

# AIN'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Wednesday, June 9th, 2021

## CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2021!

On Saturday, June 5th, the AINS community celebrated the success of our three seniors during the 2021 Commencement Ceremony on campus. Special thanks is extended to the United States Ambassador to Mauritania, Ambassador Cynthia Kierscht, for delivering the Commencement Address. We wish Seniya, Oumi, and Nayli the best of luck in their future endeavors.



Nayli  
University of Toronto  
Canada  
*Sciences (Medicine)*



Seniya  
American University in Paris  
France  
*Environmental Sciences*



Oumi  
Saudi Arabia  
*Business*



# Together We Succeeded

As we send out our last newsletter of the 2020-21 school year, I wanted to take a few moments to share successes that the whole AISN community should be proud of. Through this year's mantra of "Together We Succeed", we managed to accomplish much.

## **We put health and safety first**

- We kept our students and staff safe. With only one known COVID case, and no cases of school transmission, working together, we were able to keep our AISN community safe.

## **The learning never stopped while we supported our students both in-person and online**

- We operated with the majority of students in-person, but we had some students online the entire year. Hats off to the teachers that mastered running in-person classrooms with zoom going full time.
- We were in-person 73% of the school year. And the other 27%, we were online through zoom and our online curriculum. We did not miss any educational opportunities this year.
- AISN students take a standardized test that is used at schools in the US and across the entire world. Currently, there is no post-COVID data to compare our results to, but across the globe, the general reports are that MAP scores are significantly lower in 2020-21 than in previous year - which is very understandable given the impact of COVID. Yet, at AISN, we EXCEEDED the worldwide average results for a normal, non-COVID year; an amazing accomplishment for our students and staff. The teachers and students demonstrated that the learning never stopped at AISN!
- Our teachers and teaching assistants all undertook professional development training to make them better prepared to deliver quality instruction to increase student achievement. All of our staff spent weeks of training on our online curriculum and online teaching methods. With financial support from the US State Department, we had 5 teachers earn (or soon to earn) their US teaching license, 4 earn Master's Degrees in Education, 4 teaching assistants complete their international TA diploma from the UK, one teacher completed a bachelor's degree, and all our facilities staff take English lessons.

## **And we planned for the future**

- At the height of COVID, we were busy preparing for our 7-year accreditation review. We were one of the very first in the world to do a full 3-day virtual accreditation visit and passed with wonderful reviews. AISN is now fully accredited Pre-K to Grade 12 through 2028.
- In planning for the future, we worked closely with the U.S. Embassy on the acquisition of land to double the AISN footprint. Demolition of unused buildings on the old US Embassy property will start this summer, which will allow for the opportunity of new construction to begin as early as next school year.

Mr. Dave and I have had a wonderful three years at AISN. While COVID brought many challenges, it also brought many rewards. We witnessed the resilience of students and teachers. We saw the passion and dedication at AISN which brought the two of us to the world of education 25+ years ago. We will carry our AISN friendships with us as we return to our home in the U.S. I am sure you will welcome AISN's new Director, Heidi Cavanagh, and her husband Marc, with the same Mauritanian hospitality that you showed to Dave and I.

With the warmest of regards,  
Ms. MaryAnn