AISJ FALL NEWSLETTER



"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."

~ W.B Yeats

MEET OUR NEW EDUCATORS!

Dear School Community,

We are delighted to welcome several new faces to our team this year! Each new staff member brings a unique blend of skills, global experience, and a shared passion for education that has already enriched our community.

As they begin this exciting journey with us, we encourage you to get to know their backgrounds and expertise. Together, let's warmly welcome them and celebrate the diverse perspectives they bring to our classrooms!

A WARM WELCOME BACK FROM THE INTERIM DIRECTORS

Dear School Community,

As we quickly race towards the end of this first term of the school year, we, as the Interim Directors, would like to share our gratitude for the support and encouragement that so many have given us and the whole school community.

I came across a definition of community: "A community is a group of people we lean on when times are tough; our friends, family, and neighbours who are there for us when we need love, support, and encouragement."

At AISJ, fostering community life—both within the school and in our relationships with families—has always been a priority for us. It is something that supports mental wellbeing for our students, our staff, and, we hope, for you as parents as well. When students feel secure and loved, we create the conditions for academic excellence, enabling each student to fulfil their potential and discover their unique gifts and abilities.

In Secondary, through homeroom times and the Young Leaders programme, and in Elementary, through our new PSHE 'Heart Smart' programme, students are given time to explore themes that develop character and teach them how to live well together.

We look forward to having a wonderful year together as a community.





JESSE SLINGERLAND

Secondary Teacher

My name is Jesse Slingerland. I teach Humanities (MY1-MY3), Business Studies, IB History (DY1), and I am the Homeroom teacher for MY4. I moved to Jerusalem in August and am really enjoying life here!

My previous teaching experience includes roles in schools across South Korea, Taiwan, Lithuania, Bahrain, and the United States. I have taught a range of subjects, including Social Studies, IB Psychology, Entrepreneurship, CAS, ESL, and Special Education. I hold a Master of Education from Rutgers University Graduate School of Education in New Jersey, USA.

In my free time, I love exploring Jerusalem and look forward to helping students become more passionate about History and Business Studies. I have traveled extensively, and Jerusalem stands out as one of the most culturally fascinating cities I've encountered. I'm excited to experience more of its rich culture, sites, and sounds while teaching here!

"I took the road less traveled by and that has made all the difference."

~ Robert Frost





LISA MOLHER

Primary Teacher

Originally from Germany, I am a state-recognized educator with a Bachelor's in Child Development, Education, and Health. I've worked with children aged one to six in various childcare centers, and my passion lies in nurturing young children's growth, especially in their early years.

I believe children need to feel seen, valued, and connected, and I aim to foster their strengths by creating enriching learning opportunities and a stimulating environment. I also focus on responding sensitively to each child's unique needs, which I believe is essential for building secure attachments and supporting healthy emotional development.

Outside of school, I enjoy exploring Israel's biblical history, cooking, hiking, and spending time in nature. I'm excited for the school year with EY1 and welcome you to reach out by email or in person.

