

American International School of Rotterdam



From the Director

With only five more school days remaining in the 2008 - 2009 school year, this will be the last edition of The Shark until August 2009.

In the last edition of The Shark, I mentioned the faculty who will be leaving at the end of this school year. This week I would like to introduce the new faculty members who will be joining the AISR community next August.

Josue Gutierrez – Spanish, ESL, Mr. Gutierrez is coming to us from the State of Kansas in the United States where he has been teaching Spanish, History and ESL for the past five years.

Kate Driver – Guidance, Ms Driver is coming to us from the state of Maine in the United States where she has served as a guidance counselor in two different schools. She also has worked in a university as an admissions officer.

Tenley Elliot – Early Child-

hood, Ms Elliot is returning to AISR after a two year hiatus in the United States. Ms Elliot worked in our Early Childhood department for five years when she was last here. We are very pleased to have her back on the faculty.

Jeff Holcomb – Mathematics, Mr. Holcomb comes to us from the state of California but has also worked in China and Israel during his career. He has many years of experience at both the middle and high school levels.

Beth Willen – Early Childhood, Ms Willen is coming from California as well and is married to Mr. Holcomb. She too has worked in China and Israel. Their two elementary school age children Matthew and Gwentyth will accompany them.

Ewan Gibson – Elementary Music, Mr. Gibson comes to us from Scotland with a wealth of experience in working with students in early childhood and elementary school. He has been in The Netherlands since Janu-

ary of this year and is well settled into the Dutch way of life.

Appreciation comes in many forms. The faculty and staff of AISR wish to thank the PTSA for the Appreciation Breakfast and Luncheon that they were served last week. The food was wonderful and was a welcome moment during these last few days of the school year. We thank all parents for your support throughout the year and for these special meals as a token of your appreciation.

AISR's 10th graduation will be taking place tomorrow, Saturday, 6 June, at 1:30 PM. The students graduating on Saturday have accomplished much during their time and have left a legacy for other students to build upon. All of this year's graduates will be moving on to further study at the university level next year. We wish this newest group of AISR ambassadors all the best as the venture into the next stage of their lives.

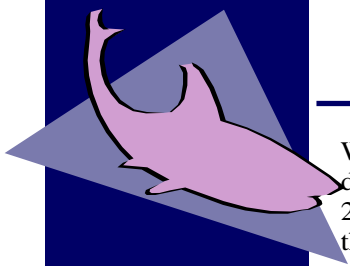
Our traditional school end-of-year ceremony will take place next Friday morning, 12 June. The morning will begin at 9:00 AM with promotion activities for Grade 8 students as they complete their middle school education. This will be followed by the presentation of awards to both middle and high school students for their achievements in their classes during

Upcoming Events:

- 6-Jun Graduation at 1:30 p.m.
- 8-Jun Awards Evening for Spring Sports & Swimming
- 9-Jun Secondary Sports Day
- 10-Jun Summer Gala Concert at 7:00 p.m.

AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF ROTTERDAM

THE SHARK



From the Director

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.

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. The school will return to regular full office hours on Monday, 3 August.

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. This year, for us, it is even more personal. Ruth and I will be leaving AISR after six years of being a part of this dynamic and ever changing community. I remember well when I came for an interview on campus in December of 2002. The school radiated an energy and a warmth that I know you all feel each time you enter the school. We will carry that feeling of inclusiveness that is so much a part of this community with us as we leave. During our time here much has been accomplished of which we all should be proud. It has been a privilege to be a part of the development of the values and activities that are embodied in the Global Issues program. This program is important for our students and the community and is very dear to my heart. I will follow with interest the growth of the IPC in the elementary school as it provides a strong

foundation upon which further development of the school will take place. Whether you are staying here in Rotterdam or you are moving on to other parts of the world please know that you go with our best wishes and fondest memories. 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 lives and we thank you for allowing us the privilege of working with your children during our stay in the Netherlands. Many of you have devoted innumerable hours of service to the school for which I am sincerely appreciative – that is one of the many strengths of this community. It is now time in the life cycle of AISR to move on. AISR will benefit from new vision and leadership. Tot ziens!

Brian Atkins

Elementary Principal's Message

So, this is it – the last Shark for another school year. As always at this time of the year, we say “Good-bye” to many of our students. We wish them “Good luck” in their new schools and hope that they will keep in touch with AISR. It is always so nice to hear from our former students – just recently a family, who had four children in the school, visited for a day. It was wonderful to catch up with all their news.

