



# THE ORYX

*The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School*


## PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

### Assessment Conferences

The second-semester assessment conferences are taking place next week: Tuesday afternoon and during the day on Wednesday. Please note: **Primary students do not come to school on Wednesday, 4 March.** The link to sign-up for the conferences was sent early last week. Hopefully, you've been able to schedule a conference with your child's homeroom teacher as well as specialist teachers. If you haven't done so, please contact Ms. Catherine at Reception.

The purpose of this conference is to provide parents the opportunity to meet with their children's teachers to discuss the progress made since the last conference or since joining the school. These conferences strengthen the teacher/parent partnership for helping the children grow in their learning.

The following guidelines will help ensure a meaningful conference.

BEFORE	DURING	AFTER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss with your child: What is going well in school? What would make school better?</li> <li>• Make notes of what you think your child is doing well and what your child needs to work on both academically and socially, as well as emotionally.</li> <li>• Prepare questions you'd like to ask the teacher(s) about your child's learning.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrive on time for the conference. If you arrive late, your meeting with the teacher will be limited to the remaining time scheduled.</li> <li>• <b>Turn your cell phone off or put your phone on silent</b> so that you can devote your full attention to the conference. </li> <li>• Focus on where your child is currently achieving and what the goals are for your child to make growth during the remainder of this academic year.</li> <li>• Ask questions to help you understand your child's progress thus far.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss goals set with your child and monitor progress towards achieving goals.</li> <li>• Continue to encourage your child.</li> <li>• Follow through on the suggestions of how you can support your child's learning at home.</li> <li>• Communicate with the homeroom teacher and/or the single subject teacher regarding any concerns, or questions.</li> <li>• Follow-up on points discussed during the conference.</li> </ul>

### MAP Growth

The second round of MAP Growth testing has been completed. Most children have made growth since the last set of tests. *It is important to remember that the purpose of these tests is to look at growth over time.*

### Contents

- Primary News p. 1 - 3
- Secondary News p. 4 - 10
- Other News p. 10 - 12

### Dates to Remember

#### March 2020

- **01:** St. John's College Tournament
- **03:** Sec Inter-house
- **06:** End of Term 3
- **16:** Start of Term 4
- **21:** Independence Day
- **22 - 27:** Festival of the Arts



Facebook



Instagram



Twitter



## ALUMNI CORNER



We would like to congratulate former WIS student Jenny Alexander CA(NAM) for being promoted to Chairperson on Corporate Social Responsibility Committee of EY Namibia at Ernst & Young.

Jenny is a qualified Chartered Accountant registered with ICAN, working at Ernst & Young as an assistant manager in Assurance/Audit.

She studied undergraduate and postgraduate in Accounting (CA stream) at the University of Cape Town. Currently, Jenny holds the learning and development portfolio at Ernst Young, and is the chair of the Corporate Social Responsibility Committee of Ernst & Young.

Jenny is a member on the board of trustees for a charity, Hope Village Namibia, as their financial advisor.



Parents will receive the MAP Growth Family Report, explaining their child's results, at the end of next week after the conferences have concluded. For those who are new to MAP Growth or to those who would like a refresher about MAP Growth, an introduction to MAP Growth workshop will be scheduled early in the next term.

Regards,  
Beth Smith

## Grade 5 Trip: West Nest Lodge Gobabis

### Hospitality

Two weeks ago the Grade 5 group went camping for two nights and three days to West Nest Lodge Gobabis. The goal of this trip was to launch the exhibition and to bond the group.

Students were welcomed with beaming smiles, juice and fresh sandwiches and were ushered to the campsite. The students thought they would be sleeping in the bushes, but found out they were actually glamping. There were beds, the bedding was very clean, and the bathrooms too.



The dining room was very neat. There wasn't any litter around. There was always fresh water and an endless supply of delicious food so students never went hungry. The students recommend visiting West Nest Lodge anytime.

### Team building

After settling in, the journey of team building began. We led our own team building activities that we had planned and prepared prior to the trip such as hula hoop, human knot, skit interview, obstacle course and we had a scavenger hunt and building activities.

