ANNUAL REPORT

Academic Year 2015 - 2016

AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL CYPRUS

The American International School in Cyprus inspires students to become enthusiastic lifelong learners who value integrity, cultural diversity, and the pursuit of excellence.

Using an American and international curriculum, our qualified professionals work with the school community to prepare students to be creative, critical thinkers, and socially responsible world citizens.

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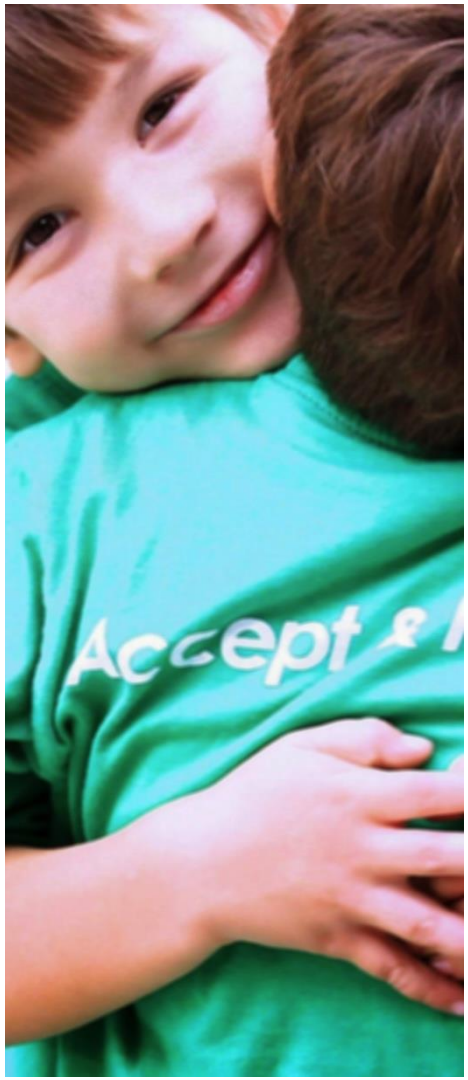
an Esol Education school

INDEX



01 Governance & Leadership

02 Demographics

03 Student Achievements

04 Academics, Activities, Events & Programs

05 Professional Development & Engaged Teachers

06 School Improvement Planning

07 Educational Technology

08 Financial Review

01

Governance & Leadership

- **Esol Education**
- **Letter from the Director**
- **Accreditation & Memberships**
- **Annual Parent Survey Results**

Esol Education

AISC is managed by Esol Education, an organization with over 40 years of expertise in establishing world-class K-12 international schools, serving over 11,000 students in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Hong Kong, Cairo, Lebanon and Cyprus. The Esol Education Board appoints the Director of the School who has the responsibility for all operational and educational plans and priorities. The Esol Education Board, in conjunction with the AISC Director, and in accordance with the highest accreditation standards and expectations, determines all policies of the school, its operations and educational programs. The Parent Advisory Council (PAC), the Parent and Student Network (PASNET) and Faculty and Student Committees and Councils are key participants in our school providing input, suggestions, and valuable feedback to the School in relation to the School's Guiding Statements. The AISC Organizational Chart can be found on www.aisc.ac.cy, Discover more about Esol Education and our sister schools by visiting **www. esoleducation.com**.

Letter from the Director

Welcome to the *2015-2016 AISC School Report*. This Annual Report is an opportunity to share key information across our school and reviews the past academic year. All previous school reports can be found on our website www.aisc.ac.cy

While our enrollment may have been lower this past year, our spirit, programs, and sense of community were stronger than ever! AISC is committed to a very long, healthy and viable future in Cyprus. As an Esol Education School, we strive for excellence in delivering a well-rounded educational program, rich extra-curriculum activities, and services in support of the development of the whole child. Small class sizes allow for personalized attention and our warm and friendly relationships provide positive teacher-student rapport. We were very pleased with our student achievement results and university offers and acceptances this year. However, academic success cannot only be defined as results on tests. Rather it is about students reaching their full potential no matter where they start are on their continuum. It includes emotional and social growth complemented by opportunities for students to develop a reflective and principled approach to being a thoughtful and caring human being. It is about having a growth-mindset and a strong ethos towards continual improvement.

We are fortunate to have parents who invest in their children's education and believe in the home-school partnership. A big thank you goes out to our parent groups who continue to work hard volunteering their time by providing input to policies, practices and supporting events across the school - their sense of community helps us realize our goals. Thank you for attending our Parent Coffee Mornings - a meeting that not only provides us with an opportunity to present topics and programs, but a venue to hear what is important to you.

On behalf of our Board, I would like to thank you for all your support this past year.

Michelle Kleiss, EdD

Accreditation & Memberships

AISC is accredited by The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA) and is authorized to offer the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program and is seeking dual accreditation with the Council of International Schools. It has full membership status with the European Council of International Schools (ECIS), Mediterranean Association of International Schools (MAIS), Near-East and South Asia (NESA) Association of International Schools, an Associate membership with Central and Eastern European School Association (CEESA), and the ISTE Organization. It is approved, registered and endorsed by the Ministry of Education in Cyprus as an independent private school operating in accordance with all Ministry expectations, laws and standards.

May 2009	The visiting team recommended full accreditation and in November 2009, MSA approved Institution-Wide Accreditation until 2016.
May 2011	AISC met/exceeded its initial student achievement goals.
September 2011	The AISC school community reflected on a new set of learning goals until the next Self Study and Accreditation period expected in 2015.
March 2012	The AISC community endorsed three S.M.A.R.T. goals aligned with the governing statements of the school.
June 2012	Steering Committee periodic review of goals and action plans was conducted.
September 2012	Full staff periodic review of goals and action plans was conducted.
December 2012	3 Year Mid-Term Report for accreditation was submitted to the MSA
February 2013	MSA endorsed AISC's 3 Year Mid-Term Report and called the work done at AISC "exemplary" in all aspects.
June 2013	Periodic review conducted. All planning documents were placed on the website.
2013-2014	AISC also decided to embark on a dual accreditation: MSA/CIS. A CIS Preliminary Visit was conducted in December 2014.
2014-2015	Continue to implement Student Achievement Action Plans.
Jan 2015-May 2016	Complete self-study CIS 8th Edition Protocol & set plans for improvements across the school based on survey results and outcomes of self-study sections.
Fall 2016	Host the re-accreditation MSA/CIS visit

The Annual Parent Survey Results

I believe AISC offers effective programs in:

- ✓ *English*
- ✓ *Art*
- ✓ *Drama*
- ✓ *Social Studies*
- ✓ *Library*
- ✓ *Technology*
- ✓ *Music*
- ✓ *Greek*
- ✓ *Spanish*
- ✓ *French*
- ✓ *Research Writing*
- ✓ *Learning Support*
- ✓ *English Language Learning*

The school's Guiding Statements are clear and unambiguous.

I see evidence of the Mission, Beliefs and Human Rights Policy actualized across the school.

