

ISW NEWSLETTER

FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS **JANUARY 2025**

BACKERSHAGENLAAN 5, 2243 AB WASSENAAR, WWW.INTERNATIONALSCHOOLWASSENAAR.NL



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL WASSENAAR
RIJNLANDS LYCEUM

JANUARY EDITION

The International School of Wassenaar's Bi-Monthly Update for Parents & Students



UPCOMING SCHOOL EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES:

- **3 Feb** - Inset Day (no school for students)
- **10-21 Feb** - DP2 Mock Exams
- **10-14 Feb** - MYP4 and 5 Timed Assessments
- **15 Feb** - Rijnlands/ISW Open Day
- **17 Feb** - MYP1 Anti-Bullying Workshops
- **18 Feb** - Student Council Meeting
- **20 Feb** - Assembly MYP3B
- **24-28 Feb** - Midterm Break

A WORD FROM MR. VERLOOP

Immerse yourself into the world of the ISW - Enjoy the newsletter!

Dear Students, Parents, Guardians and Staff,

As we have entered into 2025, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the wonderful experiences we shared as a school community last year. This edition of our newsletter is filled with great memories from before the winter break, including the excitement of the chess tournament, the fun of the Christmas Ball and the meaningful impact of our Service as Action initiatives.

Looking back, it's truly inspiring to see the enthusiasm and kindness that defines our school, whether in the classroom or through service beyond the school walls. I have no doubt that 2025 will bring even more opportunities for learning, growth, and connection.

Wishing you all a fantastic year ahead!

Kind regards,
Robert Verloop



INTERNATIONAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Dear student(s), parent(s) and guardian(s),

To ensure we can keep you informed of important school updates, events, and emergencies, we kindly ask that you notify the school administration office if there have been any changes to your contact details, such as your phone number, email address, or home address.



Keeping your information up to date helps us maintain effective communication with you throughout the school year.

Please inform the administration office as soon as possible of any changes by email.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Kind regards,
Ms. Jacobs and Ms. Wilde



SERVICE AS ACTION UPDATE

Our students have been busy working on their term 2 service as action, following completing the fundraising for the Teach Nepal Project.

Our students helped hand out chocolate letters and handwritten poems to residents of a local elderly home. On the same day, other students helped put up Christmas decorations.



In the coming months, some students will be helping out during the following activities:

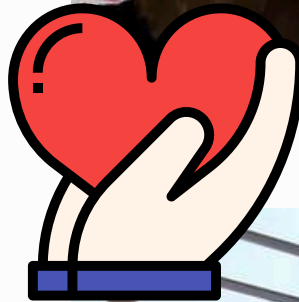
- Saturday 25 January: harvesting tree saplings (Ockenberg Estate, The Hague; with the MeerBomenNu organisation)
- Saturday 1 February: harvesting tree saplings (Meijndel, Wassenaar; with the MeerBomenNu organisation)
- Saturday 15 February: Open Day
- Friday 14 March: NL Doet (all MYP5 students)

Any future opportunities will be posted on Managebac.

All MYP students should aim to have their term 2 service as action completed and their reflection written by Monday 10 March.

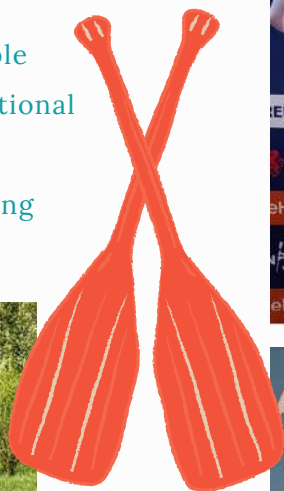
Ms Adriaansen

Service as Action Coordinator



ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Valentijn Reitsma (DP2B) has received multiple high nominations in (inter)national rowing competitions and has achieved an incredible result by finishing second at the Dutch National Indoor Rowing Championships. A huge congratulations to him for these outstanding and admirable achievements!



Salah Taboucha (DP1C) has been playing as a left-forward for FC Utrecht for some time now. Recently, he traveled to Germany to play against Leipzig, where he also had the opportunity to visit their training complex, train for three days, and tour the stadium. A few weeks ago, his team faced Borussia Dortmund—one of Germany's top clubs—and secured an impressive 5-3 victory. Amazing accomplishment, Salah!

