

October 19, 2011



Newsletter of the American School of Kinshasa  
☎ 0818846619

## Superintendent's Notes

### TASOK Contingency

#### Planning

TASOK works hard to be a school driven by careful, relevant planning and continuous focus on the best interests of our students. Offering students an optimal learning environment is our core mission.



This election season in the DRC is a time of tremendous hope for our host country. As an international school, we admire the DRC people's determination to hold fair and free democratic elections, no matter what the challenges.

TASOK is determined to remain open, offering optimal learning opportunities right here on our campus. We do, however, understand, that the employers and auspices of our families may be making plans that require dependents to be absent for certain times in November or December. TASOK will make every effort to serve students caught in those circumstances. Each TASOK division, Elementary, Middle, and High School has created a simple contingency plan to enable teachers to stay in touch with students in the event that some students may be temporarily away from Kinshasa. Circumstances are changeable, so these plans are open and designed to be flexible. Families departing early must be certain they have access to internet to enable their children to continue learning and keep contact with their school.

For students in grades kindergarten through grade 5, the classroom teachers will remain in email contact, as they are now, with every family. Every elementary grade level teacher has a list of parent email contacts. If your child must depart, step one is notifying the teacher and the superintendent. The classroom teacher will keep you informed of content and skills being covered. Depending on the length of absence, classroom teachers may make suggestions for "at home" activities to keep your

child going. Families should initiate email contact immediately on arrival at their destination. It will be wise for all families to make an effort to find reading material for your children at your destination. After that, the teacher will communicate with you, so be certain that the teacher has your exact, current email contact.

In the Middle School, teachers of the core subjects of English, Social Studies, Math, and Science are currently designing two interdisciplinary projects that can be completed at the destination if your child must depart from Kinshasa. The project will be ready to access by November 1, 2011. Access will be either through email attachment or by consulting the wiki created specifically for these two academic projects. The teachers will integrate their expectations for all four subjects into each of the two projects. Students who leave before school closes at 11:00 am on December 16 must complete and present their projects when school reopens in January. The wiki and the email contact with families will provide email addresses for the English, Social Studies, Math, and Science teachers to allow necessary communication. The projects will not be available in hard copy, so families should locate access to a printer at their destination. Families must have internet access.

The High School faculty and students have a particular challenge in that students are earning required high school course credits and must complete first semester work. The semester ends December 16. Principal Steven Hupp has already indicated that final assessments will be accomplished without traditional semester exams. Students will still be required to complete a summative assessment that will be due on either December 14 or 15 as determined by the teacher of the class. Teachers will develop summative, end of semester assessments that can be turned in via email if the student has had to leave Kinshasa. These required summative assessments

substitute for final exams. They are important. The summative assessments will be available to you either by email as attachments or through a wiki created by the subject teacher.

All high school faculty have access to email contacts for their students' families on the TASOK data base. However, it is essential that any departing family must leave with Principal Steven Hupp their exact email contact while away. Staying in contact with school is the essential ingredient in continuing your child's progress. I'll finish this section on High School by quoting principal Hupp's wise words on the importance of staying at school if possible.

"Students who come to school every day school is in session, go to all their classes, pay attention the whole time in class, and study in groups are most likely to learn the most and hence, have excellent academic results. Students who fall down in one of these areas, especially those who miss school, put their academic success at risk. Each year I have been the principal at TASOK, I have written about the importance of attendance – the importance of respecting the school schedule – the importance of not leaving before vacations start and not extending vacations after the start of school."

The TASOK High School faculty has worked diligently and thoughtfully to modify their assessments in way that can accommodate unexpected disruption in December. No plan, however thoughtful, is substitute for being present at school. I remain confident all families will always carefully consider their child's educational needs in making decisions related to travel.

