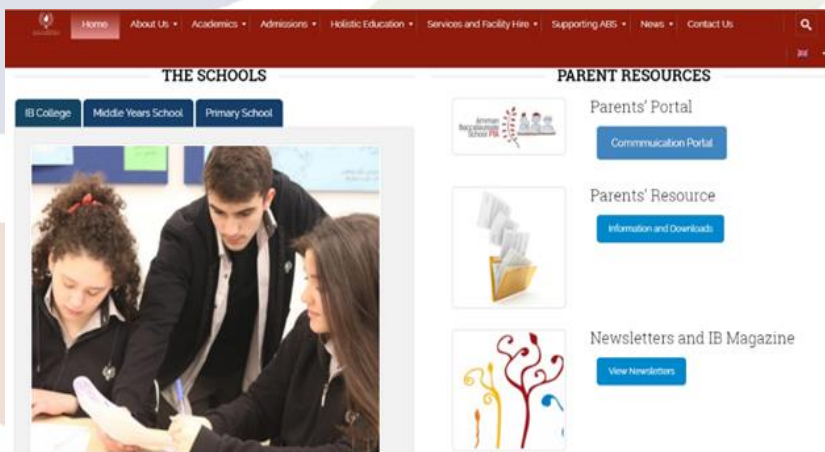
Newly Upgraded ABS Website

We are proud to announce that our newly upgraded Amman Bacculaureate School website is now LIVE. We invite each of you to visit our dynamic site at www.abs.edu.jo where we have incorporated our AL-TARBIYEH branding into the design. Our holistic educational achievements are vibrantly celebrated in an interactive, engaging way. The website is rich with information and resources in both print as well as in video clips.

In accordance with Parental Communication Policy 9.50, we created an ABS Compliments and Complaints Portal on the website.

In honour of our commitment to bilingualism, we are in the process of creating the same site in Arabic over the coming academic year and will inform you as soon as it is ready to launch.

We would like to thank the entire school community (Board of Trustees, staff, students and parents) for their support during the upgrade of the official ABS website.



Round Square International Conference 2017

The ABS Round Square (RS) Delegation just returned from participating in the RS International Conference 2017 that was held in Cape Town, South Africa. The annual conference provided the venue for both adult and student delegates to network and collaborate with like-minded global citizens from around the world.

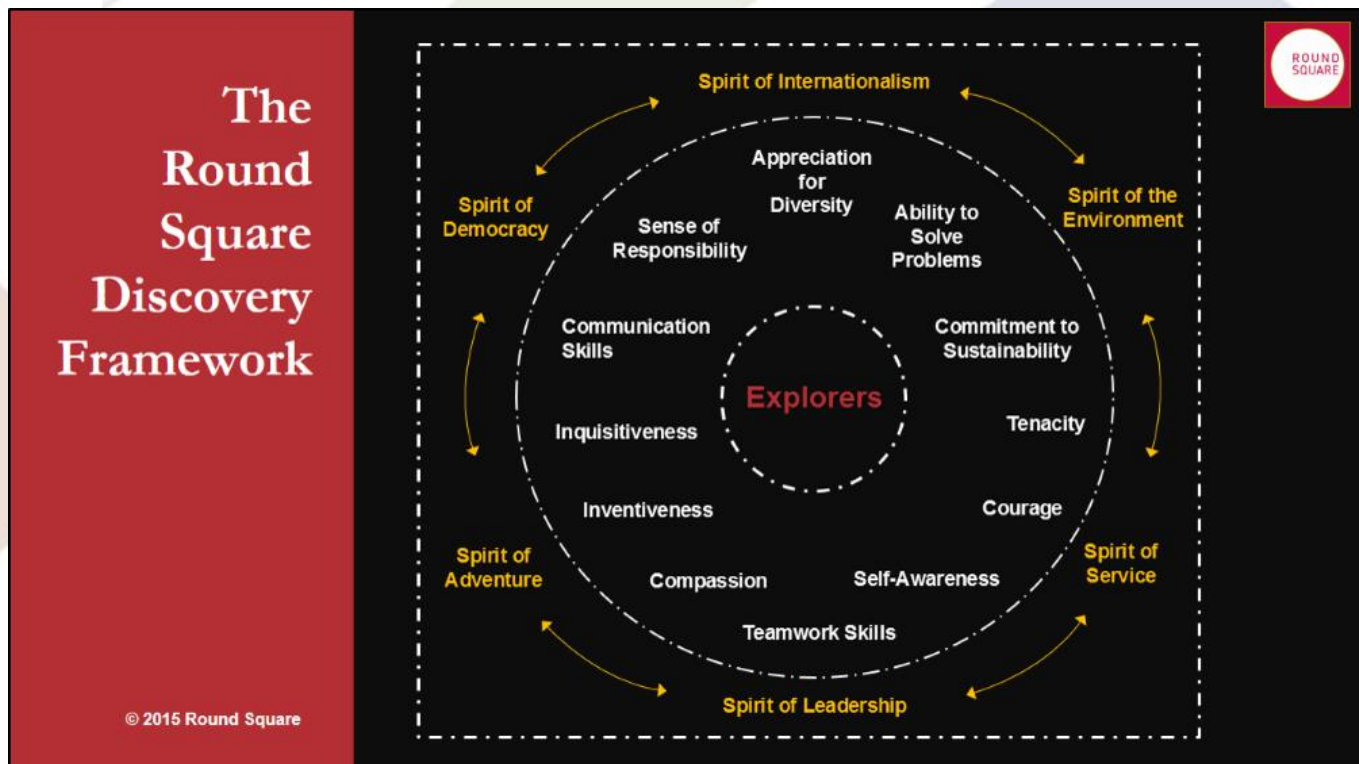
Our five RS delegates exemplified the RS IDEALS and Discovery Framework attributes during the entire conference. They listened attentively to the keynote speakers, reflected thoughtfully in the baraza sessions, participated compassionately in the service project, hiked enthusiastically along the Berg River, and performed a traditional dance proudly in the intercultural night show.



