



TO THE LIGHTHOUSE

Space Station annual report 2016

Dedicated to the students



Hello!

You are welcome to our planet.
Thank you for visiting.

Board of management Space Station
Marian van der Meij, chairperson
Sandra Graafland, secretary
Philomene op't Hof, treasurer
Max Hofland, member

Coordinator Space Station: Ariene van Westen
Kamer van Koophandel number: 20144875
Bank number: NL63RABO0146959159



Stay focussed on support needs

- ▶ 2016 reminded us that education is exhilarating, that we are all capable of it, that we are all worthy of it because we are all capable of doing incredible things. Read more about Incredible Things in this annual review.
- ▶ 2016 taught us that education is the journey from darkness to light. Read more about green light for Space Station Light in this annual review.
- ▶ 2016 challenged us to stay focussed on the support needs of the students. These are not “special” needs, not by a long shot. Every student has specific support needs. Everywhere.
- ▶ 2016 transformed us into activists that recognize that a human rights perspective is an essential aspect of any programme which aspires towards mainstreaming educational opportunities for the excluded.





Where we left off - a quick look back

In the 2015 annual report, this is where we left off:

What's next?

The pilot was conducted by Space Station, the voluntary educational organization that published the comprehensive curriculum Count Me In 2013.

Chairwoman of the board Marian van der Meij; "Space Station aspires to expand the the Space Station Light curriculum into a three year programme which develops the talents and aspirations of the students and leads to improved performance. This is the challenge for the future. You can help make it happen. "



In a nutshell

So you are already wondering who we are, what we do and why we do it? In a nutshell:

Our aim is to educate.

Our mission is to mainstream.

Our focus is on human rights.

Space Station is a voluntary organization that sets up mainstream educational opportunities for adults who live with a profound disability. We are based in The Netherlands but publish beyond borders. Our programmes are sensory orientated and explore all kinds of artistic expressions that can aid the learning process.

See more: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Space-Station/282352678511643?ref=tn_tnmn

Read more: www.stichtingspacestation.nl



Syntess
Software

Vakkundig voor vakmensen



HET BEVORDEREN VAN STEUN AAN MENSEN
MET EEN VERSTANDELIJKE HANDICAP



**FONDS
verstandelijk
gehandicaptten**

Figuring it out



Wondering who pays for all of this?

We are deeply honoured and enabled by the long-standing investment of Syntess Software in the education of the excluded. Space Station has big plans but without Syntess Software, they'd be blue prints.

Fonds Verstandelijk Gehandicaptten has made a long-term commitment to project Space Station Light and came on board as an XL sponsor. F.V.G. is particularly interested in the inclusionary aspects of our work and the creation of new social roles and opportunities for the students.

Stichting SPZ, impressed by our educational programme and our ability to mobilize commercial as well as social sponsorship, is proud to support Space Station Light.



LAUNCHING SPACE STATION LIGHT

A drama curriculum for students with high potential and high support needs.

After completing a successful pilot in Pontes Pieter Zeeman College in Zierikzee, the Space Station Light drama curriculum was launched in the Autumn of 2016. The curriculum is composed of 60 fantastical inspirational journeys into spaces where words **won't** go, into landscapes that light up the world. Central to the experience is the leading roll which is reserved for adult students whose life journey is illuminated by a profound disability This annual report is fuelled by the performance highlights of the students during 2016.

The year just gone showed us that our pilots take off.

Out of the darkness, a tiny light appears in the distance.

It grows, dies away, lights up again. There is silence and a huddling together of the nomads who have set out to bring back the light.

The journey has its roots , as all discoveries do, in darkness and in disability. Space Station Light can begin.

Book your ticket now!

The Space Shuttle is revving up. Sign on now for a leading role in the sensory world of Space Station and emerge yourself in a world of joy-riding, exploring and illuminating.

You can be almost anything or anyone on this planet of possibilities where the students strive to explore more, learn more, feel more, illuminate more.

