

# St Petersburg in the stadsdeel

When he founded St Petersburg, Russian Tsar Peter the Great had Amsterdam in mind, with its canals, swing bridges and liberal spirit. Indeed, Amsterdam is a purer, simpler and more authentic version of what some 1,000 Russians living here are used to experiencing in the Russian Empire's former capital. That's why coming here after St Petersburg can feel like switching to real coffee after years of swigging instant.



## Cyrillic school

Attended by 120 students aged three to 15, the school provides a thorough education in Russian grammar and spelling, helping children from bilingual families pronounce their ж, л and ы.

**Russian School Amsterdam** *Buurthuis Boomsplijker, Recht Boomsloot 52 (412 1797/ rusland.net), Lessons every Sat from 10.00-13.15 and 13.00-16.00.*



## Hermitage on the Amstel

This recently founded affiliate of the renowned State Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg will move to its permanent location in the Amstelhof in February, and the current location will be converted into the Hermitage for Children. Both give you a small glimpse of Russia's awe-inspiring collections.

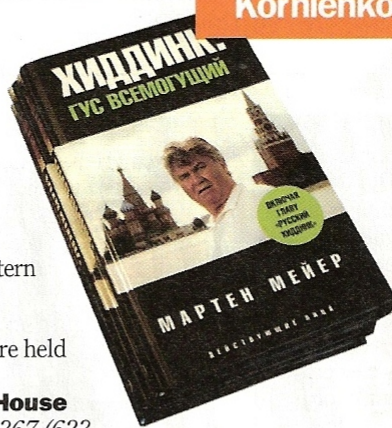
**Hermitage Amsterdam** *Nieuwe Herengracht 14 (530 8755/hermitage.nl), Daily 10.00-17.00.*



## The party line

Once a publisher for the Dutch Communist Party, Pegasus is now a successful commercial enterprise specialising in Slavic-language and Eastern European-themed books. Popular discussions and author meet-and-greets are held throughout the year.

**Pegasus Publishing House and Bookstore** *Singel 367 (623 1138/pegasusboek.nl), Mon 13.00-18.00, Tue-Fri 10.00-18.00, Sat 10.00-17.00.*



**Sophia Kornienko**



## Tsarship

The Bushuis is one of the few remaining Dutch East India Company (VOC) buildings that dates to the time of Tsar Peter, who came to Amsterdam incognito in 1697 to learn shipbuilding and work as a common carpenter at the VOC shipyard in the Oostenburg neighbourhood. A bordering street and neighbourhood still bear his name (Czaar Peterstraat and Czaar Peterbuurt).

**Bushuis/Oost-Indisch Huis** *Kloveniersburgwal 48 (wva.nl/locaties/kaart.cfm), Mon-Thur 08.00-19.30, Fri 08.00-18.00.*

## Borscht belt

This shabby-looking food shop may be too much cultural immersion for some, but it's the only place in town selling healthy Russian treats like roasted buckwheat and horseradish in red beet sauce. It also sells Russian films.

**Troyka Russian Supermarket** *Rhijnwis Feithstraat 49/BG (489 3725), Call for opening hours.*

