

School Councils Conference

Last Thursday and Friday, our Y4/5/6 children were in The Hague with Sara de Vries, our School Council coordinator, and Sue Beattie. The group travelled down by train and arrived at Junior School Leidschenveen, the newest of the BSN schools, in time to join in with the school's Science Day. At the end of the day host families collected all of the children and took them home to eat and sleep.

The next day was the whole BSN School Councils Conference. Our children gave an excellent presentation on The Helen Sharman School's 'green' activities, and were then involved in a 'speed dating' session in which they got to know

school council members from all schools, including the Senior School. All children then took part in group discussions preparing advice to the BSN on energy-saving initiatives which the whole school could take on. Again, the children from Assen involved themselves fully and were an asset to us.

The Y4/5/6 children are now preparing reports on their experiences, including an unexpected treat which the taxi driver organised for the children on the way back to the train station on Friday. To read about this and much more....watch out for the report in the next newsletter!




JSA School Council present their ideas at the Conference

Helen Sharman

We're very happy to be able to confirm that Helen Sharman will be joining us on May 18<sup>th</sup>. This will be our International Day, on which we would like to involve our whole community, ending with an International lunch. Parents and children will have the chance to meet Helen informally.

During that week, and the previous week, there will be a number of exciting 'Earth and Beyond' activities taking place as part of the Whole School Topic which begins after the Easter break. The topic will focus on our world, our different nationalities, outer space and imaginary worlds. A 'Space Hotel' will be set up in school, the children will take part in a rocket-making workshop and a theatre performer will take the children on journey into their imaginations. More information on this will follow, but please note 18<sup>th</sup> May in your diaries. We would very much appreciate your involvement in our International Day.

Key Dates	
24 March	School swimming
27 March	Clocks 1 hour forward 
29 March	Gymnastics demonstration (13.00-14.00)
30 March	Art Club (12.00-13.00)
31 March	Last School swimming session
6 April	Foundation 1 & 2 visiting Ballorig Art Club (12.00-13.00)
13 April	Art Club (12.00-13.00)
18 April	Head Teacher's Awards
21 April	Farewell assembly (11.30) Spring Term ends @ 12.00
9 May	Summer Term starts

### Gymnastics Group

Next Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, a group of 12 gymnasts and three members of staff will be visiting us from the BSN in The Hague. This has been organised by Gordon Finch, PE specialist at the BSN, who Jennifer and Joseph Donnellan remember from their years in The Hague. Our children will have the opportunity to learn some gymnastics skills during the day, so they will need their gym clothes in school as normal on Tuesdays. From 13.00-14.00 there will be a gymnastics display for all children and parents, so please feel welcome to come to the gym and watch.



### Garden Centre Visit

The Foundation children again enjoyed their traditional Spring visit to the garden centre, Tuinland, last Tuesday. As always, Andre, who has been our school's garden centre guide for many years, ensured that the children enjoyed every aspect of the experience, from learning about types of moss to being offered a tasty snack and drink. All children came home from Tuinland with a basket of spring daffodils which they had planted themselves. They made some extras, which you can admire in the school entrance hall.



### Puppet Show

Last Wednesday, a children's theatre performer, Magda van Veen, arrived at school early to set up her theatre. After break, the children were given a performance of 'The Toy Shop'. The performance was completely in Dutch, and staff were very impressed at how much the children clearly understood the story line, laughed at the right moments, were convinced by the characters and even joined in with the songs.