Our Round Square Rep, Mr. Majed Al Makhamreh met with representatives from around the world to celebrate all Round Square schools' success and discuss potential areas in need of action. Mr. Stuart Bryan, ABS Principal and I led two Putting the RS Discovery Framework into Practice presentations during the Good Practice Sessions for the adults. Both presentations were well-attended.

To learn more about Round Square, please visit our website at

<http://www.abs.edu.jo/holistic-education/#round>





Updates From the Director of Student Wellbeing and Achievement



Mr Russell Peagram

In 2016/17, the Wellbeing Team met a number of key annual objectives which served to better facilitate the wellbeing of ABS students. Firstly, the Wellbeing Team used the AL TARBIYEH framework and operationalised this across key areas such as the wellbeing curriculum, Student Council, job descriptions and professional development. Secondly, all academic and support staff received and passed a UK accreditation Safeguarding Course from SafeCIC. Further to this, ABS pioneered the first accredited safeguarding course in Arabic globally, and this course will be offered to other institutions across the arab region. Lastly, the wellbeing curriculum was fully revised and mapped vertically so as to ensure we are meeting the age appropriate needs of students from KG1 through to G12.

This year, the Wellbeing Team, again, has a number of key objectives. Taken from the Wellbeing Development Plan 2016-2019. This year, ABS will be aiming to:

- Ensure all stakeholders are aware of the ABS Student Rights to promote mutual respect and fairness
- Review the ABS Behaviour Management Policy with all stakeholders and to increase awareness of what is expected from staff, students and parents
- Ensure ABS Essential Agreements are working in practice and review awareness and effect
- Implement and operationalise the security checkpoints and various other measures to ensure students' safety around the campus (including the automatic attendance register)
- Achieve 95% attendance and provide accurate attendance records
- Conduct vertical and horizontal review of the Wellbeing curriculum to map links to the UNESCO Global Citizenship rubric, Essential Agreements, AL TARBIYEH, IB Learner Profile, Round Square IDEALS and Approaches to Learning

Updates From the Director of Student Wellbeing and Achievement

- Develop and trial formalised academic and social mentoring programmes

We were delighted to see how well new families have settled in to our ABS community; we welcome them warmly and wish them every success at ABS. We were also delighted to see our existing families return and continue with very successful transitions into their new grade levels. We especially wish the best of luck to our new KG1 families and students entering grades one, six and eleven respectively.

We wish everyone a happy and successful year for 2017/18.

Outstanding Student Achievement

Once again, we hope the ABS community are aware that the IB Diploma Programme and IB Diploma Course results for the class of 2017 were again outstanding, with the school achieving an average of 35 for the IB Diploma Programme. This is our second best set of results; we are very proud of the fact that this was achieved with the largest graduating class of IB Diploma students in Jordan, a total of 69 students.

In addition to this, we are also very excited to share with you our Class of 2017 value added results. These are produced by the University of Durham at the Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring, UK.

