



Gecko NEWS

Friday, February 10th, 2012



February = Reading Month

Reading is 'in' at AISC. With the introduction of our library and its prominent place on campus, literacy has quickly and naturally become one of our main focuses this year and our students have enthusiastically bought into it. Although we promote literature and the love of reading all year round, February has been declared 'Reading Month' at our school.

Becoming a person who reads for pleasure, means developing certain habits at a young age. It is most important to remember that a student who reads well but has no interest in picking up a book on his own can be considered alliterate-- the opportunity to get lost in a book has never become important enough to read beyond what is assigned by a teacher. Why is becoming a lifelong reader so important? Many measures of school success are well documented in an enormous body of research; the best predictor of how well a child will do in high school is how well they read in Grade 1, readers are better writers, readers score higher on reading tests, readers get better jobs, readers acquire second language skills more easily, etc. Aside from these measures, nowhere will kids find out more about what it is to be a human being than in books.

...continued on page 2

What's happening?

Tuesday, February 14th
Valentine's Day

Tuesday, February 21st
School Board Meeting

Monday, February 27th
Professional Day for teachers
No school

Saturday, March 10th
Swimming Gala

March 19th to March 30th
Spring Break



AISC SPIRIT week

Photos page 4 & 5

February is Reading Month

...continued from page 1

To be able to see oneself through the eyes of a character who has characteristics we all share – love, frustration, anger, self doubt, confidence, maturity, immaturity, bravery, loyalty, etc. can be lived, witnessed, felt, by characters who let us know that we are not alone. To be able to travel widely, experience worlds that lets us dream, and in so doing develop the creativity and imagination to see the world in a unique way, can only be found in books.

February is Reading Month...however our quest as teachers to turn our students into lifelong readers with a passionate desire to read will continue indefinitely.



Making Healthy Choices

What does a healthy diet look like for children? That was the focus of Mrs Lisa Landes' presentation, when she came for a visit last week and presented a workshop to our Grades 4 to 7s. Mrs. Landes is the nurse practitioner from the US Embassy and this is her third visit to our school to speak to our students about hygiene, nutrition, and general wellness.

Healthy eating is important for children as they grow, to avoid chronic illness such as diabetes, obesity, and depression. Ongoing studies and research prove that children who are nutritionally aware and eat well have more energy and self-esteem.

So what did we learn with Mrs. Landes' visit? First of all, breakfast is the most important meal of the day. If we skip breakfast, we have trouble concentrating and we may become irritable, lethargic, and easily distracted. A nutritious breakfast provides approximately one-fourth of the daily-recommended key nutrients. When taking a snack, a healthy choice would be something that is low in fat, sugar, and salt. Healthy eating consists of enjoying balanced meals containing good sources of protein and starch with lots of vegetables, salad, and fruit. Simple enough.





February Birthdays

- 2nd** - Jason Ramabefario (Grade 4)
- 2nd** - Shagun Puri (Grade 4)
- 3rd** - Debora Yao (Grade 9)
- 10th** - Mabek Khuslani (Grade 4)
- 15th** - Theodora Aribot (Kindergarten)
- 17th** - Edenn Ramabefarivo (Grade 1)

Reading Buddies

The aim of Reading Buddies is to give all students the opportunity to experience success in literacy and become more positive about their abilities to read and improve their reading skills.

Reading Buddies teams a group of older children who listen to younger students read; in this case our primary grades (Grades 1 to 3) paired off with our middle school grades (Grades 6-7). Older students listen to younger students read, discuss the stories, make up their own stories, play word games, and more. These activities can only help students, both younger and older, to become better readers, nurture a mutual interest in reading, and will hopefully develop and nurture cross-age friendships.

A *Reading Buddies* program allows older students the opportunity to develop fluency as well as a sense of pride in their accomplishments. The younger students, especially the emergent readers, feel good about themselves because they are reading to a buddy and not being assessed by the teacher. The older middle school students can promote good reading practices such as expression, volume and clarity. Older students are given the opportunity to lead, to be patient, kind, and empathetic towards the younger readers. Being a reading buddy to the younger children motivates them to prepare for the reading encounter and therefore know beforehand the content of the book and also prepare questions to sustain interest.



Sometimes, and to the delight of the younger students, the older students can read to the younger students and help them develop a love of reading and a greater motivation to read. The younger students will see good reading modeled and have inspiration to continue to develop their own skills as a result.

In the end, all students gain from the experience of reading buddies. It builds reading fluency in an authentic, safe, and child-friendly environment, it boasts self-esteem to everyone involved, and above all, it gives students a sense of accomplishment and pride.





in pictures!



Spirit week at AISC has come and gone...but school spirit is here to stay. Thank you high school students for organizing this great week of fun and festivities when we celebrated and embraced the fact that we are the best school in all of Guinea!



Super Hero Day



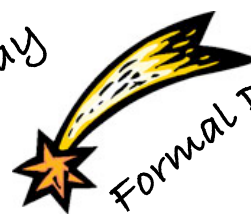
Wacky Tacky Day



Twin Day



Animal Day



Formal Day



MOZAIK

A performance illustrating a Guinean mosaic of it's art, it's culture, and it's future.



AFRICA



Last month, a school wide field trip was organized to the Franco-Guinean Cultural Centre where our students attended a performance of Mozaik, a theatrical performance highlighting different facets of Guinean culture. A very colorful and lively performance which included dance, music, singing, fashion, and a theatrical storyline with the main thread being driven by three characters: an old griot talking about traditional culture, a young journalist promoting a more contemporary culture, and an expatriate who brought her point of view from abroad. A first attempt at putting together a Guinean musical was enjoyed by all...but then, let's read what three of our students had to say about the play:

I went to the play and I saw a lot of acrobatics. The Policewoman was the funniest part of the play, as well as the South African girl.

Trey Stombaugh (Grade 5)



My favorite parts of the play were when they were doing skip rope with a person and when the acrobats came in. I really think it was gross when two women came dancing in front of the stage and I thought it was really funny when the older man tried to say hiphop. I really liked the rock music and the whole play.

Chris Weller (Grade 5)

The play was about traditional versus modern ways. My favorite parts were when the main actress showed how she came to Guinea and at the airport, the military man

stopped her a lot of times to get money, and when the old man didn't know how to say 'hip hop'. I liked these parts because they were funny.

Mahek Khushalini (Grade 5)