



Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland
OCW

ENGLISH

WHAT'S NEW ...

IN CARIBBEAN NETHERLANDS EDUCATION



15

December 2020
Number 15

2020 was not an easy year. In the spring, the COVID-19 virus spread, within weeks, becoming a pandemic that is still being felt worldwide and that is still taking its toll. Not only in the healthcare field, but also in the financial and economic world. Many of the activities and interactions that enrich our lives suddenly became impossible or are severely limited. To mention a few: the ability to move around freely, to meet with other people and to enjoy in the company of others things such as leisure activities, sports, culture or to simply go out for a bite to eat.

Education on our islands was also faced with firstly the need to think about and protect the health of the students, educational staff and parents. The schools had to continue educating under new, difficult conditions, with strict hygiene measures. School management and teachers were forced to resort to distance learning during the periods when the educational institutions were closed.

In this December edition, in an annual overview, the editors of the "What's New" education e-magazine have presented the most important developments within Caribbean Netherlands education, including this year's COVID-related events.

Looking back on the past year, I can conclude with pride and admiration that each school has succeeded, in its own way, to develop an approach to ensure that education continues, also during the periods when the schools are closed. Our sincere thanks for this; it would not have been possible without the individual, extra commitment from each of you.

Also on behalf of the OCW team in the Caribbean and in the European Netherlands, I wish you and your loved ones happy holidays and all the best for 2021.

We hope that the new year will bring more peace and security.

Nolly Oleana
Head of the OCW in CN



PREFACE



Merry
Christmas
&
Happy New Year

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COLOPHON

This digital newsletter is a publication of OCW in the Caribbean Netherlands and it aims to:

- provide education professionals and other interested parties with information about the relevant developments in education in the Caribbean Netherlands;
- stimulate the exchange of education-related knowledge and best practices between the islands.

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Do you want to be on the mailing list for this digital newsletter or do you want to contribute to it?

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JANUARY

Highlights 2020



2020

THE EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY



TWICE LUCKY FOR SDA SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION!

For the SDA School, 2020 was the year for their school accommodation. On January 12, during the festive inauguration of their new and renovated school buildings, the school learned that funds had also been made available to upgrade the outdoor area to prevent flooding. In the meantime, this was also achieved: the roof and the paved area outside were completed in the fall, including a rainwater drainage system.



JANUARY

Working visit Minister Slob to Caribbean Netherlands

From January 13 to 15, OCW Minister Arie Slob (Primary and Secondary Education & Media) visited Saba, St. Eustatius and Bonaire. The visit focused mainly on getting to know the educational sector on the three islands.

In addition to having discussions with the various school boards, the minister also met with numerous students. On Bonaire, together with Commissioner Nina den Heyer (responsible for education, among other things), he signed the second covenant for Bonaire's school accommodations. This covenant contains agreements regarding new buildings to be constructed and renovations for various existing schools on Bonaire.



JANUARY

START EVALUATION OF CARIBBEAN NETHERLANDS EDUCATION AGENDA - 2017-2020

In January 2020, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science in the Caribbean Netherlands started the process of evaluating the execution of the Caribbean Netherlands Education Agenda 2017 - 2020.

Interviews were held with all stakeholders in educational institutions who are involved with this agenda and other involved parties, both locally and in the European Netherlands. The findings from the various interviews have been incorporated in one document. This evaluation document is currently being finalized, to subsequently present it to the stakeholders.



JANUARY

FEBRUARY

Highlights 2020



JANUARY

NVT TRAINING FOR TEACHERS GRADE 1 - 4

Commissioned by the Dutch Language Union (Taalunie), the Bureau NVT (Dutch as a Foreign Language) provided the first in a series of online training courses for Dutch teachers of grades 1 - 4.

These training courses are part of the process to implement the recently developed "John & Joonie" (grades 1 - 2) and "Sam & Saar" (grades 3 and 4) methods. During these sessions, the participants were trained in providing active and collaborative teaching methods, differentiation, the use of additional teaching materials and the evaluation and recording of the level of young children's language skills, among other things.



RESEARCH INTO FACTORS INFLUENCING EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS

FEBRUARY



On behalf of the four education ministers from the four countries in the Kingdom, following a tender, ResearchNed was assigned to conduct a study into the factors that influence the educational success of students whose previous education was in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom.

The research focuses both on the development of education on the Caribbean islands and on the connection with secondary vocational education and higher education in the Caribbean region and the (European) Netherlands. In addition to providing quantitative insight into educational performance, qualitative research was also conducted. For this the researchers conducted extensive surveys among students and also interviewed former students and representatives of various educational partners. Conducting the study has been delayed due to the COVID pandemic. It is anticipated that the final report will be published in January 2021.