- ✓ *AISC enables me to **understand my child's curriculum***
- ✓ *AISC **meets the needs of students** who require support, accommodations and modifications*
- ✓ ***Technology supports** the learning program*
- ✓ *Teachers **communicate effectively** with parents*
- ✓ *AISC meets my child's **social and emotional needs***
- ✓ *I am **informed** of my child's program in meaningful ways*

The Annual Parent Survey Results

Other Strengths (over a 75% agreement rating)	Opportunities (under a 75% agreement rating)
AISC has a broad and effective community service program. As a parent, I am aware of activities happening across the school. Student behavior reflects the mission of the school. My child feels accepted and included. School discipline is carried out fairly. Homework assists my child's learning. Teachers care about my child. AISC teaches good moral values. AISC builds my child's confidence and self-esteem. Guidance Counseling services match the needs of students. The Administration of the School is approachable. When concerns arise, the Administration responds in a timely manner. The Administration cares about the well-being of my child. The Administration communicates regularly and effectively to the community. AISC ensures effective communication between teachers and parents. AISC communicates to its community in an easy and accessible manner. ASIC takes into consideration the differences in nationalities and languages. I feel welcome to make suggestions to the school. When I contact the school, I receive courteous attention. The parent groups of the school (PAC and PASNET) are active. AISC's school culture and atmosphere fosters international-mindedness. The School's website is easy to access and navigate. The website is informative and up-to-date. The Portal is a useful tool to monitor student progress. The Portal is easy to use, access and navigate. The Islander is an effective tool for communication. The Islander provides me with important information related to my child. AISC provides a safe and secure environment for students.	I believe AISC has an effective IB Program (70% agree; 17.50% undecided). I believe AISC has an effective Science Program (70% agree; 17.50% undecided). I believe AISC has an effective Math Program (62.50% agree; 27.50% undecided). AISC meets the needs of highly able and talented students (47.50% agree; 35% undecided). AISC has sports programs that meet students' needs (70% agree; 12.50% undecided). The School is seen positively within the wider community (62% agree; 25% undecided). AISC provides appropriate facilities for all curriculum areas (52.50% agree; 27.50% undecided). AISC's facilities are well-maintained (70% agree; 15% undecided). The AISC cafeteria meets the needs of my child (68% agree; 20% undecided). Transportation (taxi and bus) services are adequate (61% agree; 24% undecided).

02

Demographics

- **Students**
- **Faculty & Staff**

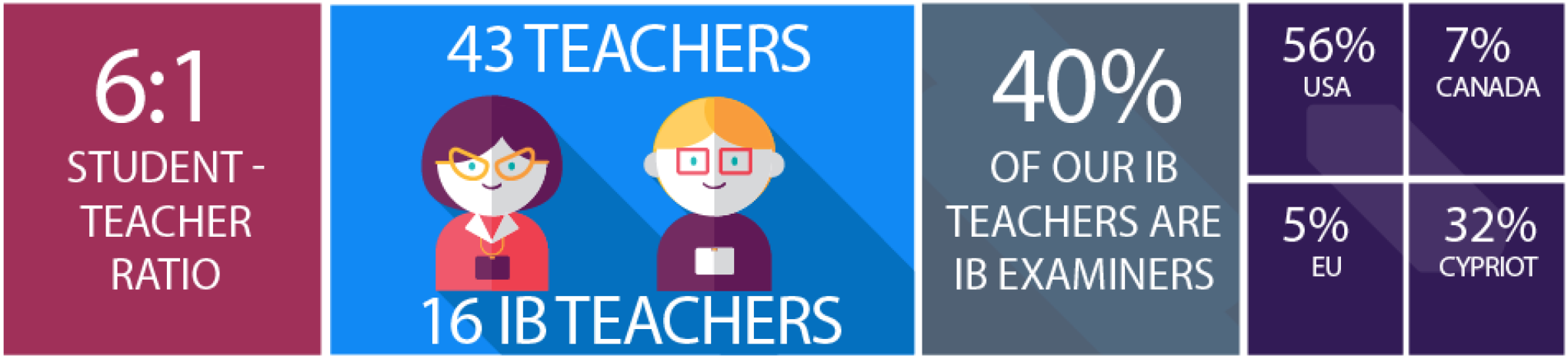
Students

In 2015-2016, AISC served 227 students coming from 33 different countries, speaking more than 30 mother tongue languages. AISC has a vast international community serving Embassies and Consulates, as well as the United Nations, multinational companies and private, international and local host country citizens. In 2015-2016 our host country student population was approximately 20% of our overall student body; while 80% students were international.

In 2015-2016, 4% of the K-12 student population had individualized educational plans and were receiving direct support services for learning difficulties or disabilities, and 7% of the K-12 students were beginning English Language Learners and were receiving English as an additional language support with direct services to grow their English proficiency levels.

Faculty & Staff

During the 2015-2016 year, AISC employed 46 teachers (including full-time teachers, part-time teachers, assistants, counselling and leadership) and 15 Support non-teaching staff



03

Student Achievements

- **University Offers and Acceptances**
- **Student Awards**
- **Assessments**

2015-2016 University Offers & Acceptances

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Columbia COLLEGE CHICAGO

EMERSON COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Maastricht University

McMaster University

The University of Nottingham

University of Essex

The State University of New York

Complete List of University Offers

UK

- Bristol University of the West of England, UK
- De Montfort University, UK
- London Metropolitan University, UK
- Manchester Metropolitan University, UK
- Robert Gordon University, UK
- University of Bath, UK
- University of Birmingham, UK
- University of Bristol, UK
- University of Chester, UK
- University of Derby, UK
- University of East Anglia, UK
- University of Essex, UK
- University of Exeter, UK
- University of Hull, UK
- University of Kent, UK
- University of Nottingham, UK
- University of Nottingham-Trent, UK
- University of Portsmith, UK
- University of Reading, UK
- University of Southampton, UK
- University of Surrey, UK
- University of Sussex, UK

United States

- American University, US
- Binghamton University, US
- Bowling Green University, US (Full athletic scholarship for soccer)
- California State University – Chico, US
- Cleveland State University, US
- Columbia College, Chicago, US
- Columbia College – Los Angeles, US
- Emerson University
- Florida State University, US
- Iowa State University, US
- Juniata College, US (Scholarship $22,000)
- Kansas State University, US (Scholarship $2,000)
- Kent State University, US
- Loyola Marymount University, US
- Miami University, Ohio, US (Scholarship $6,000)
- Ohio Wesleyan, US (Scholarship $25,000)
- Oral Roberts University, US
- San Diego State University, US
- SUNY Albany, US (Scholarship $7,000) (2 students)
- SUNY Geneseo
- SUNY Oneonta
- Temple University
- University of Cincinnati, US
- University of Delaware, US
- University of Florida, US
- University of Kentucky, US
- University of Miami, US (Scholarship $20,000 each year)
- University of Rhode Island, US (Scholarship $9,500)
- University of San Diego, US (Scholarship $25,000 each year + Honors College)

Canada

- McMaster University
- University of Northern British Columbia
- University of Toronto

Italy

- University of Padova, Italy

New Zealand

- Victoria University of Wellington

Czech Republic

- Charles University, 1st Faculty of Medicine (2 students)

The Netherlands

- University of Amsterdam
- Universiteit Maastricht
- HAN University

Norway

- Norwegian School of Business Management

Student Achievements and Awards

Congratulations to the Elementary, Middle School and High School Students for their achievements at the End of Year Awards Assembly.

