

# ISW NEWSLETTER

FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS **NOVEMBER 2024**

BACKERSHAGENLAAN 5, 2243 AB WASSENAAR, [WWW.INTERNATIONALSCHOOLWASSENAAR.NL](http://WWW.INTERNATIONALSCHOOLWASSENAAR.NL)



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL WASSENAAR  
RIJNLANDS LYCEUM

# NOVEMBER EDITION

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



## UPCOMING SCHOOL EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES:

- **2 Dec - 11 Dec**- Report Meetings, shortened timetable
- **5 Dec** - Sinterklaas Festivities (free after 7th lesson)
- **6 Dec** - First lesson cancelled
- **11 Dec** - Student Council Meeting
- **13-15 Dec**- BSNMUN
- **19 Dec**- Winter Gala
- **20 Dec** -No school
- **20 Dec - 5 Jan** - Winter Break

## A WORD FROM MR. VERLOOP



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

Dear Students, Parents, Guardians and Staff,

What a fantastic few months we've had! From impactful Service as Action projects to the vibrant Diwali celebration, our community has been buzzing with energy.

A huge congratulations to everyone involved in the Classical Evening and the MiniMUN conference. Both were incredible successes and wonderful showcases of our students' talents and leadership. The creativity at the Personal Project Exhibition and the connections built through language exchanges continue to inspire us all.

There's even more to celebrate, so enjoy exploring this month's highlights!

Kind regards,  
Robert Verloop





# INTERNATIONAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

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

## **Application Processing for the academic school year 2025-2026.**

We are excited to announce that the ISW Admissions Team is currently processing applications for the upcoming school year 2025-2026. The team is diligently reviewing all of the submitted applications. At the moment, we have received more applications than we have places for in MYP1. Therefore, there is a waiting list in place. Families who have submitted an application for MYP1 will be notified of the admission decisions by January/February 2025. We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we work to carefully review all applications.

## **Reminder: Informing the School About Appointments or Illnesses.**

This is a friendly reminder to please notify the ISW school office by 8:30 in the morning if your child will be absent due to illness or attending an appointment during the school day. Early notification helps us ensure the safety and well-being of all students, as well as assist in coordinating any necessary arrangement for your child's absence.

You can inform the office via telephone or email both Ms. Jacobs and Ms. Wilde.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Kind regards,  
Ms. Jacobs and Ms. Wilde



# SERVICE AS ACTION - TERM 1 UPDATE

## AWARDS

This year's service as action kicked off by announcing the winners of the service as action awards for the school year 2023-2024.

A massive congratulation to the below winners!

### Last year's MYP1

Sumedha Dana: "Sumedha initiated planting flower bulbs together with Muthu – the flowers looked beautiful and other students enjoyed the activities as well! Sumedha also put a lot of effort into writing her reflections." – Ms Adriaansen

Lucie van Oosten: "Lucie completed very diverse service as action activities." – Mrs de Feijter

### Last year's MYP2

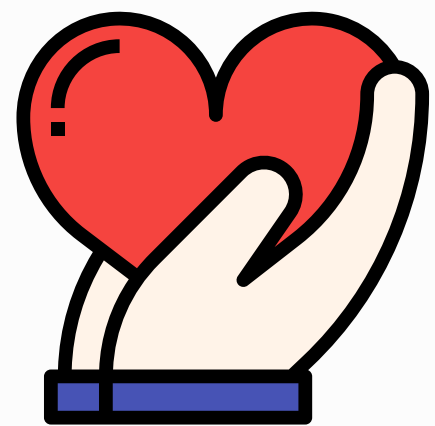
Andrew van Nieuwkoop: "Andrew had an original idea and a well-written reflection." – Mr Beukes

Arthur Talmard: "Arthur initially didn't want to take part in the International Fair, but he completed his service as action anyway and he got a lot out of it – well done for persevering!" – Ms Mellor

### Last year's MYP3

Stella Nicoud: "Stella completed her first service as action in Norway, cleaning up beaches and parks. Her second one was a creative service where she made a song and created awareness for suicide prevention. It was all personal, creative and really helpful for society." – Mr van der Harst

Simran Singh: "Simran completed as many as 8 SA's [last] year! Besides that, he is very precise in describing his activity and the goal that he has in mind. He consistently adds evidence and writes really long reflections. He works 100% independently." – Mrs Baldwin



# SERVICE AS ACTION - TERM 1 UPDATE

## Last year's MYP4

Joris Dhuique-Hein: "Joris worked really hard and went above and beyond." – Mrs van Leeuwen

Daniel Fayers: "Daniel chose to do all 3 SAs for the community and did not use his MUN experience, while he could have done that instead of a third SA. He volunteered to help out with the community garden at a church, helped during Monument Day and volunteered at an animal shelter. He organized each of these opportunities himself." – Ms Hazeu

## Last year's MYP5

Merlinde Brink: "Merlinde deserves an award for all her work with Land van Ons." – Ms Seijger and Ms van Lookeren

Feby Panwar: "Feby consistently put in effort throughout the year." – Mr Pretorius

## WALKING FOR NEPAL

Our MYP students just completed their first service as action of the year. Each mentor class took part in "Walking for Nepal", with the students virtually walking from our school in Wassenaar to Nepal. The students raised money along the way.

