

Newsletter 4-2015

From the English Section of Levende Talen



Editorial

Dear members,

Welcome to the last Newsletter of 2015; it's already time for the festive season!

In this Newsletter our chair reflects on the recent 'Landelijke Studiedag Levende Talen' (LSD) and reports on our reply to the report *Onderwijs2032*, which is also attached to this Newsletter as a separate document (in Dutch) for your information. We also give a very warm welcome to three new SBE Board members, one of whom is already well-known to you: Louise Taylor, representing the Vedocep. The other two are Dave Kradolfer and Jolien Quaedvlieg, who introduce themselves to you in this Newsletter.

Time flies and practical information about the registration for the 50th Annual Conference of IATEFL in Birmingham next year can be found in this issue. More IATEFL news deals with the LMCS SIG's Pre-Conference Days on 11 and 12 April, dealing with our well-known old bard Shakespeare.

Pascal Koole not only reports on the Powtoon Challenge and her workshop at the LSD but also introduces *ReadZone Weekly*, a news concept for vmbo she discovered at the LSD 2015.

Finally, Louise Taylor brings us up-to-date with the latest news of from the Vedocep, which is linked to the English Section of Levende Talen.

As a New Year's resolution for 2016, we would really like to encourage all our members of the English Section to provide us with input for our Newsletter, it will be highly appreciated! So, once again, please submit your comments, ideas, announcements, articles, reviews, events, etc., etc. for our newsletters and our LT webpage. Please send them all to our secretary/content manager: secretaris.engels@levendetalen.nl.

Keep up-to-date and join us through our webpage: www.levendetalen.nl/Talensecties/Engels and on social media: on Facebook: *LT_Engels* and on Twitter: *LT_Engels*.

We would love see you all participating: post photos, interesting news etc. on our Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/LevendeTalenEngels>

You do not need a Facebook membership to take a look at the site, so let's meet each other on Facebook or Twitter!

We wish all our members and their loved ones a peaceful and very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Successful New Year. Looking forward to meeting you all again at events in 2016!

The board of the English Section / 'Het Sectiebestuur Engels', Levende Talen

From the Chair

Dear colleagues,

We proudly present the fourth Newsletter of 2015. We hope many of you attended and enjoyed the LSD 2015 (the annual conference of Levende Talen) on 6th November last. Those of you who visited our stand received our gift for our members, *Talking Dice*. Both Pascal Koole and Patricia Rose presented workshops, the latter in cooperation with our invited guest Joe Dale. **We would really appreciate it if you could send us a review of your visit to the LSD, to our workshops by Joe Dale/Patricia Rose and by Pascal Koole/Karin Epping and to our stand.** Please send it to: secretaris.engels@levendetalen.nl

We are happy to introduce two new board members: Dave Kradolfer and Jolien Quaedvlieg, who will be officially appointed during the ALV 2016. Furthermore, Louise Taylor will join our Board now too, formally representing VEDOCEP (VEreniging van DOCenten Engels aan de Pabo). In Newsletter 2016-1 we will write an overview of the various tasks the board members are involved in.

Worth mentioning is that we have written a reply to the plan *Onderwijs 2032*, which we have attached to this Newsletter for your information (it's in Dutch). It proposes the introduction of teaching English to 4-year olds, so we expressed our opinion as a contribution to the final version of that plan.

On a personal note, by the time you read this Newsletter I have embarked on a 7-week trip to the Fiji Islands and New Zealand on the occasion of our ruby wedding anniversary, so if you would like to contact me, please do so after January 6.

Kind regards, Willemien



New Board members

As mentioned above by Willemien, we are happy to welcome two brand new Board members and here they present themselves to you.

Dave

Hi, my name is Dave Kradolfer. I am quite pleased that I was selected for the board of English at LT. I hope I can contribute in a few weeks but let me introduce myself first.

I am 31 years old, I live in Arnhem and I have taught English at the Candea College for 6 years now. I find it hard to sit still so in addition to finishing my master study at the Hogeschool van Arnhem en Nijmegen, I have also joined the faculty board of the HAN Master Programmes and I am currently setting up a Cambridge programme at our school together with a colleague. Ever since the start of my thesis (which is about flipped learning and motivation) I have also developed a special interest in anything that has to do with IT in secondary education. At the English board of LT I hope I can use my "mediawisness" to motivate others to tune in to Levende Talen too.

In my spare time I like mountain climbing in the Alps or Dolomites, cooking, mountainbiking, travelling, and reading English and American literature. I usually read McEwan, Murakami translations or Hemingway in the summer holiday, Jonathan Safran Foer or Shakespeare with the kids in 4VWO and 5 HAVO and there is a copy of poems by Sylvia Plath in my toilet.

