

## DIRECTOR GENERAL

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### **PROGRESS REPORT ON SACS RE-ACCREDITATION RECOMMENDATIONS**

Believe it or not, almost two years have elapsed since ASA received its re-accreditation visit in May of 2008. As part of the required process of continued accreditation from SAC/AdvancEd, ASA must provide a two-year report of progress on the four major recommendations provided by the Quality Assurance Team as a result of their visit. In the next several weekly bulletins, I will be providing you with the results of our efforts to address the SACS recommendations thus assuring our continued accreditation and improvement as a school.

As the first area that our ASA Board of Directors and Leadership Team addressed during the past two years, we created an enrollment redistribution plan to lower class sizes across the three building levels while maintaining our overall enrollment headcount to ensure for a healthy financial status.

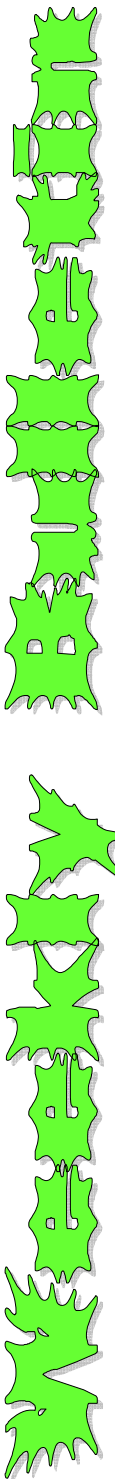
### **Enrollment Redistribution Plan to Reduce Class Size**

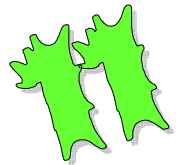
- a. Lowered elementary enrollment cap to ensure smaller class sizes
  - K4 maximum enrollment lowered to 16-18 per class with one full-time teacher and two full-time aides per classroom
  - K5 maximum enrollment lowered to 16-18 per class with one full-time teacher and one full-time aide per classroom
  - Grades 1-2 maximum enrollment lowered to 18-20 per class with one-full time teacher and one full-time aide per classroom
  - Grades 3-5 maximum enrollment lowered to 18-20 per class with one-full time teacher and one half-time aide per classroom
- b. Created new master schedule at high school to reduce class sizes

**Results:** Recent data show that our plan has provided immediate results with elementary class sizes decreasing from 23 students per class to 21 per class after just the first year of implementation. At projected rates, ASA should reach an optimal class size of 18-20 across the elementary in only two more years. At the secondary level, the creation of a new master schedule produced a significant reduction in average class sizes, specifically at the high school where class sizes fell from an average of 22 per class to 15 per class. In middle school, class averages are currently 17 students per section. The overall redistribution plan has also allowed ASA to slightly increase overall enrollment levels to generate additional financial resources for teaching and learning. Today we have smaller class sizes in elementary and more optimal class sizes in secondary with our overall enrollment at an all-time record of 643 and continuing to grow.

Next week, I will provide a progress report on our initiatives to increase financial resources and the resulting completion of several important capital investment and maintenance projects to provide for a safer and more effective learning environment for students and teachers.

*Dr. Eric Habegger*





## ELEMENTARY

**OLIMPIADA KANGURO:** We are incredibly proud to announce the final results of the Olimpiada Kanguro. In just our second year of competing in this event, two of our students finished in first place! ASA was also the only private school to have two overall champions--- Pablo Mazuera in the Escolar Category (third and fourth grades) and Vicente Biederman in the Benjamin category (fifth and graders). In addition to our champions, Gabriel Mazuera finished in second place in the Escolar category while Paula Zubiri placed third and Catalina Grosz placed tenth in the Benjamin category. Over 40 ASA students participated in this event, and over 8,000 students in Paraguay. Congratulations to our ASA students!



*Elementary Olimpiada Kanguro  
Math Champions*

**OPERATION SMILE READ-A-THON:** Our read-a-thon to support Operation Smile began on Monday. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to engage in extra reading practice as well as support such a worthy cause. T-shirts are also on sale in front of the elementary office. Over 50 local children will benefit from the proceeds of the read-a-thon. Let's work together to support Operation Smile!