“Good-bye” to the following students: Sarah, Oscar, Fran, Miranda, Pietra, Emmery, Brooklynn, Roi, Jonas, Alma, Reri, Trym, Paul, Mea, Tomer, Lukas, Helena, Joel, Min, Chae, Siddharth, Yuri, Takuma, Marcin, Alexandra, Velin, Renee, Sakurako, Erlend, Parker, Mark, Melanie, Anoushka, Lisa

Unfortunately, we also have to say “Good-bye” to some of our teachers – Tania Peterson, who has been with AISR for 7 years, Christine Harris, who has been here for 5 years and Trina Pilbrow, who is just finishing up her second year. We wish them a safe journey and success in their new teaching positions.

Several weeks ago, I told you that Stolt Tankers had asked AISR to produce the Artwork for their new ship. Here is the article that was released to the press on June 2nd.

“Students of the American International School of Rotterdam Provide Artwork for Newly

Launched Stolt Tanker”

Artwork by students of the American International School of Rotterdam will be on display at Het Havenmuseum through the second week of June, when the work will be permanently installed aboard the M/T Stolt Norland, a new 183-meter parcel tanker operated by Rotterdam-based Stolt Tankers B.V.

Stolt operates one of the world's largest fleets of chemical tankers, with nearly 150 deep-sea, coastal and inland tankers. The company's 69 deep-sea tankers, such as the newly launched M/T Stolt Norland, sail the world's oceans, transporting vital ma-

Elementary Principal's Message Cont'd

terials for manufacturing processes worldwide. Crews typically spend months on board during each voyage.

Stolt came up with the idea to decorate its new ships with art designed by school children as a way of both introducing young people to the marine industry and providing a pleasant change from the maritime art traditionally displayed on board the ships.

“This initiative has proved to be great fun and very rewarding not only for the children but for all of us at Stolt and visitors to the Het Havenmuseum, as well,” said Mark Martecchini, Managing Director of Shipowning for Stolt Tankers.

A total of six new Stolt ships will feature artwork by students from a number of schools. Students ranging in age from 6 to 10 prepared the artwork for Stolt Norland, which

will be on display at Het Havenmuseum until June 14th.

Coincidentally, both Stolt and the American International School of Rotterdam are celebrating their 50th anniversaries this year, making the collaborative effort even more significant.”

This was a very special event for the students who produced the artwork – definitely worth a visit if you have some time this weekend!

On Thursday, Grade 2 students gave a presentation on Ancient Egypt. This was an opportunity for parents to see the projects that the students have been working on, as well as a musical and story interpretation of life in Ancient Egypt. It was very well done and a credit to all the students who had worked very hard.

Next week, the Kindergarten Celebra-

tion will take place on Wednesday, June 9. The students will present their thoughts on their favorite things/experiences during the year and perform poems written by the students themselves.

Please remember that Report cards will be posted home on Friday, June 12. For students who are leaving AISR, all school records will be ready to be picked up on the same day. Please let the office know if you are leaving before June 12.

On behalf of all the Elementary students and staff, I would like to wish you a happy and safe summer vacation and I look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, August 11.

*Anne Marie Blitz,
Elementary Principal*

From the Board of Trustees

Introducing a new, regular feature from the Board of Trustees

AISR Board Meetings – Secretary's Update

Dear AISR Families,

A new museum dedicated to Rene Magritte, the famous Belgian surrealist painter, recently opened its doors in Brussels. Isn't this fitting? Haven't we all seen flashes of surrealism in our lives over the last year? Like me, you may find it hard to believe that the school year is almost over. This however is reality.

As we look back on this school year and towards the rapidly approaching new school year, we as a Board are always keen to improve the ways in which we communicate with you. Although Board meetings are open to all members of the AISR community, we felt that we could do a better job of explaining the role of the Board, its sub-committees and the way in which Board meetings work. For those of you who have attended one of the recent Coffee, Croissants & Curriculum mornings, which we highly recommend, there was an opportunity for you to interact with members of the Board. You may have also seen our letter in a recent edition of the Shark where we highlighted some priorities for the Board

in the coming months and years.

An idea, which came back as a recommendation from one of the accreditation workshops, was that the Secretary of the Board write an article summarizing the topics discussed at each Board Meeting. We thought this was a great idea and hope it helps to keep you informed. This current article covers the highlights of the May 19th Board meeting.

