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ISSUE 5



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Letter from the Principal



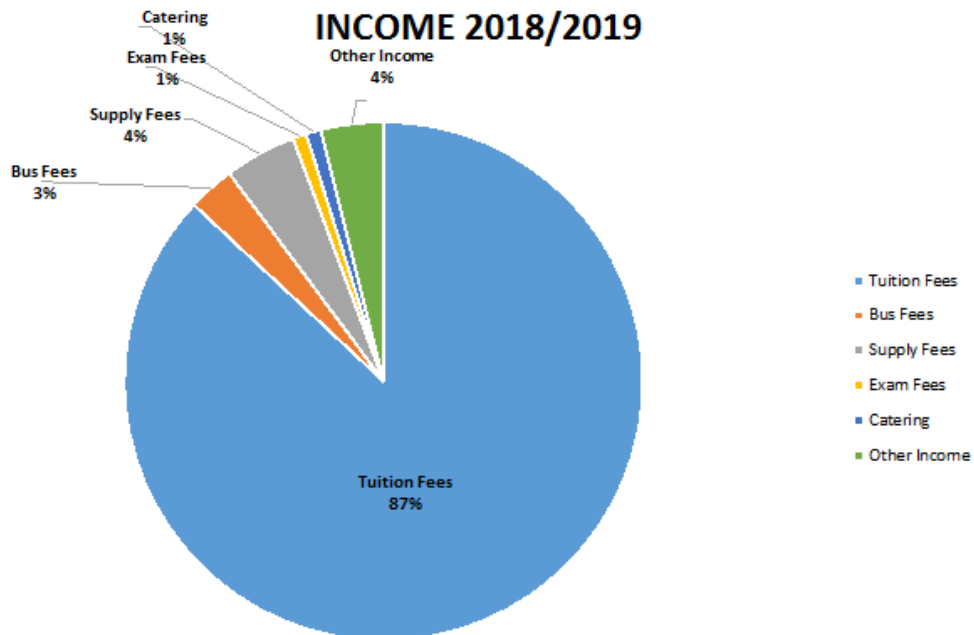
Mr Stuart Bryan

School Budget for 2019-2020

Revenue

At this point in the academic year, we start to draft the operating budget for next academic year (2019/2020) and at the same time review current revenues/expenses for this year (2018/2019). That review highlights that as normal the School continues to rely most heavily on Tuition Fees as the primary source of its income, at 87% with “Other Income 4%”, which includes co-curricular charges and after school supervision. Additional revenues are cost-recovery fees, with Supply Fees, Bus Fees, and Catering and Examination Fees making up 4%, 3%, and 1% of revenues.

The pie chart below summarises our budgeted income for 2018-2019:

