



Lost & Found items
on display until
Thursday!

22.12

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
2016

10.01

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
2017

ESH NEWS



Dear Parents,

In the past few weeks we have had B tests in the Secondary school, discussions about accommodation with the Participation Councils (more about that below) and a thorough audit by inspectors (more below). Now it's time to get into the Christmas spirit and enjoy all the festive activities planned at ESH. I hope you may also find the time to come and join us this week either at the (Primary) Christmas parties or the Community fair, please do feel welcome to join the fun.

I would like to let you know what the status is of the school accommodation. Despite initial feasibility studies estimating a capacity of 1.600 students and a school building with enough potential for a solid start and future growth, we have to conclude today that based on the current growth of students numbers, ESH will not be able to accommodate all primary students and secondary students together in one building as of August 2018. Primary growth is beyond expectations and Secondary has this year also exceeded the estimation made last year.

In January 2015 the executive director of the Rijnlands foundation presented a plan to extend the main building providing us with 25-30 extra classrooms. However, based on updated enrolment figures we realised that the extension would already be too small on completion. Realising that this was no longer a viable solution we had to think of a plan B. The ESH management and the school board then started consultations with the municipality to look for a second location for the school. These consultations have led to a realistic option of the municipality offering ESH a second school building in the international zone as of August 2018. The executive director and ESH management has thoroughly discussed the option of a second ESH location with the Advisory Board and with both the Primary and Secondary Participation Council. After ample considerations both the Advisory Board and the Participation Councils support the proposed decision of the Executive Director of Rijnlands and ESH management to split the school and move our Secondary department to the second school building when it becomes available in August 2018. This will have a big impact on school life and our school organisation. The Participation Councils and the Advisory Board submitted positive advice on this proposal on the condition that transport is arranged between the two locations and that the splitting of the school would under no circumstances have a negative impact on the quality of the education. Parents and students should be assured that school management will take all the recommendations to heart in the interest of all those concerned.

Deputy Director Secondary

After a period of sick leave Ms Byrnes our Deputy Director Secondary, is slowly taking up her duties in school again. We are very happy about that. As Ms Byrnes is not fully recovered yet or fit to work full time, she will take up her duties for a few hours a day. Mr Marsman will therefore continue the role of interim Deputy Director Secondary



after the Christmas break until further notice.

Audit Secondary S1-S5

Our Secondary department was audited last week by a team of European School's inspectors. The purpose of the audit which takes place every three years is to renew the accreditation.

The inspectors drafted a report that will be discussed by the Board of Inspectors of European Schools in February and will then be finalised by the Board of Governors of the European Schools in April. Pending their decision the school will then be officially reaccredited. Until that decision the audit report and the outcome are not in the public domain. However I can briefly and unofficially share the outcome of the audit. We are pleased to announce that the inspectors will make a positive recommendation for the reaccreditation of our Secondary department. The highlights of their feedback was related to the school climate and the ambition that is clearly visible. What was evident was that we have the goal of becoming (one of) the best European School(s) and that we are showing the correct potential to achieve this goal. They were also pleased to see the European Dimension so clearly in our school. With regards to the teaching and learning there were highlights but also points for improvement. In particular the areas related to classroom management and harmonisation were mentioned for further development. The inspectors were impressed by the commitment shown by all stakeholders (parents, students and teachers) to contribute to the development of the school. Our support structure and quality assurance was considered as an asset.

The outcome reassured me that the Secondary school is on the right track. Taking into consideration that we are just in our third year of existence, it is amazing to see what we have already accomplished. I would like to thank all who contributed to this audit.

Last but not least, I would like to wish a Merry Christmas and a happy new year on behalf of the management all our ESH families.

Director, *Frans van de Kerkhof*,

PRIMARY NEWS

Thank you to parents and teachers of the **Sinterklaas Working Group** and their successful event. Just a few of the wonderful pictures are shared in this newsletter.



Our **Christmas Community Market** was this morning, it was good to see you here. Lots of handmade gifts were sold, of which all proceeds go to the Rode Kruis.

