



**BOOKS FOR ALL**  
READ ABOUT  
DONATIONS P.6



**LOST SOMETHING?**  
CHECK LOST & FOUND  
IN THE ATRIUM



**BUY A CAKE**  
SUPPORT OUR  
ROCK BANDS P.6

# ESH NEWS



*ESA astronaut Andre Kuipers at ESH for Space Week*

## *From our Director*

Dear Parents,

Since the last Newsletter we have had some really nice weather. I hope you enjoyed these days with your children, especially during the small autumn break. As nature is preparing itself for the winter to come, we at ESH are preparing the end of the first semester of this school year. In our Secondary school we have just finished the Class Councils and teachers are preparing the Parent-Teacher Evenings. The colleagues in Primary are also

writing the report cards and preparing the Parent-Teacher Evenings. Your children have worked very hard these past few months and I hope it shows in their achievements. If your daughter or son did not perform as expected, well don't let them be discouraged; constructive feedback is often the best way to encourage them. We still have a long way ahead of us.

Talking about 'expectations'; in the week of November 16th our Primary school will be audited by two European Schools inspectors. Does our school still meet the European School criteria? Do we still organise our lessons according to the European School standards? It is always exciting being evaluated but I'm confident that we will be reaccredited, though I realise that we can improve organisational and educational processes. In that respect I also hope to get some serious feedback. In addition to desk research and class visits, the school inspectors will also interview representatives of the staff and the parents. You will of course be informed on the outcome of this audit.

Just before the Autumn break Ms Byrnes, Mr Voorneman and I had an in-service training in Varese (It). It was a training organised by the Central Bureau of the European School for all the (deputy-) directors of the European Schools (the classical ones as well as the accredited). We dealt with appraisal and competences. Although we had a tight schedule, there was enough time for networking and information exchange between all the colleagues and I consider that as one of the most important aspects of these gatherings. It underlines that we are all working in one European Schooling system.

with kind regards, Frans van de Kerkhof

## GENERAL NEWS

The **traffic plan** was discussed with local residents in the past month. Following their suggestions and recommendations the municipality of The Hague will now put together a new plan. We can expect this new traffic plan to be implemented after the Christmas holidays.

**Music at school**, a message from Cheryl Oosterman our Secondary music teacher; *This year we started the S2 wind band programme during Music lessons. Almost all of our S2 students have their own instruments and are working very hard learning to play music together and as soloists. They will continue playing their instruments in S3. In the meantime, our current S3 class consists of a mix of instrumentalists and non-instrumentalists and it would be great if we had some more musical instruments to do our class work with. Perhaps you have an instrument at home that you do not use anymore? Our students are excited to learn to play music together and if you happen to have a guitar, keyboard, amplifiers, piano or (small) percussion then please contact Mrs Oosterman: c.oosterman@eshthehague.nl*

We would like to remind you to put your child's name in their clothing so

## November dates for the diary...

10th & 12th:

Primary school Parent-Teacher evening

16th: PTA meeting

16th - 20th :

Accreditation Week,  
Inspectors visit school

19th & 24th:

Secondary school  
Parent-Teacher evening

23rd :

Parents Coffee morning  
in the Atrium

25th :

Battle of the Bands at  
European School Bergen

30th:

B test week Secondary  
school



that items can easily be returned to owners. The **lost and found** items are put in the atrium for everyone to check if any of their belongings are there. After the holidays any clothing left is collected and donated to a good cause.



## PRIMARY NEWS

from Deputy Director Primary, Mr Eugene Voorneman

On the 27th of October our L2 Coordinator Mr Guillaume Roux held a presentation about the **Second language learning** at our school. For parents who could not be there, you can see the slides on this website; [www.europeanschoolthehague.nl/files/documenten/l2\\_information\\_evening\\_10-10-2015.pdf](http://www.europeanschoolthehague.nl/files/documenten/l2_information_evening_10-10-2015.pdf)

