

AWOKO

October 18, 2019

Director Update!

Parent-Teacher Conferences: Wednesday, October 23

Please note that parent-teacher conferences are taking place this coming Wednesday afternoon. In order to allow teachers to meet all families, we have also arranged for a few appointments on Tuesday afternoon as well. You should have received your invitation some time ago—if not, please drop me a line at director@ais-freetown.net just as soon as you possibly can. Please do make an effort to join us as this will be our first opportunity to report to you on your children’s progress.



Halloween!

AISF is linking up with the American Embassy community here in Freetown to celebrate Halloween here at school! Since Halloween is a Thursday, we will have our fun next Saturday (October 26) from 3:30—5:30. We invite families to decorate a table in a Halloween theme and to provide some treats for the kids who will be trick-or-treating! We also invite you to bring a dish—sweet or savory—to share. Finger-food would definitely be best. So, get your costumes ready and do plan to join us! Set up will begin at 2:30. Please drop me a line at director@ais-freetown.net if you are willing to set up a Halloween table. I will provide further details in a separate email!

Love and Logic

Last year, as an initiative from our wonderful teachers, AISF began implementing an approach to classroom management known as “Love and Logic”. The core of this approach is that our students should feel cared for and respected by their teachers (the love) and that consequences for behavior should be logical. For example, writing lines or serving a detention is not a logical consequence for disturbing the class whereas spending some time working alone rather than with the group would be.

Love and Logic has five core principles:

1. Mutual dignity and respect
2. Sincere empathy
3. Shared thinking—this means that the students should play a role in resolving the problems that they have created, and that the teacher might ask a student who was disrupting his/her group a question like, “Would you prefer to work quietly and cooperatively with the others or would you like to sit and work alone for a while?” A teacher might also speak to a student who had hurt another student’s feelings by first explaining that this is definitely not okay and then asking the student to share ideas as to how to make things better, so the student plays a role in finding a solution to the problem that they have caused.
4. Shared control within limits—see # 3 above. The teacher is actually allowing the student to choose between options.
5. Healthy relationships—the teachers need to maintain relationships with their students where the students know their teachers care for them while at the same time recognizing that their teachers are deserving of respect (as, indeed, are the students).

Another core concept of the Love and Logic approach is that teachers should not impose consequences when they, themselves, are angry, but rather to wait until they are calm. What students tend to feel when the teacher is angry is that their teacher doesn’t like them, rather than processing something like, “My teacher really cares for me but I know that I mustn’t do that again.”

Upcoming Dates

Wednesday, October 23	Parent-Teacher Conferences
Saturday, October 26	Halloween at AISF! Join the Embassy and AISF in the Halloween fun!! 3:30—5:30pm (set up begins @ 2:30)
Monday, November 11 or Tuesday, November 12	The Prophet's Birthday (school closed)
Friday, November 22	End of Trimester One (Second Trimester Fees Due)
Thursday, November 28 & Friday, November 29	Thanksgiving long weekend (school closed)

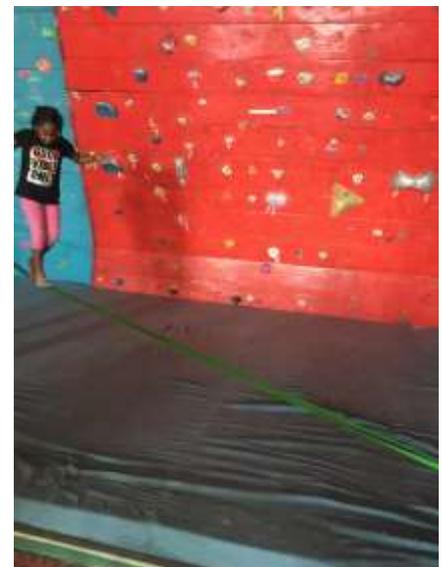


I ❤️ MY
SCHOOL!



ECC

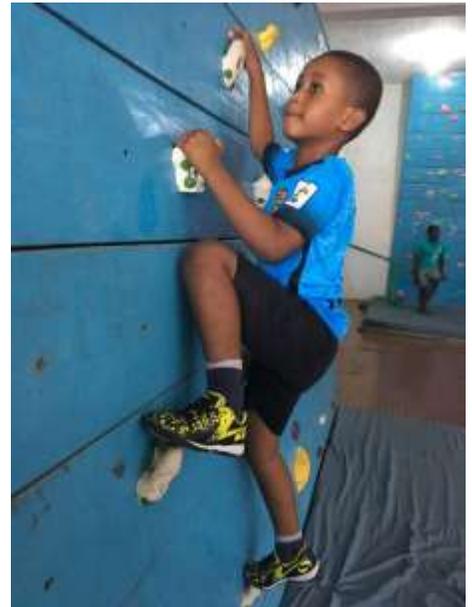
For the first time this school year ECC went climbing! We loved it so much! In Science we learned how living things survive in water and made a collage. In literacy we stated reading *The Gingerbread Man*.



