

American International School of Rotterdam



From the Director

In the last two editions of The Shark, I have mentioned the visit of Dr. Jane Goodall to AISR on Saturday, 9 May. That event is still happening and we anticipate a capacity turnout to hear Dr. Goodall speak. Please see the attached page in this edition of The Shark for the complete details of that Saturday and what you will need to do to get tickets that are being made available.

I would like to thank all of the parents who took the time to fill in the Annual Parent Survey. The last day to do that was today, so if you an early reader of The Shark you may still be able to complete the survey if you have not already done so. It will be taken off line over the weekend. For the URL address to the survey please refer to an e-mail that I sent to parents on Thursday, 2 April. The Governance Committee will begin work next week compiling the results of the survey and will be reporting those results to the Board at its May meeting on Tuesday, 19 May.

Another big event to be aware of in the month of May will be an art show of student work from AISR at the Maritime Museum. As you may remember from an earlier edition of The Shark, Stolt Nielsen Shipping has provided an opportunity for students at AISR to create all of the art work that will be permanently placed aboard its next newly commissioned ship. The students have been working on their art pieces under the guidance of Mr. Blackburn and are almost ready for selection day. Selection day take place next week when representatives from Stolt Nielsen will come to school to select between 35 to 45 pieces of student work. Those pieces will then be framed and made ready for display at the Maritime Museum prior to being installed on the new Stolt Nielsen specialty liquids tanker. Further information about the showing at the Maritime Museum will be in the 8 May edition of the Shark. This is a wonderful opportunity for our young AISR artists to

present their art work to the world.

Monday, 4 May is the first day of IB exams for our 12th Grade students. For many, the results of these exams will determine if they get into university and at which university they will be accepted. We wish all of the students well as they venture into this last phase of their high school careers.

Parents of students in middle and high school can expect the last Progress Reports of the school year in the mail shortly after the Queen's birthday. As usual, if you have any questions or concerns please contact the teacher directly.

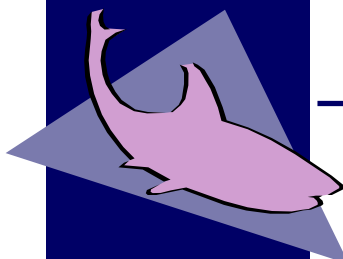
We are entering into that bittersweet time of year when families are making plans to leave AISR and Rotterdam. Typically, about 25% to 30% of families leave each year. That is the nature of international schools and this life style that we as expats have chosen to lead. And this year is no different. If you are leaving and have not already notified the office please do so soon. The preparation of the final school records that you will need for your child(ren)'s next school takes time to put together when there are so many to do. Thank you for your help with this.

Brian Atkins

Director

Upcoming Events:

- 25-Apr Track & Field Meet @ AIS
- 25-Apr HS Prom
- 28-Apr Girls Soccer/Softball @ ISA
- 29-Apr Book Fair
- 30-Apr Queens Day - NO SCHOOL
- 2-May SAT Test @ 7:30 a.m.
- 5-May Middle School Showcase @ 6:00 p.m.
- 7-May Girls Soccer/Softball @ AIS
- 7-May Elementary Creative Arts Evening @ 7:00 p.m.
- 8-May MS Fun Night @ 5:30 p.m.
- 9-May Roots and Shoots



Elementary Principal's Message

Welcome back to the last eight weeks of the school year! I hope you all enjoyed a sunny and restful vacation – certainly the students were very excited to get back. This is a very busy time of the year – there are many exciting events coming up in the Elementary School. The first one will take place on Thursday May 7- we will celebrate “Creative Arts Night”. The 13th edition of the Young Authors Book will be given out on that evening.

