

American International School of Rotterdam



From the Director

After all of these years Dr. Goodall continues to inspire and motivate students and adults with her life story and her vision. If you were in the AISR gym at mid-day on Saturday, 9 May, you were privileged to hear Dr. Goodall speak of her research, her work with Roots and Shoots and her concern for the planet on which we live. Thanks to the work of our Roots and Shoots students and advisors, we were able to impress Dr. Goodall as well. Many thanks to all of the behind the scenes work done by Stacy Dinse, Lesley Murphy, Alison Lipp and Chad Van Cleve to make this day possible, as well as the work of the people from the Jane Goodall Institute and the Rotterdam Climate Initiative. May Dr. Goodall's message and spirit stay with us for a long time.

Undaunted by the weather, the runners and walkers of the AISR community successfully completed this year's Fun Run on Sunday morning. The or-

ganizers of the Fun Run are pleased with the turnout and the donation that will now be made to JUMP and the Children's Heart Fund of the Netherlands. Afterwards, with good planing and the move inside the festivities continued with the annual Spring Fair. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making the day a success and to the PTSA for the many hours of planning and work that must take place ahead of time to ensure a smooth running fair. The food stands were excellent and the temptation to try everything was just too much for one person. It was a good "family" day with everyone pitching in to do whatever they could do to help. Thank you all - many hands did make light the work.

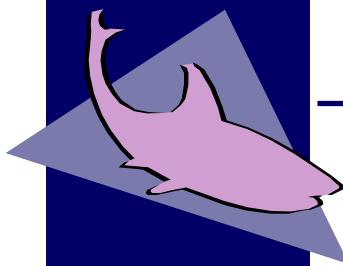
How does one say good-bye to someone who has been part of the fabric of the school for so long that no one can remember or conceive of AISR without him? Mr. James Long has been our music teacher for 35

years. He has touched the lives and inspired so many children during his career. He is still full of energy and enthusiasm and will take that into retirement with him. On behalf of the entire AISR community, we wish James and his wife a joyful and fulfilling retirement.

There are six other faculty members who will also be leaving us at the end of this school year. Mrs. Martha Manley will be retiring to the island of Aruba after eight years as a math and science teacher at AISR. Ms Ruth Lopez, after six years as the school's Guidance Counselor, will be returning to the United States to spend more time with children and grandchildren. While only having been with us for two years, Mr. Patrick O'Kane will be remembered for his Spanish classes and coaching four sports each year. Sadly, the Early Childhood Department is losing three of it's faculty members. After seven years at AISR, Ms Tania Peterson will be moving to London to further her career on the other side of the "channel." Mrs. Christine Harris is departing after five years at AISR. Mrs. Harris has worked both in Grade 2 and PreK-2 in her time in our school. She and her family will be returning to the United States and the sunny State of Florida. Ms Trina Pilbrow has been with us as a teacher of Kindergarten for the past two years and has

Upcoming Events:

- 21/22-May Ascension Weekend - NO SCHOOL
- 27-May Sports Teams Departing at 12:00 p.m.
- 28/29 May Spring Sports Tournament
- 1-Jun Whit Monday - NO SCHOOL
- 3-Jun Elementary Sports Day
- 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.



From the Director

enriched the lives of her students during that time. She will be returning to New Zealand to further her own education in a Masters degree program. We thank all of these faculty members for their dedication to the students of AISR and for all of their hard work, passion for education and commitment. They will all be remembered and always be a part of the history of AISR's first 50 years.

This is a last reminder to parents of high school students that semester exams begin next Wednesday, the 3rd of June. A schedule of exams was printed in the last edition of the Shark and can

be found posted around the school. All morning exams begin at 9:00 AM and all afternoon exams begin at 1:00 PM. Students must be in school at least 20 minutes prior to the beginning of each exam. During the four exam days, there are no regularly scheduled classes and high school students need only be in school when they have an exam.

The school's Governance Committee, a subcommittee of the School Board, and the School Board itself, is in the process of analyzing the Annual Parent Survey results. There will be a separate letter e-

mailed to you with the plans that will be put in place to address items from the survey in the new school year.

If you will be leaving AISR and Rotterdam at the end of this school year and have as yet notified the office, please do as soon as possible so we can prepare the school materials that you will need as you move back home or on to your next overseas assignment. Thank you.

