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From the desk of the Executive Director

Greetings to all our members from the AISA office here in Nairobi.

During this past weekend the AISA Board met for their annual Strategic Thinking Retreat. It is the one time each year we can take some time to think forward about AISA's longer term future. This was also the first full Board gathering with our new Board members. If you're not sure who is on the AISA Board you can see all the Directors with their individual profiles [here](#). Under the skilled and knowledgeable facilitation of Teresa Arpin, we explored some key areas of AISA's current Strategic Plan and made some quite important adjustments to better focus our energy and resources into serving you, our membership, more effectively.

Key among these adjustments are that we now have 3 very clear Outcomes that link directly to our Mission. These are:

Outcome 1: Member schools will report that they access and value AISA services, resources and networks to support **strategic thinking**

Outcome 2: Member schools will report that they access and value AISA services, resources and networks to support **professional growth**

Outcome 3: Member schools will report that they access and value AISA services, resources and networks to support **school effectiveness**

The Board also discussed some important additions to the Professional Learning programme that will see us introduce a range of **Invitational Conferences** from April/May 2019 onward. These are aimed at schools across Africa who would like to be part of AISA but need some additional school improvement support to reach the membership criteria we now have in place.

The Board also agreed to add a new type of **Individual Membership** for those who are not part of our existing members' schools but still meet the membership criteria and want to access our members' services and events.

Quite a lot of the discussion was directed to the issue of how to expand AISA's income streams. Currently AISA receives a generous grant from the Office of Overseas Schools at the US State Department for which we are incredibly grateful. Mary Russman, the Regional Educational Officer for Africa was able to join us for part of the discussion, indicating that there is, in all likelihood, going to be a reduction in the grant to AISA in future years. While we continue to hope for a reprieve, the AISA Board has started to explore **alternative sources of income** to enable to us to continue our work.



Perhaps one of the most important discussions centred around our current membership criteria. In particular, the reference we have currently to an 'international student body' and an 'international teaching staff'. These tend to focus on the passport or nationality of the students and teachers which is not really our intention. In a long-ranging conversation, the Board started to explore whether these terms may in fact be obsolete – at least in our context. Some of the alternatives being considered are **Internationally Minded and Inter-culturally Competent**. While these notions may be somewhat subjective and therefore more difficult to measure – they are perhaps a more apt description of who we want as part of the AISA Community.

I found it an invigorating and purposeful 3 days. The outputs from this retreat will guide

core aspects of our work, our programming, our membership and our funding for the next few years. I'd like to thank the Board for their time and inputs - we're so lucky to have such a dedicated and resourceful group governing our organization.



Dr Peter Bateman
AISA Executive Director

Student Award Winners

AISA is delighted to announce the student award winners for 2016/17:

Outstanding Service Project

- * Forgotten about? – The Plight of Children with Cerebral Palsy - **Lusaka International Community School**
- * Bobole Bats - **American International School of Mozambique**
- * The Brightness Project - **International School of Ouagadougou**

Student Service Leader

- * Shiri Asangwe - **American School of Yaounde**
- * Sidhonie Page-Smith - **American International School of Johannesburg**
- * David Buckley - **American International School of Lusaka**

AISA/Margaret Sanders Scholarship for Girls

- * Awuor Onguru - **International School of Kenya**

Student Excellence Awards will be announced in the next Circular so as not to spoil the surprise!

Congratulations to Ambrosoli International School



AISA would like to congratulate the **Ambrosoli International School** for gaining CIS accreditation. This is a huge achievement for which we all celebrate with you.





Educators Conference

15-17 October 2017

Nairobi, Kenya

The Radisson Blu

[Find Out More >](#)



Aspire, Learn, Soar

FOCUS AREA	FACILITATOR	SESSION TITLE
Personalizing Learning	Jennifer Swinehart	Understanding the What, Why and How of Personalising Learning
		Gathering, Interpreting and Applying Data in the Personalised Classroom
Designing Curriculum, Integrating Technology	Sonny Magana	Exploring Disruptive Classroom Technologies: A Framework for Innovation in Education
		Embed and Sustain: Using the T3 Framework to Implement Sustainable Systemic Growth.
Service Learning	Tara Barton	Service Learning: What it is, why it matters and how to lead it
		Meaningful Integration of Service Learning in the Curriculum
Wellbeing, Mindfulness and Neuroscience	Tim Burns	Bringing Mindfulness to the Classroom: Knowledge and Skills for Enhanced Teacher Wellbeing and Improved Student Learning.
		The Anatomy of Possibility: Integrating Brain, Body, and Heart Intelligences For Enhanced Wellbeing, Learning, Creativity, and Health
Developing Instructional Strategies.	John Zola	Creating and Evaluating Student Discussion in Secondary Classrooms
		Improving Writing and Research in Secondary Content Classes
Assessing Learning	Patricia Reeder	Building Your Formative Assessment Practice
		Providing High Quality Feedback
Growth Mindset in the Classroom	Karen Boyes	Developing Growth Mindset Strategies in the Classroom
Student Agency		Establishing Student Agency whilst embedding 21st Century Skills
Early Childhood Education	Laura Manni & Aquil-li Ruiz Comellas	Building a Solid Foundation in the Early Years
		Encouraging Young Learners: Creating a Culture of Thinking in the Early Childhood Classroom





School Heads Retreat

23-24 September 2017

Dakar Senegal

Terrou-Bi Hotel



Beach-side at the Terrou-Bi Hotel, Dakar

The AISA School Heads Retreat is a new offering from AISA that was initiated in response to feedback from Heads of Schools who were seeking a forum where they could connect, share and learn together. The inaugural SHR2016 was a great success which has inspired us to make this a permanent feature of our annual programme. The SHR is strictly open to Heads of Schools only and we encourage all member schools to attend this unique event.

