



ISG Newsletter

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Letter from the Head...

Welcome to 2010... the first year of the second decade... and designated the International Year of Youth by the United Nations. For us, in the International School, it marks the 10th year of MYP, and also the year of our second IB MYP evaluation (more on this later).

The end of the last year finished with some uncertainty as the weather caused the skating to be cancelled and there was no formal end to school. The new year started with equal uncertainty about weather but we have managed to keep the school open and warm as temperatures fell (-10°C this morning) and the snow returned.

The start of this year has begun with a focus on creating a calmer atmosphere in the whole of Maartenscollege. To enable a less disruptive flow to lessons and greater ability for teachers to have double periods without the interruption of a break, the lesson timings have been slightly changed. This has also abolished the time difference between the 'West' and 'East' building - allowing a simpler timetable and hopefully creating a more organized structure to the day's activities. The new times are shown below and will be in place at the start of next week: 1 February. To help students be on time a warning bell will sound five minutes before the start of the day and five minutes before the end of each break. This date also marks a new half yearly timetable so please ask your children to check the website carefully as there will be changes in their lessons!

We hope these changes will mark the start of another successful year at the IS - and that 2010 will really be a year to remember!

Coming up...

- **Friday 29 and Saturday 30 January:** Open Day at the Maartenscollege! The Maartenscollege opens its doors for the new intake from primary school for two sessions of activities and behind the scenes glimpses into the all the programmes and courses in the Dutch section of the school. The International School will also be represented by staff and displays showing our role in the international mission of the school and in the way we support the Bilingual section in both the MYP and DP programmes.

To enable preparations to take place for the days the lessons for MYP1-5 will stop at 12.50 on Friday. DP lessons will carry on as normal.

The activities run from 18.30 - 21.00 on Friday and 10.00 - 12.30 on Saturday.

- **Thursday 11 February:** IBDP Information Evening for MYP5 - **this is now postponed until 11 March.**
- **Friday 12 February:** this is our annual In-service Training Day for all the MYP teachers. This means that there will be **no lessons** for any MYP students. The DP1 students will be attending an introduction on their extended essay in Computer Room West; DP2 will have other in school activities.
- **Thursday 18 February:** Sports day for MYP4 and 5 - more information will be provided by Ms. Ten Kate, the PE teacher!
- **Friday 19 February - *SPRING HOLIDAY* starts so the school is closed on the 19 Feb, up to and including 28 February...**
- **Monday 1 - Friday 5 March: Mock Exam Week for all DP2. Test Week for MYP4, 5 and DP1.** All lessons for MYP1-3 will take place in the Dutch building (Hemmenlaan)

Please turn over

Quote of the issue: It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change.
Charles Darwin 1809 - 1882



The next PSG meeting is on Wednesday 3rd February 2010 will be held at Common Room of the Esserberg.

We start promptly at 20.00 hrs and hope to finish by 21.30 hrs.

The focus of the meeting will be questions and answers about the MYP system - all parents of IS students are welcome.

Mr. Weston and Ms Eschweiler will also be in attendance! *See you there!*

Coming up... continued!!

Monday 1 March: Staff Meeting: There will be no lessons or exams after 13.20

Thursday 4 March: Science Day: MYP1-3... *details to follow but don't miss this exciting day!*

Thursday 4 March: Personal Project Presentations - 16.00: DRESS REHEARSAL (by invitation only)

Friday 5 March. Personal Project Day!

09.00: Personal Project due for all MYP5 students

16.00: Personal Project Presentations - the actual event: ALL MYP5 students and their parents are invited to attend. MYP4 students are strongly recommended to attend.

Monday 8 March: Personal Project Teacher Assessment: no Lessons after 13.20 for MYP students

Thursday 11 March: 19.30 IBDP Information Evening for MYP5 - all students interested in the DP should attend with their parents. Location: Esserberg (International School) (*this was postponed from 11 Feb!*)

Friday 19 March: Personal Project Introduction for MYP4

New lesson times in effect from

Lesson 1	8.20 – 9.10
Lesson 2	9.10 – 10.00
Break	10.00 – 10.20
Lesson 3	10.20 – 11.10
Lesson 4	11.10 – 12.00
Lunch break	12.00 – 12.30
Lesson 5	12.30 – 13.20
Lesson 6	13.20 – 14.10
Break	14.10 – 14.20
Lesson 7	14.20 – 15.10
Lesson 8	15.10 – 16.00
Lesson 9	16.00 – 16.50

1 February 2010

For a full explanation behind these changes please see the introduction and also the ISG website.

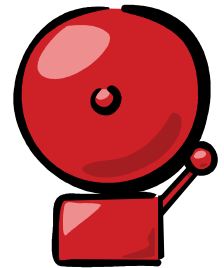
www.isgroningen.nl



What is all that noise?

Over the last week the noise of drilling has reverberated through the building... the reason is that we are busy having a complete fire alarm system installed. Smoke detectors and sirens have been installed around the building and the cables connecting them have to pass through ceilings, walls and floors of our ancient school building.

We apologise for the disturbance but all realize that the safety of our school has the utmost importance.



CONGRATULATIONS: Meagan Hershner for winning the International new year competition. Meagan correctly identified 21 different language versions of "Happy New Year" and won a limited edition ISG memory stick as a prize... more competitions to follow - *watch this space!!!*

Hans Steinebach.

As I am sure you are aware, Mr. Steinebach has been absent from school from the start of January. Unfortunately he remains unwell and we cannot see him returning to school in the near future. As of now we are actively seeking replacement staff. Ms Sinyei, a qualified humanities teacher, will cover all the MYP 2 – 5 lessons. We are still seeking a replacement for the DP classes. As you know, native English teachers are not always available and so we require your help! We are looking for a qualified History teacher, for 10 lesson hours per week, starting immediately. If you know of anyone who may be interested please ask them to contact me at school as a matter of urgency. In the meantime the DP2 students will be practicing past examination papers and we will support them in every way that we can. We hope that we can resolve this as soon as possible and I will keep you informed on our progress. We wish Mr. Steinebach all our best wishes for a speedy return to school.

Water at school: it is common that students are not allowed to drink or eat in lessons... however research clearly shows that:

- The key to boosting the capacity to learn is to keep well hydrated throughout the day.
- When we are thirsty mental performance including memory, attention and concentration can decrease by about 10 per cent
- Pupils concentrate better because they are not distracted by the effects of dehydration such as thirst, tiredness and irritability

In the very near future a water fountain will be installed in school.

When this is in place please can you supply your child with an empty water bottle... in the meantime encourage them to bring water (instead of cola/energy drinks etc...) to school. They can take water into lessons

WEBSITE NEWS

Under the STUDENTS link on the left of the website there is a new MYP section... here you will also find "Information for Parents" - this will be considerably updated over the next few weeks with a new range of "Everything you need to know about MYP..." publications. Why not take a look?

EMAIL

We need your new email! We are beginning to change from paper mail to electronic mail. Copies of letters sent by email are always posted on the site but please update Charlotte (is@maartens.nl) if your address has changed. Note also we correspond regularly with students using their school (@maartens) address only.

PLEASE HELP US BY ENCOURAGING THEM TO USE IT!