



AIS Weekly

Friday, September 7, 2007
Volume 44, Issue 3

A Message From The Superintendent

The beginning of school always seems to be about one thing, getting students back into a routine that balances time, family, school, and activities. We are trying our best to define that balance from the school's perspective. Homework given by teachers is intended to give students the opportunity to independently practice concepts and skills previously introduced in class. There is a homework policy

(Elementary Principal) if there are issues or concerns. I would also speak with the students' teachers... they are more than willing to discuss this issue as we strive to maintain our academic rigor yet find the balance.

The Elementary Back to School Night is being changed from Wednesday, September 12th to Thursday, September 13th from 6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. We inadvertently

scheduled the Back to School Night on the Jewish New Year (Rosh Hashanah). Out of respect for our families we will move the date to Thursday. In addition, we will be welcoming back ...Mr. Terry Burns who is returning to AISL



Arts and Crafts at Family Fun Day

that details the school's expectations that I have included in the Newsletter for your information. Please do not hesitate to speak with Ms. Sharon Schauss (Secondary Principal) or Mr. Terry Burns

after an extensive absences due to surgery. Many of you asked about his wellbeing and anticipated arrival. Trust me, no one is happier than I that he is back on seat Monday morning! I am sure he would

appreciate people stopping by and welcoming him back!

Sincerely,
Thomas P. Shearer

Upcoming Events

- Saturday Soccer Begins (Tryouts) - September 8
- **MR. BURNS RETURNS** - Monday September 10th
- PTO Coffee/Volunteer Breakfast - September 11th, 8:00-11:00
- **Elementary Open House - September 13th, 6:30**
- Cub Scout Kick-Off - September 15, 3:30
- School Board Meeting - September 18th
- Goodwill Games - September 22nd-23rd
- Nigerian Culture Day - September 28th
- Elementary Mid-Term - September 28th

Check www.aislagos.org for additional details

Superintendent - Thomas Shearer
Secondary Principal - Sharon Schauss
Director of Admissions/Elementary Principal - Terry Burns
Business Manager - Trudy Mafe
Behind 1004 Estates, Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria
234-1-261-7793

Attention

In case of an emergency, such as yesterday with the 1004's, we would like to provide you with our direct numbers to contact us.
Mr. Shearer 776-4535
Mrs. Schauss 776-4532
Mr. Burns 776-4526

HOMWORK POLICY

Policy 3.300

The Board of Directors of AISL, Nigeria believes that students who are assigned and do homework regularly are able to achieve not only more but more quickly, and that homework provides a useful extension of students' learning opportunities. Homework may be defined as task to be done in students' own time after school hours and is expected at both elementary and secondary levels.

Homework should provide an appropriate challenge for students of all abilities, recognizing individual and group needs.

Properly conceived, carefully designed, presented and monitored by the teacher, homework fosters development of independence, self-discipline and responsibility, and conserves class time for those lessons better taught with close teacher guidance and supervision.

Homework is an integral part of the learning process and presents opportunities for:

- A. practice or drill in those skills already taught
- B. preparation for material to be presented or taught subsequently
- C. extension or transfer of a skill or concept to a new situation
- D. completing assigned work not finished in class

HOMWORK GUIDELINES

Use of homework requires cooperation among teachers, students and parents. Homework will be a regular part of each student's school experience. Students should be able to complete the assignments within the guidelines given below:

Elementary

Homework will be assigned Mondays through Thursdays with weekend homework being at the discretion of individual class teachers.

The following times are recommended daily averages:

- A. grades 1 and 2: 15 to 20 minutes
- B. grades 3 and 4: 30 to 45 minutes
- C. grades 5: 45 to 60 minutes

The pattern of homework will reflect the balance of subject within the timetable, a possible arrangement might be:

- Monday: Math & English (Spelling, Language & Handwriting), Reading
Tuesday: English & Social Studies & Music
Wednesday: Math & Science - Reading
Thursday: English & Math - French

Communication between tutors and specialist staff is necessary to ensure a well-balanced homework schedule.

