

# KSS Newsletter

## April 2017



*Children in ID 5 and 1 worked together to recreate famous art works.*



Dear Parents,

Welcome to our April newsletter. It is great that the lighter evenings are with us once again and there are lots of signs of Spring around. This month we have our lovely Spring Concerts and Spring breakfast so we will say good bye to the winter, even though this year it was not such a hard one weather-wise. Later in the month King's Day is celebrated throughout the Netherlands. We will also have our Sponsorloop so hope you can all help your children with getting sponsors to raise money towards the International Red Cross.

We are very pleased to inform you that Mr. Hans van der Vlugt has been appointed as Executive Director at the HSV. Since January he has worked with us in an interim capacity, so we have got to know each other really well and think that we have a good match. We look forward to working with him in the coming months and years.

**Lorraine Janet Dean**  
International Department Director

**Frans de Jong**  
Dutch Department Director

## HSV News

### Developments in Technology

During the February holiday the HSV made the transition to a Google Learning Environment and we are starting to use the COOL Learning platform. Last year, several members of staff attended a Google summit here in The Netherlands and came back very enthused. Google is particularly useful because we have staff working across locations and this gives us greater ease to technology. Staff have piloted different elements and now we are working with a whole range of applications. We will provide you with regular updates. We are also currently working on developing a new web site which will have a parent portal. Much is happening with the children in the classroom. We are really looking at our ICT curriculum and ways to develop it. Computer coding is a new part of the curriculum and is currently being piloted in some of the classrooms. We are making major investment in this area in regards to both hardware and professional development of our staff. We are really pleased that @HSV are going to support us in this area. You can read about it in the next section of the newsletter.

### 2HSV Auction

2HSV was initiated some years ago by some of our Dutch parents. Their mission is to raise money to support the school with special initiatives. They were a great support when we were developing our playground areas. They have provided money for extra library books and even organised a visit from a real astronaut, Andre Kuipers, for some of our children. Now they are going to play an instrumental part in the developments that we are making in the area of technology, particularly in the area of coding and programming. We are extremely grateful for this support. 2HSV are organising an auction and dinner that is open to all, that is parents from both the Dutch and International Departments, from all locations. The space is limited so once tickets are on sale make sure you purchase one should you want to attend. Please save the date and see the information on the next page. Last time the event was very successful and great fun.

## Staffing

Laura Taddy has begun her maternity leave and Ms. Judy Bate will teach IDRL at VNS for the remainder of the school year. Janet Goedbloed will be joining the HSV as a cover teacher. Janet has worked in The Netherlands before and is returning after a period teaching in Uruguay.

## Summer Party

The KSS summer party will be held on Friday 23rd June. Further information will come after the holiday, but we hope to have lots of support with organising and running the activities on the day.

## From the MR

In order to improve the traffic safety conditions of our pupils, the parent representatives in the MR have taken the initiative to set up traffic safety groups consisting of interested parents at the specific location. The groups will be made up of parents willing to devote some of their time to improve traffic safety by being present

outside the school grounds before or after school to keep an eye on the behaviour of traffic and ensure the safety of children arriving at or leaving the school. They may also have a role in communicating with the local authorities. A group has already been set up at the Nassaulaan location. Parents who are interested in joining a 'traffic' group are invited to contact the MR parent representative for their location. More information concerning contact with the MR can be found on the MR section of the school website.

## Dates for this school year

**Friday 14th April**– Good Friday– SCHOOL CLOSED

**Monday 17th April**– Easter Monday– SCHOOL CLOSED

**Monday 24th April– Friday 5th May**– May vacation– SCHOOL CLOSED. Please note that school closes at 15:00 on Friday 21st April.

**Monday 8th May**– School reopens.

**Thursday 25th and Friday 26th May 2017**-Ascension

**Monday 5th June 2017**-Pentecost

**Monday 10th July – Friday 18th August 2017**—Summer holidays

## Message from 2HSV The Forthcoming Auction

Friday May, 19 is the date for the 2HSV Auction Dinner!

