



Newsletter



March 19th, 2009 vol 5.12

## Beyond the Regular Day

### From the Director



Dear AISB Community,

I have been impressed since the beginning of 2009 by both the number and quality of activities taking place at AISB. These activities, both academic and athletic as well as social, will continue

right through Spring Break.

The third week of March is Francophone week and AISB students have been celebrating this week with various activities. This celebration included a full day visit to the Lycée Liberté as well as a return visit by some of their students yesterday for sports and social activities. Also, there was an assembly today with a play, French songs, explanation of Francophone World, and speeches from the French public speaking contest.

As many of the parents know, next week is AISB's annual Science Fair. The Science Fair is the culmination of a process started many months ago. Students research and develop a measurable problem that they would like to try and answer by conducting an experiment. They make a prediction about what they think the results will be and then compare it to the actual results while analyzing the process they used to conduct the experiment. All their work will be displayed on a project display board. Public viewing of the projects is Thursday, March 26th from 6pm to 7pm.

The end of the Science Fair brings us to an event that has a long tradition at AISB. It also has a tradition of bringing the whole community together to celebrate. The event, the International Festival, will take place from 1pm to 4pm on Saturday, March 28th. The International Festival, organized by the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), has its roots in the carnival-like celebration associated with 'Fat Tuesday', Mardi Gras. Although not always taking place during February, the International Festival is a celebration of the students, parents, teachers, staff and people outside the community with food and

drink, games, music and a raffle. This event has become a major fund raiser for the PTO. They provide funding for various activities and improvement for AISB.

This is all in the next week and a half. It is no wonder that faculty and students alike are all looking forward to the upcoming school break following several months of a wide variety of goings-on.

Sincerely,

David G. Henry,  
Director



### PTO INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

**MARCH 28, 1-4pm**

Food, Games, and much more

Entry 1000f cfa

### AISB SCIENCE FAIR

**Public Viewing in MPR**

**Thursday March 26th**

**6-7pm**

## Board News

The AISB School Board met for a regular meeting on March 17, 2009. In addition to passing a revised policy Section 4, holding a discussion of draft 2009-10 budget and planning for the Director's and Board's evaluation; several items were discussed and approved. All regular board meeting information is always available to the public in the office. Some of the highlights are as follows:

### **New Board Member Appointed - Board Elections in May**

On Tuesday, the first order of business was to appoint a new non-American board member to the seat recently vacated. The board was happy to appoint Mr. Magnus Bucht to finish out the term. The AISB Board is made up of seven voting members, four Americans and three non-Americans. Board elections will take place on May 12th for the next academic year. Many board members will be moving from Mali this year and there will be five open seats. Please contact Rob van Doeselaar or David Henry if you are interested in serving your school.

### **Draft 2009-10 Tuition Fee Increases Discussed – Approval in April**

The Finance Committee presented its draft recommended tuition fees for the 2009-10 school year and a draft budget for the 2009-10 school year. There is a planned increase in the tuition rates of almost 5%, slightly more than last year's increase. Major costs will always be in the area of professional staff and personnel for our school, however, AISB must also prudently plan for the new school construction. The vote to approve the new tuition fees will be in April.

### **Draft Bilateral Agreement Approved**

On behalf of AISB, the U.S. Embassy has drafted a bilateral agreement document that would help further define AISB's status here in Mali. AISB is a non-profit educational organization owned by the AISB association; the parents and professional staff at the school. AISB also has a state-side not-for-profit foundation dedicated to the benefit of the school and its needs. Both of these organizations would not change as a result of the signing of such an agreement.

### **Confidential Student Records Policy Approved**

The board approved a policy pertaining to the process of how outside psycho-educational reports and information are to be handled. These records will be kept in a separate, secure location away from the academic student records. The reports will be returned to the owners upon a student's withdrawal.

### **Sotuba New School Project**

The Facilities and Finance Committees updated the attendees on the current progress being made on the Sotuba new school project. With architectural designs complete for Phase 1 of the project (all school buildings), the project has now gone out to bid with construction companies. Both committees have been focused on the Overseas Private Investment Corp. (OPIC), an American agency, loan application process. The terms of the loan (interest & term) with OPIC are now much more favorable and likely than any long-term loan made with local banks. The groundbreaking ceremony is tentatively scheduled for late April/May.

## Upcoming Events

Mar. 16-20	Francophone Week
Mar. 20-22	MS Soccer Tournament in Burkina Faso
Mar. 23-26	Science Fair Week
March 26	Science Fair Project Public Viewing, 6-7pm, MPR
Mar. 27	End of 3rd Quarter
Mar. 28	PTO's International Festival & Raffle, 1-4pm
April 3	3rd Quarter Reports Cards Go Home (tentative)
Apr. 4-13	Spring Break Holiday-No School
April 9-12	High School Global Initiatives Network Trip – IS Dakar
Apr. 14	School Resumes

### **PTO International Festival Raffle**

This Year's Raffle Grand Prizes are:

**Round Trip Ticket to TUNIS from TUNISAIR**

**Round Trip Ticket to the USA from AIR FRANCE!**

Raffle Tickets NOW AVAILABLE!

