



AIS Weekly

A Message From The Superintendent

Friday, August 29, 2008
Volume 45, Issue 2

Every year the beginning of school is a challenge to get the school back into a routine as fast as possible so that we get the students use to the schedule, pace, and foot traffic patterns between classes. The students have been superb!!

Trying to keep all the families and community informed of what is happening here at AIS is always full of challenges; however it does make a difference if people know what is going on here at school and what expectations are necessary to keep a strong organization running smoothly. I wanted to follow up on a few items that affect the entire community.

First, we are going through an upgrade with our food court. We have modified menus from our vendors to eliminate some of the unnecessary junk food items from the menu. The vendors have increased the offerings to students and have adhered to our request that soda not be sold at the food court. I know that a lot of folks are missing their Diet Cokes, but I would rather see students drinking juice, water, or something healthier during the school day. I am sure that you understand. The physical transformation of the

food court will take place later in September as we replace broken tile, cabinets, shelving etc. with new materials. When the contractor has all the supplies and is ready to install then we will be closing the food court for 7-10 days so that it can be refurbished. We will be selling drinks, however lunch will need to be brought from home. I will let you know in plenty of time prior to this happening.

Secondly, we are expecting our second set of containers to be delivered from the port any day now. It is frustrating that we do not have our new desks, lockers and other school supplies but we will be patient and hopefully they will arrive sooner rather than later. Also included in that container is a host of school stores supplies that our students desperately need. Please know that we are trying everything we can to get those containers here.

Thirdly, the morning drop off and pick up area is not working as efficiently as it was last year simply because we have drivers who are not following the ONE WAY rule. I really need your help with instructing drivers that exiting back the way you entered is not an option. ALL

vehicles should exit the area using the road through 1004 Estates. The management of the Estates has been generous with additional parking space for cars across the street so please use this area if your driver is waiting for you. I appreciate your help with this!! Car signs can be picked up in the main office on Monday. Please display them in the front window of the car so that we can help retrieve kids during pick up time.

Lastly, tomorrow is Family Fun Day and this is a great time to meet new parents and sign up for all the activities that are provided here at AISL. Saturday Sports, Scouts, PTO, American Women's Club (AWC) and many others will have tables to sign up and register. There is no formal set agenda or program, it is a day to mingle, visit, and get some of the things done that are difficult to do at the beginning of the school year.

I look forward to seeing you all there

REMEMBER it is ENVIRONMENTAL DAY so the Family Fun Day event is scheduled at 11:00am -2:00pm

Week at a Glance

Saturday August 30th

- Family Fun Day, 11:00-2:00

Sunday August 31st

- Campus Closed

Monday September 1st

- Secondary Spirit Week-Pajama Day
- Elementary After School Activities Begin

Tuesday September 2nd

- Secondary Spirit Week-Fashion Disaster Day
- PTO Volunteer Lunch, 12:30

Wednesday September 3rd

- Secondary Spirit Week-Professional Day

Thursday September 4th

- Secondary Spirit Week-Fake an Injury Day

Friday September 5th

- Secondary Spirit Week-Spirit Day (Grade Level Colors)
- Secondary Student Senate Applications Packets Due
- "Welcome Back 2 Skool" Dance for 9th-11th Grade, 7-10 in the Pool Conference Room

Superintendent - Thomas Shearer
Secondary Principal - Sharon Schauss
Elementary Principal - Justin Smith
Director of Admissions - John Stewart

Behind 1004 Estates, Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria
234-1-261-7798

Secondary News

It has been a fast start for the secondary students - the students and teachers jumped right into academics and activities. After school activities (sports, clubs, and activities) began this week. Please look at The Week In A Glance section on the first page for what will be happening next week. Next week is Spirit Week and students have the option to dress according to the theme for the day. The only thing I ask is that what they wear also be appropriate for the school environment. Student Senate has given them guidelines - but I also appreciate you checking with your student as well.

Please mark your calendars with the following dates. You will receive more information in the next several newsletters about these activities.

September 24 Back To School Night for Middle and High School Parents
6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

September 24 IB Meeting for Parents of Grade 11 Students
1:00 pm or 4:30 pm

Parents can choose the meeting they wish to attend. This is an important meeting for all parents of grade 11 students.



All students are expected to comply with the AISL Dress Code. I am asking for your support and help with this so it is not a year long topic of discussion. The areas of concern that I have been dealing with are length of skirts, shorts and sweatshirts. Skirts and shorts can only be 1 inch above the knee. Sweatshirts and cardigans must be navy blue, red, or white. They must be solid colors (no stripes, stars, or have any writing) and they cannot have hoods. Black is not permitted. Shorts, skirts, capri length, and pants must be navy blue, black, or khaki. White is not permitted. Please check the fit of your student's clothing. Parents will be contacted, and asked to take their student home to change if the student is not dressed according to the uniform code. The Student Senate had a fashion show at the assembly on August 29 so all students could see what is considered appropriate. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sharon Schauss

French Help

SECONDARY FRENCH HOMEWORK HELP AFTER SCHOOL AVAILABLE ON
TUESDAYS IN ROOMS ANNEX 301 AND ANNEX 302



Yoga Classes (For Parents)

Yoga classes will be starting for the month of September on September 2nd.

