

**Director's Update**  
**April 6th, 2020**

*Amendments to AISZ School Calendar*  
*Specifically dates for Spring Break and End of Year.*

On Friday April 3rd the AISZ School Board voted unanimously to:

- **Amend the Calendar to shorten Spring Break and adjust the last day of school in lieu.**
- **Take Good Friday April 10 and Easter Monday April 13 as a 4 day holiday for students and teachers.**
- **Run VLP Tuesday to Friday with a lightened schedule and later start (if that was possible with regard to the time table - this was a suggestion from PTA. This will be determined at Divisional level this week)**
- **Take these days off the end of the year while still being within our mandated days as per the Board Rules closing school on Wednesday June 10.**

Note: This arrangement may necessitate Grade 11 students meeting on April 10 as directed / needed by the teacher in order to support the IB journey. This is at the teachers' discretion.

**Rationale:**

As part of the CEESA Executive Committee I have oversight into the organization and the planning of regional educational issues. There are 5 of us in this committee. Then each week all 25 CEESA Directors meet and *The Association for the Advancement of International Education* held two online meetings. One was 150 International School Directors and IT Managers and another was over 100 International School Heads. All of us are asking the same questions and seeking the same answers. Most are in the 3-5 week window of school closure and other schools in Asia are well into week 8 or more and *considering* opening again.

One of the topics was around Spring Break.

There were these considerations:

- Teachers, students and parents were tired and could use a break.
- Many schools who had taken the break found their students were more difficult to re-engage on return from the break, some did not engage at all and had dropped off and working parents found it very difficult to juggle online work while their children were not engaged at all for over a week.

I put this scenario to the faculty and we had a generative conversation about it. I also talked to the PTA Executive and other parents to gather their opinions. All groups with which this was discussed supported the change and recognised that it would be preferable to have students engaged in Online Learning during this upcoming Spring Break while confined to home due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Your Sincerely,

Paul Buckley  
Director  
AISZ