Together, we walked 7,008 km and we managed to raise 2078,82!





# PERSONAL PROJECT EXHIBITION

The MYP5 students showcased their incredible hard work and talent at this year's Personal Project Exhibition on November 15th. The event, held in the new building, brought together students, staff, and parents to celebrate the diverse and innovative projects on display. From natural skincare products to homemade speakers and Batik teddy bears sold for charity, each project reflected the students' creativity and dedication. Congratulations to the MYP5 cohort for their outstanding efforts! Wishing you all the best as you take the next steps in completing your project reports.



# EXCHANGES TO FRANCE & GERMANY

Since last school year 2023-2024 it is possible for students in MYP4 (and exceptionally in MYP5) to participate in an exchange with a French or German school. 15 of our students are participating this year in the exchange with France and have received their exchange partners in October. They will go to their exchange partners in May 25 to spend six nights at their host family and at school and to do cultural excursions in the region near Fécamp (Normandie).

We think it is important to give our students the opportunity to have experiences like this, to be able to make new friends, to experience culture first hand, to improve language skills and to do fun things with friends in another country! As language teachers we have seen that exchanges can lead to friendships for life and more open-mindedness in general. For some students it means learning to be more of a risktaker, too!

Next school year 2025-2026 we hope we will be able to go with more students to France and Germany! We will soon start with the communication around the exchanges for next school year.

Kind regards,

Mrs. van den Berg





# FRANCE EXCHANGE

The French exchange was an educational experience that helped us improve our speaking and made us more open-minded. We did some activities in school where we got to know all of the students better and we also did a number of fun activities outside of school, in the weekend. On Saturday we went to a theme park with the whole group and on Sunday my family and I went to Amsterdam to show the city to my exchange student. My exchange student and I built a very valuable relationship throughout the exchange week. Overall, this was a memorable exchange and I am still in contact with my new friend, so I am very excited to see them again in May!

**Written by Emma Fodor (MYP4)**





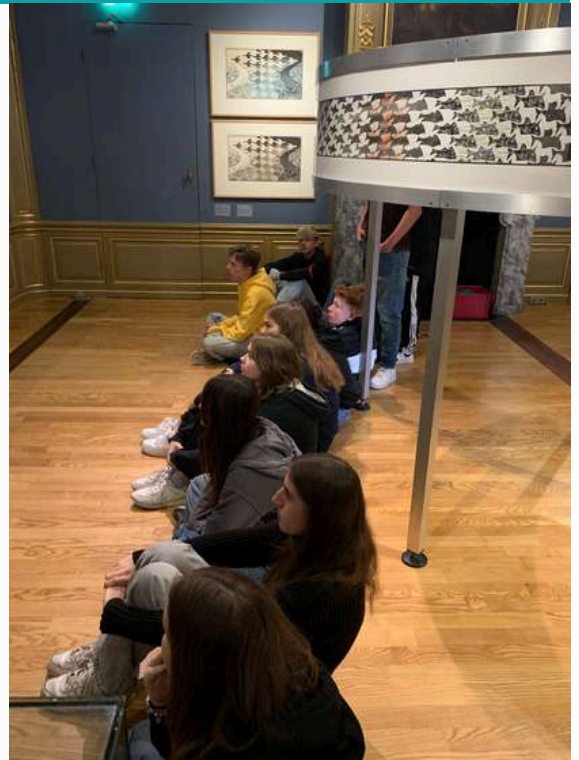
# GERMANY EXCHANGE

I recently took part in the Germany exchange. I liked that I didn't need to do any summatives while they were here, so that I could really focus on the exchange. I liked going to the bunkers in Wassenaar and climbing out of the chimney. I learned that Germany built bunkers in the Netherlands in WW2. I also liked going to Leiden because we had McDonalds. During the weekend we had free time and I played the racing wheel with my exchange partner, Finn. The racing wheel is a console to play racing games, you can also connect it to pc. We played different games. While Finn was here, we practised his English and when I go to Germany I will practise my German. I look forward to going to Germany!

