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From the Desk of the Executive Director



Greetings from Nairobi where the El Nino rains have come with a vengeance and we're told this is just the beginning of a long, wet rainy season. In recent weeks we've had visits from the US President and the Pope along with all the expectation such visits entail. Like many of you, I have been looking on with sadness as events in Egypt, Lebanon and Paris take place. Closer to home we watch with concern the events in Burundi, hold our breath with each national election and breathe more easily when there is a glimpse of reconciliation such as that in Banjul. I am reminded more than ever of the important role our schools have in sowing the seeds of understanding and tolerance in our communities.

As we move towards a well-earned holiday there are a couple of professional learning opportunities that I want to highlight with you. Please take a look at the new AISA [Professional Learning Institutes](#) (PLIs) taking place across the continent this year. For teachers and co-professionals these very targeted, very high quality learning opportunities can replace the AISA Educators Conference that is not running this year as we change over from the March 2015 event to the October 2016 event.

I'd also like to encourage our schools to put together multi-level leadership teams and register for the [AISA Leadership Conference](#) (ALC) in March 2016. These teams will ideally include heads, principals, PD coordinators, business managers, those looking after advancement, marketing, admissions, & Board members. The 2016 ALC in Cape Town is going to be a fantastic new programme that extends the learning that took place last year. With facilitators who have grown to know our region quite well, I think this will be one of our best yet. The Early Bird Deadline to register for this is January 4th so you may want to register your team before you go on your December break to get the cheaper conference fee. Note that this event is only available to paid up AISA members - so be assured those in the room with you will know the unique context in which we operate.

Enjoy your Holiday!

Dr Peter Bateman
Executive Director



**2016 AISA
Leadership
Conference**

4 - 6 March • Cape Town, South Africa

Multi-Levelled Leadership: Creating Connected Schools

AISA NEWS & UPDATES

PLWG Strategic Meeting

Planning for 2016-17: Graham Watts, AISA Director of Learning

The AISA Professional Learning Working Group met in Nairobi for a few days in late November to do some serious thinking about how AISA can measure the impact of our learning events and to plan out a programme for 2016/16.

The AISA PLWG meeting focussed on planning an engaging, challenging and inspiring educators' conference for October 2016. Based on our needs analysis, we have decided to structure the conference so all participants can experience two institutes so they leave with a deep level of knowledge and competency and are ready to implement their new ideas when they return to school. Additionally, we are building in opportunities for teachers to share what works in their classrooms, time for our learning partners to share their products and services, an unconference open space where participants set the questions and lead the discussion as well as yoga, guided meditation and mindfulness sessions to create action packed, powerful learning experiences like no other.

As well as the Educators' Conference next year, the PLWG are working on a programme of 2 day Professional Learning Institutes (PLIs) that will be offered across the continent and throughout the year. Based on our needs analysis, Institutes are being planned on:

- ⇒ Promoting Excellence in STEM,
- ⇒ MAP Training by NWEA,
- ⇒ Early Years Education,
- ⇒ Excellence for Operations Managers in schools,
- ⇒ Differentiation in Maths for Grades 5 – 9,
- ⇒ Concept-based Learning,
- ⇒ Teaching Science K-12,
- ⇒ Teaching Highly Capable Students,
- ⇒ Learning to Lead,
- ⇒ Cognitive Coaching,
- ⇒ Leading the Inclusive Classroom,
- ⇒ Elementary and Middle School Literacy and Adaptive Schools

Any AISA school can host a PLI. If your school is hosting an expert facilitator to work with your faculty and you would like to open this up to other AISA schools, we are keen to hear from you to discuss how we could develop this into an AISA PLI.

Tell us what you want. We want to hear from you! Watch out for the Educators' Professional Learning Needs Annual Survey which will be sent to all school at the end of January. This is your opportunity to tell us what your needs and priorities are for the next 18 months and your views will shape the programme we offer.

Margaret Sanders International Scholarship

AISA is delighted to announce that our nomination for the Margaret Sander's International Scholarship is Kedest Mathewos from the International Community School in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

We wish Kedest every success in her nomination.

AISA Art Challenge

AISA would like to thank the 12 schools who entered this year's Art Challenge. We have some wonderful works to choose from and with over 40 submissions, it will be very difficult to choose just 12. Take a look at our Facebook page where we'll be sharing some of this year's entrants. We'll be using your likes to help us choose the winning entries, so like us on Facebook today.



ASSOCIATE MEMBER NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES

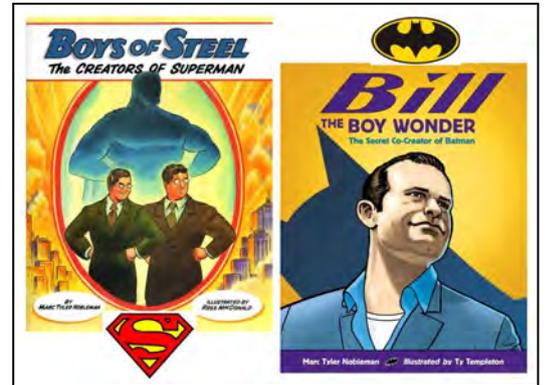
Seeking a Visiting Author?

Marc Tyler Nobleman Might be the Answer

Marc is the Maryland author of 70+ children's books; and has been invited to speak at schools in more than half the 50 states as well as Tanzania, India, United Arab Emirates, Chile, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, and Guam.

