

the shark<sup>2.0</sup>

AUGUST  
28TH



## From the Director

Graham Gamble



### It hardly seems possible that we are already mid-way through the third week of school!

It's a curious feature of being a teacher that living through a school year seems to make time go faster. Which is alarming. On the other hand, being around young people all the time does also help to keep us feeling youthful. Or is that just immature...?

But I digress. What is far more relevant is that the school year seems to have got off to an excellent start and (so far so good) everyone seems in excellent spirits here at AISR. Unless people are just smiling politely when I'm around.

We have already had a welcome coffee morning from the PTSA and I thank Rachel Ford and the members of the committee for arranging that very successful event yesterday.

The PTSA plays a vital role in promoting the sense of international community which is such a strong feature of this school's life.

A welcome picnic follows on Sunday, September 6. This takes place in our school playground from 12.00pm to 3.00pm. With hamburgers, hot dogs and bouncy castles, it promises to be great fun for all.

Our Open Houses for Middle and High School take place on September 3 and 10 respectively. I welcome you to attend these important occasions when faculty will be able to present our educational programs and objectives for the year.

Trips week for Middle and High School follows shortly afterwards, from September 14. This is a really exciting part of the school year as our students journey to various corners of Europe (including Berlin, London, Cracow and "Space Camp" near Brussels). Young people gain from these extra-mural opportunities for learning and developing friendships and I am sure you are as grateful as I am to those teachers who are willing to give up their time to make these trips happen.

Our athletic program is under way and the young sportsmen and women are enjoying their training with our dedicated coaches. Look out for our

extensive program of fixtures and continue to show your support to our valiant Sharks! Meanwhile, a group of High School actors has been assembled under their director, Ms. Martin: I am delighted to announce that AISR will be presenting a performance of "The Elephant Man" by Bernard Pomerance on the evening of Tuesday, November 24 (just before the Thanksgiving Holiday).

Some of you may know the powerful true story of the pitifully deformed Joseph Merrick: he lived out the end of his short life in the Royal London Hospital at the end of the nineteenth century. The tale was made into an Oscar-winning film in the 1980s, starring John Hurt and Anthony Hopkins. Our version promises to be no less powerful as a piece of theatre.

I hope I have given you a taste of what there is to look forward to at our busy school in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Let us all enjoy the time we have together: "Gaudeamus igitur, iuvenes dum sumus"

(That was today's puzzler, by the way...)



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# From The Elementary Principal

Anne-Marie Blitz



It has been a very smooth start to the new school year – hopefully this trend will continue to be the same during the rest of the year.

Since the last Shark, several new students have joined AISR. A warm welcome to : Cole, Grade 3; Franca, Grade 1 and Nico, Grade 5. We hope they will have a very happy and successful stay in our school.

Last year was the first year that we introduced a new program called “Community of Respect” (COR). Every student from Pre-K1 through Grade 12 was made very aware of the eight Golden Rules. At AISR, we are very 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. This year, we will continue to work very closely to promote these values at the school. Ms. Kate Driver, Ms. van Cleve and myself will work very closely with Mr. van Cleve and Ms Lipp to ensure a school-wide understanding of these values. The Student COR Group will meet bi-weekly with us to work on procedures and setting the agenda for the assemblies that are scheduled to take place once a month.

The Nutrition Committee will have its first meeting on Thursday, September 17 at 2:00. If you are interested in being a part of this group, please come along to the Cafeteria and join us – healthy drinks are served!

The Elementary Open House will take place on Thursday, September 10, starting at 7:00 until approximately 8:45. 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. This year, the Early Childhood Open House will not be held on the same night as the Elementary Open House. In order to be able to focus more on EC issues, it will take place on the following dates:

## EARLY CHILDHOOD OPEN HOUSE

PreK1 – Monday 14th September (12.30 – 13.00)

PreK2 – Tuesday 15th September (12.30 – 13.00)

Kindergarten Lee – Friday 11th September (13.15 – 14.00)

Kindergarten Pilbrow – Friday 18th September (13.15 – 14.00)

The English as Additional Language (EAL) Open House will be on Thursday, September 24, starting at 19:00 until 20:00. This is an evening when you will have the opportunity to find out how the EAL Staff helps your child to develop English proficiency according to their needs and abilities.

