Dr. Pfannl Goes to Washington!

As was widely reported in the US national press, our principal, Dr. Beth Pfannl, was named a National Distinguished Principal for 2003 along with 64 other principals. In many cases, this award culminates a distinguished career. Fortunately for us, Dr. Pfannl is not resting on her laurels! She received the award in recognition for her many years of leadership at the American School in Paraguay, where she was principal before coming to AOSR.

This prestigious award was given during a special two-day program in Washington, D.C., which took place November 6th and 7th and included meetings and receptions at the White House and U.S Department of State. Worth noting was the signature dessert served at the award reception: a white chocolate truffle in the exact shape of the White House, which opened at the roof to reveal a chocolate mousse interior, surrounded by raspberries. “Everyone was taking pictures of their plates!”

“The principals I met in Washington were as interested in each other’s work as they were proud of their own achievements,” said Dr. Pfannl. “Not many principals were familiar with how American schools overseas work at the beginning of the program, but by the end, all of them knew about AOSR and the fact that there is a whole network of American schools abroad that promote democracy, civics, and leadership skills as part of a US based curriculum.”

“Meeting educational leaders from every state in the country was fascinating,” exclaimed Dr. Pfannl. “There was time to talk about programs that schools have implemented, success stories, and the challenges that we all face in our daily jobs.” Dr. Pfannl reported that it was a “most humbling experience to be among so many outstanding leaders.”

In her acceptance speech, Dr. Pfannl expressed how “American schools abroad take on the challenge of promoting the very best of American education, the teaching of critical thinking skills, the importance of individuality, respect and tolerance of others, and the celebration of differences -not an easy task during these trying times.”

The National Distinguished Principal (NDP) award was established in 1984 as an annual event to honor exemplary elementary and middle school principals who set the pace, character and quality of the education children receive. The program is jointly sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education and the Na-
Publisher’s News

Due to the school vacation schedule the next Falcon Flyer will be published on January 26, and will cover all events until the end of February.

No one has claimed the “Rome’N’About” column for themselves. We have heard from so many people who really enjoyed the Allan Ceen column. Allan is a current parent and former teacher at AOSR. Hopefully Allan will continue contributing, even on an occasional schedule, but we can always use good ideas and stories, and invite anyone who has a favorite place in Rome (or thereabout!) to submit it to the Falcon Flyer, either by email (address below) or as a hard copy in the Falcon Flyer mailbox in the Principal’s Office. Of course, in this issue Rome is well-explored by Kip Hendry and his MS troubadors and Mrs. Dunn’s Art Class.

Apropos of reader mail, Mrs. Giwa was able to set us straight on two misstatements in the October edition. I have attached her email:

On page 4 (October issue) you say that the two new countries are Azerbaijan and Burkinabe! The people of Burkina Faso are called the Burkinabe.

Also on page 15, it was reported that the National Honor Society from the NHS at AOSR gave € 300 to UNICEF, an agency of the FAO. FAO is an Agency of the UN and UNICEF is another agency. Unicef deals with women and children and FAO with food and agriculture

Thank you for your attention. —LF

Important Phone Numbers
School Number: 06-334-381
Fax: 06-3326-2608

Headmaster: Larry Dougherty 06-3343-8331
Headmaster’s Secretary: Domenica Losani 06-3343-8331
Principal: Beth Pfannl 06-3343-8326
Principal’s Secretary: Alessandra Cozzi 06-3343-8326
Admissions: Don Levine 06-3343-8300
Reception/Secretary: Joanne Hoberg 06-3343-8300
Financial Consultant: Elisa Bruno 06-3343-8338
Boarding/Finance: Estelle Dougherty 06-3343-8339
Guidance Counselor: Donna Ross 06-3343-8327
Nurse: Diane Cullen-Moore 06-3343-8321
After School Activities: Christine Hogan 06-3343-8320
Margaret Ciaffreda
MSA Coordinator: Angela Santangelo 06-3343-8336
Resource Room: Karen Lee 06-3343-8302
Records Office: Marina Benetti 06-3343-8315
PTO/Boutique 06-3343-8322

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00189 Rome, Italy
Internet: www.aosr.org

PTO Partners Wish You
Happy Holidays and Happy New Year

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As always, please call if we can help!

Next Deadline 1-15-04
The deadline for submission of articles for the October Flyer is Wednesday, January 15, for news and announcement for the period, January 26 to February 28, 2004.
The Mediterranean Association of International Schools (MAIS) held its 2003 conference in Seville, Spain, and AOSR sent teachers from our school to attend.

The theme of the conference was *Exploring New Worlds in Education*. In light of all of its important history relevant to Columbus’ voyage to America, Seville was the perfect setting for this theme. This city, rich in Spanish/Moorish culture, is blessed with next to perfect weather and is unique in that it hosts some of the world’s only examples of Mudejar architecture. The ubiquitous palm trees and beautiful parks make Seville a city to fall in love with.

Our pre-conference began on Thursday, November 6. I attended various workshops that day which were relevant to young learners, as I teach Kindergarten. I learned new strategies and best practices related to teaching reading and writing in Kindergarten at appropriate developmental levels. Many new resources were presented and I was able to take advantage of some free materials offered.

Another class I attended dealt with classroom and behavior management. I was fortunate to be among colleagues who discussed solutions to similar problems that we all have, as teachers of young children. After an interactive session, I left this class feeling like my AOSR students are truly the ‘crème de la crème’ and feeling fortunate for the many positive discipline techniques which have worked through the years in my classrooms. I was able to share many positive experiences and “secrets of the trade”, as well as gleam new strategies to try. (For example, we no longer use the term, “TIME OUT chair,” in our classroom; it is now appropriately called the THINKING CHAIR, as truly that is the purpose it serves for children who need to take a moment to reflect on their behavior.)

Dr. Susan Grant, who holds a Ph.D. in Neuroscience, presented an outstanding workshop attended by several AOSR teachers. Her research and clinical studies have focused on the relationship between brain and language development, and the understanding of language acquisition. Through the applicability of brain research, good teaching practices can be facilitated in regards to language acquisition and learning disabilities.

A well-known international ESL Consultant, Dr. Virginia Rojas, gave a fun and poignant presentation on the myths of second language acquisition. This workshop was geared to international schoolteachers who work with linguistically diverse populations. We probed her with questions and then reflected on ways to build successful instructional conditions for English Language Learners.

Another workshop which I attended gave me new insights into parent conferences. It allowed us to reflect on our process of how we conduct conferences in our school and taught us useful ways to organize ourselves before the conference, prepare a good atmosphere during the conference, and to set realistic expectations in order to achieve our goals.

One of my favorite sessions was the Job-Alike Session. Opportunities were offered for teachers to attend a workshop with co-horts who are in the same position at other international schools. This was an excellent way to meet colleagues in my field and share information. I came away with several email addresses of teachers with whom I wanted to keep in touch, as we share common ideas, problems and solutions about educating Kindergarten boys and girls.

All in all I was grateful for the opportunity to attend the conference and to learn the latest research information and teaching techniques in the field, as well as to touch base and collaborate ideas with other teachers in the MAIS district. *Did I mention how much fun I had polishing up my rusty Spanish language skills and taste-testing at the Tapas Bars in Seville….not to be missed!!!*

The conference was a great success and was topped off by a grand Gala with flamenco guitarists, accompanied by festive flamenco dancers. (Seville is home to the beautiful flamenco dance.) I didn’t miss the opportunity to get my picture taken in the dress-up booth. We donned our flamenco skirts and “Mantones de Manila” (Spanish shawls), complete with fans and the obligatory flower in the hair. *OLE*!

Next year’s MAIS Conference will be held in Portugal and I hope that AOSR teachers can again have the opportunity to attend.

— Ms. Patricia Robertson

(Continued from page 1) “Dr. Pfannl goes to Washington…”

The National Association of Elementary School Principals. One principal is chosen annually from each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, as well as principals from private K-8 schools, two from Department of Defense schools and two from schools sponsored by the U.S. Department of State Overseas Schools.

Dr. Pfannl was one of the two principals selected from American overseas schools around the world.

Individuals are chosen based on the evidence of their outstanding contributions to the educational community. All awardees have demonstrated leadership that benefits curriculum, staff morale, community support, student interest, and the learning environment. NDP recognizes creative leadership which has inspired teachers and others to contribute to the school environment. It notes the individual’s example of service above what is expected and the ways in which others have acknowledged the principal as a force for positive change.

Dr. Pfannl was also presented with a U.S. Department of State Certificate of Appreciation for dedicated service and outstanding contributions to children overseas, by the Office of Overseas Schools directed by Dr. Keith Miller. The award was given by Assistant Secretary of State, Dr. Wil-
Elected to a 3-Year Term: **Joseph Alfassy**

Joseph Alfassy is an Israeli citizen and has been a resident of Rome since August 1999. He is married to Geraldine Alfassy, and has a son, Samuel, in grade 5th. Mr. Alfassy is the Minister Administrative Affairs for the Embassy of Israel and was Consul for the Embassy of Israel to Belgium and to the European Community in the past. He served as a member of the Board and as representative for the Israeli Government in "Ganenou," a Jewish school in Brussels, and he was elected to the AOSR Board of Trustees in 1999 for one year and re-elected for three years in 2000.

Mr. Alfassy hopes to:
1. Assist and promote the interests of AOSR.
2. Continue to use his wide experience in Administrative Affairs in order to work together with AOSR for the good of the students.

Elected to 3-Year Term: **Boyd Haight**

Boyd Haight is an American citizen and has been a resident of Rome since 1996. He is married to Susan and they have two children at AOSR: Ian who will be graduating this year and Chris, in Grade 9. He is the Chief Officer of the Budget Service Program of Budget and Evaluation at FAO. Mr. Haight brings relevant experience in three main areas: raising a family and working internationally for more than 20 years; active involvement in school and community including seven years as an AOSR parent; formulation and implementation of policies and practices on human resources, budget and finance in an international organization; and, management of programs and projects in a results-oriented environment, including fund raising and liaison with donors.

Mr. Haight hopes to:
1. Ensure that AOSR has the resources and direction it needs to provide high quality education to our students today while building the foundation for the school's long term viability.
2. Contribute to sound corporate financial and human resource planning, and reach out to the large and relatively stable international community of potential AOSR parents at the United Nations food agencies based in Rome.
3. Give back, through service as a trustee, at least some of the many benefits his family has gained from the unique education experience provided by AOSR.

Elected to a 1-year term: **Ian Kelly**

Ian Kelly is an American citizen and has been a resident of Rome since August 2000. He has been serving on the board for the past three years. Hand his wife Francesca have four children at AOSR: Annalisa, grade 12, Will, grade 10, Max, grade 5, and Ned, grade 5. Mr. Kelly is the Press Attaché for the U.S. Embassy to Italy. He has his Doctorate and has taught at Columbia University, Northwestern University, and Rutgers University.

