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SPACEWEEK GUEST -
ASTRONAUT
ANDRE KUIPERS



BOOKWEEK GUEST -
ILLUSTRATOR
PHILIP HOPMAN



WE'RE ON TWITTER
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ESH NEWS



From our Director

Dear Parents,

We have had plenty of rain recently and it already feels like autumn but I always try to look on the bright side of life and I am pretty sure that we still have some beautiful Indian summer days ahead. It was only five weeks ago that the school year started but it seems far behind us already and that's mainly because we are a very lively school community with plenty going on. The three parent's evenings that the school organised plus the coffee

morning gave me the opportunity to meet many of you. I met parents in my office, in the corridors and in the courtyard and heard your concerns on certain issues and what you like or what you think we could improve. I am glad to confirm that I am not seen as a complaint box. I see Educational Partnership as 'Closing the feedback loop and letting parents know that their ideas are taken on board'. I look forward to continuing this open communication with you.

Soon after you receive this Newsletter, ESH will start Space Week. Thanks to ESA-ESTEC we can welcome Dutch astronaut Mr. André Kuipers to our school to do the kick-off, which will be followed by an exciting week with lots of 'spacey' experiments. The Space Week overlaps with another big event which is Kinderboekenweek, starting on October 7th. The theme this year is "Raar maar Waar" (Strange but true). Our Librarians are working overtime to make Kinderboekenweek this year another success and we are already looking forward to the visit of the Dutch children's book illustrator Mr. Philip Hopman.

For me as the director it is currently 'budget'-time. This challenging task means that I'm preparing the 2016 budget by bringing together the wishes of the school in terms of staffing, educational materials and building facilities and balancing this with the estimate. Around the end of October, the draft budgets for our school will be presented to and discussed in the Participation Councils.

With kind regards,

Frans van de Kerkhof

Director European School The Hague

GENERAL NEWS

Space Week at ESH is part of World Space Week, which is an annual celebration of science and technology. There will be lots of Space related activities in and around school during the week including: a rocket launch experiment by Secondary students and a special edition of the school student newspaper in French. The highlight will be the visit of Mr. André Kuipers on Monday the 5th of October.

We have updated the school website with the minutes of the Primary **Participation Council** and Secondary Participation Council.

ESH Website/Intranet. The parent pages on the school website are not yet active. We are looking into this communication tool as a part of the school website redevelopment which is in progress. We hope to launch a new website in 2016. To keep up to date with what is happening at ESH please continue to read the newsletter, check the website, follow us on twitter, read your child's newsletter and visit the coffee mornings.

October dates for the diary...

5 - 9 Space Week at ESH
7 - 14 Kinderboekenweek



Wednesday 7th:
coffee morning

Thursday 8th:
PTA meeting



Wednesday 14th:
PTA Cake bake and book sale (see poster!)

19 - 23 school closed
Autumn holiday



PRIMARY NEWS

from Deputy Director Primary, Mr Eugene Voorneman

This year ESH will once again celebrate children's book week with activities organised by our **KinderBoekenWeek** committee. Children's book illustrator Mr. Philip Hopman will visit the school and hold interactive art classes with the pupils.

I would like to bring to your attention that the procedure for the **invoicing of additional costs** is currently being evaluated by the school management. All parents will receive more information once a decision has been made with advice from the Advisory Board and advice from the PC.

Coffee mornings for parents. These will be held on a regular basis with the theme of "The daily adventures of Parenthood". Thank you to all who attended our first coffee morning of the school year, We had some good discussions and good coffee! The next topic is "raising children together" on October the 7th.

We would like to inform you that our **Middle Management Team** now consists of the following members:

- Curriculum Coordinator: Ms Carma de Groot
- L2 Coordinator: Mr Guillaume Roux
- Nursery Coordinator: Ms Lynne Byatt
- English section Coordinator: Ms Rachel Hamer
- Dutch section Coordinator: Ms Nel van Silfhout
- French section Coordinator: Ms Vicky Vrontos
- Spanish/German section Coordinator: Ms Montse Florez

Introducing...Laura Ballester, class teacher Spanish nursery

When did you start working at ESH? January 2014.

Tell us a little bit about your previous work experience. Right before starting at ESH I was working at an international daycare nearby. It's funny because now I'm teaching a couple of students that I used to take care of when they were toddlers, so I've seen them grow up.

What was your first job? My first paid job was making burgers at McDonalds, it taught me how to work under stress and how not to fall when walking on a slippery oily floor.

What was your motivation to come and work at ESH? My motivation was that I would be working at a school where I would be using my mother tongue (Spanish), I thought it would be like having a piece of home in the Netherlands and I wasn't mistaken. I also like learning from my colleagues who have very different backgrounds and experiences, it's fantastic walking



through the corridors hearing all the different languages spoken.

What is your favourite part of the school day? I like welcoming the children in the class in the morning and seeing their smiles and hearing the stories they have to tell less than 24 h after you said goodbye to them.

What do you find challenging? Thinking of new ways to rearrange furniture in order to fit all the children in this tiny classroom!

It's kinderboekenweek soon – what was your favourite book as a child? 'Where the wild things are' by Maurice Sendak.

SECONDARY NEWS

from Deputy Director Secondary, Ms Deirdre Byrnes

It was good to see so many familiar faces last week at the **mentor evening**. Class representatives were chosen and are now busy creating contact lists. The teachers have forwarded me the concerns raised by parents in the meetings and we are dealing with them internally. The first school **PTA meeting** takes place on October 8th at 19.00 in room 1.11. You are more than welcome to attend.