In the meantime, results and recommendations are also being generated from research into the parallel, partly comparable, research being conducted by the Ombudsman and similar research focussed on students from the ABC islands, conducted by the association Levende Talen Papiaments (Papiamentu Living Languages). Based on all the results and recommendations, in 2021 the four ministers of Education from Aruba, Curaçao, St. Maarten and the Netherlands will examine whether new initiatives are desirable to improve connection, progression and educational success for Caribbean students.



FEBRUARY

MARCH

Highlights 2020



MARCH

CULTURAL EDUCATION IN DEVELOPMENT

FEBRUARY

CXC DECREE

During this month, education stakeholders on St. Eustatius and Saba were involved in the development of the “Saba Comprehensive School and Gwendoline van Putten School BES Decree” (hereinafter: CXC Decree) via a so-called Internet consultation.

This decree sets several goals:

1. It defines frameworks for CXC education and exams at both schools;
2. It establishes additional requirements for the schools for subjects that the government considers important, such as the requirement that all students take Dutch as a core subject and that vocational education students do an internship at a recognized training company.
3. It determines what is required to obtain a school diploma with which students can enrol in continued education on Bonaire and in the European Netherlands;
4. It establishes rules for practical training.

Publication of the final decree is expected to take place in the **spring of 2021**.

For the three islands in the Caribbean Netherlands, the National Knowledge Institution for Cultural Education & Amateur Art (LKCA) provided a train-the-trainer program on Bonaire from March 2 - 6.

The goal of this program was to prepare the participants for their future role as culture coordinators, in the context of a sustainable local infrastructure for implementing cultural education inside and outside the school. In addition to policymakers from all three islands, the aspiring culture coordinators included a total of 21 teachers, including various art teachers. They were introduced to and trained in: a culture coordinator's various roles, forming a culture network and developing their own vision and policy plan.

This five-day program was organized by the [Fundashon Plataforma Kultural](#) with support from the [Fonds voor Cultuurparticipatie](#), the island governments and the Ministry of OCW.



