



Pre-School & Primary School

Thursday Pack

The Thursday Pack is our weekly communication document sent to Parents and Staff to keep everyone updated with events, updates and household business at United World College Maastricht Primary.

Thursday 30th September 2010

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Morning drop off procedure

Thank you to all Early Years parents who are now saying Goodbye to their children in the playground. The children have taken on the new responsibility of hanging up their coats and putting away their bags very well! Thank you for your support.



If it's raining in the morning we will open the doors at 08:15. We kindly request that you do wait until a member of staff opens the doors because we need time to inform all staff members that the children will be entering the building earlier. Lessons will still start promptly at 08:30!

After school pick up procedure

Thank you to all parents for waiting further away from the main entrance in the afternoon. This has made a difference! As soon as you have collected your child we kindly remind you that the responsibility of your child returns to you and we therefore cannot be accountable for children who are not supervised. The doors to the school do need to be closed approximately 15 minutes after pick up because staff members often have meetings to attend and preparation work in their rooms.

Taxi drop off and pick up procedure



This is a very important notice for all families who make use of taxis to drop off and collect children from school. There is an allocated drop off zone along the road which runs directly behind UWCM. The entrance to this is behind the lower school playground. This drop off zone is indicated with yellow lines. Here the taxis can stop safely and the children can get out of the taxis and get in the taxis at the end of the day. The taxis can then continue to drive along this one way road and exit at the gate at the other end of the UWCM campus. We have to have the full support of all families to keep our school safe. The Traffic Police have been informed of this situation and they will support us with the implementation of this new system.

Book Week



From 6th October - 16th October we will celebrate Book Week. The theme for Book Week is **Books from Around the World**, which is very appropriate for UWCM! Book Week, as usual, will be filled with fun and interesting activities related to this theme.

Please find attached the separate information letter and Book Week Competitions (x3) for different age groups from our Book Week Committee: Mrs. Pamela Kajero, Mrs. Janet Baines and Mrs. Alison Smeets.

Jacques Vriens Visit!



On Monday 27th September Mr. Jacques Vriens, a famous Dutch children's author, came to school to read his book to the Year 6, Year 7 and Year 8 students as part of their Dutch studies. After the reading there was a chance to ask questions and there was a book signing session! Jacques Vriens was also accompanied by the illustrator of his book, Mark Janssen, who added some fun illustrations to the autographs and explained the process of book illustrating! It was a fantastic experience for the students and we extend a special thank you to Jacques Vriens and Mark Janssen for making the time to visit UWCM.



Achievements!

Congratulations Lukas!



Lukas Versaggi from Year 3 won the silver medal when he participated in the Maastricht Athletics Club Championship. Lukas took part in the event for 7 year olds which involved a 40 meter run, long jump, ball throw and 600 meter run. This is an amazing achievement and we are very proud of you Lukas, well done!

Third Culture Kid Workshop (TCK)

On **Friday 1st October** after morning drop off in the UWCM Primary staffroom, Parents are invited to attend the TCK coffee/workshop which is hosted by Mrs. Gerda Bonten (Year 3 Teacher) and Mrs. Dorine Lemmens (UWCM Counselor).

There will be a presentation addressing issues surrounding internationally mobile families who have just arrived in a country and an opportunity to share and talk about your experiences with others. Useful advice is also offered to help you adjust into your new life here in The Netherlands. Please see the separate flyer for more details.

Parental feedback from previous workshops has always been positive and most of all you will realize that you are not alone in your fears, concerns and anxieties but most of all your desire to get the most from the experience of living abroad!

Reading assessments and CAT testing



The reading assessments are complete. The results are being compiled to gather a whole school overview. This test supports teachers with the assessment of reading skills and will inform which level of book best supports your child's reading. As soon as the teachers have analyzed the results the reading books will start to come home!

The digital cognitive ability testing will also take place over the coming weeks in Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6. There is nothing specific that your child can do to prepare for this test we just kindly request that your child gets a good night rest and a good breakfast during the testing week. The results will be made available to parents as soon as the individual results have been compiled. Please find attached a separate letter from Mrs. Alison Smeets, our SEN Coordinator, responsible for organizing the testing.

2010-2011 Charity



Each school year we select a charity which all proceeds of House League fundraising will be donated to at the end of the school year. Following some careful deliberation with the students the chosen charity for this school year is the 'Doe een wens' (Make a Wish Foundation) www.doeeenwens.nl. This charity supports children with life threatening illnesses to fulfill wishes and dreams.