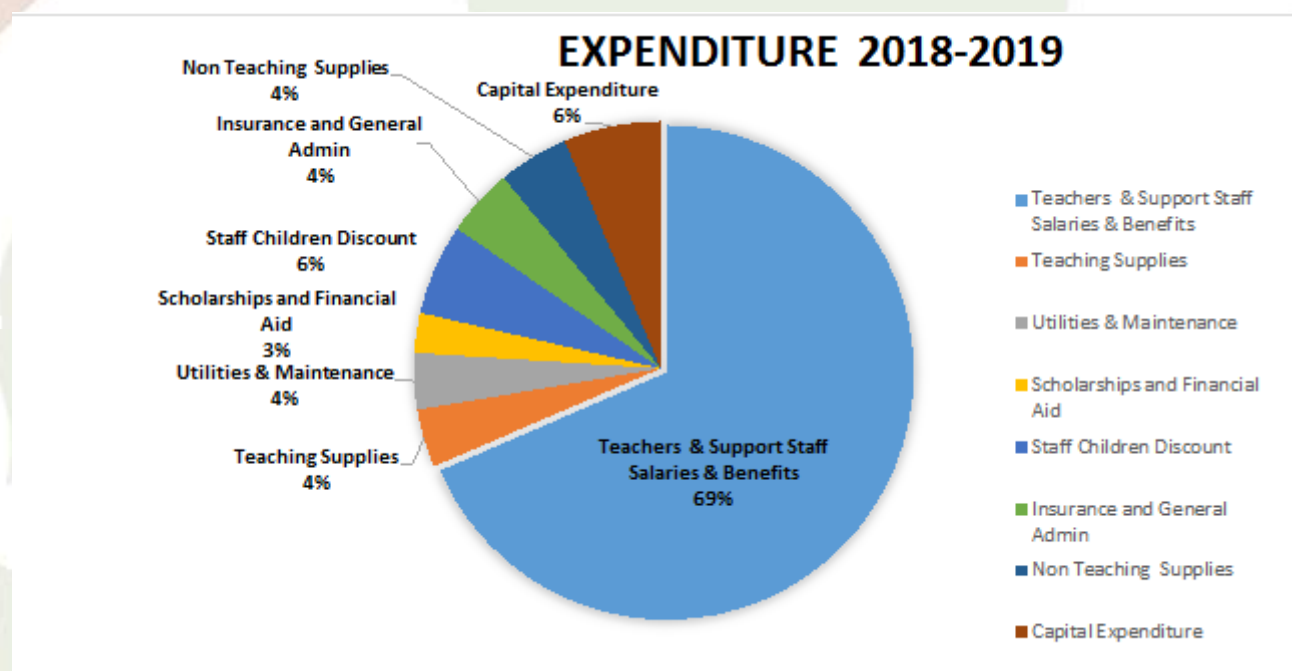


Expenditure

As a non-profit organisation, with an entirely volunteer Board of Trustees, ABS reinvests its revenue into its operations. This includes investment in the maintenance, refurbishment and development of our school site with 4% for Utilities and Maintenance and 6% for Capital Expenditure. There is a substantial investment in retaining our most valued resource with teacher and support staff salaries and benefits at 69%, Insurance and General Administration costs at 4% and Staff Children Discount at 6%. The remainder consists of Teaching and Non-Teaching Supplies with each at 4% of expenditure.

We also support our wider ABS families by providing Bursaries (Financial Aid) for those in need, and Scholarships (Academic and Co-curricular) for our most outstanding students, which together equals 3% of expenditure.

The pie charts below summarises our budgeted expenditures for 2018-2019:



Tuition Bills for 2019-2020

Part of our planning for next year, of course, includes registering your child for the 2019/2020 academic year. To that extent, following approval from the ABS Board of Trustees, please be advised that tuition invoices for academic year 2019/2020 will be sent to you, via your (older) child during the week starting 24 February 2019. If, for any reason, you do not receive your invoice, please contact the Registrar immediately by email: ghada_saifi@abs.edu.jo. Please note that either the full payment or, if paying by instalments the first payment is due on 31 March 2019, followed by further instalments due on 30 September 2019 and 31 January 2020.

The approved tuition fee increase for 2019/2020 has been kept to the lowest amount possible and, once again, one of the lowest ABS fee increases ever, at 3.5% for all grade levels from KG1 to Grade 12.

Please ensure you provide full payment (or 3 post-dated cheques) to the Finance Department by 31 March 2019 to ensure a place is held for your child.

Please note that ABS offers a fourth child discount of 10% in relation to tuition fees for families with four or more students enrolled in the School at the start of the academic year 2019/2020.

[Tuition Fees for 2019-2020](#)

[Bus Transportation](#)

Please note that there will be no increase in bus transportation fees for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Before we start the process of generating Tuition Fee bills for 2019-2020 academic year, any parent not intending to continue their child(ren)'s enrollment at ABS, please notify the Admissions Department in writing as soon as possible.

For those who wish to continue their child(ren)'s enrollment and register for the bus service, please access the Bus Registration Form [here](#) and the Bus Regulations [here](#); please read both documents thoroughly before you complete the form with the parent's signature, and either send the completed form by email to Admissions@abs.edu.jo or in person to the Admissions Department.

[Capital Campaign for 2018-2019](#)

Since launching the Capital Campaign in 2010, many major projects have now been completed. In 2015-2016, this included the opening of the new 'Randa Kawar' IB College building in March 2015 and the complete refurbishment of the MYS Languages Floor within the main building, during Summer 2015, which included a completely new roof structure, refurbishment of classrooms, offices and bathrooms, including new flooring, doors and windows. In addition, the School also invested in the installation of a photovoltaic system; this system is now fully operational and is currently saving the School approximately JD 24,500 per month in electricity costs. During the Summer of 2016, the MYS Science Laboratories were completely renovated to the highest international standards. During the Summer of 2017, the School completely renovated the Innovation and Design Centre and the Track and Field in the Sports Complex. During the Summer of 2018, the car parking across the campus was remodelled and the School purchased three new buses.