The Cover Competition winners were announced on Wednesday, April 8. The front cover winner was Felix Lim, Grade 3Y and the back cover winner was Basia Zubowska, Grade 2S. The pictures were all of a very high standard and it was very difficult for the judges to choose the winner! Once again, we will ask for donations and the proceeds will go to the Ronald McDonald House for Children. The program for the evening will be as follows:

18:30 – 19:00 Make your own ice-cream sundae and visit the Art Exhibition

19:00 – 20:00 Young Authors stories

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the following parent volunteers who gave up their time to help put the book together.

Mrs. Rachel Ford, Mrs. Barbara Sultan, Mrs. Pamela Farrell, Mr. Yakov Ayash and Mrs. Bianca Rimbach. And a very special “**Thank you**” to Mrs. Laurence Chambers, who coordinated the entire publication of this year’s book.

Another date to mark in your agenda is Wednesday June 3 – Sports Day! I know that Mr. Wah will be contacting some of you to help out with the games on that

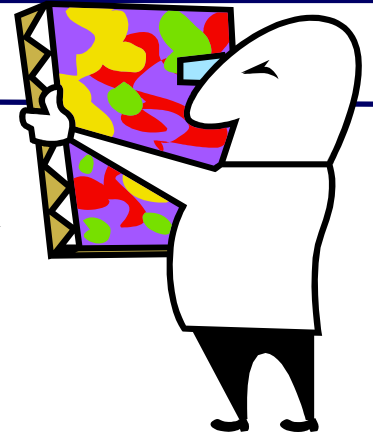
day.

Next Thursday there will be no school due to the celebrations for the Dutch Queen’s birthday. This is a great day to go out and enjoy the festivities and to see just how much the Dutch people love their Royal Family!

Have a wonderful sunny weekend,

Anne-Marie Blitz,

Elementary Principal



From Our Classrooms: Pre-Kindergarten 1

Goodness gracious, where has the time gone? Pre-K One certainly has been very busy. They continue to be great friends and have seen friends leave and made new friends. We have learned new songs and made a great collection of favorite storybooks. The list grows and grows. Our favorite author is Joy Cowley. You can ask anyone in Pre K One to name one of their favorites stories she has written. They may even tell you that she is an author who comes from New Zealand.

As the days turn into weeks and weeks into months we continue to work on keeping the children busy and we are very aware on how we all work and play together on projects and most importantly on being great friends to classmates and to their teachers.

We have welcomed a few new members to the class, Pranitha and Berra and Miss Nicole Bakker. Nicole has become a very good friend to us all. Nicole is with us for the remainder of the year and comes with extensive experience working with young children and children with special needs. Welcome Miss Nicole.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish Miss Catherine all the best with her family commitments and it has been a pleasure to have you spend your time with us. You will be missed.



As part of our ever-growing family of friends we have spent time discussing why do we need friends and family? What is a friend? How do we keep and treat friends? How are our families the same and yet different? Who are our friends? Why do we need

Dr. Jane Goodall visits AISR on Saturday May 9th, 2009



2009 is an exciting year for us here at AISR as we celebrate 50 years of providing international education in Rotterdam for both our international and local communities. We are therefore delighted to announce that Dr. Jane Goodall, renowned anthropologist, will be visiting the school on May 9th, to share her work with us and to inspire our students and communities in our efforts to address environmental issues.

Dr. Goodall will be spending time with AISR students who have recently taken up the challenge to drive their own Roots & Shoots project. Roots & Shoots is a Jane Goodall Institute global environmental and humanitarian education program for youth. Each Roots & Shoots group tackles local hands-on projects to make its world a better place setting up projects for the human commu-



nity, for animals or for the environment we all share. The program is designed to be youth driven and emphasizes the principle that knowledge leads to compassion, which inspires action.

Dr. Goodall will arrive at the school at 10am and will be warmly welcomed by the AISR Roots & Shoots students, their parents and staff of AISR. Joining us in welcoming Dr Goodall to the City of Rotterdam will be the Chief Marketing Officer for Rotterdam, Ms Mai Elmar and the Director of the Rotterdam Climate Initiative, Mr Wiert-Jan de Raaf.

