

American International School of Rotterdam



From the Director

Here is some more information from the latest in research on educational issues. A recent 10 year study that tracked 11,000 grade ten students has found that high school students who had been rated as conscientious and cooperative by their teachers were now earning more than their classmates who had similar academic scores but fewer social skills. This kind of study supports the notion that in addition to good strong academic skills, social skills and behaviors are important to employers. The study comments on the fact that schools in which the climate of the school and the school's programs foster good work habits and social skills can make a difference and are very much a part of 21st century education. Our Community of Respect Program (COR) goes a long way in providing the students of AISR the values and social skills that are addressed in the recent piece of research.

This bodes well for AISR students when they eventually venture out into the world of work. The full text of the study can be found in the September issue of "Social Science Research."

Now that we have completed the first quarter, this weekend is the time to be checking your mail for the first quarter's Report Card. Please remember, its always a good idea to bring those Report Cards when you come to Parent Conferences. As you know the Parent Conferences are next Wednesday or Thursday, the 29th and 30th of October. As has been our practice for a number of years, elementary conferences are by appointment and the conferences in the secondary are "arena style." Parents of secondary students please see the insert with the Report Card regarding secondary conferences.

About three years ago, a one afternoon Korean Cooking class was offered to the AISR parent community. It was a very popular and successful event. That opportunity is here again. On Friday, 14 November, there will be a Korean Cooking Class from 12:30 to 3:00PM. There is limited space so be sure to check for further details in the announcement later in this edition of the Shark.

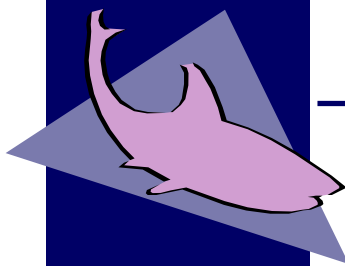
When you are attending Parent Conferences or coming in for any of the larger events here at AISR, please remember to be respectful of our neighbors around the school and only park along Wagenaarlaan by the sports fields or along Mozartlaan on the other side of the school.

Its time to move those clocks back one hour again. This Saturday night, 25 October, is when we move back from daylight savings time to standard time. Please remember to adjust your clock so your children can be on time for school on Monday.

*Brian Atkins,
Director*

Upcoming Events:

- Oct. 24th UN Day & MS Fun Night
- Oct. 28th HS @ ASH and MS ASH @ home
- Oct. 29th–31st Book Fair
- Oct. 29th–30th Elementary Parent Teacher Conferences
- Oct. 30th Picture Day
- Oct. 31st Halloween Celebration, HS ISA @ home, MS @ ISA
- Nov. 1st SAT & Pot Luck Dinner



Elementary Principal Message

Welcome back and I hope you all had a very enjoyable vacation. The weather was very kind to everyone regardless of whether you traveled or stayed in The Netherlands. We are now into the second quarter, which will include Halloween, Thanksgiving, Sinterklaas and the Seasonal Program – which means busy times are ahead for the Elementary School.

In the last Shark, I told you that I was going to visit our sister school in Gilford, New Hampshire. I had a very interesting and worthwhile visit. In the next Shark I will give a report about the visit and some of the interesting ideas I have for continuing to work with their school.

Next Friday, the Elementary School will celebrate Halloween and many of you have already been contacted by your child's teacher regarding their class party. Here is the overall schedule for the afternoon of October 31:

Normal school program will take place up to and including lunch recess.

1:00-1:15 p.m. Students will change into costumes in their own classrooms for . Each teacher in Grade 1-5 should arrange for their Japanese counterpart to come to their class +/- 1:15 p.m.

1:15 - 1:55 Classroom Parties

1:55 - 2:15 "Trick or Treat"

2:15 Students in Pre-K - Grade 2 should enter the Gym through the door next to the back entrance. Students in Grade 3 - 5 should enter the Gym through the door next to the cafeteria. Alison J. will man the cafeteria door and Olivia will man the back entrance. After the students enter the Gym, they will proceed to the area designated for each group.

2:15 - 2:50p.m. Halloween Parade in the Gym. Places will be marked for each grade. Classes will be called up to the stage in order and will parade around the Gym so that parents can take photographs.

Parents are invited to come and watch the parade. If your child uses the school transportation could you please inform the office if you intend to take them home after school.

Remember that Report cards will be posted home today. Also included will be the time for your parent teacher conference. If you are unable to make your appointment, please remember to contact the school to schedule a new time.

Have a lovely week-end and don't forget to turn your clocks back!

