

# ISW NEWSLETTER

FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS **MAY 2025**

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



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL WASSENAAR  
RIJNLANDS LYCEUM

# MAY EDITION

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



## UPCOMING SCHOOL EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES:

- **2 June** - Assembly MYP1A 'Thinker'
- **4-6 June** - School Musical
- **5 June** - Art Class Exhibition
- **10 June** - Inset Day for teachers
- **11-13 June** - MYP2 Sailing Trip
- **18 June-1 July** - Timed Assessment Week
- **19 June** - DP1 Mock Art Exhibition
- **24-25 June** - NATO Summit

## A WORD FROM MR. VERLOOP

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

Dear Students, Parents, Guardians and Staff,

This past April and May has been full of enriching experiences and memorable moments for our school community. From the peaceful Dawn Walk to the Germany and France exchange programmes, students have truly embraced opportunities to learn, and connect. We've also celebrated creativity at our Poetry Evening, cheered on the achievements of our International Award participants, and enjoyed a variety of school trips that brought learning beyond the classroom. Read on to discover some of the highlights at ISW!

Kind regards,  
Robert Verloop



# INTERNATIONAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Dear Students, Parents and/or Guardians,

There have been some recent changes in the international administration and admissions office from May onwards. Miriam Jacobs has taken up a new role internally and is therefore no longer one of your first points of contact. The team now consists of Kris Wilde and Anastasiia Lubiana.



Kris and Anastasiia can be reached at:

[k.wilde@rijnlandslyceum-rlw.nl](mailto:k.wilde@rijnlandslyceum-rlw.nl) and [a.lubiana@rijnlandslyceum-rlw.nl](mailto: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 voicemail message on the:

**Absence line: 070-5121801**

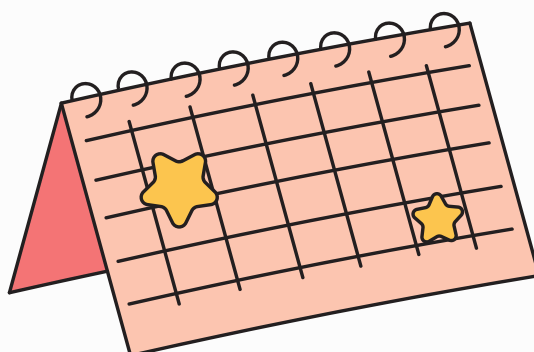
**Email address: [office@rijnlandslyceum-rlw.nl](mailto:office@rijnlandslyceum-rlw.nl)**

It is no longer necessary to email both Kris and Anastasiia's individual email addresses.

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

Lastly, we would like to reiterate that students should check-in at the office after an appointment and check-out at the office before leaving for an appointment.

Thank you for your cooperation.





# THE INTERNATIONAL FAIR

Would you like to  
participate in the  
International Fair?

11<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY

SHARE YOUR CULTURE  
AND JOIN US  
FOR LOTS OF FUN!

For more information  
check your email or  
contact:

[157187@rijnlandslyceum-rlw.nl](mailto:157187@rijnlandslyceum-rlw.nl)



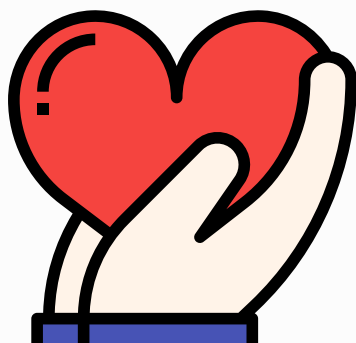
# SERVICE AS ACTION

As we're nearing the end of the school year, our students have been busy completing their final service as action of the year.

During term 3, our students were involved in many exciting different opportunities, including the Wassenaarse Avondvierdaagse and Land van Ons. Our students also made sure the nearby beaches were cleared of litter, raised awareness about various issues, raised more money for the Teach Nepal project and offered useful and generous services to neighbours, including walking neighbourhood dogs, looking after pets and cleaning bikes.

