Welcome to the 2008-2009 School Year
Dr. Beth Pfannl, Head of School

It’s my distinct pleasure to welcome you to the new school year. Hopefully, all of you have had a restful and enjoyable summer and are looking forward to an exciting year full of solid learning and new experiences and discoveries. Here are a few things you can anticipate:

At AOSR, we now adopt a special theme to guide our efforts for each upcoming year, and this year’s very thought-provoking theme is “A Global Perspective”. As part of this theme we will be placing special emphasis on an awareness of sustainable environmental practices to ensure the health of our planet. The entire AOSR community will work together to explore and implement sound practices in areas such as energy conservation, recycling, and many, many more. We are enthused by all the possibilities.

There is a fresh and wonderful selection of student artwork in the new 2008-2009 school calendar - please make sure you pick one up. Also, note that this year we have three separate Student/Parent Handbooks that give you all the valuable information you’ll need for Elementary, Middle School and High School.

We are extremely enthusiastic about the arrival of two new and experienced principals to our school, Mr. Tom Connolly, as Secondary Principal and Dr. George Grunfeld as Elementary Principal. Both have been...
Welcome to the 2008-2009 School Year, (continued)

busy since the beginning of July preparing for the new school year. We are also very excited to welcome 13 new teachers who have joined our faculty. You will also notice a new face in the Villa reception area, Ms. Zoe Hili, an AOSR graduate of 2002 who joined us this summer. You’ll learn more about these new members of our community as you read on.

While many of us were enjoying our summer vacations, others were busy with numerous upgrades and improvements around the campus:

- We have a new state-of-the-art High School chemistry lab, thanks to the very generous donation of one of our families.
- Jonas Ullman’s science lab in the Villa was renovated with the refurbished HS lab tables and looks great!
- New offices for our nurse and school counselor have been constructed in a modular unit (coined “Cube Two”) next to the elementary art classroom near the tennis courts.
- Dr. Grunfeld moved into a newly refurbished Elementary Principal’s Office, formerly the nurse’s office.
- A new elementary faculty bathroom, fully accessible, has been added between the elementary bathrooms by the ES library.
- We have a brand new gym roof.
- Summer painting and maintenance projects were all on schedule.
- Attractive new Pre-K lunch tables in the cafeteria, thanks to a donation from a parent of a former student.
- With another significant donation from several Board members and families we now have all new furniture in the Villa conference room.
- The entire network switching system was replaced and upgraded to improve network speed and connectivity.
- All computers on campus were re-installed to current software standards, including the newest version of the Adobe Design Suite Premium.

AP and IB Results:
Seventy four students were involved in the May 2008 examination session. Twenty six students sat for IB diplomas or certificates and forty eight students took at least one AP exam. Results are now published and all IB diploma candidates obtained their diplomas. This is a 100% success rate versus the 82% worldwide statistics for students to obtain their diploma in the first seating. We offered 15 different AP exams. We were very successful in placing students from the Class of 2008 in excellent universities in the US, the UK and throughout the world.

Professional Development:
Numerous faculty members attended workshops, conferences, courses, etc. over the summer months including the following:

- Dr. Pfannl: Academy for International School Heads Summer Institute, July, Boston, MA
- Mr. Eric Vacchio: HS Chemistry, IB Chemistry Workshop sponsored by the IBNA at Ontario College, Toronto
- Ms. Alina Bocci: MS/HS Spanish, AP Spanish Workshop, AATSP Annual Conference in San José, Costa Rica
- Alessandra Telmon: HS Social Sciences, AP Psychology workshop sponsored by the College Board at Fordham University in New York City.
- Geoffrey Hinman: HS Social Sciences, AP Comparative Government and Politics sponsored by the College Board at Taft University in Connecticut
How long have you been in education?
30 years

Before becoming a principal, have you ever held other positions in the field? If yes, what and where?
I started teaching in Wisconsin at a private high school, then accepted a teaching assignment at the American International School in Vienna where I taught Ancient History to Modern History (including AP History), Religion, Photography, and Model United Nations (for grades 9-12) for 16 years. After receiving my Masters in Administration and Supervision, I accepted a position as assistant principal at the American International School in Kuwait for 2 years. This was for grades 7 to 12. Following this, I was the Upper School Principal at the Escola Americana do Rio de Janeiro in Brazil for 9 years. Prior to coming to Rome, I was the Head of Secondary School for grades 6 to 12 in Munich. All of these schools also offered the IB Diploma.

What made you decide to pursue a career in education?
I come from a family of teachers. My grandmother completed 8th grade and taught grade 5 for many years in the early 1900’s. My mother taught nursing for 10 years while my aunt was an English teacher and elementary principal for 30 years. My sister taught home economics education and my cousin taught elementary school while one niece is a chemistry teacher and another is currently home-schooling her own children since she is a certified teacher. When I was younger, the idea of having summers free to travel was very appealing and I dreamed of visiting Europe after college. I lived with lawyers for a brief stint after college and that convinced me to change my goal of being a lawyer to doing something more humanitarian.