**Written by Oleksandr Dolinsky (MYP3B)**

My favourite part of the German exchange trip was the day we went to Leiden, after getting to school we shortly got on to a bus that took us straight to Leiden central and from there we walked to a museum where we attempted to play an instrument and learned about the culture of Africa. After the workshop we walked to a boat trip where we had a small tour of Leiden and looked at some buildings, streets and other boats. Lastly we had a little bit of free time, where I decided to go on a rollercoaster in the Leiden kermis and then get McDonalds for me and my exchange student to eat. I also loved the goodbye party as everyone was playing games, talking to each other and taking pictures so they would never forget the experience.

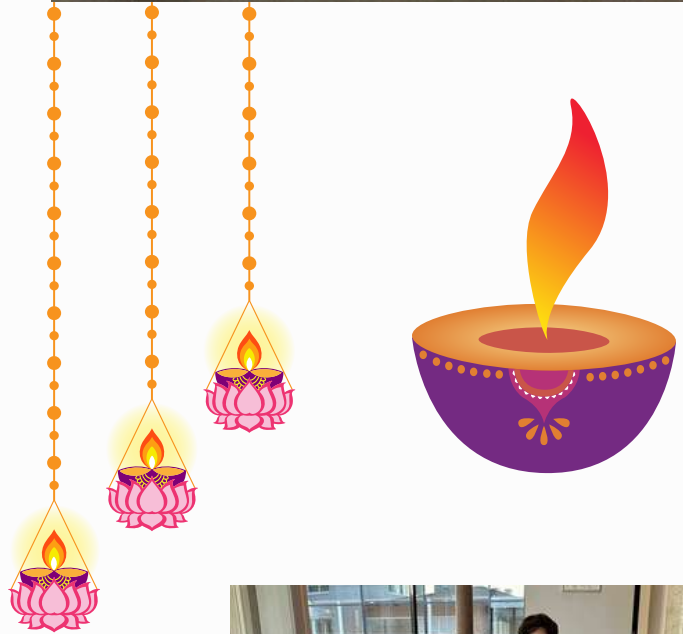
**Written by Niki Jazbi (MYP3B)**





# DIWALI

A heartfelt thank you to Ms. Mehta and her incredible team of students for making the ISW Diwali celebration an unforgettable success! The October evening sparkled with light, breathtaking performances, and mouthwatering Indian dishes. It was a joyous occasion that brought together students, parents, and families in a truly vibrant celebration. We're already counting down the days until next year!





# INTEGRATED HUMANITIES

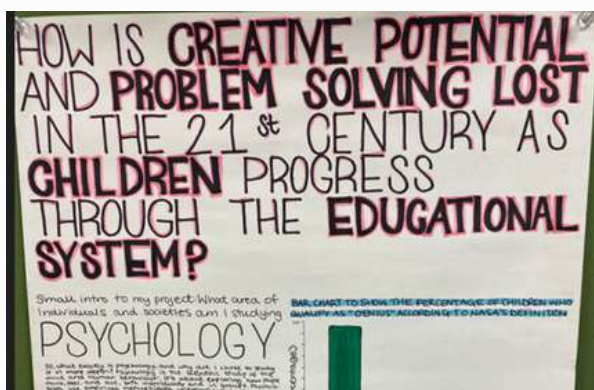
This term MYP2 students are learning about biomes and climate. The debatable question, which indeed will be debated in class, is: should humans protect the natural environments at all cost? To come to the debate prepared, students researched the 6 biomes of the Earth and visualized their chosen biome on a poster!



MYP4 students started the year with finding out what it actually is that they are studying in Individuals and Societies (named Integrated Humanities at ISW). They first explored various subjects that are covered by I&S, such as Economics, Psychology, Geography and History. They then chose the subject that they were most interested in and sculpted a research question that enabled them to inform their classmates through an infographic. The results were overwhelmingly impressive and there was much variation in the research questions and infographics.



All the while, we are navigating the rapid development of AI and how (not) to use it in class. This is particularly challenging in cases where it is easy to “outsource” certain thinking skills to ChatGPT and the likes. We hope that through dialogue and discussion students and teachers can come to an understanding of how AI can help us, and in which cases it is better to use our human critical thinking, creative thinking and reading skills. To be continued.....



# MODEL UNITED NATIONS

ISW students participated in their first Model United Nations Conference of the school year, MiniMUN, on Saturday, October 5, 2024, here at the school!

Our 42 delegates debated pressing global issues such as climate change, religious diversity, food insecurity, and conflict resolution.

A big thanks to our ten admins for their hard work in ensuring that the conference ran so smoothly.





# MODEL UNITED NATIONS

A special mention must go to our four student officers, Rosalie, Luigi, Pranshu and Rudra, for their leadership and hard work on the day. As chairperson of the General Assembly, Rudra merits a special mention for being a risk taker. Thanks also to Mr Castillejo for attending as chaperone and for his amazing photographic skills.



We look forward to seeing how our students continue to grow and make an impact in future MUN conferences!