Amazing work everyone!

Please keep in mind that the deadline for completing your term 3 service and reflection is **Monday 2 June**.

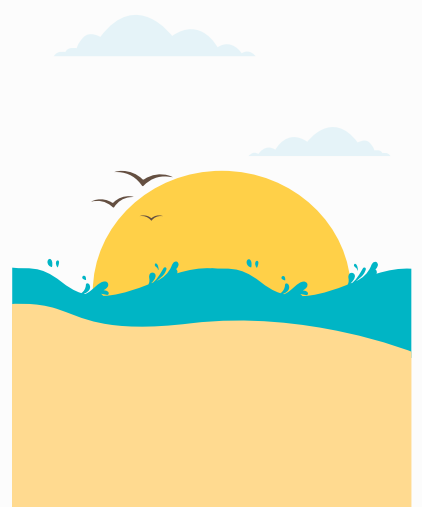




# DAWN WALK

On Friday, 11th April, our school proudly continued the Dawn Walk tradition. This event is rooted in a long-standing Rijnlands custom, inspired by the age-old practice of rising early to walk barefoot in nature on Ascension Day or the first Sunday in May.

A dedicated group of early-rising students and teachers set off through the dunes, heading toward the beach. As they walked along the shoreline, they were rewarded with the breathtaking sight of the sunrise. The morning concluded with a warm and welcoming breakfast, shared by all participants in the school theatre—a fitting end to a memorable start to the day.



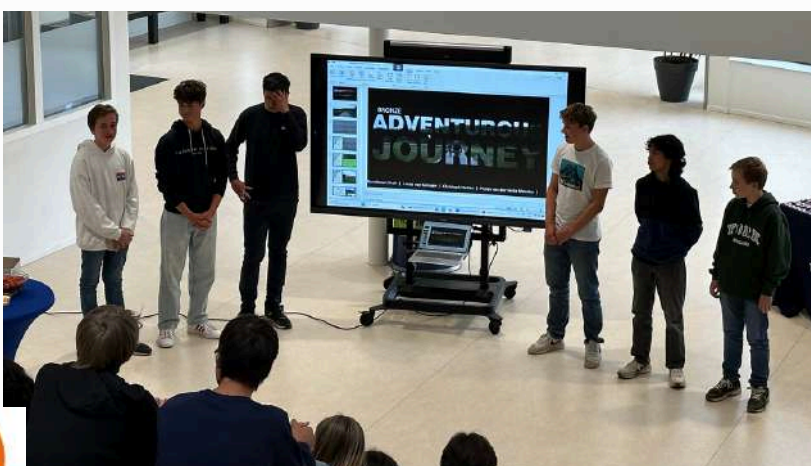
GOOD  
MORNING





# INTERNATIONAL AWARD

The International Award Ceremony was held at the beginning of the month, celebrating the achievements of students from both ISW and RLW. Participants were proudly presented with their Bronze or Silver certificates by the official International Award Organisation. Earning these awards means students successfully completed all the required components: skills development, physical recreation, and voluntary service. In addition, they undertook a challenging outdoor adventurous journey, putting their survival and navigation skills to the test. Congratulations to all awardees on this remarkable achievement!





# POETRY EVENING

The World Poetry Day Competition took place on April 8th this year, showcasing a range of powerful and beautifully crafted poems inspired by the theme *Unity in Diversity*. The event was organised to support the Teach Nepal Project, and it proved to be a tremendous success! A heartfelt congratulations to all participants—your courage and presence on stage made the evening truly memorable.