So, what is the format of the meeting? There are some regular items and typically we follow a set format, namely:

Cont'd pg. 4

From the Board of

We review the minutes of the previous meeting and will have a regular feature to ensure follow-up on action items. That is followed by a public forum where presentations regarding a range of school activities are made. This time, we were treated to a short presentation by Elizabeth Marsh and three 6th Grade students, who visited a logistics and warehousing company, Seabrex, in the Port of Rotterdam. The field trip clearly left its mark on the students who were very surprised by the number of people involved in getting one piece of fruit from the country where it was grown into their lunch box. They seemed to have been very impressed by the large refrigerated warehouses – they were still shivering when talking about how cold it was!

The next part of the meeting covers some items requiring Board action/approval such as policy changes. The Policy and Vision Subcommittee of the Board is responsible for managing and updating the policies of the school and on May 19th, we reviewed a revision to the Vaccinations and Immunizations policy. The policy has been aligned to reflect international standards and Dutch requirements. A copy of the new Health Form and the Vaccination and Immunization requirements are available from the front office and will be published on the website.

Brian Atkins and Alison Lipp then discussed the results of the latest ISA testing that took place in October 2008. ISA stands for International Schools' Assessment. The ISA assessment program is designed especially for students in interna-

tional schools in Grades 3 to 9. It is based on the internationally recognised reading and mathematical literacy frameworks of the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (commonly known as PISA). It is not possible to summarize the results in a few words, but it was clear that, except in a few areas, our school scored on or above average. Alison explained that these results are used as a tool to improve the curriculum in the grades involved.

The following section of the meeting covers any items that are Up for Discussion. In this case, we received an update from the Finance Committee on the 2008/09 year-to-date Financial Report; an update on the activities of the High School Taskforce and we discussed the schedule of Board Sub-committee meetings for the forthcoming school year.

The final part of the Board meeting includes all of the regular reports from the Director, the Elementary Principal, the MS & HS coordinators, the PTSA and the Board Sub-committees regarding their latest work. The Board Sub-committees include representatives from the parent community, the Board, the administration and the teaching staff. The sub-committees cover Public Relations, Finance, Policy and Vision, Governance, Technology and last but not least Facilities. These reports provide a great overview of all the things happening in our school.

If needed, the Board members allocate some extra time for a closed session, called the Executive Session, which allow us to discuss sensitive items or to review our own performance.

We hope that this helps to explain the process of the meetings and encourage you to come and join us to learn more about the intricate workings of a school.

This being the last Shark of the school year, on behalf of the Board I would like to wish all the best to anyone leaving AISR and the Netherlands. To Brian and the teachers who will not be returning next year, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

To those coming back next year, we hope to see you at our next Board meeting, scheduled for September 15th.

We wish everyone a great summer break, wherever it takes you! Perhaps to surrealist Brussels, or to one of the thousands of other great places in the world.

Thomas Van Craen

Secretary

famvcraen@yahoo.com

Curriculum Update

Coffee, Croissants & Curriculum

Please mark your calendars with next year's dates for the *Coffee, Curriculum and Croissants* sessions. Future CCC sessions will be offered on the following Fridays from 8:15-9:00. Location TBD and will be announced in the Shark in August.

- 28 August
- 23 October
- 29 January
- 26 March

- 28 May

Topics are currently being discussed and will be finalized in the new academic year. If there is a particular topic you would like to see offered, please feel free to contact me directly. Some suggestions already put forward include the following:

- Accreditation updates
- The Curriculum Cycle at AISR and areas under review

- The role of technology and its impact on curriculum
- The IPC at AISR – update in our second year of implementation
- Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

Thank you for your support this past year – I look forward to our CCC sessions in the future.

Kind regards,

Alison Lipp

Counselors Corner

This will be the last Counselor's Corner that I will be writing for The Shark. As many of you know, Brian and I will be leaving AISR after six years of living and working in Rotterdam. It is amazing, truly, how quickly the time has flown by. When we first arrived at AISR, there was not much of a guidance department or program in place. I am very happy that I had a chance to develop systems that have helped children, teachers and parents as we have taken our educational and personal journey together. Being able to teach a Life Skills exploratory to all the MS students in my first year here was fun and gave me a chance to get to know them. Several of those students who were 7th graders at the time, will be graduating this year. As well, I had the chance to develop the elementary guidance program, which allowed me to know all the students in the elementary school as I entered each classroom in grade 1-5 every month to teach a values lesson. As far as Middle and High School students have been concerned over the years, I have been able to work with them both on a personal and an academic level. And as I have said to parents many times over the years, it has been a pleasure to work with your children. I am especially grateful to all of the seniors with whom I worked over