**MAKA VISIT:** Our fourth graders will have a Field Trip this Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup> to visit the Maka Indian Reservation, located in Mariano Roque Alonso near Puente Remanso. They will be hosted by students from the Escuela Graduada N° 2490. This is the 15<sup>th</sup> year that ASA has participated in an exchange program with students from the Maka community. The objectives of our exchange program are for our students to gain an awareness and appreciation of Native American culture in Paraguay. This field trip coincides with the fourth-graders' study of Native American culture in both the Paraguayan and US programs.

**TIERRA NUESTRA PARENT MEETING:** We will hold an informational meeting for fifth grade parents on Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup> in the elementary Art Room to discuss the fifth-grade field trip to Tierra Nuestra. The trip will take place on Friday and Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. An informational letter was sent home with your child last week.

**FAMILY DAYS:** Our annual Family Day Celebrations will be held from May 10<sup>th</sup> to May 14<sup>th</sup>. The objectives for Family Day are for students to demonstrate their feelings about their families through their writing, singing, dancing, and drama presentations, as well as to create a sense of community between students, parents, and teachers. The date and time of your child's celebration is listed below:

**Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup>**

8:00-8:20 Fourth Grade Section A  
8:20-8:40 Fourth Grade Section B  
8:00-8:30 Third Grade

**Wednesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>**

8:00-8:20 First Grade Section A  
8:20-8:40 First Grade Section B  
8:45-9:15 Second Grade

**Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>**

8:00-8:30 Kinder Four B  
8:00-8:20 Kinder Five A  
8:20-8:40 Kinder Five B  
3:00-3:30 Kinder Four A

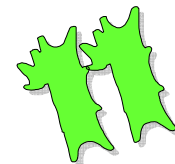
**Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup>**

8:00-8:20 Fifth Grade Section A  
8:20-8:40 Fifth Grade Section B

**AFTER-SCHOOL SPORTS:** We have been invited to play friendly soccer games against Colegio Goethe for boys in third, fourth, and fifth grades on Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. The games will take place at Colegio Goethe. An e-mail was sent out earlier this week with the schedule and a map. Please remember that all parents are required to confirm the participation of their child by e-mailing Ms. Cristina Gamarra ([cgamarra@asa.edu.py](mailto:cgamarra@asa.edu.py)) or by calling the Athletic Office.

**WORLD CUP PLAYING CARDS:** The World Cup playing cards have become a significant disturbance to the learning environment at school. Students at ASA are not allowed to bring toys to school, and our teachers are reporting a loss of class time due to the World Cup playing cards. We ask that all students leave their playing cards and albums at home so that they do not lose their cards or distract the leaning environment. Students who bring cards to school and play with them during the school day, will have their cards confiscated and brought to Mr. Donaldson's office. We are asking for your full support on this issue. We do understand the enthusiasm our students have for the playing cards. For this reason, we are currently working with our PTA to schedule a special World Cup playing card day. At this event, students will have an opportunity to trade cards with their friends. We will send out information on this special event in the near future.

*Brian Donaldson*



## MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Mighty Middle School Parents,

Welcome to another busy week as we host a boy's soccer tournament, revise our Community Service and Classroom Without Walls programs, prepare for Ranchito, and begin to look forward to semester exams, grade 8 promotion, and the awards ceremonies. Whew, I am exhausted! Below you will see some important information for your consideration:

### Ranchito

I need a little help here. Our initial list of 90 invitees has been out for over a week. At a minimum, ASA needs 45 attendees to be able to participate in the event. With a Thursday deadline to pay the \$200 deposit, we have only three participants who have paid that fee. As a result, on Friday we will expand our list of invitees with students being confirmed to attend on a first paid, first confirmed basis. If you would like your child to attend this event, please pay the deposit between now and Thursday.

### Character Education/Study Skills:

As you know, we alternate our Tuesday Advisory schedule between Character Education lessons and Study Skills. This week, our focus is on Study Skills with the following grade level focuses:

6th grade: Organizing a 5- paragraph essay (in preparation for 6+1)

7th and 8th: Spanish lesson - "Como presentar evidencias al escribir."