Mr. Kelly hopes to:
1. Improve outreach to the community through community activities such as Mayfair.
2. Ensure that our children study in as safe an environment as possible.
3. Ensure that our children's education is the best possible.

Elected to a 3-year term: **Sergio Masserini**

Sergio Masserini is an Italian citizen, presently serving as Board Member, elected in November 2000 and again in November 2002. He and his wife, Mariella have a son, Lorenzo, in grade 7 at AOSR. Mr. Masserini is a Partner and VP, Avionics and Defense for Intermark Sistemi, which is the Italian representative of several US leading industries. Before becoming associated partner at Intermark, he led sales and marketing for Thales Communications in Italy and worked over 25 years with Rockwell Collins. Throughout this time, he worked for long periods in the U.S., managing international business development operations.

Mr. Masserini hopes to:
1. Continue to assist in fundraising activities.
2. Continue to foster the development of a strategic marketing plan aimed at strengthening AOSR's long term solidity and growth.
3. Continue to encourage the multiethnic involvement in school supporting initiatives.
AOSR receives Gift of Books

Recently, a donation of 19 books and CDs was given to AOSR. In a letter to Dr. Dougherty, parent Gurit Singh, the Deputy Chief of Mission to the Embassy of India to Italy, said that it gives him great pleasure on the occasion of Children’s Day, November 14, to present this gift to the school libraries for use in the AOSR community.

In the last year, the number of Indian students in the school has gone up considerably, he wrote, and he believes that sharing knowledge, and the dissemination of information about India would perhaps contribute to the objective of an international school like the AOSR.

He enclosed a list of books and CDs which includes the book, “Glimpses of World History,” by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, India’s first Prime minister, whose birthday is celebrated also on November 14. This book was written by him for his daughter in a series of letters from prison.

The autobiography of Mahatma Gandhi is also included in this varied collection.

What a generous gift. Thank you, Mr. Singh!

As a result of Mr. Singh’s gift, the following books are available to be checked out from the HS and ES School libraries:

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<tr>
<th>Cultural Portraits of India</th>
<th>Lindsay Hebberd</th>
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<tr>
<td>Indian Music</td>
<td>B.C. Deva</td>
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<td>The Indian Experience</td>
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<td>Glimpses of World History</td>
<td>J. Nehru</td>
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<td>Shankar’s Children’s Art No. 53</td>
<td>Shankar Int’l Competition</td>
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<td>Let’s know Sikhism</td>
<td>Kartar, Singh, Bhalla</td>
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<td>Let’s Know Hinduism</td>
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<td>An Autobiography</td>
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<td>Clive Avenue</td>
<td>T.S. Tirumurti</td>
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<td>Nehru and his vision</td>
<td>K.R.Narayanan</td>
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<td>The Cult of the Tiger</td>
<td>Valmik Thapar</td>
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<td>The Great Thoughts of Gotama, the Buddha</td>
<td>Anand, I.B. Horner and K.Coomaraswamy</td>
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<td>Gandhi Album</td>
<td>Publication Division</td>
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<td>India Mystica CD ROM</td>
<td>Magic Software</td>
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<td>MEA</td>
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<td>India Timeless Civilization</td>
<td>HAR Hanand Public.</td>
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<td>Dances of India</td>
<td>Robert Arnett</td>
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THE DAY THE COUNTRY STOPPED...

AOSR observed a minute of silence on November 18 at 11:30 AM for the 19 Italians – 14 carbinieri, three military personnel, and two civilians—who were killed in Nejarin, Iraq on November 12.

This tragedy, the largest loss of life in Italian military service since the end of World War II, was commemorated nationally. Schools, stores, and government offices suspended activity during the state funeral for the fallen, and the Italian tricolor flag was hung from many homes that day.

Joy and Music
AOSR Holiday Concerts

The High School Ensemble & Chorus and Middle School Choir will be performing for the assembled Middle and High Schools in a morning assembly at 9:30 on December 10th. You're invited! (Parents and friends too!)

We're not doing much in the way of the standard fare of carols, but "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" will end the extravaganza, with the mighty chorus and orchestra joining forces and blasting it home.

The Elementary School will be performing on December 16 (K-5) at 9:30.
## FIRST QUARTER HONOR ROLL 2003-2004

**Headmaster’s Honor Roll (4.00 GPA)**

| Grade 12 | Hannah Ceen | Christine Skodon |
| Grade 10 | Maria Anna Murmura |
| Grade 8  | Garen Der-Khachadourian |
| Grade 6  | Katherine Berton |

**Principal’s Honor Roll**

### Honor Roll (3.50-3.99)

| Grade 12 | Lauren Barnhill | Gianluca Belisari | Nicole Borunda | Luca Candelori | Lavinia del Bianco | Methiya Fuang-Arrom | Mariafrancesca Gioia | Danai Giwa | Anna Grasso | Ian Haight | Nicole Halloran | Annalisa Kelly | NaHyun Lee | Luca Montesi | Enea Saccio | Georg Seebode | Valentina Squitieri | Silvia Telesca | Oguzhan Tulun | Oktavia Zappala |
| Grade 11 | Sudeep Bhatia | Ettore Canestri | Michael Gorelick | David Israelachvili | Shankar Kar | Tom Nof-Agam | Federico Soddu |
| Grade 10 | Raphaello Amorosi | Gabriele Cancelliere | Marin Finerty | Edoardo Linari | Giulia Merlo | Raya Mustafa | Nathan Rice | Riccardo Serra | Silvia Triglia | Zhi Chao Yi |
| Grade 9  | Javier Elkin | Chiara Gambioli | Christopher Haight | Tajnim Imami | Maria La Via | Tae Hyun Lee | Brennan Panzarella | Holly Rumpf |
| Grade 8  | Talisha Kahan | Mohamed Mattar | David Ortiz | Crismann Perera | Marina Pozzan | Yeonathan Shachar | Matthew Smith | Brianne Vallee |
| Grade 7  | Carolina Van Der Does De Villebois | Serena Zhang | Jin Kai Zhou |

### Honor Roll (3.00-3.49)

| Grade 12 | Kholoud Al-Hajri | Vanessa Ananiades | Alessandro Batazzi | Paola Bresciani | Sarah Davignon | Tamara Djurdjevic’ | Trillian Gregg | Stacey Ives | Patricia Kelly-Schmutz | Pasquale Paolo Murmura | Isabel Pogany | Shikha Prakash | Sean Satterwhite | Katia Trukhanova |
| Grade 11 | Federico Arnaldi | David Brown | Rozen Erdal | Timothy Garbinsky | Davide Lelli | Na-Re Lim | Agnese Marino | Matteo Mencarelli | Victor Onkonwo | Ryan Panzarella | Daniele Pestilli | Benjamin Pfannl | Enrico Piano | Gabriele Raccah | Elisa Russo | Chiara Saravo | Olusiyi Smith | Manuel Xueref |
| Grade 10 | Zinnat Akhter (?) | Ana Almour | Stephanie Brittner-Buddenbrock | Tarykun Erdal | Alessia Flochi | Steffen Fischer | Shungo Inoue | Shashi Karanamethy | Josh Kneeland | Emin Mamedyarov | Flavio Massari | Robert Michalski | Nicole Otto | Daniele Scharro | Claire Sensi | Mandi Shenedjela | Ives Van Der Does De Villebois | Sara Zanzari |
| Grade 9  | Sabina Abdullaeva | Roisin Agnew | Flaminia Belli | Simona Capogna | Kristin Fowler | David Grosso | Nwanthakia Jayatilake | John Kilroy | Michela Lombardi | Flora Mezzabotta | Yara Mirnad | Jordan Mussenman | Morel Naim | Tyler Otte | Elena Testi | Annika Neumann | Silvia Valente | Nina Van Der Does De Villebois |
| Grade 8  | Fredy Alejandro | Niccolo Amato | David Ananiades | Christian Brown | Alessandro Castello | Alessio Dassari | Aaron Dungoa | Pietro Fazzi | Mario Gioia | Itzik Itzhaki | Ludovico Linari | Edoardo Quadri | Yael Refaeli | Rachel Robinson | Alejandro Smith | Danique Smits | Karim Zelenka |

| Grade 7 | Ezio Belli | Piergiorgio Ciceri | Angela Cosenza | Melanie Ferguson | James Freeman | Leonardo Gaggioli | Shira Gazit | Eugenio Marini | Seth Moore | Martin Oberle | Sarah Erin Roseley | Adi Shachar | Filippo Totti | Marcella Zarrelli |
| Grade 6  | Costanza Amato | Ludovica Batazzi | Romy Ben-Hur | Stefano Canzio | Jacopo Foco | Omithi Ithaki | Paolo Liel Karpel | Miranda Mancini | Marissa Musselman | Nicholas Ortiz | Cindy Pratesi | Michael Refaeli |
PPAC NEWS

PPAC MEETING — November 17, 2003, 13:15

In attendance:
Grazia Deulus  Millie Kneeland  Sam Simpson
Carolyn Grosso  Claudia Ottolenghi  Claudia Sobel
Susan Haight  Jacinthe Peeris
Lisa Finerty  Beth Pfannl,.Principal

Issues discussed at the monthly meeting of the Principal/Parents Advisory Committee included the following:

- Questions about the Middle School cultural trips were raised. Parents were very happy with the opportunities that their children had to go on these highly valued and well organized trips. They wondered if next year there could be a way to get the trip information distributed to them earlier, including possible itineraries and costs, based on previous years, before their children were asked in school to choose where they wanted to go. It was stated that the trips rotate year to year and the itineraries do not change that much.

- Parents asked if they could be notified by email about MS events. A MS parents' email database will be established. (If your email is not correct in the school's directory, please contact Marina Benetti at mbenetti@aosr.org so that it can be added).

- Parents asked where exactly the money raised from Bake Sales and Booster Bar earnings goes for the Middle School trips. Ms. Santangelo had explained that the funds go for additional tour guides and escorts.

- Is there enough time for lunch breaks for MS and HS students? Students seem to have enough time now for lunch. At the beginning of the year things were more hectic in the cafeteria but now it appears that there is enough time to eat. However, the principal agreed to look into ways to make lunch service more efficient. A request was made to insure that teachers let students out on time before lunch so that they can get to the cafeteria in time.

- A question was raised about wearing AOSR logo items for PE classes. Committee members came to a consensus that students should be allowed to wear whatever clothing they wanted to as long as it meets AOSR dress code guidelines. They could certainly wear AOSR t-shirts and sweatshirts, but it would not become a requirement.