Days: Every Tuesday and Thursday

Time: 7:25am to 8:25am (prompt)

Place: Conference Room or Aerobics Room

Please contact Janvi Savalani 7760464 or 08023042525 for reservations and more information.

AIS 4th and 5th Grade Boys School Soccer Team

Mr. Holmgren and Mr. Smith will be holding tryouts next Tuesday and Thursday for the 4th and 5th grade boys' school soccer team. Tryouts will be held from 2:25-3:15 on the athletic field. Boys interested in trying out need to be present for both days. Players should come prepared by wearing proper gear (athletic shorts and shirt, soccer socks, shin guards, and soccer boots) and having a bottle of water to stay hydrated. The team selection will be posted Friday after school in front of Mr. Holmgren's door. Practice times and further information about being a member of the team will be distributed on Monday to those players selected.

Calling All Subs!!

If you are a certified teacher and are interested in substitute teaching at AIS, please stop by the office to grab an application and set up an appointment with Ms. Schauss and Mr. Smith.

We also want to encourage moms and dads with bachelor's degrees to consider the experience of substitute teaching. Substituting at AIS will give you a new appreciation for the quality and hard work the teachers are putting fourth for your children. If you are interested in being a substitute teacher, please stop by the office to talk with Mr. Smith and Ms. Schauss.

Visit www.aislagos.org for School Information

Elementary News

From the elementary Principal...

I have enjoyed meeting many of you these past two weeks. I want to encourage you to keep introducing yourselves to me. Putting a name to a face helps me start to establish connections between you and your child. A strong relationship between us and with your child's teacher allows all of us to partner together in educating your child.

As many of you have noticed, it has taken us a while to sort out the timing of the morning bell. As of this past Thursday, we believe that the bell issue has fixed. Thank you for your patience.

The change in our morning routine to stay on the ground floor until 7:25 am seems to be working well. Just so you are aware, the routine change was made for two important reasons, safety and classroom preparations. Last year when students were allowed to go to their rooms upon their arrival, our staff had a difficult time supervising all of the students because they were spread over three levels, on stairs wells, and in multiple bathrooms. Having students stay in the courtyard, on the big toy, and field allows us to provide proper supervision of your child in the morning. This change also allows teachers to have a few more valuable, undisturbed minutes to prepare for your child's school day. Thank you for understanding and supporting this change.

Starting this Monday, after school activities will be in full swing. Please remember that those siblings waiting for a brother or sister need to be supervised by an adult.

Keep practicing the school song! Mrs. Zarkada will be leading us at our Monday morning meeting. I hope to see all of you tomorrow at the Family Fun Day.

After School Activities

Elementary after school activities begin this coming Monday, September 1 at 2:25. Remember that all course fees must be paid for students to participate in activities. (Payments due in the office.) Any questions can be directed to Mr. Holmgren in Room 306.

If you have signed up your child for golf, remember to bring one dozen wiffle golf balls for them to practice with. For tennis, they need one can of fresh tennis balls each.

The AIS School Song

Words and music by Steve Cairns ©1992

We come across many waters
To this home near Africa's heart.
We discover the gift of each other
In a world where we each play a part.

Chorus:

Hand in hand,
Building a world of sweet harmony,
My friends from A.I.S.
Have shown me how bright the future can be.

We learn, seeking true wisdom,
We play under one sun,
We grow into a people
Who can live together as one.

-to Chorus-

One world cries for an answer,
A response from our hearts and our minds,
We face these challenges boldly,
With hope for all of mankind.

-to Chorus (twice)-

Food Court Opportunity



Dear AIS Parents,

As part of the renovation of the good court, we are looking for a fourth vendor to further diversify the type of foods on offer in the food court. In particular, we are looking for a vendor who offers fresh juices, fruit salads, smoothies, etc. We are therefore inviting any interested member of the AIS community to send in a letter of introduction, and a brief description of what they could provide, including any other ideas you may have. Please send the information to Ansi Hardord (ansi.harford@gmail.com). We will review all expressions of interest and we aim to get the new vendor up and running as soon as possible.

