

## DIRECTOR GENERAL

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### **CELEBRATING A GREAT WEEK WITH MULTIPLE CONGRATULATIONS ACROSS OUR ASA COMMUNITY**

As you have undoubtedly noticed during the many weeks that I have been writing this column, I have generally highlighted the topic of continuous school improvement at ASA. Our overall goal and driving force during these past three years has been to work together to create a better school for our students each day. For this weekly bulletin, I would like to take a brief moment to pause and celebrate – yes, to celebrate just a few of the many successes that we have experienced during the past week alone. We celebrate for the reason that, ultimately, school improvement is simply a process intended to help all members of our ASA Community achieve higher levels of success. As a result, I want to share recent successes with you and congratulate everyone who helped achieve these positive outcomes.

#### **Student and Parent Successes**

We begin by celebrating with our Seniors and their parents a wonderful first weekend of Intercolegial. Despite the intermittent rain on Saturday, the overall attendance for the first weekend set an all-time record with over 10,500 attending the sporting events. We invite you to join us this coming weekend to cheer our teams to victory. You will find complete details with results and schedules on our web site at [www.asa.edu.py/intercolegial](http://www.asa.edu.py/intercolegial). In addition, for those of you who attended our High School Awards Assembly last Friday, we celebrated the success of many students who achieved academic honor roll, conduct honor roll, perfect attendance, and all A's in every class. We are proud to see an increasing number of students taking our most challenging courses such as Advanced Placement and earning high grades due to their hard work.

#### **Teacher Successes**

This past week I received news of the recent success of two ASA teachers. The well-known quarterly publication for international schools, Newlinks, published in their spring edition an article submitted by Patricia King, our middle school social studies teacher. In one of their sections highlighting best practices in education, they selected Ms. King's creative strategy of having students develop their own board games to learn key concepts being taught in the curriculum. In addition, we also celebrate Paul Rowley's recent completion of his Master's Degree in Secondary Education from the University of Alabama. As part of the ASA Vision, we encourage students to be life-long learners, and we also support our teaching staff in their pursuit of advanced learning.

#### **Alumni Success**

We received wonderful news this week that Jorge Riquelme, Class of 2006, received the 2010 Entrepreneurial Excellence Award from the School of Business at Texas Christian University. TCU provided the following information about this award: "This award is given to one senior Entrepreneurial Management major who has demonstrated overall excellence in both academics and leadership. The award recognizes overall balance inside and outside the classroom. It, in essence, recognizes our "star" student." Jorge has also been nominated for the school's prestigious Seth Hall Young Entrepreneur Award. Congratulations to Jorge and the Riquelme family.

#### **School and Community Success**

As a final note of success to build upon the list above, we invite you to visit the outdoor area beside the gym to see our new synthetic sports field that will soon be completed. The field will be ready for use later this week, and the lighting will be the final step in completing that initial phase of the project. I would also like to share the news that our Alumni Association will be providing the funding to build an Alumni Center with an outdoor barbecue area, a kitchen, meeting rooms, and restrooms. You will soon see a display erected beside the synthetic field that provides the overall design concept once the project is completed. Both of these projects reflect the vision forming the basis for our Master Facilities Plan currently under development by our Board of Directors and school leadership. We look forward to sharing additional information about the ASA's future at our upcoming General Assembly on Thursday, March 18. During that meeting, we will be celebrating that evening even more successes from this school year.

***Dr. Eric Habegger***

## PARAGUAYAN STUDIES PROGRAM

As you know through previous publications that we made regarding educative projects that take place at ASA, one of the main areas of focus in Elementary School is the writing process. Our teachers work quarterly in the continued development of the writing process known as 6 + 1 Traits.

They have been working to develop instruction to strengthen each one of the traits: Organization, Ideas, Vocabulary, Fluency, Voice, Conventions, and Presentation. Each teacher from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> prepares writing prompts to challenge the students to write a text. After the writing process, the teachers evaluate in work teams, the texts of the students using the evaluation rubric of 6 + 1 traits.

