

...Learning for Life

NISL NEWS 27th November 2020

Important Dates

Friday 4th December

Thursday 17th December

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Sinterklaas visits NISL

Whole School Christmas Celebrations

Last Day of School

An exciting few weeks ahead...

Sinterklaas Update/Reminders

Excitement is building... Sinterklaas and his Peters have completed their seven-day quarantine AND have tested negative for Corona. It is looking more and more likely Sinterklaas will come and visit NISL on Friday December 4th! Although understandably much smaller than the Sunday Family Fun Days of previous years, the committee is working hard towards putting together a bubble-based program with a meet-and-greet session with Sinterklaas in the school gym and outdoor fun activities before and after. Children are practicing dance routines, freshening up their 'Sinterklaas song singing skills' and – from Minimax all the way up to Year 5 and 6 – working on Sinterklaas based art and craft activities.



Meanwhile, we heard rumours that Sinterklaas' helpers may visit the school in the night from Monday 30th November to Tuesday 1st December, to fill children's shoes with sweet treats... Please remind your child to bring a shoe to school on Monday and a carrot or an apple for Sinterklaas' horse Ozosnel (good old Amerigo has retired and is now enjoying the Spanish sun). Your child may want to get creative and write Sinterklaas a letter or present him with a drawing. Each class will prepare the shoes on Monday before going home. We cannot wait for Tuesday to see what's in it!

Christmas at NISL

Though we traditionally do not move into the Christmas festivities at NISL until Sinterklaas has waved goodbye at the school gates (next week Friday); there are a few mentions that are necessary. Further details and updates will fill next week's Newsletter.

- Our EYFS children will also celebrate on the Thursday 17th (not the day before as originally stated in the calendar)
- All children therefore will enjoy parties, bubble buffets and dress up on the Thursday
- A production is still being put together but will be presented to you this year as a movie extravaganza
- Parents due to the current COVID challenges we face will sadly not be allowed in, on site
- Parts are being allocated to the production/movie which will be whole school rather than two part so if you are planning early travel; please do contact us and fill out a Leave Request Form

Online Lessons

Fewer and fewer children remain online but every child matters at NISL, so teachers and assistants are still persevering with Zoom lessons and work packs. Please be reminded that this is only on offer until December. Some lessons are petering out because of the nature of IEYC and IPC lessons now phasing out into Sinterklaas/Christmas activities. The children themselves are getting tired too so Class Teachers are individually making arrangements with those still not in physically. We look forward to a full January start. Many of our families remain in Lagos so we will be resuming onsite January 11th, not online like some schools. If you are returning from travel and your quarantine period will delay you sending your child in, please inform us. Please also note that online lessons will not be offered to children quarantining but we can certainly mail home some work sheets or lessons objectives.

Dutch Stream (DS) Update

We find ourselves in a novel and vulnerable position at NISL and despite the whole world facing similar challenges right now we confront our own unique here at NISL; what direction do we take as a Dutch School with our DS as numbers dwindle and children are fewer?

Last weekend our DS staff, Management Team, stakeholders and DS Parents met to understand better the vision and see light at the end of the tunnel. Hope is far from lost and we will continue with the Dutch curriculum and full, mainstream Dutch learning as of August 2021. This will, however, only benefit our older Dutch children as their class moves up the year groups and phases out whilst all younger Dutch Stream students will be offered "integrated learning."

Younger Dutch Stream children will merge into our English Stream but will be offered an NTC-programme for correct hours per week as stipulated by the NOB (NTC = Nederlandse Taal en Cultuur). Many schools worldwide (in fact most) pursue and gradually step towards this NTC-vision, so we have many colleagues to seek advice from and many strong examples to follow. Fewer numbers inevitably mean a change within the DS Team; juf Stefanie will sadly no longer be teaching with us come January and Mr Frits will become responsible for the older groep 4/6 class. Juf Danitsa due to Mr Frits' whole school role will also support this older class. Juf Claske will continue with the younger groep 3 children and manage/design the already upcoming NTC-programme. Saying goodbye to a legacy or to staff members is never easy. We will be sure to give juf Stefanie a befitting farewell and some deserved/special words in our final December Newsletter.

2021 NISL Art Calendar

Separate to the formal school calendar which usually gets presented to Parents by Easter; we have decided to pioneer a novel and exciting idea for the children. Mr Frits and Mrs Ritu are busy compiling a child friendly (annual rather than per school year) calendar with scanned artwork and quirky NISL reminders. The artwork will represent students across the school and from every age group. Sure to be attractive and useful; we are positive that many of you would like to purchase one for your family home. Some may even want to purchase an extra and take overseas or send as a gift to grandparents. More details about price and process will follow next week!

See you on Monday . . .