

# 2010

## AASCA Principal's Conference



San Salvador, El Salvador

April 10-11

**AASCA Principal's Conference**

**San Salvador, El Salvador**

**April 10-11 2010**

**Attendance:**

**Costa Rica**

***American International School of Costa Rica***

Country Day School

Lincoln School

Marian Baker School

***Absent***

Harry Grzelewski

Timothy Beard

Randall Zuniga

**El Salvador**

American School of El Salvador

International School of San Salvador

Panamerican School

Colegio Maya-El Salvador

Ramon Morales

Dennis Miller (8-10 am, *Day 1*)

Claudia Pardo

Jaime Comandari

**Guatemala**

American School of Guatemala

Colegio Americana del Sur

Colegio Decroly

Colegio Maya-Guatemala

Colegio Interamericano

Ted Langlais

Deborah Revolvorio

Uriel Zavala

Maribel Suarez

Jim Burwell

**Honduras**

American School of Tegucigalpa

Escuela Internacional Sampedrana

Mazapan School

***Discovery School***

***Freedom School***

Maria Motz

Tom Litecky

Donna Dixon

***Absent***

***Absent***

**Nicaragua**

American Nicaraguan School

Lincoln International Academy

***St. Augustine Prep***

Tim Gardina

Roberto Porta

***Absent***

**Panama**

International School of Panama

Balboa Academy

Dan McKee

Erinn Magee

Rita Sosa

***Absent***

***Crossroads Christian Academy***

*Welcome & Ice Breaker Activity, Review of Director's Meeting Minutes, Review of Athletic Directors' Meeting Minutes, Reports on AASCA Events, Issues for Discussion, Recommendations, AASCA Calendar of Events (2010-11), Hosting Pledges for 2011-12, AASCA Community Service Award Entries, Officers for 10-11, Review and Approval of Conference Minutes*

### **Ice Breaker Activity**

Presentation of each participant and discussion on two guiding questions: What has been the most frustrating event for you so far this year? And, what was your most rewarding experience?

### **Minutes from General Director's and AD's meeting**

- Review of the Director's minutes from Panama meeting May 2009
- Review of the Athletic Director's meeting September 2010

### **Reports on 09-10 AASCA Events**

- Leadership Conference - Lincoln Costa Rica - September 24-27

### **Report from Tim Beard:**

The 2009 AASCA leadership Conference took place at La Montaña Christian Camp near San Ramón, Costa Rica. There were 17 schools that participated in the activity .The schools from Honduras had to cancel at the last minute because of the political unrest in that country .The money of those schools that had already paid has been refunded. In addition, excess funds of \$3,167.91 were transferred to the AASCA general fund. One school, the American School of San Salvador, did not pay the \$400 participation fee.

The AASCA Schools that were able to participate are the following:

Americano de Guatemala  
InterAmericano de Guatemala  
Maya de Guatemala  
Americano del Sur Guatemala  
Country Day Guanacaste, Costa Rica  
Country Day Escazu, Costa Rica  
Lincoln Costa Rica  
Pan American School Costa Rica  
Marian Baker School Costa Rica  
ANS Nicaragua  
Lincoln Academy Nicaragua  
San Agustin Nicaragua  
Balboa Academy Panama  
American School El Salvador

Maya El Salvador  
Internacional El Salvador  
Pan American School El Salvador

The theme of the conference was Leadership—Head, Heart, and Hands. Basically, all talks and activities were team-building, related to social consciousness and community service. Most comments throughout and following the conference were highly positive. The camp itself has abundant activity equipment, and the food was plentiful. The camp organization company had a 25-member staff, which coordinated numerous activities with La Montaña staff. Professional speakers were brought in from the U.S. to address students on topics such as transformational leadership, a vision to lead, the character of a leader, and goal setting. Administrative school staff and teachers took advantage of the opportunity to share ideas in Boy With a Ball led workshops.

One negative feature of the conference was highly inadequate telephone service. Also, one participating teacher objected to the “saying” of grace at meals, virtually the only display of religion at the three-day conference.

**Comments:**

**CAS:** The kids were really into Central America, the groups were mixed and they still to this day remember the team and the color they belonged to at the Conference. It was great! The idea of memorizing a quote was used in our school. It was very Christian, this brought comments from some students. However the prayer at the meals was the only overt religious actions.

**BALBOA:** A good balance between the physical action and time for reflection and discussion. It inspire a lot of them. I see many of them still ....It was a great balance.

**LINCOLN C.R.:** Student perspective “Too much rice and beans” “This has been my best leadership Conference in all my life” “My room was full of spiders but it was good” “I love the activities, games” “I’m a leader”. One point is that our school is going through a transition from a very Catholic background to a more secular one.

