

ATIS! A'Takamul is the Best!!

ATIS NEWS

Volume 2, Issue 2

October 2019

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Teachers Spotlight	2
PE Department	2
The Spoon	2
Students of the Month	3
AIAA Comes!	3
Gr. 11-PSAT	3
Happy Teachers	4

What's Happening?!

We made it! One month down and 8 months to go! I hope everyone has had a fantastic month of teaching and learning. We all have been ripping and running with lesson planning, visiting classes, handling discipline, networking, taking mental health breaks, and so much more. Regardless of what has happened in the past, because it's done and now we can make the next day better than the last.

We have several events going on in the month of October. The month of October is a month that sheds light on many issues facing the world today. For instance, October is know for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. It is a time to shine light on how to combat breast cancer through early detection and gaining knowledge on preventative measures. Also, on October 10th is World Mental Health Awareness Day. It is a day where people take a second look at

their mental state. Are you exercising? Eating healthy? Are you doing things that make you happy? On Friday, October 11th, several of ATIS students volunteered to educate others about mental health and suicide prevention. The information students and adults shared were vital in helping others understand what are triggers and symptoms of someone who might have suicidal ideation. Mental health sometimes have a negative stigma, but talking to someone (regardless if someone has a diagnosed mental illness or not) is a great way to release stress in a safe, non-judgmental environment. It does not matter where you are from and what you do for a living, everyone needs someone to talk to. Keeping feelings and thoughts inside are not healthy to the mind, body, and soul. School counselors, clinical psychologists, and psychiatrists are people who are

concerned with the well-being of the person who is seeking support. Spreading awareness is important and we hope that those who need support will reach out to those who can and will support them. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to a school counselor to find out what resources are available for mental health. One thing that is for sure, You Matter! We all have our good days and bad days; it is how we handle it that shows just how strong we are. We can overcome anything if we do the work to get better.



Special Dates:

- Oct. 8-10- Accreditation Visits
- Oct. 15- Staff PD, Student early release
- Oct. 16- Gr. 11 PSAT Exam
- Oct. 21-31 MAP Testing
- Oct. 21- Gr. 6 Girls Field Trip
- Oct. 23- Gr. 6 Boys Field Trip
- Oct. 24- Gr. 7/8 Girls Field Trip
- Oct. 27-MS/HS Non-Uniform Day
- Oct. 28- Gr 7/8 Boys Field Trip
- Oct. 30- Quarter 1 Report Card Distribution
- Oct. 31- Parent Teacher Conferences, No Students.

Teachers of the Month-September

Mr. Clive- History (HS)



Read about our teachers of the month on page 2!



Ms. Amna- Math (MS)



We Have Awesome Teachers!

Every month, ATIS selects one middle school and one high school teacher as the teachers of the month. Teachers are selected based on their attendance, classroom management and engagement, along with overall disposition. ATIS News attempts to spotlight the teachers of the month to help you all get acquainted with our wonderful teachers. For last month, our teacher of the month for high school were Mr. Clive Bodkin and Ms. Amna Al-Somali. Mr. Clive is from Gillingham in Kent (United Kingdom-England). He has been in Kuwait off and on since 1994. January 2020 will make it 7 years at ATIS. One thing he is passionate about is the Gillingham Football Club in which he first went in 1966. He states that he believes a good school is important –it totally influences our later lives. That is

very true, Mr. Clive. Thank you for what you do!

Ms. Amna Al-Somali is from Somalia, a country in East Africa. She grew up and studied in California, USA. She has taught math for the past 13 years. She is passionate about family and being in good health. She has a strong relationship with Allah, because without Him, she would not be where she is today. Ms. Amna does not meet a stranger. She is friendly and loves to joke. She is also a straight-forward, decent human being. She works

hard and we are glad to have you at A'Takamul, Ms. Amna!

Teaching is definitely a passion. It takes patience and perseverance. I don't know how much I can say and write about how much I appreciate each and every one of you in the teaching profession. Sometimes it is not easy. You want to get mad, scream, cry and then you want to laugh, smile and hug it all out. I am looking forward to getting to know each and everyone of you all as you matriculate at ATIS. Remember, you are not alone. We are here to support you and help you grow each day. Thank you!



May our teachers soar this year as they help our students grow in learning!

PE Department is Well-Adjusted

A huge shout-out goes to the PE department. In the beginning of the school year, the department was slightly short-staffed. In order to have coverage for the many classes they have, every coach did their part in accommodating the class needs. Their hard work and dedication does not go unnoticed. Also, recently the after-school clubs are



back and students are actively participating in those activities. Activities include soccer, table tennis, swimming, and so much more. Just recently, Coach Salih and his Grade 6 soccer team had a pre-game late lunch to encourage the students to do their best in the upcoming soccer tournaments they are participating in. Coach Salih is well-known for

his outgoing personality, ability to motivate others, and his excellent coaching skills. Thank you Coach Salih, Coach Sandra, Coach Hani, Coach Mahmoud, Coach Mersiha, Coach Ayoub, Coach Sami, Coach Moataz, Coach Ljuba, Coach Strahinja, and Coach Dina. You work does not go unnoticed. Lastly, we want to wish all of the Grade 6 soccer team members good luck as they play other schools throughout the year in tournaments. Come out and support our ATIS boys!