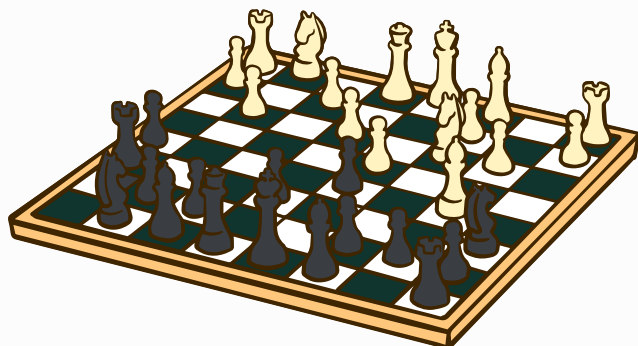


CHESS TOURNAMENT

On Tuesday, December 17, we held our annual “Teachers vs. Students” chess event. The match was played on 15 boards—a record! Many students from all grade levels came to watch this special event.

After some exciting games, the students emerged victorious with a score of 13.5 – 1.5.

Congratulations to all the participants, and a special thank you to the teachers who joined in, giving our chess club students and enthusiasts the opportunity to enjoy such a fun and thrilling chess event!



CHRISTMAS BALL

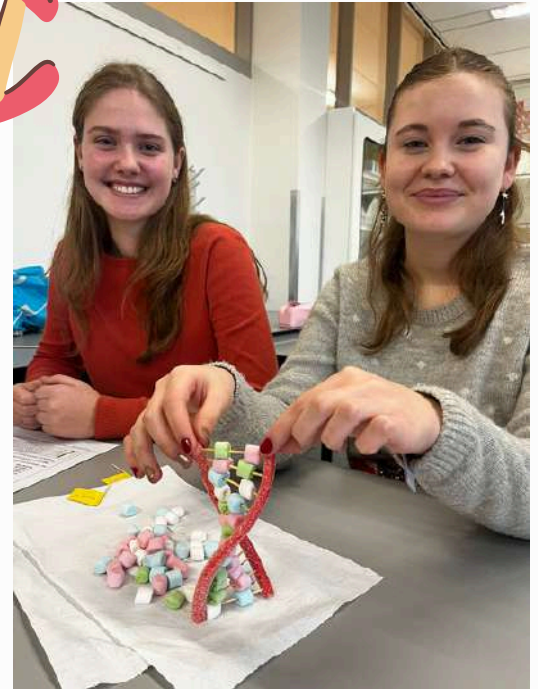
Every year, as the holiday season approaches, the school comes alive with the magic of the annual Christmas Ball. A night filled with joy and laughter, it brings together both international and national students to celebrate the festive spirit before the winter break. Dressed to impress, students take to the dance floor at Duinrell. They take part in lively karaoke performances and, between dances and duets, everyone enjoys some snacks and drinks. The Christmas Ball is more than just a party—it's a celebration of togetherness!



BIOLOGY

Before the Christmas break, MYP5 took part in an incredibly fun lesson on the topic of DNA. They used candy for DNA-building!