MARCH

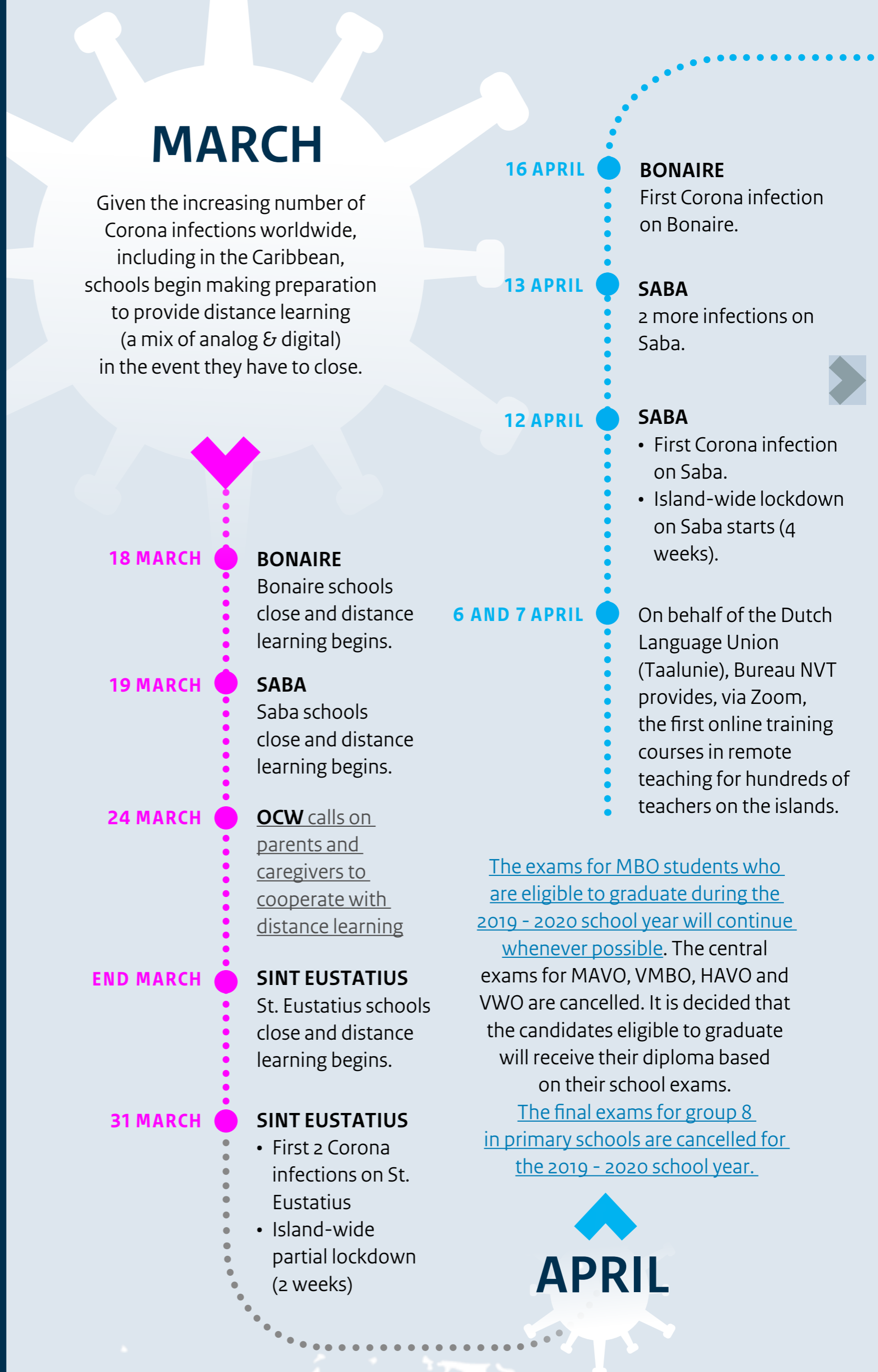
Education in the time of Corona



CORONA TIMELINE

March to mid-December 2020

The timeline below, for the months of March to mid-December 2020, contains an overview of the most important Corona-related developments that had an impact on the educational field in the Caribbean Netherlands.



Bonaire

Saba

St. Eustatius

Education in the time of Corona

On **Monday, March 2**, the VWS Ministry (Health, Welfare and Sport) reported the **first cases of the COVID-19 virus (Corona)** in the Netherlands and on St. Maarten. Soon the islands of the Caribbean Netherlands also had to deal with the consequences of fighting this virus. Staying healthy came first.

In the midst of all the Corona measures, the schools had to pull out all the stops to continue providing education, even during the periods when they were closed.

This led to a formidable learning curve for very many teachers with respect to **working with digital learning environments and teaching using digital distance learning platforms**, including Zoom and Microsoft Teams.

CORONA TIMELINE

Education in the time of Corona

Corona-related developments in the months March to mid-December 2020.



APRIL

24 APRIL Special edition of What's New published with information and tips about working from home and digital platforms for learning resources.

28 APRIL (TILL 9 JUNI) Educational TV programs from NPO Zapp and Schooltv (NTR) broadcast via BVN on all school days on the local TV channels in the Caribbean parts of the Kingdom.

28 APRIL **BONAIRE**
Bonaire Corona free.

MAY

9 MAY **SABA**
End of lockdown on Saba.

11 MAY **SINT EUSTATIUS/ BONAIRE**
Schools on St. Eustatius and Bonaire reopen gradually, with stricter health measures.

18 MAY **SABA**
Saba schools open again.

26 AUGUST **SINT EUSTATIUS**
The virus returns on St. Eustatius.

1 AUGUST **SABA**
2 new infections on Saba.

AUGUST

14 JULY **BONAIRE**
The virus returns on Bonaire.

JULY

MID JUNE During platform meetings on the islands, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, the schools and the public bodies look back upon the second half of the school year and discuss options on how to approach distance learning in the future.

BEGINNING JUNE

- OCW distributes more than 1,000 laptops to schools in the Caribbean Netherlands to provide distance learning.
- Announcement of a one-time payment from OCW for media companies in the CN to continue to provide information.
- Group 8 students receive a letter from Minister Slob to motivate them.

JUNE

MID MAY Announcement of the "Subsidy provision for catching-up programs in schools closed because of COVID-19".

SEPTEMBER

EARLY SEPTEMBER

SABA
Saba is Corona free again.

13 SEPTEMBER

SINT EUSTATIUS
Schools on St. Eustatius close for the second time.

21 SEPTEMBER

BONAIRE
Partial 10-day lock down on Bonaire starts after 16 new infections.

OCTOBER

12 OCTOBER

SINT EUSTATIUS
Schools on St. Eustatius reopen.

21 OCTOBER

SINT EUSTATIUS
St. Eustatius is Corona free again.

NOVEMBER

END NOVEMBER

BONAIRE
Still 2 active infections on Bonaire.

DECEMBER

MID DECEMBER

BONAIRE/ SINT EUSTATIUS
Several active infections on Bonaire and St. Eustatius.

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

Highlights 2020

2020

APRIL



EVALUATION OF EXECUTION LAW SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES PATHWAYS

The final report regarding the investigation into implementing the Social Opportunity Pathways for Youth (SKJ) law on the islands of the Caribbean Netherlands was published in April. This study was conducted by the independent agency Oberon, on behalf of OCW.