The Roots & Shoots students will be arriving early to spend some time with Dr Goodall in the Library, sharing their thoughts,

work and plans. Dr Goodall will be giving a lecture at 11am in the school gym hall and you and your children are most welcome to come along. If you would like to join the lecture, we ask you to kindly fill in the attendance request noting your name and the names of your family members who will be joining

us. It is likely to be a very busy morning so in the interest of your safety and that of your children, attendance will only be granted to those who have returned the form to the Front Office and only on a first come, first served basis.

The main program takes place between 11am and 12:15pm but please do come early and take a set in the Gym. We look forward to sharing some of Jane's wonderful experiences.

We would like to express our sincere



gratitude to Dr Jane Goodall, the Jane Goodall Institute, the City of Rotterdam, The Chief Marketing Office and the Rotterdam Climate Initiative for their kind support and participation.

Dr Jane Goodall Lecture

May 9th, 2009

Time: 11am sharp

Location: AISR Gym Hall, Verhulstlaan 21, 3055 WJ, Rotterdam



I would like to attend the Dr Jane Goodall Lecture.

Parent Name: _____

Parent Name: _____

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Please return to the Front Office no later than the 4th May.



ROTTERDAM.CLIMATE.INITIATIVE

Counselor's Corner

This is the fourth and final article discussing the importance and role of parents in effective character education. Here are some more ways parents can help their children develop good character and support AISR's Community of Respect at home. The strategies are excerpted from Dr. Helen LeGette's book: *Parents, Kids & Character: Twenty-one Strategies to Help Your Children Develop Good Character*.

STRATEGIES TO HELP YOUR CHILDREN DEVELOP GOOD CHARACTER:

16. Learn to say no and mean it.

It is natural for children—especially teenagers—to test the limits and challenge their parents' authority. Despite the child's protests, a parent's most loving act is often to stand firm and prohibit the child's participation in a potentially hurtful activity.

17. Know where your children are, what they are doing, and with whom.

Adults need to communicate in countless ways that we care about children and that we expect the best from them, but also that we take seriously our responsibility to establish standards and to monitor, chaperone, and supervise. At the risk of being perceived as "old fashioned," insist on meeting your children's friends and their parents.

18. Refuse to cover for your children or make excuses for their inappropriate

behavior. Shielding children and youth from the logical consequences of their actions fails to teach them personal responsibility. It also undermines social customs and laws by giving them the impression that they are somehow exempt from the regulations that govern others'

behavior.

19. Know what television shows, videos, and movies your children are watching.

While there are some very fine materials available, a proliferation of pornographic and hate-filled information is easily accessible to our youth. By word and example, teach your children responsible viewing habits. If you learn that your child has viewed something objectionable, candidly share your feelings and discuss why the material offends your family's values.

20. Remember that you are the adult! Children don't need another buddy, but they desperately need a parent who cares enough to set and enforce appropriate limits for their behavior. Sometimes being able to say, "My dad won't let me" provides a convenient escape for a youth who really didn't want to participate in a questionable activity.

Any questions? Contact any of the following people:

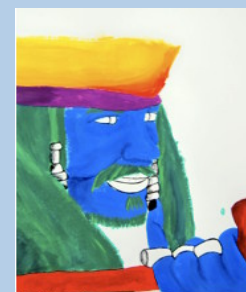
- Administration – Mr. Brian Atkins (Director) and Ms. Blitz (Elementary Principal)
- Counselors – Ms. Ruth Lopez (Secondary) and Ms. Alison Lipp (Elementary)
- Coordinators – Mr. Chad Van Cleve (High School) and Ms. Sudzina (Middle School)

AISR's Golden Rules

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

Artist of the Month for April

Here is a collection drawn and painted studies by Marinela. These studies are compiled with the aim to cover the movie poster, project plan. Studies focus upon artists who celebrated their skills in paint and poster, Alphonse Mucha and Toulouse-Lautrec. Nela finds inspiration to create imagery from movie viewing and glossy magazines. She will be following the IB visual arts in August, where a monthly project is investigated, planned and created.



