



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Re-Registration

This is important.

You should receive today a form inviting you to re-enrol your children for the next academic year: 2017-2018. It is essential that all parents do so.

It is essential for us so that we can place children in classes and inform those on the waiting list that places are now available.

It is essential for parents so that they guarantee that their children will have a place at WIS in August.

Please complete the form and return it to the School Office no later than the end of the month.

Thank you.

Fees

The fees schedule for 2017-2018 was published a month ago. It has been on the website since then. A copy will be included with the Re-Registration Form.

Fee Payment Schedule

In October all parents were notified of the revised payment schedule that will take effect from August. Reminders were issued in March and April. A copy will be included with the Re-Registration Form.

Please study it carefully. It is different from the current schedule. Essentially, fees are now due at the *start* of each month rather than at the *end* of each month and 20% of the annual fee is due before the first day of the school year. If you have any questions please ask them now.

With best wishes

Peter MacKenzie

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

During the May week holiday, I participated as a team leader for a PYP evaluation visit at a school in Mozambique. The school is similar in size and situation as WIS.

With our own recent evaluation visit, it was nice to be on the "other side of the table". As with the NEASC visit I was part of in February, these opportunities allow for reviewing of the standards and practices not only for the school being visited but a refresher with WIS in mind as well. In addition, these visits are professional development as I have the opportunity to connect with other educators and see first hand what other schools are doing. I come away with many ideas and fresh views

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Dates to Remember

May 2017

- **15 - 19:** Secondary Week B
- **16:** Interhouse Matches
- **25:** Ascension Day (No school)
- **26:** School closed

about what we are doing well and what might help us to improve.

One of the questions that is asked or considered during a school evaluation visit is how the various stakeholders in the school community understand the Mission and Vision of the school. In thinking about the WIS Mission and Vision statements, one word stands out to me at this particularly time in the year:

Vision - ...to prepare **independent**, inquiring and self-motivated citizens of the world

Mission - ...to become internationally minded **independent** thinkers.

Children are capable of doing more than we often think they can do or allow them to do. One of the twelve PYP attitudes is independence. The PYP defines independence as, "Thinking and acting independently, making their own judgments based on reasoned argument, and being able to defend their judgments."

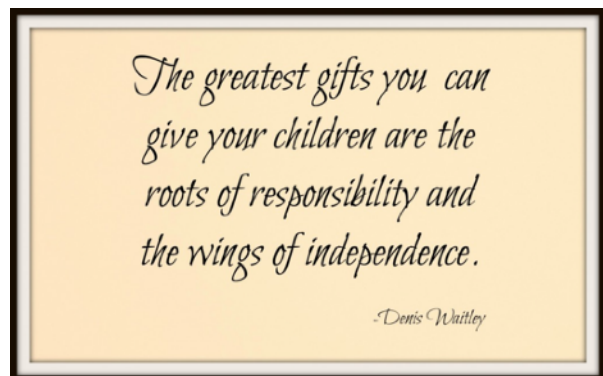
Independence is encouraged throughout the Primary School. One example is the PYP Exhibition. The Year 6 classes are in the final stages of the Exhibition. During the last month they have had the opportunity to show independence in taking responsibility for doing research for their topic and taking some type of action.

Why should independence be encouraged and supported?

Children are making sense of their world. Each age is a transition to becoming more independent. Encouraging children with independence helps to develop their self-confidence and also to make sense of and navigate the world around them.

What are some ways that parents can encourage independence at school and home?

Allow your child to carry his/her own school bag, unpack it at school and put away belongings. Be supportive of homework but remember that the homework and projects are your child's tasks to do. (The teachers want to see what the children can do on a task, not what the parents can do. When an adult does a task for a child, it takes away the child's ownership and the opportunity to learn from or to feel proud of the work accomplished.) Give your child responsibilities at home, such as preparing snacks and lunch for school, packing his/her own school bag the night before going to school, making his/her bed, folding and putting away laundered clothes, etc.



Letting go is probably the hardest part for parents and caregivers. Nevertheless, when children are allowed to do more independently, one will be amazed by what children can do and accomplish.


Regards,
Beth Smith

WHAT IS THE PYP?

We are happy to announce that we have received our report feedback from the IB. This is based on our PYP self evaluation study process and school visit that took place in March this year. The aim of this programme evaluation is for the IB to ensure on a regular basis that the standards and practices of the programme are being maintained. The IB provides this report so schools have some input, support and guidance of how we can further sustain the implementation of this programme.

