



Newsletter



Jan. 13th, 2010 vol 6.7

## New Year, New Involvement

### From the Director



The New Year presents a wonderful opportunity for all of us to take a look at where we are and where we want to be. For 3rd grader it might be committing oneself to learning the mathematics times tables. For a 5th grader it might be deciding to practice that left footed kick an extra five minutes after sports. For an 8th grader it might be deciding to connect what they are learning in social studies to a community service project right down the street. For an 11th grader it might be proofreading those English compositions one additional time before the final version is turned in. For a faculty member it might be setting professional goals to incorporate a new approach to teaching a particular concept. For the American International School of Bamako, it is committing to the process of reflection that goes along with the upcoming re-accreditation process.

The New Year presents AISB with the opportunity to reflect on where we are and look at ways to become the school we want to be through this process. We are now planning for a Fall 2011 re-accreditation visit. As one part of this process, we continue to collect data (parent surveys, etc.) to give us feedback in various areas. Another part of this process is stakeholder involvement.

As we begin the New Year let's make sure that all stakeholders are involved in this process to continuously improve AISB. The re-accreditation process gives us the framework to get there. Many opportunities will present themselves along the way and being involved will make us more successful.

For my family and me, the New Year has presented us with the opportunity to re-involve ourselves in all aspects of AISB. We are excited to be part of this learning community and look forward to helping you make the American International School of Bamako the school you envision.

Sincerely,

David G. Henry, Director

**JANUARY 15 - 16**  
**High School Student Council**

**24 - Hour Fast**



**3RD SESSION**  
**AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

**START**  
**FEBRUARY 1**

## Recent Board News

The next regular board meeting will be held on , Tuesday, January 19, at 7pm in the school library. Highlights of the upcoming meeting include approval of the 2010-11 school calendar, policy section approvals, an update on the Sotuba school construction, and a presentation on the parent survey results. All regular board meetings are open to association members.

## Upcoming Events

Jan. 15-16	24 - Hour Fast, High School Student Council
Jan. 19	Regular School Board Meeting 7pm
Jan. 26-28	High School Exams
Jan. 29	End of 2nd Quarter/ 1st Semester
Feb. 1	3rd Session After School Activities Begin
Feb. 1-5	Secondary Classroom Without Walls (CWW)
Feb. 24-28	WAISAL MS Soccer Tourna ment, Accra, Ghana
Feb. 26	Mawloud Holiday (tentative)

## News From the Construction Site in Sotuba by Michael Deutschmann

After a period of slow down, the construction work on the AISB's new school building has regained full speed and things are going well out there. In the beginning of January, almost 27% of the overall works have been completed.

The contractor has brought on more staff and material and started the work above ground. Even the first part of the roof has been casted in concrete. The team of contractors and engineers work hand in hand, the construction site and the work is well organized, safety measures have been implemented and the quality outcome is more than satisfactory.

According to the construction contractor, the school building can be completed by July 2010, which would allow the school to move to Sotuba already for the coming scholar year 2010/2011, if progress continues as we expect. We all hope and are looking forward to a continued smooth construction process without accidents on site.

Whoever is interested, can visit the construction site, please kindly announce your visit to the project manager, Michael Deutschmann, [mdeutschmann@aisbmali.org](mailto:mdeutschmann@aisbmali.org), cell 66 75 09 79.



DEC 19, 2009 – View from the water tower overlooking the site

## What's New in the ELC in the New Year? by Lynn Robinson

- ❖ The New Year has brought 3 new students to the Early Learning Center. We welcome Justin in the 3 - year old classroom, and Hannah and Kaamila in the Kindergarten classroom. This brings the ELC enrollment to 35.
- ❖ We have had some painting done. We now have the alphabet and the numbers 1 to 20 up on the top portion of our wall, and we have a "hop-on" alphabet down on the cement area which is keeping a lot of kids busy.
- ❖ We have a circular cement planter in which some great plants are thriving. It has been painted white and will soon be decorated by the students.
- ❖ The 3's have a water play center.
- ❖ The Kindergarten Classroom has been rearranged with a bigger table and chair space as the kids transition to more table work.
- ❖ We have 2 new Teacher Aides...Ms. Charity in the 3's class and Ms. Tenin in the 4's room.
- ❖ We have big plans to visit the Presidential Palace and to meet the Honorable President Mr. A.T.T. next week.
- ❖ Best of all, we have new things to learn and discover everyday...come and visit us and see what we are up to!

