

November 2017

Newsletter

Dear Parents,

The first three months of the new school year have passed so quickly. This newsletter is a summary of a few of the most important moments.

In August we welcomed 13 new children into Three Little Ships and 3 new children into Lighthouse Special Education. They have all settled in well.

In October, the new websites of both the Lighthouse Special Education and the Three Little Ships Preschool were launched. We intend to update them with important documents and news regularly. The other HSV schools also have new websites.

In November, we welcomed back Colleen from her maternity leave.

Also in November, the Three Little Ships preschool had its annual GGD inspection. Everything was found to be in order. We received the final report this week and we have posted it on the preschool's website.

Last school year, parents were asked to fill in questionnaires recording their satisfaction about the school. 14 of the 26 the Three Little Ships and Lighthouse families completed the questionnaire. In September we received the report arising from the questionnaires. The summary of the top 10 points that give satisfaction and the top 10 points for improvement are to be found at the end of this newsletter. The full report is in the school office.



In December, we are looking forward to Sinterklaas and to Christmas. It is a busy time in school.



We wish you and your families a very happy festive season.

Helen Claus (Interim Director) and the Lighthouse and Three Little Ships teams

Exciting HSV News

HSV is excited to announce that it will open a fourth location of the International Department at the start of the 2018-19 school year! The Gemeente Den Haag approached the HSV and this expansion comes to facilitate families who are often faced with long waiting lists for our International Department. We will soon update our websites to reflect the fourth location in the making and invite you to spread the word! The building itself is located in Bezuidenhout on **van Heutszstraat**.

The new school will be one form of entry (one class in each year group).

HSV is also excited to announce the relocation of the Three Little Ships preschool and the Lighthouse Special Education school into the same building as the fourth International Department location. This will provide a more inclusive environment for these children and provide additional learning support expertise to the International Department.



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Important Dates

Tuesday 5th December – Sinterklaas celebration. School closes at **12.30**

Tuesday 12th December – possible National teachers' strike: school may be closed.
(More information to follow.)

Friday 15th December – TLS Winter celebration in afternoon

Friday 22nd December – last day of school term. School closes at **12.30**

Monday 8th January – first day of new school term

The school calendar for 2017-2018 is on our website

Procedural Requests

Please provide the school office with a **Dutch** contact number where we can reach you in an emergency. Because the office uses a landline, it is expensive to call you on foreign mobile numbers.

If your child is going to be absent from school, you must complete a Request of Absence form. You can get this form from our websites and from the school office. For children aged 5 years old or older, the form must be completed at least **8 weeks** before the absence. The permission for absence is a legal procedure and we have to follow the set protocol.

Contact Person

If you have a concern or a worry about your child, then please do discuss this with the class teacher. General concerns or worries can also be discussed with the Director. You can make an appointment through the office or email with a meeting request to hclaus@hsvdenhaag.nl. If you have a concern about something connected to the school and want to discuss this confidentially with someone for advice, then you can also speak to the school's Contact Person: Lisa Mayhall. Lisa is generally in school on Wednesdays but can also be emailed via lmayhall@hsvdenhaag.nl

Twitter accounts



Please check into our Twitter accounts to see what we are doing and let family members know too. We are posting photos and updates on Twitter rather than on the website as it is quicker and we can keep you more up-to-date. We love to have messages retweeted and quoted.

The accounts are: @lighthouse_se @tlsc1ass1 @LseAlison @LSEClassR

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News from Three Little Ships

The TLS started school with a September topic on 'All about Me'; they then moved on to learning about Autumn and Harvest (fruit and vegetables) in October. This week they finished their November Dinosaur topic with a *roarrrrr!*



The children learned the names of the different dinosaurs, if they were plant-eaters or meat-eaters and that dinosaurs come in all shapes and sizes. We had our first open morning, where we welcomed parents to fun filled activities, such as going on a dinosaur hunt, constructing a dinosaur from various materials and extending our dinosaur vocabulary.



We worked hard as paleontologists using various tools; hammers, brushes and a magnifying glass to examine the fossils and bones we had discovered. Things in the classroom started to *erupt* as we set off our volcano! We learned that mixing vinegar and baking soda together they cause a reaction that creates bubbles and foam.

We are sad to say goodbye to our dinosaur topic but look forward to what December has to bring; Winter Festivals. It's always a busy time in the year but very enjoyable for the children.

News from Class A



Class A have been exploring 2D shapes - what they look like and what they are called. We have also used our fine motor skills and practiced using different art techniques in our explorations.



We were also very excited to hear that Sinterklaas had come to the Netherlands on his steamboat - all the way from Spain. We used our shapes to make a colourful boat for Sint.

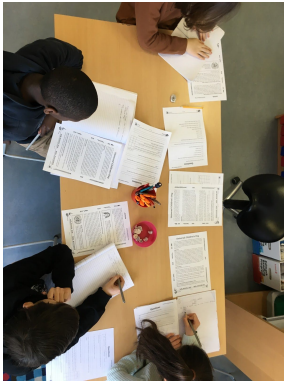
We have also been practicing counting and recognising numbers by counting Sints, Piets, steam boats, horses, pepernoten and presents. On Friday we are going to make our own pepernoten. We can't wait for Sinterklaas to visit us on December 5th!



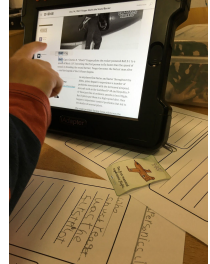
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News from Class R

Class R are learning about inventions that had an impact on our lives: from new technologies such as smart phones to basic ones like toilets and washing machines. We have learned to write a fact file, order years from long time ago up until today and how scientists make a prediction before testing.



Some of our students go to KSS for certain lessons, but recently some KSS students join our class for some lessons as well! So far we have had students from ID 4 and ID5 coming in to work on guided reading, grammar and spelling. This helps students from both schools to get to know each other better and it makes it easier to get in touch with one another in play times!



As some of our students celebrated 'Thanksgiving', Mr. Philipp taught us how to bake a pumpkin pie... so we weighed, measured, whisked and kneaded and soon the whole school smelled of a nicely spiced pie. We even worked on fractions when cutting it in 8 pieces!



Our next school newsletter will come out in February!

Scholen voor Success

Areas of satisfaction with % of the 14 parents that scored this area.

'Top 10' Tevredenheid

Pluspunten	Lighthouse Special Education
1. Vakbekwaamheid leerkracht	100%
2. Omgang leerkracht met de leerlingen	100%
3. Mate waarin leerkracht naar ouders luistert	100%
4. Aandacht voor normen en waarden	100%
5. Aandacht voor uitstapjes en excursies	100%
6. Overblijven tussen de middag	100%
7. Inzet en motivatie leerkracht	100%
8. Huidige schooltijden	93%
9. Hygiëne en netheid binnen de school	93%
10. Informatievoorziening over het kind	93%

Areas of dissatisfaction with % of the 14 parents that scored this area

'Top 10' Ontevredenheid

Verbeterpunten	Lighthouse Special Education
1. Uiterlijk van het gebouw	50%
2. Sfeer en inrichting schoolgebouw	43%
3. Speelmogelijkheden op het plein	36%
4. Opvang na schooltijd	36%
5. Rust en orde in de klas	21%
6. Informatievoorziening over de school	14%
7. Rust en orde op school	14%
8. Aandacht voor sociaal-emotionele ontwikkeling	14%
9. Opvang bij afwezigheid van de leerkracht	14%
10. Sfeer in de klas	7%