The present report is a great improvement on the previous

What is PYP?



It is a transdisciplinary programme of international education designed to foster the development of the whole child as an inquirer, both in the classroom and in the world outside. (ages 3-12)

report done in 2012. It acknowledges the work and effort that the school has made to improve the implementation of the PYP.

The present report contains no surprises in the direction we need to take. In fact the recommendations establish clear next steps to help us create a manageable action plan to address the recommendations given in the journey onwards.

Within the report there is feedback including:

- A commendation that the school and its stakeholders show a commitment to the philosophy of the programme.
- A recommendation that more opportunities are made available to members of the community to learn what the PYP is.
- A commendation that the school leadership has shown commitment to supporting and developing the programme and this is reflected in teaching and learning practices.
- A commendation that there is an open and supportive environment within our teaching faculty that allows for further collaboration and input towards our development.

Thank you goes to all the stakeholders involved in this process. This is the beginning of a new chapter within the PYP in our school.

Avril van Zyl

<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>WINDHOEK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL</p> <p>Welcome to the Primary Years Programme</p> <p>Scan the QR Code below with your mobile phone to find out about the PYP Program at our school</p>  <p>OR visit wispyp.blogspot.com</p>  <p>Any questions? Avril van Zyl - PYP Coordinator: avanzy1@wis.edu.na Beth Smith - Principal: bsmith@wis.edu.na Danai Maramba - Technology Coach dmaramba@wis.edu.na</p> </div>	<p>What's up in the PYP?</p> <p>To round off our year of expressing and communicating what PYP is all about Mr. D and I finished off with a Term 4 PYP parent coffee morning. This was held on the 25th April down in the foyer of the PLC. Thanks go to the PTA for providing coffee and their support to make this occasion a relaxed one.</p> <p>The school is trying to find a variety of ways to inform our parents about the PYP. The coffee morning was an informal affair that encouraged parents to freely ask questions, share their personal experiences and their understanding of the PYP.</p> <p><i>Technology Coach: Mr. Danai Maramba says: "The PYP coffee mornings and workshops are an opportunity for parents to see how technology is typically used as a tool to support student learning in the classroom".</i></p> <p>One parent's feedback during the workshop: <i>"I feel comfortable to freely chat about my concerns and ask questions."</i></p> <p>Another parent commented after: <i>"I think parents can also be more proactive if they have PYP concerns. The PYP is dealt with in-depth on the internet and Ms Beth is always around for questions."</i></p> <p>Other ways and means to find out more about the PYP is to visit the WIS PYP blog site or email Ms Avril.</p> <p>Thanks to all those parents who attended this coffee morning.</p> 
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SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

We are approaching the end of the academic year 2017-2018

We are fast approaching the last few weeks of this academic year. There are some important events and dates to be noted in your diaries to ensure that the end of the year runs smoothly.

- **May reports** - on 29th May, students will receive their May reports. These reports are aimed at informing students and their parents/guardians on the progress in Semester 2 and advising on areas of strength and areas in need of attention for the upcoming internal examination.
- **Last day for Afternoon Activities in Secondary School - Friday, 2nd June**
- **Internal Examinations: Year 7, 8, 9,10 & 12**
 - **Year 7 - 9: Start on 13th June - end on the 20th June**
 - **Year 10: Start on 12th June - end on the 20th June**
 - **Year 12: Start on 12th June - end on the 16th June**
 - **Group 4 IBDP: 19th - 21st June**
- **Last day of school: 21st June (school closes at 11:40 for everyone)**
 - Returning of books and exit slips (no reports will be sent to families if not all outstanding school items are returned and signed off).
 - Final assembly - from 11:00 - 11:40
- **Final transcripts** will be sent to families on the 23rd June.
- **For urgent attention of all parents and drivers:**
 - **We currently have great difficulty in having our students picked up from school on time, please note:**
 - **If your child is not picked up by 13:45, they must attend the homework club until 14:45.**
 - **If your child waits for a sibling, they must attend homework club until 14:20.**
 - **We cannot be held accountable for children's safety, if they do not follow our rules. Some students have to be reminded almost on a daily basis what the expectation is. We need parents support in ensuring that our children respect the expectations we have in school.**

Regards,

Maggie Reiff

Interview with Mr. Jackson-Read

Reveals more about the well known PE teacher! Find out which sun is his favourite!

