

# THE SHARK

The American International School of Rotterdam

## Director's Message

In the last two editions of The Shark I have asked that you return the Survey regarding your plans for next year. I am here again to make the same request as there still are quite a few families that have not returned the survey. If you are undecided, that is certainly more than understandable given the nomadic lifestyle that we, as international citizens, live. What is important to us now is that you return the survey and, as time passes and you know more about your status for next year, please just update us on any change. As you can tell by this, my third request, these numbers are very important to us. Thank you for your help.

We are almost through the first half of the quarter, which means Progress Reports in the Secondary School. Parents of middle and high school students can expect Progress Reports for this quarter to be mailed home on Friday, 22 February. For all parents, there will be Parent Conferences on Wednesday and Thursday, 27 and 28 February. This is an opportunity for direct one-to-one communication with the teacher(s) your son / daughter see every day, so please take advantage of the opportunity.

As you read this I will be in Canada at the first of three teacher recruitment fairs that I attend each February. The other two fairs I will be attending are in Boston and New York City. 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 two positions for the 2008 - 2009 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.

I wish you all a good "krocos vakantie" next week and look forward to seeing you upon my return from the recruiting fairs later in the month.

Brian Atkins, Director

## Elementary Principal's Message

On behalf of all the Elementary staff and students, I would like to wish you a very enjoyable 'Crocus Vacation'. I look forward to seeing you all back safe and sound on Monday, February 18.

Unfortunately we have to say "Good-bye" to two of our students:

Sofie Pedersen and her sister Sarah Pedersen will be leaving us. We wish them "Good Luck" in their new school in Denmark.

Read along to find out what the 4th graders have been doing over the past few weeks!

"In language arts we spent the months of December and January reading and learning about different types of tales. The students enjoyed these stories and wrapped up this unit by writing their own fairy tale! However, the tales the 4th graders wrote might be different than the

ones you are familiar with because their tales are fractured tales!

You might be surprised by the “twists” that occur in these tales! For this writing project, we typed our fractured fairy tale on the computer so that we can have multiple copies. We will spend February and most of March working in small reading groups, with novels and books that are geared towards the interests of the students in each group.

The 4th graders are quite the mathematicians! They have been working very hard on their multiplication skills. We spent January reviewing multiplication concepts and working on solving problems using mental math, which included lots of estimation. Multiplying by 10’s, 100’s, and 1,000’s is now an easy task for the 4th grade class!!! Next we worked on computing multiplication problems with regrouping while trying to be as accurate as possible. Up next for the 4th graders. DIVISION!!

After wrapping up our study of the Southwest, Northwest, and Plains Indians, our next unit of study is Biomes. Right now we are in the beginning stages of identifying just what exactly a biome is. As we investigate different biomes such as rainforests, deserts, grasslands, and savannahs to name a few, the students will gain practice and learn new skills for using literature, reference books, and the internet for their research. The students will work with a partner to become experts on one biome. Then, the 4th graders will use this information to persuade you to book a trip to their biome by becoming a travel agent! Already, the excitement has begun as we have spent a few days examining pictures of different biomes and comparing and contrasting their differences. This is one unit of study that I can say everyone is excited about!

The most exciting news in 4th grade is that the students have been working very hard all year long to improve how they treat each other with respect and cooperate with others. They have shown significant growth in this area and have recently celebrated this progress with

pyjama day! The students had a great time wearing their pyjamas to school, but they were pretty sleepy!!!! They will continue to work on these skills and continue to work towards earning another celebration for their cooperation and teamwork.”

REMINDER: Parent Teacher conferences - 27 and 28 February. Your child’s teacher will be contacting you to set up an appointment for one of those two days.

A very big “Thank you” to the parents who have volunteered to help out with the Young Authors Book and the Nutrition Committee. After the vacation, I will contact the Young Authors volunteers and let them know when I will need their services.

Have a wonderful, hopefully sunny and dry vacation.

Anne-Marie Blitz, Elementary Principal

## AISR SHARKS

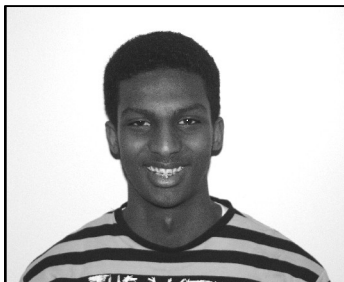
### Athlete of the Week



Joseph is on the Under 12 boys basketball team and has been instrumental in the teams good start to the season. His good

decision making on the court has helped turn the Sharks into a very good team. Joe has been passing the ball very well, and getting the team involved in the game. It is because of Joe’s good passing that in two of our three games, 3 players have managed to score in double figures Joseph has led the team in scoring in a couple of games, he has also led the way in assists, often finding the open man for an easy lay-up. As well as leading the team on offence Joseph’s defensive responsibilities see him always guarding the opposing teams top ball handler. Well-done Joe!!

