



# THE ORYX

*The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School*

**PARENT INFORMATION PORTAL**  
Click here for more information

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## Dates to Remember 2023

- **7 February**  
*Inter-house Competition*
- **9 February**  
*Coffee Morning*
- **13 February**  
*Mock Exams start*
- **14 February**  
*Valentines Day Activities*
- **16 February**  
*Grade 7 Field trip*



## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Community,

### 2023 WIS Board Positions and Appointments

I am writing to share that the newly elected WIS Board of Directors met for the first time last night and elected from their ranks the following leadership positions:

Chair: John Chadyiwa

Vice-Chair: Rui Afonso

Treasurer: Edmund Nel

As you may know, the WIS Articles of Association call for a hybrid governance model where some Board members are directly elected at the AGM and some are appointed for their skill set, perspective, and special ability to contribute to the work of the Board. We are happy to share that for the above reasons, on Wednesday the WIS Board of Directors appointed three new members to join the school's Board of Directors:

Ujama Mushimba

Welda Mouton

Hannah Lewis Winter

The six members above will join Sarah Lange (US Embassy Rep), Swapna Sharma (WISSA Rep), Natasha Tjongarero, and Michèle Wium. Please join me in thanking these new Board members for their service to our school. The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be 1st March, 2023. The Board will continue to focus on our mission statement "To develop the full potential of each student in a stimulating environment of academic excellence, cultural diversity and active social responsibility to become internationally-minded independent thinkers." Some of the events happening this February are excellent examples of our mission in action:

- 1) As we support and hold accountable our actions for **academic excellence**, the Secondary team has launched our after school mandatory Academic Catch-up Time (ACT) and Friday 1:45 to 4:00pm "Think On Your Actions - TOYA" Time
- 2) As we cultivate an environment which celebrates ourselves and our **cultural diversity**, Ms. Jeannette Washington and the Library Team have put together an amazing series of Black History Month events. (See the flyer - all are welcome!). This Monday is Monday, February 6 will be "**COLLIDE! Where poetry & hip-hop meet**", featuring Mr Glo, Sunny Boy, Phat Boy Lutor, DJ Cheri and Patricia Uapunduka in the WIS Auditorium | 1:45pm to 3:30 pm.

- 3) As we prepare students to be **active** and engaged in **social responsibility**, we are excited for this [Tuesday's Athletics Event](#) for ALL Grades 1-9 students. (Please remember to dress appropriately and be at Wanderers Sports Club Grounds at 7:00am on Tuesday). This week, we also closed out our EdCamp Namibia grant which successfully improved student-centred teaching and collaboration across eight schools in Namibia including Namutuni Primary School, Havana Primary School, Havana Project Secondary School, PAY Namibia, Na'ankuse Primary School, Little Buggs School, and Kanuni Haruwodi Combined School.

Sincerely,  
Ethan Van Drunen

## PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Dear WIS Community,

This week we celebrate the 100th day of school, which holds a place of significance as it is a time to celebrate the milestone of successfully completing 100 days of learning! The number 100 was featured heavily this week across the Primary at WIS.



### The role of our Learning Enrichment Department

In this week's Oryx, I want to shine a light on our Learning Enrichment (LE) department. This team is the second point of contact when a child enters our school, as they take care of the entrance assessments. They take



## Alumni Corner



**Zoë Brouns**

Zoë is living in Washington, D.C. and working in clean energy policy for a nonprofit organisation.

She supports the US government in building up its workforce and implementing major policy solutions in climate and clean energy. Over the last couple of years, she completed her Master's degree in Comparative Public Policy at the University of Edinburgh, and conducted research on environmental governance, disaster management, and US federal performance management. Her work revolves around making institutions work better. <https://fas.org/expert/zoe-brouns/>

She also recently got engaged to her girlfriend of 4.5 years! They moved to D.C. two years ago and are enjoying it. Since getting vaccinated for COVID, they have been able to travel to Alaska, Maine, California, Switzerland, Germany, and Austria.

In addition, she plays ice hockey in the DC area and built her own computer last year. This year, she hopes to continue to travel, support good policy work, and enjoy time with friends and family.

extreme care in making children feel welcome and to ascertain which class would be a good match for a child socially, academically and emotionally. This is certainly not all though!

