

NEWSLETTER AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2026

Dear parents and carers,

The first hurdle is taken! The very first week of school is over and how wonderful it was to open the doors again.

For me, this is a very special moment. Although I was already able to start last year, this is officially my first full school year as principal of our beautiful school. And if the startup week was a foretaste of what awaits us, this is going to be a fantastic year.

When the team came together during the startup week – still without children – you immediately felt the energy. There was not only laughter and catching up about the holidays; above all, there was a lot of hard work. Classrooms were set up, teaching materials were prepared, and the final touches were put in place. Incredible to see with how much passion and dedication everyone immediately put their shoulders to the wheel to get everything perfectly ready for the first day of school.

And yet... no matter how well you prepare, almost nobody sleeps completely soundly the night before that very first school day. It is exciting not only for the children or for you as a parent. The teachers are also lying awake for a moment at night. Is everything really properly set up? Haven't I forgotten something after all?

But then Monday morning arrives. The playground fills up, the first smiling faces appear at the door, and cheerful voices sound through the hallways again. At that moment, the tension drops from everyone and makes room for peace and confidence.

There they are again. Our pupils. This is what we do it for. We can do this. Together we are going to make it an unforgettable, educational, and above all very beautiful school year!

Warm regards,

Mieke Nees

Principal

IMPORTANT DATES

- **17-08:** First day of school
- **17-08 to 28-08:** Starting conversations
- **07-09 to 11-09:** Upper school camp
- **28-09:** Start of Group 8 initial tests
- **30-09:** Opening Children's Book Week
- **02-10:** Read-aloud competition
- **08-10:** Study day
- **09-10:** Study day
- **10-10:** Start of autumn holiday



NEW PUPILS

In the past period, the following pupils have started or will be starting with us: Noah, Fabio, Ainhua, Arabella, Masa, Tara, Fakhr, Pia, Sheri-Ann, Leon, Skye, Najla, Felix, Lev, Shayne, Sara, Junior, and Jedidja. We wish all children a lot of fun at our school.

STAFF NEWS

After the summer holiday, Dieuwertje Franssen started with us in group 345H. We wish Dieuwertje and 345H lots of success and enjoyment together.

RETROSPECTIVE: KETI KOTI

On June 30, we celebrated Ketu Koti together. We reflected on the abolition of slavery and why it is so important to celebrate Ketu Koti with each other. In the morning, we ate watermelon, pineapple, and eksi koekoe, among other things. While the treats were brought around, parents from the citizenship committee told stories about this history. We also looked at all the different colors our skin can have and listened to each other's stories about how children have sometimes

experienced something unpleasant because of their skin color. By talking and listening, the children learned an enormous amount about equality this morning.

The treat was paid for by the parent council; thanks to your contributions, we can organize these activities.

BOUWGABBERS

In the upcoming period, the middle and upper school classes will start working again with Lego building buddies. During these lessons, they will get to work with programming while collaborating and building. In constantly changing pairs, the children build and program moving boats, golf courses, and much more. They do not only learn programming, but also problem-solving thinking, teamwork, and presenting.



ZOOV+ AND PLUS CLASS

Over the past year, we were unable to organize the plus class (or only at a minimum) due to a job vacancy. We are glad that after the autumn holiday, we will get back to work with our plus classes. Marije Vermeulen (lower school coordinator) will organize the lower school plus class (from Group 2) on Mondays. Sacha Toebak (middle school teacher) will organize the middle school plus class every other Wednesday. Floor Bakers (upper school teacher) will organize the upper school plus class on Wednesdays.

To make a proper assessment of who should participate in the plus class, we first screen every child (in connection with equal opportunities) using our new screening tool ZOOV+. The tool provides a reliable, objective estimate of a potential developmental lead within 15 minutes. If your child is set to start in the plus class after the autumn holiday, you

will be notified in good time. The plus class is only for children for whom the regular extra challenge in the classroom is not sufficient.

SCHOOLTRIP BOVENBOUW



The schoolcamp is almost here!

We are going to Het Klein Anker in Stroe. Each class goes for 2 days; in the list below you can see which classes go on which days.

- **Monday, September 7, 2026:**
Classes BBE and BBF will go; they return on Tuesday, September 8.
- **Tuesday, September 8, 2026:** Class BBD will go; they return on Wednesday, September 9.
- **Wednesday, September 9, 2026:**
Classes BBB and BBH will go; they return on Thursday, September 10.
- **Thursday, September 10, 2026:**
Classes BBA and BBi will go; they return on Friday, September 11.

OPENING CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK AND READ-ALoud BREAKFAST

On Wednesday, September 30, the Children's Book Week starts, and we will once again provide a festive opening in the playground. This year's theme is: Spotlight on! After the opening in the playground, all children go inside and the read-aloud breakfast begins. In advance, the children receive a ticket with the

name of a classmate, which also states what that child likes to eat. For this child, your child will make a



nicely decorated box (preferably using free/recycled materials) containing the breakfast for this morning. On this day, children are also allowed to come to school in their pajamas or onesies. The teachers will dress up as well!

