



Newsletter



January 16th, 2009 vol 5.9

Workshops, Seminars and More...



From the Director

Dear AISB Community,

From January 27th to February 2nd AISB's faculty and staff will participate in workshops and seminars developed to help improve teaching. Professional development objectives were set by AISB's Leadership Team and these parallel the curriculum goals set back in September. Hence, it made sense for our international administrative/curriculum consultant, Dr. Ellis Melton, to return to AISB to assess our progress and help us to complete our curriculum goals. In addition, Dr. Melton's wife, Mrs. Kay Melton, will be joining him. Mrs. Kay Melton is a certified counselor with more than 20 years experience, and she will be leading several of the workshops.

In the area of curriculum we will begin by making sure that all teachers are again on course with regard to this year's goals. Having re-adopted the AERO Standards and Benchmarks, our task is to complete PK-12 grade curriculum maps so that all subject areas are vertically-aligned. Teachers will continue writing, and revising, curriculum maps as well as unit plans. All curricular documents will be archived on our AISB internal network.

Parents and faculty will have the opportunity to attend a couple of seminars offered by Kay Melton. Two evening seminars have been scheduled. The first seminar, titled 'Raising Kids Overseas', will take place Tuesday night, January 27th from 7:00-8:30PM. During this time Kay will help participants establish a structure for understanding the behaviors of children so that we can support them in ways which minimize the challenges and enhance the benefits of this wonderful enriching overseas life style. A second seminar, titled 'Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder' (ADHD), will be on Thursday night, January 29th at 7-8:30PM. Here Kay will explain the three most common types of this disorder, talk about how we currently diagnose the condition, and present practical suggestions and strategies. The information presented here is based on recent

brain research from the U.S. National Institute for Mental Health and the seminar addresses how the findings of this new research can benefit parents and educators. In addition, during her visit Kay will be available for confidential counseling sessions for students, parents and faculty (see page 3 on how to make an appointment).

A final area of focus during our week of professional development will take place on a 'No Student' day, Friday, January 30th. During this day we will focus on enhancing classroom management techniques and will delve into issues concerning student assessment. For this day session AISB faculty will be joined by several faculty members from the International School of Ouagadougou. Teachers, aides and assistants will participate in some form of these workshops on Friday, and our French teachers will continue to work on curriculum with the ISO teachers on Saturday.

Remember that during this week we have set an early dismissal schedule on January 27, 28 and 29 as well as February 2. This week of professional development coincides with several high school field trips. To accommodate these trips the teacher chaperones will have completed most of the professional development goals beforehand and they will meet with Dr. Melton on the Monday after their return. All this takes place right after the end of our 2nd quarter. Obviously, this week will be busy and demanding for all.

Sincerely,

David G. Henry, Director

January 20 - 22

**High School Semester Exams
Multi-Purpose Room**

Board's Message for 2009

On behalf of the AISB Board I wish you all a happy new year! 2009 will be another extraordinary year for the school.

Many changes have occurred over the last few years. Enrollment has grown by an astonishing 50%. Communication has been vastly improved. Motivated parents and teachers founded the PTO. Faculty has put a lot of effort in establishing a comprehensive AISB curriculum. Current facilities have been cleaned, painted and expanded. Under the leadership of the Director Mr. David Henry many organizational changes have taken place.

The school has earned a well-recognized image of excellence. I would like to thank faculty, administration and support staff for this achievement. You did it as a team! The result is a school full of social and intellectual activities in a friendly and inspiring environment.

This year will be even more exciting as AISB starts construction of the new school campus at Sotuba after 6 years of planning and preparation. The Board has the intention to keep all stake-holders well informed of the progress made.

As a last note I would like to invite parents to show their interest in serving on the Board. There will likely be some vacancies at the next elections in May. To get a taste of the work we do please come and join the regular monthly Board meetings. It is very rewarding to help building a great school for our children.

We all are very lucky to have the opportunity to give our children the best education in a truly international environment.