**CAG** Students had a wonderful time, great experience, bonding. But students that are not christian that there were moments that they felt uncomfortable.

**MBS** There were three students that did not participate in any extracurricular activities and after the conference there has been a huge change.

**ANS** The students came back very energized.

**MAYA GUATEMALA:** They really enjoyed it, and some of them who had been in previous conference enjoyed the change. Great team building activities.

**CIG:** Students were very appreciative and one in particular who showed a huge transformation this year, and the advisor commented it was the camp. They commented on the religious part as well.

**EAS:** Our students brought back a lot from the camp and even tried to immitate the idea in the Soccer Tournament. A parent called before the conference to comment on the Christian undertone of the Conference, so it is something to think about.

- Small School Basketball - Marian Baker Costa Rica - October 7-11

## Report from Randall Zuniga:

Date: Took place from October 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Place: Marian Baker School (organizer) and Country Day School (alternate site)

Number of students participating: 136. Schools participating: 8. # of teams: 14; 8 boys, 6 girls.

- Marian Baker School.
- International School of Panama
- Colegio Maya, El Salvador (\*)
- Colegio Maya, Guatemala
- Country Day School, Escazu, Costa Rica.
- Country Day School, Guanacaste, Costa Rica.
- Balboa Academy, Panama.
- American International School, Costa Rica (\*)

(\*) Participated with male teams only.

Number of games: 25 at MBS; 13 at CDS.

- The event developed without major incidents, both inside and outside the court.
- A request from CDS to verify the number of points scored by one player was resolved with the statistics kept by the MBS staff.
- The opening and closing ceremony took place at MBS. At the end of the final game, the tables were set up for the final dinner while the teams were at a photo presentation.
- At this photo presentation, some of the players began booing the photos that the MBS students appeared. None of the visiting administrators or any of the coaches addressed this situation.
- The three players who were injured seriously during the game were attended to by the doctor present at the games and also by a private ambulance service. One of these injured students had to be transported to a local hospital.
- The transportation schedule indicated that all teams were to be picked up at 7:00 am from the hotel. On the Saturday, the teams that were not having games until 10 or 11 am, stayed late and arranged their own transportation to MBS.

Final positions:

Male Category

1. Marian Baker School.
2. International School of Panama
3. Country Day School.
4. Balboa Academy.
5. Colegio Maya – Guatemala.
6. Colegio Maya – El Salvador.
7. American International School
8. Country Day School – Guanacaste.

Female Category

1. Country Day School
2. Maya Guatemala
3. Country Day School – Guanacaste.
4. Marian Baker School.
5. Balboa Academy.
6. International School of Panama

**ISP: Most of the injured kids were from our school! The hotel is great. The school was hospitable.**

**MAYA Guatemala: Nicely run. The distances were long, but it worked. Loved the hotel, nice setting, but we missed the buffet style of dinner. Very smooth tournament. The Head was always visible and commented to the other schools about the games. That gives stability to the game.**

**MAYA Salvador: I enjoyed seeing the School Head always present, all the times at the bleachers, you don't see that often. The Closing ceremony involved the PTA, which was refreshing and enthusiastic.**

- Large School Basketball - American Nicaraguan School - October 7-11

### **Report from Tim Gardina:**

#### **XIII AASCA Basketball Tournament Managua October 7-11, 2009**

##### **Girls Division**

- Teams: ANS, EAT, EAS, EIS, CAG, CDA
- Games: 18

##### **Boys Division**

- Teams: ANS, EAT, EAS, EIS, CAG, CIG
- Games: 18

##### **Other facts**

- The eight ANS Administrative Team Members served as court Delegates
- Excellent Parents' behavior throughout the tournament, both visiting and host.
- Two icebreakers were held simultaneously: The students' was organized by the host Student Council. The parents' was organized by the ANS PTO (Parents Teacher Organization).
- The AASCA Athletic Mission was displayed in the gym for the entire length of the tournament.
- Fortunately only two students needed to be sent to the hospital. One girl from EAS and one Girl from CDA.
- Number of courts used: 3. Court Number One: sixteen games (16)

Court Number 2: three games (3)

Court Number 3: seventeen games (17)

- Two very famous Nicaraguan sport celebrities were invited to the inauguration ceremony: Mr. Dennis Martinez was the guest speaker. He played in the MLB for 23 years and he is the Latino pitcher with most wins in the history of the Major League and the only Latino pitcher who has pitched a Perfect Game.

Ms. Michelle Richardson silver medal in swimming in the Summer Olympic Games of Los Angeles 1984 administered the oath of the athletes.

- The Tournament used software to keep track of the statistics of the tournament, the teams' and the individuals' with many details. This was the first time in AASCA history that such software is used. The team captains or team representatives were able to get a copy of the statistics just after the game was over.

