



Dear Parents and Carers,

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.

There are several holiday dates between now and the end of the year. Please be aware of these. You can find a reminder of these on page 3 of this newsletter.

This is another very busy time in the HSV calendar, which will continue into Term 3. Please do watch out for updates and reminders for events.

Kind regards,

Kay Wilson

VNS Head of School

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HSV/VNS Location

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## **Message from Lorraine Janet Dean Director HSV International Department and Frans de Jong Director of the Dutch Department:**

Welcome to our April newsletter. 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.

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

### **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.

## Message from 2HSV The Forthcoming Auction

Friday May 19th 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)

Looking forward to having a great evening on the 19<sup>th</sup> !

## 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

## From the VNS Location

### MR Parent Representative

We are delighted to announce that Nigel Grant is taking on the role of MR Parent Representative for VNS as Jon Moorhouse reaches the end of his term. We are extremely grateful to Jon for the support and advice that he has offered parents and the VNS team throughout his time as VNS MR Parent Representative and look forward to working with Nigel in the future months and years.

We will introduce Nigel in a future newsletter.

### Continuing/withdrawing from the HSV

Thank you to those parents who have completed the online form regarding re-registering for next academic year. If you have not already done so, please complete the online form [here](#). If you are planning on withdrawing your child from the HSV you will need to complete a withdrawal form, available to download [here](#). This should be returned to [id-admissions@hsvdenhaag.nl](mailto:id-admissions@hsvdenhaag.nl).

### Playground after school

A reminder that the playground is locked at the end of the day to help protect the property. For safety reasons, we politely request that parents ensure their children do not climb over the fence to return to the playground.



### Spring Breakfast

A reminder that the Spring Breakfast will take place on Wednesday 12th April. The children are invited to attend school in their pyjamas. It would be a good idea to send a change of clothes to ensure that the

children are warm enough during playtime. Class teachers and/or class parent



representatives should have been in contact with you regarding food arrangements.

### Spring Concert

We are looking forward to the Spring Concert, which will take place on Thursday 13th April. Children in ID 3 to 6 will be performing songs learnt with Mr Gido in the music lessons and those children who learn an instrument outside of school will have a chance to perform. Parents of children ID 3 to 6 are very welcome to attend.



The concert will be performed twice: once for the parents of children in ID3 & 4 and once for parents of children in ID5 & 6. Should you have children in ID3 & 4 and ID5 & 6, please attend one concert of your choice. Please note the following times:

**ID3 and 4 concert at 11:00**

**ID5 and 6 concert at 14:00**

### Book Fair

There will be a book fair on **Wednesday 12th April** from **12:00 until 13:30**. Representatives from Usborne and Rainbow Books will be present.

### Sponsorloop

This year's sponsorloop will take place during gym lessons on **Tuesday 18th** and **Thursday 20th April**. Children are encouraged to wear orange in honour of King's Day, which this year takes place during the May Holiday. Sponsor forms have already been sent home. We are grateful for your support.

# Spotlight on ... ID4!

For our IPC and Science topic we visited Blijdorp Zoo Rotterdam to study the different habitats that could be found in the different continents of the world. We were able to identify how animals had adapted to their environment and the possible food chains within the habitats. As well as identify plants and animals. The children were very enthusiastic and soon filled up their project sheets to use back in class.