This year we are organising this spectacular event at the Sociëteit de Witte, situated at Het Plein. Following the successful auction dinner in 2015, when more than €15,000 was raised for the NSL playground, we are going to have another great evening with fantastic items being auctioned. A small sample of the items:

- art made by the pupils;
- use of vacation homes;
- a guided tour of the Dutch Parliament;
- a 'meet & greet' with Dutch PM Mark Rutte.

This year the proceeds from the auction will be used to ensure that our children will receive education in computer programming and coding. As of 2020 all schools in The Netherlands will be compelled to offer coding/programming in their curriculum. 2HSV, together with the staff at HSV, feel that we should not wait that long before offering these essential lessons. To ensure that your children will gain these skills, HSV would like to start offering digital education starting in 2017. 2HSV will support the school in reaching this goal by raising the necessary funds.

Your support is needed. So note May 19<sup>th</sup> in your agenda for the auction date.

You will be able to register for the dinner in April. To receive email updates please check [www.2hsv.nl](http://www.2hsv.nl)

## From the KSS Location

### School Photographer

Please make a note in your diary that the photographer will be in school on **Thursday 18th May**. He will take individual photos as well as those of school-aged siblings and class photos. More info will be emailed about this.

### Building Project

During the coming months, the offices in the building next to the school will be transformed into apartments. We are yet to be informed of the definite start date of the work, but we know that there may be some disruption. We ask families to continue to look for alternative parking places away from the Koningin Sophiestraat to help maintain access to the road for the building site workers and the residents of the street. More information on the building project can be viewed on the website: <https://koninginsophiestraat.nl/>

Lorraine Wittenberg

lwittenberg@hsvdenhaag.nl

### GMR representative needed

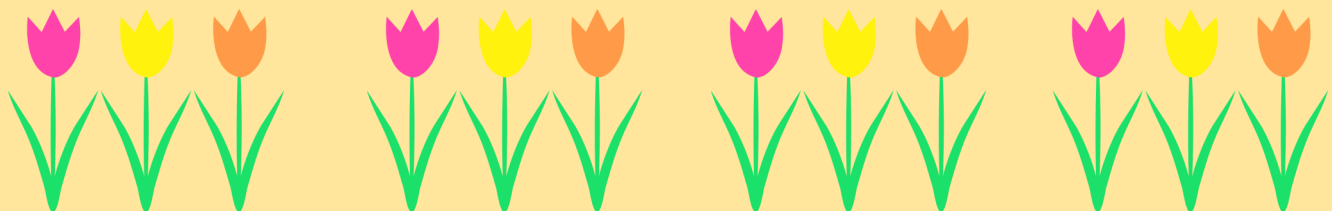
School foundations such as the HSV, which are responsible for more than one school, have the legal obligation to set up a GMR (joint parent teacher association). The group communicates with the Board and Management team and discusses policy for schools in our Foundation. The issues discussed deal specifically with matters that affect the whole of the organisation such as the budget, the annual report, school policies and personnel issues.

The GMR meets 5 times a year at Tarwekamp, on a Tuesday evening (19:15-21:00). The schools of the Stichting HSV are represented by a staff member and a parent. The current ID parent representative, Franziska Eckelmans will be leaving in June, so the GMR is looking for a new ID parent. The meetings and documentation are in Dutch, so you need to be able to speak and read Dutch fluently. Kindly contact the GMR chairman, Wilma Kletzkine (wkletzkine@hsvdenhaag.nl) if you are interested.

## Spring Events at KSS

### Spring Concert

We are looking forward to the Spring Concert, which will take place on Tuesday 11th April. Children in ID 3 to 6 will be performing songs learnt with Mr Tim in the music lessons and those children who learn an instrument outside of school will have a chance to perform. Parents in ID 3 to 6 are very welcome to attend. The concert starts at 14:15 in the gym.



### Spring Breakfast

On Wednesday 12th April, the children will eat Spring breakfast in school. Children can come to school in their pyjamas if they wish, but this is optional. We ask all parents to contribute a small amount of food. Please aim to cater for 6 children. Finger food is best e.g. healthy muffins, croissants, small rolls and fillings. Please do not send in cereals and milk as this often gets messy. The school will provide the drinks. Your child's class teacher will be in touch with further information.