Brian Atkins, Director



Elementary Principal's Message

Only one more Shark to go and it's the end of the 08-09 school year. Referring back to the Creative Arts evening, I would like to inform you that we collected 770 euros for the Ronald McDonald House for Needy Children. On behalf of the organization, I would like to thank you for your generosity. I would also like to thank Mr. Blackburn for the very talented Art Exhibition. Once again it will make it very difficult to choose one piece for the Elementary Artist of the Year!

It is a very busy time in the Elementary School. For example, Grades Pre-K 1 & 2 went to the Aquarium section of the Blijdorp Zoo last week as part of their IPC Unit "Sand and Water". Grade 2 has a field trip coming up on May 28 to the Rijksmuseum van Oudheden in Leiden where they will have a tour of the Egyptian display. They will also be having their end of year celebration with an Egyptian twist on June 4th. All Grade 2 Parents will be invited to see the projects that have been com-

pleted and also to sample some ancient Egyptian cuisine. These activities are all in support of the IPC unit called Treasures.

In Kindergarten, the students explored the forest near the school to look for Mini-Beasts. They were all thrilled to find two very large earthworms under a rock, and even more ecstatic when Saskia and Brooklynn captured them and brought the worms back into the classroom to watch.

It is that time of the year when we find out that many families are leaving and we also welcome new families to AISR. Every week, we are taking a look at the numbers, so that we will be able to make an appropriate decision regarding class size and whether there will be a need to split a class. We hope to be able to make

some decisions before the end of this month. I will keep you informed.

Please note 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.

I hope you all had a wonderful time at Fun Run/Spring Fair. As always the food and the atmosphere were once again very enjoyable!

In the meantime have a wonderful weekend,

Anne-Marie Blitz, Elementary Principal

From Our Classrooms: Fourth Grade



Over the past few months 4th Grade has been learning about the different biomes such as savannas, tundra, taiga, deserts, rivers, prairies, deciduous forests, and oceans. The 4th Graders have been split in groups of two, and each group became experts about the



different biomes. They made dioramas, researched information by reading books and used the Internet. They worked very hard also. Three assignments that the 4th graders completed were: designing their diorama, creating a travel brochure, and writing a poem about their biome. The 4th graders also embarked upon a field trip to Burger's Zoo where the 4th grade had a truly exciting and educational experience. The students' work paid off and the end result blew the roof off! Now the 4th Graders are experts about their biomes!

Written by
Renee, Daniel,
Caroline, Alex-
andra, and
Sakurako-4th
grade students



From the Music Department



Summer Concert June 10th

We're holding our first Summer Concert on June 10th - that's the Wednesday of the last week of term - in the Sports Hall at 7.00pm. The concert will be a celebration of everything we've done in the various music ensembles since Christmas. In particu-

lar, the newly formed Staff, Students and Friends choir will perform with an orchestra comprised of friends and colleagues. We've been working on two choruses from Handel's "Messiah" and some groovy arrangements of Abba songs. The Handel will be accompanied by an authentic baroque ensemble with a harpsichord continuo part. Also, the MS Band will play with Jaap Schoneveld who has worked tirelessly with the students to improve their performance. James Long has prepared a 2nd grade item, and there will be other goodies besides. It goes without saying that we need a good audience to support the children.

Soloists' Concert: Tuesday May 12th.

If you weren't there you missed a treat! The concert took place in the canteen with around 30 participants. It's a testament to how farsighted and caring our parents are that so many of our children play instruments. It's a fact that about 33% of our children currently can play an instrument in some way ... of course many more have tried and may at sometime pick it up again. Parents know of course that every piece of research conducted on the influence of music on learning has reinforced what we know in any case: that music makes your brain more con-
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Counselor's Corner

On 1 May, 2009, AISR had a school-wide assembly to celebrate our Community of Respect (COR). Student representatives from all grades shared something they had learned, observed or noticed since the program began in the beginning of the year. Here's what some of them said:

Alyssa (Grade 1): "My class learned a lot about the golden rules. One rule we used throughout the year was empathy. One day, our friend got hit by a ball and other students came over and showed empathy by holding her hand and asking if she was okay."

Skyler (Grade 2): "It is fantastic that we have our golden rules – not just for the elementary but for teachers and students and the principal to help us manage our behavior."

Mariah (Grade 4): "4th Grade noticed that less students were bullied and more students showed respect for each other."

Anoushka (Grade 5): "5th grade enjoyed the assemblies, the awards and the overall change in that people were more respectful to teachers and fellow students. Cooperation helped us work in groups. The COR values helped people focus and set goals for behavior."