We did these activities because we needed to gain more bonding skills, communicating skills, collaboration and participation in the activities. We went through an exquisite journey of fun and hard work that will never be forgotten.

### Launching Exhibition

One of the goals for the camp was to launch the PYP exhibition.

We were grouped into various teams rotating to different stations led by the



teachers. The theme for Exhibition - Who We Are - was unveiled and as a group, we deconstructed it. We learnt about the five essential elements of the PYP. We learnt more about inquiry and its process. Indeed our curiosity was activated.

We had to draw our exhibition vision and share our initial thoughts about the exhibition as well as learn the etiquette of writing emails.

We had bonfire activities in the night where we created exhibition songs, and express our feelings about it. Grade 5s really enjoyed their camp!

### **Fun and entertainment**

We played lots of games for fun such as tug of war, and teachers won. The students led most of these games and activities. During free time, most students swam whilst some of the rest inquired into nature and playing board games. It was a fun-filled, lifetime experience.

### **Grade 5 Students.**



We would like to remind the WIS community of the Business Development Subcommittee's efforts to raise alternative sources of funding for the school. Our first priority is funding the Sport Zone, and we are actively seeking potential sponsors for its construction. If you are interested to learn more, contact Beata Stephanus ([bstephanus@wis.edu.na](mailto:bstephanus@wis.edu.na)) or Jacqueline Ferreira ([jferreira@wis.edu.na](mailto:jferreira@wis.edu.na)). In addition to sponsorship, we have had some parents submit income-generating proposals to the Subcommittee that are likely to be implemented. We know there are others out there with great ideas and encourage you to attend the next meeting on 26 March (17:30). Alternatively you can reach out to [lisalindy@gmail.com](mailto:lisalindy@gmail.com) with your suggestions.

## **Grade 3G makes a Donation to Kapp's Farm**

In the unit of inquiry 'How We Organise Ourselves' the Grade 3 students had researched poverty. During this unit, they had the opportunity to meet Sylvester, a street child, and the students went on a field trip to Kapp's Farm. It was a great experience for students and teachers as they found out the living conditions of the people living there and visited the little school.

As our bake sale was approaching we had a discussion in class about what we were to do with the money and the students decided that half of the money should go towards Kapp's Farm and Sylvester's schooling. The organisation (Namibian Partnership Solutions) that is helping him is trying to get him back into the education system thus, Grade 3G had bake sale from 10 - 14 February.

We would like to thank all the Grade 3G parents for their contributions towards our bake sale. Ms. Heather came to the class on Wednesday to collect the money on behalf of Kapp's Farm and Sylvester. If you wish to make a donation or find out more about Kapp's Farm and Sylvester, please contact Ms. Charné.

**Ms. Heather and Grade 3G handing over the money for**





## !FRIENDLY REMINDER TO STUDENTS!

School WiFi and Internet is intended for educational purposes only. Any updates or private downloads will not be tolerated. Please be aware that if your devices do not comply, they will be blocked from access to the internet.

## SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

### Conversation - a strong tool for informing decisions

*Fully present to one another, we learn to listen. It is where we develop the capacity for empathy. It's where we experience the joy of being heard and of being understood. Conversation advances self-reflection, the conversations with ourselves that are the cornerstone of early development and continue throughout life. Sherry Turkle*



We often emphasise the importance of the partnership between school and home for a child's well being and growth. A further very important aspect in the journey children take in their education is that there are opportunities for conversations - at home, in school, with parents, teachers and peers. If we foster these opportunities, we make it easier for our children to become confident, open minded young people who can make informed decisions about their lives and their futures.

At the moment, the Grade 8s and Grade 10s are making choices for their upcoming IGCSE or IBDP courses. This is an important milestone in their lives and it is crucial that they have and take the opportunity to talk about their ideas, passions and thoughts in order to be able to make choices that are in the best interest of their own growth and future.

Sometimes, as adults, we tend to 'overrule' what our children want, because we feel we know better. Yes, our experiences and understanding might seem to give us this edge. If, however, we are open to talk to our children and hear them out, we can at the same time help them to be able to make decisions that are well thought through and based on the belief that this is the right path to take.

