



# Primary Newsletter

*The International School of The Hague*

## FROM MR. SCOTT

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the new school year. It has been an excellent start to the year, with our new students and staff settling in very well and already, the classrooms are bursting with energy and enthusiasm. I hope you all had a pleasant summer – we were certainly blessed with excellent weather here in The Netherlands.

It was wonderful to see so many of you here at the Meet the Teacher evening. Again, for the third year running, we had a packed theatre. The theme of the evening was 'Childrens Expectations', not only what we expect from them, but also what they can expect from us. A key focus for the year will therefore be our 'Learner Profile.' We will communicate more about this with you soon. Thank you to all parents who listened patiently to the helpful information communicated by the teachers too. It was a very positive evening.

Last Thursday I cycled to school an hour later than I normally do and joined the growing number of children and parents using the bicycle as their preferred method of transport. It is wonderful to see so many on two wheels, cycling carefully. Please remind the children that it is important to indicate when they are turning, to avoid accidents with traffic. Of course, the best way to remind

the children is to do it ourselves! I did notice that the traffic lights were not working next to the BP garage, creating a dangerous situation for our students. We called the municipality and asked for this problem to be corrected as a matter of urgency. I hope that by the time you read this, the problem has been solved.

Our annual Ramadan Evening was a great success. Many families, Muslim and non-Muslim, turned up to break the fast together. Thanks go in particular to Mr. and Mrs. Mukhtar for coordinating the event and to the many families who contributed such delicious food.

We have had around 50 new families join us this year. For those families and existing families who may not have seen this already, I attach a link to our [accreditation report](#) which came through before the end of last school year. Being the first school accredited and at the highest possible level is the most significant achievement in our short history. For your information, there are now 753 IPC (International Primary Curriculum) schools in the world and the number continues to grow.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Welcome Picnic on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September. This event is organised by our parents and Secondary PA (Parents Association). It is not only for new families but

for all ISH families to get together and enjoy a pleasant day.

Finally, thank you all for your help and support in making our school a safer, more secure environment for the children. It has been noticeable that almost all parents have observed the rules about staying out of the Glasshouse in mornings and afternoons. It has meant that the teachers have had a much more effective start to the day and that the dismissal at the end of the school day is more straightforward.

In December at the end of term, we will be saying goodbye to Mr. Troll, one of the teachers that has been with the school from the very beginning. He and his family will be moving to Curacao in the Caribbean. We are of course very sorry to see him leave, but ever so slightly jealous too! We thank Mr. Troll for all he has done at the school, from when he started as a teacher of Dutch, to his current position as Year 4 teacher. He will be missed.

Kind regards,  
Graeme Scott

Primary School Principal

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IMAGINATION IS THE  
BEGINNING OF  
CREATION. YOU  
IMAGINE WHAT YOU  
DESIRE, YOU WILL  
WHAT YOU IMAGINE  
AND AT LAST YOU  
CREATE WHAT YOU  
WILL.

GEORGE BERNARD  
SHAW

## PRINSJESDAG

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of September Prinsjesdag is celebrated. The ISH and many other schools in The Hague came together at Scheveningen beach to prepare the horses for the Prinsjesdag parade. The goal for the schools was to make as much noise as possible. Fireworks and smoke bombs were fired, but nothing scared the horses. The picture on the front cover of the newspaper

describes a bit how the smoke curled around the riders and their horses. We actually saw it live! The firework was loud but we were louder. We took the tram back and forth to school. It was my first time on a tram in Holland. On the beach there were also tanks and reinforced cars. Most of the students had a look inside, and a walk on the roofs of the reinforced cars. We were nearing the

end of our trip, but there was one more surprise waiting for us. We were allowed to pet and cuddle the horses. It was a wonderful trip I hope that the year sixes will get to go next year too.

Written by: Dagmar and Isobel 6W



## RECEPTION NEWS

We are very happy to announce that all the new Reception children are now attending school all day! Our little Butterflies, Ladybirds and Froggies are do-

ing very well and settling into their new school with ease! We hope that if you see any of the new reception children around school you will stop and say

hello to them. We are really looking forward to making lots of new friends this year.

The Reception Team



## WORLD HARMONY RUN

Dear Parents,

Perhaps you have noticed the flags on Kijkduinsestraat? On Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2009 it is the International Day of Peace. As Mr. Scott mentioned during the meet the teacher evening "to be principled" is part of our ISH primary Learner Profile. With this topic of peace we will welcome the "World Harmony Run" to our school on Wednesday 30 September

The World Harmony Run is a global relay that seeks to promote international friendship and understanding. As a symbol of harmony, runners carry a flaming torch, passing it from hand to hand travelling through over 100 nations around the globe. The World Harmony Run does not seek to raise money or highlight any political cause, but simply strives to create goodwill among people of all nations. For more information you

can look at the following website:

<http://www.worldharmonyrun.org>

A group of runners from Italy, Hungary, England, Luxembourg and German will arrive at our school at 9.00. In a short assembly they will discuss with the children what harmony is. Some children will then symbolically run a lap around the playground with the runners.

