



September 2011 Newsletter



Dear Parents,

It has been a lovely start to the new school year with many children returning, new families arriving and all classes starting full. The children have arrived full of excitement to reconnect with their classmates and to make new friends.

Announcements

Once again for the new members of our community, I'd like to mention our appreciation of the **American Women's Club (AWC)**. Last spring, the AWC hosted the Hearts and Minds Gala fundraiser for autism in which Lighthouse Special Education was the recipient of a generous donation of **€25,000**. Lighthouse and the HSV would like to specially thank **Leslie Collingridge**, AWC Past-President, and **Jan de Vries** and **Sophie Dencher**, co-chairs of the gala committee. These women along with the entire committee are the core of the autism fundraiser and we are very grateful for their benevolent effort and support.

We would also like to thank the parents, children and staff who contributed to the success of the gala. The canvases painted by the children were surely a hit! Special thanks to **Susanne Kingdon-Nielsen**, Art Therapist, for working with the teachers and children on these projects.

It is with great pleasure that we are able to announce that the AWC Executive Board has agreed to **another spring gala in 2012**, once again in support of Lighthouse and Stichting Papageno! More details about this event will follow in the coming months. The generous support by the AWC and those contributing to the gala has made a substantial difference in the quality of education we are able to provide our children.

With the gala funds, Lighthouse has been able to purchase computers and software for the classrooms, computer tables, sensory equipment and materials, assessment tools, mats for the gym, and a range of learning materials for each classroom.

School Holidays for September

19 September, Teacher Study Day – No School

20 September, Holiday-No School

30 September, Teacher Study Day- No School

Preschool Advisory Meeting

Every year we establish a new parent advisory for the preschool. In order for children to attend for a full day, the school is actually classified as a daycare as well as a preschool by

Dutch law. One of the rules for Dutch daycare is that a parents' committee exists.

The committee meets at least three times per year and is responsible for discussing any problems that arise, reacting to them and advising on the need to change any policies. Other functions of the committee are fundraising and supporting classroom activities.

The first Preschool Parent Advisory meeting for the year will be on **28 September from 11:00 – 12:15**. This is set on a Wednesday so that you can attend prior to picking up your child from preschool. Please let me know if you will be able to join us.

Lighthouse Activity Committee Meeting

This committee is busy planning the International Bazaar fundraising event at the Slovenian Ambassador's residence. The next meeting will be held on **6 October at 19.30**.

Parent-Teacher Council (MR members only)

Training date for MR members is 10 October from 19.00 at Tarwekamp 3.

Feel At Home in The Hague International Fair

Sunday, 18 September, located at City Hall Atrium, Spui 70 from 11:00 – 17:00. Attend and find out what The Hague offers for education, culture and leisure for the whole family, expand your social network, and connect with other expats. A free entry coupon has been sent home in your child's backpack along with the informational flyer.

International Bazaar

Slovenian Ambassador's residence, Address: Scheveningseweg 239, 2584 AA
On September 25th, the Lighthouse community is holding an International Bazaar, graciously hosted at the Slovenian Residency of the Hague, to raise funds in support of Lighthouse Special Education and Three Little Ships Preschool.

This International Bazaar, organized by parents from the school, will raise funds for educational materials. Mrs. Barbara Blaznik Mark, wife of the Slovenian Ambassador to The Hague, has been instrumental in the organization and hosting of this event. There will be food from around the world (food cannot be consumed on the premises), souvenirs, books, jewelry, handmade items, and more. There will be Hungarian folk dancing from around 15.00 and a craft table for parents and children. Come join in the fun!

Cash sales only. No entrance fee. Proceeds from sales will be donated to the Lighthouse.

School Guide

You have received a copy of our new school guide; it is also on our website. Our pupils are subsidised by the Dutch government and therefore we follow the Dutch rules and regulations as explained in the school guide.

Leave of absence and lateness are monitored by the authorities and your failure to follow the rules and regulations could lead to you being heavily fined.

Another section is that on snacks. As part of our health education curriculum we promote healthy eating and it is school policy that children do not bring chocolate snacks to eat at break or lunchtimes. Such treats should be saved for after school.

Silver Jubilee Week

We are planning a week of fun and educational activities during the week of 19th September

to mark 25 years of the International Department as well as 110 years of the HSV foundation.

Volunteers, Dance and Movement

We are so fortunate to have a wealth of highly qualified, enthusiastic volunteers working in various capacities at our school this year. One of our volunteers is Elizabeth Rutten-Ng, dance/movement therapist and educator who is founder of Embodied Movement. She is currently a master student in CODARTS, University for the Arts, Rotterdam. Elizabeth is teaching dance and movement sessions in all classes for a period of 8 weeks as part of the movement curriculum. It is wonderful to have her expertise!

Website

With thanks to 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. Don't forget to check out the links section for expat resources and information!

Sincerely yours,

*Cynthia Jaeger
Director of Special and Preschool Education*