What are your goals for your first year at AOSR?
My primary goals include the following:
1. Help guide the students in Grades 6 to 12 to make the best choices they can.
2. Provide support where it is needed in order for the faculty to continue to offer quality education for our students.
3. Work cooperatively with the administrative team to provide the leadership needed to raise the academic standards to its full potential at AOSR.
4. Communicate with the parents to inform them of our academic program and invite them to participate in events on campus. Expose my family to the wonderful culture of Rome and Italy and take advantage of the many adventures that are available.

What would a successful school look like? Cite two or three examples of how to measure success at a school.
The definition of a successful school depends on several key factors. Many in the general public believe that a private school is successful only if it is hard to get accepted. Schools with the luxury of only accepting students with a grade point average of 3.0 and better and who also can weed out those students who do not perform at a high level can maintain high standards and their graduates will get accepted into elite universities.
Another measure of success can be to compare the test results from such external assessments as the ERB’s, SAT’s, AP and IB exams. The data can be used to not only compare one student to another but also one school to another. Another measure of success would be in the form of athletic competition by team scores and victories versus losses and defeats. On a lesser scale, students also “compete” at music festivals, Model United Nations conferences, and art

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exhibits and displays. The caliber of students and professional skills of teachers usually plays a significant role in a school’s success rate.

A school that is not just interested in the results of academic and athletic prowess for its graduating class but looks at the entire school (Pre-K to 12) also judges its success in such terms as student morale, character and leadership abilities. It is extremely hard to judge whether or not a student is “nice” and “polite” and the boys are “gentlemen” and the girls are “ladies”, but along with scholastic and athletic achievement, these qualities separate the great schools from just the good schools. When schools look forward to competing with AOSR because they enjoy the company of our students whether it is on or off the field, this is a compliment to the student body. When visiting accreditation teams assess the school’s curriculum and note that students from AOSR are better behaved and friendlier than any other school they have evaluated, this reflects on solid character development from both the faculty and the family. Each year during new student orientation, around twenty veteran students volunteer to help greet new students and make them feel welcome to AOSR and smooth out the transition of moving to a new school. This is a striking example of leadership and initiative that is selfless and commendable.

Judging the success rate of a school should also include such questions as how much have students become independent thinkers, are students consistently making the right choices and is everyone doing their best?

What are the challenges you expect to face at an international school and how are you prepared to handle them?

Twenty nine of my thirty years in education have been in international schools. To some degree, international schools have similar academic issues regarding host country prerequisites that impact on the graduation requirements and entrance into universities. They also have similar problems in dealing with student needs as non-native English learners. Each school also has situations that are unique to that school and I am looking forward to using my experiences from working in 6 different schools/countries to tackle the issues that face us living in Rome. The good news is that solutions have always been found.

This year is the first time, at least in the past 5 years, that we will have a principal for the ES and a principal for the MS/HS. How would you ensure that there is still a link among the three schools? How would the work that you do be distinct and similar?

Dr. Grunfeld and I have been working very closely since our first day on the job July 1st and will continue to do so throughout our tenure at AOSR. We both believe in working closely with Dr. Pfannl and the Elementary and Middle School Coordinators as part of the core administrative team. Besides regular administrative meetings each week, we will have daily contact since we also share facilities (cafeteria, theatre, playground and fields, gymnasium and cross-over teachers). The progress of students will continue to be monitored as will the progression of the curriculum. The issues common to the Elementary School, however, are unique to that part of the school as are the issues to the Middle School and those of the High School.

Can you comment on the division of the school academically and socially. Why the choice of combining MS/HS and ES as opposed to ES/MS and HS?

There is a lot of research that supports a division in schools from K-5, then 6-8, and finally 9-12. This is based on maturity levels, emotional development, and academic abilities of the students. The reason for a MS/HS joining versus an ES/MS combination is based more on similarities between Middle School students and High School students. In addition, teacher training for elementary often does not include certification for Middle School whereas High School teachers are also certified to teach in the Middle School and vice versa. Even though the Middle and High Schools are under one principal, we will attempt to keep the Middle School as much of an entity unto itself as possible with the Villa serving as the central classroom area for Middle School. The Middle School
Coordinator is also housed in the Villa. Middle and High School teachers are usually specialized in one area whereas elementary teachers can cover the core courses at one grade level. We are very fortunate that AOSR has two dedicated principals who can focus on the needs of their particular areas than to try to continue with one principal for the entire school.

Would this model make any difference in terms of how MS/HS teachers work with one another? The current model is the best use of the staff and sharing of the needs in Middle and High School.

