



Newsletter



April 15th, 2009 vol 5.13

## Mapping the Future

### From the Director



Dear AISB Community,

During the weeks of April 20 and April 27th your child will take tests called Measures of Academic Progress™ (MAP). We give students MAP tests to determine your child's instructional level and to measure academic growth

throughout the school year, and from year to year in the areas of Reading, Language Arts and Math. Your child will take the tests on a computer.

MAP tests are unique in that they adapt to be appropriate for your child's level of learning. As a result, each student has the same opportunity to succeed and maintain a positive attitude toward testing. And with MAP tests, we can administer shorter tests and use less class time while still receiving detailed, accurate information about your child's growth. Over the next few days, your child will spend a total of about 3 hours completing these tests.

This school year, students in grades 3 through 8 take the tests in April. Next school year, students in grades 3 through 9 will take the tests in September and April. Following the testing period this year you will receive a baseline report showing your child's achievement level. Following each testing period next year, you will receive a report showing your child's academic growth.

We are truly excited to begin a new era that focuses on every child's individual growth and achievement. **Partnering to help all kids learn**, parents and teachers can have a profound positive effect on the lives of our children.

For more information on resources for parents, download the **Parent Toolkit** at [www.nwea.org](http://www.nwea.org) >> Member Support >> Downloads >> Manuals.

Sincerely,

David G. Henry,  
Director

### Mark Your Calendars!

## Groundbreaking Ceremony for AISB's New Campus in Sotuba

Saturday May 30 at 9:00am  
at the construction site!



After more than six years of preparation, AISB is excited to announce that we have selected a contractor for our new school construction project in Sotuba and we have broken ground on the project.

The construction firm COMATEXIBAT was the lowest qualified bidder during our public bid opening, held in AISB's library on March 27. COMATEXIBAT is a large and well respected company here in Mali, and they have completed numerous projects in and around Bamako. The company has already mobilized at our land in Sotuba and are beginning to construct the new school's large concrete foundations.

We hope that you can join us on May 30 to celebrate this important milestone for AISB.



### PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES Friday, April 17th

No School for Students

NOTE: Arena Setup for Secondary Conferences  
is from 12:45pm to 3pm Only

## Board News

The AISB School Board will meet in a regular meeting on April 21, 2009. At this meeting the board will approve the 2009-10 tuition fees along with the 2009-10 budget. There will also be an update on the construction on the new school project. This will be the last regular meeting for the current board members. All regular board meeting information is always available to the public in the office. Please note the following:

### General Association Meeting and Board Elections on May 12<sup>th</sup>

The AISB School Board will hold an AISB General Association Meeting and board elections on May 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. The Board is made up of seven voting members, four Americans and three non-Americans. Parents and Faculty are voting members of the AISB Association. Interested parents are invited to become board members. Many board members will be moving from Mali this year and there will be five open seats. Please contact Rob van Doeselaar, Chair, or David Henry if you are interested in serving your school. Candidate applications are now available in the office. **Again, Board elections will take place on May 12<sup>th</sup> for the next academic year.**

### Draft 2009-10 Tuition Fee Increases To Be Approved

The Finance Committee presented its draft of recommended tuition fees for the 2009-10 school year and a draft budget for the 2009-10 school year at the March Board meeting. 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 at the April 21 regular meeting.

## Upcoming Events

April 14	School Resumes
April 17	Parent Teacher Conferences – No School for Students
April 20-29	MAP Testing, G3-8
April 22	Earth Day Celebration
April 27	Sec. School 2009-10 Course Orientation Night, 7pm, MPR, (New Date)
April 29	One Act Play, MPR (New Date)
May 1	International Labor Day, No School
May	Advanced Placement Testing
May 12	General Association Meeting & Board Elections, 7pm, MPR
May 16-17	WAISAL HS Volleyball Tournament - Dakar
May 19	Regular Board Meeting
May 22	Africa Day Celebration
May 25	Africa Day Holiday - No School

### AISB Middle School Football Team Dominates Ouagadougou Tournament, by George Zeller

Great passing, solid defense, and timely goals helped lead the AISB Middle School football team to an undefeated 4-0 record and first place in the International School of Ouagadougou Football Tournament. With wins of 3-1, 1-0, 3-0 and 5-0, AISB was clearly the dominant team at the tournament. Their superior play was further recognized at the awards ceremony, where players from AISB swept the individual awards: Best Midfielder - Max Weymann, Best Striker - Vincent Follea, Best Defensive Player - Lucas Zeller, and Best Goalie - Olaf Barning.

