

From Brian’s Desk

Director Candidate Visits

This week AISF hosted the visit of two candidates to take over the leadership of AISF beginning this August—Jeff Trudeau, the Director of the International School of Ouagadougou, and Elizabeth Minnigin, the former head of the British School of Lome. Both have head of school experience, including experience in West Africa. Over the course of Tuesday and Wednesday they met with the local admin team, our maintenance crew, interested parents, students, teachers, assistants, and AISF’s School Board.

Both candidates have the relevant experience and both have quite different visions for AISF’s future! So, who will take the reins here in Freetown? That will be shared in a future edition of AWOKO!!



After-School Activities Kick Off!

Our Trimester Two after school program kicks off next week! We have a few new activities appearing such as Messy Play (for our youngest), Running Club, Ankara Crafts, and Chopped (AISF's version of Master Chef!) along with old favorites such as tennis, American Sign Language, and gymnastics. Enjoy!



Important Upcoming Dates

Saturday 20th January	School Board Meeting
Monday 22nd January	Trimester 2 After-School Activities Begin
Thursday 1st February	Black History Month Begins
February 12-15	Parent-Teacher Conferences
Monday 19th February	Sierra Leone Armed Forces Day Observed (School Closed)
Wednesday 21st February	Entrepreneurship Fair at AISF (tentative)
Friday 8th March	International Women's Day (School Closed)
Friday 15th March	Trimester Two Ends / Final Trimester Fees Due
March 29-April 14	Spring Break (School Closed)

Quote of the Week: *Leaders will be those who empower others.* Bill Gates

ECC

This week, our ECC students embarked on an exploration of the fascinating world of water. We started by discussing where water comes from, its essential uses, and the importance of using it wisely. Through engaging activities, the children learned about the process of washing and transferring water from its source to areas of use.

In hands-on learning experiences, the students spent valuable time washing trays and various materials used during their play. This not only reinforced the concept of water usage but also provided a fun and interactive way for them to understand practical applications. As we continue with the "Let's Play Outside" unit, we look forward to more exciting discoveries and hands-on activities that will enhance more learning experiences.



Grade 1-2

This week the Pangolin Class welcomed even more friends! We are bustling with energy and with enthusiasm to learn.

This week we tackled an independent research project. Each of us researched an animal and used what we learned to make an informative poster. It was tricky but we rose to the challenge!

We rounded out our week and our units on gardening and living things by celebrating Nature Day! We spent (almost) our whole day outside, completing our work while enjoying nature. We also harvested our radishes and cooked the radish greens, with mixed reviews.



Grade 3-4

This week we have had a new addition to our class - Esmond, who has joined us from Ghana. He is in Grade 3 and has settled in really well!

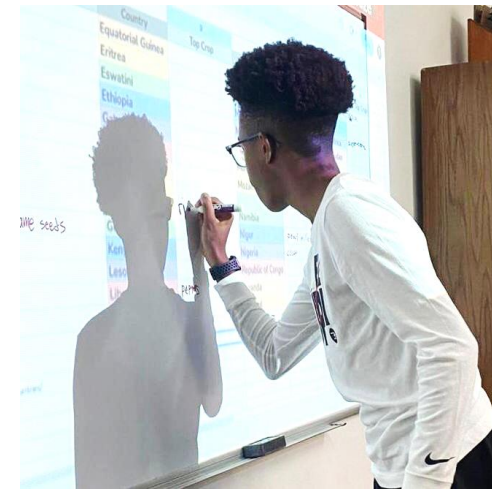
Our core text for ELA this trimester is Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Coinciding with this, is our new IPC topic - Chocolate. In Geography, we learnt about where cacao trees are found and the factors affecting the growth of cacao trees. In History we learnt about who first discovered chocolate and who took the first chocolate to Europe. In Technology we made Chocolate chip cookies. Yum!!!