Playground

Thank you to all parents and staff who have provided valuable feedback regarding the playground project. The first meeting with the IB volunteers takes place next week and we will compile a plan to realize the project. Please keep the ideas coming! n.cooper@uwcmaastricht.com.

UWCM Welcome Picnic



Thank you to all families who came along and joined in with the Welcome Picnic on Sunday 26th September. It was well attended and as usual the choice of food was fantastic! The children were entertained by the magician and families took the opportunity to socialize. A special thank you goes to Diane Clark, Janet Harwood and Rikki Nudler for all of their hard work behind the scenes and on the day!

UWCM Clothing

Rikki Nudler continues to sell the UWCM clothing which includes t-shirts, sweat pants and jackets and shorts. For more information please collect an order form from the Primary reception desk.

PD Clubs

The first round of PD Clubs starts next week. All families who submitted registration forms should have received a PD Club slip telling you the clubs that your child is registered for.

- If you have **Early Dismissal** on the form, please collect your child at **15:15**.
- If your child has a **PD Club**, please collect your child at **16:00** (unless a different collection time has been stated e.g. Music School)

If you have any queries, please contact PDclubteam@uwcmaastricht.com

Mad Science



Mad Science is a Dutch company that specializes in sparking children's interest in science. At UWCM we have built up a strong relationship with this company and next week the Mad Science lessons as part of the school timetable will start again. Every Wednesday afternoon our Mad Scientist Monique will come in to school to deliver a science lesson to a specific year group. The lesson is linked to the IPC topic and this gives the children first hand experience of scientific concepts and experiments. Mr. Joey in 't Panhuis is the Science Coordinator at UWCM Primary and he works closely with Mad Science and Mrs. Suzanne Spedding, our IPC Coordinator, to ensure a fun learning experience for the children.

UWCM Halloween Event



The infamous UWCM whole school Halloween event will take place in the UWCM atrium on **29th October** from **18:00 - 22:00**. Please see the separate flyer attached for more information. We still need plenty of help to make this event happen so please contact Ms. Raslevich at araslevich@gmail.com if you are ready and willing to volunteer.

Survey for childcare needs of UWCM families



Your opinion counts! United World College is interested to find out more about our families' possible needs regarding childcare. Therefore we would like to invite you to fill in a digital survey we made in cooperation with MIK Kinderopvang. The survey can be reached by following link:

<http://s.checkmarket.com/?e=14428&d=p&h=5AD5B06F43528C30FF8E&l=en>

The survey will be online till October 12th 2010. We hope to learn from your needs!

Communication from school



At UWCM Primary we do our best to have set days each week for communication to go home. On Thursdays, alongside the digital Thursday Pack, you can expect any other forms of communication (letters etc) to be sent home too. Please be sure to check your child's school bag on this day!

On Mondays the teachers will send you the digital Class News Letters. This news letter may be sent weekly, fortnightly or monthly depending on the class. This initiative is still in its pilot phase which is in the process of being implemented across the primary school.

Please be sure to inform the office, your child's Teachers and the Class Rep if there is a change of e-mail address.

You may receive e-mails or important letters from school or the Class Reps at different times however we do our best to keep general communication to the set days.

Events in the local area

Invitation Exposition

Open every Sunday in October 2010 from 10:00- 18:00



This exposition is the result of an integration project between the Salvation Army (Leger des Heils), Buurtplat form Boost, 6211 Kunstkwartier and students from United World College Maastricht. The portraits resemble the residents of the Salvation Army. Please see the separate flyer attached.

International Playgroup



Maastricht International Playgroup - e-mail: mipmip@home.nl is a wonderful way to meet other international families and they provide an English-speaking environment for parents to socialize and relax with their children (0-4).

They meet weekly from 09:00 until noon at Judo Hall "The Dojo" which is near UWC Maastricht. No membership is required! The fee for one session (per family) is 4 Euros (to cover rent of judo hall). You can also purchase a card for 10 visits for 35 Euros

Police Day in Aachen / Polizei Nordrhein-Westfalen



On 2nd October the Nordrhein-Westfalen Police constabulary will host a Police day, similar to the Maastricht Police event last weekend. There will be plenty to see and do. For more information please go to www.polizei-nrw.de/aachen

I trust that this information has kept you fully informed of events to date. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me or another member of the Primary Management Team.

Catherine Copeland, Principal of UWCM Primary