### Middle School Upcoming Sports Events

ASA Memorial Cup Boy's 7/8 Soccer Tournament: May 4-6.

Girls 7/8 soccer vs. San Andrés: Friday, May 7 (at ASA)

Boy's & Girl's Gr 6 Soccer vs Goethe: Saturday, May 8 at 8:30 am (at Colegio Goethe)

Girl's 7/8 Soccer vs. Inter: Thursday, May 13 (at ASA)

Ranchito, May 23-28 in Beautiful Brazil!

Thanks for being such a great learning community, everyone.

### Important dates

May 7	½ Day for Students until Noon/Afternoon Teacher Professional Development
May 4-7	Memorial Cup Middle School Boy's Soccer Tournament at ASA
May 19	Coffee with the Principal (8 am in the middle school office)
May 23-28	Ranchito

**Bob Imholt**

## HIGH SCHOOL

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[rsanabria@asa.edu.py](mailto:rsanabria@asa.edu.py)

**COMMUNITY SERVICE THIS WEEK:** We will have Community Service Day in High School this Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. Project Sponsors will provide permission slips to those students leaving campus. All permission slips MUST be returned to their sponsors by Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. Any student who does not return his or her permission slip on time by Thursday will NOT be allowed to leave campus. Students must be at school by 7:30 to leave campus on time and be able to return on time at noon. Remember, that Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup> is also early dismissal. Please pick up your children by 12:00. All students are expected to participate. Thanks.

### HS COUNSELOR'S CORNER

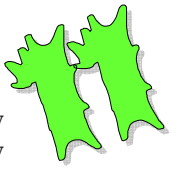
#### AP Exams

The AP examinations began on Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> and will continue through May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Your students were given a letter listing the exams, times, and locations for which they were registered, and information regarding the procedures for taking the exams. Please make sure your students arrive at the school no later than 7:30 a.m. on mornings when they have exams scheduled and at 11:30 for afternoon exams. Please review the information found in the AP Parent/Student bulletin distributed in March. It can also be found at the following address: <http://professionals.collegeboard.com/profdownload/ap-student-parent-bulletin-2009-10.pdf>

### UNIVERSITY VISIT

Mr. Dan Saracino, the Assistant Provost for enrollment from the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, will be at ASA on Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Saracino will be presenting to 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students during their specials and will also offer a presentation about international admissions and financial aid to parents on Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. You may also set up individual meetings with Mr. Saracino on that date between 9:00 and 11:30 a.m. Please contact Mr. Mellman in the high school guidance office with any questions regarding Mr. Saracino's visit. Thanks.

**Dr. Steven Nilhas**



## SPORTS

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[cgamarra@asa.edu.py](mailto:cgamarra@asa.edu.py)

**INTERCOLEGIALES:** We will be participating in Santa Ana's Intercolegial from May 21<sup>st</sup> to May 30<sup>th</sup>. Our volleyball, basketball, futsal and soccer teams will be competing during two weekends.

**SOCCER GAMES:** On Saturday May, 8<sup>th</sup>, we will be having a friendly soccer game at Colegio Goethe for third, fourth, fifth and sixth grade boys. Please confirm your child's attendance.

**MEMORIAL DAY CUP:** During this week, we are hosting a Middle School boys soccer tournament here at ASA. The schools that are competing are Santa Ana, Goethe and San Andrés. We hope to see you here to support to our student-athletes from Middle School.

**RANCHITO:** Our sixth, seventh and eighth graders will soon be departing to Sao Paulo, Brazil to participate in the Ranchito's Tournament from May 23<sup>rd</sup> to May 28<sup>th</sup>. We want to remind all parents to bring your documents to the Athletic Department as soon as possible.

## BUSINESS OFFICE

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Please be reminded that the deadline to pay fourth tuition is this coming Friday, May 7, 2010. Payments must be made at any of the BBVA Banco offices. Thank you.

## EARLY DISMISSAL

Remember that this Friday, May 7, students will be dismissed at 12:00 noon due to the Professional Development for faculty and Staff. There will not be extracurricular activities on that day. Thank you.

