

# THE SHARK

The American International School of Rotterdam

## Director's Message

As I mentioned in the last edition of The Shark, I have been away for the past few weeks attending international school hiring fairs in Canada and the United States. There are a number of these events around the world in the month of February, with hundreds of schools competing to hire the teachers who attend the hiring fair. While in Canada I hired one teacher to replace one of our departing teachers. Mrs. Cece Boyles, our Middle and High School English teacher will be leaving AISR at the end of the school year. Mrs. Boyles has been with us for almost three years and has made a significant difference to our program and in the lives of the students in her classes. She will be missed. Replacing Mrs. Boyles next year will be Ms Susan Martin Willis. Ms Martin Willis has been teaching English for the past seven years in one of the suburban school districts outside of Toronto. She is a graduate of the University of Toronto and Queens University with degrees in English, Education and Global Studies. We look forward to welcoming Ms Martin Willis to the AISR community in the new school year.

While attending the hiring fairs I also interviewed a large number of potential elementary school teachers. It is unclear at this time if we will need to hire any new teachers for the elementary division of our school. With a large number of families unsure if they will be staying in Rotterdam, or just not responding to our survey, it is too early to know how many sections of classes we will need in each of the grade levels in the elementary school. Over the next few weeks we will be making that decision and then moving ahead with staffing of each of the classes across the elementary school.

Once those decisions are made I will let you know in an upcoming edition of The Shark.

Next Wednesday, 5 March, is the second of four half day Wednesdays this semester. However, a reminder for those of you who plan ahead, the half day Wednesday in April has been moved to Wednesday, 16 April. Please make that change in your April calendar.

Next Wednesday is also the evening of an IB Information Night for high school students and their parents. The meeting begins at 7:00 PM in the Library and is required for all Grade 10 students who will be at AISR next year. Parents with children in lower grades are encouraged to attend as well.

Students in grades 6 through 9 will be seeing a new face at the front of their science classroom starting next week. Ms Christine Sudzina-Schut will be going on maternity leave as of Monday. While she is away on maternity leave, Mr. Dave Benson will be teaching the science classes. After a career in the US Navy, Mr. Benson became a teacher of science and math in two school districts in the State of Massachusetts. We wish Ms Sudzina-Schut well and are glad to welcome Mr. Benson to our faculty. Mrs. Blitz will fill you in on other upcoming changes due to maternity leaves.

There is a great full-page article about the "Hoops of Hope" event that many of you attended in January, in the most recent edition of XM Magazine. We will be sending home copies of the magazine and, if you would like, you can pick up an extra copy of the magazine here at school.

Lastly, enjoy the weekend as you kick up your heels on Saturday at this year's PTSA Dinner Dance.

Brian Atkins, Director

## Elementary Principal's Message

It has been another busy week in the Elementary School – it really is worth your while to wander along the hallways and take a look at the wonderful pieces of work that are displayed outside each of the classrooms - hopefully you had the chance while you were here for your teacher conference.

We welcomed another new student to Grade 4. Doohyung Byun comes to us from Korea. We hope he will enjoy his stay at AISR.

This week, Ms. Lipp is going to tell you what the 5th graders have been up to in the last quarter:

“Our 5th grade authors are busy improving their writing skills through the effective use of paragraphs. We have been exploring different styles of paragraphs and writing and how to organize our writing to suit that particular style. Narratives are the focus at the moment as we think ahead to the Young Author's Festival. The 5th grade will be writing myths in connection with our Native American exploration of myths and legends.

We are well into our study of Native American Cultures of South America and have just finished our literature circle discussions about books involving Native American characters. Students are also working on a historical fiction book report as part of their project. The culmination of our study will be a community meeting in which students will represent a member of one of the Native American groups we have been studying.

During our “Inquiring Minds” period, we are continuing to work with Mr. Shipman in the library on research and reference skills as students explore a particular country in Latin America. We are also working on “Heroes in History” in conjunction with the 10th graders. 5th grade

parents, keep an eye out for your invitation to this event In Science we have completed three modules of our electricity and magnetism unit. Students have been learning to build circuits, design circuit puzzles, compare light bulbs and to determine which materials are conductors and which are insulators.

DMSB (ask a 5th grader what this means) and you'll learn that division is our current topic in math. Students have also been practicing their recall of multiplication and division facts through the “Mad Minute.”

5th grade was very sad to see the departure of Jay Hoon Ryu, who recently returned to Korea and has left an empty place in our class. We wish him all the best in his new school!”