Thank you,
The Food Court Committee

Visit www.swift.aislagos.org for Classroom Information

NOTES FROM THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

ADDITION OF JUNIOR VARSITY TEAMS! We are going to be adding a Junior Varsity team for some of the competitive sports this year for the Middle and High Schools. The idea is to select the top athletes for the Varsity teams, while allowing all who are interested an opportunity to develop their skills with increasing competitiveness. If you are interested in participating in Boys' or Girls' Competitive Soccer and you did not sign up, please see Ms. Olsen for girls and Mr. Alfred for boys to be join one of the teams.

With the addition of Junior Varsity teams, we are in need of coaches. We will need a head coach for the following sports and seasons: Season 1 from August 25 to November 7, 2008 (10 weeks) for Boys' and Girls' Soccer; Season 2 from November 17, 2008 to February 20, 2009 (10 weeks) for Boys' and Girls' Basketball; and Season 3 from March 2-May 22, 2009 (10 weeks) for Boys' and Girls' Volleyball. If you are or someone you know is interested, please see or email Ms. Olsen at nolsen@aislagos.com for more information.

Competitive Soccer is off to a great start this week! The boys have had a grueling two days of practice. Their selection for the Varsity team will be made next week. Keep up the hard work, boys! The girls have worked hard as well and the selection for their Varsity team has been completed. Congratulations to all of the girls who tried out for the Varsity team; Coach Olsen and Coach Buki were pleased with the level of skill and effort! The following girls were selected for the Varsity team: *Sabina and Esmira Abilova, Or Abramovitch, Montunrayo Babatunde, Imke Bekker, Naomi Grant, Ani Inoyo, Tito Kolawole, Julia Miranda, Nneka Nwankwo, Roxanne Pedersen, Karina Santiago, Quincey Szymeczek, and Veronica Valdivia*. Only 14 players were selected at this point, so there is an opportunity for one or two players from the Junior Varsity team to be moved up to the Varsity team based on skill development, commitment to the team, and attitude over the next few weeks. Overall, we're seeing some solid, competitive, and fun soccer on the field!

Attention Swimmers in Grades 6-11! There is an opportunity to continue swimming throughout the course of this year. Grade 6 swimmers will continue to swim with the Elementary swim team and Grades 7-11 swimmers will practice on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30-4:30pm with Mr. McBride and Ms. Rogers. Practices will begin for Grade 6 swimmers on Monday, September 8 with the Elementary group from 3:30-4:30pm. Practices for Grades 7-11 swimmers will begin on Tuesday, September 16. Please see Ms. Anne for Grade 6 questions and Mr. McBride for Grades 7-11 questions.

LAGOS, NIGERIA T-SHIRTS WILL BE ON SALE DURING FAMILY FUN DAY! T-shirts can be worn as part of spirit wear for Fridays. For adults, there are black, white, and grey t-shirts and for children there are white and grey t-shirts in a variety of sizes. The cost per shirt is N2,000. Get yours and support the Athletic Program!

2008 Saturday Soccer

Last Chance to Sign Up !

Schedule

Sat Aug 30	Family Fun Day & Boot/Shin Guard Exchange
Sat Sep 6	Tryouts for players
Wed Sep 10	Coaches meeting
Sat Sep 13	First games

Family Fun Day is the last chance to bring us completed registration forms along with the participation fee of N10,000 or US\$80 in cash or US check.

NOTE: Forms cannot be accepted without payment at the time of registration



Thanks to all those folks who have already volunteered to help coordinate, coach or be team mom but we desperately need more, especially coaches.

PLEASE HELP US BY VOLUNTEERING !!

If you're not sure what it involves, speak to someone who coached last year or give me call. We'll also have lots of help available this year including the Coaches Corner on the web (sites.google.com/site/aislsoccer) and qualified US Coaching Advisor who will be available on demand during the season - come and meet him at Try-Outs.

If you are willing to support Saturday Soccer as a volunteer please let one of the commissioners know at the Family Fun Day or give me a call.

Lead Commissioner, Stuart McGeoch
08070363206 or socceraisl@gmail.com

*There will be a box of old shin guards and soccer shoes available at Family Fun Day - both are mandatory for practice & games. Bring your old ones and pick out some "new" ones. A N200 donation for shin guards and N500 for shoes will be charged to take "new" ones.



Tentative Try-out Schedule - Saturday September 6



Division	Grades	Time
Div "A"	PK-K	No try-outs
Div "B"	Grade 1-2	9:00-10:00
Div "C"	Grade 3-4	10:00-11:00
Div "D/E"	Grade 5-11 Girls	11:00-12:00
Div "F"	Grade 5-7 Boys	12:00-1:00
Div "G"	Grade 8-11 Boys	1:00-2:00

Practices will generally be 1 hr starting at 4:45 pm or 5:45 pm on weekdays at AISL though some younger slots may be after school. The final try-out schedule, practice schedule, rain-out numbers etc. will be published in next week's newsletter once we have all registrations.