As you move forward with your own planning in this election season, remember that TASOK is 100% committed to your children's education. Never hesitate to consult with teachers and administrators as you consider the best options for your family. I am always available via email at

[Irene.epp@gmail.com](mailto:Irene.epp@gmail.com), by phone at 081 700 5567 or in person at school.

### **SECURITY NOTES**

#### **Make certain TASOK has your contacts on file.**

As we move closer to the start of official election campaigning toward the end of October and the voting day on November 28, the focus of families on the local security situation is becoming more intense. CENI, the electoral commission, remains steadfast in their determination to hold fair and peaceful elections, exactly as scheduled, voting on November 28 and preliminary results announced December 6.

TASOK has no current plan to close except on Election Day, November 28. We continue to practice our security drills and continue to monitor news from newspapers, radio, television, and the web. We maintain close contact with the US Embassy.

All families with tentative or definite plans to remove students before the close of school on December 16 must contact me immediately via email at [super@tasok.net](mailto:super@tasok.net) or [Irene.epp@gmail.com](mailto:Irene.epp@gmail.com). TASOK must have accurate information delivered clearly in writing.

Families can help us plan wisely by maintaining open, candid communication with teachers and administrators. Our contingency planning for absent students can never take the place of learning right here on campus. Of course we will cope when emergency demands it. However, the school will always choose to provide optimal quality on site education unless we face circumstances where that is definitely not an option.

I personally will be staying here at TASOK now and through the complete December/January Break. You can contact me as you need with questions and concerns.

### **TASOK P.E. UNIFORMS**

***Remember to purchase  
1 PE Uniform for your child  
at \$15.00***

***PE Uniforms are required and must be worn to PE classes starting  
October 24.***

# *From The High School*



## **High School Parent Conferences Reminder about format and appointment sign-up**

November 1 will be here soon and I look forward to seeing all High School parents at conferences. As I wrote in the last TASOK Talk there are some changes to the format this year.

### ***In the morning:***

Teachers will be available by appointment in their classrooms between 8:00 am and 11:30 am. Appointment slots are 20 minutes. To make an appointment simply contact Mr. Alain Elembo reception ([alelembo@tasok.net](mailto:alelembo@tasok.net) or 0818846619) and he will help you schedule a time for your extended conference.

### ***In the afternoon:***

After lunch, between the hours of 12:30 and 15:30, the high school teachers will gather in the CAC for the open round-robin sorts of conferences we have had in the past.

## **B Block PE Dances at Congo Week Performance**



On 13 October, during Congo Week, 16 students from Grades 10 & 11 performed an African dance choreographed by Jacques Banayanga. To their credit, they learned the dance and perfected their skills in only nine classes. Immediately following the

performance, the High School students taught some of the moves to TASOK elementary students.

## **D.E.A.P Is Coming**

### ***Just one part of the High School Celebration of Science***

That is right. On November 4<sup>th</sup> the High School will **Drop Everything and Plant**. Students will set out in groups of 10 for hour-long sessions that will include tree tours by the high school Environmental Science class, and further tree planting under the guidance of Mrs Inge Sthreshley.

### ***Wait! There is More.***

Complimentary to **D.E.A.P** there will a celebration of Science at the High School. During the three planting times, students not involved with the tree planting will be preparing presentations related to their learning in their various science classes. Parents are invited to come and tour those presentations during G and H block (between 12:15 and 2:30) on Friday the 4<sup>th</sup>. If you come earlier, you might have the opportunity to join students on a tour of the Botanical Garden and maybe help with the tree planting. If you have questions, ask your TASOK Science student!

## **Ending the First Semester at High School**

### ***What to Expect***

While students will not be sitting traditional final exams at the end of the first semester, they are still required to complete a summative assessment due on one of those dates as determined by the teacher of the class. Teachers will develop summative, end of semester, assessments that, if the need should arise, could be turned in via email. Each High School teacher will

communicate those assignments directly with students.

