

American International School of Rotterdam



From the Director

We have been in school just a little more than two weeks and are very much moving along at full speed and engaged in many activities both in and out of the classrooms. IB students are hard at work writing essays and trying to solve those complicated mathematics problems while pre-schoolers are learning about pirates and settling into the new routines that each school year brings. School is busy in the ways in which schools should be and there is an energy and vitality as one moves from classroom to classroom observing the learning process.

It is also a busy time for you as

parents. Next Thursday, 4 September is the first Open House of the school year. The Middle and High School Open House will begin at 6:30 PM in the cafeteria - there are more details in the attached flyer. As a parent of a middle or high school student, this is an event that you can't afford to miss.

An event for the entire AISR community is the annual Welcome Back Picnic sponsored by the PTSA. This year's picnic will be on Sunday, 7 September starting at 12:00 PM. Come and meet the new faculty members, renew acquaintances from last year and welcome the

many new families who are joining the AISR community. This event is a nice relaxed way to spend a Sunday afternoon with your family and others. We hope that you all will be able to join us.

On a personal note:

My wife, Ruth Lopez, and I have announced to the Board of AISR, that we will be leaving AISR at the end of this school year. This move is in line with a long held personal belief that people in our positions, and the schools in which we work, benefit from the growth that change brings through new chal-

(cont'd pg. 2)

Elementary Principal's Message

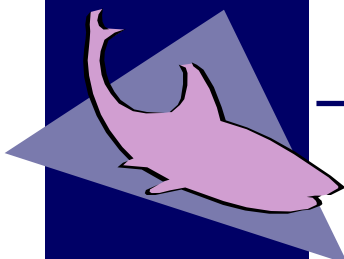
The first two weeks of school have really flown by – students and teachers have settled in to their routines and are ready to take on the many challenges that face us this year.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the Elementary Open House on Thursday, September 11. This is a wonderful opportunity for you as parents to learn about the curriculum, special projects and expectations regarding your child's behavior and work habits. The program

will start at 7:00 pm and go until approximately 8:45 pm. I will send out the schedule for that evening on Monday, September 8.

In the last Shark I told you that AISR has implemented a new program this year regarding expectations for student behavior. The "Golden Rules", which have been adopted by the whole school, can be seen very clearly in poster form throughout the building. This may even be something that you want to display in your home – by doing so we will all be speaking the same language regarding

(cont'd pg. 3)



From The Director Cont'd

allenges, new ideas and new ways of looking at things.

We are amazed at how quickly the past five years have gone by and proud of the school's progress during our tenure. We are grateful and feel privileged for having had the opportunity to work with the staff, students and families that make up the AISR community.

There is still much to be done and we look forward to the things yet to be accomplished during the 2008 -

2009 school year.

Thank you AISR for such a wonderful experience, filled with memories that will be carried with us well into the future.

Brian Atkins
Director



Curriculum Spotlight

The International Primary Curriculum

AISR has recently adopted the International Primary Curriculum (IPC), a "world class, brain-friendly, comprehensive and practical curriculum, delivering subject, personal and international knowledge, skills and understanding."

The IPC provides the support teachers and students need to help

primary and elementary children learn as 21st century international citizens. The IPC focuses on academic and personal development, and the development of a global awareness. Learning is active and engaging, and, above all meaningful to children. Beginning in August 2008, students in Pre-Kindergarten through to Grade 6 will be exploring a range of IPC units of work. For the 2008-2009 academic year, selected units will

focus on Science and Social Studies topics, though all units integrate a variety of disciplines, including Visual Arts, Technology, Music and Physical Education.

For more information, visit www.internationalprimarycurriculum.com or contact Ms. Alison Lipp, Curriculum Coordinator (a.lipp@aisr.nl)

Counselor's Corner

AISR's Community of Respect (COR)

The American International of Rotterdam is committed to providing a caring, secure, positive and respectful environment in which students can learn and develop as individuals and where adults can help them to do so. AISR has recently established a new initiative to develop and stimulate some of the key goals for the school, its' staff, families and students. COR

is school-wide and aims to create a Community Of Respect throughout the school and to teach and encourage the development of healthy interpersonal relationships.

Alison Lipp
Counselor



Elementary Principal Message Cont'd

behavior at AISR.