### • Professional Learning for Educational Assistants

This week, the LE team delivered professional learning to our Educational Assistants (EA) How to be intentional as an Educational Assistant. We place value on professional development for EAs and the presentation started with explaining the importance of the EA. Research states that the structured intervention of an educational assistant greatly impacts student learning. Students with learning difficulties and other support needs are amongst those who can benefit most from the support offered by an Educational Assistants. This support is not just academic, emotional support is of utmost importance.

The LE team this morning designed a workshop with our EAs about barriers to learning and support strategies. They shared specific supports for breaking down tasks and talked about the role of the environment such as noise and movement on concentration and focus. They also showed specific strategies for supporting social behaviour as well as what to do when a learner new to English joins the class. All of this made me a **#superproudprincipal!**



### • Improving reading across the board

At WIS we have been intentional about improving reading and writing by articulating our phonics and spelling programme and supporting teachers with professional development in reading and writing instruction. We have used data to determine which learners are struggling with reading and writing due to lack of phonics understanding. Every morning for a duration of six weeks, our Learning Enrichment teachers provide explicit phonics and spelling instruction to a group of children who need to accelerate their reading skills. Teachers and Educational Assistants sit in and learn from them so in this way we are building capacity for explicit phonics instruction within the school.

Students need literacy skills to engage and thrive in the world. By spending time on explicit instruction of these skills, learners will have the tools to inquire, solve problems and make discoveries. Our LE teachers make it playful and engaging with the aim of developing a curiosity for language and how it works which will stay with learners for life.

Every week during assembly, one of our Learning Enrichment teachers, Ms Tanya May, also models a love for reading and reading strategies with engaging books. This builds a culture of reading in our school.



I am so grateful for the thinking and dedication that our Learning Enrichment team has put into the cause of improving learning for all, students, teachers and EAs!

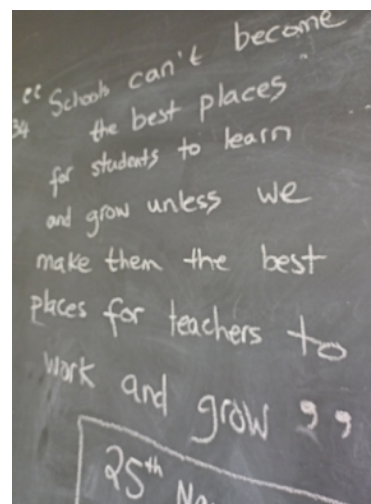
**Warm regards,  
Marcelle van Leenen**

## SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Learning from each other - exploring different **perspectives**

This past week I had the opportunity to visit the Westwood International School in Botswana to do a preparatory accreditation visit for the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) in collaboration with the Council of International Schools (CIS). WIS is accredited by NEASC and is a member of CIS.

Having this opportunity to visit other schools and go through the accreditation protocol with them, is an excellent way of learning and growing professionally. In the end, it benefits our own professional growth and student progress and learning in each of our schools. My major learning experience in this past week's visit was the quote we found on the board of the director of the school: *The accreditation process is an opportunity for teachers in the school that is accredited, as well as those who come as peers to see what the school is doing great and what the areas for growth are, to reflect and learn from each other. As much as I shared my experiences with staff and students at Westwood, I could take with me some great inspirational ideas to possibly discuss and explore at Windhoek International School.*



The significance of these visits is that one reviews and reflects not only on someone else's practices, but also on your own.

One of the big topics that we had interesting and insightful discussions about was intercultural learning and global citizenship. These are two of the four drivers that guide CIS accreditation. Intercultural learning and global citizenship are interesting concepts that are worth reflecting on. Whose perspective do we go from when we discuss these topics? What is a global citizen and how do we educate global citizens? An interesting discussion unpacked the different perspectives of global citizenship and intercultural learning in the context of the school in Botswana. Our WIS context offers many similarities and it is worth examining our biases and stereotypes when thinking about and including these concepts in our education.



The experience at Westwood International School was a meaningful learning experience and certainly gave some direction to discussions that are valuable and important in the context of an international school in the context of the history and background it is finding itself in.



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Regards,  
Maggie Reiff

## Creative Writing

The grade 8 students were asked to write a story in the genre of Magic Realism - Magical events are part of ordinary life in this genre. The characters do not see them as abnormal or unusual. They are a natural part of the story. They were to use ten specific vocabulary words to base their story around.

