

SECONDARY NEWSLETTER

06-02-2009

THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF
THE HAGUE

Issue 10

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2-6 Feb. Yr10&Yr11 Test week
9 Feb. Yr 11 personal project presentation evening 17:00-19:00
10 Feb. ISH Careers Fair
12 Feb. Junior Math Competition, Brus-
13 Feb. Valentine's Party Yr7-9
17 Feb. NEWSDAY
18 Feb. Pilgrim High School Choir from Rhode Island, USA perform with ISH choir and IYO
18-20 Feb. MYP Re-evaluation visit
23 - 27 Feb. February break, school closed
14 Mar. City-Pier-City (CPC) Run And other sport events Click here

Dear Parents,
Some meetings are more important than others – for parents of Y11 and Y9, the last Thursday 5 February was essential, over 200 people attended. We hope that you gathered all the information necessary to choose the best possible combination of subjects for the coming two years. Based on these choices – as explained – we will construct clusters of subjects which form the basis for the actual timetable. Minority choices and combinations of subjects may turn out not to be possible. This will be discussed with the students (and

parents, if they wish) in our interviews on 5/6 and 9/10 March.
I am happy that those enrolled in our upcoming Ski week have had no problems in purchasing the mandatory helmets (at least I had no feedback in this direction). Please be aware that skiing or snowboarding without a helmet will not be permitted.
THIMUN, the Model United Nations here in The Hague, saw a strong delegation of our students. Thanks to all who support this activity (Mrs. McCuskey, Mrs. Carlevaro, Mr. Mythen, Mrs. Davies) and to

the parents housing guests during this week.
From inside the organization I can report that we are busy with interviewing and recruiting new staff for the next school year. Vacancies are listed on our website. We also had a productive training day last Friday with more than 500 teachers from all over the Netherlands participating, and today we have a visit by 80 school heads from all over the world. ISH continues to establish its place amongst the well-known and respected international schools.
Best wishes, Peter Kotrc

Personal project presentation evening

Dear parents and students,
After months of hard work the Year 11 students have finished and handed in their Personal Projects. The Personal project is a significant individual piece of original work intended to reflect the students' experience of the MYP Programme and their understanding of the five Areas of Interaction (Approaches to Learning, Human Ingenuity, Health and Social Education, Community and Service and Environments).
The supervisors and the teachers are very proud of what our Year 11 students have achieved and we warmly invite you to the Personal Project presentation evening which will be held on **Monday the 9th of February**.
I look forward to seeing you all there,
Ioana Howland, Personal project Coordinator

Introducing our Staff

Hi!
My name is Tia Martin. I was born and raised in South Africa but I have been travelling around since 1989. I have taught English, TOK and Humanities in Africa, Europe and South America. I have been in the Netherlands since 2001 – mostly at the International School of Maastricht. In 2007 I

took six months off to do volunteer work in India as a teacher trainer, and I have just moved to The Hague from Rotterdam. I am fascinated by different cultural philosophies and try to follow the principle of “take the time to observe before you analyse”. Despite all my attempts to plan my life, things tend to just happen to

me – for example a few months ago I applied to teach a couple of ToK classes one day a week...and now I am nearly fulltime. I must say that despite the fast pace at the ISH, the staff and management have been very welcoming and supportive, and I am very happy to be here.



Middle Years Programme (MYP)

The MYP re-evaluation visit will take place on Wednesday, Thursday and half-day Friday 18, 19 and 20 February. Three evaluators who have been appointed by the IB regional office will conduct the visit. The MYP programme evaluation is a requirement of a MYP authorized school. ISH was authorized in April 2005 and now 5 years later it is time to evaluate how well we have implemented the programme. The main purposes of the evaluation, as described in the IB Guide to programme evaluation (2005), are to assist the implementation of the MYP in the school and to assist the school in developing and maintaining a programme that reflects the IB Philosophy, and the IB Standards and Practices. The evaluation visit is part of the evaluation process that started at the school a year ago. The purpose of the evaluation visit is to assist the regional office in determining how well ISH has implemented the programme. The MYP evaluation consists of four stages. 1. The school conducts a self-study and completes the self-study questionnaires. 2. The school submits the responses to the self-study and supporting documentation to Geneva and the visiting team members. 3. The school visit takes place. 4. The IB regional director sends a report to the head of school.