Middle School & High School

Homework will usually be assigned Monday through Friday. Up to 2 - 2 1/2 hours of homework per night may be slightly more. With the exception of math, homework assignments that are anticipated to take longer than 20 minutes to complete will not be due the following day.

Homework and Absence

A student is responsible for making up homework missed through absence. It is the student's responsibility to ask if there have been assignments during their absence. The time allowed for this is equivalent to the number of days absent. Assignments prior to expected absences will not normally be given.

Homework and Vacations

Homework will not normally be given during vacations. Optional assignments may be available upon parental request.

Responsibility for Homework

Teachers are responsible for:

- communicating homework expectations to students and parents
- assigning, monitoring, correcting, acknowledging and returning student homework in a timely manner
- conferring with parents regarding homework concerns

Students are responsible for:

- understanding the homework assignment(s) before leaving school
- taking home all necessary materials to complete the assignment
- scheduling time for homework that is compatible with family and/or after school activities
- working towards the goal of doing homework with a minimum of parental help

Parents are responsible for:

- providing encouragement and support, and showing interest in the student's work
- assisting students to develop good study habits by providing a comfortable, well-lit area away from distractions
- encouraging students to set a regular time for studying
- evaluating student out of school activities to be sure the student has sufficient study time
- conferring with teachers regarding homework concerns

ADOPTED APRIL 20, 1988

REVISED MARCH 15, 2005

REVISED MARCH 20, 2007

Elementary News:

Thank you for such a wonderful start to the school year. I know as the year progresses that you and your children will have a great experience at AISL. Remember....everyday is a great day at AISL.

Just a few reminders for parents of our younger students:

1. Please become familiar with the school's dress policy. Our younger students need the support from home to come to school dressed appropriately.
2. It is also important that parents become familiar with the drop off and pick up procedures for the main entrance at school. Then it is important that parents discuss and reinforce the procedures with their drivers. This week's tips for a smooth start to the school day: A. Students need to have their backpacks packed the night before and left by the door before going to bed at night. B. For picking students up in the afternoon.....name placards, (signs with your last name) should be in all of your cars, instruct your drivers to hold up your sign as they are approaching the front entrance of school.
3. Food at School: Talk with your kids about their eating habits. Some students are so hungry by recess they eat their whole lunch. Then what do they do for lunch? Do they need a snack and a lunch? Some students end up throwing a lot of their lunch away too. Get to know your child's eating patterns.
4. Now is the time to get your child 'set up' for the year with activities. Last week we had Family Fun Day there were lots of possibilities presented that day, the Weekly is filled with information of happening events and programs, there are sign ups for scouts, soccer, after school activities are all going on now. Check the school website for information, ask neighbors, ask a PTA officer, come to the Elementary Open House.

Open House - Thursday, September 13th, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, in the Gym!

The Elementary Open House is scheduled for September 13th, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

There are many reasons why we have an Open House. Here are a few....

1. You get to see the 'big picture' and be introduced to the entire elementary staff
2. You will get to meet the parents of your child's special friend.
3. You will get to sign up for individual teacher-parent conferences - bring you calendars.
4. You will get to gather useful information from the teachers that will help you better understand what your child's day is like at school. (Please understand that open house is not for individual conferences with the teacher, please save those discussions until conferences or other scheduled times.)
5. By attending this open house you are sending a message to your child that what they are doing each day is important. We will all meet in the gym at 6:30 sharp, with the introduction of staff followed by the instructions for the evening. See you there.

Terry L. Burns
Elementary Principal
AISL

Newsletter Submissions

Remember, if you would like to submit information to be printed in the newsletter, please have everything e-mailed to jklancke@aislagos.com by 3:00 Thursday afternoon for items that need to be printed the following morning. Thank you for making the AIS Weekly informative and fun to read!

Visit www.swift.aislagos.org for Classroom Information

Secondary News For The Middle and High School

Dear Families,

The secondary staff and I have been very pleased with the parent participation at our Middle and High School Back to School Nights. Your feedback and observations have been very helpful as we get to know you and your student.