The Master Plan has recently been updated again, with future projects proposed, and thus, as a non-profit organisation, there is an optional donation line on your invoice for JD 200 to enable us to continue with capital projects within the School.

[Staffing Developments](#)

I am sure you will agree that our teaching staff are our most precious resource. We are very fortunate at ABS that we enjoy an exceptionally low turnover rate of staff by international IB school standards which for 2018/2019 is one of the lowest for many years; however, we still want to ensure that we retain and attract the absolute best staff available in the Kingdom. In order to further facilitate this, we maintained a 'recruitment and retention' allowance for exceptional local teachers. Moreover, we are equally

committed to providing the highest quality professional development opportunities for our existing staff. As part of this, we will be continuing to offer, through the ABS University of Bath Department of Education Study Centre, the IB Educator Certificate Programme funded by the School in order to further enhance the educational qualifications of our teachers.

Scholarship Programme

Approximately 9% of our students are receiving some form of financial aid from the School - either in the form of Bursaries (financial assistance), Scholarships (based upon merit) or staff tuition remission. We, at ABS, would like to see this number grow and I am delighted that we will continue to offer our expanded Scholarship Programme for exceptional students from Grades 7-12. There is nothing in the world more valuable than offering a child the chance for a quality education that they may not otherwise be able to receive.

Our Scholarship Fund has benefitted recently from charitable donations from kind and generous benefactors. Looking forward, we hope to be able to increase the availability of educational support to 30% of the student body. As part of our fundraising programmes for our scholarships, we ask that you join with the School, and our existing donors, to remember those less fortunate, who although brilliant and gifted, may not be able to afford an education that will enable them to fully utilise their gift. Details of sponsoring scholarships are posted on the School website.

In closing, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Board of Trustees, all our ABS parents, members of the PTA, members of the BEF and ABS Alumni, staff, students and especially the numerous donors who have brought us to where we are today.

We now look to you as friends and key partners of the Amman Bacculaureate School to build on the School's commitment to academic achievement and diversity by helping to provide a leading education to deserving and gifted children who may not otherwise be able to access an Amman Bacculaureate School education.

If you would like any more information on donating to your School or on our recognition policies in place for donations, please check [here](#) or contact Dr. Sandy Abu-Arja (Assistant Principal, Development).

ABS Calendar 2019-2020

Please click [here](#) to view ABS calendar for 2019-2020

With best wishes,

Stuart Bryan

Principal

Message from Head of IB College

IB College

The IB College jump-started the term with pre-mocks for Grade 12 which hopefully will help set the tone for the seriousness and the extensive work required for the mock examinations and the external examinations in May. We cannot emphasise enough the importance of attendance and commitment to meeting deadlines and hard work during this period.

These were points which were emphasised at our annual meeting with the Grade 12 parents on 20 January regarding the countdown to graduation, where we go from here regarding IB and university deadlines and the graduation awards process.

Grade 11 students were not spared the academic intensity with an introductory session on the Extended Essay. Through this they were introduced to the Extended Essay process, the subject choices that are available as well as managing expectations. Students were sent the link to the Extended Essay Guide by email. Students are encouraged to start brainstorming possible topics and research questions in preparation for the next stage in a few weeks.



Ms Cathy Souob

In a welcome break from the pressures of academic life, we had the pleasure of attending a short performance by the Oberlin Conservatoire College Jazz students in the IB College lobby during the second break on Tuesday, 15 January. The students and staff enjoyed the performance which contributed to a relaxing atmosphere during our usual lunch break.



Message from Head of MYS

Middle Years School



Ms Sarah Byham

The MYS has had a busy time since November, with end of semester examinations and preparing for the second semester, which started on 27 January. Students received their first semester report, and saw the result of all their hard work since September.

The Grade 10 students heaved a sigh of relief when they gave in the draft of their full Personal Project report. We have seen some amazingly inventive, creative and original products, which will be shared in the Exhibition later this year. The Personal Project is a lot of work, but it is wonderful to see just what incredible ideas our students have come up with and how they have grown throughout the process.