In the meantime, I look forward to seeing many of you at the ‘Welcome back to School Picnic’ on Sunday, September 6. Great food – great company!

Have a lovely weekend,

Anne Marie Blitz

Reminder: We ask parents not to extend the period of time students are away from school except in emergencies. A request for absence needs to be submitted to the Principal approximately two weeks prior to the day of absence.



The PTSA Committee would like to thank all of you who attended our Welcome Back Coffee Morning on Tuesday, August 25, 2009.

We were pleased to see how many of you turned out to meet new people as well as reconnect with returning families, and to learn more about all the AISR community has to offer.



Many people helped to make our first event of the year a success. Thank you to Mr. Graham Gamble, Director of AISR, who was kind enough to speak about his own experience as he and his family adjust to living in Rotterdam. Lilian van der Steen, Manager of the Expatdesk for the City of Rotterdam, provided helpful information about living in Rotterdam as well as an offer of assistance to all of us as we adjust to life as expats in Rotterdam. We also give a warm thank you to Tjeerd for supplying the coffee.

PTSA is a link that binds our community together. Please let us know if you would like further information regarding any information that was discussed or handed out during the Coffee Morning. A valuable source of information is our web site, located at [www.aisr.nl/parents](http://www.aisr.nl/parents). Our site contains latest information regarding current events, as well events planned for the school year. Drop by and give it a look, and be sure to mark your calendar with all that PTSA is planning for the 2009-2010 school year.





Last year the hard work accomplished by PTSA's board members and parent volunteers raised over €7500, all of which has been directly spent on the students of AISR through the fulfillment of teacher wishes, awarding of scholarships, and subsidizing of school programs. All of the money was earned during events such as the winter performance bake sale, dinner dance, and spring fair. Because of the hard work and dedication of our AISR community, our students and teachers received the following:

- A microwave oven, located in the cafeteria
- AISR flags/tablecloth
- Wheels for library carts
- Wheeled containers for Kindergarten use
- A Tom-Tom GPS system for school travel
- 10 bicycle helmets
- 10 stop watches
- 2 portable beamers
- €500 for a library enrichment fund
- 3 scholarships totaling € 1250
- Young Authors book funding
- Halloween
- Sinterklaas event
- Thanksgiving feast
- Fun Run support
- Prom funding

Kudos to all of you who helped with the successful fundraising during the 2008-2009 school year. This year, we begin with a challenge; the 2009-2010 PTSA board would love to surpass last year's fundraising accomplishment so that we can fulfill even more teacher wishes at the end of this school year. Please support each PTSA event; with your volunteer time and attendance, our children are the winners.



Mark your calendars! September 6 is our Annual Welcome Picnic from 12:00 - 15:00. This is a fun way to officially kick off the new school year. We hope to see all of you there, rain or shine. Cost is 4 Euros per person, or 15 Euros per family. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Pam Farrell  
[coastiebear@gmail.com](mailto:coastiebear@gmail.com)

From the Board of Trustees

Alan Steele-Nicholson, Board Chair

Fifty years ago this Fall, AISR opened its doors to the children and parents of the Rotterdam international community for the first time. Each year since then has been a new beginning in our dedication and efforts to offer the best education possible to your children.

This year is certainly no exception. Our new beginning this month includes our new director, Graham Gamble and his family, and a number of new teachers, all introduced in the previous Shark by Graham and Anne-Marie Blitz. For the new families in our school community this year, I'm taking this occasion once again to introduce your Board of Trustees.

We are men and women, parents of children in the school as well as long-time Rotterdam residents whose children haven't attended AISR; we are lawyers, engineers, bankers, PR-experts and homemakers. We all share one thing in common: a fierce determination to maintain AISR's high educational standards in our familiar family setting.

