

THE SHARK

The American International School of Rotterdam

Director's Message

In the last edition of The Shark I highlighted the Board pages on our new website. This week I would like to draw your attention to the Parent portion of our website. Like the section about the Board, the section about Parents is new to the website. Looking through this section you will find information about the major events sponsored by the PTSA and information in general about the PTSA organization. You will also find up to date minutes from each of their meetings if you were not able to attend. You can also contact the PTSA directly through the website by clicking on their e-mail address on the page where the list of officers appears.

Speaking of the PTSA, don't forget that the PTSA sponsored Annual Dinner Dance is coming up on 3 March and you still have time to RSVP for this event. This event has gotten better and better each year and is the main fundraiser for the PTSA. The PTSA works very hard to support the school and the entire AISR community. You have two weeks more to respond to the invitation to the Dinner Dance. I hope to see most of you at this year's event.

In today's rapidly changing world one of the things that seems to change a lot are people's e-mail addresses. If your address has changed in the last six months please contact the school with the update. It is important for our records to be as current as possible at all times. Thank you for your help with this.

It is the time of year when I travel to the United States and the United Kingdom to attend three international school teacher recruitment fairs.

These recruitment fairs are the main vehicle for schools like ours to interview and hire our professional staff. Prior to these hiring fairs we have also been interviewing local candidates who may also qualify for some of our openings. This year I will be interviewing teachers to fill seven to eight positions for the 2007 - 2008 school year at AISR. Just like the movement of families in and out of the AISR community, this in and out of teachers is normal in the cycle of staffing in an international school. During my absence Mrs. Blitz will be the "acting director" and will be overseeing the daily operations of the school. After I return I will update you on the teachers who will be leaving as well as the new teachers who will be joining us next August.

Elementary Principal's Message

Well, we thought it would never happen but it looks like Winter has finally come to Holland!!! It's good for all the germs that have been lingering around for too long, but very bad for all the flowers who thought it was time to come out of the ground. Let's hope that it will very soon give way to Spring.

This week it is the turn of Ms. Gamel to bring you up to date with the events of Grade 4:

"Welcome back!! It is always hard to come back to school after a long holiday, but fourth grade is always ready for a challenge. The next few weeks are almost bursting with things we need to accomplish!

Students have started to tackle their massive European Newspaper Report. Everyone in class is very excited about their specific country and how they can make their newspaper look fabulous! As we take a closer look at each European country, we will learn about its landforms, history, places of interest, culture, sports, and leisure. If you would like to volunteer to help with typing and editing, we will be working hard in the library on Wednesdays from 1-3pm and Fridays from 1-2pm. We would really appreciate your extra support.

In Language Arts we are reading the novel *Al Capone Does My Shirts* by Gennifer Choldendo. The kids love the language and descriptive scenes. We are also working on the genre of fairytales and how legends manifest in our culture. Students wrote fantastic fairytales that are located on the fourth grade writing board outside of our classroom. They are extremely witty and fun to read. Please have a look!

In math, we continue to work on fractions and in the near future we will explore geometry and measurement.

I am sad to say that winter has finally appeared, especially with the ice on the ground the last few days. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. I would also like to thank the parents and students that made my birthday wonderful. It was greatly appreciated especially being so far from home.”

There was great excitement in Grade 3, 4 and 5 this week as auditions took place for the musical “Treasure Island”. This is the first time that elementary students will participate in such an event. The musical is scheduled to be presented some time in May. Mr. Dailly, the Music teacher for these grades will keep you informed about future developments. So keep reading the Shark!!!

Have a great weekend and enjoy the winter weather while it lasts,

Anne-Marie Blitz, Elementary Principal

From the Counselor's Office

This semester is already beginning to feel as if it will fly by just like the first semester did. With that in mind, I need to give you a bit of information about upcoming events. First of all, the students in 10th and 11th grades were given the PSAT (Preliminary SAT) in mid-October. The scores arrived the day before the holiday so I saved them to give out to the students now that the semester has begun. I met with the 11th grade students last week, and the 10th grade students this week and gave out scores, as well as information for finding websites that help with SAT preparation. All students who took the test were also given the opportunity to sign on to a link on the collegeboard.com website which allows them to access career information as well as help them compile a list of universities in the US that would fit their interests. This is especially important for 11th graders as they will begin the college search process this semester. Please ask you child to show you their scores and the information they received.

With that in mind, I will be setting up individual Junior Conferences with the 11th graders and you, their parents, as we begin the journey regarding college admissions and what you need to know depending on whether they are applying to the US, the UK, Australia or Holland. These conferences will be held beginning in late March and you will receive a letter from me with your appointment time.