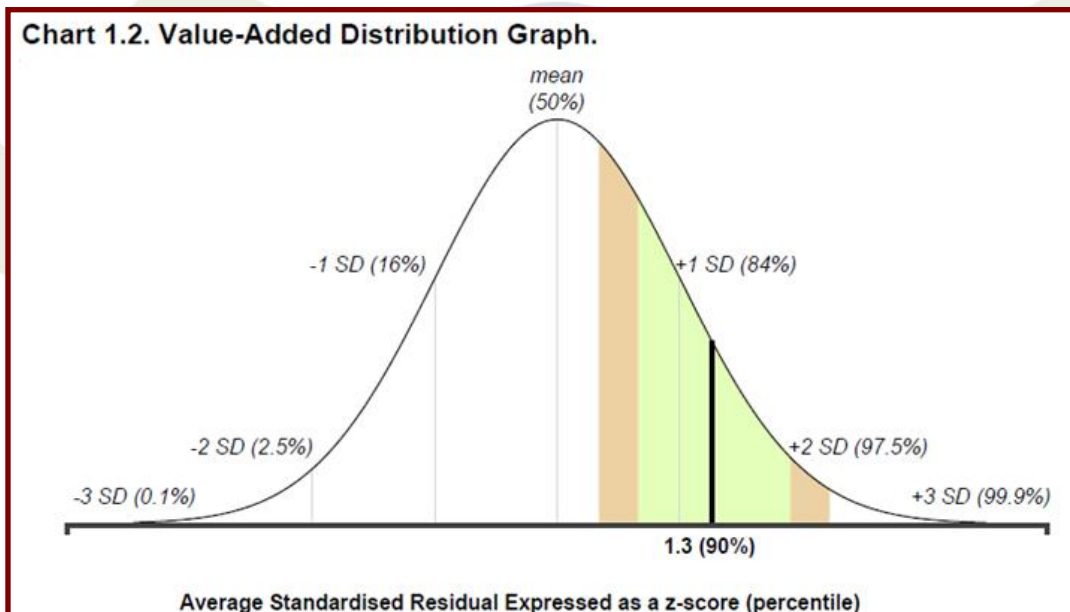
ABS was compared to over 500 other IB Diploma Programme schools to see how well our students performed in comparison to all other schools. The results are below, but first we would like to thank the parents who remained extremely supportive with our drive to ensure that the IB College is a place of academia. The home-school partnership is critical in achieving this.

Updates From the Director of Student Wellbeing and Achievement

- We rank in the top 16% of all schools for the achievement of Diploma only students
- We rank in the top 10% of all schools for the achievement of “all” students, Diploma and Course
- Many subjects have shown statistically excellent results, way beyond expectations

Historical Value Added Scores		
Graduating Class	All Qualifications	IB Diploma Only
2014	76 th Percentile	65 th Percentile
2015	95 th Percentile	85 th Percentile
2016	95 th Percentile	87 th Percentile
2017	90 th Percentile	84 th Percentile

IB Class 2017 All Qualifications Graph



Message from Head of IB College

IB College

The IB College had a smooth start to the academic year 2017-2018 with the Grade 12 students easing their way into an academically challenging year and the Grade 11 students following suit a few days later. Grade 11 students confirmed their subject options with a member of the Leadership Team before they started classes to ensure that the subjects they have chosen were right for them. The Grade 12 students welcomed Grade 11 with Kunafeh on their first day in the college.

Both grade levels had beginning-of-year assemblies with the IB College staff individually which set the tone for the high expectations in the college both academically and behaviourally. The college also hosted an open day for Grade 11 parents that was well attended as well as an informative college night for Grade 12 parents to give them a clear idea of the university application process.

An assembly with Mr. Stuart Bryan and Ms. Bassma Nimri took place to familiarise the students with the details of the CIS visit. This was also a chance to celebrate the achievements of the Grade 11 and 12 students who received the Head of School and the Principal awards based on their academic achievement last year.



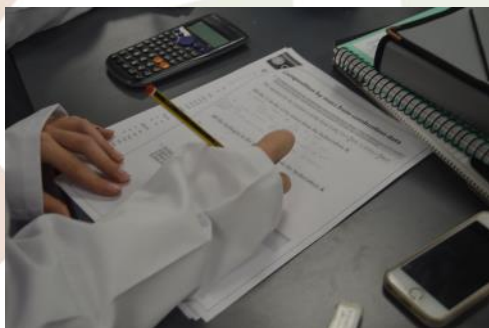
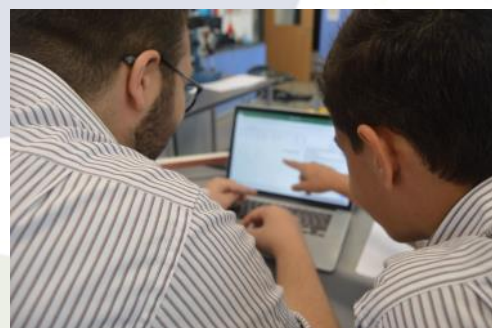
Ms Cathy Souob



IB College News

Science Lessons in the IB College

Looking very professional in their mandatory lab coats, Grade 11 students made a strong start to their work in their science subjects with a week of experimental work in the IB College laboratories.