Lockers are now available for all middle and high school students. We are still waiting for the locks (for the lockers) to arrive in the shipment so we can equip all students with a school lock. There were not enough locks for 6th or 7th grade students. A student may bring his or her own lock if one was not provided AISL. The student will need to provide his or her English teacher with the combination so it may be kept on file.

We thought providing lockers would solve the problem of students carrying heavy backpacks around. But now, instead of heavy backpacks, students are carrying heavy stacks of books. Middle school parents voiced this concern at Back to School Night. I have spoken with some of the secondary staff about this concern. Staff does not have a problem with students going to their locker between classes provided they arrive to the next class on time.

Students have 5 minute passing time between classes. Students will need to select which passing time will work best with their individual schedule to stop by their locker. Please remind your student there is only enough time to go to their locker during passing time. Visiting with friends or stopping by the food court must wait until lunch. I will check with teachers over the next several weeks to see how this is working out.

Some parents are also concerned that teachers are assigning large amount of homework on the same nights. The secondary staff will discuss this at our Wednesday meeting.

I am very pleased with the response I am receiving from students in regards to the dress/uniform expectation. I have had excellent support from the few parents I have had to call. Thank you very much for working with your student. Secondary students were able to wear jeans and an AISL Spirit Shirt or uniform polo shirt on September 7. I will be making the decision about jeans/spirit shirt each Thursday based how students comply with the dress expectations Monday through Thursday.

I will see you at Saturday Sports. Thanks for helping us make this a great start to the school year.

Sincerely,
Sharon Schauss

My Travels "CHRISTMAS TRAVELS"

Don't put off till tomorrow what you should do today!

Do you remember your mom telling you that??? Well you don't need your mom to tell you now, I will tell you. Have you started planning your Christmas Holidays? Well if you have not, you're one of the many who haven't. Fortunately, I am not guilty of the same, this time. You've been busy I know, but it's now started to creep into the corners of your mind that you have absolutely no vacation plans for that wonderfully festive period between December 14th - January 7th. When you call your favorite resort, you find they've been sold out for weeks. Yikes! Read on...

Nigeria has become a very lucrative market for airlines. So getting a seat let's say out on the 14th of December will be difficult, amongst other things to book. I remember last year I struggled to get last minute seats and then when I got on the flight our seats were all scattered. Sound familiar? So why procrastinate. We know there is no cutthroat competition that exists here in Nigeria so waiting for last minute price drops, just isn't happening; Moreover, tis the season where everyone is not so jolly...this season time in particular, one can encounter delays, lost baggage and a whole array of things. Be prepared.

Let me explain to you how simple it is to tackle this issue. Other than enlisting the help of a holiday planner, you and your family should take time out one evening, sit with a map and narrow your options on where to go, skiing, shopping or sightseeing. Do it now.

Would you like to go for an African Safari where the weather is oh-so perfect on this continent at this time, or a trip to my former country, Ghana, or something cold with a white Christmas like skiing? Once that is decided, call your agent, book your seats and meal plans give them your mileage numbers and voila. Now the rest of the nitty-gritty stuff...then you should decide where to stay, a lodge, hotel or a villa, outside of town, in the heart of town, moderate budget or the full gusto? Next, your transportation around the country you are visiting, then the visas, then the currency, then this and then that. Do you get the gist? Yes, start planning or get a planner. One year, I got my airline travel to come through only to realize that I had not booked a car to my ski resort or my favorite Nutcracker show. Imagine struggling on and off buses with skiwear, what a nightmare and forget any type of show. Let me tell you last minute just does not deliver!

Next week I will tell you the top ten places to go with your family or friends for the holidays.

Madhuri (Sony) Mohimani "The Holiday Planner"
theholidayplanner@hotmail.com

Visit www.aislagos.org for School Information

School Board News

Dear AISL Community:

On Monday, September 3, the Board of Directors held a retreat with the goal of planning and prioritizing our goals and approach to the coming year. I'd like to provide you with an overview of our initial meeting results.