Recent **email communication** via the Parnassys system did not reach all parents and we are looking into the technical issues to resolve this. It is very important that all parents receive information from the management and specifically now about the Parent-Teacher evenings, if you did not receive this information please contact Ms. Eveline Deutman to arrange an allocated time slot (for class appointments only) via [Primary@eshthehague.nl](mailto:Primary@eshthehague.nl)

This month our pupils can look forward to some **great trips** to enhance the learning in the classroom. On the 10th and 12th our Nursery classes are visiting the Space Expo in Noordwijk and in the week of the 23rd – 27th P1 will visit the Museum for Communication. P2 classes will be visiting Marks and Spencers to learn about food hygiene and on the 6th and 13th P4 are visiting Naturalis. P5 will have a mini-Football tournament this month as well.

During the Autumn holiday the **playing field** was levelled and re-seeded. There was also work done to extend the paved part and re-arrange all the benches so that children have a proper paved play area as well. Due to the re-seeding of the field, pupils are not able to play on the field for a few weeks. It also means that no after-school activities are possible on the field. We hope that our patience will lead to a green playing field again!

You are kindly invited to the European School for a **Coffee Morning** on Monday 23rd November from 9:00 – 10.30 in the Atrium. Guest speakers have been invited to hold mini-workshops. More information coming soon.

## Introducing ...Nicole Hoenselaar, class teacher Dutch Nursery

**What is your role at ESH?** I work with the youngest children in school, in the Nursery section. I love teaching the early years children, as they have bright ideas about life! I also organise the coffee mornings for parents with two other members of staff. Every two months we talk about daily adventures of parenthood and we have the help of specialist teachers and we drink coffee or tea! I organise schooltrips with other teachers and I am secretly involved in many activities in school. This year I am also responsible for the culture education curriculum in our school. For now I am sorting out lots of great ideas, but in future I would appreciate the input of parents whether they are creative, handy, artistic, or simply genius!

**When did you start working at ESH?** Even before the ESH started in August 2012 I helped to sort out the orders for the education materials, I couldn't believe my eyes when I looked at the school picture at the back of the school year book last year, our school is growing so rapidly.

**Tell us a little bit about your previous work experience.** Before I worked at the ESH I worked at the ISH and before that I worked in a few



schools around the world. In Asia, Middle East, Africa and in the UK. All these jobs were with early years children. I also worked one year in the poorest part of China and trained teachers to become super teachers.

**Why do you like working at ESH?** I love working in an environment where people come together from different cultures, where people speak different languages and where there is always something exciting happening, every day is a new day!

**Which languages do you speak... or do you wish you could speak?** I understand 6 European languages and would love to be able to speak them all as well as I speak Dutch, so I practise a lot. I do speak a little bit of Mandarin Chinese.

**School just started again after the Autumn holiday, how do you (like to) spend your time off?** At home there is always something to do, I enjoy working with wood, like to create things. But my favourite special day in the holiday is my Pyjama Day, guess what, I will spend one whole day in my pyjama!

## Introducing...Quincy Schoute, Support teacher Dutch section

**What is your role at ESH?** I am a support teacher for the Dutch language section. I give support in maths, literacy and social-emotional well-being.

**When did you start working at ESH?** I started at the ESH in June 2013.

**Tell us a little bit about your previous work experience.** I have worked in different kinds of schools in Holland as a nursery teacher.



**Why do you like working at ESH?** Being part of this European community feels great. We're unique compared to other schools and we learn a lot from the pupils in the different language sections and their cultures.

**Which languages do you speak... or do you wish you could speak?** I speak Dutch, English, French and would love to be able to speak Spanish.

**School just started again after the Autumn holiday, how do you (like to) spend your time off?** I enjoy spending time with my family and friends. Going out to theatre, cinema, the beach or just having a dinner together.