We meet 5 or 6 times a year as a Board (as publicized in the Shark and on our website), and those meetings are generally open to the public. Have you been to one yet? You should try it. Besides meeting some of your neighbors, teachers and administrators, you'll see the school at work, understand better how decisions are shaped and get a good idea of where we are and hope to be headed as this 50th-anniversary year unfolds.

Much of the Board's work is done in committees. We have 6 standing committees (Finance, PR, Policy and Vision, Building-Grounds-Transportation, Governance and Technology). This year we are also completing our re-accreditation, which happens once each 10 years.

This year, as every year, former Board and committee members move on with their families to their next postings, and we seek to fill the resulting vacancies. If you'd like to help, in whatever area you'd find interesting, or would just like to discuss informally the procedures for Board member selection, then please contact our Chair of the Governance Committee, Clare Millard.

This promises to be a special year for AISR, and I look forward to meeting and working with you to help our school enter its second 50 years with as much enthusiasm and promise as we have enjoyed for the first 50 years.

Alan Steele-Nicholson  
Board Chair

# Counselor's Corner

Kate Driver



**“I am looking forward to getting to know students and parents alike. Feel free to stop in and say hello!”**

Greetings to all! I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Kate Driver and I am the new school counselor at AISR, working with all students Pre-K-12. I am looking forward to getting to know students and parents alike. Feel free to stop in and say hello!

The school counseling program this year will have three main systems of delivery: classroom guidance, small group work, and individual counseling. I am also a part of the Community of Respect, a program designed here at AISR to improve school culture. I will be working with the elementary students delivering monthly guidance lessons in their classrooms. I will also be teaming with Alison Lipp, MS Coordinator/Curriculum Coordinator to present the Middle School Seminars. Over the next few weeks I am hoping to set up some topic-focused small groups. Some possible topics include a family change group, a social skills group, and an expressive arts group. I am also available to all students for short-term individual counseling. Any student struggling with an issue of personal or social nature is welcome to set up an individual meeting.

Lastly, I will be working with all students to maximize their academic potential. Academic meetings and academic advising are an important part of what I do, so please feel free to contact me with any academic concerns. I am also the college counselor so I will be working with high school students to develop their post-secondary plans.

## Two testing reminders

All 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students are required to take PSAT. The PSAT is a 2 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hour test in preparation for taking the full SAT. It is highly beneficial and helps students learn about what they can do to prepare for the SAT. I will be administering the test here on Saturday, October 17. This is the last Saturday of October break, so please plan accordingly. Unfortunately, no make-up exam is available.

All students in grades 3-9 will be taking the International School Assessment (ISA) on October 6 and 7. More information will follow, but please mark your calendars! Students should be well rested and have a good breakfast every day, but it is especially important on test days!

It's going to be a great year! Please call or email anytime.

**KATE DRIVER**

(0)10 422 53 51 x214

[k.driver@aisr.nl](mailto:k.driver@aisr.nl)

In the next issue of The Shark I will be including more information about the school counseling position and what I hope to bring to the school in the coming year. Stay tuned!

# From The Middle School

Alison Lipp



Welcome to all Middle School students. This is going to be an exciting year and I am looking forward to working with you as your new Middle School Coordinator.

Please contact me with general questions or concerns regarding the Middle School Program. I can be reached through the means listed below.

Email: [a.lipp@aisr.nl](mailto:a.lipp@aisr.nl)

Phone: + 31 (0)10 422 5351 ext. 317

Welcome again to the 2009-2010 school year and good luck!

Ms. Alison Lipp

## CURRICULUM CORNER @AISR



### Coffee, Croissants & Curriculum

WHEN: Friday, 11 September from 8:15-9:00

WHERE: High School Lounge

WHO: new families

WHAT: to learn about the curriculum at AISR

Look for your invitation in the mail soon.