In the area of goals, the Board outlined five broad goals which will guide our work for the year. First, our strategic 5-year plan will be updated to guide AISL long-term direction and decisions. Second, we will establish a benchmarking protocol which will provide us a consistent way to measure AISL against a set slate of similar-program, competitive schools. Third, we will update our policies relating to support staff in the same way we comprehensively updated our certificated staff policies last year. Fourth, we have committed to improving communication between the Board and community to keep all informed and engaged. And finally, we are committed to fully support the growth of our high school program and ground breaking and construction of the new high school facility.



Further on the subject of communication and specifically how the Board conducts its business, we are establishing a system of subcommittees, with key standing committees in the areas of finance, curriculum, facilities, and high school development. These committees will provide another venue for parents, staff and board members to come together to resolve issues and improve performance at our school.

More detailed information will be communicated later.

Michael Bowen
President, Board of Directors

AISL Goodwill Games

When:

Saturday September 22nd - 8:00-4:00

Sunday September 23rd - 1:00-4:00

Where:

AISL Field

Who:

Division I: 1-2 Graders

Division II: 3-5 Graders

Division III: 6-10 Graders



Sign Up Beginning September 10th in front of the Administration Offices from 2:30-3:30. Last Day to register is September 17th.

Registration fee: N3,000 per player

All proceeds benefit the AISL High School Project

Visit www.swift.aislagos.org for Classroom Information

AISL Scout Information

(Boys and Girls)

Boy Scout Troop 803 Overnight Lock-In: September 8-9

Saturday, 8 September

Arrival: 3:30- 4:00 pm, Chevron Gym, Lekki Camp

3:30 pm - New Scout Registration

4:30 pm - Dinner Prep: Dutch Oven Cooking (chicken stew, cobbler, punch)

5:30 pm - BSA Swim Test

6:30 pm - Dinner and Clean Up

7:30 pm - Dodge Ball and Basketball Games

8:30 pm - American Culture MB

10:00 pm - popcorn snack

11:00 pm - lights out

Sunday, 9 September

7:00 am - Breakfast Cooking (pancakes, juice, fruit) and Clean up

8:30 am - Lagoon Hike

10:00 am - Pack up / Clean up & Free Swim

Pick Up - 12:00 noon - Chevron Pool

What to bring:

Sleeping Bag or Bed Roll

Toiletries

Boy Scout Book

Note book and pencil

Swimming suit and towel

Change of clothing

Plate & Eating utensils

Walking Shoes

Optional Items

Bed mat

Pillow

Flashlight

Girls Scouts

Dear Girls and Troop Leaders,

This is a hearty welcome to girls and troop leaders. I am looking forward to a successful and exciting year for us all.

Next Tuesday, the 11th of September at 1:00pm there will be a meeting for all troop leaders at the Pool Conference Room. Please come along with your enthusiasm and ideas.

The first Girl Scout meeting will take place on Wednesday, the 12th of September in the following classrooms:

Daisy: TBA

Brownies:

- First Grade: 105
- Second Grade: 219
- Third Grade: 203

Juniors:

- Fourth Grade: 207
- Fifth Grade: 305

Cadets: TBA



Girl Scouts
Where Girls Grow Strong™

Wishing you and excellent weekend and an excellent Girls Scout year!

Visit www.aislagos.org for School Information

SATURDAY SOCCER 2007

What a great family orientation day. As soccer commissioners we hope you enjoyed the day, we think you saw a lot more of the events than we did thanks to your overwhelming response to sign ups for your children for the AISL Saturday Soccer program. We had over 340 children sign-up compared with 300 last year.

We have had a good response for Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Team Moms this year but can still use a few more volunteers, especially for Division C Coaches. Please consider volunteering. Parental support is what makes the Saturday Soccer League work.

We will have a Coaches meeting on Wednesday, 12 September. The meeting will be held in the Gym at 6:30 PM. We will have many topics to discuss but the primary agenda items are to finalize team assignments and pass out uniforms. All Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Team Moms should try to attend.