## GIRLS FINAL STANDING

1. Escuela Americana De El Salvador (EAS)
2. Escuela Americana De Tegucigalpa (EAT)
3. Escuela Americana De Guatemala (CAG)
4. Escuela Internacional Sampedrana (EIS)
5. American Nicaraguan School (ANS)
6. Colegio Decroly Americano (CDA)

## BOYS FINAL STANDING

1. Escuela Americana De El Salvador (EAS)
2. Escuela Americana De Tegucigalpa (EAT)
3. Escuela Internacional Sampedrana (EIS)
4. American Nicaraguan School (ANS)
5. Escuela americana De Guatemala (CAG)
6. Colegio Interamericano de Guatemala( CIG)

**AST: Excellent welcome, especially for our parents who enjoyed a great ice-breaker activity. The students commented on the hospitality of the school ambassadors and the school population in general. The hidration was plentiful and timely. The tournament, especially in the male category, was very fair. Just one comment, the coaches and referees should concentrate on the rules as stated by AASCA and avoid public displays.**

**CAG: They had a great time, only positive things to say.**

- Knowledge Bowl – EAS/Panamericana/ International @El Salvador November 11-15  
**AASCA KNOWLEDGE BOWL REPORT NOVEMBER 11-15, 2009**

The 2009 AASCA Knowledge Bowl Tournament was scheduled to be hosted by the American School of Tegucigalpa. Due to the unpredictable political situation and in the spirit of collaboration, the American School of El Salvador proposed to co-host this event. Ramon Morales, Upper School Director immediately requested the approval from the EA Administration and communicated with Claudia de Pardo at the Panamerican School and with Chester Stemp at the Colegio Internacional de San Salvador in order to join forces in the organization of this very important event.

We are pleased to report that the students, coaches, administrators, and parents indicated a very high level of satisfaction with the organization and all the events and activities during this year`s Knowledge Bowl Tournament.

Sixteen schools brought their Varsity KB Team and an additional eleven Junior Varsity made up the participation to the 2009 Knowledge Bowl Tournament. A total of approximately 160 students and coaches participated in this year`s event. The Opening Ceremonies were held at the American School of El Salvador on Wednesday evening. The first day of competition took place at the Colegio Internacional de San Salvador on Thursday. The Panamerican School opened their doors all day on Friday for the second day of competition and finally, all teams returned to the American School on Saturday for the semi-final and championship matches. The closing ceremonies, awards, and the closure dinner-dance took place in the EA gymnasium. We received many very positive comments and congratulations about this unique and we hope “model” organization of this large AASCA event.



The fees paid by the schools covered all expenses incurred.

The main issue that has been identified as needing more discussion and consensus is the selection of the Question Cards for each tournament. This will be addressed by an ad-hoc committee made up of the Knowledge Bowl coaches at each school. They will report their recommendation to the AASCA Principals` representative, Mr. Tom Letcky from the American International School Sanpedrana of Honduras.

## **FINAL STANDINGS**

### Varsity

1. Colegio Internacional de San Salvador
2. American School of El Salvador
3. Country Day School of Costa Rica
4. Escuela Internacional Sampedrana of Honduras
5. Colegio Maya of El Salvador

### Junior Varsity

1. Colegio Maya de Guatemala
2. Internacional School of Panama
3. Lincoln Academy of Nicaragua
4. American School of Tegucigalpa
5. Colegio Internacional de San Salvador

### **Report from EAS/Panamericana: *San Salvador schools took over the event from AST due to the Political issues Honduras had at the time.***

PANAMERICANA: A great experience in collaboration between schools. It represents what the Association is all about. To be able to take over 130 students and plan an event between three schools it was amazing. Panamericana managed the transportation, set the meetings, collaborated and did a good job. The "touristic" trips were awesome, even though the majority picked the mall, but that is the way it works.

EAS: You need A LOT of teacher support. This means you almost have to close the school down. Panamericana and International closed the school for a day. Because of the nature of the event, the Principals have to control everything.

Issues:

What cards should we used? SEE RECOMMENDATION

Delays because the venues were so far apart.

**EIS: As our events start getting bigger this collaborative method is an example to follow. The event worked very well, you could see it from the school from the ice-breaker on. Please remind every team that brings a set of buzzers to bring documentation explaining what they are to avoid immigration issues.**

**PANAMERICANA: By putting all STUCO students from three schools together we gained a lot of expertise and collaboration.**

**MAYA GUATEMALA: It is getting too big, so we need to think of "Country host" event, so that it is not only on the shoulders of ONE school. The equipment, the teachers, the classrooms, is something to think about.**

**If there will be a change in the type of questions we need to know it in advanced.**



**EAS:** We need to bring a coach for EACH Varsity and Jr. Varsity teams to help in emergency situation. Everyone that does Knowledge Bowl needs to have their own GOOD buzzers, and then share with the school that hosts.