- A suggestion was made to place a notice in the Falcon Flyer advising parents to check their children's clothing on a regular basis to be certain that the clothing actually belongs to their children and was not taken home mistakenly and really belongs to someone else.

- What measures are being taken to make sure that students not involved in after-school activities are going home at 3:30 and not just hanging around waiting for the late bus? Only students involved in a school sponsored after-school activity are permitted to stay after school. An AOSR staff member patrols the campus after school to make certain that students are not wandering around unattended. Parents are asked to make sure that their children are not staying after school UNLESS they are involved in an after-school activity. Younger siblings are not permitted to wait on campus for older siblings unless they are accompanied at all times by a parent or guardian. Please note: Boarders are the only students permitted to leave campus between 3:30 and 5:00 PM and return for the 5:00 pm bus.

Three Hundred Students in Two-Part Harmony
AOSR 2003 UN Concert
By Rebecca Bailey, ES, MS, and HS Choral Teacher

The annual UN Concert was held on Oct. 22 and it was a very impressive event.

Kindergarten through Grade 5 performed songs from all over the world including, Hawaii, Ireland, Italy, Israel, North America, Poland, Nigeria, Germany, and others. They also had two combined numbers at the beginning and end of the concerts in two-part harmony with over 300 students singing at one time.

Students introduced the songs and gave the audience information about the countries they were representing. They also sang, played instruments and wore their native costumes.

Ms. Bailey and Mr. Reale conducted and Mr. Reale played the piano. Mrs. Cosentino's art classes decorated the cafeteria with flags of all the countries in the UN and the 5th Grade classes of Mrs. Hogan, Mrs. DiCori, and Mrs. Hall began the concert with a procession of the flags.

(Continued from previous column) “PPAC…”

- A discussion about security concerns took place. These serious concerns were passed on to the headmaster, Dr. Dougherty by the principal.

- There was concern about AOSR students seen smoking on the Cassia near the school. The principal reported that this is against school rules. Parents agreed that this affects the reputation of the school greatly and should be controlled. Only seniors are allowed off campus during their free periods and lunch time. This is a privilege that can be taken away if necessary. If they are seen smoking near school they lose the privilege. A conversation took place as to whether or not any students should be permitted to leave campus during the school day due to security measures. The committee agreed that the privilege for seniors should not be taken away at this time unless school rules were violated. Any seniors seen smoking anywhere near campus will lose their privileges.

- Parents discussed the role of student teachers in the classroom. The principal explained that the classroom teacher is the person responsible for grades and informing parents about how their children are performing.

The meeting was adjourned at 14:30. The next PPAC meeting will take place on Monday, December 15, at 13:15.
DECEMBER 2003

Next PTO Meetings: Monday, Dec. 1, and Monday, January 12.

Yo, Parents! Do you like AOSR? Are your kids happy here? Are you pleased with the teachers, the programs, the after-school activities, and the friendly atmosphere?

If the answer to these questions is a resounding “yes,” make sure we hear you! That’s right, there is a way to show your “yes”!

The reason the community spirit is so strong at AOSR is that many dedicated parents, teachers and staff donate extra time to the school to make good things happen. These things would NOT happen if it weren’t for volunteers. Have you nursed your morning coffee in those great new chairs and tables outside the cafeteria recently? Those were paid for partially by PTO funds.

Have you eaten a burger at a Booster Bar? That’s your PTO at work. Did your Middle Schooler have a great time on the cultural trips? The trips are partly funded by an annual grant from the PTO.

How does the PTO make its money? Through the Boutique, the Booster Bar, Mayfair, and many other fund-raising events throughout the year. Who organizes the fund-raising events? Volunteers!

Sure, sure, you think, I’ve heard this before. Here it comes: the “we need volunteers” spiel…

But wait. This time it’s different. What we’re going to tell you about is how donating a little extra time – even just one hour a month – can do something for you. Not for AOSR, because you already know that AOSR needs you. But this is about you.

About once a month, some of us look at our calendars and think, “Oh, no, there’s a (fill in the blank: PTO, PPAC, Booster Bar Committee, etc.) meeting tomorrow, and I don’t have time to go!” Yet we still go because we promised we would go, even though we have no idea how we’re going to catch up on all our other work as a result. And off we head to the meeting, grumbling about traffic and backlogged email and unanswered phone messages and kids’ towels on the bathroom floor and forgotten lunchboxes on the bed.

But then a strange thing happens…

We spend an hour or two sitting in a cluttered room in uncomfortable chairs with other too-busy people, yet everyone’s in a good mood. That’s because these are intelligent, funny, dedicated people who care about keeping AOSR’s good things good, and making AOSR’s not-so-good things better.

After the meeting, we notice we’re energized and motivated and, hey, happy. Now how did that happen?

It happens because, as many sociologists and psychologists will confirm, belonging to a group of like-minded people, dedicated to a benevolent cause, actually stimulates hormones in the body which raise one’s mood.

If you’re more into religion than science, then rest assured that preachers and prophets from all major religions have — for centuries — proclaimed the personal benefits of helping others.

One more way that volunteering can help you: you can create your own “job.” This job may not pay, but when it’s time for you to go job-hunting for a paying job, your PTO experience will have given you an edge. Editing the Falcon Flyer might lead to a newspaper job. Organizing Mayfair might lead to a Public Relations position. You just never know…

But if you don’t help out for your own wellbeing, you can still do it for the sake of your kids. The fun thing about AOSR is that there are so many ways to help, requiring so many varied levels of commitment, that you can do everything from baking one cake or donating one hour to creating a whole new committee. Here’s a sampling of ways you can start helping AOSR right now (what suits your personality and interest from this list)?

**Booster Bar (of utmost importance — future of Booster Bar is at stake due to shortage of volunteers!)** shopping; selling; setting up; grilling; cleaning up. **Personal Reward:** interacting with entire school community. For more information call Carol Atwood at 06 3088 9705

**Library:** helping choose new books, helping organize the Visiting Author program. **Personal Reward:** meeting a well-known author. For more information call Sue Berton at 06 331 2719

**Music:** organizing an instrument rental program. **Personal Reward:** seeing (and hearing) your child learn a new musical instrument. For more information call Francesca Kelly at 06 329 0280

**AOSR February Gala:** making theme baskets. **Personal Reward:** creating something beautiful with other people at your side. For more information call Lori Tibbitt at 06 3089 6566

**PTO Assistant Officers:** Find out what we do and then decide if next year you may be ready to take on one of these interesting positions. **Personal Reward:** Honing leadership skills, community respect and gratitude, making a difference.

For more information call
- President Hope Moore 333 6867 816
- Treasurer Carol Atwood 06 3088 9705
- Secretary Francesca Kelly 06 329 0280

**Embassy News:** if you work at an embassy with a weekly or monthly newsletter, you can write up news events at AOSR to be published in the embassy newsletter. **Personal Reward:** Great publicity for you and your children. For more information call Francesca Kelly 06 329 0280

**Mayfair:** Our big spring festival will need scads of helpers. **Personal Reward:** Watching everyone have fun at something YOU helped organize. For more information call Hope Moore 333 6867 815

**High School Liaison:** Our current HS Liaison, Julie Deptula, has a new baby and would like an assistant to work alongside her for the rest of the year. Is there a HS parent who would like to get more involved? **Personal Reward:** Having an impact on your child’s High School experience. For more information please come to the December 1 meeting or call Hope Moore 333 6867 815 (Julie’s a little busy right now!)

**Falcon Flyer:** Writers, Proofreaders, Distributors, Editors, etc. **Personal Reward:** Getting a byline; interacting with community; learning about interesting people. For more information call Lisa Finerty 06 4782 6192

**Boutique:** Help out in our shop for a few hours on Tuesdays. **Personal Reward:** Getting the bargains first! Interacting with entire AOSR community. For more information call Susan Haight at 06 3031 0876

**The main thing you need to know, though, is that the PTO welcomes new volunteers with open arms, and then folds them into a warm and dedicated community. To find out more about what helping the PTO entails, please call any of the people listed above. And remember our meeting on DECEMBER 1 (right after the Thanksgiving break), at 9:15 in the Boutique (next to the parking lot). You can simply attend the meeting with no commitment, just to see what we’re all about. And if all else fails to convince you, there’s one more reason you might find it easier to help out at AOSR than you think: if you’re bringing that forgotten lunchbox to school anyway, you might as well hang around and do some good while you’re there!**

— Francesca Kelly, PTO Secretary
AOSR's Pinus pinea Lives Again

Recently, at the age of about 45, one of our umbrella pines in the Quadrangle died. Its death went unnoticed since trees usually remain standing when they die a natural death. But, one windy and rainy night, an upper branch snapped and fell to the ground. The following morning, we noticed the pine needles were brown and the ones way, way up still on the top of the tree, were all brown too: our pine was dead.

This was a tall and mighty tree that provided us with a patch of shade and refuge from the hot sunny Roman afternoons. For many years it dropped snacks to our kids of powder-covered pine nuts containing their delicious pinoli. What a friend!

Now the question: “What to do with such a friend?” Can it have a second life? Can a tree be reincarnated (or more correctly perhaps, re-invigilated?)

It was decided to give it a try. The base of our Pine with its strong roots deep in the ground would remain as a center table surrounded by six cylindrical seats made from its upper trunk. Sort of a little United Nations round table, where our international kids could sit from time to time to talk about those things that little kids talk about. As they get older, it would be a place for dialogue, debate, exchanging ideas and discussing future dreams of peace perhaps. One day, as adults, they may just find themselves around a larger table, fulfilling those dreams they had as kids.

Yes, our Pinus pinea indeed has a new life with a new raison d’être. Now transformed, it is a miniature AOSR in the corner of the Quad.

—- Don Levine

Basket Items Needed

The AOSR Gala 2004 will be here before we know it (see the story on page 10). This event is a fun fundraiser for the art, music, and drama departments at AOSR.

In addition to the dancing, dining, and revelry, the Silent Auction is the biggest part of the fundraiser.

PTO is helping to organize the donation of several themed baskets for the Silent Auction. We need help with donations for an American Basket, Israeli Basket, Italian Basket, Mexican Basket, and for the book basket, and wine basket. Last year there was a great single malt whisky basket, too.

Teachers, too, are asked to donate a book for the “Teacher Sponsored Book Basket” and can give them to Lori Tibbett or put them in her box. Any other donations or questions can be directed to any PTO member.

Thanks for your help!

PTO-Sponsored Thanksgiving Desserts Accompany “Turkey Fest” at the School

The PTO organized a dessert Pot-Luck for Wednesday, November 26, during the lunch hours. Parents responded to the email request and sent all sorts of desserts for the students. PTO parents were there to serve the treats. This Pot Luck was primarily enjoyed by the MS and HS diners, since most of the ES enjoyed pre-Thanksgiving feasts in their classrooms. Thank you, PTO!
By now, you must have already circled the date on your calendar and are already busy calling your friends to fill your table. Last year over 150 guests attended this wonderful evening – hopefully you will be part of the festivities this year!