Next week André Kuipers is coming to the school to launch **Space Week** and all secondary students will have a chance to meet him and hear him speak on Monday. S2 French class will pose as journalists and ask him questions for their newspaper. The art classes are involved in decorating the atrium (see photos of their preparations below). The L2 classes will also pay special attention to the project week. On Tuesday we have a whole Secondary school trip to Omniversum to see Hubble 3D. L1 English also had a poetry competition where Daniel Jameux had an outstanding piece of work. We will finish the week with a rocket launch competition with up to 30 teams of students competing. They will be assisted by the Science teachers and the S4 students will also help to judge the winner.



The **Timetable changes** have been made to better suit the students and teachers and reflect the requirements of the curriculum. In the new calendar year there may be more flexibility but for the moment we are satisfied that most of the students are catered for to a high level. Some students have already been assigned to different activities in the study periods eg. helping in the primary library. This will be extended to offer **new activities** at different times in the working week. We already have secondary choir, jazz band and music passion club set up by our music teacher Ms Oosterman. Exciting events coming up are the Open Stage night in October, a Battle of the Bands competition at European School Bergen in November and in December a sing-along is planned.

We are currently trying to arrange **afterschool activities**; there are some options from external providers some of whom already offer activities for the Primary school. Students are being asked what activities they would like. More information will follow when we have the details.



Students are using the **common room** during the break times and during lunch time under supervision. The first lot of furniture has been delivered and some students are finishing the art painting on the walls in their study periods under the supervision of the art teacher Ms Teunissen. It is looking more like a common room already and the table football table is a real 'hit' with the students.

B-test week is progressing quite nicely and students are slowly getting

through the tests. The results will be communicated in the first reports when you will also have a chance to meet the subject teachers at the Parent Teacher meeting. Should you have any immediate concerns please contact the subject teachers.

The issue of the Secondary **canteen** – length of queues, portion sizes was discussed yesterday at the management meeting. We will have a meeting with the canteen next week to discuss possible solutions.

Introducing...Eric Bonnet, Integrated Science (Chemistry, Physics and Biology) and Maths in French S1,2 and 3

When did you start working at ESH? September, this year.

Tell us a little bit about your previous work experience. Previously I was working in a professional school (for 16-18 year olds who were preparing for technical jobs). I was also working in a rural school located in the middle of the Jura region in France (for three years). These schools were French. Before that I was a teacher in a French school in Malaysia which was a more international environment as was the school in Oslo that I taught in before that!

What was your first job? Working in holiday camps for children during the summers. I was 17 years old and my job was to organise activities for the kids for one month in the mountains. Back then I didn't know that I would become a teacher. I was more interested in academic research at that time.

What was your motivation to come and work at ESH? As a typical French man my English is not perfect...but at this school the teaching is a good combination of being in the international environment I enjoy and teaching in my own language.

What is your favourite part of the school day? I commute from Amsterdam every day and I enjoy it. Starting a new day is like reinventing yourself every day with the mindset that students will learn something new every day.

What do you find challenging? It is challenging to make my lessons interesting. I want to make science nice and interesting for the students so that they will become future Nobel Prize winners!

It's kinderboekenweek soon – what was your favourite book as a child? I remember enjoying the Oui Oui books (In English these are called Noddy). I was also a fan of Enid Blyton's *Club de Cinque* and later on adventure stories like Robin Hood and Ivanhoe.



Introducing...Jaap Marsman, Support Leader

What is your current role at ESH? I am the Support Leader for the Primary and Secondary school at the ESH. On a day-to-day level that means I lead a team of professionals that actively support the learning of our pupils. As a member of the management team I am also involved on all matters related to the further development of our school, with a specific focus on the social-emotional and educational support we can provide. Practically, nowadays, this means I work mostly with our Secondary students, meet with parents and colleagues.

When did you start working at ESH? I started working at the ESH in August 2012, since day one, basically! I started out teaching Primary 1 and 2 (how they have grown!) with only a limited part of my week available for support development. How far we have come in those years!

Tell us a little bit about your previous work experience. Before I started working at the ESH I was a location manager & support coordinator at a small, but prestigious primary school.

What was your first ever job? My first job was stacking shelves and selling cigarettes at Albert Heijn. It is there that I discovered my unique skills at announcing things over the tannoy!

What was your motivation to come and work at ESH? When the opportunity became available to work in such a multicultural environment as the ESH, it was too good an opportunity to pass up.

What is your favourite part of the school day? That quiet time in the morning between 7:30 and 8:30, when all staff and students begin to trickle into the building. The day ahead is still fresh and full of opportunity.

What do you find challenging? Bridging the intercultural gap between the Dutch support system and the needs of our European community can be a challenge. Everyone has expectations based on what they're used to, which isn't always in alignment with what is available.

It's kinderboekenweek soon – what was your favourite book as a child? As a child I loved reading anything written by Roald Dahl. Given my height a comparison to the BFG might be apt, but I adored "The Witches". The way Mr Dahl was able to spark the imagination of so many is something truly extraordinary.



A poster for a 'Bake & Book Sale' event. The background is red with a white speckled pattern. At the top, the title 'Bake & Book Sale' is written in a large, black, cursive font. Below the title, the date and time are listed: 'Wednesday 15 October, in the Atrium, 11:30-13:30'. In the center, there are two illustrations of cupcakes with white frosting and black dots, and an illustration of an open book with many pages. Below the book, the text 'no PIN, cash only' is written. At the bottom, there are two columns of text: '• Bake Time!' and '• Best Sellers!'. The 'Bake Time!' section includes a note about allergies and the PTA logo. The 'Best Sellers!' section lists the languages of the books. At the very bottom, there is a small line of text: 'Please speak to your class representative or contact pta@eshthehague if you have any questions.'

You can expect the next school newsletter in the first week of November. This month there is lots going on in and around school. We look forward to seeing you at the coffee morning or PTA Bake and Book Sale and wish you a relaxing autumn holiday.