Drawing during  
**INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL**  
March 28, 1-4pm

**AISB's Main Campus**

## It Is Time Again For The AISB Science Fair, by Gary Holsten

Grades 1-8 Students are busy completing their individual experiments or classroom projects for this year's Science Fair. This year's fair is the week of March 23 – 27. Individual Student projects must be complete in time for set on Wednesday March 25. All individual Science Fair Boards must be set up before 3:00pm.



Judging is scheduled for the evening of March 25th. Students will NOT need to be present for the judging. If you would like to be a judge, please let your child's Science Teacher know. We can use all the judges we can find.

The Fair will be open for viewing to the student population during school hours on March 26. Teachers can schedule visiting hours according to their classroom schedules.

The Fair will be open to the school public on the evening of March 26, from 6:00pm until 7:00pm. At this time, it is nice for students to be standing by their projects to answer questions that might come up from people viewing the fair.

### Parent Child Play Group... at the American International School Early Learning Center.

Open to all families with children from birth to 3. Join other families living in Bamako with young children to play on the ELC Playground. Have fun with your kids, get to know other parents, and help your kids get used to playing with groups of children.

#### **Wednesdays from 2:30pm to 3:30pm**

A shady room with tables will be available for use for snacks too.

The playground has swings, trikes, balls, jungle gyms and a huge sand box with toys.

There is no charge and no need to sign up...just show up!

**Starts Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**

### Dress as a Book Character Contest, by George Zeller



Convincingly dressed as Eragon from Inheritance series, Mathieu Durand won the first annual AISB Middle School "Dress as a Book Character Contest". Congratulations also to Carla Rattunde and Kenda Lutterbeck for their portrayals of Pippy Longstocking and the Cat in the Hat.

## URGENT !

**Native English Speaking  
Substitute Teachers Needed**

**Good Pay and Fun**

**Contact David Henry**

## From the Fourth Grade

### What's Happening in French Class, by Mathilda and Rae

These past weeks in French class we 4th and 5th graders have been working on a project for Francophone week.

We, each one of us, have been researching for information about our countries. For example, we searched for information regarding history, geography, culture and environment articles about our different countries. We also looked for pictures of the country and the people that live there. We could label the pictures if we wanted.

Once we had our information, we glued it on a poster and put the poster on the outside wall so everybody can read it and learn more about French speaking countries.

Vive Le Francophone Week!



### Hip Hop Performance, by Hussein and Bartel

On the 27th of February a Hip-Hop group came to AISB. The people in the group were DJ Pretty Nice, Denny, Chris, and Omni. They explained what you have to have to be a hip-hop group. The group is called Vice Verse All Stars. They knew songs that we have never heard before, like, Beautiful, No One etc.

The students also asked a lot of questions. Everybody was late for lunch because they were still playing the music and we were dancing on the stage when lunch was going on. Their music was making us move. At the end they were writing autographs on our hands and papers.

### The Brussels High School Math Competition, by Michael de Jesus

On February 11, four students from A.I.S.B. participated in the annual I.S.M.T.F. Junior Math Competition, which was held in Brussels, Belgium, at the International School of Brussels, for 2008-2009. In attendance were 230 students and 43 teachers from 37 international schools worldwide.

While there was no official selection process for the Junior Math team, the four students who represented the school volunteered to put in extra time and committed fully to the event in early October. A.I.S.B.'s participation at the I.S.M.T.F. Junior Math Competition marks the first time the school has been able to send a team of gifted mathematics students to represent the school. The only eligibility requirements for the students were current enrollment from the start of the academic calendar and an understanding, from all involved, that A.I.S.B.'s entry into the Junior Math event meant that the same team could not enter the senior event.

During the competition, students were not allowed the use of any electronic device including calculators. Questions ranged from solving advanced rational functions with complex solutions, to solving problems involving alternating harmonic and Fourier series. The questions were spread out into three parts: individual rounds, group rounds and a Sunday chase. For the individual and team contests, students represented their schools. In the Sunday chase, students were mixed up with other students from other schools to form teams of 3. The teams for the Sunday chase had to work together as they hunted for problems from room to room throughout the school. The first team to complete the chase with the most correct answers won the event. Twenty students were recognized for their placements in the individual rounds, 15 teams were recognized for their placements in the team rounds while three teams were recognized for their placement in the Sunday chase.

Although A.I.S.B. did not place in the top finishes for the individual and group rounds, Ellis van Doeselaar and Richard Kaleta took prizes for second and third place at the Sunday chase. For the individual rounds, Daniel Zeller finished within the top 30 percent of marks achieved while Katherine Provost finished within the top 50 percent.

The students came back from Brussels with a renewed sense of vigor and continue to meet as a team each week. The team hopes to compete again next year at the International School of Frankfurt for the I.S.M.T.F. senior competition.



3 of the 4 team members; Richard Kaleta not pictured