How Did the Spoon Get Here? A true story written by: Ms. Rebecca



I have been out of my office running errands, talking with teachers and students, and came back to my office to complete my findings. When I arrived, something grabbed my attention. A huge, wooden spoon was placed on my nice leather couch. It caught my eye because of its size. I didn't know what to think. It might have been a gift

from someone or somebody accidentally left it in my office and just forgot to get it, or a mysterious entity left it there for me to find. After a week and a half, it is still in my office. It was made in Syria and it makes me think of the olden days where people had a huge, black cauldron of vegetable soup and had to have a huge, wooden spoon to stir the soup. It is a great prop to have. I definitely want to give it back to its owner, if only the owner would come

forward and claim their spoon. If they don't, it is still in my office chilling and relaxing on my table. It would be sad it meant something to someone and they couldn't remember where they put it. If you, or someone you know is missing a spoon. It is in my office ready to be given to its owner.



September Students of the Month

Girls

- Dalal Farhan 6G3
- Eman Al Mansour 7G3
- Fatima Al Salem 8G1
- Zainab Buarish 9G2
- Rawan Rabiah 10G1
- Amna Al Sharhan 11G1
- Afnan Al Debasi 12G1



Boys

- Sulaiman Al Rowaished 6B1
- Sulaiman Al Kurdi 7B1
- Mahdi Al Salman 8B4
- Khalid Ali 9B2
- Hamza Al Herz 10B2
- Aws Baqer 11B1
- Ali Al dawai 12B3



AIAA Comes to A'Takamul!

On October 8, 9, and 10, representatives from AIAA came to A'Takamul. The purpose of AIAA is to help schools focus their educational practices and school initiatives on student improvement. AIAA is one of the premier accreditation organizations worldwide. Accreditation helps a school maintain standards required for students



to gain admission to reputable institutions of higher education once they graduate from high school. Having an accreditation team come visit helps our school know what areas need improvement and what areas are working well. Support staff, support staff, parents, and students were interviewed to get an overall picture of ATIS. The representatives also visited classrooms

and the school grounds. After the three day visit from AIAA, the AIAA representatives were impressed with what we all are doing and has recommended us for accreditation. Thank you all for your hard work in getting all the information needed for the accreditation team and speaking on the behalf of the whole school. Hard work does pay off in the end. As the school grows, hopefully the mindset grows in ensuring the needs of everyone is met and is conducive to a growth mindset. May the year progresses well and is fruitful.

Grade 11 Students Are Taking the PSAT

Grade 11 students are taking the PSAT on October 16, 2019 in the PAC at 8:00am. The PSAT is a preliminary exam for the actual SAT students take for entering colleges and universities around the United States. There are three components to the exam. Students will take Writing and Language, Reading, and Math. Student will not be penalized for wrong answers, so guessing is okay if you do not know the answer. Each students who takes the exam, will receive a paper score report.

The score report will show the total score, section scores, and test scores. If students go online and visit studentscores.collegboard.org, it will show students what their scores mean. The scores can also help in understanding the potential of success in taking AP courses. ATIS has advanced placement (AP) courses in core subjects: math (AP Calculus), science (AP Chemistry), English (AP-Literature), and social studies (AP-World History). These courses can be used as college credit, if stu-

dents enroll at a university that accepts AP courses and the student scores a certain score. Students remember, to bring number 2 pencils, water and snacks (for the short break), and get a good night's rest. This is a standardized tests and will prepare you for many other tests you will take over time. If you have any questions regarding the test, please see Ms. Amila, Ms. Aileen, or Ms. Rebecca and they will steer you in the right direction. Good luck and do well!

Quotes to Ponder

Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.

– Benjamin Franklin

Nine-tenths of education is encouragement.

– Anatole France

Teachers have three loves: love of learning, love of learners, and the love of bringing the first two loves together.

– Scott Hayden

Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today.

– Malcolm X

I am not a teacher, but an awakener.

– Robert Frost

Happy Teachers Make Happy Students by: Warrington S.

Parker, Jr. Retrieved from: <https://brainworldmagazine.com/happy-teachers-make-happy->

Since students' brains are involved in learning, behavior, and emotions, teachers should know as much as possible about the brain. Implementing a brain-friendly, "happiness school" culture and informing teachers about how the students' brains react in various social interactions in the classroom have positive effects on student learning and behavior. Faculty and staff training sessions have been conducted in these areas, and periodic training is conducted throughout the school year on these subjects.

Brain research on how students learn and how students brains react in social interactions, shared with classroom educators, gives all indications that it is possible to change a school culture, improve student behavior, increase the focus on academics and improve the overall functioning of an

inner-city school. Faculty trained in brain education-curriculum designed and implemented a staff training session to build a brain-friendly happiness school culture, which consists of a caring, tough-love discipline approach, high expectations, believing in the students, seeing greatness in every student and personally connecting and bonding with them. Experience has taught us that a caring, loving, and personal connection with each student is good for their brains, learning and improving behavior.

In the training faculty were also introduced to "whole brain teaching instruction" — how important it is to teach with the brain in mind, in terms of multisensory techniques. In addition, they were taught about how critical it is to know how various social interactions in the classroom impacts the behavior of students and their

willingness to be attentive and open to learning. One of the keys to learning stressed in the faculty training sessions was about a happiness school culture and why it is important for the students' brains.

Happiness School Culture

The happiness school culture encourages the faculty and staff to smile and maintain a positive attitude at all times. They are encouraged to praise and uplift students, greet students and parents every morning with smiles and warmth, and eliminate hostility and yelling at students. This culture is uplifting, and it seems to make the students happy.

