

Dear parents,

Here it is, my very last newsletter for Steigereiland. Mieke will take over from January onwards. After all these years working in education, it is time to say goodbye. I started as a teacher in November 1981, became a primary school principal in 1991, and now, after 44 years, I am retiring. It will certainly feel strange at first—no more classroom visits, no parent meetings, no emails to answer, hardly any messages, and no more seeing the children, parents, and colleagues. That will take some time getting used to.



I think preparations for my farewell are already underway, though I still don't know what will happen. Children keep looking at me mysteriously when I walk through the hallway; they know what's going on and are keeping it very well to themselves. No one tells me anything, which is quite impressive!

One of the children understood how exciting this all is for me and made me a personal countdown calendar. I cross off each day now, and in December, after 12 December, it says in big letters: RETIREMENT. Such a wonderful idea, and now I know exactly how many days I have left at school.

I am going to miss all of you very much; I have worked at this school with so much joy. But I hand the school over to Mieke—my deputy principal and office mate—with great confidence. The school will be in good hands. I hope to see you all at my farewell celebration on December 11th!

Warm regards,
Ella Duijnker
Director for just a little while longer



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IMPORTANT DATES

- 24–11 to 28–11 Upper School Camp
- 5–12 Sinterklaas celebration, schools out at 12:30
- 8–12 Food bank crates to be filled
- 11–12 Farewell to Ella (retirement)
- 12–12 Purple Friday
- 17–12 Christmas dinner in the classroom, parents drinks on the schoolyard
 - Food bank crates will be collected
- 19–12 Staff training day, children have the day off
- 20–12 to 4–1 Christmas holiday
- 8–1 Information evening for Secondary Education parents of group 8 (more information will follow)
- 12–1 Start of CITO tests for groups 3–7

NEW STUDENTS

In October/November, the following children joined our school: Jurvinio, Youssef, Rafaël, Otto, Noah, Nousayba, Dimitra, Jonathan, Isran and Misha. We wish them lots of fun at our school!

STAFF NEWS

The vacancy for the plus class teacher is still open; we are still looking for a great new colleague. If you know someone, please let us know!

Bab left our school as of 1 November. He worked at two schools, and after the autumn break he was able to work four days at his other school. He was a wonderful colleague who carried out his work with great care and often stepped in for teachers who were absent. We wish him a great time at his other school.

After the autumn break we hired a new teaching assistant. Sjeng will support us on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays by working with individual pupils and substituting in classes when needed. We also wish Sjeng lots of enjoyment at our school!

SINTERKLAAS CELEBRATION

made possible thanks to your parental contribution

On 5 December, Sinterklaas will arrive at our school. The school doors will open at 8:15; the children will first go to their classroom and then come outside with their teacher. Parents are also welcome on the schoolyard to welcome Sinterklaas. We will gather in the schoolyard and sing to greet him. After the welcome, the children will return to their classrooms to continue the festivities. A snack is not needed on this day; the parent council will take care of that. Children will be dismissed at 12:30.



SINTERKLAAS DECORATIONS IN SCHOOL

The school has once again been beautifully decorated by parents—thank you! Many parents and children are enjoying the lovely entrance with the Amsterdam canal houses, a success every year.

PURPLE FRIDAY

On 12 December, our school will also be marking Purple Friday. Together with the children, we will highlight how important it is to live in connection and love with one another. We continue to truly see each other—everyone is allowed to be who they are.

Purple Friday is an opportunity to emphasise these values of love and togetherness, and to help our children experience how important it is to treat each other with respect. This is a message that, now more than ever, we want to share in times of unrest and uncertainty in the world around us. We encourage everyone to wear purple or white on this day, so that together we can share a loving message. We will otherwise follow the normal lesson schedule.

CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION AND CHRISTMAS DINNER



In the past six months, we have worked on shaping our new citizenship goals, which are a required component at every school. These goals also involve various cultural and religious celebrations. We have mapped out the cultures and religions in which our students are raised at home. For this reason, we also looked at celebrations beyond Christmas alone.

The citizenship goals call for a different approach than what we have done so far. From this school year onwards, we will give more attention to celebrations. We have chosen three celebrations that most of the children at our school also celebrate at home. This means we will reintroduce the name “**Christmas Dinner,**” but we will also celebrate, for example, **Eid al-Fitr** (Suikerfeest) and **Keti Koti** at school. Unfortunately, we cannot celebrate all holidays intensely, but we do want to recognise feasts that children at our school celebrate at home.

We find it important to involve parents in this topic, which is why we are looking for parents who would like to think along with us and help out. Would you like to join us? Please sign up with Mieke:

miekenees@obssteigereiland.nl

CHRISTMAS DINNER

On Wednesday afternoon, 17 December, we will organise the Christmas dinner for the children. The dinner will take place in your child’s classroom. Each child brings a dish to share with the group.