What would you do to encourage more social and cultural integration on campus for both parents and students? Since we are a Pre-K to grade 12 school, we have the opportunity to participate and observe each other while performing and celebrating our diverse cultures and traditions. UN Day or International Day is an opportunity to celebrate cultures and learn about different beliefs and lifestyles. It is also a time to share different foods, native costumes, and songs. With 55 countries represented at AOSR, the tradition of celebrating our differences is a part of the curriculum and all students partake. Another area where we can encourage integration is by having one division of the school serve as an audience while the other is performing. This can be in the form of the elementary singing, the High School ensemble performing, the school hosting sporting events where all students are cheering for the home team, and the Middle School producing a play. Many teachers promote integration in their classes on a daily basis. Field trips and class trips are other forms of integrating students in a setting outside of the classroom but under the umbrella of education. The school could host a Model United Nations conference where students role play member nations of the UN and represent different points of view when dealing with such issues as water shortage, nuclear proliferation, victims of genocide or AIDS, humanitarian rights, etc. The PTO helps with many school festivities by involving parents. Mayfair is a wonderful tradition at AOSR where families spend the day together. Since AOSR becomes a focal point for many families new to Rome, the School can also serve as the setting for different social events. The Middle School can sponsor dances to help the students identify as middle schoolers while the senior class can sponsor a Halloween Party with a Haunted House for the younger students to raise money for their senior events. The possibilities for getting together to share in fun and healthy activities is only limited by our imaginations.

What would be the best way for parents to communicate with you? Parents can set up an appointment by calling the secondary secretary or you can email me with your concerns or issues. If you want to introduce yourself, you may drop by the office or catch me as I am making my rounds about the campus. I only close my office door if I am in a conference.

An interview with Dr. Grunfeld, Elementary School Principal, will appear in the October issue of the Falcon Flyer.

Special Meeting of the AOSR Corporation:
Thursday, September 25, 2008
Douglas Kneeland, Chair AOSR Board of Trustees

On Thursday evening September 25, a special meeting of the Assembly of the Corporation will be held in the AOSR cafeteria at 19:30 hs. The main purpose of the special meeting will be to review progress on the new AOSR Strategic Plan and to discuss issues raised by members of the Corporation.

All parents of AOSR students are eligible to join the Corporation for a nominal one-time fee of €10. If you have not already done so, please stop by the school office to complete the form to join the Corporation. Please plan to attend the special meeting of the Assembly of the Corporation on September 25th, and the Annual meeting in November.
Kurt Amundson  
(High School Physics and Math)

Kurt Amundson received his B.S. in Engineering Physics from South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD. After a brief time as a computer engineer for IBM in Rochester, Minnesota, Mr. Amundson returned to South Dakota to pursue a graduate degree in physics. While taking graduate classes he had the opportunity to teach at the university level and decided to pursue his teaching certificate. Mr. Amundson spent the last several years teaching physical science, physics, and calculus and coaching debate at the high school in Lennox, South Dakota. He enjoys many sports, including basketball, cycling, and his favorite, (American) football. He loves to travel and is looking forward to a great new experience!

Kate Bleecher  
(Kindergarten)

Kate Bleecher grew up in Lafayette, Louisiana. She graduated from Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee, with a B.A. in Music emphasizing music education and flute performance. She then attended Christian Brothers University in Memphis, TN, and earned a M.Ed. in Elementary Education. At the same time, she participated in a two-year teacher service program where she taught Kindergarten in downtown Memphis and lived in a community with other teachers, including her husband, Matt Bleecher, who teaches High School math at AOSR. Kate and Matt married in Memphis, TN, and then moved to Pensacola, FL, to continue teaching and experience daily life on the beach. Ms. Bleecher has taught Kindergarten for 5 years and cannot wait to begin teaching at AOSR. Outside of school, she enjoys reading, music, and traveling. Although she has traveled frequently, AOSR is her first experience living abroad. She is thrilled to be in Rome and cannot wait to meet her new students, their families, and fellow faculty and experience everything Rome has to offer.

Chiara Concas  
(Middle School Italian)

Chiara Concas, from Rome, received her degree in Italian Literature from the University of Rome "La Sapienza" with a thesis on the Italian poets of the 16th century. She is completing her Master's studies in Italian Literature. Ms. Concas earned an Erasmus scholarship and studied at the Universidad de Salamanca in Spain where she later taught Italian at the Escuela Oficial de Idiomas de Las Palmas de Gran Canarias. She has also taught Italian and Spanish at both the Middle and High School levels at several schools in Rome. Interested in gender studies, Ms. Concas earned a scholarship from "La Sapienza" University to attend a summer program on this subject at the Utrecht University in 2006. She is extremely happy to continue her teaching career at AOSR.

Donna Dooner  
(Grade 5)

Donna Dooner grew up in Glenrock, New Jersey. She graduated from Kean University where she obtained a B.A. in Education and History. She also holds a certification in Middle School Social Studies. Ms. Dooner has been teaching subjects such as math, science, reading, vocabulary, social studies and religion in upper Elementary and Middle School for the past seven years. Prior to becoming a teacher, she was an enlisted member of the New Jersey State Police and retired in July 2000 at the rank of Lieutenant. Ms. Dooner loves to travel and her hobbies include running, knitting, reading and experiencing new adventures. She is very happy to be in Rome and looks forward to meeting her new students and working with the staff and faculty at AOSR.

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Daniel Etcheverry  
(Grade 1)  
Daniel Etcheverry is a California native who has spent the past four years teaching in elementary school in Brooklyn, NY. He attended the University of California at Berkeley and earned a Bachelors of Arts in Theater and Ethnic Studies. He has a passion for both theater and dance, and was a member of a modern dance company in California. In New York, he earned his Masters of Education through the New York Teaching Fellows program, which places teachers in under-resourced schools. He also worked as an adjunct professor teaching graduate level education courses. He is thrilled to be living in Rome, and is looking forward to his time here at AOSR.