Middle School Awards

Grade 6

Highest GPA	Theoni Constantinou
Most Improved	Samuel Huyett & Joanna Blaedow
Most Conscientious	Theoni Constantinou

Grade 7

Highest GPA	Danai Kasselaki
Most Improved	Eleanor Larson
Most Conscientious	Khaled Al Wehaib

Grade 8

Highest GPA	Salama Alnajjar
Most Improved	Aidan Blaedow
Most Conscientious	Salama Alnajjar
English Literature	Salama Alnajjar
Math	Danai Kasselaki
Social Studies	Anastasis Tavropoulos
Science	Aidan Blaedow
Greek	Sotiris Mitiadis
French	Salama Alnajjar
Spanish	Daria Gusarova
PE	Alessandro Natoili & Maria Katsama
Music	Ioanna Christodoulides
Art	Daria Gusarova
Drama	Salama Alnajjar & Nadim Farhat
Technology	Michael Ellsworth

High School Awards

English Literature	Mariana Lordos
Math	Shen Chenxin
PE	Orestis Psaroudis & Jessica Bilbrey
Greek	Louiza Kythreotis
Spanish	Amit Sagiv
French	Siiri Saarela
Social Studies	Omar Al Wehaib
Science	Zijian Wang
Art	Semeli Hadjilizou
Drama	Aleksei Lazic
Music	Christos Papadopoulos
Technology	Amit Sagiv & Adilet Akmatbaev

Grade 12 Class of 2016 Senior Book Awards

Plato – For the student who has demonstrated exceptional originality and creativity in academics and problem solving. "For the unexamined life is not worth living." **Nicolas Broeer**

Amelia Earhart - For the student who has demonstrated a willingness to take risks to be their very best, who is willing to take on responsibilities beyond what is normally expected and who possesses an attitude for life-long learning. "The most effective way to do something is to do it. The fears are paper tigers." **Louiza Kythreotis**

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart – For the student who has demonstrated and uncompromising attitude to the pursuit of excellence. "I pay no attention to anybody's praise or blame. I simply follow my own feelings." **Siiri Saarela**

Ralph Waldo Emerson – For the student who has demonstrated both integrity and perseverance when faced with challenges. "Don't go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." **Christos Papadopoulos**

Rachel Carson – For the student who demonstrated the most social environmental responsibility in and out of the school. "Those who dwell among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life." **Aleksandra Vujnovic**

Nike – For the student who has demonstrated an uncommon personal motivation towards overall school life. "Everything you need is already inside. Just do it." **Semeli Hadjiloizou**

Director's Award

The AISC Director's Award is given to the Elementary, Middle, and High School students who embody the School's Mission and Set of Beliefs in all interactions with the student body and school community along with the greater local and global societies.

1) Possesses a positive attitude toward the life and culture of others
2) Demonstrates an active and vocal appreciation for differing viewpoints and perspectives
3) Positively shapes and contributes to school life
4) Consistently shows the ability and maturity to bring people together with differing opinions to help shape a community of respect in and outside the school
5) Understands that diversity is critical to peace and harmony

2016 Elementary Director's Award - **Anna Osmolovskaya, Grade 5**
2016 Middle School Director's Award - **Danai Kasselaki, Grade 7**
2016 High School Director's Award - **Anastasia Semaan, Grade 10**

The Kangarou Math Competition in Nicosia on March 21, 2015
http://www.thalescyprus.com/
Award – **Peter Zhukov (Grade 6)**

The Math Olympiad is organized by the Cyprus Mathematical Society http://www.cms.org.cy
Gold Medal Award – **Amy Chen (Grade 9)**

Honorable Mention at the the 44th International Children's Exhibition of Fine Art Lidice 2016 of Czech Republic
Sophia Kostrikis (Grade 5)

Assessments

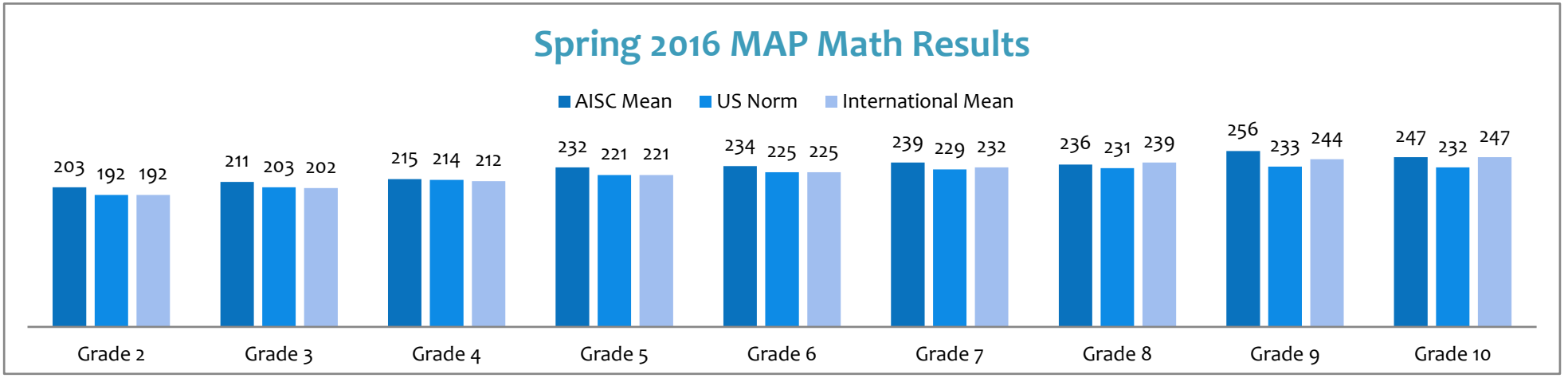
KG5 – Grade 5 Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA2) Results

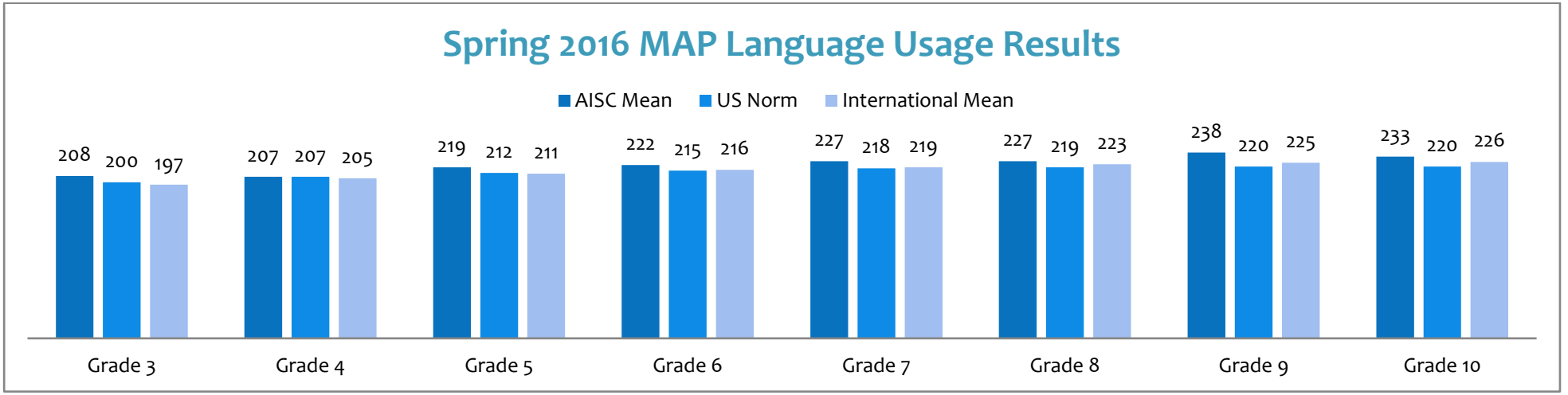
AISC uses DRA2 levelling benchmarks from the State of Virginia (Fairfax County) and Fountas and Pinnell's Balanced Literacy Model to determine Grade Level equivalencies in reading – fluency and comprehension. The purpose of the report is to provide the number and percentage of students across the elementary KG5-Grade 5 in each DRA2 Category. Teachers use DRA2 results, along with the results of other in-class assessments that occur within & between formal DRA2 testing windows, to determine whether students are reading on, above, or below grade level. By knowing student DRA2 levels, teachers can plan for small group, guided reading instruction, including targeted interventions and supplemental support. AISC tests three times per year: Fall (September); Winter (January); End of Year (May/June).

