

## Director General

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### CAMPUS SECURITY REMAINS A TOP PRIORITY AT ASA

As one of the most important operational areas at ASA, our campus security remains a top priority and continues to receive a strong focus in order to maintain a high standard and to look for additional ways to improve the security and safety provided to our students and staff. With our school community currently supporting the Bandera Blanca project and expressing concern about personal safety issues throughout the country, ASA has taken several proactive measures in fully reviewing our campus safety to ensure that we continue employing the most appropriate protocols.

During the past weeks, we have reviewed our campus safety with the assistance of the Regional Security Officer of the U.S. Embassy. This review has covered our current installations of security cameras, the perimeter intruder detection system, and our security procedures. As an additional assistance offered to ASA, the Embassy security team will be providing two advanced training sessions for our security guards during the next week. These sessions will include training in both preventative and proactive security measures. As part of this process, ASA will also be examining the purchase of additional security and safety equipment to help us take further steps to improve our ability to react quickly and take appropriate actions if necessary.

We will continue to provide updates to the community as we implement continual improvements related to our commitment to providing students and staff with the safest and most secure campus of any school in Asunción.

*Dr. Eric Habegger*

## An opportunity to say, "Thank you"

At the end of the year, ASA holds a Staff Holiday party for all of its personnel. This year, the event will be held on Friday, December 4th. One of the highlights of the evening is a special raffle. Our goal is to have something for everyone. There are 160 employees at ASA: teachers, aides, coaches, secretaries, cleaning staff, maintenance and security staff members who daily work at ASA to provide education and services that make the difference of our students. Donations for our raffle would be most appreciated.

Please contact Silvana in the Director's Office if you wish to donate an item for the raffle. It will be most appreciated.

## P . T . A

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As members of the PTA, we recognize the importance of maintaining clear and open lines of communication among all of our wonderful school's valuable stakeholders. We would like to receive suggestions and opinions about all the events organized by the PTA, in order to improve our activities. Please deposit the attached survey in our BOX OF SUGGESTIONS, located next to the PTA Store. Thank you!

## Elementary

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**HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL 2009:** We would like to thank our hardworking PTA officers and room mothers for their tremendous efforts to make this Halloween so special. An event of this size would not be possible without the dedication and commitment displayed by our parent community. On behalf of our students and teachers, thank you for making Halloween an unforgettable experience for our students.

**TALENT SHOW:** Many of our students have already begun their preparations for our annual Elementary Talent Show which will be held on Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. Students are invited to share their singing, dancing, and other talents with our ASA community. Auditions will be held on Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 3:40 p.m. in the MPR. Our Talent Show has been a huge success the past four years, and we are looking forward to another great show this year. Talent Show audition forms are located in the elementary office with Ms. Mirian Gimenez. Sign up today to perform!

**PROGRESS REPORTS:** Student progress reports will be sent home on Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup> for students who have shown major progress since report cards and for those students who are still experiencing difficulties.

## Middle School

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**PTA HALLOWEEN FESTIVITIES:** I wanted to take a moment to thank the PTA for setting up such an amazing Halloween event last Friday. In addition to offering the Fortune Telling (grade 8), the Bowling (grade 7), and the Soccer Penalty Kick (grade 6), our eighth graders were also responsible for handing out candy to trick or treating elementary kids. Thanks for all of your participation in this community event, everyone.

**TGIFRIDAY'S MAP INCENTIVE:** This week, eighteen 6<sup>th</sup> graders, thirty-one 7<sup>th</sup> graders and nineteen 8<sup>th</sup> graders have earned a TGIFriday's lunch for having averaged four point increases across the Reading Comprehension, Math, and Language Usage assessments during our recent MAP testing. Congratulations, students!

**MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL:** At the end of quarter 1, six 6<sup>th</sup> graders, eleven 7<sup>th</sup> graders and four 8<sup>th</sup> graders qualified for Honor Roll, while twenty 6<sup>th</sup> graders, eleven 7<sup>th</sup> graders and eight 8<sup>th</sup> graders qualified for Principal's Honor Roll. Congratulations to all of our scholars. If you would like to see a full list of names, please read the online Middle School Matters weekly newsletter.

