Tri-Association Bulletin - Summer 2020

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you and your staff are closing this year with a feeling of pride and resilience for the many challenges encountered and issues resolved as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

Together, we mourn the loss of school traditions, rites of passage, social networks, and in some cases the financial downturns and loss of life affecting our communities. Yet, we also stand tall to rally around all of you school leaders and teachers for the courageous manner in which you are leading your staff and students into this new era of virtual teaching and learning.

We talk about our "new normal" as one that is full of uncertainty and filled with unanswered questions, and yet we see so many signs that schools are figuring this out. Why not be a dreamer? Perhaps, one day we will look back at Covid-19 as that which paved the way for new and exciting ways to view teaching and learning!

I want to express my deep gratitude to three individuals and the organizations they represent for their unconditional support of our Tri-Association family of schools during these trying time. Robin Heslip is a true champion for our region and the Office of Overseas Schools makes it possible for us to continue to deliver programs for the benefit of teachers and students.
Our partnership with AAIE has connected us globally and across our Latin American region. Mark Ulfer’s professional generosity has made it possible for interested school Heads to be part of the daily conversations which many describe as a lifeline and a forum for ideas and problem solving.

Those of you who have seen the value of AAIE should consider a membership for your school. The link to sign up is found under resources at the bottom of this message.

We are also working closely with our sister organization AASSA to leverage and expand on the services to both organizations. I am deeply appreciative of Dereck Rhoads’ support and the teamwork we have established on behalf of our respective regions. Below is a message from Dereck to the Tri-Association membership.

Deb Welsh from AISH (Academy International School Heads), has also reached out to share resources and given us discounted rates for their Online Leadership Academy courses.

It is incredibly inspiring to see the collaboration across organizations, regions and borders. Our international schools and organizations provide a shining example of what is possible when like-minded people come together in support of a common cause.

Many of you contributed to this edition in which we capture the voices of the students, teachers and school leaders during the journey of the last three months.

The different forms of expression are a tribute to the important work taking place in your schools.

Thank you for your dedication to the profession and I hope this summer break provides you with a safe harbor and the opportunity to enjoy and relax in the company of your loved ones.

Sincerely,
Sonia Keller,
Executive Director
Our Partners

Message From Dr. Dereck Rhoads / AASA Executive Director

Dear Tri-Associations Friends and Colleagues,

Greetings from AASSA! It is truly a pleasure to offer my sincere thank you and appreciation to everyone in our wonderful region of the world. I am especially thankful and appreciative as we work together in renewed interest and commitment to help our students, families and school communities through this difficult and unprecedented time of COVID-19.

A few recent opportunities developed in collaboration between the Tri-Association and AASSA include:

**ZOOM Licenses**
Zoom licenses we are providing are good through the 2020-2021 academic year. They will expire June 30, 2021. We will be evaluating the usage to guide future purchasing decisions.

**EDMENTUM Partnership**
Discounted pricing for courses.

**DISCOVERY EDUCATION Partnership**
Discounted pricing on Discovery Education Experience & STEM Connect programs.

**POWERSCHOOL and SCHOOLEGY Partnership**
In development to offer discounted pricing (even if you currently use the programs).

We have a wonderful region. Truly an amazing place to learn and work. In fact, polls in Gallup and similar reports consistently note the positivity and beautiful human spirit in our region. Stay strong, and thank you so very much for all you do to make a positive impact in our world.

In learning and service,

Dr. Rhoads (drhoads@aassa.com)
AASSA Executive Director

P.S. In addition to the opportunities listed above, if AASSA can be of assistance with any of our services or programs please do not hesitate to contact us.
Association for the Advancement of International Education

*A global community that connects diverse people, ideas and resources, AAIE ensures international educators lead with vision, wisdom, courage and integrity.*

"To me, being a member of AAIE means being included as an integral part of a worldwide international community - it's the networking - the opportunity to collaborate - and most importantly, knowing that I am not alone. I can't imagine doing this job without an organization like AAIE that advocates and takes a lead role in framing the future of international education. The job is lonely enough on its own and I'm thankful that I have AAIE behind me every step of the way."

