

ISW NEWSLETTER

FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS **MARCH 2025**

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



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL WASSENAAR
RIJNLANDS LYCEUM

MARCH EDITION

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



UPCOMING SCHOOL EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES:

- **1-2 April** - Exchange to Germany
- **4 April** - Movie Night
- **8 April** - Student Council Meeting
- **10 April** - Assembly
- **11 April** - Dawn Walk
- **14-18 April** - MYP5 Trip to France
- **18 April** - Stunt Day
- **21 April -5 May** - May Break
- **28 April** - Start DP Final Exams

A WORD FROM MR. VERLOOP

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

Dear Students, Parents, Guardians and Staff,

As we welcome the vibrant season of spring, our school community is blossoming with exciting projects, achievements, and opportunities for growth.

In this edition, you'll find updates on our Service as Action initiatives and our school's first DP Art Exhibition. We're also thrilled to share more about our collaboration with Naturalis, an inspiring project that brings learning to life through hands-on experiences. We also look back at a successful and much-anticipated school quiz, and much more.

From subject highlights to special events, there's so much to celebrate. Enjoy!

Kind regards,
Robert Verloop



INTERNATIONAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

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

Following an earlier announcement, there will be some changes in the international administration and admissions office as from May onwards. Miriam Jacobs will be taking up a new role internally and will therefore no longer be one of your first points of contact. The team will continue to consist of Kris Wilde and newcomer Anastasiia Lubiana. Kris and Anastasiia do not work in the office full-time and therefore both need to be addressed for absence notifications or other requests. Their working schedule will be communicated in the next newsletter. The office is open on school days from 08:00-16:00.



Kris and Anastasiia can be reached at:

k.wilde@rijnlandslyceum-rlw.nl and a.lubiana@rijnlandslyceum-rlw.nl

Absence notifications:

Absences need to be communicated before 08:30 on every school day.

Parents can either send an email or leave a voice mail message on the:
absence line: 070-5121801

Dentist/orthodontist/vaccination appointments are usually well known in advance and can therefore be communicated at an earlier stage than on the day itself.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Kind regards,

Ms. Jacobs and Ms. Wilde



SERVICE AS ACTION UPDATE

It has been a very busy couple of months in terms of service as action, with our students taking part in many different activities. Activities included NLDoot; bake sales; cleaning beaches, parks and streets; helping out during the Open Day and the RLW/ISW quiz; helping out as admins during MiniMUN; tutoring and many more!

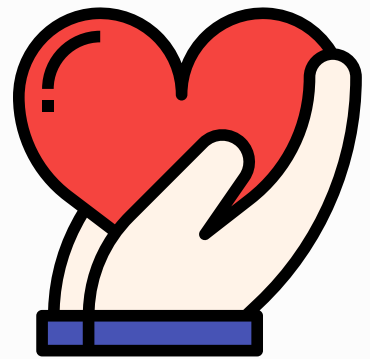
This term, we introduced a minimum word count for the service as action reflections, to ensure that each reflection is substantial, with the word count increasing per year group.

One student per mentor class will win an award for best-written reflection. The winners will be announced during the next assembly!

Coming up

- Wassenaarse Avond4daagse – w/c 13 May
- Deadline term 3 service as action and reflection: Monday 2 June

Keep an eye out for future opportunities on Managebac!



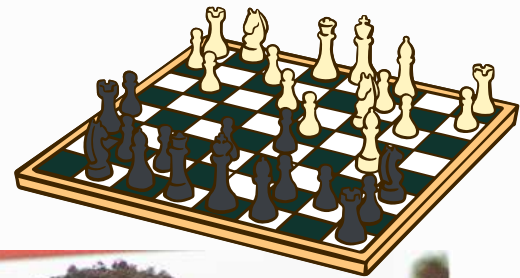
CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

Rijnlands Lyceum Wassenaar's Chess Championship 2025 was held in the Theatre Room on Wednesday, March 19th. This year we had a record of 36 participants and a lot of spectators as well! The tournament lasted 2.5 hours and saw intense competition until the last round, when Arda Goktepe from DP2B secured first-place scoring 5/5 points, for the second year in a row!