Our children also need to take the opportunity to talk about their thoughts, ideas and plans in school - with their teachers, coordinators and peers. All this input will ultimately help them make balanced choices that can lead to a satisfactory outcome for themselves. *Engaging children in meaningful interactions with give and take is so important to the social, emotional, and cognitive development of children of all ages. The most desirable gift children can receive from their parents is undivided attention and even quiet moments together. Sherry Turkle*

I therefore appeal to all families to make time for these conversations. There must be time in the family routine to sit down and discuss wishes, ideas, dreams, achievements and possible concerns a young person has. When children have the opportunity to talk about these with different people, they become more confident with their decisions.

[\(The Importance of Conversation\)](#)

Regards,  
Maggie Reiff

## 7LC Visit the AfriCat Foundation

Okonjima



*In the end we will conserve only what we love, we will love only what we understand and we will understand only what we have been taught.* Baba Dioum

Students from the 7LC class spent five days at the AfriCat Foundation last week. The focus was on environmental education; learning about the birds, animals, flora & fauna as well as human-wildlife conflict and conservation.

The weather was a lot wetter than we had expected, but we all know that in Namibia we need to celebrate that, and be grateful for the rain and not complain. Aspects of this trip pushed students outside of their comfort zone - this was, for some, a daunting experience but an incredibly rewarding one!

Here are some comments from the students:

- 'The things that I liked were the game drives because we got to learn about many birds, especially the Crimson Breasted Shrike and the romantic suicide bird.' - **Ali**
- 'The best moment was the river - everyone was laughing, playing and swimming.' - **Deacan**
- 'We learnt about conservation of animals, why animals are so important and why, without them, we might not be able to survive.' - **Mathew**
- 'I have always loved animals and ever since I was small I've wanted to work with them and I think AfriCat is a great place, so when I am older I am coming back.' - **Diana**
- 'It was the best trip I have ever been on. I really loved the amazing food.' - **Sergio**
- 'The bathrooms without the doors was actually a great idea - to use the bathroom whilst you have a wonderful view of nature.' - **Deacan**
- 'Thank you AfriCat for giving us the chance to explore nature.' - **Shamiso**
- 'I am probably the least brave person in my class. I never thought that I was going to miss this wild camp, but right now I am.' - **Nijia**
- 'I know that some of us were scared but this experience actually made us stronger' - **Tchino**

## Grade 8 Poems

The Grade 8s are currently busy with their third unit where they are inquiring into Poetry. The students brainstormed different emotions and then individually selected an emotion they would draw and then write a poem about. Enjoy some of the poems our students created:

**GIVE IN**

Take a step closer down  
 Back of straw too much weight  
 Can't go back to the past  
 Just give in to the weight

Going down can't get up  
 Veins of steel full of pain  
 So close to the end  
 Just give in to the ground

Give up! Why struggle?  
 Stop the pain, touch the ground  
 Take a leap and fall  
 Just give in to the world

**By Taboka Takawira**

**INFERIOR**

I feel all alone  
 Even when surrounded by people,  
 I realised nobody gets me no-more.  
 How I wish things would change,  
 To make a new beginning  
 And no matter how hard I try  
 Nothing keeps me from staying shy.  
 I'll never be good enough  
 Nor smart enough  
 But I don't mind being invisible  
 Because somehow it makes me feel invincible

**By Aqeela Nel**

**ENOUGH**

I'm surrounded  
 In a crowd with not one familiar face  
 I can't hear myself think  
 no personal space  
 no breathing room

Why am I even forced to be here  
 Could I be left alone for once  
 I've had enough of this  
 I'm mad  
 I'm fed up

