

Nov.5

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ISSUE 2



مدرسة البكالوريا - عمان
Amman Baccalaureate School



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Letter from the Principal



Mr. Stuart Bryan

Parent Teacher Association Elections and Annual General Meeting 2017

I would like to thank all parents who attended the Annual General Meeting of the PTA, which took place last Wednesday 1 November 2017. The turnout was one of the highest in recent years, which meant that the quorum requirement of 20% of eligible families present at the time of the meeting was easily met.

It is with great pleasure that I would like to confirm the PTA members for 2017-2019:

Mr. Faisal Tabbaa	Primary School
Mrs. Yasmine Al Zaben Al Tabbaa	Primary School
Mrs. Tamam Mango Al Azzeh	Primary School
Mrs. Djenan Khayyat Akel	Primary School and Middle Years School
Mrs. Dalia El Farouki Al Jazy	Primary School and Middle Years School
Mrs. Reem Maayta Kanaan	Primary School and Middle Years School
Mrs. Hala Oran Al-Sallakh	Middle Years School and IB College
Mrs. Fatima El Masri Takrouri	Primary School, Middle Years School and IB College

I am also pleased to announce that Mrs. Tamam Mango Al Azzeh was duly elected to be the PTA Representative to the Board of Trustees for 2017-2018.

I would like to offer my profuse thanks to all the above parents for offering to serve in the above association and look forward to another productive year of collaboration and partnership in securing the highest standards of learning, teaching and wellbeing for our students.



8-hour Marathon

I would like to extend my great thanks to the Booster Club for their dedication and commitment to the ABS 5th Annual 8-hour Marathon which was held on 20 October 2017.

In addition, a huge thank you to the Director of Student Wellbeing and Achievement, Mr. Russell Peagram, the Director of Athletics, Mr. Omar Abdalla and the Deputy Director of Athletics, Ms. Ruba Shunnar for their leadership and support and to all the parents and staff who volunteered.

The event was highly successful with over 500 students taking part – almost half of the school and it was superbly organised throughout.

A special thank you also goes to the Gold Sponsor Bank al Etihad and all our other generous sponsors, and of course, to HRH Princess Rahma bint El Hassan, who gave a medal out to every single student who took part!



With best wishes,

Stuart Bryan

Doctors' Notice

We would like to remind all parents to fill out the medical forms for their children and send them back by e-mail to clinic@abs.edu.jo (Grades 6-12) or to rshakhtour@abs.edu.jo (KG1-Grade5) or hard copy forms to the group tutor.

You can access the medical forms for both new students and current students on Edline by going to 'Whole School Information' then 'Medical'.

Please inform the school regarding any new medical information pertaining to your child in order to keep our medical records updated.

With best wishes,

Dr. Fatena Al Mouhtaseb

Dr. Rita Shakhtour



ABS 8-HR Marathon



Mr Russell Peagram

On 20 October, ABS held the 5th annual 8-Hour Marathon. In total, 26 teams competed with students running from KG1 to Grade 12. **Stanley** the Stallion and Mr Stuart led the opening fun lap, before the race was officially started. Amazingly, all teams continued to run the full 8 hours, showing many life-long skills in the process: teamwork, dedication, cooperation and excellence to name a few. Overall, it was a great family day enjoyed by the ABS Community and it certainly resulted in being a very successful fund-raising event for the School. In particular, it was also wonderful to see so many mums, dads, and even a few grandparents participating and running laps with the children. After six hours, approximately five teams were still racing to win, and in the end, the **Rawhi** Pharmacy team won, with Swiss Educational Group taking 2nd, and team Maani Ventures taking 3rd place. Many teams from the Primary School also ran extremely well, and most certainly will be challengers for the title in years to come.

We would like to thank all sponsors, and a special thanks goes to our Gold Sponsor, Bank al Etihad which made the marathon a huge success.

Further to the sponsors, we extend our gratitude to the Booster Club, whom without their continued support and dedication, this event could never happen. The 8-hour Marathon took a long time to organise, and we are extremely grateful for all of theirs and the staff and parent volunteers efforts. Lastly, we would also like to thank the Director and Deputy-Director of Athletics, Omar Abdalla and Ruba Shunnar for their leadership and help provided to the Booster Club.

Below are a selection of some pictures taken from the day. We hope to see even more people join the 6th Annual 8-Hour Marathon 2018!



