



July 24, 2007

Dear Upper School parents,

I wonder how many of you are reading this letter on wireless beaches in far-flung places. Let me disturb the summer reverie and cajole you into thinking about the start of school, which is fast bearing down on us.

Please note the following for your calendars:

- The SAC mezzanine will be open beginning August 7 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. for you to pick up school supplies.
- New student orientation is on Monday, August 13 from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. Those new students who have not yet completed placement tests for English and math should also be present from 10:30 a.m.
- The school year begins promptly at 8:25 a.m. on Wednesday, August 15. Students should meet in the Auditorium at this time. For the rest of the school year, school will start at 8:45 a.m. on Wednesdays (as faculty meetings take place from 8 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.). On all other days, school starts at 8:25 a.m.
- Field trip week begins Monday, September 17. Please look for updated information regarding field trips from your respective Head of Year.

I like to imagine AIS as an ever-evolving shape. As we add new students and faculty, our shape changes, and we embrace the ideals, beliefs and experiences that they bring. The following faculty members are joining us this year. The new experiences that they and new students bring are inevitably exciting. Please join me in welcoming the following:

Teacher	From	Last post	Teaching
Barbara Borrero	Spain	UK	Spanish
Jason Reagin	USA	China	Design Technology *a new subject this year
Mabel Reagin	China	China	Chinese
Carmen Samanes	Spain	USA	Spanish
Nicole Shaub	USA	USA	Counseling *an additional position
Tracey Smith	UK	USA	Science
Chris Stephenson	Ireland	USA	Geography

Just as new faces join AIS, some faculty and students leave. You may have heard a rumour that the most recent graduates, the class of 2007, excelled in the IB. Indeed, all fifty-one students taking the full diploma passed, and five individuals made more than 40 points! We are certainly elated and looking to build upon this success in the new academic year. Academic success is, of course, only one part of who we are. The joy of learning, purposeful effort, respect and diversity are at the core of who we are as we embark on this new school year.

We look forward to welcoming the rising Grade 9 students and new families in particular. Your child's advisor should be the first point of call for questions about AIS life, but those of us in the Upper School office (myself; Patrick Hurworth, Assistant Head of Upper School, and Layne Stabler, Administrative Assistant) look forward to meeting you over the course of the coming weeks.

While you finish the end of your vacation, there is work going on around the campus. Expansion in the Primary School has meant that some Secondary School teachers have vacated the main building to make space for Grade 5 classrooms. For the first time, some Upper School classes will be taking place in mobile classrooms. Be prepared for changes!

With warm regards,

Suzanna Jemsby
Head of Upper School