



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

WIS School Year No. 28½

Welcome to the new school year! It's number ... er, 28½. Well, we opened our doors for the first time in January 1991 so we'll reach 29 in five months' time. And in January 2021 we will be celebrating thirty years. (It seems no time at all since we were making our 25th anniversary.)

IGCSE Results

IGCSE (International General Certificate of Education) courses are studied over two years in Grades 9 and 10. They culminate in terminal exams set and marked externally. Our courses come from the University of Cambridge.

Subjects are graded on a scale of A* A B C D E F G U. (Note that there is no relationship between these letter grades and those familiar to people from North America.)

This year we entered 45 students for IGCSEs in a total of 21 subjects. This was our biggest ever entry and produced our best results for seven years.

Of the 342 grades, 264 (77.2%) were A* to C.

We are proud of all of our students but particular mention must be made of seven students who achieved:

A* A* A* A* A* A* A* A* A* A* A C
A* A* A* A* A* A* A* A* A B
A* A* A* A* A* A A A A
A* A* A* A* A* A A A B B
A* A* A* A* A* A A A
A* A* A* A* A A B B B
A* A* A* A A A A B B

These are wonderful results.

Strategic Plan

This week the Strategic Plan Committee of the Board of Directors met for the first time. We discussed the survey and the open meeting that were promised to the school community at the end of the last school year. Next week you will receive a roadmap of the process that we will follow. Your input will be gratefully received over the coming months.

Peter MacKenzie

Contents

- From the Director p. 1
- Primary News p. 2
- Secondary News p. 3 - 4
- Other News p. 4 - 11

Dates to Remember

August 2019

- **22:** Back-to-School: Secondary
- **26:** Heroes Day
- **27:** AA Start
- **27:** Back-to-School: Primary



VISIT US ON:



Facebook



Instagram



Teacher Feature

Johan Meyer

Middle School Social Studies

What is your educational background?

I completed my Bachelors in Education at the North West University in Potchefstroom, South Africa, in 2008. I then also received my Honours degree in Environmental Education in 2008 (UNISA).

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in a small agricultural town in South Africa called Malelane - right next to the Kruger Park! During my high school career my parents moved to Nelspruit, where they still live and which we now consider to be 'home'.

Where were you before Namibia?

Sho, a few places! We've just come to WIS from a small island off the south coast of South Korea, called Jeju Island (it's considered as the Hawaii of Asia). Before that we were in the middle of nowhere in a VERY rural village called Solwezi in north western Zambia. We have also lived and taught in the Sultanate of Oman and in South Africa.

Continues on page 3

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

One of the joys of the first few days of the new school year is welcoming back so many familiar, smiling faces and seeing the enthusiasm that the children have for returning to school after the holidays. Some of the excitement has included Grade 1 students discovering how much space and freedom they have to play during break times, while the Grade 5s couldn't be happier that they have finally worked their way to being the leaders of the Primary School. Of course, being with their friends adds to the positive vibe of coming back to school. It's also a pleasure to welcome new students and their families to our WIS community.

It has been a very positive week as the children have settled into the routines of a new Grade Level, class and new school year. The 2019-2020 promises much to look forward to, not only with the changes that have been implemented but also to some of the additional things that have been put in place. The extra ten minutes at the end of the day is allowing for dismissal to be a calm event for the children, providing for some reflection time about their day or learning, as well as helping to ensure they have all of their belongings. The Week 1/ Week 2 timetable, while perhaps confusing for some, provides variation in the time of the specialist lessons so that the lessons aren't happening at the same time of day, e.g. a lesson at the end of the day one week, most likely will be earlier in the day the next week.

Yesterday was the first day of W.O.R.D. - WIS Organized Reading Days - where during Period 7 everyone in the Primary School enjoyed reading. W.O.R.D. will take place next week (Week 2) Tuesday, Period 1. This is an opportunity for parents to join us for some enjoyable reading time.

Our annual Back to School evening is Tuesday, August 27. We are revising the format for this evening so that you can experience more of a day in the life of your child's school day. More details will be in next week's Oryx.

MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) testing for Grades 1-5 will begin the week of September 2 and continue through September 19. The homeroom teachers will be informing the parents of the specific dates of the tests for their Grade Level. More information about MAP will be forthcoming.

I look forward to working with you in supporting your children's learning for the 2019-2020 school year.

Regards,
Beth Smith

NamBTS Blood Drive at WIS
28 August, from 7 am – 1 pm
WIS Auditorium Foyer

Teacher Feature continued**What motivated you to be a teacher?**

I know it's a massive cliché, but I kinda feel like teaching chose me. I never really wanted to be a teacher when I was younger, but was offered a full bursary to study education when I left school. I'm so happy that I decided to accept the offer because now I absolutely love teaching! I love the fact that I can make a difference in people's lives and the fact that I can see children develop and learn.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

The fact that no two days are the same! Teaching is great in that everyday you face different and, for the most part, new challenges... It keeps things exciting. I also love, like I mentioned, to see how kids develop and learn and especially when they experience those "Aha moments".

What do you think are important qualities an international school teacher should have?

Adaptability, flexibility, a sense of humour and cultural sensitivity.

Can you tell us a little bit about your personal life / hobbies?

I'm one of those people that has many hobbies, but not enough time (or money!). I love being outdoors and being active. I play golf, play rugby, mountain bike, kayak fish, gym, run etc. I also love cooking and spending time with my family.

I'm married to Anél (who is also a teacher!) and we have two beautiful children together - Amélie, who has just joined EY3, and Simeon who just turned one a couple of weeks ago. We love travelling and exploring together and we are so excited to go and explore Namibia.

How would you describe your personality?

I think I'm quite easy-going and that I have a good sense of humour. I live life to the fullest and I try to make the most of everyday.

What is your favourite educational motto that you use with students?

It's not really an educational motto, but I usually tell my students that "When we work, we work hard, and when we play, we play hard. There's a time for everything."

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL**Welcome to the new school year**

A very warm welcome to everyone for the new school year. Welcome to everyone returning and a special welcome to our new families who have joined WIS. It is great to see everyone back and to start the new year with so much enthusiasm and positivity.

WIS is in a process of great changes in the way we approach learning. It is a big learning experience for all of us and it is encouraging to see how everyone, students, parents and teachers embraces these changes. In a world that is so rapidly changing, we - educators, parents and schools - need to ensure that we prepare our young generation to be able to function in this changing environment. With the new approaches we are implementing in our school, we are doing just that: trying to give our students a voice and a choice in their decision making, we are trying to give the onus of taking responsibility to our children. This is quite a tall order, because it requires a lot of self-discipline, self-confidence and all those skills that cannot be acquired through a specific subject in school. But with our current programme, we are addressing many of these aspects in the daily lives of our children and hopefully, this will give them the edge when they leave here and make them responsible and open-minded global citizens who take a leading role in ensuring that this planet and humanity can prosper in the future.

For our changes to be effective, it is imperative that we all work together as a team - students, parents and the school. We will continue with our monthly parent information sessions in the last week of each month.

Please note:**First Parent Information Session****Wednesday, 28 August 2019****WIS Staffroom**

This parent evening will inform about many of the changes - criterion based assessments, changed way of reporting progress to parents and Edmodo. It would be great to see many parents at that event so that we can inform, but also answer your questions so that you are able to better support your child's education.

Please also take note:**Secondary Back to School Fair****Thursday, 22 August 2019****18:00 - 19:30 (with PTA social get together afterwards)**

The Back to School Fair will have a distinctly different format from previous years. We want parents to experience the changed school



WEEKLY PUZZLER

Welcome back all you puzzlers!

This year promises to be an exciting and challenging one, and there’s no better way to get started than with a Puzzler. So let’s put on our thinking caps and dive right in.

Alice and Bob are both logical and truthful, and each knows that the other is logical and truthful. Each is each given a distinct one-digit number 1 through 9. They make these statements in this order:

Alice: I don’t know whose number is bigger.

Bob: I also don’t know whose number is bigger.

Alice: I still don’t know whose number is bigger.

Bob: I still don’t know whose number is bigger.

What number does Bob have?