Message from Head of IB College

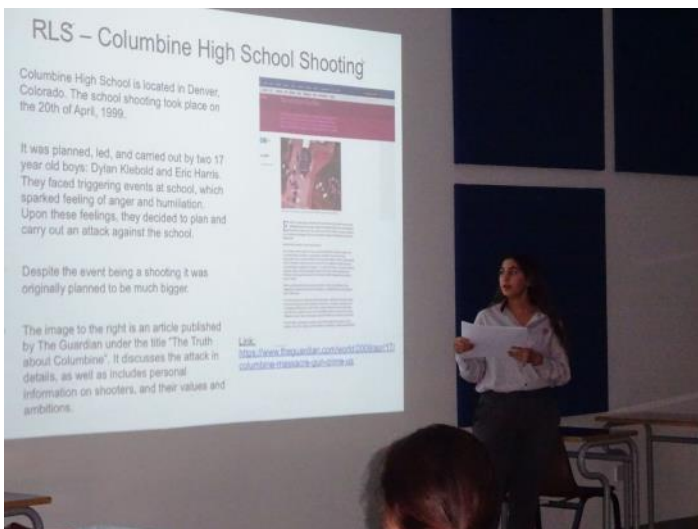
IB College

Life in the College has been busy with deadlines, tests, assemblies, TOK presentations and an extended essay deadline along with two parents meeting in the span of only two weeks! The IB College hosted two parents' day meetings for Grades 11 and 12, which were well attended. Students accompanied their parents to take an active part in their learning journey.

By way of modelling the high expectations and excellent quality of work expected of IB College students, several Grade 12 students presented their CAS projects in front of Grade 11 students in an assembly and shared their experiences in helping the local community each in his/her own special way. They gave living examples of various CAS projects and the planning and process that made these projects possible. In addition, four Grade 12 students shared their Theory of Knowledge presentations with Grade 11 to give them a model of TOK presentations that they themselves will be giving this time next year.



Ms Cathy Souob



In order to ensure that grade 11 students keep track of their deadlines, avoid procrastination and generally start as they mean to go on, Ms Rasha gave a presentation to grade 11 students on study skills. Tackling difficult and unappealing tasks first was her number 1 recommendation to students.

On a lighter note, Grade 12 students received their senior jackets this month the earliest ever! They celebrated the event with lots of selfies and pizza for lunch. Students were very excited and are putting the jackets to good use as the weather gets chilly. Many thanks to the student council members who organised and followed up on the ordering process.



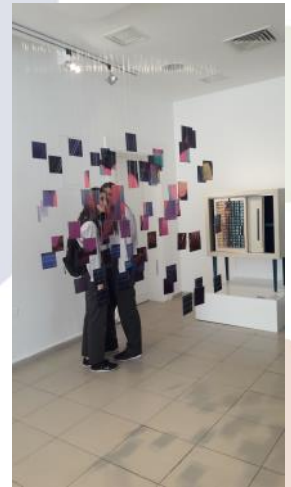
IB College News

Amman Design Week Visit

As part of our IBDP Visual Art and Design Technology requirements students are required to explore and interact with local artists, designers and art activities. Amman Design Week provided such a platform where a large group of designers presented their conceptual ideas and artwork.



Our students listened to brief descriptions of the artwork and tried to connect their own art and design practices to what they have seen.



Proudly, Amman Design Week is a national pioneering project under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Rania and under the direct management of several ABS Alumni. Several of the exhibitors were also part of the ABS Community which added a unique element to the visit.

C.A.S. /Performing Arts Trip to the Blind Institute.

Twenty-one students from grades 8 – 12, who are involved in the major play production 'Point of View' along with four teachers visited the major government school for the blind in Amman. The trip took place on the morning of 23 October from 9 – 11 am. The students were given a short and very interesting lecture by the dynamic young director of the institute, Professor Abd Al Munem Dweri. The students were able to question him about the major causes of blindness in Jordan, which he informed them are; genetic inheritance, families marrying their cousins causing Retinitis Pigmentosa, followed by diabetes-related blindness and glaucoma. The many different degrees of blindness are taught to the teachers, assistants and parents of the blind through the wearing of glasses which mimic the same degree of impaired vision of the children they take care of.