Of course – 10 people or more entitles you to a 10% discount (reservations for all 10 tickets plus their payment must be made at the same time!). Corporate tables are also available for 12 people with a special rate PLUS a full-page ad in the Gala Booklet… read on…

The AOSR Ball will be held once again at the Hotel & Resort Borgo Bamboccio, located at Via della Giustiniana 990. This exquisitely refurbished ancient fortress of medieval design is an all-suite hotel located within the boundaries of the Archaeological Park of Veio. We encourage you to check out their website at www.borgobamboccio.it.

Cocktails will be held in the “Don Ferdinando” room starting at 7:30pm, and we will then move to the “Pieter Van Laer” room at 8:30pm for a 5-course dinner and dancing.

Maurizio Massimi and his orchestra will provide music for the evening; there will be a silent auction, as well as some lovely surprises for all who attend this elegant evening. A beautiful souvenir Gala Booklet will be distributed to all attendees, as well as to our sponsors, members of the international community in Rome, and friends of AOSR throughout the world.

We encourage you and your friends to pledge a ¼ page with your name or business card. For those who are unable to attend the Ball, you may still wish to place an ad in our Booklet and show your support for the evening, and be listed among our esteemed sponsors. Pricing is as follows:

- White Level Sponsor – €100 contribution - ¼ page in Gala Booklet (business card or name only)
- Red Level Sponsor – €250 contribution - ½ page in Gala Booklet
- Gold Level Sponsor – €500 contribution - full page in Gala Booklet
- Corporate Sponsor – €1,200 contribution - full page in Gala Booklet plus reserved table and 12 invitations

For information - please contact Domenica Losani at 06-3343-8331 or Jim McDivitt at 335-843-4823

More information on where to pick up and pay for your tickets will be available in the January 2004 edition of the Falcon Flyer, or you may check the AOSR website for all updates.

*Deadline for advertisements in the Gala Booklet is Friday, January 23, 2004
Deadline for Reservations and Payment to attend the Ball is Friday, January 30, 2004*
Q: Where are you from?

I am originally from the West Coast, but I have been around. Most recently, I come from Chicago.

Q: Can you mention some of the places you’ve been to?

I went to school in Portland, spending 6 months in Budapest, Hungary. I taught for four years in Hawaii, and two of the previous summers I spent in South Africa conducting teacher development workshops.

Q: How long have you been teaching at AOSR?

This is my first year teaching at AOSR.

Q: What made you decide to teach at AOSR?

I was anxious and excited to get back into the classroom. I spent most of the previous 2 years working as an editor and writer for math textbook publishing companies, and the opportunity to teach in Italy was way too good to be true.

Q: What was your favorite subject when you were in High School? And why?

Math and Art, even though I am no good at art. Math, because I was good at it. Numbers speak to me. They make sense, I am very logical. You can't argue with them. It's not open for interpretation. Art because I like pretty pictures.

Q: When did you decide to become a Math teacher?

When I went to college, I believed I was going to be either a teacher or an engineer. I had a couple of good teachers in high school that inspired me, made learning fun. I thought that that would be a great way to spend life, hanging out with people, doing math all day. And the pay is great.

Q: What is the most difficult thing you’ve encoun-
tered in teaching math?

By the time students get to high school, too many of them have been conditioned into believing that they are no good at math. Giving students confidence in their mathematical abilities is a challenge.

Q: What do you to say to students (or the parents of students) who hate math, or who think they hate it because they find it very difficult to learn?

I say that they've been listening to the wrong people. That they're trying to take the easy way out of having to learn something useful and worthwhile. That, unfortunately, we can't all be superstars at everything. Or I'd be traveling the world in a rockin' Irish band.

Q: Do you have anything to say about the relationship between math and music and/or math and art?

Especially music, though there is definitely room for creativity and elaboration, music is very structured, very scientific. Progression of notes, chords, rhythms, they don't just happen randomly.

Personally, Music has been a big part of my life. I love listening to all kinds, I love dancing, and I like playing. In college, I took a fair amount of music courses. I enjoy art, and like to go to museums and galleries, but I don't have a very sophisticated appreciation for it.

Q: Do you call yourself an abstract thinker? Do math devotees need to be abstract thinkers?

I am an abstract thinker, but I do not think it is necessary. All shapes and sizes of people can do all sorts of things. Putting our abilities in a box like abstract thinkers and such, again is what allows people to bail out of learning math because they do not fit the model of what a math person is.

(Continued on page 18)
PRE-K NEWS

During November, the children in the Pre-Kindergarten are enjoying a variety of experiences during our Learning Center time each morning. This month, the children had the chance to:

- Visit with Gabriele’s mom to learn more about the fall season (Thank you for coming to share with us!)
- Explore using eyedroppers with colored water and wax paper
- Paint lying on their backs like Michelangelo when he painted the Sistine Chapel
- Look at what attracts magnets and what does not
- Create shapes using geoboards
- Build with Legos
- Listen to The Cat in The Hat on tape
- Work with the program Dr. Suess ABCs on the computer
- “Cook” in the “kitchen”
- Act out a show with animal puppets in our puppet theater
- Match numbers to manipulatives
- Use marbles and black paint to create “spider webs”
- Work cooperatively to put together a large alphabet floor puzzle
- Practice writing and drawing in the sand
- Build homes for dinosaurs
- Make roads with blocks for cars and trucks
- Be a customer in our hair salon
- Play “volleyball” in our classroom using balloons
- Sculpt with wooden pieces and glue. And much, much, more!

During small group time we have been focusing on a variety of themes. The three-year-olds have been talking about families. First the children brought in photos from home to share. Each child had a chance to speak about his/her family. The children have made their own “window families” and are now beginning to make their own “family tree.” The children will also learn about animal families.

The four-year-olds have just finished up their studies of “Transportation” and “Homes” and are now beginning new themes: Community Helpers and the Five Senses.

Each day the Pre-K children spend time singing together. Not only does it help us create a sense of community, but it also helps children learn a variety of skills, such as sequencing, rhyming, colors, numbers, etc. We will share many of these songs with families and friends at our upcoming concerts in December.

Upcoming Events:

- **“Pre-K Concert,” Thursday, December 11th** at 9:30 a.m. Pre-K parents are invited to the classroom to hear their children perform some of their favorite songs.
- **“Pre-K Sing Along,” Friday, December 12th** at 9:30 a.m. Kindergarten through Second Grade classes are invited to come and sing along with us as we sing many of their “old favorites”.

Kimberly Murphy
Pre-K Coordinator

Basketball Team, Math Students Sponsor Booster Bars in December

The Booster Bar continues to have a great year. There were Booster Bars in November for the Student Council and the After-School Activities Program. Lots of good food was cooked and eaten! The profits were distributed and put to good use by the volunteer groups.

In December, there will be two Booster Bars before the Winter Break. On December 5th, the Basketball team will be the sponsor. There's a home game so come root for the team and bring some spending money for a snack! On December 12th, the High School math CAS IB program will sponsor the Booster Bar. Stop by and pick up a sandwich to support a worthy program.

The PTO/Booster Bar Committee continues to look for volunteers to learn the operation of the Booster Bar and help out on Fridays. If you are interested in helping, call Sabine Neumann at 06 3326 6738 or Carol Atwood at 06 3088 9705.

Christmas in Rome
By Alessandra Giannetti
AOSR Parent

When I was a child (about 30 years ago), my grandfather, Libero, used to take me, during the Christmas holidays, to Santo Cuore Immacolato Di Maria Ai Parioli Church, in Piazza Euclide 5 (telephone number 06.8070359).

At this church, then as now, from December 19 to January 6, Santo Cuore opens their permanent, multiscene Nativity (Il Presepio) to the public.

Perhaps you and your family will find it to be as nice a place as my grandfather and I did to pass a rainy afternoon with the little ones.

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Perhaps you and your family will find it to be as nice a place as my grandfather and I did to pass a rainy afternoon with the little ones.
Fifth Grade Has A Traditional Thanksgiving — And Makes it Themselves!

The 5th Grade has been involved in many projects since the beginning of the school year.

The students have presented their projects on all aspects of the Roman Empire. The range of their knowledge is impressive: Roman baths, roads and transport, gods and temples, clothing, slaves... The list is vast. The projects were presented orally to their classmates and followed by a question and answer forum.

Research projects are currently being completed on animals and a further project on the students’ individual lifetime is underway.

To prepare for Thanksgiving we wove cloth and embroidered, imitating Native Indian designs. Traditionally, the Fifth grade has held a lavish lunch in their classroom and this year will be no different. We will spend the morning making apple sauce, egg salad, and butter in the traditional method. Our wonderful parents have generously offered to bake pies for us and roast a turkey.

The students have shown great insight and sensitivity when discussing the plight of the Pilgrims and their encounter with the Native Americans. We look forward to their wisdom and understanding as they grow towards being the leaders of tomorrow. — Mrs. Hogan, Mrs. DiCori, and Mrs. Hall

Kindergarten is Thankful — Everyday!

By Ms. Patricia Robertson

Kinders are learning about the history of the First Thanksgiving in America.

For the Wednesday before the holiday, teachers and students alike don our Pilgrim/Indian costumes, which we made, and gather to recreate the first thanksgiving.

Ms. Robertson’s class is preparing a wild fruit salad and Ms. Prisco’s class is making Indian Fritter bread.

We know a special song about Thanksgiving and are trying to be thankful EVERYDAY for the many wonderful things that surround us.

Third Grade Explores “Explora” on December 5

On December 5, the Third Grade will have a field trip to EXPLORA CHILDREN’S MUSEUM, near Piazza del Popolo, in Rome. “How to make the News” and “The Use of Publicity” are the two workshops the children will attend while visiting the museum.

In January, we are scheduling a Castel Sant’Angelo field trip. How tall was the average Roman Soldier and what did they use for toilet paper? After our field trip, you can have that answer by asking a 3rd Grader. We will send you more news later as we determine our schedule.

By the way, the Third Grade teachers went on an “advance scouting trip” and found a great place in the middle of the National Park of Abruzzo—which is incredibly beautiful in the autumn of the year. Near Civitella Alfedena, almost in the heart of the park, and close to the wolf and lynx sanctuaries, we found a great B&B at Casa de Lena. We even got to see deer walking through the garden. (For your own family’s travel notes, call 06 30895293 for bookings.) We hope to take 3rd grade next September.