Two of our teachers will be going on Maternity Leave at the end of this quarter:

In Grade 2, Mrs. Jo Simeone will step in for Ms. Erin Sherritt.

In ESL(Grades 3-5), Sandra Lang will cover for Sara Moroney.

On behalf of all the Elementary teachers and students, I would like to wish Erin and Sara ‘Good Luck’ and we look forward to their return to AISR.

Remember to mark your calendars for these up-coming events:

April 24 – Elementary Creative Arts Night

May 29 – The Elementary Musical “Cinders”

Have a lovely weekend and I look forward to seeing many of you at the annual AISR Dinner Dance this Saturday,

Anne-Marie Blitz, Elementary Principal

## From the Counselor

Just a small reminder that next Wed. evening at 7pm, there will be a presentation on the IB Program at AISR. Ms Evelyn Armstrong, the IB Coordinator, will be giving general information about the IB program. Mrs Boot will give information about the CAS (Creativity, Action and Service) Program which is part of the IB as well as part of our graduation requirements. Ms Lopez will talk about how IB classes fit into the Four Year Academic Plan and show what a 11th grade student timetable could look like. We know that not all students will choose to take the Diploma program which consists of seven IB classes, but they can certainly take a combination of IB and non-IB or college prep classes and that kind of student timetable will also be explained. How do Universities in the US, the UK, Canada and Holland look at the IB Diploma is another topic that Ms Lopez will explain.

This meeting is required of tenth grade students and at least one parent, as we will be beginning the process quite soon where students will choose their classes for next year. We want you as their parents, as well as the students, to be able to ask questions and have a good understanding of what the classes entail and how this will help them to meet their requirements for earning not only a AISR high school diploma but the IB Diploma as well. IB teachers will be on hand as well to answer question about their subject if needed.

We would like to invite parents of 8th and 9th graders to attend just to get information about the IB program for their future planning in terms of the academic program for their children.

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday evening, March 5th.

Ruth Lopez, Counselor & Evelyn Armstrong, IB Coodinator

## AISR SHARKS

Athlete of the Week

Feb. 18-22, 2008



Anne Smith

Anne Smith is a member of the U12 Girls Basketball Team. Her tenacity and ability in basketball is outstanding in her first year of playing. From the beginning of the season Anne Smith has given her all to the game, to the team and her own development. She plays well in defense and in offence. She always tries her best and encourages her teammates to do the same. Her attitude towards the game shines through. Well done and keep up the great job!

EXPLANATION OF THE RECOGNITION: Each week AISR coaches select a student/athlete who 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.

Athlete of the Week

Feb. 25-29, 2008



Brooke

Brooke is the point guard of the Varsity Girls' Basketball team. In a recent gruelling match Brooke's leadership and determination kept the team going throughout. She led the team with her ball handling, anticipation, communication and overall energy on the court. Brooke always strives to improve and consistently demonstrates full effort at practices and games. Her level of commitment and dedication to the team and to the sport is commendable. Way to go Brooke!

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### **The New Look Shark**

Dear Parents and Colleagues,

After many long and very patient years of producing "The Shark", Aurora George-Kelso will shortly be handing over this task to Charity O'Neill-O'Kane. We thank Aurora for her years of hard work on keeping the Shark going and ensuring that it gets to families safely.

From now on, if you have any information that you would like to have included in The Shark, we kindly ask you to send this directly to Charity by e-mail at:

aisrwebmaster@gmail.com. If you would like to book some space in The Shark, just drop Charity O'Neill-O'Kane an e-mail letting her know when you will have the final copy. Please do bear in mind that the information needs to be in a simple word document, no strange fonts. She'll make it look nice for you. If you have photographs or images that need to appear with the article, please send them on to Charity as an attachment and not in with the text. The closing date for any articles or notices will be the Tuesday prior to the Thursday of publishing and we will remain for now with our bi-monthly schedule. You'll see the new look in March and we hope you will enjoy the new layout.

Many thanks,

Lesley Murphy & Charity O'Neill-O'Kane

### **"One Stop Drop" to take place on CAS Showcase Night, April 9, 2008, 17.00-20.30**

by Lynda Boot

This message is for all families at AISR who may be undertaking a clear out of their wardrobes and bookshelves, either because they are moving or because they need more space! Starting after the February break, there will be boxes put around the school for you to drop off those unwanted, but precious books for Read to Grow.<<http://www.readtogrow.eu/>> They may be in English, French or Spanish, and for any age. Even magazines in a set, and still in good shape will be acceptable. Dutch books are also collected to send to Suriname, but the rest of the books go to English, French and Spanish speaking areas all over the world and are used for all ages. The boxes will be present until early April, so if you don't effect your clear out immediately, then don't worry, you still have the time.

