



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Kanuni

This week we welcomed to WIS three teachers, Ms. Kanyika, Mr. Kambinda, and Mr. Joseph, and the Principal, Mr. Sikwambi, from Kanuni Haruwodi Combined School near Nkurenkuru in Kavango West.

The visit was facilitated by two WIS parents, Terry Farrell and Heather Ross, both of whom have strong connections to the Kavango region. They also very kindly made it possible for me to visit the school in March.

Kanuni does not enjoy many of the advantages we do and we are exploring ways in which we can support and advise them. Community service (through CAS) is a required element of the IB Diploma Programme and taking action to benefit others (for example, through the PYP Exhibition) should be part of the educational experience of all children at WIS. In the same spirit, and perhaps leading by example, I am happy that the school as an institution is acting to help those less advantaged than we are.

We foresee in the future further exchanges of teachers and, of course, learners. We have much to offer them but Kanuni also has a good deal to teach us. I look forward to reporting on ever-stronger ties between the two schools over the coming months and, I hope, years.



Peter MacKenzie

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Dates to Remember

August 2018

- **28 - 31:** Secondary Week A
- **26 - 27:** Public Holiday
- **28:** Whole school AA Start
- **28:** EY1 - Gr.2 - BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT
- **29:** Gr. 3 - 5 - BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT



VISIT US ON:



PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Beginning Wednesday we will begin administering the MAP Growth (*Measures of Academic Progress*) tests. Over the next three weeks, Grades 1-2 will take two tests: Language and Mathematics while Grades 3-5 will take three tests: Language, Reading and Mathematics. The purpose of these tests is to determine your child's instructional level and measure the growth in student learning over time. The results will provide teachers with information about what students are ready to learn now.

As with any school day, it is important that your child is well-rested, eats breakfast and arrives at school by 7:20. Please encourage your child to do his/her best on the tests.



For more information about MAP, here's a link to the Parent's Guide to MAP Growth: <https://goo.gl/yw9C7E>.

The Primary Back to School Nights are **Tuesday, August 28** for **EY1-Grade 2** and **Wednesday, August 29** for **Grades 3-5** at **18:00**. We'll begin the evening in the auditorium for a general presentation. This will be followed by a more specific presentation in one of the classrooms at your child's Grade level, where you'll have the opportunity to meet your child's teachers, and hear more about what your child will be learning, and will experience this year. I look forward to seeing you Tuesday and/or Wednesday.

Regards,
Beth Smith

PYP News

PYP Coordinator's message of the week:



The PYP focuses on the development of the whole child as an inquirer, both in the classroom and the outside world. This philosophy is supported by the attributes of the IB Learner Profile amongst our students. The Learner Profile describes a broad range of human capacities and responsibilities that go beyond the academics.

The profile aims to develop students who are:

- Inquirers
- Knowledgeable
- Thinkers
- Communicators
- Principled
- Open-minded
- Caring
- Risk-Takers
- Balanced



Within our collaborative learning community, we aim and strive to be committed to the development of students according to the IB Learner Profile. Students, teachers and adults are encouraged to model and use the language of this philosophy. You can hear this language being used as part of the learning environment and you hear of real-life

WEEKLY PUZZLER

A bear walks ten miles south, then ten miles west, then ten miles north, and ends where it started. What colour is the bear?

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



acts of the Learner Profile being noticed and acknowledged in Primary Assemblies. We see students start to interpret, talk about and act on what these attributes mean.

Below are Primary students who were nominated last week in Assembly, for displaying the IB Learner Profile attributes (Named in order from left to right):

Xavier - Grade 2P: Principled & Knowledgeable, Nini - Grade 2D: Risk-Taker & Principled, Dino - Grade 2D: Knowledgeable, Laith - Grade 2D: Caring, Alexander - G1J: Knowledgeable



*Kind regards
Avril van Zyl*

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Being part of your child's education and being involved

During this past week, we had several events in school where parents were invited to participate - to meet their children's teachers, to get information about the PTA or even to join the open session of the Board meeting to know what the Board does here at WIS.