To the lighthouse



Space Station - lighting up the path to learning.

The aim of the lighting is to create enabling and sensory landscapes that enhance, encourage and challenge the students.

The new curriculum Space Station Light has, at its core, experiences of light that empower, reassure, challenge and support the student. Explosions of colour, the shimmering touch of a starlight, the interactive possibilities inherent in light products can light up the path to learning and open up the educational market to students hitherto excluded from all forms of mainstream learning.



The educational activities that Space Station organized during 2016 were all guided by the insights that are framed in the U.N. Inclusion Charter: " we believe that all students share equal value and status. We therefore believe that the exclusion of students from the mainstream because of disability or learning difficulty is a devaluation and is discriminating." U.N Inclusion Charter

Educate together

“ We fully support an end to all segregated education on the grounds of disability or learning difficulty, as a policy commitment and goal for this country. “ U.N Inclusion Charter

The school was unwilling to allow us access to the school canteen facilities, fearing that the level of disability might be too confrontational or disruptive for their secondary school pupils. Many of the pupils, for us not surprisingly, participated wholeheartedly in the workshops and developed friendships with the new learners.





Educating Rob



Rob Buijze originally joined Space Station as a student. Today, as you see, he continues his studies with us. He is also a valued member of the volunteer crew. He assists us with various try-outs, with representation and with the quality of his presence.



Space Station publishes this annual report with a view to increased visibility and improved inter-active communication with and between the supporters who care about educating persons with a profound disability. The longterm aim of our communications is to open up channels of influence for the students and followers and to offer a platform to discuss issues around inclusive education, human rights, disability, easy giving and volunteering.



Sensstuff

- a first of its kind

- ▶ Our sponsors ensured that the budget covered the costs of the innovative educational kit, *Sensstuff*, that each of the 16 students received at the start of their study.
- ▶ Since no suitable educational kits for persons with a profound disability existed, we developed our own.
- ▶ It consisted of a magical wonderbox full of sounds and lights and fragrances and all kinds of articles that stimulate the senses.
- ▶ The cosmic UFO light and the rainbow tambourine were the most popular items in the kit.





Workshop themes

Involving the students in choosing the workshop themes is an important aspect of the empowerment process that the curriculum seeks to promote. The curriculum consists of 60 drama workshops spread out over a period of three years.



Art at the heart of Space Station

We have no evidence to suggest that persons who live with an intellectual disability are any less creative than the rest of us. Art helps the dumb girl speak, allows the deaf man to hear, encourages the wheelchair bound to take flight and adds an extra layer of meaning to those who live with a profound disability.

Experiments with a myriad of art forms are at the core of the Space Station Light curriculum. Art adds colours and sounds and smells and taste and touch to the learning experience.



All the world's a stage



The decor for the workshops and the theatrical encounters provide the framework for the learning experiences.





Mainstream subjects

The educational curriculum Space Station Light includes drama, music, art, poetry and other mainstream subjects. Mainstreaming is at the heart of our mission. We don't do "special" subjects, just like we don't do "special education." Remember, our focus is on human rights and we are guided by the UN Inclusion Charter.

To improve and regulate the music experiences of Space Station, we offer an introduction to classical music and regularly apply the BIM methodology as developed by Patrick Meuldijk in The Netherlands.

<http://www.bim-werkwijze.info/patrick-meuldijk.html>

Guest musicians often enrich the theatre workshops with live music.



A sense of belonging

During the drama workshops, Space Station showed that belonging, being someone, being part of the group are the essential elements in any curriculum that aspires to educate the excluded.

Sensing the belonging is the best sensor.