This year, the Read to Grow organization has asked us at AISR to consider becoming our own foundation for their organization.

This means that we would also like to collect some money to help pay for the shipping costs, which are

otherwise covered by Read to Grow. I suggest an entirely voluntary sponsor program for book boxes:

Sponsor 1 book box - €1.50

Sponsor 2 book boxes - €2.50

Sponsor 5 book boxes - €5.00

Sponsor 10 book boxes - €10.00

Members of the Read to Grow organization will be at the CAS Showcase Night on April 9 to collect and take away the books and to give further explanation about what their organization does.

In addition to collecting books for a good cause, the PTSA Outreach group and the CAS department are also sponsoring the "Bag2School" Program. Soon, each family will be given a bag to fill with clean clothes, shoes, belts and bedding that is still of good quality. If you lose your bag, or have too much stuff, just use regular garbage bags. These items are then resold in areas like Eastern Europe for money and the school gets back that money. The bags will be placed next to the boxes for books. The CAS students will clear the stuff away on a daily basis to keep the areas tidy and to consolidate the goods and the books. The PTSA Outreach group has voted to give the money from "Bag2School" to support a cause run by AISR parent, Mrs, Bhavana Shukla. Please see her website at

< Bhav4India.com> to see how she raises money and awareness to try to overcome poverty in India. Good luck to Mrs. Shukla in all her future endeavours, and I hope that the AISR parents will have fun clearing out their wardrobes and making a lot of money for Mrs. Shukla's charity. The last night for collection will also be on April 9 at the CAS Showcase Night. Having the double bonus of books and clothes, shoes, belts and bedding makes it really a ONE STOP DROP, and it is hoped that this will facilitate the collection of a lot of things for charity.

Let's not forget CAS Showcase Night on April 9th, 2008 from 5 p.m. until about 8.30 p.m. This year, for the first

time ever, our junior CAS class, 5th grade, will be holding an exhibition, along with 11th and 12th grade, to show what they have done this year. This evening should be of interest to all Middle and High School parents and students who will go through the CAS program in the future. Remember, CAS is not only a part of the IB Diploma; it is also a graduation requirement for AISR! Parents and students from the Elementary School are also most welcome to inspect how this highly successful 5th grade Junior CAS pilot scheme has been put into place this year, and to ask questions about how this will affect next year's elementary students. The 5th graders were recently the first to represent our school in a local service program carried out by the local Noordrand School, for which the students of that school were getting an exam grade. Kudos to this great class for what they found to be an unforgettable experience. There will be this and much more, plus the ONE STOP DROP on CAS Night, that's WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2008 from 17.00-20.30.

BE THERE OR BE SQUARE

## High School Prom

APRIL 26, 2008 7.30-12 p.m.

### PARENT AND STUDENT INFORMATION LETTER

The High School Prom has been booked at Lommerijk, Straatweg 99, 3054 AB Rotterdam, telephone 010-4220011. The date is April 26, 2008 at 7.30-12 p.m.

The cost will be €25 per ticket, for the month of February, after which time the price will go up to €30, per ticket. Full payment must be made by Friday, April 18. We have booked for only 55 people, so tickets will be sold on a first come, first served basis. Students are welcome to invite no more than one friend from outside the school, but they must provide the name, address and date of birth of their guest. Guests not resident in the Netherlands will need to provide a passport number, including nationality, place of issue and expiry date. Students must have made the AISR no smoking and no drinking policy quite clear to their guests. The AISR

Prom policy states that no alcohol is to be consumed before or at the Prom, or in the environs of the Prom venue. Further, smoking at or in the environs of the Prom venue will also not be tolerated. Students or guests who go against this policy will be asked to leave immediately, with no refund.

7.30-8.00 p.m. will be the arrival time. Photos will be taken at this time. Arrival after 8.00 p.m. is unacceptable.