Dr. Jeff Paulson, President, AAIE

"Whatever your personal beliefs and experiences, I invite you to consider that we need a new worldview to navigate this chaotic time. We cannot hope to make sense using our old maps. It won't help to dust them off or reprint them in bold colors. The more we rely on them, the more disoriented we become. They cause us to focus on the wrong things and blind us to what's significant. Using them, we will journey only to greater chaos."

Margaret J. Wheatley,  
*Leadership and the New Science*

A New Road Map, Navigating Together

Our AAIE Board of Trustees knows what it means to be generative and that life can be about not knowing and then finding a way through “delicious ambiguity.” And as our AAIE community stands together and gazes outward, the future seems formidable from a distance.

In the thick of a global pandemic, far from over and a true test to our leadership of international schools, there is an antidote to uncertainty. We must lock arms in solidarity of ideas and new ways of thinking and doing. It is making a commitment to each other. And the talent for getting through this resides within each of us as part of the AAIE community.

These past months with sixty COVID-19 Briefings and fourteen weeks of almost daily crisis leadership CONVERSATIONS, your ideas, shared openly and with generosity have brought calm in the midst of chaos. Your voice has provided reason in confronting the unthinkable. You have been strong and patient with all that is yet unresolved. You keep pushing for clarity, candor and connectedness through the dilemmas we face. (1 credit to Michael Thompson and Rob Evans on crisis leadership)
AAIE actions must be consistent with your leadership life too. Our response to the NEXT normal is to ensure we are living our mission with a set of assumptions that define our preferred future— the stuff of crisis leadership.

**ASSUMPTIONS:**
- We learn from CONVERSATIONS
- We will focus on your leadership challenges and the necessary learning to go along with it.
- We will listen carefully and then respond to your dilemmas.
- We will ensure a robust February 2021 AAIE leadership learning CONVERSATION- a highly creative endeavor, and most likely from a distance.
- AAIE leadership will make the needed sacrifices to ensure a fully responsible and balanced budget to meet the promise of our mission, now and into the future.
- We will not raise our membership fees, yet will offer more support and service.
- We are here for school heads and senior leaders across all international schools. We will continue to innovate, adding programs.
- We will live the abundance mentality, ensuring diversity, equity and inclusion— everyone welcome.

Finally, we want our actions, not words, to speak for AAIE. In the days ahead, with certainty, we will do all possible to earn your confidence, respect and ongoing involvement.

Many schools have been with us as non-members these past months. We simply decided that everything we offered should be open to all— and we'd worry about membership later. Now we hope you'll either renew your school membership or join us as a new member. With your membership in AAIE—there has never been a more important time to learn from CONVERSATIONS and each other.

All Good Wishes,
Mark E. Ulfers, Executive Director

PS: Any questions about membership, please contact me and I'll get back to you right away. mark@aaie.org

**CLICK HERE for Membership Renewal or To Join the AAIE Community for the First Time**

**Message From Mike Johnston**

Dear Tri-Association Community,

Over the last decade and a half I have run workshops, coached, mentored, keynoted and implemented ideas and I wanted to say thank you!

Thank you for giving me a chance to share, for trusting me to work with the teachers in your network and really just for your tireless efforts to do what is right for kids.

The disruption caused by Covid-19 is creating an amazing opportunity- let's jump on it! Below a short blog of one way of facing our challenges.

**Tackling Complex Issues: How to go from Issue to Action**

https://www.johnstonmike.com/2020/05/tackling-complex-issues-how-to-go-from-issue-to-action/
Welcome Lyford Cay

We are delighted to welcome
Lyford Cay International School in Nassau, Bahamas
into the ACCAS, and Tri-Association family of schools.

Message from David Mindorff, LCIS Director / Principal

Lyford Cay International School (LCIS) is an independent, non-denominational day school offering a high-standard Preschool through Grade 12 International Baccalaureate (IB) education. We are 1 of only 37 schools in the world to offer all four IB programmes. Founded in 1962, LCIS has been transformed from a small, community school into a world-class educational institution.