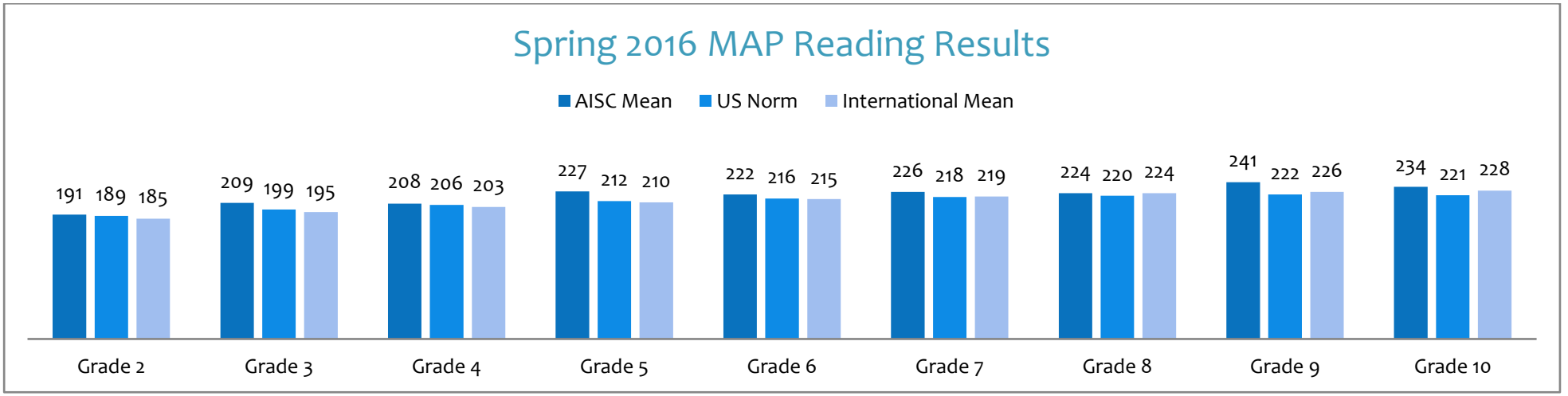
END OF YEAR ALL ELEMENTARY STUDENTS KG5-GRADE 5						
Type of Student	ELL LAS Links English Proficiency Levels 1-3 and Learning Support (IEP) Students that scored below grade level.	One Full Grade Below	Beginning Grade	At Mid-Grade	End of Grade	Significantly Above Grade
All Students	19%	1%	2%	14%	30%	34%
SPRING/JUNE ALL ELEMENTARY STUDENTS (Without ELL/Special Needs)						
W/O ELL & LSC Students 100-19=81	Removed students from total 100 (ELL and (LSC) Students that scored below grade level.	1.25% One Full Grade Below	2.5% Below Mid-Point but Still on Grade Level	96.25% are At Mid-Point, End of Grade, or Above Grade Level		

Grade 2-10 Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Spring 2016 Results for Grades 2-10. Each year we compare AISC MAP results to the results of students in the US and Internationally. The US Normative data are based on a 2015 study of at least 72,000 students at each grade level, randomly drawn from a test records pool of 10.2 million students, from over 23,500 schools in more than 6,000 school districts in 50 states. The International Comparative Data is based on the performance of students in like international schools during the spring 2015 testing windows.


Spring 2016 MAP Math Results
AISC Mean
US Norm
International Mean
203 192 192
211 203 202
215 214 212
232 221 221
234 225 225
239 229 232
236 231 239
256 233 244
247 232 247
Grade 2
Grade 3
Grade 4
Grade 5
Grade 6
Grade 7
Grade 8
Grade 9
Grade 10


Spring 2016 MAP Language Usage Results
AISC Mean
US Norm
International Mean
208 200 197
207 207 205
219 212 211
222 215 216
227 218 219
227 219 223
238 220 225
233 220 226
Grade 3
Grade 4
Grade 5
Grade 6
Grade 7
Grade 8
Grade 9
Grade 10



Grade 10 & 11 PSAT Results

The format of the new PSAT has changed, reading and writing is now a combined score.

Year	Grade 11	Grade 10
Reading and Writing	532	483
Math	530	480
% of AISC students scoring 75th Percentile or higher	71%	21%
% of students meeting their college readiness levels in Math	65%	74%
% of students meeting their college readiness levels in reading and writing	88%	100%

Grade 12 2015-2016 SAT Results

	2014-2015 World Wide Average	AISC 2016 based on 3 students	AISC 2015 based on 5 students	AISC 2014 based on 3 students	AISC 2013 based on 6 students	AISC 2012 based on 3 students
Critical Reading - Class Mean*	495	457	576	523	521	683
AISC Critical Reading - Highest Score		590	730	660	670	720
Math - Class Mean*	511	523	516	500	530	656
AISC Math - Highest Score		630	690	640	630	760
Writing - Class Mean*	484	453	488	500	563	653
AISC Writing - Highest Score		530	680	650	650	710
Total Class Mean*	1490	1433	1580	1523	1614	1992
AISC Highest Total Score		1750	2100	1950	1880	2180

*The Class Mean numbers represent Grade 12 US bound AISC students only

Grade 12 2015-2016 ACT Results

	US Norms	2015-2016
English	20.3	24
Mathematics	20.9	27
Reading	21.3	28
Science	20.8	28
Composite	21	27

Grade 12 IB Full Diploma Results

AISC May 2016	
Pass Rate	100%
Score Range	28-42
Average Points Earned by Passing Students	34
Highest TOK/EE Matrix Score	3
Students scoring a 2 or higher on TOK/EE Matrix	100%
Number of IB scores between 4-7	86%
Number of IB scores between 2-3	14%

Synopsis of Results

100% of our students passed the IB and all of our students scored strongly and received a 2 or more on the TOK/EE matrix. Our teacher's predictions were accurate, and our students met their offers and are attending their programs of choice in the UK, USA, and around the world. We were particularly happy with the number of students who scored 2 or higher on the TOK/EE matrix (100%) as one of our improvement goals was to improve this outcome. Our pre-IB research writing program in Grades 6-10 is effective, and our IB Extended Essay Coordinator and all of our EE Teacher Advisors who worked hard to ensure all students met their paper requirements. We will continue to aim for a higher percentage of marks between the 4-7 range, and a small percentage between the 2-3 range and disaggregate the data to look more closely at our marks against the world wide averages.

Well Done IB Students and Teachers!

04

Academics, Activities, Events & Programs

- **Academic Divisions & Programs**
- **Activities, Clubs, Athletics & Service Learning**
- **Student Leadership Opportunities**
  - European Youth Parliament
  - Model United Nations
  - Stockholm Junior Water Project Research
  - Student Councils
- **Diplomatic Dinner**
- **PASNET Activities**
- **Cultural Heritage Program**
- **International Day**
- **UNITE Concert – Uniting Against Child Abuse**
- **Stanford University Partnership**

Academic Divisions & Programs

AISC is divided into three school sections: Elementary School, Middle School and High School. At each division, the Virginia State Standards of Learning are delivered through a conceptually-based curriculum model. In the last two years of high school students can either follow the American Diploma Program, or the IB Program, or a combination of both. All graduating students meet the requirement for the American College Preparatory Diploma. The school follows all standards, protocols and practices to ensure it meets and exceeds its accreditation standards with the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, the Council of International Schools and authorization standards by the International Baccalaureate. Course Description Guides, Handbooks and Policies are accessible to the general public, as well as AISC students, families, staff and prospective parents. They can be found online at www.aisc.ac.cy.