Based on this evaluation report, OCW is in discussion with the parties involved regarding the future structure of the SKJ. This includes closer cooperation between the organizations implementing the SKJ and the VO/MBO schools to provide support, not only to students who drop out of school early, but also - preventively - to pupils/students who are at risk of dropping out of school.

JUNE

EVALUATION REPORT EDUCATION CARE SUBMITTED

In 2019 - 2020, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science commissioned an independent evaluation of the functionality of educational care in the Caribbean Netherlands, partly at the request of the Education and Care Centres of Expertise (EOZs).

This study examined the substantive adequacy of educational care as well as the question of where possible policy and financial bottlenecks may exist. Possible bottlenecks in the cooperation within the youth care chain were also examined.

Basis on the evaluation report, the Minister has indicated that in the near future, priority will be given to strengthening primary and secondary care in schools, setting up specialized facilities and improving cooperation between partners in educational care and the youth care chain.

With regard to the specialised facilities, in the meantime OCW is having discussions with the Education and Care Centres of Expertise (the EOZs) about appointing a project leader for each island. In addition, exploring the introduction of the so-called care duty for schools in CN will start in 2021. This means that in the future schools in CN, just like those in the European Netherlands, will be responsible for finding a suitable education environment for special needs students.

The study was conducted by ResearchNed, in collaboration with Andersson Elffers Felix en Excellent Government & Management Consultancy (Bonaire).

The final report will be published shortly.

MAY



EVALUATION OF THE BES STUDY FINANCING LAW

An evaluation of the BES Study Financing Law was carried out, commissioned by OCW. Three components are central to this study: the policy theory behind the BES Study Financing Law, the students' experiences and the organization implementing this law.

The results of the research are based on studying documents (e.g. legal texts, policy documents and documentation from RCN DUO) and on conversations that were held with (prospective) students and ex-students from islands in the CN and interviews with the professionals who were involved in implementing the law.

JULY

Highlights 2020



PABIEN

GEFELICITEERD
CONGRATULATIONS!

JUNE

UoC GRADUATES ON BONAIRE

Susan Statia, Perlita Trom, Salmarelis Anthony and Monique Thomas completed the first LOFO (elementary school teacher training) blended learning program at the University of Curaçao (hereafter UoC) on Bonaire, which has been taught in this manner since 2016.

Blended learning is a combination of “live” lessons in a classroom and online distance learning. This course is given in the evenings to give students who work the opportunity to follow the program. It should be noted that these four students completed the program on time (so within four years), in addition to having a full-time job as a teaching assistant!

In addition, eight other students from Bonaire completed their program at the UoC. They are: Edelmira (Edi) Carolina (first-level Papiamentu teacher), Anke de Jong (second-level Dutch teacher), Déshanira (Daisy) Hoyer (second-level English teacher), Milena Silberie (Master Special Educational Needs), and from the (non-blended learning) LOFO: Zulaika Winklaar, Sudesca Bernabela, Sharissa Martis and Angelique Pourier.



From left to right: Anke de Jong, Déshanira Hoyer, Edelmira Carolina en Rosemarijn de Jong (coördinator UoC-Bonaire).



From left to right: Zulaika Winklaar, Monique Thomas, Sharissa Martis, Sudesca Bernabela, Susan Statia en Salmarelis Anthony.

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER

INITIATIVES FOR BETTER LINK VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND LABOUR MARKET

The government has made extra, one-time funding available for the so-called regional envelope, for measures that can further improve the link between vocational education and the labour market.

One of these measures is a pilot project on Bonaire where employers in sectors with a labour shortage can receive a subsidy when they hire a BBL (on the job training) student. The pilot project is being carried out by **Plenchi di Trabou** and it started at the beginning of the 2020 - 2021 school year.

Other possible measures that may access these regional envelope funds are currently being further discussed and developed and are likely to be initiated in 2021. This includes the development of new BBL courses (e.g. CVQ - Caribbean Vocational Qualification) in sectors with a labour shortage on Saba and St. Eustatius. Another possible initiative is developing an internship fund. Under certain conditions, students would qualify for reimbursement of travel and accommodation expenses for an internship in the European Netherlands or in one of the other Caribbean parts of the Kingdom.

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER



AUGUST - SEPTEMBER

TRAINING TOGETHER BEGINS WITH KIBRAHACHA

During the past year, Kibrahacha - the Caribbean Partnership for Educating Together - was founded. From now on, the educational institutions and participating school boards are jointly responsible for educating future teachers on the ABC islands.