Anne-Marie Blitz,
Elementary Principal



From Our Classrooms: Fifth Grade

Fifth grade got off to an exciting beginning this year. We started off the year with a unit on Explorers and Adventurers. After weeks of studying, collecting information and writing research papers we wrapped up our unit with an Explorerama on Tuesday the 7th of October. We wore costumes and became the explorers ourselves. Our class was full of explorers, from Christopher Columbus and Vasco Da Gama, to Elizabeth Blackwell and Maria Mitchell. Each could tell you why they became explorers too. After the questioner asked the questions, the parents mingled and asked questions that were unanswered. Mrs. Forbes has given us great praise.

You might want to know who chose what explorer. Here are the most famous explorers: Doohyung was the great Christopher Columbus, Parker took the Spanish explorer, Hernando Cortes, Mark had a great costume for Henry Hudson, Goo-hyun was Vasco Da Gama in armors and Melanie paddle in her canoe as Sacagewea. There were also explorers and adventurers who weren't so famous but whose contributions were great. They were: Piri Reis, the Turkish cartographer who was portrayed by Kaan Alptekin, Lisa marched in as the first female to be at the front line in WWI, Anoushka

gazed at the first telescopic comet as Mari Mitchell, Laurene went under the sea as Jacque Cousteau, and Yeon Jae saved lives as Elizabeth Blackwell the first woman to get her medical degree. Nathalie was right on target as the sharp shooter Annie Oakley. Parents shared refreshments and mingled with the explorers. We practiced for what seemed like years and now we are finished.

By Nathalie

Another exciting event that hap-

From Our Classrooms (Cont'd)

pened this first quarter was the class overnight trip to Arnhem. Ms. Moor-ing and Mrs. Forbes were our chaper-ones. Our first stop was The National Park Hoge Veluwe. There we had to pick a white bike to ride all over the park. It was hard to find the right size! We rode along the trails through the woods. Our class saw lots of trees, leaves, dirt, sand, and sticks but did not see any WILD animals. Our first stop at the park was the Kroller-Muller Art Museum. The paintings and sculptures were neat. We ate lunch outside in the sculpture garden. It was a beautiful day. We had no major accidents on our bikes, just a skinned arm.

After we got settled in at the hostel and ate dinner, we went to the bowl-ing alley. It was a very long walk, of course we took a wrong turn and had to turn around. It was worth it! We had fun! The class was sent to two lanes downstairs. It was disco bowl-ing! We had fun dancing and bowling at the same time.

The next day we went to the Openlucht Museum. The museum showed how people lived through the ages. We had to hunt for answers to

the questions we were given by look-ing through different houses and comparing them. Then we designed a room using furniture we voted for from different time periods. The trip ended with a walk through the rest of the park and lunch at the panne-koken house. We had A LOT of fun!

by
Doohyung and Anoushka



Trip Week Picture Discs

Photos from all Trip Week excursions have been compiled and burned onto CDs. If you are interested in purchasing one, you can do so at Parent-Teacher Conferences on October 29 and 30. If you cannot attend the conference nights, please contact Elizabeth Marsh at e.marsh@aisr.nl to get one. The purchase price is 10 euro and all proceeds go to support the Middle School Student Council.

Educational Events



In Grade 6 this week, we will be beginning our new unit on Rulers and Government in Social Studies. Since we will be learning about the evolution of government, we are beginning our studies with the Athenian democracy. To help introduce us to Greece, the Grade 2 students showed us everything that they learned about Ancient Greece during Quarter 1! We got to watch their play and to ask them questions about what life was like in Ancient Greece! Thanks for teaching us, Grade 2!

Counselors' Corner

Today is a big day for all students at AISR. It is the day that Report Cards for the first quarter will be mailed home. Some kids are probably nervous about what that Report Card will say and others will be quite comfortable, in fact, happy about the grades that they will receive. How will you react if your child receives grades that are a bit disappointing both to you and to him or her? The following article is one that I have shared over the years with many parents. No matter what age your child is or what grade they are in, some of the thoughts about helping kids develop good study habits can be applied to any age and grade.

We encourage you to attend the Parent Teacher Conferences which will be held next week so that you can have an opportunity to meet your child's teacher(s) and discuss their academic progress.

We look forward to seeing you at that time.

Ms Lopez and Ms Lipp

Homework and Study Habits

The report cards came home and you're disappointed with your child's scores. You know s/he has the ability to do better, but aren't sure how to get him to give his or her best effort. What should you do?

Many children today are capable of getting good marks in school but experience failure and frustration no matter how much effort they put forth. It's not because they don't try and it's not because they lack the ability to get high scores. It's because their homework and study skills are inadequate.