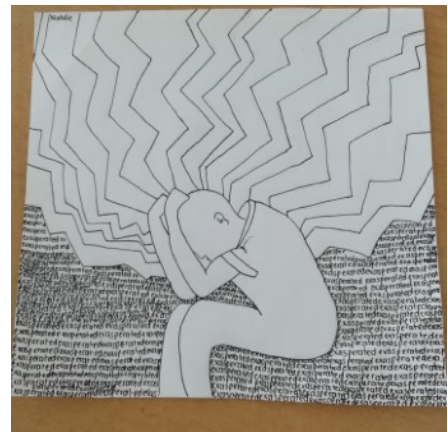
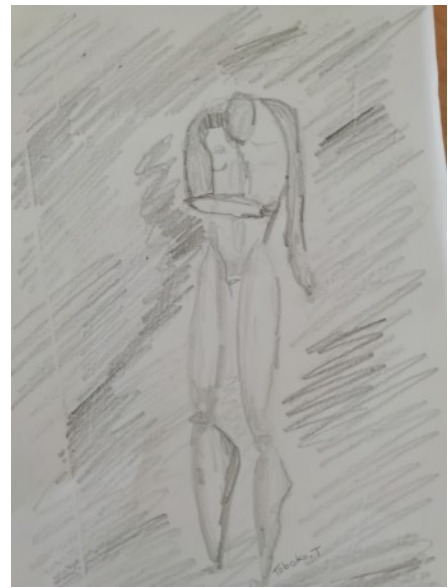
**By Natalie Segamwenge**

**THRILL**

Joy. Happiness. Delight.  
 Those words do not describe what I feel right now.  
 I cannot contain what I feel right now.  
 It shows in my body language, my face.  
 It shows in my eyes and my smile from cheek to cheek.  
 I feel it inside, I am pacing back and forth.  
 This is not a feeling of distress or worry.  
 This is...

**T H R I L L.**

**By Peya Shimuafeni**





## MOTHER TONGUE DAY



On 21 February, Mother Tongues are celebrated all over the world. It has been observed since the year 2000. UNESCO believes in the importance of cultural and linguistic diversity. It is by preserving the differences in cultures and languages that we can foster tolerance and respect for others.

WIS also participated and celebrated Mother Tongue Day on Friday. The Modern Languages Department organised a few activities for the students to do, which ranged from writing your name in Chinese to learning how to dance. The most popular dance was definitely the Brazilian Samba! Other activities included reading a book in your Mother Tongue and playing traditional games from various cultures. Not forgetting to mention all the food that the students brought in. Enough writing, enjoy the photos - a picture can speak a thousand words.

WIS a aussi célébré la Journée des Langues Maternelles vendredi. Le département des Langues Vivantes avait organisé différentes activités pour les élèves: écriture de votre prénom en calligraphie chinoise, lecture, jeux traditionnels, danses etc. La samba brésilienne a remporté le plus de succès!

Et n'oublions pas de mentionner la délicieuse nourriture traditionnelle apportée et partagée par les élèves! Assez de blabla, places aux photos - une photo vaut bien mille mots!

WIS nahm ebenfalls am Tag der Muttersprache teil und feierte diesen am letzten Freitag mit allen SchülerInnen. Die Abteilung für Fremdsprachen organisierte einige Aktivitäten für die Schülerinnen und Schüler, die vom Schreiben Ihres Namens auf Chinesisch bis zum Erlernen von Tanzschritten reichten. Als besonders beliebt erwies sich der brasilianische Samba! Weitere Aktivitäten umfassten das Lesen eines Buches in Ihrer Muttersprache und das Spielen traditioneller Spiele aus verschiedenen Kulturen. Im Deutsch-Klassenzimmer konnten die Kinder "Mensch ärgere dich nicht" und "Siedler von Catan" spielen, während sie Currywurst und Brezeln genossen.

Genug geschrieben, genießen Sie die Fotos - ein Bild sagt manchmal mehr als tausend Worte.



A WIS também participou na celebração do Dia da Língua Materna na sexta-feira. O departamento de línguas modernas organizou algumas atividades para os alunos, desde escrever o seu nome em Chinês até aprender a dançar. O estilo de dança mais popular foi o Samba, do Brasil! Outras atividades incluíram a leitura de um livro na língua materna e jogos tradicionais.

Para não esquecer a comida típica que os alunos trouxeram.  
Chega de bla, bla, bla, aproveitem as fotografias - porque uma imagem vale mais do que mil palavras.

To all of you students and teachers who helped make this day successful a big Merci, Danke, Obrigado and THANK YOU from the Modern Languages Department: Christina Krappmann, Carola Beyer, Catherine Mousseau, Teresa Araújo and Jeanne Vieira for Secondary and Ms. Laetitia and Ms. Jacky for Primary.

