



Newsletter

Sep. 17th, 2009 vol 6.2

## Playing a Role

### From the Director



Dear AISB Community,

Thank you for attending the three Open Houses our faculty has hosted over the last three weeks. Each of the teachers' presentations demonstrated that

AISB's first priority is the caring and nurturing of your child through their educational endeavors.

Part of this process is the reporting that goes on related to your child's intellectual, social, physical, cultural, and personal development. Around the mid-way point of every quarter your children's teacher might write a progress report to let you know of significant growth, effort, or lack thereof. Progress reports will go home on September 29th for the 1st Quarter and are typically issued for only a few students. If your child receives a progress report, treat it as an opportunity for you to speak with your child on how things are going in his or her class. Take time to visit with your son or daughter, consider discussing new strategies for increased success and praise them for their positive accomplishments.

You might consider your child's success as part of a three way partnership between the teacher, the student and the parents. The role you play at home, setting the stage for educational successes for your child is one of the most important roles you play as a parent. At the same time participating in school community activities such as Open House, the PTO, or attending the AISB General Association meeting also demonstrates to your child that you care how their school continues to grow.

September 29th is significant this year for another reason, this is the evening of AISB's bi-annual General Association Meeting. The Gen-

eral Association meeting is for parents and faculty of AISB, i.e. members of the association. Last May, the AISB School Board revised its strategic plans as it does every year. Although there are many important issues facing your school over the next few years, two of the most important are the whole school re-accreditation process and the continued timely progress on AISB's new Sotuba campus. As a parent and hence, a member of our school association, I encourage you to attend this meeting.

Thank you for taking the time to play a role in your child's education.

Sincerely,

David G. Henry,  
Director

**NO SCHOOL**  
**September 21 - 22**  
**Planned School Holidays**

**AISB**  
**GENERAL ASSOCIATION MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 29, 7pm**

## Recent Board News

The AISB Board of Trustees met on September 15 and on August 25 for their regular board meetings. In addition to approving the Director's Goals for 2009-10, Board Goals for 2009-10, the company ARECI for the 2008-09 audit and the agenda for the upcoming General Association meeting, some of the highlights of last Tuesday's meeting are as follows:

### Organization Goals for 2009-10 Approved

The School Board approved the Organizational Goals and strategies for progress during this year. There are three main goals: 1) Build a New AISB Campus, 2) Obtain Re-accreditation and 3) Research & Plan Multi-Year Development of Programs for Student Enrichment. Several of these Organizational Goals extend several years into the future. The Organizational Goals can be seen on the school's website on the school board webpage.

### 'Bridge' Loan for Construction of New Campus in Sotuba Approved

The School Board unanimously approved seeking a short-term 'bridge' loan of \$2.5 million dollars for the construction project. AISB has already received a loan approval from OPIC (a part of the U.S. Treasury Department) for 100% of the funding it was seeking to complete our new school. However, during the period of time between the OPIC loan approval and disbursement, the School Board has decided it needs to seek an additional short-term 'bridge' loan to maintain its current construction pace. Once OPIC disburses the loan, AISB will pay back the short-term loans related to the construction project.

### School Board Effective Governance Code on Website:

Each year AISB School Board members sign a code of conduct with regard to effective school governance. Please visit the School Board page on the AISB website (or use this link, [www.aisbmali.org/M\\_schoolboard.html](http://www.aisbmali.org/M_schoolboard.html)) to review the published effective governance documents.

### Next Regular Board Meeting Changed to Thursday, October 22, 2009:

Due to scheduling conflicts the school board agreed to change the next regular meeting to Thursday, October 22.

### General Association Meeting Agenda Set for Tuesday, September 29:

The AISB General Association Meeting for parents and faculty will take place at 7pm on Tuesday, September 29 in the MPR. During this bi-annual meeting there will be presentations on school finances and the Sotuba construction project as well as the Director's report. There will also be the opportunity for questions and answers from interested association members.

## Upcoming Events

Sep. 16	PTO General Meeting, 5:15pm, MPR
Sep. 16	Open House for Grades 1-5, 6pm
Sep. 21-22	Holiday – No classes
Sep. 25	Family Reading Night, 6-8pm
Sep. 25-26	Student Council Leadership Camp Out
Sept. 28-Oct. 9	MAP Testing, Grades 3-9
Sep. 29	AISB General Association Meeting, 7pm, MPR

### Elementary Monday Morning Assemblies Have a New Sound, by Rachel Strozeski

Thanks to the PTO, the Elementary School's assemblies are easy to hear this year. The PTO bought us a new sound system that has a portable speaker and a cordless microphone. We can now easily make announcements and presentations that everyone can

hear, even when it's our quietest speakers who are sharing.



This week the third graders shared poems and riddles about invertebrates.

Stop by Monday mornings at 7:30 am and hear for yourself! Everyone is welcome.

### New Pre-K Class, by Ayo Wilson

It has been an exciting start in the Pre-K 3 class; a classroom specially reconstructed with the aim of ensuring a comfortable and spacious learning environment for the students. This class now operates along with the Pre-K 4 and Kindergarten classroom, each room with their own classroom aide.

Last week we studied the letter B and we all did a great job hunting for things that begin 'B', both at home and in school, that we displayed in our Letter B Museum. We had items like banana, stuffed bear and bunny, books, blue shirt and short, our class-made baby birds, bags, molded butterflies and boat, just to mention a few.

We already started this week digging into a new theme: Five Senses. We hope to learn the importance and use of our eyes, ears, tongue, nose and especially our hands; that they are not at all meant for hitting but touching and helping one another.

Bravo Pre-K 3 Stars! We are so proud of you!