### **The girl who looks for her identity - Zafari Nelao Zeidler 8AJ**

In the deep part of the Indian Ocean, next to an undiscovered island, there lived a mermaid called Typhony. She was not a normal mermaid as she was born without a tail until she would be much older. Although she had this growth problem she



was extremely smart and knowledgeable which made her in grade 12. She loved school but was always bullied and picked on because of not having a tail. The little mermaid was in **severe** emotional pain.

One weekend Typhony woke up and watched the news about humans. She was interested to know about other worlds, however, her siblings were **indifferent** (her 4 bigger sisters were always concentrating on making beautiful jewelry). After her daily morning routine, she went outside to play tag with her animal friends. She loved her friends as they were magical. They could sing, dance, and change their body colors. When Typhony was it she was so energetic and excited that she only then noticed that she was by the water's surface. Her eyes were wide open when seeing the beautiful green island. She felt so dumb that she had been **ignorant** of this place for her entire life. After some time examining the island, she went back down with **haste** to tell her parents what she saw. She told them that she really wants to visit the land world. However, they had to tell her that she can only go on land by the full moon but will never be able to be a mermaid again, including never living with her family. For days and days, she felt **wretched** having to make a decision. She loved her family but was so **impatient** to get her mermaid tail.

After seven days, she decided to take a big step even with a **substantial** number of her animal friends agreeing. So on Sunday midnight, she swam to the water's surface and waited for the full moon to shine above her. It all went so quickly.

The next day the teenager was awakened by whispers. She opened her eyes and noticed many things: firstly, she saw that she was now laying on the beach sand with normal human clothes. Secondly, she saw many people surrounding her. They were not normal people but wizards and witches instead. The "mermaid" was **bewildered**. Typhony thought that living beings on land are ordinary people with no wands, broomsticks, or pointy hats. After some time of staring at all of them a woman with clothes made out of silk told her " you have chosen to come to the upper world.

Come with us, we will sort you out." The confused and shocked girl followed them but **straggled** behind everyone else as she was not a good walker.

Typhony got put into a wizard and witch boarding school. She learned how to ride a broomstick, and how to use a wand.

Her progress was **gradual** but in two years she became a proper and amazing witch. She did miss her family in the ocean but felt that being a witch was her identity. Every weekend she went to the beach and occasionally saw her mermaid siblings swimming around to greet her. She lived a beautiful life ever after.

## Tongue Twisting Poems

One of the most popular examples of alliteration that children enjoy is tongue twisters. Tongue twisters, as you can guess by the name, gets your tongue into all kinds of trouble when it comes to speaking quickly because the repetition of alliterations and similar sounds quite literally lie your tongue ...



### Tyrone Thompson - By Semon Zegeye

Tyrone Thompson felt a tiny tingle in his toes,  
his turquoise timer ticked and tocked and it did not stop.  
Two tiny turtles tiptoed to Tyrone Thompson,  
to make Tyrone Thompson toes stop tingling.

### Sarah's Sandwiches - By Aaron Ollomo

Sarah said sliced sandwiches taste sour  
so she salted the sour sandwiches.  
She then shouted at her friend for selling some salty sour sandwiches  
instead of sweet-sour sandwiches and her friend got salty.

**Yummy in my tummy - By Thabiso Kapuuo**

How much honey in my tummy  
 will make it will make it shiny  
 Like the honey in my tummy  
 It's so funny that my tummy  
 Isn't shiny like the honey in my tummy  
 Cuz it's in my tummy silly dummy

**The Candy Apples - By Jane Amaambo**

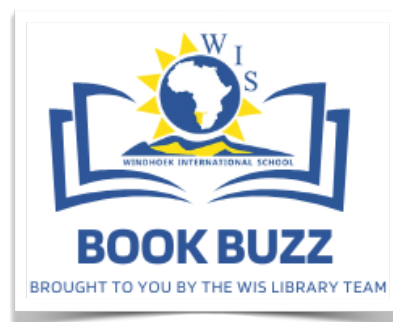
Cathy from  
 candy apples  
 caused a  
 crickle, crackle  
 crack crippling  
 crap cursing  
 her candy  
 her crocks  
 creaked crow  
 into a cow.  
 she is a rotten apple

**Kee cooks cakes for Kate - By Kacey Beall**

Can Kee Kook  
 Cook a Kit-Kat cake  
 For his 15 foot  
 Kitty cat Kate,  
 Kate likes Kee Kooks  
 Kit-Kat cake  
 Kee Kook cooks in the kitchen  
 Made of ketchup and Kit-Kat cakes.