Last year, between February and October, the school conducted a thorough self-evaluation and completed the MYP Self-Study questionnaire. The self-study questionnaire was completed by all the teach-

ers and school leadership and there was also input from students of year 11 and parent representatives. The responses to the self-study questionnaire and a range of documentation on all the various aspects of the MYP at ISH were submitted to the regional office and to the members of the visiting team in November 2008. There is a copy of the completed self-study questionnaire and the documentation available in the school library.

An agenda for the two and a half days visit has been drawn up in consultation with the regional office in Geneva and the team leader. Meetings will be held with the school leadership, teacher representatives from each of the eight MYP subject groups, student support staff, area of interaction coordinators, year leaders, librarian, student representatives from each year group, students from year 11 and year 12 to talk about the personal project, personal project coordinator and some supervisors, parent representatives, the executive director and the MYP coordinator. The team will also conduct short class visits. It is usual for the visitor to walk around the class, talk to the students and look at the work they are doing. They do not assess the students or the teacher. The evaluators will want to hear what the students think about the MYP and the school's curriculum, and get to see and hear about the various projects and activities that the students have engaged in. There is an opportunity for parent representatives to meet the team on Wednesday

18 February from 16:30 – 17:00. Thanks to those parents who have already volunteered to join the meeting. If there is any other parent who would like to be present, I would ask you to contact Mrs Leen Maes, chair of the ISH Parents' Association, or you can always contact me directly.

On the last day of the visit, the team leader will give oral feedback (nothing is left in writing) on the evaluation in the exit meeting with the school leadership and the MYP coordinator. This feedback forms the basis of the final MYP evaluation report that will be sent at a later date from the regional director to Peter Kotrc, the head of school. The report from the regional director is based on the school's own answers to the self-study questionnaire and the descriptive statements, the supporting documentation, and the findings from the visit itself. The report will include some commendations and recommendations and where appropriate matters that need to be addressed.

This evaluation visit marks another milestone in the implementation of the MYP at ISH. So far the evaluation process has been very productive in highlighting the many strengths of the implementation of the programme and the areas in need of improvement. It is expected that the forthcoming visit and evaluation report will assist ISH in the further development and delivery of the MYP to the benefit of all stakeholders in the ISH community.

Marian Cunnane, MYP coordinator

Year 8 ACER Assessments

It is my pleasure to report on these recent assessments. Last year ISH introduced these assessments to Year 8 and this past week we have continued with the process.

International Schools like ISH want to complement internal assessment of the standard of our work with external validation. As you will no doubt recall we are evaluating our performance on a number of levels this year. Later this month we have the MYP Evaluation visit and in the Autumn we will welcome the Council of International Schools (CIS) Accreditation Team. The Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) International Schools' Assessment undertaken by Year 8 this week will provide us with detailed information, indeed a profile, of how we measure up in terms of certain elements of Mathematical and English Language education.

Our children worked hard on Monday and Tuesday mornings on these 'tests' and the 'test' booklets now have to be sent back to Australia for checking. I will be in touch when we receive our data but you can rest assured that the data will be reviewed and responsibly reported back to the ISH community.

The process has, thanks to the children, Brigit Nijsten and Ioannis Andreadis in particular, gone extremely smoothly. I therefore wish to take the opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to this short but important process. The Year 8 children were a pleasure to work with and it is comforting to know that when the children move on through their education they will have had experience of such a formal process.

With thanks, Jeff Shaw (Deputy Head Curriculum – Teaching and Learning)

Funds raised

Newsletter Spotlight

On Friday November 14, 2008, ISH held a fundraising Talent Show. The sum of €500- was raised and, as last year, donated towards the TAZAMO project in Mozambique.

The TAZAMO project of ADPP started in 2006 in partnership with Connect International and consists of a package of different components all aiming at "Improving community health and economies with low-cost community development and water and sanitation technologies".

The main task of the TAZAMO project activities is to secure better access to potable water. In order to give more people the possibility to obtain water, local resources and low cost technologies are used.

The day to day operation of the project is divided in a technical department covering the digging of wells, the production of the rope-pumps, the installation and training of the water-committees.

The other section is the community health activities, here action groups are formed in the villages where they learn and practice about topics related to hygiene, health and nutrition. To give an idea of numbers, in December 2008 the communities in 68 villages were involved with an estimated population of 125.400 inhabitants.