As of the 2020-21 school year, our student body of 400 students will learn across two campuses located on the western end of the beautiful island of New Providence in The Bahamas. Our school community is diverse with approximately 41 nationalities represented on campus.

We are proud to join the many other prestigious schools that are part of the Tri-Association and look forward to valuable opportunities to collaborate and share educational best practice.
Welcome Back Silvia R. Tolisano!

I am very pleased to welcome Silvia R. Tolisano back to the Tri-Association to support our social media presence. Silvia is a teacher, social media consultant and author of the book: *A Guide to Documenting Learning: Making Thinking Visible, Meaningful, Shareable and Amplified.* Publisher: Corwin Press (January 2018)

Below are some of Silvia’s resources that are highly relevant to the times we living in and you might find very useful with your students.

Key Skills for post-pandemic learning:
http://langwitches.org/blog/2020/04/22/key-skill-self-directed-learning/

Blog on documenting our learning:
http://langwitches.org/blog/2020/05/03/documenting-2020-quarantine-time-capsule-and-more/

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Maya Spirit: Let’s Have A Cake!

Colegio Maya students recently celebrated Sherry Miller’s Birthday virtually.
Two Excellent Articles From John Littleford

Short Term Solutions Can Lead to Long Term Problems

In these unprecedented, highly uncertain and stressful times, boards are pressing heads for answers to these questions: "Should we cut tuition? Should we cut staff? Should we refund tuition and/or fees? Should we freeze salaries and benefits?" Parents, faculty and staff obviously are eagerly and anxiously awaiting the responses.

http://www.tri-association.org/summer2020shorttermsolutions

The Impact of the Pandemic on Mission and Governance

Enrollment challenges for certain schools in specific environments have always been there. Some fortunate few are located in major metro areas with high demand for independent and international schools, i.e., a seller’s market for these top notch schools. But many international and independent schools are in a buyer’s market, and these schools are even more financially vulnerable during these times because they need to differentiate themselves even more from the competition.

http://www.tri-association.org/summer2020impactpandemic

#MyFreedomDay - Colegio Decroly Americano, Guatemala

#MyFreedomDay is an activity which was created for educational communities to take action all over the world in order to raise awareness of human trafficking and modern day slavery.

We received an invitation from Mr. Mike McCarthy, Senior Vice President and General Manager of CNN International, so our High School team of Colegio Decroly Americano of Guatemala decided to contribute with this very important cause. We believe it is of vital importance that our students be aware of such global issues that unbelievably are still happening today. Furthermore, one of our objectives as educators is that our students understand that we need to join our voices and take action in order to change and make a real difference.

Our students with help of our 10th grade Spanish, Art and PE teachers created a living mosaic with the winning quote our students created of what freedom means: "Freedom is breaking the chains of darkness, lighting up our future".

Link to video broadcast in CNN:

https://youtu.be/QhE0-iPpf48
Conectados desde la distancia a través de #unsoloproyecto llamado Desde Mi Ventana #unsoloproyecto para dar lugar al asombro, la literatura, la creatividad, el vínculo, la emoción, el amor y el JUEGO, cobijando aspectos del mundo socioemocional y del pensamiento.

https://youtu.be/EJzTiLhgZ9M

Desde mi Ventana...

**Un proyecto que nace para unir de manera sensible** a las familias y El Nido en una sola inspiración durante este tiempo que se vive un desafío, pero siempre, en medio de una comunidad esperanzada.

**Busca conectar a los niños con el mundo exterior** al mismo tiempo, la ventana es una oportunidad para adentrarnos respetuosamente a la cotidianidad de lo que se vive en cada hogar.

**Valora la libertad:** es soñar que unidos saldremos más fortalecidos, más conscientes de nuestro entorno, apreciando las cosas más simples y bellas de nuestro planeta, un abrazo, una mirada, una flor, una hoja, sentir el viento, escuchar la lluvia, oler el rocío..., es sentirnos más agradecidos de nuestra propia de existencia, de poder SER.