Curriculum Update



Coffee, Croissants & Curriculum

When: Session 2 – Friday, 8 May from 8:15-9:00

Where: in the cafeteria

Don't forget to send any suggestions for agenda items to Alison Lipp, Curriculum Coordinator, at a.lipp@aisr.nl

See you there!

Science Discoveries Grades K-2

The next several editions of the curriculum section will focus on an increasingly important area of the curriculum – Science – and how you can support your child's learning about Science at home. This second article will highlight what to expect at the K-2 level in the area of Science and is excerpted from [Julia Martin Langan](#).

Support Your Early Learner

Carl Sagan, the famous astronomer and writer, said that all children start out as scientists, full of curiosity and questions about the world around them.

Teachers aim to tap into that natural scientific potential. They do it by introducing lots of fun projects and experiments, taking trips outdoors to explore nature, and leading in-class discussions that help students discover simple, but amazing facts about the world around them. In general, four main areas are covered: physical and material science (the properties of objects and materials); life science (the characteristics of organisms and our environment); earth and space science and the nature of science itself (the basics of scientific inquiry — that is, to develop their skills of investigation and experimentation).

Learning by Doing

Early learners have a hard time understanding abstract concepts, so touching and manipulating things helps them develop a more concrete understanding of scientific principles.

Exploring Nature

Science curriculums typically take advantage of children's curiosity about the world and use the outdoors as a natural laboratory. Visit local parks and gardens, lakes, beaches, and ponds. A world of science knowledge can be found just in your own backyard and neighborhood, studying earthworms, trees, and plants. Students may bring insects or leaves back home to observe them, discuss them, and create pictures or projects. Such simple activities will sharpen your child's ability to observe, classify, communicate, predict, and interpret data — skills that will become increasingly important as he/she advances through school.

Talking Science

It really isn't all field trips and fun, however. Hands-on discovery by itself is not enough - children need a basic understanding of what they're about to work with, guidance while they are learning, and help to draw conclusions from what they've discovered. One effective way to train budding scientific thinkers is to help them verbalize what they've observed during an experiment or activity. Rather than tell your child what to do, try asking questions such as, "What else could you try?" Using a question rather than a statement trains young minds to think scientifically. Helping students to convey scientific ideas verbally is also important since most early learners don't yet have the fine motor skills necessary to express those ideas in writing. To facilitate communication of ideas, try taking digital photos of science activities and use the pictures to help kids develop a science vocabulary.

Encouraging children to think things through can yield big dividends when they experience the thrill of discovery. When kids think for themselves, learning is more likely to stick with them, and they're more motivated to try problem-solving again the future. That means they are likely to thrive in the trial-and-error world of science discovery and exploration.

Questions about Curriculum? Don't hesitate to contact Alison Lipp, Curriculum Coordinator, at a.lipp@aisr.nl.

Our Classrooms: Environmental Science



The Environmental Science class has been learning about the importance of soil. Soil is a natural resource which is classified as non-renewable as it takes 500 years for one inch of topsoil to be created. Currently, the US loses one inch of topsoil every 16 years. It has been estimated that since 1991 people have degraded more than 7.5 million square miles of land or an area the size of the United States and Canada combined!

Picture one is a photo of the Environmental Science students with their soil horizon profiles made out of vla (chocolate pudding) and cookie

crumbs. Other photos are students taking soil samples of a meadow and a wooded area near the school. The students then brought the soil samples back and tested them for nitrogen, potassium, phosphorus, and pH and made a decision as to which types of crops would be best suited to growing in that area.



Correction:

In the last Shark it was stated that Felix won 2 gold medals and 3 silvers. He actually won 3 gold medals and 2 silvers.