When that part of the evaluation process is done, each teacher marks the strengths and weaknesses of the student's writings. But the most important part is the designing of strategies of instruction and evaluation that will be given during the next quarter to help improve the student's writing skills. This is a continuous process that includes a coordinated effort from the elementary teachers to help our children become more effective writers. If you have any question about it, please contact us.

***Rodrigo Colmán***

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## ELEMENTARY

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**AFTER-SCHOOL SPORTS:** Our after-school sports program will begin on Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. This semester, we have established separate practices for boys and girls in first through fifth grades. Please be sure to check the practice schedule that was sent home earlier. The practice schedule was also sent via e-mail.

**CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK:** This week, we are celebrating Children's Book Week. Each day during the week, we have different activities and events that will involve all members of the ASA community. The objective of the celebration is to promote reading comprehension in our school community. Please see the remaining schedule below.

**Thursday, March 4<sup>th</sup>: Book Character Day:** Students will come to school dressed as one of their favorite characters from a book

**Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup>: Pillows, Pajamas, and Popcorn Day:** Students will be able to wear their pajamas to school and bring their pillows from home! Students will visit the library during the day for a good time reading and eating popcorn in our library.

**SCHOLASTIC BOOK ORDER:** The Scholastic Book Club catalogs were sent home with your child earlier this week.

**OLIMPIADA KANGURO:** We are pleased to announce that students in third, fourth, and fifth grade will have an opportunity to participate in the Olimpiada Kanguro mathematics competition. Kanguro is a mathematics competition created in France that is held throughout the world in more than 40 countries with more than three million participants. In Paraguay, the Olimpiada Kanguro competition will have more than 8,000 participants from public and private schools. Participation in this mathematics competition is completely voluntary and prizes will be awarded by OMAPA, the sponsoring organization, for the students in Paraguay who score highest. Students who wish to participate must return the permission slip to the elementary office and pay the Gs. 20.000 testing fee. The questions and the administration of the exam will be in Spanish. The exam will take place on March 18<sup>th</sup> and take approximately one hour. If you would like your child to participate, please send fill out the permission slip that was sent home with your child earlier this week.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Mighty Middle School Parents,

**Intercolegial:** As you can see from the preparations being undertaken around campus, Intercolegial is in full swing. This major event has several remaining implications for middle school, which include an early dismissal on Friday, March 5 (3 pm) and the delaying of middle school sports practices until Monday, March 8. Go Gators!

**Study Skills: The study skills lessons for this week are as follows:**

**Grade 6:** "Brainstorming and Group Work"

**Grades 7/8:** Evidence in Writing (taught in both Spanish and English)

**MS Field Day:** Middle School Field Day has been rescheduled for March 12 so that we can take advantage of our brand new cancha. Student Council has worked hard to create a schedule for the day that will include some of everyone's favorite athletic events and new activities inspired by our first semester survey. For the first time, each class is sharing responsibility for the day's success. Eighth graders have arranged for shirts, seventh are working on lunch, and sixth graders will be running an ice cream sale. Please remind your child to bring a water bottle and to use sun-screen during our Field Day!

**MS Math Enrichment:** Attention all you math loving individuals! The ASA Middle School would like to offer our students an after-school math enrichment program. The proposed group would meet one day a week for an hour after-school. The program will be shaped around student interests so their opinion is extremely important to us! Some possibilities: **Business** (money, stocks, finance, etc.), **Electronics** (computers, video games, etc.), **Engineering** (building, architecture, etc.), **Science** (nature, animals, plants, etc.). Please encourage your young person to fill out the survey and return it to Ms. Sarkaria.

