

American International School of Rotterdam



From the Director

With only five more school days remaining in the 2007 - 2008 school year, this will be the last edition of The Shark until August 2008.

This past weekend I had the privilege of traveling with our Track and Field team to the NECIS Tournament. There were of course, teams from the nine other NECIS schools present, with as few as 40 students on a team and as many as 70 students on some teams. The mighty Sharks team was made up of 10 athletes who were ready to compete. All of our team members achieved a new personal best performance while three Sharks won medals. Andrei Kasten even set a

new NECIS record in the high jump for his age group. Winning or not, these young athletes demonstrated a lot of heart and represented AISR well as sportsmen. Well done Sharks!!!

Among other things taking place at this time of year, one of the things we do is say good-bye to friends and colleagues. This year there are two teachers leaving AISR. After three years in our secondary English Department, Mrs. Cece Boyles is leaving to move back to the United States and the State of Florida. After seven years of service to AISR and its students, Ms Tracy van der Have will

be leaving to be with her husband in Zeeland, in the southern part of Holland. These two teachers have touched the lives of many students during their time at AISR and have been the key ingredient in the educational growth and success of those students. We wish them both well as they move on to the next stage in their lives and careers. They will be missed.

Appreciation comes in many forms. The faculty and staff of AISR wish to thank the PTSA for the Appreciation Luncheon that they were served earlier this week. The food was wonderful and was

(cont'd pg. 2)

Elementary Principal's Message

So, this is it – the last Shark for the 2007-2008 school year. Once again, we had a very fitting end to the school year with the Elementary Musical "Cinders", performed last night by students in grades 3, 4 & 5. A very big "Thank you" to Patrick Dailly, Tracy van der Have, Jennifer van Cleve, Al-

ison Lipp and Sarah Lee for providing the musical, artistic and dramatic guidance. And a special "Thank you" to all the students, who worked very hard to make this another very successful evening.

Another very important event will take place next week. The students in Kindergarten will celebrate their success with a short program. Each student will be recognized for their very special achievements during the school year. Well done!

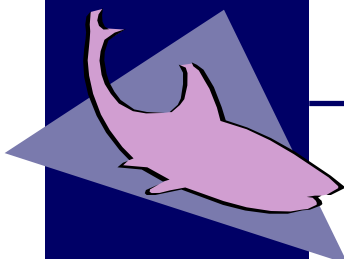
On behalf of all the Elementary Staff, a very big "Thank you" to the PTSA for a wonderful Staff Appreciation Luncheon. The food was delicious – however I think everybody felt a little tired in the afternoon!

The end of the year also means

(cont'd pg. 3)

Upcoming Events:

- May 31 Graduation
- June 2 & 3 High School Final Exams
- June 2 Kindergarten Celebration
- June 6th Last Day of Classes: Half day of School



From The Director Cont'd

a welcome moment during these last few days of the school year. We thank all parents for your support throughout the year and for this special meal as a token of your appreciation.

AISR's 9th graduation ceremony will be taking place this Saturday, 31 May, at 1:30 PM. The students graduating on Saturday have accomplished much during their time and have left a legacy for other students to continue. Among this graduating class are students who have been instrumental in developing the foundations of our Global Issues activities which have captured the imaginations of both the students and adults in our community. We are very proud to be able to recognize their achievements as representatives of AISR as they move into their university years. You are all warmly invited to join us on Saturday.

The results of the recent Parent Survey have been compiled. Please see the attached letter addressing this year's survey and our plans for next year. (page 6)

Our traditional school closing ceremony will take place next Friday morning, 6 June. The morning will begin at 9:00 AM with promotion activities for Grade 8 students as they complete their middle school education. This will be followed by the presentation of awards to both middle and high school students for their achievements in their classes during this school year. Finally, the morning and school year will be brought to a close with songs and recognition of the work of the PTSA. We will also be recognizing the many faculty and staff who will be leaving AISR this year. You are more than welcome to join us and we encourage you to join us in this school closing ceremony. The ceremony is followed by an early dismissal for the summer holidays.

The closing of the school year, especially in an international school like ours, also brings many farewells that can be hard for both children and adults. For those of you moving on to other parts of the world please know that you go with our best wishes. Some of you have been here a long time while others have only been a part of

the AISR community for a brief period. In either event, your presence here has enriched our school community and we thank you for allowing us the privilege of working with your children during your stay in the Netherlands. Many of you have devoted innumerable hours of service to the school for which we are sincerely appreciative. We hope that you will come back to visit when you get the opportunity, or stay in touch through e-mail. Safe travels and good luck in your new home.

