

## Letter from the Head...

*It has been a non-stop few weeks since the peace and tranquility of the Autumn holiday. Whilst the leaves have been falling around the Esserberg we have been as busy as ever! We were very pleased to welcome such a large group of parents to our Parent-Teacher reception on the 1st Nov. Much thanks, as ever, goes to the PSG for assisting in the organisation and publicity, and providing so many delicious snacks! The evening was a great success and it was so nice to provide a basis for social contact between teacher and parent and of course parent and parent! The middle years curriculum was also made available at this event and parents who missed a copy can contact us at the school (is@maartens.nl) to order one for themselves.*

*Soon after that, and thanks again to the PSG, a scary evening of Halloween festivities kept the students amused. Last week they also experienced a different slant to their days with assemblies about the MYP with particular reference to Health and Social Education and Community and Service. Students in MYP1 and MYP4 should be now discussing their C&S ideas with you - the remaining students will be receiving information very soon. We also welcome back MYP4 from a fantastic experience combining their English and Humanities curriculum in Ypres.*

*Information will soon be posted on the website on these activities.*

*I find it difficult to believe that Christmas is just round the corner and we are approaching the end of term 1 - one third of the school year! As they say, time flies when you are having fun...!*

*Until next time, and with best wishes for a peaceful Christmas period,*

**Mike Weston.** Headteacher

## Coming up...

- Sinterklaas disco - for MYP1-3 on **Friday 1 Dec** in the Hemmenlaan. Disco starts at 19.30.
- **Wed 6 December:** School Closed until 10.00 due to recovering from Sinterklaas activities. Lessons after 10.00 will be as normal. Please do not allow students to arrive at the school before 10.00
- Maartenscollege have organised a staff meeting on Monday 11 December - lessons therefore stop after 14.05.
- **21 December:** Christmas Skating! **All** students are expected to attend at the Esserberg at 09.00. The school is then closed for the holidays on 22 December. Details to follow!
- **15 January:** Personal Project Assembly - MYP5 (who should be well on their way to completion!)
- **16 January:** Parent/Teacher Evening - 19.30 in the Aula of the Dutch building - the Hemmenlaan.
- **19 January:** (~19.00) MYP5 Perform Shakespeare! Watch this space - more details to follow...

### Newsflash...

The electronic grade recording system for students is now up and online... As well as using assessment books students can now record all their criterion grades & identify their strong and weak areas all at the click of a mouse.

Its also now available for both **MYP and the DP** - in English and Dutch. Check out **www.croc.nl** today!

This service is available free to the school through the support and hard work of Martin de Boer, father of Wendy, DP1. Many thanks!

**Quote of the issue:** Unless you try to do something beyond what you have already mastered, you will never grow.

Ronald E. Osborn



Please check recent updates (minutes and further information) on the ISG website. Choose the 'Parents' link on the left!

The next meeting of the PSG will be on Wednesday 13th December, 19.30 at Aletta Dessalegne Faber's home (Van Trojenweg 3, 9751 VK Haren) - all welcome! Celebrate Sinterklaas with the ISG tutors and the PSG! Students of MYP1-3 watch out on the 5th December!

**Rudi Voordes**, our DP Maths teacher will be out of school until January. He is just released from hospital, recovering from a very serious operation. Further tests will follow. We wish him a very speedy recovery. Messages can be forwarded via Ms. Jansma at school.

**Kanchan Mehra** is still unable to travel back from India and she currently awaits test results from her doctor. We have just heard that she is now unlikely to be back with us before Xmas. We send her all our best wishes.

We are very pleased to welcome three new Maths teachers to the ISG! **Elaine de Vries** has taken over Mr. Voordes' DP lessons. **Cleo Rijgersberg** and **Marie Davoust** have taken over the lessons from Kanchan Mehra. We are very fortunate to have found such experienced and well qualified mathematics teachers at such short notice and we wish them a great and enjoyable time at the ISG.

We also welcome two new students to the ISG. Both joining us in MYP2, **Jack Perryman**, from the UK, and **Mati Polak**, from Poland. We were sorry to say goodbye to Jill Horsefield who has returned to a school in Groningen.

### Curriculum News

**Plagiarism.** With the increased availability and advantages of the internet there unfortunately is always a downside. The creation of coursework websites and the such has led to plagiarism being a big issue within assessed work. To prevent this problem increasing within the ISG, Ms. Heller has developed a document which will shortly become policy within the MYP & DP. This comprehensive document includes particular ways to source material as well as providing ideas to show how students can rewrite information in their own words. This aids their understanding as well as ensures that what they write is from their own original ideas. We also now use a "Plagiarism checker" and have subscribed to software from [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com). In the future students will be expected to submit their work electronically via this site. All ISG students from MYP3 upwards have been issued with this information. MYP1 and 2 will follow shortly. Parents can also obtain an electronic copy of this information from [is@maartens.nl](mailto:is@maartens.nl). Please quote "plagiarism" in the subject window.

**Homework Club!** *"Where can I work quietly?"... "Can I use the computers after school?"*

These are questions often heard with respect to homework. Some students find it hard to study at home, others wish to use the facilities at school outside of lesson hours. To help with this Ms Eschweiler has organised a homework club for MYP students! Students can choose to stay in a supervised area after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school. The club will be voluntarily supervised by a teacher - who can also offer general advice on how to cope with homework. Subject specific help will not be offered and, no, the teacher won't do the homework for you! The club has now started and five students have signed up so far. If you are still interested contact Ms Eschweiler asap!

**School Reports:** will be issued to all MYP students on 15th and DP on 19th Dec. Parents wishing to book appointments with teachers should return the slip before Christmas! Please note that usually only three appointments can be made for each parent so please select the subjects where concerns lie!

and finally...

Please remember that all students are expected to attend school up to and including the morning of 21 December. After the holiday all students are expected back for all lessons on 7 January. If travel plans require a further period absent from the school written permission must be requested in advance. Any request must be within our attendance policy (see website, student section, rules).