IPS HILVERSUM International Primary Education

Friday 06 November 2026	Parent Newsletter	Volume 6, Issue 05

Contents

Whole School Information
- **Whole School Agreements**
- **Story of Sinterklaas**
- **Diwali Celebrations**
- **Crazy Hair Day**

Inquiry Insights
- Group 8 Teaches Group 7 About Matisse

Community Corner
- Winter Clothing Collection for Ukraine.

Important Dates

- 3 Way Conferences 10,11,12 November
- Crazy Hair Day 17 November
- Study Day 18 November
- Photo Day Mondrian 30 November
- Kijkavond 1 December
- Sinterklaas at school 2 December
- Photo Day Rembrandt 3 December

- One page calendar-Digital calendar

Whole School Information

Whole School Agreements



Over the past two weeks, our Student Council has been busy leading assemblies at both IPS locations to share our new Whole-School Agreements.
After gathering and collating ideas from every class, the Student Council brought everyone's contributions together to create a set of agreements that reflect what our students believe is important for making our school a positive place to learn and grow.



Through interactive assemblies, the students brought these ideas to life with short skits, demonstrating different situations, sharing possible solutions and encouraging everyone to think about how we can put our agreements into practice every day.

We are incredibly proud of the way our students have taken ownership of this process and worked together to make their voices heard.



These agreements belong to all of us and reflect what our students believe we need to be a **Ready, Safe and Respectful** school.

A big thank you to our Student Council for leading the way and to all our students for sharing their ideas and helping shape our whole-school community!

Our School Agreements

READY	SAFE	RESPECTFUL
We come ready to learn.	We walk carefully.	We listen to each other.
We listen to teacher's instructions.	We keep our hands and feet to ourselves.	We use kind words.
We stay on task.	Everyone belongs here, so we make everyone feel welcome.	We respect each other's ideas and points of view.
We tidy up together.	We ask an adult for help.	We take care of our school environment.

IPS HILVERSUM International Primary Education

The Story of Sinterklaas

Saint Nicholas, a Dutch tradition.



Every year, on the 5th of December, the Dutch celebrate *Sinterklaas*.

Who is Sinterklaas, and what are we celebrating?

The name *Sinterklaas* is an abbreviation of Saint Nicholas, who was the bishop of Myra in Turkey in the fourth century A.D. He had a reputation for being a generous man who helped the poor and needy. He is the patron saint of sailors and merchants, hence his popularity in the Netherlands.

Children are told the story of an ancient bishop called Sinterklaas, who lives in Spain and annually visits the Netherlands to bring presents. Every year, around mid-November, he arrives by steamboat from his residence in Spain to celebrate his Birthday on the 5th of December.



Sinterklaas is dressed like a very old bishop, with a long white beard, a red miter, a red cape or pluvial and a long bishop's staff.
Sinterklaas is seen riding on rooftops on his white horse (Ozosnel). His helpers, all named Piet, accompany him. Piet is also known to climb down chimneys to put little presents in the children's shoes.

Traditionally, in the two weeks before his birthday, children put one of their shoes in front of the fireplace or heating before going to bed. The term used for this is 'je schoen zetten'.
Often, the children sing a Sinterklaas song, write a note or make a drawing for Sinterklaas and put a carrot in their shoe for the horse. In the morning, they are surprised to find their shoe filled with sweets or other small presents. Chocolate letters with the initial of a child's name are also given.

On the evening of December 5th (St. Nicholas Eve), the children sing special Sinterklaas songs. When the tension has built up sufficiently, a big burlap sack or basket is brought into the home filled with presents for the children. Hot chocolate, marzipan treats and pepernoten are associated with this family celebration.

Intocht/Arrival of Sint
The national arrival of Sinterklaas is on Saturday, November 14th. NTR will broadcast live coverage starting at 12:00 PM on NPO Zapp (NPO 3). The arrival of Sinterklaas in Hilversum will take place on Sunday the 15th of November.
For more information check
livehilversum.com/nl/uitagenda/1806139259/intocht-sinterklaas-hilversum
Sintintocht Hilversum - more information about Sint related activities.

Sinterklaasjournaal.
It is a TV program that follows the story of the arrival of Sinterklaas. There is an update everyday about Sinterklaas. It will start on Monday the 9 November Link to the website - https://sinterklaasjournaal.ntr.nl/ The national arrival of Sinterklaas is on Saturday, November 14th. NTR will broadcast live coverage starting at 12:00 PM on NPO Zapp (NPO 3)

Diwali

Today, our students learned all about Diwali and celebrated this special festival by enjoying skits performed by their fellow students.
The PTA also organised some wonderful activities, including special Diwali treats and the opportunity for students to create beautiful rangoli patterns on the playground.

A big thank you to our wonderful PTA volunteers for organising such a lovely celebration and helping our students learn about and experience this festival of lights.





We wish all our families a very Happy Diwali!



🎉 Crazy Hair Day – Tuesday 17 November! 🎉



Inquiry Insights

Group 8 Teaches Group 7 About Matisse





This week, our Group 8 students became the teachers. Inspired by Henri Matisse, they taught Group 7 about positive and negative space.
As part of their work on procedural texts, Group 8 wrote out their own lesson plans step by step and then taught the lessons themselves. Together, the students explored the inquiry garden, collected natural objects and traced them to make their own designs.
They took real responsibility for their learning and showed all three C's: critical thinking, creativity and collaboration.



Community News

Winter Clothing Collection for Ukraine.
The war in Ukraine goes into its fourth year, with civilians being targeted more frequently than ever before. Winters are extremely cold and the people need our support to survive.
We would like to collect winter gear for men, women and children, such as : sweaters, bodywarmers, hoodies, sleeping bags, duvets, blankets, towels, thermal underwear, scarves, woolen gloves and socks.

Saturday November 7 at St. Vitus Church, Hilversum.
Please leave your items by the mass books table at the back of the church. They will be collected, sorted and taken to Stichthing Holland-Ukraine in Nieuw Vennep.
Once a month, a truck filled with relief goods goes from there to Ukraine. Thank you in advance for your generosity!
(For further information, please contact Louis Patist 06-51156742)