**W.O.R.D.**  
Guess who is also reading during our scheduled reading lessons, Grade 1J.



## WIS Football Teams



Our Wonderful WIS Football teams have busily been training since our return after the Christmas break. The LFL sponsored competition at DTS starts in March as all U/7 - U/12 teams will play in the exciting competition.

Our U/11s played their first competition on Saturday, 22 February, at the annual DTS Futsal tournament. The WIS team won their first three matches with victories over SKW 'B', ACFC and WFA.

We made it to the semi final but missed out and finished fourth out of the nine participating clubs. Congratulations to the children who played and represented their school with pride and enthusiasm.

**Thomas Jackson-Read**

## Grade 9 Peer Counsellors

The Grade 9 Peer Counsellors-in-training have completed the Personal Growth section of their training. We celebrated with a little party. After the break, they will start to learn basic counselling skills in order to be of emotional support to their peers.





Here are comments from just some of the trainees after completing the first part:

- 'The course helps you to develop as an individual' Yilin
- 'I found the course engaging and fun.' Tanga
- 'I enjoyed learning about the different aspects of Peer Counselling and look forward to the next part to learn about counselling skills.' Malia
- 'I never did Life Skills before and learned a lot about myself.' Emmanuel



## Spray-A-Thon 2020 is On!

For our Unit 3: Be The Change, in Homeroom Class, the Grade 6s have decided to partner with the Cancer Association of Namibia (CAN) to host the annual WIS Spray-A-Thon 2020. This year, the WIS Spray-A-Thon will take place on Friday, 6th March from 09:00 till 13:30.

The CAN's Spray-A-Thon is a colourful hair spraying event using colours that represent different types of cancers. When paying for this fun colourful hairdo you're also helping young Namibians fighting cancer find hope through their darkest times. 'Funky coloured heads during March is the game, and saving lives is our aim!' says CAN's CEO, Rolf Hansen.



All the money received is going towards a wonderful organisation called Children Fighting Cancer in Namibia (CHICA). CHICA is a group which takes in and houses families from around Namibia while here in Windhoek at their Interim House while their child goes through cancer treatment in hospital. In addition to this support, the CHICA Fund also assists childhood cancer patients financially and has paid out N\$185 000 in 2019 towards medical co-payments, formula milk and transportation to ensure that young patients get treated in a timely manner.

WIS students, teachers, staff, family and friends are all invited to help support this great cause. A booth will be set up in the central Thatch Area from 09:00 onward and will be manned by members of 6HM and 6JB throughout the day. Primary classes will be rostered through and Secondary Students will be given times called out by Mr. Tom during the Inter-house Football Competition.

**GRADE 6 INVITES YOU TO THE**

# **WIS SPRAY-A-THON**

**FRIDAY 6TH MARCH**  
**9:00 TO 1:30**  
**N\$10 PER SPRAY-LINE**  
**(MINIMUM DONATION N\$20)**

**WIS SPRAY-A-THON WILL CONTINUE AT THE  
CHRISTOPHER AIFF MEMORIAL FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT  
ON SATURDAY 7TH MARCH 2020**

**DONATIONS ARE EARMARKED FOR  
CHICA (CHILDREN FIGHTING CANCER IN NAMIBIA)**

The cost will be N\$10 per spray line, with a minimum donation of N\$20 per person. Please donate and help support CHICA.

**Estee Jacobs, Jisele Du Preez, Abigail Segamwenge, Olwen Black. Grade 6**



## WIS Gala Sponsors

Dear WIS community,

On Behalf of the Development Committee, we would like to say thank you to our sponsors so far. Thank you so much for your support. Your partnership is highly appreciated!

Thank you to the parents and organisations who have already bought tickets or a table for this event. We only have 8 tables left, so please spread the word and get involved.

Together we can make a difference.



# Advantage.





## **GALA DINNER AT HILTON**

9 May, 2020 - Buffet Dinner

19:30 for 20:00

**RSVP by 27 April 2020**

Business Casual

Adults Only - **N\$500.00pp**

All proceeds raised will go to the development of the new sports courts.