Grade 5-8 (English and Social Studies)

This week the grade 5/6 class continued to read the novel *The Breadwinner* and tried to explain the deeper meaning of specific character dialogue by connecting what the character says to previous sections in the novel. While in social studies they began learning about the 5 Pillars of Islam which uphold the faith. The grade 7/8 class also continued to read their book for the trimester, *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, and got into groups to create a quiz about what they read in order to try and stump their classmates. While in social studies they looked at what the most abundant crop is from each country in Africa, which countries from around the world are the largest importer of these crops, and the advantages and disadvantages of relying on certain crops.

Country	Top Crop	Country	Top Crop	Country	Top Crop	Country	Top Crop
Algeria	Potatoes	Equatorial Guinea	oil palm Fruit	Madagascar	rice	Sierra Leone	Cocoa
Angola	Cassava	Eritrea	sorghum	Malawi	tabacco	Somalia	Bananas
Benin	Cotton	Eswatini	Maize	Mali	cotton	South Africa	sugarcane
Botswana	Watermelon	Ethiopia	Maize	Mauritania	Rice	South Sudan	Maize
Burkina Faso	Maize	Gabon	Maize	Mauritius	Sugarcane	Sudan	Cotton
Burundi	Cassava	Gambia	rice	Morocco	Sugar	Tanzania	cocoa nuts
Cameroun	cocoa	Ghana	COCOA	Mozambique	Rice	Togo	Beans
Central African Republic (CAR)	Corn	Guinea	rice	Namibia	Maize	Tunisia	Cereal
Chad	sesame seeds	Guinea-Bissau	rice	Niger	pearl millet	Uganda	coffee
Cote d'Ivoire	Cacao	Kenya	Maize	Nigeria	cocoa	Zambia	corn
Djibouti	date palms	Lesotho	maize	Republic of Congo	Cassava	Zimbabwe	corn
Egypt	Beans	Liberia	PEPMS	Rwanda	Maize	Sao Tome - Principe	COCOA
DRC	Cassava	Libya	Onions	Senegal	Millet	Comoros	Cassava

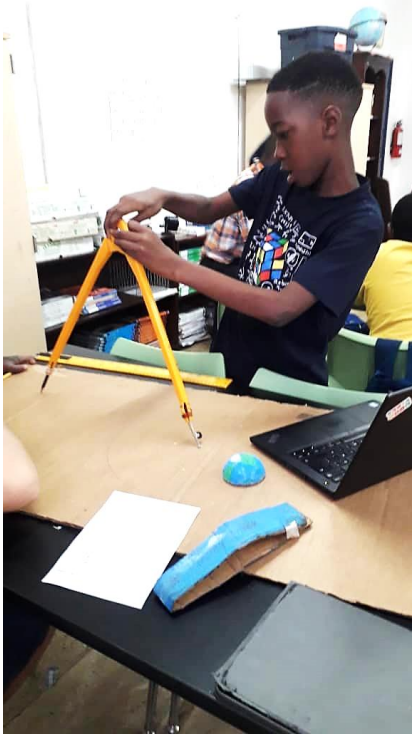


Grade 5-8 (Math and Science)

Hello AISF family! This is Ms. Hopkins and I returned to Freetown this week. I would like to send a special thank you to Mr. Morray for filling in for me in my absence. He did a fantastic job with the students, and they learned a great deal while I was away. Thank you all for sending your condolences to me!

This week, all students took their i-Ready diagnostic tests. The growth shown has been commendable. We will discuss their results during the next round of parent teacher conferences.

In Science, grades 5 and 6 studied Earth's four spheres and the layers of the atmosphere. They are creating a model of the atmosphere this week. Grades 7 and 8 are refreshing their memories of the periodic table as we learn about Bohr and Lewis Dot Models.



High School

The High School students continued to work on their online courses. U.S History opened with *World War I*, in Chemistry they measured toxins, in Algebra 2 they studied *Logarithms and Their Graphs*, and in English 12 students explored *The Enlightenment*. They continued working on their projects during the Art classes and played more American football in P.E. On Wednesday morning, they had two sessions of discussions with Mrs. Minnigin and Mr. Trudeau, the director candidates.