# KUNST GEGEN MAUERN - ART AGAINST WALLS

Our MYP3 GLA students have been learning about the history of the DDR (former East Germany) and of 'the wall' in Berlin by engaging in the international project "Kunst gegen Mauern", in which participants work creatively to express their thoughts on freedom, peace and democracy. After watching the movie 'Ballon' and talking to someone who grew up in the DDR and visited our school, following the example of the "East Side Gallery" in Berlin, all students created their own artworks on miniatures of the Berlin wall. Each artwork includes an east and a west side (from the view of someone 'behind' the wall, and of someone living in freedom). The final result was exhibited at the May Assembly.

Project website, where the artworks of pupils all over the world are collected:  
<https://www.kunst-gegen-mauern.de/de/schulen/niederlande/wassenaar>





# DP1 art mock exhibition

19 June 2025  
D-wing lobby

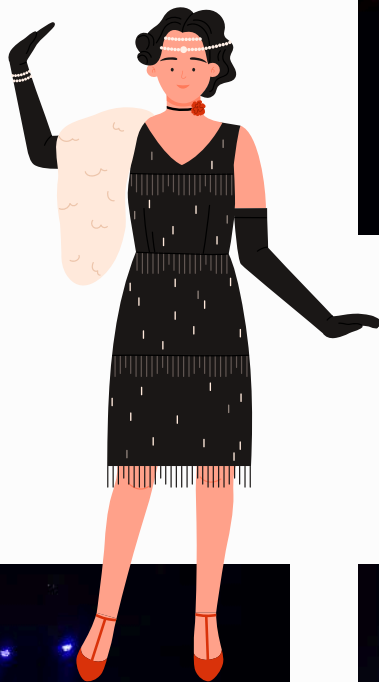




## MYP5 THEATRE VISIT

On May 22nd, Ms. Seijger and Mrs. Foster accompanied the MYP5 students to a stage production of *The Great Gatsby* at Theater De Regentes in The Hague.

As the students are currently studying F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel in their ELL class, this outing provided a wonderful opportunity to deepen their understanding of the text and experience the story brought to life on stage.



# MYP3 SAILING TRIP

My favorite part of the trip was driving the motorboats. It was day 3 and because it was too windy to sail, we got the opportunity to each control the boats while they were in the water. We learned how to safely collect floating rubber balls that represented a swimming or drowning child. The boats didn't go so fast, but it was still quite fun. Although I got a bit wet, I still enjoyed it very much.

**Siem Botman**

My best memory was motorboating to the neighbouring village of Sloten. I thought Sloten looked like a picture-perfect village if all the nice houses from Amsterdam were taken and placed around a canal. In Sloten, we got snacks and souvenirs and walked around with our friends. It was a chance for us to rest with a change of scenery after a few days of sailing.

**Aliz Labody**

One of the funniest memories I had from camp was when Rushab and I were on a little boat, it was a dinghy and we were sailing on the open water. Then we struck up a conversation about how us two have never capsized the boat and we never did, but then a horrible gust of wind hit us and Rushab fell off the boat in the middle of talking about how we never capsized. I was laughing so hard I could barely breathe, then we continued to sail and we talked about how he fell in the water, then it happened again even funnier than the last time. This was my funniest memory from camp.

**Benjamin (Ben) Montanez**





# MYP4 TRIP TO THE ARDENNES

I think that the most memorable part of the trip to the Ardennes was the tree climbing where we had to climb the trees and do an obstacle course. I liked this because it was a new experience and it was fun because we got the chance to compete and race with each other on the rock wall.

I learned that when you go camping, it is a good idea to bring warm clothing because at night it was very cold, and the blankets were also not very warm, and I found this very hard to sleep in. Other than that, I learned a lot about the Ardennes and how Stalica mites are formed and how they break eventually.

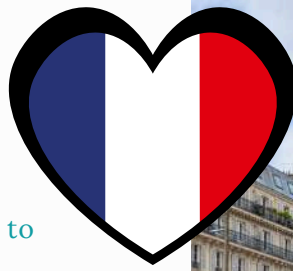
Overall, it was a very enjoyable experience and it is something that everyone must do if they are the type of person who likes to explore and discover new things.

