

THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School



FROM THE DIRECTOR

2018-2019 is Coming...

The Board of Directors published the fee schedule for the 2018-2019 school year eight days ago. The 2018-2019 fees can also be found on the website under Admissions and on the D6.

Re-registration forms were also sent to all parents this week. Copies may also be collected from the School Office.

Please observe the **31st May** deadline for re-registration. Every year a few parents are surprised (to put it mildly) to find a N\$750 item on the first invoice of the year for late registration.

Please also note that re-registration forms will not be processed if fees are still outstanding from the current school year.

Now might also be a good time to remind everyone that from August Toddlers will be discontinued, the school will revert to using Grades rather than Years and KG1 – Y1 will become Early Years 1, EY2 and EY3. Here’s how it will look.

PRIMARY	SECONDARY
Early Years 1 (KG1)	Grade 6 (Year 7)
Early Years 2 (KG2)	Grade 7 (Year 8)
Early Years 3 (Year 1)	Grade 8 (Year 9)
Grade 1 (Year 2)	Grade 9 (Year 10)
Grade 2 (Year 3)	Grade 10 (Year 11)
Grade 3 (Year 4)	Grade 11 (Year 12)
Grade 4 (Year 5)	Grade 12 (Year 13)
Grade 5 (Year 6)	

Staffing (recruiting new teachers) was completed long ago and it is many years since the school was able to make that proud boast. Five new faces will be joining us in August and they will be from Namibia (2), Canada (1), Kenya (1) and the USA (1). I shall introduce them to you shortly.

Peter MacKenzie

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

As we are now into the last term of this academic year, it is a time to put forth that extra strive to reach the goals that have been set. This takes commitment, which is one of the attitudes of the PYP. According to the International Baccalaureate, in PYP schools students should demonstrate the attitude of Commitment by being committed to their own learning, persevering and showing self-discipline and responsibility. *Making the PYP Happen 2009.*

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Dates to Remember

April 2018

- **12-13:** Last day for Year 13 & farewell assembly
- **17:** Board Meeting
- **20:** Last day for Year 11 & farewell assembly
- **21:** PTA Family Braai
- **25-26:** Primary Sport Days



VISIT US ON:



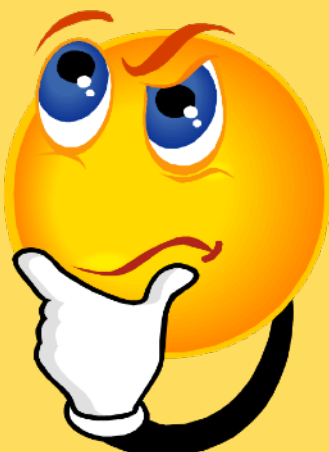
WEEKLY PUZZLER

The day before yesterday, Will was 17.

Next year, he will turn 20.

How can this be?

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



Students have the opportunity to practice Commitment in a variety of ways including: school work; after school activities; music, ballet, gymnastics, swimming, etc. lessons; being on a sports team; or keeping playdates to name a few. More specifically during the school day students are encouraged to practice commitment through completing activities or assignments that have been given; completing homework on time; arriving to class on time; improving on a chosen goal such as the presentation of work, listening, following directions, being nicer to friends. This week the Year 6 students have begun their work for the PYP Exhibition. They have the opportunity to practice commitment with meeting deadlines and keeping on top of the research for their specific topic.



Parents can support their children in further developing the attitude of Commitment by ensuring attendance at After School Activities, or any lessons for which the child has signed up, and talking about what it means to be committed to this activity. Continue to encourage responsibility - have your child pack his/her bag the night before so that it's ready to go in the morning; let your child carry his/her own bag into school. Discuss with your child the goals that were set during the student-led conferences and what he/she can do to persevere to achieve these goals by the end of the term.

Working together we can support the students with being committed to their goals and to finishing the school year with a sense of accomplishment.

Regards,
Beth Smith

And the Winner is...

