

DIRECTOR GENERAL

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COMING SOON TO ASA – NINE EDUCATORS WITH 111 COLLECTIVE YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Welcome back to an exciting second semester! We are anticipating an action-filled 2010 with many student activities and great learning opportunities ahead. While everyone enjoyed a long vacation break, you might not realize it but many weeks of behind-the-scenes action has been occurring with arguably some of the most important future work of the school taking place during the past two months – teacher recruiting for the 2010-11 school year. During the past weeks, we have traveled to the major international teacher recruiting fairs in Atlanta, Kingston (Ontario), Waterloo (Iowa), and Boston to find our next group of outstanding incoming educators. I'm excited to share the following great news regarding a very fine group of educators who will soon be bringing 111 collective years of experience to ASA starting in July 2010.

Our outstanding incoming educators as a group have either maintained or exceeded our high standards in three key indicator areas of educator quality and performance: past teaching experience, prior overseas experience, and advanced degrees. I'm pleased to report that 100% of our incoming faculty and staff have past teaching/administrative experience. Additionally, we are also very pleased to have nearly 90% possessing advanced degrees as well as current or prior overseas experience. This incoming group of educators will be joining our excellent returning group of teachers and administrators to ensure high-quality teaching and learning at ASA for many years ahead. In fact, along with this great group of incoming teachers, we are also pleased to report that we've had the lowest teacher turnover this year compared with the past seven years, which helps provide our ASA students with a greater number of teachers experienced with our curriculum and ASA community. No other factor makes a bigger difference in schools than quality educators, and we look forward to great teaching and learning in the weeks ahead and far into the future with our excellent returning and incoming educators. I invite you to review the following information that outlines the superb qualifications and background of our incoming educators.

Eric Habegger

Incoming Faculty and Staff for July 2010

Elementary Principal: Pam Carpenter

Education: Master's from University of Missouri, Kansas City
Experience in Education: 33 years (Teacher of the Year – two school districts)

Elementary Teaching: 14 years

Administration: 19 years

Overseas Experience: Fellowship Award to study in England

Educational Background:

Current Position: Elementary Principal at Trailridge Elementary School Lee's Summit, Missouri (640 students)

Previous Experience: elementary teacher, reading specialist, language arts coordinator, staff development coordinator

Awards: Nominated for Walt Disney's American Teacher of the Year Award

MS Physical Education: Brian Bishop

Education: Master's Degree from National University, Redding, CA

Experience in Education: 22 years

Overseas Experience: South Korea

Background: physical education, ESL teacher,

Additional information: wilderness guide

Middle School Social Science: Anna Edwards Beck

Education: PhD. from American University; MA Columbia University

Experience in Education: 31 years

Overseas Experience: South Africa, India, Hong Kong

Background: social science teacher, department coordinator,

principal, counselor, director of special programs

Additional information: U.S. Ambassador's Award for Outstanding Service

Elementary Art: Emily Adams

Education: Master's Degree from the University of Nebraska

Experience in Education: 4

Overseas Experience: South Korea

Background: elementary art, elementary self-contained classroom

Additional Information: Art Educator of the Year Nominee

HS Physical Education: Daniel Prost

Education: Master's Degree from Washburn University, KS

Experience in Education: 2 years

Overseas Experience: Taiwan

Background: physical education, history

Additional information: experience as athletic director and coach

Kinder 4: Cecilia Moreno

Education: Master's Degree from the University of Texas

Experience in Education: 2 years

Overseas Experience: Ecuador

Background: Kindergarten, Grade 1

Additional Information: Spanish speaker

H.S. Psychology and Philosophy: Christopher Clark

Education: Master's Degree from the University of Minnesota

Experience in Education: 4 years

Travel Experience: Austria, Italy, Germany

Background: psychology, AP U.S. History, contemporary history

Additional Information: German speaker

Grade 3: Thurmiere Love

Education: Master's Degree from the University of Texas

Bilingual Studies and Spanish

Experience in Education: 8 years

Overseas Experience: Honduras

Background: Grade 2 & 3

Additional Information: Teacher of the Year; Spanish speaker

H.S. World History and Government: Scott Mayerle

Education: Bachelor's Degree in Social Science Education and Spanish from the University of Minnesota Duluth

Experience in Education: 5 years

Overseas Experience: Mexico, Spain, Costa Rica

Background: IB History teacher, World History, U.S. History,

Geography

Additional Information: Spanish speaker

ELEMENTARY

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WELCOME BACK: It has been wonderful to see so many happy children back on campus after our long break! It's great to hear the fantastic stories students are telling their friends and teachers about their adventures during the summer break. We look forward to an exciting semester full of fun and learning.