When it comes to the 2nd and 3rd place, a group of 5(!) students finished with 4/5 points, and after applying the pairing system tiebreak criteria Rishabh Bagul (MYP4B) was declared 2nd, while the bronze medal went to Naman Redkar (DP1B).

Although tiebreakers are common in chess tournaments, the 3 students who were not awarded but also achieved a 4/5 score, deserve a mention here: De Thouars Nicholas (MP4A), Gracias Ryan (MP3A) and Janjhua Simran (MP4B). Well done!

Congratulations to all participants! This year's tournament was a great success - more to come the next school year. Finally, a special thanks to Vasileios Parginos (Fide Trainer & National Master) for his help with running the tournament and a huge thank you to Ms. Asli for organising!



MLK TRIBUTE EVENT

Last month on Sunday 9th February 2025, Inaya, Mr Verloop and I attended the Martin Luther King tribute hosted by Roberta Enschede. At this tribute Inaya and I were one of the young speakers, giving a speech to the audience about past experiences and what we want in this world.

This tribute was held in Memory of Martin Luther King's legacy and his dream. We worked with a lady called Roberta Enschede who taught us an efficient way to make the audience hear our stories and that every story matters no matter how small, or how big. It was so wonderful working with her on my speech.

Being a part of this was amazing since we were able to meet so many people and learn about what other people have been through and knowing that one voice is enough to change someone's character. I will never forget this event where there were people from different nationalities and different cultures gathering together with one dream of a peaceful world where everyone is united.

Written by Ayishah Khan (MYP2A)



MLK TRIBUTE EVENT

During the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dinner Event, I was feeling incredibly proud. Ayishah and I had the incredible opportunity to attend this dinner event at the Tweede Kamer in Den Haag.

I wrote a speech for the event, which was selected to be performed, and with the support of Mrs. Roberta, I was able to improve it.

We shared our speeches and experiences in front of an audience, gaining confidence in public speaking. It was an inspiring evening, honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy of equality, justice, and unity. Mr. Verloop and other dignitaries appreciated our contributions, and I feel proud to have been part of such a meaningful event.

Written by Inaya Gupta (MYP2A)



wildfires

By Niki, Juliet and Aubrey



Wildfires are a very serious issue that happen often but aren't normally brought to light. An example of this is in 2019 when the Amazon rainforest had a wildfire, people stopped talking about it after 3 months even though the fire was still going on. We want to stop that issue by informing you about what to do if you are in this situation or know someone who is.



The LA wildfire was an extremely terrible wildfire at the start of 2025 (January 7th) . 29 people passed away and many got hurt or lost their friends, family or keepsakes. By the 24th of January 50,000 acres of land have been burned and 16,188 structures have been destroyed. There has been a total of 37,794 Emergency responses, with more than 31,000 people having evacuated. To learn more, scan the QR code to read our website.



SCAN ME



NATURALIS

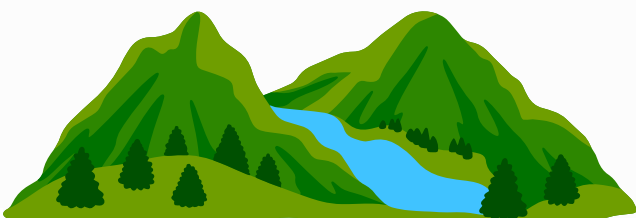
Our MYP4 students have recently set off on an exciting trip to Naturalis Biodiversity Center in Leiden, organized by the Digital Design and Science departments.

As part of their Website Design unit, students analysed Naturalis' website currently under redesign. Working in teams, they presented their user experience to the museum's management and developer team and suggested improvements. Their feedback proved to be invaluable to the developers. During the trip, students explored the interactive exhibits and already started thinking about how to best present them in their website designs, while enhancing their scientific knowledge and understanding of the different topics presented in the museum.

The trip was a success, providing students with a valuable real-world learning and professional experience. Their dedication and creativity impressed the museum staff, strengthening our collaboration with them.