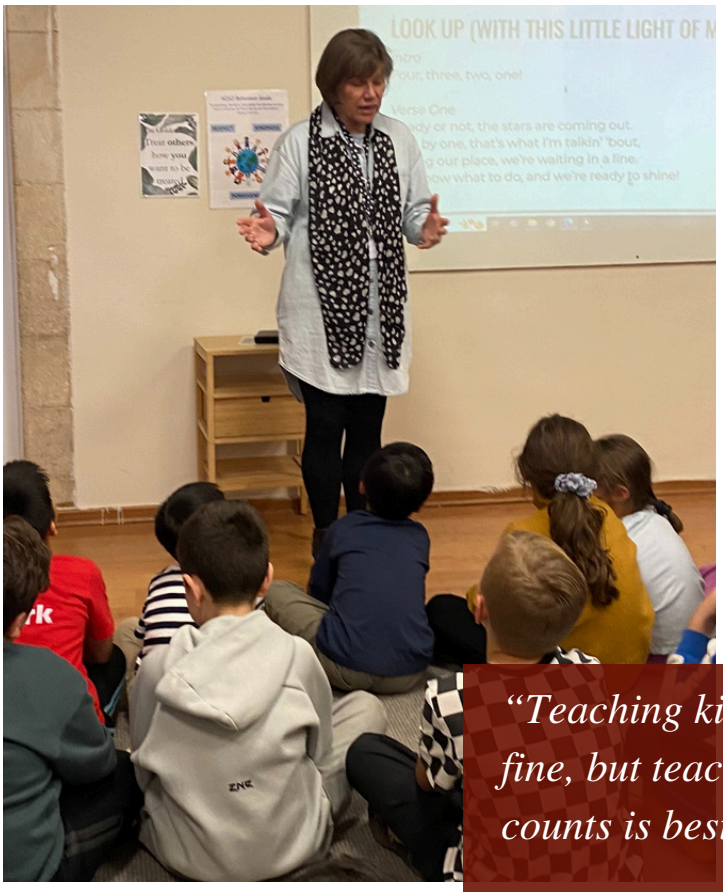


MICHELLE LOUBSER
Primary Teacher

British-born but largely South African-raised, I am now in my 32nd year of working with children aged 3 to 18 across schools, clubs, and more recently with recruits in the British army's initial training. My experience spans curriculum design, establishing creches on farms, teaching in diverse communities, heading International Primary schools, designing programs for homeschoolers, and even training teachers and army teams in student support and counseling.

If you asked what brings me the greatest fulfillment, I'd simply say, "THEM!" My daily motivation is to see young people uncover their unique gifts and become who they're meant to be. I'm also inspired by the wonderful parents of these learners. As a parent myself, I know that, while parenting is easy to discuss, it's the hardest job in the world. I'm dedicated to supporting parents in this journey, and partnering with the school every step of the way.

I absolutely love the AISJ community, which is why I've returned after 18 years. I look forward to serving the families, staff, leadership, and board of this special school once again.



"Teaching kids to count is fine, but teaching kids what counts is best."

~ Bob Talbert



EHUD LAX
Secondary Music Teacher

Born and raised in Israel, I've been immersed in Jerusalem's cultural scene as a producer, musician, and sound designer. My background includes leading youth delegations and collaborating with local cultural centers focused on creative arts and cultural dialogue.

I am an alumnus of the Musrara School of High Arts, where I graduated with honors in New Music. My work spans community-driven projects across Israel, from supporting neighborhoods in Haifa to promoting coexistence in Be'er Sheva and Jerusalem.

My teaching philosophy focuses on empowering students to discover their potential, adapt their strengths, and challenge themselves. I aim to nurture independent thinking in music and design, emphasizing that there is no "correct" way—only what resonates with each student. I will strive to equip them with the tools to work independently, fostering critical thinking and effort in their projects, while ensuring they feel safe, respected, and encouraged to grow beyond their comfort zones.

I'm available by email for any questions and teach on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. I will also attend PTA meetings and welcome the opportunity to connect with parents and students.





PENNEY SINGER
Secondary Teacher



My name is Penney Singer, and I am excited to be a part of the inclusion team at AISJ! I have been an educator for close to twenty years and have experience teaching students ranging in age from Elementary to High School. I have taught many subject areas, including English, Social Studies, Math, Science, and Learning Strategies. In my last position before moving to Israel, I was the Director of the Special Education Department at the school where I was working.

I hold an Honours B.A. in Psychology, as well as a Bachelor's Degree in Education from York University in Toronto. Additionally, I earned my Master's Degree in Special Education and Counselling from the University of Toronto/Ontario Institute for Studies in Education.

I enjoy working with students in small groups, which helps me understand their unique learning styles and tailor the curriculum to suit them. My focus is not only on content, but also on how students can best absorb it. By teaching study skills like time management, test-taking, and organization, I aim to help students become lifelong learners, applying these skills in all areas of their lives. My classroom is a supportive space where students feel understood, heard, and respected.