**Guru Nakkala**





# MYP5 PARIS TRIP



During our year group's trip this year we went to Paris and had lots of fun. In the past years we've had trips where we've capsized into cold waters and gotten mud all over ourselves. So it was nice to have a slightly slower paced trip. It was eventful for sure though. We visited many beautiful places including the Grand Mosque of Paris and Sacré Cœur. We also walked a lot through the city and took the metro which was a little hectic at times. One of my favourite experiences was on Thursday when we had our own plan in small groups. My group visited the Paris-Saint Germain stadium and it was a very interesting experience. One of my other favourite memories from the trip was when we went on a boat ride where we had a view of the Eiffel Tower and many other famous landmarks, towards the end of that day we also got to see the Eiffel Tower light up!



**Angelina Joseph**





# MYP5 PARIS TRIP

The MYP5 Trip to Paris was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. While many of us had already been to Paris, it didn't take away from the magical feeling we all felt while tasting the unique French cuisine, exploring the French monuments and markets and having a great time with one another. When we first arrived at the MIJE Hostel, we were amazed at the quality and French architecture and, better still, the cosy dorms that we would call home for the coming week. Every day felt like an adventure, setting out from the hostel, walking to the metro, and visiting one of the many spectacles like the Louvre, where we were taking back by the sheer scale of some of the artworks, Flea Market where we got the opportunity to buy our very own souvenir and the Sacré-Cœur. And just when we felt the schedule was getting a little old, we got our own day to ourselves. In preparation for our day, we divided ourselves into 5 groups of roughly 10 people, and for a lot of us, this day was our favourite. Not only because we had it to ourselves but also because our plan didn't always pan out the way we thought it would, which led to some pretty nifty on-the-spot planning and some unforeseen situations. Before we knew it, The week that gave us so many wonderful memories came to an end. It seemed so surreal entering the train to go home, but how could we be disappointed with the blast of a trip we had.

## Troy Jones





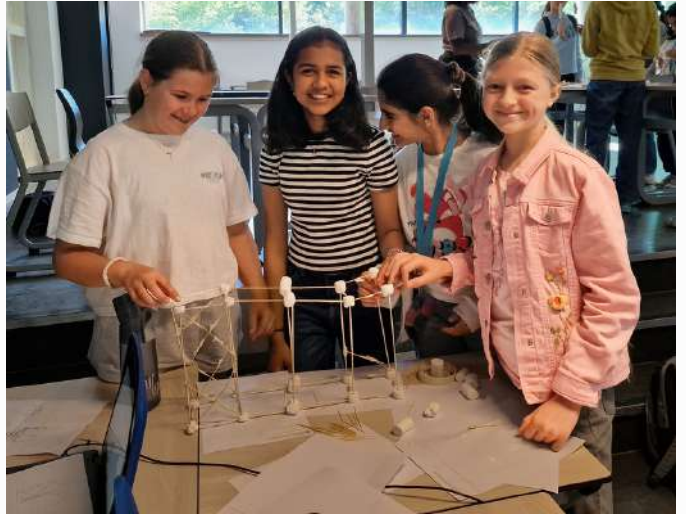
# DIGITAL DESIGN

MYP1 Digital Design students recently took on an exciting hands-on challenge, creating innovative structures using marshmallows, cocktail sticks, and toothpicks.

Inspired by famous buildings from different cultures around the world, students analysed architectural forms and applied design thinking to prototype their own creative constructions. The activity was part of a collaboration with researchers from Erasmus University Rotterdam, who helped us develop the project and emphasized the value of design thinking in real-world problem solving.

The challenge encouraged teamwork, experimentation, and critical thinking as students explored how structure and stability work together in design. From leaning towers to futuristic bridges, the students showed their imagination, while shaping their ideas with sticky fingers.

The next step in bringing their designs to life will be using Tinkercad to create digital 3D models of their marshmallow structures, which will then be 3D printed and result in tangible products.





# ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

At the start of the ELL newspaper unit, the MYP3 students wrote their own newspaper articles. The topics varied from current events and sports to entertainment and business and everything in between! The students then worked hard to create their own newspaper, with the students working as part of one of the following teams: editors-in-chief, editors, typesetters, visual media and special features.

If you'd like to read either of the newspapers, please ask one of the MYP3 students to send it to you!

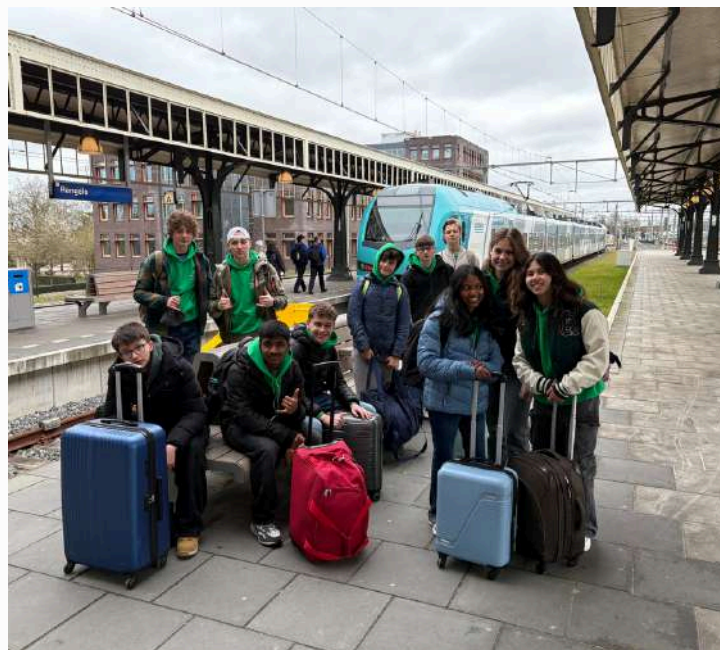




# GERMANY EXCHANGE

During the 24-25 German and Dutch exchange program, I had a lot of fun. When the students came over to Den Haag, it was kind of awkward since we have only just then met each other but as time passed we got accustomed to our exchange partner's company. We went to museums and had a lot of activities planned. Germany wasn't that different either, we spent a couple of days in their school and their gym hall was Massive. We also took multiple tours of the city and went to the Werder-Bremen footballs stadium where we got a tour of the inside. My favorite parts were definitely the welcome and farewell parties, the food was really good at all of those events. If anyone gets the chance to do this exchange I highly recommend it. It was a great two weeks.

**Nikola Radakovic, MYP4B**





# GERMANY EXCHANGE

Everything started off in the train rides. It was quite a long but enjoyable ride to Germany. I looked out the window, with a mixed feeling of excitement but at the same time not knowing what to expect. When we finally arrived after changing many trains, we all breathed a sigh of relief. We were picked up by our exchange partners' parents and drove to school. I looked around when we drove. It was a nice, little, cozy and clean village. My first impression was very good. Then, we arrived at school. We were greeted by our exchange students. Everyone was very happy to see each other again. After warm greetings and a little bit of chatting, we entered the school building. In the classroom there was a large sign welcoming us, and loads of food: from Pizza to Cupcakes! Everyone including me was very happy and grateful to receive such a warm greeting! After a nice snack, we finally went home.

The next following days were amazing. We did a wide range of activities. We toured the city, did Lazer tag, went swimming and much more! We always did everything in groups together, and would always meet up. It was truly great! We even met up at my exchange partner's house two times as a whole exchange group for Pizza. Some people including me even ended up going into the freezing pool! When it was time to leave everyone was extremely sad. When we left, everyone was on the train station, waving goodbye and giving each other handshakes. I personally got very used to the city already and it was very sad leaving. We set off on a train journey back. I spent the rest of the trip back recalling memories from this exchange. It was an amazing experience! I would recommend it to anyone! It was full of adventures and fun activities!