Kristen McRedmond  
(Pre-K)  
Kristen McRedmond is very eager to begin the new school year at AOSR! Ms. McRedmond is from New York and has lived in the New York metropolitan area for most of her life; however she has also lived in both Rhode Island and California. She has spent significant time traveling yet this is her first experience both living and working internationally. Ms. McRedmond earned her B.A. in Psychology from the University of Rhode Island and her M.A. in Early Childhood Education from Bank Street College. She has taught in early childhood classrooms in New York City for five years at both the Ethical Culture Fieldston School and the Bank Street School for Children. Both institutions maintain educational philosophies that are in line with those of AOSR. Her greatest passion is the environment. Aside from teaching in the classroom, she launched student groups at both schools that provided children with opportunities to actively engage in protecting our world and learn concrete ways to minimize their footprints on the earth. Ms. McRedmond also enjoys surfing, cooking, music and traveling as well as learning the Italian language and living in Rome! She is excited to become part of the AOSR community and is looking forward to meeting both children and families.

Amy Popp  
(ES Librarian)  
Amy Popp is thrilled to be joining the faculty at AOSR. She attained her Master of Science degree in Library and Information Science (MSLIS) at Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She is very excited about working in the Elementary School library at AOSR. During library classes, there will be an emphasis on reading and comprehension as well as research. Additionally, there will be an Author’s Chair where students will discuss books they have read and share books they have created. Some of Ms. Popp’s favorite authors for children include Tomie dePaola, Kate DiCamillo, and Madeleine L’Engle. Ms. Popp’s interests include reading, writing, running, swimming, and traveling. Additionally, she enjoys spending time with her family, friends, and cat, Pumpkin, who moved with her from Philadelphia to Rome!

Tara Rummel  
(Middle School Science)  
Tara Rummel grew up in Connecticut and went to Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY, receiving a B.A. in Psychology and an Elementary and Special Education certificate. After college, Ms. Rummel traveled extensively throughout Europe. This amazing experience was the inspiration to come back and teach in a European country. She is very excited to live in a huge, metropolitan area since Connecticut had more of a suburban feel. She is eager to learn the Italian language and discover what living in Rome is all about. Ms. Rummel is thrilled to be in a diverse learning environment, working with students and parents from a variety of different cultures. She has been teaching grade six science for nine years at a (5-8) middle school in Connecticut. In addition, she has experience teaching all other core academic subjects, including language arts, math, and social studies. Furthermore, Ms. Rummel has served for several years as a member of the Aspiring Leadership Academy in Newington, CT, implementing various initiatives to the Middle School teaching staff. Currently, Ms. Rummel is completing her Master’s degree in Science Education through an online university. She is eager to put her new learning to the test this year as many courses relate to the life and earth science classes she will teach.

Tara is a huge fan of baseball and is currently going through withdrawal because she can’t watch the Red Sox in their last couple months of the (Continued on page 8)
season. Miss Rummel loves to travel, cook elaborate meals, shop, and listen to all genres of music. She looks forward to meeting and getting to know each and every student and parent as an individual. Miss Rummel is enthusiastic about this coming school year and can’t wait to meet you all!

Melanie Vacchio  
(Middle School Mathematics)

Melanie Vacchio is a native of the Washington D.C. area and received her Ph.D. in Biology from the Catholic University of America. Upon receiving her degree, Dr. Vacchio pursued biological research in the laboratories of the National Institutes of Health. She so greatly enjoyed the opportunities to teach individual students in the lab that she decided to pursue a teaching career where she could share her love of learning with students on a larger scale. For the past two years, she taught at Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School in Bethesda, Maryland where she lived with her husband, who is the new Chemistry teacher at AOSR. Outside of school, Dr. Vacchio enjoys sculpting, cooking, wine-making and traveling, and of course, there is no better place to enjoy all of these endeavors than in Italy! She is looking forward to making Math an exciting learning adventure for her students here at AOSR!

Eric Vacchio  
(High School Chemistry/Math)

Eric Vacchio teaches Chemistry at AOSR. He has a Master’s Degree in Biology and for 20 years ran his own patent business specializing in biotechnology and chemical inventions. Thus, when he changed careers into teaching he received certifications to teach Chemistry and Biology. Also, after 10 years of Italian lessons, he has been certified to teach Italian. As a hobby he enjoys computers, and he incorporates the latest and best technology available into his classroom to give his students the best possible environment within which to learn. Mr. Vacchio has a great curiosity about everything around him and is a passionate observer of the world and its myriad details. This is not limited to the scientific world but to life as a whole, especially the arts and the different forms of personal expression that humans so wonderfully display. Mr. Vacchio’s unique combination of scientific, technical, and artistic interests will serve as excellent inspiration for all of the students at AOSR.