Soft drinks during the evening are included in the ticket price but no alcohol will be served. From 9.00 p.m. onwards, there will be a buffet meal inside, with tables set for 6-8 people. It is an absolutely magnificent hot and cold buffet designed to suit all tastes. The different dietary restrictions have been taken into account. The dessert will be a Prom cake, which will be cut by the Prom King and Queen

Parents should discuss with their sons and daughters what arrangements will be made for transportation to and from the Prom. Tram 4 stops right in front of the restaurant. Please note that it is illegal to drive in the Netherlands before the age of 18 years and without a driver's license that is valid in the Netherlands; don't plan on driving yourself to the Prom if you do not meet one or either of these criteria. There is ample parking in the car park for parents to drop their children off.

Photos of the event will be put on the school server on Monday, April 28, so students are free to access photos of the event. Students who have good photos they would like to share may also get them put onto the server.

We hope this letter answers most of your questions and look forward to a wonderful Prom night; the 9th annual Prom at AISR.

Lynda Boot, Ken Lychak, Larry Rosenblatt & Nikki van Leijden

(High School Student Council Co-Sponsors)

## PTSA News

Tomorrow is our Annual Dinner Dance/Silent Auction at the Novotel (K.P. Van Der Mandelelaan 150, 3062 MB Rotterdam). We will have marvellous class baskets that will be auctioned and many terrific prizes to be won. The PTSA would like to offer our sincere thanks to the following businesses, families and individuals who have generously contributed donations:

Northwest/KLM Airlines, for once again offering the grand prize of 2 Roundtrip flights from Amsterdam to the continental US

The Houlder family, for donating one week's free accommodation at one of their two holiday gites in St. Pierreville, France

Panta Reizen, for contributing a travel voucher valued at 150 euros

Bhavana Shukla: Indian stole and silver earrings

Global Issues Network Club: basket of Fair Trade items

The AISR School Board

Scholastic Books/Susan Krumrei: basket of books for all ages

Pramanik family: 2 sets of 3 Acclaimed Indian Painter-Manavgupta's works

Melissa Dziadowicz: voucher for a free photo session

littala: glassware

IVetri: Murano glass jewelry

Deltapark Neeltje Jans: two free entrance tickets

Saskia Thiel: free tennis lessons

Donner Books: 25 euro voucher

US Coast Guard/Army Families: cooler filled with American barbeque items

Barbara Laumann: original painting

Imma Zama: Canadian maple products

Oude-Raadhuis: dinner vouchers

La Gironde: bottles of wine  
Nice Nails/Nice Looks: gift voucher  
Foto van Reeuwijk: 3 photo albums  
L'arcobaleno: bonbons  
Hunnie: 25 euro voucher  
C1000: 10 vouchers worth 10 euros each  
Tabac and Gifts: assorted merchandise  
Domani  
Bloementempel: bouquet of flowers  
Kokkeler Bloemen: bouquet of flowers  
Bloementpaviljoen: bouquet of flowers  
Het Bloemenhalletje: bouquet and plant  
d'ananas woondecoratie: treat box  
Albert Heijn XL: 2 food baskets  
Douwe Egberts: coffee and tea  
Caroline Grieb: painting for baby's room  
Bart van Tieghem: Kipling towel  
Atlanzza: gift voucher and books  
VVV Store: Rotterdam keepsakes  
Pottenbakkerij Heksenvuur: handcrafted ceramic piece  
Clip BV: Polish pottery  
"Here's Holland": 2 autographed copies of the book  
Albert Dolmans: limited edition print of his painting of tulip bulb fields  
Kitsch & Kunst: dinner vouchers  
The Hair Co.: styling products  
Dwyer Family: Antwerp Escape  
Unilever Families: 2 baskets of Unilever products  
Amigo Restaurant: 2 x 50 euro vouchers  
Makaay Family: autographed Feyenoord jersey and game ball

Anne-Claire Joon/Who's for Dinner?: round dinerplate  
Fyffes: basket of fruit voucher  
Pim Doesburg: store voucher  
Dr. Uys: teeth bleaching  
Matthew Akhurst/Air Products: helium for balloons  
Gall & Gall: 2 whiskey carafes  
Wilson Sports: sport equipment  
La Salute: dinner voucher  
Callebaut: Belgian chocolates  
Sportingclub de Uitweg; 10 free passes  
SKIN-BAR: facial & face mapping  
Rotterdam Challengers: autographed ball, cap & t-shirt  
Soubanh Manivahn: 2 vouchers for baked goods  
Drie Kleur Grutterij: baking products  
Dream Cafe: 50 euro voucher  
Toni & Guy: voucher & hair products  
Zwinkels: loaning vases  
Railz Miniworld: 5 passes  
Carrabas: legos & princess crowns  
School Board: Artehoeve items  
Posthuis: home decorations  
Balonia: 10 free passes  
de Prins; 2 x 30 euro vouchers  
JC Hair: salon discounts  
de Bonte Koe: chocolates  
House of Joy: salon discounts  
de Wilgenring: 2 family swim punchcards; sportsdrink bottles  
Silverdome: 6 free skating passes  
Bartamina: cd's  
Quattro: candles