# SPOTLIGHT ON ID 5

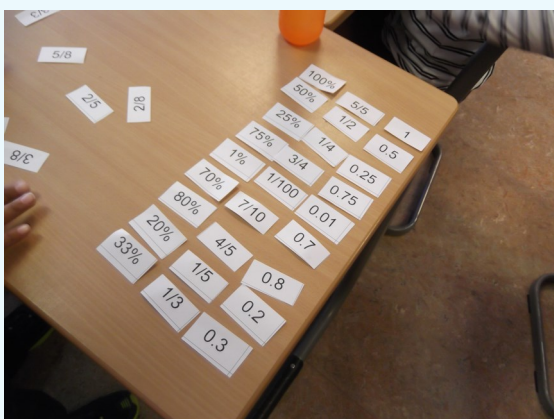


Time has flown in ID5 over the past month, with lots of fun and fascinating learning taking place. Coming back from the half-term break, the children helped create a fun and interactive assembly about 'random acts of kindness'. The children decided on a number of things they would do for this - including: offering free hugs, giving out compliments and sweets, putting nice cards and notes in people's bags secretly, and saying thank you to people for all the help they have given.

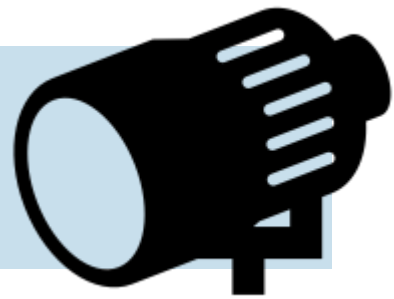
In curriculum time the children have been busy too. Our IPC topic this term is 'Going Global' and is looking at the globalization of our world. As an entry point the children created their own countries and flags before being given a list of exports that their country could sell to other countries, and the imports they needed. Through playing the children began to see how different countries have economic advantages over other countries, and understood more how international trade worked. From this starting point, they have also created country profiles, using ICT, showing the commodities and value of imports & exports for their home and host countries.



In Numeracy we have been working through the concepts of fractions and percentages, learning how to calculate and use them in different ways. As the children have become more fluent we have been looking at how to improve our reasoning and problem solving and applying our learning in different ways. These concepts have been linked to decimals, which we have been learning about earlier in the year, and the children were able to recognize and organise equivalent fractions, decimals and percentages.



# SPOTLIGHT ON ID 5



In Literacy we have been continuing with the story of 'Cosmic', about a boy and his friend (who pretends to be his daughter) who win a competition to be able to travel to space. The children have been arguing persuasively about which 'father' should go to space with the children, and other issues. They have also been developing their ability to justify and explain their opinions over moral matters (such as admitting the truth or hiding it).



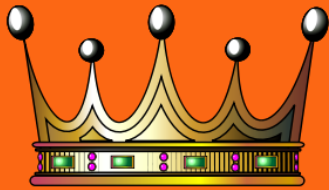
Finally, over the past couple of weeks, the children have linked up with the ID1 children to help them create pieces of artwork based on famous artists. Teaming up in pairs or trios, the ID5 children did a wonderful job of supporting and guiding the ID1 children with the task, and the results can be seen on display on the first floor of the school. It was very lovely to see the care and understanding that the children showed, and how supportive they were to the younger children.



# Stop press..... King's Day Events

## Sponsorloop: Monday 10th April

Don't forget to collect as many sponsors as you can ready for the Sponsorloop next week, 10th April. All money raised will go to the International Red Cross.



## Thursday 20th April

All children are invited to dress in orange and experience some traditional Dutch games typically played at King's Day. Ms Vivienne hopes to see everyone come in their finest orange outfits!

ID 5 will also be hosting a King's Day market on Thursday 20th April. The children in ID 5 are busy developing their entrepreneurial skills and organising items to sell and make a profit for the Red Cross. This is linked to their IPC unit on Going Global and is their charity fundraising event for this year. Please make sure that your child has some change in school on the 20th April, if they wish to come along and support this event.



And if you are here in The Netherlands for the King's Day celebrations on the 27th April have a lot of fun. There is always plenty going on!

## Playball



There are still places in the Thursday after school Playball sessions for children in ID R,1 and 2. If you are interested then please contact Maggie Bedwell via the website:

[www.playballkids.com](http://www.playballkids.com)