



Newsletter

May 21st, 2009 vol 5.15

Addressing English Language Acquisition

From the Director



Dear AISB Community,

This year, we established a Leadership Team. It meets bi-monthly. In addition to myself, the Leadership Team includes a Lead

Teacher from each of our three close, but separate campuses. It also includes the Technology Coordinator and the Athletic Director.

The Leadership Team was established for many reasons, such as, to improve and coordinate communication between the school levels. Another reason it was established was to make sure we were addressing big issues that paralleled school goals. This included recommending and coordinating incoming consultants such as the curriculum consultant that visited AISB twice this past year.

The Leadership Team structure also allows us to identify areas for improvement in advance. As AISB has grown over the last few years, the Leadership Team and faculty have identified a need for the continued improvement of the English language acquisition structure. We want to make sure we are addressing the needs of all our students with regard to language acquisition. The first step will be to identify the types of students at AISB and their English language needs. With that in mind, we will look at our complete language program for non-native English speakers, our ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) students, students who exit the ESOL program and students outside this program. We felt that

addressing these issues would help us to ensure we are meeting the needs of all English speakers in the classroom.

Next year, during the teacher in-service week, faculty and staff will participate in workshops by English Immersion/Differentiation specialist, Christine Palumbo. One goal includes revising and ultimately publishing the objectives and procedures related to our ESOL program. We also want to develop strategies to provide support for those English Language Learners (ELL) exited or outside the ESOL program. Finally, one of the main goals of the consultant's visit next August is to make sure our faculty has the tools necessary to differentiate instruction in classrooms with ELL students.

Overall, we want to make sure that all our students are experiencing timely language acquisition and academic success.

Sincerely,

David G. Henry,
Director

TONIGHT

PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION
(PTO)
GENERAL MEETING

7pm, AISB LIBRARY

WAISAL Volleyball Tournament, by Joost Guttinger

Nine HS students, coach Mr. Philippe, and Athletic Director Mr. Guttinger were in Dakar from May 15 till 17. The students were competing in the WAISAL 2009 Volleyball Tournament organized by the International School of Dakar (ISD). Mr. Guttinger also attended the annual WAISAL Athletic Directors (AD) meeting to discuss next year's tournaments and other topics.

AISB participated with one team of boys and girls. First they all played in the boys competition, later the girls had several games in the girls league as well. Students did great in their games, earning third place in both leagues. Finally, Robyne Some, Katie Caswell, Dan Zeller and Marc Loffel were selected to play in the All Stars teams at the end of the day. These All Stars teams have the best players of every team to play a final game.

ISD did an outstanding job organizing the tournament, and the students were kept busy the whole time. AISB's team played 7 games on Saturday. After the games there was a bbq and dance, and on Sunday morning they got a city tour and some shopping time at the mall in Dakar.

At the WAISAL AD meeting we discussed next year's tournaments. There will be the three main HS sport events, volleyball, basketball and soccer, and probably another MS Soccer tournament. Dates and locations will be announced once they are confirmed.

Congrats to Marc Loffel, Dan Zeller, TJ League, Leah Rattunde, Robyne Some, Nicola Newton, Ellis van Doeselaar, Bridgette League, Katie Caswell, and coach Joerg Philippe for the outstanding job they did, and appreciation for all the time and effort they have put into the practices to be able to play in Dakar.

You can check out more volleyball tournament info, results, photos, etc. on: <http://waisal2009.wetpaint.com/>

Upcoming Events

May 21	PTO General Meeting, 7pm
May 22	Africa Day Celebration, Student Performances 12:45pm
May 25	Africa Day Holiday - No School
May 30	Site Walk at Sotuba, 9am
June 9	Regular Board Meeting, 7pm
June 10	Graduation, 7pm
June 12	Last Day of School

Recent Board News

The newly elected AISB Board met at 7pm, Tuesday, May 19, 2009. The board elected new officers for the 2009-10 school year, discussed the board retreat completed over the past weekend, and established committee members for the coming year. Below are some of the highlights from the meeting:

New Officers Selected

The board unanimously approved new officers for the next school year. Iris Berfelo will be the Chair; Omar Saibou, Vice-Chair; Steve Lutterbeck, Treasurer; and Claudia Vondrasek, Secretary.

Board Retreat

New and returning board members expressed their overall satisfaction with the board retreat conducted this past weekend by board trainer/consultant, John Ritter. Although the AISB Board had a long established Code of Ethics which has been discussed and signed by each member each year, the new Board worked this past weekend on creating a revised code. The revised code defines Principles and Practices, in addition to Roles and Responsibilities for board members. A draft implementation plan was also developed to help the board reflect on how well they are following the revised code. Finally, the board revised their organizational goals for the coming years.

AFRICA DAY Celebration 2009

Friday May 22nd

Performances

- 🕒 9:30 - 11:00 am, ELC
Ya Ya Coulibaly and his Marionette troupe
- 🕒 12:45 - 1:45pm
Student Music Performances
3rd - 6th Grades and High School Music Class
- 🕒 All school contest for best African costume
Malian art wares will be displayed for sale.
Come and pick some things out to give to friends and family.

Student Art Show
in the Multi-Purpose room
Open All Day for Viewing