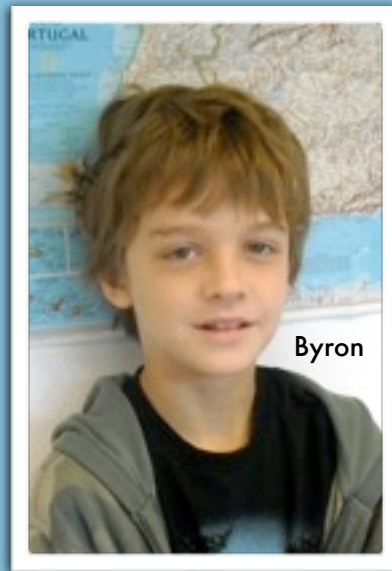


#### Agenda:

1. Welcome to our new families!
2. Introduction
  - Graham Gamble (Director)
  - Alan Steele-Nicholson (Chairman of the Board)
3. AISR Curriculum
  - Alison Lipp (Curriculum Coordinator)
  - The Curriculum Review Cycle/Professional Development
  - AISR Accreditation Update
4. CCC Next Steps
  - Q&A + feedback
  - CCC Schedule 2009-2010



PLEASE WELCOME  
SOME NEW STUDENTS  
IN THE MIDDLE  
SCHOOL...



# Nurse's Corner

Laurence Chambers



## **Hand washing:**

We have been back to school for two weeks now and the students have been asked to change their routine regarding hand-washing. Thanks to the help of all teachers and teachers' aids, it is part of their new routine now to wash their hands right away when they first arrive in their classroom, after each recess and before snack and lunch.

Some adjustments had to be made regarding soap and paper towel dispensers in some areas of the school but we are all ready now to fight off those germs.

## **Volleyball and Soccer:**

Our AISR volleyball and soccer teams have started their practices. I am actually seeing every player for a physical examination to make sure that they are all fit to be part of the teams and play this season's games.

## **Reminder to all parents:**

Any member of the community (students, parents, child-minders, staff) showing a fever of 38° C (100.4°F) or above with or without any of the following symptoms **MUST** be kept at home and is not allowed at AISR for a minimum of 24 hours after the symptoms have disappeared without medication.

- A sudden cough
- Headache
- Tiredness
- Chills
- Aching muscles
- Limb or joint pain
- Diarrhea or upset stomach
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Sneezing
- Loss of appetite



Any absence or illness must be reported immediately to the school nurse. All information will be treated confidentially and will be passed only on a need-to-know basis.

The school nurse must be informed the day before anyone's return.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding your child's health, please feel free to contact me.

**Laurence Chambers**

*Infirmière Diplômée d'Etat / RGN*

*(French Nursing Diploma)*

*Recognized by the Swiss Red Cross*

*School nurse*

[l.chambers@aisr.nl](mailto:l.chambers@aisr.nl)

# English as an Additional Language



The English as an Additional Language (EAL) Parent Night will be:

**Thursday, September 24th at 7 PM.**

[s.moroney@aisr.nl](mailto:s.moroney@aisr.nl)

## Open Monumentendag

### European Heritage Days in the Netherlands

Open Monumenten Dag "Monument Day" is on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th September.



"During the Open Monumentendag - every second weekend of September - thousands of historical buildings and sites (about 4,000) are open to the public free of charge."

For more detailed information go to:

<http://www.openmonumentendag.nl/paginas/38/english/summary>.

Betty Mooring

[b.mooring@aisr.nl](mailto:b.mooring@aisr.nl)



The 2009 A.I.S.R.  
International Baccalaureate  
Graduation Ceremony





# SPORT

@AISR



Rob Zeilstra

## MESSAGE FROM THE ATHLETIC DEPT.

This is a message to all parents of AISR Soccer and Volleyball Athletes. The following message has been sent to you via email this week.

Please contact Mr. Zeilstra, Athletic Director, if you did not receive an email from him.

Dear Parents,

Welcome to AISR Athletics.

The teams have started their practices and are eager for the first games in September. I'm sure everyone will have a fun and exciting season.