## **Class Baskets**

PreK 1: International Child's Play Basket

PreK 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/Books

Grade 4: Family Night Basket

Grade 5: International Foods 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

Our own d.j. Ruud Temminck will make sure that everyone is having a good time.

Melissa Dziadowicz will be offering a choice of two great photo packages for those who wish to have a keepsake to cherish forever.

We would also like to remind to everyone that parking is free and there is place for all the guests.

See you all tomorrow

The PTSA Committee

## **Ladies Volleyball**

" Would any ladies like to join a team of women for a friendly game of volleyball? We will meet every Thursday evening at 7:30 in the AISR gym. If you are interested please contact Saroj (Mobile # 06-16427170) or Anne (06-28960364)."

## **International Dinner Dance Photo Op!**

Last year it was suggested to me that it might be nice if couples (as well as fabulous singles) were able to get their pictures taken at the Dinner Dance... soooooo- we've done some brainstorming and come up with something good for those who may be interested...

A 'mini studio' will be set up throughout the evening (near the raffle area) for portraits (a sweet look, a hug, a kiss, a laugh etc.) You have the opportunity to get your photos taken and order:

Package A: 10 Euro

-1 13 x18cm color print

Package B: 20 Euro

A mini session (approx. 3-5 minutes of various shots)

I will select the top 4 shots and you will get:

- 1 13x18cm color print

- 2 10x15cm color prints

- 1 10x15cm black & white

(Each print will show a different picture)

- 4 digital files emailed to you to save, share & print as you wish

\*10% of all proceeds will be donated to UNICEF's: UNITE for CHILDREN

\*Package fees are due at the photo shoot.

\*Your prints will be mailed to you within 2 weeks.

\*I will edit & select your shots (you can trust me ;-))

Hope to see your smiling faces there!

-Melissa

Melissa Dziadowicz P h o t o g r a p h y

<http://www.melissadziadowicz.com>

06 27147526

## Birth Announcement

We would like to send our Congratulations to Maureen, Brian, Haley & Genna Province on the birth of their son/brother Daniel on Wednesday February 27 at 1:45 a.m. Daniel weighted 4kg 260g.

## Next Asian Luncheon

At the home of Mida Abdullah

Pastoor Canniuslaan 31

2661HW Bergschenhoek

Tel: 010 524 8000

Time: 12:00 p.m. onwards

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> March

All welcome even younger children. As usual, bring your favorite dish. If you need a ride, please meet Shinobu at the school.

## Items for Sale

\*\*All prices are subject to negotiation\*\*

Washer and Dryer	€250
Dining Room table and chairs	€150
Big wooden table with 6 leather chairs	
Bed with bedframe	€150
2 Bedside tables	€30 for both
Cordless Phone with Answering Machine	€25
TV Table	€15
Side Tables	€10 each
Computer Table	€20
Closet	€45
Bookshelves (2)	€30 each
Chair	€25
Rocking Chair	€20

DVD Player	€15
Hot Water Cooker	€5
Laminating Machine	€20
Microwave	€15
Vacuum Cleaner	€30
Iron	€15
Senseo Coffee Maker	€30
Fans (2 standing)	€15
Breast Pump	€75
SKODA FABIA 2003	€7800

less than 30,000 kilometres Great car!!

FOR FREE – houseplants with pots, lamps, rugs

If interested, please email [tenley\\_elliott@hotmail.com](mailto:tenley_elliott@hotmail.com)

## Important Upcoming Events

March 3	U14 Practice
March 4	JV Boys Practice
March 5	Varsity Boys Practice
March 6	JV Boys Practice
March 7-9	NECIS MS Basketball Tournament
March 7-9	NECIS HS Basketball Tournament
March 17	Basketball Award Banquet
<b>March 21-28</b>	<b>Spring Vacation</b>
March 31	Spring Sports Begins

GOOD LUCK TO ALL OUR TEAMS AT  
THE NECIS TOURNAMENT!

GO SHARKS!

