



# Primary Newsletter

21 November 2008

Issue 5

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**“We did not inherit the land from our forefathers- we are borrowing it from our children.”**



## From Mr. Scott

Dear Parents,

We had our first PTA meeting of the year on Wednesday, with Lucy Capon in the chair. It was a very positive meeting and extremely well attended. Thank you to all parents who came along. Let's hope that attendance stays high.

Drinking plenty of water is important. Not only does it ensure children are healthy and do not become dehydrated, it is also good for learning. Studies have shown that when we are thirsty, mental performance including memory, attention and concentration can decrease by about 10 per cent. In January, we will be presenting each Primary child with a water bottle, free of charge, as a way to celebrate 5 years of primary education here at ISH. Our secondary school will do the same as they are celebrating 25 years. Water bottles will be blue aluminium with the school logo. As they are **all** blue and **all** have

the school logo, the potential for mix ups could be high! Therefore, we ask you to either mark the bottle with a permanent marker or a sticker with your child's name, or any other cunning idea you may have. I am telling you now so you have plenty of time to prepare for this!

This week we had a telephone call from our friends in the Loosduinen police to inform us that they would be checking bicycle lights in the next few weeks. This is just a reminder to make sure that you and your children have adequate working lights on your bicycles.

We are looking forward to the arrival of Sinterklaas on 5<sup>th</sup> December. He is due at our school at around 08:45 so if you would like to join in the fun, you are most welcome to wait outside the front of the school where he will be arriving. Last year, you may remember that he was given a special police escort. We have no idea

how he will be arriving this year....we'll have to wait and see.

The children have been making pepernoten at school and our Dutch department would love some help in putting them in bags on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> December after lunchtime. If you can spare 30 minutes, our ladies would be most grateful.

Please be reminded that school ends at 12:00 on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December.

Also today we say good bye to Thandi our exchange teacher from South Africa. Over the past few weeks she has impressed us with her teaching skills and has become a member of our staff. We will miss her dearly. At the same time we are glad to welcome Ms. Kehoe back. Ms. Kehoe will return to school on Monday. We are eager to hear of her experiences

Kind regards,  
Graeme Scott

## Sinterklaas Charity

On December 5 the Dutch department is hold-

ing a charity event. For 1 Euro children get to come

to school dressed up as a Zwarte Piet or Sinterklaas.

## Fashion Show

On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November we performed our Fashion show for the Year 4 parents. It was our entry point for our new IPC topic on Fashion.

We came to school on that morning feeling nervous and excited and also very happy. We were really looking forward to being real models and showing off our outfits. We had designed and combined outfits in the following categories: Winter, Summer, Future, Spooky, Recycling and Formal wear.



Here are 4M's top ten memories of the day:

1. Martin being nervous but then really getting into the spirit of the whole thing.
2. Grisha wearing his skiing shoes during the future bit.
3. Miss Murray strutting her stuff
4. Cosmo unrecognisable as a vampire.
5. Giada and Jenny giggling on the catwalk

because of nerves

6. Kohinoor looking beautiful and elegant in her green summer sari.
7. Harry's hairstyle
8. Fashion police arresting Mr Scott
9. Miss Thandi dressed like a scary witch
10. Ana and Amon being wonderful narrators in spite of a little disagreement backstage about the text!

## Reception Shopping Trip

### Reception Shopping Trip

It was a little bit rainy last Wednesday but that did not stop the Reception classes from going on their shopping trip. Accompanied by many helpful parents the children walked to the shops with their shopping bags and

lists. The children completed their shopping and a very tricky food quiz. With all the shopping completed they all made the walk back to school...looking forward to all the cooking they would need to go over the next few days. On Friday each class had a

special lunch eating all the food that they had cooked.

The Reception Team



## Celebration of Sinterklaas

Just before December 5 there is no escaping that fact that Holland, our host country is preparing on the grandest scale for St. Nicolas' birthday. On Saturday November 15 the steamboat arrived from Spain, carrying the Sint and his entourage, to The Hague where tens of thousands of children were ready to welcome him.