A short ADPP report brings us the current situation on the 2 boreholes with rope-pumps that have been realised with the €500 from the ISH. The ropepumps have been installed in the communities of Cocomue and Nhaweliwa, who were in urgent need of clean drinking water.

Rope-pumps in the communities Cocomue and Nhaweliwa

Read on to get an idea of all the aspects connected with the construction of the rope-pump itself, the necessary efforts, materials and the people involved in such an event of finding water for living in many different places all over the region.



In Cocomue 43 families organized themselves around the request for an improved water-point. Two ADPP water-technicians were in charge of the work and also organized the work done by the community. On average 10 people were continually present ready to do what was needed, like collecting river-sand, gravel and water, mixing cement etc. The water point costs around €400 Euro, with the group contributing about 10% of the costs and the rest covered by the TAZAMO funds. However, even if the pump has been functioning since September, the contribution has only reached 50%. The well is 6m deep and its water level is 3m.

The people who contributed are very pleased with the well, and the water committee has committed themselves to take good care of it and to make sure to collect the outstanding amount.

The duration of digging and constructing the water point took around two weeks since all the materials were available and there weren't any serious obstacles in the work.

Nhaweliwa: Here 32 families have requested a rope-pump.

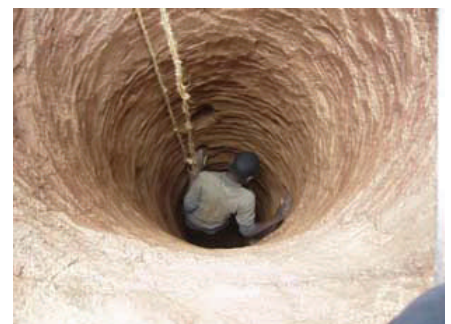
The well is almost completed, the process taking around two weeks. Two water technicians are responsible for the digging and the construction, and the community – the owners – contributed in doing part of the work.

The families haven't yet paid their part of €40, also here the water-committee have committed themselves to collecting the money, that is, when the economy is better in the area – when the annual crops will be harvested in 2009.

The well is 2,60m deep, when stones made it impossible to dig further. The water level is 1,10m.

If you would like further information please visit the Stichting Connect International: www.connectinternational.nl

ISH will be holding another fundraising concert on Friday April 17, 2009.



Year 7 Water Project excursion

On Monday January 19, 2009, Year 7 enjoyed a day's excursion to celebrate the culmination of their Water Project. Here are some excerpts of their experiences:



All the Year 7's went on a school trip to the Uithof and then a boat trip to the Rotterdam harbour. First Year 7 left, off to the Uithof and spent a few hours skating. After skating we went to Rotterdam harbour. We went to get on the boat and we started sailing, there was a minor accident but everyone was fine. All the students liked the yummy pancakes. Overall the trip was a success.
By Georgia 7C.

The water project trip was not just your regular field trip. It was full of surprises and excitement. Most importantly, it was fun. We started off our day checking if everyone was there and loading up the buses. The bus I was on, was screaming songs the whole way to our first stop. First we went ice skating. Getting our skates was very organised but took so long. It

felt like we were waiting forever. I wish I had a really small shoe, so I could have gone first. Ice skating was a lot of fun.

When ice skating was all done, we went to the Pancake Boat. The concept is that you can eat however many pancakes you want and you can put whatever topping you want on it. Most people ate about 2 or 3. While you are eating pancakes you are also sailing on a ship. When we were leaving the dock everyone in the boat felt a huge jolt, and heard screaming, and saw panicked faces. Our boat had crashed into a pole. The side had crashed, not the whole boat. The whole window came out on the top and on the bottom. One of the girls who did not see the crash coming, got a glass splinter in her head, but other than that nobody was hurt. Our boat trip was cancelled. The paramedics came and the police. We did not get to sail but at least we got to eat the pancakes, which were fabulous. It was not a normal or predictable field trip, but that's what made it fun!