The head coordinator is Marisol Croes from the [Instituto Pedagógico Arubano](#). Under her leadership, coordinator pairs are active on every island. Since January, the educators at the schools and institutions as well as the school principals involved have been trained for their new role.

First-year students were also placed in training schools, where they followed the workplace curriculum in "nests" (groups of 6 to 8 students). Next year, the concept will be further expanded to include other schools and the first and second level teacher training courses.

For more information about Educating Together, press release: "[Educating together on the ABC islands begins](#)"

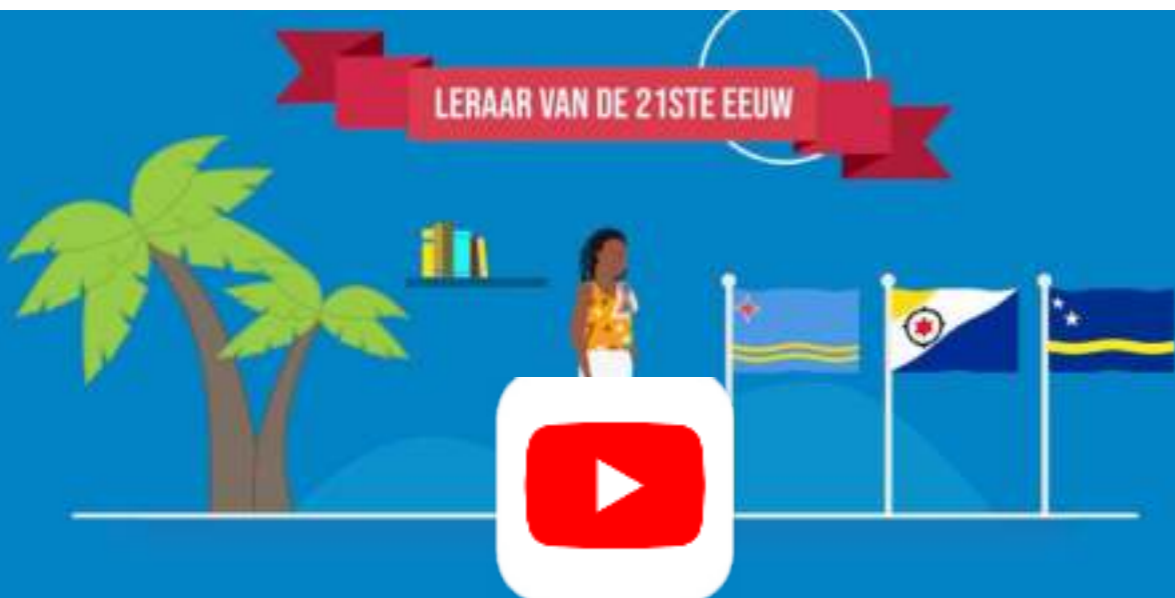
OCTOBER



RENOVATION STARTED FOR KOLEGIO KRISTU BON WARDADOR SCHOOL

The renovation of the [de Kolegio Kristu Bon Wardador \(KKBW\)](#) (KKBW) school in Bonaire has been in full swing since October. Due to its unique design and the fact that the various buildings were in relatively good condition, the KKBW opted to renovate instead of new construction.

After completing the renovation, the school will have a building that meets all the current standards (the so-called [\(de zogenaamde BES-code\)](#)). These are mainly structural standards to be able to withstand earthquakes and hurricanes and also standards regarding the indoor environment of the school buildings. This renovation project is part of the educational housing program that is being carried out on the islands on behalf of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science and the governments of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba.



Met deze Caribische leraar van de 21e eeuw innoveren wij ons onderwijs op de eilanden.



In December 2019, the Bonaire Real Estate Property Foundation (Fundashon Propiedat Inmobil Boneiru) was established on Bonaire to implement this program on behalf of the Bonaire government and OCW.



◀ [Video with English subtitles](#)

OCTOBER

Highlights 2020

OCTOBER

Development of standardised progress tests has begun

Since the beginning of October, Bureau ICE has been commissioned by OCW to develop standardized progress tests - including a student monitoring system - for verbal skills, listening skills, reading skills and writing skills in Papiamentu, English and Dutch as a foreign language.

The tests are for primary education and the first three years of secondary education. They are not final tests or exams, but progress tests.

In addition to these tests, a dashboard for teachers and instructors will be developed. It will chart the students' progress in the different languages. This enables the schools to better adapt lessons to the level of each individual student.

Bureau ICE has involved the Rolf Group to train the schools how to work with the tests and the test results. The tests will be based on the European Frame of Reference. In 2021 a frame of reference will be developed for Papiamentu, which will form the basis for this test material. In order to be able to monitor and guide the students optimally, the teachers will be trained how to use the test tools.

