



Newsletter

October 30th, 2008 vol 5.5

AISB Faculty Develop During Fall Break



From the Director

Dear AISB Community,

During the October Fall Break, half of AISB's faculty traveled to Kampala, Uganda, for the teachers/

administrators conference organized by the Association of International Schools of Africa (AISA).

These annual AISA conferences present unique opportunities for our teachers to receive additional professional development during the school year. AISA is funded in part by grants from the U.S. State Department's Office of Overseas Schools and AISB also receives some Office of Overseas Schools grant money to support our faculty's further development at these types of conferences. The mission of the Association of International Schools in Africa is to 'facilitate improvement in learning and teaching through communication and cooperation among member schools, and to promote professional growth of teachers, administrators, and board members.' AISA fulfilled their mission at this conference.

With workshops such as Classroom Based Assessment K-5, Introduction to Learning Styles, The Backwards Approach to Unit Design, The Power of Protocols ~ Tools for Effective Collaboration, Leading for Results, and Curriculum Design and Improvement, etc., all participants were able to expand themselves professionally. These workshops were led by well-known professional education consultants. At the same time AISB's

faculty connected with other educators from around the region and all of Africa to share and learn from each other. The ability to plan regional academic and athletic activities for the West African International Schools Activities League (WASIAL) was another benefit of this conference.

Ultimately, professional development opportunities like this positively effect instruction and student life here at AISB.

Sincerely,

David G. Henry,
Director

**Friday,
October 31st
END OF 3RD QUARTER**

**Early Dismissal -
11:15am**

**PTO's
HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL**

**6 - 8 pm,
FRIDAY**

BOARD NEWS

Recent Board News

The AISB Board of Trustees met at 7pm, Tuesday, October 14, 2008. In addition to approving the Director's evaluation tools for 2008-09 and receiving the Faculty draft of the Mission, Beliefs and Expected School-wide Learning Results, some of the highlights of the meeting are as follows:

Finance Committee Income/Expense Reports Approved

The School Board approved the final 2007/08 Income/Expense report and the 1st budget revision for the 2008/09 Budget. Now that last year's final report has been approved, the school will solicit audit companies to conduct AISB's annual audit. Also approved was the 2009/10 salary scale for faculty.

Revised Policy on Limiting Class Sizes and Combining Classes Approved

With the recent growth AISB has experienced, there was a need to make sure AISB's policy on class sizes was up-to-date. The School Board passed a revised policy which set our school's maximum class size limit at 20, unless there are exceptional circumstances. In addition to the maximum limit, the maximum capacity of classroom space available plays a role. In other words, some of AISB's current classrooms are already too small for the maximum class size limit. Hence, they would have a lower limit.

Graduation Requirements Placed in Board Policy

The School Board voted to place AISB's High School graduation requirements in board policy as recommended during last May's board training. The graduation requirements were approved back in April, 2007.

The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 11, 2008.

**SAVE THIS DATE: THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 13, 2008**

**The PTO will host a Scholastic Book Fair in the
Multi-Purpose Room**

Upcoming Events

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| Oct. 31 | End of 1st Quarter – Early Dismissal, 11:15am |
| Oct. 31 | Halloween Carnival, 6-8 pm |
| Nov. 6-8 | Field Trip to Siby - Grade 6 |
| Nov. 3 | After School Activities, 2nd Session Starts |
| Nov. 7 | Report Cards Go Home |
| Nov. 10 | Parent Teacher Conferences, No School for Students |
| Nov. 13 | PTO's Scholastic Book Fair |
| Nov. 17-21 | ITBS TESTING |
| Nov. 25 | School Play - "Honeymoon At Graveside Manor", 7pm |
| Nov. 27-28 | Thanksgiving Holiday - No School |

**HAPPY
Halloween**

It's time again for the annual HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL at AISB!!!

This Friday, October 31st @ 5 pm, make sure to get your map in front of the school, where we'll kick off our celebration with a walk around the AISB neighborhood. Dress up as your favorite thing and join the fun! There will be 20 different houses on the trick-or-treating map this year.

At 6 pm the Halloween Carnival opens!

Enjoy a Haunted House, games with prizes, a cake walk, and plenty of food!

The entrance fee is 1000fcfa. Food and Game tickets will be for sale.

THIS EVENT IS A PTO FUNDRAISER.

Looking for Parents' Recommendations , by Lynn Robinson

The Policy Committee of the Board of Directors is reviewing the policy manual, in which the first page is the school's Philosophy Statement. (It also can be found on the school's website). Since the philosophy has not been updated since 1998, it was determined that a thorough review of the philosophy needed to be completed. The Philosophy Statement is what drives the school's Board and Administration in establishing long term planning and direction for the school.

The Philosophy is derived from a combination of the Mission Statement, Beliefs and Expected School Wide Learning Results (ESLRs). The faculty began the process in August looking at the current Mission Statement, Beliefs, and developing the ESLRs for this school. The teachers adapted the Mission Statement, agreed upon Belief Statements, and developed ESLRs to present to the Policy committee. The Policy Committee has now formed an ad hoc (for this purpose) committee to look specifically at the Mission, Beliefs and ESLRs which are the foundation of the Philosophy.

This committee is comprised of all the school's stakeholders. The members are Muriel Durand and Claudia Vondrasek, parents; TJ League and Irene Dembele, students; Scott Reece, Board and Policy Committee member; Assetou Konipo, Administrator; and Urska Manners and Lynn Robinson, faculty members. The committee is going to be looking for your help in developing the AISB Philosophy. It is difficult to write documents in a large group. Thus, a well-rounded committee was formed. However, this committee needs your input. They are specifically asking for your ideas about what ESLRs you would like to have incorporated into the Philosophy.

Expected School Wide Learning Results should capture what you would like to see your children gain from their experience at AISB beyond the written academic curriculum. It has been described as "**what words would you like to accurately describe your child when they are 25 years old.**" The Committee decided to get feedback from parents about this because they felt that this would be something that would strike a chord with the parents and in which they would have a real vested interest. In addition, these ESLRs will become a driving force for teachers as they prepare and present lessons that are academic-based but encompass a whole lot more than academics. There is a tremendous amount of teaching in a classroom that is not standards or assessment, or even curriculum-based. It is a social and personal interaction-targeted teaching. These ESLRs will guide this more character-development-driven aspect of teaching and classroom management.

These ESLRs are important and the committee wants every parent's input. You will be receiving a survey comprised of 6 simple questions. This survey will ask you to review the faculty-suggested ESLRs and to offer your opinion about what is important and what is not. You will have a chance to provide the feedback via email or via hard copy. If you care about what your child will be like at age 25 you need to help develop the basis for our school's philosophy. Your child's education and future development depends upon it.

Below are AISB's faculty developed **Expected Student Learning Results**, drafted just this Fall.

AISB students will be:

- Responsible and involved global citizens able to adapt in a rapidly changing world
- Compassionate
- Inquisitive explorers
- Logical problem solvers
- Self-directed learners
- Independent thinkers
- Able to express themselves clearly and logically
- Physically, mentally and emotionally healthy
- Respectful of self and others
- Appreciative of the arts