The Sint's arrival was broadcast live on television. Shop windows are decorated for the occasion, with Sinterklaas candy and presents. Children compose rhymes, put their shoes by the hearth, and sing songs for Sinterklaas.

Also here at the ISH we are preparing for Sinterklaas. The Sint will pay a visit to our school on December 5, and will arrive around 8.45 am. The school has been festively decorated for his arrival and children are practising songs and doing other activities, such as baking pepernoten. We desperately need parents to help with baking pepernoten (**December 2**) and wrapping them up (**December 4**) for the children to take them home. There is a list in the office for you to sign if you would like to be part of this favorite activity of the year.

### WHO IS SINTERKLAAS?

Sinterklaas is the Dutch name for Saint Nicholas. Saint Nicholas was a bishop who

lived and worked in Asia Minor. He was born in Mira (Turkey) in 271 AD and died in the year 343 AD. In the year 2007 he would have been 1737 years old. According to the legend he saved his town from starvation, revived three dead children and he offered dowries to very poor girls. Sailors started believing in St. Nicholas because three sailors swore that he had calmed a very rough sea when they were at sea and in trouble because of bad weather conditions. Slowly people all over Europe started honouring and respecting St. Nicholas. Children, bakers, sailors, scholars, prisoners, merchants etc. started to believe in him.

In Holland people believe that St. Nicholas comes from Spain. The reason for it can be

## Celebration of Sinterklaas continued

found that in the 17th century Holland was famous for its navigation. So the Dutch sailors had plenty of contact with the Spanish sailors. Holland was ruled by Spain in the 16th century. The Spanish sailors believed in St. Nicholas as their guardian Saint. They must have told the Dutch sailors about this and the Dutch sailors must have taken that back to Holland. In Holland the name given to St. Nicholas is "Sinterklaas".

St. Nicholas has a group of black helpers" called *zwarte pieten*. This might have been because St. Nicholas comes from Spain and the Moors who were in power in Spain for several hundred years were dark skinned. Legend goes that Sinterklaas and Zwarte Piet travel over the roofs of the Dutch houses at night. The Dutch children put their shoes (used to be wooden shoes) in

front of the fire place. They sing songs and provide a carrot or hay for the horse. At night Zwarte Piet puts gifts and candy in it arriving through the chimney.

Sinterklaas' birthday is celebrated on December 5, which is the eve of his birthday. Originally, until the early years of the twentieth century, this was a children's festival, but it grew into a festivity for the whole family, with everyone giving each other presents. Traditional treats are served throughout the evening.

### Surprise gifts

When grown-ups get together to celebrate Sinterklaas, they follow some traditions of their own. Well in advance, they draw each others' names, and they buy gifts for the person they have drawn. The identity of the giver is not disclosed. Small gifts are hidden

in elaborate wrappings, symbolizing something with special meaning for the recipient. The gifts are accompanied by poems which are full of puns making fun of the recipient. Do you need help with a poem in Dutch? Go to the generator site:

<http://www.dotsphinx.com/sinterklaas/gedichten/>

People get together with relatives and/or friends, eat Sinterklaas candy, open their presents one by one (the identity of the giver remains a secret) and read the poems aloud.

We hope you and or your children will enjoy this Dutch tradition.

The Dutch teachers, Els Buesink, Monique Gerretzen and Maaike Smit



## Year 3 Trip to Burger's Zoo

On Friday, the 31<sup>st</sup> October all the year 3's jumped on 2 busses, and headed off to the Burger's Zoo in Arnhem.

Because Arnhem is a long way away, we had to all be at school really early... the busses left at 8 o'clock sharp!