Omar a fully blind and highly knowledgeable young man who speaks fluent English and is in charge of the school library, helped to show the group around the school and answer questions. He told the students that the most difficult challenge facing the blind in Jordan is the unhealthy attitude of the society who view them as mentally and physically disabled people first. He would love to be part of the community working amongst the seeing people instead of being confined to work in an institute.

Comments from students

Yara Nabulsi - I am so happy I came on this trip as my film project is about a young blind person and I am also working on directing the film trailer for the school play 'Point of View' about an institute for the blind. I am going to add many details to the films as a result of the trip.

Sara Haboob – I was amazed to meet a young man who could speak fluent English he had learned from friends all over the world, via social media.

Most students were very impressed with the high standard of the government institution which serves a large area of Jordan. Some of the students sleep in the Institute for the whole week and return home at weekends while others come by school bus from as far as Irbid and Ma'an.

Some of our ABS students were taught how to write their own name in Braille.

The American Braille machine they have installed at the institute, the only one in Jordan, costs around 60.000 US dollars and it takes an average of one week of work for a book to be made into a braille version.

The students saw some very useful hand-held electronic magnifiers which individual students can use to magnify or change the colour of various fonts to enable them to read. Each one of these mobile-like devices costs the institute 700 JDs.

Mr. Majed Makhamreh is now making plans after this initial visit, to revisit the Institute and carry out CAS activities which will benefit the blind students.

Plans are also underway to bring the blind students to our school to listen to a reader's theatre performance of the major Arabic play 'Point of View' performed by our talented student cast and then invite them to eat dinner together in our ABS cafeteria. This will probably take place the first week of December before the play dates 5 – 8 December, 2017.





University & Career Counselling

It's been more than nine weeks since school started for us in the IB College, and a busy nine weeks they have been! Besides reading many essays during the summer vacation, the department has been kept very busy helping the new Grade 11 students confirm their subjects and getting a headstart on university applications for Grade 12, as well as welcoming university representatives and giving Grade 12 parents a look into the upcoming application process. We have also been fortunate to have welcomed so many parents at the annual Grade 12 College Night during which Mr. Luke Atkins from the University of Nottingham delivered an extensive presentation on the UK admissions process.



With a total of forty-five post-secondary institutions having visited the ABS during the month of October alone, both individually and as groups, two workshops and some major deadlines already passed, there are a lot of opportunities that students could have taken advantage of this past month. Students in both Grade 12 and 11 are informed and reminded of all scheduled events by their mentors, the IB College monitor, and by WhatsApp on their class group. Emails will be sent out to students and their parents for the larger events.



University & Career Counselling

We welcomed three ABS alumni this month to the office to help prepare some of our students for the interviews that selective universities in the USA ask for to support their applications. Ms. May Hanania, Ms. Tamam Mango, and Mr. Shahm Al-Wir, as Alumni Interviewers for their respective alma mater (MIT and Harvard), gave our students hints and clues as to what to expect in the interviews and how to prepare for them. We look forward to our upcoming UK interview preparation session, which will be on 28 November during which we will be holding mock-interviews for our UK medicine applications in Multiple Mini-Interviews format, and panel mock-interviews for our Oxbridge hopefuls.

Looking forward to working with the students through the strenuous application process!



Message from Head of MYS

Middle Years School



Ms Sarah Byham

Student Council Elections

One of the foundation values of the ABS is Youth Empowerment; we believe that a better future can only be built by the dedication of generations to come, and so we believe that students who will one day become leaders should be trained early on to recognise compromise, compassion, communication, responsibility, teamwork and excellence.

The MYS Student Council is an excellent forum for learning these skills. Last week, nearly 465 Middle School Students voted for some 40 candidates, 24 of whom would end up serving as their Student Council for the 2017-2018 academic year. Congratulations to all who took part in this essential display of democracy and responsibility.



Care Group Activities

Highlighting the AL TARBIYEH elements of Arab Heritage, Lifelong Learning, Responsibility and Youth Empowerment, MYS Care Group members visited Jiddita village during two Fridays where they continued to show kindness and empathy through their commitments to their mission, which is: **Change, Act, Raise awareness and Empower**. They learned how to make fig jam, pomegranate syrup, kunafeh, and one of the famous breakfast dishes in Jordan - أقراص زعفران الأخضر

MYS News

This month, the Care Group hosted a very special speaker: Mahmoud Nabulsi, founder of the Ezwiitti initiative. 'Sharing is caring' is an important theme for the Care Group. The important qualities of AL TARBIYEH are in their thoughts whenever we plan any activities. It's all about doing good things for other people.

