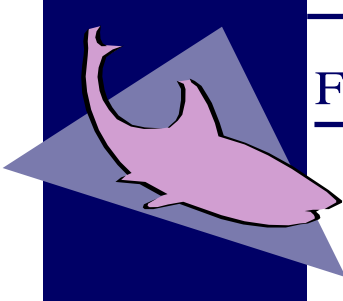


American International School of Rotterdam



AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF ROTTERDAM

THE SHARK

From the Director

If the "air guitar" contest was any measure of the success of the evening, then this year's PTSA sponsored Dinner Dance was a highly successful event. Thank you to all of the members of the PTSA who worked for months preparing for this one evening. All of your efforts paid off with an evening that was enjoyed by everyone present. For those of you who attended, congratulations to all of the raffle prize winners and the high bidders of some really valuable baskets.

As most of you are aware, Parent Conferences were conducted during the last week in February. These conferences were conducted as a result of

the annual Parent Survey from the last school year. I wish I could say that the conferences were highly attended and that the vast majority of parents were able to meet with teachers. Unfortunately, attendance was quite low. Therefore, we are now evaluating the event and will be exploring options that will better meet the needs of teachers and parents as we work together to support the students and the educational process at AISR.

It has been a busy third quarter of the year both in and out of school and will continue that way right through this weekend. Last week the majority of middle

and high school students participated in the annual NECIS basketball tournaments. This weekend many of those same students focus on more academic pursuits as they participate in a Model United Nations activity in England while another group will be actively engaged in a Global Issues Conference in Germany. It is the sum total and mix of these types of activities that enables us to provide balanced opportunities for the students of our school.

As we approach the end of the third quarter next week, it is once again time for a well deserved vacation. As a reminder, if you

(cont'd pg. 2)

Elementary Principal's Message

It's hard to believe that we are sending out the last Shark of the 3rd Quarter. The Easter vacation is fast approaching and with that the start of the last quarter for this school year.

First of all, I would like to thank the PTSA and the other

parent volunteers for the wonderful Dinner Dance on March 1st. Everybody really seemed to enjoy the evening – I must say that I was very impressed with the "Guitar Display" and the Spanish dancers! We certainly do have talent at AISR.

Upcoming Events:

- March 21– 28 Spring Vacation
- April 4 Report Cards Post Home & Drama Club Presents 'Anniversary' and 'Jumping'
- April 9 Book Fair, PTSA Meeting & CAS Showcase 5PM
- April 24 Elementary Creative Arts Night
- May 29 Elementary Musical "Cinders"



Miss Pilbrow's class made bread. Genna mixes the water in.

(cont'd pg. 3)

From The Director Cont'd

are taking your child out of school for a day or more beyond the normal vacation time, please contact the school ahead of time so the teachers can plan for your child's absence. Last minute requests for homework and materials are difficult to fulfill and is disruptive for both your child and the teachers. Thank you for your consideration and help.

On Tuesday, 18 March, our Board of Directors will be conducting its next meeting. As always, these meetings begin at 7:30 PM and are conducted in the school's Library. Among other topics of discussion, there will be a presentation regarding the most recent International Schools Assessment results and a review of

policies that need updating from the Board's Policy Manual. All AISR Board meetings are open to all parents of AISR students.

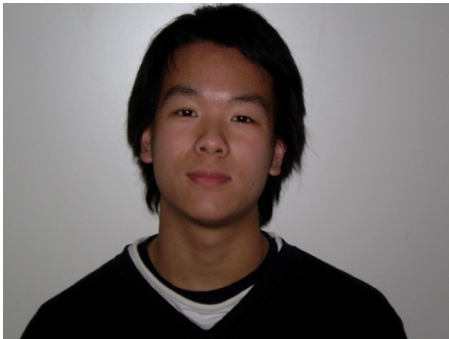
Lastly, don't forget to turn your clocks ahead on the 30th and enjoy the vacation. We look forward to seeing you back on Monday, 31 March.

Brian Atkins, Director



Photo by C. O'Neill-O'Kane

Athlete of the Week March 10—14 , 2008



Jonathan is a member of the Shark's boys swimming team. As the only Over 16 swimmer, Jonathan has led the team through his example of dedication and hard work. He has steadily improved his stroke as well as his conditioning. Jonathan also sets a good example for his peers as well as our younger swimmers. As we prepare for our NECIS swim

meet in Luxembourg, our team will look to Jonathan for leadership and success.