Rob van Doeselaar
Board Chair

Upcoming Events

Jan. 20-22	High School Semester Exams
Jan 21	Regular Board Meeting
Jan. 23	End of 2nd Qtr/End of 1st Semester – Early Dismissal
Jan. 26-31	High School Dogon Trip
Jan. 27-29	Half Day for Students, Teacher Curr. Wrkshps, Early Dismissal
Jan. 28	HS M.U.N Accra Conference
-Feb. 1	
Jan. 30	No School for Students, Teacher Curriculum Workshops
February	Literacy Month
Feb. 2	Half Day for Students, Teacher Curr. Wrkshps, Early Dismissal
Feb. 11-16	Brussels HS Math Competition
Feb. 16	Presidents' Day – No School
Mar. 28	International Festival

2009 High School Graduation June 10th, 2009



AISB will be forming a **Graduation Committee** to help organize and begin establishing a graduation tradition for our AISB seniors.

This year our graduating class will be the largest ever, with four seniors expected to graduate. We graduated two seniors in 2007.

We would like to get the help of a couple of parents to help us with this tradition. We are looking for a parent each from the 9th, 10th and 11th grade classes that can help us this year and again next year in establishing AISB's traditions related to senior graduation. Also, this year only, we are looking for one 12th grade parent that can help us with initial ideas.

Two teachers will also serve on this small committee, our speech coach and the college counselor/12th grade homeroom teacher.

Please contact David Henry if you are interested in this exciting tradition-making opportunity.

Parent Workshops This January

Mrs. Kay Melton, certified counselor, will be at AISB at the same time as Dr. Melton. She will be presenting several sessions that will be available to all parents and teachers.

Evening workshops for parents/teachers at 7pm include:

- ✦ Raising Kids Overseas – January 27th
- ✦ ADHD – Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder – January 29th

Individual Counseling Sessions for Families, Parents, Teachers and Students

Kay Melton will be on campus January 27 through February 2. Mrs. Melton is a certified school counselor with 20 years experience in four overseas schools. She will be available to see anyone (student, parent, or teacher) who has a persistent problem. Students frequently see counselors about issues such as making friends, managing time, personal loss or grief, and keeping their focus in class. Parents and teachers often consult with counselors about concerns with children's academic or social development. An objective person can listen and help perhaps point to a positive resolution. These sessions will be problem-solving in nature, as opposed to deep, clinical therapy. Naturally, all sessions will be held in strictest confidence. Kay's e-mail address follows so that parents, older students and faculty can contact her directly to set up an appointment: kaymelton@arkansas.net.

End of January Teacher Curriculum Workshops

AISB is bringing back Dr. Ellis Melton, administrative/curriculum consultant to continue to help faculty and staff reach this year's curriculum goals. In order to conduct the curriculum development workshops the school board has approved the following adjustment to the school calendar. January 27, 28, 29 and February 2 will be early dismissal days for students. January 30th will be a non-school day for students.

January 27th-29th – Early Dismissal for Students, Afternoon Workshops

January 30th – No School for Students – All Day Workshops

February 2nd – Early Dismissal for Students, Afternoon Workshop

News from the Library, by Jenny Rose

On Monday morning, as I walked out of the Library to get my wake-up coffee. I walked flat-bang into an unripe, over-hanging mango. This, for some bizarre reason, got me comparing the world's most prolific fruit to our Library at A.I.S.B.

Books in our library are just like mangoes. They are mostly right in our face and we forget to appreciate them. We sometimes have an off-season, where we are too busy or not in the mood, but suddenly one reads a good book and one's appetite seems to be irrepressible.

I believe there is an unlimited supply of different hybrids of mangoes, which is exactly the case with our scrumptious books. We cater

for every taste; from cook books with mango recipes to technical advice on growing mangoes. For the mango-illiterate however, we have picture books, readers, fiction to cater for every gourmand's taste, as well as an endless supply of fiction and non-fiction books on every possible subject.

Many people have donated great new books to the library, which are always appreciated. Thank you for your generosity They have all been catalogued and are just waiting to be devoured.

Just to remind parents that they entitled to loan books, VCRs and D.V.Ds from the Library.