Children who know how to study

have a positive attitude and feel confident of their ability to do well. This enables them to control their grades. These habits will also serve them well in life once they reach adulthood.

Parents and teachers have a responsibility to teach children how to study effectively. Though learning styles differ in each individual, the basics are identical. Children need to know how to use these basic skills to set up a studying system that works well for them. Once they do that, they need to put the system in place and use it when completing daily homework assignments and projects.

The Basics

There are four basic ways to improve study skills.

- Make homework the highest priority.

- Homework should be a positive experience with a goal in mind.

- Set fair homework expectations for the completion of homework as well as for grades. If the expectations are not met, as a parent you need to have and enforce logical consequences. Please stay in touch with the teacher as well.

- Homework time should be spent completing schoolwork and projects as well as learning organization and study skills.

Homework

There are basic guidelines that should be followed to make your child's homework experience positive.

- Do not criticize. Be there to give assistance and support.

- Allow your child to choose where, when and how he does his homework. This allows him some freedom and makes homework a more positive experience. However, monitor that the homework is actually getting done in a reasonable amount of time and if it isn't then you need to step in and have the child do his homework where he will be monitored. TV and music should be turned off. Keep in mind that your child should also be starting his homework at a reasonable time after school so that he has time to finish the assignment before it is time for bed.

- Encourage your child to take pride in his work. This gives him a sense of accomplishment and raises self-esteem. He will also learn to control his learning abilities.

- When things go wrong, be sure to maintain patience and understanding. Let your child know you're there to lend a helping hand. Never get angry, shout or criticize.

- Allow your child to choose which homework assignments he completes first. Some kids want to work on their favorite subject first while others prefer to get the dreaded assignment out of the way.

- If your child dislikes a particular subject, find ways to make it fun, more interesting and less frustrating. Have your child do five questions, take a short break and then complete five more. This keeps the level of frustration minimal.

- Do not use homework to punish

Counselor's Corner Con'td

your child.

- Encourage your child to ask questions and then be a good listener.
- Quiz children for tests and exams.
- Always encourage your child to do his best. If he puts forth his best effort, that's all that should be expected of him.

Homework: A Priority

From the time your child begins to bring homework home, let him know that you expect his assignments to be completed and handed in on time. Stress that homework is of the highest priority.

- Have your child choose a comfortable setting where he can complete his homework. It should be at a desk or table in an area where the lighting is good.

- Encourage him to establish a homework routine. Homework should be completed at the same time and place each day.

- Be sure your child has all equipment and supplies he will need to complete his homework.

- Be sure your child doesn't have so many after-school commitments that he doesn't have the energy or time to complete his homework.

- Communicate with the teacher(s) and know when assignments are due. Be sure to know when tests and exams will be given. Be certain your child studies for them. Quiz him for at least a week prior to tests and exams. Spend a half hour each night going over exam content. When test day arrives, he will be ready and confident to meet the challenge.

If you establish good homework and study habits in your child from the very beginning, he will take advantage of them and excel in school and throughout his career. These habits will remain part of your child's life forever.

More Educational Events

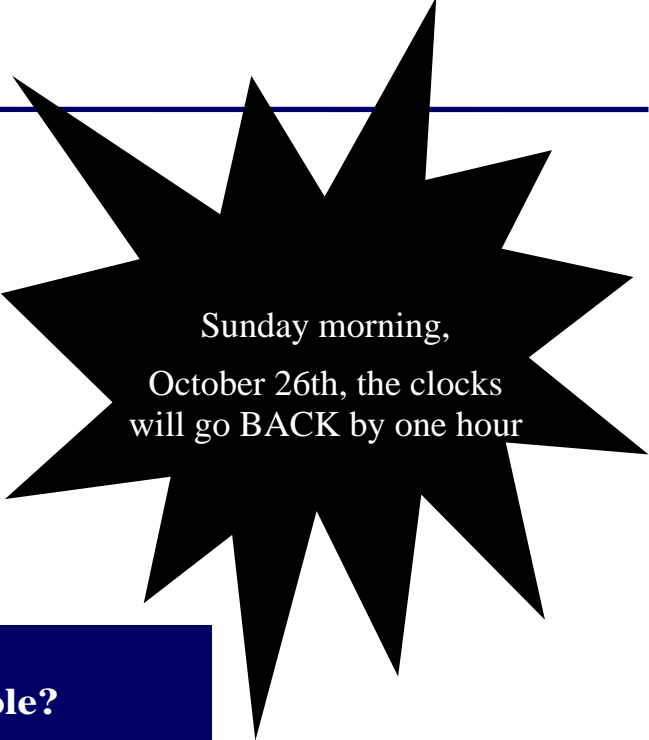
On October 2, Grade 7 took a field trip to the Anne Frank House to culminate their studies of the watershed movements in European history in Social Studies class. Throughout the year, they will be reading the Diary of Anne Frank in Language Arts and chronicling their own life experiences in their own autobiography. The field trip was an incredible experience for the students, as the descriptions of Anne's journal came to life for them.



