

# Members' Circular

## In this issue

- ★ *Peter's Update*
- ★ *ALC-Innovative Practice Series*
- ★ *Higher Ed Institute*
- ★ *NEW PLI – Blended Learning*
- ★ *Early Years Conference*
- ★ *Host an AISA PLI at your school*
- ★ *Child Protection Training with EduCare*
- ★ *ISI – Group Health Insurance Partner*
- ★ *AISA GISS 2017*

## From the desk of the Executive Director

Hello from Vancouver where I am attending the Learning Forward conference. As I write I am reflecting on how this prestigious event for educators compares to AISA's. Other than the logistics of having 4,000 people in 100's of sessions - which is quite a feat in itself, I continue to believe that the new streamlined and targeted AISA learning events are a more effective way for us to support sustained and embedded professional learning at your school - but only if we design these events with your clearly articulated needs in mind – and here's why...

In the past AISA used to offer lots of shorter sessions at our conferences similar to the Learning Forward event. Having just sat through a few of these 'hit or miss' sessions here in Vancouver, I am more certain than ever that the research into adult learning that supports the longer format institutes and deep dives we offer at our conferences remains valid. Short sessions (1 or 2 hours) do have their use – but only to spark an idea that, if it takes hold, requires us to explore further. Given the costs and the time it takes to travel in Africa, the limited opportunities for most of our schools to invest in consultants coming in to facilitate deeper learning, and the fact that these shorter 'idea sparking' opportunities are increasingly available online, I believe a better use of our schools' scarce resources is to offer longer, more impactful and robust learning opportunities to our membership during our conferences and, more recently, during our multiday Professional Learning Institutes taking place across the Continent. It is by participating with intentionality in these opportunities that changes in the knowledge, dispositions and behaviour of educators in your classrooms will occur.

There are some challenges associated with this approach. For it to be truly impactful we need to be sure that the sessions are attended by participants who have what I like to call 'intentionality of purpose'. Ideally this would mean that schools have worked with their staff to identify any issues with student learning that require attention. The gaps in teacher knowledge are identified, formulated into longer term goals for staff development (lasting at least a year but preferably two) and framed into the school's strategic plan. In this way, AISA's choices for topics and facilitators align much more closely to our schools. None of us are acting randomly or under the false premise that your staff's indefinite participation at our learning events have a good return on investment or will result in improvements in student learning.

The other challenge is for AISA to identify quality facilitators who can sustain authentic and meaningful learning throughout the longer sessions I am advocating. Our Professional Learning Working Group under the guidance of AISA's Director of Professional Learning (Graham Watts) is mindful of this important requirement. This works best if we hear from you regarding your professional learning needs. Or better still, why not host one of our learning events at your school? Details of how to do this are elsewhere in this circular.



**Dr Peter Bateman**  
**Executive Director**





## AISA Leadership Conference

**Early Bird Deadline 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2016**

**3<sup>RD</sup> - 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2017**

**INDABA HOTEL, JOHANNESBURG SOUTH AFRICA**

**Inviting school teams, Board Chairs and trustees:** The 2017 ALC has been designed with multiple levels of school leadership in mind. As well as Directors and Heads of School, others with leadership roles in curriculum, professional learning and pastoral areas will find this a powerful learning experience. Combining expertise from International School Leadership facilitators with good practices from AISA member schools, ensures participants gain global insights as well as practical applications. A variety of learning episodes will offer awareness raising, the gleaning of good practices, deep learning and lots of opportunities to network with those in similar roles to your own. Our signature leadership event, challenges, connects and revitalizes.

The ALC2017 will also see the launch of the [AISA Leadership Coaching Programme](#).

### ALC Institutes:

1. Building Relationships and Developing People with Joe Atherton
2. Setting Goals and Expectations Using Data Informed Decision Making with Sergio Pawel
3. Leading Improvement in Classroom Instruction: Meeting the Needs of ALL Learners with Bob Jackson
4. Leadership Coaching with Dr Joanne Robinson
5. Good Governance in Practice with Dick Detwiler

### Innovative Practice Series – Call for Papers

A new key feature of AISA conferences is the introduction of our Innovative Practice Series.

