



September 2008

Newsletter



Bienvenidos & Bem Vindo

Welcome back to a new academic year and greetings from the AASSA office. We have been going full tilt all summer wrapping up purchasing and shipments to the 20 schools that used our service this year, concluding the programming on our new recruiting fair site which was launched last month, and preparing for the year of conferences ahead.

We held our largest-ever **conference for Business Managers and Administrative Staff** in July with a total of 43 practitioners and 6 exhibitors—an event that was positively rated by those who took part. There were 13 new participants and 7 attendees from non-member schools. The conference focused on dealing effectively with the rapid pace of change that is characterizing our professional and personal lives. Our facilitator, Ms. Cindy Kubica took participants through a program that focused on understanding and effectively dealing with the physical and emotional stress that accompanies both personal and professional change.



New Member Schools

I would like to welcome schools new to our organization thus far this year:

American School of Tegucigalpa, Honduras	Liliana Jenkins	ljenkins@amschool.org
Colegio Alberto Einstein, Quito	Raquel Katzkowicz	rkatzkowicz@einstein.k12.ec
Crossroads Christian Academy	Jacqueline Wiese	cca_panama@hotmail.com
Davy College, Peru	Peter Zeitoun	pzeitoun@davycollege.edu.pe
Escuela Anaco	Phillip Katzmann	p.katzmann@yahoo.com
School of the Nations, Brasilia, Brazil	Lisa Perskie	lisap@edn.org.br

New Heads

American Cooperative School, Bolivia	Matthew Kirby	mkirby@acslp.org
American Nicaraguan School, Nicaragua	Stan Key	skey@ans.edu.ni
American School of Guatemala	Tracy Berry-Lazo	tberry@cag.edu.gt
Colegio Panamericano, Colombia	Steven Desroches	director@panamericano.edu.co
International School Port of Spain, Trinidad	Eric Larson	elarson@isps.edu.tt
Pan American School of Puerto Alegre, Brazil	Jeffrey Jurkovic	director@panamerican.com.br

New Sponsors and Vendor Members

AASSA welcomes and thanks the following new Sponsors and Vendors. Without the support of our vendors we could not provide the quality of services that we do for our member schools! We welcome:

E-Technologies Solutions—Angela Rueda
JK Children Supply, Inc.—Mario Laricchia
Laureate Higher Education Group—Lawrence Baird
Pearson Assessment—Terry Ambrose
Seton Hall University—Charles Mitchel
University of Alabama—Ronnie Stanford

A Glimpse at Upcoming AASSA Conferences

Information on this year's conferences appears on our website: www.aassa.com

One of AASSA's key functions is to provide professional development in the form of quality conferences. It is my hope that AASSA member schools will take full advantage of our regional conferences both for the professional development opportunities and the region-wide collaboration they provide.

MAP Training at Escola Americana do Rio de Janeiro

Six AASSA schools will participate in the first regional training for Northwest Evaluation Educational Association's training session for its MAP assessment program on September 2nd. Thanks to a grant from the Department of State, AASSA is pleased to promote MAP assessment to our member schools. Also, a big thank you to EARJ for hosting this event.

If you would like further information on MAP assessment, contact Shoshana Blauer at: Shoshana.blauer@nwea.org

Governance Conference for Board Members and Heads of School

This year's conference, facilitated by Jim Ambrose and Paul Poore, to be held in Miami from the evening of September 25 – 27 will explore the principles of exemplary Board practice with the aim of improving governance and leadership within our schools. The *NAIS International Trustee Handbook* will be provided to each participant and serve as a point of departure in exploring the overarching roles and relationships, fiduciary and strategic responsibilities of a Board and provide participants with the tools and strategies to meet the challenge of effectively governing our schools.

The conference will strive for a balance of instruction and interaction with a focus on dialogue and engagement with colleagues, case studies, activities and role play. The conference structure will provide for differing sessions involving the whole group, heads of school, and board members.

Each participant will also receive a CD-ROM of materials with which to conduct their own Board orientation. Ideally, those heads and board members attending from each school will have the tools and materials to conduct their own on-going orientation and training sessions with their boards.

Latin American Administrators' Conference

The Conference will take place in Atlanta from December 7-9 (immediately following the AASSA Recruiting Fair from December 4-7). The conference will be designed around the theme of Leadership for Learning and will include keynoters and presenters such as Ochan and Bill Powell, Monica Martinez, Clayton Lewis and Deb Welch. The conference is designed for both heads and principals.