Please send solutions, or any fun and interesting puzzlers to pfarrell@wis.edu.na



routine their children are now following. We will therefore take you through “A Day in the Life of” . It is important, that your child(ren) accompany you that evening so that they can show you and be part of the “meet and greet” event on the 22nd. We look forward to welcoming many parents and students next week Thursday to share with you and celebrate our new schedule and way of learning.

**Regards,
Maggie Reiff**

Staff First Aid

During the staff work week at the beginning of August, many WIS staff participated in an emergency first aid refresher presentation by Sharon Gorelick (Nurse & Counsellor). We begin the 2019/2020 school year well prepared.



Sports News

Athletics

In a bid to improve the quality of our after school interactions we have moved from the traditional Small Schools athletics competition in February to a competition hosted in the cooler part of the year in September on the 19th at the Independence Stadium. This competition will have among its participants Delta Primary School, DHPS and Holy Cross Convent. Each school will be allowed to field four athletes in the track events and three in the field events.



As a school we follow the words of [Pierre de Coubertin](#) "The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not winning but taking part; the essential thing in life is not conquering but fighting well." For most of our students taking part is an achievement in itself as they haven't had the exposure to compete against other students, especially in athletics.

In preparation for that competition please could you access the [INTERSCHOOLS ATHLETICS SIGN-UP](#), discuss with your child if they would be interested in taking part and which events they would like to take part in, and fill in their responses. This event is for students born 2009/ 2010 (U/9) to 2006 (U/13). Athletics is a great foundation for competitive sport and we encourage as many students as possible to take part.

Edwin Chinyemba

Football

An afternoon of epic football at DTS for WIS in the LFL. It was a superb return to form for our Football teams. The U/7, U/8, U/9 and U/10 teams were in action in the final match day before the winter break.

We enjoyed some super matches and the children produced very exciting performances. The U/7s beat Gymnasium, the U/8s lost 2-1 in a very closely fought and competitive game with SKW. The U/9 team beat ACFC and the U/10 also won against Delta School. Overall it was a fantastic conclusion to the first half of the season.

During the winter break we were kindly invited by ACFC to participate in their Football Tournament. Our U/7 and U/9 teams had a great day and played some fantastic Football throughout the weekend. Well done to many of the players who had only just arrived back in Namibia who had to reacclimatise and cope with playing matches while jet-lagged!



Thank you so very much to the fantastic and loyal parents who have shown such support for our developing school teams. Special thanks also to Dylan Carew who stepped in to help with coaching duties for the U/7 team.

U/19 Basketball Boys

The senior boys made light work of Khomas High School on Saturday. It makes three wins from four as we approach the end of the season. The final games will determine play-off positions and who we will face in the KO round of play-off matches.



Thomas Jackson-Read

Referencing at WIS

In line with our academic honesty policy, the school-wide reference tool is **MLA**. The Modern Language Association (**MLA**) is the body responsible for developing **MLA** format often referred to as **MLA** reference style. It was developed as a method for researchers, students and scholars in the literature and language fields to use a uniform way to format their essays and assignments. **MLA** citation style uses a simple two-part parenthetical documentation system for citing sources. Citations in the text point to the alphabetical Works Cited list that appears at the end of the paper. It is extremely important in academic writing to fully acknowledge when you are quoting or paraphrasing other people's ideas. Properly acknowledging your sources allows your teacher to track where your ideas that informed your own analysis came from.

Referencing means acknowledging the contribution of other writers and researchers in your work. Any academic work that refers to ideas, words or research of other writers must contain citations. It is also a way to give credit to writers from whom you have borrowed words and ideas and this allows respect of intellectual property rights of that researcher as well as ensure that students are following the principles of academic honesty. [Click here to see the full WIS MLA Referencing Guide.](#)

Elizabeth Chege

Kaleidoscope Creations

Market Stall Workshop at WIS

Materials used: CRAZY CLAY

Thursdays 13:50—14:45 at the Bake-sale Thatch

Beginning 29 August 2019

N\$100.00 per student class. We will provide the Crazy Clay.

Ages: 11 Year olds and up

The Workshop will last until mid-January 2020



W.O.R.D.