Literary Evenings - The Hague

BorderKitchen

We regularly hold literary evenings with international guest authors at our BorderKitchen salon in the Weimarstraat, The Hague. These evenings are open to the general public and offer the audience a meeting with already renowned writers or young up-and-coming talents. The interviews start at 20.00hrs (doors open at 19.30hrs), tickets are 5euro p.p. and last an hour. The authors books are also sold on location and there is also usually a signing session after the interview. Upcoming dates are as follows below but please visit the web-

site for a full impression of BorderKitchen! www.borderkitchen.nl

Wednesday 13 May

Todd Hasak-Lowy (U.S.A.)

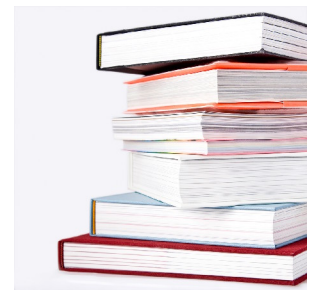
Captives

Sunday 24 May

Anne Michaels (CA)

Fugitive Pieces

Tickets can be reserved by calling 070-3462355 or by sending an e-mail to info@borderkitchen.nl. Please be aware that we have a limited capacity so if there is someone you would particularly like to see, don't delay your reservation!



PTSA Postings

Next PTSA General Meeting will be held Thursday May 7th at 9am in the cafeteria. We will be going over details for the Fun Run/Spring Fair and the Staff Appreciation activities. See you then!

The AISR Annual Fun Run and Spring Fair is just around the corner! Come join us on Sunday, May 17, for a day of fun for the whole family. A great event like this doesn't happen without lots of volunteers, so please contact the PTSA to let us know what you can help with. There are many jobs available, from fun run marshals to bouncy castle monitors, and everything in between. Contact Marla Baldinelli at dbaldinelli@msn.com or 010 842 57 38 for more information.

Donations Needed for Tombola and Lucky Dip. Back again at our Spring Fair will be the ever popular British Tombola and Lucky Dip stall. The PTSA is currently seeking donations of appropriate items to use as prizes for the tombola, which is a sort of raffle. Doing some spring cleaning? We are looking for any small toys or ornaments, books, puzzles, or other items appropriate for older children or adults such as candles and bath products. Items should be unused or in very good condition, and small enough to fit on a tabletop. There is a collection box for donations in the front office, so send them in!

Fun Run Sponsorship Forms can be found on the website as well as in the Shark. Please print it out and take it to your work, friends, and family to get as many sponsors as possible. This is a fun event and it is for a great cause. The registration form with entry fee needs to be returned to the AISR office by Wednesday, 13th of May 2009. Thank you for your participation.

Do you like counting money and working with numbers? Then you are in luck! We are in need of a tempo-

rary Treasurer to finish out the school year. Our current treasurer will be able to help you out and show you what to do. It is very straightforward. Please consider it - it is a very important job and we would be very grateful!

Interested in a fun, challenging role? Then the PTSA board is perfect for you! As the school year is in the home stretch, the PTSA is looking ahead and planning for next year. The PTSA board is a vital part of the school and we hope you will consider being a part of it next year. There are many different positions available to suite your likes or talents such as President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Relations, Outreach, etc. Please feel free to contact any one of us if you are interested. We look forward to talking and sharing our experiences with you.

Record Breaking Year for Fund-raising!

Thanks to all the wonderful support for the school this year, we had a successful year for fundraising. From this year's dinner dance, we raised double the funds from last year. So now is the time to put the money back into the school. We strive to make contributions that have a positive impact to the school and benefit a wide range of students and staff in relation to cost. Last year the PTSA funded: a high school scholarship, purchased the playground storage unit, gave €750 towards the Young Author books, bought microphones for the music department and new drum heads, new tents, purchased the Middle School t-shirts, gave €300 towards the refurbishing of the high school lounge, and purchased a washer and dryer (which is located on the 2nd floor for the school)! As you can see, we make a difference! We will be discussing this year's distributions in our upcoming May and June meetings. Please join us and also feel free to submit your ideas to the PTSA for items that can make a positive impact on our school! Thank you.