## What's Going on in the Secondary School?, by Randy Neen, Secondary School Principal

### *Classroom Without Walls (CWW) - February 1-5, 2010*

What is CWW you ask? It is our week-long field trip for all MS and HS students. This is an opportunity for our students to leave the confines of the campus for an educational, cultural, and social experience. Each trip is tied to the school's curriculum, which will focus on Malian history, geography, physical science, literature, and more.

The primary aims of CWW are to:

#### **Provide an authentic window to how school curriculum connects to life outside of school**

\* By participating in a variety of exploratory activities students are able to engage in many practical applications of the school curriculum related to language, math, science, community service, geography and much more.

#### **Gain greater understanding of Mali**

\* Through the trips students learn about and appreciate the geography, history, people and customs of Mali.

#### **Become closer and supportive of one another**

\* By traveling together for several days, students get to know one another well, make new friends and learn skills in dealing effectively with others in a group.

#### **Grow in self-awareness, self-confidence & independence**

\* By traveling in a group, away from home students get to know themselves better, gain confidence through new experiences, and make decisions that increase their sense of self-reliance and independence.

#### **Appreciate each other and teachers in new ways**

\* Through the common experiences of traveling, eating, and living together for several days, students and teachers will experience each other in new ways not possible in the classroom. Thus, these new experiences will provide an opportunity for students and teachers to build a positive and constructive foundation for interaction for the rest of the school year and future school years.

#### **Where are we going this year?**

Grade 6: "SCIENCE IN SADIOLA"

Grade 7-8: " LAND OF THE MANDE"

Grade 9-12: "DJENNE-BANI AND NIGER RIVERS - LAKE DABO"

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



# AISB CLASSROOM WITHOUT WALLS

## JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 5, 2010

### HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM “DJENNE-BANI AND NIGER RIVERS-LAKE DABO”

**Day 1(Sunday, Jan. 31):** Travel by bus from Bamako to Djenne (567 km / approx. 9-hr drive) – camp in tents at Djenne encampment.

**Day 2:** Morning visit Djenne (market day) / early lunch & depart in busses at 12h30 for an approx. 2-hr drive to Kourakoura / board a traditional pinnace and begin a 3-night Niger river excursion to Lac Dabo – camp on a sandbar along the banks of the Niger river

**Day 3:** Niger river excursion to Lac Dabo (stop to visit a couple river villages en-route) – camp along the banks of the Niger river.

**Day 4:** Niger river excursion to Lac Dabo (stop to visit a couple river villages en-route) / arrive Lac Dabo & visit surrounding villages – camp along the banks of the Niger river

**Day 5:** Lac Debo-Konna / arrive after lunch / meet bus & drive 50 km to Mopti – hotel rooms at Maison des Arts or Hotel Via Via or Motel Sevare (all located in Sevare)

**Day 6:** Bus from Mopti to Bamako (640 km / approx 9-hr drive)

### MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM “ LAND OF THE MANDE”

**Day 1(Mon. Feb. 1):** Leave School at 7:30 to travel to Siby. Set up camp, hike, rock climb, and other activities.

**Day 2:** Pack up camp and drive to river for kayaking on the Niger River. Students will camp on a sandbar on the river.

**Day 3:** Drive to the village of Kirina, a traditional Mande village for an afternoon cultural presentation. Students will return to Siby that evening for camping beneath the arch.

**Day 4:** Students will be partnered with students from Siby and attend classes at the local school. That evening we will have a girls and boys soccer matches with students from Siby. The event will be attended by local community leaders.

**Day 5:** Students will do a thrilling traverse climb, eat lunch, and then return to Bamako.

### 6th GRADE PROGRAM: “SCIENCE IN SADIOLA”

**Day 1 (Mon. Feb. 1):** Fly to the Sadiola mine to meet with students and teachers from the AISB’S affiliate school in Sadiola. Day trip to escarpment.

**Day 2:** Visit the Sadiola mine.

**Day 3:** Birdwatching and return flight to Bamako.

**Days 4 and 5:** Local day trips around Bamako or joining middle school students in Siby.

*(If the Sadiola trip is not possible for this week, 6th grade students will join the 7th and 8th graders to Siby).*

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

*Will this be one of the most memorable weeks of my life? YES*

*Does everybody get to go? Yes! In fact, it’s mandatory. Everybody must go.*

*How much money do I get to contribute for the trip? The student contribution for the high school trip is 70,000 CFA, and 65,000 for the Middle School and 6th Grade trips.*

*What if my parents or I have additional questions? Talk to Mr. Neen.*