



ISG Newsletter

International School
Groningen
Postbus 6105
9752HE
Groningen
is@maartens.nl

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Letter from the Head...

Christmas is here again and with all the festivities that surround the Dutch 'Sinterklaas' - with the excitement of shoes and 'pakjesavond' - and the follow-up with everything happening at school and then Christmas itself, it is difficult to maintain the grip on reality! For me, Christmas is always a time to reflect back on the last few months. How has the new term been? How have students (and their parents!) settled in to a new class, a new curriculum and for some a whole new way of living? What have been the best things (DP results! MYP certificates! Ypres! - and many more!) and the worst things (rain - rain - rain) of the last few months? And as 2008 approaches, what are the targets, the expectations and, of course resolutions of the new year? In the last week, amongst all the treats and parties, the students received their first full report. A time now to reflect back, to celebrate the successes of the first term and make targets and resolutions for the new year. However simple these may be (arrive on time!) or specific (learn vocabulary in Dutch) they all have a role to play. My message is therefore enjoy your holiday, reflect back on the year and resolve to make a difference in the new one. Have a very happy Christmas and fantastic 2008!

Mike Weston. Head of School

Coming up...



SKATING: The annual school trip to Kardingje takes place on **Thurs, 20 Dec.** Students are expected at the Esserberg at 08.30 for a warm start of hot chocolate and carols. Students will then be transported or escorted to the ice rink. We are, however, short of drivers: if any parents are available to transport students to Kardingje at 9.15 and, if possible, collect at 13.00, your help would be greatly appreciated. Please mail is@maartens.nl or phone Charlotte on 050 5340084. Students who can bring a bike - please do so! All students will be free to be collected from Kardingje at 13.00. Students who do not have their own skates should bring €5 for skate hire and also everyone should bring good gloves!

- **21 December:** Christmas Holiday begins.
- **7 January:** Term starts. All lessons as normal.
- **Parent - Teacher appointment evening:** will also take place on Monday 7 January starting at 18.30 in the Dutch school building: the Hemmenlaan. Please see the letter with the school report for more information. Reply slips should be returned as soon as possible!

Shakespeare in one day! On the **25 January** the MYP5 class together with the TTO4 will skip a day of classes to rehearse one of Shakespeare's complete plays! In the evening the play will be performed in front of an audience of teachers and parents. Can this be done? You are all welcome to join us for this fantastic performance at 19.00 in the Aula of the Dutch Building (the Hemmenlaan).

- **Monday 28 January:** School Closed for MYP1-5. DP1 & 2 will be involved in an Internal Assessment day.



The **PSG** needs you! The PSG is desperate for some new help... the PSG committee has depleted over the last few months and with further members about to leave the Netherlands we are on the verge of not being able to provide for the ISG. We are seeking new committee members who can add that little extra to support the ISG and make it a fun place for the students. Please contact either Connie (050-3640178) or Stephanie (050-5274114) or come to the next meeting on 9th January, 19.30! Venue: Felix Timmermanslaan 3, 9721WB Groningen

Staff News: Ms Cleo Rijgersberg has now begun her maternity leave... we wish her all the best over the coming weeks, and we excitedly await all news!
We are very pleased to welcome both Ms. Sandra Bellekom and Mr. Geert Hovingh who will be temporarily replacing Ms. Rijgersberg's DP and MYP classes.

'CAS' and the Diploma Programme: Just one week ago we received a **very** complimentary report from the International Baccalaureate Organisation with regards to our 'CAS' programme... but what is 'CAS'? And how does it fit into the DP?
'CAS' is a compulsory component of the Diploma Programme. It consists of three elements: **C**reativity, **A**ction and **S**ervice. Through CAS students are involved in creative pursuits (e.g. dancing lessons, drawing classes); physical activities (e.g. taking up a new sport) and service projects. CAS serves as a counterbalance to the highly academic programme and encourages students to share their talents and develop new skills, outside of their regular classes! The IBO wrote that the CAS programme was "*excellent*" and "*simple, balanced, based both on trust and evidence, applying values consistent with the IB Mission*". For further information please contact the CAS coordinator, Janneke Strikwerda, or the DP coordinator, Joke Jansma.

MUNOL 2008! The IBDP Model United Nations of Lubeck take place in spring every year in the beginning of May. The DP1 students of the ISG participate in a *model United Nations* in which they act as diplomats of a country. This takes place in a simulated United Nations General Assembly at the Thomas Mann Gymnasium in Lübeck, Germany. Our students - as diplomats of a randomly allocated country - represent their country's view on current issues on the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. The MUNOL experience lasts some six days in which the students are very actively involved in lobbying, scheming and plotting to get their resolutions pass through the various Committees and General Assembly. This also takes place long after office hours!
This school year DP1 will be embarking on this voyage of academic and self discovery on 23 April, 2008. More information will follow but a taster of things to come (including the Munol video!) can be found on the Munol website: www.munol.org

YPRES 2007. Every year the class of MYP4 takes a trip to the city of Ypres in Belgium, which has an illustrious history. Ypres was a key position during World War 1 as it stood in the path of Germany's planned sweep across the rest of Belgium and into France from the North, known as the Schlieffen Plan. MYP4 know all about the Schlieffen Plan and other events that played out in the city Ypres. The trip was a collaboration between their History class, where they have been studying World War 1, and their English class, where the students have studied World War 1 poetry. They visited the different sites of Ypres, ranging from the magnificent Pool of Peace to one of the largest commercial buildings of the Middle Ages, Cloth Hall. After the 4 day trip the exhausted students of MYP4 (as well as the teachers), returned to the ISG with many stories to tell. We can expect detailed essays and interesting facts soon, and photos can be found on the IS Website.

SPAM: The filter for e-mail at the Maartenscollege is working extra hard to stop any offensive e-mails reaching our students (and staff!). This means that mails from hotmail or yahoo accounts maybe lost in the system. If its possible to use another account please do so, and if you get no reply within a couple of days please check with Charlotte! All students of the ISG **must** use their maartens.nl mail to communicate with teachers. Help with their e-mail can be obtained from Charlotte. If you have recently changed your e-mail please let Charlotte know (is@maartens.nl)



KEEP UP TO DATE with all the news, photos and happenings at the ISG. (as well as the timetable changes!) Check out the website: **www.isgroningen.nl**