I hope to meet you soon so we can get to know each other. See you soon!

Dave

Jolien

Dear colleagues,

Recently I joined the board of the English section. My name is Jolien Quaedvlieg, 28 years old and I live in Nijmegen. I've been a teacher for 8 years now, mostly teaching havo and vwo (years 1-6). Currently I'm working at Notre Dame des Anges in Ubbergen.

For the last three years I've also been in management, but I still teach. I love this combination and I think this board is a great addition to an already varied job.

I'd love to see you at some of the events next year; I'm looking forward to it! ☺

Jolien

Powtoon Challenge news

As you know, many pupils of secondary schools are working hard on their PowToon Challenge 'book reports'; they are creating an animation pitch for the book they've picked and read. The teachers tell us they enjoy working on an animation instead of the regular 'book report' but at the same time find the task a true challenge; it takes much more effort, creativity and time to translate their ideas into a 'winning' pitch!

Good luck to all competing schools from the Board of the English Section!

Kind regards, Pascal

IATEFL news

The early bird registration for the 50th IATEFL Annual Conference has already commenced and will be open until January 14, 2016. Here is some practical information for those of our members who would like to visit this inspiring event next year. Much more information and registration details can be found on: www.iatefl.org



To be held at the ICC, Broad Street, Birmingham, B1 2EA, 13th-16th April 2016, with PCEs - 12th April.

This 50th Annual Conference offers five stimulating plenary sessions by the following speakers:



Jan Blake



David Crystal



Diane Larsen-Freeman



Silvana Richardson



Scott Thornbury

| Prices for registration: | Early bird rate | Payment after 14/1/16 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Full conference IATEFL Member | £158 | £205 |
| Non Member | £218 | £260 |
| Full conference IATEFL student member | £99 | £115 |
| PCE IATEFL Member | £65 | £78 |
| Non Member | £81 | £93 |

Kind regards, Betty

We received some more interesting news in respect of the above Annual Conference from our member, and NCE chair, Christien van Gool:

LITERATURE, MEDIA & CULTURAL STUDIES SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP PCE – 12 April 2016 Birmingham/Stratford

On 12 April a Pre-conference event will be organised by the LMCS SIG and a very special pre-PCE day in Stratford. If you are interested go to www.iatefl.org – the early bird registration is until 14 January so if you want to be part of this special event, make sure you register!!!

‘Words, Words, Words’- Shakespeare in the language classroom

The day will offer participants a series of talks and workshops on how to explore Shakespeare’s plays and poetry with English language learners. The presenters will share ideas to bring Shakespeare to life in the classroom through the reading and performance of the Bard’s poetry and plays to promote language awareness, critical thinking and the development of the four skills.

This is going to be a very dynamic, fun-packed day that we hope will motivate teachers to increase their familiarity with Shakespeare’s work and motivate them to share these ideas with their English language learners.

The PCE will open with a talk by **Professor David Crystal**, IATEFL Patron and world-known linguist and Shakespeare scholar. It will also feature presenters from the **Shakespeare Birthplace Trust** and a series of talks and workshops by renowned speakers with vast experience in the field of literature and language teaching.

Come to IATEFL Birmingham 2016 and join us for the LMCS PCE!

We are also organizing an optional **Pre-PCE Day in Stratford-upon-Avon** on **Monday 11th April** with a visit to the Birthplace Trust houses and an evening performance at the Royal Shakespeare Company. **For further information and costs**, please visit <http://lmcs.iatefl.org>

Booking for this Pre-PCE Day is **only available to LMCS PCE delegates who pay for the PCE and the Pre-PCE Day before conference**. Your own travel to Stratford and extra night accommodation in Birmingham are in addition to the Pre-PCE Day cost.



LSD 2015: Workshop “Pimp your reading programme”

At the LSD conference, Pascal and Karin organized the workshop “PYRP”. The group of about 20 teachers (varying from primary to higher education, teaching (early-) English, German or Spanish) brought their own laptop to class and discussed how the use of animation could re-inforce their teaching. Two teachers of German created an animated poem with images and music, a Teacher of Spanish made this [intro](#) and a teacher in Further Education created this introduction to an [assignment](#).

Attendants claimed to have utterly enjoyed simply working together to create something fun and useful during this workshop. They all received lesson materials for teaching literature in class.