Feel free to reach out to me via email: penney.s@aisj.co.il. I look forward to meeting with you in person and look forward to a wonderful, productive year ahead!



GLORY BROOKS
Secondary Teacher

I am thrilled to join the Anglican International School as a high school English teacher. For the past three years, I've taught ninth-grade honors and standard English at Ardrey Kell High School in Charlotte, North Carolina. During that time, I had the privilege of working with English Language Learners and students with diverse learning needs, using differentiated instruction to support their success. I'm passionate about creating engaging and inclusive classrooms, and I'm excited to bring that same energy to my new role here.

Living in different countries has shaped my deep appreciation for diverse cultures, languages, and histories. Growing up, I lived in Indonesia and Kenya before moving to the U.S. for university. After graduation, I spent nine years teaching English in Indonesia before returning to the U.S. in 2021.

Outside of the classroom, I enjoy studying history, learning languages like Indonesian, Spanish, and Hebrew, and connecting with communities. I'm excited to support the students and families at AISJ and look forward to being part of this vibrant, multicultural community.



"In your teaching show integrity."
~ Titus 2:7

JODI TAUBE
Administrative Assistant



Originally from the United States, I've been living in Jerusalem since 2011 and have been working as the Administrative Assistant in the school office at AISJ since February 2024.

Once affectionately called the "email fairy," I'm the face behind many of the updates you receive. I pride myself on delivering information with warmth, clarity, and a touch of humor.

I hold a Bachelor's degree from Rutgers University and a Master's from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, both of which have equipped me with strong organizational and problem-solving skills. As a mother to two young children, I also understand the busy, multifaceted lives of families.

I am friendly, upbeat, and dedicated to giving 100% in everything that I do. My role keeps me busy with tasks ranging from assisting with newsletters, social media, and yearbook editing to coordinating events like clubs. I'm committed to ensuring smooth and efficient communication and enjoy being part of the team that makes sure our school runs like a well-oiled machine.

I look forward to supporting you in any way that I can!



BATIA COHEN
Early Years Assistant



I have been working in kindergartens for 27 years. Over this time, I've taught in different places, including a kibbutz and a Montessori school, and I even ran a nursery in my own home. I believe in hands-on teaching; I think children learn best when they can touch, feel, and explore what they're learning.

My personal belief is teaching through love. Teaching with love means creating a caring and supportive environment where every child feels valued and respected. It's about understanding each child's unique strengths and challenges and helping them grow not just academically, but also emotionally and socially.

To me, every child is special and should be accepted as they are. It's important to look each child in the eye and tell them you're proud of them, creating a safe, caring place where every child can explore what it means to be "themselves".

Coming to work every day at AISJ feels like heaven to me. Teaching here isn't just a job; it's a place where I feel fulfilled and inspired, knowing I am making a difference in the lives of each child.



"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."
~ Proverbs 22:6

A NOTE FROM THE PTA

The PTA hit the ground running this year. We hosted a parents' quiz night in October which raised more than NIS 2,000 and was a great evening enjoyed by all with delicious food provided by Tareq.

Many of you I'm sure took the opportunity to clear out your closets before last week's PTA clothes and toy swap. We were thrilled to have so many donations! I know many of the things given went to good new homes with other families at school, and the things left were collected by a local charity.

The bake sale running alongside the clothes swap raised more than NIS 700 which were donated to a local charity. The PTA would like to thank everyone who came along to help and took the time to donate clothes.

Next month the PTA is delighted to be running the drinks stand at the Christmas Fair. We will be providing mulled wine, hot chocolate and lots more to get everyone in the festive spirit.

As usual we are always keen for new volunteers, so please do get in touch if you feel you could spare some time.



"Nothing is impossible; the word itself says 'I'm possible'."
~ Audrey Hepburn



TABI FINK
Early Years Teacher



Hello, everyone! I am thrilled to have joined AISJ as the new PY1 teacher!

