

# PARENTS' NEWS

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## Upcoming Event Dates

### October

- 21st-28th Habitat for Humanity Trip
- 23rd COBIS
- 25th PSAT/NMSQT
- 25th PTF meeting

### November

- 3rd PTA 8.30am
- 5th SATS
- 8th PTF meeting
- 9th Elementary Design and Technology morning
- 9th Early close 12 noon
- 10th Half-term holiday
- 9th-13th Secondary Scuba trip
- 16th Parent Teacher meetings 1pm
- 21st Secondary Extended Essay Evening

## FROM THE DIRECTOR...

Our aim at AISJ is to serve our students in raising their standards of achievement. We most definitely achieve this aim, as you will read in our Newsletter within. My congratulations go out to Ms Robin Press and all our teachers involved in the International Baccalaureate results. They work extremely hard, and congratulations to our students who put so much personal effort in attaining the high results.

But our School is much more than raising standards of achievement. We aim to enhance the whole child in body, soul and spirit. This we do through many important activities and events. Our Service Day is just one example of helping our students to become caring citizens in their communities. You can read more about this from Mrs. Meira Yan, our MYP Coordinator.

Many of you may not be aware that we have a Parent/Staff Focus Group discussing the use of Mobile devices in School. I would therefore draw your attention to the article by one of our parents Elizabeth Dalling on behalf of the Tech Focus Group. Thank you again for your continued support.

"Whatsoever you do, do all to the glory of God." 1 Corinthians 10:31



## IB NEWS...



Ms Robin Press  
IB Co-ordinator

Congratulations to the class of 2017 for outstanding International Baccalaureate results!

Statistically, 2016-2017 was a very strong year for AISJ IB students. We had a student receive the highest mark in the history of the program at our school (42). Also, for the first time we had two students achieve a score of 40 or above. Diploma scores ranged from 25 to 42 points.

The mean score for those who received the full diploma was 32.0, which is 2 points above the world mean for the same time period and is the 2nd highest mean any AISJ cohort has ever achieved.

Our students scored better than the world averages in 70% of the subjects we offered last year. Our average subject score was 4.8, which is the 2nd highest subject average achieved by a graduating class at AISJ. Especially impressive was the number of students who received extra points due to their achievement in the Extended Essay and Theory of Knowledge courses. 30% of our students received the maximum 3 extra points, as opposed to the world mean of 9% of all IB students.

While we encourage all of our students to look beyond their exam results and embrace their strengths and talents which are impossible to quantify, we are very proud of our students, the parents that supported them and the teachers who helped them to achieve these impressive numbers!

### MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAM (MYP) SERVICE DAY

On October 19, 2017, all MYP students travelled off the AISJ school campus to volunteer in their local community. Students served in a variety of different ways and locations including but not limited to olive harvesting at the Augusta Victoria Hospital, serving food at a soup kitchen in Kiryat Yovel, reorganizing the gallery at the Bethlehem Crafts Village, cooking meals at The Arab Women Union, and distributing food to the Bedouin community close to Beit Sahour.

Service as Action is an important part of the Middle Years Programme as students are engaged in principled action. In addition, students work towards achieving 7 service learning outcomes throughout their time in MYP. These learning outcomes are to:

- become more aware of their own strengths and areas for growth
- undertake challenges that develop new skills
- discuss, evaluate and plan student-initiated activities
- persevere in action
- work collaboratively with others
- develop international-mindedness through global engagement, multilingualism and intercultural understanding
- consider the ethical implications of their actions

Students will continue to partake in service events throughout the academic year and are encouraged to take initiative to find their own volunteer opportunities in and outside of school.

I would like to thank Ms. Rania Husseini, the MYP Service as Action Coordinator, for all of the time, care, and effort she invested into organizing the day. Without her hard work and the support of the teachers, this day would not have been possible!

Overall, MYP Service Day was a great learning opportunity and a meaningful way to contribute to our community. Hats off to all of the volunteers!



Mrs Meira Yan  
MYP Co-ordinator







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AISJ is an internationally accredited pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12 (ages 3-18) school, dedicated to preparing students to succeed throughout the world, in schools, universities, future responsibilities and careers, and is founded upon Christian beliefs and values.

Our mission is to:

Lead the way, every day to deliver the best world class education.

Teach within the best methodology available and within the highest standards of Christian ethics and values.

Value, care for and encourage every child to learn to the best of their ability and to prepare them to take their place as a world citizen.

Value and professionally enhance every staff member.

Assist every school family to partner in the learning experience of the child within this unique and special location.

## INCLUSION NEEDS...



Mrs Liz Alburn  
Head of Inclusion Needs

The Inclusion department are still on the up! This week we welcome another new team member, Judith Sachs, who will be working in the Elementary IN team. She will support learners with English as an Additional Language (EAL), as well as learners who have previously studied a different curriculum, or have a different usage of English (DCU) as well as assisting students who have Educational / Emotional Special needs (SEN). Watch this space for even more expansion in the IN pipe line!

## FROM THE TECH FOCUS GROUP...

### Smartphones in School: Tool or Trap?

When you look at this picture what do you see?

Learners exploring and enjoying a powerful tool which helps them relate, create and navigate the world in new and exciting ways?

Learners turning away from the teachers, parents and friends around them who can help them relate, create and navigate the world face to face?

A bit of both?

We hear many different stories about the impact of smartphones on 'iGen' (the smartphone generation) and it can be difficult to know which ones to trust.

Researchers blame smartphones for an 'empathy crisis', a decline in relational skills and the loss of the ability to focus or do 'deep work'. The media point to the double standards of Silicon Valley's technology elite, many of whom send their children to 'low tech' schools, aware of the addictive power of the technology they have created.

But there's also research supporting the use of mobile devices in school and we're all aware of the ways they connect us and help us explore, learn, relate, create and play. We don't want our learners to miss out.

So...the Tech Focus Group, a group of AISJ parents and teachers, have launched an investigation. We're exploring how we, the AISJ community, can empower our learners to engage more creatively, critically and safely with technology in school and beyond, starting with a focus on smartphones.

We began with a survey of students, parents and teachers, which revealed some interesting differences in perspective. The next step is introducing some experiential activities in school. The aim of these activities is to help us all explore how smartphones might be helping our learners and how they might be getting in their way.

We hope you'll join us at the Primary PTA on Friday 3rd November at 8.00am and / or the Secondary PTF on Wednesday 8th November at 6.30pm so you can experience one of these learning activities, ask questions and join in the investigation!

Best wishes,  
Elizabeth Dalling (on behalf of the Tech Focus Group)



**Attention Parents!**  
If you have changed your contact details, please let the school office know!  
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