If you are new to AISR, I would like to inform you of the following:

1. Schedule of Events- can be seen by going to our school website under ATHLETICS, then go to EVENTS SCHEDULE. Here it is:

[http://www.aisr.nl/athletics/events\\_schedule/events\\_schedule.php](http://www.aisr.nl/athletics/events_schedule/events_schedule.php)

If you click on SPORTS CALENDAR then you will find out when and where we play games. Please note that MS stands for Middle School (grades 4-8) and HS is for High School events.

If you look to the left side you can choose FALL SPORTS, then choose your son or daughter's team to find out more about their team this Fall Season. The coaches will be reporting regularly on this page about the results of recent games.

2. All new students, and those that have requested it, have received 2009-10 STUDENT/PARENT ATHLETIC MANUALS. Almost everything you might want to know about our athletic program for the year is in it.

3. Try-Out period concludes this week. This means that we would like to hand out uniforms, get team pictures, and be ready for our first games.

If your son or daughter is deciding to stay on the team, the FEE (€200) is due by next week.

Please make payment by cash (to the business office) or bank transfer.

American International School of Rotterdam  
ABN Amro Bank  
Bergsedorpstraat 8, Rotterdam  
Account no. 426022785  
BIC code: ABNANL2A  
IBAN number: NL07ABNA0426022785

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me by email.

Sincerely  
Robert Zeilstra  
[r.zeilstra@aisr.nl](mailto:r.zeilstra@aisr.nl)

Athletic Director  
American International School of Rotterdam  
Verhulstlaan 21  
3055 WJ Rotterdam  
office tel. 0031-10 2189627

## Upcoming Sports Events - Diary Dates



**Sept. 4 High School vs. Antwerp, home game. It is also Rookie Day!**

**Sept. 12 Middle School @ Amsterdam with Hamburg.**

[r.zeilstra@aisr.nl](mailto:r.zeilstra@aisr.nl)

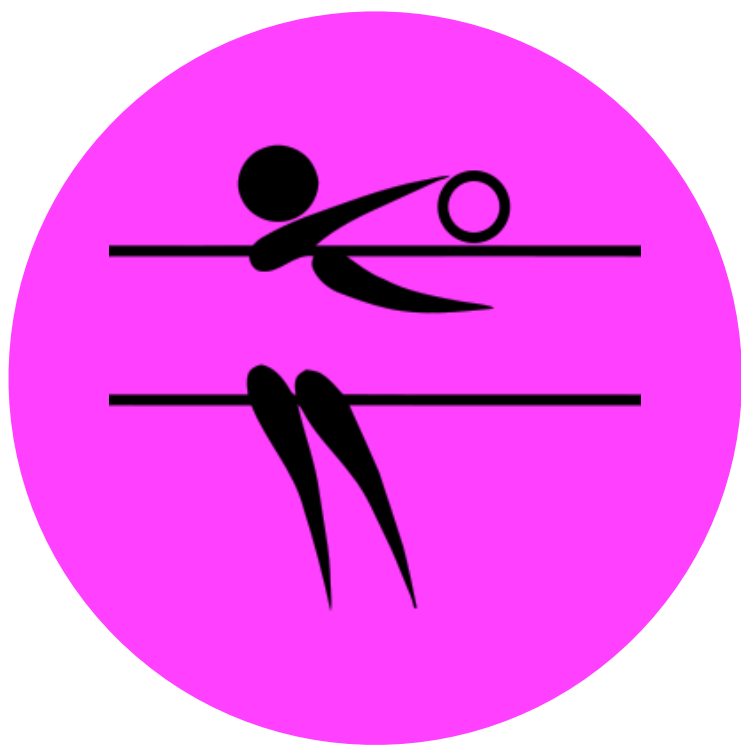
## LADIES VOLLEYBALL - Diary Dates

**When: Thursday evening 7.30-9.00pm**

**Where: AISR Gym**

**Contact : Martine Meyers**

[Email: meyersp@pt.lu](mailto:meyersp@pt.lu)



# Something for the Shark?

If you have something you would like to publish in the Shark, please send it to David Blackburn via:

[theshark@aisr.nl](mailto:theshark@aisr.nl)

[aisrwebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:aisrwebmaster@gmail.com)

The Next Shark will come out on Sept. 11th. All submissions are due on Tuesday, Sept. 8th at 5 PM.

