



 montessorischool_steigereiland

Newsletter September/October 2024

Dear parents,

There they go, the brand-new high school students, biking through all kinds of weather. I see them every morning, still greeting me with enthusiasm. From experience, I know this will eventually stop—they'll act like they don't know me anymore because it's cooler to look straight ahead, especially when biking with new friends. But this phase will also pass; older high school students eventually become more aware of their surroundings during their ride to school, and I see how they change and grow. Sometimes, I barely recognize them!

And so, the new school year starts for everyone. New preschoolers arrive, full of excitement and anticipation. Even if they're used to coming into school every day as younger siblings, starting school as a four-year-old is a whole new challenge. Fortunately, there are kind teachers waiting to welcome them. The next few years will be spent with us, and in about eight years, I'll see them on their bikes!

Kind regards,
Ella Duijnker,
Director

IMPORTANT DATES

- 2-9 First day of school
- 11-9 Sports morning for group 1/2
- 20-9 Amsterdam Clean Up Day
- 23-9 Groups 678A and I depart for school camp
- 24-9 Group 678F departs for school camp

- 25-9 Groups 678E and H depart for school camp
- 26-9 Groups 678B and D depart for school camp
- Class evening for parents group 1/2
- 2-10 Opening of Children's Book Week and reading breakfast
- 5-10 Teacher's Day
- 9-10 Coffee hour for class parents, 9-10 a.m.
 - Exclusive VIP evening at IJburg Books, 6-7 p.m.
- 10-10 Reading competition for middle and upper grades
- 14-10 Team study day—all children are off
- 15-10 Team study day—all children are off
- 16-10 Information morning for interested parents, 9:00 a.m.
- 24-10 Information morning for parents interested in enrolling their child (English spoken), 9:00 a.m.
- 26-10 Autumn break until 3rd November
- 5-11 MR meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- 7-11 OR meeting, 5:00 p.m.
- 11-11 Start of parent-teacher conferences, round 1
- 15-11 School information for parents and children from group 8

NEW STUDENTS

After the summer vacation, Rana, Maya, Reece, Jayden, Amir, Arden, Maya, Yuwa, Isabela, Evelien, Joost, Harris, Aimee, Omri, Ziv, Gili, Carmen, Julian, Arthur, Thomas, River, Loë, Miles, Sayfedine, Eli, Isabella, Matisse, Yves, Gabriela, Defne, Zion, Bell, and Raphael started at the school. In September and October, we will welcome Novi, Jula, Mark, Akram, Adam, Casper, Ella, Joah-Lennox, Alexander, Yara, Alexander, Zeynep, Francesco, Noor, Amana, and Aitana Uxia. We wish everyone a lot of fun!

STAFF NEWS

After the summer vacation, Fred Tiecken started as the care coordinator. In this newsletter, Fred introduces himself.

Also, Manne van der Zee is a new team member. Manne works on Mondays and

Tuesdays and will substitute when the teacher is absent.

INTRODUCTION

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Fred Tiecken, and I started as the new care coordinator at Steigereiland this school year. I have worked in primary education for many years in various roles. Initially, I worked as a teacher with great pleasure, and later with just as much joy as an internal supervisor/care coordinator, deputy director, and school leader. It has always been rewarding to contribute to the development of children and ensure they have a happy time in primary school. I'm looking forward to doing the same at Steigereiland!

I live just outside Amsterdam in Oostzaan with my wife and youngest daughter, who is studying. My two older children live independently but nearby, which we're happy about since it allows us to see our four grandchildren often. In my free time, I enjoy reading, walking, playing chess, and running.

I'm at Steigereiland from Monday to Thursday. In the mornings, you'll often find me by the entrance, and I've already seen many of you pass by. I hope to get to know you better soon and look forward to a great collaboration.

AMSTERDAM CLEANUP DAY

On Friday, September 20th, the upper-grade classes will participate in Amsterdam Cleanup Day. Everyone will work together to clean up the city, teaching children the importance of a clean environment for both people and animals.

UPPER-GRADE SCHOOL TRIP

From September 23rd, the upper-grade groups will go on a two-day school camp. They will stay in group accommodations in Leersum, and this time, the meals will be prepared by the children themselves!

