

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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ASA Board of Directors Appoints Dr. Robert Beck as the Next Director General as ASA

The Board of Directors is very pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Robert Beck as the next Director General at ASA starting in July 2010. Dr. Beck clearly emerged as the top candidate among 14 semi-finalists, and the Board reached full consensus that his outstanding educational qualifications, proven experience as a school director, and strong track record with 28 years of experience as an overseas and state-side administrator will help ASA continue moving forward in achieving school excellence.

Dr. Beck currently serves as the Director of the American International School in Johannesburg, South Africa. His previous overseas experience includes administrative leadership positions in Hong Kong, China and New Delhi, India. Dr. Beck also served as Director of Student Services in Fairfax Country Virginia Public Schools, a top-performing stateside district with over 162,000 students. Dr. Beck began his career as a Grade 3 teacher and extended his professional experiences to include teaching as a university professor, working as a school psychologist, and serving as a Teaching Fellow at Harvard University

Dr. Beck will be joined by his wife, Dr. Anna Edwards Beck. Anna also possesses an outstanding background as an educator having served in three international schools as a middle school teacher, guidance counselor, and principal. She also has extensive experience in directing dramas and musical performances. The Becks have two adult children.

As part of the new executive leadership team starting in the 2010-11 school year, the Board of Directors would also like to announce the expansion of duties for Dr. Bob Imholt. Dr. Imholt will be continuing with his responsibilities as Middle School Principal next year but also adding additional duties as Deputy Director. The Board of Directors believes that combining the outstanding head of school experience of Dr. Beck along with the on-site experience of Dr. Imholt will provide ASA with a dynamic leadership team to continue our aggressive goals for continuous school improvement.

The Board of Directors wishes to express its gratitude to the Search Committee for all their hard work, to the Search Chair Verónica Pallarés de Biedermann for her many hours of due diligence, and to all members of the school community who participated in a successful process that resulted in Drs. Robert and Anna Beck joining our ASA Community.

Search Committee Members 2009:

Verónica Pallarés de Biedermann, Search Chair
José Moreno Rodríguez, Board President
Patricia Bacchi, Board Secretary
Augusto Médal, Board Treasurer
Mona Kuntz, U.S. Ambassador's Representative
Oscar Van Humbeeck, Trustee
Alejandro Conti, Sub-Trustee
Guillermo Gross Brown, Past President

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 work daily 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. Thank you.

PARAGUAYAN STUDIES DEPARTMENT

As you know, one of our main duties at ASA, according to our Mission and Vision, is providing excellent academic education. In order to obtain this quality it is necessary to strengthen our program of curriculum, instruction and evaluation.

The Department members invest quality time during the professional development days and during the planning time of the teachers to advance in this work from Kinder 5 to 12th grade in the areas of Spanish Language and Literature, Guarani, and Social Studies in Spanish. The updated versions of the curricula are available in the web page.

One of the last steps in this area is the current revision of scope-and-sequence maps. These maps incorporate the essential contents to be taught in each class from Kinder 5 to 12th grade. When this work is done, we will publish the documents in the ASA web page. We will let you know when the documents are available for you to have access.

With this work we are focusing with conscience and consistency our attention in the document that generates our practices in instruction and evaluation: the curriculum. It is necessary to note that our curriculum incorporates learning objectives required by MEC and learning contents (especially from 9th grade and up) required by admission courses of local universities. With this effort of curricular integration, our curriculum is one of the most sophisticated in Paraguay.

The work of the teachers at this point has demanded many months of duty, also the frequent reading of documents (from MEC and internal). Their silent but key work is the kind that produces good results in the learning experience of the students over time.

If you have any question about this process or want to share with us information to consolidate this strengthen process, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Last but not least, please mark in your agendas for a special meeting on Thursday, November 12, at 8:00, in the MPR for a presentation regarding Paraguayan Program.

The agenda of the presentation is attached. The presentation will last 45 minutes approximately. Then it will offer space to share questions or reflections. It would be a pleasure to have you for this presentation.