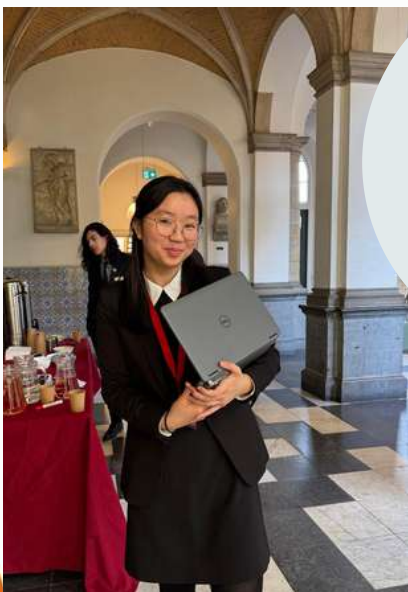
This month students have been working with dedication on sketching wireframes to plan their websites.

As the project continues, Naturalis will visit our school to see the students' final website iterations and provide them with feedback on their work.



HAGAMUN

On March 7th, 8th, and 9th, 22 risk-taking ISW students attended the fifteenth edition of the Haganum Model United Nations (HagaMUN XV) at the Gymnasium Haganum, Den Haag. This school, established in 1394, features a beautiful neoclassical building. Several students commented that they felt like they were at Hogwarts due to the building's wide marble stairs, numerous statues, and imposing tower. The theme of this year's conference was "Borderless Dreams: Paving new paths for children's tomorrow," with the proceeds of the conference going to support the Dutch organization Oxfam Novib.



PRE-UNIVERSITY CLASSES

Several of our MYP5 and DP1 students have taken part in PRE-Classes at Leiden University this past term, taking the opportunity to extend their learning beyond the school curriculum.

The PRE-Class Law, Technology & Society was concluded on March 26th with a mock conference, where the participants gave presentations on the implications of new technologies (such as AI and deep learning models) on our social, ethical and legal system.



RLW & ISW QUIZ

On Friday 21 March, 10 student teams and 4 teacher teams took part in the first RLW/ISW Quiz, testing their knowledge across history, sports, science, music, film and language. It was a fantastic event with great teamwork and friendly competition!

A massive thank you to our student helpers from MYP3!



Here are the final results:

- First place: Team “The Joel”
- Second place: Team “Onomatopoeias”
- Best team name (decided by our student leaders): Team “Jamaican Johnny’s Banana Bongo Burgers”

Thanks so much for participating and well done to our winners!



QUIZ!
time!



VISUAL ARTS EXHIBITION

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
**AMAZING
WORK!**

Our three DP2 Visual Arts students: Arda Goktepe, Nicholas van der Ree and Ruben van der Veer showcased a selection of their best artwork during our first DP Art Exhibition. This event was meant to assess their technical skills, conceptual depth, and ability to communicate ideas visually.

The exhibition was a very special, moment to celebrate these students' artistic journeys, creativity, and hard work over the two-year course. A big congratulations to them!



