



American School of Douala TALKING DRUMS

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From the Director's Desk

by Edward Langlais

You're Invited to Parent Orientation Night

Next Thursday, October 7, ASD will be hosting its annual parent orientation night. This evening is a chance for both new and returning families to visit the school and meet their children's new teachers.

The event will begin with a general session in the auditorium followed

by a shortened **Day 1** schedule that will allow parents to follow the same class schedule as their children.

There will be time to meet almost all of the teachers and learn about the major themes and topics that will be studied this school year.

The evening will end with snacks and refreshments in the main lobby so parents can mingle

and speak further with their children's teachers if they wish.

You are also welcome to invite friends who are considering enrolling their children at ASD so they can gain a better understanding of our school and our community.

Parent Teacher

Association (PTA)

The PTA is an organization open to all parents and teachers in the ASD community. The purpose of the PTA is to enhance our school community by hosting and supporting school events and fundraisers. The PTA will be host its first meeting on Tuesday, September 5th, at 3:30-4:30 in the Library. We encourage all parents to

attend this meeting to learn more about the role of the PTA. Don't worry, you will not be volunteered for anything! Instead, you're invited to simply attend this informational meeting.

Mark Your Calendar

Sept. 1	Eid al-Adha
Sept. 4-8	DIBELS Testing
Sept. 5	PTA Meeting
Sept. 7	Parent Orientation Meeting
Sept. 9	Orphanage Visit
Sept. 11-15	Lower School MAP Testing
Sept. 18	Minimum Day
Sept. 19-22	Upper School MAP Testing



Lower School News by Michael Breece

Over the past few years, as my eldest daughter has begun attending school, I have gained a greater appreciation for the importance of communication about a child's learning between school and home. At ASD, we have several ways of communicating with parents.

Newsletters

In addition to Talking Drums, Lower School teachers send out a weekly or bi-weekly class newsletter to families, informing parents of the topics being covered in class, special events, and announcements.

Email

All our teachers have ASD email addresses. This is a convenient way to communicate with teachers.

Progress Reports/ Report Cards

The ASD academic calendar is organized into four quarters. In the middle of each quarter, parents receive progress reports and at the end of each quarter, report cards.

Parent Conferences

Twice a year, at the end of the first quarter and third quarter, all parents are invited to attend Parent Teacher

Conferences. This is an opportunity for you to speak one-on-one with your child's teachers.

Also, if at any other point in the year, you would like to meet with your child's teachers to discuss his or her learning, please do not hesitate to make an appointment. It is important to us that parents are fully involved in their child's learning, and this can only happen with regular communication between school and home.

MAP Testing

The Measure of Academic Progress (MAP), is a computerized adaptive test which helps teachers, parents, and administrators improve learning for all students. The test is described as adaptive because the questions presented to students vary as they progress through the test based on accuracy of their answers. In other words, correct answers move a student to more challenging questions, while incorrect answers lead to less challenging questions. The aim is to create a personalized assessment adapted to each student's learning

level.

The length of the test varies due to the adaptive nature of the test, but it typically takes about an hour to complete each MAP test. Students are tested in Math, Reading, Language Use and Science. Students at ASD are tested three times a year, September, February, and May. By assessing students three times a year, we are given a clear picture of their growth.

MAP results are not a part of students' grade are used both at the individual student

level and schoolwide planning level. Test results provide meaningful information to teachers about student learning that is useful when planning lessons geared towards meeting individual student needs. Schoolwide results supply data that are used for measuring accreditation goals and curriculum planning.

Counselor's Corner by Nika Bowens

Welcome to the end of the 2nd week!

This week, I met individually with grade 12 students to discuss their college plans. Students explored the college application process, including required materials, tests and application deadlines. I shared several different resources with grade 12 students: a college application

tracker that all students should use once they decide what university they are applying to, university website searches, personal statement resources and SAT preparation materials. I encourage students to regularly use the various resources that were shared.

Next week, I will finish meetings with grade 12 students. Once all students have completed their individual planning

meetings, we will have biweekly small group meetings that will continue until the end of the school year. The meetings are designed to support grade 12 students with every step of the college process.

Email: NBowens@asddouala.com

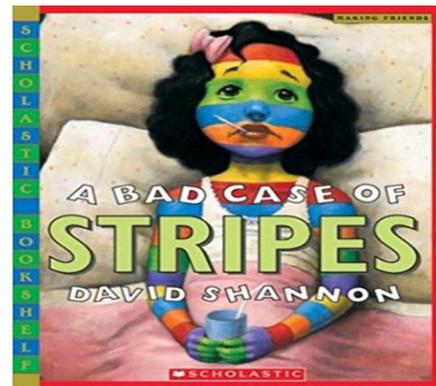
Office: Room 26 (2nd floor)

Book of the Week by Ferol Ntuba

Book of the Week

Camila cream is very, very worried about what other people think of her. Will she suffer because of this attitude....? This is a fairly simple story that focuses on some of the challenges kids go through in schools today. 'Be yourself...' is

the central message, as by the end of the story, the reader will find out that Camilla is the solution to all her problems. With elaborate illustrations and very simple language, Shannon, helps us to solve this never ending emotional burden that bothers most of our school age children. A good read for every family.