**Reconoce todo lo que nos espera** es fuente de esperanza de que pronto, como Comunidad, podremos llenar las VENTANAS con nuevas historias, alegría y movimiento.
Walking Past  
by Mayte Cruz, 8th Grader (April 17, 2020)  
American Nicaraguan School

My poem was inspired by artwork featured in the New York Times by Sara Wong.

I am inspired by the concept of walking past people who could end up being important in our lives. Perhaps you walked past the person you might spend the rest of your life with, or one of your future best friends. I am also inspired by the symmetry of the art with the girl with her dogs, and the boy near the palm trees. I wanted both characters to reflect upon each other as their shadows urge them silently to turn around.

Walking Past
I see him.  
As I walk back home, I see him.  
He catches my glance, I see him.  
My dogs walking in front of me, I see him.

I think of what could have been, as I see him.  
I see her.  
As I walk into the store, I see her.  
I catch her glance, I see her.

Walking towards the palm trees, I see her.  
I think of what could have been, I see her.

Turn around.  
As she walks back home, turn around.  
He sees you, turn around.

The dogs see him too, turn around.  
This could be the love of your life, turn around.

Turn around.  
As he walks into the store, turn around.  
You see her, turn around.

The palm trees point in her direction, turn around.

Maybe You Should've Stayed Inside  
by Caroline Ketelhohn, 10th Grade  
American Nicaraguan School

How long will it be  
Until that evanescent image  
That my memory holds onto  
Is solidified by your passing by  
In my line of sight,  
Until I see you again?

I’ve dedicated my time in quarantine  
To writing poems about you  
About your fox-like eyes  
And your slender artist hands, and about how  
I wouldn’t mind social distancing  
If it didn’t prevent me  
From seeing you, specifically  
You, with your  
Fox eyes  
And artist hands

I’ve dedicated my time in quarantine  
To looking through pictures of you  
Something pointless, I know  
But everything seems pointless  
If you look at it a certain way

And really, is there a better way  
To forget that I’m at home  
Than to see you somewhere else  
And pretend I am there too?

Though, staring at that picture  
Of you in that café  
The icing on your cake matching the color of your coat  
I wonder why it is  
That you are out  
When I’m inside  
That, through the screen, you look  
As if there’s so much to be happy about  
When, in my mirror, I look  
As if there’s nothing

And then I get the news  
Passed down from friend to friend  
That you are sick  
That you went out  
And you got sick  
And with this new perspective,  
I wonder once again:

How long will it be  
Until I see you again?

And how long will it be  
Until I get sick too?
Processing Our Virtual World Through Poetry

Annette Aguilar, Grade 8 Language Arts
The American School of Guatemala

Mariela F, authored a series of Haikus about her beloved Guatemala; they express not only a longing for when she can once again engage her beautiful country, but also a hope and belief in the resilience of Guatemalans.

http://www.tri-association.org/summer2020poetry

Earth
Coffee beans spread joy
Pyramids hugging the sun
Colorful markets

Fire
People, like fire
Lighting up our country
Unique ‘Chapines’

Water
Majestic mountains
Eleven towns around it,
Cold, calm, crystalline.

Sky
Guatemalan blue
Unique color of our sky
Healing us with hope

Conversemos...

Adriana Jaramillo
Coach de Español y Sociales
The Columbus School, Medellín, Colombia

http://www.tri-association.org/summer2020conversemos

Humaneness, The Road To Resilience

by Maritza Álvarez, Ed. D, Ana López, Paula Torres
St. Michael’s School, DR

http://www.tri-association.org/summer2020voicesacrosstheregion
We Got This!
by Dr. Sherry Miller, Director Colegio Maya

Yes, Dear Amazing Maya Community,

I thankfully and hopefully declare this morning, We Got This! We are taking this crisis and turning it into a true learning experience. Yes, it is an "emergency" school, the classrooms look radically different, we are all working harder than we ever have before to make sense, to make real, to make credible, accountable and caring, our Colegio Maya. When I go to our Google Classroom, when I read the Daily Bulletins from our Principals, when I show up at the new enrichment book group our kids are offering, when I hear a 4th grade teacher say, "It's amazing, the kids are becoming better writers in this virtual schooling!", I know we truly do have this!