Sharice Welch  
(High School College Counselor)

A native of Long Island, NY, Sharice Welch has worked as a school and college counselor for 5 years. She enjoys encouraging students in their individual interests, leadership styles, and decision making processes; and she views her role as a combination of friend, advocate, advisor, consultant, and personal counselor. She holds a M.Ed. & Human Development with a specialization in School Counseling from The George Washington University in Washington, DC. When not working, Sharice’s interests include traveling, volunteering, spending quality time with family and friends (usually involving food), deepening her pursuit of her faith, and service learning. She is excited to join the American Overseas School of Rome community and looks forward to meeting everyone.

Autumn Zangrilli  
(Middle School Language Arts)

Autumn Zangrilli is originally from California, but arrives in Rome after four years of teaching Middle School Reading and Writing in Brooklyn, New York with Teach for America. Ms. Zangrilli holds Bachelor of Arts degrees in Theater and English from the University of California at Berkeley as well as a Masters Degree in Teaching Secondary English. Aside from teaching and reading young adult novels, Ms. Zangrilli’s favorite thing to do is travel - ask her where she and her husband have been!
Welcome to the PTO corner of the Falcon Flyer. We are so excited to see many new faces this year and of course are delighted to see all of those who have returned too. The PTO is a group of parent volunteers working together with the teachers and administration to help provide the best learning and social environment for our children at AOSR.

We would love to have you join us in various fundraising activities such as the Boutique (an on-campus consignment store), the weekly Booster Bar hotdog/hamburger bar and Mayfair, a school-wide carnival event held in the Spring.

There are also many other wonderful ways to get involved, such as the publishing of this school newsletter, helping with the publishing of 3rd and 4th grade stories into books, Sports Day, helping with holiday celebrations for the elementary students and much, much more.

If you are a parent of a child at AOSR, you are automatically a member of the PTO but we realize of course that not everyone has the time or interest to participate. However, if you would like to dedicate even just 2 hours a semester in one of the activities mentioned, please come to our ‘Meet and Greet’ coffee morning on September 17th at 9:30 in the cafeteria.

Be sure to mark your calendars with these important dates.

Newcomers Information Coffee-
Sept. 10 at 9:30
Cafeteria
Meet AOSR Support Staff
Learn about important programs and services for your children

Meet and Greet Coffee
Sept. 17 at 9:30
Cafeteria
Meet the PTO and find out about all of their activities.

Annual AOSR Family Picnic
Oct. 4th
Barbeque and Potluck
Fun-filled Day
Details to follow
The ‘Boutique’ at AOSR
Victoria Wise, Boutique Coordinator

Mark your calendars! The Boutique’s Grand Opening for the 2008-2009 school year will be held on October 7th, 2007. Come and join the fun as we start off the new season with some of the best bargains to be found in Rome. Stop by on October 7th and take a look at what is on the shelves and meet the staff and other members of the AOSR community. The first three costumers to purchase 20 euro or more of merchandise will receive valuable coupons redeemable at the Boutique for future purchases.

It’s time…. to sell your goods at the Boutique
If you would like to be among the many AOSR families and alumni who have cleaned out their closets and garages, turning unwanted items into cash, all you need to do is sign-up for your very own vendor number.

Yes, any member of AOSR can sell items at the Boutique. It’s easy, it’s fun, and it helps the school. (The Boutique raises approximately 6,000 euro annually for the school). Vendors do not have to be present to sell items. You set the price and we sell the merchandise. You pick up your money whenever you want. When an item is sold, 2/3 of the price goes to the vendor and 1/3 to the school.

Students can be vendors too!
Last year several students obtained their own vendor numbers and made money, money, money! Students of all ages can participate. It’s a great way to practice math with your children.

Need to raise funds for class activities and trips? Get a vendor number for your class or group, collect donations and sell them at the Boutique.

Don’t miss these two important dates:

Tuesday September 30th - Opening day for Vendors to drop off items!
Tuesday October 7th - First day of sales.

New Hours:
The Boutique will be open: Tuesdays 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.,
Fridays 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Volunteers are needed. If you would like to help make the Boutique a success, please consider volunteering for a couple of hours a week or month. We need help shelving, organizing, selling and many other fun tasks. Please contact Victoria Wise (email: wisev@hotmail.com) if you would like to volunteer or for more information.
Dear AOSR community,

The Booster Bar is a fabulous way to get together with AOSR newcomers, "old timers", teachers and school buddies. It is also great way to meet and make new friends. Our Booster Bar offers delicious hamburgers, tasty hotdogs, drinks and treats brought to you by AOSR volunteers. Booster Bars are held every Friday from 2:45pm until 4:45pm. Our first Booster Bar is Friday, September 19th.

Besides being a community activity, the Booster Bar is also a fundraiser for various school projects and social action initiatives, such as the Sports Teams, Elementary School, Middle School, and High School projects, Girl and Boy scouts, Music program, just to name a few. AOSR groups are invited to sign up for their Booster Bar fundraiser by contacting Anna Clementi at the Booster Bar on September 19th.

This is ONLY possible due to the involvement of parents, students and teachers. Therefore, the success of the Booster Bar depends highly on volunteers. To volunteer please email Anna Clementi at annclem20@alice.it or sign up at the PTO meetings.

If you are not able to help on a regular basis, watch for single events like: Family Picnic, Mayfair and other special events that include the Booster Bar.

We look forward to a new exciting academic year with all of you!

