



ISG Newsletter

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Letter from the Head...

Dear parents/guardians and students

After the issue of our first newsletter in November we had many requests to increase the frequency of publication – with more recent news. One common request was to highlight changes to the calendar giving explanations and reports on special International School events.

Together with the Parental Support Group (PSG) we will try to send out a more regular newsletter highlighting this information and keeping you informed about what is going on here at the ISG.

This will mean that each issue is more for information rather than lengthy articles about school events. These will however continue to appear on the website and we hope to also issue an end of year review before the end of the summer term.

If you have any comments to make or ideas for future changes please contact us at is@maartens.nl or by post at our address above.

On behalf of the IS team,

Mike Weston.

Coming up...

This week:

- **Thursday 2 February:** Assessment of Personal Projects. ALL LESSONS CANCELLED FOR MYPI-5 after 14.10. After Monday's amazing displays and presentations of the projects from MYP5 and TTO4 all the material has to be graded and checked by the teachers. DP lessons will continue as normal.
- **Friday 3 February:** The mentor of DPI, Mr. Giusti will be taking the DPI students to the University of Groningen library. This visit will involve a tour and the issue of passes to allow the students to use the library facilities. The trip will take place during 3, 4 and 5 lesson hours.

Next week:

- **Monday 6 February:** Joke Jansma, the Deputy Head responsible for the Diploma programme will meet with MYP5 students about moving forward to the IBDP. This will be followed by...
- **Wednesday 8 February:** a meeting for all parents and students of MYP5 to discuss the DP. The meeting will take place in the Esserberg, beginning at 19.30
- **Friday 10 February:** **DISCO** Organised by the Dutch department, in the Hemmenlaan. MYPI-3 only!

Further ahead...

- **Tuesday 14 February:** Whole school staff meeting. Some lessons after 15.00 may be cancelled. We will keep this to the absolute minimum and final details will be confirmed on the website.
- **Monday 27 February - Friday 3 March:** Mock Exam (DP2) and test week (DPI and MYP4&5). Lessons will be cancelled all week but students will be busy doing formal assessment. Timetables will be issued to students shortly and they are expected to revise in their free time. Students of MYPI-3 will have normal lessons but there will be some relocation to the Hemmenlaan.

Quote of the issue: "The important thing is not to stop questioning". Albert Einstein

NEW STUDENTS: We are very pleased to welcome Marieke Palstra to MYP5. Marieke will be joining us on Monday 30 January from a local Dutch school. She has a strong international background is already known to many students of the IS. I am sure that she will settle here quickly and we wish her lots of happiness and success at the ISG!

NEW TEACHERS: We are very pleased to welcome two new staff to the IS.

Reina Huisman is teaching Mathematics to MYP1- taking over from Grace Setiawati after she left to take up full time employment. Reina has been at Maartens College for some time teaching Maths and Geography in the Dutch curriculum as well as the MYP-TTO.

Kim Bergman joins us to teach English B in MYP5 as well as in the Diploma Programme. She also teaches fast lane English in the VWO stream. Kim replaced Carola Romein who departed us for Abu Dhabi. Kim has a Master of Arts in English Language and Culture and has spent time teaching English at the University of the North in South Africa as well as the Zernike College, Haren & Groningen.

TIMETABLE CHANGE! Just to inform you that the whole Maartens College changes its timetable on the 6th February. This may have a big impact on the International School. We will keep you informed when we know more!

CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS! We are also pleased to welcome Sjoukje Dijkstra and Dirkje Schilstra to help out at the IS. Sjoukje and Dirkje are completing their training at the Noordelijke Hogeschool Leeuwarden (NHL) University. As well as assisting in the classroom they will be carrying out Masters research into Internationalism with respect to curriculum experience. Dirkje will join us from the beginning of February and Sjoukje in March.

OPENDAYS: DPI and 2. Just a reminder for DP students that the **RuG (University of Groningen)** has an "opendag op locatie" on 3 March and the **Christelijke Hogeschool, in Leeuwarden**, has their open day on 4 March.

MONITORING YOUR CHILD'S PROGRESS IN MYP: We receive many questions about how parents can keep in touch with their child's MYP grades and assessment results in between the parents' evenings and formal reports. One secret that your son or daughter may be keeping from you, as parents, is that your child has an assessment book! This should be with them at all times and should be completed after every criterion based assignment. In the book students record their grades and also set targets for the following assignment - identifying their weaknesses and writing ideas to help them improve. These targets are discussed by their mentors at the student progress days and help and guidance is given where appropriate. If you have any queries about this please do not hesitate to contact their mentor by e-mail.

ATTENDANCE ISSUES: Attendance at school is always a big issue for parents and teachers. When a student misses lessons it is always difficult to catch up and often disrupts the flow of the curriculum for the student as well as his or her classmates when group work is involved. As a school we stress the importance of observing the scheduled holidays and making appointments (where possible) outside of lesson hours. We have recently received clarification of the attendance regulations laid down to us by the Dutch Ministry. We have enclosed a copy of these regulations and would be grateful if you could pay it close attention.



PARENT SUPPORT GROUP: After a busy start to the year recruiting new parents and setting up a meeting rooster - the PSG held their first meeting at the school in January. Letters to all parents about issues raised are attached and we would be very grateful if you could complete the requests as soon as possible and return them to the PSG via the school secretary. The date of the following PSG meeting will be 15 February, 19.30 at the Esserberg. Thank you on behalf of the PSG!

FRI 13TH DISCO: after a very scary night (13/01/06) of music, dance, ghoulish films, tours of the Esserberg cellars and much delicious food (thank you PSG!) photos are now available on the IS school network. Send your children to download them onto their memory sticks!