Before that, on your home for all things AISL Saturday Soccer, go to:

sites.google.com/site/aislsoccer

Family Fun Day – 30th August from 11-2pm.

On the day informational tables on all sorts of services, sports, crafts, medical and travel will be available in the gym. In the courtyard will be a bouncy castle for the children and crafts to keep the kids busy. There will also be a coffee/tea tent in the courtyard.



The Summer reading program will be handing out the BEAR awards in the gym from 1.00pm – 2.00pm.

The photo machine for Security cards will be working from 11 till 2pm.

Will I need money?

Soccer sign up costs around Naira 10000.

At the school store table

PE Shirts	800N
Spirit Shirts	1500N
Shorts	2500N

Easy Access Lagos 4800N

PTO Table

2nd hand uniforms 500N

School Kit Store

Variety of items for use/wear at school Various prices.

The food court will be open to purchase food and the PTO is providing sausages, drinks, cakes and biscuits and tea and coffee. *Nirvana* is providing a range of their favorite snacks and we are grateful for their support as always. Coke has donated drinks and Shoprite is responsible for the sausages.

We look forward to a great day and hope you all find something to enjoy. The teachers are invited to come but no classrooms will be open.

See you there...

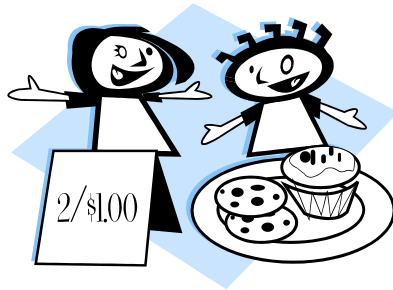
Anne Mathers

PTO President 08-09

PTO Future Events

School Store Update – shipment has not yet been delivered to the school. Approximately two working weeks still on getting the goods. We apologize for the delay and will keep you in the loop.

Volunteer Record. - A book is being kept in the office from the 1st of September for all volunteers for activities and in class rooms to sign up to log volunteer hours spent at the school. The reward for helping up with be a huge, exciting party held at the end of the school year to say thank you from the School to you for donating your time to make the school a better place.



Upcoming Events

2nd September – PTO Volunteer Lunch in the Pool Conference Room from 12.30 till pick up. The PTO will quickly run through the schedule of events for the year and it is sign up time for volunteers. Most events already have a lead except for three: The AISL Carnival, Bingo and Forums. If we are unable to get people to lead these events they will be cancelled.



20th September – 4pm – 6pm, PTO Cocktail Forum.

Speakers: Tom Shearer, Superintendent, Justin Smith, Elementary Principal, Sharon Schaus, Middle/High School Principal, Barry Phipps, Senior Counsellor, Dr Sarah Agnew, Elementary Counsellor, Norm Gaudet, Curriculum Coordinator, and Mr Mike Bowen, School Board President.

Good Food, Good Drink and great discussion from the school's leadership.

The PTO Calendar (does not include all the school events just PTO events)

October -13th – 17th – Book Fair in the Library.



Kids can browse books to buy during school hours with their teachers there to advise.

November

2nd – PTO Lunch 12.30-pickup – A guest speaker will entertain and inform about specialist subjects. (To Be Announced)

8th – AISL Carnival – Time to be confirmed but at moment 2.00pm – 6.00pm, Children play games to win prizes, a disco for the MS/HS, food, fun and we are working on a big surprise that will entertain both children and parents.

24th – Fall Bazaar – 9.00 am – 3.30 – Vendors come to the school so that parents can get in some Christmas Shopping.



December

10th – PTO Kids appreciate Teachers Day. – Say thank you to the teachers and celebrate the end of another year.

January

8th – Music on the Field 5.00pm on



(family picnic to raise money for Music Dept).

February

3rd – PTO Luncheon 12.30pm – pick up. Another great speaker for your entertainment. (TBA)

March/April (School trips to be announced, dates subject to these)
3rd – Night Forum 6.00pm – 8.30pm, A chance for the working parent to catch up with school gossip. Theme to be decided and speaker TBA.

TBA Bingo



Fun for all the family

April
21st – PTO Elections Lunch 12.30pm – pick up

May
12th – PTO Board Handover Lunch 12.30pm – pickup
28th – PTO Volunteer Appreciation Disco – Dinner – The big thank you event of the season. Send the school year out with a party to end all parties. Adults only.



Volunteers are need for all events. By offering one half hour of your time it means that everyone can enjoy the day. All offers of help should be made to Claire Wilson on 0803 556 1948 or wilsonfamily@cobranet.org or to Anne Mathers on 0802 966 5207 or annebmathers@msn.com or the PTO table at Family Fun Day or at the front desk at school.