Yes, we have lots to continue figuring out. I am about to meet with a core committee of staff and senior reps to plan our virtual graduation, etc, etc. And you know what, we only have 5 weeks left--4 really as we leave our last week in June for celebrations, reflections, assessments, conferencing and the beginning of planning for next year, we have much to celebrate. So may we continue to do that in the midst of the gaps, of the anxieties we all share for school and far more.

We now have a place on our website for you to put an affirmation of yours of "Celebrating Maya OnLine! Go to it on the COVID page and start making it shine. We are scheduling grade level parent meetings this week for all grades to have the opportunity for you, Parents, to share what's working to make this the best possible in your homes and what do you need from us to make it more so. And there will be other opportunities for everyone to reflect on what's happening, what we are learning and finish strong.

When I received a box on Thursday with a book of poetry in it many of you had helped create--here and now--I knew there is something happening way bigger than ever before and that Maya stands tall and proud. When we get back to our buildings in the fall, we will appreciate them more, use them differently and continue to realize almost anything is possible and we get to craft that possible together! LUCKY US!

Have a great rest of the weekend--and kids, get your work done!!

Dr. Sherry Miller
Director, Colegio Maya

A community that inspires excellence in every learner by developing their unique mind, body and character to become independent value-driven citizens.
Choose the Maya Spirit!
"Mash-Up" Of The Song "Dispatch"

by Miguel Aragón, (teacher), and Edo Amador, (graduating Senior) from the American Nicaragua School. Edo has been accepted at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in NYC.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FcExsEec0bpPc0R5f3p4fK02sNzv8EHR/view

Lincoln International Academy Of The Holy Family

At Lincoln International Academy of the Holy Family (LIA), located in Managua, Nicaragua, all efforts have been devoted to provide our community with the best support and encouragement in order to maintain school spirit and motivation, especially since the pandemic began, including the transition to online learning.

LIA’s social media presence has been well received by the educational community. Parents and students have been very supportive of all the school initiatives. The faculty has been doing an amazing job as they guide, support, and challenge all the students during these difficult times. It is also thanks to students and their parents that we will complete the academic year successfully.

The material for social media has also been a means of motivation for all the community in general. Please look at the following artwork that has been part of the social media campaign during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Video Links for Facebook and YouTube Channel:
Facebook - LIA video gallery
YouTube - LIA video gallery

Links to all of our posts on social media:
Facebook - ALL LIA POSTS
Instagram - ALL LIA POSTS

Highlighted posts that received more reach from our community
VOICES FROM ACROSS THE REGION

Snapshots From The American International School Of Costa Rica

Another week of virtual learning. Preschool students are getting to the end of the ABC: "Z is for..."
Good job!!! 🎉🎉🎉
@marcyool: Ver más

Z IS FOR ZEBRA

Students from grades 1-12 finished their pointillism art works. Some of the art works the students sent are shown here. They also studied George Seurat and explored some digital tools for creating pointillism using their iPads or laptops. Good job!

POINTILLISM-ART EXPO

57 fotos

No matter the distance, we still manage to celebrate our birthdays!!! Fourth graders having fun with crazy hair and crazy hair days to celebrate life. Thank you Miss Ericka for sharing!!

Ericka Díaz

Voices From Across The Region

The American International School of Costa Rica
And Suddenly At One Specific Time In Our School Life, Everything Changed...

By Yolanda Ruiz Vergara
K English Teacher, Puebla American School
http://www.tri-association.org/summer2020yasiundia

RESOURCES

Some Helpful Resources In Case You Missed Them:

The AAIE School Reopening Toolbox:
https://www.dropbox.com/s/66jsje77v8hnq3k/An%20International%20School%20REOPENING%20Toolbox.docx?dl=0

Agility Statement shared by Educational Association in La Paz, Bolivia:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rDAEZB3z2sArMhR4GEKqtKKRloPj9vwzfVyZX4wZzGw/edit

BC, Canada has redesigned their curriculum to focus on core competencies. Here is a link to a brochure.
Here is the general link: https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/