Ryan (Grade 6): "During our COR unit on Tolerance, one activity was the Circle of Similarities where we learned how we were all the same in some ways even though we came



from different places around the world."

Thomas (Grade 7): "One thing was about respect – 7th grade was nicer to each other."

Yinka (Grade 8): "For the last 10 minutes of COR, middle school students were only allowed to say what they appreciated about one another."

Loes (HS): "During the Town Meetings we have been learning how to be role models for younger children. Things have changed now and we have started to pay more attention to how we act around younger students."

The highlight of the assembly was the COR rap, performed by Joyce and Annelieke. With the help and guidance of Mr. Dailly, the girls wrote a rap to address some of the COR values.

From the Music Department Cont'd

nected, more agile: it unlocks windows of perception and releases creativity. But back to the concert. We are often careful to be very even handed in our praise, but on this occasion I'd like to first of all say that every single participant performed with confidence and style. But one or two stick out in the memory: Skyler's Harp solo held the audience in thrall ... simply the

sound, the timbre of the instrument thrilled everyone who heard it. And we learned that Nico and Sean have the ability to hold an audience captivated. And I'd like to mention Thomas strong, accurate and convincing jazz on the tenor sax ... a big sound on a big instrument. And there were many more. This event will become an AISR regular fixture. It involved and challenged all the children each

at their particular level. Oh .. and lest I forget: the biggest thank you to the unstoppable Alison Jarvis who holds the master plan in her head at all times.

Patrick Dailly

Curriculum Update

Coffee, Croissants & Curriculum

Thank you for coming! We appreciate your interest in the curriculum and are currently receiving feedback as we plan for future sessions next year. Some suggestions we are considering include:

- same as current session but different content each time
- evening sessions
- smaller focus groups (e.g., by division)
- accreditation follow-up
- parent/school curriculum group

If you have any other ideas about how you would like this to continue, please send them to me directly. This may include suggestions for topics and/or other ideas for these curriculum sessions. Look for further information about *Coffee, Curriculum and Croissants* 2009-2010 in the Shark or feel free to contact Alison Lipp at anytime.

Accreditation Update:

We have now completed the first two parts of our self-study. The final stage will be completed in the fall and will continue to require input from all parts of the school community. Several parents, board members and students are already involved with one or more of our self-study teams. If you would be interested in helping with this final stage of the process, please contact Alison Lipp, Accreditation Chair. Thank you to those parents who have already agreed to come on board!

Self-Study Teams

- Team A: Philosophy & Objectives
- Team B: Curriculum
- Team C: Governance & Management (board)
- Team D: Staff
- Team E: Student Support Services
- Team F: Resources
- Team G: Student & Community Life

Focus on Science: Middle School

PARENT PRIMER: EARTH SCIENCE (excerpt by Amy KL Borrell)

Earth science encompasses a whole lot more than just the land on which we stand. Your child will find earth science includes the depths of the ocean, the air we breathe, and the weather we both enjoy and bemoan. Because it's all around us, earth science is one of the easiest subjects to incorporate into a stroll along the bank of a river or a morning making mud pies out of topsoil in the backyard.

Help steer your young geologist, meteorologist, or oceanographer along the craggy coast of Earth Science at AISR. Your Middle School child experiences Earth Science each year of the AISR Science Program. Topics include:

6th Grade -Investigating Rivers: Go With the Flow

-Sustainability: The Environment

7th Grade -Geology & Plate Tectonics

8th Grade -Geography & Mapping

-Astronomy & Space Exploration

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

Zommer Festivals 2009

This is a wonderful website that lists all of the Festivals in Holland from now until September. It has information in English with maps, pictures and even video

<http://www.zommerfestivals.nl/en>

The next festival is May 31

Ortel Dunya Festival is the oldest free world music festival in the Netherlands. On Sunday 31 May the Park bij de Euromast will be filled with world music, dance and poetry all day long. Just like last year, the city will be warmed up for this festival with Dunya on Tour in three different neighbourhoods of Rotterdam.

*Tram: 8, stop Kievitslaan or 7, stop Westerstraat
Metro: Calandlijn, stop Dijkzigt*



Jane Goodall



action to make the world a better place for people, animals and the environment”

(<http://www.rootsandshoots.org/aboutus/mission>). AISR’s students designed a Roots & Shoots project, the “Eco-Challenge Month”. The students provided us with a detailed presentation highlighting their planning process and the implementation of the “Eco-



Roots & Shoots project next year.