As has been our practice for many years, the AISR office will be open all summer. If you know of any new families in town, please bring them by the school any day in June during regular school hours and in the month of July between 10 AM and 2 PM. We will return to regular full office hours on Monday 4 August.

I look forward to seeing most of you again on August 13th and wish all of you a safe and relaxing summer season.

Brian Atkins

Director

Tips for Parents: Summer Vacation and Moving

When school gets out next week, you will find yourself with a child in the house all day, every day. Research shows children lose 1 to 3 months of learning over the summer. You can help by including your child in problem solving activities around the house (doing the addition to double a recipe, calculating gas mileage/kilometerage, figuring out many cherries each person may eat). Also, reading at least six books over the summer has

shown to maintain some reading skills.

After 4 June, each parent may check out 10 books from the AISR library, but you can supplement these with trips to the public library downtown.

The Rotterdam Public Library has an extensive media collection. Some items from the library can be re-

turned to
y o u r
n e i g h b o r -
h o o d l i b r a r y .

When you go downtown to the Blaak market, leave some time to go inside the library (it is the big building with the terrace that overlooks the market). You can get a library card, check out a variety of items (including books in 26 differ-



Con'td pg. 5

Elementary Principal Message Cont'd

that we have to say goodbye to some of our students. We wish you good luck in your new school and please keep in touch with us – we love to hear from our former students.

Louise ,Matthew

Shreyas, Anna

Aryan, Jade Masson

Andrew, Genna

Ka Youn, Shyla

Tyyra, Fabian

Simon, Laurence

Jackson, Ji-Hyun

Iiris, Mario

Young, Dominique

Charlotte , Destiny

Haley, Tyko

Lili, Eleanor

William, Shalabh

Thomas ,Sarah

David , Wei Ling

Jae Hoon , Kelsey

Mert, Michael

Thea, Cieara

Guido, Keenan

Yufei , Shannon

Rosa , Nicholas

Unfortunately, we also have to say good-bye to one of our best loved teachers, Tracy van der Have. Tracy has been a teacher at AISR since 2000, first of all as a Kindergarten teacher for 2 years and then as a 3rd grade teacher for the past 5 years. Not many of you know this, but Tracy actually started in AISR as a student teacher in my 3rd grade class in April 2000. I knew within the first couple of days that this was a very special person who is going to make a great contribution to the educational world. We wish her the very best of luck as she moves to the south of Holland to start a new life with her partner, Arno Moelker and to await the birth of their first child in November. I have however reserved her as a substitute teacher!!

Don't forget that the Elementary Sports Day will take place on Tuesday, June 3. Let's hope that the weather will be kind to us!

Ms. Harris and Ms. Uys would like to tell you about their final trip of the year.

Last week the Pre-K 2 classes went on a field trip to Zouterwoude Farm. Every year we visit the farm during our unit about farm animals. This year we had a special gift from



the mother sow who delivered 11 baby pigs while we were there to watch. It was

Cont'd pg. 4

From Our Classrooms : Kindergarten

The Kindergarten Celebration will be on Monday, 2 June at 2:00 PM in room #224 (HS). All are welcome.



Each Kindergarten class will demonstrate their achievements for the year through various presentations. Ms. Sarah's class will present an original adaptation of "The Bremen Town Musicians" in conjunction with their Science unit on Mini-beasts. The title of their show is "The Bremen Town Mini-Beast Musicians". The students have researched a mini-beast, made costumes to represent their chosen mini-beast, and written their own lines. Ms. Pilbrow's class will present all their favorite things from this school year. Both classes will



sing some of the best songs from their Music class with Mr. Long.

Sarah Lee,
Teacher

Elementary Principal Message Cont'd



the teachers asked, "What was your favorite part of the day"?, Most of the children replied, "All of it!"

We unanimously concluded that it would be great to live on a farm, and we all hope to go back again some day soon.