NEW PARENT COUNCIL MEMBER WANTED

The parent council is looking for a new member. The members of the parent council form the link between the school and the parents. The parent council works to collect and properly spend the parental contribution, and assists the school with all kinds of activities around important events. If you are interested in becoming a member, you can email directie@obssteigereiland.nl.

EVENING 4-DAY WALK VOLUNTEERS WANTED

This past year we had another successful edition of the Evening 4-day walk (*Avond4daagse*). Unfortunately, the two organizers have indicated that they want to pass on the organization. So far, there are no new sign-ups to organize the event. Without new organizers, the Evening 4-day walk cannot take place this year. If you are interested in joining the team of organizers, you can email directie@obssteigereiland.nl.

VIP EVENING AND RECEIPTS FROM IJBURGBOEKEN

During Children's Book Week, IJburgboeken is organizing a special VIP evening on October 2 from 18:00 to 19:00 for parents and children of our school. Just like in previous years, we ask you to hand in receipts for purchased children's books at school. This only applies to receipts from IJburgboeken. For every receipt handed in, we receive store credit to purchase books for the school.

EMERGENCY FORMS

This school year, you received the emergency form at the start. From now on, we will no longer hand out these emergency forms annually. We will keep the emergency forms

and pass them on to the teacher of the next group. During the first meeting, the teacher will review with you whether all information is still correct. If any information changes in the meantime, you can obtain a new form via the teacher.

DIGITAL CALENDAR FOR PARENTS

In addition to our app, you can also use our digital calendar for parents:

<https://tinyurl.com/Ouderagenda>

YOUTH FUND SPORT & CULTURE

Jeugdfonds Sport & Cultuur ensures that every child in Amsterdam and Weesp can participate in sports, culture, and swimming lessons for certificates, even when parents cannot afford it. Would you like to apply for an allowance for your child? Or would you, as a teacher (*Meerkracht*), club, or donor, like to support families? Welcome to the Youth Fund!

<https://jeugdfondssportencultuur.nl/fondsen/amsterdam/>

STUDY DAYS AND HOLIDAYS

Next year we have these study days:

- Thursday, October 8
- Friday, October 9
- Friday, December 4 (children free from 12:30 PM in connection with the Sinterklaas celebration)
- Friday, December 18
- Monday, March 1
- Thursday, March 25
- Friday, March 26
- Tuesday, May 18
- Friday, June 18
- Friday, July 9

and these holidays:

- **October 10 to October 18:** Autumn holiday
- **December 19 to January 3:** Christmas holiday
- **February 20 to February 28:** Spring holiday
- **April 24 to May 9:** May holiday

- **July 10 to August 22:** Summer holiday

COMPULSORY EDUCATION

If a child is reported sick right before or after a holiday, we are obliged to report this to compulsory education (*leerplicht*). The compulsory education officer will then drop by to check if your child is truly at home. This procedure is also followed in the event of a rejected leave request.

LUNCHTIME CARE

We count on the children who are on our list for lunchtime care. If a child goes to eat with someone outside of school, we would like to hear this from the parents. Children are not allowed to go eat with someone else without permission.

REPORTING SICKNESS

If your child is not coming to school due to illness or a doctor's visit, please inform us before 9:00 AM. We prefer to receive sickness reports via email at ziekenboeg@obssteigereiland.nl or via the Steigereiland app. This is the fastest way to keep us informed. Please do not email administratie@obssteigereiland.nl, as Yvonne is not present every day.

TARDINESS

Could you please ensure that children are in the classroom by 8:45 AM at the latest? It is pleasant for the class when no children walk in and out after that time, and besides, it is nice for your child to be there at the start of the day.

MESSAGE FROM THE YOUTH DOCTOR, YOUTH NURSE, AND MEDICAL ASSISTANT

We are Esmée Kramer (youth doctor), Demie Ihuoma (youth nurse), and Annelies de Booj (medical assistant). Together, we form the school health team.

We carry out the following measurements at school:

- **5-year screening:** The medical assistant measures your child's height + weight. She also tests your child's eyes and hearing.
- **10-year screening:** The youth nurse measures only your child's height + weight.

For both measurement moments, you will be informed when they will take place. You will also be asked to fill in a questionnaire.

For questions about further growth and development, as well as vaccinations, you can contact us. Youth Healthcare (*Jeugdgezondheidszorg*) is also involved in vaccination campaigns.

GGD Amsterdam is ready for you again from September 1 to November 27, 2026, to give children aged 8 and older their vaccinations against diseases such as mumps, measles, rubella, and meningococcal disease. In addition, there will be an MMR/DTaP combination shot for 5-year-olds. These shots are free and voluntary. Your child will automatically receive an invitation. You do not need to do anything for this.

SMARTPHONES

As you may have heard, there is a national movement called SmartphoneVrijOpgroeien (Growing Up Smartphone-Free).

The wish to postpone a smartphone for as long as possible is also present among parents at our school.

When children first received smartphones ten years ago, there was no research into their impact. Now there is. Exposing children to things that their brain cannot yet process sufficiently can cause a range of problems: from shortsightedness to concentration and sleep problems, mental health issues, eating disorders, and opening the door to cyberbullying, grooming, and inappropriate behavior.