### Chosen Ones for selected Character Traits

**Grade 6: Kindness** Miguel Zaldivar, Enrique Bendaña, Jeff Habegger, Felipe Zuccolillo, Victoria Nolan, Paulina Argaña

**Grade 7: Tolerance:** Luis Maria Aveiro; **Kindness:** Ximena Maluff, Flavia Cereceda, Alejandra Gross Brown, Nicole Reimert, Steffi Schouten, Valentina Olivieri, Matias Mongelos; **Responsibility:** Carolina Muñoz and Flavia Cereceda

**Grade 8: Honesty:** Mathias Baudelet; **Responsibility:** Alberto Ramirez; **Kindness:** Sebastian Corina, Kirti Nanwani, Agustina Vucovich and Mathias Baudelet

Have a great week, everyone.

*Bob Imholt*

### Important Upcoming Dates:

Nov 18	Coffee with the Principal
Nov 20	Students released at noon; ½ Day Staff Development
Nov 26-27	Thanksgiving Holiday, No School

## High School

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### Criteria for the ASA Conduct Grade

The ASA Student-Parent & Community Handbook contains the guidelines for the Conduct Grade given to each student at ASA each nine week period. Each student is supposed to receive a grade based on four areas: (1). Punctuality; (2). Self-discipline; (3). Cooperation; and, (4). Respect. Students are to be graded in each of these areas on a scale of zero to four with a four being very good and a zero being unacceptable. Starting this semester we will be using a rubric which will make it easier for teachers to calculate the conduct grade and will give students a clear understanding of the criteria used to calculate the grade. We will calculate the punctuality and self-discipline scores based on actual student data from RenWeb. Teachers will give scores in the areas of cooperation and respect. The final student conduct grade for the semester will be an average of the four areas from the first nine weeks and the second nine weeks. The actual rubric which we will be using was distributed to the students at the October 7<sup>th</sup> Town Hall Meeting, so all students would be aware of how their conduct grade would be calculated. We will be posting this rubric to the ASA Spirit bulletin board at the school and also to the ASA High School web page for your information. We believe using data along with clearly defined behavior expectations will result in a conduct grade which better represents our students' behavior and will produce a conduct grade that is fair to the student and reflective of his or her behavior.

### THE COUNSELOR'S CORNER:

The SAT is this Saturday, November 7 at ASA. Students must report to ASA at 7:45 a.m. with their Admission tickets and valid photo ID. If you have any questions, please speak with Mr. Mellman in the guidance office.

*Dr. Steven Nilhas*

## Paraguayan Studies Department

ASA graduates often share with us good news about their academic progress at the university and their successful steps in the beginning of working life. On this occasion, it was not our graduates who shared with us information about their achievements but instead it was the prestigious Catholic University of Paraguay.

Through a letter addressed to the school, the Director of the Admission Course expressed "the magnificent results obtained in the Admission Course by students of this Institution; who achieved optimal levels of academic excellence". Graduates who received this honorable mention are Pablo Artaza, Martín Castillo, and Luciana Troche.

We are glad to share with the members of our community this important achievement from our graduates.

Last but not least, please mark in your agendas that we will be meeting on Thursday, November 12, at 8:00 a.m. in the MPR for a presentation regarding Paraguayan Program. It would be a pleasure to have you for this presentation.

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*Mr. Rodrigo Colmán*

## Deportes

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AMISTOSOS:** On Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, we will have soccer games with the Colegio Cristo Rey in our school facilities. All students enrolled in the soccer program in grades Kinder Five to Fifth grade are invited to play. It is a requirement to wear the official ASA uniform, with the exception of students in Kinder Five. Please remember to confirm your child's attendance with Ms. Cristina Gamarra in the Athletic Office ([orgamarra@asa.edu.py](mailto:orgamarra@asa.edu.py)).

**VARSITY AMISTOSOS:** We will continue with our series of amistosos with a view to Rancho 2009, On Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup> we will be host Colegio Italiano Santo Tomás, from city of Pilar for Futsal and Soccer both Male & Female categories.

**LOST AND FOUND:** We would like to inform you that in the lost and found basket in the Athletic Department are jackets, sweatshirts and t-shirts that were left by students. Please collect the items or they will be donated in the near future.