**WIS Book Buzz**

It's Black History Month so let's explore two of the most celebrated authors of Africa! In a continent as ethnically and culturally diverse as Africa, it comes as no surprise that the literature that has emerged from it be equally diverse and multifaceted. Dealing with a range of social and cultural issues, from women's rights and feminism to post-war and post-colonial identity, here are some of Africa's best contemporary writers.

**Chinua Achebe**

One of the world's most widely recognised and praised writers, Chinua Achebe wrote some of the most extraordinary works of the 20th century. His most famous novel, *Things Fall Apart* (1958), is a devastating depiction of the clash between traditional tribal values and the effects of colonial rule, as well as the tension between masculinity and femininity in highly patriarchal societies.



**Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie is part of a new generation of African writers taking the literary world by storm. Adichie's works are primarily character-driven, interweaving the background of her native Nigeria and social and political events into the narrative. Her novel *Purple Hibiscus* (2003) is a bildungsroman, depicting the life experience of Kambili and her family during a military coup, while her latest work *Americanah* (2013) is an insightful portrayal of Nigerian immigrant life and race relations in America and the western world.



This year our theme for Black History Month is A Namibian Perspective. We will have many events throughout February for you to enjoy and here are a few events:

- **Monday, February 6, 2023**  
COLLIDE! Where poetry & hip-hop meet  
Auditorium | 1:45 pm to 3:30 pm  
Featuring Mr Glo, Sunny Boy, Phat Boy Lutor, and DJ Cheri
- **Wednesday, February 15, 2023**  
Storybook Reading: The People Could Fly African American Folktales  
Secondary Library | 1:45 pm to 3:00 pm
- **February 20-28 2023**  
Student Exhibition | Leaders, Legends, and Legacies  
Secondary Library | Daily during school hours

**Car Security Stickers**  
**Please collect your 2022 - 2023**  
**windscreen sticker at the Office!**





# WIS FISH EAGLE BONANZA

**25 FEBRUARY 2023**

**TIME : 07:00 TILL LATE**

**VENUE : MONTE-CHRISTO RIVERSIDE CAMPING**

**WHAT TO EXPECT:** **BIG PRIZES TO BE WON**  
**VARIOUS STALLS FOR YOU TO SUPPORT**  
**NO FOOD & DRINKS ALLOWED IN PARK**  
**ALL FOOD & DRINKS TO BE BOUGHT FROM STALLS**  
**PROCEEDS IN AID OF FUNDRAISING FOR SCHOOL**  
**PRICE GIVING & DINNER**  
**DINNER @ N\$150 P/PERSON**  
**AUCTION IN AID FOR SCHOOL SPORT**