Show **RESPECT** for others

Be **CARING** towards others

Show **RESPONSIBILITY** with all of your actions

COOPERATE with others at all times

Show **TOLERANCE** in your actions towards others

Be **HONEST**, tell the truth at all times

Show **APPRECIATION** for AISR

BELIEVE in yourself

Every month, there will be an Elementary Assembly. Each Assembly will deal with one of the Golden Rules and the Citizenship Award will also pertain to that rule. In this way, we

hope to cultivate a school wide awareness of the appropriate behaviors which will enhance learning and help develop strong interpersonal relationships.

The Nutrition Committee will hold its first meeting on Thursday, September 18. At this meeting we will review the menu for October. We, the parents and AISR, have an obligation to ensure that our students make healthy choices regarding their diet. Researchers at Saint Louis University School of Public Health say that early home interventions – teaching parents how to create an environment where children reach for a banana rather than potato chips, can shape a child's eating patterns for his or her lifetime. Families and school should provide children with an environment in which they not only learn

how to eat healthy but where they also have an opportunity to practice what they learn. So let us all try very hard this year to encourage our students to make healthy choices – remember we learn best by example.

The spotlight this week in the Classroom Corner is on Ms. Graham's Grade 1 students.

I look forward to seeing many of you at Welcome Back To School Picnic on Sunday, September 7. Hopefully the weather will be kind to us!

In the meantime, have a lovely weekend,

*Anne-Marie Blitz,
Elementary Principal*

From Our Classrooms: First Grade

The First Graders have had an exciting start to the new school year! The students have begun showing off their enthusiasm for reading during 'read alouds' and 'shared readings'. Making predictions and connections is great fun for the kids! They are able to make 'text to text', 'text to world' and 'text to self' connections. Did you know that Big Al and Elmer both disguised themselves to make friends? The students are also talking about character descriptions, settings, problems and solutions.

The classroom library has opened and the students have been filling their 'Lending Library' envelopes with many new and interesting titles. These books should be 'Just Right' books. The kids are learning how to pick books that are at their reading level. This will give them

the opportunity to have 'Book Talks' at home. Their Lending Library envelope has a list of great 'Book Talk' starters for you and your child.

To learn all about our little readers, you can read our 'All About Us' book. The students wrote about themselves and created beautiful water colored portraits to add to the book.

Did you have a great summer holiday? We had many interesting and fun experiences during our holiday. You can come and find out

(cont'd pg. 7)



Shark Tip of the Week:

What is the OV-chipkaart?

“The OV-chipkaart is a new means of payment for the public transport system. The smart card is the size of a bank card and contains an invisible chip. The OV-chipkaart can be loaded with credit in euros with which you can travel anywhere within The Netherlands, or with a travel product such as a single, return, or season ticket.



There are anonymous, personal, and disposable cards. The disposable card can be purchased at the station vending machine. The anonymous OV-chipkaart can be bought at the ticket office and vending machines at the station. These cards allow the holder to travel immediately. The personal OV-chipkaart can be purchased from your public transport company or the OV-chipkaart Customer service department (tel. +31 (0)900-0980 (€0.10 per minute in The Netherlands).

Pay per distance:

The introduction of the OV-chipkaart means that public transport costs will be calculated per distance travelled, rather than the 'zone' travel systems in use today. The 'zone' travel system is unfavourable for some travellers, though favourable for others. To put an end to this difference, the OV-chipkaart calculates travel price per kilometers actually travelled.”

You can get your OV-Chipkaart online and even add your own picture. It is very easy and the site has been updated so most of it is in English.

<http://www.ov-chipkaart.nl/?taal=en>

Artist of the Month



Michael, Grade 10

Michael is a High School student from Grade 10. This piece that has been selected as the winner of the artist of the month is a well composed gouache painting created just before the summer. In class we were looking at artists such as Mucha and Klimt and adopting their Art Nouveau style of decorative and dream like imagery.

Things to do in Holland:

Art exhibition: Black is Beautiful

De Nieuwe Kerk, Amsterdam, Until 26 October!

“Black is Beautiful, Rubens to Dumas' includes a special study in oils by Rubens, an intimate drawing by Rembrandt and paintings by Karel Appel and Marlene Dumas. It shows the fascination for black people through the ages.

The exhibition was put together after years of study by Guest Curator Esther Schreuder. Walking through the Rijksmuseum with Iris Kensmill one day, she noticed that Kensmill was focusing on the images of black people and realized no study was ever carried out specifically into this subject.