By Lizzie 7D

On Monday the 19th of January Year 7 went to the Uithof to skate on the ice. It was of course great fun. Some students that did not yet know how to skate got taught by the gym teachers. The students that did skate on the inner ring because they were not allowed to skate on the outer. After the skating the year 7 students went on the bus to Rotterdam where they went to the Pannekoeken boat. On the boat they could eat unlimited pancakes. However when the boat started driving it did not make a big enough turn and it crashed into a

pole. One window broke at the bottom and one broke on the top. Only one girl got hurt and she got hurt quite badly. An ambulance came and inspected the girl but did not take her to hospital. It was quite a shock for some people but despite that it was a nice trip. Best regards,
By Lynn7C

On the 19th of January 2009 we were going to the Uithof at 08:45am. The first reason why I didn't like the Uithof was that I couldn't choose the skates I wanted. And when I asked the teachers if I could, they said yes. That was the first thing. The second was that we were only allowed to skate on the inner ring. I found that really stupid, because the ice in the ring was really slippery so you could barely skate. Also the skates hurt. Then we went to the Pannekoeken boat and that was quite fun, only the accident was less. But for the rest it was quite good, because there were no lessons!
By Doretta 7D



The all new Area of Interaction symbols

HUMAN INGENUITY



Why and how do we create? What are the consequences?

ENVIRONMENTS



What are our environments? What are our responsibilities? What resources do we have or need?

COMMUNITY AND SERVICE



How do we live in relation to each other?
How can we contribute to the community?
How can we help others?

APPROACHES TO LEARNING



How do we learn best?
How do we know? How do we communicate our understanding?

HEALTH AND SOCIAL EDUCATION



How do we think and act?
How are we changing?
How can we look after ourselves and others?

HIGH 5



The coming weeks will see the introduction of these new symbols within the mentor programme.

Freezing Physics roadshow February 6, 2009

A chance for students to come into contact with exciting science. Ever wondered what sort of interesting scientific apparitions can occur at extremely low temperatu-

res. This visit answered student's questions at all levels and the various live demonstrations will evoke even more curiosity.

Floating magnet
above a superconductor



Bioinformatics at the ISH



Bioinformatics is the use of computers to solve biological and biomedical problems.

On Thursday 12 Feb, the y12 Chemistry HL students will be participating in the national project "DNA-labs on the road" and bioinformatics practical.

This will be presented by Radboud University Nijmegen-Medical Centre /NCMLS

(www.cmbi.ru.nl, www.nbic.nl)

Since 2006, 4000 Dutch high school students have already participated in this project.

For the first time, next week, the practical will be conducted to students in English (www.bioinformatics-at-school.eu) We look forward to welcoming our guest presenters on Thursday 12 February.

ISH Mandarin for beginners Course 2009



The Chinese Zodiac is a 12-year cycle. Each year of the 12-year cycle is named after one of the original 12 animals. Each animal has a different personality and different characteristics. The animal is believed to be the main factor in each person's life that gives them their traits, success and happiness in their lifetime. Can you guess which 12 animals are the signs according to the hints? Enrol on the beginners course to find out this and much more. Other topics include:

Language

- Hello. (greeting)
- What is your name? (introduce)
- How old are you? (number expressions)
- What is your nationality? (country name)
- This is our school ISH.(school and grade)
- I love my family. (relatives)
- Where do you live? (address expressions)
- What is the date today? (date)
- What day is it today? (day and time)
- What are these in the schoolbag? (objects)

Culture talk

- The Art of Calligraphy and the Significance of Chinese Paintings
- Meanings in a Chinese Name

Differences between Chinese and Western Medicines

Red : China's Favorite Color

Twelve animal signs

Chinese family Relations

Tea or Coffee?

The Color of Food

When English Meets Chinese

The Monkey King VS. Harry Potter

The course focuses on the basic Chinese vocabulary, simple conversations and culture talk. It is based on the need to acquire practical communication skills and enlighten the puzzles of the Chinese culture and customs from the perspective of people overseas. You also have chances to experience the vivid and funny oriental activities in person.

The course will be given on Tuesday afternoon from 16:00-17:30 (plus a second group from 17:45-19:15 if more than 12 students apply). The minimum number of participants is 6 and the maximum is 12 for each group. Everyone is welcome, parents and students alike.