Please ensure your child brings a plate and cutlery, labelled with their name, no later than Monday 15 December. For the evening itself, we ask that you provide your child with a small dish (please label it with labelled with your child’s name) filled with something tasty (e.g. pancakes, salad, skewers with small snacks, etc.) to bring for the Christmas dinner. We will provide drinks and a festive table.



Each class will have a sign-up sheet where you can indicate what your child will bring. School ends at the normal time on this Wednesday. **From 17:10**, the school choir will perform their rehearsed repertoire in the schoolyard. This year, all teachers will be singing along!

The school doors will open at 17:20. At 17:30 we will start the Christmas dinner in the classrooms. For parents, there will be a cheerful Christmas get-together outside in the schoolyard, organised by parents and the parent council. Drinks are available for a small fee; coins can be purchased in advance on Wednesday morning in the main building’s entrance hall.

The Christmas dinner finishes at different times for each department:

Onderbouw (group ½)

The youngest children finish dinner at 18:30. You can go to the classroom of your child at 18:30 to enjoy the atmosphere and taste the remaining treats. Please take your child home at 18:45.

Middenbouw (group 3/4/5)

The middenbouw children finish dinner at 18:45. You can visit the classroom at 18:45 to enjoy the atmosphere and taste the remaining snacks. Please take your child home at 19:00.

Bovenbouw (group 6/7/8)

The bovenbouw children finish dinner at 19:00. You are warmly welcome in the classroom at 19:00 to enjoy the atmosphere and have a bite to eat. Please take your child home at 19:15.



Thursday, December 18th is a regular school day. Friday, December 19th, all children have the day off due to a staff training day. The Christmas holiday lasts

until 4 January; school will reopen on Monday, 5 January.

All activities and decorations are made possible thanks to your parental contribution. Thank you very much!

INFORMATION EVENING ABOUT SECONDARY EDUCATION



On Thursday evening, January 8th, we are organising an information meeting for parents of group 8 children about the transition to secondary education. Parents will receive more information about this evening via email.

CHILDREN AGED 4–11 TRAVEL FREE WITH GVB

Children aged 4 to 11 from Amsterdam (including Weesp) can travel for free every day on all GVB buses, trams, and metros between 7:00 and 21:00. Outside these hours, the child travels on their own credit, with a 34% discount. Please note: children must be accompanied by an adult. This offer is valid until 3 January 2027.



Registration

To use GVB Kids Free, the child must have a personal OV-chipkaart. GVB Kids Free can be requested digitally. Visit: amsterdam.nl/gratisovkinderen. Parents or guardians needing assistance can get help via phone number 14 020, at the Stadsloket, or from the Buurteam.

CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK / SPONSOR EVENT

IJBURG BOEKEN

ONTDEK . SCHRIJF . LEES

Thank you to all parents who participated in the IJburg Books sponsor event. A total of €1800 worth of books was purchased, which means that more than €350 has been raised for new books in the school library!

FOOD BANK

Starting December 8th, crates will be placed in the classrooms and at the entrance of the main building to collect donations for the food bank. You can help by donating pasta sauce, muesli/oats, canned fruit, long-life milk, crispbread/crackers, tea, and sandwich spreads (jam, peanut butter, etc.). The filled crates will be collected on December 17.



WINTER MARKET STEIGEREILAND NOORD

On December 14th, the third edition of the winter market will take place on Steigereiland Noord, organised by one of our school parents! There will be

50 stalls with all sorts of things, including food, drinks, and music.



TAKE YOUR CHANCE

The municipality of Amsterdam offers arrangements for children of parents with a low income and limited assets. Not everyone who qualifies is making use of these benefits. On this website you can find out which arrangements exist for children up to 18 years old. If you find it difficult to submit applications digitally, you can find someone to help you at <http://www.buurteamamsterdam.nl/>.

DIGITAL CALENDAR FOR PARENTS

In addition to our app, you can also use our digital calendar for parents: <https://tinyurl.com/Ouderagenda>

LUNCH BREAK (OVERBLIJF)



We rely on the children who are on our lunch-break list to stay at school. If a child goes to eat at someone else's home, we kindly ask parents to inform us. Without permission, children are not allowed to go elsewhere for lunch.

REPORTING ABSENCES DUE TO ILLNESS

If your child is unable to attend school due to illness or a medical appointment, please inform us before 9:00. Preferably, report the absence via email at ziekenboeg@obssteigereiland.nl or via the Steigereiland app. This allows us to be informed as quickly as possible. Please do not send it to administratie@obssteigereiland.nl, as Yvonne is not working all days.

INTRODUCTION TO HOCKEY

We would like to inform you about an accessible and free introduction to hockey at AHC IJburg: young members (ages 5–10) can join three training sessions free of charge before deciding whether to become a member.



At the moment, there is no waiting list for the Waterhoentjes and the Youngest Youth groups. All children born after 1 October 2015 are welcome to attend three trial training sessions. Only afterward do parents/guardians need to decide whether they want to register their child.

More information: www.ahcijburg.nl

CREATIVITY CLASS



Next newsletter will be published in January

This newsletter was translated in English with Chat GTP

