



 montessorischool_steigereiland

Nieuwsbrief september/oktober 2025

Dear parents,



September 5, 2005 the founding of Montessori School Steigereiland. I still remember it like it was yesterday, a milestone in my life as a school principal. We

started with just 9 children – six kindergartners and three lower elementary students – in a temporary building, surrounded by sand and construction traffic. It was true pioneering on IJburg!

Now, those kindergartners and lower elementary students are in their twenties, and our school is celebrating its 20th anniversary. As per tradition, we celebrated with a dance performance, and El Pato came back to stay in the cupboard in my office. For two weeks, his name buzzed through the school, and teachers and children practiced all the dances. On Friday afternoon, September 5, we celebrated the school's 20th birthday with a spectacular dance performance based on the story of El Pato.

Even though we do this every five years, I still enjoy it immensely – children and staff in brightly colored T-shirts on the schoolyard, all the parents watching – what an amazing birthday celebration! So much joy and energy – where else do you find that?

I'm already looking forward to 2030. Even though I'll be retired, I'll definitely come back to watch and enjoy all the fun again!

Warm regards,
Ella Duijnker
Principal

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IMPORTANT DATES

5-9: 20th Anniversary Celebration

17-9: Information morning for new parents, 9:00

18-9: Information morning (English spoken), 9:00
Lower elementary class evening, 19:30

24-9: Coffee hour for class parents, 9:00–10:00

1-10: Start of Children's Book Week & Reading
Breakfast

2-10: Start of upper elementary “bouwabbers”
project

MR (Parent Council) meeting, 19:30

VIP evening at IJburgboeken, 18:00–19:00

3-10: Lower elementary visit to show “Knight Without
a Butt”

Children's book authors visit middle & upper
elementary

5-10: Teacher's Day

10-10: Reading competition (middle & upper
elementary)

16-10: Teacher training day – no school for students

17-10: Teacher training day – no school for students

18 t/m 26-10: Fall Break (Herfstvakantie)

27-10: Start of first round of parent-teacher meetings

29-10: Info morning new parents, 9:00

30-10: Information morning (English spoken), 9:00

10-11: Teacher training day – no school for students

NEW STUDENTS

After the summer break, we welcomed: Evan, Aleksandra, Wendel, Emilia, Liam, Ishan, Koosje, Isa, Aarav, Didier, Yves, Ariana, Elisa, Kiki, Amel, Collin, Larissa, Julia, James, Noelia, Ryker, Sef, and Julius. We wish all the children a wonderful time at our school!

STAFF NEWS

In June, we said goodbye to Mans, our gifted education teacher. Mans is now enjoying her well-deserved free time!

Initially, there was no staffing space for a new gifted class teacher, but due to the departure of two teachers, we were able to create room. We are now looking for a gifted education teacher for two days per week. The vacancy has been posted.

REGISTERING SIBLINGS

Don't forget to register younger brothers or sisters if you already have a child at our school. This helps us plan and organize placements on time.

UPPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TRIP



The upper elementary groups will go on a **school camp to Oostvoorne** starting **Monday, November 24**.

The camp was moved to November due to the presence of a problematic wolf at the previous location. We're very happy to have found this safe and fun alternative!

CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK OPENING & READING BREAKFAST



On **Wednesday, October 1**, we'll kick off Children's Book Week with a festive opening on the schoolyard.

This year's theme: **"Full of Adventure!"**

After the opening, children go inside for the Reading Breakfast.

Beforehand, each child will receive a name slip with another classmate's name and their breakfast preferences. Your child will prepare a decorated box (preferably using free/recycled materials) with breakfast for that classmate.

On this day, children may **come to school in pajamas or a onesie** – and so will the teachers!

CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK ACTIVITIES

We have many fun activities planned:

- Lower elementary: *"Knight Without a Butt"* at Pleintheater
- Middle & upper elementary: author visits by Chinouk Thijssen and Najiba Abdellaoui
- Reading competition for the title of: *"Best Steigereiland Reader 2025"*



VIP EVENING & RECEIPTS – IJburgboeken

On **October 2 from 18:00–19:00**, IJburgboeken will host a special VIP evening for our school's parents and children.

Just like previous years, please submit your receipts from IJburgboeken (children's books only) to school. For each receipt, the school receives credit to purchase new books.

HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION FAIR – GROUP 8




On **November 21–22**, the secondary schools in Amsterdam will organize a **schools arena** for Group 8 students and their parents.

All secondary schools will be represented to help families explore their options.

Location: **Passenger Terminal Amsterdam**

More info and the registration form can be found at:

 www.schoolkeuze020.nl/scholenarena

This is also where you'll find the 2025 digital school guide.

BOOK SWAP CABINET

Next to the library, near our janitor Dirk's office, there is a large wooden cabinet filled with books. These are free to take home – available to everyone.

If you have children's books at home you no longer use, feel free to donate them to the cabinet (space permitting).

DIGITAL CALENDAR FOR PARENTS

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

 <https://tinyurl.com/Ouderagenda>

LUNCHTIME ARRANGEMENTS



We rely on the list of children registered to stay at school during lunch. If your child will be eating elsewhere, please let us know in advance.

Without permission, children are not allowed to leave school for lunch with others.

REPORTING ABSENCES

If your child is sick or has a doctor's appointment and can't attend school, please inform us **before 9:00 AM** – either by phone or via the app.

This helps us stay informed quickly.



MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL HEALTH TEAM

Our school health team includes the youth doctor, youth nurse, and doctor's assistant. They carry out the following check-ups:

- 5-year-old screening: height, weight, vision, and hearing tests by the assistant
- 10-year-old screening: height and weight measurements by the nurse

You will be informed in advance when these checks will take place and will be asked to complete an online questionnaire. If necessary, a follow-up appointment will be scheduled.

For questions about your child's development or vaccinations, you can contact:

- Suzan Bouwman (Youth Doctor) – sbouwman@ggd.amsterdam.nl | 06 38993402
- Demie Ihuoma (Youth Nurse) – dihuoma@ggd.amsterdam.nl | 06 34383232
- Annelies de Booij (Doctor's Assistant) – adbouij@ggd.amsterdam.nl
- The autumn vaccination campaign will be on October 30, 13:00–18:00, at Pampuslaan 26 (IJburg). Your child will receive an invitation.

PAK JE KANS – SUPPORT FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES

The City of Amsterdam offers various financial aid programs for children from families with low income or assets. Not all eligible families are aware of or using these. You can find more info on what support is available at:

 www.buurtteamamsterdam.nl

If you need help applying online, the neighborhood team can assist you.

TYPING COURSE

LOI Kidzz offers a typing course for children, where they learn to type independently at home in a fun online game world full of rewards and missions. Sign up through the school and receive €50 discount + a free keyboard.

Sign-up deadline: October 3

 [\[www.loikidzz.nl\]](http://www.loikidzz.nl)

EREGALERIJ BEELDENDE VORMING EN ATELIER