With this message, we want to let you know that there is contact between several parents

and the school board to reflect on this topic together and create appropriate policy.

If you would like to know more about this subject, take a look at <https://smartphonevrijopgroeien.nl/het-probleem/>

You can subscribe to the newsletter via the website to stay informed about the latest news; you will find tips on gradually introducing a phone, how to set a good example yourself, etc. This can be found under <https://smartphonevrijopgroeien.nl/kijktips/#kijk-tipsmetkind>.

Furthermore, it is currently being discussed in the MR (Medezeggenschapsraad / Parent-Teacher Council) at school. If you would also like to state your position on this, you can email directie@obssteigereiland.nl or pass it on to one of the participating parents in the MR.

SEMMI TRAINING FOR ENGLISH-SPEAKING PARENTS

Due to popular demand, we are organizing a parent training course on connective authority for English-speaking parents this season.

Parents can register themselves without a referral via the website:

Semmi Training for Parents: Empowered Parenting and a Strong Relationship with your Child.

Exchange with other parents, experience, and practice the latest insights on parental attitude, guided by qualified professionals.

What will I learn?

This training will offer you a safe group setting in which we explore your own parenting style. Using experiential exercises, you won't just talk about it: you practice, experience, share and reflect on:

- Being present, making contact, and restoring connection

- Staying calm and tolerating distress
- Showing firm resistance while staying in contact
- Finding the right moment
- Seeking support when needed

The training is based on "nonviolent resistance in families."

The training is free and falls under Amsterdam's council's preventive child-rearing support program (APOO). There is space for a maximum of 10 adults.

Dates:

Online introductory meetings by appointment with one of the trainers (15 min): Thu 1 Oct

Session dates: 8 Oct, 22 Oct, 29 Oct, 12 Nov, 26 Nov, 10 Dec

Time: 9:00–11:00

Location: De Meevaart, Balistraat 48A

INFORMATION GGD AMSTERDAM – NATIONAL IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME AUTUMN 2026

Message from GGD Amsterdam

GGD Amsterdam is ready for you again from September 1 to November 27, 2026, to give children aged 8 and older their vaccinations against diseases such as mumps, measles, and meningococcal disease. In addition, there will be an MMR/DTaP combination shot for 5-year-olds. These shots are free and voluntary. Your child will automatically receive an invitation. You do not need to do anything for this.

Do you have questions?

Call, email, or chat with the GGD. Or ask your question to the nurse at school.

- Call 020 555 5961
- Visit www.ggd.amsterdam.nl/vaccineren

MUZIEKSCHOOL AMSTERDAM

During the Open Trial Week of Muziekschool Amsterdam (August 24 to 30), children aged 0 to 12 have the chance to attend free trial lessons.

This allows children to discover which music lessons they enjoy most. On weekdays, they can join group lessons, and on weekends they can try out musical instruments across 6 different lesson locations.

If you would like to share this with your pupils, you will find an image in the attachment for class apps, on your website, or in the school newsletter!

More info:

muziekschoolamsterdam.nl/openlesweek

OBSTACLE RUN



IJburg Strand OBSTACLE RUN

IJburg Strand Obstacle Run 2026
Ren, klim, kruip en spring over het strand van IJburg! Tijdens de 4e editie van de Obstacle Run wordt IJburg Strand weer omgebouwd tot een uitdagend obstakel parcours vol leuke hindernissen in het zand en door het water.

Durf jij de uitdaging aan? Schrijf je in en doe mee met vrienden, familie of collega's!

Let op! Vol = vol, dus zorg dat jij snel je ticket bemachtigt!

See you there!

- Ouder-Kind Run (6+)
- 12-16 Run
- Volwassenen Run (16+)

Voor volwassenen kost de Obstacle Run 5,00 euro en voor kids 2,50. Ticket is inclusief t-shirt en een gezellig hapje & drankje na de race. Bekijk alle informatie op de website! Zwemdiploma verplicht. Ben je in bezit van een stadspas? Dan is de IJburg Strand Obstacle Run gratis.

DATUM EN LOCATIE

Zondag 27 september
IJburg Strand
13:30-16:30 uur

Met wie ga jij de uitdaging aan?

Vanaf 13:00 kun je je startbewijs ophalen, 10 minuten voor start van jouw blok is er een gezamenlijke warming up met Steve. Er is muziek op het strand. Heb jij je aangemeld? Houd je e-mail (en spambox) in de gaten!



teamsportservice.nl/amsterdam/ijburg-strand-obstacle-run

 Gemeente Amsterdam

 Team Sportservice

Now we would like to bring to your attention that on September 26, there is an annual open day at asylum seekers' centres in the Netherlands.

<https://www.coa.nl/nl/open-azc-dag>

the next newsletter will appear in October/November

OPEN DAY ASYLUM SEEKERS' CENTRE (AZC)

Last year, at the end of the school year during the musical, we were allowed to borrow air conditioners from the AZC where one of our pupils' parents works.