Anna Clementi, Karena Gardner, Monique Smits, Azed Nhekedza
The Booster Bar Team

Some Important Dates to Remember

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<td>Sept. 2</td>
<td>(Orientation Day)</td>
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<td>Sept. 5th, 8th, 9th</td>
<td>before school - School Supply Sale</td>
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<td>Sept. 8th</td>
<td>First PTO General meeting</td>
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<td>Sept. 10th</td>
<td>Newcomers Information Coffee</td>
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<td>Sept. 17th</td>
<td>Meet and Greet PTO Coffee</td>
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<td>Sept. 29th</td>
<td>PTO Executive committee meeting (includes all committee chairs)</td>
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<td>October 4th</td>
<td>Annual Family Picnic</td>
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The PTO welcomes each of you to a new school year and we are looking forward to seeing you and perhaps working with you at the various events and activities throughout the year. At AOSR, there are no annual PTO membership fees as you are automatically a member if you have a child who attends AOSR or if you are a teacher. Having said that, we realize that AOSR families lead very busy lives and some live at great distances from the school, so cannot actively be involved. As you can see below, there are many ways to get involved. To learn more about these and other PTO activities, come to the “meet and greet” coffee morning, Sept. 17th in the cafeteria.

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If you would like to help out, even if only 2 hr./semester, please place a checkmark beside the activity and time slot that bests fits your schedule.

Your Name: ______________________________ Child(ren) grade level(s) ____________
Telephone: (home)________________________; (cell) ___________________________
Email address: _____________________________________________________________

Booster Bar (every Friday) __________ weekly __________ monthly __________ occasionally
Boutique (once a week) __________ weekly __________ monthly __________ occasionally

Falcon Flyer Distribution __________ 2 hr. a month __________ occasionally
LOGO (spirit wear) Sales __________ family picnic ______ Mayfair ______ other Events
Publishing Center (3rd & 4th gr) __________ editing __________ typing ______ publishing
ES Holiday celebrations __________ Halloween ______ Christmas ______ other
Sports Days (Spring) __________ K-2nd ______ 3rd-5th ______ 6th-8th
Teacher Appreciation Brunch __________ Christmas ______ End of Year
Family Picnic (Oct. 4th) __________ Set-up ______ Tear down ______ Booster Bar
Mayfair __________ Org. Committees _______ 2 hr. time on Mayfair
International Cookbook __________ Organizing Committee
Parents of Falcon Athletics __________ as needed by AOSR athletics director

Please return this form via your child to:
(ES) Elementary teachers, (MS) MS coordinator, (HS) HS secretary.
The PTO committee coordinators will follow up with you.
All AOSR families and staff members are invited to the annual Family picnic. The day is a lot of fun for adults and children, a great time to reconnect with friends and welcome new families into our school community. We ask each family to please bring a dish to share for the Potluck Luncheon, a table full of delicious international flavors.

If you are interested in volunteering for one hour (or more!) at this event, please contact:
Daniela Di Cagno at dandaniela@msn.com or 347.7851561
or
Fabiana Valsecchi (Mobili) at 339.7627680
Community Service Project

Bridge to Bahia Works Its Magic in Brazil

What a summer! The third consecutive year of Bridge to Bahia began with a bang. Our solid ties with the Institute of Culture Brazil Italy Europe (ICBIE) in Salvador de Bahia have built real bonds of friendship with a single afflicted neighborhood in the Third World. These ongoing personal contacts have helped us to understand the complexities of their problems, permitting us to do a better job in assisting them. The main problem facing the young kids from Brazil’s favelas is the lack of educational opportunities, because state schools end at seventh grade, and only students who have money can continue their studies. In just over two years, four AOSR teachers have volunteered to travel to Brazil and offer English language courses at the ICBIE, and those lessons have given their students a dramatic advantage in the local job market.

For the whole month of July, AOSR High School math teacher Louise Audette taught two English language courses at the ICBIE. The shift from math to English didn’t seem to faze her a bit, and her animated teaching style (“you have to know how to keep a lesson lively, if you teach math,” she exclaimed) kept her students engaged every minute. They really loved her, to the point that her farewell party at the end of the month was full of tears and commotion, and Louise vowed that she’d be back.

Louise’s visit overlapped with mine, but during the five weeks of my stay, I concentrated on other business. The first task was to coordinate a complete rewriting of the ICBIE website, and by lucky coincidence, we had a highly competent volunteer who works as the web designer for Poste Italiane. Ironing out all the details and translating everything into Italian and Portuguese was a daunting task, but it’s done and can be seen at www.icbie.com.

Even more important, thanks to the help of Beth Pfannl, I was able to establish a link with the local American school in Salvador, the Pan American School of Bahia, and their Headmaster Dennis Klumpff (a former colleague and friend of Beth’s) warmly invited me, along with ICBIE founder Pietro Gallina, to visit their beautiful school. We were introduced to their Community Service Director, Maria Mandolini, who was thrilled to have an opportunity to have her students assist our needy kids, and she was full of great ideas about how to inform their community (which contains many of the city’s most
important families) about the ICBIE’s work and its needs. PASB has already donated nine computers, which doubles the size of our fledgling computer lab! AOSR and PASB are planning new ways to coordinate their work, creating even closer ties with Bahia and the ICBIE.