A belated congratulations to the winner of the Learning Support Raffle. Ms. Beth Smith won the awesome prize! Thank you to everyone who participated.



YEAR 1 LITERACY WORKSHOP



Thank you so much for attending the Literacy language workshop sessions yesterday. Thank you to the Year 1 teachers who worked hard preparing the materials for you to experience.

Here follows a recap from yesterday:

The purpose of the workshop was an informal opportunity for parents to find out where their child is at when beginning to read and write. We have talked a lot about multisensory learning and the importance for children to have opportunity to develop and build their sensory systems. Now we are at the end of the Early Years and learners prepare for Grade 1 from August, we are focussing on literacy.

The focus for the workshop was predominantly on the literacy part - reading and writing.

What does that look like at WIS?

- Like all parts of child development - we focus on the **big parts** and move to the **small parts**. Starting at the sentence level we segment sentences as we identify single words in the sentence. We then focus on segmenting words as we identify beginning sounds in words. At this stage the focus falls on blending single sounds as CVC (consonant vowel consonant) words = reading, and segmenting CVC words as beginning, middle and ending sounds = spelling.
- Students are exploring the sounds of letters. They start with the **Auditory** - what does it sound like. We encourage parents to sound the letter rather than say the letter name. Children connect with what it sounds like.
- Students then move to connecting the letter "sound" with the formation (what it looks like) and a symbol that represents it. This is where they use the **Visual** sense to connect and build their understanding of the letter sounds.



- All these are connected to beginning reading skills and writing skills.
- We start with letter sounds and the lowercase letter formation so that students do not get confused when hearing, saying and beginning to form these letter sounds. (Avoid using letter names and capital/uppercase letters, as this may confuse the child).
- Skills developed and needed for reading and writing include: Auditory (listening) and Visual (seeing) discrimination, Listening and Speaking, Physical (gross motor & fine motor), Motor Planning, Motor Control and Spatial Awareness.

More information will be posted on the blog.

Year 1 team, Ms Ronel & Ms Avril

Field Trip to N/a'an ku sê

Year 2B reflecting

Mike

We went on a long trip to N/a 'an ku sê.

Dino

Mr L.J. was our tour guide. We went on a game drive.

Samurray

We went on a truck.

Nour

We saw some different animals like lion, cheetah, caracal and leopard.

Helmina

I found an interesting baboon and I found a lion! I was scared of the lion. I found a wild dog. It didn't smell nice but it looked beautiful. I found a caracal and it was adorable.

Wetufe

At Naankuse I saw a Namibian Painted Wolf (African Wild Dog) that was black, peach, white and caramel brown.

Laith

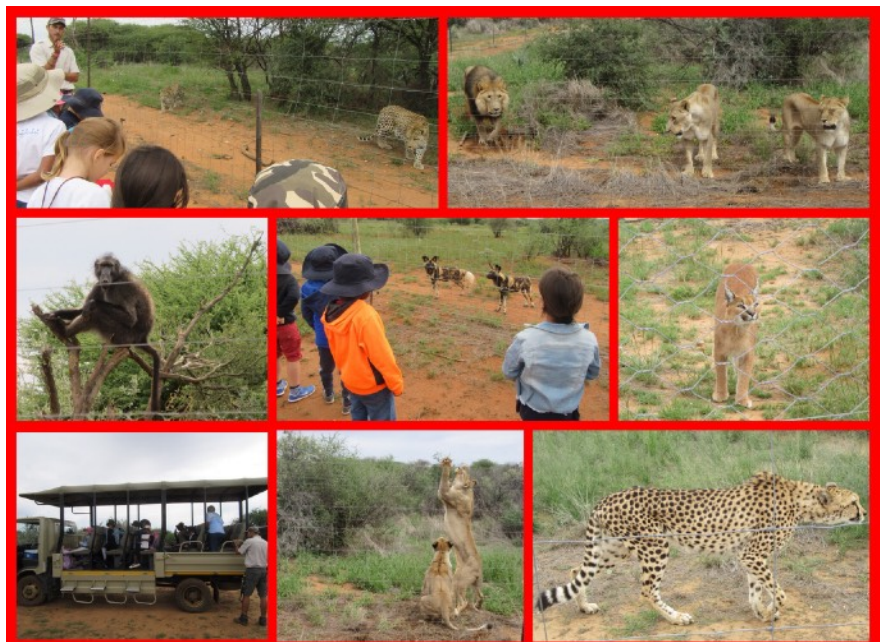
One of the baboons was the boss of the other baboons. The lions were scary!