Kind regards, Pascal

LSD 2015: ReadZone Weekly

At our English Section stand at the LSD 2015 we met up with a young lady who told us all about a very interesting initiative; *ReadZone Weekly*. It looks a bit like *Nieuwsbegrip* in English. We were especially enthused because the materials are suitable for the higher grades in Primary Schools as well as VMBO Basis and VMBO Kader pupils. The *ReadZone Weekly* digital newspaper is aimed at training the students’ reading skills in English, as well as expanding their vocabulary. Another benefit is that the students will be kept up-to-date with the news in the world, with an extra focus on what’s new in the United Kingdom. The *ReadZone Weekly* is published every schoolweek (40 weeks per year) but not in the school holidays.

The weekly consists of three news items per week, which are written by a journalist in the UK. They are accompanied by exercises for each news item. This will help the students’ reading comprehension, teach them how to use reading strategies and it will let them form their own opinions about subjects. All news items and exercises are written entirely in (British) English. The CEFR reading level of the *ReadZone Weekly* is just below A2. School subscriptions cost €250 per location per school year. Every school is invited to order a free trial issue by sending an email to Yentl Dudink: yentl@readzonebooks.com More info can be found on: www.readzonebooks.com

Kind regards, Pascal

The screenshot shows the ReadZone Weekly website interface. At the top, it says "EIGHT NEWS ITEMS IN ENGLISH" and "READZONE WEEKLY" with a logo. Below this, there are three main news items:

- MH17 disaster report released**: A headline about the MH17 disaster report. The article text includes: "The investigation was not in the public domain after was released." and "This week the Dutch Safety Board released their report into the disaster. The report says the plane was shot down. It also said it was shot down by a Russian-made missile." There are sub-sections for "Report", "Conspiracy", and "Stories".
- New discovery human teeth**: A headline about a new discovery of human teeth. The article text includes: "France's oldest teeth are 450,000 years old, but a new find suggests they are 700,000 years old." and "Scientists in China have discovered human teeth that date to 700,000 years ago. The oldest one might be 700,000 years old, but a new find suggests it is older than previously thought."
- UEFA Euro 2016 qualifying complete**: A headline about the UEFA Euro 2016 qualifying complete. The article text includes: "Are you a fan of football? The qualifying matches for the UEFA Euro 2016 championship have all finished. Here are some of the biggest championships in football." and "Popular: The 2016 championship will be held in France in June and July next year. Currently Germany are the favourites to win. There are 5 countries who qualify for the first time in their history: Iceland, Northern Ireland, Wales, Albania and Slovakia."



http://padlet.com/louisealix/vedocep11_15

On Thursday November 26th the Vedocep had another symposium at the Marnix Academie in Utrecht with presentations from Annemieke Vreeswijk, the coordinator of the bilingual department at the [Violenschool](#) in Hilversum, from [Lauren Salomons](#), an English teacher for the gifted and talented at a couple of Leonardo schools and from [Eveline van Baalen](#), from Bureau ICE who are currently finalising the development of the [English test](#) for primary education.

Bilingual primary education can take various forms and the Violenschool has opted for [translanguaging](#) as their vision. This means that the teachers (who work full time) switch between Dutch and English in the course of the day rather than spending one full day in English and one in Dutch, or certain subjects in English and others in Dutch. The recent research into translanguaging is interesting and the Vedocep recommends everybody has a good look at what's going on in this field. Lauren Salomons gave us some ideas on how she deals with her specific pupils and how she challenges them. Then Eveline van Baalen explained how the primary English test came about and what it will look like. Bureau ICE is still looking for pilot schools for the test (for February) which will "go global" in June this year. For those who know Bureau ICE, the results of the test will be presented in a similar way to the TOA test commonly used in secondary education.

Other news from the field of primary education:

- Many of you will be aware of *Onderwijs2032* and Paul Schnabel's recommendation that all primary schools should start teaching English from group 1. <http://onsonderwijs2032.nl>
- EP/Nuffic has a free online module for people interested in introducing more internationalisation into primary education. www.internationalisering.nl
- Early English schools (vvto) are, since September 2015, legally allowed to offer up to 15% of their classes in a foreign language, thus allowing more space for real CLIL. https://www.eerstekamer.nl/wetsvoorstel/34031_aanbieden_van_onderwijstijd
- 18 primary schools have now started with the "pilot tpo" i.e. bilingual primary education which allows 30-50% of their education in a foreign language. www.europeesplatform.nl/tpo
- Increasing numbers of Pabos are now offering modules specifically aimed at early English.

Should you wish to be added to our mailing list to be kept up to date and perhaps join us at one of our meetings, please send an email to l.a.taylor@hva.nl and feel free to check out our [facebook](#) page and our most recent [padlet](#).