In March, Mr Atkins and I will give an evening presentation on the University Admissions Process in the US and in the UK. Date and time will be announced very soon.

For 10th graders and their parents - On Wednesday, March 7th, Mr Little, our IB Coordinator will be giving a presentation on the IB Program and what options students will have for next year's classes. This meeting is extremely important and we ask that all tenth grade students

and their parents plan to attend. As students will begin signing up for classes shortly thereafter, it is very important that they see what the possibilities are for them regarding the classes that we have to offer. Of course, parents of students in 8th and 9th grades are also invited. See you then!

Ruth Lopez, Counselor

HONOR ROLL STUDENTS

Congratulations to the following students on their outstanding achievements:

High School

Highest Honors

| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Janissa Jacobs | Jasmyn Hurry |
| Jenny Yang | Jonathan Yang |
| Moira Fagan | Peter Holleman |
| Shannon O'Dwyer | Sophie Choi |
| Stephanie Johnson | Veronica Lara |
| Ye Rim Kim | Ye Seul Kim |
| <u>High Honors</u> | |
| Brooke Holland | Kuba Romaszewski |
| Marcus Kalmeborg | Matthew Jarvis |
| Patrick Tubalado | Rachel Rand |
| Ron Sieben | Rosa Pukkala |
| Rumeal Standifer | Sari Akazawa |
| Stefan Ingolfsson | Travis Harris |
| Vincent Boot | William Arbelo |
| Yu Bin Park | Zhiyu Tian |

Honors

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Ashley Marin | Devin Engberson |
| Emily Carroll | Heather Engberson |
| Jarrod Griffin | Jordan Gray |
| Winston McBride | Yuta Watanabe |

Middle School

Highest Honors

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Aileen Fagan | Alex Johnson |
| Antonio Lee | He Rim Jo |
| Jack Finley | Johannah Tubalado |
| Loes van Dam | Marianela Lara |
| Marnee Rand | Mert Gunes |
| Mihir Bhaskar | Pati Vargas |
| Seung Yeon Choi | Sian Houlder |
| Toni Kastell | Tsugumi Kimura |
| Yoruk Bahceli | |

High Honors

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Alex Vargas | Cieara Webb |
| Dejaira Simpson | D'mitri Manivanh |
| Ha-Eun Choi | Jae-Hyeong Yang |
| Jan Zubowski | Kyung Tae Lee |
| Michael Houlder | Michael O'Dwyer |
| Miri Akazawa | Thea Haggerty |

Honors

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| Asia Dwyer | Dong Hi Kang |
| Giulio Ciocca | Ryo Abe |
| Sean Choi | |

Fun Night

MID-SCHOOL FUN NIGHT will be held on Friday, Feb 2nd from 7:00 - 9:30pm. The MS and HS Student Council are co-sponsoring this quarter's Mid-Night. A Valentine Dance in the cafeteria will begin the festivities at 7pm. At 8pm we will open the gym for kids to play games, and there will be DVD's playing in the cafeteria for those who do not wish to participate in the Open Gym. The party will end at 9:30, so we ask that you be there to pick up your child at that time. Students will be supervised by several of the adults as well as some of the HS Student Council members.

Athlete of the Week

Jan. 22-26, 2007 - Julie



Julie is a member of the U-14 girls' basketball team. Although not playing on the team last year, you would never know it! Julie is a natural athlete and has the ability to quickly learn any position and the skills of the game. She plays 3 different positions on the court and plays them WELL, showing off her shooting talent, ball handling and outstanding rebounding skills. Julie helped to lead the offence to beat Hamburg and Amsterdam during recent victories. Keep up the good work Julie!

EXPLANATION OF THE RECOGNITION: Each week AISR coaches select a student/athlete that has shown outstanding achievement in one or more of the following:

Leadership, Sportsmanship, Skill Improvement, Outstanding Play at Games, Excellence in Practice, Concern for fellow teammates, Encouraging Others, and other efforts deserving recognition. This person can be chosen from any of the SHARK Teams.

REMINDER TO ALL PARENTS

Could we please remind all families who have recently moved and changed their address, telephone number or email address to PLEASE inform the office as soon as possible so that we may update our Student Database.

Could we also remind you to return the Student Survey Form which was sent out on the 12th January with the report cards. It is imperative to

return this form so that we can determine the class sizes for next year and also the hiring of teachers for the new school year.

Thank you in advance for your help.

AISR School Office

PTSA News

Dinner Dance and Silent Auction 3 March 2007

The preparations for our Annual Dinner Dance to be held on Saturday 3 March 2007 continue. PLEASE MAKE YOUR PAYMENT of €30 per person BEFORE 9 FEBRUARY in CASH to the front office or by BANK TRANSFER to ABN AMRO 478974876 (AISR PTSA).