As part of this programme will take place outside please make sure your child is wearing suitable clothing such as a raincoat on that day if the weather is not agreeable. Parents are welcome to assist with the event.

Pascale Hertay  
Team Leader - Curriculum Coordinator and  
Daily Operations



## MOTHER TONGUE NEWS

Dear Parents,

I hope you have had a lovely summer. Many of your children have told me that they have visited their family back in their home countries during the holiday. It is great to see how quickly they catch up with their mother tongue. Now we are back in The Netherlands and back to school and we will need to support them so that they can keep it up! We will have an information evening on how the school can support you. During

this evening we will also have the opportunity to listen to **Sharon Unsworth about raising a bilingual child**. Please see the invitation below in the newsletter.

After school MT classes will start on 7 October. A leaflet with information and a registration form have been sent home. Extra copies are available from the office.

We are always looking for possible lan-

guage tutors to cover sick teachers or to open a new language class. If you are an experienced teacher and would like to support the children in their MT through our after school MT classes please contact me.

[p.hertay@ishthehague.nl](mailto:p.hertay@ishthehague.nl)

Kind regards,  
Pascale Hertay  
Team Leader-Curriculum coordinator

## EAL, SEN AND MOTHER TONGUE EVENING

Dear Parents,

We would like to invite you to an **English as an Additional Language (EAL), Mother Tongue (MT) and Special Educational Needs (SEN) information evening**

We are fortunate to have Dr. Sharon Unsworth joining us during this evening to talk about Bilingualism. **Dr. Sharon Unsworth is post-doc researcher at the Meertens Institute, Amsterdam and Assistant Professor at Utrecht University**, where she obtained her PhD in 2005. She has published in international journals on bilingual, first and second language acquisition. She was recently

awarded the Keetje Hodshon prize 2009 by the Royal Holland Society of Sciences and Humanities for her PhD and further publications. She is principal investigator on the Early Child Bilingualism project for which some of our students have been interviewed last year.

Dr. Unsworth will discuss the following questions with us **"What is bilingualism? Why raise children with more than one language? How to raise children with more than one language?"**

This will be followed by a short presentation from our EAL team about the huge benefit of supporting your child's

MT in and outside school and also explaining about the EAL support in the school. Finally there will also be a presentation from our SEN team to explain the SEN procedures and how we can support your children. The meeting will take place in the Speel-lokaal on **Tuesday the 29 September**. The presentation will start at **18.00** and will be followed by coffee and cakes, at this time you will also have an opportunity to have a chat with Dr. Unsworth and our teachers.

Looking forward to meeting you,  
The EAL and SEN teams

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

### Important Dates:

- ◇ 27 September Welcome Picnic
- ◇ 29 September EAL, MT and SEN evening
- ◇ 8 October Parent Consultations 15.30-17.30
- ◇ 13 October Parent Consultations 17.30-19.30
- ◇ 15 October School Closes at 12.00, Teacher training day
- ◇ 16 October School Closed Teacher training day
- ◇ 17 October Holiday

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## NEWS

### FIGURE SKATING CLOSE TO THE ISH

The Haagsche Ijsclub Houtrust (HIJH) offers figure skating trainings in De Uithof, close to the ISH. HIJH is the most international figure skating club in The Hague.

The trainings are from the beginners to the advanced level, with an aim to obtain the international figure skating diplomas. Those who are interested and after having obtained the basic skating skills, can start training in the competition class. The season will run till end March and be closed with a fantastic skating show where every club member participates.

If you are interested in figure skating, please contact the club at 0652511142 or by sending an e-mail through our website [www.HIJH.nl](http://www.HIJH.nl), or join us for a trial lesson.

Kylli Seppar

### FAMILY MATTERS

Family Matters is an English language magazine which is dedicated to parenting issues in the Netherlands. For more information then look at their website [www.family-matters.nl](http://www.family-matters.nl). It is 12 euros for 3 issues or 21 euros for 6 issues. If you would like to take a look at the first two issues then please email Mrs Scott at [a.scott@ishthehague.nl](mailto:a.scott@ishthehague.nl).

### NETBALL

When? Thursdays 19.30 – 21.00

Where? The ISH gym.

Who? Beginners, experienced players, (maybe you have distant memories of playing it at school !)

Why? It's a great way to keep fit, have fun and meet new people.

Why not come along for a session and see if you would like to join us. Bring trainers and a bottle of water.

For more information contact Justine Stanley : [justine@stanleys.eu](mailto:justine@stanleys.eu)



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## RAMADAN EVENING

If you celebrate Eid al Fitr The Leerplicht has granted Monday as a Festival day off.