We are hoping for numerous presenters from the membership, so please go to the AASSA website (www.aassa.com) under the conferences tab and visit the Latin American Administrators' Conference site where you can get the form for submission to Advanc-Ed. Proposal forms are due by October 3rd at the latest! Registration information will be online soon.

AASSA Educators' Conference in Bogota

Our major fall conference in Bogota will hopefully draw at least 500 participants and has a wide and varied program. Details of the conference are found on the AASSA website, but I am providing a brief overview below.

We will have **Pre-Conference** sessions on March 18 and 19 as follows:

Principals' Pre-Conference:

Ventures for Excellence: Developing Teachers in Pursuit of Excellence
Janie Pollock: Improving Student Learning, One Principal at a Time

Teachers' Pre-Conference Sessions:

Standards-Based Instruction in High School Mathematics (Janis Heigl and Jim Short): 2 days

Pre-AP and AP Training (College Board): Topics for Vertical Teams in Science, Topics for Vertical Teams in Social Studies, Strategies in Science: Creating a Learner-Centered Classroom, AP US History.

Facilitating Effective (Inter) cultural Learning at International Schools (Cate Brubaker) 1 day

AERO Standards-Based Curriculum: Strategies for Improving Student Learning (Tom Oden and Naomi Woolsey)- 1 day

NWEA MAP Training: 2 days – Map for the New School, Stepping Stones, Climbing the Data Ladder

Counselors' Pre-Conference:

COIS College Counselors' Conference (March 19th)

Librarian's Pre-Conference:

Library Automation Workshop for Follett's Destiny and Circ/Cat Plus Users (Follett) – 1 day

The Main Conference will feature the following:

Keynotes:

Dr. Vic Cotrell: Partnering for Excellence

Dr. Janie Pollock: Improving Student Learning, One Teacher at a Time

Dr. Barbara Byrd-Bennett: Building and Sustaining Excellence in Education in a Flat World

Main Strands:

1. Janie Pollock:

One Teacher at a Time: Planned Instruction

One teacher at a Time: Grading and Record Keeping

2. Dr. Barbara Byrd-Bennett:

Teachers Sustaining Excellence in the Changing Global Marketplace

Partnerships for Leading the Unknown While Sustaining Excellence (primarily for administrators but open to all)

3. Ventures for Excellence:

Power of Partnering: Teachers and Students

Power of Partnering: Teachers and Parents

4. Dr. Cate Brubaker:
Fostering Deeper Cultural Awareness and Understanding at Your School
From Tourist to Explorer: Promote Cultural Curiosity, Awareness and
Exploration in EFL
5. Cyber Issues (Linda Sharp):
Education in a MySpace World
Cyber Security in the Classroom
Using Web 2.0 in the Classroom
6. Standards-Based Instruction in High School Mathematics (Jim Short and Janis Heigl)
7. Counseling Strand: Two full days of a counseling institutes will be held during the main conference, facilitated by Denise Cochran and Robin Fate

The conference will also feature approximately 100 teacher/administrator workshops. If you're interested in offering a workshop, please submit it online by October 1: www.aassa.com, go under the conferences tab, select the Call for Presentations Bogota.

We look forward to solid support from our schools at the Bogota conference. Our next major educators conference will take place in October 2009 in Santiago, Chile.

The Rest of the Story

In looking ahead, this year will be another year of continuing to build a solid foundation for our organization's work while offering the various events which populate our calendar. During this school year, each school head will be asked to complete a statistical survey with information on his/her school so that AASSA has a database of basic and essential data on our membership. Our board will meet in September and a new strategic plan will be developed to guide the organization's future development. We will continue to upgrade our IT infrastructure (a major goal of the current year) and begin to research both rental and purchase alternatives to our current office space for a move to more appropriate space by December 2009. Another major thrust will be continuing to develop relationships with organizations and individuals that will benefit AASSA schools and staff.

The AASSA staff and I look forward to working for the benefit of the schools in our region in the year ahead.

Paul Poore
AASSA Executive Director

CONTRIBUTING TO A BETTER WORLD



On May 22nd, the world celebrated International Biodiversity Day (IBD). As part of the celebrations, the eighth-graders at Colegio Alberto Einstein in Quito, Ecuador, participated in the “Green Wave” initiative, as the only school from South America. The school also supports other national, international and global tree-planting initiatives such as the UNEP-led Billion Tree Campaign.