**FISH COMPETITION FEE : ADULT - N\$100-00**  
**CHILD - N\$50-00**

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES :15 FEB

**PARK FEE : @ N\$ 100 P/ADULT**  
**@ N\$ 50 P/CHILD**  
(UNDER 12)

**PARK AVAILABILITIES: CAMPSITES AVAILABLE @ N\$ 200 P/ADULT**  
**@ N\$ 100 P/CHILD**

SHOULD YOU MAKE USE OF THE CAMP SITES, PARK FEES ARE FOR FREE

**CLOTHING: FISHING SHIRTS & BUFFS**  
**TO BE ORDERED FROM HESTER**  
DEADLINE FOR ORDERS & PAYMENT : 03 FEB 2023

**SUPPORTED BY:**



**FOR ANY ADDITIONAL ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT HESTER @ 081 462 4572**

WINDHOEK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

# INTERNATIONAL DAY

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**11 MARCH 2023**

**14:00 - 18:30**



**WATCH THIS SPACE  
FOR MORE INFO SOON!**

# DESIGN-A-YEARBOOK-COVER

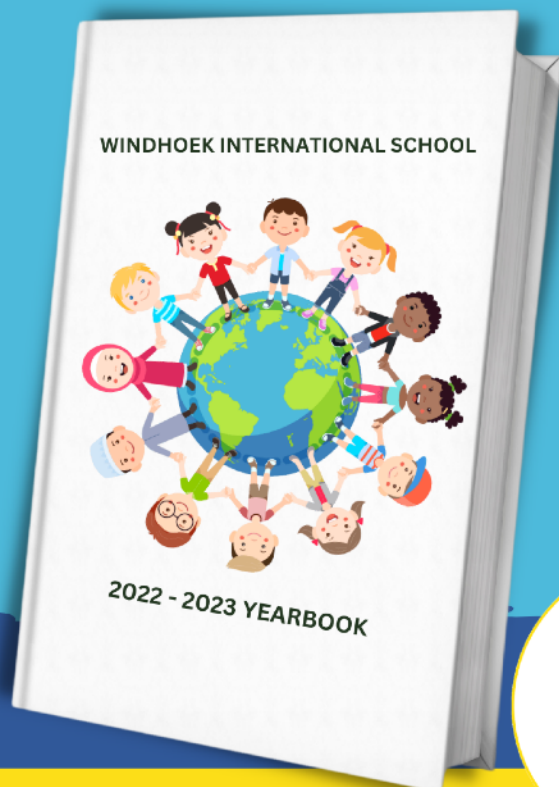
Grade 4 - 12 WIS Students are invited to create and design the WIS Yearbook Cover for 2022-2023!

## THEME: "MANY FRIENDS, ONE WORLD"

### DESIGN GUIDELINES:

**Theme:** *Many friends, one world. (This theme must be used.)*

1. Only open to Grades 4 - 12 WIS Students.
2. Page size must be A4, portrait layout.
3. The cover must be digital, either drawn by hand and then scanned in high resolution or designed with design software like Photoshop or CANVA. It can also be a photo, the photo must be your own photo.
4. The final file should be sent in .PDF, .JPG, or .PNG file format, files can be shared via CANVA or as PSD files. **Final designs can be sent to: [jnel@wis.edu.na](mailto:jnel@wis.edu.na).**
5. Please add your full name and grade when you send the final design.
6. Submission deadline 31 March 2023.



*Prizes sponsored by the  
MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL!*

### WHAT CAN YOU WIN?

#### 1st Prize

Your design is the 2022 - 2023  
Yearbook Cover!

**N\$250 TYPO VOUCHER!**

#### 2nd Prize

Your design is on the first page  
of the Yearbook!

**N\$150 TYPO VOUCHER!**

#### 3rd Prize

Your design is on the last page  
of the Yearbook!

**N\$100 TUCK SHOP VOUCHER**



**Students can use the art room #42 on Tuesday  
afternoons from 13:45-15:00 for this project!**

The FNCC presents love songs by:


# Voices of Windhoek

Tuesday 14 February  
7pm | FNCC

Tickets: N\$80 (advance) | N\$100 (door)  
Available pre-sale at the FNCC reception or  
choir members.

Cash bar and food available.

118 Robert Mugabe Avenue, Windhoek  
[www.fncc.org.na](http://www.fncc.org.na) | ☎ +264 81 676 1213



# Prenatal Yoga

with Amélie from yogissori

Join me to breathe, move & nurture yourself & the growing life within you. Meet & share with a community of expecting mamas. Prepare yourself physically & mentally for consciously birthing your baby.

*First Cycle of 2023*

4 tuesdays\*

**February 7,14,21,28**

**10:00 -11:15**

@ the Yoga Shala

\*may be extended if there is interest



You are welcome to join at any stage of your pregnancy until birth.

whatsapp or email me for details & bookings  
0816960845  
amelie@yogissori.com





**WOULD YOUR CHILD LOVE**  
**to learn how to ride**  
**and care for horses?**




**Equitrails  
 Namibia**

**Offers children's riding lessons  
 & horse-management classes as a  
 weekly extra curricula school activity.**

A return transfer service is provided from school. Equitrails is located 15kms north of Windhoek next to Elisenheim Guest Farm.

Fees are NAD360.00 per session, inclusive of return transfers.

For more information contact **Sam McCartney**

 + 264 (0)81 338 0743

 [sam@equitrails.org](mailto:sam@equitrails.org)

 [www.equitrails.org](http://www.equitrails.org)

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