the last six years, in having the opportunity to help them find the universities that were a fit for them, and I am very proud of those students who have gone on to begin careers of their own. For those parents who had to get up early on a Saturday morning to bring your kids in to take the SATs, thank you! To those of you who called or dropped by to seek advice or to share a personal moment about a situation in your life, thank you for your trust. To those of you who listened when you had a hard decision to make and let us as the educators help you make that decision regarding your child's future, thank you for the trust that you placed in all of us. It is always a pleasure to see my former students when they return to tell me about the new things they are learning about in university and where their dreams are taking them.

In the kind of life that Brian and I have led over the years living in so many different places, we often forget that the students we leave behind at a school are continuing to grow and becoming young adults. What a pleasant

surprise therefore, as we were looking at the various moving companies recently in preparation for our pack out, to find that one of our former students at the International School of Beijing, is one of the managers at a local moving company. She was as thrilled as to reconnect after 10 years, and of course, she is no longer a young high school student, but an adult who has blossomed and come into her own. It is gratifying to be remembered and for them to be as excited as we were to share our memories of the past and catch up on all the other things that have occurred in the time in-between. So although we are moving on, we certainly hope that you will stay in touch, and that you will continue to let us know how your children and families are doing. I close by saying once again, Thank You for letting me have the pleasure of working with you and your children for the last few years. I learned a lot and I hope they did as well. It is an experience that I will not forget.

Sincerely,

Ruth Lopez, Counselor

From the Athletic Department

Athlete of the Week

May 25th – 29th



Nathalie is a new member of the track and field team. Nathalie is finding which events she is most comfortable with and is working hard in practice to improve in her events. She is also dependable when it comes to making practice run smoothly. In our upcoming NECIS Tournament, Nathalie will look to record personal bests in all of her events. Congratulations, Nathalie.

AISR's 2009 ADVENTURE DAY Grades 6-12, Tuesday, June 9

The idea behind Adventure Day:

Every few years, the PE Dept. at AISR decides that the "Sports Day" will have an adventure theme, as we do on an Olympic year, with the Olympic Day.

This year it's Adventure Day.

Many past students remember this day as a highlight of the year and request it each year.

The day is not to be missed. Rain or shine, it's on June 9 in the nearby woods.

An adventure is a risky undertaking with unknown results. The risk might be a physical or an emotional one. In order to be successful during adventure day, students will need to help each other, provide encouragement, make plans and get organized. Teachers will act as leaders and evaluate each group for successfully accomplishing the tasks, but also for team work and attitude. Prizes will be awarded at the end of the day.

Students will get dirty and wet. This is part of the adventure. Just in case, there is a first aid station (Mrs. Chambers) for anyone needing it.

Survival Kit: It's best to be prepared with: old clothes with swim suit underneath, boots/shoes that may get really dirty/muddy, long pants to protect legs, garden or construction-type gloves would be a good idea, mosquito repellent, a change of clothes in case you really get wet, sack lunch and water (we will stay in the park to eat), and most importantly bring a good attitude.

Note: Unfortunately, the woods has no toilet, so you may need to do what the bears do...

Plan of the Day: Each MS team or HS grade level will remain together and work as a team. They have 30 minutes to accomplish the adventure as best as possible. There are 8 teams for the 8 adventure stations. Adventure leaders are AISR teachers who will explain and supervise the adventures.

Theme of the Day:

I am successful if WE are successful!

Zeilstra, Van Cleeve, O'Kane, Wah

PE Dept.

PTSA Postings

The last **PTSA General Meeting** was held Thursday June 4th in the cafeteria. We closed out the remaining PTSA business for the school year. Due to the Tuesday deadline we are unable to provide the details now but look for them on the website in the near future! Thank you!

Have a Safe, Fun Summer

The PTSA would like to thank everyone for their tremendous support and help throughout the school year, making this year such a success. For those families who will be moving this summer, we wish you the very best. Have a wonderful summer and we look forward to seeing all the new and returning families in August!

Attention Juniors! PTSA Scholarships!

Each year the PTSA funds 2 scholarships to AISR graduating seniors. Look for details next year on how you too can win one of these scholarships. Don't miss out on this great opportunity so stay tuned!

What Can 59 People Do?