Toys, Clothes and School Supply Donations Needed

Every year around the world the U.S. Marines collect toys, clothing and school supplies in the spirit of Christmas that will be given to needy children in their area. Bring your donations of unwrapped toys, clothing or school supply items to the drop box located at AISB.

The Drop box is next to the office at AISB. Great used condition items accepted.

Lucas Zeller and Max Weyman Dominate AISB's First Annual Foosball Tournament, by Marc Löffel



With enthralling AISB's first foosball tournament came to a close the Thursday before winter break. The competition, which was organized by the high school Student Council, was a great success and a highlight for numerous students. Since the beginning of the school year the foosball table has been the mainstay for several middle-schoolers, in a way acting as a battleground.

Knowing that, it was no surprise that both the singles and doubles competitions were packed with

anticipation filled competitors. Singles were played in a double elimination playoff bracket, while the teams that participated in the doubles went through a round robin that would ultimately decide their seedings in the final .

From the moment the ball hit the hardwood it was clear that two of AISB's most feared "foosballers" would compete for the singles competition. Lucas Zeller and Max Weyman both quickly eliminated opponents such as Abraham Tall and Ibrahim Kone and secured their place in the final. The story was fairly much the same when it came to the doubles. Max and Lucas were just too strong and as a result quickly gained the number one seed and found their way into the final, where they were met with a confident combination of Ibrahim Kone and Abraham Tall who were looking to revenge an earlier loss. Both finals were action-packed and emphatically followed by the AISB upper school student body. As motivated as Ibrahim and Abraham were, they were no match for Max and Lucas. They went on winning by a respectful margin, securing the first of the two titles. The most anticipated game of the tournament was of course the final of the undoubtedly best two "foosballers" at AISB.

The game lived up to its hype. Max and Lucas played out an amazing game that saw numerous lead changes; both players were at the top of their game that day, but only one could win. With the tied score of five all, Lucas Zeller was able to wrap up the game- a game that probably didn't deserve a loser- with a magnificent shot that ricocheted off the goalie and left Max no chance. Lucas and Max were just too good for their opponents, wrapping up AISB's first foosball singles and doubles plaques.

The Student Council would like to thank all competitors and congratulate them for a magnificent tournament that will be hard to top next year!-

Santa and his Elves Visit the Pre-K, by Lynn Robinson

On December 18th the Elementary Student Council presented a treat to the students



of the Early Center. The Student Council wanted to make sure that the Early Learning Center celebrated the traditional Christmas time visit from Santa Claus. The students organized themselves into Helper Elves, Server Elves, Reader Elves and Santa Claus. The younger students were read a Christmas book, served juice and cookies and entertained by the elves and Santa.

The Kindergarten class just finishing a Holidays unit, during which they read and retold the story of the Gingerbread Boy. In closing that unit the class made gingerbread men cookies which they were able to share with the student council members. After the snacks and entertainment were finished Santa Claus brought out his sack of gifts and gave a gift to each of the students.

It was amazing to watch the 4th and 5th graders. They displayed great patience, wonderful people skills and lovely caring as they interacted with the younger students. The teams, with teacher-facilitator Gary Holsten's support, assumed leadership and were very organized. They were fantastic role models for the younger students, who loved having the older kids spend time with them in their space. It was great fun for us all!

Farewell Tall Brothers! by Marc Löffel

After six years at AISB the Tall brothers Gabriel and Abraham left for the Democratic Republic of Congo on the 2nd of January. Since arriving in 2003 the Tall brothers have been a major asset to AISB and have been witnesses of the transitions that AISB has made as a school over the past half decade.

On Thursday the 18th of the Student Council organized a small farewell party to thank them for the wonderful time together and



to wish them a bright and successful future in Congo!

We also said farewell to Anton Lopez, a 6th grade exchange student who returned to Spain after staying with the Henrys. The event was topped off with delicious chocolate cake and drinks that were donated by the student council.

The student council wishes the best of luck to the Tall brothers and Anton. We will miss you guys!

After-School Activities Switch!!

Swimming for Grades 1 & 2 on Mondays
Swimming for Pre-K and K on Tuesdays

Turn in your forms now.