Our conceptual-based units of instruction from KG4-Grade 12 are kept up-to-date on our electronic parent public site called Rubicon Atlas: https://aisc-cy-public.rubiconatlas.org/Atlas/Authentication/View/PublicLogin

Highlights from the Elementary

MindUP – mindfulness program K-5
Character Development Assemblies
Educational Assemblies
Elementary Art Shows
iPad Program
Winter and Summer Musical Productions
Biathlon and Track and Field day
Elementary Literacy Month
Elementary Science Fair
Various Field Trips connected to Cultural Heritage and our Curricular program
Elementary Grade Level Service Learning Projects
Earth Day and Recycling Awareness Program

Highlights from the Middle School

Teambuilding Activities
Literature Circles, Literary Essays, published their own "Greek Mythology" Newspaper
Created 3D Atomic Models and Math Faces using Desmos software
Student Led and Portfolio Conferences
International pen pal project
Fieldtrips to Fikardou Village, Troodos Area, Pancyprian Gymnasium Museums and Loxandra Drama Production
Performance-based Assessments
Participation in "Math Olympiad" and "Math Kangaroo" Competitions
Students participated in Biathlon, Cross Country Run, Tennis Tournament, Boys and Girls Futsal and Basketball Games, Grammar School Swimming Gala, Pancyprian Swimming Competition, and in Track and Field Private School Competition Meets
Performances in the Winter Music and the Informal Concerts,
Participation in the Unite Concert, and "Bugsy" Drama Production
Participation in the Potluck Decorations
Grade 7-8 students ran the AISC Staff Appreciation Campaign
Grade 6 ran the Forestry Awareness Campaign. Finally
MS Advisory Program
Elementary Buddy Program

High School

High School Literary Magazine
Grade 9 & 10 – tessellations project;
Grade 10 interdisciplinary social studies and math project;
Grade 10 siege engine building project. The aim was for the students to grasp the specifics of projectile motion, simple engines, energy conservation and efficiency as well as work and power.
Grade 12 Senior Annual Art Exhibition/Music Concert
Senior choir performances
Annual Junior/Senior Retreat
Local and overseas trips and competitions
Math Competition
Stockholm Junior Water Project
Poetry Nights
Yearbook production
Theatre Productions
Halloween Haunted House
NHS Induction Ceremony
Service Projects and Charity Projects

Activities, Clubs, Athletics & Service Learning

Elementary Activities

1. Rosetta Stone Language Club
2. Greek for Native Speakers
3. Intermediate Greek Club
4. Chinese Club
5. Computer Club
6. Yoga Club
7. Tennis
8. Drama
9. Lacrosse Club
10. Soccer Club
11. Choir
12. Band
13. Basketball Club
14. Chess Club
15. Science Club
16. Crafts Club
17. Dance Club
18. Pilates Club
19. Swimming Club
20. Fright Club
21. Goodness (Service) Club
22. Fairy Tale Club
23. Geography Club
24. Creative Movement Club
25. Homework Club

Middle and High School Activities

1. Boys and Girls Swimming Team
2. Boys and Girls Soccer Team
3. Boys and Girls Basketball Team
4. Boys and Girls Tennis
5. Drama Club
6. Computer Programming Club
7. Choir
8. Senior Choir
9. Band
10. Student Council
11. Robotics Club
12. Command and Conquer Club
13. Yoga Club
14. Literary Writing Club
15. Yearbook Club
16. Pilates Club
17. Crafts Club
18. Observational Drawing Club
19. Tech Club
20. Model United Nations
21. Film Club
22. Duke of Edinburgh Award
23. Ellipses Magazine

Local Athletics and Competitions in 2015-2016

Grades 6-12	Pan Cyprian Biathlon
Grade 7-9	Boys and Girls Nicosia Futsal Competition
Grades 4-9	Private Schools Swimming Gala
Grades 6-10	Pan Cyprian Boys and Girls Cross Country Championship
Grade 9-12	3/3 Boys and Girls Nicosia Basketball Championship
Grade 8-12	Cyprus Tennis Tournament
Grades 4-10	Private Schools Track and Field Event
Grades 6-12	Nicosia Track and Field Championship
Grades 9-12	Private Schools Boys Soccer Tournament

Annual Biathlon

In September the PE department organized the 2nd annual school biathlon for grades 1 - 10. This was an immense success with the whole school community involved. This academic year based on reflection and feedback the biathlon further developed. Staff teams were created and competed with students. The students were divided to their house colors and teams. This created an atmosphere of enthusiasm, competitive spirit and collaboration.

Elementary Track and Field Meet

In the spring, the elementary division held its Elementary Track and Field Meet at the Makarious Stadium! A full program of heats and events were organized, with the AISC Hawk parading around encouraging all students to do their best! Parents joined in on the fun, and competed at the end in races cheered on by their children. Awards for first, second, third, and participation awards were handed out later in the day.

Service Learning Projects

KG4/KG5	Regular visits to an elderly center – playing games, songs and sharing
Grade 1	Cooperation with the Nicosia Dog Shelter - raise awareness for caring about dogs
Grade 2	Elementary Magazine Creation
Grade 3	AISC Recycling Awareness Project – how to be more green ☺
Grade 4 & 5	Movember awareness and fundraising
Grade 5	UN Hope for Children fundraising
Grade 6	Maintaining and cleaning up the nearby park & cooperation with the Forestry Department
Grade 7 & 8	Staff Appreciation, Support for the Elementary School Halloween Event, Elementary Buddies
Grade 9	Zero Waste E-Recycling Campaign in the school with NGO in Cyprus www.electrocyclosis.com.cy
Grade 10-12	Ayia Skepi Visit & Drug Awareness Program; Support for the Elementary School Halloween Event; 30 Hour Famine Relief Fundraiser; Fundraising for the Anti-Cancer Society; CYMEPA- clean up beaches program; UNICEF Support; Alkyondies Charity Fundraiser; Nicosia Red Cross Fundraiser; Children and Parents of young people with Heart Disease, Unique Smiles; UN Hope for Children Fundraiser; Christingle at Saint Paul's Anglican Church, Refugee crisis fundraising and collections

Student Leadership Opportunities

European Youth Parliament (EYP)

From the EYP website: "The EYP is one of the largest European platforms for political debate, intercultural encounters, political educational work and the exchange of ideas among young people in Europe. The EYP consists of a network of multiple European associations and organizations in which thousands of young people are active in a voluntary capacity. The entire network organizes about 350 events every year and involved 27.000 young people in 2013. EYP is a non-partisan and independent educational project, which is tailored specifically to the needs of the young European citizen. It encourages independent thinking and socio-political initiative in young people and facilitates the learning of crucial social and professional skills. Since its inauguration, many tens of

thousands of young people have taken part in regional, national and international sessions, formed friendships and made international contacts across and beyond borders. The EYP has thus made a vital contribution towards uniting Europe. The European Youth Parliament Cyprus is one of the 38 National Committees that come under the umbrella of the EYP International (coordinated by the Governing Body of the EYP International in Berlin). As a result, the EYP Cyprus National Committee seeks to promote the work of the European Youth Parliament in Cyprus and our main aim is to organize EYP events on the island. EYP Cyprus has been organizing events since 2006 and has up to date reached more than one thousand young students coming from schools from all over Cyprus." (SOURCE: http://eypcyprus.com/site/the-european-youth-parliament/) AISC has been involved in the EYP since 2015.

Model United Nations (MUN)

Model United Nations, also known as Model UN or MUN, is an educational simulation and/or academic competition in which students can learn about diplomacy, international relations, and the United Nations. AISC has been running an MUN for more than 15 years. In 2016, AISC students participated in the annual Mediterranean MUN at the European University.