[Find Out More >](#)



AISA Expands its PLI Programme for 2017/18

The concept of the two-day model, usually over a weekend, for our professional learning institutes has clearly taken off. This current year has seen **396 participants from 41 schools attend 16 PLI's**.

Next year the PLI Program is expanding with several schools hosting institutes, providing 20 PLI's over the new academic year. Starting before the students arrive in August is a two-strand **AP Institute** provided by College Board. After surveying schools, we have identified AP Calculus and AP Chemistry as priority areas for professional learning. Rosslyn Academy, Nairobi is hosting the event on August 4 & 5th for teachers who want high quality, updated and highly focused professional learning accredited by College Board.

In October we have two **MAP institutes**; one in Nairobi immediately before the AEC and the other in Dakar, Senegal. There difference is that the first is Embed and Sustain level, meaning it is for those who are experienced with MAP whilst the institute in Dakar is for those who are in the early stages of using MAP.

[Find Out More >](#)



	DATE	EVENT	FACILITATOR	LEVEL	LOCATION
1	August 4 - 5, 2017	Excellence in Advanced Placement Calculus Excellence in Advanced Placement Chemistry	College Board	Discover & Explore	Rosslyn Academy Kenya
2	September 1 -3, 2017	Getting Classroom Assessment for Student Learning Right	Jan Chappuis	Embed & Sustain	American International School of Johannesburg
3	September (dates to be decided)	Engaging EVERY Reader and Writer: Best Practices of Balanced Literacy Instruction for Elementary Classrooms	Vincent Ventura	Discover & Explore	International Community School of Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire
4	September 14 - 15, 2017	Making Thinking Visible and Creating a Culture of Thinking	March Church & Ingrid Turner	Embed & Sustain	American International School of Lusaka
5	September 15 - 16, 2017	Co-Teaching: Classroom Partnerships to Ensure the Success of ALL Students	Marilyn Friend	Discover & Explore	International School of Kenya
6	September 27 - 30, 2017	Orton-Gillingham Approach for Teaching of Reading and Spelling, and Certification Workshop Series	Jean Schedler	Discover & Explore	International School of Kenya
7	September 30th & October 1st, 2017	Creative Mathematics Workshop	Marcy Cook	Embed & Sustain	International School of Dakar, Senegal
8	October 12 - 13, 2017	MAP: Applying Reports and Focusing on Growth (AEC2017 Pre-Conference)	Patricia Reeder, NWEA	Embed & Sustain	Radisson Blu Nairobi, Kenya
9	October 23 - 24, 2017	Student Inquiry and Project-Based Learning in Secondary Sciences	Elizabeth Swanson	Embed & Sustain	International School of Tanganyika, Tanzania



	DATE	EVENT	FACILITATOR	LEVEL	LOCATION
10	October 27 - 29, 2017	Taking the Complexity out of Conceptual-Based Learning	Tania Lattanzio	Embed & Sustain	American International School of Johannesburg
11	October 28 - 29, 2017	Making the Most out of MAP	NWEA	Discover & Explore	International School of Dakar, Senegal
12	November 10 - 11, 2017	Instrument Repair and Maintenance	Daniel Parker	Discover & Explore	International School of Kenya
13	December 6 - 9, 2017	Cognitive Coaching Part 1	Doreen Miori-Merola	Discover & Explore	American International School of Lusaka
14	January 24 - 27, 2018	Transforming Schools	Dr. Fran Prolman	Discover & Explore	International School of Kenya
15	January 26-28, 2018	McREL's Classroom Instruction that Works	Robert Evans		American International School of Johannesburg
16	February 9 - 11, 2018	Exploring the Future of Diverse Learning - 2018 Symposium	Various	Discover & Explore	American International School of Johannesburg
17	February 17 - 18, 2018	Implementing Feedback Loops in the Classroom	Elizabeth Imende-Cooney	Embed & Sustain	American International School of Cape Town
18	February 24 - 25, 2018	Transforming Classrooms Through Blended Learning	Ryan Harwood	Discover & Explore	International School of Dakar, Senegal
19	March 16 - 17, 2018	PE: Taking Fitness to the Next Level	Dale Sidebottom	Discover & Explore	International School of Kenya
20	April 13 -15, 2018	Service Learning 201	Tara Barton	Embed & Sustain	American International School of Johannesburg





AISA Associate Member, Clements Worldwide, Expat Youth Scholarship Opportunity



HOW WILL YOU USE YOUR EXPERIENCE ABROAD TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE?

The scholarship is open for students living outside their home country from 13-21 years of age with awards up to US\$3,000

Entries Due: May 25th 2017

For more information go to [facebook.com/expatyouth](https://www.facebook.com/expatyouth)

Help4Refugees.org


When the AISA Executive Director was in Washington, DC he got to meet Jordan Hattar, who was a volunteer staff person in Michele Obama's office. Jordan has since left the White House and has returned to his passion of helping refugees. If you are interested in hosting Jordan for a school presentation, please contact him directly at **J. Hattar**: jordan.help4refugees@gmail.com

Below is a link to a short video that serves as a good introduction to his story (narrated by Carl Wilkens, the only American that stayed in Rwanda throughout the genocide) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3DPSq97MwQE>

Also, a short abstract about his school presentations:

Following one's heart is a popular piece of career advice. But how does anyone do it? Follow Jordan Hattar's story, which took him from southern California to South Sudan, from college classes in California to a Syrian refugee camp, and from the University of Cambridge on to the White House. His story demonstrates the





importance of persistence, educating oneself on global issues, and following-up on one's dream of making a difference. Through his presentation, Jordan uses his personal story to encourage the audience to find out where their greatest passion meets the world's greatest need.