We are currently working with our disc jockey and would like to add an 'AISR' flavour to the music for the evening. If you would like to have particular music featured as part of this special night please let us know. This evening promises to be fun filled and a great way to chase away those winter blues - don't forget to book your babysitter too!

The organizing committee is keen to hear from anyone who would like to work with us on the program for the evening. Suggestions are most welcome.

The Baskets Committee has also been hard at work and to date we have over 20 baskets being prepared for our silent auction. Every year we are surprised at how wonderfully these theme baskets come together and it is always entertaining to watch hopeful parents trying to outbid each other.

We would like to remind you of the class themes so that you have time to gather items before our deadline of 9 February in order to give our Baskets Committee time to work on these.

AISR Dinner Dance Class Basket Themes:

Pre-Kindergarten 1 - Flower Pot Basket

Pre-Kindergarten 2 - "Parents Night In" Basket

Kindergarten - Kids Arts and Crafts Basket

Grade 1 - Gourmet Basket
Grade 2 - Wine and Cheese Basket
Grade 3 - Book Case w/Books Basket
Grade 4 - Outdoor Sports Basket
Grade 5 - Southwestern Basket
Grade 6 - Mediterranean Basket
Grade 7 - Spa Basket
Grade 8 - Global Basket
Grade 9 - Gourmet Basket
Grade 10 - Chocolate Basket
Grade 11 - Happiness Basket
Grade 12 - American Basket
Organizations and private individuals who are donating a basket for the Silent Auction include:

ISR PTSA Committee; AISR School Board; Susan Krumrei (Scholastic Books), US Coast Guard Families and the US Army.

If you, your family, or your organization would like to donate a basket for the silent auction then please contact Martie Blanton on 010 2095077 or ptsa@aisr.nl.

Businesses, families and individuals have also donated the following items for raffle prizes on the evening:

Bakkerij Lexmond - vouchers for muffins.
Bloemenpaviljoen – flowers.
Bloemen Tempel – flowers.
C1000 – vouchers.
Calvin Klein – bath robe and slippers.
Cohen Family – Rapunzel's Gold silver and gold bracelet.
De Bonte Koe – chocolates.
De Prins Restaurant – 2 x €30 dinner vouchers.
FOTO van Reeuwijk – photo goods.
Fyffes – fruit basket.
Gall & Gall – bottles of wine.
Houlder family – 1 week's holiday accommodation in France.
I Vetri – Murano glass necklace.
J C Hair 212 – 80 coupons for scalp massage/treatment and product.
Kitsch & Kunst - €50 gift voucher.

La Salute Ristorante Pizzeria – dinner voucher.
Rutledge Family – Siemens product.
Saskia Thiel – tennis lessons.
Sportingclub De Uitweg – 4 x 10-visit passes.
Tabac & Gifts – gifts.
The American Dream Café – dinner for two.
The Hair Company – hair products.
Wendy Bowen – Usborne Book Collection.
We are always looking for new contacts. If you know of any new contacts in the business community or elsewhere, and you feel we could approach them for a donation, please contact us.
We would be happy to help AISR make that new connection.

Please contact Shelley Smit on 0622525609 or ptsa@aisr.nl if you would like to share your ideas or help out in any way. We look forward to hearing from you.

IMPORTANT DATES

26 February 2007 – PTSA General Meeting at 10.00am

3 March 2007 – Dinner Dance and Silent Auction

PTSA Committee

ptsa@aisr.nl

Simple Tips on How to Mitigate Global Warming – Part 3

Written by Yörük Bahçeli, Grade 8

In our day, global warming is a really big problem, getting worse and worse every day; so bad that, “if further global warming reaches 2 or 3 degrees Celsius, we will likely see changes that make Earth a different planet than the one we know,” notes Alan Robock, a meteorologist and climate researcher from Rutgers University.

As the Global Issues Network, we would like to help mitigate global warming. Therefore, we would also like to draw your attention to some simple

ways of changing things as individuals in your life so that they can affect global warming positively instead of negatively. In the next 3 issues of The Shark, we will present 9 tips to you on how to help prevent global warming in your everyday life.

This is the last part of our article. Thank you for your attention and awareness.

Planting Trees

You can plant trees to mitigate the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. One single tree can absorb 1000 kilograms of CO2 over its lifetime.

Electronic Devices

In our day, many people don't switch off their electronic devices, such as televisions, DVD players, music players, laptops, and computers, while not using them or leave them on standby. Turning off these devices will mitigate thousands of pounds of CO2 emissions every year.