— Mrs. Jane Rumsby and Ms. Susan Prideaux

From: Ketty Smith
PTO Elementary School Liaison

To: AOSR Students

On Thursday, December 18 Santa Claus will be visiting AOSR to greet all students, from 10:30 to 12:30.
Second Young People’s Concert

On November 20, the ES was offered the second "Young People's Concert." This forty-minute live-music session was a magic combination of Cello and Oboe, with AOSR’s Oscar Reale accompanying the duo on the piano. First, the 200 audience members saw how a cellist bow was constructed and then used to create the elegant Sonata of Georg Philipp Telemann, a German who wrote during the ornamental period of the Baroque.

After the piece, the cellist then explained that this style of music was written initially to accompany voice, and instruments only began to get their "star billing" after 1700. The chamber group then performed a simple French number by John Baptiste that was written for students of those instruments. And so on, the performance went with works written over the balance of the last two centuries. Each number was followed by a short lesson in musicology, until they got to Scott Joplin's, "the Entertainer," when AOSR 5th grader, Elliot Lee, joined the group on cello!

For the finale, the audience participated by singing along to "Yesterday," by the Beatles. The audience responded with the enthusiasm of victorious soccer fans.

The following journal was done as part of the 5th grade study on the early days of life in America.

My Voyage to the New World
By Ned Kelly,
5th Grade
Spring, 1620, England

Hello, my name is Matthew, and I am ten years old. My sister, Abigail, is five years old. My mother’s name is Elizabeth and my father’s name is John. We are going to the New World on the Mayflower. The captain’s name is Christopher Columbus. My father isn’t getting paid well as a blacksmith in England. That’s why we are going. But we’re also going for an adventure. To tell the truth, I like England so I do not want to leave.

As we dock the boat, we hear crying, wailing and whimpering. It wasn’t a very good day. After we left the dock, the people waving goodbye disappeared into the misty sky. My mother was the saddest because she is leaving her mother. The next day was windy, so people stayed inside. My father was working with his tools, my mother was quilting, and the kids told stories. Lunch was dried peas and water.

Luckily, today was a nice and sunny day. We saw a rat chewing on my mother’s quilt and my father killed it quickly. Lunch was better today because we could have salt pork hot. The sailors made fun of us because we were seasick. They both hated each other. Some people hated the sailors so much that once there was a fist-fight and Christopher Columbus had to stop it.

A month has passed by and the food supplies are low. Even if there is food, there is mold, and maggots in it and sometimes we find dead rats in the water barrels. In fact, kids have to drink beer because the water was so bad! I feel sick and drowsy because of the beer. Everyone in the giant room smells and had lice and fleas.

People die constantly.

People are beginning to like the sailors because they catch fish for the passengers.

Suddenly, there is a lot of commotion around the boat. We have landed in the New World! There are lots of wild life and lots of mountains. Everyone cheered loudly as we landed in the New World. But we found out that we were not the first visitors to land there....!
On Sept 12, 2002 our website (www.aosr.org) was hacked into. One of our teacher pages was altered and an obscene picture was posted. The changes were noted by a teacher the next day. The offending page was quickly blocked and reposted with the original version.

Our webmaster is an alumnus (1988) named Matthew Joseff. Together we started to find out how it was accomplished and who was responsible.

Our website is physically located in the States for a variety of reasons. Firstly, it is less expensive to set up and maintain - especially when an interested alumnus is willing to contribute his talent, time and energy to making it work.

Secondly, over a long period of time, we have found the technical infrastructure there to be more reliable. Of course, no system is immune to periodic problems, but overall our Internet presence is reliable and consistent.

Thirdly, and in this case most importantly, our website is protected by US laws that govern the illegal access and alteration of its content. This protection is further heightened by the fact that we are a school, our site is educational in content, and regularly viewed by minors. For this reason, we were able to request the help of the FBI to track down and prosecute the person(s) responsible for this intrusion.

On September 16th, we officially handed over our initial investigation information to the FBI for their assistance. We had been able to determine the manner in which the intrusion had occurred, and from which Internet provider they had gained access. With this information, and a court order for the release of the provider’s records, the FBI was able to ascertain the location of the computer used to alter our site. Within a month they had filed charges against him.

We were informed last month that the offender is now serving a six month sentence in a federal penitentiary. We have determined that this individual had no prior connection to our school and that his attack was random and not only limited to our school website.

Since this intrusion, we took steps to further secure an already protected site and we are continuing to update our security on a regular basis. As hackers are always finding more ways to penetrate secure places, our website security remains one of our primary concerns.
Holidays: Do your Best to Keep those Pounds off!
Marta Rahm, RD, and AOSR Parent
Sources: ADA (American Dietetic Association); Jessica Setnick, MS, RD

Holidays are great fun, but at times they can become stressful. Family gatherings, presents to buy at the last minute, and tons of other things to do! All those parties to go to with all that great food!

It is not surprising that Holidays are usually associated with weight gain. Most Americans believe they will gain five to seven pounds during the Holidays, but according to a recent research by the National Institute of Diabetes, Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) the gain is only an average of one pound. This weight gain is minimal, but those extra pound accumulate over time.

If you want to avoid gaining excess weight during the holidays, try to follow these simple suggestions. Now, more than ever it is important to think of your well being. That’s your gift to you!

This is not a time to “go on a diet” or make drastic changes in your lifestyle. Your goal should be to maintain your weight. If you indulge in a favorite food simply cut back on calories on other foods during the rest of the day or add a few more minutes to your usual walk or workout.

Simple ways to cut a few calories:

- Eat skinless white-meat turkey instead of dark meat.
- Include foods that are very low in calories and fat, such as a salad, steamed vegetables or a fresh fruit salad. Use lemon and herbs as dressing.
- Instead of potato chips serve pretzels or air popped corn.
- Go for the apple pie instead of pecan pie and hold the ice-cream or whipped cream.
- Hold that butter on that bread! Remember there is plenty to eat, so avoid overdoing it!
- Eat on time so that you are not starving when you are surrounded by food. (Eat a light, healthy snack before holiday parties to avoid overeating at the party.)
- Don’t skip meals, even if you have a big one coming up soon.

To help you from nibbling on extra food when at a party, do not stand near the buffet. Remember that food is certainly a major component in the joys of the holidays, but it should not be the only focus. Your family and friends are there with you in those special days; celebrate them and enjoy them!

Activities the whole family can do instead of sitting around and eating:
- Go Christmas caroling with family or friends
- Have a snow fight
- Play a game of softball, basketball, etc...
- Dance, dance and dance!

Remember that it will be harder to take care of others if you are not taking care of yourself. As much as possible maintain your regular sleep, exercise and eating patterns.

Do not count calories or weigh yourself if either of these adds to your stress. After all, you will eat more than usual at a holiday meal or party, but remind yourself that overeating occasionally does not cause instant weight gain. In fact, if you honestly listen to your hunger, you probably won’t be hungry again for quite a while, and your total food intake for the day may be the same. In all likelihood you will return to your normal eating habits the next day, and your body will normalize. Remember that 1 or 2 pounds gain are usually due to water retention after a big meal and are by no means real weight. It is impossible to gain 1 or 2 pounds in a day (or a few hours!)

Be kind to yourself! Don’t schedule so many activities that you become exhausted.
- List all the parties to which you are invited, all your errands, etc.
- Prioritize, and then cross off those that are honestly not necessary or that will only add to your stress.
- Recognize your limits and practice saying no. This includes when people offer you food. Never overeat because of pressure from others.

You might realize that most of your time is scheduled to make others happy. Determine what you enjoy most during the holidays and schedule time for it! Your happiness is very important too!

Accept the things or family members the way they are. Figure out how you can change your behavior or attitude to cope and take care of yourself.

Find the time to be spiritual in your own way, whether it is through religion, faith, meditation, giving thanks, art or your own expression of yourself.

Holidays are near! Have a wonderful time!
6th Grade Science Classes Visit the Elementary School  
by Brian Hall, MS Science Teacher  
On October 28 and 29, Mr. Hall’s 6th grade science classes made a return to the Elementary School. However, instead of being the students, this time they were the teachers! Each class put together their own presentations to teach 1st and 2nd graders about the Skeletal and Muscular Systems. This served as a fantastic way for the 6th graders to put their newly acquired knowledge to the test. It also increased the sense of community in our PreK-12 school.  
The elementary classes sat in awe and excitement as 6th graders showed them a human skeleton, a horse skull, and even some blood-cell producing bone marrow! No “bones” about it, these 6th graders are awesome!  

Eighth Grade ‘Zine Hits the Newsstands  
Mr. Hendry’s Eighth Grade Writing Workshop class will be publishing their first collection of work this month entitled “Shenanigans: Writing from the Magnificent Fifteen.” The collection of stories and vignettes is made up of students’ favorite works created throughout the first quarter. Pieces were generated in combination with our readings in English and focus on Characterization, Point of View, Setting, and Inspiration and Vocabulary use. Families and classmates will be sure to enjoy titles ranging from “Magic Night” by Christian Brown to “Operation: Monkey Smash” by Matt Smith. Ask your favorite Eighth Grade student for a copy.  

—— Mr. Kip Hendry  

Middle School Ski Trip Announced  
The Annual Middle School Ski Trip is scheduled for Ski Week, February 15-21. This year’s trip is to Alta Valtellina, in the Dolomites. More information will be sent home in January.  