With an MA in General Childhood Education specializing in teaching reading, I have a broad range of experience working with children between the ages of 4 to 13. However, I particularly enjoy supporting 5 and 6-year-olds, as they have reached a developmental stage where they can connect with literature in a meaningful way. This is incredibly rewarding for me. I take great pride in helping my students grow as readers and writers.

I believe in the power of play as a cornerstone of learning and enjoy giving children opportunities to explore creatively. Jerusalem is a great city and I am excited by working with kids from all around the world. Whether it's singing together or constructing with open-ended materials (our cardboard collection is enormous!). I love seeing their imaginations come alive.

I am excited to have joined the team at AISJ and look forward to seeing the growth and progress my students will achieve throughout the year!

A WORD FROM THE STUDENT COUNCIL



The AISJ Student Council is committed to enhancing school life by organizing activities, events, and supporting causes that resonate with the student body. With 13 representatives—two from each grade—the council works collaboratively to promote student interests, foster a sense of unity, and make meaningful contributions throughout the year. Each month, the council dedicates itself to a new cause, like this month's campaign to raise awareness about ADHD with educational posters around campus.

Elected members are passionate about making the school environment both engaging and supportive, seeing their roles as a way to bring creativity and joy, especially following the challenges of the past year.

This year, the council has plans to bring back highly anticipated events, including the talent show and prom. These events aren't just highlights on the calendar but opportunities for students to come together, showcase their creativity, and build school spirit.

The student council's approach centers on actively listening to their peers and encouraging everyone to speak up about what they want and need for the best school experience possible. As part of their leadership journey, council members are learning the demands of balancing responsibilities while navigating their own academic challenges, especially as they take on heavier coursework in DY1.

Parents can play a role in supporting the council's efforts by encouraging their children to share ideas and engage in council activities. Together, we can create a school environment where every voice is heard and every student feels empowered.

ELEMENTRY STUDENT COUNCIL UPDATE

We are excited to introduce this year's Elementary Student Council! This group of dedicated representatives from PY2 to PY6 will work together to share ideas, discuss school matters, and work to represent the Elementary student voice within our school.

Each class has elected two representatives to ensure every grade is heard. PY6, who are leading the council, will have 4 students: the head, secretary and two representatives. Our goal is to provide students with opportunities to develop leadership skills while creating fun and meaningful experiences for everyone. In previous years, the council has organized activities like bake sales, Water Day, and the Easter Hat Parade. We are excited to see the new initiatives and events this group will bring to life this year!

The council will have their first meeting after the mid term break, gathering every two weeks to discuss ideas and plan projects. We are looking forward to supporting these young leaders as they work to make a difference and bring joy to our school community!



AISJ NEWSLETTER BOARD 'REPORT' DECEMBER 2024

As most AISJ parents know, AISJ receives accreditation from three accrediting agencies: International Baccalaureate Program, Mid-States Association (USA) and British Schools Overseas (UK). In previous years, each organization highlighted the need for the AISJ Governing Board to review and improve its governance and documents (Constitution and Handbook). Last spring, with the assistance of Thomas Burden, we prepared a draft Governance Handbook for submission to the Mid-States Association. The board also resolved to complete final revisions of the Governance Handbook and a review of the Constitution that governs how we serve AISJ. The Constitution and the Handbook will be reviewed by all the accreditation agencies. Equally important, these documents must be approved by the Board of Directors or the Israel Trust of the Anglican Church (ITAC) that owns and operates AISJ. This draft review, which was initiated by the Governance and Strategy Committee, was submitted to the full AISJ Governing Board at its winter meeting for discussion and ratification. After discussion, any further revision, and final ratification it will be submitted to the ITAC board for final approval.

The second area to which the board has given greater attention is finance. The war reduced enrollment by 22%, from 285-233. We decided to manage funds more closely, along with the Senior Leadership Team, in order to maintain the high standards characteristic of AISJ. Consequently, we will dip into reserves this academic year. Times like these are the reason for reserves to exist.

As always, we are grateful for the work of our staff and your support of the school. Despite all that is happening around us, there is more than adequate reason to thank the Lord for providing for our needs in this tumultuous and difficult time.