On May 9th, AISR had the honor of hosting Dr. Jane Goodall, world renowned primatologist. Dr. Jane Goodall was welcomed by Mai Elmar, Chief Marketing Officer Rotterdam and Wiert-Jan de Raff, Project Director Rotterdam Climate Initiative.



The student presentation was followed by a lecture by Dr. Jane Goodall. Wiert-Jan de Raff, the Rotterdam Climate Initiative presented Mr. Atkins and AISR with 3 solar panels by way of thanks for our drive towards improving the environment. Dr. Jane Goodall was also invited by the Rotterdam Climate Initiative to sign up to the Climate Initiative, and



Challenge Month”. Some examples of their success were: an increase in the number of students who biked to school, decreased energy usage and increased awareness regarding over-consumption.

Michael, Ashley, Brooke, Klaus, Nela, Alexandra, Jonathan, Veron-



Dr. Jane Goodall’s visit included a presentation by AISR students who had developed their own Roots & Shoots project. Dr. Jane Goodall started the Roots & Shoots program *“to inspire each individual to take*



their commitment to reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 50% by the year 2025.

Our sincere thanks to everyone who participated. If you would like to see some of the media coverage we received please visit the following websites:

ica, Julie, Brenna, Joyce and Jyona were excellent representatives of the school and Dr. Jane Goodall and the representatives from the city were extremely impressed by their work. The project was a success and having spent time with Dr. Jane Goodall, the staff and students at AISR were very excited about the potential to work on a

<http://www.nos.nl:80/jeugdjournaal/artikelen/2009/5/10/beroemdeperdeskuddeinrotterdam.html>

http://www.ad.nl/rotterdam/stad/3210030/lsquoOeh oeh aahrsquo_kli nkt t in de gymzaal.html

Photos courtesy of Roy Borghouts

Awards and Achievements

Athlete of the Week

May 11th-15th



Veronica is the pitcher of the softball team and has given dedicated practice to it, developing steady nerves and accurate pitching. Veronica has developed her skills in what can be a very lonely and demanding position on the field. Recently her precision really helped the Sharks defeat AIS, for example, striking out a player to get the third out with bases loaded. This recent performance provided the basis for an amazing all-round Sharks display. Way to go Veronica.

Artist of the Month-Artem, Grade 12

Acrylic on canvas -50 by 60 cm



Artem, will graduate in June, he has studied art in 10th grade and two years following the IB visual Arts course

Here we can see one of his 'Kasimir Malevich' inspired studies.

Malevich launched the Suprematist movement, which brought abstract art to a geometric simplicity more radical than anything previously seen. Artem took time to view Malevich's work on show here in Rotterdam, discussions regarding this Russian artist with the examiner were all part of his final assessment.

PTSA Postings

Spring Fair

The PTSA would like to express their heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers who worked so hard to make the AISR Annual Fun Run and Spring Fair a success. We would especially like to thank Crown Relocations for their generous donation toward the rental of the inflatable bouncy castle and obstacle course, and the 598th SDDC Family Readiness Group for their donation of refreshments for the Fun Run.

Last PTSA General Meeting for the year!

It will be held Thursday June 4th at 9am in the cafeteria. We will be wrapping up all school business and introducing the new board. Come say farewell to those leaving and enjoy some yummy food.

Staff Appreciation Luncheon.

Every year the PTSA organizes the Staff Appreciation Luncheon which will be held Tuesday, May 26th. This year we've added a little something extra to make it extra special for the staff: we will also be serving a light breakfast to include rolls, juice, and fruit. This is a great way to thank the faculty and staff for all they do for our children throughout the school year. We kindly ask you to send in a dish according to the list below. You can send it with your kids in the morning or bring it before 11.00 AM. Make sure to label your dishes and utensils so that the PTSA can return them to you.

PreK1 Bread or Rolls (please send or bring early in the morning)

PreK2 Drinks

KP/KL Main Course

Gr.1 Salad/Appetizers

Gr.2 Fruit (please send or bring early in

the morning)

Gr.3 Main Course

Gr.4 Salad/Appetizers

Gr.5 Dessert

Gr.6 Main Course

Gr.7 Salad/Appetizers

Gr.8 Dessert

Gr.9 Main Course

Gr.10 Salad/Appetizers

Gr.11 Dessert

Gr.12 Main Course

If you have any questions or would like to help please Contact Elif Alptekin @ 010-447 1839 or 061 833 6549.