The TASOK High School faculty has worked diligently and thoughtfully to modify their assessments in way that can accommodate unexpected disruption in December. No plan, however thoughtful, is substitute for being present at school. I remain confident all families will carefully consider their child's educational needs in making decisions.

As always, my door is open and I am available to answer your questions and respond to your concerns.

-Mr. Steven Hupp - Principal

### **Haunted House New Haunted Trail**

Like every year, TASOK brings to us a day filled with excitement, a variety of fun games, delicious food, and the spooky Haunted House to celebrate Halloween. This event will take place on Saturday October 29<sup>th</sup> from 3-6 PM. Come and join in on the fun and you're welcome to bring as many friends and family, as you like. It is open to everyone.

Also, for the first time, our very own seniors will be creating a haunted trail for ages 13 and up through the Botanical Gardens from 6:30-8 PM. Think you're brave enough? Come challenge yourself to TASOK's new and exciting trail filled with a mysterious and frightening atmosphere.



### **College Counseling Corner**

All TASOK students should have completed their common application. Regardless of where they are applying the information needed to complete the common app is information that will be needed for other applications as well. Students who have not yet completed their common app (and turned in blue sheets) are behind in the process and may need extra urging from parents. Please contact the University Admissions Team with any questions:

Mr. Gjullin – [kgjullin@tasok.net](mailto:kgjullin@tasok.net)

Mme Mwilambwe [gmwilambwe@tasok.net](mailto:gmwilambwe@tasok.net)

Mr. Hupp – [principal@tasok.net](mailto:principal@tasok.net)

Blue Sheets	Deadline Passed!!!
<b>Common App Finished</b>	<b>Monday, October 17</b>
Early Decision, Early Action and University of California System Applications due	November 1
Last day to submit applications to Counselors for mailing	December 7

Common App Website

<https://www.commonapp.org/CommonApp/default.aspx>

**Remember This?** (Probably not)



Hmmm...What is this? A TASOK pride bracelet to the first student who correctly identifies this photo to Mr. Hupp.

### **Contact Info**

High School Principal

Steven Hupp

081 510 9714

[Principal@tasok.net](mailto:Principal@tasok.net)

Facebook TASOK Principal

Twitter TASOK\_Principal

Flickr Arcticteach

Current updates are always available at the TASOK Website:

<http://www.tasok.net/updates.html>

# PTC Corner

## PTC Meeting – Next Thursday

Please join us for our regularly scheduled PTC meeting next Thursday, Oct 27<sup>th</sup> in the PTC room. All are welcome. We will be discussing plans for upcoming events, including International Lunch. Please contact [tasokptc@gmail.com](mailto:tasokptc@gmail.com) with questions.

## Diwali Celebration – Volunteers Needed

Ms. Fraser's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class is hoping to host a Diwali celebration for the elementary classes on Wed, Oct 26<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed to provide food and henna painting. Please contact PTC, at [tasokptc@gmail.com](mailto:tasokptc@gmail.com) so we can gauge interest in this event.

## Elementary Halloween Parade

PTC will be sponsoring a Halloween parade and Trunk-or-Treat for elementary classes on Monday Oct 31<sup>st</sup>. We are asking for parents to contribute (individually wrapped) candies for this event. All contributions should be sent to the classroom teachers by Friday, Oct 28<sup>th</sup>. Please contact PTC at [tasokptc@gmail.com](mailto:tasokptc@gmail.com) with any questions.

## Board Positions Available

We are still looking for parents to fill the Treasurer and VP positions. Please contact the PTC, if interested. [tasokptc@gmail.com](mailto:tasokptc@gmail.com).

## Holiday Bazaar

Planning is already underway for the upcoming PTC Holiday Bazaar, to be held during the Elementary School concert on Dec 9<sup>th</sup>. We need your ideas and contributions. Contact [tasokptc@gmail.com](mailto:tasokptc@gmail.com) if interested.