The poetry lesson - from text to texture



While the value and benefits of music are widely acknowledged, poetry experiments and experiences are, as far as we know, less common. Which is why we are experimenting with this art form. The Space Station Light poetry lessons for persons with a profound disability work on the basis of rhythm and rhyme, putting sound above sense and applying the methodology of multi-sensory storytelling to the text. Sometimes we just try out new approaches in our Space lab, developing the methodology on the basis of what works. Movement, metaphor and meaning are essential concepts in the communications. Almost always we move from text to texture. And now and then we gaze in wonder when the poem, stripped to the bone, manages

“to touch the heart unawares

And blow it open.” (Seamus Heaney)

Don't believe me? Try it out with one of these poems: Ozo heppie or The Lobster garden.

Ozo heppie

*Ik voel me ozo heppie,
zo heppie deze dag
en als je vraagt: wat heppie
als ik eens vragen mag,
dan zeg ik: hoe wat heppie,
wat heppik aan die vraag,
heppie nooit dat heppieje
dat ik hep vandaag?*

Joke van Leeuwen

The Lobster garden

*Beneath the waters
Green and cool
The mermaids keep
A swimming school.*

*The oysters trot;
The lobsters prance;
The dolphins come
To join the dance.*

*But the jellyfish
Who are rather small
Can't seem to learn
The steps at all*

Marchette Chute



Tasting the difference

Every theatre workshop includes a selection of theme-related home-made delicacies that excite the palate and nurture the senses. It makes sense.





Sensory theatre

Part of the Space Station Light curriculum involves introducing the students to a cross-section of specialized sensory theatre groups from around the country. We kicked off with an inspiring encounter with *De Lachende Zon*, a troupe that specializes in music, puppetry and mime.

The visiting artists enhance our programme and leave a palet of new possibilities and methodologies behind.





Feel everything

During the 2016 theatre workshops, the students were encouraged to feel everything. The Space Station Light curriculum uses tactile sensory stimulation to enhance the sensations of the students.

“We all learn but not on the same day or in the same way”.



Inclusive design

Designing the learning environment for students with a profound disability is an important task for the crew of volunteers who work for Space Station. As well as décor design, we concentrate on the aids to learning and the technical equipment that support the new learners.

One of our volunteers created an effective diorama which makes drawing possible for everybody, especially those with severe motor restrictions. The college kids at Pontes were impressed.



Around the world in 60 workshops.



During most of the workshops, we used the metaphor of journeying. Suitable decors, usually strewn with Space images on simple textiles, added a dimension of augmented reality to the learning experience.

The emotional and motivational factors of virtual and augmented learning environments is an area we hope to explore more in the year ahead.



The joy of learning

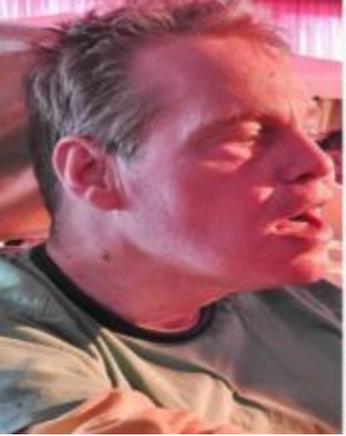
Space Station wants the students to share in the joy of performance which doesn't have to be perfect. And in the joy of learning which doesn't have to be cerebral.



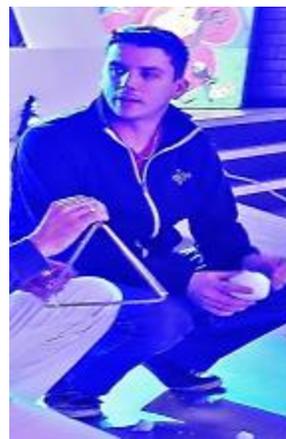
Knowledge sharing

We acknowledge the generous support of the professionals from Gors, Arduin, Fleuroja and Zuidwester. Without their knowledge sharing and enthusiastic participation, the space shuttle would never have taken off.





Space Station
volunteers go
above and
beyond.



Thank you

Special thanks to coordinator Ariene van Westen for her inspiring leadership and unwavering belief in the power of the Space Station students.

Annual report 2016: To the Lighthouse
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