Stockholm Junior Water Project (SJWP)

Since 2014, AISC Grade 11 & 12 students have participated in unique scientific research in the SJWP. Each year, thousands of participants in over 30 countries all around the globe join national competitions in hopes of earning the chance to represent their nation at the international final held during the World Water Week in Stockholm. The national and international competitions are open to young people between the ages of 15 and 20 who have conducted water-related projects of proven environmental, scientific, social or technological significance. The projects range from local or regional to national or global topics. The winner of the Stockholm Junior Water Prize receives a USD 15,000 award, a blue crystal prize sculpture, a diploma as well as the stay in Stockholm. H.R.H. Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden is the Patron of the Stockholm Junior Water Prize. **http://www.siwi.org/prizes/stockholmjuniorwaterprize/**

Middle School and High School Student Councils

The AISC Student Councils take on a special leadership role in the school designing events, activities, and coordinate programs. They run the daily announcements, and take on special initiatives to support charities, organizations and inter-cultural awareness. They build spirit and togetherness, and reflect on how to make the school a better place for all students.

National Honor Society

AISC Students in grades 10–12 who meet the requirements for membership outlined by their school's chapter are eligible to be invited for membership. Each chapter is required to publish its qualifications for membership, which is based on the four pillars of NHS:

- **Scholarship**
  Per national guidelines, at a minimum, students must have a cumulative GPA of 85, B, 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, or equivalent standard of excellence.
- **Service**
  Involves voluntary contributions made by a student to the school or community, done without compensation.
- **Leadership**
  Student leaders are those who are resourceful, good problem solvers, and idea contributors. Leadership experiences can be drawn from school or community activities while working with or for others.
- **Character**
  The student of good character is cooperative; demonstrates high standards of honesty and reliability; shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others; and generally maintains a clean disciplinary record.

Diplomatic Dinner

The United Nations Youth and Student Association of Cyprus organized the first Diplomat Dinner, which will involve discussions between students and diplomats centered around Youth Involvement in Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution. Through the dinner we are aiming to promote important dialogue between the youth and diplomacy, thus bridging the political specter and the Cypriot youth on crucial issues, bridging the political gap and promoting civic engagement among the youth, as young people across the island will be able to converge and enquire, recommend and introduce different types of views between them, as well as, introduce their ideas and questions to officials. Congratulations to three AISC students who were invited to attend the dinner this past year.

Parent and Student Network (PASNET) Activities

A big thank you to our PASNET members this past academic year, and to all of our parents who volunteered for the various activities and events our school holds. We were very grateful to Angela Vidmar who Chaired the PASNET and brought our parents together to support the the school events.

- Welcome Back Coffee for parents
- Back to School Night speech by Chair
- Classroom Parent Program
- Halloween Event
- After School Activity (Fright Club and Gratitude Group)
- International Day Support and Coordination of World Food Court
- Sponsorship for the Grade 6-12 Thanksgiving Turkey Luncheon
- Elementary Movie Night for Charity
- Winter Holiday Wishes Tree and Charity Bake Sale
- Support Staff Recognition Coffee and Gift
- Valentines Day Event
- Healthy Living Week (Proceeds from milkshakes given to HS Student Council)
- Teacher Appreciation Week
- After School Activity (Goodness Group)
- Drama Club Bake Sale

A big thank you to Angela Vidmar who Chaired the PASNET in 2015-2016 and all the parents who volunteered throughout the year in all the projects for the benefit of our children.

AISC's Cultural Heritage Program

The American International School in Cyprus (AISC) inspires students "to become enthusiastic life-long learners who value integrity, cultural diversity and the pursuit of excellence." The school aims to fulfill this, in part, through building internationally-minded students. An understanding of cultural heritage, and its contribution to both AISC's students' education and personal lives, is a vital feature of international mindedness. Heritage is more than culture or history. It encompasses food, dance, language, village life, religion, the natural environment and more. Cyprus has a fascinating history that lends itself to heritage studies - the island occupies a strategic location that invited conquest by the ancient Greeks, ancient Romans, Byzantines, the Lusignan, Richard the Lionheart, Venetians, Ottomans and the British. The footprint of these varied occupiers is seen throughout the island; Cyprus is home to three UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Yet, through all these time periods a distinct, indigenous Cypriot culture and history developed.

IN 2013, AISC began a Cultural Heritage program, an interdisciplinary program led by Dr. Rachel Iannacone, the Middle School Social Studies Teacher and Cultural Studies Coordinator. Dr. Iannacone, through her extensive research on the architectural history of the island, is able to bring her passion for the heritage of Cyprus to AISC students. Part of her work is to lead the school in adopting a heritage site for a 2-year period. Students explore the site, conduct field work, and then provide service learning to the site and community.

- 2014-2015: AISC's first adopted site was the Neolithic site of Choirokotia where over a 2-year period, teachers and students not only explored the site and conducted field work, but also sponsored their new outdoor education center (more detailed notes can be found in previous State of School Reports).

- 2015-2017: AISC's second adopted site is Fikardou Village

In January 2016, the Faculty had its second Cultural Heritage Retreat– one that helps us come together as a community of educators and assists us in preparing for the student field work experiences ahead. For the next two years, the Cultural Heritage Program, led by Dr. Rachel Iannacone, will use Fikardou to teach students, families, and faculty about the rich cultural history of Cyprus. In the 1970s, fewer and fewer people were living in the villages of Cyprus, and Fikardou had become almost abandoned. The Department of Antiquities began to restore the houses of the village, creating an outdoor museum dedicated to the unique lifestyle of the Cypriot village. There are displays throughout that demonstrate harvesting, wine-making, weaving, and other elements of life in Cyprus in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

During the retreat, teachers collaborated with colleagues from across disciplines and divisions to develop exciting interdisciplinary plans for student field trips that will take place in the Spring and Fall of 2016. After exploring the site through inquiry-based learning methods, teachers used an app called Explain Everything to develop projects answering the main question: What elementary of Fikardou cultivate community? Subsequent field trips were designed for the children following the retreat. Trips took place from February and will take place through the Fall of 2016. Community service activities will follow.

AISC's International Day – Reading Beyond Borders!

On November 20th 2015, the AISC hosted its 2nd International Day. This year we called it "Reaching Beyond Borders," and selected the to coincide with the UN's Universal Children's Day. This annual event gave us a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the diverse cultures represented within our school community and to encourage international-mindedness and intercultural understanding across our school community.

Throughout the celebration, we conducted culturally-rich activities with our students from different corners of the earth. Students were issued a "passport" at the start of the day and as they travelled through different countries activities and sample foods from all over the world, they got their passports stamped.

Our Middle and High School students participated in a "World Café" which aimed at facilitating discussion groups between students and Ambassadors and selected community members about significant cultural topics and world concepts. We will also invite Cypriot and Latin dancers to perform.

A "World Food Court" was arranged and organized by our parent community and served small samples of food from countries all over the world.

The day ended with our Samba Drummers performance and all students releasing environmentally friendly balloons in the Courts area – with the message "Accept and Respect" going out into the world.

"The students participated in day-long activities aimed at promoting tolerance, understanding, acceptance and respect."

UNITE Concert – Uniting Against Child Abuse!

On Wednesday, March 30th the 8th Annual UNITE concert took place bringing talented young musicians and choir members together in a special musical celebration. Students participating in 'UNITE Against Child Abuse' ranged in age from 7-19 years from all over Cyprus. The concert was held at Strovolos Theatre and was dedicated to raising awareness and funds for Hope for Children UNCRC Policy Center in support of children at risk for bullying, abuse or neglect. UNITE is a special music festival which takes place each year. Students and professional musicians prepare for months then gather together over the course of a final weekend to rehearse together as part of a large orchestra and choir. The UNITE concert is produced and directed by Kate Jarrold, music teacher from The American International School in Cyprus, in collaboration with Evgenia Roussou, Anna Tellalis, Leoni Hadjithomas, Argyro Christodoulides and Koullis Limniotis.

