

Antonius Activities

An English explanation

This guide is intended for parents who are new to the Netherlands. It explains Dutch holidays, school traditions, and important activities in the order in which they occur throughout the school year.

Start schooljaar, startgesprekken en informatieavond | Start of the School Year, Introductory Meetings and Information Evening

At the beginning of the school year, parents, pupils, and teachers get to know one another. We call this period the Golden Weeks. During the introductory meetings, expectations and any special circumstances are discussed. The purpose is for the child, parents, and school to become acquainted. For Years 3, 4 and 5, this is the only parent meeting attended by the child. In Years 6, 7 and 8, pupils also attend the meeting about their first report card. In Year 8 they also attend the secondary school recommendation meeting. During these information sessions, teachers explain what children will learn during the upcoming school year. In Years 1 and 2, daily routines are discussed, while in Year 3 extra attention is given to learning to read and do mathematics.

Openingsviering | Opening Celebration

Antonius school has a Catholic background. Therefore, we begin the school year together in St. Jan Geboortekerk in Kudelstaart. During the celebration, we reflect on the new school year ahead and consider how we work together. We also sing several songs together. Parents are welcome to join the celebration.

Studiedagen | Staff Development Days

There are five staff development days each year. On these days, teachers receive professional training or work together on improving education. Children do not attend school on these days.

Schoolreis | School Trip

At the beginning of the year, pupils in Years 1 through 7 go on a school trip. Instead of regular lessons, we visit an amusement park, zoo, or another enjoyable location where children can have fun together. We organise this trip at the beginning of the year because it helps strengthen relationships between pupils and teachers. Transportation is almost

always by coach bus. Departure is around the sportsfields (RKDES). In addition to food and drinks, children may bring some sweets. We ask for a voluntary parental contribution for the school trip and the Year 8 camp. We are happy if you pay with 'Parro'.

Kinderboekenweek | Children's Book Week

Children's Book Week is a nationwide campaign that promotes reading. Schools organise activities such as reading aloud, author visits, competitions, and themed assignments. Antoniuschool also pays a great deal of attention to reading enjoyment. A book fair is organised where children can buy books.

Do you know that we got our own library. Pupils can take the books home. The library for year 1/2 and 3 is open on Wednesday and Friday after school hours.

Sint Maarten | St. Martin's Day

St. Martin's Day is a traditional Dutch festival of light on November 11. Children carry lanterns and sing songs. The celebration refers to Saint Martin, who, according to the story, shared his cloak with a poor man. Sharing and caring for one another are central themes. Children up to Year 5 make lanterns at school. In the evening they may go door-to-door in the neighbourhood singing songs in exchange for sweets. Make sure to have a bowl of candy ready or dim the lights and hide 🤪

Periodeafsluiting | End-of-Period Performance

Twice a year Antoniuschool holds an end-of-period performance. In November there is the small performance in the school halls. One class from each year group performs a dance, song, or other presentation. In April there is the large performance in the Proosdijhal, where all classes perform by year group. Two guests per family are welcome to attend.

Sinterklaas | Sinterklaas

Sinterklaas is one of the best-known Dutch traditions. For many international families, this is one of the first typical Dutch celebrations they experience. Children put out their shoes, sing songs, and receive small gifts. Sometimes there is a messy Piet coming to the school when filling the shoes. Sinterklaas and his helpers visit the school around 5 december. In Years 1 through 4, children celebrate together with Sint and Piet.

In Years 5 through 8, pupils make surprise gifts and write poems for one another. A surprise is a handmade craft project that hides a small gift inside. The tradition combines

creativity, giving, and the excitement of a secret gift exchange. In class, each child will draw the name of a classmate. This means that every child will secretly make a surprise for the person whose name they have drawn. The surprise should be created at home and designed especially for that child. Many children choose to make a surprise based on the recipient's interests, hobbies, or favourite activities. For example, the surprise might be shaped like a football, an animal, a book, a robot, or something else that the recipient enjoys.

The small gift should be hidden inside the surprise so that opening it becomes part of the fun. Children can use cardboard, paper, paint, recycled materials, and other craft supplies to create their surprise. The more creative, the better! We ask that you do not put your child's name on the surprise, as it should remain a secret who made it until the surprises are exchanged.

A small gift should be included inside the surprise. Information about the budget for the gift will be shared separately by the teacher.

Kerstmis | Christmas

Christmas is the Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus. Many Dutch families put up a Christmas tree, send cards, and gather with relatives. At school, we tell the Christmas story, make decorations, wear your ugly Christmas jerseys and organise a communal Christmas dinner in each class and the kids wear festive clothes. Families bring food to create a buffet with dishes from different cultures.

Oud en Nieuw | New Year

During the New Year celebration, people wish one another a happy New Year. Many families eat oliebollen and apple turnovers. This holiday always takes place during the Christmas break.

Carnaval | Carnival

Carnival is a festive celebration that is especially popular in the southern Netherlands. Children and teachers come to school in costume. Games and festive activities are organised, and it is not a regular school day. We need your help on this day.