You can also send an e-mail elif_alptekin@hotmail.com. Thank you for supporting this important event.

News from CAS

Alma's Concert: Junior CAS
by Lynda Boot



On Friday, May 8, a group of about 30 parents, students and teachers got together at Mrs. Boot's house to attend a wonderful concert. Alma, from Grade 2, has been learning the flute for just a few months and early on, discovered that the lesson material was a bit boring. Since most early flute learners are a bit older than 6 or 7 years old, because their hands are too small to reach all of the keys, most of the books are written for slightly older students. Once I had taught Alma to read notes, she took it upon herself to compose her first piece of music, called "Tiger Scratching". The name was inspired by a Korean calendar I had on my desk, a pre-

sent from 11th grade student, Won Young. There was an 18th century print of a tiger for that week, and Alma decided to name her piece after that ferocious looking tiger. Other compositions followed, which included "Isak is sick" about her little brother who had really been sick and, "Roller Coaster", which depicts the movement of a roller coaster going very slowly upwards, hanging in anticipation at the top of the hill and then zooming downwards. In all, 7 pieces have been composed. It has been a great way to teach music, because Alma has learned about musical dynamics being used as a way of depicting emotion; and, she has learned about musical mechanics, such as staccato notes, being used to depict fear, which she used in her piece called, "Scared Cats".

Never wanting to see a great CAS opportunity go to waste, I asked Alma if she could draw color pictures for each one of her musical pieces. After my son, Vincent, had transferred the musical pieces to a printed format, using Sibelius, he decided to take over from there and produced booklets, which were sold at the concert for €5 each. Information was



given about AMREF Flying Doctors, which will be the beneficiary of the money that was collected. Alma was the star of the concert playing her pieces, plus another one, called "Rolling Along" from one of the standard teaching books. Vincent also played a violin piece, and sold CD's of some of his pieces, also for €5 each. A meal was served, which was of gourmet standards, because each family brought a dish, or drinks or desserts to help it all go with a swing.

After the concert, Vincent took everyone outside to the local park to teach them the intricacies of cricket. This was a reward for all of the hard work of being either a performer or a good audience, which all of the students were!

In total, €150 was raised for AMREF Flying Doctors, and 30 people had a wonderful Friday afternoon and learned something about music!

Well done, Alma, for having the courage to get up and play the flute in front of a large audience. Alma and many other students also played their instruments at school last week at the Night of the Soloists, so well done to all for keeping the spirit of music and culture alive!





1 NO SCHOOL	2 Chicken curry or chicken fillet Baked rice and Greenbeans Pudding or fruit Cheese roll for vegetarians	3 Fish nuggets Carrots/Mashed potato Fruit Yoghurt or Fruit Mini springroll for vegetarians	4 Mix salad/tomato Tortilla beef or veggie Potato rolls/nachos Fresh Fruit	5 Sweet corn Chicken fingers/fries Fruit yoghurt or fruit Vegeburger for vegetarians
8 Cucumber/carrot sticks Penne pasta tomato/beef bas. sauce Fruit yoghurt or fruit Cheese sauce for vegetarians	9 Chicken fillet/teriyaki Rice and greenbeans Fruit yoghurt or fruit Cheese roll for vegetarians	10 Swedish meatballs in sauce Pommes Paris/ Carrots Fruit or yoghurt Springroll for vegetarians	11 Domino pizza Pepperoni or Mozzarella Cucumber sticks/ice cream Mozzarella for vegetarians	12 OPEN FOR LUNCH (LAST DAY OF SCHOOL)

Big Plate 2,75

1 NO SCHOOL	2 Chicken Curry or chicken fillet Baked rice and Greenbeans	3 Fish nuggets Carrots/mashed potatoes	4 Mix salad/tomato Tortilla beef or veggie Potato	5 Mixed Salad Penne pasta tomato/beef sauce
8 Cucumber/carrot sticks Penne pasta tomato/beef bas.sauce	9 Chicken fillet/teriyaki Rice and Greenbeans	10 Swedish meatballs in sauce Pommes Paris/Paris carrots	11 Domino Pizza pepperoni or Mozzarella	12 OPEN FOR LUNCH (LAST DAY OF 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 June 5th.

All submissions are due on Tuesday, June 2nd at 5 PM.

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 SAT2 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.

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



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.

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

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



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