



Acorns International School

Plot 328 Kisota Road(Along) Northern Bypass Roundabout, P.O. Box 11674 Kampala.

Tel: +256 393 202 665, Mob: +256 756 202 665

Email: info@ais.ac.ug, Web: www.ais.ac.ug

October 2018

Message from the Head of School / CEO

Guten Tag, AIS Family!

Over the last week, I have been gushing about my trip to Vienna in Austria, for the IB Global conference. This year marks the Golden Jubilee celebration of the IB curriculum, and gave me the opportunity to be privy to some spectacular speakers and meet around 1800 school representatives from around the world. Such an extraordinary experience! The purpose of this conference was to look at the benefits of introducing IB to a new school or adding a new IB programme to our current offer. We had the opportunity to explore how our programmes are future-focused, context relevant and transformational, through school-based examples.



During these interactions, I realized that my experiences, with AIS, resonated with so many Heads of Schools, around the world, given that we are all working within the realms of multiculturalism, and many have evolved from being a small school to an IB continuum school. This platform also gave us the opportunity to share best practices. This, of course, translates into more professional development for our staff and HODs, to take AIS to new heights!

And from the looks of it, we are well on the right path... Read on to find out more... AIS students have made great strides across disciplines, be it sports, debate, spelling competitions, or during the recent auditions for our interschool competition, Talent Hunt 2018. We are so proud of all our students!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each one of you for cooperating and appreciating the new Security Policy. It would not have been such a success, without your cooperation. We also thank those who were forthcoming with some constructive suggestions, which we have been able to successfully implement. We would like to welcome on board our new Parent Teacher Organisation (PTO), who have been brimming with some refreshing ideas.

Kudos to our teams that represented Acorns International School at the World Scholar's Cup International Global round in South Africa! We are ecstatic about one of the teams qualifying for the final global round, to be held at the Yale University, USA, next month!

Clearly, all our flag bearers shoulder their responsibilities with great élan. Thank you for your continued support, as we go from strength to strength.

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-- Ameena Lalani- HoS/CEO

Money matters

- * The deadline for fee payment for Term 1, was September 14, 2018. Payments made after the aforementioned date will incur a 5% surcharge, as late payments.
- * AIS offers 15% reduction on one term's fee following the introduction of a new enrolment.
- * Post-dated cheques and dollar notes printed before 2009 (old white dollar notes) will not be accepted.

AIS Auditorium



We are happy to announce that the AIS Auditorium is now available for renting. For more details contact admin@ais.ac.ug

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEPARTMENT UPDATES

It has been a wonderful first half of our first term, back at school! All the children in ECDC have been busy learning through fun, exciting and playful activities. We have been looking at the theme *"All About Me"*, where students learnt about their families and friends, their bodies, good hygiene and health.

Family Week matched the theme perfectly and we celebrated by having our parents visit the classroom to share about our families and at the end of the week we had Grandparents Day!



Our grandparents and other family members had a chance to see what it's like to be an ECDC student. They joined us in many different activities and games. We finished our day with some yummy snacks...who doesn't love a good treat?! Thank you to all the family members who came to visit our classes during the week and attended Grandparents Day.



Our Reception students did an incredible job at their recent assembly. If you were not here, you definitely missed out on a very cute performance!

ECDC is continuing to grow in number and we are so happy to welcome all of our new friends to AIS. Due to this growth, our EC1 class will be splitting into two classes with **Ms. Vicky** taking one of the classes, and **Ms. Yirka** taking the other.

-- **Rebecca Hawkins - HOD ECDC**



World Teachers' Day



October 5th was World Teachers' Day. This is a day set aside to recognize the influence teachers have in student lives and to appreciate the work they do. Here at AIS, we celebrated with activities in the classroom, a board in the lobby for students and parents to write messages to our teachers, and a staff party on the rooftop. Thank you to all the parents and students who wrote messages of encouragement to the staff.



PRIMARY DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Year 1 Class Assembly

Year 1 Tulips and Sunflowers held their class assembly on Wednesday, September 26. The assembly was based on the Unit of Inquiry **"Who we are"** and the focus was on **"Healthy Me"**. Through this assembly, children demonstrated their communication skills. They



expressed themselves confidently and eloquently. Since the onset of this Unit, learners have depicted and applied healthy and unhealthy habits. We have received many positive responses from parents, highlighting the importance of the Unit and how it has changed children's thinking on healthy meals and habits. The highpoint for most parents has been that, the intake of fruits and vegetables, milk, water, nuts and homemade juice has risen compared with before. We are proud of our student for the action and application they are putting into their day-to-day lifestyle.



