

# VNS Newsletter

## February 2017



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are now well into the first half term of Term 2 and we are starting to feel some warmer weather. Despite this, we are still forecast colder weather in the coming weeks. Please do ensure that your children are well equipped for the cold and the wet weather.

February will see several school trips, such as the IDR visit to a market and ID1 and ID5 visits to the Museon. ID2 have already visited the Het van Kinderen Museum and this features in this month's 'Spotlight on...' section.

Lots of excited children are looking forward to the school disco which has a Carnival theme. Thank you to the Parents Association who have helped to organise the event, researching and purchasing resources. Watch out for next month's newsletter which will feature photographs of the event.

### Contents

- 2 Message from the Director
- 3 From the VNS location
- 4-5 Spotlight on ... ID2
- 6 Provisional Holiday Dates 2017-2018

Kind regards,

Kay Wilson

VNS Head of School

[kwilson@vnsdenhaag.nl](mailto:kwilson@vnsdenhaag.nl)

HSV/VNS Location

Van Nijenrodestraat 16,

2597RM Den Haag,

Tel: 070-3281441

## Message from Lorraine Janet Dean Director HSV International Department and Frans de

### Jong Director of the Dutch Department:

Welcome to our February newsletter which provides you with news about what is happening at the HSV and your school location. This week we have taken part in in the Voorleesdagen which promote the importance of reading aloud with children. We bought many of the top Illustrated books in both Dutch and English. Mr. Hans van der Vlucht our Interim Executive Director joined the HSV at the start of term. You will find an introduction from him below.

### Message from the Charity Committee

This year we collected 231 shoeboxes in all and € 1068 towards postage costs. This is a wonderful amount and we thank you in your ongoing support for this very worthy cause.

### Specialist Teacher Visit Week

During the week of 6<sup>th</sup> February, you will have the chance to visit Gym, Music, Handicraft and Dutch specialist lessons. We hope to see as many of you visiting as possible and that you enjoy seeing your children developing their physical and creative education with our specialist team.

### Feel at Home in the Hague Fair

Please come visit our stand at the ex-pat fair feel at Home in The Hague. The event takes place on Sunday February 5th and the good news is that admission to the fair is free! Click [here](#) to register for free tickets for you and your family (this is advised to avoid queues).

During the fair, there will also be informative discussion panels taking place inside the 'Raadzaal' room. This year, our very own international department director, Lorraine Dean, will be joining the panel from 12:15 until 13:10 on the Panel of International Schools. The below education programme lists all of the events taking place throughout the day in the 'Raadzaal' room:

### Simon Murray Workshop

English author and illustrator of children's books, [Simon Murray](#), will visit each location during the week of 6th February. He will lead workshops at NSL on Tuesday 7th, KSS on Wednesday 8th and VNS on Thursday 9th.

11:30-12:00 Zein International Childcare	Growing up in different cultures: supporting international pre-schoolers
12:15-13:10 Panel of International Schools	School representatives discuss topics related to children's (4-18) education
13:30-14:00 Sports department of The Hague	Extra-curricular options for international children
14:10-14:40 City Council AND Cultuurschakel	Overview of Dutch higher education Choices
14:50-15:50 Panel of Institutions of higher education	Meet institutions of higher education in The Hague region
16:00-16:30 Current foreign students share their experiences	What's it like to study and live in The Hague?

Simon will begin the day with an initial presentation which involves storytelling and live-drawing. Then during the workshops, the children will be creating their own illustration of the Icky Doo Dah character (a character from one of Simon's books) engaged in several of their favourite activities at once. The children will also be illustrating an imaginative frame in which their character will be placed.

## From the VNS Location

### From the MR

On Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January the MR welcomed Cyrille Vermaat as the new teacher representative for the VNS location. As there are now a number of new members in the MR, a special MR course for new and existing members will be arranged for the near future.

### School Council

During the past week the pupil council have been creating the music list for the school disco, which takes place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February in the gym.



We came up with the idea of the suggestion box for the school so pupils can put forward any ideas they would like to improve or change around the school. We have been going through them this week – there is A LOT of suggestions from everyone. We are currently still going through everyone’s suggestions, then when we have completed this next week, we are going to narrow the suggestions down to the most popular 4 suggestions and discuss these further with Ms Wilson.

### HCO/Professional Development

Over the coming months, we will be working with the HCO who will be filming teacher/children interaction. These recordings will be used internally within the HSV for teachers’ professional development.

The HCO is the Hague Centre for educational advice.

### HCO/Professional Development

Over the coming months, we will be working with the HCO who will be filming teacher/children interaction. These recordings will be used internally within the HSV for teachers’ professional development.

The HCO is the Hague Centre for educational advice.

### Specialist Teacher Visit Week

We will have our annual open week to see the specialist lessons of Gym, Music, Handicrafts and Dutch during the week of



**6th February.** A schedule has already been published. An amended schedule is attached to this newsletter.

## Forthcoming Holiday Dates and Early Closures

### Early Closures

School will close early on **Friday 24th February** at 12:30.

### Important Dates

Week of 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Specialist teacher visit week
Friday 24th February	February Short Reports home to parents and early closure (12.30)
Monday 6th March	New term starts
Sunday 12th March	CPC Run

### Half-term Break

School is closed for the half-term break from **Monday 27th February until Friday 3rd March.** The children return to school on **Monday 6th March.**

# Spotlight on ... ID2

The IPC topic for this term has been especially exciting as it is all about toys: 'The Magic Toymaker'. For our entry point we imagined we were in a toy factory, building toys which we enjoy playing with.

We used re-cycled materials and the results were great.



If you visit the end of the corridor you will see a Toy Shop, where the children have been practising exchanging money and finding the right change.



The highlight of our IPC so far has been the trip to the Het Van Kinderen museum. Handling carpentry tools made the experience very real. Also, learning about how to make an electric circuit using a battery and wires helped us in our understanding of how things move. We felt like authentic toymakers!



## Provisional 2017-18 Holiday Dates

Please note that these are still to be approved by the GMR.

Prinsjesdag	Tuesday 19th Sept. 2017
October Holiday	Monday 16th Oct. - Friday 20th Oct. 2017
Christmas Holiday	Monday 25th Dec. 2017 - Friday 5th Jan. 2018
Spring Holiday	Monday 26th Feb. - Friday 2nd March 2018
Easter - Good Friday	Friday 30th March 2018
Easter Monday	Monday 2nd April 2018
King's Day	Friday 27th April 2018
May Holiday	Monday 30th April - Friday 11th May 2018
Pentecost	Monday 21st May 2018
Summer Holiday	Monday 16th July - Friday 24th August 2018