Posting from The PTSA Cont'd

International Potluck Committee Meeting

We will have committee meeting on Wed Nov 29th from 2-3pm in the school cafeteria for those of you would like to help with the potluck. The potluck is set for Saturday Nov 1st. We need helpers for set up, clean up, door greeters, and bartenders. Please join us if you can. Thank you!



Sunday morning,
October 26th, the clocks
will go BACK by one hour

Looking for a fun, challenging role?

Every year the PTSA puts on a wonderful dinner and silent auction evening in March. It is our largest, most important fundraising event. Proceeds from this event will allow us to purchase items for the school which benefit our children. We are looking for a committee chair for this event. We have lots of information on what to do for the event and plenty of people to help you. If you are interested please contact Christine Shaw, christine.x.shaw@gmail.com or 010 844 3482.

Thank you!

FREE Korean Cooking Class!

When: Friday November 14th 2008

12:30 a.m. – 15:00 p.m. Where: AISR, cooking room

What: We will prepare some traditional Korean dishes (for instance; Bulgogi, stir fried marinated beef with vegetables). After a demonstration by the professional caterer you will receive the recipes on paper and prepare them in small groups. Upon finishing you can enjoy eating your food together with the other participants.

Costs: It's FREE! (sponsored by Korean Trade and Distribution Centre)

Bring: Some Tupperware containers to take a bite home, so your family can enjoy your new cooking skills as well.

Please enlist by sending a mail with your name and the number of participants to: Sunghee_Lee@hotmail.com before Friday November 7th!!

Thank you for your interest and see you then!

KTDC & Julie's Home Cooking

Around the Athletic Department

The High School Physical Education classes, during the first quarter, have been involved in water sports. AISR is lucky to have lots of water around us in park lakes and rivers, and we are taking advantage of that with our own kayaks. The 9th grade learned sailing, which became useful during the class trip to Barcelona. One day they sailed catamarans on the sea, which was an exciting and new experience. 10th graders have enjoyed the kayak experience so much that they are extending their PE class to the early evening so that we can take longer trips. The nature reserve "klein profeit" just south of Rotterdam is a trip they will take soon. There they will also get some information from the guide on the flora and fauna of the area.

Robert Zeilstra
PE instructor

Athlete of The Week

October 6th—10th

Annelieke's high level of enthusiasm, competitiveness, and love of sport are a great benefit to the girl's junior varsity volleyball squad. During a recent match against Antwerp, Annelieke's play on the court was superb. Her serving skills were sharp and really put the other team on their heels. Annelieke's great attitude and team spirit should be a goal of all student athletes at AISR. Congratulations Annelieke. Job well done!



School Spirit Day

Message to all parents: Wednesday November 5, from 11:30-12:00 there will be a school-wide Pep Rally to support the students who will be participating in the NECIS Tournament. To help show support, the request is being made for all students (Pre-K to 12) to show school spirit by wearing as much Blue and White on that day. Parents are welcome to attend the pep rally as well. Hope to see you there!





Craft Fair

Saturday 15 November 2008

From: 11:00 am to 4:00 pm

Vendors from various countries will be participating in this event. With the Holiday Season quickly approaching, this is a great opportunity to purchase unique gifts for family and friends.

If you are interested in participating at this event please complete the form below and return it as soon as possible to the AISR Front Office. The cost per table will be 20 euros.

This year all proceeds from this event will go towards the Senior Class Fund Raising Campaign.

The Senior's will be present to help run this event on the day. They will also be selling donated Baked Goods, Hot Dogs, Soft Drinks, Tea and Coffee.

If you need to have any further details please send me an email at:

a.george-kelso@aisr.nl.

Regards,

Aurora George-Kelso

American International School of Rotterdam

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Name:

Telephone:

Email:

Cell No:

Description of Products:

Number of Tables Required:



Posting from The PTSA

The Fourth Annual International Potluck Dinner

hosted by the PTSA

Saturday November 1st 2008

7pm - 10pm at AISR

Potluck Dinner Dishes

Family Name : _____

I / We will be attending the potluck dinner: YES / NO

I will be bringing (please circle your choices)

Appetizer

Salad

Main Dish

Dessert

This is the perfect chance to savour the international flavour of our school. Everyone brings a dish from their country of origin to serve 6-8 people. The food should be taken to the school cafeteria by 6.30pm. The buffet will begin at 7pm. The first drink is on the house, courtesy of the PTSA; additional beverages can be purchased at the bar. Come early and enjoy a cold drink whilst getting to know other parents.

