



Mrs. Bethany Meekins-Coloma
Elementary Principal



Mr. Christopher Wimer
Elem. Assistant Principal

**Highlights from
SEW Theme Days**



From the ELEMENTARY OFFICE



Dear Elementary Parents,

This Semester's Spiritual Emphasis Week & Family Night offered a wonderful conclusion to the month of October. It was truly a blessing to see the engagement of students, families, and community members in this event focused on *Worship in All We do!* As we head to the end of the 1st Grading Term, we are so excited for the many successes that we have seen among the students. We look forward to connecting with parents this month during Parent-Teacher Conference (details below).

Sincerely
Bethany Meekins-Coloma
Elementary Principal

UPCOMING EVENTS & IMPORTANT REMINDERS

SEW & Family Night: The AAI Community had a wonderful time during Spiritual Emphasis Week exploring *Worship in All We Do!* We would like to extend a special thank you to

- Elementary Chaplain, Mrs. Amanda Vasco, for her leadership and organization
- Guest speakers: Rachel Dean, Brooke Hayward, and Mr. Scott Murphy
- Jr. Praise Crew students and talented leaders Cindy Ponce and Cristina San Lucas

Each day of Spiritual Emphasis Week, we engaged in different forms of worshipping God. The students also had the opportunity to take part in worship through activity times led by our special teachers. They explored how to worship through art, music, physical activity, healthy lifestyle choices, reading, and even one's use of technology. One of the most exciting parts of the week was Family Night where our JPC students lead us in worship through a music video they created. Please see our AAI Facebook page to view [Family Night](#). Also, please spend some time learning about how to worship as a family by watching this AAI production: [Worship Together](#).

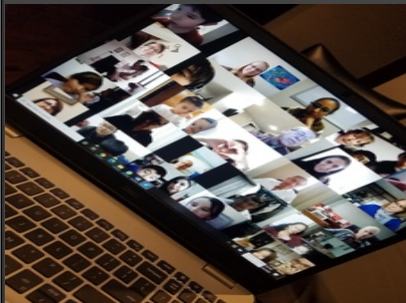
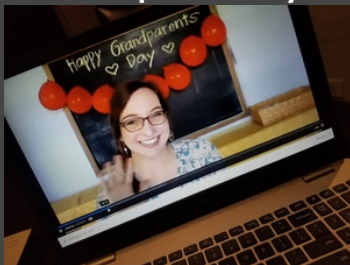
Elementary Parent Committee Presidents: Congratulations to our newly elected committees. We are so appreciative of your partnership as parent leaders.

PS4A - Karla Murillo; PS4B - Diego Fernando Amores Aguirre; K - Diego Pazmiño Troncoso;
1st - Roberto Vivanco Santamaria; 2nd - Christian Mera Mera; 3rd - Melanie Nuñez;
4th - Aaron Passmore; 5th - Palina Rodríguez Chavez; 6th - Dario Jarrín

Student Punctuality & Tardies: Please remember to email the elementary office every time an absence or tardy occurs. This aids us in best responding to the needs of the students, as well as maintaining appropriate documentation. Attendance is recorded



Highlights from Grandparents Day



during each live class period. This includes intervention and supervised assignment time (SAT).

Please refer to the [2020-2021 AAI Elementary Plan for Online Schooling](#) document for more details. Thank you for your collaboration in ensuring your student's punctuality and attendance to their classes. Working together will optimize student learning potential and academic success.

Parent-Teacher Conferences: Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled for November 19-20. The teachers will be contacting families directly with appointment options. Students will not have classes during the parent teacher conferences.

MEET THE TEAM

Elementary Spanish Department: The Spanish Department at AAI is committed to strengthening the comprehensive education of all students. We are focused on providing the academic bases of reading and writing and social studies in Spanish according to the national curriculum and as a Second Language (SSL) according to the requirements of the Ministry of Education. Likewise, special emphasis is given to the spiritual, civic, and moral formation of the students with the aim of helping them value and better understand their culture and that of others from a Christian perspective.



Karla Torres has served at the AAI for the last seven years as an Elementary Spanish teacher. Karla holds a bachelor's degree in Educational Sciences and in Teaching and Management of Initial Education from the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador. She obtained her master's degree in Early Childhood Education from Universidad Indoamérica. Karla has been practicing as a teacher for 15 years. She enjoys working with children and watching them grow, especially in their spiritual life.



Samuel Gutiérrez Vallecillo has served at the AAI for the last eight years, and in the last four years as an Elementary Spanish teacher. He graduated from the Faculty of Tourism and Modern Languages at the National University in Nicaragua. Before moving to Ecuador, he worked in France as a Spanish Teacher in both Elementary and High School. He has also been serving for the last twelve years as the Coordinator and Consultant of Culture and Language Acquisition in the Latin-American and Caribbean Region at the Summer Institute of Linguistics. He is also working in a certification in Dialogue Education at the SIL. He is also serving in the coordination and leadership of the Israel Study-Tour for Latin American Bible Translators in Bible Pathway Ministry, where he recently got a Diploma in History and Geography of Israel. He is also doing a specialization in archaeology, history and biblical hebrew at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.



Estefanía Naranjo has worked at the AAI for the last seven years as an Elementary Spanish teacher. In addition to her experience at the AAI, she has worked in several organizations such as Peace Corps Ecuador. Estefanía has a bachelor's degree in Applied Linguistics from Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador and a master's degree in Science from State University of New York (SUNY). Her master's thesis focused on the application of strategies inside and outside the classroom to teach Spanish as a second language to students with special needs. She is passionate about lifelong learning in education and leadership.