“Like Walking into a Fairy Tale,” MS Trip to Poland  
Teachers Donnie Pirozzi, Anna Maria Licameli and Karen Lee, along with Taddeo Machowski, accompanied a group of twenty-four 6th, 7th and 8th graders to Poland for the Middle School Cultural Trip this year. Warsaw was the first city visited. After 4 days and 3 nights in the capital, the group traveled by bus to the city of Krakow for the remaining 3 nights. The students enjoyed the wonderful palace and sites of Willanow, Lazienki Park, the Old Town, the Jewish Ghetto and Cemetery in Warsaw. In Krakow, they visited the Old Town, climbed to the top of a cathedral and to the bottom of the Wieliczka Salt Mines. The group also saw Auschwitz and Birkenau (the concentration camps). It was a busy, emotional, thought-provoking and memorable week for everyone. And it was fun! This incredible group of well-behaved young students was eager to learn about the world around them. It was a great trip! The following are student comments about their experiences in Poland:  
“With a lot of walking and patience, we saw the major tourist monuments of both Krakow and Warsaw. None of these monuments (or places) I liked as much as the salt mines near Krakow.”  
Jim Kai Zhou, 8th Grade  
“Every day we would visit some castles. They had many beautiful portraits, tapestries, and golden walls. Sometimes it was like walking into a fairytale book!” Sophie Manente, 6th Grade  
“The trip was great. I would do it again, because it’s very cultural and you can learn a lot about that city. I even had fun with the teachers.”  
Marcella Zarelli, 7th Grade  
“What we have seen was terrible and I think all the schools around the world should organize such visits to keep in mind that nothing this bad should ever be repeated.”  
Elisa Palana, 7th Grade (on her visit to Auschwitz)  
“This was one of the best trips in my life!”  
Jillian Kneeland, 7th Grade  
“The walls in the mines were made up of salt and they were really tasty!”  
Roxana Weich, 7th Grade (on her visit to the Wieliczka Salt Mines)  
“We had to wake up at 5:30 am to catch our plane back to Rome. Overall the trip was fun and educational and I want to do it again.”  
Anna Rumpf, 6th Grade  
“Well, we all shared sadness, happiness, and all of our other emotions to each other on the trip. The whole time we were more like a family to each other rather than being just students and teachers, and I know that this trip to Poland will always be the highlight of my life!”  
Kelly Fowler, 6th Grade  
See also Katherine Berton’s “Notes From The Field” Report on Page 26.
More Middle School News

39 Students and 5 Teachers Walk Into a Tapas Bar…

On November 3, 2003 at 7:30 am, 39 middle school children and 5 middle school teachers began an adventure never to be forgotten. This cohort of students and teachers, representing over 10 different countries, set off to the Andalucia region in southern Spain. For 5 nights and 6 days these AOSR representatives were immersed in the life and culture of Spain. This whirlwind tour included the sights, sounds, and smells of Malaga, Granada, Cordoba, and Seville. A selection of quotes from both students and parents provide the best insight into this experience.

“I am glad I was able to go on this trip to Spain because I learned a lot about the religions and history of Spain. This was a very memorable experience for me because not only that I traveled to a different country, but I experienced the area of different culture.” - Brieanne Valle, 8th Grade

“The best thing that I have seen on this trip was the Alhambra. That was a beautiful palace with great gardens. This was one of the best experiences of my life and I want to thank you [teachers] for that.” - Danique Smits, 8th Grade

“It’s been good to learn from our son about King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, about bullfighting, about different architectural motifs of various houses of worship, about how many Spaniards enjoyed conversing in English with our school’s children, about shopping habits and the outstanding El Corte Ingles, about experiences ordering food in the Spanish language, and on and on. All in all, this has been a FAMILY experience for us and we’re glad our children are being exposed to all of the above at this early stages of their development. Kudos for a job well done.” - Parents of Garen Der-Khachadourian, 8th Grade

“The trip was a synonym for fun.” - Itzik Itzhaki, 8th Grade

“Now I feel it’s good to learn about different cultures of people. I learned also that the people are the same — just with different ideas on how to live their life!” - Randy Garcia, 8th Grade

“This trip made me more independent.” - Matteo Gonzalez, 8th Grade

“I think this exchange in cultural diversity affected my life in many ways. In Spain I had learned so much about the Moors, the Catholics, and the whole history of Spain. I saw how the peoples’ daily lives in Spain are similar and different to ours. I had an unimaginable amount of fun on this trip.” - Mohamed Mattar, 8th Grade

“I appreciate your school in giving my son a chance to learn other cultures. The program is a great one and I hope it doesn’t stop after 8th grade. If more students from different schools did this, I am sure people would have a much better understanding of different cultures.” - Parent of Randy Garcia, 8th Grade

“In Spain there is cultural exchange because they take all the different traditions and share and celebrate them together.” - Aaron Dungca, 8th Grade

“It was really fun. I enjoyed the Alhambra, the Flamenco show, and the bullfighting ring the most. I learned a lot, saw a lot, tasted a lot, bought a lot, and enjoyed a lot!” - Caroline van Der Does, 8th Grade

“The Flamenco was a culture that I’ve never seen before and now that I’ve seen it, I really started to get an idea about how I can spend my time socializing, and it changed part of my life.” - Jiayi Wang, 8th Grade

“At first I was scared to go to Spain…but I was a little sad to come home because I wanted to stay! Thank you [teachers], I had a lot of fun.” - Romy Ben-Hur, 6th Grade

Contributed by Brian Hall, Middle School Teacher
(Photos from the Spain Trip can be seen on the website: aosr.org)

Library News
By Nan Miller

New Books: A big Thank You to the PTO for their generous support to the library. With the thousand euros donated from the PTO this year, many new and exciting books have been put out on the shelves. Check the new book table for featured titles.

Raffle: In October the library held a raffle for its collection of past Rolling Stone, ESPN and Seventeen magazines. Congratulations to winners Kip Hendry, Jillian Kneeland, and Cindy Munisteri, and enjoy your magazines!

Multi-lingual: The library has magazines in Spanish, French as well as Italian and English.

Suggestions: Ideas for books, videos and DVD’s for the library to order are welcome, and a suggestion box is to the left of the front desk. We’ll see you in the library!

(Q: What do you like to do in Rome on your free time?)

I am totally in awe of this ancient-meets-modern environment. I have coffee with the Pantheon on my back. I imagine the sounds of chariots in the Forum in the midst of busy traffic and clicking cameras. I have a gelato in a beautifully lit up St. Peter’s piazza. The romance in this city overwhelms me, and I love to just walk around, soak it in.

(Continued from page 11) Talking — Michael Vogel….
**More Middle School News**

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**Holiday Brunch**

The MS Holiday Brunch and gift exchange is scheduled for Thursday, December 17, at 9:30AM in the dining area. Our generous STUCO will sponsor this special event. The festive middlers will feast on eggs, sausage, toast, pancakes and other delicious breakfast treats. As always, Mr. Mancini will keep everyone in suspense with his Bingo calling. What a great way for the entire Middle School to be together and celebrate!

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**Winter Dance**

The annual MS Winter Dance is scheduled for Friday, December 12, from 7 to 10:30 PM. The cost of this event is 8 euro. The Art Department is joyously preparing the holiday decorations so that the cafeteria can be transformed into a winter wonderland. Our DJ, Maurizio Sponsale, will be burning the holiday CD’s and setting up the karaoke for this fun-filled evening. As always, our enthusiastic, hardworking STUCO members will serve beverages, snacks and pizza. Don’t forget to check those bookbags for the permission forms. They will be sent home a week prior to the event.

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**Bullshot Crummond!**

**Students comment on this Middle School production, heavily armed with laughs**

“Director Kip Hendry showed his talent for playmaking in this goofy and mysterious comedy. The music, sound effects and scenery were very well done and I recommend this script to any director in need of fans. Two thumbs up!” **Matthew Smith, 8th Grade**

“The play was a big success. I’m pretty sure everyone who watched it loved it. The actors really played their parts well. The whole play was a bunch of laughs…I thought that the funniest part was the gunfight in the end when everyone, including Mr. Hendry, got shot.” **Garen Der-Khachadourian, 8th Grade**

“I thought it was extremely funny, especially the part at the restaurant when Bullshot is always thinking he is being overheard.” **Mohamed Mattar, 8th Grade**

“They did a very good job backstage… Bullshot Crummond, played by James Freeman in the seventh grade, was a very interesting character. No matter how stupid he was or his stupid explanations for everything, he was still the top agent in England.” **Freddy Alejandro, 8th Grade**
Declarations 2003
The 2003 annual Declarations oratory competition took place in an all-HS Assembly on November 18. “Courage – in All it Forms” was this year’s theme. The following Juniors were selected to present their five minute performances, of published works, unaided with visual effects, costumes, or even hand gestures. This year’s program was judged by teachers Alessandra Telmon, Jonas Ullman, and last year’s Declarations award-winners, Hannah Ceen, Ian Haight, and Trilly Gregg.

Declamations have been a tradition at our school for over 30 years. Impressive…and it will continue forever!

Students who have experienced the butterflies in their stomach at the prospect of reciting five minutes of poetry or prose, in front of the whole high school know what Declamations mean. Students and alumni come back year after year asking if the tradition is being continued.

Overall, Declarations is viewed positively by the Juniors. “It’s a really good opportunity for those who want to practice oratory,” says one Junior. There are a few complaints, however: “It’s fine if you really enjoy the piece you are declaiming, otherwise, it’s a burden,” and “It would be better if the theme were not imposed on our choices….”

This year’s theme is Courage, so you better have a lot of it when you get up on the stage!

**Excerpted from the first edition of AOSR’s student newspaper, “The Bird’s Eye View,” published November 11, 2003**

“Declamations 2003”

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Battle of the Bands  
By Ry Finerty, 12th Grade

On the cold, nippy night of November 14th, at the dungeon-like St. Georges, many witnessed a combat so intense, so deep and passionate, that they at times had to step outside to stem the sonic onslaught. Others felt such power coursing through veins that they felt compelled to jump into others in spasm of bliss. Some were just content to stand by the sides and view the struggle from afar.

Of course, I am speaking of the Battle of the Bands. This contest, organized in affiliation with the other Cassia schools (The New School, St. Steven’s, St. Georges’ and Marymount), was originally intended to bring a fun-filled night of entertainment to any who wished to pay the €3 entrance fee. But it ended up being much more than that.

Three of the eight groups performing were from right here at AOSR. The first group (and first on stage) was a rapping duo, Danai Giwa and Sam Kunin, accompanied by Victor Okonkwo as that lovable old-school Nigerian breakdancing on the ground in front of the mic’s (they didn’t have a stage). Sadly, the judge did not fully appreciate their act. The other AOSR groups were both progressive rock groups. First there was CottonEar. Need I say more? They first played Creep by Radiohead, and they were such good musicians that I swore they were singing over a tape. The smooth, sultry tones of Daniel Piscina, combined with the guitar of Nathan Rice, with Dustin Piscina on drums, and a Carl from St. Georges on bass gave a spectacular performance. The girls in the front row apparently agreed with me.

The last good group, not counting Steel Cross (don’t get me started) was a band that has a bit of history at AOSR. NURSE has been around for a while now, and it contains some of the best musical talents at our school (and some that aren’t here anymore). Jacques Barbot is on vocals and lead guitar, Philip Brillo on is on rhythm, Manuel Xueref is on rhythm, and newcomer Tim Fro-boy is on drums. There was a special (but unsurprising) guest appearance by Giulio Caperchi. And the rumors you heard about Giulio running around naked? He did consider it. NURSE blasted it loud, and it was good. Really good. They played Song 2 by Blur, and it was also a very authentic performance. I thought the judges bagged on ‘em a bit too hard. I heard one of the smartass judges playing drums after the show, and guess what? He’s pretty lame. Perhaps he’s compensating for something…

All in all, it was a great night. I had a great time. There was good music (at least on our part), and snacks. Yeah, the snacks were cool. In the end CottonEar took home first place (which was a €60 coupon for CD’s). NURSE came in a close second place, and received a nice box of chocolate. I spoke with Jacques afterwards about what he did with the chocolate, and he said; “Well, Ry, it’s funny you mention that. I have always been under the impression that the music has been for the fans more than the musicians. I felt not only good, but also obligated to gratefully distribute out the chocolates to our fans. I feel it is the least I can do for the overwhelming support our fans have given us these past years. It’s all about the fans, Ry. The fans.”