This year the traditional **Christmas Class Party Evening** is split over two nights due to the growth of student numbers; **EY & P1** - Monday 19th December 17:30-18:45, **P2-P5** - Tuesday 20th December 17:30-18:45.

For the first time our pupils took part in the **Edukans project** shoeboxes for children in developing countries. Here is a message from the volunteers;

"We would like to thank all children and parents for participating in the schoenmaatjes project! We were overwhelmed with the number of boxes received. A big thank you also goes to the school for supporting this initiative, especially the ladies at reception, our concierges and security. They all helped to make it possible!" Your shoebox-mums; Kerstin Mikloweit, Lena Dienes, Yvonne Schmitt-Petry, Kathi Ellermann, Johanna Laurenze



New Staff in Primary

Natarscha van den Boogaard - replacement and P5 teacher

Delphine Letendre - MT French P2, 4, & 5

Natasche Curt - replacement teacher

Audrey Ravensburg - TA Yulie Galanou

Cleo Almaric - replacement Guillaume Roux

Paola Andrian - MT Italian teacher

Gill Carreiro- concierge

Due to the parental leave of our **L2 coordinator** Guillaume Roux from January 2017, Anna Van Laar will be the interim L2 coordinator until the next school year.

Deputy Director Primary, *Eugene Voorneman*

SECONDARY NEWS

"We visited the Embassy in preparation of **THIMUN**. We first had a meeting with the first and third secretary, who gave some general info about Saudi Arabia and some political developments. Then the students asked questions about the politics. Then the ambassador came in – he was supposed to talk with us for 10 minutes but stayed for almost two hours! He kept inviting the kids to ask more questions. The kids were fantastic – super polite and asking sometimes critical questions phrased like real diplomats! We all got a small gift."

Ms. Cheryl Oosterman- Neuhuijs, MUN coordinator



Dear parents and students,

With the first S5-Exams and the second round of S4 B-Tests behind us, the focus for this week in Secondary is a number of festive activities. S1 are going ice skating as part of their PE lessons, S5 are taking part in a Street Art workshop on Tuesday and Wednesday, with the finished result permanently on display at school. Tomorrow a large group of students will visit the care home for elderly people across the road, they will deliver handmade Christmas cards to the residents and sing Christmas songs! On the last day of school students can enjoy lunch together with their mentor classes, everyone is invited to bring along something typical from their home country and the day will end with a Christmas sing along in the atrium.

The past few weeks have been busy weeks in Secondary with a lot of development on a number of issues, concerning the use of mobile phones, the implementation of La Permanence & the reopening of the Common Room. Together with a successful inspection visit last week you can imagine that ESH Secondary has been through a busy period which resulted in less "Extra News" than you've previously received. In January you can expect an additional newsletter with more practical information on the latest developments in our Secondary school. For now, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a happy new year.

Deputy Director Secondary Ad Interim, *Jaap Marsman*

Don't forget!

- Lost & Found items are on display until the last day of school. After this all items that are not claimed will be donated to charity.



Setting the Standard

Update from Zein@ESH...

As childcare partner to the European School of The Hague, we are delighted to inform you that construction is now almost complete for our new facilities located on the edge of the ESH campus.

THE MAPLES - OPENING 9 JANUARY 2016

The light and spacious purpose-built childcare centre 'The Maples' will open its doors for both Day Care and Out of School Care children on Monday 9 January.

As the building work gets finalised by the end of this week, all that remains is the decoration and furnishing of the building. The interior décor and wood furnishings selected will offer the same homely feel as the other Zein locations and a brand new natural playground, consisting of a range of wooden play equipment, will complete the facilities at this great new location.

Early in the new year, the opening of the centre will be marked at an official ceremony that will offer all interested ESH staff and parents the opportunity to visit 'The Maples' and find out a little bit more about Zein's approach to childcare. More details on this event will be communicated in due course.



Initially starting with Day Care (ages 0-4), After School Care and Holiday Camps (ages 4-12), Pre-School (ages 2.5-4) is scheduled to open at The Maples in August 2017.

For more information or to register for Day Care visit: zeinchildcare.nl
or contact the friendly team via info@zeinchildcare.nl or 070 326 8263