



Newsletter



Jan. 29th, 2010 vol 6.8



PTO's International Festival On the Horizon

From the Director



Dear AISB Community,

The Parent Teacher Organization is gearing up for its upcoming annual fundraiser, now only one and a half months away. The PTO's International Festival will take place on the 13th of March.

Fulfilling their mission defined in the PTO by-laws passed in the fall of 2006, the PTO has been an active and supportive part of the AISB community for the last four years. Part of the PTO's mission is 'to enhance the learning experiences of our children through engaging in support activities'.

Ultimately, the International Festival's fundraising efforts are for the benefit of students and the school. This type of event promotes cooperation among AISB community, parents, administration, staff and students, while at the same time promoting and enhancing AISB's profile in Mali - all part of the PTO's 'raison d'être'.

In the works for this event is the annual 'Tombola', with prizes that traditionally include various roundtrip tickets donated from long-time festival sponsors. In addition to the raffle, there are the games, international food booths and refreshments.

The International Festival is a family event and I look forward to seeing all of you there on March 13th.

Sincerely,

David G. Henry,
Director



After-school Activities Start

Monday – February 1

Report Cards Go Home

Elementary/ELC – Feb 5

Secondary – Feb 8

Recent Board News

The AISB Board of Trustees met on January 19 for their regular board meeting. Some of the highlights of the last regular meeting are as follows:

2010-11 School Calendar Approved

The School Board unanimously approved the proposed 2010-11 School Calendar. The first day of school is August 31.

Parent Survey Results Presented

The results of the electronic December parent survey were presented. The survey included five questions which were more 'open-ended' and five 'best-answer' questions traditionally used on AISB's annual parent survey. For the more open-ended questions, no particular area received more than 10% of the comments with regard to improvement. Many comments identified areas AISB is currently working on and the school's progress as well. Results from the first four 'best-answer' questions were as good as or better than last year's parent survey results. The 'best-answer' question on after-school activities indicated that more parents were uncertain about the quality of the program. The results of these surveys have been shared with faculty and staff.

Changes to Policy Section 7 Approved

The school board reviewed for the 2nd time the proposed policy changes to Board Policy Section 7 (student section), submitted by the policy committee. All proposed changes were approved unanimously.

Policy Section 8 – 1st Reading

The school board reviewed the proposed policy changes to Board Policy Section 8 (educational program section) submitted by the policy committee. Changes include an updated curriculum review cycle tied in with AISA's (Association for International Schools in Africa) curriculum review cycle and professional development plan. The other major change includes the addition of a community service requirement for students graduating from AISB.

Next Regular Board Meeting, Feb. 23

The next regular board meeting will be held on January 23, at 7pm in the school library. All regular board meetings are open to association members.

Upcoming Events

Jan. 29	End of 2nd Quarter/ 1st Semester
Feb. 1	Afterschool Activities Begin (3rd Session) Activities Begin
Feb. 1-5	Secondary Classroom Without Walls (CWW)
Feb. 1-6	Model United Nations Trip to Accra
Feb. 23	Regular Board Meeting, 7pm, Library
Feb. 24-28	WAISAL MS Soccer Tourna ment, Accra, Ghana
Feb. 26	Mawloud Holiday (tentative)
March	Literacy Month
Mar. 4	Prophet's Baptism Holiday (tentative date)
Mar. 13	PTO's International Festival
Mar. 15-19	Francophone Week
Apr. 1	End of 3rd Quarter, Early Dismissal

Food and Fiction by Lara Germano

On Monday night, the 25th of January the Food and Fiction group had a meeting at Lara's residence. For those who have no idea of what Food and Fiction is, Food and Fiction is a thing where you read a book and make a date for which it will be discussed and whose house the meeting will be. For example, our book this meeting was *The Hobbit*, by JRR Tolkien (wonderful book).

Something I really like about Food and Fiction is it opens me to a new book or series. I would have never wanted to read *Lord of the Rings* if I had not read *The Hobbit*. Another obvious reason I like Food and Fiction is the eating (I love to eat). Also, I love reading. If you are interested in Food and Fiction go see Mr. Zeller in his room and tell him so.