Helia Alikhani, Hope for Children UNCRC Policy Center & UNITE liaison, stated that this year's concert was a smashing success. "With all the love and dedication of these young people, we are helping others understand that there is always hope for a healthier and happier future". A total of 16,000euros was raised, all of which will go towards Hope for Children UNCRCPC's programs against child abuse and bullying.

AISC and other Cyprus students can go to Stanford University's pre-college summer program

The AISC-Stanford University Partnership

In 2015-2016 The American International School in Cyprus in collaboration and partnership with Stanford Pre-Collegiate International Institutes, established itself as a partner school with Stanford University bringing students across Cyprus to their prestigious, two-week residential summer program in the USA.

The 16 motivated 14-17 year-old students who attended the Stanford Pre-Collegiate International Institutes were exposed to university level content and teaching style in a classroom that fostered communication, innovation, and creativity. Courses, labs and workshops drew on a range of subjects taught at Stanford School of Humanities and Sciences, Engineering, Medicine and Business. The style of instruction was designed to foster a passion for intellectual pursuit and allowed students to engage in a transformational educational experience while exploring various post-secondary academic programs and career interests which helped students determine their future pathways. Students visited other college campuses nearby, and got a taste for what college/dorm life was like. Students from all over the world attended Stanford's Summer Institute. Opportunities for rich intercultural exchanges, collaborating with others who have different backgrounds and beliefs, and making new friends from all over the world were abundant.

With a select number of spaces, Stanford University has entrusted the American International School in Cyprus, to evaluate, screen and select applicants for the program. To learn more about Stanford's Summer Institute Information please click on this link: http://internationalinstitutes.stanford.edu/ We look forward to many positive rewards for students through this AISC-Stanford partnership.

05

Professional Development & Engaged Teachers

- **Engaged Teachers**

Engaged Teachers

The overriding goal of professional development at AISC is to support faculty in their ability to actualize the School's Guiding Statements. At AISC we seek to hire, develop, retain and empower teachers who are impassioned about learning, are constantly reflecting, sharing, seeking feedback, and are inspiring others with their strong commitment to personal and professional development.

We seek to grow and continually improve in our practices by engaging with a robust professional development framework designed for our teachers and leaders. We continually reflect on and refine our teaching and learning practices so that all the needs of the students in the classroom are being differentiated, supported and advanced.

At AISC we invest in our teachers with the following annual professional development opportunities, structures and plans:

An annual individualized **Professional Growth Plan** written by each teacher

An **appraisal process** based on AISC's Key Indicators of Effective Teaching

Technology workshops based on department and individual goals

Encouraging teachers to participate in **peer coaching** & peer classroom visits

Participation in **collaborative departmental meetings** within the 10-day schedule

Providing an **early release** day - once per week

Providing **three dedicated professional development** days within the school calendar

Providing **five teacher professional development work days** before the start of the new

Opportunities to share **best practice sessions** throughout the year

Encouraging teachers to attend **local, regional and international conferences**

- Full funding for IB training for every new to AISC - IB teacher
- Open access to the Esol Education Professional Learning Community on Rubicon Atlas
- An open invitation to Esol Education's Professional Development Conference every two years
- Opportunities to work for with Esol and outside visiting consultants
- Benefits of the School's regional and international memberships (MAIS, CEESA, NESA, ECIS, ASCD, AAIE, ISTE)
- Access to professional webinars and a professional development library
- Encouraging teachers to engage in professional book studies
- Collaborating with the K-12 Cultural Heritage Coordinator to support teacher's interdisciplinary planning
- Collaborating with the Elementary Literacy Coordinator to ensure that the Balanced Literacy Framework and expected assessments are implemented and analyzed
- Encouraging faculty to be part of an outside accreditation team visits to learn about other international schools

Teacher PD Courses in Cities: 18

Nicosia
Nottingham
Dubai
Boston
Lisbon
Virginia
Hong Kong
Cairo
Muscat
Madrid
Berlin
Barcelona
Amsterdam
Warsaw
Den Hague
Athens
Crete
New York

Teacher PD in Countries: 15

Cyprus
UK
UAE
Egypt
Portugal
USA
Spain
Oman
Germany
The Netherlands
Poland
Greece
Hong Kong
Luxembourg
Czech Republic

External list of professional development training courses and seminars for faculty for 2015-2016:

University of Cyprus – Teacher training seminars
University of Nottingham PGCEI –at Nottingham, UK
Concept-based Curriculum for the Thinking Classroom, Dubai
Learning and the Brain Conference, Boston, USA
International School Counsellors Conference, Lisbon, Portugal
MAIS Annual Educator's Conference, Madrid, Spain
Google for Education, Hong Kong
Symposium on Intercultural Learning, UK
Esol Education PD Conference, Cairo, Egypt
George Washington University Leadership Program, USA
Librarian's Follett Workshop, Muscat, Oman
Science and Education, PhD Program, Cyprus
Apple Training for the IT Team, Computrain, Cyprus
STEAM Conference, USA
Pool Lifeguard Training, Cyprus
Webinar: Good Homework, Bad Homework - How to Tell the Difference
Webinar: The Male Brain in your Classroom: 10 Strategies for Teaching Boys About Their Behavior in the Classroom
Webinar: The High Performance Walkthrough: Best Practices of Effective Instructional Leader
Teacher's College Columbia University – Reader's/Writer's Workshop

IB CAT 1 History, Oxford Study Course, UK
IB CAT 2 CAS, In-thinking, Berlin, Germany
IB CAT 3 Extended Essay, In Thinking, Barcelona, Spain
IB CAT 2 Economics, In Thinking, Barcelona, Spain
IB CAT 2 Math SL, Philpot Education, Amsterdam, Netherlands
IB CAT 2 Physics, Philpot Education, Warsaw, Poland
IB CAT 1 Music, IBICUS, UK
IB Heads of School Conference, Den Hague, Netherlands
IB CAT 2 Administrator Training, Madrid, Spain
IB Consultant in-house 3-day Visit to AISC, fall, 2015
IB Extended Essay, Crete, Greece, June 2016
IB Coordinator's Leadership, Athens, Greece, June 2016
IB TOK, Athens, Greece, June 2016

06

School Improvement Planning

- **An Ethos of Planning**

An Ethos of Planning

During the 2015-2016 year, the Steering Committee organized the process for re-accreditation and the entire staff and faculty engaged in a reflection process towards growth and improvement. Our new Strategic Plan includes the following goals for the next five years:

Goal 1 Marketing and School Development

AISC will create annual marketing and fundraising plans and enhance the school's reputation as a long-term stakeholder in Cyprus through developing new partnerships, an alumni association, an events calendar, and a yearly communication plan. The purpose of this goal is to raise awareness of the school and its services to the local & greater communities and to ensure the School's growth and development so it may: 1) continue to improve the current facility or move to a purpose-built facility; 2) increase teacher/staff salaries and benefits so that staff compensation levels are competitive in the international school market.

Goal 2 Teaching and Learning

AISC will focus on the following five critical areas in order to strengthen the teaching and learning programs across the school: 1) Map special programs across the school as indicated in the action plan; 2) Update the current Teacher Standards/Appraisal Program to include research-based pedagogy and practice; 3) Strengthen the assessment protocols across the elementary school; 4) Ensure AISC's annual IB results meet or exceed world wide averages; 5) Continue to develop and measure the effectiveness of the Concept-based Curriculum Program K-12 to ensure it has a positive impact on student engagement and learning.