Sports Dates:

- March 17 Basketball Award Banquet
- March 31 Spring Sports Begin

Congrats to all our basketball teams for a great season!

Great effort at NECIS Tournament.



Allen calls the next play for the U14 Boys Team.

Elementary Principal Message Cont'd

At the end of February, two of the teachers attended the ESL (English as a Second Language) Conference in Geneva, where the main focus was on multiculturalism and maintaining the mother tongue language. This is very much in keeping with the philosophy we have here at AISR where students are encouraged to make use of their first language to help develop proficiency in English and an understanding of content across the curriculum.

Several of the Elementary teachers went to the CEESA (Central and Eastern European Schools Association) Conference in Istanbul this week. One of the main focuses of the conference was 'assessment' - how to orchestrate the art of teaching and assessing while providing

practical ideas to help weave instruction and assessment together. The teachers who attended this conference will provide feedback to the rest of the staff in April.

We welcome another new student to Grade 1G. Nicholas Le Roux was born in The Netherlands but comes to us from an International School in Manila. We hope he will enjoy his stay at AISR.

This week, Ms. Lee and Ms. Pilbrow are going to bring you up-to-date with what has been happening in Kindergarten. (see the article below)

Have a lovely weekend and enjoy the Easter break.

Anne-Marie Blitz, Elementary Principal



Kindergarten : Ririka kneading the dough.

From Our Classrooms : Kindergarten



Andrew learns about length.

found out about what things are made of, where they come from, and how we can change them. Miss Pilbrow's class used different materials to make bread. Here's some photos of them in action!

You can do anything with children if only you play with them.

German Proverb

parent helpers helping with a variety of activities, including making chef's hats and decorating cakes with the children.

Ms. Sarah's class continues to enjoy

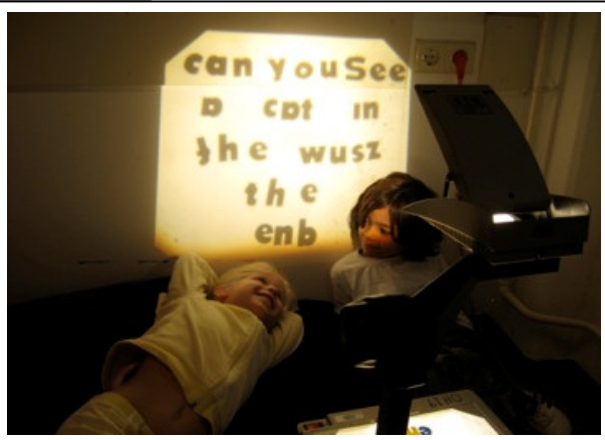


Chef Miranda and her cake.

(cont'd pg. 5)

In Kindergarten we've been doing all sorts of learning. We are getting much better at reading and writing and math, as we practice our skills in many different ways every day.

We just finished our Science topic on "Changing Materials." During this topic, we



Alyssa and Roi read and write.

From Our Classrooms Cont'd

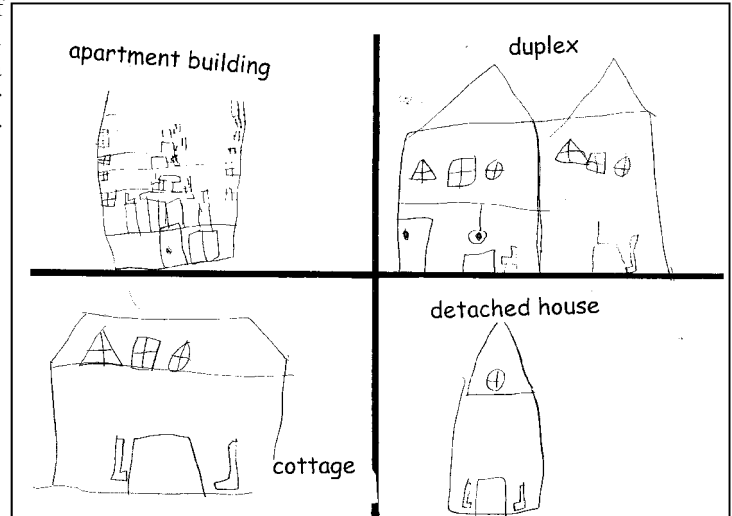


Don't stop kneading Maya! We have to keep going for eight minutes

At the moment, we're learning all about houses. We've learned what different types of houses are called, materials houses are made of, parts of a house, and what houses were like 100 years ago.