## SECONDARY NEWS

from Deputy Director Secondary, Ms Deirdre Byrnes

There are currently many exciting developments in Secondary, the **Student council** will be meeting next week for first time with the help of Mr Madahar and Ms van der Leij. Students can now sign up for our first **after-school activities**, which will start from next week Wednesday the 11th of November. We also looking for parents to participate in the courtyard working group, if you are interested please email the P.C.; pcsec@eshthehague.nl

The **open stage night** was a great success, with very many talents on display. Thank you to Ms Oosterman and Mr Madahar and also to the judges Sheraz Uddin, Corina Stanescu, Arline Martens and Clare Calton. We also had a special performance by the S2 rock band and the ESH staff band who will both soon be participating in the Battle of the Bands in ES Bergen on the 25th of November. May the best band win!

We are progressing nicely with **Its learning**, all students have received their log ins and teachers are now starting to use it with some of their classes. As it is a new system it will still take some time for all the teaching staff to get used to it so please be patient. We have also started with the first sessions of learning support. We will continue to monitor the needs of the students and adapt as required.

Last Friday we had a very successful **open morning for Secondary**. 25 parents attended a presentation and had a tour of the school. I would like to say a big Thank you to the teachers who welcomed us into their classrooms and especially to the S4 students Noemie, Julia, Pol and Ville who helped out with the tour and answered parents' questions. Very soon we will have the **Parent-Teacher Evenings**. Next week students will receive instructions for making appointments with teachers, if something isn't clear please contact us at Secondary (secondary@eshthehague.nl).

## Communications

Our school website has a Parent portal which is now active again. Currently you can view photo galleries that we do not publish on the internet, these are only accessible for our school community and require a log-in and password. Please request a log in via the Parent pages on our school website (top right hand corner) if you would like to view Space Week and Book Week photos. We will add more content during the school year.

### Introducing...Guillaume Roux, L2 coordinator



**What is your role at ESH?** Je suis coordinateur de l'enseignement des langues 2 et enseignant de français langue 2. Je fais partie de l'équipe de direction intermédiaire

**When did you start working at ESH?** Je suis là depuis le début !

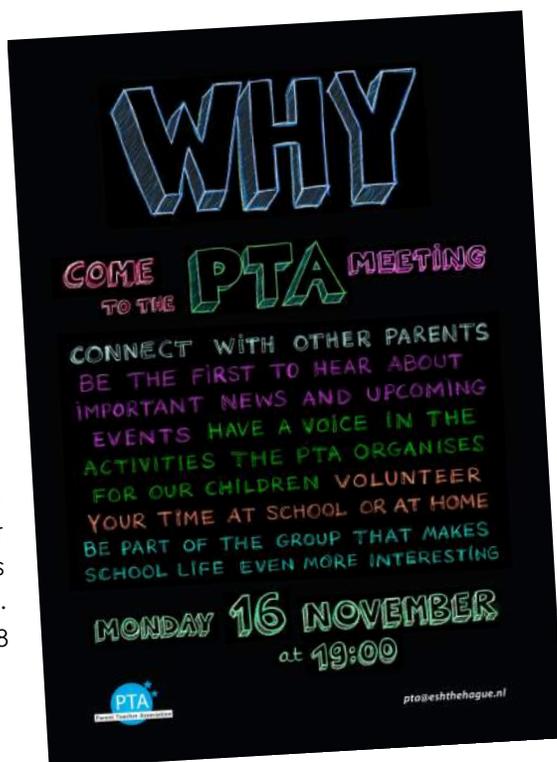
**Tell us a little bit about your previous work experience.** J'ai travaillé 5 ans en Slovaquie comme enseignant en collège puis pour le ministère des affaires étrangères. Je suis ensuite arrivé aux Pays-Bas où j'ai travaillé à l'Alliance Française puis à la Cour pénale internationale.

**Why do you like working at ESH?** J'aime l'initiative pédagogique, le fait que les élèves sont au centre de

toutes nos approches et de nos décisions. J'aime voir des élèves arriver en ne parlant qu'une langue et en apprendre 2 ou 3 en quelques années ! J'aime mes collègues du monde entier.

**Which languages do you speak... or do you wish you could speak?** Je parle français and English, un poquito español, een beetje Nederlands a trochu po slovenský

**School just started again after the Autumn holiday, how do you (like to) spend your time off?** J'aime faire du vélo et peindre des chaises et autres objets de la maison. J'aime beaucoup cuisiner (mes spécialités sont : le risotto de crevettes, les courgettes farcies, la blanquette de veau et les hamburgers maison). J'aime par-dessus tout jouer avec ma fille (3 ans ) et mon fils (8 mois).