Ezwiitti is an innovative restaurant that works for the community: customers can buy two lunches for the price of one, and donate one of them to a needy person by placing a note on a board in the restaurant. Anyone in need of food can come in, pick up a note, and have a free lunch, without needing to feel self-conscious or pay for it; that person just says that they have an "invitation to lunch".

A group of Care Group members visited the restaurant at the weekend. They helped to clean up the area and prepare their delicious lunch. They also happily pinned lots of vouchers to the board, to show solidarity with our community. For many Jordanians, this meal might be the only food they get in a day, so we were proud to help Ezwiitti in their wonderful mission to help our brothers and sisters in need.

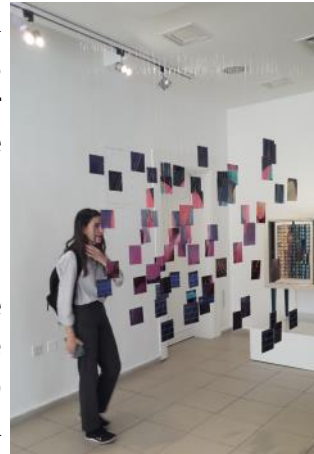


MYS News

Youth Empowerment and Excellence through Design

Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 Design and Art students went on school trips to Amman Design Week at Ras Al Ein. Amman Design Week is an annual, immersive experience in design, supported by Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah. Focused on creating a forum for learning, exchange and collaboration, this platform empowers designers through the cross-pollination of communities and ideas.

The students had the chance to tour the different exhibition locations, explore the designs and interact with some of the pioneering designers in Jordan. As the future designers of Jordan, they found the experience enriching. While the visit allowed them to be exposed to the local community, they became aware of the design movement in Jordan.



Product Design Trip

A group of Product Design students went on a trip on Sunday 15 October. They visited The National Center for the Care of Special Needs. This trip is part of the “Inquiring and Analysing Stage” for the Product Design unit “Designing and Making an Educational Game for a Less Fortunate Educational Institution”.

During the visit, our students researched the educational needs of the centre so they can design and create products that will enhance the learning environment in the centre. Our students demonstrated “caring” attributes throughout the visit.

MYS News

Media Centre Chess Tournament



MYS Media Centre Monthly Resources

Please click [here](#) to view the MYS Media Centre updated list of resources.

Message from Head of PS

Primary School



Mr Fiyaz Ahmed

KG1

As the KG1 students progress into their unit of inquiry “Who we are”, they used their creativity and various materials to create portrait versions of themselves. They reflected on their own physical characteristics and collected data by using different mediums such as mirrors, tablets and photos of themselves.



KG2

While learning about balanced choices during their unit of inquiry “Who we are”, the KG2 students listened to the story (ماذا أكل سيّد؟). They worked in small groups, chose a character from the story and drew it with its food choice. Finally, they presented their work to the rest of the class.



Grade 5 Expedition

Our Grade Five learners delved deeper into the first unit of inquiry “Sharing the Planet” as they went on a trip to Ajloun Forest Reserve. We have witnessed our learners to be risk-takers and enthusiastic as they inquired into the ecosystem in Ajloun and the biodiversity it offers. They became more knowledgeable about the interconnectedness between organisms within an ecosystem. It was indeed a rewarding experience for the participants who have demonstrated independence and responsibility in an overnight expedition.

They employed their understanding of the central idea through several activities in English, Arabic, Maths and Art. They also demonstrated great talent in a talent show and expressed themselves through different forms of art.



Grade 3

As part of Grade 3 Unit 1 inquiries, under the Organising Theme: “Who We Are”, learners engaged in a variety of exciting activities including a visit to Gold’s Gym. They raised a number of student questions on fitness and enthusiastically took part in a number of fun age-related exercises inspired by animal movement. They also welcomed Ms Zeina Audat Qubain, a nutritionist who conducted a presentation on healthy balanced diets and food groups. The learners demonstrated excellent communication and listening skills. Finally, towards the end of the unit and as part of their Action, the learners visited Grade 1 and shared their knowledge and understanding of the importance of balanced choices and the impact of choices on health and fitness with Grade 1 learners. Well done, Grade 3!