Article by Jennifer Gonzalez on what re-opening of school might look like:

Can the Lockdown Push Schools in a Positive Direction?
https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/can_the_lockdown_push_schools_in_a_positive_direction

AAIE’s Safety/Health Matrix:
https://www.dropbox.com/s/i01vyj7f7a9cxm0/DRAFT%20COVID%20SCHOOL%20Reopening%20Rubric-Science.pdf?dl=0

GRADED School’s (Sao Paulo, Brazil), Summer School offerings:
https://issuu.com/gradedschool/docs/graded__course-catalog_web

Rutger Bregman’s new book provides a good complement to the Stockdale Paradox as it provides good examples of the dangers of being OVERLY pessimistic:

FEATURED ARTICLE


By James D. Walsh
http://www.tri-association.org/summer2020comingdisruption
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The Association of American Schools of Central America, Colombia-Caribbean & Mexico expresses its gratitude to the following institutions and companies for their sponsorship of the different events and speakers for our annual conference:

- Office of Overseas School, U.S. State Department
- Curriculum Associates
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From the Executive Director
Please send me articles featuring the important work and events taking place in your school!

Newsletter Submission Deadlines

- Fall 2020:
  September 1, 2020
For more information, please contact:

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Are you looking to expand your course offerings or find a cost-effective alternative to a fully taught onsite program? We want to help you find the best solution to meet your students’ needs.

Introducing Academy

Academy is Edmentum International’s fully accredited virtual school for K-12 students. On the program, you’ll find a wide range of courses to meet students’ needs, as well as highly qualified teachers in specialized subjects, who support students every step of the way.

Why Academy?

We’ve got partners who help us make our virtual program stand out from the rest, enabling us to support students from their very first steps in kindergarten all the way up to college and career readiness.

Academy’s high school diploma is the only virtual school diploma approved by the US State Department for international student visa applications.

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More Students Succeed When They Register in the Fall
More than half of schools that offer AP ask students to commit to taking the exam in the fall, boosting their chance of earning a score that translates to college credit. We’ve seen the benefits firsthand.

New Resources
Students will get personalized feedback through new digital tools that provide daily support for every AP classroom. Their teachers will be able to track their performance throughout the year using an online bank of real AP practice questions and monthly personal progress checks.

Your Student’s To-Do List
Here is what students need to do to prepare for the 2019-20 AP school year.

THIS SPRING
• Students sign up for AP classes at school.

BEFORE THE SCHOOL YEAR
• Students visit apstudent.collegeboard.org to learn more about AP courses and exams.
• Students without a College Board account should create one and set their password. They’ll need their username and password when their AP classes start in the fall.
• Students who already have an account should make sure they know their username and password.

FALL 2019
• First week of class: Teachers will give students a join code for each of their AP classes. Students use their College Board username and password and join code to enroll in their class section.
• October/November: Schools submit exam orders.

SPRING 2020
• March: Schools submit any changes to their exam order and order exams for students in spring courses.
• May: Students take AP Exams.

SUMMER 2020
• July: AP Exam scores are released.

Questions? Contact your AP coordinator or AP services for students, or email us at apexams@info.collegeboard.org
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Global Entrepreneurship & Leadership Innovation Pre-College Course is a pre-college one week intensive, college level course exposing high school students to the theory and practice of entrepreneurship and innovation. Students are guided through the new venture creation process applied to their own original ideas by Columbia Business School Faculty.

Where?
This course is taught off campus to high school students within the US and globally in Asia, Africa, Europe, The Middle East and Latin America.

Take Away
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Module 5: Execution

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Nov 15 - 17, 2019

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Nov 15 - 17, 2019

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Nov 22 - 23, 2019

TORONTO, CANADA
Dec 7 - 8, 2019

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA
Jan 4 - 7, 2020

BANGKOK - JANUARY
Jan 10 - 13, 2020

HONG KONG
Jan 17 - 19, 2020

LONDON - JANUARY
Jan 17 - 20, 2020

CAMBRIDGE, USA
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