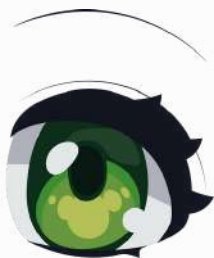
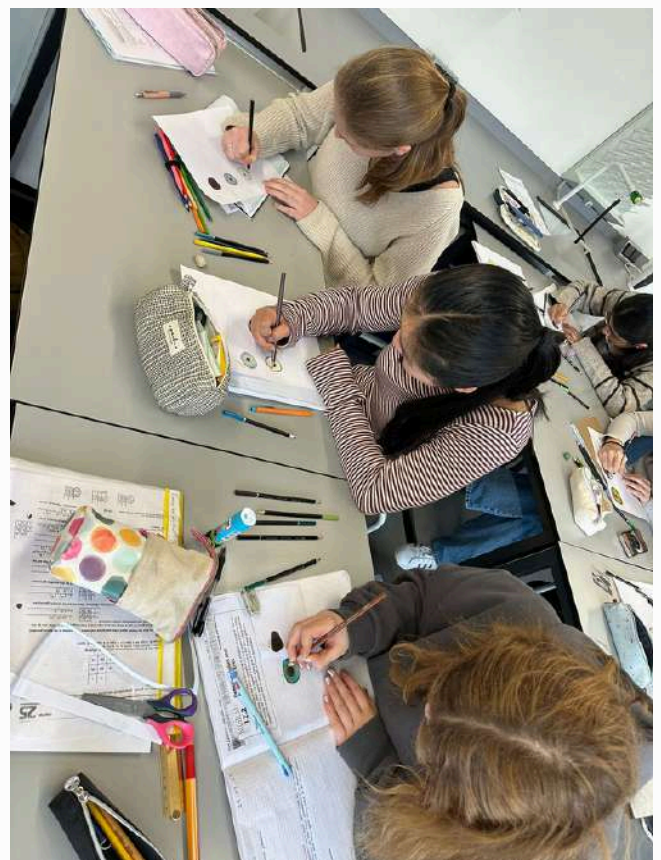
This practical class helped students understand the abstract topic of DNA in a much more concrete and visual way. Thank you to Mrs Mackey for this creative lesson!



BIOLOGY

Another exciting and interactive lesson with Mrs. Mackey! MYP5 delved into the concept of polygenic inheritance by closely examining the diverse range of eye colors among their classmates.

Through this hands-on activity, students gained a deeper understanding of how multiple genes contribute to variations in human traits, sparking curiosity about genetics.

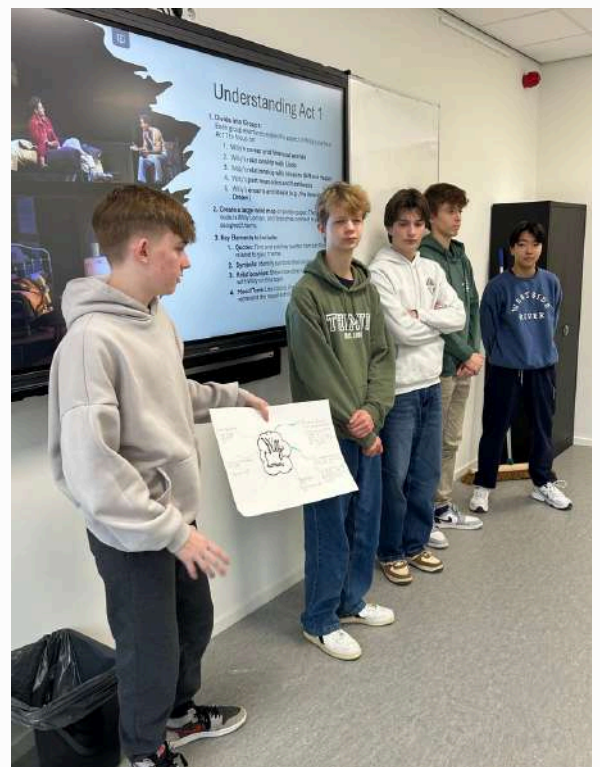


ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

In our MYP5 English Language and Literature class, we have been exploring *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller, a powerful play that delves into themes of ambition, and human relationships. The central focus of this unit is family dynamics and the complex relationships that shape the characters' lives.

After reading the first act, students engaged in a brainstorming session to analyse Willy Loman's relationships with key characters, including his sons, Biff and Happy, his wife, Linda, and others who play significant roles in his life. The activity encouraged students to dig deeper into the underlying tensions and emotional connections between these characters, shedding light on Willy's struggles, aspirations, and the impact of his actions on those around him.

The activity not only enhanced the students' understanding of the play but sparked conversation about the societal expectations and personal choices that influence family dynamics.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

MYP3 have been working on the unit about Love Poetry. Enjoy some of the beautiful poems written by our talented students:

The sun couldn't stand in comparison,
To the warmth and compassion of your heart.
All treasures and jewels feel like illusion;
It forever pains me to be apart.
Your eyes forgotten jewels, ones I thrive for,
My heart aches to gaze into them once more.
The way the sight of you makes my heart soar,
Hide them not from me beyond the sea shore.
The sun's shine may dim, and that too of stars,

But my affection for you shall never.
Without you my life feels ever so dark,
As if my bond with you has been severed.
This darkness shrouds my life and existence,
What draws me to you, is my persistence.