Mr. Rodrigo Colmán

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SPORTS

BIG 8 TOURNAMENT: The big day is coming and our athletes are ready for the tournament to be held in NR Campsites in Sao Paulo, Brazil from November 15—21. Students who have not yet submitted the documentation, please bring it to the Athletic Department as soon as possible.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AMISTOSOS will take place on Saturday, November 14. We will have soccer games with the 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 Department (cgamarra@asa.edu.py).

VARSITY AMISTOSOS: On Friday, November 6th, we hosted Colegio Italiano Santo Tomás from Pilar city. The results were as follows: Futsal: ASA 5 vs. Col. Italiano 4; Soccer Boys 0-0; Soccer Girls: ASA 2 vs. Col. Italiano 0; Basketball Boys: ASA 42 vs Campo Alto 38; Female Basket ASA 15 vs. Cristo Rey 31.

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.

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ELEMENTARY

TALENT SHOW: Many of our students have already begun their preparations for our annual Elementary Talent Show which will be held on Friday, November 20th. Students are invited to share their singing, dancing, and other talents with our ASA community. Our Talent Show has been a huge success the past four years, and we are looking forward to another great show this year. Don't miss this great event!

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MIDDLE SCHOOL

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SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS WANTED: From time to time, we find ourselves in need of a substitute teacher for our little slice of heaven in the ASA Middle School. If you like children this age, have patience, and can find humor in most anything, you probably have the makings of a great middle school substitute teacher. If you find yourself the least bit interested in this possibility, come on in and let's talk about adding you to our substitute list!

LATEST MAP RESULTS: We will be having a parent meeting to report the latest school-wide MAP results and give them their individual children's results. This meeting will be on Tuesday, November 17 in the MPR at 8:00 a.m. We hope to see you there.

TIME MANAGEMENT: I suspect that most of you are familiar with our Principal Pals program, where we encourage students into doing the work that they did not turn in on time. More often than not, the reason students miss turning in work is because of poor time management. Being a middle schooler and managing academics, sports, and personal commitments is a daunting task. As parents, you can help your young people manage this challenge by reviewing the following websites:

<http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=10242> (English)

<http://www.studyqs.net/espanol/timman.htm> (Spanish)

CHOSEN ONES FOR SELECTED CHARACTER TRAITS:

Respect: Grade 6: Joaquín Machuca, Stephanie Alcaraz, Divina Chandiramani, Angelica Casanova, Diego Ramallo, Enrique Bendaña, Sergio Serrati, Fernando Domínguez **Grade 7:** Joaquín Sapena

Kindness: Grade 7: Micaela Fowler

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	Nov 20	Students released at noon; ½ Day Staff Development
Nov 26-27	Thanksgiving Holiday, No School		

Bob Imholt

HIGH SCHOOL

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CONDUCT RUBRIC: Last week I spoke of the criteria for the conduct rubric and mentioned the rubric would be published to the ASA High School Web page. This is now a reality as the conduct rubric is accessible on the ASA High School Web page by clicking on the conduct rubric link. It is my intent for this rubric to ensure students have a clear understanding of how their conduct grade is calculated. It is my hope all ASA students maintain or improve their conduct so that excellent conduct grades are earned by all students. In the event a student does not make the minimum 2.0 conduct score, we will work with the student and the family to help the student to improve his or her conduct to an acceptable level. We have many great students at ASA who truly want to take advantage of an excellent education. The conduct rubric should help us to ensure all students maintain behaviors that are conducive to learning. Your support in this endeavor is appreciated!

RANCHO IS HERE (ALMOST) This week we have been celebrating ASA spirit in preparation for our annual trip to Brazil for Rancho. This year is a special event as ASA will work hard to defend our title of overall champion. Our students are preparing and working hard to make this happen. Parents are invited this Friday November, 13th at 2:45 PM to the gymnasium for a spirit celebration to send our student athletes off in a good fashion, so come and join in the fun if you can!

BIG 8 TOURNAMENT RESULTS: Please make sure you look at the results of the BIG 8 Tournament in Brazil and see pictures of The Gators in action! You can take a look at them if you click on the NR icon in the home page of the ASA website. Go Gators!!

COMMUNITY SERVICE NEXT WEEK: The High School will have Community Service Day NEXT Friday, November 20th. Remember, that that day Friday, November 20th is also early dismissal. Please pick up your children by 12:00. All students are expected to participate.

Dr. Steven Nilhas