This entire process will be undertaken in close collaboration with the schools. The tests, training and support being developed by Bureau ICE and the Rolf group will be available free of charge to all schools on Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius. The implementation phase will start in the fall of 2023 and the tests will be available in early July 2025.

More information ► Bureau ICE

Send a mail to: LVSBE@bureau-ice.nl



OCTOBER

MBO AT SGB GROWS BY 29%

After completing the annual tally on October 1, it turns out that the number of students in MBO (mid-level vocational education) at the Bonaire School Board (SGB) grew by 29% this year.

According to the school, this is due to a combination of factors, such as the introduction of a total of five new level 3 and 4 courses, the relatively high level of transitioning from VMBO and MAVO (as a result of the extensive selection of level 4 courses) and the improved reputation of MBO courses.

And finally, according to the SGB, another factor is that, as a result of the COVID crisis, fewer students left the island to study abroad. The MBO section is also pleased with the significant increase in BBL (Vocational Guidance Course of Study) students (from 94 last school year to 145 this year), which means that the school can better match the labour demand from the business community and the government.

NOVEMBER

Highlights 2020



2020

NOVEMBER

STUDY AND CAREER FAIR ONLINE THIS YEAR

Due to the corona measures, this year the study and career fair could not take place as usual. As such, the organizers of this event found another way to assist prospective students in deciding upon their further education.

All the participating educational institutions and universities presented themselves online via the [Study Choice Caribbean](#) portal, including:

- information about the courses they offer and additional matters such as registration, their campus, etc.
- opportunities for students to register for interactive presentations per institution, during which they could also ask questions.

UNICEF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL PRIZE FOR GOLDEN ROCK SCHOOL

NOVEMBER



The Golden Rock School on St. Eustatius received a prize at this year's UNICEF Children's Rights Film Festival for the Caribbean.

In the winning video, student Jeanelle Tearr gives a presentation about the importance of family, with the aid of a drawing. The film and the drawing won a prize for the best explanation. The Golden Rock School's submission was coordinated by teachers Lucinda Redan and Rhea Courtar and was created in association with the [Mega D Youth Foundation](#).



The five graduates that were present on the island during the graduation ceremony in November, together with Alida Francis, Deputy Government Commissioner.

First CSEC graduates on St. Eustatius

NOVEMBER

This year 11 exam candidates successfully completed their [CSEC](#) (Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate) studies at the Gwendoline van Putten School (GvP) on St. Eustatius. Due to the COVID crisis, the exams were held two months later than planned (in July instead of May).

This CXC (Caribbean Examinations Council) study offers students the opportunity to continue their education (vocational or post-secondary education) within the Dutch education system or in the surrounding region.

NOVEMBER

Highlights 2020



NOVEMBER

MATERIALS SHIPPED FOR PRODEMOS STUDENT PROGRAMS

In collaboration with the three island governments and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, ProDemos has recently adapted some of its school programs for use by students in the Caribbean Netherlands.

ProDemos provides guided tours and educational programs and activities in and from The Hague to inform citizens, including students about, and to let them experience how politics, democracy, the judiciary and the rule of law function in the Kingdom.

The materials for these programs are now on the way for students in the Caribbean Netherlands. Due to the COVID crisis, ProDemos was unable to provide the training for the teachers on the CN islands as planned in the autumn of 2020. This will now take place (virtually) in the spring.



NOVEMBER

NVT SYMPOSIUM IN A MULTILINGUAL ENVIRONMENT

A few hundred people involved in (language) education took part in the online symposium “Dutch as a Foreign Language (NVT) in a multilingual environment” on November 24.

The Dutch Language Union (Taalunie) organized this event in collaboration with educational partners on Curaçao, Aruba, Bonaire, St. Maarten, St. Eustatius and Saba. The aim of the event was to get parties to think about and discuss multilingualism in education with each other and to raise awareness that Dutch is also a foreign language on these multilingual islands.

The keynote speaker was **Mr. Jim Cummins**, professor at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, with his presentation “Mother tongue based multilingual education”. In addition, the participants were introduced to the concept of the “**Language Friendly School**” schools that recognize and embrace their students’ multilingualism and cultural backgrounds.

