

## Newsletter January/February

Dear parents and caregivers,

This is my very first newsletter! Since January 1st, I have taken over from Ella as the director of our wonderful Montessori School Steigereiland.

My first week started in a very special way. The school transformed into a winter wonderland during those first days. And no matter how cold it was outside, it was warm inside—with the children, and certainly with our school team. I would like to give the team a special mention in this newsletter.

While the world outside turned white, I saw how the team—wrapped in thick scarves and with snow on their soles—found their way to school. To them, it felt like second nature, but to me, it was a beautiful testament to their passion and dedication.

It was also a magical start for the children. The playground became a paradise of snowmen and sleds, while inside, there were serious math lessons about the weight of snow. I am energized to begin this new adventure with this team and your children.

Warm regards,

**Mieke Nees**

Director



### **IMPORTANT DATES**

12-01	Start CITO-tests
group 3 to 7	
02-02 t/m 03-02	IEP test group 8
16-2 t/m 19-2	Themedays
20-2	Study day ( <b>No school</b>
<b>for children)</b>	
21-2 t/m 01-03	Spring break
03-03	Start of
parent-teacher conferences (reports)	

## NEW STUDENTS

We welcome **Jade, Sara, Leonard, Noah, Markus, Bruno, Iza, Liya, and Mason**, who started with us in December and January.

## STAFF UPDATES

We recently said goodbye to Sandra de Leuw and Yvonne Brondenstein, who were temporarily filling in for colleagues on sick leave. We thank them for their efforts.

## GROUP 8 TRANSITION



The IEP transition test will take place on February 3th and 4th. The final school recommendations will be provided during the week of March 15th.

## TRAFFIC SAFETY

Please drive at a walking pace in the streets around the school during drop-off and pick-up times to ensure the safety of all our children.

## CITIZENSHIP



We are looking for parents to join a focus group to brainstorm how we can celebrate different cultural holidays and world religions at school. Please email [directie@obssteigereiland.nl](mailto:directie@obssteigereiland.nl) if you are interested.

## LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for parents to help manage the school library at a fixed time each week. If you enjoy organizing books and helping children find their next read, please contact



[directie@obssteigereiland.nl](mailto:directie@obssteigereiland.nl).

## HOUSE RULES & REMINDERS

- **Lunchroom (Overblijf):** If your child is scheduled for the school lunchroom but will eat elsewhere, you must notify the school. Children are not allowed to leave the premises with others without prior permission.
- **Punctuality:** Please ensure your children are in their classrooms by 8:45 AM so we can start the day on time.
- **Reporting Illness:** Please report absences (due to illness or doctor visits) before 9:00 AM via telephone, email ([ziekenboeg@obssteigereiland.nl](mailto:ziekenboeg@obssteigereiland.nl)), or the school app.

## PARENT AND CHILD ADVISOR (OKT)

My name is Job Ravelli, and I have been connected to Montessori Steigereiland as a Parent and Child Advisor for several years.

You can come to me with:

- Questions regarding parenting, growing up, and child development.
- Preventative group training sessions for both children and parents.
- Grant applications (such as the Youth Fund for Sport & Culture).

On Wednesday mornings, I will be at the main entrance of the school. You can recognize me by the "Ouder- en Kindteam" (Parent and Child Team) button on my chest. If you have any

questions about the topics mentioned above, please feel free to approach me!

If you would prefer to speak privately, we can use a separate room at the school. The content of our conversation will never be shared with the school without your permission. If you would rather get in touch via email or phone first, you can reach me using the contact details at the bottom of this page.

Sometimes a brief conversation is enough to help you move forward. Other times, we may need to look at a situation more closely; if so, I can sign you up for additional support from the Parent and Child Team, should you wish to do so.

Location: Main school entrance When:  
Wednesdays between 8:30 and 9:30 AM  
Contact details: [j.ravelli@oktamsterdam.nl](mailto:j.ravelli@oktamsterdam.nl) /  
06-34266776

Warm regards,

Job Ravelli Parent and Child Team IJburg and  
Zeeburgereiland

### **EXTERNAL: SEMMI TRAINING**

In February 2026, Semmi will launch the training course: Powerful Parenting and a Strong Bond with Your Child in Amsterdam East. The training is free of charge for Amsterdam-based parents with children attending any primary school in the city. Please note that registration is required, as spots are limited (maximum 10 participants).

In this training, you will explore your role as a parent. Under the guidance of expert professionals, you will exchange experiences with other parents and practice using the latest insights into upbringing and parenthood. Using methods from psychomotor therapy and dance/movement therapy, the focus is not just on talking, but primarily on doing, practicing, and experiencing.

### **Practical Information:**

- **Online introductory meetings (15 min):** Wednesday morning, February 4th (by appointment with one of the trainers).
- **Meeting dates:** Thursday Feb 12 & 19, March 12 & 26, April 9, and May 7.
- **Time:** 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
- **Location:** Theater Hall at Community Center "De Meevaart", Balistraat 48A
- **Costs:** Free

Application: [Aanmeldformulier](#)  
[Semmitraining voor ouders - Formulier invullen](#)

**Please note:** Participants are placed after a screening of the registration form and subject to availability. You will receive a message from us confirming whether your placement is finalized. If so, you will also receive an invitation for the online introductory meeting on February 4th.

We look forward to receiving your applications!

**Bregje van de Ven** Dance Therapist,  
Sherborne Interaction Practitioner, and Parent  
Counselor SEMMI Guidance & Therapy  
Member of STEP

**Phone:** 06-42338093 **Email:**  
[bregje.vandeven@semmi.nl](mailto:bregje.vandeven@semmi.nl) **Working days:**  
Mon, Tue, Wed, and Thu **Website:**  
[www.semmi.nl](http://www.semmi.nl)

### **AMSTERDAMMERTJE**

An inspiring guide packed with ideas for outings in culture, music, sports, nature, and play.

[AMSTERDAMMERTJES](#)

## STUDENT ARTWORK