This event is **ADULTS ONLY**. Babysitting is available in the school, grouped by the ages of the children. A small fee of 10 euro's for the first child and 5 euros for each additional child is payable at the event. Please reply to the office using the slip below.

Babysitting sign up for your child/children (*first come first serve basis*)

Child/ren name/s: _____

Ages: _____

Contact number: _____

Email Address: _____

Cost: 10 15 20 25 (please circle as per number of children)

Available to Baby-sit on the Night

Name: _____

Grade: _____

Contact number: _____

Please fill in this form and hand in to the front office.

Menu for November 2008

3 Pasta Day Spaghetti pasta & Napolisuice Healthy sticks/fruit or yoghurt (cheesesauce for vegetarians)	4 Broccoli mis Chicken leg/steamed rice Fruit yoghurt or fruit (vegeroll for vegetarians)	5 Chicken soup Hotdog or Tosti ham/cheese Milk or water Liga cookie or fruit	6 Meatball Pommes Parisienne, Cauliflower Fresh fruit or yoghurt (vegetable slice for vegetarians)	7 Chicken burger Potato slice/greenbeans Fruit yoghurt or fruit (vegebunger for vegetarians)
10 Mixed salad Maccaroni pasta Bolognese Fruit yoghurt or fruit (Cheesesauce for vegetarians)	11 Mex. Vegetable Mes. Beef taco/rice Pudding or fruit (vegetortilla for vegetarians)	12 Half Day	13 Domnio's Day Pizza pepperoni or mozzarella Cucumber sticks/fruit salad	14 Cheese Burger Potato slice/carrots Fruit yoghurt or fruit (vegebunger for vegetarians)
17 Cucumberstick Linguinapasta meatballs/tomato Fruit yoghurt or fruit (cheesesauce for vegetarians)	18 Chicken fillet +curry sauce Rice and Paris carrots Fruit or yoghurt (vegekroket for vegetarians)	19 Wienerschnitzel (chicken) Fresh cooked potato/gravy Peas and carrots Watermelon/fruit	20 Mix salad Lasagne Bolognese/slice bread Fruit yoghurt or fruit (spring roll for vegetarians)	21 Fish fingers Potato slice/carrot sticks Fruit yoghurt or fruit (vegebunger for vegetarians)
24 Mixed salad Spaghetti pasta tomatosauce Fruit yoghurt or fruit (cheesesauce for vegetarians)	25 Domino's Pizza Pepperoni or mozzarella Cucumber and carrot sticks Yoghurt or fruit	26 Thanksgiving Lunch Greenbeans/Mashed potato/Gravy Turkeyslice with cranberrysauce Wicky or Water and fruit	27 No School	28 No School

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
Nov.7th.

**All submissions are due on
Tuesday, Nov. 4th
at 5 PM.**

A new AISR family in Hillgersberg is looking for an English-speaking, fulltime au pair (live in or out) to look after her 1 year old baby boy.

For more details please call
Sivan at 06 12966298 or
email sivrotman@gmail.com

English classes for adults

If you would like to improve and practise your English, and at the same time make new international friends, why not join one of the English language classes for adults available at the school during school hours? These are small friendly groups and the lessons, ranging from beginners to advanced, are given by a British native speaker.

If you are interested and would like to know more, please ask at the reception desk or contact the teacher, Mary, directly via e-mail address: maryjt_nl@yahoo.com or telephone number: 010 4704424.

I'm looking forward to meeting you!

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



Conversational Spanish
Classes for 1st and 2nd graders
small group of four students
one hour lesson

To start in November
Berlitz trained teacher

if interested contact Barbara at
barsultan@gmail.com

Boy Scouts Are Coming to the AISR Community!

Boy Scouts had its first informational meeting on Wednesday, October 22 at AISR. If you have a son who is in Grade 1 through 5 and you are interested in being involved with some great adventures and projects, Boy Scouts is right for you!

Please contact Rick Marsh at
james.r.marsh@us.army.mil to
get information about joining
the Boy Scouts.

Dutch Lessons

Private lessons or Group lessons offered to all levels in your own home.

Please contact: Arjan Blokland on
0641585013

email:

arjan_translates@hotmail.com



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