We would like to ask if any parents in the school would be willing to show something typical from a house from long ago that you may possess as part of your family history or that you collect (for example; an old or interesting object, or photos of things like an old coffee grinder, a spinning wheel, or children's toys or clothing).

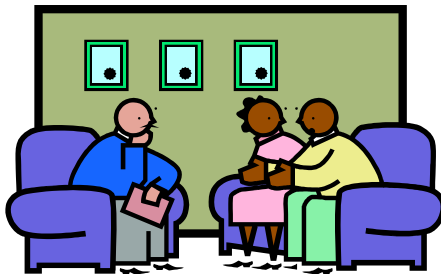
*Sarah Lee and
Trina Pilbrow
Kindergarten
Teachers*



Koya's drawing of the kind of houses.

Counselor's Corner

We are in the process now of beginning to think about scheduling classes for next year. Students in the high school received a sign-up form this week along with a description of courses for next year. These forms must be signed by their current subject area teacher showing that they agree with what the student wishes to take next year. This is especially important when a student is moving up in a sequenced class like foreign language or math.



At the recent IB meeting last week which was very well attended, the small blue IB booklet which was handed out will serve as the de-

scription of each of the IB courses which will be offered to incoming 11th grade students. Students in 12th grade will continue on to the second year of the IB courses they are currently taking especially if they are IB Diploma students. For students in 10th grade who have decided that they will take certificate courses or non-IB courses, a separate handout will be given to them that describes the courses.

This year's 8th and 9th grade students will receive information about the required courses that they must take next year to meet graduation re-

quirements.

As always, if you have any questions about the information, please do not hesitate to send me an e-mail or to contact your child's subject area teacher.

On another note, Junior Conferences for all 11th grade students will begin next week. All parents of 11th graders should have received an invitation in the mail to attend your child's individual conference with Ms Lopez. I look forward to meeting with you and your child.

Ruth Lopez, Counselor

r.lopez@aisr.nl

PTSA Update

The PTSA Committee would like to offer our very sincere gratitude to everyone who attended our Annual Dinner Dance on 1 March, 2008 at



Hopefully by now you have received your blue “Bag2School” bag, as well as the flyer listing the items to be collected. Bag2School collects the following goods for resale: adult and children’s clothing, bedclothes, curtains, stuffed animals, shoes, belts and handbags. AISR will receive 30 eurocents per kilo collected..the more our bags weigh, the more they pay! In response to parent requests from last year, the PTSA has decided to donate all funds collected this year to charity, namely our own Bhavana Shukla’s “bhav4india” campaign. Please check out Bhavana’s website: www.bhav4india.com to learn more about this very worthy cause. As there is not much storage space available, we kindly ask that you wait until the week of April 7-9 to bring your bags to school. The deadline for dropping off bags is



CAS Night, held from 5-8 pm on April 9. Thanks for you continued support!

Our next issue of The Shark will come out on April 4th.

If you would like to submit an article, classified ad, etc. please submit them to Charity O’Neill-O’Kane by 5PM on Tuesday, April 1st

Email all articles and photos to :
aisrwebmaster@gmail.com

the Novotel. Thanks to the efforts of parents, teachers, staff and students, there was a wonderful array of prizes distributed; congratulations to our Grand Prize winner Vicky Izquierdo, who took home the roundtrip airline tickets from Northwest Airlines, and to Erin Sherritt, who won a week’s stay at La Rastelayre in St. Pierreville, France, courtesy of the Houlder family. Many thanks to all who volunteered their time and effort to help make this such a special evening, including DJ Ruud Temminck, who had folks up and dancing all night long.

The funds raised during this event will go towards purchasing “wish list” items that will be discussed at our next general meeting on 9 April at 10 am. We strongly urge all who are interested to attend this meeting and offer your input on these important decisions.



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