"The first language of my heart"

Celebrating diversity through language

At International School Almere, we proudly celebrate the rich linguistic diversity within our community. Our students bring with them a vibrant tapestry of languages that reflect their unique cultural backgrounds and identities. We believe in the power of language to build bridges, foster understanding, and affirm who we are.

In honor of this diversity—and in celebration of *International Mother Language Day on 21 February*—we launched *Multilingual Storytime*, an initiative where Secondary students read to Primary students in a variety of languages. These storytelling sessions create meaningful connections between students across age groups and highlight the beauty of multilingualism.

From February to June, our campus will continue to come alive with stories told in students' home languages, showcasing the cultural richness of our school community.

Our entrance hall has been beautifully transformed by both Primary and Secondary students into a colorful display celebrating the *IB Learner Profile Attributes* in multiple languages, accompanied by vibrant photos from our multilingual reading sessions.

Don't forget to stop by our growing *Language Tree*—each leaf represents one of the many languages spoken within our school community, creating a living tribute to the rich cultural and linguistic diversity.

And finally, make sure to watch our latest video, "The first language of my heart", a personal reflection on identity, language, and belonging.

Join us as we celebrate the power of language, culture, and connection—one story at a time.

Florencia Giri - de Paz Smit Home Language Coordinator