Okay, maybe he didn’t phrase it quite like that, but you get the idea.
MESSAGE TO EVERY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT AT AOSR:

THE FIRST SEMESTER ENDS THE WEEK OF JANUARY 19TH. YOUR GRADES IN YOUR COURSES ARE VERY IMPORTANT IN THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS. A SOLID GRADE POINT AVERAGE GIVES STUDENTS MANY OPTIONS. YES, SENIORS, SEMESTER GRADES ARE SENT TO COLLEGES!

FINANCIAL AID: All students applying for financial aid must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), but do NOT send FAFSA before January 1, 2004. Completing this form as soon as possible after this date is critical. The U.S. Department of Education urges students to make use of their electronic information and services by using the internet to complete the FAFSA instead of filling out a paper form. www.fafsa.ed.gov

PROFILE: Some private colleges, but not all, also require the PROFILE. This is sent to the College Service (CSC), which is the financial aid division of The College Board. PROFILE provides, in one comprehensive packet, the forms and questions that must be completed to apply for private financial aid at each of the schools that use PROFILE service. FAFSA and PROFILE are available in my office in December.

Try the INTERNET ADDRESSES printed in last month’s “Falcon Flyer” to search for more scholarships and financial aid information.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS: Many colleges/universities offer scholarships. Students should investigate possibilities at all schools they apply to. Requirements and procedures vary, so students must investigate each college. Call me if you have questions.

The following colleges/universities will be visiting AOSR. Students in 11th and 12th grades are invited to attend these sessions. If missing a class, students must obtain permission from their teacher 24 hours in advance. Parents are welcome to attend. Twenty-one colleges have visited AOSR this autumn. It is an excellent opportunity for students and parents. Please take advantage of talking to these representatives first-hand.

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On November 11th, twenty AOSR juniors and seniors attended the College Fair at St. Stephen’s. This is an annual event and the location rotates among AOSR, Marymount, and St. Stephens. Students were able to ask pertinent questions and gather information directly from the nineteen college/university representatives.

JUNIORS: PLEASE PUT THE FOLLOWING DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE SPRING COLLEGE FAIR:

MONDAY, MAY 10, 2004

This Fair will be held at AOSR. We anticipate 30 colleges/universities participating.

WISHING THE AOSR COMMUNITY A PLEASANT WINTER BREAK.

AOSR Coaches take CPR/First Aid Course

The AOSR Coaches will take a Community CPR/First Aid course during the first week of December. Carlyn Zaniboni (MS/HS Physical Education/Health) and Dianne Cullen-Moore (School Nurse) will be teaching the course to our AOSR coaches in order to review techniques and introduce current methods/changes.

Future courses are being planned for staff and students, making strides towards a safer and more healthy community....
### Sports Briefs

With Doug Kneeland

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**Faculty/Student Basketball Game**

*By Stephanie N. Bittner, Grade 10 VB Team Manager*

The faculty basketball team played the AOSR Boys’ Varsity basketball team on Wednesday, November 19, at 5:30 PM. The “quite athletic” teachers included Mr. Vogel, Mr. Foley, Mr. Branch, Mr. Hall, Mr. Werberger, Mr. Miller, and Mr. Hendry, along with Alex, the parent of a 2nd grader.

It was a very intense game in which both teams played well, although all of the high school boys are ready to say that they could have played better. Nick Stoll, Ian Haight, and Ryan Panzarella scored 3 pointers, as well as Alex and Mr. Miller. The usually mellow, happy, brilliant teacher, Mr. Miller, seemed to change on the court into a very competitive athlete.

Jumping and defending with skill and height, the teachers played a tough and exciting game. It was a good way for our boys’ basketball team to get some training.

The game concluded with the teachers winning 91 to 62 points.

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**Middle School 3 on 3 Basketball**

In America, the annual NCAA basketball tournament is known as March Madness. In Rome, March Madness is the annual Middle School 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament.

Starting the week after the winter break, every Saturday morning and boys in the 6th-8th grades play half-court basketball games in the AOSR gym. Co-ed teams are formed with up to six players on a team. Students from other schools are also welcome to play. Check the Spring After-School Activities Program for information about how to sign up.

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**AOSR Opens ITS SPORTS FACILITIES TO ADULT PLAY**

The adult sports events available at school this year are:

- **Monday** at 19.00 volleyball.
- **Tuesday** at 15.30 soccer.
- **Tuesday** at 19.00 basketball.

No charge, no sign-up, just please bring your parent ID to show at the front gate.

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**Summer Basketball Camp is in its Fifth Year!**

The Basketball Camp, which debuted in June, 2000, will take place from Saturday, June 12th to Thursday 17th at the American Overseas School of Rome. This is a golden opportunity for boys and girls from 9 to 17 years, or 4th grade to 12th grade to take their Basketball game to the next level. Participants spend 5 days and 1 overnight with us, learning, playing, breathing and eating basketball. Wednesday night is Midnight madness.

This camp offers total Basketball immersion. Expect quality first rate Basketball instruction with a personal touch. Each participant will receive a camp T-shirt, training handbook and an individual evaluation.

AOSR Facilities include one indoor Basketball gym and two outdoor mini-basketball courts. Audio/visual feedback will also be part of the package.

Come test your skills in a spirit of friendship that only sport can create. Set your goal high and reach them. Be surprised how far you can go and grow as an athlete! Camp costs are 200 Euro per participant, which also includes lunch and the Camp barbeque on Wednesday night. For more information please call 06.3343.8320 or visit [www.aosr.org](http://www.aosr.org) to download all forms.

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**FALL/WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULES**

**BASKETBALL** (Practices started November 11)

12/5-6 vs. Aviano *at Home*
12/12-13 vs. Vicenza *at Vicenza*
1/9-10 vs. Marymount *at Home*
1/16-17 vs. Naples *at Naples*
1/23-24 vs. Signonella *at Signonella*
2/6-7 vs. Milan *at Home*
2/12-14 Mediterranean Championships *at Aviano*
2/19-21 European Championships TBD

**WRESTLING** (Practices start after November 10)

12/13 vs. Aviano, Signonella, Vicenza and Naples *at Naples*
1/17 vs. Aviano, Signonella, Vicenza and Naples *at Home*
1/24 vs. Aviano, Signonella, Vicenza and Naples *at Vicenza*
1/31 vs. Aviano, Signonella, Vicenza and Naples *at Aviano*
2/7 Mediterranean Championships *at Naples*
2/13-14 European Championships TBD
On Tuesday, October 28, Ms. Harris’ Ancient History class visited the Third Grade to present their knowledge of the Greek Gods and Mythology. Each HS student was to bring three facts about the god they had chosen and tell the third Graders, so that they could guess who the mystery god was.

As the Freshmen collected information about their gods, some rather alarming details came up about these divinities, which (thankfully) were censured from the presentation.

Each presenter was also to have a picture or drawing of their god. When someone produced a drawing, there would be a sharp intake of breath from the audience at the sight of the masterpiece (which had probably been drawn hurriedly on the bus on the way to school).

The Third Graders were an excellent audience. They were very enthusiastic and excited as they immediately, at the first piece of information, guessed the correct identity of the mystery god and kept the information to themselves, in the form of whispering it loudly to their friends across the room.

The 9th graders enjoyed the flattery they received, as well as the “happy face” pencils which they were very, very happy about, a gift from Ms. Prideaux.

Going back to the Mrs. Rumsby and Mrs. Prideaux’s Third Graders to ask them what they thought of the presentations, we received notes saying things like: “I liked the quiz because it was from High School and I never had a quiz from High School,” and “We got candy and got to learn about the Gods and Goddesses.” The Third Graders enjoyed learning things from the Ninth Graders, who were quite a show, but more, specifically, they really enjoyed the candy and chocolate they received for putting up with them!
The November Trip To Poland
By Katherine Berton, 6th Grade

What happens when you send 25 kids to a foreign country? Do they goof off? Do they embarrass the school? No, they don’t. They make a good impression for AOSR. That’s right, I went to Poland, so I know.

Poland was fun, entertaining, and educational. You wouldn’t even know you were learning, because you were having too much fun. We went to many castles, each one more interesting than the next. Lazienki Park was one of them. It started out as a bathhouse and eventually made its way up. Another one was Wilanow Palace. It was King Jon Sobieski’s summer house. The Royal Castle was home to King August.

We also went to the Jewish Ghetto and Cemetery. The Ghetto is where Jews were forced to live after the Nazis invaded Poland during World War II. The Ghetto has a large monument dedicated to the people that lived and died there. There were candles and flowers in front of it, and pictures of people. The whole square surrounding the monument and some other nearby streets made up the Ghetto. It was a crowded and difficult place to live. To escape, Jews would sometimes use the sewers.

The cemetery was near the Ghetto. It was very large, and the outer wall was made of broken tombstones. The number of bodies in the cemetery is immense -- 10,000 people. Believe it or not, after all the Jewish killings, the majority of the people in the cemetery were Poles. That’s because Jews were more likely to die in a concentration camp.

Auschwitz-Birkenau, the main concentration camp of the Nazis, was set up into three parts. Auschwitz was where the Jews would first arrive. They would be judged by German Generals to see if they were fit for work. If they were not, then they would be sent straight off to the gas chambers. Other people worked during the day and slept at night, and got hardly anything to eat.

The salt mines were the best part of the trip. Some of them went as deep as 350 meters, and other parts of the caves went down only 180 meters. The walls, floor, and ceiling were all made of salt. There were also man-made tunnels. The ceilings were very high, and there were stalactites all over. There were even chapels down there. All the statues, stairs, and even chandeliers were made of salt. There were mechanical figures showing how the miners brought up the salt and what they were like. The Salt mines were very important because there was a special chamber that was filled with pure air and was said to have the ability to cure asthma and other lung problems. They were also important because the Poles had never heard of salt before the Hungarians sold part of those mines to them. They also provided a water storage area in the time of drought.

I hope this brief summary of Poland has persuaded you to go some time. If you do, I think you’ll like it.

A Mythological Odyssey: The Middle School Travels to Greece
By Jennifer Flaherty, MS and HS English Teacher.