As described on the corresponding website, “*The Green Wave* builds on the *20+10 Schools & Trees for Biodiversity* project initiated and carried out in 2007 in schools in ten countries around the world as a contribution to the UNEP Plant for the Planet Billion Tree Campaign and celebration of IBD 2007.” In last year’s project, Colegio Alberto Einstein was the only school representing South America.

At our school we reflect a great deal about the world’s problems and possible solutions, but we also like to have the opportunity to take action. Thus, both of these IBD experiences have been very enriching, and they have made it possible for our students to feel that they are “citizens of the world.”

Since the eighth-graders were very excited about this project, they participated actively in all of the stages, including planning. Then, on May 22nd, each one planted one to three trees in our school gardens. All of the trees were from four species native to the Quito area: *cholán*, *pumamaqui*, *tilo* and *yolomán*. In that context, the students discussed the importance of planting endemic species and the consequences of planting foreign ones. This year, the trees were planted on the school grounds so that we could ensure that they would be cared for properly and be able to reach adulthood. However, for next year we would like to extend our action outside the school campus.

As a science teacher for this group and a conservation advocate myself, I am very motivated to continue undertaking activities outside the classroom in benefit of the environment. I am also very happy to be able to work with and encourage these young teenagers who are already making a great effort to create personal and public awareness of the world’s problems-- and of the role that each individual can play in contributing to broader solutions.

For further information on the above-mentioned projects, please refer to the following websites:

<http://greenwave.cbd.int/>

<http://www.cbd.int/2010-target/>

<http://www.unep.org/BILLIONTREECAMPAIGN/>

Ma. Isabel Aguinaga B.
Middle-School and High-School Science Teacher /
Green Wave Project Coordinator

MERIT AWARD FOR DR. CHARLES LYNDAKER

On August 15, 2008 Dr. Charles R Lyndaker was awarded the Pedro Ernesto Medal for Community Service in Education for the City of Rio de Janeiro by the City legislature of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The Pedro Ernesto Medal is the highest order of merit and recognition given by the elected officials of Rio. Dr. Lyndaker has been superintendent of Our Lady of Mercy School since 1980 and also has been a professor of Education at the State University of Campinas (UNICAMP) since 1973. The legislature also awarded him the title of "Cidadão Carioca" (Carioca Citizen). This is the name given to all those who are citizens and residents of the City of Rio de Janeiro.



The Richard W. Riley
College of Education and Leadership

WALDEN UNIVERSITY

MOU Reached Between AASSA and Walden University

Walden University (a member of Laureate International Universities) and AASSA recently formed a partnership to offer AASSA's members and associated educators the opportunity to

pursue a Walden bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree, or engage in the teacher preparation or special education endorsement programs at a 10% reduction in costs.

Walden University is an accredited institution that, since 1970, has offered advanced degrees online to professionals who work to make a difference in the lives of children, the health of a community or the success of an organization. To learn more about professional development opportunities through Walden, visit the university's website at www.degrees4educators.com

MATHCOUNTS

Beijing may have hosted the Olympics of sports, but Denver hosted the Olympics of mathematics. Each year the Office of Overseas Schools sends a team of four top Mathletes from the U.S. Department of State assisted schools who have qualified to compete in the MATHCOUNTS National Competition. This year the event was held May 8 – 11 in Denver, Colorado. The Mathletes trained extensively at their individual schools in order to be eligible to compete. They were confident, well-prepared, and exhibited a great deal of team spirit. The Department of State team was comprised of the following individuals: Harlin Lee, International School Manila; Kevin Liou, Taipei American School; Scott Paek, Jakarta International School; and Alex Schindele-Murayama, Singapore American School. The team coach was Sebastien Millette from the International School Manila. On the last day during the Count Down Round it is as exciting as any Olympic event when each team enters the auditorium running behind a large banner identifying their team. All this is projected on several jumbo screens before cheering family, guests, coaches, and sponsors.



MATHCOUNTS is a national enrichment, coaching, and competition program that increases enthusiasm for achievement in middle school mathematics. It motivates and rewards students by fostering teamwork and a competitive spirit. It involves students and teachers in year-long coaching sessions and helps students at all levels to improve their problem-solving skills. Those earning the right to compete at the National Competition are a select group of the brightest and best representing each of the 50 states, along with seven other regions including the U.S. Department of State-assisted overseas schools, the Department of Defense Schools, and the U.S. territories.

