



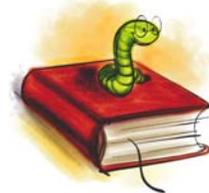
# Antilles Intermediate School

## Principal's Newsletter

Mr. David Sanabria

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April 17, - April 28, 2006



### Principal's Corner:

My name is David Sanabria and will be the principal of Antilles Intermediate School through July of 2006. I came to AIS from Antilles High School, where I was a Vice principal for two years and prior to that taught history and social studies there since 1995. It is a great source of pride for me to serve our community, as I am a product of this school system, having graduated from Antilles High School in 1983.

Perhaps many parents and students are wondering as to why the change in administrators has occurred so late in the school year. There have been other changes in recent times at AIS, and it is understandable that parents and students wonder as to why this is going on. The first change occurred when Mr Joseph Motolenich, the Principal of AIS, accepted a temporary assignment to serve as Principal of a middle school at West Point, NY. In his place, Dr Nina Roman, was named principal of AIS at the beginning of the current school year to replace Mr Motolenich. Now, Dr Roman has accepted a permanent position as Instructional System Specialist in charge of Special Education and Special Programs for DDESS – Puerto Rico and will be working from the District Superintendent's Office. To replace Dr Roman, I have been assigned to serve as Principal of AIS for the remainder of the school year. In July of 2006, Mr Motolenich will return to resume the headship at AIS for the upcoming school year.

This is a great thrill and a phenomenal opportunity for me to serve the children and parents of Antilles Intermediate School. So far the experience has been a real delight, as the children, teachers and parents have been most welcoming and embracing since my arrival. It is no secret that AIS is one of the premium schools in Puerto Rico and all of DoDEA, and we are truly rich in the most important resource of all; our people. Our kids are wonderful, our parents are involved and supportive, and our staff and teachers are among the finest in DoDEA. We have a team that is truly committed to excellence and the success of all our children.

As the school year comes to a close, I want to invite everyone to continue taking part in your children's lives by participating in all the activities we have scheduled. I look forward meeting more parents and getting to know our students, and hope that my brief tenure here provides as valuable an experience to the children and the families as it has been for me.

Sincerely,  
David R Sanabria

***“Be careful to leave your sons and daughters well instructed rather than rich, for the hopes of the instructed are better than the wealth of the ignorant.”***

***Epictetus (AD 55 – 135)***



### Moving Plans

As many already know, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grades from AIS will be moving to AES next year. Therefore, AIS will only be comprised of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade for the upcoming SY 06-07. This means that those students finishing the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade this year will remain at AES, and they will be received in their 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classrooms by their teachers at AES when the next school year begins. In addition to all the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers moving permanently to AES, some of our specialist teachers will be transferring to teach at AES some days of the week. It also means that there will be changes in the building at AIS, as with a significant reduction in population, the campus will likely be compressed to accommodate the students into more abridged quarters.

The weeks ahead present some taxing times as important decisions and changes will have to be made. Everyone is working laboriously to schedule and plan the move as efficiently and as judiciously as possible. The paramount consideration in all of this is to continue to provide a world-class education in the best environment possible. This presents a challenge for all of us involved, but we have total conviction that the same resilience and commitment to excellence that has always characterized AIS will help us through this transitional period.

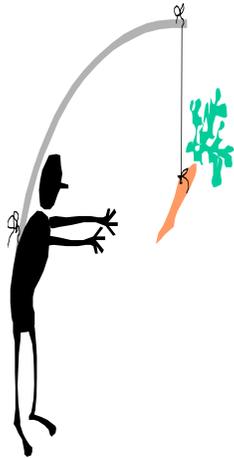
# Motivating Your Child

## Inspire your child with nonverbal communication

Children need their parent's support and approval. Knowing parents are cheering for them can inspire children to keep trying in school.

You may encourage your child with all the right verbal messages.

- **Leave a note** on your child's pillow at night after a sports event or recital. "I'm so proud of how you played today."
- **Tuck a note** into a lunchbox or book on the day of a test.
- **Put a note** on top of your child's homework. Write "Well done!"
- **Send an email** to your child's address, if she has one.



- **Write a short note** to your child when she appears concerned about something.
- **Give the thumbs-up sign** as she/he heads off to school.
- **Give her hand a squeeze** when she does something nice around the house.
- **Smile and hug your child**—for no particular reason.

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## Effective Consequences

Discipline

Discipline can be the key to success. These tips will help:

- **Choose an appropriate consequence.** If possible, it should be related to the misbehavior. Some consequences happen naturally, such as missing a fun activity after dawdling too long.
- **Give one warning.** For example, "I asked you to take that toy off the floor. Do it now, or I will put it away for the day."
- **Follow through.** Don't give your child chance after chance to comply. Show that you are serious.
- **Use rewards.** Give significantly more positive than negative feedback. Compliment your child for doing well!

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## Recipes for Success Science Lucky Penny



lemon juice; † tsp salt

Ask your child to clean one penny using soap and water. How well does it work? Next, ask him to dip another penny into lemon juice. Are the results better? Finally, have your youngster add the salt to the lemon juice and dip the third penny. Which penny is the shiniest.