Grade 2

Grade Two visited the Children's Museum and participated in a Simple Machine's Workshop. The learners had the opportunity to apply what they had learned in their first unit in relevant and engaging activities. They explored the uses of wheels and axles, levers, inclined planes and pulleys. At the end, they made a catapult to show the use of forces.



Student Voice

Our newly elected Primary Student Voice for 2017-2018 held their first meeting of the year on Monday 16 October 2017. Students reflected on the Student Voice constitution before signing their names acknowledging that they have understood and agree to abide by its conditions. Following the signing, the Student Council voted for the positions of President, Vice-President, Public Relations and Recording Secretaries.

The 2017-2018 Student Voice Representatives are as follows:

Grade	Student Name	Grade	Student Name	Grade	Student Name
3A	Yasmine Masri	4A	Tareq Bahou	5A	Public Relations Mashhoor Al Jazi
	Zaid Haddad	4B	Recording Secretary Salem Odeh	5B	President Noor Kawalit
3B	Caoimhe Hanania	4C	Public Relations Jana Zurub	5C	Vice-President Hamza Bin Abbas
3C	Hende Nabulsi	4D	Limar Romhi	5D	Recording Secretary Layan Taher
3D	Public Relations Pella Mubarak				
Falcons		Eagles		Oryx	
Captain Jena Al Bitar		Captain Khaled Zawaideh		Captain Fares Baalbaki	
Karim Masri		Sanad Al-Khayyat		Makka Dajani	
Issam Bdeir		Sarah Shahin		Sanad Zumot	
				Hawks	
				Captain Selma Fakhouri	
				Omar Masri	
				Yusra Kolaghassi	

The Primary School would like to commend all of the students who took part in this process for their courage and dedication and to congratulate the newly-selected Student Voice of 2017-2018. We look forward to an exciting year.



Parental Engagement

A Primary Years Programme (PYP) information hands-on session for new parents was delivered by Ms. Dima Qubain (Deputy Head of Primary – PYP Coordinator) on 15 October 2017. The session focused on a number of key areas of the PYP framework.



Parent Teacher Conference

Our Parent Teacher Conferences took place on Monday 23 October 2017. Parents were given an opportunity to find out how their children had settled into school. Academic targets were set in English, Maths and Arabic. In addition to this, social/behavioural targets were also discussed to improve student well-being throughout the school.



Grade 10 Expedition



Performing Arts

Miss Jane-Ann Heffernan: Head of IB Theatre and Director of Theatre Performances

'Point of View'

Rehearsals for the major play Modern Arabic play production 'Point of View' are well under way. Students attended a lecture by Miss Tala Al Kurd about the psychology of blindness and spent several hours blindfolded undergoing various experiences in the drama room. This week, with the help of Mr. Karam in the music department, the students began experimenting with blind sticks for the opening number which includes a stomp like rhythm scene and an opening song. There are eighteen Grades 6-11 students acting on stage.



Plans are also underway to bring the blind students to our school to listen to a reader's theatre performance of the major Arabic play 'Point of View' performed by our talented student cast and then invite them to eat dinner together in our ABS cafeteria. This will probably take place the first week of December before the play dates 5 – 8 December, 2017.

Miss Tala Said from MYS is busy working on a very interesting set design and we hope to build a revolve for the first time on the ABS stage which we can use for subsequent performances.

Private schools have already been in touch to book the morning shows on 5 and 6 December. Please mark your diaries on Thursday 7 and Friday 8 December at 7 pm for the public shows.

We hope to be the first school in Amman to show running subtitles in English during the performances.



The Performing Arts Department (PAD) is looking for sponsorship to help pay for posters, programmes, sets and professional musicians to play with our students. We really want to make as much money as we can from ticket sales to buy equipment for the blind school. We are kindly asking any parents if they can contribute to this worthy cause. If so please write to Miss Suha Nashif, Head of Business and Economics at:

snashif@abs.edu.jo. Every little bit helps.

Alumni

The ABS Alumni Club held their first Sports Day for the academic year 2017-2018 on Friday 13 October.

The event was attended by a number of alumni and their families, where they participated in different games; volleyball, basketball and football. Then they enjoyed a healthy snack that was provided by Tazweed Catering.

The Alumni Sports Day will be held monthly and all ABS community are welcomed to join in on the team spirit and fun.