Among his work:

- ***Boys of Steel: The Creators of Superman***: multiple starred reviews; ALA Notable;
- ***Bill the Boy Wonder: The Secret Co-Creator of Batman***: covered by NPR's *All Things Considered*, *New York Times*; led to an invitation to give a TED talk; [changed pop culture history](#)
- ***Thirty Minutes Over Oregon*** (2016): the true story of the Japanese WWII pilot whose unprecedented act is a famous first that is not yet famous
- ***Brave Like My Brother*** (2016): the inspirational story of an American soldier in WWII England who shares his war experiences (including a historic, dangerous secret mission) with his 10-year-old brother via letters
- ***The Chupacabra Ate the Candelabra*** (2017): funny fiction
- ***Fairy Spell*** (2018): the true story of the two girls whose WWI-era photographs of alleged fairies mystified the world for decades



If you are interested in hosting Marc, or another author, join up with another couple of schools in your region and make use of the [AISA Visiting Author Programme](#).

If you are interested in having Marc visit your school, contact him at: mtnobleman@gmail.com

The 2016 Saatchi Gallery & Deutsche Bank Art Prize for Schools is Open and Receiving Entries

The Saatchi Gallery/Deutsche Bank Art Prize for Schools is open to primary, secondary and sixth form schools from around the world. Schools can submit artwork from students between the ages of 4 and 18.

Schools can enter as many art works as they wish, and there is no prescribed theme for works entered, nor is there a restriction on media used (sculpture, painting, installation, photography and mixed media artworks are all eligible and welcome).

The deadline for entries is December 21st 2015

Prizes:

- ⇒ A high profile exhibition of the top 20 shortlisted art works at the Saatchi Gallery in February
- ⇒ Overall winner: £10,000 to winning school, £2,000 to winning pupil
- ⇒ Secondary school winner (ages 11-18): £5,000 to school, £1,000 to pupil
- ⇒ Primary school winner (ages 4-11): £5,000 to school, £1,000 to pupil
- ⇒ An overall winner will be chosen from the two age category winners, meaning that one school has the opportunity to collect £15,000 towards their art department. One successful student will receive £3,000 to be spent on art and computer equipment.

To Enter: Simply go to the [Saatchi Gallery](#) web site for details on how to enter.

SCHOOL MEMBER NEWS

“Best Practices in Education” Conference

Banjul American Embassy School, The Gambia

Over 100 educators gathered on the campus of Banjul American Embassy School (BAES) in the “Smiling Coast” to attend workshops, share ideas and focus on inquiry-based education. Thanks to a self-help grant from the US Embassy in Banjul, The Gambia, support from CEO Joseph Yorio of School Specialty and a commitment to capacity building by the BAES faculty, the very first international education conference was held in The Gambia on November 21, 2015.

The BAES Faculty as part of their professional development plan, commitment to our mission of life long learning and desire to participate in capacity building in The Gambia, were the workshop presenters at this conference.

Peace Corps Education Trainers identified two Gambian counterparts who they felt would benefit from attendance at the conference. The trainers and their counterparts came from all over Gambia by taxi, gele-gele and bicycle to attend the one-day conference.

The conference was opened by the newly appointed ambassador to The Gambia, Ambassador Patricia Alsup. She was followed by Joseph Yorio, CEO of School Specialty as the keynote speaker. Following the opening ceremony all participants were able to attend four one-hour workshop sessions ranging from As Easy as ABC to An Eye for an Eye. The Banjul American Embassy School faculty needed to plan each session with the knowledge that many of these teachers from the villages often have no chalk, little paper and no technology. When planning their workshops the faculty wanted to help move the Gambian teachers away from a basic level drill and practice question and answer format to the development of higher level questioning and thinking skills. During the job-alike sharing session the following educational question was presented: What qualities should leaders of the future possess and how can we as educators help them develop these qualities?

The “Best Practices in Education” conference could be described as “a beehive of activity”, “a day of learning and growing together”, and “lots of educational conversations”. However, it was primarily about committed educators coming together to share ideas, meals, laughter and ask questions that often had no answers. Emails were shared, friendships were forged and promises to stay in touch were made. This conference was about educators in the smallest country on mainland Africa coming together to work toward improving the quality of education for all children in The Gambia. It was truly a day of *learning and growing together*.



SCHOOL MEMBER NEWS

Job Opportunities for 2016/17



International School of Kenya

Empowering students to create solutions for tomorrow's challenges

WE ARE HIRING!!!!

Definite Vacancies 2016-17

- **Assistant High School Principal (including teaching)
- **Secondary Librarian
- **High School English / IB English Teacher
- **High School Drama / IB Theatre Arts Teacher
- **High School French / IB French Teacher
- **Middle School Math Teacher
- **Middle School Learning Support Teacher

Possible Vacancies for 2016-17

- **High School Counselor
- **High School Mathematics / IB Mathematics Teacher
- **Secondary Physical Education & Health Teacher
- **High School Social Studies / IB Economics Teacher

Visit www.isk.ac.ke for job profiles and application procedures

Khartoum International Community School



Learners Today...

Leaders Tomorrow

The KICS is now hiring. Positions include:

- Business & Economics (Open in Jan 2016)
- CAS Coordinator (Open in Jan 2016)
- Learning Support
- Early Childhood
- Elementary 1-3
- Elementary 4-6
- MS/HS Math
- MS/HS English
- Business & Economics

For more information please see the [KICS website](#).

You are receiving this circular as a valued member of the AISA community.

Visit www.aisa.or.ke for more information or contact info@aisa.or.ke.

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Making the connection