After almost 2 hours we got to the zoo! We made our way to the Rainforest, where we were met by our 2 guides. Half of the children stayed in the picnic area, had their snacks and then got to complete a work-

sheet about the rainforest. We had to describe the sounds and smells of the rainforest, as well as draw a few pictures of what we saw around us. While we were doing this, the other half of the children were given a tour of the rainforest. After 45 minutes, the groups swapped activities. The guides showed us many different plants, birds and animals that you will find in the rainforest.

After we had ventured through the rainforest, we made our way to the big picnic area

where we had our lunch. There was a huge climbing frame that we could climb up on! It was fun!

After lunch we headed into the desert! Wow – that was very different from the rainforest – it was very hot and dry, unlike the rainforest that was hot and humid! We saw many different plant and animal species that can be found in the desert!

After a fun filled day we sadly had to leave the zoo and head off back to school! We all really enjoyed ourselves!



## Environmental News

We are collecting **used batteries** in a container outside the Primary Library.

The more used batteries we collect, the more school material we will be able to get in return! Please remind your children to bring old batteries in.



Have a look at [www.stibat.nl](http://www.stibat.nl) if you want to have some recycling fun.

Also something **NEW**

There is a Seal sanctuary in Pieterburen in the North East of the Netherlands. During the last school break it was visited by Ms. Hoenselaar and Mr. McCarthy. They found out that the Seal Sanctuary use the money generated by the collection of used printed ink cartridges, to get funds for projects in the center. We would love to help them out! So, if you have any empty ink cartridges please bring them in to school and contact with Mr. Beren.

Let's Help the Seals!!

For more information, visit:

<http://www.zeehondencreche.nl>

Thank you for all your cooperation and help!

**The E. Team (Environmental Team)**



## Dates for your Diary

Sat 29 Nov. International winter festival  
 Fri 5 Dec. Sinterklaas School ends at 12:00  
 Fri 19 Dec. End of term School ends at 12:00

## CT Days

24 Nov. Mr. Kneller, Mr. McCarthy  
 25 Nov. Mr. McCarthy  
 3-4 Dec. Ms. Smet , Ms. Forsey  
 5 Dec. Ms. Forsey, Ms. Starkey  
 23 Nov Ms. Kehoe AM  
 01 Dec Ms. Jagdev



10<sup>th</sup> November 2008

Dear parents/guardians and colleagues,

This year we have organised a day trip to the Christmas-fair in Xanten in Germany for families of students as well as for staff and their families.

It is on Saturday 13 December 2008. The bus will leave from Kijkduin Deltaplein (where the shops are) as the school is closed and there is parking there.

We will leave at 08.30 am and will return at 21.00 pm.

It is a nice way to get us into the Christmas spirit, to enjoy being outside with nice people. We won't have to drive ourselves and we won't have parking problems. We will simply enjoy December. Xanten is a city with a long Roman and medieval history. Of course there are a lot of things to do e.g. the cathedral, the Kriemhild windmill, the archaeological park, lots of shops and last but not least the Weihnachtsmarkt (Christmas-fair) in the old city. The city centre is not too big, so it is easy to explore while you are walking through lovely smells and stands with all kinds of things you may like to buy for yourself or to give away. As you may know, there is also delicious food: traditional, international, veggie. When it gets cold, there is Glühwein (mulled wine), Lumbumba and other non-alcoholic drinks.

We will give you a map with interesting locations and some background information to make it easier to find your way. All you need to bring is good spirit, warm clothing, your identity card or passport and a packed lunch.

There is one thing you need to do before you join us...

Please fill in the answer slip below and return it to the primary office as soon as possible together with the 25 per person (exact money, no change will be given) in an envelope with XantenTrip and the names clearly printed on it. Please sign the list on the board in the office as well. There are **limited places**.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. E. Wiegmann

German Department

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 Return this slip to the Primary School Office

### Day Trip to Xanten, Germany - Saturday 13 December 2008

We/I will participate and we/I enclose 25 per person in full payment of the trip.

1..... 2.....  
 3..... 4.....

.....  
 Signed parent/guardian/staff Date