## Community Announcements And Classifieds



Dear Ms Blitz,

"...The kids have spent a great time here with family, and Angela is almost ready to fly, .....so now it's time to go back. We'll arrive next Sunday, so the kids will be there at school on Monday 17.

See attached most recent picture of Angela."

Kindest regards  
Vicky Izquierdo

David, Victoria and Isabella Blackburn announce the birth of their daughter Charlotte Rose Blackburn on the 18th of August at the Bronovo, Den Haag. She weighed 7lbs 10oz and both mother and child are well.





## Girl Scouts USA at AISR

*Do you have a daughter attending AISR?*

*Would you like her to be involved in a first class organization?*

We do fun activities, learn skills that will make a difference in her life, get involved in neighborhood outreach, camp with hundreds of other girls, do team building exercises, and learn to make the world a better place.



*We have 4 troops at AISR and your daughter could be involved, too. Contact*

*Liz Compton ([Compton.liz@gmail.com](mailto:Compton.liz@gmail.com)) for more information*



**DAISY – KINDERGARTEN AND  
GRADE 1**

**BROWNIE – GRADE 2 & 3**

**JUNIOR – GRADE 4 & 5**

**CADETTE – GRADE 6, 7 & 8**



## CUB SCOUTS

AISR Cub Scout Pack #199 will be holding their official fall recruitment drive on September 10th.

The Pack will hold this "Join Scouting" night at the AISR, to introduce elementary school boys and parents to Cub Scouts.



Back to school means back to scouting. New Cub Scout recruits are needed to join the program that provides boys from Grade 1 through Grade 5 with the life skills to become the leaders of tomorrow. It will be an exciting time for each child who joins, where we will ensure that they learn how to "Do Their Best" and "Help Others", and develop skills in many areas such as science, art, football, and many other sports and activities. All while having a great time and making new friends.

Spend some time taking a look on line at <http://joincubscouting.org/> or <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/CubScouts/AboutCubScouts/Boys.aspx> for all of the fantastic opportunities which the Cub Scouts will offer your child, and commit to enrolling them in Pack 199 when you return to AISR.

For more information about the Cub Scouts and Pack 199 call Rick Marsh on 065 110 7121 or Mark LaRue on 065 338 4372.

## Dutch classes for adults

I would like to offer a beginners course from the beginning of September.

Totaling 10 lessons each on Monday mornings, starting Monday the 21st of September.

If you are interested and would like to know more, please contact the teacher, Arjan Blokland , directly via e-mail addresses:

[lindenlanguages@hotmail.com](mailto:lindenlanguages@hotmail.com)

I'm looking forward to meeting you!

## LOST and FOUND

### FOUND:

A Maclaren Buggy - very new condition - small items and toys were found in the buggy.



If you should know who the owners of these items are then please contact the school reception.

# English classes for adults

If you would like to improve and practice 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 and all with plenty of conversation, 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 Tomlinson, directly via e-mail addresses:

maryjt\_nl@yahoo.com, or mala.tomlinson@planet.nl

or telephone number: 010 4704424.

I'm looking forward to meeting you!

## FREE MEMBERSHIP



**Welcome to our club!**

Your **Free Membership** is valid for two weeks in which you can join the best numerous exercise classes and fitness (cardio) workouts. You can book our professional coaches anytime and for free!

Activate your Free Membership now to receive a nice Wellness Gift..!

We hope to see you soon!



WELLNESS CENTRE TERBREGGE | OMMOORDSEHOF 11 | 3056 JR  
ROTTERDAM | PHONE: (010) 289 20 89 | INTERNET: WWW.WCT.NL