On Monday, November 3rd, a delegation of middle schoolers left Italy for a five-day odyssey to Greece accompanied by Mrs. Santangelo, Mrs. Pestili, Mr. Juran, and Ms. Flaherty. After practicing their Greek on the airplane and settling into the hotel, the AOSR ambassadors went on a walking tour of Athens, complete with a stop at a Greek bakery and a stroll in the Plaka, the historical center of Athens and a trip to the Acropolis, where the students saw the Parthenon, and a bus tour of the city, which included a glimpse of the stadium used in the first modern Olympic games (currently under renovations for the 2004 games in Athens).

For a day of theater and myth, the students set out the next day for the Argolis region. There they performed a three-part production of the Libation Bearers, an ancient drama by Aeschylus, which took place at Agamemnon’s tomb, the palace of Mycenae, and the great theater at Epidaurus. Our actors and actresses tested the excellent acoustics of the theater by climbing to the very highest row, where they were still able to hear a coin drop, a newspaper rip, and their friends reading stories on the stage.

“At the theater at Epidaurus, the students actually performed a modified version of a play that the AOSR AP-IB English 12th graders studied this past quarter during their unit on Ancient Greece,” said Ms. Flaherty, one of the trip chaperones. “It was especially interesting for me to hear what students of a variety of ages had to say about the same characters and stories.”

A more lengthy journey was in store for the wanderers the next day, when they traveled to Delphi to see the ancient site of the Temple of Apollo. Like the many ancient pilgrims who came to the city to learn their futures, our travelers climbed the hill to see the temples, the theater known for its music festivals, and the stadium where Greek athletes once competed.

On the final evening of the trip, a few of our aspiring performers chose to watch (and participate in) an evening of Greek dancing and music at a small theater in the Plaka. There was just enough time the following day to see the Temple of Poseidon overlooking the Aegean Sea before catching the plane to return home.

This was the Middle School’s first excursion to Greece, and it was an exciting cultural adventure. Along the way, the students sampled many delicious Greek dishes, including souvlaki, moussaka, and the traditional yogurt with honey, and they heard many stories and myths, such as the stories of Pentheus, Medea, Tantalus, Odysseus, and Perseus.
Rome’s Middle School students took advantage of the wonders of our home city of Rome. Along with Mr. Kip Hendry and Ms. Michelle Falcinelli, students toured the Colosseum, the Forum and Campidoglio, rediscovering the familiar as they researched the history of Roman culture, myth and architecture. Students researched sights and presented their information to the rest of the group, effectively making ourselves our own tour guides. We had a great time enjoying a sunny fall day and learning about our marvelous home town.

Art Class Visit “Metafisica” Exhibition

An interesting and important art exhibit continues in Rome until January 6. "Metafisica" is on display at the Scuderie del Quirinale and has 114 works by European artists and sculptors done between 1912 and 1919. These culturally important works, with their interpretations of mythology and classical themes, include some never before seen in Italy. Among those whose works are displayed are De Chirico, Picasso, Miro, Ernst, Magritte, Dali, De Kooning, Brancusi and Giacometti. This collection was assembled by the "star" curator of Italy, Ester Coen, from public and private collections all over the world: MoMa, Solomen Guggenheim (NY), Peggy Guggenheim (Venice), the Tate Modern (London), Pompedou (Paris), Kunsthaus (Zurich), and the contemporary museums in Osaka and Tehran.

The Scuderie is a wonderful building. It was built in the 1700's on top of the Roman temple of Serapide, which is still partially visible. Its semi-elliptical staircases and ornate ballestrade alone are worth the price of admission. Until 1938, the Scuderie (Stables) housed the carriages and horses of those that inhabited the Quirinal Palace, and the Quirinal Palace has housed, at various times in Rome's history, the Pope, the King, and now, the Prime Minister (currently Berlusconi). The piazza between the Palace and the Scuderia has the giant statues of Castor and Pollux (the "Gemini" of astrological fame) and a 4,000 year old Egyptian obelisk.

On December 12, Mrs. Dunn's HS art class will visit "Metafisica." They may also visit the (contested!) masterpiece of Leonard da Vinci "La Madonna Litta" which is now on exhibit at the Quirinal Palace from the Hermitage Museum (St. Peterberg, Russia), until December 15.
Do you hear what I hear? Yes, I think it is the jingling of little bells telling us that the holidays are fast approaching. As the year draws to an end, we ourselves draw closer to the excitement of the holiday festivities. It is also a time when we start thinking of all those great meals of the past and great meals we are planning to share with family and friends this season. We are willing to put a little more effort into our holiday meals because we want them to be memorable. So, whether your family is flying back home to be with friends and family, traveling some place new or staying home here in Rome, here are a few recipes that can be used all year round or for that special holiday meal.

This first recipe was contributed by my good friend and AOSR parent, Barbara Musselman (mom to Marissa and Jordan). I cooked this recipe and my family loved it. I know yours will too. Thanks Barbara!

Marjon’s Dutch Pot Roast
Beef Roast (size and rump roast or pot roast variety)
Mustard
Small onion
Large apple
1 Bottle of beer
1 Bay leaf
3 or 4 whole cloves
Knorr Bouillion (or any kind you like-cube or envelope)
1 cup water
3 to 4 Tbls butter
Salt and pepper

1) Cover the beef on all sides in mustard, salt and pepper.
2) Brown on all sides in butter.
3) Add chopped onion and apple to pan and cook for several minutes over medium heat.
4) Add the beer and cook briskly for a few minutes, then add the bay leaf, cloves, and a bit of water.
5) Let this cook as long as you can at a simmer.
6) At some point add the bouillion (if you want a thicker sauce instead of au jus, add flour or some other thickener).

Enjoy! This next recipe was contributed by the lovely Julie Deptula, another AOSR parent. I overheard one of her guests raving about how good this meal is, and being ever so mindful of this column, I begged Julie to send it to me so we could put it in this issue. It looks fantastic and I am planning on making it for my husband’s upcoming birthday dinner. So, thank you to Julie for sharing, and I hope you all enjoy this one too.

Roasted Veal Chops with Shallots, Tomatoes, and Olive Jus
Mince garlic and mash with salt. In a small bowl stir together garlic paste, rosemary, thyme, pepper, and 3 tablespoons oil. Pat veal chops dry. Reserve 1 tablespoon herb mixture for sauce and rub remainder evenly onto chops. All this can be done up to one day ahead of time as long as the chops are covered and chilled. Also cover and chill the reserved herb mixture.

Preheat oven to 425 F.

Quarter shallots and tomatoes lengthwise, and toss in a bowl with 1 tablespoon oil and sugar. Salt and pepper to taste. Arrange tomatoes, cut side up, in one layer in a shallow baking pan with shallots. Roast in upper third of oven for 20 minutes. Halve and pit olives.

While vegetables are roasting, heat remaining tablespoon of oil in a 12-inch, non-stick skillet over moderately high heat until hot (but not smoking), and sear chops in batches until golden brown, about 3 minutes on each side. Transfer seared chops to another shallow baking pan (do not wash skillet).

Reduce oven temperature to 375 F. Transfer shallots and tomatoes to lower third of oven and put chops in upper third of oven. Roast vegetables until tender and caramelized, about 20 minutes. Reheat chops until an instant read thermometer inserted horizontally into chops registers 160 F (medium, about 20 to 25 minutes). While chops and vegetables are roasting, pour wine into skillet with reserved herb mixture and boil, scraping up brown bits. Boil mixture until reduced to about 1/4 cup, about 5 minutes. Add broth and boil mixture until reduced to about 3/4 cup, about another 5 minutes.

When chops are cooked, pour any meat juices from baking pan into wine mixture and bring jus to a boil. Cut butter into pieces and add with olives to jus. Swirl skillet to incorporate butter and oil until jus is slightly thickened. Season jus with salt and pepper.

Serve chops over polenta with shallots and tomatoes, drizzled with olive jus. Serves 6.

And finally...have you ever tasted real, homemade eggnog? I always enjoyed the nog that comes right out of the cardboard container until a few years back when a neighbor gave me some of the home made stuff. After that, I’ve looked forward to it every year. It is sooo good, so give it a try. After all, this is the time of year to really indulge, with those New Year resolutions right around the corner. Have a happy and safe holiday season and we will see you in the New Year.

Holiday Egg Nog - Bon Appetit, December 1998
4 1/2 cups whipping cream
4 1/2 cups half & half (half milk/half cream)
18 large egg yolks
1 1/2 cups sugar
2 1/4 ground tsp nutmeg
1 cup bourbon
1/3 cup dark rum

Bring cream and half & half to simmer in a large pot. Whisk yolks and sugar in a large bowl. Gradually whisk in half of the hot cream mixture. Stir over medium-low heat until custard thickens and leaves path on the back of the spoon when finger is drawn across it (about 5 minutes -- do not boil!). Strain into bowl. Stir in 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg. Cool slightly and chill. This recipe can be made one day ahead. Mix in bourbon and rum to taste. Sprinkle with nutmeg when serving.
Ms. Rabin's 10th grade English class developed poems, based on a childhood experience. The assignment was conceptual, but these 15- and 16-year olds needed to demonstrate an authentic, childlike point-of-views. The following poem is autobiographical.

A Boy’s Story in Africa
by Ides Van de Does

To the market I went holding Mother's hand as I went looking at everything with big eyes of wonder I took my plastic sword and hit a dead cow's head

It was a huge monster, the old dead cow's head i swished and slashed at the old cow's dead head
I stabbed and poked at the monstrous cow’s head Then with a mighty slash I smashed it, the old cow's head
Then the horror came to me as I was covered The water of the old cow's dead head
I looked around at the faces The faces of the Africans, oh so many!
My heroic fight was now abandoned the faces now stared.

I ran for my life, to the right, the safety The warm comforting hand I ran to the right, many brown faces stared at the boy covered in the old cow’s blood.

I hid from it in fear now. The monster and the men had driven me away from victory and glory, but it was gone now all of it, As the next monster stood before me...

To suffer woes which Hope thinks infinite;
To forgive wrongs darker than death or night;
To defy Power, which seems omnipotent;
To love, and bear; to hope till Hope creates
From its own wreck the thing it contemplates;
Neither to change, nor falter, nor falter, nor repent;
This like thy glory, Titan, is to be
Good, great and joyous, beautiful and free;
This is alone Life, Joy, Empire, and Victory
Beauty is truth, truth beauty,-that is all
Ye know on earth, and all ye need to know.

“Ode on a Grecian Urn” John Keats
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- **School Resumes**
- **Basketball at AOSR (vs. Marymount)**
- **9:00 PTO Meeting**
- **9:15 PPAC Meeting, 3rd Grade Assembly**
- **MS/HS 1st Semester Final Exams**
- **9:30 PTO Boutique**
- **Wrestling at AOSR**
- **Wrestling at Vicenza**
- **Model UN Trip to The Hague**

**January 2004**

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**December 2003**

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