Our reading programme

This year we are nurturing a love of reading for everyone in the school. We are excited to introduce **W.O.R.D. (WIS Organised Reading Days)**. Once a week all three sections of the school have a scheduled timetable for W.O.R.D. Everything stops ... And everybody reads a novel or short story for 40 minutes.

We will be having bi-monthly themes and this month's theme is mystery. We would like to invite parents to join our reading programme either to read for learners or volunteer for any reading activity. Parents are welcome to sit outside the PTA area and read a book. The idea with our new reading programme is to establish a culture amongst our learners and WIS community showing that reading is fun and entertaining.

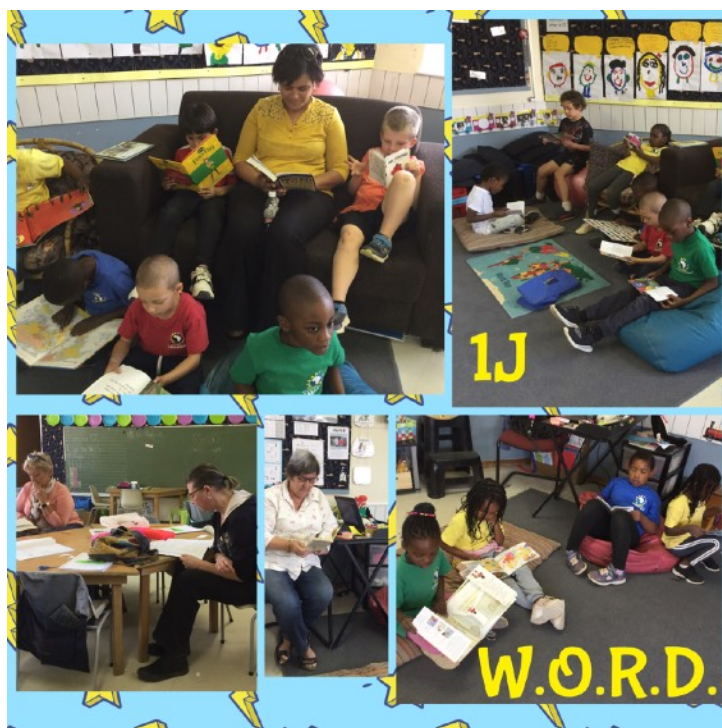
A shelf will be placed in the library where book swapping can take place - learners, teachers and parents can place a book that they have read in the shelf for someone else to take and read. You are more than welcome to take another book to read yourself. Posters of different book blurbs have been posted around the school already to ignite excitement.

All learners are expected to read a novel during the scheduled reading slots, thus learners should come prepared.

Did you know? Ms. Lyndsay Bain will be reading three books simultaneously - *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho, *The Four Agreements* By Don Miguel Ruiz and *The History of God* by Karen Armstrong. How is that for being brave!!!!

We hope you are as excited as we are about our new reading programme and watch this space for exciting news and activities during the year to come.

Liz and Angie



WIS Reps in the Windhoek Junior City Council

Amrita Nambiar

In May, I moved up the ranks to replace Thyra as the Junior City Counsellor representing WIS at the Junior City Council (JCC), a subsidiary of the City of Windhoek. Jessica, after a brief election, was elected as my understudy.

I like to think of the JCC as the student council, but on a city-wide scale. There are almost 32 schools from Windhoek represented and we meet every month to discuss plans on how to implement new initiatives and undertake relevant projects.

During the past year, some of our most memorable projects included visiting and donating clothes to an elderly home in Katutura, raising funds for children with cancer, hosting a live interview on a local channel to advocate for mental health etc. We hope to keep up with similar initiatives this year as well, and for now, Jessica and I are keen to resume our duties of serving the community.

So far, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time serving in the JCC because of the platform it provides us to voice our opinions, and to choose to do something that really matters to the community. I am grateful for this opportunity to interact directly with my community and make an active change in our society. Although it can be challenging at times to juggle these commitments with school, I am looking forward to completing my last few months here, as it has heavily contributed to my passion to give back to society and engage in more voluntary work.

Jessica Kennedy

The Junior City Council is a platform where representatives from different schools in Windhoek come together to share knowledge, ideas, discuss problems in their surrounding areas and propose action plans to make our city a better place.