**CDS:** We have a Jeopardy-intense coach. His suggestion is to change the questions to a more suited pool for H.S. and M.S. because the questions that we are using are not appropriate, have wrong answers, or have more than one answer. So the type of questions determine which kind of Knowledge Bowl you get.

Each KB advisor MUST get in contact with the CDS advisor so they can come together with the type of questions there need to be used next year.\* (*see decision below*)

*All Knowledge Bowl Coaches must revisit the rules as stated currently and submit suggestions or recommendations by June 1<sup>st</sup> 2010 to the designated Principal representative Tom Litecky (EIS). All Principals have committed to relay this information to their KB coaches.*

- Drama Festival - Escuela Internacional Sampedrana-Honduras

**Report Tom Litecky:** (*not available at time of printing*)

**MAYA Guatemala:** After the original confusion (*as the document is not readily available in the Webpage*) and the Guatemalan school sent the logistics of how it had been done the last time the event went on wonderfully well. Well done, kudos for switching last minute! It was great to have students NOT compete but just be judge by their own standards.

**CAG:** The original invitation did include a suggestion for ideas, and this is what ultimately happened. After an initial panic, we made the suggestions and all worked well in the end.

**CDS:** The coach panicked and was unable to get it together.

- Invitational Cross-Country – American School of El Salvador January

**Report Ramon Morales: AASCA CROSS-COUNTRY INVITATIONAL REPORT, American School of El Salvador**

January 28-31, 2010, San Salvador, E.S.

The First Cross-Country Invitational competition took place at the American School of El Salvador with two AASCA Schools and two local bilingual schools participating. The Escuela Americana de Guatemala brought a delegation of eleven athletes. Thirteen participants from the American School of El Salvador, fifteen runners from Colegio Euroamericano, and ten athletes from the British School of El Salvador made up the remainder of the participants at this debut Cross Country Tournament. EA was pleased to organize and conduct this pilot program to attract a student population that currently is not involved in sports. These students welcomed the opportunity to train, to compete and to develop important life-long skills. Participation in this sport offers learning experiences to a group of students that otherwise would not be served. The Opening Ceremonies, Ice-Breaker Activity, and dinner took place in the gym of the American School of El Salvador on Thursday evening. On Friday all participants arrived bright and early for the Classic Cross-Country Race. The tournament enjoyed a very supportive and energetic audience as all boys and girls in each physical education classes held their own competitions between the Cross-Country races. Separate races were held for the Boys and Girls Varsity and the Boys and Girls Junior Varsity teams. The course for all the races was inside the EA School grounds. After the races teams were able to participate in tours and visits to museums and the ever-popular shopping malls.

On Saturday, the athletes participated in two more races. The morning competition consisted of a mixed-schools relay race. All athletes were divided into mixed-school teams, each color-team headed by a coach. In the last race of the afternoon, runners from each team faced their competitors who finished in the same position as they did: the first place runner raced against the other first place finishers from other teams, the second place finisher ran against the other second place finishers and so on.

We thank Mrs. Raquel Rodriguez and her PE Department for all of the logistical support and assistance. Furthermore, the Athletic Department and the Trojan Boosters Club provided additional help and financial support to cover some of the expenses incurred. Without their generous help and collaboration this event would not have been as successful as it was.

#### RESULTS

1. The Escuela American of Guatemala
2. Colegio Euroamericano de El Salvador
3. The American School of El Salvador

#### **CAG: Really rewarding experience!!!!**

- Large School Soccer - American School of El Salvador February 24-28

#### **AASCA SOCCER LARGE SCHOOLS TOURNAMENT REPORT, AMERICAN SCHOOL OF EL SALVADOR** February 24-28, 2010

Seven large schools participated; Lincoln School from Costa Rica and Freedom School from Honduras declined participation.

- o 248 students participated
- o 14 teams total (7 boys / 7 girls)
- o 34 matches played (17 boys/17 girls)
- o 3 fields required; among which besides EA's soccer field, there were two stadiums and an ABC soccer field.
- o Congratulations to AST boys and girls teams for the Championship. Also to Colegio Americano de Guatemala girls' team and Colegio Interamericano de Guatemala boys' team for the Sportsmanship Trophies.
- o No issues of concern

**AST: The referees and fields were chosen appropriately and Raquel did a good job with the planning. The medical service was excellent. Claudia was very helpful and ready to serve. The only sad issue happened because of parental instigation during the last two games.**

**CAG: The emergency and hospital were very helpful. Have ball runners to avoid extra energy lost during a game, especially in large fields.**

**ANS: Having the opening ceremony Thursday night was very good. The AD complained when a student got injured because he felt there was not appropriately taken care of. Hydration was a bit of a problem.**

**CIG: Claudia was incredible and organized a new bus when one couldn't come. Ramon was very proactive and helpful with "barras"**

- Small School Soccer - International School of Panama ISP/Balboa March 10-14

**Report Dan Mckee:**

AASCA Small School Soccer – at ISP & Balboa, Panama –  
March 2010

The AASCA small schools soccer tournament took place at the International School of Panama, and at Balboa Academy from March 10 – 14, 2010. Eleven schools participated in the tournament, with a total of 10 boys’ teams and 6 girls’ teams. Approximately 250 student-athletes played in the games.

