



ISG Newsletter

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October 15, 2009

Letter from the Head...

Autumn has certainly arrived. With night time temperatures dropping below zero and frost on the ground the winter is soon approaching. However whilst some animals prepare for their winter sleep, life is as busy as ever at the IS. The term started with one of our highest ever student numbers - 117 in total across the school. However arriving back after the summer holiday to huge timetable problems in the Dutch section and a non-existent 'temporary' building we were concerned about how things would start. However everyone put in 110% effort to get things going and now there is a (reasonably!) stable atmosphere in the school. A few minor details have yet to be ironed out: we are currently busy looking at ways to reduce 'free hours' in the DP as well as how best to equip and use the 'new' building. We are very pleased however to have the 'Smartboard' in place in the Esserberg as well as a very nice brand new set of laptops, all with *wifi* capability. So, things can only get better and busier (just look at the list of things coming up!). I welcome all our students and staff to this 2009/10 school year and now take the opportunity to wish you a very restful vacation - we have all earned it!

Mike Weston. Head of School

Coming up...

- **MYP2 'Sports Morning'**: Thursday 15th, 9.30 - 11.30. Lessons will be as normal after the events, (i.e.: from 12.00)
- **Staff Meeting**: Oct 26th. No lessons will be cancelled on this day but students will follow a 40 minute timetable. This means that lesson 6 will end at 13.05, lesson 7 at 13.45 and lesson 8 at 14.25. For more information please see the website.
- **MYP Certificate evening** for all of our 2008/9 MYP5 students: 16.30 Nov 5th.
- **MYP4 go to Ypres**: departing on 17 Nov all of MYP4 will be following a joint English/Humanities project studying World War 1 and its effects. For further details see the website.
- **MYP Workshop for (new) parents**: 'Assessment in MYP' 25 November: in the Aula (Hemmenlaan building)
- Full reports will be issued on **7 Dec**
- **17 December**: Christmas activities: *details to follow*
- **18 December**: School Closed until Monday 4 January

October Progress Checks...

In the next two weeks all mentors will contact all parents with an interim progress check for students. In the MYP the following criteria have formed the basis of these checks: **Personal Engagement** (effort), **Behaviour** (participation and respect) and **Organisation** (meeting deadlines and bringing materials).

In the DP we have again used **Personal Engagement** as well as **Attitude** with a special emphasis on **Meeting Deadlines**. There will be no written comments - however mentors will provide a description of how things have started this school year.

Quote of the issue: *Believe in yourself, your neighbors, your work, your ultimate attainment of more complete happiness. It is only the farmer who faithfully plants seeds in the Spring, who reaps a harvest in Autumn.*

B. C. Forbes



Please check out the latest newsletter from the PSG on the website. This also highlights the meeting schedule. The PSG are always looking for parents to get involved. The next meeting is on: **4th November 2009** at the home of **Mrs. Michaela Gettert, Het Nijland 3, 97516K Haren.** Questions? mailto: aalbers@live.com

What's been happening? Check the website for all the recent trips and activities. These include:

- MYP1-3 in Groningen (Just how international is Groningen???)!!
- MYP5 at the Noordelicht Photography exhibition
- MYP4 attempting some 'wadlopen' (see news archive)
- and MYP1 climbing trees in Grolloo (see news archive)

If you (or your children) have photos of these events (or other IS activities) please send them to the IS, preferably in largest format on a cd.

Who? What? How? Many parents ask who should be contacted with which issues... a short guide is explained below...

- Questions about academic concerns, issues in the class room – please email the **mentor**.
- Questions about organization, the daily affairs or reporting short term absence (illness)– phone or email the reception. 050 5340084 / is@maartens.nl
- In emergency: 08.00 – 16.00: 050 5340084 and 16.00 – 17.30: 050 5375200.
- Questions about financial issues or longer absence requests (holidays, trips) should be addressed to the **Head of School**, via 'is@maartens.nl'. Please note that leave from school can only be officially granted within the schools attendance policy (see website: Students > Rules)

And when? The full year's calendar will be issued this week: please watch your email inboxes and post boxes. It will also be on the website under *General > Downloads*

Staff News:

We welcomed 'new and old' faces this school year: Bianca Capuano and Mirjam Langley joined the Science team. We wish them great success in the school. From the Maartens but new to the IS we also welcome Sandy Riem (Expressive Arts) and Edwin Zwanebeek (Maths). Ms. Ten Kate and Ms. Rijgersberg returned fit and very well after their operations during the summer term.

Parents - Teacher reception: Turning our memories back to September 25 we remember a wonderfully social 'Parents/Teacher reception'. We thank all of you who came - and especially for all the delicious snacks. A wonderful way to start the new year getting to know new faces and putting a picture behind the names...

DP Ceremony: celebrating success was the goal on Friday 18 September. Our 10 full DP students were finally rewarded for all their hard work and efforts when they received their diploma, a rose and a parting message from either their mentor, Kim Bergman or the DP coordinator, Joke Jansma. Larrissa Spindler received the 2009 DP Wim Koopman award and Remy Kabel closed the ceremony with a speech and a parting gift for every one of his teachers! Catch the photos on the site (newsarchive)!

Football:

After an amazing effort from Aletta Dessalegne in combination with Gemeente Haren we have at last two pretty professional football goals on the grass outside the Esserberg... We are of course very grateful for all the hard work and telephone calls gone into arranging this triumph... but (there is a but!!) - with the encroaching wet weather PLEASE supply your football mad children with a second pair of shoes. Muddy shoes and boots make the inside of the building a disaster and cleaning becomes impossible. *Please help us out here!*

Lost property:

You would be amazed what we have in our lost property... everything from the most expensive high fashion coats and clothes, shoes and boots, bags and lunch boxes, even a pair of glasses, bicycle keys (*how did you get home??*) and watches. If you receive that familiar vacant look when you ask about the latest expensive clothing to go missing please come into the school and have a look... its probably on a hook in the locker room...

Website News:

For the all the latest news and information please check the website - this is a vital communication medium for students AND parents. Its not just timetable changes but everything we all need to know about the IS!! **Stop Press: New Page: Students > MYP all the MYP specific information is soon to be found here - including SGS news, criteria, C&S, assessment ... etc ... etc...**

www.isgroningen.nl