

KSS Newsletter

November 2016



Dear Parents,

Welcome to our November newsletter. Weather wise we have had a lovely start to the school year. The clocks have now changed and the shorter days are now here. The weather will start to get colder soon. Please ensure that your children come to school well wrapped up on the colder days and that all their outdoor clothing has their name in it.

Staffing

We are pleased to inform you that following the retirement of Eric Stins we have employed Andrew Ramanoop who will work as an ICT technician across the ID and NA five days a week. Andrew will help us continue to grow and develop in this area.

Sinterklaas

November is the month that the Sinterklaas celebrations begin. He arrives in The Netherlands on Saturday 12th November. We will celebrate in school as usual on Monday 5th December. The children will go home at 12:30 that day.

Kind regards,

Lorraine Dean - International Department Director

Frans de Jong - Dutch Department Director



From Admissions

We are already busy preparing the offer of places for the 2017-18 reception class. If you have a younger sibling at home that is not yet registered with our admissions office, we would ask that you do this as soon as possible.

Siblings are always given priority; however it is essential that an application form has been completed for them.

Application forms can be downloaded from our website and e-mailed to the admissions office.

Secondary School Transfer for ID6 Pupils in The Hague

We are looking forward to seeing our Year 5 and 6 parents at our Secondary Schools Information Evening on Tuesday November 8th at 18:30. The heads from the International School of The Hague, Het Rijnlands Lyceum in Oestgeest and the European School of The Hague will present information about their school to parents.

PLEASE NOTE THIS YEAR THE MEETING IS BEING HELD AT OUR VNS LOCATION.

If you have a child in Year 6 and are intending for them to apply for a secondary school in The Hague, now is the time for you to make your application.

Charity Shoe Box Buddies

We will also again be supporting Edukans Schoenmaatjes Appeal (Shoe Box Buddies). Across HSV in 2015, we donated 268 shoe boxes as well as €1244 as donation to help with shipping costs and we would like to improve this total this year if we can. There are many children in the world in need. Things that you might include in your shoe are toiletries, stationery, small toys etc. If you want to find out more about the appeal visit <http://schoenmaatjes.edukans.nl>.

From the MR

In the last MR meeting, at the beginning of October, arrangements for the election of new parent MR members (for the Dutch department and for the VNS location) were discussed. There are three candidates for the Dutch department and one for VNS.

The visit of the school inspector to all three international locations was also discussed. The inspector's report is not yet out but he was very happy and positive after his visit.

Forthcoming Holiday Dates, Study Days and Early Closures

School will close at 12:30 on the following days:

Sinterklaas Monday 5th December 2016

Christmas Thursday 22nd December 2016

Study Days

Our next study day is Wednesday 23rd November 2016. On this day there will be no school for children in ID R, 1, 2, 3, NA 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Christmas Holiday

As indicated above school will close at 12:30 on Thursday 22nd December. School is closed for the Christmas holiday from Friday 23rd December until Friday 6th January. The children return to school on Monday 9th January 2017.

From the KSS Location

Home Country Celebrations

We look forward to seeing how members of our Indian community celebrate Diwali, when the children present an Indian dance and share their stories later this month. We very much like having parents in school leading assemblies or festivities or preparing a display board with information. If you would like to share a cultural celebration with our community, please make contact with us. Ms Hager is our international rep at KSS.

Parent Consultations

We trust that you have found this week's parent consultations useful in identifying the next steps in your child's learning. If you wanted to see one of our specialist teachers, but were unable to do so, you can always make a separate mutually convenient appointment via email.

Trusted person

Ms Hager (ID3) is the KSS appointed trusted person. If you (or your child) have a concern then you can make an appointment to speak to Ms Hager in confidence. The trusted people in the HSV community get together on an annual basis for training to keep their skills up to date.

Sinterklaas

We will soon welcome Sinterklaas and his Pieten on their annual trip to The Netherlands. The parade in the centre of The Hague is always worth viewing if you have not experienced it before. We will have celebrations in school on the 5th December. Children in ID R to 3 receive a small gift from Sinterklaas, whilst the children in ID 4 to 6 draw names to make "surprises", which is a lovely Dutch tradition. More information will follow.



Lost Property

Our lost property box seems to fill very quickly. In particular we often have gym shirts and outdoor coats that are unnamed. Please name your child's belongings so that they can be easily returned if found. At the end of the term, the box will be emptied and items donated to charity.

Kind regards,

Lorraine Wittenberg
KSS Location Leader



SPOTLIGHT ON..... Kinderboekenweek!



In the last week of the half term, we celebrated Dutch children's book week, which this year had the theme 'Voor Altijd Jong'.

We started the week off with children dressing up as their Grandparents, some of whom have lived through some amazing events in history. The whole school got together in assembly and we sang the song that Ms Vivienne had taught us in Host Country Lessons.

Some classes completed homework presentations on their grandparents, which they used to write biographies. Other classes invited their grandparents in to read in their home language. ID 1 and 5 did a joint reading session. We also had lots of stories from the many books we bought around the theme of grandparents.

It was an enjoyable week and special thanks to the book week committee: Ms Vivienne, Mr Beattie and Ms Anne.