Curious? Well, how about putting together a fantastic, fun Spring Fair for the whole school! It took 59 volunteers to put together the Spring Fair alone. This is truly an event that requires the whole school from all grades to come together to make the best possible family-oriented afternoon happen. We had

wonderful food thanks to the fantastic culinary talent of our parents. We had games and prizes that the kids absolutely had a blast with! And the list goes on. On behalf of the PTSA, Thank you very much to all 59 people for making this such a memorable event for the school. We are truly a talented community that can accomplish anything. Congratulations to all of you!

Running With The Best

There was a wonderful turn out on May 17th for our Annual Fun Run/Walk. The Fun Run was a huge success, thanks to the hard work of the organization committee, other parent and student volunteers, as well as the nearly 200 runners and walkers who participated in the race. Winners of the 1.5 k race were Jiwon, Klaus, and Mr. van Cleve. Winners of the 3 km race were Jan, Basia, and Mr. Sononov. The numbers are in from the Fun Run/Walk, and the Outreach Committee is pleased to announce that AISR once again raised 1865 euros to be donated to JUMP (formerly the Kinderhartenfonds of the Netherlands). The winner of the highest sponsorship drive was Skyler, who

will receive a 25 Euro gift card. Congratulations also to some of the other students who solicited sponsors: They are Maya, Thijmen, Carine, Kaan, Dani, and Milai. Thank you all very much for your support. The 1st and 2nd grade class won the pizza party for being the classes with the highest amount of money raised as a class. Well done and thank you to all who participated in this very special event!

Funding This Year's School

Wish List. Thanks to all the wonderful support for the school this year, we had a successful year for fundraising. We are well underway with distributing funds for this year's school wish list. We have already provided a GPS to the Athletic Department and the school will be getting custom designed flags with the AISR 50th anniversary logo on it. How cool is that? Our goal is to be able to fund items that make a positive difference to the school and affect as many as possible. This year we are able to really provide some wonderful items for the school - almost €4.000 worth of items! More details will be provided on the website after the June 4th PTSA meeting.

A Big Thanks!

The AISR Staff would like to thank the PTSA for the wonderful Appreciation Breakfast and Lunch. As always the food was spectacular! The PTSA really worked very hard to make this a very special day for all the staff and their efforts are very much appreciated.

Artist of the Month for June: Ryan

Ryan from 6th Grade was asked to look at mythology as a creative theme. As part of this he studied the design and use of Gargoyles, 'decorative' water spouts often found on the top of Medieval buildings. Here is Ryan's attempt to create his own mythological Gargoyle from ceramics



Classifieds & Community Announcements

FREE to anyone willing to move it!
100 year old piano
Contact Sarah Lee (010-421-5522 or s.lee@aisr.nl)

Math Tutoring for AISR students

Jonathan is a 12th grade student graduating from AISR this year and he would like to be your child's math tutor. If your child would like to improve his or her mathematics skills or if there is anything math related that you would like help with, then you've found the right place.

Tutoring will be aimed at grades 1 to 11; he can also provide guidance for the SAT or ATII mathematics section(s). If you are interested or want any additional information, please contact him via

e-mail: jonnyxpress@gmail.com
or call: (010)-235-5027.

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



Tang Soo Do in Hillegersberg

For those that liked what they saw on the Fun Run Day below are the contact details of the Tang Soo Do Club in Hillegersberg
The instructor you saw was Patrick van de Watering

Dojang Chonsa

Rotterdam - Hillegersberg

Mr. Patrick van de Watering
Mr. Frank Boer
Email: pvdwatering@hotmail.com
Phone: 06-21879696
www.worldtangsoodo.com/

<http://chonsa.nl/dojang%20chonsa.htm>

LIFE COACH – MIND AND BODY INC. IN ENGLISH

1) UNDERSTAND YOURSELF!
How you can be well and strong from the Inside Out.

USE YOUR SKILLS EFFECTIVELY – Govern the Beast within you and Shine your Beauty.

3) LOSE WEIGHT AND STAY FIT THE NATURAL WAY – You do not need to go on countless Weight Loss Diets and Plans if you understand how your body functions.

4) UNDERSTAND YOUR CHILDREN – You can be their source of Inspiration. **5) LEARN THAT JOY IS WITHIN YOU** – while tackling the challenges of life head-on. **KNOW THAT THE WORLD IS YOUR CANVAS-----**

CONTACT: SANDRA, EMAIL: joyand-power@gmail.com MOBILE: 06-16593856.

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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



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