Participating Schools and their team groups:

Boys	Boys	Girls
<i>Group A</i>	<i>Group B</i>	<i>Only Group</i>
1. International School of Panama (ISP)	1. Balboa Academy (BA)	1. International School of Panama (ISP)
2. Country Day School (CDS)	2. Colegio Maya (MAYA)	2. Balboa Academy (BA)
3. Marian Baker School (MBS)	3. Mazapan School (MAZ)	3. Country Day School (CDS)
4. Colegio Americano del Sur (CAS)	4. American International School of Costa Rica (AIS)	4. Escuela Panamericana de El Salvador (EP)
5. Crossroads Christian Academy (CCA)	5. Lincoln International Academy (LIA)	5. Colegio Maya (MAYA)
		6. Colegio Americano del Sur (CAS)

The top finishing teams in each category were:

Girls –           2<sup>nd</sup> Place       Country Day School  
                   1<sup>st</sup> Place       International School of Panama  
 Boys –           2<sup>nd</sup> Place       Marian Baker School  
                   1<sup>st</sup> Place       Country Day School

The Sportsmanship Awards were voted by the referees to:

Boys – American International School  
Summary:

Girls – International School of Panama

At ISP we felt that the tournament was a success. We received much feedback from the visiting AASCA schools and most of it was positive – regarding the overall attention to the visiting schools, the Icebreaker and Coaches’ meeting, the tournament program, the scheduling of games, the effective management of two separate game sites, the food service, the bus service and the final awards dinner and ceremony.

We did hear some concerns as well. One of them was in regard to the unequal distribution of games. One team’s administrator and coach felt that their team faced a disadvantage in playing games at different sites at relatively close-together times. Another key concern was expressed about the AASCA website not posting current and updated rules for sport competitions. This has been communicated to the AASCA authorities.

The tournament did feature an unfortunate situation: Mazapan School protested their loss to Balboa Academy in the 3<sup>rd</sup> place boys’ game. A Balboa player with two yellow cards entered the game for the first minutes of the game, though he was meant to be suspended – as per the tournament rule book and the understanding from the coaches’ meeting. Mazapan filed a protest, a protest committee was formed and the decision made to award Mazapan 3<sup>rd</sup> place and Balboa 4<sup>th</sup> place, due to the rule violation. All of this was done as specified in the AASCA rules for soccer.

All administrators acted responsibly, in good faith and as a collective. There was however some hurt and anger among the Balboa student players and parent community. But administrators from ISP, Balboa and the other partner schools acted as a unified body and there was not controversy at the conclusion of the tournament.

Some noteworthy points regarding Small Schools’ Soccer 2010:

- The co-hosting concept was necessary due to insufficient athletic fields at ISP, and effective. A model for future small school AASCA events might be the co-hosting partnerships demonstrated by ISP-Balboa in soccer, and CDS-MBS in basketball.
- Crossroads Christian Academy, a non-AASCA school in Panama, was an invited team. Their participation made possible two balanced groups in the boys’ bracket. AASCA authorities approved of the invitation for the purposes of balancing the tournament.
- Five students required ambulance and hospital attention for injuries.
- Budgetary concerns are great. The \$400 per team dues provided income of \$6,000 to ISP to run the tournament. But the cost of running the tournament exceeded \$14,400. There was an \$8,400 shortfall. Essentially, teams pay for approximately \$25 worth of “services” for players, but receive \$60 worth of “services” per player. Attempts to limit costs were extensive at ISP, but unsuccessful at keeping on budget.

Overall, we felt proud of the tournament we hosted. The games were competitive, the spirit was friendly and positive, and there were no major incidents. It is an immense project to host, with many members of the school community mobilized to help make it all happen. The strong bond of friendship between the AASCA schools makes it all worthwhile. At ISP we embrace the challenge, and feel committed to hosting an AASCA event every other year.