Click here for more [information](#)

Or e-mail:

Fang Bao baofang1234@gmail.com

The dates are Tuesdays on:

March 24(trial lesson for free) -31

April 7

May 12 -19 -26

June 2 -9 -16 -23



CAS SPOTLIGHT on Anja Yr 13

CAS is a required component of the IB Diploma programme and stands for Creativity, Action and Service. Some of our students really touch upon the spirit of CAS as it was intended by the IBO, specifically in relation to the Service aspect, and undertake rewarding activities for both themselves and the community. Such students will be placed in the spotlight for their outstanding service contributions:

I have been working as a lifeguard for 4 years now. I always enjoyed swimming and after someone told me I could join the "Haagse Vrijwillige Reddingsbrigade" with the age of 15 I was furious to know what it was like. I always loved the beach and the combination of sun, sea and the beach seemed very attractive.

After I joined I had to follow training over one year. Everyone that wants to join has to do this so you learn everything you will need to know. During the training -which is every week- I had one hour of theory and one of practice where the different methods were taught or where they taught you what to do if you swim in a current. The training takes place during the Summer holidays and by the end you will have an examination to see if you learned enough.



Once you have passed the test you are officially a lifeguard but you can always improve by following another training for example for controlling and leading a saving itself. So by improving your skills you automatically take on more responsibility

because others take action on your behalf. The highest diploma you can get (in Holland) is the TOM. Once you have achieved that you can take a course to drive the car or the boat on the beach.

To make sure all the lifeguards are in good shape there are different tests that have to be done before each season. This includes one running and one swimming test. First aid is one of the most common situations we get during work on the beach which is why everyone has to repeat a course which also completes with a test.

The day as a lifeguard normally starts at 10 am and ends at 18 pm. From end May until the beginning of September we're located at 5 different locations from Kijkduin to Scheveningen. This means every weekend and during Summer holidays also through the week. During this time the aim is to prevent swimmers getting into situations where they need help. So if we will have to start a saving we missed our aim. To prevent those situations and achieve the aim, we have a post, a boat and a car. The post is a house on the beach and it is located at busy places which allow an overview over the most dangerous zones. With the help of a car or/and boat we also watch the other places that can't be seen from the post.

The hard days are those that don't look dangerous. Those where only a few people lie on the beach because it's very windy. Wind and current are dangerous, often fatal combinations, which especially tourists underestimate. Most of the savings we do are the people that swim too far and can't come back and then tend to panic. But next to that, last year we had a tourist that couldn't swim and walked off of a sandbank and then disappeared under water. Only after a major search operation together with the KNRM and the police did we find him. So the lifeguard's work definitely brings the adrenaline up and

catches your breath, but once everyone has sand under their feet again everything seems just alright and you will feel relieved.

Next to the lifeguard work in Summer we train once every week in a pool where you can also achieve a diploma for the fresh waters, meaning that you could e.g. work in a pool later. We also have sport commission and every week you can meet up to go running together or to participate in different tournaments for either swimming or running. Next to that weekends are organized where you go away and do some outdoor activity that strengthens the teamwork and keeps the fun and the "gezelligheid" up.



Why should you work as a lifeguard?

Well easy, because it's an experience you won't forget so easily. You will make a lot of new friends and improve your teamwork skills. Next to that it's nice if you can help other people and let's face it, going on the boat with huge waves does kick in somewhere doesn't it? And that's just one extra that comes with it. It also gives you a lot of responsibility and self-confidence. So being a lifeguard comes with a lot of things. One of the most important ones are being able to help other people and doing something for others but having fun at the same time.

Contact me if you are interested!

By Anja, Yr 13



Invitation to ISH concert



On Wednesday 18th February 2009 19:00-21:00

*The Pilgrim High School Choir
from Rhode Island USA,*

Directed by JoAnn Phillips

will visit ISH to present a Concert together with
ISH International Choirs The Youth Orchestra
Directed by Dr. Malcolm Davies Conducted by Gerard Poot

All ISH students, Family and Friends are invited

The Theatre - Admission Free

ISH music students gain top awards

The American School of The Hague was the venue for the annual AMIS (Association for Music in International Schools) Solo and Ensemble Music Festival. Roughly 420 students attended from international schools all over Europe. From our school the junior Choir, Senior Choir, Joining Voices and several soloists attended. Each group or soloist performs in front of a judge. The judges are well known professionals in their own fields who have graduated from major music colleges throughout the world. The Festival is not a competition, but awards are made according to the level of achieve-



