



October 2011 Newsletter



Dear Parents,

We have now officially said good-bye to summer and welcomed in the Autumn season with fall classroom festivities, colorful artwork, and layering of clothing to accommodate the fluctuating temperatures. As we are starting to feel the morning chill, it is not too early to bring out the scarves, gloves and hats to wear during outside play. As the daylight hours are increasingly shorter, please ensure the importance of road safety with your child.

During the week of September 19th all schools in the HSV celebrated 25 Years of the existence of the HSV International Department and 110 Years of the Primary School HSV. The children participated in commemorative activities and enjoyed the celebratory cupcake.

HSV/Lighthouse representation at the *Feel At Home in The Hague International Fair* was a success as information was shared and many new connections were made. It was a wonderful opportunity for face-to-face networking within the International Community.

Charity Money Raised During the School Year 2010/11: Each year the HSV raises money for a particular charity. All schools participate in the fundraising through events such as the Zomerfeest. Last year the charity funds went to Sierra Leone Sickle Cell Disease Society with proceeds of €9290,00 raised for this special cause. This successful donation is a tribute to the entire HSV school community. The Society has indicated that funds will go toward improving services such as genetic counseling for patients, parents and their siblings, as well as medical support for patients. The 2011-2012 HSV fundraising for charity events will go towards a charity in The Netherlands. More information to come.

Announcements

During the month of October we were honored with a visit from the wife of Slovenian Ambassador Marc, Mrs. Barbara Blaznik Marc and the wife of Romanian Ambassador Fabian, Mrs. Mihaela Fabian (please see the photos on our website). We appreciate their interest in the education of our children and the educational awareness they help bring to our international community.

The International Bazaar, hosted by Ambassador Marc and his wife, resulted in proceeds of nearly €2800. Once again, we thank all who generously participated in this fun-filled event which resulted in the purchase of new play equipment, curriculum materials, and books for the children.

Also in October, the HSV and Lighthouse joined for a team presentation to **The Hague International Network**. Mr. Willy Grijze and I spoke about the HSV, Three Little Ships International Preschool and Lighthouse Special Education while Sunita Menon offered a moving, personal story about her own experiences raising a son with autism.

Note: The Hague International Network was founded six years ago by The City of The Hague and The Hague Chamber of Commerce with the objective of regularly bringing together people from international business, the diplomatic corps, civil service, as well as local professionals in the international community and governments.

The purpose of The Hague International Network is to establish a social environment where a diverse international group of professionals can benefit by having the opportunity to meet, exchange ideas, discuss various topics of interest and develop new business contacts. It is a place for the international community to meet and develop working relationships.

School Meetings, Events and Activities

Parent meetings to discuss the Individual Education Plan (IEP) of children in Lighthouse Special Education occur in the Fall and Spring of each school year and are now underway. If you have a question about the scheduling of your meeting, please contact the office.

There are two designated All-School Parent Evenings held each school year. The first **All-School Parent Evening will be held on November 17th from 18.00 – 20.00**. This evening is a time for parents to visit the classrooms, learn more about the curriculum and activities, and to chat with the classroom teachers and other parents within a group setting.

Book Fair: Usborne and Rainbow books will be set up at Lighthouse and available for purchase on **November 17th from 14.00 – 15.30 and from 18.00 – 20.00**. You will find a wide selection of irresistible, excellent quality books for preschool and primary age children. As we are continually building our reading library, we are pleased to announce that proceeds from the books sales (30% from Usborne and 10% from Rainbow) go to the school for teachers to purchase books to use in their classrooms.

The Preschool Advisory met in October to discuss activities and events for the preschool. Thank you to those parents who were able to participate in the meeting. The minutes will be sent to all preschool families shortly and will also be available on the website. The next meeting will be held on December 1st from 8.45 – 9.45.

The Parent-Teacher Council (MR) participated in very beneficial team training about the structure, purpose and statutes of the Council. Thank you to the MR team members for giving up evening hours for this informative training. **The next MR meeting is scheduled to occur at Lighthouse on November 9th from 20.00 – 21.00.**

The Lighthouse Activity Committee Meeting in October was postponed due to lack of attendance as many families were preparing for the Autumn holiday. **The next meeting will be held on November 9th from 19.00 – 20.00.**

Holiday Cards: To help celebrate the winter holidays, the children are designing holiday cards that will be available for purchase prior to the Christmas break. We hope to have one card made by each child to display at the Parent Evening. Parents will be able to preorder the number of card packets they would like to purchase. We will then send the cards to a company for printing. They should be available during the second week of December.

Website

With thanks to Mrs. Michela Quaglia, our websites are updated frequently and offer a quick way to keep up on school-related information. Please take a minute to browse our websites at www.lighthouse.nl and www.threelittleships.nl **Please refer to our websites for listings of school holidays, events and activities.**

Sincerely yours,

*Cynthia Jaeger
Director of Special and Preschool Education*