The most exciting day of my visit was when ICBIE artists Julio and Bigode decided to go into the worst favela, the Alagados, to share their brilliant colors and joyous message with the poorest people in Salvador. It seems that they got the idea of painting the Alagados while they were at AOSR last year, when they depicted the stilt-houses on our big mural. As they worked on the shacks, dozens of little kids flocked around in amazement and delight and their smiles were unforgettable.
Pre-K and Kindergarten News

Pre-K
Ms. Magazzu, Pre-K Coordinator

We would like to extend a warm welcome to both returning and new Pre-K families! We are also happy to introduce our new Pre-K 4 teacher, Kristen McRedmond! She joins us from the Bank Street School in New York City and is looking forward to working with all of our Pre-K families.

Fresh paint, new tables, and colorful rugs have made the Pre-K classrooms even more inviting and we are eager to fill the empty spaces with the children’s work. The Pre-K students (along with kindergarten) will also enjoy new, child-friendly lunch tables and benches. We are grateful to the Atwood Family and a matching grant from the Colgate-Palmolive Company for helping to make these improvements possible!

The Pre-K staff is excited to begin this new school year and anticipates fun-filled days of exploration, discovery, and new experiences!

Special Request from the Pre-K

As we begin the new school year, we hope that you will help us to restock our supply of recycled materials. The children enjoy discovering many imaginative ways to use these items when constructing and creating! We encourage everyone from the AOSR community to lend a hand by collecting and donating any of the following:

- Empty paper towel and toilet paper rolls
- Shoe boxes
- Clean Styrofoam trays
- Plastic containers from fruits and vegetables
- Cardboard jewelry boxes or other small boxes
- Yogurt containers
- Buttons
- Fabric remnants
- Old magazines or catalogs
- Newspaper (large size)
- Any other clean and safe items you think we could use

The greater variety of materials we have, the more the children will be able to explore and express their ideas. Please bring collected items to our classroom. The pre-k staff and students thank you in advance for your support!

ES Library Update

Ms. Amy Popp, the new Elementary School Librarian, is thrilled to be joining the faculty at AOSR. This year there will be new library activities. Many new books have just arrived and they are ready to be checked out. During library class, there will be an emphasis on reading and comprehension as well as research. Additionally, there will be an Author’s Chair where students will discuss books they have read and share books they have created. Please come and see what's new in the library!
Middle School Students Taking the Lead

The American Overseas School of Rome’s Middle School Student Council (STUCO) is organized to bring a greater sense of community, citizenship, communication and FUN to the Middle School population. The STUCO structure allows for student involvement in decision making, ownership in the planning and execution of events, and a pathway for dialogue of student concerns.

As the members of Student Council help to develop and oversee events, it is important that they communicate effectively with their peers and teachers. In the A period classes, representatives are elected to serve on the STUCO and they assist to channel information both to and from their advisory peers. STUCO members from all grades within the Middle School are expected to serve as role models and leaders to display and encourage positive peer relations across the AOSR campus. Because fun is contagious, as is the involvement in school and community events, STUCO members are expected to be involved and active within the Middle School.

The 2008 – 09 Student Council elections are on the horizon. Students will learn about the leadership opportunities and positions at a Middle School meeting on September 18th. Students who wish to run for the MS wide Executive Committee (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, 8th Grade Ambassador, 7th Grade Ambassador and 6th grade Ambassador) are asked to fill out a statement of purpose form in the MS office by Wednesday, September 24th. Students who are running as class representatives should be prepared to speak briefly with their class the first week of October. The STUCO’s first activity to plan will be the Autumn Dance, tentatively scheduled for Friday, October 24th.

Middle School Summer Reading

Now that we are back to school, it is time to turn on students’ brains, right? Wrong, because they are already on and running.

This summer the students in the Middle School were requested to keep their mind in shape by reading at least three books in English. In the first weeks of school the English classroom teachers will be having class activities which focus on students’ summer reading, as well as making recommendations to their classmates for future reads.

Students also have a chance to enter a reading raffle by filling out one copy of the “book raffle ticket” for each book they read over the summer. Grade level English teachers will collect the tickets during the first week of school. Raffle tickets will be selected at random at the September 18th Middle School meeting and winners from each grade will receive gift certificates at a local English book store in Rome.
Counselor’s Corner

Sharice Welch, High School College Counselor

As your High School Counselor, it is my privilege to enhance student learning by addressing the personal and social/emotional needs of students. Students may receive counseling on a variety of issues, some of the most common include:

- promotion of academic achievement
- development of problem-solving and decision making skills
- identification of academic strengths and weaknesses
- discovery of career interest and options
- self-esteem and healthy self-concept
- school adjustment
- positive interpersonal relationships with peers and faculty

I work directly with students on issues of concern to them and I am also consulted by teachers, administrators and coaches when concerns arise about a student. I am also available for consultations with parents.

It is truly an honor to be your high school counselor this year. I am ready to meet the challenge of doing the work necessary to ensure that all AOSR students are prepared to become the next generation of community and global leaders.