IB College News

ABS Athletes back from Competing in the Asian Games in Turkmenistan

We welcomed back Mohammad Bedour, Noor Al Qadi and Amro Al-Wir after their amazing performances during the recent Asian Games in Turkmenistan. All three athletes claimed personal bests and broke established records in their respective fields as follows:

Noor competing in track and field achieved the season's best and broke the age group record in long jump and went on to beat the Jordanian record for the 4x400 relay

Amro a swimmer broke two Jordanian records in the 4x50 and 4x100 relay and beat two age group records for the 50m breaststroke and 100m breaststroke

Mohammad, also a swimmer broke two Jordanian records in the 4x50 and 4x100 relay and 2 Jordanian records for the 50m backstroke and 50m butterfly. Mohammad is currently ranked 7 in the Asian men's group and previously secured his place in the Youth Olympic Games with an A cut.

Congratulations to you all. ABS is so very proud of you!



Message from Head of MYS

Middle Years School



Ms Sarah Byham

We welcomed Grade 6 to the Middle Years School and we are happy that they settled into their routine quickly.

The aim of our special day “Friendship DAY” is to raise the students’ awareness of areas related to important concepts in daily life, such as social health, and our willingness to self-reflect.

On Tuesday, 12 September, our Grade 6 students enjoyed interactive sessions sharing their personal experiences. This was followed by designing friendship agreement cards. The students presented their creative posters on stage. Our Wellbeing Team will be eager to look at the survey about bullying and the friendship quiz.



MYS News

Under the umbrella of the Al TARBIYEH attribute of Responsibility, the MYS Counsellor and the Care Group welcomed the new students to ABS School in their own kind way. They discussed lots of important issues, such as how it feels to be new and how to make friends in the MYS. The new students were also informed about who to talk to, if ever they feel they need any help. We hope this event helped our new students to feel part of our ABS family.



The Arabic General Knowledge Competition

The Arabic General Knowledge Competition aims to encourage students to communicate, interact and work together in a spirit of teamwork that reflects a sense of cooperation and solidarity. It aims to motivate students with regard to different thinking skills, expression and time management through a variety of rich and diverse fields of knowledge.



The competition, which took place on the school stage on Monday, 17 September was attended by Grades 6, 7 and 8 students from the Middle Years School. The students were chosen according to the House teams: **Hawks** were represented by Zaid Samman, Omar Sarayrah and Karma Aloul. **Oryx** were represented by Tala Jardaneh, Zaid Khatib and Marwan Al Qasem. **Falcons** were represented by Serina Said, Abdallah Abu Zahra and Zaid Zabaneh. **Eagles** were represented by Tara Abdulla, Afif Kawalit and Makram Eljamal.



MYS News

Zaid Jabaji and Alia Al-Wir were responsible for checking the teams' performance and record keeping. The Falcons were the proud winners of the awards distributed by the Head of the Middle Years School at the end of the competition.

The Knowledge Competition was able to gather Middle School students in an atmosphere of positive competition. The audience was motivated and enthusiastic about the teams and provided the opportunity to participate in certain fields that contributed to the interaction of the audience with the contestants, which made the school theatre vibrant.



Eid Al Adha

On the occasion of Eid Al Adha, Students in the Middle Years School inquired into the concept of Eid Al Adha and why we mark this special occasion worldwide.



Message from Head of PS

Primary School



Dear Parents,

It was lovely to welcome you and all the students back to school, I am really pleased to see how quickly the students have settled back into school with the help of all the Primary Staff. I would like to thank all parents for their patience during the first few weeks of term whilst class and bus routines were being established by Homeroom Teachers.

We have also welcomed a good number of new students to the Primary School this academic year. As part of our wellbeing programme all new students in the Primary School spent time together to help their transition as new members of the ABS community.

