



Newsletter

September 3rd, 2008 vol 5.2

AISB Mission and Curriculum Intertwined



From the Director

Dear AISB Community,

This year, two of the school's three organizational goals are quite intertwined. The continued development of AISB's curriculum and the revision of the school's mission, beliefs and philosophy go hand in hand.

A school's mission, beliefs and philosophy should reflect that of the community it serves. These statements should be reviewed and updated often, as international school communities are constantly changing. This year the board's policy committee is charged with revising AISB's mission, beliefs and philosophy. They are looking for a parent and a teacher volunteer to serve on this committee.

Reflected in a school's curriculum should be the school's underlying philosophy and beliefs. As AISB continues to develop its curriculum by finalizing subject area Standards and Benchmarks and K-12 subject specific overview maps, it will ensure a 'mission driven curriculum'. Last year draft subject area Standards and Benchmarks (student outcomes) were selected. These now need to be honed for AISB to make sure they work for our school community.

Of the core subject areas, AISB has already developed draft K-12 maps for science and social studies. The most complicated K-12 map to be developed will be that of Language Arts because of the way the subject is learned. The math K-12 map is much more sequential

and will also need to be completed. Teachers' unit plans titles are what make up the K-12 maps.

A school's curriculum should not be a document that is printed out and ends up on a shelf. It needs to be an evolving, collaborative entity that can be easily accessed and updated by the faculty and staff. This is where a technology savvy document person comes into play. Putting into place an electronic document management system that allows faculty to update it themselves and is accessible to all teachers will be a step forward in the process of developing a curriculum that can change as our community changes.

We hope to make great leaps forward in making sure our mission, philosophy, and beliefs are reflected in our day to day instructional practices via AISB's curriculum. Stay tuned.

Sincerely,

David G. Henry,
Director

Open House
6-12th Grade
Wednesday Sept 3

6 pm in the
Multi-Purpose Room



BOARD NEWS

Recent Board News

The AISB Board of Trustees for 2008-09 met at 7pm, Tuesday, August 26, 2008. In addition to the Director's report, continued discussion on draft Organization Goals for 2008-09, the Director's Goals and long-term legal status implications, the main items covered in the meeting are as follows:

Progress on Financing Portfolio at BOA/BICIM

The Board Treasurer reported that two local banks have made a verbal commitment to finance Phase One of the school construction project together. The full board approved pursuing this financing option with a finalized loan agreement.

New School Site Plan Approved

After the introduction of the AISB's construction Project Manager, Mr. Randy Brown, the final version of the Sotuba Site Plan for the new school construction project was approved. The architect will now be directed to move forward on creating the detailed drawings for the construction project.

Policy Committee Seeks a Parent Member and a Teacher Member

The Policy Committee is seeking additional members to serve on this committee. This year the Policy Committee has been charged with looking at AISB's Mission, Beliefs and Philosophy statements. Please let the Director or Board Chair know of your desire to participate on this committee.

WARNING: Curriculum Development Ahead

The school board and director agreed that the continued development of AISB's curriculum should be part of the school's Organization Goals. Possible timelines and areas of responsibility were discussed as a part of the draft Organizational Goals discussion. AISB will journey forward redeveloping and enhancing the current curriculum making sure it ties into AISB's mission and beliefs.



AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

START SEPT 8

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|------------|---|
| Sept. 3 | Secondary Open House (Gr. 6-12), 6pm, MPR |
| Sept. 8 | After School Activities Begin |
| Sept. 10 | PTO General Association Meeting & Elections, 5:30 pm, MPR |
| Sept. 10 | Elementary Open House (Gr. PK-5), 6pm, MPR |
| Sept. 16 | Regular Board Meeting, 7pm, Library |
| Sept. 23 | AISB General Association Meeting, 7pm, MPR |
| Sept. 22 | Independence Day Holiday—No School |
| Sept. 27 | Back-to-School Bar-B-Que 2pm-6pm |
| Oct. 2 | End of Ramadan Holiday -Tentative |
| Oct. 16 | U.N. Day |
| Oct. 17 | Fall Holiday Break Begins – No School |
| Oct. 17-26 | Fall Holiday Break |
| Oct. 27 | School Resumes |

AISB After School Sports, by Joost Guttinger, Athletics Director

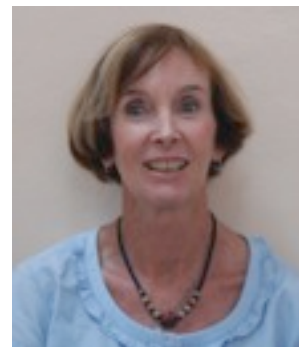
Starting this school year, AISB is running a three season MS/HS after school sports program. The three seasons are: Soccer, Basketball and Volleyball. Each season will last 9-11 weeks. The after school sports program runs independent from the regular after school activities. The first season is soccer and starts this week until November 6.

Signing up does not mean that the students have to participate in an international WAISAL tournament; it only means that they will do practices/ local games on Tuesdays and Thursdays. A WAISAL tournament is only for those members of an after school sports team who show interest and who meet the minimal requirements.

You can contact me if you have any questions.

Meet The New ESOL Teacher, by Susana Inadomi Gueye

Hello, I'm Ms. Susana Inadomi Gueye. I'm replacing Ms. Lorelea Frizzell, who was the ESOL teacher for several years. I am very pleased to be on the staff at AISB. I have a total of 27 years of experience teaching in California, Mexico and Senegal! My task is to deliver an educational program for students in grades 2 to high school. I am helping students whose first language is not English.



AISB recognizes that the primary focus for these students is their integration and academic success at our school. They need to initially acquire basic survival language and after academic language appropriate to the language intensive subjects at each grade level. The goal is to have all speakers of other languages participate actively in the classroom, while having support depending on their level of English.

Beginning, Levels 1 and 2 students attend ESOL daily for one period in the ESOL classroom. They learn language skills using modified versions of the mainstream class programs. At Level 3, once the student's proficiency has improved sufficiently, students continue to study advanced ESOL for academic purposes. These lessons take place in the ESOL classroom or in the mainstream classroom, when scheduling allows.

I look forward to meeting parents and talking about the ESOL program at the Open House evenings for elementary and secondary students.

French Teacher Opening

The teacher is responsible for the planning, delivery and assessment of the Elementary and Secondary French curriculum using an American pedagogical approach. This position is an 80% to 100% teaching position. Contact the AISB office for the complete job posting.

Elementary Hot Lunch Now 5 Days a Week!



Elementary students (includes ELC) can now have a hot lunch (1.500f CFA/meal) catered by the American International Club on every day of the week. Students pay 20.000f in advance to begin participating in the program.