Grade 1-2

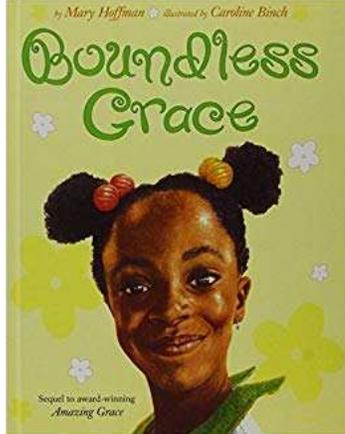
This week saw the first trip up to Climb Salone for Grades 1 and 2. They loved it and can't wait to return.

We have been busy rehearsing our poem extracts to perform for our families this afternoon. And we began work in Science on rainforest habitats in preparation for our upcoming field trip to Tacagama.



Grade 3-4

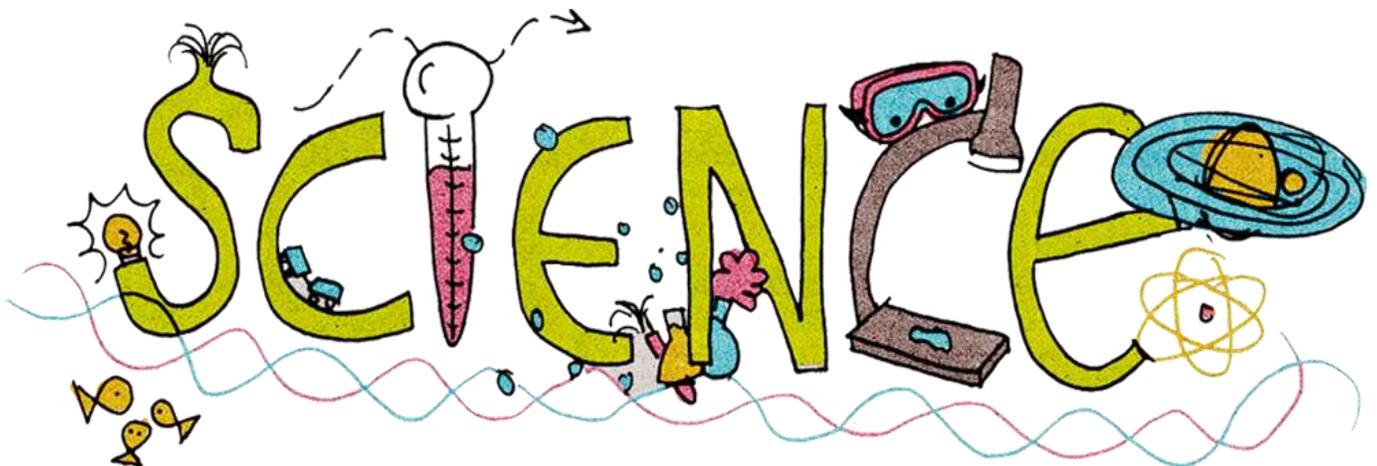
For the next few weeks we will be reading a series of books about Grace, the charismatic little girl with a big imagination. This week we are focusing on the book Boundless Grace. In this story, Grace travels to the Gambia in Africa, to visit her dad. Before reading the book, we used our imagination and acted out things Grace might do in Gambia.



Grade 5-8

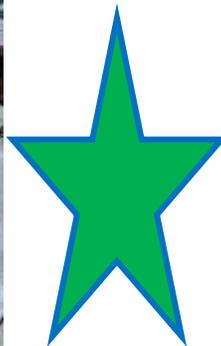
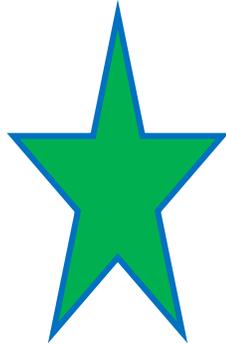
The 5th grade have begun their new module on multiplication of large numbers while the 6th grade are on their final lessons of going between fractions, decimals, and percents. Together in Science they are acting out how the body reacts and responds to stimulus.

The 7th grade have finished their next chapter of math on functions and application of functions. The 8th grade have been analyzing how translations of graphs affect the parent function. In science, they have started their first engineering project to develop chemical warmers that meet their specific criteria.



In 5th Grade, we learned how to approximate distance using map scales. In 6th grade, we started our new unit on early humans; we discussed the importance of farming and the discovery of fire. Next week, they will perform "Act-it-Outs" in which they will dramatize a scene involving early hominins. In 7/8th grade, we examined the geographical reasons as to why early kingdoms in West Africa succeeded.

In English, we practiced writing hooks in order to make our opening paragraphs more interesting. Jackson (5th grade) and Cheryl (8th grade) each reclaimed their Grammar Championships this week, with both scoring a perfect score on their vocabulary tests. Congrats!



High School

This week has been an exciting and collaborative week in High School. The students completed their first collaborative project and we hope to do some more. Kamsi shared some of the German from her reading book, and Fabiola and Joelle also compared notes. Nyahalae and Fabiola got stuck in to some Math work together, while Anaelle finished her one-year Spanish course - after just seven weeks of work.

Well done, superstars! 😊

