

From Brian’s Desk

HALLOWEEN

Last Friday evening our PTO and fledgling Student Council, aided by a committed group of AISF staff, held a well-attended Halloween party and movie night here at AISF. I think that it’s safe to say that, to use the hackneyed expression, “a good time was had by all”. I love these events that build a sense of community! So, many thanks to all the parents and staff who helped out; we hope you enjoy a few photos of the event.





Holiday Season Coming Soon!

It seems hard to believe that we are already reaching mid-November. The American holiday of Thanksgiving is just around the corner and the holiday season is not far behind...and then it will be 2024. Thanksgiving is certainly a major American holiday and has its roots in a harvest festival where the settlers in the US gave thanks to God for the bounty that would see them through the winter and the new life that they had found in America. To that extent, Thanksgiving can easily be seen as something more than an American and Canadian holiday and as a time where we can all give thanks for all the good that we have in our lives.

On Wednesday the 22nd, AISF will be having an international Thanksgiving potluck lunch—yes, parents, get prepared! This will be followed by a four-day Thanksgiving weekend.

Then on Friday 8th December at 5pm (sharp!), AISF will hold its annual holiday season show. Each class will put on a short “holiday season” presentation and I have heard rumors of a whole school song...let’s see what happens. Please mark the date and time in your calendars. On Friday the 15th we will close at noon for the “winter vacation” and reopen on 8th January.

And a Serious Word

Modern education has so many issues to address. First, we still need to ensure that our students are literate, numerate, and can think critically about issues in the real world. That remains our core business. We need to ensure that they are happy, healthy, and productive people. We need to address issues around diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice. We are confronted with the unknowable effects of AI (artificial intelligence) and its impact on education and schooling.

But what troubles me more than anything, is what I see as the increasing division and polarization both within nations and between them. People seem increasingly unable to discuss, in a reasonable and civil manner, their differences and disagreements and to actually “hear” others. Surely, we must be able to disagree with one another without disliking each other. Surely a key task of education must be to create an environment where we expose students, at age-appropriate levels, to different opinions, theories, and perspectives and encourage them to listen to others with respect even when in disagreement. Perhaps that might lead to a more harmonious world.

Important Upcoming Dates

Saturday 11th November	AISF Hosts African Leadership Accelerator 08:00—4:00pm
Wednesday 22nd November	Thanksgiving Potluck Lunch @ AISF
23rd—26th November	Thanksgiving Long Weekend (School closed)
Friday 1st December	End of Trimester One (Trimester Two payments due)
Saturday 2nd December	SAT @ AISF
Friday 8th December	Holiday Season Show at AISF (5pm Sharp)
Friday 15th December	Last day of school before the holiday / Noon dismissal / Trimester One Reports
Monday 8th January	School Reopens

Quote of the Week: *I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.* Voltaire

ECC

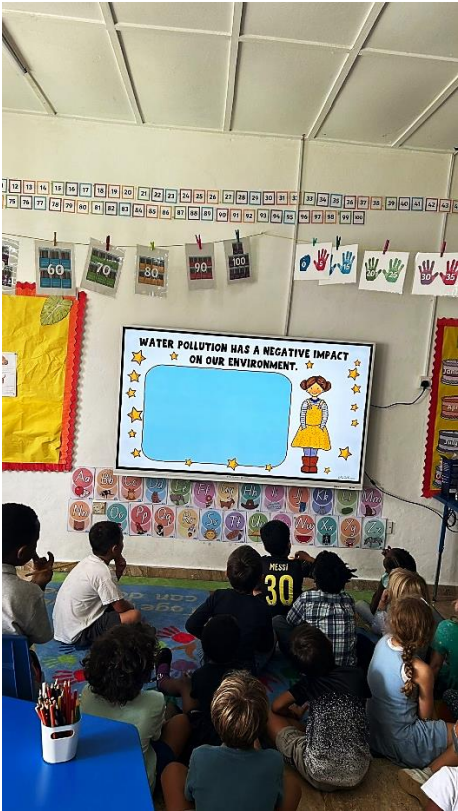
ECC students had a lot of fun this week. Pre-K students are learning to count to 7 and 8 and threading the correct numbers of beads onto pipe cleaners.

Kindergarteners are learning the vowel sounds and commonly used sight words.



Grade 1-2

This week has been such an exciting one as we continued our new IPC topic: Let's Plant it! We have been able to create our garden and have learned so much about what different plants need and how we can grow some crops in our garden. Of course, our math and English professors have been steadily at it whilst all getting in the holiday spirits.



Grade 3-4

Watch out 2024 Oscars!!! We have some future Academy Award winners in Chimpanzee Class! This week the children auditioned for a part in the upcoming Holiday Show. The children all did a fantastic job. We have some promising performers in our midst! We look forward to performing our play 'Dragon Trouble'.

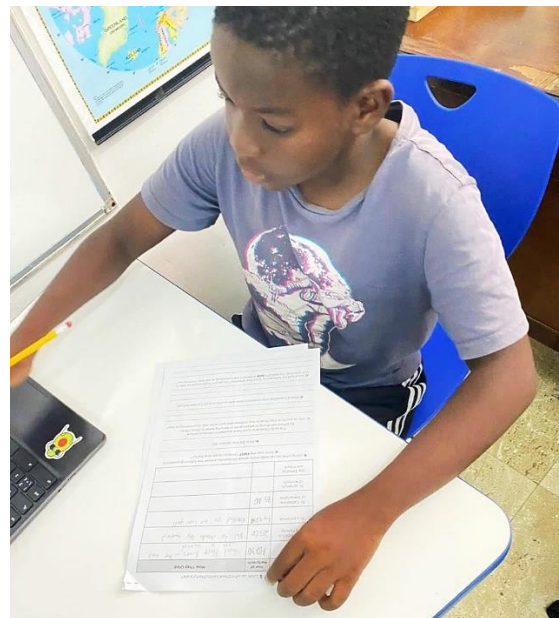
In PE they have been working on improving their agility and balance.

In class, we continue to work hard in all our core subjects.



Grade 5-8 (English and Social Studies)

This week Grade 5/6 students began practicing writing expository paragraphs in preparation for their final research project in ELA. In social studies they began to study the history of Christianity and the persecution of believers in the early church. In Grade 7/8 both classes completed their novels, *Wonder* and *Speak* respectively, in time to begin their final paper. Meanwhile, in social studies they began work on their final project, transferring both the skills and the knowledge they have gained over the trimester.



Grade 5-8 (Math and Science)

This week in Science, grades 5 and 6 concluded their study of the inner planets. They completed the scale models of those planets as the first step of creating their own models of the solar system. Grades 7 and 8 studied magnets and electromagnetism through a series of labs and activities.

In Math, grade 5 completed a lesson on division. Grade 6 learned how to write and evaluate algebraic expressions. Grade 7 completed a lesson on proportional graphing and 8th grade learned about dilations and similar figures.



High School

This week has been busy like all the others. The specialist teachers continued to support the high school students but most of the work has been done independently. In Chemistry, students had to do an experiment about Catalysts. For English, Grade 10 started to study an "Introduction to the Holocaust" and Grade 12 learnt about ballads and sonnets during The Renaissance. Also, they have already started to rehearse for the Winter Show.