It consists of three parts: The Old World, the New World and the Modern World. The main themes are: the black king, strong men, strong women, Africa, South America and slavery, and portraits." -- Expatica.nl

More info: www.nieuwekerk.nl/nl/index.htm

Trip Week 2008 : September 15—19

AISR's 5th – 12th graders will all be going on overnight fieldtrips in the week of September 15 – 19.

We hope this year will bring exciting adventures, interesting excursions and valuable experiences that only be reached by stepping out of the class room.

You will receive a letter with details like packing lists and requirements later. This letter is to inform you of the dates and destinations of our Trip Week Program.



5th grade:

5th grade will go Arnhem for two days. September 18 and 19 they will spend time at The National Park "De Hoge Veluwe" and the famous "Openlucht Museum".

Both places have tons of educational value. The "Hoge Veluwe" (Thursday) offers free bicycles on which you can explore this beautiful forest area. Once at the end of the glaciers, these hills were formed in the sand that was brought by the Rhine river.

In the Park you will find the Museonder, a museum on what is going on under the sand you are walking on. Holes of insects, root systems etc. are to be seen.

On Friday the students will walk from the Stayokay Arnhem, where they are staying, to the "Openlucht Museum". Here they will take part in a workshop called "Janneke's

Snuffelhoek". The museum specializes in what life was like around 1900 AD. The houses are replicas of traditional Dutch houses from all over the country. There will be all kinds of historical items and children's games. The museum has won the European Museum Award and is a great place to learn about the past.

The class will travel by bus. Leave from school on Thursday September 18, 8:30 AM and return Friday 17:00 PM.

You will be informed about the details later this month.

Leader: Therese Forbes



6th grade:

6th grade will Travel to the island of Terschelling from September 16 – 19.

A bus will bring them to the ferry at Harlingen from where they sail to Terschelling.

At the Stayokay of Terschelling they will all get a bicycle to get around this beautiful island. Terschelling is in the Waddenzee in the north of the Netherlands. The Waddenzee is one of Europe's largest bird sanctuaries. The tidal zone is full of food for the many species of birds and fish and us. The students will learn about the ecosystem by digging in the mud of the sandbanks right in front of the hostel. They will also visit the dunes, the forest and some other places of interest. A fantastic four days to

learn with your head in the wind. Hopefully they can fly a kite as well!.

Leave school Tuesday September 16 at 8:30 AM return Friday September 19 at 16:00 PM. You will be informed about the details later this month.

Leaders: Elisabeth Marsh, Justin Wah and Alison Lipp

7th grade:

7th grade will go on an adventure trip in the Ardennes in Belgium. Mountain Network is the organization that has received us for many years. They offer a complete Outdoor program with professional guides to our students. Rock climbing, repelling, zip lines, kayaking and mountain biking are on the list of great experiences. And all of that in the green Ardennes, with its rivers and rocks and forests! Get out your hiking boots and prepare your self for this wonderful adventure!

Leave Monday September 15 at 8:30 AM. Return Friday September 19 at 17:00 PM

Leaders: Stewart Shipman, Irene Houlder.



8th grade:

8th grade will go sailing on the "Vooruitgang" a traditional sailing ship from the fleet of "Hollands Glo-

(cont'd pg. 6)

Trip Week 2008 Cont'd

rie". The students will sleep on board in 4 or 2 person huts. They will sail from Hoorn on the IJsselmeer and help the captain and his crew with setting the sails and finding their way with the winds. Depending on the wind we will set a course. The ship will bring us to historic towns around the IJsselmeer and maybe even out to the Wadden Sea. The students will have to cook for each other and keep the ship in shape. The ship will make a stop at the "Zuiderzee Mueum" at Enkhuizen. This museum teaches us what the IJsselmeer looked like when it was still a sea. (for your information: the building of the Afsluitdijk meant the end of the Zuiderzee and tuned it into one of the bigger lakes of Europe).



Leave school on Monday September 15 at 8:30 AM, return on Friday September 19

At 17:00 PM.

You will be informed about the details later this month.

Leaders: Ruud Temminck, Dini Benard

9th grade:

9th grade will be flying to Barcelona and will stay in a large city apartment this year. Besides visiting the highlights of the cultural heart of Catalonia, the students will also get a chance to experience water sports in the Mediterranean. So art, history, Spanish language as well as PE are on the program for this wonderful trip.