Goal 3 Educational Technology

The School will design a Technology Plan to drive the mission to enrich students' and teachers' educational experiences by using digital technology as a tool for effective inquiry, creativity, problem solving and for the facilitation of communication, personal productivity and life-long learning. Students graduating from AISC will possess the technological skills, citizenship and attitudes to succeed in an increasingly complex society. The Plan will develop confident, motivated and competent staff and students who can use technology to achieve pedagogical & learning goals.

07

Educational Technology

- **Educational Technology Initiatives**
- **Software**

Educational Technology Initiatives

In 2015-2016, improved its educational technology platforms, programs, services, and offerings. The School adopted the ISTE Standards, and set about to implement the essential conditions necessary to ensure the standards could be effectively delivered. Those essential conditions are listed below.

Building wiring

The building was completely rewired and new CAT6 cables are now used. Each office and classroom has its own Ethernet plug and the switches have been removed.

Dedicated Internet Line

A new fiber line of 50Mbps upstream and downstream from Cablenet was put in place.

Wireless APs

To ensure that all areas of the school were covered, we increased our Wi-Fi coverage in both elementary and main building. We increased our Access Points from 2 to 9 in the elementary and from 11 to 14 in the main building. Each elementary classroom has a dedicated AP in order to ensure seamless coverage and connectivity of mobile devices.

Other

Misc. items that were broken or missing were replaced such as UPS and video camera batteries, headsets, speakers, smartboard pens and cables were purchased as part of our current system maintenance.

Server

To centrally manage devices such as the new iPads and laptops, a mac mini was purchased to be used as an Apple Server. This approach will allow us to centrally manage the devices, as well as apply filters and internet security to all AISC devices for safety and quality of services purposes. Hard disk drives were purchased to increase file management storage.

Desktops

As we will have to continue using the PCs we have in the labs in the foreseeable future, some PCs were purchased as replacements.

Laptops – MacBooks

We purchased 50 Apple MacBook Pro Retina 13" laptops, and soft covers for the teachers.

Tablets - iPads

A total of 76 iPads, and hard cover cases were purchased to allow teachers, students and academic support staff to use iPads in the classrooms under the guidance of the teacher for academic purposes. In addition, charging stations were purchased and placed in designated classrooms. iPads were also purchased as dedicated resources for the elementary technology classes.

Projectors

10 new projectors were purchased to replace the older ones.

Keyboards

Apple Bluetooth keyboards will be used with iPad to cover elementary needs.

Printers/Scanners

8 New printers and 2 scanners to cover staff, teacher and student needs

Digital Cameras

5 New cameras will be used in Fine Arts and as loaners to replace or add to those currently in use by our students.

Software

Elementary apps for iPad:

Animation 4.3
Book Creator 4.1
Digital Passport 1.0.1
Digital Passport for Kids 1.1.2
Draw & Tell HD 2.0.3
Drawing Pad 2.5.1
Explain Everything 3.21
Felt Board 2.0.2
Green Screen 2.0

Other software purchases and licenses:

Teaching Use
Rosetta Stone
Turnitin
Follet
Atlas Rubicon
Naviance
Raz Kids
IXL +IXL Grammar

KWT
EBSCO
J-Stor
Encyclopedia Britannica
ThinkIb
Inthinking IB
Newsela
Drago Naturally Speaking – Nuance Software

Economist Online
Managebac
Turnitin for Managebac
Buzzmath
SmartBac
Logger Pro

Systems Use
SIS License and Dev
GFI Mail Essentials
Cloud Controller Licenses

Parallels for Macs
WatchGuard Firewall
Parallels desktop license

Smartboard Software
Dictation Software
Microsoft Licenses

08

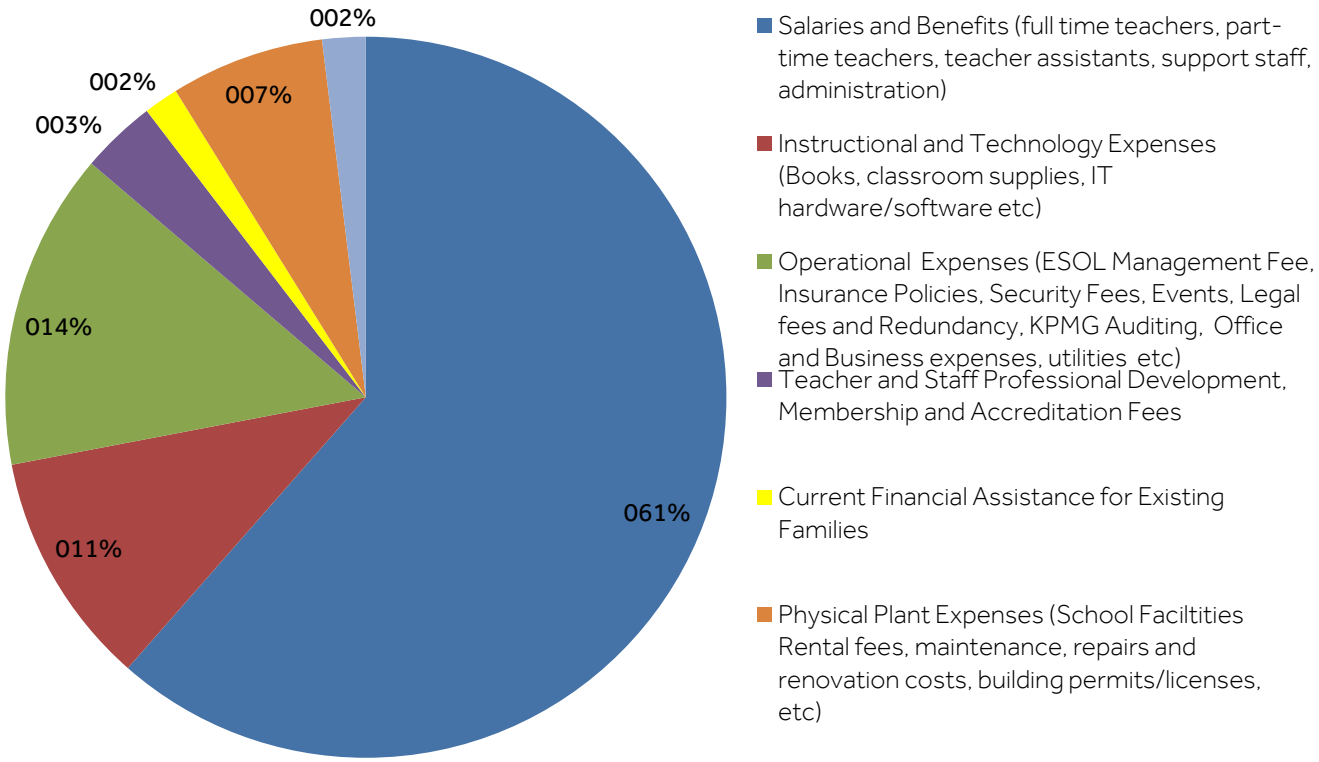
Financial Review

- **Annual Financial Review**

Annual Financial Review

AISC continues to have written, reasonable, and equitable tuition, collection, and refund policies. These policies are shared with incoming families. Tuition fees are clearly published on our website.

During the 2015-2016 academic year, AISC received approval from the Ministry of Education and Culture (MOEC) to increase its fees by 1400 Euro. The New Fee is called the *AISC Development Fee*. The purpose of this fee is to ensure the school is always delivering high quality programs and services.



An IB World School,
AISC is fully accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, USA
and the Council of International Schools, Netherlands

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