Thermostat

Decreasing your thermostat by only 2 degrees in the winter and increasing it by 2 degrees in the summer can lead up to a 2000 pound (907 kilogram) saving of CO2 every year.

Jasmyn's Day In Jail

As I walked through the metal detector, I realize that this day has finally come. After waiting for a year and a half, I finally got the chance to go to jail. No, no, I wasn't arrested; I volunteered to go to the De Hartelborgt Jeugd Gevangenis, which is a juvenile detention center here in Spijkenisse. I was so nervous and anxious that I didn't realize that I still had my cell phone and iPod in my pocket. I quickly gave them to Mrs. Boot before she left. I didn't know what to expect but as I walked through the big metal doors, I realized, this place isn't as

scary as people think. It was well kept and the faculty members were extremely pleasant.

Dennis, my tour guide for the day, and a well-respected detention officer not only by his fellow colleagues but also the inmates, escorted me and gave me a tour around three of the twelve sections, the Talie, the Kikker, and the Steng. At this time, the detention center is divided into twelve sections but two more are being added within the next few months. I spent most of my time in the Talie with Dennis and Rudy. They are both two down-to-earth individuals with excellent personalities and I enjoyed spending the day with them. Although they thought their English was rusty, I found it quite easy to communicate with them. They would test me every once in a while just to see how much Dutch I really knew...or didn't know, because they couldn't believe that after four years of living in Holland, I still didn't speak Dutch.

I was given a thorough description of the facility and its purpose. I have come to the conclusion that this facility's main goal is to rehabilitate the inmates by befriending them and getting them to communicate about their problems rather than just locking them up to serve their time. Each section had no more than fifteen inmates and the Talie for instance only had five, Jeffry, Kenneth, Chanan, Maik, and Joaoud. I was privileged to be able to interact with all five of them, some more than others, due to either their mental instability or their unwillingness to talk. The inmates eventually got up the courage to ask me questions, especially, Maik, Chanan, and Kenneth. By that time, they had gotten used to me being there. Kenneth later told me that he was unsure how to approach me when I first arrived because he wasn't confident in his ability to speak English. But after being there for eight hours, the conversations just seem to flow, not only with the inmates in the Talie, but also those that were in the Steng.

The inmates in the Steng were curious to know why I was touring their facility, and many of them were anxious to ask questions until they realized that they had to speak English. Most of them spoke a little bit of English while others could just understand it. I had butterflies in my stomach and my hands were shaking, but I tried not to show it. After a few minutes of talking with them, I became calm and it was almost like holding a conversation with my peers. I was delighted to be given the opportunity to talk and interact with the inmates and I am looking forward to my next visit in a few weeks. This was an incredible experience, not only for my future career as a District Attorney, but also as a growing experience to the culture here in Holland. I am excited to be returning to the De Hartelborgt Jeugd Gevangenis, and hopefully my interest in the life of an inmate here in Holland, will open up a new opportunity for future CAS students who are interested in pursuing a career in Criminal Justice or are just curious to see the facility here in Holland.

Jasmyn Hurry, 12th Grade

FITNESS WITH MARJOLIJN!!

Feeling 'sluggish' after the holidays?

Need an escape from laundry/cleaning?

Join us for a fun hour of fitness to music!

Every Tuesday @ 1:55 p.m. (1355hours).

Salvatore Kerk, Mozartlaan in Hillegersberg

Euros 38,50 for 12 classes.

Questions: Contact Liz O'Dwyer

010 422-3499

lizod@jonjo.com

Join us for a *walk* in the park every Wednesday morning.

Departure time: 8:30 at the back gates.

Everyone is welcome....it is a fun time to meet new friends!

Coffee follows in the school cafeteria.

Thank you!

Liz O'Dwyer

Important Upcoming Events

| | |
|----------------|--|
| January 30 | HS @ ISH (JV Boys) Teams leave at 2:30 p.m. and come back at 7:00 p.m. |
| February 2 & 3 | HS @ Bonn with ISH & BSN |
| February 6 | MS @ ASH |
| February 6 | HS @ home vs ASH |
| February 9 | Progress Report Cards mailed |
| February 9 | MS vs Bonn @ home |
| February 10 | HS @ Eindhoven with Bonn & Eerde. Teams leave @ 8:00 a.m. |
| February 10 | MS vs Bonn @ home |
| February 10 | JV Boys @ home vs Eindhoven |
| February 12 | HS varsity @ ISH |
| February 14 | HS Boys practice |
| February 15 | HS @ ISA |
| February 15 | MS @ home vs ISA |
| February 19-23 | Crocus Vacation |
| February 28 | HS @ ASH |
| February 28 | MS @ home vs ASH |