**MBS: Great comraderie. We felt very supported. The referees do not have the AASCA rules very clear so they may commit mistakes that may affect games. There was not a representative from the representative in the coaches meeting. Great sportmanship from the Balboa students cheering the Mazapán students in the Closing Ceremony.**

**MAYA Guatemala: The Principals and the Directors of both schools were present during the games which made a huge difference.**

**CDS: It was super! Paid attention to all the details, even during down time, with food, showers, and a computer to work on homework.**

**CAS: Transportation was excellent. The nurse was fabulous! The whole staff was very amiable. The hotel was great. I loved the fact that elementary students had a cheer squad for every team.. Parents were excellent. The one negative aspect was a loss of 12-0 against CDS and that is demoralizing so I suggest there should be a cap.**

*There was a discussion on having a cap on goals to avoid excessive humiliation. No decision was reached.*

- Middle School Choir - Country Day School-Costa Rica – March 17-21

### **Report Harry Grzelewski:**

AASCA Middle School Honor Choir Festival San Jose, Costa Rica March 17-21, 2010

Hosted by The Country Day School

Participant schools

Marian Baker

Colegio Decroly Americano

Lincoln School

Country Day School

Number of participants: 51 students

The Event

1. Twelve hours of rehearsal divided in 8 sessions.
2. Three activities that included movement and games for the children to share and get to know each other.
3. “A visit to a Rehearsal” of Choir “Laus Deo” in the province of Heredia.
4. A visit to “Volcan Poas” with a shared meal in a restaurant near the volcano.
5. A one hour Dress Rehearsal before the concert.

6. A Final Concert with a Musical Program of 14 songs performed by The Honor Choir and by the individual choirs of the participant schools, accompanied by piano, guitar and marimba.

## II Accomplishments

1. Give continuity to this recently started Choir Festival.  
First Edition: Colegio Americano, Guatemala 2008.  
Second Edition: Country Day School, Costa Rica 2010.
2. Growth of the students' musical abilities as choral singers by having contact with different choir teachers. The students were able to explore and learn breathing and vocal techniques, and performed unison, two-part and three-part repertoire sung in five different languages.
3. Listen to the preparation of all the choirs for their individual songs.
4. Be in contact with music from the different countries. The musical program of the festival was divided into two parts. Five songs performed by the individual choirs and 9 songs performed by the Honor Choir which was built by the 51 participants of the Festival.
5. Meet successfully the main goal of the Festival. The central learning experience was given by the coming together of the individual choirs in the Honor Choir which is the core reason of the activity. There were intensive hours of rehearsal supported by the 4 Choir Teachers of the participant schools that developed into the final concert presented Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, at Country Day School's Cafetorium.

## III Recommendations

1. To encourage more participation of the different AASCA countries for the Choir Festival 2012.
2. To keep the festival going every year. One year international and the following year national, held in each country as a preparation and motivation for the following year.
3. To keep an ongoing and continual contact amongst the choir teachers of the different country

## IV Conclusion

This Choir Festival constitutes a space for sharing cultures, values, friendship, different styles of choral teaching, and the magic of choral singing.

The voices of children singing together make this world a better place.

One of the songs the children performed for the concert expresses deeply the motto the festival had:

“What a beautiful world,  
full of beautiful people

and beautiful things,  
beautiful songs  
that together we sing  
what a beautiful world..."

The Choir Teachers of the AASCA MS Honor Choir Festival, Costa Rica 2010 are committed to support and work ongoing toward the continuity of this activity.

Marcela Lizano *Country Day School*, Auri Lorenzana *Colegio Decroly Americano*,  
Maritza Ortiz *Marian Baker*, Fabian Zamora *Lincoln School*

**Marian Baker: The event should remain because it is the only venue for Middle School students. But the music could be improved.**  
**Balboa: Students did not really like the music, so they didn't want to go.**

*For next year's Music Festival we are implementing the revision of guidelines as instructed by the GD meeting minutes, all Music teachers must revisit the rules as stated currently and submit suggestions or recommendations by June 1<sup>st</sup> 2010 to the designated Principal representative Jim Burwell (CIG). All Principals have committed to relay this information to their designated High School Music teachers.*

#### **AASCA Calendar of Events (2010-2011)**

- AD Conference - None
- Leadership Conference – Balboa-Panama **September 23-26**
- Tri-Association Conference – TBA
- Invitational School Basketball – American School Tegucigalpa **Oct 20-24**
- Knowledge Bowl – EAS **Nov. 10-14**
- Music Festival – Interamericano Guatemala **Jan. 27-30**
- Small School Soccer – *Still no school has committed to hosting* **Feb. 16-20**
- Large School Soccer – EIS Honduras **Feb.16-20**
- *Invitational Cross-Country – Lincoln CR* **March 17-20**
- Large Volleyball – CAG **March 30-April 3**
- Small Volleyball – Maya El Salvador **March 30-April 3**
- Principal's Conference – CAS del Sur Guatemala **April 8-11**

