

## Weekly Newsletter Tuesday 18th January

### From the Principal

Dear Parent ,  
We received confirmation at the weekend that two ISI inspectors, Mr Ian Newton and Ms Sara Wiggins, will visit the school on **Tuesday and Wednesday, February 8th and 9th**, when their focus will be on governance, leadership and management. However, they will naturally wish to evaluate the impact of those elements on the atmosphere and the quality of the school, by seeking the views of parents, pupils and staff. Part of their information gathering will rely on parental questionnaires which parents complete online and submit direct to the ISI website. We do ask that you take the time to express your views before January 28th. We expect details of the log-in code very shortly and will e-mail it to you immediately. There will also be an opportunity for parents to meet the Inspectors, at drop-off time at **Anthonie van Dijkstraat**. We do apologise that this is not as convenient for parents whose children are at Fred.Roeskestraat, but ask for your understanding that the Inspectors' schedule is crowded. They aim to be available from **8.30 until 9.15 a.m on Wednesday February 9th**. This will be an opportunity to raise any additional points of importance and relevance to the inspection process. Please note that the inspectors will not be able to comment or respond at this time, since the inspection will still be in progress. Please be assured, however, even if you are unable to come to the Wednesday meeting, that all points raised there and online will be carefully analysed by the inspectors. Please contact me if you have any question regarding the inspection visit. Kind regards meanwhile.—John Light

### Upper Junior School News

This week, we have been thinking about inspirational people as part of our **SEAL** theme of Going for Goals. Mrs Miles told the children about Beethoven's struggle with hearing loss in our Monday assembly, and how, by being determined and having support, he achieved amazing things. We also heard about Leo Messi, the footballer who overcame many barriers to be a great success. All the children are now focusing on their own personal goals this term - as well as the staff! We have started our new topics this term. Year 4 are finding out about what life was like for Children in the Second World War, Year 5 are investigating the Earth and Space, and Year 6 are getting very literate and looking at Philip Pullman in a topic called Clockwork. As part of their topic, **Year 5 are visiting Space Expo** this week on Wednesday, and Year 4 will be **baking bread** later this week after their investigative visits to Albert Heijn and the French Bakery last week.

### Property for Sale

Large flat overlooking the entrance to the Lower Junior School in Jan van Eijckstraat. Owner is moving his main base to France, and is keen to offer the property for a private sale. Parents may be interested in such a convenient location; details can be obtained by e-mailing [home.near.bs@xs4all.nl](mailto:home.near.bs@xs4all.nl)

### Nursery/Infant School News

Our SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) this half term is 'Going For Goals'. This theme focuses primarily on the key aspect of motivation, with a subsidiary focus on self-awareness. It gives an important opportunity for all children's abilities, qualities and strengths to be valued. The Going for Goals theme provides opportunities for children to reflect on themselves as individuals, particularly their strengths as learners and how they learn most effectively. In the assembly last week the children gave examples of the goals they wish to achieve. Ideas included riding a two wheeled bike, achieving the 'A' swimming diploma, scoring a goal at football. We discussed the importance of not giving up if you do not achieve a goal the first time around.

Please be reminded that school starts at 08.45am. Children are welcome in their classrooms from 08.30 and registration is at 08.45am prompt. The children in Reception and Year 1 start each day with a 15 minute THRASS (phonics) lesson. It is very important that they do not miss it. Perhaps everyone needed some time last week to adjust to the school routine but many children arrived late to school every day. Please ensure your child arrives at school on time. If your child is late, please remember to sign in at the Reception desk and escort your child to his/her class. Please do not leave your child to find his/her own way to the classroom as there is always the chance that the class may be elsewhere in school.

### CONTACT US...

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#### Secondary School

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### Lower Junior News



Welcome back everyone, at the start of the Spring Term 2011...

Nine new families have joined the Lower Junior school this term and the children have settled in well to their new classes.

The Spring Term promises to be a fun and exciting time, with lots of learning and the

Year Three Spring Show taking place in April!

**SEAL ASSEMBLY: Our Social, Emotional, Aspects of Learning theme this half term is 'GOING FOR GOALS'.** At our assembly on Monday we talked about the importance of having goals and how we go about achieving them... We realised that goals can be **HARD** and that it sometimes takes **PRACTISE, PERSEVERANCE** and **TEAMWORK** to complete them... the children looked at examples of this in the assembly and then took on a few goal setting challenges of their own! The children also realised that to be successful and to achieve, they need to **believe in themselves and their individual abilities... WE ARE ALL CHAMPIONS.** You can view the assembly and video on our weblog at: [www.lowerjuniors.com](http://www.lowerjuniors.com)

### Secondary News

**Examinations**—The last of the internal examinations are this week and Sixth form have just two examinations left. Year 11, 12 and 13 students have conducted themselves very well during the examination period and teachers have been delighted with their behaviour. The standard of uniform was good, as was punctuality.

**Parents Consultations**—There are several parent consultations in the next few weeks. The first is for Year 12 and Year 13 students on the 1st February. The following week, the 8th February is for parents of Year 8 pupils. On the 3rd March there will be a Year 9 evening, which will combine teacher consultations with a talk on Option choices for the Year 9's as they make the decision of which GCSE's to undertake. All these evenings will run from 4pm—6pm.

**Expeditions**—There will be an opportunity to come to school to meet the teachers who are taking the Barcelona and Ski trip next week, Thursday 20th January, 4.15pm—4.45pm. The Amsterdam Community project has been finalised and an excellent range of community and charity activities has been arranged, along with a day of fun! Ms Raychell will contact parents shortly with an itinerary and date for a meeting.

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# Whole school Parent's Coffee Morning *All Welcome!*



Come along and  
enjoy a **SPARKLING**  
**New Year BRUNCH!**

*Hosted by the Parent's Organisation  
Executive Committee*

**Thursday 20th January**

We especially welcome **new parents** - come and enjoy this social event! Tasty bites to eat and a glass of bubbly for all - or, of course, coffee & tea if preferred!

After drop off,  
Infant School Hall,  
Anthonie van Dijkstraat

Always...  
a welcoming  
coffee, tea,  
cake, chat, meet  
new mums and  
dads, let your toddlers  
play while you relax  
**...and often...**  
enjoy themed and  
international events,  
meet the Heads, browse  
guest stalls...



THE WEEKLY COFFEE MORNING  
FOR ALL PARENTS,  
BRITISH SCHOOL OF AMSTERDAM



The POEC, the executive committee of the Parents Organisation, welcomes you back to school and wishes you all the best in 2011. We would like to thank all of the parent volunteers that helped make the holiday activities last term a huge success. The winter market, year group productions and class holiday parties along with so many other day-to-day activities couldn't happen without the support of the parents. Thank you for your time and expertise. Please be on the lookout for more ways to connect including newcomer events, a pub/quiz night and a virtual notice board. All of these will be happening during the upcoming term. As always, if you have questions or suggestions, please let one of us know or send them via email to [parentsorganisation@gmail.com](mailto:parentsorganisation@gmail.com).

We look forward to seeing you at the school coffee morning this Thursday.

Thank you,

Federica Camurri, Lynn Dahlin, Aruna Chakradhar, Amanda Hampton, Anni Kearney, Tami Teppo and Marissa Thompson