Flight schedule:

Monday September 15 flight HV135 at 12:25 PM from Schiphol to Barcelona



Friday September 19 flight HV 136 at 15:20 PM from Barcelona to Schiphol. (landing at 17:40)

Polish up your Spanish or Catalan, and enjoy the Costa!

You will be informed about the details later this month.

Leaders Rob Zeilstra, Melanie Struben

10th grade:

10th grade will be going to Berlin by train. They will stay at Hotel



Juncker's Garni from where they will make excursions to places, which mark such intense moments in world history. WO II, the Cold War and the times of Frederik at Marienburg are among the topics of study. Architecture is another field of interest in this city that, like Rotterdam has to fill in projects at locations that have been traumatized.

And besides all that history Berlin is a modern European capitol, where you can also think positively about the future!

Train leaves Monday September 15 from Rotterdam Centraal or Rotterdam Alexander at 9:47 AM 17:17 at Berlin. Return: Friday



September 19 at 12:38 from Berlin, 19:42 at Rotterdam Centraal.

You will be informed about the details later this month.

Leaders: Patrick O'Kane, Marga Akerboom

Trip Week 2008 Cont'd

11th grade:

11th grade is doing the London Tour. Shakespeare will be on their minds when they visit the Globe and take part in one of its workshops. Drama and literature will also come in when they will go to see one of the many musicals. Besides the theatre they will also spend time on several excursions like the one to Greenwich. The students will be staying at London Visitors Hotel.

Flights: Monday September 15 at 9:35 Schiphol – Stansted flight 3002 (Easy Jet)

Friday September 19 at 18:40 Stansted – Schiphol flight 3009 (arriving at 20:45)

You will be informed about the details later this month.

Leaders: Larry Rosenblatt, Susan Martin

12th grade:

Last but not least 12th grade will be going to Krakow in Poland. Like last year they will have a variety of excursions. The visit to Auschwitz will be a



“heavy” and impressive one. Hopefully the rafting trip will give them an opportunity to put things in perspective. The group will be staying at Hotel Start.

Flights: Brussels – Krakow 10:50 flight SN2547

Krakow – Brussels 13:25 flight SN2548 (15:25 at Brussels)

You will be informed about the details later this month.

Leaders: Chad van Cleve, Rebecca Vanderlaan.

Transportation to and from the airports will be arranged. Note that the departure times are given, The check in time is two hours prior to those times!

We hope everyone has a wonderful trip!

From Our Classrooms: First Grade Cont'd

about our ‘T-rrrific’ summer by checking out our ‘T-rrrific’ bulletin board next to the Grade 1 classroom. The kids are beginning to learn more about the writing process as they work through various writing assignments. These little sunflowers will bloom into terrific writers. Wait and See!

Our teeth are loose and we are getting taller. These are just a few things mentioned in Science class. The unit is ‘Things Grow and Change’. The students have been talking about ways in which they are growing and changing. The students will learn about different ways to keep their bodies healthy so they can continue to grow and change.

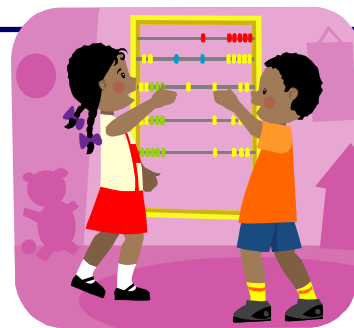
The little mathematicians are working hard in Grade 1! They have been learning various ways to make sums

for 0-12. How many facts can you do in one minute? Well, I think these first graders will reach the top in a few months from now. Parents can help increase their fact skills by purchasing or making simple (0-12) fact cards to study at home. The students have also been working hard on ‘story problems’. Through this process, they are encouraged to verbalize and write the strategies they used. It is important for children to be able to explain their solutions using mathematical terms. It is very interesting to hear some of the different explanations. In addition, the students have begun to collect data to create weather graphs on the computer.

We are looking forward to a year of fun and lots of learning!

Sue Graham

Teacher



MORE HAPPENINGS IN HOLLAND

Nature lovers - it's vogelfestival - <http://www.vogelfestival.nl>

September is Green Month - <http://www.groenemaand.nl>

Jazz Festival in Hillegersberg

Aug. 29 - Aug. 31

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

PTSA Update

"WELCOME PICNIC 2008"

The Annual Welcome Picnic is just around the corner. This year we have a lot more exciting things for the children and new families to enjoy. The PTSA had a meeting on Thursday and we went through all the things we need. This year we will have a "Bouncy Cow" and also a really cool "Lemonade Cow", that the children can help themselves to drinks from. We will also be serving "poffertjes" the little dutch pancakes with sugar and syrup from it's very own machine.