Year 6 Field Trip

The sprightly Year 6s explored **'Cultures and Communities'** in their Unit of Inquiry. In a step towards giving them a deeper understanding about this unit, their teachers planned a field trip to the Uganda Museum. On September 26, students left from school and spent half a day exploring countless aspects of culture and communities. Students had fun, as they learnt.



Shallon Baguma - HOD Primary

Talent Hunt Show

Acorns International School
inspiring and Empowering
Presents **2018**

TALENT HUNT

Dance | Vocals | Instruments | Creative Arts

Age categories: 7 - 9 years | Under 12 | Under 15 | Under 17

Date: Nov 3, 2018 Venue: Acorns International School (AIS)
Time: 10am onwards Food will be on sale

FOR ADVERTISING & MORE INFO:

Tel: +256 393 202 665 | +256 758 202 681 | Email: info@ais.ac.ug
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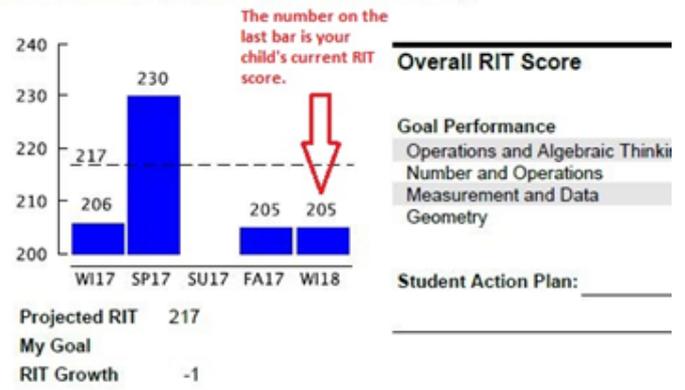
Auditions for the Talent Hunt were held over three afternoons, with some call backs taking place the week after. The panel were blown away by the amount of undiscovered talent at our school. Thank you, students, for auditioning!



MAP Testing at AIS

MAP testing stands for Measure of Academic Progress, offered by NWEA (North Western Evaluation Agency), based in the USA. They provide a range of web-based tests focusing on specific taught skills or overall growth tests from kindergarten (AIS Y1) to Grade 12 (AIS Y13). You may be familiar with paper and pencil tests, where all students are asked the same questions and spend a fixed amount of time taking the test. MAP is different; it is a computer adaptive test, which means every student gets a unique set of test questions based on responses to previous questions. As the student answers correctly, questions get harder. If the student answers incorrectly, the questions get easier. By the end of the test, most students will answer about half the questions correctly.

Mathematics (Growth: Math 2-5 AERO 2015)



- At AIS, we offer web-based MAP testing from Year 1 and above.
- We conduct scheduled tests for everyone in this group 3 times a year – every fourth week of the term.
- This term, in particular, testing is meant to give teachers an idea of skills and knowledge the students already have; this data is used to inform learning in the classroom as well as accommodate students requiring extra help through the Learner Support Department.

This year, practice tests were made available to parents to ensure learners get to familiarise with the testing platform as well as get used to the type of questioning used. There has been a lot of positive feedback from parents and for this reason we have provided more practice tests tied to your child's RIT score in their MAP test offered by Khan Academy (a free platform offering free practice tests and exercises). Download the below .pdf file which contains links to the practice tests based on the RIT score your child got.

For Math practice

Y1 – Y6 –

<https://cdn.nwea.org/docs/MAP+Growth+Grades+2-5+to+Khan+Academy.pdf>

AIS Sports Teams

“Do you know what my favourite part of the game is? It's not winning; it's the opportunity to play!”

American athlete, Mike Singletary

Earlier this academic year, AIS joined a team of seven other International Schools to form ISSA – International Schools Sports Association. Together we engage in various sporting activities including tournaments and friendly matches. This term, the focus has been basketball, soccer and swimming. In just two months, our dedicated coaches have been able to tap into the sporting talents in school to form various teams in different age categories. You can spot the teams hard at work every Wednesday after school and putting in more practice time on Saturdays to ensure they get better. Gratitude goes out to the parents of team members, who put in extra hours to ensure our players are present and ready – You are the true cheerleaders! In November, we will be having our finals for this season. Look out for our score board coming up soon. All the best to our teams and coaches!