Guilherme

The caracal jumped to catch chicken. We saw an ostrich looking at a tree.

Nini

I almost jumped out of my chair, the lion was like a T-Rex!



Primary Sports

Junior Basketball

The Under 11 Mixed Basketball team will have their first league match this Saturday, 09:00 at DHPS. Their opponents are DHPS Team A.



Athletics

This weekend Amani Enkara will take part in the Premier Inter-Schools Athletics Championship (Nationals). He had qualified during the Zonals and will compete in the under 13 Javelin Throw - this is also an opportunity to be selected for the National Zone 6 team.

Fernando Beukes



SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Some changes in Secondary School coming for the next academic year

Schools are busy places and in an ever changing world, schools have to adapt, probably more than other institutions, to the **changes** in society and in the world around us.

You will have already noticed that we changed the way we report on your child's progress through a very **different report format**. More and more emphasis these days is placed on skills and experiential learning. We as a school have to adapt accordingly to ensure that we educate young people to be able to find their way around a world that is distinctly different to the world we adults grew up in. And changes these days are rapid; things are different from one year to the next and technological advances force us to change our way of doing things accordingly.

Another change that is coming at the end of this academic year, is a change in the way we write **exams in Middle School**. In IGCSE and the IB Diploma we still need to prepare students to be able to write the external IGCSE and Diploma exams at the end of their course. In Middle School, however, we felt that we don't want to place all the emphasis on exams that are coming at the end of the year.

To assist the transition from Primary School to Middle School, we will implement a few changes in Middle School. There will no longer be exams at the end of Year 7. In Year 8, we will work towards a more summative assessment and in Year 9 students will write the full complement of exams as they will in IGCSE and the IB Diploma in later years.

Another change will be that we will shorten the **second break to 40 minutes**. This is to accommodate **15 minutes in the first session (Registration)** in the mornings. This gives Homeroom teachers a chance to make sure that the day is planned properly and that, especially in Middle School and IGCSE, students have some time to organise themselves for the day.

Another change will be our **Behaviour Management approach**. We are confident that the positive approach to behaviour management is the right way to educate students about consequences for wrong choices. However, students also need to understand that they have a responsibility towards their own studies. Reflection time will be from 13:30 until 16:00 on Fridays as of August. Parents will be notified if their child has to attend a reflection session on the Wednesday of the week preceding the reflection session to give parents ample time to make arrangements to collect their child at 16:00 on that Friday and not to make weekend arrangements before 16:00 on that given Friday.

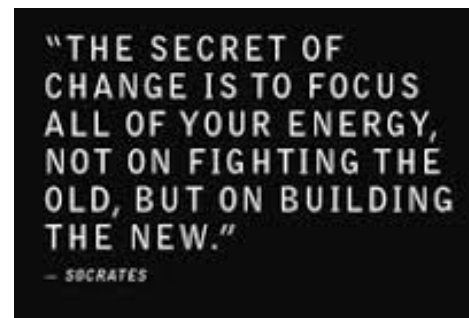
During that time, students will be assigned some tasks. This will hopefully result in students reflecting on their choices and the consequences their choices have in better way.

We appreciate parents support in implementing these changes.

If we approach these with an open and positive mind, they will result in our children being more responsible, hopefully better able to manage their time and organise themselves and experiencing school in a positive way.

There will be some more changes happening in the next months to be implemented in the new year. As always, your comments and suggestions are welcome.