ment of the performers. A Blue Ribbon is awarded for Distinction and Merit, a Red Ribbon for Good and Satisfactory and a White Ribbon for 'The Amis Challenge' (well done for taking part. How well can you do next year?). All of our groups and soloists received a Blue Ribbon. Truly remarkable results were: Joining Voices (Amy, Zoë, Muna, Sara F and Sara G) who gained the maximum 25 points. So did Alexander (solo piano - his own composition) and then together with Katherine (piano duet). An amazing 24 points went to Alain (piano solo), Katherine (solo piano) and Zoë (solo voice). Another 24 students from ISH took part as members of the Junior and Senior Choirs. They also gained 'first division' Blue Ribbon results (and no other choral groups were judged to be better). They were specially complimented on their quality of sound and choice of music. It was nice to see so many parents during the day supporting their children! The long, exhaus-

ting but very enjoyable day ended with master classes (in which some of our students performed) and a concert in which all the string players who were present (about 60) performed two bright Irish folk-song arrangements.

Dr. Malcolm Davies, Director of Music



Happy 200th Birthday Charles!

The 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Robert Darwin falls on 12 February 2009. Darwin was arguably the most influential scientist of modern times. No single researcher has since matched his collective impact on the natural and social sciences; on politics, religions, and philosophy; on art and cultural relations, and in ways that the man himself would never have imagined. Visit the Darwin special on www.nature.com

The largest of the tortoises, the endangered Galápagos tortoise is incredibly long-lived. One captive tortoise lived over 150 years.

Visit these websites and find out more....

www.darwin200.org

[Darwin and culture](#)

www.newscientist.com

The Year 11 and DP biology students will be testing their knowledge on Darwin and evolution with the online quiz, being launched in February on i-shMoodle.

C.Mak



POET IN RESIDENCE

JOINS THE ISH THIS MONTH.

As part of an International Text Festival—UK based Poet and Text-Artist PHILIP DAVENPORT will be taking up a month long residency at the ISH. As well as taking inspiration for his own work he will also be offering workshops and inviting participation across all the subject areas.

This project has been made possible through the Arts Council England, Stroom and The ISH.

Details from Mark Jalland, Visual Arts Coordinator

Parent Association (PA) news

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

10 Feb.
PA Meeting & Multicultural seminar
19:00 in the ISH Theatre
Let Bob know your nationality via
bob@itim.org

11 Feb.
Year 8 coffee morning

18 Feb.
Year 9 Restaurant meeting



Directory Secondary School – new families' data was updated and some corrections were made.

Parents and students can collect it for free in the ISH bookstore (open from 10h to 13h, next to the admissions office) or at any event organised by the PA.

Reminder

PA meeting & Multicultural seminar by Bob Waisfisz

When: **Tuesday 10th February**, at **19:00**

Where: in the ISH Theatre

Year 8 Parents Morning Coffee

When: **Wednesday, 11th February**, at **10:30**

Where: Karen's house in the Statenkwartier

For more information please contact Year 8 Representatives

New Event

Year 9 Parents Meeting

When: **Wednesday, 18th February**, at **19:30**

Where: **GEM Bar/Restaurant** of the Gemeente Museum in The Hague

If you wish to attend, please send an email to The Year 9 Representatives

Parents Association

Sport

Exciting news from the U14 Boys basketball team who played against Bonn U14 on Friday 23rd and Saturday 24th January

The results were:

- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
- ★ **BIS - ISH** ★
- ★ Game 1 on Friday ★
- ★ 61 - 24 ★
- ★ Game 2 on Saturday ★
- ★ 54 - 23 ★
- ★ Game 3 on Saturday ★
- ★ 54 - 18 ★
- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



For other basketball matches coming up, click on the [sports](#) section and don't forget the extra matches planned on:
 Friday 6 March 17.00 U16 Boys ISH-BIS
 Saturday 7 March 17.00 U16 Boys ISH-BIS

Super Flag Bowl III

On Super Bowl Sunday 1 February 2009 our two junior (under 15) Flag American Football teams participated in the International Super Flag Bowl III tournament in Leiden. Both teams did very well; both won 2 games and lost 2 games. The host team, the Leonardo Lions fielding under 16 players, won the tournament by beating French champions Les Boucaniers from Paris 24-12. It was a fun, but freezing day (including a bit of snow) in which both teams showed good skills and spirit. A big thanks to Vincent (Y12) for helping to supervise the players!

