

THE SHARK

The American International School of Rotterdam

Director's Message

Last week's Parent Teacher Conferences were very well attended at all grade levels of the school. We thank you for doing your part in maintaining the school – teacher – parent partnership. Of course the most important relationship in the school is that between the student and teacher. However, the next most important relationship is the one between parents and the teacher. Whenever you have a question or concern regarding your child or some matter at school it is important to contact the teacher first. If the questions are not answered or the situation is not resolved then the next course of action is to contact one of the administrators.

"Metacomprehension," a big word, but it is an important concept for students to master as they move through their school years. Metacognition is our ability to judge how well we have learned a concept. Recent studies tell us that rereading or summarizing text can improve ones ability to accurately evaluate how well we have learned a concept. Doing all of this the night before a big test or exam is not recommended at all. You will remember from a previous edition of the Shark, it is better to spread review of materials out over time to improve retention of the material. As we move into the latter part of this semester and the onset of exams these techniques will be useful to remember and use.

school volleyball and soccer players will be traveling to Düsseldorf while the high school teams will be competing in Amsterdam. We wish all of our Shark teams well.

Tuesday, 13 November, is when the next Board of Directors meeting for AISR will take place. It will be in the school's Library and begins at 7:30 PM. Among other topics discussed, there will be a presentation by the students in the Global Issues Club and a review of the audited finances from the 06 - 07 school.

Wondering what to do on a Friday afternoon after school? We can help with that. On Friday, 16 November, at 3:30 PM, IL THEATRO DEI PIEDI, a classic Italian puppet troupe from Italy will present a puppet show here at AISR. The performance is free and is open to the entire AISR community and its neighbors. The performance will last about an hour and will be a delightful way to spend a November afternoon with your children.

Brian Atkins, Director

Elementary Principal's Message

The last two weeks have just flown by – it has been a very busy period. Since the last Shark, we welcomed three new students:

Siddharth, Declan and Aidan. We hope that they will have a very successful and happy time here at AISR.

Once again Parent Teacher Conferences were very well attended, reinforcing the need for these meetings. A strong communication between Home and School is vital to the successful progress of the whole child.

School Photos took up most of Tuesday – all the students and teachers looked extra special for the day.

And then on Wednesday, the Elementary School became a Halloween Bonanza. The hallways echoed with the sounds of ghosts, vampires and many other strange creatures of the night. Many thanks to Elif Alptekin and her parent helpers for once again organizing the "Trick or Treat" event for all the Elementary students.

The next special day will be Thanksgiving. As well as a lovely lunch to look forward to, the students will present a short program relating to the theme "Thanksgiving". This will start at 10:15 in the Gym. More details will be sent out with the Shark on November 16. Unfortunately, I will miss the celebrations this year because I will be attending the ECIS Pre-Conference in Madrid but I will be thinking of all of you enjoying a lovely Turkey lunch.

This week it is the turn of Kindergarten to tell us what they have been up to since the beginning of the school year. Ms. Lee and Ms. Pilbrow had this to say about their students:

"As part of learning about the things happening in Kindergarten, we bring you a message from the

teachers and ALL the Kindergarten students about what they have learned. Ms. Sarah has learned her students are willing to find out new things, like writing their names with more lower-case letters, and many sight words from reading her daily letter.

Jade said, "I can write my name the Kindergarten way with a big j and all the other letters small."

Paige said, "We learned about strangers, and right and left."

Andrew said, "To read books like that silly motorcycle one where he is stuck in the cement."

Alyssa said, "Letters like capital, lower-case, upper-case, fire safety, being safe, and learning to be friends."

Mea said, "Reading book like Blue Hat, Green Hat and making book".

Koya said, "Play block, play housekeeping, play game."

Min Chae said, "Play stations" where she works at the Art station to make books, "I love books."

Miranda said, "If a stranger talks to you walk away." She also said we "learn some patterns" and "we learn to read 'we' and 'will.'"

Mayu said, "Play swings and go to gym."

Roi said, "Learn about cars, and buses, and bicycles; shapes, 5 senses like hands touch and eyes see, and we smell with our nose."

Ms. Pilbrow has been amazed at how quickly the children have learnt their alphabet sounds and are becoming clever at writing down their good ideas.

Shobhit said: 'I learned about Transportation – like cars and trucks'

Maya said: 'Learning how to be safe and also learning how to write'.

Mads said: 'I learned to play good things and I learned to writing little bit'.

Joel said: 'I learned to write. I learned to read. I learned to play and that is all.'

Genna said: 'I learned about my body like how our heart pumps blood all over our body. I also like writing'.

Christian said: 'I learned in Sports. I run. I stop. I go. I stop, I go again.'

Paul said: 'I learnt to be safe if there is a fire. I need to get out of the school very very quickly. No running in the hall.'

Ririka said: 'I like writing and playing.'

Anne-Sofie said: 'Play in the kitchen and books and games and very much more games'.

Luca said: 'I learned about poems and it was very fun like the one when the bird picked off somebody's nose. Music was also fun and I learned about Halloween songs.'

Yu said: 'I like Lego and kitchen'.

Mark said: 'I like playing football with Paul, Luca, Joel, Shobhit and Christian.'

As you can tell, we are busy in Kindergarten."

IMPORTANT

Up-date from the Nutrition Committee:

The Nutrition Committee has been meeting at the beginning of each month since school started. The goals of this committee are to review the menu on a monthly basis prior to distribution to parents, to ensure a variety of menus and to provide a better balance of diet with healthier choices. Some items like donuts and ice cream have been taken off the menu, while fish, lasagne and a wider variety of vegetables have been added. Yoghurt or fruit is available more often and the amount of fried food has been reduced.

Unfortunately, while the Committee and Tjeerd van Delden, the Cafeteria Manager, try very hard to balance a healthy diet, we have noticed the following:

1. The number of meals served on a day with chicken burgers and sliced potatoes can be as high as 100

2. The number of meals served a day with chicken, mashed potatoes and vegetables is somewhere between 35-40.

We, as a committee, want to address your concerns regarding the variety of menu, but we need your assistance – Please help and encourage your child to make healthy choices for a balanced diet.

We will keep you informed of our progress.

Thank you,

The members of the Nutrition Committee

Have a very enjoyable week- end,

Anne-Marie Blitz, Elementary Principal

From the Counselor

It doesn't seem possible that we have already sent out the first Report Cards of the year. The attendance at the Parent Teacher Conferences was excellent and we thank of all you who took the time to come in and meet with the teachers. Included in this copy of the Shark as an attachment is an article that was sent to me from another counselor about Homework and Study Habits. Though aimed specifically at MS aged children, there are some great tips in the article and I hope you will be find it useful especially for children of all ages, whatever their academic abilities are and Report Cards results might have been.

I have included another attachment regarding a University Fair which will be held at The American School of The Hague (ASH) on November 19th from 10:00-12:00. The ECIS teacher's conference will be

held in Madrid over the Thanksgiving holiday and many of us will be attending this regional conference. At this conference many college admissions officers from the US, Canada and European universities attend to meet the counselors who work in different countries and to share information about their particular schools. This year, thirty-three admissions officers will be at ASH in the early part of the week of the conference to share information about their universities with students and parents. Parents of 10th and 11th graders might be interested in looking over the list of schools to see if there are any that might attract your attention in terms of possibilities for your child. If you feel that you would like to take your child to this college fair, please let us know as it will mean that they will miss the better portion of a day in school, in a short week to begin with.

In Middle School, today, Nov. 2nd is when the first trimester is over in terms of the exploratory classes. Beginning on Monday, all MS students will begin the second set of exploratories as follows - 6th grade will go into 3-D Design and Drama, 7th grade will go into Computer Applications and Music and 8th graders will go into the Built Environment and Art. These exploratories will continue until February 22nd.

Ruth Lopez, Counselor

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HONOR ROLL STUDENTS

Congratulations to the following Middle and High School students who have made the Honor Roll for the first quarter.

AI SR SHARKS

Athlete of the week

Oct. 29-Nov. 2, 2007



Heather

Heather is a member of the JV volleyball team after only having played a bit in her previous middle school. She was a bit rustic in the beginning, but started to get the hang of it quickly. During practices she is always trying her best to improve on her game. Even though she is not the tallest person on the team, she works hard to appear tall at the net and can spike a mean ball. While in the back row her quick feet move to the spots where the balls drop and keeps many balls in play. Heather's serves are consistent and most often put many points on the board. She keeps her teammates motivated when playing a game and her relaxed demeanor is very infectious. Way to go Heather!

Athlete of the Week

Oct. 29- Nov. 2, 2007



Dong Hi

Dong-Hi is captain of the U14 soccer team. Taking on the challenge of keeping goal, Dong-Hi has showed a mature attitude to training and is one of the most dominant players on the field. He has made some amazing saves and gives confidence to his team mates. He has improved tremendously and we head to NECIS in two weeks time in the knowledge that we have maybe the best goalkeeper of all the teams competing. Way to go Dong Hi.

CAS

After the previous bowling event last school year, Peter and Winston organized another bowling event on September 30. We raised €63.00 to support the AMREF Flying Doctors.

AMREF's mission is to improve the health of disadvantaged people in Africa as a means for them to escape poverty and improve the quality of their lives. Sister Doctor Marlene Long, who is Mr. Long's sister, gave us the idea to support AMREF. Marlene Long visited AISR several times to spread the word about AMREF and their cause. She is a reconstruction surgeon that works all throughout Africa. Watch out for the forth coming events to be able to contribute to AMREF.

Winston, 12th Grade

From the AISR School Board

What is the role of the Policy & Vision Committee?

The primary duty of the Policy and Vision Committee of the School Board is to review and adopt bylaws and policies that shall make the school effective. The Board shall develop and adopt a set of operational policies to be maintained in a manual entitled "Policies and Procedures of the American International School

of Rotterdam." Adoption of new policies or changing existing ones is solely the responsibility of the Board. Proposals for new policies or revisions of current policies may be made in writing by anyone connected with or interested in the school, and may be presented to the Board through the Director. For example, with the addition of the 3 year old program last year, it was necessary to adopt bylaws regarding enrollment age and waiting lists.

In addition, the Policy and Vision Committee looks at Strategic Plans for AISR and our educational community. Our goal is to provide the best quality education for the students attending AISR.

All policies are continuously reviewed in an effort to keep the written policies up-to-date so that they may be used consistently as a basis for Board action and administrative decisions.

Elizabeth O'Dwyer, AISR Policy & Vision Committee

PTSA News

The PTSA Committee would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who participated in this year's International Potluck Dinner. Nearly 80 members of our AISR community were on hand to savor the outstanding culinary creations from our various international kitchens. The evening was enhanced by the delightful desserts and the great support of our in-house catering partner, Tjeerd, and a big thank you as well goes out to our high school students who provided on-site babysitting services. Many thanks to the decorating team, who transformed the cafeteria into a terrific candlelit venue. The atmosphere was one of good conversation and cheer, and we trust that all in attendance enjoyed the evening.

Our Holiday Craft Fair this past Sunday was a great success, with a steady stream of shoppers keeping the vendors busy, and many youngsters enjoying the free

Halloween activities. Thank you to all who came out to support this event, and a special thanks to our 5th grade "Junior CAS" team, who offered invaluable assistance with the children's activities, as well as our HS CAS members who once again distributed flyers throughout the neighborhood advertising the Fair. Thanks also to all those who donated Halloween costumes for the PTSA sales table, and to our team of volunteers who donated their time and energy to help set up and clean up the gym, as well as those who supervised the Halloween activities.

The Outreach Committee is anxiously awaiting the beginning of our Annual Thanksgiving Drive (see attached flyer). As in the past, we are asking families to donate socks and gloves for the homeless men and women who utilize the Havenzicht Shelter in Kralingen. This year the shelter's directors have asked that we collect hats as well. Our drive will take place from 12-21 November. High school students will be sharing stories and thanksgiving lessons with the elementary students as a way of reinforcing the true meaning of Thanksgiving. Every morning during the drive, elementary students will perform a specially written song during the daily announcements reminding the school community to send in their donations. Each afternoon, a tally of what has been collected will be announced. Donation boxes will be located in the front lobby. You may send donations in with your child or drop them off in person, and we thank you in advance for your participation in this wonderful community outreach program to help those less fortunate than us.

Finally, a brief reminder that the school will hold its Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon on Wednesday, 21 November. Tickets for parents and other family members will go on sale later this month for 5 euro per person. As always, the PTSA will be asking families to send in items for our fabulous dessert buffet that

accompanies the traditional meal. We hope you'll be able to join us for this festive occasion.

Please note that the next "General" Meeting is on Wednesday, 14 November at 1:30p.m.

Important Upcoming Events

November 2	HS @ ISD
November 3	HS ISD/ISA
November 3	SAT Exams @ 7:30 a.m.
November 8	HS @ ISD
November 8	MS departs
November 8	HS NECIS Tournament @ ISA
November 9-10	HS & MS @ NECIS Tournament
November 15	Fall Sports Award Evening

Basketball Practice Begins:

November 16	Basketball Practices start
November 21	Varsity girls practice
November 28	JV boys practice
November 29	U14 boys practice
November 30	HS Bonn home

Lunch Club

If you enjoy good food and chit chat, then put this date in your diary to do lunch at our next chosen eatery!

Date: Tuesday, 6th November

Time: 12pm (NOON)

Venue: Cookers

Vlashoeck 2-6 (behind PLUS supermarket), 2661 LM Bergschenhoek Just let me know if you wish to join us so I can reserve a table for the right number and or if you need a ride:

yee_masson@hotmail.com or 010 418 8442.

Check out the restaurant's website www.cookers.nl for more info and photos!