The concept of the AISA Innovative Practice Series (IPS) is designed to recognize, celebrate and share successful policy and practice among AISA member schools.

Our intent is to showcase successful innovations that lead to an improvement in school effectiveness. The topic or focus is up to you, as is how you develop and facilitate the session. We do want it to be interactive and learning focussed. We suggest you focus on what others can learn from your experiences while recognizing that there is a very wide set of contexts, experiences, knowledge and understandings likely to be in the room.

Each IPS workshop lasts for 60 mins and can be facilitated by more than one person.

Applications can be submitted online before 20th January 2017.

To register your interest, complete this [form](#). Or, for more information, contact AISA's Director of Professional Learning, Graham Watts on [gwatts@aisa.or.ke](mailto:gwatts@aisa.or.ke)

ConneXions

WANT TO SHARE WHAT'S NEW  
AT YOUR SCHOOL?  
IMPLEMENTING A NEW  
PROGRAMME OR INITIATIVE?  
WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR  
STORIES SO WHY NOT SUBMIT  
AN ARTICLE IN THE NEXT  
EDITION OF CONNEXIONS?



## AISA-CIS Institute on International Higher Education Admissions and Guidance in Africa Conference



### AISA-CIS Institute in Africa

3-5 March 2017  
Johannesburg, South Africa

A new initiative that brings together school counsellors from the African continent and university admission representatives from CIS member universities around the globe.

The ALC2017 will also take place in conjunction with the AISA-CIS Institute on International Higher Education Admissions and Guidance in Africa Conference.

This is first time AISA and CIS have come together to bring leading international universities admissions staff to meet our guidance counsellors, careers advisors and school leaders. As well as opportunities to network with those doing the same job as you, this is your opportunity to find out how best to help your students get into the university of their choice.

This institute features workshops lead by the participants. Admissions teams will be sharing their insights on how they select students and what you can do to strengthen your students' application. Guidance counsellors are also invited to share practices that work for them by submitting an online call for papers.

More information on the [AISA website](#)



## Upcoming Professional Learning Institutes

### NEW PLI – Transforming Your Classroom through Blended Learning

Event	When	Where	Facilitator
<a href="#"><u>Teaching Reading: Beyond Print, Fluency &amp; Comprehension</u></a>	20-22 January	AISJ South Africa	Kathy Collins
<a href="#"><u>Writing Workshop: Not Just for the Little Ones</u></a>	17-19 February	AISJ South Africa	Stevie Quate
<a href="#"><u>STEM Institute</u></a>	18-19 February	AISL Nigeria	College Board
<a href="#"><u>Highly Capable Learners: Mini Certificate on Gifted Education</u></a>	19-20 February	ISK Kenya	Bronwyn MacLeod
<b>NEW -</b> <a href="#"><u>Transforming Your Classroom Through Blended Learning</u></a>	18-19 March	Lincoln Community School Ghana	Ryan Harwood



# Early Years Conference: Hosted by Lusaka International Community School

## EY CONFERENCE 2017

Mrs Gloria Raven, Principal of the LICs Pre-Primary School, cordially invites your Early Years staff to attend our inaugural Early Years conference. The objective of the conference is to connect Early Years teachers across the country, to inspire and to share best Early Years practice. Costs will be kept as low as possible.



DATE:	SATURDAY 25 MARCH 2017
TIME:	08H00 – 15H00
VENUE:	LUSAKA INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SCHOOL
PROGRAMME:	2 KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS

As an **Expression of Interest**, and in order to facilitate planning, please indicate:

SCHOOL:	CONTACT PERSON:
NUMBER OF TEACHERS ATTENDING:	CONTACT DETAILS:
WOULD ANY OF YOUR STAFF BE WILLING TO LEAD A 1 HOUR WORKSHOP & IF SO ON WHAT TOPIC?	