Remember to check all items in the Lost and Found, both in the Gym and the hall before June 6 – all items that are not claimed will be donated to a charity after this date.

amazing to us to see a newly born piglet try to walk and then shortly after begin to play with other piggies. After a good spell of playing, they got hungry and had to re-energize with a drink of warm milk from mom. There were also lots of other babies on the farm like chicks, kids or baby goats, colts, calves and ducklings. We learned about how the farmer cares for the animals and helped him feed the baby goats with little bottles. After all this eating we decided we had better feed our own tummies with delicious pancakes from the farm restaurant. Another highlight of the day was drinking milk straight from the goat. As you can see in the picture, Amelie stood very still while the Farmer squirted warm delicious goats milk into her mouth, yum, yum! We also learned about goats cheese and how it is made along with a visit to the farm's store where we purchased items to make our big farm breakfast on Friday. We learned how very important the farm is to all of the people living in the Netherlands. However, playing with the baby goats in their pen was the highlight of our trip, we were able to climb on the hay bales along with the kids and jump into the piles of soft straw. After our busy day of activities

I wish you a very happy, warm and safe summer vacation. I look forward to seeing you on Wednesday, August 13.

Happy holidays!

Anne-Marie Blitz

Elementary Principal



Tips for Parents Cont'd

ent languages) and ask where your local branch library is located.

Be cautious of allowing your child to fill in "school time" with media. This means you will need to take an active step in monitoring what your child watches on television, be it from cable tv sources or DVDs, websites, or video/computer games. Commonsensemedia.org offers the following guidelines for parents of all ages:

Draw a line in the sand

Set boundaries about what, when and how much time kids can spend with media.

Surf safely

Check out kids' online profiles and refresh your family on Internet safety basics.

Don't get burned by blockbusters

Know the content of summer movies and that it's age appropriate. Did you know the movie rating system in The Netherlands tends to be more liberal than the movie rating system in the U.S.? Make your decision about your child watching a movie based on the content, not the rating system, no matter what country's rating system is on the label.

Dig into the outdoors

Make time to unplug and get active!

Dive in as a family

Enjoy media with your kids and learn about what they're seeing, playing, and hearing.

Most important of all, spend time listening, talking, and playing with your child. Get out to museums, concerts, festivals, the seaside, bike rides, parks, etc. And for rainy days, you can always buy a new puzzle and to work on and visit with each other at the same time. You can also buy a new board game to play or make up a new game with a deck of cards or a board game you have already.

Whatever you do, make sure you and your child have fun during this important time in your lives!

Moving this summer? Help your child make friends

- Imagine what your child needs to do to greet another child in the new neighborhood. Things like making good eye contact, smiling, extending a hand and saying their name. Children are more successful when they know specifically what is expected from them behaviorally.

- Introduce some ideas of how to



make it easier and even fun to meet new people. Tell your child three of the steps you want him/her to try such as, "Next time you see someone you think you would like to get to know, do these three things; walk up making good eye contact, smile and introduce yourself." You could even model this yourself.

- Practice or pretend with your child including the possibility of rejection so that your child has a plan should this happen. Young children usually love to practice. The practice should be quick, fun, and action oriented, rather than just having the child repeat back what you said.

Help your child list reasons the above steps might work when seeking to make new friends.

Preparing your child for such new situations, especially if he/she had problems in the past, goes a long way toward building long lasting self-esteem. An added bonus is that your child will see you as someone who is interested and skilled in helping her/him meet challenges.

Sarah Lee,

Teacher

From Our Classrooms: Fifth Grade

Our PTSA Outreach Coordinator Rachel Ford organized an excellent 5th grade Junior CAS trip to the shelter to help "spruce-up" the facilities.

The students painted pots and helped plant a variety of flowers and herbs to take to Havenzicht. They were warmly welcomed by the staff

and got straight to work weeding, raking, digging and cleaning up some of the areas surrounding the facility.

Every 5th grader managed to get their hands dirty and contributed to the end result. A special thank you to Rachel Ford, Clare Millard,

Maureen Province and Fiona Farnham for their help to make the trip possible.

Alison Lipp,

Teacher



PTSA Update

Thank You , You will be missed!

It is that time of year again when we say goodbye to many of our friends. One of these friends is Maureen Provance, who has been a PTSA committee member for the past 2 years; first as Treasurer and this year as the PTSA President. Maureen and her team organized many events this year and they can be proud of all their accomplishments. Maureen, thank you for all your hard work, you are leaving big shoes to fill. All the best of luck to you and your family back in the US.