OPENING OF CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK AND READING BREAKFAST

On Wednesday, October 2nd, we will kick off Children's Book Week with a festive opening in the schoolyard. Afterward, all the children will head inside for the reading breakfast. Each child will have a slip of paper with the name of a classmate and what that classmate likes to eat. Your child will make a decorated box with breakfast for their classmate. Children are also allowed to come to school in pajamas or a onesie, and the teachers will dress up too!

ACTIVITIES DURING CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK

- The lower grades will attend the performance "A Little Anatomy" at the Laterna Magica school building on Friday, October 11th. The children will travel by tram.
- The middle grades will attend the performance "Fatboy" at the OBA, traveling by the culture bus.
- In the upper grades, author Najiba Abdellaoui will give a workshop. She will talk about her work and engage with the children!

VIP EVENING AND RECEIPTS FROM IJBURG BOOKS

During Children's Book Week, IJburg Books will host an exclusive VIP evening for our school's parents and children on Wednesday, October 9th. From 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., everyone from our school is welcome to choose a children's book while enjoying lemonade and treats. IJburg Books will donate 20% of the receipts from the purchased books to the school library. We also ask, as in previous years, that you hand in receipts from IJburg Books for books purchased during Children's Book Week. These receipts earn us credit to buy books for the school library.

TWO-DAY SCHOOL FAIR FOR GROUP 8

On November 15th and 16th, there will be a school fair for group 8 parents and children. Various secondary schools from Amsterdam will be present, allowing parents and children to explore schools for secondary education. The school fair will take place at the Kromhouthal in Amsterdam-Noord.

NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

During the summer vacation, significant work was done on the school playground. A few weeks ago, the new climbing frame was opened. During the first few days, you could barely see the frame as the children were so enthusiastic about climbing on it. Great to see!

SOLAR PANELS

In mid-September, we began installing 100 solar panels on the roof—a major operation! With the help of a large crane, the panels were placed on the roof. It's great that we can now generate a large part of our own energy!

SCHOOL LIBRARY PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We have a wonderful school library that the children love visiting to find a good book to read in class. Since we want to make the best use of the teachers' and assistants' time to support the children's learning in the classroom, we're looking for parent volunteers to help out in the library. If you're interested, please send an email to directie@obssteigereiland.nl.

BOOK EXCHANGE CABINET

Next to the library, in front of our janitor Dirk's office, there is a large wooden cabinet filled with books. These are "book exchange" books and are available for everyone. If you see a nice book for your child in this cabinet, you are welcome to take it home. If you have children's books you no longer use, you can add them to this cabinet (if there is space).

DIGITAL CALENDAR FOR PARENTS

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

<https://tinyurl.com/Ouderagenda>.

SPORTS MORNING FOR LOWER GRADES

On Wednesday, September 11th, we organized a sports morning for the lower grades. The children had a fantastic time, thanks in large part to the help of all the parent volunteers. Thank you for your support!

LUNCH BREAK

We count on the children who are registered on our list to stay for lunch. If your child will be eating elsewhere, please let us know. Without permission, children are not allowed to leave the school to eat elsewhere.

REPORTING SICKNESS

If your child cannot come to school due to illness or a doctor's appointment, please inform us before 9 a.m. This can be done by phone or through the app. This way, we are informed as quickly as possible.

AFTER-SCHOOL CARE AT 'DE KLEINE WERELD'

There are still spots available for after-school care at 'De Kleine Wereld' on Wednesdays and Fridays. You can register your child via the website: <https://dekleinewereld.nl/>.

GRAB YOUR OPPORTUNITY

The municipality of Amsterdam has various arrangements for children of parents with low incomes and limited assets. Not everyone who is eligible is making use of these opportunities yet. On this website, you will find information about arrangements for children up to 18 years old. If you find it difficult to submit applications online, you can find someone to help you at <http://www.buurtteamamsterdam.nl/>.

TYPETUIN

Our students are already using computers regularly, and they will use them even more often in secondary school. Learning to type with ten fingers without looking at the keyboard is a skill we find important to teach. For this reason, we offer our students the opportunity to follow a typing course from Typetuin after school.

Course: Blind typing with ten fingers, including an exam.

For: Students in groups 6 to 8

Start date: Tuesday, October 1st, 2024, at 3:15 p.m.

Location: Montessorischool Steigereiland (only for students of this school)

Price: €195

Sign up: www.typetuin.nl/aanmelden (choose the classroom option)

More information:

<https://www.typetuin.nl/informatiebrief-typetuin> or call on weekdays between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at 013-5220579