## News from the PTA

The first PTA meeting of this school year took place on the 8th of October 2015. The turnout was high and lots of parents showed their readiness to help in organising activities for this school year. We take this as a very good sign that gives us a lot positive energy. We will certainly need your help during the year for the activities planned and we would also welcome any ideas for new activities. The **next PTA meeting will take place on the 16th of November** (7 to 9 PM). All parents are welcome to attend. Thanks a lot for your support!

The PTA would like to thank all parents and children that contributed to the **book and bake sale** by baking delicious cakes (some pupils also baked wonderful cakes themselves, well done!), selling books and cakes, and of course, buying them. Cake selling profit was 933 EUR, 10% of this profit goes to the library to buy new books (this time Romanian and Polish), and the rest will go towards the budget required for the Summer Fair. There will also be homemade cakes for sale by our Secondary students next week, they are raising money to support their travel to the European School in Bergen. Cakes are on sale in the canteen during the afternoon breaks.

The new PTA board consists of parents and teachers from both Primary and Secondary (from left to right):



• *Nel van Silfhout*: Staff representative Primary

• *Stania Slavikova*: Treasurer

• *Vanessa Fraga*: Secretary

• *Joanna Baranowska*: vice Chairperson (secondary)

• *Arantxa Bayod*: Class reps coordinator

• *Florent Lina*: Chairperson

## News from the library

Kinderboekenweek was definitely a success at school, our guest Philip Hopman presented multi-lingual sessions to Primary pupils and he was enthusiastically welcomed by them. Well done to all the children who took part in activities throughout the week and thank you Mr Hopman!

ESH families can access the various encyclopedias that the Secondary school is subscribed to through the It's learning portal, for example, the Encyclopedia Britannica School (English and Google translate), Encyclopedia Universalis Junior (French and English) and Encyclopedia Moderna Escolar (Español).



Harry Potter in Finnish, Jules Verne in Lithuanian, Francine Oomen in Czech, these are just some titles currently available in the Media Center. Book donations are always welcome as we are keen to collect books in extra European Languages in order to expand what we offer and provide our students a wider sense of European community. Books can be deposited in the box by the school reception and then will be included into the catalogue.

## Introducing...Hilary Barrett L2, L3 & Ethics teacher in English (Secondary)

**When did you start working at ESH?** August 2014

**Tell us a little bit about your previous work experience.** I worked as a teacher, then advisory teacher in London for 18 years and then went to Varese in Italy, which had always been a dream for me. I taught at the European School in Varese from 2002-2012. Then I worked in a language school, teaching English to teenagers and adults. I even taught a group of Italian architects which was quite a challenge as I had to do a lot of research about architecture so that my lessons would help them in their work.

**Why do you like working at ESH?** Working at the European School in Varese led me to Den Haag because I wanted to work in the same sort of environment as Varese with talented and motivated pupils of many different nationalities. I like working in an international environment and I really enjoy teaching all the subjects I teach. It's a job that involves a lot of creativity.

**Which languages do you speak... or do you wish you could speak?** I speak Italian and English, of course, and am about to start Dutch lessons That's enough to get on with for now!

**School just started again after the Autumn holiday... how do you (like to) spend your time off?** Just as I did in Varese, I always like to start the day with a decent cappuccino and maybe a croissant. I enjoy cultural things like art exhibitions, music, concerts and I like reading a lot. I also enjoy walking in the countryside. Recently I did a very nice autumnal walk from Den Haag Central station past the palace and Cingendael all the way to the dunes. I'm happy to be living in The Hague as it's a very pleasant and beautiful city and not too big. After living in London for 18 years I prefer smaller cities like The Hague.



*Our next newsletter will be out in December. If you have any feedback on this newsletter or suggestions, you can email [administration@eshthehague.nl](mailto:administration@eshthehague.nl)*