Bezoekuur voor ouders | Parent Visiting Hour

During the parent visiting hour, parents can observe their children working in the classroom. This provides insight into education at Antoniussschool. The visit takes place in March and lasts thirty minutes.

Zeepkistenrace | Soapbox Race

A soapbox is a homemade vehicle without an engine. We organise this event once every three years. Children may build a soapbox in their own time and then race it downhill along the street.

A-Factor | A-Factor

This is the school talent show. Children may perform singing, dancing, magic tricks, juggling, comedy acts, and much more. There is a winner, but participation is considered the most important aspect. We organise this event once every three years.

Goede Vrijdag en Pasen | Good Friday and Easter

Easter is an important Christian holiday and symbolises spring and new life. At school we pay attention to the Easter story. Children search for hard-boiled eggs hidden around the playground. Afterwards they may play the traditional egg-tapping game 'Eitje Tik'. The winner becomes the Egg King or Egg Queen. Boil the egg hard, really hard.

Koningsdag | King's Day

On King's Day, Dutch people celebrate the birthday of King Willem-Alexander. Flea markets, activities, and celebrations take place throughout the country. Many people wear orange clothing. Pupils have the day off. Some schools participate in the King's Games (Koningsspelen), but we do not because we have our own sports day.

Dodenherdenking | Remembrance Day

On 4 May, Dutch people remember the victims of wars. At 8:00 p.m. the entire country observes two minutes of silence. In Kudelstaart, Year 7 and 8 pupils regularly contribute to the local commemoration (at the big pond) by reading a poem or laying a wreath.

Bevrijdingsdag | Liberation Day

On 5 May, we celebrate freedom and the end of the Second World War in the Netherlands. Activities and festivals take place across the country. Schools are always closed on this day.

Hemelvaart | Ascension Day

This Christian holiday is a day on which the school is closed. Many families use it for a long weekend. Ascension Day falls on a Thursday and we try to give the following Friday off as well.

Avondvierdaagse | Evening Four-Day Walk

The Evening Four-Day Walk is not organised by the school, but registration takes place through the school. Children walk a 5 km or 10 km route on four evenings. Years 1 to 4 walk 5 km. Years 6 to 8 walk (mostly) 10 km. Year 5 pupils may choose. Parents are responsible for supervision. The fee is €5.50 and children receive a medal on the final evening. Sometimes they also receive a small gift, a flower, or sweets. From their own family.

Sportdag | Sports Day

Once each year we hold a sports day at RKDES on Wim Kandreef. Children spend the morning participating in sporting activities and games. We are always looking for many parent volunteers to help supervise groups or assist with activities. We close the day with a football match against year 8.

Pinksteren | Pentecost

This is a Christian holiday. Pupils have the day off on Whit Monday.

Kamp groep 8 | Year 8 Camp

Year 8 pupils go on camp for several days. This is one of the highlights of their final primary school year. Children spend two nights in tents, take part in many fun activities, and cycle a substantial part of the route.

Schoolvoetbal en andere toernooien | School Football and Other Tournaments

Children compete against other schools from Aalsmeer and Kudelstaart. Teams are organised by age and boys and girls compete separately. The football tournament takes place in the evenings and participation is free. Other tournaments include volleyball, basketball, korfbal, water polo, athletics, and more are listed on our website. It's so much fun to join these tournaments!

Algemene Ouderavond | General Parent Meeting

This is a special evening to which all parents are invited. The evening begins with a more formal programme. The Parent Council (Ouderraad en MR) will present a review of the past year, and the school management team will look back on the school's achievements and developments. The goals and plans for the coming year will also be shared. During the evening, you will find out who your child's teacher will be next year and have the opportunity to meet them briefly. The new Year 3 classes (Group 3) will also be announced.

After the formal part of the evening, the atmosphere becomes more relaxed. We will arrange long tables and enjoy a bingo evening together with all parents. There will be a variety of wonderful sponsored prizes to win. The bingo numbers will also be displayed on a screen, which is especially helpful for anyone who is not yet familiar with Dutch numbers.

We look forward to spending this enjoyable and informative evening together.

Afscheidsavond groep 8 | Year 8 Farewell Evening

A festive conclusion to primary school featuring a musical performance prepared by the pupils themselves. It is a special evening attended by parents only.

Vossenjacht | Fox Hunt

Teachers dress up and hide around the neighbourhood. Children search for them and collect stamps. Kindergarten children are accompanied by parents. Year 7 and 8 pupils help supervise Years 3 and 4. Years 5 and 6 may walk independently in groups.

Juffen/meesterdag | Teachers' Day

Once each year the teachers of a year group celebrate their birthdays together. No regular lessons take place. Some children bring gifts, but this is not required. A drawing or a handshake is appreciated just as much.

Laatste schooldag en zomervakantie | Last Day of School and Summer Holiday

The school year ends with a countdown on the playground, after which the summer holiday begins.