Each week, ASD Librarian Ms. Ntuba will feature a new book.

Afterschool Reminder

All families should have received a number card that was assigned to your family. This is to be hung on your rear-view mirror and will be used to announce to the students when their car has entered the school compound to pick them up. Our aim is that the afternoon pick-up runs smoothly and follows our ASD school rule: Be Safe. Be Respectful. Be Responsible. Please review the following points and share them with those who will be picking up your children.

Show respect for other families and drivers. This will enable the procedures to work for everyone.

Please for a queue on Ave des Palmiers that turns up Ave Njo-Njo. At no point should cars come from the other direction to make a left turn into the school, in effect cutting the queue. (An exception would be made for emergency or

vehicles on school business if necessary.)

Enter through the gates only when directed by the security guards.

Slowly pull your car up the school, close behind the car in front of you. If you are the first car in line, please move all the way to the other end of the building so cars can park behind you. The goal is to fit seven cars in the school compound at once, while being able to close the gate if needed.

Always respect the car in front of you. Often drivers try to leave as soon as the children are onboard. This creates a "bottleneck" situation at the exit. If drivers simply allow cars that are first in line to leave first, then traffic will move more smoothly for everyone. (Exception: sometimes cars are de-

layed. In this case, one of the staff members will direct the other cars to leave.)

Please do not honk your car horn in the school parking lot.

Please remain in your vehicle. If you need assistance, you may raise your hand out the window or signal for a staff member.

Always remember to be respectful and polite when interacting with parents, drivers, students, and staff members.

Remember that the school reserves the right to prohibit individual drivers from entering the school compound if these guidelines are not followed.

Meet Ms. Page

Hello students and families of the American School of Douala! My name is Ms. Page, and I will be joining the upper school language arts and electives teams. While I originally hail from southern California, I have spent the last couple of years teaching at an American boarding school in Taiwan. If I am not at home watching Netflix or baking, you will find me near water. I absolutely love almost anything and everything related to water. In fact, I was a competitive swimmer from age 5 all the

way through high school. I even coached swimming for about ten years before moving to Douala. When I am back home in California, I love to spend time with my parents, friends, and my number one fan, Gus (my family's 4-year-old Labrador retriever). The number one item on my bucket list is to read as many books as my Mom. I have already received such a warm welcome to ASD and am so looking forward to a superb year!



New Destiny Orphanage

What is the New Destiny Orphanage?

The New Destiny Orphanage is an orphanage located in Bonamoussadi, Douala, that has an ongoing partnership with ASD. New Destiny provides schooling, food, housing, clothing, and healthcare to children aged 0 to 18 years old who have been orphaned.

How does ASD support New Destiny?

The school supports the orphanage by donating goods and delivering them monthly. The goods are typically delivered the second Saturday of each month and students are invited to join in the delivery. Each month a list of specific needs will be assigned to each class. This month, the list is as follows:

- PreK3/4: Powdered Milk or Baby Milk (1, 2, 3)
- K5: Diapers
- Grade 1: Sugar & Salt
- Grade 2: Tomato sauce
- Grade 3: Rice
- Grade 4: Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
- Grade 5: Cooking oil
- Grade 6: Flour
- Grade 7: Chocolate Paste or Chocolate Powder
- Grade 8: Powdered Milk or Baby Milk (1, 2, 3)
- Grade 9: Toilet Paper rolls and diapers
- Grade 10: Pasta
- Grade 11: Cleaning products
- Grade 12: Soap, Bleach or any item of their choice

Given that it is the beginning of the school year, it would be wonderful if students could donate school backpacks that they are no longer using.

Class Spotlight: Grade 6 Language Arts

In my 6th grade language arts class, the students have been reading the novel Maniac Magee for homework each night. On Monday, they will be participating in their first literature circle. My classroom is already arranged in "pods," so come Monday they will already be divided in small groups of four. Each student will be responsible for a different

role that will rotate each week. Each role requires that the student has read and annotated the novel, and each student will have the opportunity to share their findings. Our "discussion director" is the day's leader and will ensure that the students stay on track and are respectful. I can't wait to see what thoughtful in-

sights the students come up with!



New Destiny Orphanage

Please bring in your donations!

There is a large wooden box on the ground floor hallway where donations can be left. Otherwise, students can leave them with a teacher.

The first visit will be Saturday, September 9 from 2:00-5:00pm. **Students or parents**

wishing to participate in a monthly visit are asked to sign-up with Kehmia in the front office by the Wednesday prior to the visit date. This allows the necessary arrangements for transportation to be made.

If you have any further questions about New Destiny Orphanage, you may contact Ms. Veronique

Bokaie, a parent of an ASD student who coordinates the donations and visits at 697378990.

Thank you!!!