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## From the desk of the Executive Director

### 9½ things you may not know about AISA

While I don't much like these lists as they seem to infer that the complexity of life can be reduced to a few bullet points, I thought I might try one to see if it has any real messaging power to ensure you are taking full advantage of your AISA membership. Why 9½ ? The last item is for you to complete. Here goes:

- 1) Staff from AISA Full member schools are able to apply for over \$5000 worth of scholarships to attend the various learning events taking place across the AISA region throughout the year.

- in member schools for their Service Learning initiatives and the application deadline is March 1st.
- 7) AISA can support school visits to your school via our Visiting Author Programme, School Exchange Programme and Consultant Pool Programme making such visits accessible and much more cost effective.
- 8) In the unfortunate event of a traumatic incident at your school, AISA has specific funds available Traumatic Incident Management Support Programme for a variety of support services including counselling services.
- 9) AISA provides \$10,000 a year to support the AISA Global Issues Service

**ConneXions – Do you have an article you'd like to contribute to the next edition of ConneXions? Submissions due by the end of the month so get yours in now.**

- 2) There are still nine PLIs remaining in AISA's highly targeted programme for the current year – including some for co-professional staff.
- 3) AISA has scholarship funds available for school leaders wishing to participate in the AAIE Institute for International School Leadership.
- 4) The AISA Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place March 3<sup>rd</sup> during the AISA Leadership Conference in JoBurg. All Heads of Full Member schools can participate in the AISA Board Elections due to take place at this meeting – but only if they're in the room.
- 5) My birthday normally takes place during the AISA Educators Conference in October – but no one notices much. Oh well. Are you still reading my list?
- 6) AISA offers over \$24,000 a year in Scholarships and Awards to students

Summit (AISA-GISS). This year it will take place at AISJ in JoBurg?  
9½ ) The name of your school's AISA Rep (i.e. the person that information to and from your school and AISA flows through) is .....

Now that I've started, I think I could come up with another nine items at least. If you want to know more about those I've listed or other services and programmes AISA offers, read on and why not drop by our website ([www.aisa.or.ke](http://www.aisa.or.ke)) and click through the menu items you'll find there. Happy New Year!



**Dr Peter Bateman**





## AISA Leadership Conference (ALC)

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

INDABA HOTEL, JOHANNESBURG SOUTH AFRICA

If you've not already registered for the ALC, it's not too late. The ALC offers you the opportunity to spend some dedicated time reflecting on your school and personal goals for the year. Connecting with other AISA school leadership teams will also give you the encouragement and inspiration that we all sometimes need. So why not start your 2017 with some positive motivation and an opportunity to extend yourself? For more information and to register visit the [ALC website](#).

### ALC Institutes include:

1. Building Relationships and Developing People
2. Setting Goals and Expectations Using Data Informed Decision Making
3. Leading Improvement in Classroom Instruction: Meeting the Needs of ALL Learners
4. Leadership Coaching
5. Good Governance in Practice

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*I was able to explore topics which I had previously just read articles about. I met some great people and forged links with organisations and individuals to help me to carry forward new initiatives in my own school. A great experience!*

*ALC2016 delegate*

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## Subscribe

Are you receiving regular updates from AISA in your inbox? If you want to stay in touch with events and opportunities from AISA, simply go to the [homepage](#) of our website and subscribe to receive our regular Members' Circular and other updates. You can find the button on the top of the homepage – Newsletter subscription. Simple!

If you're not sure if you are already registered, register anyway. The system will let you know if we already have your name. Still not sure, drop me a line on [cryall@aisa.or.ke](mailto:cryall@aisa.or.ke) and I can add you to our contact list.

## New member welcome

AISA would like to extend a warm welcome to new members of the AISA community.

### New School Members:

- Al-Rayan International School, Accra, Ghana
- Lusaka International Community School, Zambia
- Galaxy International School Uganda

### New Associate Members

- Harlequin Floors
- Scanning Pens
- Achieve3000
- GL Education
- Edgenuity





## AISA Student Awards: Due March 1<sup>st</sup>

Have you ever noticed the contagious nature of inspiration?

That's one reason why AISA offers annual student awards. We want you to be inspired by some of the extraordinary achievements of students in AISA member schools. In the coming months will make sure we share with you highlights from our applicants.

To find out more about the various awards, visit our [website](#) for full details and links to our online application page.