These players were well supported by their talented teammates. The tournament marked the end of a long season for the dedicated players and coach Jörg.



## AISB Celebrates Francophone Week, by Aissa Touré

During the third week of March, the AISB French Department organized various activities to celebrate Francophone week. March 17th was a full day visit to the Lycée Liberté by our secondary students. They were immersed in French classes, visited the school library and the National Museum. They also participated in different sport activities with their penpals. Students made an effort to speak French at all times. The next day, we had a return visit from Lycée Liberté during after-school activities. Students played soccer, basketball and ping pong.

Finally, there was a school wide assembly on March 19th. The moderators of the ceremony were Jennifer and Katherine Provost. We started with a short film introducing the Francophone World, then we attended the famous play "Cendrillon" performed by some of the Middle School students. The Grade 12 Advanced French students presented some famous traditional French songs. Then, the finalists of the High School Public Speaking contest, Dan Zeller and Nana Maiga, gave their speech respectively on "The Reason for Learning French" and "Student Participation in the M.U.N". We concluded the assembly with a great R&b French song performed by Marie Follea and Anna Dembélé.

Throughout the week, there were displays about French speaking countries worldwide at the Elementary School. These posters were made by the Grade 4/5 French Advanced and Standard students.

We look forward to a second annual Francophone week at AISB next year!

Vive La Francophonie!



## 7th and 8th Grade Field Trip to Teriya Bugu, by George Zeller

"A mix of learning, playing, and relaxing" sums up the 7th and 8th grade trip to Teriya Bugu. Sitting on the bank of the Bani River, Teriya Bugu combines tourism with a model of sustainable, cooperative development.

On the first day students toured the facility and viewed the solar and biogas power generating projects. A late afternoon swim in the resort's swimming pool offered a much needed break from the heat and building humidity. The next two days provided the opportunity to visit two neighboring villages. Distanced from the river and less impacted by the Teriya Bugu projects, the villages offered students an example of typical life in a small village. A visit with a village chief, a thorough explanation and demonstration of the processing of shea butter, and a visit to an ancient sacred site rounded out the village visits.



Some of the finest moments of the trip took place closer to the resort. A visit to the local school included experiencing the state of classrooms in the village school. AISB students

offered as a gift four trees to the school. Students from both schools planted the trees in the school's courtyard. That evening the AISB and Teriya Bugu students (and what seemed like the entire village!) met for an evening dance. All the AISB students and chaperones (some needed more encouragement than others!) participated in the dancing.



A friendly football match the following day ended, in the final seconds, with AISB scoring the only goal of the game. As a gesture of friendship, AISB donated the game ball to the school.

In between visits to local villages and school activities, AISB students participated in team building and challenge activities. Evening discussions focused on cultural exchange and culminated with groups creating an example of a "perfect" visitor to a foreign culture. Each afternoon the pool provided relief from the heat and a chance for the students to "just have fun".

## Interesting Iowa Test Results Observations

Below are some quick observations from the Iowa Tests given last November.

### **For all students in all classes grades 1-10 taking the Iowa Tests:**

The mean of all class results was well ahead of the Iowa Tests Norms used. The Iowa Tests Norms are based on all students in the United States taking the Iowa Tests. The sample size was so large that it speaks well for our students.

### **For returning students, i.e. those tested in Nov. 2007 and Nov. 2008:**

One would normally expect a single year's worth of growth; however, our returning students experienced more than one year's growth in the core areas.

Returning students in the two classes that looped (same teacher for two years) had the greatest growth compared with returning students in all other classes when comparing class averages in the core areas.