For tryouts tomorrow, please arrive 10 minutes before your designated time. Upon arrival form a line in alphabetical order starting at the far end of the field (along the tennis court bleachers) and extend back toward the big toy. Parents should help the younger children.

Should we have inclement weather and you're not sure if we are doing the tryouts on Saturday, please call 08025015959. A decision will be made on the weather at around 0715 so please wait to call until that time.

Tryout Schedule - Arrive 10 minutes early!

Tryouts will be held **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th**



Time	Tryouts	
8:00-9:00	Div "A"	PK-K
9:00-10:00	Div "B"	Grade 1-2
10:00-11:00	Div "C"	Grade 3-4
11:00-12:00	Div "D"	Grade 5-9 Girls
12:00-1:00	Div "E"	Grade 5-6 Boys
1:00-2:00	Div "F"	Grade 7-9 Boys

Below is the schedule for parents who volunteered to help us with the tryouts. You should plan to arrive 10 minutes early so your assignments can be explained. If you can't make your assigned time, please give me a call at 08035355425 or e-mail me at smithdan@mindspring.com. Thanks for volunteering!!

Tryout Scorers and Organizers

		Run	Dribble	Shoot	Line Organizer
Div A	Scorer	Scott Coulter	Denise Reynard	Jakob Bejer	
8.00-9.00	Scorer	Sean Hsu	Larry Fizer	Felix Iziomoh	
	Helper	David Rainbolt	Kim Fizer		
Div B	Scorer	Miroslava Blackall	Mark Riksen	Jose Gonzalez	
9.00-10.00	Scorer	David Rainbolt	Denise Reynard	Felix Iziomoh	
	Helper	Shirley MacNaughton	Ofer Arbeli		
Div C	Scorer	Miroslava Blackall	Mark Riksen	Helmant Patel	
10.00-11.00	Scorer	Ali Abdi	Denise Reynard	Jose Gonzalez	
	Helper	Orietta Skarstein	Lisa Lever	Kay Boeh-Fannin	
Div D	Scorer	Brian Glover	Tricia Glover	Gerry Aroozo	
11:00-12:00	Scorer	Ali Abdi	Sam Phillips	Jose Gonzalez	
	Helper	Orietta Skarstein	Denise Halliday	Yanira Puerta	
Div E	Scorer	Brian Glover	Tricia Glover	Gerry Aroozo	
12:00-1:00	Scorer	Alastair MacNaughton	Felix Iziomoh	Adewoye Seun	
	Helper	Cameron McMaster	Braulio Puerta	Yanira Puerta	
Div F	Scorer	Bidemi Balogun	Kim Fizer	Larry Fizer	
1:00-2:00	Scorer	Cameron McMaster	Felix Iziomoh	Adewoye Seun	
	Helper		Braulio Puerta	Yanira Puerta	

Visit www.swift.aislagos.org for Classroom Information

A big THANK YOU to all of the SUPER HERO volunteers on Saturday! Family Fun Day was a great success, even with the rain!

Many parents volunteered their time at booths, greeting, serving food, and just being friendly with all the families coming into our school.

Maybray family
Pizarno family
Badnani family
Bejer family
Christodococe family
Lev family
Reynard family
Mapondera famiy
Natisa family
Blackall family
Jose' Smith family
Nwaukoni
All the school board members



Tranquada family
Lory family

Anderson family
Grisdale family
Perez family
Amrani family
Ikaheimonen family
Krolow family
Simmons family
Winton family
Mensah family
Ogbue family
McNaughton family
Aihie family
Taylor family and\Uribe family

Although the schedule did not get followed like we planned, the PTO really appreciates all of the support you give to our organization.

Many more individuals volunteered their time as well and I am sorry I don't have all the names. THANK YOU!

Thank you again.
Katrina Head
PTO President



PTO NEWCOMER COFFEE
September 11, 2007
8-11 am
GOURMET PLAZA
Outside 1004 entrance gate across the street
In an "orange" stucco building.

Gathering by 8
Meeting by 9 and
Closing at 11.