

# AWOKO

November 11, 2022

## From Brian's Desk

### PTO Coffee Morning

We had a good turnout for our first PTO meeting. There was plenty of enthusiasm and a lot of ideas. You will definitely hear more...so stay tuned!

### If...

As we approach the holiday season and the New Year, we usually see some of our families whose contracts are tied to the calendar year leave us for countries new. If your children will be leaving AISF in December and you haven't informed us yet, please drop me a line at [director@ais-freetown.net](mailto:director@ais-freetown.net) so that we can say a proper farewell. It is important for the kids to have closure.

### Holiday Show

Due to Covid, AISF hasn't had a holiday show since December 2019. It is most definitely time to revive that tradition, so we will hold a holiday show on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December with a start time to be confirmed but likely at 5 or 5:30pm. Please mark that day in your calendars.

### Meet John Oliver

...no, not the American comedian. John Oliver has recently joined AISF and is team-teaching Physical Education to Grades 3 and above with Mr. Frederick. John has been teaching for some 30 years, both in Scotland and abroad, primarily in the field of Art and Design; however, he has a strong background in sport and outdoor education and has previously taught PE at the American Embassy School in Delhi. Going forward, John plans to offer photography and mural painting in our Trimester 2 activities program and he may help us establish our maker space and establish a design technology program in the 2023-24 school year.





## Veteran’s Day / Armistice Day / Remembrance Day

*Note: I thought long and hard about whether I should include what follows, but the teacher in me prevailed so here it is...*

November 11 goes by different names in different nations, but in all those countries today we remember those who have served in their nations’ armed forces and those that we have lost. World War One ended at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month back in 1918—hence this commemoration falls today. It was supposed to have been “the war to end all wars”. Unfortunately, it wasn’t.

Now we see war in Europe, armed conflict in parts of Africa, and growing polarization and division. Around the world we see the growth of extreme nationalism, totalitarianism, and xenophobia. And we seem to be losing our ability to listen to and understand positions and opinions that are different from our own.

One of the reasons for teaching history in schools is to help us avoid the mistakes of those who came before us. I hope that we still might look back at the growth of nationalism, fascism, and xenophobia in the 1930’s and remember what suffering that led to. As a historian, I still hope that we might learn from the past.

Perhaps schools can help as well by encouraging people to hear differing ideas and perspectives without anger and rancour and to understand that we are enriched by our differences.

So, today we should remember...and learn...and commit to a peaceful world of greater understanding.

## Important Upcoming Dates

<b>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>American Thanksgiving/School Closed</b>
<b>Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>AISF Closed for Thanksgiving Long Weekend</b>
<b>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December</b>	<b>End of Trimester One (Trimester Two payments due)</b>
<b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>AISF Holiday Season Show @ 5pm</b>
<b>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Last day of school before the holiday Dismissal at 12 noon</b>
<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>School Reopens after the holiday</b>

Quote of the Week: *Why have educational systems traditionally punished failure? We will all fail at something; indeed, how many of us learned how to ride a bike, or swim, or drive on the first go? We need to learn how to bounce back after a failure—so schools need to teach kids how to try something, fail with dignity, and persevere.*

# ECC

This week Pre-K students are writing numbers and making number books. Kindergartners are learning about solid shapes, the differences between flat shapes and solid shapes as well as to mold them with colorful clay.

Our exit point was on Wednesday and ECC students were ecstatic to show their work to their parents, there was a yoga performance as well as a dance performance. They showed us different categories of healthy habits such as healthy eating, healthy minds, healthy bodies, etc.

Yesterday we had a pizza party as a reward of their tremendous work!



# Grade 1-2

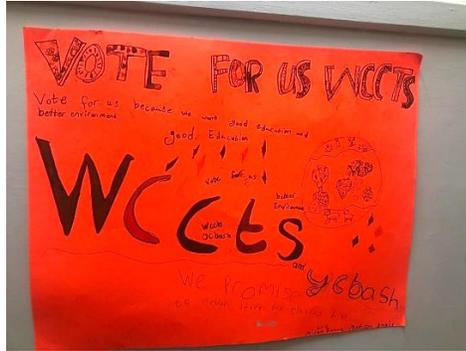
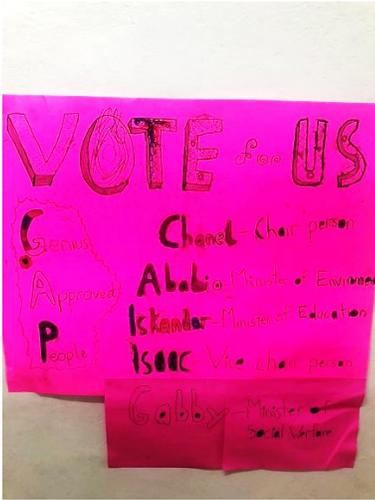
The Pangolins are exploring Material World! We considered the materials in our world, and their benefits and limitations in different applications.

We then used what we had learned about the properties of different materials to build egg-protection devices. It was a great success - 5 out of 6 eggs survived a fall onto the hardcourt!



# Grade 3-4

Our week has been packed with gathering data, speech writing, campaigning and engaging with the AISF community. We have been so busy this week preparing for our final IPC presentations. We look forward to seeing you all at our exit point on Tuesday 15th November at 2pm.



# Grade 5-8 (English and Social Studies)

In Social Studies, 5/6 learned how to identify reliable sources by playing a board game designed for them to discern whether a website's information should be trusted. 7/8 investigated how a person's HIV diagnosis affects their standard of living in Sierra Leone.

In Language Arts, 5/6 conducted an assessment that tested them on their ability to analyze texts closely and use evidence to support their reasoning. 7/8 continued the writing process by performing a Peer Review in which they partnered up with a classmate to provide actionable feedback.





# High School

This week has been busy like all the others. The specialist teachers continued to support the high school students but most of the work has been done independently. In Biology, students had to do an experiment about blood glucose levels. For English, Grade 9 has been studying *When Stars Are Scattered*, by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed, a graphic novel about the life of a Somali kid in a refugee camp. Grade 10 started to discover the Shakespearean plays and Grade 11 learnt about the link between literature and politics in speeches. In Art, the high school students proved their artistic side drawing amazing self-portraits.