It is great to see parents attending these different events. It shows that you care and that you take an interest in the life of your child here at school. We firmly believe that the school is in a three way partnership with families ⇒ child - parents(s) - school. Only if there is a positive and active engagement by all three parties in the process, can we support our children fully.

Knowing who your child's teachers are, and your child's teachers knowing who their students' parents are, makes it so much easier to engage in conversations about the child's progress and opens channels of communication to ensure that we look at the whole child and support the whole child in his/her journey through school.

Why engage parents? Top Four Reasons

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- **Pupils** with engaged parents are more likely to:
 - Achieve higher grades and test scores/reduce underachievement
 - Have increased motivation & higher self esteem
 - Attend school regularly
 - Have better social skills, show improved behaviour, and adapt well to school
 - Enrol in and graduate from Higher Education

Henderson & Mapp 2002 A New Wave of Evidence: The Impact of School, Family and Community Connections on Student Achievement

I want to appeal to all parents to actively involve yourselves in the education of your child(ren). There are many opportunities to do so, be it the PTA, the Board of Directors, attending Student Parent Teacher Conferences, attending WIS events like International Day and the list goes on ...

All parents are invited to actively contribute to the organisation and participate in International Day where we celebrate our diversity and the multitude of cultures we value so much at our school.

International Day - Saturday, 10 November 2018

BridgeU - guiding students in the process of deciding on their further education:

We are now subscribed to BridgeU (<https://bridge-u.com>) - a university & careers guidance platform for global schools. **BridgeU** helps empower schools to prepare today's students for tomorrow's world. Our Diploma students will soon be able to create a profile for themselves on BridgeU to explore and help with the decisions on their further education. All students from Grades 9 - 12 will have access to BridgeU in some way.

100 Mentors - experts give advice and speak to students on different topics and about various tertiary institutions:

We continue to be subscribed to 100 Mentors (<https://www.100mentors.com>) - whether it is a presentation on study skills or how to manage your way through the IB Diploma or speaking to experts about subject related topics, 100 Mentors has mentors in all different fields that are happy to share their experiences with young people and as such help our students to make the right decisions about their future.

Reminder:

School starts at 🕒 07:20 in the morning. Students should be in their homeroom classes by 7:20 for registration!

**Regards,
Maggie Reiff**



SKW Football Tournament



The U/10 team who played in the Liquid Fruit Legue on Friday afternoon at DTS were invited to play at the SKW U/11 tournament on Saturday.

Teams from Ramblers, WIS, DTS, SKW, ACFC, Falcons, Amazing Kids and Gymnasium enjoyed a day of quality sport and exciting competition.

Well done to the boys involved!

Thomas Jackson-Read

Grade 8 English

The Grade 8s have started with their weekly spelling tests where they receive ten words to memorise and then use in their own story - this is what Leonhardt Fischer-Buder wrote:

The Abandoned House



You know how it is. You're that one kid, that never respects anyone because of some family trauma that your dad caused. You don't give anyone gratitude, and you are undoubtedly unenthusiastic in any form of school work or sport. So here I am, minding my own business, walking down the same old road I do every day after school. But there is one place no one goes to, which would be... the abandoned house. Rumors are, the owners are still living there, but they're dead. I don't believe those shenanigans. One day, I thought, "Heck with it. I'm gonna get a video from inside the house, and prove those idiots wrong." So, as you can imagine, I did.

I opened up the door as slow as I could, since it screeched so loudly, that it was almost heard from the next neighbourhood. As I went inside, I walked around, before hearing a door slam. I turned around, and the door was closed shut. I looked through the window, and there were only some bushes that I saw when I came in. I went up the stairs, and ended up going into a slightly modern room. There was nothing except for an ornament

on a shelf, looking quite decorative, and an affidavit explaining how to get out. I needed to resurrect the family, by consolidating the two pieces of a family portrait. The affidavit explained, that when the family was commemorating their sons death, and a person with an attitude just like mine, disrespected them, making the father kill himself, and then the youngest son, and so the mother followed. I suddenly had a strange tendency to actually fix what was wrong with me, and free the family. So on I went to the basement.

As I closed the door behind me, there was suddenly an exposure of some bright light. I went to the door that the light was coming from, when suddenly...