## Family Reading Night

Friday, Sept. 25, 2009 – 6:00-8:00 pm

**What:** Family Reading Night! On this night we will celebrate the joy of reading together as a family in many languages. Door prizes will be handed out and pizza will be served.

**Where:** Meet in the Multipurpose Room, Elementary School Campus at 6:00 pm

**When:** 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm on Friday, Sep. 25, 2009

6:00 – 6:30	Student Performances and Welcome
6:30 – 7:00	Pizza and drinks
7:00 – 7:50	Activities in various rooms on Elementary Campus
7:50 – 8:00	Meet back in MPR to end evening together

**Who:** This is a night for children to spend an enjoyable reading time with their parents. All AISB elementary school students (PK – 5) with their parents are invited!

**Why:** Children and parents are invited to spend quality reading time together and to celebrate the importance and the fun of reading in any language. Students will have a chance to read together with their parents in English and French; listen to guest readers in many languages; read poems; listen to audio books; perform poems; explore reading sites on the Internet; and share a love of reading.

**How:** Registration forms will be handed out at Open House this Wednesday night. Send in the registration by Wednesday, Sep. 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please make sure to include the fee of 1,000 CFA/person. (This money will be used to supplement the cost of the pizza and the beverage.)

Parents are encouraged to volunteer to read in our Guest Readers' Room and read aloud a favorite story in any language. This will be a reading time of about 5 – 7 minutes. If you are willing to do so, please let us know on the registration sheet. We are looking forward to seeing you there.

Please contact Rachel Strozeski with questions at: [rstrozeski@aisbmali.org](mailto:rstrozeski@aisbmali.org)

## What's Going On In The Secondary School?, by Randy Neen

### Sports, Theatre, Math, MUN and more...

Our continued focus here in the secondary school is to offer a well-rounded educational that encompasses both academic and extra-curricular activities. Our goal is to have every student enrolled in at least one after school activity at some point during the school year. The benefit of such a program gives students additional opportunities to succeed socially, academically, and athletically in our school community.

This fall, the secondary school is offering MS & HS volleyball, MS & HS theatre, HS Model United Nations (MUN), and MS & HS Math teams. Additional after-school activities are offered through the AISB after school activities program. Information for these activities can be found in the AISB main office.

### **Community Service at AISB!**

Community Service is a fantastic opportunity to give back to society and learn about the local environment that we live in. Our students will spend 2 hours each Friday helping youth in our area. One opportunity for our kids is at a local orphanage where time will be spent with the children, playing games, reading, singing, and conversing with them. A second wonderful opportunity is at a local community centre where our students will be involved in teaching English. Finally, a third option is our AISB tutoring program that will see our students tutoring their classmates. The orphanage group and the tutoring sessions will begin this Friday (Sept. 18) while the community centre project will begin in October as our students are trained in the art of teaching English.

This is also a fantastic opportunity for HS students to get Community Service hours which is a very important aspect of college / university applications.

**For more information about the AISB Secondary School, check out Mr. Neen's Principal's Blog on the AISB website.**

## Third Grade Squid Dissection!

### Examining Squids Inside Their Body,

by Coen

On Tuesday, 15th September 2009, third grade opened some squids from the inside. To know more read on. We first looked at all the outside parts and external organs. Here are some parts: the mouth, the beak, and the mantle. Our group opened the stomach. I hope you liked our facts and till next time

Today we dissected a squid on the top part of its body. A squid's mouth is actually a beak. A squid has one eye, two tentacles, 1 mouth ten arms too gills, one ink sac, one stomach a head a funnel a skirt and a mantle. Today was a fun day but also disgusting. **Thomas**



### Impressive Invertebrates, by Elizabeth

The Third grade students of AISB have been studying Invertebrates. Over the past few weeks we have studied some types of worms, snails, and squids. We are going to tell you about one of our fun activities with a squid.

Yesterday, Mrs Ramilo brought in a squid for each table. Our class dissected the squids. We got to find the external parts and the internal parts of the squid. While we were dissecting the squid we found out that squids have some interesting body parts. For example, they have a beak that is connected to the mouth. A squid also has 10 arms. When we cut open the squid it got even more exciting. Then we dug into it and found that it was very slimy and smushy inside. We were stabbing it when this brown mustard colored watery stuff started gushing out of the place where the liver was. It was the best science activity ever.

### By Mercedes

Today on Tuesday 15th September 2009, During 5th Period... We digested a Squid! The class did not know what to think, and here is the story...

When Ms. Ramilo put newspaper on our tables no one knew what to think. When she placed the squid and containers I was excited. I looked at the squid and examined it. Finally we could begin. First I examined its external organs. The beak was quite interesting. After that we looked at the internal organs. The liver had stuff in it that looked like mustard! Squids are amazing! I think invertebrates are interesting. We found something that was like a bone but what is it?



In science the third grade students were dissecting a squid. Camille Anh thought that the squid was so so so so so extra disgusting.

I didn't think it was so disgusting until my group had our squid cut in half so I cut something open so we could see the liver. Dissecting a squid was fun but not so fun for the squid I don't think. Let's see what Ms. Ramilo has for us next. **Emma**



September 15<sup>th</sup> at 5<sup>th</sup> period, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade was learning the body parts of a squid. First Mrs. Ramilo gave each group a dead squid after that we looked at the outside. Then we saw the inside. It was fun looking at the squid. Mrs. Ramilo is a good teacher. **Nicolaus**

Today at the 5<sup>th</sup> period Mrs. Ramilo brought in squids it was so disgusting.

First, she told us to look at it, it was purple. Then he opened it and we saw one beak, one mouth, ten arms and one mantle. We also saw the brain and sac and lot of other things. It was fun. **Catia**