In May 2019, I took over Amrita’s place and became the Understudy for WIS in the Junior City Council. I am enjoying my time in the Junior City Council so far even though it has only been a very short period. I am excited and look forward to all the projects that we are going to do this year.

I am happy to be part of the Junior City Council and be part of the community that tries to make our city a better place.



Potters Association of Namibia

The 9th Annual PAN Ceramics exhibition was launched last night at the National Art Gallery. It's very fitting that both our Primary and Secondary art teachers are represented at this prestigious event, which runs until 20th September 2019. Genie Albrecht is a veteran ceramics exhibitor and many pottery lovers will be familiar with her work. This time she's done something really special. Heike Mayer is new to pottery, and has taken the medium by storm, as is evident from the piece on display at this exhibition. WIS is very proud of our art teachers. The exhibition is well worth a visit.



The
POTTERS' ASSOCIATION
OF NAMIBIA
invites you to

The 9th
National
CERAMICS
Biennale



15 Aug
2019
@18H00

**EXHIBITION
OPENING**
at The National Art
Gallery of Namibia

From Genie Albrecht - Primary Art Teacher
THE EXHIBITION RUNS FOR TWO WEEKS 'TIL END OF AUGUST 2020

PTA NEWS

Yes! We made it through the first week of school! Well done us!

I hope the first week for you and your families has been a positive one. It has been so lovely to see some familiar faces, as well as new ones, at our coffee mornings this week. A big shout out to Ms. Beth who made the most delicious brownies that you probably should not have had, but were super glad you did.

I hope you all managed to get your children fully kitted out for school. Please feel free to come by if you need anything else. We were glad to see that we ran out of hats, therefore keeping our children protected from the sun. We do have more on order, which should be here within a couple of weeks. If you would like to order any hats or t-shirts leave your details with us at the PTA Centre. Or email pta@wis.edu.na

A little bit about our PTA

The **purpose** of the WIS-PTA (Windhoek International School-Parent Teacher Association) is to engage with students, parents and teachers in activities, projects and programmes that will contribute to the advancement of the school. These will be in line with the Articles of Association of the Windhoek International School and the resolutions of the Board of Directors and subsequent resolutions passed in terms thereof.

Membership - All parents or legal guardians of students enrolled in the school, and teachers employed by the school are members of the WIS-PTA.

Executive Committee consists of four office posts:

Chairperson

Deputy Chairperson

Treasurer

Secretary

Other members of the Executive Committee representing the parents and teachers shall be responsible for addressing relevant issues raised by both parents and teachers. These shall comprise 4-8 members, one Primary Teacher Representative, one Secondary Representative and one member of the Senior Leadership Team.

To see some of the events that we have supported, sponsored and been a part of for the period 2018-2019 please click this [link](#).

You can see we had a busy year and we hope to do a lot more, especially events that build a stronger more vibrant school community. We strive to be a community that celebrates our cultures and embraces all that makes us who we are.

We at the WIS-PTA, are very passionate about our environment and want our kids to take ownership of that. We continue to support and guide students in being good stewards of our planet any way we can.

If you have any ideas about how the PTA can support and bond the school further please come and speak to us or email pta@wis.edu.na

On that note, we would love to have you on board in any way no matter how big or small. Come and have a chat to see how you can make a difference in your child's community.

Please click the link to sign up to be a part of the PTA as we all have something to give

[PTA Volunteers Sign Up Sheet 2019/20](#)

Enjoy a well deserved rest at the weekend. Or have a look at the resources file that was sent out on Thursday with the courtesy of the International Women's Association Namibia IWAN (thank you ladies) so that you can see the best places to eat, visit or just get to know.

Michelle Jackson-Read (On behalf of the PTA)



**Please collect your 2019/2020 car
entrance pass from Reception!**

**WIS SECONDARY
BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR**

**Thursday August 22
@WIS Auditorium
18:00 - 20:30**

- ✦ Meet the teachers
- ✦ Hear about the programmes
- ✦ Experience a Day in the life of a WIS Secondary Student

The PTA Bar will be open!

WIS
WINDHOEK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

HAPPY WEEKEND

DO WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY