

THE SHARK

The American International School of Rotterdam

Director's Message

Happy New Year and Welcome to the second semester of this school year. Also welcome back from what I hope was a restful holiday with your families.

As we launch ourselves into 2008 there are some dates to be aware that will be coming up soon. In response to the annual Parent Survey, there will be a second Parent Conference time set aside this semester. The dates for the Parent Conferences will be February 27 and 28. More information will be coming to you regarding the conferences as we get closer to the end of February.

Secondly, we would love to see as many of you as possible on Saturday the 19th of January at our first annual "Hoops of Hope" event. Our Global Issues Network and the Rotterdam Challengers are sponsoring this event. There has been lots of press about this event and now the time has arrived. I hope to see you there.

Report Cards will be mailed out this Friday, so you should be expecting them in either Saturday's or Monday's mail. As always, if you have any questions regarding the Report Card your first point of contact should be the classroom teacher.

Enclosed in the envelope containing the Report Cards for the first semester, you will find the calendar for the 2008 - 2009 school year.

Included in this mailing with the Report Cards, you will also find our annual survey regarding your plans for your children attending AISR in the next school year.

While it may seem early for some of you to be answering this question, it is extremely important information for our planning purposes. We are in the process of staffing and budgeting for the next school year and the information we are requesting from you is critical for our decision making and planning. Please fill out the survey and return it to us by next Friday, the 18th. Thank you.

The month of January is one of the five or six times during the school year that our Board of Directors meets. This month the meeting will be held on Tuesday, 22 January. As you know, all Board meetings are open meetings and take place in the AISR Library beginning at 7:30 PM. Among others, two of the agenda items this month will be the status of the current operating budget and staffing for the next school year.

Lastly, I have some unfortunate news to share with you. Cynthia Grant, a consultant to our ESL department passed away during the holiday break.

Ms. Grant, a Hillegersburg resident, had most recently been working on producing a documentary and training tape to help second language learners adjust to their new environment. Many of our students had been involved in this project. If you wish, there is a book of condolence which you can sign in the school's Library.

Brian Atkins, Director

Elementary Principal's Message

On behalf of all the Elementary Staff and students, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a Very Happy and Healthy New Year. The students are very happy to be back at school and we all look forward to a very successful 2nd. Semester.

Three new students joined AISR on January 8:

Alma in Grade 1. Alma's brother Emil will be in Grade 8 and Marlene joins Grade 4. Marlene is joining us again after one year in Dubai.

Welcome and we hope you enjoy your stay at AISR.

Ms. Sherritt starts off the new year by telling us what her class will be doing in the next quarter:

"Grade 2 will be taking a step back in time to discover the land of the dinosaurs! In this exciting science unit the students discover the diversity of dinosaurs by comparing the shape, size, and behaviour of different 'carnivores' and 'herbivores'. They will also learn how life on earth has changed over time.

The dinosaur theme will carry over into our Language work where we will be reading dinosaur fiction and non-fiction literature in our reading groups and each student will research a dinosaur to present to the rest of the class. We will also be writing our own fiction stories and poems about dinosaurs. The students will also become exciting new species of dinosaurs. Stop by our room in the

next few weeks to see what we're talking about! While you're there, you can also check out 'Dino Land', a fascinating dinosaur filled spot right in our very class!

As a culminating fieldtrip we will be going to the Museum Naturalis in Leiden where we will have a tour to view the collection of fossils that belong to the museum, and then each student will have the opportunity to make his/her own fossil to take home. This is an exciting unit for the students, and it is definitely one of the highlights of Grade 2!

Before the holidays, Grade 2 did a culture study on India. We learned many things about the country, but one thing that made an impression on our class was how poor some children can be. After reading Boxes for Katja, a story about a community who received donations after the Second World War, our class decided that we also want to make a donation to India. We discussed different ways to donate, and we decided that the simplest way was to send money.

Bhavana Shukla is a mother at AISR and she also organizes charity work for communities in India through her organization called Bhav4India. She will come to our class soon to collect the 60 Euro (worth Rs 3400) that we collected! This money has already been donated to a hospital in Bhopal, India where it went directly to help with the life saving surgery of a young boy. Please see the thank you letter from the hospital in India that is attached to this SHARK.

This was a great lesson in giving, and being thoughtful about people who are less fortunate than we are. As Mahatma Ghandi said, "We must be the change we wish to see in the world."

REMINDER: Report cards will be posted home today. Also enclosed is the annual survey requesting you to indicate whether you will be

attending AISR next year. And please don't forget to mark your calendars for Parent Teacher conferences - 27 and 28 February.

Are you interested in working as a Teacher Assistant until the end of this school year? At the moment there are two vacancies:

Part-time Art Teacher Assistant

Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 8:15 – 11:45

Part-time Pre-K1 Teacher Assistant

Monday through Friday, 8:15 – 12:00.

If you like working with children, enjoy being a member of a team and are in possession of a Dutch sofi-number, please contact me via my e-mail address – a.blitz@aisr.nl or tel. 010 4225351.

Have a good week-end,

Anne-Marie Blitz, Elementary Principal

Basketball Games in Rotterdam

The Rotterdam Challengers (Pro-basketballers who are helping us with Hoops of Hope) would like to invite you all to their home games at the Topsportcentrum. Your entrance will be free of charge if you say you are with the school and if you do decide to head that direction, please wear your Hoops T-Shirt as there will be TV and radio stations there for the games. All staff and students are welcome. There is lot's of parking or you can head by bus, tram or train.

Let's show the challengers our support in thanks for their on-going work on the Hoops of Hope project.

Address for home games:

Topsportcentrum Rotterdam

Van Zandvlietplein 20

3077 LA Rotterdam

<http://www.rotterdambasketbal.nl/>

Here are the dates for home games:

Jan: 10, 24, 31

Feb: 9, 14, 21

March 15, 24

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

Hoops of Hope Hoops of Hope Hoops of

Hoops of Hope

January 19th, 2008

AISR Gym

12:00 – 3:00

Come join us to shoot hoops to raise money for HIV/AIDS orphans and see the Rotterdam Challengers in action.

A few reminders for the day...

- Shooting hoops will cost you €5
- Just coming to watch it is free
- Wear your gym shoes and 'Hoops of Hope' t-shirt
- No food and drink in the gym
- Bring a good spirit and know that you are helping others

See you next Saturday!!!!

Lesley Murphy, PR & Advertising Officer

PTSA News

The PTSA would like to wish a very Happy 2008 to all in the AISR community, as well as a very warm welcome to the new families joining us. We are busy preparing for the year's biggest fundraiser, our Annual Dinner Dance/Silent Auction, to be held the evening of Saturday, 1 March. Tickets can be purchased by cash payment to the front office, or by bank transfer to ABN AMRO account # 478974876, AISR PTSA. Please remember to include the name(s) of the person(s) who will be

attending along with your payment. We kindly ask that you RSVP by Friday, 8 February.

We are also in the process of collecting donated items for the class basket themes listed below. Once again, we ask that you send your items in to the classroom teacher by Friday, 8 February so we have time to assemble and wrap the baskets that will be raffled off that evening. Many thanks for your participation!

Class Baskets:

- Pre-K 1: International Child's Play Basket
- Pre-K 2: Parents' Night In Basket
- Kindergarten: Children's Arts and Crafts Basket
- Grade 1: Travel Games Basket
- Grade 2: Wine and Cheese Basket
- Grade 3: Bookcase with Books
- Grade 4: Family Night Basket
- Grade 5: International Food Basket
- Grade 6: Spa Basket
- Grade 7: World Cultures Basket
- Grade 8: Coffee Basket
- Grade 9: French Basket
- Grade 10: Chocolate Basket
- Grade 11: American Basket
- Grade 12: Gourmet Basket

The PTSA would also like to encourage all to come out and support the GIN Club at the upcoming Hoops of Hope event, to be held here at AISR on Saturday, 19 January. The PTSA is seeking parent volunteers who are willing to donate some time that afternoon to help supervise our young hoopsters. If interested, please contact Maureen Province at 498 0246, or provtron@juno.com.

Finally, if you've been admiring the AISR tote bags that are appearing around the school and are wondering how to get yours, the PTSA has the answer! These sturdy, reusable bags, white with

the AISR logo printed in blue on both sides, are great for groceries, sports equipment, books, etc, and have straps long enough to slip the bag comfortably over your shoulder for easier carrying. They are available for 5 euros per bag...just ask any PTSA Committee member. As always, thanks so much for your continued support!

Important Upcoming Events

- | | |
|------------|---|
| January 14 | MS @ AIS |
| January 14 | HS @ home vs AIS |
| January 21 | Swimming Team
practice begins @ 7:00
a.m. |
| January 22 | MS @ ASH |
| January 22 | HS @ home vs ASH |
| January 26 | HS @ ISA/ISH |
| January 28 | MS @ home vs AIS |
| January 28 | NO HS practices |
| January 29 | JV boys practice |
| January 29 | HS @ ISHague |
| January 31 | JV boys practice |

A Good-Bye Luncheon

Come over to say good-bye to Nan-Kyu
12.00P.M onwards

Tuesday 22nd January 2008

At the home of Shinobu Abe

Lindesingel 98

3053 JL Schiebroek

010-2518000

Please bring a dish of your choice

If you need a ride please meet me by the school front gate

For enquiries call Mida at 010-5248000

As usual all are welcome including younger children!

For Sale



Avenue Porto city style ladies bike suitable for someone 5' 10" in height and over – with full suspension, 7 gears, and 6 months warranty still valid. Cost €275.00. Contact Simon on 06-23851421.