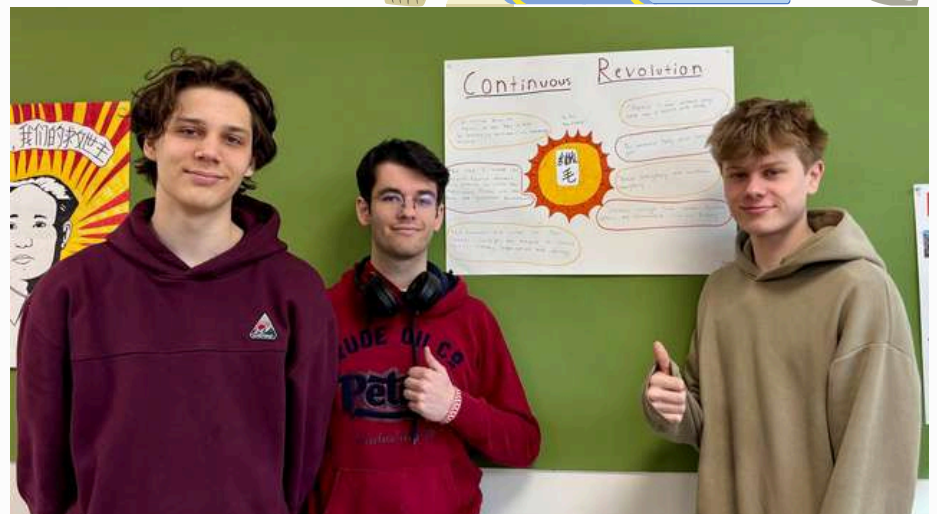
VISUAL ARTS

Spring is arriving in the Art Room! Our students are creating vibrant art pieces using bright colour combinations. Some are replicating famous paintings by artists like Georgia O'Keeffe and David Hockney, while others are making self-portraits inspired by the works of Andy Warhol. Soon, these pieces will be displayed on the school's pinboards. Don't forget to take a look the next time you walk down the corridors!



HISTORY

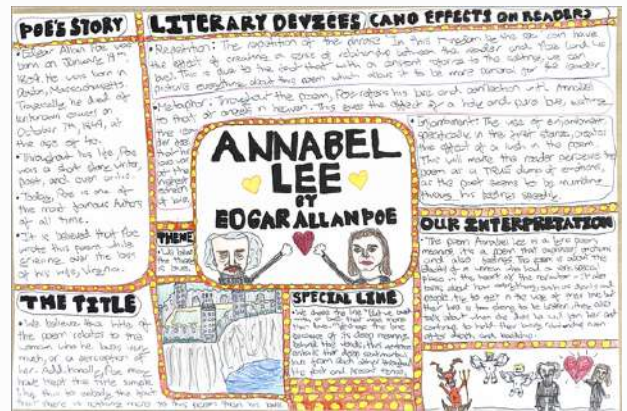
DP2 students have been studying Mao Zedong, the leader of the Chinese Communist Party. Working in groups, they created propaganda posters portraying him as a 'god-like' figure. This task effectively illustrated how all citizens were expected to adhere to a unified ideology during his rule.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

The MYP3 English language and literature classes have been all about poetry!

First, our students wrote some really lovely poems, some of which were posted in the previous newsletter. Please enjoy one more!



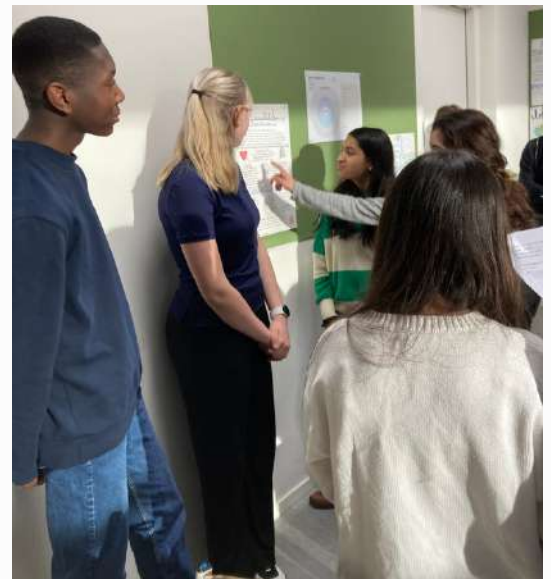
*My loud secrets are hidden from your eyes
But I would never turn them into little white lies
Your eyes remind me of the dark night
But in a dark room, you bring the full light*

*You are the only one I hoped for and desire
In the universe, you are the one I managed to admire
I thought it was now or never
But I will continue to adore you always and forever.*

Written by Anonymous

During term 2, our MYP3 students created posters to demonstrate their analysis skills and understanding of several poems. At the end of the unit, all MYP3 students got together for a gallery walk to share their findings and to show off their posters!

Finally, all MYP3 students got together for the auditions for the World Poetry Day Competition, which will take place on Tuesday 8 April. Based on these auditions, we can't wait for competition day!



INTERGRATED SCIENCES

MYP4 students have been delving into the fundamentals of circuits in their science lessons, gaining experience in both understanding and constructing electrical circuits. After successfully building basic circuits, they took on an exciting challenge—designing and creating their own working vacuum cleaners. Through trial and error, students experimented with different components and designs to develop functional prototypes. Congratulations to all students for their impressive final creations!