LANGUAGE FRIENDLY
SCHOOL

ANNOUNCEMENT
ONLINE SYMPOSIUM



NOVEMBER

Highlights 2020

NOVEMBER

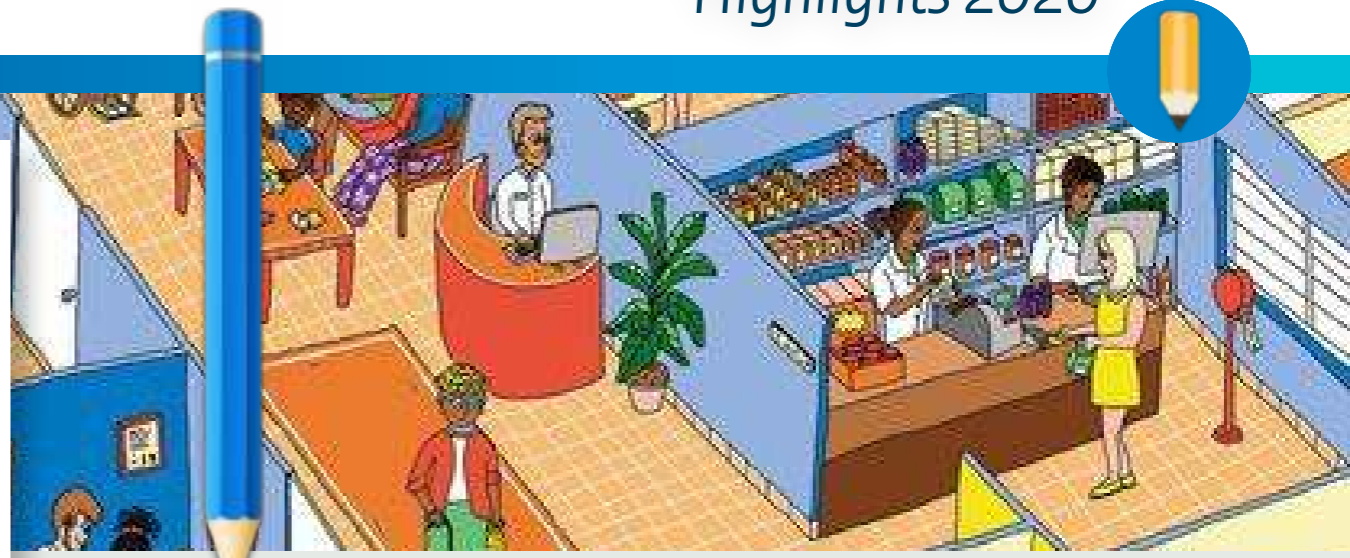
Teachers St. Eustatius in the spotlight during Teachers' Award Gala

On November 28, the teachers on St. Eustatius were put in the spotlight during the second edition of the "Teachers' Award Gala". The organizer of this annual event is Christina Timber with her Foundation for Reinforcement Education, Performing Arts, Literature and Culture (FOR REAL-C).

Various awards were given to individual teachers during a festive program, complete with red carpet and gala dinner. In addition, there were school-wide prizes. The "That's a Wow Award" went to the Bethel Methodist School for their "Dad's involvement" program and the SDA School was recognized for their "Outstanding memorization program". Finally, the Mega D Youth Foundation and the SDA School also used this opportunity to recognize a number of their staff members. The organizing foundation is grateful for the financial contributions they received from the St. Eustatius island government, the Ministry of OCW, energy company STUCO and telecommunication company EUTEL.



Rhea Courtar (Golden Rock School), winner of the "Amazing Teacher 2020" Award (right) on the red carpet together with organizer Christina Timber.



NOVEMBER

OVERVIEW OF THE TAALUNIE'S TEACHING AND TESTING MATERIALS FOR NVT EDUCATION

Within the NVT Carib Network (2017 - 2020) project, the Dutch Language Union (Taalunie) established the NVT Network¹ and produced teaching and testing materials, including the associated implementation processes and consulting.

Below is an overview of products (yet to be) developed to support NVT education in the Caribbean Netherlands. Partly as a result of the COVID pandemic, some products will be finalised in the coming months. All products were developed in collaboration with (external) partners on the islands and were/will be implemented together with the schools, supported by members of the NVT network.



¹ In the July 2019 edition of What's New you can also read about the ministers of the four countries Curaçao, Aruba, St. Maarten and the Netherlands (including the Caribbean Netherlands) signing a letter of intent in February 2019 to establish a Dutch as a Foreign Language (NVT) Network. The aim of this network is to contribute to providing good educational resources for optimal language development of students through collaboration and by sharing knowledge, best practices and materials.

DECEMBER

Highlights 2020



DECEMBER



NEW ERASMUS+ PROGRAM READY TO START IN 2021

In 2021, the new Erasmus+ program 2021-2027 will begin. Erasmus+ is a EU grant program for education, training, youth and sport. It offers pupils, students and educational staff the opportunity to gain knowledge and experience via organizations in Europe.

Institutions on the islands of the Caribbean Netherlands may also submit applications for a subsidy. Erasmus+ will organize informational meetings online in January and February 2021.