Annual AISR Spring Fair



Sunday 17 May 2009
12:00 – 3:00pm

AN AFTERNOON OF FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Food: Come and taste international foods cooked by our own AISR families – Asian, Indian, Israeli, Japanese, Korean, Latin, and Turkish

Beverages: There will be a bar with soft drinks, water, beer and wine.

Children's Activities: Bouncy castle and obstacle course, Face Painting, Sidewalk chalk, Tombola, Lucky Dip, carnival games and more.

AISR Fun Run/Walk

Sunday 17 May 2009

10:15 - 12:00pm

In support of JUMP -

The children's division of the National Heart Foundation of the Netherlands

Same Day Registration Opens: 10:15 a.m.

Warm Up: 10:45 a.m.

Official Start Time: 11:00 a.m.

Location:

Start and finish at AISR

Routes:

1.5 and 3 km well-marked, marshalled routes throughout the Lage Bergse Bos

Registration:

Sponsorship & registration forms available at the school office and AISR website (www.aisr.nl)

Adults: 5 euro, Children: 3 euro, Family: 15 euro.

Pre-registration preferred!

Please hand in forms and payment by May 14th, 2009 to the front office.

Prizes:

*** Medals will be awarded to all students who complete the race!**

****The first parent over the line will receive a special prize.***

***A gift certificate will be awarded to the participant who collects the highest amount of sponsorship money.**

Refreshments and fruits will be available to all at the finish line!



PTSA Postings

AISR-JUMP Fun Run/Walk
Sunday, 17th of May 2009, 11h00
Registration



Yes! We want to run for JUMP and keep our own hearts **healthy!**

Name of Participant	Adult (>18) or Child*	3km/ 1,5km*	Grade	Amount
	A/C	3 / 1,5		
	A/C	3 / 1,5		
	A/C	3 / 1,5		
	A/C	3 / 1,5		
	A/C	3 / 1,5		
	A/C	3 / 1,5		
			TOTAL:	

* please circle

Entry fee is €5 per adult and €3 per child, but the following options are also available:

This is a family entry for €15-

I/we are getting sponsors (to a minimum value of €5 per person) instead of paying the entry fee.

The person that collects the highest sponsorship will receive a prize! The class that raises the highest amount of money through sponsorships and entry fees will be treated to a Pizza Party!

NB: Children, who are in Grade 3 or younger, must be accompanied by an adult.

Participants may run or walk. No wheels allowed except buggies for babies.

All children taking part will receive a special medal. Refreshments will be available for all participants. Prizes will also be awarded!

I/we agree to follow the course as set out, the instructions of the crew and obey the normal road rules.

Signature..... Date

Tel. Nr..... Email

*The registration form with entry fee needs to be returned to the AISR office by **Wednesday, 13th of May 2009**. Sponsor forms are available at the school office.*

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 May 8th.

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

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



The Asian Lunch

Welcome all nationalities to a Potluck Lunch.

Date: 25th May (Mon)
12:00PM onwards

At the home of Rie Horiuchi
De Wurft 21 3056LV Rotterdam

Tel: 010-420-5583

Invitation are open to all nationalities even younger children. Please bring a dish of your country or your choice.

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!

English Yoga Classes

At www.villayoga.nl and starts on 1 February at 19.30. Newcomers are welcome, and you can contact me for more information.

Greetings,
Andrea
andrea_ani@hotmail.com



DUTCH LESSONS FOR PARENTS

DATE: Every Monday from
9:00 -11.00AM.

LEVEL: Beginners.

TEACHER: Arjan Blokland
LOCATION: American International School of Rotterdam
(Cooking room, top floor)

PRICE: Depending on the number of students, between 15-19 Euros per person per lesson.

Interested please contact

Arjan Blokland:
arjan_translates@hotmail.com



American International School of Rotterdam

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