We are in desperate need of helpers to make the day go with a bang. If anyone



can do just 30 minutes on one of the stands, it would be of great help to us. The help we will need is as follows :

Bouncy Castle (bouncy cow): 3 shifts of 2 people (total 6 people) 30 minutes each.

Lemonade Cow: Help the children get drinks

Poffertjes Machine: Help the children make their pancakes, and add powdered sugar etc

Bar : we need 3 people at a time two on soft drinks and one on alcohol. Again 3 shifts of 30 minutes.

BBQ Grill : Already have two offers to grill but to relieve them any more offers?

Set Up : Tables, Chairs, etc Before the event and clean up

Greet the families: Everyone is asked to bring a dish appetisers or dessert, we need 2 people to receive the dishes, and set out plates serving spoons, utensils/napkins. Volunteers to wash dishes as they empty too!

Kids games: Any artists amongst us? The kids love face painting and games, the older kids need monitoring in the gym if playing basketball.

For those of you that have the plush AISR sweatshirt hoodies you know how great they are to have, we need somebody to take orders on the day. Aurora is able to help a little on the day too.

So PLEASE give us a small amount of your time to make the picnic run

PTSA Dates to Remember:

PTSA Welcome Picnic Committee Meeting

Tuesday Sept 2nd
from 1400-1500 in the cafeteria

It's the home stretch for getting everything in place for Sunday.

Anyone who can jump in to help, please come join us.

PTSA General Meeting

Thursday Sept 11th 1330-1500 in the cafeteria.
(Meeting moved back from 1st Thursday due to picnic)

We will wrap-up/finalize all picnic business and discuss the upcoming Oct and Nov events.

Everyone is invited to attend the meeting. Hope to see you there.

Come for a FUN-FILLED AFTERNOON!

SUNDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2008

12:30pm-3:30 pm

IN THE AISR PLAYGROUND

Hamburgers, hot dogs and soft drinks will be provided.

There will be a bouncy cow, lemonade stand, poffertjes, games, pictures with the Shark, music, and more!

Cost is 12€ per family or 3€ per person.

Please bring a side dish (salad, dessert, etc.) to share.

Hope to see you there Rain or Shine!

smoothly, the more helpers we have the easier it will be for everyone to mingle and have a great time..

If you can help in any way please email myself gaynorball@gmail.com or Suzanne suzanne-southan@hotmail.com and let us know what you can do to help

Thanks for your support

PTSA

From The Board of Trustees

Welcome to a new school year at AISR and for those of you who have just moved here, let me I also welcome you to Rotterdam. The students are adjusting to their new classes, you may be adjusting to a new life here in Rotterdam and together we are all settling into what promises to be an exciting new school year.

I'm sure many of you have met with the Elementary Principal, Ms. Anne-Marie Blitz and the Secondary School Principal and Director, Mr. Brian Atkins and likely many more of the teaching and support staff at AISR. Some people you have yet to meet are the members of the Board of Trustees at the school, a team comprising both parents and external members of our community. As an independent school, not linked to the Dutch education system, the Board of Trustees at AISR is responsible for the overall direction of the school, its policies and management. The Board of Trustees focuses on the development of policies that guide the Director's work and indeed is also responsible for the appointment of the Director.

The Board meets up to six times a year and you, the parents of our students, are always welcome to come and join a meeting and learn more about who we are and how we operate. You will find full details regarding the meeting times and dates on the AISR website and we look forward to welcoming you at the meetings.

In addition to our full Board meetings, we do a good deal of our work during the year in the various committees chaired by individual Board members. Each of us brings our respective skills and interests to our chosen committee, such as Finance, Policy & Vision, Public Relations, Governance or Building & Grounds. Along with other staff member and parents, these committees help steer the complex processes that are involved in the running of a school. We are always looking for more help so if you would like to join a particular committee or are interested in joining the Board itself, please do get in touch with us. As always, your

skills, experience and insight are essential to the running of the school.