Two unique programs are offered by MATHCOUNTS. Launched this year, on the 25th anniversary, was the MATHCOUNTS Club Program (MCP). The MCP is a fun, challenging and free program aimed at engaging a wide spectrum of students. MCP provides schools with the structure and activities to hold regular meetings of a math club. To obtain more information regarding this program go to www.mathcounts.org. The Competition Program provides the extra incentive and the perfect atmosphere for students to push themselves to achieve more in mathematics. Consisting of fun and creative problems, the competition has written and oral rounds, as well as individual and team components. MATHCOUNTS provides the materials for teachers and students to use as they prepare for the competition series. Participants then advance through School, Chapter, and State competitions until 228 students are selected to attend the National Competition. The State Department team consists of the four top scorers in State competitions from among the overseas State Department competing schools. The coach of the top scorer is selected as the team coach.

In 2009 the MATHCOUNTS National Competition will be held at Disney World in Orlando, Florida from May 7-10.

Students from Department of State-assisted schools who are enrolled in the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade are eligible to participate in the competitions. These students need not be US citizens. The State Department program is coordinated by Barbara Dubke, who can be reached at dubkeba@state.gov or 202-261-8200.

**Caption for photo: Standing: Kevin Liou, Coach Sebastien Millette, Scott Paek
Sitting: Harlin Lee, Alex Schindele-Murayama**

Overseas Schools Principals Receive National Distinguished Principals Award

Two outstanding principals from the U. S. Department of State assisted schools have been chosen to receive the National Distinguished Principals (NDP) Award for 2008. This year the award winners sponsored by the Office of Overseas Schools, are Ms. Mary Russman, principal at the American School of The Hague (ASH), The Netherlands, and Ms. Marcene Pareja, principal at the American Cooperative School (ACS), La Paz, Bolivia.

Mary Russman is a dedicated principal whose passion is to do her best for the parents, students, and teachers she serves. She demonstrates an extraordinary personal dedication in helping the school achieve its mission to *Educate Students to Excel*. Mary initiated a “wildly successful” Color House program that vertically integrates the students and faculty in a way that encourages cooperation. She has also expanded the special needs services for her students, facilitating an effective records and referral system. She has championed a service learning program that provides thoughtful and appropriate activities. Mary has implemented programs to inspire kids to excel in their commitment to others. Mary Russman received her Bachelor of Arts in Education from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan and Masters in Education from the University of La Verne- Athens, Greece and La Verne, California. Before becoming the principal in 2004, Mary spent 21 years as a principal/counselor/teacher in Zimbabwe, Argentina, Nepal, Bangladesh, Switzerland, Italy, and Greece.

Marcene, “Marcy”, Pareja has worked diligently to bring diverse cultures together to form a learning community of international and host country parents, teachers, and students through outreach, recognition, and a caring environment. As a principal she has created an expectation of

shared leadership and collaboration for students, staff and parents resulting in a six fold increase in parent volunteers and a powerful elementary community service project true to the school's slogan, *Together We Make a Difference*. She has created a culture of continuous learning by aligning teacher goals to the school strategic plan and providing teachers with student-free half days for professional growth and significant funding for staff development. These accomplishments have had a tremendously positive impact on staff morale for ACS staff members who previously had limited access to high quality educational opportunities, as well as a benefit to student achievement. Marcene Pareja is a graduate of California State University, Los Angeles where she received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Multiple Subject Teaching Degree. She received her Masters in Education from Chapman University in California.

The National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) and the U.S. Department of Education have once again sponsored the National Distinguished Principals (NDP) Award. This award recognizes outstanding educators who ensure that children acquire a sound foundation for lifelong learning and achievement. Each year this program honors outstanding elementary and middle school principals from each of the states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Department of Defense Schools and American overseas schools assisted by the U.S. Department of State.

Ms. Mary Russman and Ms. Marcy Pareja, along with the other honorees, received their awards on October 17, 2008, during a formal banquet and award ceremony at the Capitol Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C. During this banquet a representative from the U.S. Department of Education presented each honoree with a certificate and an engraved bell. The festivities also included a reception on October 16, 2008, in the State Department's Diplomatic Reception Rooms which was hosted by the Department of State's Assistant Secretary for Administration, Mr. Raj Chellaraj.

Barbara A. Dubke
US Department of State
202-261-8216 or 261-8200
dubkeba@state.gov

Ms. Mary Russman



Ms. Marcy Pareja