Mr Fiyaz Ahmed





Our morning line-up, Grades 1-5, has also started over the last few weeks. This involves our Primary School Band and it is also a time where we celebrate learning and our students' achievements. A gentle reminder that line-up does not take place on Tuesdays and students go straight to their homerooms. Our KG 1 and 2 line-up events are held periodically on Tuesdays and these days are marked on the school calendar. If you need any clarification, please see your child's Homeroom Teacher. All parents are welcome to attend our line-up sessions.





An “Open House” information session for parents of Grades 1-5 students took place on Tuesday, 19 September. I would like to say a big thank you to all of you who attended this event and for your valuable feedback. A similar session took place for our KG 1 and 2 parents on Tuesday, 3 October in the KG Multi-purpose Hall from 18:00-20:00.

I would also like to remind parents that after our curriculum review last year, all Primary School learning outcomes in Arabic, English and Mathematics are on Edline, our learning management platform. If you are having difficulties in accessing or logging into the portal, please contact any of the Primary Offices.



There will also be a new parent Information session on the Primary Years Programme by Ms Dima Qubain, Deputy Head / PYP Coordinator on Monday 23 October 2017 09:15 – 11:00am in Grades 4-5 Media Centre, Building B.

KG1 – KG2

As part of our unit of inquiry, ‘Who We Are’, KG 1 students orally brainstormed different non-standard measurement manipulatives they could use to measure their heights. After the brainstorm, they headed outside and painted their heights onto a bar graph.



Learners enjoyed putting the Snowball Strategy into effect during our first Unit of Inquiry, Who We Are. They drew some of their daily habits on a paper and then bundled the papers into something akin to a snowball! After throwing and picking up a new snowball, learners shared the details on the paper which initiated some very interesting discussions indeed!

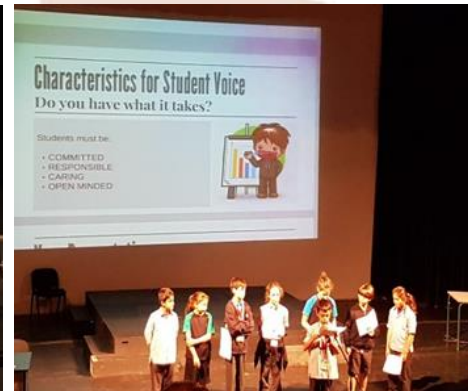


Primary Student Voice Elections

In preparation for the upcoming Primary Student Voice Elections, the Student Council Representatives hosted an assembly for Grades 3 - 5. With great confidence, our representatives presented before their peers as they outlined the roles and responsibilities for Student Voice and the characteristics necessary: Commitment, Responsibility, Caring and Open Mindedness to name a few. They also informed students of important dates and deadlines along with some key notes regarding the campaign itself. Primary students responded with enthusiasm and were full of questions for our Student Council.

The Primary School would like to thank the Student Council for their year of service and for embodying the true spirit of the IB Learner Profile and Al TARBIYEH. They have made us all very proud.

We look forward to an exciting campaign and wish all those who are applying for the 2017-2018 year nothing but the best!





Robotics Club

Grades 3-5 students have started the Robotics after school activity run by the International Robotics Academy. Working in groups, they will acquire within the coming weeks, core knowledge of robots, designing and programming through hands-on activities. They will also apply and integrate Maths and Science concepts with Technology and Engineering.



Performing Arts

'point of View' وجبهة نظر



Sometimes we have to close our eyes to see

أحياناً علينا أن نغلق أعيننا كي نرى
محمد صبحي



مدرسة البكالوريا - عمان
Amman Baccalaureate School

مسرحية كوميدية تكشف واقع مؤسسة فاسدة
تعرض في تمام الساعة السابعة من مساء يومي الخميس
و الجمعة، السابع و الثامن من كانون الثاني 2017

A comic play that lifts the lid on a corrupt establishment

Thursday the 7th, Friday the 8th of December 2017

7pm in the ABS theatre

Athletics Department



مدرسة البكالوريا - عمان
Amman Baccaulaureate School

ABS 5th 8HR MARATHON



RUN For Your Team!

Funds Raised
For Stallions
Sports
Facilities

RUN FROM
10AM TILL 6PM

Closing Ceremony
6:00pm - 6:30pm

NON-STOP!

IT DOESN'T MATTER
WHETHER YOU RUN LIKE
A **LION** OR A **GAZELLE**
WHEN THE SUN COMES UP YOU BETTER BE READY

FRIDAY 20 OCTOBER 2017
For info 06-5411191 ext. 2311



Teamwork At Its Finest!
Assemble a Team
10-20 people



Get A Sponsor



20 OCTOBER 2017
8:30am Registration
10am-6pm RUN!!!



RUN
and have
FUN!