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## Introduction

> *Marja van de Lagemaat*

We are pleased to be able to share the english version of our newsletter with you, our colleagues in Europe. This newsletter is an initiative from the network I&K in the Netherlands. The I&K (Identity and Quality) network is a network of secondary education schools and three Christian institutions for higher professional education. Our joint mission is to work on connecting the Christian identity with our daily teaching. How can we make the connection between our faith and our everyday practice?

In this newsletter you find each month inspiration, suggestions and examples on how to connect your christian faith in your lessons. Although this is inspired by the Dutch situation, it can be helpful for teachers in other countries. Sending this newsletter in English is a pilot. It is possible that the Dutch school situation is too different from yours. So our idea is to evaluate this newsletter after three months. Is it worth going on with it and making it more international and sharing it with our international colleagues or is this not helpful for you? Our dream is to work on an international newsletter for teachers by teachers. If you have any suggestions or ideas, please let us know ! [Lag@ichthuscollege.nl](mailto:Lag@ichthuscollege.nl) or [acm.klippel@csgpm.nl](mailto:acm.klippel@csgpm.nl)

Best regards,

Marja van de Lagemaat (teacher French - Ichthus College Veenendaal)

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Adriaan Klippel (teacher geography - CSG Prins Maurits Middelharnis)

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**Enjoy the newsletter!**

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## Actuality | Sustainability

### A new Blog

Focus on sustainability. For one person, it is a way of life, for the other it seems to be a hype. Anyway, the media inundate us daily with huge amounts, often more or less contradictory news on sustainability. On the necessity, the short- and long-term, the role of humans in climate and environmental issues etc.

For I & K a reason to start a blog about sustainability. Because how does a Christian actually relate to this theme? Thijmen van der Steeg, Geography teacher at the Ichthus College, will start this week with the blog. Read all about his motives and get inspired by his suggestions and lesson plans. [Go to the blog.](#)

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## Interview | Chemistry teacher Dr. B. Keegstra

### What are you mainly: teacher or pedagogue?

If I have to make a choice between these three types, it becomes a bit static. It is still moving a bit with me. Three years ago I was more focused on the content of my subject and being a professional teacher but gradually I am moving towards being a pedagogue.

### Which element typifies all your lessons?

Here too I find it difficult to limit myself to one element. Important elements for me are: good preparation, activating work forms and customized work. short story / introduction and weblinks to materials or data. [Read more.](#)

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## Lesson idea by Johan Schouls | Pieter Zandt

### Conversation with a non-Christian

As a Christian youth, how do you deal with....

- a lady oriented towards Eastern religions who loves every kind of religion?
- an atheist who reads the lesson about "traditional religious representations" in an arrogant way and encourages you to think seriously for once?
- a Muslim who shares his faith with you and who has an extraordinary appreciation for your faith?

Pupils from our school receive these and many other reactions in a practical assignment that is done in the course Religion, people and society.

### **What is the assignment?**

Start a conversation with a non-Christian in which you learn more about his conviction and how he (or she) stands in it. [Read more and download the materials!](#)

### **Lesson idea by Ab van der Roest | Ichthus College**

#### **Math and faith**

I was asked to provide a mathematics lesson at an exchange of 3-year secondary school pupils with peers from Germany. Of course, you can take the book and continue your lessons as you are used to, but you can of course also show your students and their guests a different side of mathematics.

I encourage students to look around and to recognize mathematics in daily life. I also do that during the devotion at the beginning of the day.

An idea was born.

[Read more and download the materials!](#)

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### **Teacher training | EureCa - May 28/31 2020**

As a teacher, we are all aware of how we can be impacted by the pressure of education in the 21st century. Constant deadlines for lesson preparation and marking, dealing with behavior and educational needs in our classes, difficulties with colleagues and a lack of time for our families. *How can we find a way through this maze and establish a healthy balance in our spiritual, emotional, mental and physical lives?* **EurECA's 2020 Conference in Lviv will be looking at these questions and helping to discover answers which work for you.** We invite you to join together with teaching colleagues in an atmosphere of worship, prayer, learning and friendship! [Read more.](#)

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### **International | ACSI-mailproject with colleagues from abroad!**

#### **> Eunice Lammers | Ichthus College**

David Kinnaman describes Faith For Exiles in his book. 5 Ways for a New Generation to Follow Jesus in Digital Babylon "that young people with a Christian background face in their lives.

Last October I was in Hungary for the International Educational Leadership Conference of ACSI. One of the organizers (Roslyn Barnes) asked me if I wanted to

participate in a mail session with Christian colleagues from different countries. We read a chapter from the Kinnaman book every week and discuss our experiences and questions. It is very special to know you are connected with a colleague in Hong Kong, who is going through difficult times. [Read more.](#)

## Teaching practices

### Creating a positive classroom atmosphere

It may be useful to invest once again in mid-year in a positive climate in your classroom. With [the marshmallow challenge](#) you have a good opportunity to work on that and it gives also a lot of fun. Also very suitable to do with an international group as part of an exchange.

### Internationalization and sustainability

At various schools there is discussion about the relation between internationalization and sustainability. Can we continue our international travels in the same way in the future or do we have to re-think about it? What remains possible in any case is entering into international digital contacts. Through the ACSI website there are cooperation projects with Christian schools abroad. Find a foreign partner through [Collaborative projects ACSI-schools](#). We also encourage you to have a look at [eTwinning.net](#) for inspiring examples. [Example of an international project on "Migrants and refugees"](#). Valuable as a Christian school to make your contribution on an international platform!

### 75 years of liberation

On January 27, 2020 it is 75 years since Auschwitz was liberated by the Red Army. From Auschwitz 1.3 million people were deported. 1.1 million persons did not survive. Many schools are working on a project on this year of remembrance. On the Thomas website, you can find good material found under the following link [75 jaar of liberation](#) but also the I & K schools are working on projects. Share your plans through the newsletter! Or sign up with your English class to participate in a [digital project](#) with Canada "Echos from the past, poems for the future".

### International programmes

Driestar Christian University offers international programmes, most blended learning courses. Visit the site for [more information](#).

### Looking for more inspiration for your lessons?

[Lesson ideas, projects and more](#) on the I&K-site.

# Calendar

## February - March - April

18 February [Day of prayer](#)

1 March [Different types of courses](#) offered by Driestar Christian University

22 - 24 April [INCHE Europe Conference](#)

26 - 29 April ACSI will organize the [International School Leaders Conference](#)

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**For all dates: Deo Volente (Jacobus 4:15)**

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