National Art Gallery of Namibia field trip



On Wednesday August 22nd we went on a field trip to the National Art gallery of Namibia. As a history student I was looking forward to seeing the "They tried to bury us" exhibit by Isabel Tueumuna Katjavivi. As everyone entered the gallery we were placed in two groups. Going to see the paintings first was not what I had planned but, it was amazing to walk in and see the large paintings and trying to find the symbolism of each paintings was truly a fun and mind stretching activity.

I had not realised how fun it was until my friend and I started trying to create different thoughts on the paintings. Some were silly but most of them were quite interesting and we put a lot of thought into them. In honesty I ended up enjoying looking at the paintings more than the second exhibit. That made me really look at the rest of the day differently and maybe it will further in my life. I think the quote I would use for this experience would be "A wonderful gift may not be wrapped as

you expect"-Jonathan Lockwood Huie. I learned that the things we expect to be good can blind us from the other things around us and can make us think those things will be worse in comparison. So as kids today we should try and be more open-minded about things and even people.

Both the Grade 9 History (Mr Fitzpatrick's class) and Geography (Ms. Rimmington's class) students went to the National Art Gallery of Namibia. We were split into 2 groups. One group went to the paintings and one group went to the "They tried to bury us" exhibit by Tueumuna Katjavivi. The genocide exhibit was my favourite. Tueumuna represents all the people who died by many masks buried in the sand, what really made this exhibit special was the fact that you were allowed to step in the sand with the masks in it and being able to step on the sand made me feel like I was there at that time looking down on all the people who died. Seeing the exhibit was really the highlight of my day.

The exhibit was based on the Herero and Nama genocide. My friend and I really liked how Tueumuna involved everyone in her artwork and I think that if the genocide never happened Namibia wouldn't be that same. The quote that I will use for this experience is "just when the caterpillar thought the world was over, it became a butterfly" - Anonymous

Written by Padjependa Shidute with help from Grace Farrell.

SADC Youth Dialogue Event

Friday August 17, 2018

A dozen WIS Secondary students chaperoned by Ms. Reiff and Mr. Fitzpatrick participated in an engaging SADC Youth Dialogue on last Friday afternoon August 17th at the Vibe nightclub in Windhoek.

VIPs present were the Namibian First Lady Monica Geingob as well as the First Ladies of Angola and Botswana. Highlights of the 4-hour long multi-faceted event included insightful presentations from the First Ladies on an array of SADC youth issues including: youth empowerment initiatives, health-related challenges for the youth, high youth unemployment, etc.

Inspiring 'turn-your-life' around testimonies were also given by one current and one ex-incarcerated men in their 20s (the 'free' one who now works in the Namibian First Lady's office as an admin assistant!) who reminded the 200+ youth present of the importance of wise personal choices especially in the face of temptations to do the wrong thing in the daily life on an adolescent.

An inspiring talk by the Namibian First Lady Monica Geingob punctuated the super afternoon of learning for all present. Two WIS students - Luna Zhakata in Grade 10 and Gersia Capequel in Grade 12 - participated brilliantly in a panel discussion on youth issues in the SADC region.



Rick Fitzpatrick



Primary Years Programme

Back to School Night

- **Tuesday 28th August:** Early Years 1-Grade 2
- **Wednesday 29th August:** Grade 3-Grade 5

Please arrive timeously at the Auditorium in the PLC for a 6:00 pm start

Thanks to the PTA who will be selling drinks



GRADE 12 BAKE SALE!

It is fund-raising time for the Grade 12s next week. They have drawn up a mouth-watering menu for the entire week. All food will be sold/served under the thatch during second break.

August 28 (Tuesday): Pizzas, sweet and savory bakes, and juices

August 29 (Wednesday): Chicken wings (Grilled at home) with fries, fruit salad and juices

August 30 (Thursday): Curry buns and vegetarian savoury snacks.

August 31 (Friday): Boerewors rolls (freshly braai'ed' at school) and cup cakes.

The curry buns and boerewors rolls will have to be pre-ordered with your child's home room teacher by August 28, Tuesday next week and paid in advance.

They are N\$20 each.