By way of a brief introduction, I'd like to present the members of the Board of Trustees, some well known to you, others not so. Meet the Board that I have the honor and pleasure of Chairing:

Andrew Jarvis, Vice Chair of the Board and member of the Finance and Policy & Vision committees;

Andrew George-Kelso, Secretary of the Board and member of the Finance Committee;

Wouter Smith, Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee;

Clare Millard, Chair of the Governance Committee;

Sev Simonone, Chair of the Technology Committee;

Sandy Mueller, Chair of the PR Committee

and Darnell Baldinelli, Chairman of the

(cont'd pg. 10)



Meet Our Board of Trustees



Alan
Steele-Nicholson



Wouter
Smith



Andrew
George-Kelso



Sandy
Mueller

From The Board of Trustees Cont'd

Buildings, Grounds & Transportation Committee.

You'll be hearing more throughout the year from each of the Board Members so keep an eye out in the Shark.

Becoming a Board Member

The Board of Trustees was established in 1959 and we are what is called a "self-perpetuating" Board. That means that, occasionally, Board members rotate and as is also the nature of our transient population, some Board members move on to another country. The Board is currently looking to strengthen itself while maintaining its balance between parent and non-parent participation. Of key importance to the Board is that potential new Board members understand and are committed to the further development of the school. If you would like to discuss the procedures for Board member selection either formally or informally, please feel free to contact the chair of the Governance Committee, Ms. Clare Millard. Clare will be happy to provide you with full details re-

garding the procedure, which is also available on the school website.

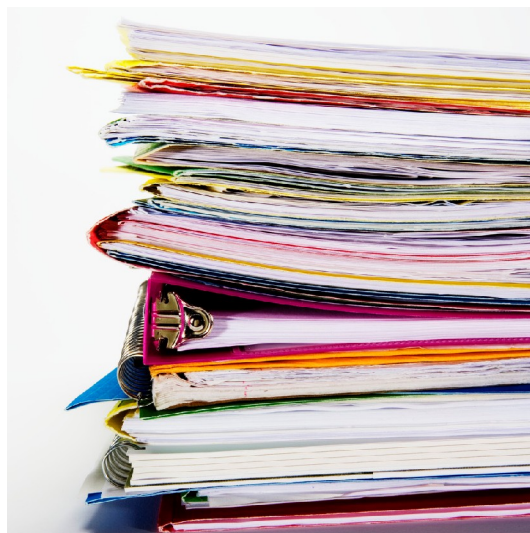
All my best for a great school year.

Alan Steele-Nicholson

Board Chair

http://www.aisr.nl/about_us/the_board/the_board.php

http://www.aisr.nl/about_us/the_board/board_meetings



Meet Our Board of Trustees Cont'd



Clare
Millard



Sev
Simeone



Darnel
Baldinelli

If you would like to place a classified ad in this section, please

Submit to:

aisrwebmaster@gmail.com

The Next Shark will come out on Sept. 12th .

All submissions are due on Tuesday, Sept. 9th at 5 PM.

Clarinet lessons offered to a wide range of ages and levels by music graduate with experience.

Lessons can be in English (native speaker) or a combination of Dutch and English.

Contact: 0649268177 or

dekker.naomi@gmail.com



Naomi Dekker
(BMus)

Clarinetist/Bass
clarinetist

Naomi Dekker

Classifieds & Community Announcements

BABYSITTING AND CHAUFFER

We would like you to feel at home in Rotterdam. Therefore we would like to welcome you with the services of Uit&Thuis Personal Freedom. We can offer you a complete night out with our Chauffeur and Babysitting services. Besides we can help your children with or supervise their homework. To get to know us we would like to offer you a reduction of 20% on the first 10 hours you make use of our services (the 10 hours may be split up in more occasions).

For more information, please visit our website: www.uit-thuis.nl/en or give us a call: 010-2653311.

Robert Baeldestraat 179
3061 TJ Rotterdam



SPAIN FOR OCTOBER BREAK

You can use our time share.

400 Euros for the week.
sleeps 6

Balearic Islands, Canaries, Gran Canaria, Tenerife, Costa Blanca, Costa Brava & Costa Dorada, Costa de la Luz, Costa del Sol

okane.pat@gmail.com



American International School of Rotterdam

Verhulstlaan 21 • 3055 WJ Rotterdam The Netherlands • Tel: 31 (0) 10 422 5351

Fax: 31 (0) 10 422 4075 • E-mail: information@aisr.nl

www.aisr.nl