Regards,
Maggie Reiff



The Easter Egg Hunt

The Middle School Student Council had an Easter surprise for Primary.

On Thursday, 29 March, the Middle School Student Council had a big plan for the students of the Primary school at WIS. They were the Easter bunnies for the day. They brought joy to the Primary kids, with fun chocolates for them to find and enjoy.

We had planned to give the eggs to the toddlers up to Year 2. The members of the Student Council sponsored all the eggs for this event. At 10:10 we had the opportunity to go and hide the eggs for the little ones - they were all very excited about this and it was wonderful to see how they searched for these eggs.

After completing our task, we saw that we had lots of eggs left and decided to go and hand them out to the Year 3, 4 and 5 classes.

"We all had loads of fun and enjoyed it with the little ones - what a great way to have started a long weekend!"

Written by Leo and Kiko - Year 8A



WINDHOEK KARNEVAL



Celebrating our diversity - WIKa Street Parade - Umzug Saturday, 7 April 2018

You are welcome to attend and participate

This coming Saturday, 7th April, the annual "Umzug" - Street Parade - of the Windhoeker Karneval will take place. The parade goes along Independence Avenue starting from the City of Windhoek Complex opposite the Hilton and ending at the Kudu Statue.

Starting time: 11:11 (this is when Karneval events traditionally start) - all participants will meet at 10:45 at the German Bookshop (Windhoeker Buchhandlung) opposite the City of Windhoek building.

- Everyone from the WIS community is welcome to participate in the parade if you are dressed in traditional attire or wear the WIS shirt and a WIS cap.
- Bring water and be sure to put on sunscreen.
- If you don't want to participate in the parade, you are welcome to watch the parade from the side of the road.

Why would WIS participate in the German Karneval Parade?

- We want to show that we celebrate our diversity. Currently we have 15 countries represented by students carrying their country's flag. We are happy to add a lot more, so if you want to participate for your country, please contact Ms. M. Reiff (mreiff@wis.edu.na) as soon as possible.
- If you just want to walk along, come to the meeting spot at 10:45 - but wear either a WIS shirt or something that represents the country that you are from.
- WIS could win one of three prizes just by participating.



Romeo and Juliet

"Romeo and Juliet" was staged at Windhoek International School on the 23rd and 24th of March 2018. It was a first for WIS in many ways, which made the journey quite nerve-racking at times. Nevertheless, all members of the cast and crew persisted, they poured their hearts into it and delivered a production that inspired many. Don't take my word for it though. Here is what other people from our community and beyond have said about the production.

"The actors performed with confidence and élan."
Peter McKenzie (WIS Director)



"A fantastic performance" - Margarete Reiff (WIS Secondary Principal)

"It was a really impressive piece of work all round" - Gavin Alakija (WIS parent)

"I love the simplicity of the costume and set designs" - Janea Dahl (Dramanotebook.com)

"The end product was excellent" - Janet Roscoe (WIS parent)

"Wow, I was transported...It's the best show I've ever seen at WIS" - Junelle Stroh (Primary Drama Teacher)

The most positive outcome this play created is that many in our community can't wait to start working on the next one. The Drama Department is exceptionally proud to have started our journey to becoming recognised as WIS - that school that creates really good Theatre.



Kate Matzopoulos

RE-REGISTRATION 2018/2019 SCHOOL YEAR

Please complete the Re-registration form (*available on the d6*) and return it to the School Office before 31 May 2018 for your child/ren to be re-enrolled for the 2018/2019 School Year.



The Embassy of Ireland

Request the pleasure of your company at a reception and film screening,

Sing Street

On Tuesday, 10th April 2018 18:00-21:30hrs.
At Windhoek International School,
Schepmann Street, Pioneers Park, Ext. 1



**JOIN US FOR
AN INFO
SESSION IN
WINDHOEK**

with
**SERGIO
RODRIGUEZ**

Monday, April 16
5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Hilton Windhoek

RSVP at
s.rodriquez@euruni.edu

#StartHere

