



Newsletter number 2

Important dates in the coming weeks:

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| October 12-16, 2020 | Regatta vacation |
| October 19, 2020 | Staff Study day (all children free) |

Report on consultation between schools and OLB regarding COVID-19

On September 22nd, the local government of Bonaire (OLB) initiated a consultation between all primary, secondary, and vocational schools. Sylvana Janga-Serfilia (Director of Community and Care), Marian Luinstra-Passchier (Department of Public Health) and Anouk Hansen (EOZ) discussed the significance of the COVID-19 measures for the schools with the schools.

The public body understands the concerns of parents and staff. People have discussed the impact of the decision to keep the schools open. This decision was taken by the Lieutenant Governor, as research shows that children do not transmit COVID-19 contamination quickly and if they do become infected, they rarely become ill. So far it has also been found that hardly any infections occur in schools. If children already become infected and it is passed on to others, this usually happens outside of school, where there is much more intensive contact than at school.

Topics of discussion included the proper regulation of the flows of parents and children, when entering and leaving the schools, keeping as much distance as possible, and how hygiene measures have been intensified. Schools could share with each other how they approach this and learn from each other's experiences. Everyone in attendance shared their concerns about parents keeping children at home.

Understandably, parents are concerned and want to protect their children. However, it is not necessary. The school offers education that is important for the future of the children, but also offers an environment where children can develop well socially. Children rarely get sick and rarely infect each other at school. It is very important for children to go to school. The infections on Bonaire mainly take place among working people.

The Education & Welfare Department will continue to implement the compulsory education act. This means that in the event of unauthorized absence, the attendance officer will warn the parents. The gym lessons at school were also discussed. Children under 18 do not have to keep 1.5 distances from each other and can continue to play sports, both indoors and outdoors. Gym classes at schools will therefore continue. Outdoor contact sports are still allowed. (Text taken from the crisis website OLB: <https://www.bonairecrisis.com/>).



Participation Council (MR) and vacancy MR member

The Participation Council (MR) is an advisory body that stands up for the interests of the school, the students, the parents and the teachers. The MR within our school strives to make an active contribution to the policy of the school by means of good communication and a critical eye. The MR consists of 6 members; 3 (elected) teachers (staff section) and 3 (elected) parents (parent section). The MR meets at least 5 times a year. The aim is to have a joint consultation with the Supervisory Board once a year.

All teachers and all parents / guardians can request the secretary of the MR to place a topic or proposal on the agenda of a meeting for discussion. If you have any questions or concerns about the school's policies, please discuss them with one of the members of the MR, or send an email to: mr@bsdepelikaan.com.

The current members of the MR are:

Karen Blaauw: chair (teacher)

Gijsbert Ruitenbeek: secretary (parent)

Marijke Simmons: vice-chairman (teacher)

Dailisa Ernestina-Ignacio: member (teacher)

Patricia Gerritzen-Veen: member (parent)

Vacancy: member (parent)

At the end of last school year, Janto Djamin left the MR and a vacancy arose. We are therefore looking for a parent who would like to talk / think about the policies of the school. In order to be enrolled your child must be in school for at least 1 next school year. If you would like more information or if you would like to register directly, you can use the e-mail address above. The closing date for this vacancy is: Friday, October 9, 2020.

Books from the public library

If you still have books from the library at home, you have until October 31th, 2020, to return all books that are still at your home and owned by the Public Library for free (if it is opened by then).

Sincerely,

Gerald Kolenbrander

Director bs De Pelikaan