The numbers are in from the Annual Fun Run/Walk, and the Outreach Committee is pleased to announce that AISR once again raised 1598 euro to be donated to JUMP (formerly the Kinderhartenfonds of the Netherlands). The winner of the sponsorship drive was David, who collected 310 euro. Congratulations to David, as well as to the other students who solicited sponsors: Dani and Milou, Skyler, Anoushka, Daniel, Yseult, Gema and Alexandra. The 6th grade class won the pizza party for being the class with the highest amount of money raised. Well done and thank you to all who participated in this very special event!

The Spring Fair was also a great success financially, with profits of more than 1600 euro. As this income greatly exceeded our budgeted estimate, the committee has decided to use some of the surplus to begin purchasing new tents for our outdoor events, which should be a relief to all those who have had the job of assembling the current tents belonging to the school! Thanks once again to all those who generously offered their time and talents to make the Fair such a fantastic success.

This past Tuesday, the 5th grade "Junior CAS" students visited the Havenzicht homeless shelter in order to deliver the beautifully hand-painted large flower pots that they made in class. The students were worthy ambassadors for AISR as they helped plant a lovely variety of flowers and plants which now decorate the courtyard of the shelter, adding a touch of beauty to the residents' recreational area. Thanks to Ms. Lipp, Mr. Blackburn, and the parents who assisted in this worthwhile project that has further strengthened AISR's relationship with Havenzicht.

Also on Tuesday, the teachers and staff were treated to a fabulous lunch-

eon courtesy of the generous parents who delivered all sorts of delectable foods. Thanks to all who contributed, and if you have not yet picked up your dishes, utensils, etc., please check with the front office as to their location.

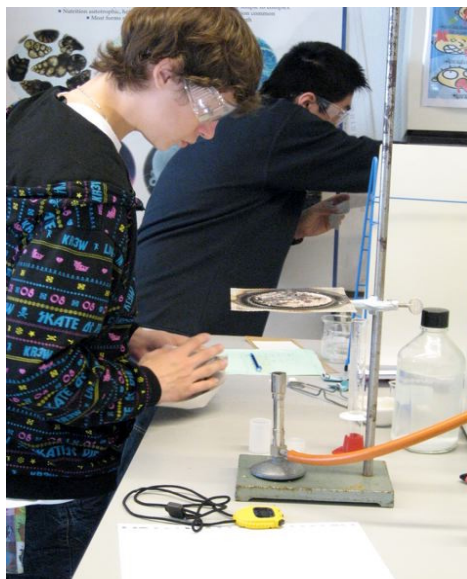
At the final General Meeting held on 21 May, the topic of electing next year's committee was on the agenda, but no official vote took place. However, we are pleased to report that several people have expressed an interest in being involved next year. For anyone who may be interested, the current PTSA Committee will hold an informational meeting on 4 June at 10 am in the cafeteria to go over this year's notes and next year's planning. It is our hope that by the conclusion of this meeting, a full committee will be in place for the 2008-2009 school year. This meeting is open to all, so if you are interested in participating, or just finding out more about how the PTSA operates, please feel free to join us.

Finally, we would like to wish everyone a happy, safe and relaxing summer. To those moving on to new homes we wish a fond farewell, and for those returning to AISR next year, we look forward to another great year. Thanks for the memories.....

Maureen, Rachel, Elif, Leen, Karabi and Idil



From Our Classrooms: Chemistry



Tenth grade chemistry students are applying what they have learned about how surface area, temperature, catalysts and concentration effect the rate of chemical reactions. In this Blast OFF lab, students are attempting to get the lid of a film canister to Blast OFF in exactly 10 s using Alka Setzler tablets and water. Two groups were able to get the lid to pop off in exactly 10 s, but most other groups would have achieved this goal if they had been given more alka setzler and time. Students have also been studying acid-base reactions and other labs this semester included: titrating an antacid, creating a natural indicator, classifying reactions lab, and testing for gases. Final exam for this course will be on Friday, May 30th in the morning.

*Becca Vanderlaan,
Teacher*

Sports Dates:

- June 3 Elementary Sports Day
- June 3 Spring Sports Awards Evening
- June 4 Middle & High School Sports Day
- June 6 Last Day of School - Dismissal at 11:30

Elementary Sport Day

Elementary field day is here soon!! A fun afternoon of activities has been planned for the kids. We will begin activities on the field Tuesday June 3rd at 1:00 o'clock. You are all invited to join in the fun.

Your child will need....