Jan. 28-Feb. 4, 2008



Urban

Urban has been a member of the Varsity Boys Basketball Team for the last 4 years.

This year Urban has proven to be an important factor in each game he has played. He is consistent in his play, improving each week and thus plays the most minutes. His excellence in driving to the basket forced our opponent recently to change their game plan. He rebounds well and his willingness to improve and work hard on all aspects of his game was noticeable recently by keeping us in the game with his free throws. His leadership has also been noticeable by keeping the team focused.

Keep up the good work Urban!

## **"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](http://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

### **Middle School News**

The 7th grade did a wonderful job organizing and running a Bake Sale on Monday, 28th of January for math class. It was hard to believe they did all the baking themselves as it all tasted so delicious. All three teams turned out a profit and as a class they managed to raise €150. This money will be donated to the World Wildlife Fund, a good cause selected by the 7th grade students. Well-done 7th grade, and thank you to all parents, AISR staff and fellow students for your support. A special thank you to Tjeerd, for putting up with us.

Thanks and regards,

Irene Houlder

## **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 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**

The big day is fast approaching, with only three more weeks until our Annual Dinner Dance/Silent Auction, to be held on Saturday, 1 March at the Novotel. If you haven't purchased your tickets yet, please do so as soon as possible...it's an evening you won't want to miss! Tickets can be purchased by cash payment through the front office or by electronic transfer to ABN AMRO Account 478974876/AISR PTSA.

In addition to the marvellous class baskets that will be auctioned off that evening, our donations team has been working overtime to insure that there will be plenty of terrific prizes to be won throughout the night in both the auction and the raffle. 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

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  
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

In addition to all these great prizes, we are once again pleased to have the disc jockey services of our own Ruud Temminck. Ruud is an expert at getting everyone up and moving, and he will do his best to accommodate any music requests you may have. If you'd like to put in your requests, please do so at [ptsa@aisr.nl](mailto:ptsa@aisr.nl), and we'll be sure to pass them along.

Finally, don't forget that we have a new opportunity this year for those who wish to have a keepsake photo of the evening. Melissa Dziadowicz will be offering a choice of two great photo packages, so get those smiles ready!

Many thanks to Lynda Boot for hosting a "walk on the wild side" on the afternoon of 29 January after school in the cafeteria. Lynda presented a slide show and talk on her family's trip to Africa last summer, and the work they witnessed by the AMREF/African Flying Doctors. All in attendance enjoyed this informative and inspiring program.

Have a wonderful "crocus vacation", and we hope to see you at the Novotel on 1 March!

The PTSA Committee

### **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... sooooo- we've done some brainstorming and came 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

## **Mahjong Club**

The Mahjong club will be holding a special session to teach new players on 20th February 2008.

Come and try out the game from 9am to 12 noon

at Breitnersingel 8, Hillegersberg, 3055BC.

Contact Yee on [yee\\_masson@hotmail.com](mailto:yee_masson@hotmail.com) or 010 418 8442 for more information.

Mahjong is a Chinese tile game, similar to the rummy, and involves skill, strategy and calculation, as well as a degree of luck!

## **Local Artist**

Great gift or memento of your stay. Paintings of Holland by Dutch-American artist.

ALBERT DOLMAINS

His work has been selected for exhibits in the US embassy and for a visit of Queen Beatrix of Holland to California.

Reasonable prices, from 375 euros.

Albert is also available for commissions work, house portraits, views etc. from 295 euros.

To view samples call: Rachel Ford (010-235-3744)\

For more information or appointment call: 010 4229511 or e-mail: [sgazaleh@gmail.com](mailto:sgazaleh@gmail.com)

## **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.

## **Important Upcoming Events**

February 11	CROCUS VAKANTIE
February 21	HS @ AIS
February 21	MS @ home vs ISA
February 22	Progress Reports mailed home
February 25	BB practice change
February 26	HS @ Eindhoven
February 27-28	Parent-Teacher Conference

**HAPPY KROCUS VAKANTIE!**