The French Connection

by Abdel Yattara

The Grades 4 and 5 French students are currently exchanging letters with pen pals from École Liberté. The French teachers of AISB have been looking for ways to open the door that separates classroom language learning from authentic use of the language in real life-situations. Since the point of learning (another) language is to interact and to communicate with people of a variety of ethnic and linguistic backgrounds, we have been seeking ways to foster student contact with individuals from the local community and other parts of the world.

As a result, we initiated contact with École Liberté, the French International School of Bamako. Students from AISB are paired with students from the corresponding school based on age and grade level. As the letters are written in French, our students benefit from the opportunity to practise their language skills. During the Francophone Week (March 15-19), the fourth and fifth grade students will have the chance to meet their new friends and together, they will be engaged in various fun activities in French. We hope to continue to provide opportunities for our students to have such experiences.

High School 24hr Fast by George Zeller

The AISB Student Council sponsored a 24hr fast to raise funds for the Sibi School. At 11:30am on January 15, 16 students and 3 AISB teachers began their fast. The event's official kick off started at 4pm with a massive water balloon fight. After participants dried off and changed, the group attempted a series of team - building and challenge activities. Students' biological clocks (stomachs) then said it was dinner time... instead, everyone found an activity to pass the time away. Some played foosball, many played video games, a few checked their friends status on Facebook, the brave watched horror movies, and a couple played monopoly or listened to music. Lights went out quickly at midnight!

The next morning passed a bit slow. At about 11am students reflected on their experience and then prepared a large fruit salad. The fast was broken at 11:30 and pizza arrived at noon! The student council would like to thank both the generous donors and dedicated students. Nearly CFA 500,000 was raised.

The student council will be traveling to Sibi in the near future to discuss project possibilities with the Sibi School.

Food and Fiction

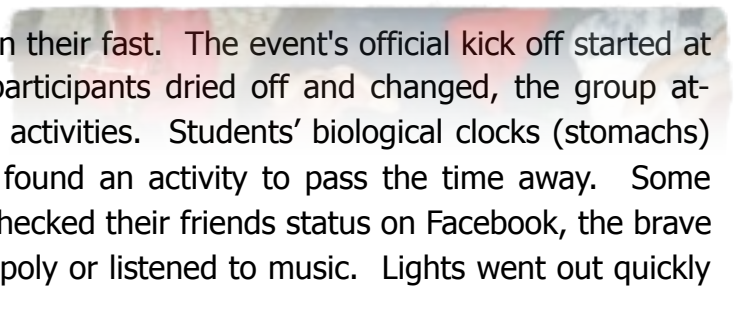
by Aicha Kounikorgo

Are you hungry and in need for a new book? If so come to Food and Fiction.

In Food and Fiction we are suppose to read and finish a book a month. When we are finished someone in the group prepares a spectacular and dinner for us to discuss and criticize the book, if we liked it or who our favorite characters are. Later we choose a different book to read.

The books we have read are The Pigman, The Cay, The Hobbit, and Bud not Buddy. The books we have discussed were interesting and funny.

I like Food and Fiction because we can read interesting books and also it makes me read more than usual. The best part is that we have a delicious dinner and can laugh at the table. So, don't miss out on Food and Fiction and join the party.



The ELC Visits the Presidential Palace by Ayo Wilson

The three ELC classes along side our school Director, Mr. David Henry, were honored to meet His Excellency President Amadou Toumani Toure and the First Lady on Friday, 22nd of January. We had a Palace and garden tour; we were able to visit "Salon Mali" among other beautiful rooms in the Palace and told the history behind each of the rooms. The children presented the ELC's assembly song "The More We Get Together" to the President and also a gift package containing AISB memorabilia. We were served refreshments and each child had a chance to shake the President's hand. He appreciated our visit and praised the efforts of the ELC teachers as he remarked that he personally believes teaching Pre-school is quite challenging. We thanked the President for his hospitality and concluded our visit with group photographs.

We would like to use this opportunity to thank Mr. Abdel Yattara for delivering our request letter and Mr. Barry for the French translation. It was a very exciting and memorable field trip.