Written by Ananya Patrikar (MYP3a)

His eyes lie at the bottom of the sea
Like jewels hidden from those unworthy
And can only be seen by those who dream
His lovely heart shines with passion and glee
Though I could never feel hate towards thou
My heart aches for you to find a response

I have waited far too long to find you

Now I have lost my patience

My heart mourns for your affection my love

Without you I feel so very blue

But my feelings for you, trapped like a dove

Like the dove I try to escape from you

However my love for you comes straight from my core

And I shall love this man forevermore

Written by Anonymous



NATURALIS

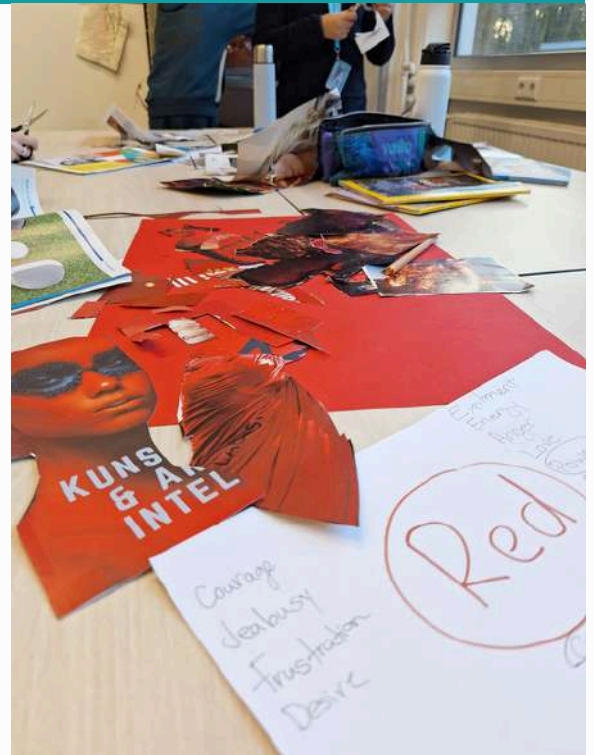
MYP4 recently had the opportunity to visit the Naturalis Biodiversity Center in Leiden. Students thoroughly enjoyed the museum's interactive exhibits, which made for an engaging and educational experience. Following their visit, they analyzed the Naturalis website, identifying strengths and suggesting possible improvements by way of a presentation.



VISUAL ARTS

Rita, an artistically talented student from MYP5, took her Personal Project to the next level by creating an engaging and informative website dedicated to Colour Theory. To share her knowledge, Rita kindly visited an MYP1 Visual Arts lesson, where she presented her work and delivered an insightful explanation of the fundamental concepts of Colour Theory. Rita showcased the features of her website, improving their understanding of Colour Theory.

Rita's initiative served as a wonderful example of peer learning and creativity in action, leaving the younger students inspired to dive deeper into the world of colour!



INTERDISCIPLINARY UNIT

Last week, our MYP3 class experienced an exciting Interdisciplinary Unit (IDU) Day, diving into the fascinating world of tessellations—where mathematics and art collide!

The day began with a morning session filled with hands-on math puzzle games. Students collaborated to solve geometric challenges, discovering how shapes like triangles, hexagons, and even Escher-inspired motifs can fit together perfectly without gaps or overlaps. The puzzles not only sharpened their problem-solving skills but also highlighted the hidden beauty of mathematical patterns.

Read about the afternoon museum visit on the following [page!](#)



ESCHER MUSEUM

After lunch, students visited the Escher Museum where the abstract concepts from the classroom came to life. Walking through the galleries, students explored M.C. Escher's iconic tessellations, optical illusions, and mind-blowing artworks. Guided by the teachers and students from our school, they connected their morning lessons to Escher's genius, discussing how symmetry, transformation, and creativity bridge math and art.