The upcoming MUN conferences we will be attending this school year are:

## **BSNMUN**

BSN, Voorschoten

14-15 December 2024

## **THIMUN**

World Forum Convention Centre, The Hague

27-31 January 2025

## **HAGAMUN**

Gymnasium Haganum, The Hague

7-10 March 2025

Mrs de Feijter & Miss Mehta

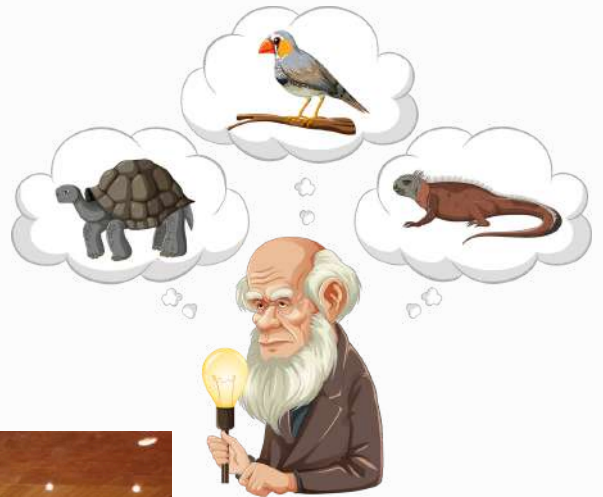


# NATURALIS TRIP

Last Friday, DP1 & 2 took an ESS trip to Naturalis.

Students took part in a workshop which took them on a 'whirlwind through evolution' where they had to interact with the collection at Naturalis.

The students were actively engaged in the huge range of biodiversity the museum collection offers, and we all had a great time interacting with Darwin's finches, the biology of Triceratops and Homo erectus!

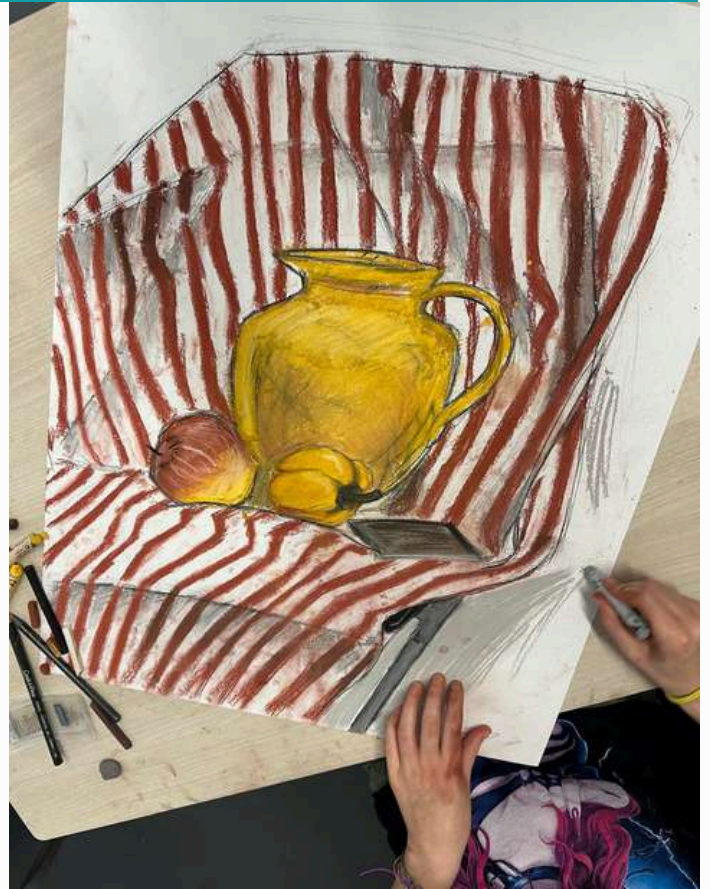




# VISUAL ARTS

On October 24th, the DP standard level art class had a professional artist called Maria Janiec, with a degree in painting, come in for a drawing workshop. We were tasked to sit around a still life arrangement so everyone could draw it from a different perspective. We were taught different techniques such as shading, using oil pastels, and working with our mistakes instead of erasing them. At the end, we all reviewed each others work and gave each other valuable feedback on what we can improve on. It was fun and we learnt a lot!

**Written by Lawrence van Ekeren (DP1C)**



# CLASSICAL EVENING



Last Wednesday we had our annual classical night. Students from both the international and the Dutch department came together and performed in the theatre room.

We had a varied program: from a piano and cello duet by a brother and sister, a real opera singer and a young guitarist from the Dutch department to various piano and guitar players from our international department. The atmosphere was very cosy and everybody enjoyed the performances. We're already looking forward to next year!

Karin van Leeuwen  
*teacher of Performing Arts*





# CHESS CLUB

Every week on Fridays between 11.45-12.15 pm we have chess club in the D building. All students who are interested in playing chess are welcome!

