

Contents

Whole School Information

- IB Evaluation Visit
- Staffing update
 - PYP Coordinator - maternity cover
 - Introducing Gabrielle Fisher
 - Introducing Gillian Martin
 - Introducing Annemijn Drupsteen

PSG

- Orange Compass
- Expat Camp

COVID-19 Update

Important dates

- Tuesday 24 January - STIP lecture: social-emotional learning (in **Dutch**)

Whole School Information

IB Evaluation Visit

From Monday to Wednesday, we virtually welcomed IB evaluators into our school. This process involved our learners, faculty, the Head of STIP and parent reps meeting the evaluators in framework sessions, and visiting our classrooms. This culminated in the evaluators feeding back to the community, and the IB World School Manager, on our successes and suggested areas for further development. As educators, we consider ourselves life-long learners who always strive to develop ourselves as practitioners. With this in mind, we await the official IB report before actioning the suggestions from our evaluators. Additionally, our parent community will be invited into school to offer feedback on the report, so please keep an eye out in the newsletter for the announcement of this date.



From L to R parent reps: Jenneke van Weel, Freya Malins, Tamsin Bowden, Marc Sehn, Anne-Sophie Olesen, Monique van Wezel-Mole

Staffing update

PYP Coordinator - maternity cover



Our PYP Coordinator, Stephanie Noda, will start her maternity leave on 14 February. It is with great pleasure that Sara Philippen-Gibbins applied and successfully interviewed for the maternity cover position to replace Steph in her absence. Sara will begin her handover with Steph now that the IB



Evaluation Visit is over. And at the beginning of February, Sara will relinquish her role as a Group 7 teacher.

Introducing Gabrielle Fisher

Gabby Fisher will cover Sara Philippen-Gibbins during the period that Sara is in the role of acting PYP Coordinator. Gabby arrived in the Netherlands on Monday from Sydney, Australia, where, in December, she finished her school year at [Tara Anglican School for Girls](#). Gabrielle taught Year 6, including the PYP Exhibition. She spent time in class this week meeting the students and answering a lot of questions!

Prior to that, Gabby taught Years 4 and 5 for four years at [Lidcombe Public School](#), and completed a brief stint as a substitute teacher at [Dili International School](#) in Timor-Leste. Whilst teaching, she has also been involved in extracurricular activities that have included: public speaking and debating organisation, sports coach and coordinator for gymnastics, netball, softball, basketball. She has also been a dance coordinator and a member of both a STEM team and a wellbeing team. Gabby received her Bachelor of Primary Education from the University of Notre Dame, Sydney, and continued there to complete her International Baccalaureate Certificate of Teaching and Learning.



Introducing Gillian Martin

Gillian joined us this Wednesday in Early Years, where she will be teaching through July, whilst Leigh Ammeraal takes parental leave. Gillian is a substitute teacher throughout the school on the other four days each week.

Gillian most recently taught at Hansfield [Educate Together](#) National School in Dublin, Republic of Ireland. Between 2016-2022, she taught reception, group 2 and group 3. Prior to that, also in Ireland, Gillian was a Montessori teacher from 2007-2016.

Gillian completed a four-year Bachelor of Education Honours degree at St Patrick's College, Dublin, and her Diploma in Montessori Teaching from Portobello Institute. She is also qualified in Irish sign language (Lámh).



Gillian has a love of sport (she played on a women's rugby team), and being a member of her previous school's Active School committee helped to foster a love of sport and healthy lifestyle for children through participating in sports, dance classes and promoting healthy eating throughout the school. Gillian also volunteered in a special needs orphanage in Gorodishche, Belarus, for many years.

Introducing Annemijn Drupsteen

Annemijn Drupsteen may be known to some of you as Quinten Lugtigheid's mum! Annemijn will be joining our Dutch host country language team on 1 March.

Since 2016, Annemijn has been teaching in a range of schools in Hilversum, and has even taught in a couple of STIP schools. After training as a physical therapist in her native Netherlands, Annemijn moved to Portugal where she worked in a medical centre, and also set up her own practice as an equine physical therapist. After hours, she taught primary-aged students at the Dutch School of the Algarve.

Annemijn's home language is Dutch, and she is fluent in English and Portuguese. She also speaks basic German, French and Spanish. Annemijn believes that children develop the best version



of themselves when their surroundings are safe and calm, and expectations of learning goals and assessment are clear in advance.

PSG

Orange Compass

Orange Compass is a social relocation service designed to help new international families find their way and feel at home in the Netherlands. Starting from this month they will be running different online workshops to talk through what services they offer. For more information, please visit their website: www.orangecompass.eu.

Expat Camp

Young Expat Services and SportWays have organised a summer expat camp where participants will be able to practise the Dutch language in a playful way while playing sports with (new) friends. The camp is suitable for ages 6-16 and welcomes all levels of Dutch. There are options for a day or overnight camp. For more information, please visit their website: www.youngexpatservices.com/expat-camp/.

COVID-19 UPDATE

The Netherlands has reverted to **phase 1 dark green**. This means that we continue with basic measures with regard to hygiene and health, and continue to ensure good ventilation.

International Primary School Hilversum

Rembrandt

Early Years - Group 4
Rembrandtlaan 30
1213 BH Hilversum
Telephone: +31(0)35 621 6053

Mondrian

Groups 5-8
Minckelersstraat 36
1221 KH Hilversum
Telephone: +31(0)35 303 7163

Rembrandt: info@ipshilversum.nl
Mondrian: mondrian@ipshilversum.nl
School website: www.ipshilversum.nl