#### **Pledge Calendar (2011-2012)**

- AD Conference – Colegio Maya, Guatemala
- Leadership Conference – AST, Honduras
- Tri-Association Conference – TBA
- Large School Basketball – CAG
- Small School Basketball - Colegio Maya, El Salvador
- Knowledge Bowl – Lincoln Nicaragua
- Drama Festival – *Country Day Costa Rica*
- Middle School Choir – Marian Baker Costa Rica
- Invitational Soccer – Lincoln Costa Rica



- Invitational Cross-Country - CIG
- Principal's Conference – Balboa Panama
- Large Volleyball – Decroly Guatemala
- Small Volleyball – Mazapan, Honduras (*AIS Costa Rica*)

**AASCA Community Service Award Entries**

- School Wide Category – none
- Class Project Category – **Maya, Guatemala**

Class 2012 took on a project of helping a sister school that needed help. Students raised funds to help the community and modeled their fund raiser activity in the community itself so it could be self-sustainable. In the mean time Maya students had a great time spending time with the students from the impoverished sister school. The concept was to not only help the community build, but build consciousness in the community to help themselves.

*A Special Partnership  
Between Two Schools*

***Colegio Maya,  
Guatemala***

- Class Project Category - **Lincoln International Academy, Managua, Nicaragua**

Class 2012 got involved with the Abandoned Children of Nicaragua foundation. The students cook, read, and entertain the children that are hosted by the organization. Students go to the "home" every Saturday morning for five hours. They do shoe and clothes drives for the children.

*Abandoned Children of  
Nicaragua*

***Lincoln International  
Academy, Nicaragua***

- Club Project Category – **American School Tegucigalpa, Honduras**

A social service club that helps an impoverished "home" for paraplegic children was founded over 11 years ago by a group of high school students and their Spanish teacher. Students from different grade levels of Middle and High School meet regularly to plan diffeent fund-raiser activities to help support the center with food and other necessary items as well as program weekend visits to entertain and spend quality time with the stricken children.

*BENCALETH Club*

***American School of  
Tegucigalpa***

## **Election of Officials**

As decided last year that the president and vice-president posts would be for two consecutive years, and the secretary would automatically be the Principal of the school hosting the Principal's Conference, the officers for 2010-2011 are:

- President – Maria Motz, AST
- Vice-President – Tom Litecky, EIS
- Secretary – Debbie Revelorio, CAS

## **Issues for Discussion**

- PANAMUN: Invitation for the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional Panamanian Model United Nations at ISP 27-29 October 2010. AASCA schools interested can get in touch with Dan Mckee. Because it is done at the school, there is a limited number of spaces available.
- Counselor Survey findings from ISP: Most Principals that answered believed that the Counselor was overworked.

## **Professional Development Sessions:**

- ***The Perceptions and Realities of Student Discipline Problems*** by Tom Litecky.  
*Tom shared a study he did after being approached by his Director and the Board about the perception of the "Discipline of the school being out of control" The perception and the reality of what happens in the school are so vastly apart that the conclusion is: there is a need to promote correct information of what really happens to all the stakeholders.*
- ***Virtual School Days*** by Maria Motz.  
*Maria shared how in the midst of political turmoil and AH1N1 outbreaks that called for unforeseen school closure, s AST was able to devise ways to continue with academic services through "virtual days". She shared how by having all the teachers create wikis and blogs (and train students and parents) they were able to devise an effective way to provide information, videos, exercises, and quizzes electronically to their students when reaching the school was impossible.(examples) She also shared the statistics of the results of the virtual days which were all very positive.*

## **Recommendations**

1. The theme of small/large school division was revisited once more. Acting on the recommendation made at the Athletic Directors Conference at La Ceiba, Honduras and the Principal's Conference of 2009 at Managua, Nicaragua, we recommend to schedule events with the new configuration of division for the 2010-2011 school year. This means that Balboa Academy, International School of Panama, Country Day School and Lincoln International Academy Nicaragua will now be moved to the large school division. **(Motion to make the move, seconded and passed: 13 for and 4 opposed)**

2. In response to the recommendations from the Athletic Directors' recommendation to send the Athletic Director to every Athletic tournament, the rules were reviewed as posted in the AASCA webpage : *For every athletic event "each attending school must send one person in addition to the advisor/coach of the participating students to serve as the Administrative Representative for all athletic events and with groups of eight or more students. An Administrative Representative is defined as a member of the professional staff of the attending school who is not directly involved in the event and is appointed by the Director. The Administrative Representative is in charge of the attending school and all associated personnel."* Hence, we recommend that although a school has the right to send the AD as a coach or as an administrator representative, it is not an obligation to send an AD to every athletic event. **(Motion to approve the recommendation, seconded, passed unanimously)**
  