**Olimpiada Kanguro Math Competition:** As part of our middle school goal of improving student performance in mathematics, we are pleased to announce that middle school students will have an opportunity to participate in the Olimpiada Kanguro mathematics competition. Kanguro is a mathematics competition created in France that is held throughout the world in more than 40 countries with more than three million participants. In Paraguay, the Olimpiada Kanguro competition will have more than 8,000 participants from public and private schools. Participation in this mathematics competition is completely voluntary and prizes will be awarded by OMAPA, the sponsoring organization, for the students in Paraguay who score highest. Students who wish to participate must return the permission slip to the elementary office and pay the Gs. 20.000 testing fee. The questions and the administration of the exam will be in Spanish. The exam will take place on March 18<sup>th</sup> and take approximately one hour. More information concerning the Olimpiada Kanguro can be found at [www.omapa.org.py](http://www.omapa.org.py). To see previous exams, please visit the website [www.mathkang.org](http://www.mathkang.org). We hope your child considers entering this competition. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Rodrigo Colman, our Director of Paraguayan Studies, or myself.

Have a great week, everyone.

### IMPORTANT DATES:

**Mar 8:** First day of middle school sports practices

**Mar 12:** Field Day

**Mar 19:** Progress Reports available on the Web

**Mar 22-26:** President's Cup: Middle School (7-8) Volley Tournament (Teams: PAIS, Inter and San Andres)

**Bob Imholt**



## HIGH SCHOOL

### Intercolegial

Since returning to school a few weeks ago, our Senior Class has been especially busy preparing for Intercolegial. The big event officially started on Friday night with the games and all that goes with this festival. As a first-time observer of Intercolegial, I must say I am impressed with the dedication and focus of the students, the support and hard work by the parents, and the pure energy shown by the communities of each school in attendance. When people ask me what I think of Intercolegial, I tell them it is an opportunity to show the community how great a school and people we have at ASA. With one weekend in the books, I can make this comment with confidence. As for our teams, they are doing well. Our boys futsal team played very well in winning two games over the weekend, including a win over San Jose, a very talented futsal team. In addition, our boys soccer team beat Campo Alto twice over the weekend, each time in shootout fashion. Our girls soccer team continued its winning ways with a victory – these girls have not lost a soccer game since the year started last August! The girls basketball team won two of three games to remain in the hunt for Intercolegial glory as well. The boys basketball team and girls volleyball teams unfortunately saw their Intercolegial time come to an end as each team lost twice over the weekend. All in all it was a great weekend of competition, comradarie, and character-building; my thanks goes out to all who made it possible! I hope to see you at the games this week!

**Early Dismissal again THIS FRIDAY!** Due to Intercolegial, on Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, classes will end at 12:00 pm for Seniors and at 3:00pm for 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students. Please remember to organize with your children their early dismissal transportation. Thanks.

### Student Honors

Last Friday we held an assembly to honor students for a variety of good work during the first semester of the school year. We will publish those who were honored in the near future in this article. I do want to correct an oversight from the awards assembly at this time. Ximena Carrizosa who is a senior at ASA was left off the list of students who achieved the honor roll. Our apologies to Ximena and her family for this oversight! I want to congratulate those who earned an award along with the families of those students, and I wish to thank those students who attended school and honored their classmates even though they did not receive an award. It is my hope that every student may be honored at some point in the school year for performing at a high level.

*Dr. Steven Nilhas*

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## SPORTS

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### INTERCOLEGIAL ASA 2010

With a great enthusiasm, the Intercolegial ASA 2010 started last weekend. We had many games this opening weekend. Results of the matches can be checked on our website. Please visit [www.asa.edu.py/intercolegial](http://www.asa.edu.py/intercolegial).

### REGISTRATION FORM FOR SPORTS

In order to be enrolled in sports during this semester, please stop by the Athletic Department to complete a registration form. Thank you.

### BEGINNING OF EXTRACURRICULAR SPORTS

All extracurricular sports activities will begin on Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup> for Elementary, Middle School and High School sections. Please stop by the Athletic Department to check out the schedules. Thank you.

### UNIFORMS

Sports uniforms ordered during last semester are available in the Athletic Department. If you did not place an order yet, please stop by the office.

## INTERCOLEGIAL EARLY DISMISSAL

**PLEASE, REMEMBER THAT THIS COMING FRIDAY, MARCH 5TH,  
STUDENTS WILL BE DISMISSED AT 3:00 P.M. DUE TO INTERCOLEGIAL ASA 2010.  
THANK YOU.**