**Yaroslav Khvoshchinskii-Voitov, MYP4B**



# FRANCE EXCHANGE

## Exchange with Lycée la Providence in Fécamp - Normandy

With everything that's happening in the world these days we think that it's of the utmost importance to give our students every opportunity to become open-minded risk-takers. This year we were very happy that 15 of our students signed up for the exchange with France!

We were in Normandy 7-13 May. We'd like to share with you some of the experiences we had that made us reflect on our own ways of living.

By Mrs. Van den Berg

### 'ACCES TO SOCIAL MEDIA AT WHAT AGE?'

My host family decided not to give mobile phones to their children until they are 15 years old. The three children play a lot of (strategical) board games and read an enormous amount of books, when they are not playing in the garden or busy with music. They do have I-pads that they can use for 1 or 2 hours a day in the evenings. They have no access to social media and little to the internet. The family lives in a small village in a big house with a huge garden. The children don't complain about it; they are used to it. I was impressed by the courage of the parents to set this way of living as an example!





# FRANCE EXCHANGE

**By Stella**

My French exchange experience was wonderful. From the moment I was welcomed into their home, I was greeted with thoughtful gifts and smiling faces... and a wagging tail! I felt very special and safe. Over the week, it was cool to see the funny sides, creative sides, and more serious sides of my host family, as well as what it is like having sisters. I was exposed to their culture, tried many foods, went to school with them, did daily activities and explored where they live.

## PAINTING AT THE BEACH

On Saturday morning, Liz took me down to the beach/port of Fécamp. She told me that a group of painters were supposed to gather there for a friendly open painting session. The organizers were very experienced, but it was open for anyone who wanted to join. This ended up being one of my favorite experiences as it made me reflect on my own life and way of living in the Netherlands. Fécamp is a small town and it was wholesome to see a group of creative people get together in the sunny weather. Not many people came, but the more experienced painters I was told about (turned out to be 3 elderly people smiling with croissants) were so kind and genuinely happy. They gave us advice and shared little tips and tricks. I loved getting to know the community more, a place full of open minded, kind people. Strangers stopped by to offer compliments, and I got to watch stories unfold in front of my eyes. Even if I didn't understand everything these people were saying, I could tell that they were passionate and curious, sharing their stories and supporting us. My morning painting showed me that you can brighten someone's day in the smallest of ways, and without even knowing them or being able to communicate fully, your day gets better too. With an open mind, love blossoms and grows.



# FRANCE EXCHANGE

**By Rachel**

On the last day of our trip, we were invited to an English class where French students asked us questions. One question in particular asked, 'Do you prefer our lifestyle here in France, than that of yours?' I could indefinitely answer this question with my own home here in the Netherlands but then I began to deeply reflect on the differences between the Netherlands and France. My lifestyle significantly contrasts with that of my exchanges - almost polar opposite. I live in the heart of the city of The Hague while my exchange lives in the peaceful and beautiful countryside of 'Vattletot sur Mer'. We eat different food and do different after school activities. You are forced to blend in with your hosts' norms and values, their house almost becoming a second home as you continue staying with them.



## MY EXPERIENCE AT 'La Providence' SCHOOL

One part of the exchange that truly sparked my interest was the educational environment within my host's school. The day before we left France, all the exchange students participated in four lessons. One key thing I noticed was that, as soon as the teacher walked into the classroom filled with chatting students, a hush would fall over the class. Students would all stand up, greet their teacher and immediately begin to listen to every word. The teacher would go over the work that the students did and begin to explain it in detail. All the students in the class were frantically taking notes and eagerly asking question after question to the teacher. Furthermore, their teaching methods are different from those of our teachers as the students engage less with the material but rather have to listen to the teacher. The classroom and school environment fascinated me, as it differed in many ways from our own school.