### STUDENT AWARDS

#### AISA Service Awards

The AISA Service Awards have been established to promote and encourage schools to develop and promote service learning opportunities within their school curriculum. The awards are given in recognition of an outstanding project or student or group of students who are involved in a community service project in an AISA full member school. The award celebrates and rewards excellence and creative problem-solving in service. It also provides the member school with additional financial support to help develop or sustain projects that demonstrate the ability to address legitimate local community needs. The two awards for this category are:

- **Outstanding Service Project:** For more information and a link to the application form, go [here](#).
- **Student Service Leader:** For more information and a link to the application form, go [here](#).

#### AISA Award for Excellence

AISA established the AISA Award for Excellence in 2008 as a way of recognising and rewarding the achievements of outstanding students within the AISA network. Successful nominees are students who have attained high academic results, but just as importantly, whose character exemplifies the association's values.

For more information and a link to the application form go [here](#).

#### Margaret Sanders AISA Scholarship for Girls

Across Africa there are many talented and academically gifted girl students who are unable to complete their schooling due to a variety of social, economic and/or cultural reasons. Key among these is a lack of financial support. In her lifetime Margaret Sanders was a keen supporter of girls' education. Now, thanks to a generous endowment from her family and friends that is managed by AISA, and in cooperation with our full member schools, AISA is proud to offer the Margaret Sanders AISA Scholarship for Girls. This annual Scholarship may be offered to more than one student per year, funds permitting.

For more information and a link to the application form go [here](#).





## Educator Scholarships: Due March 1<sup>st</sup>

### AAIE Leadership Institute Scholarship



**AAIE Institute**  
for International School Leadership

The Association for the Advancement of International Education (AAIE) Institute for International School Leadership is an online professional development program designed for currently serving and aspiring international school leaders.

More information about the program can be found on the AAIE website: [www.aaie.org/lead/leadership-development-opportunities](http://www.aaie.org/lead/leadership-development-opportunities)

AISA's AAIE scholarship provides for the tuition of one of the eight courses of the program.

For more information and a link to the application form go [here](#).

### AISA Educator Scholarships

AISA wants as many of those working at our member schools as possible to access outstanding professional learning. We recognise that sometimes the costs of event registration and travel in Africa can prevent educators, co-professionals and school leaders attending AISA learning events. With this in mind, AISA is offering a range of professional scholarships that cover the full cost of registration. The participants or their schools will need to cover the travel, accommodation and other associated costs.

#### The AISA Professional Scholarships available for 2017/18 are:

- Attendance at the AISA Leadership Conference (ALC) - 2 Scholarships
- Attendance at the AISA Educators Conference (AEC) - 3 Scholarships
- Attendance at a Professional Learning Institute (PLI) - 4 Scholarships

#### Scholarship Criteria

- a. Applicants must provide a clear explanation of your learning intentions for your chosen event (up to 200 words)
- b. Applicants must provide an explanation of how attendance has the potential to improve student learning at your school (up to 200 words)

*Applicants from small schools (ie. Schools with less than 100 student's) will be given preference.*

For more information and a link to the application form go [here](#).





## Upcoming Professional Learning Institutes

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

Soon Blended Learning will just be seen as Learning. The new normal is in sight. The days when blended learning was seen as a reserve plan in case of school closure have gone and a wider appreciation of how technology can be used wisely has taken hold. The facilitator of the AISA Blended Learning PLI in Ghana in March, Ryan Harwood, writes about why institutes like this are needed.

#### Why Blended Learning?

Incorporating technology into the classroom is often seen as ‘one more thing’ for teachers to add to their already full plate of lesson planning, grading, counseling and yes, teaching. However, when technology is incorporated with thought and intent, it becomes a major advantage for teachers and student learning. Blended learning offers one way to intentionally use technology in the classroom to differentiate, engage your students and provide them with a sense of ownership over their learning.

Through a blended learning model students are given an element of control over the time, place, pace and path they choose for learning. This means breaking from the traditional model of the teacher holding the knowledge and turning toward the teacher guiding students through their learning adventure. Through blended learning, teachers are able to encourage students to discover a more individualized experience in the classroom. It is not a free for all, but it also not a one size fits all approach. At any given time there may be students conducting individual research on the internet, communicating via Skype with an expert, writing collaboratively with their peers, completing assessments and receiving small group instruction or individually conferencing with the teacher.