WATER BOTTLE---HAT---
COLORED T-SHIRT---
OUTDOOR PE SHOES

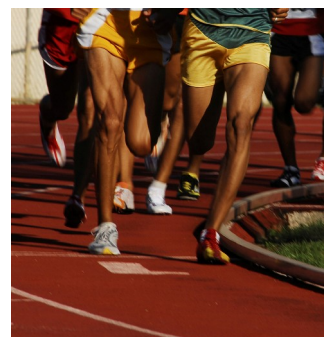
T-shirt colors

Pre k 1 Red, Pre k 2 Red, Kindy Orange, 1st Grade Yellow, 2nd Grade Blue, 3rd Grade Green, 4th Grade White, 5th Grade Blue

If you are helping on the day and are able, please meet with Mr. Wah at 1:30 on Monday 2nd in the canteen to get your assignments.

Helpers be on the field at 12 on the Tuesday 2nd.

Thanks
Mr. Wah



From Our Classrooms: IB Biology

IB Biology students have been busy collecting data on the energy of ecosystems in a canal close to school and near the shore of Kralingse Plas. As part of their internal assessment students measured the energy in one meter squared for both sites. Students collected and masses the producers (plants) and con-

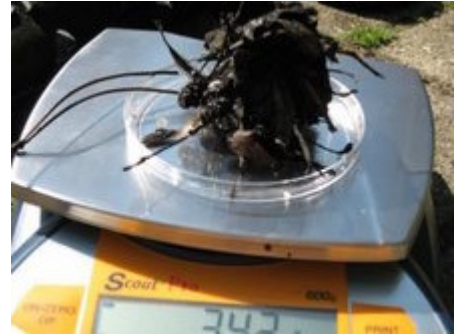


Kralingse Plas site, benthic invertebrates from this site included freshwater shrimp, snails and mussels. Students have been studying ecology. Class members include Nassasja , Kim , Jeet , Jonathan , Brooke , and Artem .

Becca Vanderlaan,
Teacher



sumers (benthic invertebrates). As part of their lab report student drew food webs and created pyramids of energy, and pyramids of biomass. It took some coaxing to get into the canal, it was rather smelly, but students were rewarded with finding creatures like leeches, misquitos and diatoms. More data was obtained from the



Classifieds & Community Announcements

House for sale or rent!

- Detached house on a 524 m2 ground in Prinsenland, quiet environment but close to the metro, 15 minutes driving from AISR
 - Appr. 80 m2 spacious living area
 - Beautifully equipped kitchen with Gaggenau gadgets
 - 4 bedrooms (one big master bedroom with separate bathroom), 2 bathrooms
 - lovely garden
 - address: Alexander Dubcekstraat 8.
- Asking price: Euro 798.000.-
Renting price: Euro 2.750.-/month

You can see more pictures and find more information on www.hulstkamproep.nl or call Judith: 0624 984 080



FOR SALE.

Skoda Fabia 1.4 50KW Comfort (2001).

Silver, 5 door hatchback, only 60,000km, APK until April 2009, ANWB breakdown cover, Sony CD/Radio, remote control central locking, cruise control, electric front windows, full service history. Reluctant sale due to move to UK.

5,000 euros (or nearest offer).

Please contact Barbara on 0643411354 or 010 218 8157.



"Dining chairs for sale!"

8 Indonesien style dining chair is for sale for 50 Euro each. They are made of hard wood and very attractive. The table could be for sale as well if anybody interested in it.

Call: Judith 0624 984 080"



GIRL SCOUTS

What Is Girl Scouting?
It's All About Fun, Friends, and Fantastic Opportunities

Girl Scouting is for every girl, everywhere—where today's girls can become tomorrow's leaders. Membership in Girl Scouts is open to all girls ages 5-17; and women and men over 17 can join as adult members and volunteers.

Most girls join a local troop or group for fun and friendship, but they also find out about building character and self-esteem and serving their communities—the core qualities of Girl Scouting. In Girl Scouts, girls find a safe place to grow and share new experiences, learn to relate to others, develop values, and contribute to society.

With enough interested girls and adult volunteers to lead them, we can bring Girl Scouts to Rotterdam in Fall 2008! Please contact Marla Baldinelli for more information about this program and to show your interest in bringing Girl Scouts to Rotterdam.

E-mail: dbaldinelli@msn.com

Home phone: 0108425738

Mobile phone: 0623709303

Babysitter

Need babysitter to pick up 2 boys of 5 years old from school, everyday 1500-1800 and helping with domestic tasks. If you are interested please contact Mar by phone number 0621468064.



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