



## PTA Newsletter 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2019

This is the first newsletter I write in my role as PTA chairperson and it gives me immense pleasure to say that it has been a great start to the year. We could not have asked for a more thrilling and exciting first quarter, filled with activities, events, policies, debates and information sharing with new parents. PTA takes pride in getting involved and contributing towards building RISS, that we are and will be always be, proud of.

### Teaching and Learning Policy

The school is in the process of writing a Policy document on Teaching & Learning. It is being formalized and documented to further school's vision of 'Educating for self-awareness, curiosity and integrity in a changing world' and contribute towards the mission 'for every student to enjoy their youth' within the school's core business of learning. It also seeks to align school's instructional practices with the accrediting bodies, International Baccalaureate (IB), Council of International Schools (CIS) and The New England Association of Schools and colleges (NEASC). The school governance, leadership, teachers, students and parents support, embody and promote this document as a way of consolidating school's day-to-day practice.

There was an interactive session held on 31<sup>st</sup> Jan, towards understanding 'Learning' in all its aspects and forms, where teachers, student council members and some PTA members participated. The policy document is being drafted as we speak and needs to be finalized by May.

### Debate for Peace

Volunteers from the PTA helped the RISS to welcome Arab and Jewish students from the Debate for Peace organization to a packed Saturday programme on 16<sup>th</sup> February. The day started with stories from the visiting students about their experience of the conflict in Israel followed by a guest lecture from Dr Calculli from Leiden University on the historical context. Approximately 50 students then broke into a mini Model United Nations with 2 sub-committees. The PTA sponsored the lunch and refreshments and a gift for the guest speaker. The PTA volunteers were deeply impressed by the willingness to communicate across barriers shown by the Debate for Peace group and the MUN skills and knowledge displayed by our RISS students. It was an inspiring day and hopefully an event that could be repeated in future years with PTA support.

### Information Evening for New Parents

On 19<sup>th</sup> February, the school organised its annual information evening for parents and students who are about to transition from Junior to Senior school.

The PTA welcomed the newcomers with coffee and sweets, provided by the school. After the team leaders' presentations about what an education at RISS means, PTA members, as parent representatives, were able to answer questions and share their experiences about student and parent life at RISS.

The visiting parents were pleased that they, beside the information provided by the school, were able to talk to other parents. In addition, information was also shared over a wide range of activities that the PTA organises, from Dutch conversation to the annual International Food Fair. The PTA presence and information sharing during the evening, shows the strong community sense that is part of RISS.

## International Food Fair

On the evening of the 15<sup>th</sup> March, as the Rotterdam sky poured incessantly, the RISS senior campus shone – with activity, excitement, laughter and camaraderie over finger licking cuisine from around the world. RISS rejoiced in its diversity through this culinary celebration. The gastronomical delights of diverse global regions, with flags, flavours and flexibility merged into one great expression of unity within one community.

“Thank you”

- to all parents who contributed by bringing exotic delicacies from their home countries,
- to all teachers who supported, facilitated and helped to put together this event,
- to the IB CAS students who showed great enthusiasm and energy in showcasing their creativity, activity and service,
- to students who rendered a global ambiance with a selection of world music,
- and last but not the least, to the ‘PTA Organising Committee’ for a commendable job and making the biggest PTA event of the year such a success!!

*The IFF 2019 organising committee*



*The Raffle Baskets*



*The food & the fun*



for more photos of the event visit the RISS website; <https://riss.wolfert.nl/community/pta>

### MUN initiative in RISS

We had MUN student reps in last PTA meeting, talking about plans to host a MUN event at school and wanting to know if PTA would and could help. It's a great initiative and first time that RISS hosts such an event. PTA is more than willing to help when students get back with more details and specifics. Looking forward.

### Call for parents to join PTA

Lastly, I take this opportunity to call upon parents to please come and join the PTA. We are a dedicated group of parents who are involved in bunch of school activities like the above, throughout the school year. We take pride and pleasure to be a part of the school community. We are always in need of ideas and helping hands in making the school a better place for our children. So come and join us – one and all are welcome, and we look forward to your support. PTA meetings are held once a month (always on a Monday 9:00 to 10:00, dates for which can be found on the PTA page of school website.

### RISS Culture Club

Friday March 30th the Riss Culture club made an excursion through the center of Rotterdam. A 90 minute walk along the street art of Rotterdam. An interesting, cultural and lovely morning spend in good company with marvelous weather! For more information about the activities of the Culture Club contact us at [RISSPTA@wolfert.nl](mailto:RISSPTA@wolfert.nl).



More information about Rotterdam walks: <https://en.rotterdam.info/locations/roterdam-street-art-route>

Kind regards on behalf of PTA  
Smaranika Tripathy