## TASOK Pagne On Sale at the Front Office

The TASOK 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary pagne is now available for sale at the school front office. The price is \$30. Please email [tasokptc@gmail.com](mailto:tasokptc@gmail.com) with any questions.

<b>Upcoming PTC Events</b>	
Diwali Celebration	Wednesday Oct 26 <sup>th</sup>
PTC meeting	Thursday Oct 27 <sup>th</sup> 8-9.30 AM
Halloween Parade	Monday Oct 31 <sup>st</sup>
PTC meeting	Thursday Nov 17 <sup>th</sup> 8-9.30 AM
International Lunch	Wednesday, Nov 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Holiday Bazaar	Friday, Dec 9 <sup>th</sup> At Elem. concert
PTC meeting	Thursday Dec 15 <sup>th</sup> 8-9.30 AM

# Food service **NATHAN**

## TASOK Cafeteria

### Elementary School

Menu from October 3 to 31 October



#### Monday:

Rice and Beans	\$2.50
Chicken dips with rice, Vegetables and Sauce	\$3.00

#### Tuesday:

Rice and Beans	\$2.50
Macaroni Cheese sauce	\$3.00

#### Wednesday:

Rice and Beans	\$2.50
Hamburger	\$3.00

#### Thursday:

Rice and Beans	\$2.50
Fried Rice with Beef	\$3.00

#### Friday:

Rice and Beans	\$2.50
Pizza Margarita	\$3.00

### Secondary School

Menu from October 3 to 31 October

#### Plat de Jour

##### Monday:

Maccaroni Chesse Sauce	\$ 4.50
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##### Tuesday:

Meat Balls in Tomaote with Veg And rice	\$ 4.00
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##### Wednesday:

¼ Chicken with salad	\$ 4.50
French Fries	\$ 2.50
Rice and Beans	\$ 3.00

##### Thursday

Napolitan Spaghetti	\$4.00
Rice and Beans	\$3.00

##### Friday

Chicken dips with Rice and Onion sauce	\$ 4.50
Rice and Beans	\$3.00

##### Every Day – Soup of the day

TBA

Rice and Beans ( With Chicken and Vegetables)	\$ 3.00
Shawarma	\$4.00
Hamburgers	\$4.50
Sandwiches	
Salami or Paris saucisson	\$ 4.50
Mix (Ham, cheese, eggs, salad)	\$ 4.50
Crab salad	\$ 4.50
Vegetarian / Ham /Cheese	\$ 4.00
Chicken	\$ 4.00
Crab Salad	\$4.50

Juice	\$ 1.50
Fresh Juice: Carrot	\$4.00
Grapes	\$4.00
Orange	\$4.00

Coffee Nespresso	\$ 3.00
Hot Chocolate	\$4.00
Cappuccino	\$3.50
Tea	\$2:00
Banana Milkshake	\$4.50
Pain au chocolat	\$1.50
Crepe chocolat	\$ 3.00
Waffle	\$ 2.00
Cake au beurre	\$1.50

## October 2011

October 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sep 25	26	27	28	29	30	Oct 1
						SAT
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Board Meeting	Elementary Conferences	MS Progress Reports Home	Elementary Conferences	Homecoming Spirit Day HS & MS Pep Rally	Orphanage Visit
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Congo Week	Congo Week	Congo Week PSAT Testing	Congo Week	Congo Week End of 1st Quarter	Congo Week National Ballet Performance
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
			HS - 1st Quarter Grades Due	Sunshine: Zongo Falls School Closed Fall Break	Sunshine: Zongo Falls School Closed Fall Break	Sunshine: Zongo Falls
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
			HS - Report Cards go home AGM	Yearbook Pictures PTC Meeting Senior Parent Night	Yearbook Pictures Sprit Day	Haunted House
30	31	Nov 1	2	3	4	5
Board Retreat	3-5 MAP Testing Elementary Dress Up Day	3-5 MAP Testing	3-5 MAP Testing	3-5 MAP Testing	3-5 MAP Testing	