There will be many new learning experiences and challenges throughout this year. As your High School College Counselor, I sincerely hope you will see in me professionalism, preparedness, dedication and above all, a genuine concern and respect for your counseling needs. If you need to get in touch with me, please call 06.33438327 or e-mail: counselor@aosr.org. My door is always open to you and I look forward to the opportunity of working with you this year!

College and University Corner

This year is going to be an exciting one for all of us at AOSR, particularly as we look forward to graduation time in June. As your new College Counselor, I will assist you in the college admission process by guiding you through the various procedures. My primary objective is to challenge each of you to not only find the best college, but rather find a college that best fits your individual needs.

During the months of September and October, I will meet with every senior individually to discuss your future plans. If you are on the path to college/university, we will discuss where you are in the process and any new developments that may have occurred over the summer. Please sign up for an appointment during your free period and bring to this meeting an updated list of colleges/universities that you are exploring. An appointment book will be available on the desk outside of my office.

Please Note: any student applying to Oxford or Cambridge (with an October 15th deadline) should sign up for one of the earlier appointments.

Please Note: all NEW seniors to AOSR should also plan to schedule an earlier appointment.
SAT REASONING AND SUBJECT TEST INFORMATION
AOSR School/ CEEB Code: 748-480  AOSR Test Center Code: 58-380

All students applying to universities that require the SAT Reasoning and/or SAT Subject Test must note the application deadlines and make sure they have taken all the required admissions exams prior to the deadlines.

You can register directly through the College Board by going to the website: www.collegeboard.com

Please Note: AOSR will administer the SAT on our campus on these dates:

October 4, 2008  January 24, 2009
November 1, 2008  May 2, 2009
December 6, 2008  June 6, 2009

2008-2009 Test Dates and Registration Deadlines

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** Important Information for International Registration Deadlines:

International deadlines apply to anyone testing outside of the United States, U.S. Territories, and Puerto Rico.

International registration materials must be received by the international deadlines.

There is no late registration for international testing. Online and telephone registrations must be completed by the international deadline dates listed above.

Students registering through International Representatives must submit their paper registration with full payment by the early registration deadline.

On March 14, the SAT is not offered outside of the United States, U.S. Territories, and Puerto Rico.

† Eid al-Fitr and the October 2008 SAT
The normally scheduled October 4 SAT test date falls during a time of Muslim religious observance, Eid al-Fitr. To avoid any difficulties for students of the Islamic faith, the October 2008 SAT has been rescheduled to Saturday October 18, 2008 in certain countries.

(Please visit www.collegeboard.com for a list of those countries).
After School Activities  
Christine Hogan, ASA Coordinator

BEGINNING OCTOBER 1st.

The After School Activities program is very popular at AOSR. Last year we had approximately 250 students enrolled in our program.

The booklet offering a large selection of activities for all ages - 1st. grade to adults, will be available by Monday, September 22nd and registrations will be accepted beginning on Tuesday, September 23rd*. The booklet will also be posted on the AOSR web site.

Sign up and join in the fun!

*Office hours
3:30 to 5:00pm Mon.to Fri.

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Hello and welcome back!! We’ve got big plans for a fantastic year. Currently we are planning for our annual Middle School fall show, a High School One-Act show, and a Middle/High School Shakespeare spring show are also on the agenda. Middle School students: look for audition posters and packets this month and don’t be afraid to audition. No experience necessary. All you need is a little courage and spunk. We look forward to seeing new faces and returning theater members.

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AOSR THEATER
Kip Hendry and Jessica Adams, Drama Teachers

Girl Scouts will be starting up again this fall as an after-school activity. We are seeking adults volunteers to assist with troops as well as girls K-12 who would like to have some fun and develop leadership skills. For more info contact Zoe at gsrome.register@gmail.com or 3384074931

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Office hours
3:30 to 5:00pm Mon.to Fri.
AOSR Contact Information

Reception: 06-33438-300
Head of School: Dr. Beth Pfannl 06-33438-331
  Secretary: Domenica Losani 06-33438-331
Secondary Principal: Thomas Connolly 06-33438-326
  Secretary: Cathy Garbinsky 06-33438-326
Elementary Principal: Dr. George Grunfeld 06-33438-395
  Secretary: Joanne Hoberg 06-33438-395
PreK Coordinator: Amy Magazzu 06-33438-330
ES Coordinator: Susan Prideaux 06-33438-350
MS Coordinator: Sarah Ellyson 06-33438-336
AP/IB Coordinator: Belinda Fiochi 06-33438-337
Admissions Secretary: Manuela Ciocca 06-33438-311
Busing: Kieran Canter 06-33438-372
Business Manager: Elisa Bruno 06-33438-338
HS College Counselor: Sharice Welch 06-33438-327
School Counselor: Elizabeth Escobar 06-33438-373
Nurse: Diane Cullen-Moore 06-33438-321
After School Activities: Christine Hogan, Margaret Ciuffreda 06-33438-320
Resource Room:
  Silvia Moore (ES) 06-33438-302
  Jeff Philips (MS/HS) 06-33438-390

All telephone and internet address corrections should be emailed to principalsoffice@aosr.org.