CLUBS: We are very excited to announce that we will have a Drama Club this semester that will put on a production of *Beauty and the Beast* directed by Ms. Sara Quigley, our Middle School and High School Music teacher. Following the success of *The Wizard of Oz* and *Annie*, our elementary students will be putting on play for the third consecutive year. In addition to the Drama Club, we will be sponsoring Chess, Newspaper, Pen Pals, Jewelry Making and many other clubs. A sign will be sent home with your child this week.

AFTER-SCHOOL SPORTS: After-school sports will begin on Tuesday, March 2nd.

EARLY DISMISSALS: Please remember that students may not leave school during the academic day without permission from the elementary office. In order to take a son or daughter out of school during the school day, the parent must sign a **yellow form** at the elementary office. Once the form is completed, parents may go to the classroom to pick up their child. This yellow form must be given to the security guard when the student leaves campus.

WEEKLY BULLETIN

PARAGUAYAN STUDIES PROGRAM

Welcome to the second semester of the 2010 school year. As we pointed in the last edition of the previous semester weekly bulletin, we will face a challenging semester, with goals to be reached; all of them oriented to the students' growth.

It is our sincere wish that our students, and their parents and relatives, have a productive semester.

Rodrigo Colmán

MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Welcome back from what I hope was a restful and refreshing summer break. We have a busy second semester in store for your children, which we will be outlining in the weeks ahead. Before we begin that discussion, however, I thought it would be helpful to review our main goals for the entire year:

- Goal 1: Increase student achievement, particularly in the areas of reading comprehension and language usage
- Goal 2: Compact our core classroom curriculums so that we are teaching only what is critical for our students to know to a deeper level of understanding. Ensure curricular alignment to the MAP adaptive tests.

In order to support the first goal, we have modified our Advisory program to include Sustained Silent Reading periods on Mondays (in English) and Wednesdays (in Spanish). We are also using MAP RIT scores and the DeCartes continuum to help us identify student weaknesses in reading comprehension and language usage so that we can differentiate our instruction to more effectively meet individual student needs.

To support the second goal, our teachers have devoted the ½ day professional development days towards that process. Those documents are almost complete and will be posted on the middle school website when they are. Our next step will be to examine our Community Service projects and Classroom Without Walls expeditions with an eye towards connecting those important programs to our newly compacted curriculums. We are committed to ensuring that every student activity assists our young people towards achieving the ASA vision of *Developing, Respecting, and Excelling*.

I hope you are as excited about the second half of the year as I am. See you around campus.

IMPORTANT DATES

Feb. 24 Coffee with the Principal – 8:00am, MS Office.

Bob Imholt

HIGH SCHOOL

WELCOME BACK: Welcome back to School! I hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable time. We will have a very busy semester packed with events. Again, a warm welcome back to each of you, and best wishes for a wonderful semester ahead.

HS AWARDS CEREMONY: ASA will recognize the first semester achievements of our students on Friday, February 26th starting at 8:30 AM. We plan to hold this celebration of our students' achievements in the Multi Purpose Room at ASA so that parents and families may enjoy seeing this event in the comfort and atmosphere afforded by this location. In order to do so, we will recognize one class at a time, beginning with:

- 9th grade class at 8:30 a.m. followed by
- 10th grade class at 9:00 a.m.
- 11th grade class at 9:30 a.m. and
- 12th grade class at 10:00 a.m.

Parents and other family are encouraged to attend as much of the awards assembly as possible. We will be sending home a letter with the students who will be honored later this week so parents will know the kind of recognition the students will receive. **Following the awards assembly, from 11:00 to 11:45 a.m.**, we will hold an event in the gym to kick off Intercolegial which will include a performance by the ASA spirit squad, activities for the students, and speeches from the players and coaches. We believe this morning of celebration will be an excellent way to recognize our students and allow our parents to share in the success of our students. It is my hope many parents and family can attend.

Dr. Steven Nilhas

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SPORTS

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Dear parents,

I am very happy to be part of the ASA family. We believe that together we can do a great job that will allow the students to participate in the different sports that we do in the comfort of ASA. If you have any questions, doubts or suggestions, I will be available in the office on Mondays from 7.30 - 9.30 a.m. . **Lic. Juan Carlos Tabarelli**

NEWS:

Intercolegial ASA 2010: With a lot of enthusiasm we are preparing the Intercolegial ASA 2010 that will be on the 26th, 27th and 28th of February to the 5th, 6th, and 7th of March. Many schools have already confirmed their participation.

Registration form for Sports: To enroll in sports this semester have to go through the athletic department and fill in the registration form for sports.

BUSINESS OFFICE

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Please remember that next tuition deadline is this Friday, February 19th. Remember that payments must be done at the BBVA Bank with your checkbooks.