Explain that pennies are made of copper. When copper mixes with air, copper oxide forms and makes pennies look dull. Lemon juice will remove some of the oxide. Adding salt works even better.

*"Parents must get across the idea that 'I love you always, but sometimes I do not love your behavior.'"*

Amy Vanderbilt

# What do we celebrate in April?

## National Poetry Month

The National Poetry Month was established by the Academy of American Poets as a month-long, national celebration of poetry. The concept was to increase the attention paid-by individuals and the media—to the art of poetry, to living poets, to our poetic heritage, and to the poetry books and magazines. In the end, we hope to achieve an increase in the visibility, presence, and accessibility of poetry in our culture.

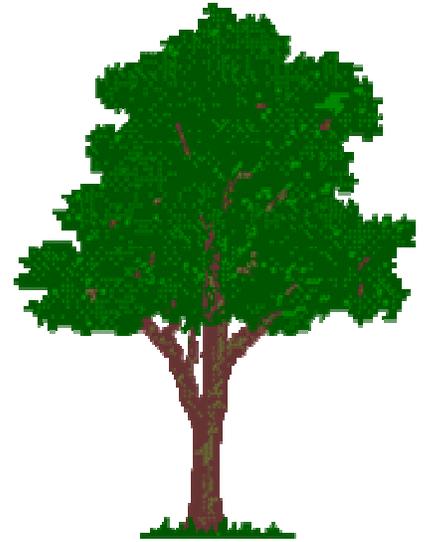
It is celebrated every April since 1996.

## Earth Day

In 1963, former Senator Gaylord Nelson began to worry about our planet. He knew that our world was getting dirty and that many of our plants and animals were dying. He wondered why more people weren't trying to solve these problems. He talked to other lawmakers and to the President.

Then, in 1969 decided to have a special day to teach everyone about the things that needed changing in our environment.

On April 22, 1970, the first Earth Day was held. People all over the country made promises to help the environment. Earth Day was spread all over the planet.



**Earth Day - Every Day**

## Parent Quiz:

**Are you helping your child prepare for year-end tests?**

As year-end tests draw near, parents have a role to play. Here's a quiz to see if you're helping your child do it right. Answer yes or no to each statement.



- \_\_\_ 1. **I make sure** my child is at school every day.
- \_\_\_ 2. **We read together** regularly. Good reading skills are important for success on tests.
- \_\_\_ 3. **I work with my child** on any skills his teacher has suggested we work on at home.
- \_\_\_ 4. **I ask questions** about the tests my child will take to learn about what the tests cover.
- \_\_\_ 5. **I never judge** my child's ability by one test.

## How Did You Score?

Each "yes" will help your child do better on important tests. For each "no" answer, try that idea from the quiz.

## Dates to Remember

**Week of April 17–21, 2006**

CAPA Testing, 4th Grade only

**April 19, 2006:** NCA Visit; Military Child Abuse Proclamation Ceremony

**April 20, 2006:** Crazy Hair Day, \$1.00 per student

**April 21, 2006:** Field Trip to Guaynabo Cinema, 3rd Grade Only

**April 22, 2006:** (Saturday) Earth Day

**Week of April 24–28, 2006**

DRA Testing 3rd Grade only

**April 27, 2006:** AIS Patriotic Assembly. Students may wear red, white and blue.

**April 28, 2006:**

Field Trip, Children's Museum San Juan. 3rd Grade only

Interim Reports sent home

## Antilles Intermediate School

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## AIS Home of the Cheetah

Sources: The Parent Institute, Yoohoogilans,  
Recipes for Success



## Questions & Answers



**Q** : Everyone in our school talks about the hard third grade teacher. My son has her this year. She's tough— homework everyday, which has to be turned in on time. There are lots of long-term projects, too. The problem is that my son is disorganized. Should I try to get him in another class?

**A: No.** Being in this class is just what your child needs. As he meets the teacher's expectations, he will be building important academic skills. You can help your son get organized. To get started, put a box by the front door for his books and homework. Each afternoon, after he finishes his homework, have him put his books, papers, and folders in the box. Then, in the morning, he can grab them when he heads out for school.

Help him write checklists so he doesn't forget things. Post a large calendar in his room. Then, teach him how to break down long-term projects into short-term goals that he can write on his calendar.

Talk to parents of last year's of last year's third-graders. They'll probably tell you that they are grateful for this teacher. The organization skills that your son learns this year will carry him through elementary school and beyond.

## Make Rules, Set Time Limits for Using TV & Computer



much time does he

re even more  
real. Many parents need to limit  
their child's "screen time"— the  
total hours spent watching TV,  
playing video games, or browsing  
online.

Here are five steps for parents to  
follow:

1. **Pay close attention** to how your family uses media. Where are the TV's located? How many hours does your child spend watching TV and browsing online?
2. **Learn more.** New video games come out each month. Find out what your child is playing. Ask other parents what they recommend.
3. **Make a plan.** Take the TV out of your child's bedroom. Put the computer where you can see it. Make a schedule for TV and computer usage.
4. **Offer choices.** Suggest other activities for your child when the TV and the computer are turned off.
5. **Teach your child** how to be a critical viewer. Encourage him to ask questions about what he sees and reads.