3. In the spirit of the AASCA Mission and Vision and following the ongoing issue of member schools and their participation guidelines, we recommend the following in order to remain a member in good standing: *1) participate in at least one student event per year, 2) attend both Director and Principal conferences, 3) host or co-host an AASCA event at least every three years, 4) attend Athletic Director meetings every two years. Schools who fail to comply with any of the above should justify their reasons in writing to be presented in the Director's meeting.* **(Motion to approve the recommendation, seconded, passed unanimously)**
  
4. The AASCA webpage is critical to communication among its members, and it is essential that the information in it is accurate and is provided and uploaded in a timely manner. In order to comply with this premise we recommend the following:
  - *Revise the webpage format for easy access to information*
  - *Organize menu items to provide easy access and clarity*
  - *Update all rules and policies as changes occur*
  - *Add the expectation to send conclusive information to the AASCA website after each event to the activity's checklist*
  - *Post results and pictures within a week of the event*

A possible solution is to create a wiki that can have a locked section for permanent information and archives, and an unlocked section for event hosts to post pertinent and updated information. **(Motion to approve the recommendation, seconded, passed unanimously)**

5. The current notion of \$400 per team per event does not take into account the differences in cost involved in hosting different events. We recommend that the fee structure be changed to account for:
  - Number of students participating on a team
  - Cost of services for officiating, speakers, security, transportation, judges, etc.

**(Motion to approve the recommendation, seconded, passed unanimously)**

6. Due to the success of the Invitational events and the large amount of participants from both large and small schools, we recommend that the Invitational events follow the same

reimbursement policy as regular scheduled tournaments effective school year 2009-2010.  
**(Motion to approve the recommendation, seconded, passed unanimously)**

7. Continue the pilot Cross Country invitational event and strongly encourage all Principals and Athletic Directors to promote maximum participation. **(Motion to approve the recommendation, seconded, passed unanimously)**
8. A motion was made to send the three projects presented by Colegio Maya Guatemala, Lincoln International Academy Nicaragua, and American School of Tegucigalpa to the Director's meeting and recommend that each of the projects be considered for the \$500 prize. **(Motion to approve the recommendation, seconded, passed unanimously)**
9. A motion was made to rotate the volleyball and basketball every two years. **(Motion to approve the recommendation, seconded and did not pass; 1 for and 11 opposed 2 abstained)**
10. After reviewing the Drama Festival event and having seen the issues affecting it we recommend that the program and guidelines that were developed from Colegio Maya and CAG and compiled by EIS be added to the AASCA webpage. It is important to note that there are NO guidelines for the Drama Festival in the webpage. Claudia Pardo will present it in the General Director's meeting. **(Motion to approve the recommendation, seconded, passed unanimously)**
11. Approve and post the Athletic Directors President's job description as well as the Host Athletic Director's check list into the AASCA web page. **(Motion to approve the recommendation, seconded, passed unanimously)**
12. We recommend the following proposal:

As AASCA has grown the principals have recognized the increasing importance of maintaining an accurate website. Due to turnover among leaders strong, clear, and timely communication has become essential in maintaining continuity in the organization. Hosting events with upwards of 20 schools per event, ranging from soccer to Knowledge Bowl, presents logistical challenges. The success of these events depends upon clear communication, an understanding of AASCA history, and the maintenance of consistent rules and expectations.

When schools host events, information needs to be passed along including to-do lists. Schools and hosts need to be clear on the definition and the expectations for non-athletic events. For example, the drama event has changed over the years; the music festival has not been clearly defined. Many of these events change, based on the preferences of the current hosts. All participating schools need to know in advance what the event will be, and miscommunication or lack of clear expectations potentially jeopardizes the success of events.

Managing large numbers of students at events takes a lot of coordination. Information needs to be updated and posted around the school. The website needs updating and photos should be posted.

Many ADs struggle with English so some documents need to be translated. ADs also need professional development opportunities. After the events awards and policies need to be reviewed, updated and reported on the website.

When you add up all the responsibilities and requirements, we see the need for a full-time AASCA coordinator or executive secretary. AASCA coordination requires timely attention. As it stands, we have an inefficient way of maintaining the website, which is our central point of communication. We depend upon the website for current information, for organizational history, and for assistance in hosting events.

We believe the following tasks for this position might include, but not be limited to:

1. Facilitating communication between Directors, Principals, and Athletic Directors
2. Managing the website
3. Following up with schools
4. Updating rules
5. Maintaining history
6. Translating
7. Attending and assisting with the hosting of events
8. Ensuring continuity and clarity of information
9. Downloading photos
10. Professional development for all stakeholders
11. Uploading documents
12. Updating events
13. Managing archives
14. Editing documents in English
15. Community service project outreach
16. Revising awards and policies
17. Updating the schools throughout the year

**(Motion to approve the recommendation, seconded; passed unanimously)**