RSVP to the Conference Coordinator Mrs Michelle Lewis at [MLewis@lics.sch.zm](mailto:MLewis@lics.sch.zm) or on +260211292447 no later than Friday 20 January 2017. Further information to follow there-after.

Maximising the potential of future world citizens





## Interested in Hosting an AISA PLI in Your School?

AISA welcomes applications from all Full Member schools to host a Professional Learning Institute (PLI). If you are planning a Professional Learning event for teachers at your school, you can simply open this up to participants from other AISA schools. Or, if you want to bring an internationally recognized expert to your school, but are concerned about the costs involved, hosting participants from other AISA member schools can generate revenue to offset some of the costs involved in the event.

### The advantages of hosting an AISA Professional Learning Institute (PLI):

- An opportunity to bring a variety of educators together, from your school and other AISA member schools, who are interested and committed to the same aspect of professional learning and can establish links and networks.
- For every participant from another AISA school, the host school receives approximately \$335 in registration fees  
\*Note that the Host School will be in charge of paying for all costs related to the PLI and the facilitator. Opening up the PLI to other AISA schools will help reduce the costs and has the advantage of encouraging networking and collaboration between AISA educational professionals.
- Managing the online registration and fee collection for you
- Leading the marketing and promotions for the event for you

For more information, see the [AISA website](http://www.aisa.org) or contact Graham Watts on [gwatts@aisa.or.ke](mailto:gwatts@aisa.or.ke)



### AISA GISS 2017 @ AISJ

Date: 30<sup>th</sup> March - 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2016

The American International School of Johannesburg (AISJ) and The Association of International Schools in Africa (AISA) Global Issues Service Summit (GISS) encourages students to participate in the 9th Annual Conference.

GISS provides delegates with opportunities to collaborate and strategize with students from across Africa on global and local issues.

This year's theme is **Phambili** - a Zulu word when translated into English means moving forward - to face the challenges of the future.

We look forward to hosting you at AISJ.  
For more information, see our website:

<http://www.aisagiss.org/2017/>

Please contact:  
**Tara Barton or Juan Sheblak**  
Service Learning Coordinator  
& AISA GISS Advisor  
[aisagiss2017@aisj-jhb.com](mailto:aisagiss2017@aisj-jhb.com)



## AISA & Educare Online Child Protection Training

Just a reminder that spaces are still open for school to apply for three free **EduCare Child Protection in Education** learning subscriptions. This is an excellent opportunity to trial one of Educare's high-quality, concise and easy-to-use online e-learning programmes. Increasingly international schools are using EduCare's safeguarding programmes for whole school faculty and staff child protection training. One of the subscriptions has to be for the school head as part of AISA's strategic commitment to reaching AISA school leaders and specifically those AISA schools who are looking for ways to develop their whole school child protection training. All three subscribers must also commit to completing a user survey at the end of the training. EduCare's website is: <https://www.educare.co.uk/>

For more information and registration details go [here](#).



## Group Health Insurance: Time for a check-up?

Insurance Services International (ISI) is a full service insurance brokerage and benefits consultant offering a comprehensive portfolio of insurance products including medical, dental, vision, life, accidental death and dismemberment, long term disability, property and casualty, and business coverage available from the world's leading insurance companies such as: Aetna International, Cigna Global, MetLife Expatriate Benefits, United HealthCare, TieCare, WEA, Unum International and Zurich. Our excellent relationships with these leading global insurance carriers enables us to continuously develop new worldwide insurance solutions based on client specific needs and business objectives.

ISI's commitment to our clients in the International School market over the past 20 years has been to provide full service, support and at least yearly on-site visits to conduct employee meetings, address any issues and answer any questions that may come up regarding their plans. The business model we employ is different in that we focus on very comprehensive servicing of our clients and view ourselves as an extension of the client's HR function.

If you would like to participate in **AISA's Small School's Programme**, or would like to reassess your insurance provision, please contact Jim Geremia, Director of Operations, on [jgeremia@isiww.com](mailto:jgeremia@isiww.com)