MYP DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Students' Council

We are excited to announce our first full Houseteam-and-Student Council elections this year. Nominees were elected out of Years 8, 9 and 10, and they then proceeded to run an electioneering campaign the following week. While still building cooperation and collaboration in their respective house teams, our Houseteam Captains will now have the added privileges and accompanying responsibilities to serve as AIS Student Council members. The Student Council will meet once a month and strive to keep the following principles: Upholding the standards set by the Learner Profile; Actively advocating for good sportsmanship; Attending one Student Council meeting each month and working to strengthen the character and growth of the student body by actively contributing ideas and working to their completion. We are excited to see what comes of this newly formed council, and have high hopes for their proactive engagement to see the school grow.



AIS student goes global



The summer break was an exciting one for our Year 10 student, Aavardan Sundar, who took a trip to London for the London Cup Football Tournament.

Aavardan was a member of the Edgars Youth Programme, which travelled to London to participate in the London Cup Football Tournament in under-15 category. The tournament was scheduled to be played in Brunel University in West London, England, from August 2 to 6, 2018.



While the Edgars Team participated from Uganda, there was representation from all over the world: England - 3 clubs participated; Germany - 1 club participated; USA - 2 clubs participated; Morocco - 1 club participated. Edgars Youth Programme Club, representing Uganda won 3rd place in under-15 category. They registered 3 wins and 2 draws against the clubs they played during the tournament.

World Scholars

"Go AIS scholars go!" were the wild chants that filled the air at Entebbe International Airport as six of our students headed for the check-in queue to fly to Durban, South Africa, where they featured in the Mini Global Round of the World Scholars Cup. Our students did us proud by winning medals and a trophy for coming second in the junior division scholars bowl. One of our teams qualified for the Tournament of Champions, which will take place in Yale University, Connecticut, USA from November 16 to 21, 2018. Our team is currently undergoing preparations to feature and shine in the Tournament of Champions at Yale.



AIS PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

ECDC Parent Representatives



L - R: Tasneem M. Shehabi - EC2 Parent | Isabella R. Kawamara - EC2 Parent (PTO Secretary) | Lia Michael - Reception Parent (CPR Rep.) | Lovin Kabagonza - EC1 & Reception Parent

Lower PYP Representatives



L - R: Jihan Hijazi - EC2, Y3 & Y5 Parent (Upper Primary CPR Rep.) | Tamara Nyombi - Y1 & Y4 Parent | Christine Warambo Owino - Y2 Parent (Lower Primary CPR Rep.)

MYP Representatives



L - R: Shamira Morvi - Y5 & Y10 Parent (PTO Chair) | Kiran Kommareddy - Y7 Parent (MYP CPR Rep.) | Jessy Johnson - Y7 Parent | George Omunyokol - Y5 & Y8 Parent

Upper PYP Representatives



L - R: Gilbert Guma - Y5 Parent | Tesfalem Ghetahu - Y6 Parent | Manju Keshwala - Y6 Parent

AIS Staff Representatives



L - R: Robert Ssuuna - Y5 Teacher (Vice Chair) | Rachelle Hale - HoD LSS (Vice Secretary) | Evans Kimani - PYP CC | Nishitha Shrivastava - HoD Admin & Admissions | Yirka Vinck - EC1 Teacher | Neal Kelley - Design & Technology Teacher

The first act of this PTO is to enact a system to better streamline communication using Class Parent Representatives (CPRs). This is the way it will work...

Every class will need a volunteer parent to be the CPR. That parent will work with the class teacher to stay updated on the class schedule and events. A WhatsApp group will be created for each class in which only the CPR can send messages updating parents. This will not be an interactive group, only the CPR will be able to send messages, so that all parents can clearly receive the information that is sent by the CPR.

The CPR will NOT:

- Be a sounding board for individual concerns or complainants. These issues should still be communicated to teachers or HODs

- Send messages that are unrelated to class matters or did not come from teachers

The CPR will...

- Remind parents of scheduled classes/events (swimming, holidays, class parties, etc)

- Communicate things that the whole class needs to know

- Work with teachers to know what messages should be sent

- Communicate when notices are sent home with students

We are hopeful this system will promote better communication between school and home; however, we need your help. Each class needs a parent to volunteer to be the CPR. Ideally, this parent should be someone who visits school throughout the week and has a good relationship with the class teacher. If you would like to volunteer, please tell your class teacher. It is also possible that the class teacher may ask you personally to be the CPR.

There will also be members of PTO that will represent the CPRs to update other PTO members on how this new system is working. We ask for your patience as we are putting this system in place. The more quickly parents volunteer, the faster we can start!