You can keep up to date with the latest developments by subscribing to the Erasmus+ National Agency's [newsletter](#).

[More information ► Erasmus](#)

[Erasmusplus.nl](https://www.erasmusplus.nl)

OVERVIEW OF THE TAALUNIE'S TEACHING AND TESTING MATERIALS

Teaching and testing materials for PO (Primary Education)

- Materials for group 1, 2: John and Joonie (digital)
- Materials for group 3, 4: Sam and Saar (digital)
- "Cat and Dog" booklets
- Development of 10 lesson materials for children's and youth books
- "Atlas of Dutch" and a quartet games for primary education
- Assessment tasks (total of 155) and assessment models for groups 5-8 (will be available soon)
- NVT youth evaluation

Materials for VO (secondary education)

- Lesson materials Caribbean New Concept secondary education (6 lesson materials)
- Assessment tasks (total of 155) and assessment models for year 1-6 of secondary education (will be available soon)
- Additional modules for education for continued education in Dutch (will be available soon)



Annemarie de Ruyter and Frans van Hoek from NA Erasmus+ Education & Training visited MBO Bonaire in November 2019.



Representatives of the three primary schools in Aruba that will receive a contribution from Erasmus+ in the coming years.

[More information via LinkedIn](#)



ACHIEVED IN 2020

Highlights 2020



DECEMBER

BES(T) 4 KIDS PROGRAM PROGRESS

The BES(t) 4 kids program strives to offer good, safe and affordable childcare for all children in the Caribbean Netherlands.

In 2020, the following was achieved:

1. A new Island Regulation for Childcare, including quality standards, came into force on all islands. When childcare organizations comply with this regulation, they can obtain an operating license from the island government.
2. Since July 2020, childcare organizations have been able to make use of a temporary subsidy program to improve quality and reduce the contribution from parents.
3. Agreements have been made with the Education Inspectorate regarding the oversight of childcare and a framework for the oversight has been developed. The inspectorate will cooperate with local inspectors from the island government.
4. The proposed CN Childcare legislation has been presented to stakeholders for consultation. In the proposed legislation, quality requirements and financing are regulated so they become sustainable. The proposed legislation also contains proposed changes to the WPO BES, to strengthen the connection between childcare and primary education.
5. Childcare organizations are being supported to improve quality; when developing a pedagogical policy plan, for example. Twinning projects to share knowledge and experiences have also started during which exchanges take place with childcare organizations in the European Netherlands. Pedagogical employees are also trained in MBO / CVQ. In addition, there are the **Kaleidoscoop / High Scope** train-the-trainer programs. Education staff can also participate in these training courses.
6. An Island Pedagogical Network (EPN) has been established on each island, consisting of childcare organizations, the educational sector and the island government. In the EPN, agreements are made regarding the continuous development of children.
7. Together with stakeholders, inclusive childcare pilot projects have been initiated to investigate how childcare organizations can accept and guide special needs children within their own organization as much as possible.
8. Preparations have started for construct new accommodations for childcare organizations.

ACHIEVED IN 2020

Highlights 2020

DECEMBER

STRONG TECHNICAL EDUCATION FOR CN

The Bonaire School Board (SGB), the Gwendoline van Putten (GvP) School on St. Eustatius and the Saba Comprehensive School (SCS) are all making use of the "Strong Technical Education" (STO) program, with the SGB functioning as the secretariat.



The main objectives of this program are:

- **To make students of group 8 and the lower grades of secondary education more enthusiastic about technical education;**
- To stimulating cooperation between educational institutions and the business community in order to achieve more efficient and relevant technical education.

At the SGB, the focus is on making students in the lower grades of the VMBO vocational school more enthusiastic about a technical career. This is achieved, among other things, by inviting guest lecturers from the business community and by offering specific technical courses for the vocational school teachers.

Among other things, the school is working on new and updated descriptions for the technical courses and is also investigating the feasibility of offering a technical craftsmanship pathway and a continuous VMBO-MBO 2 learning pathway.

The expansion of the GvP School's technical wing, which began in 2020, is now almost complete. The interior will be furnished according to, among other things, **CVQ onderwijs**. education guidelines. It is anticipated that the STO program will enable the school to initiate welding courses, with the goal of preparing students to work at various local construction projects. In addition, in the past year, the school has engaged a qualified teacher in electrical installations, metalwork, welding and technical drawing.

The SCS is focusing on expanding the options for a technical career choice after the 3rd level, technology teachers becoming more professional and technical education taking its proper place in Saban society. The school is committed to offering international internships and exchanges for students and teachers. Finally, replacing outdated materials and renovating the technical classrooms are also part of the plans for each of the three schools.