The MYS continues to promote mindfulness through short daily activities. We are seeing the benefits in having a calm and focussed start to the day, and the Wellbeing Team are enjoying the challenge of finding enjoyable, meaningful, and effective activities to help our students in their busy lives.

The heavy snows that hit the ABS campus did not slow down the education process, thanks to Managebac, our e-learning portal. Teachers and students collaborated effectively, to ensure that no time was wasted, but there was still time for fun in the snow.

Message from Head of PS

Primary School



Ms Dima Qubain

A very warm welcome back! Learners have returned ready and prepared as ever to engage in a variety of learning experiences throughout the Primary School. Our Student Agency group members have been busy planning a number of exciting initiatives and are determined to drive them this term. This includes Makerspace, which is modelled around applying the interdisciplinary approach of incorporating STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics). It encourages students to think critically, innovatively, and creatively to solve problems and find solutions. As part of our school-wide initiative to promote emotional literacy, our Student Agency group will also be driving a heightened Kindness Awareness campaign. This will be in line with International Kindness Awareness campaigns around the world.

Please click [here](#) to view highlights from our Primary School Annual Concert that truly ended 2018 on an exceptional note!

KG1

We inquired into the four seasons (winter, spring, summer, and autumn) by focussing on their distinct features. The four KG1 classrooms were transformed to represent each season. Learners visited and participated in thought-provoking learning engagements. Learners watched videos, researched through pictures in books, and created artwork.

KG2

Materials and matter are everywhere! KG learners are being exposed to a wide variety of scientific concepts in our third Unit of Inquiry, 'How the World Works'. We delved into the different states of matter and explored their properties.



Thinking hats were on, as learners visited the Science Laboratory to conduct experiments. Learners applied the scientific method, offering valid predictions and charting actual results.



Grade 1

We learned more about family structures around the world and explored how traditions and heritage differ from one family to another during our inquiry into 'Who We Are'.

Our very special guest speakers, included members of our students' families, graciously shared traditions and showcased tangible items to support discovery. Sessions were both informative and tasty as they were each topped off with a delectable treat. Learners were curious, open-minded, and respectful throughout the entire experience.



Grade 2

Learners applied the six thinking hats strategy to compare types of migration. To prepare for their upcoming interviews, they worked in groups to devise relevant questions and allocate roles for each interviewer. After the interviews, learners discussed the information gained and were able to compare and better communicate reasons for migration.



Grade 3

Just before Winter Break, learners celebrated Christmas with their classmates and exchanged Secret Santa gifts by participating in various games. Learners continue to work diligently preparing for their upcoming art exhibition; they are eager to showcase their creations.



Grade 5

As part of the English Programme student choice short story assignment, a group of Grade Five learners planned and composed a Christmas-themed story under the title “The Octopus Who Saved Christmas”. To share their story, learners initiated a visit to lower Primary School KG2. Their objective was to use inspiring vocabulary and structured writing that included an age-appropriate moral for their younger audience. They read, explained, and asked meaningful questions. Afterwards, Grade Five learners reflected on the importance of an author’s language choices and effective presentation skills.



Important Dates

Al Sawsanah Action Starts	Monday	28 January 2019	
Grade 3 End of Unit Presentation	Tuesday	29 January 2019	Primary School Cafeteria
Grade 4 End of Unit Presentation	Thursday	31 January 2019	Primary School Cafeteria
Class Parents Meeting	Monday	4 February 2019	Media Centre Building B

Athletics Department

Stallions Season 2

Stallions Season 2 may have kicked off to a windy, rainy, and snowy start, but our athletes were excited to get this season started! Come rain or shine, Stallions train!!

16-18 Track & Field Team



12-14 Girls Gymnastics Team



U14 Girls Volleyball Team



U14 Boys Basketball Team



U8 Girls Gymnastics Team



Stallions Academy

Our KG students were super excited for their first day of activities!



KG Gymnastics

KG Get Fit



KG Jiu-Jitsu



KG Footballers Waiting Patiently to Begin



KG Zumba



Grades 1-3 Gymnastics



Grades 1-3 Zumba



Grades 1-3 Jiu-Jitsu