Implementing a blended learning program is not a simple process. It requires time and thoughtful, intentional planning. But if it means a higher level of student engagement, meeting the needs of a diverse group of learners and fostering a sense of ownership for individual learning, it is time well spent.

**What:** [Transforming Your Classroom Through Blended Learning](#)

**When:** 18-19 March, 2017

**Where:** Lincoln Community School, Ghana

### 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, inviting participants from other AISA member schools can generate revenue to offset some of the costs involved in the event.

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



Event	When	Where	Facilitator
<a href="#">Writing Workshop: Not Just for the Little Ones</a>	17-19 February	AISJ South Africa	Stevie Quate
<a href="#">STEM Institute</a>	18-19 February	AISL Nigeria	College Board
<a href="#">Highly Capable Learners: Mini Certificate on Gifted Education</a>	19-20 February	ISK Kenya	Bronwyn MacLeod
<a href="#">AISA - CIS Institute on International Higher Education Admissions and Guidance in Africa</a>	3-5 March	Indaba Hotel South Africa	CIS



## WIDA Academy in Nairobi



Dear AISA educator,

Best wishes for a successful start of the new year. I am excited to hear from many international schools that working with WIDA has transformed the way they serve English language learners. Worldwide, more than 200 international schools are members of the WIDA International School Consortium and have implemented the WIDA standards and assessment framework. We wanted to remind you about WIDA professional learning scheduled for the coming year and encourage you to register a team from your school soon, as these events will fill up.

Jon Nordmeyer, International Programs Director

**The WIDA Academy** focuses on building foundational knowledge by connecting WIDA tools within the WIDA English Language Development framework. Participants learn about WIDA assessments and how specific instructional tools aligned with the WIDA framework support scaffolding and collaboration. If you're interested in learning more about WIDA as a system, the four-day Academy is intended to provide an in-depth introduction focused on the following resources: *WIDA Standards and Assessment System* and the *WIDA Essential Actions Handbook*. One teacher shared: "The importance of Academic Language for ELLs is something that we have been working on for a couple of years, and the WIDA Academy helped to confirm that we are on the right track. Also, it was great to have a complete overview of WIDA: it's not just about the assessment tool!"

- We are proud to announce the first WIDA Academy in the AISA region: [April 6-9, 2017, Nairobi, Kenya](#)
- Teachers from AISA member schools can register for \$50 discount to the usual registration fee

If you have any questions or would like to set up a skype call, please contact Aaron Burreson, Professional Learning Programs Coordinator: [aburreson@wisc.edu](mailto:aburreson@wisc.edu).



## AISA & EduCare Online Child Protection Training

EduCare®

Experts in Safeguarding  
and Duty of Care 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](#).



## AISA-GISS 2017 Phambili



**When: 30 March – 2 April, 2017**

**Where: American International School of Johannesburg (AISJ)**

The AISA-GISS conference provides a leadership platform for student delegates to collaborate about global and local issues from across Africa. Student delegates spend time presenting, learning, sharing and discussing important issues during the summit, followed by a hands-on service learning day in the local South African community.

This year's theme is **Phambili - Moving forward to face the challenges of the future**. The aim this conference is to focus on sustainable solutions for global issues. The conference will have four pillars which will essentially express Phambili.

The first Pillar focuses on Conservation: Moving forward and finding sustainable ways to help our planet.

The second Pillar is Human Rights: Moving forward and protecting the rights of the child and the refugee.

The third pillar is Social Entrepreneurship: Moving forward in terms of empowering people and communities to meet the challenges for a sustainable future.

The fourth Pillar is Animal Welfare: Moving forward with creating sustainable means of protecting animals around the world.



The conference will host High School student delegates from schools from across the globe, and we hope you can join us. Each school participating will be responsible for developing a presentation, in which they explain one of the community service learning projects in a workshop style forum. The aim of student workshops, key note speakers, and panellists, is to explore, share knowledge, ideas, and experiences of service learning; as it relates to the theme of Phambili.

Spaces are limited to ten delegates from upper middle or high school.

See the AISA GISS website for more details: <http://www.aisagiss.org/2017/>

For more information contact the AISA GISS team on email at: [aisagiss2017@aisj-jhb.com](mailto:aisagiss2017@aisj-jhb.com)



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

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We look forward to hosting you at AISJ.

**Date:** 30<sup>th</sup> March - 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2017

**Venue:** AISJ

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Please contact:

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