On a day in a week in a year in the 21st century I, Emilio Leto, interviewed Mr. Jackson-Read. I was ready to ask deep probing questions that not many would have the courage to ask, but then I got cold feet and wrote another set of questions. So here I present my findings.

Mr. Jackson-Read is a well known and appreciated teacher in the WIS community. But how much do we know about him? What stories does he have to tell?

Right off the bat one of Mr.Read's favourite films is a movie called "Raging Bull" based on a 1960-1970s boxer Jake Lamotta. The boxer is played by Robert de Niro. Mr. Jackson-



Read also likes a book called "Purity". The book is about a talented female journalist who meets fascinating people.

Now a funny moment Sir has experienced was when one of his students ran a home run in softball! He was really excited and pleased with himself. Unfortunately he had run the wrong way round so it didn't count. Another display of similar behaviour was when a boy in Mr.Read's PE class in a previous school ran out of the changing rooms, ready for his PE lesson. Sir asked him, "Have you forgotten something?". The boy said no. Sir said "Are you sure?". The boy said Yes. Little did he know he was not wearing his PE shorts, only his under garments.

Another story you mightn't have heard of was when Mr. Jackson-Read was explaining and demonstrating to his class how to bat in softball. In mid conversation a student decided to test his bowling skills and bowled for Mr. Jackson-Read. He was a good bowler with perfect aim. Mr. Jackson-Read got slightly hurt.

Now for those of you who haven't had the fortune or common sense to read or watch the books and films of Harry Potter, in the series there is a charm called the Patronus Charm. This charm wards off evil creatures by conjuring a projection-like animal, this animal is based off your personality. Mr. Jackson-Read's Patronus would be a Black-baked Jackal. An animal slightly brave and aggressive.

Now did you know Mr. Read has taught students that have gone on to international levels? He has also taught a student who has gone to an Olympic level and set records. Mr.Read has also tutored a student who went on to win a full scholarship to Eton University and now he is a NeuroScientist in Kings College.

Now, time to reveal Mr. Jackson-Read's most embarrassing moment. Mr. Jackson-Read was umpiring a game of volley ball when a student tapped him on his shoulder and another student ran behind him and debagged him. In others words pulled his shorts down. His arm was in a cast at the time so he could not prevent the debagging. We would never do that to you Sir, totally..never..ever....next PE lesson.....

And now for the answer we've all been waiting for.

Which is Mr.Jackson's favourite sun? He says he couldn't possibly answer that question. We are of course talking about the Sun as in the Earth's sun and stars.

And finally do you know what the 10 and 15 year old Thomas Jackson-Read was like? His 10 year old self was quite reserved, but a determined team player. His 15 year old self was more confident, possibly arrogant (like a lot of teenagers) and was an enthusiastic football player. And from there Sir evolved into the alien, I mean PE teacher we all know today.

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In collaboration with Angie editing

Interview subject: Mr.Thomas Jackson-Read

Written by Emilio Leto

WHO WILL EMERGE VICTORIOUS IN THE FINAL INTER HOUSE OF THE YEAR?

The action starts at 11:00 on Tuesday 16th

- ★ Y7 & 8 Boys Football Competition
- ★ Y7, 8 ,9 Girls Football Competition
- ★ Y9, 10, 12 Boys Football Competition
- ★ Y10 & 12 Mixed Volleyball Competition

Commonwealth Games Queen’s Baton Relay

Two weeks ago on 28th April the Queen's Baton arrived in Namibia. The Queen’s Baton Relay is similar to the Olympic torch relay. It is a relay that passes through all Commonwealth countries prior to the beginning of the Commonwealth Games held every four years. The baton starts off in the United Kingdom at Buckingham Palace in London and contains a message from the Head of the Commonwealth which is currently the Queen. She passes the baton to the first runner. This year the last runner will hand over the baton to the Queen or a representative in Gold Coast Australia in 2018.

The baton relay started on 13th March 2017 and will travel for 388 days, one of the longest Commonwealth relays ever. It will be in the Gold Coast for the opening ceremony on the 4th April 2018.

The design of the baton reflects the host country's culture and life in Queensland.

Student representative from Year 5 up to Year 12 participated in the celebrations starting with the handing over of the baton at parliament. As the Speaker of Parliament welcomed the baton, the



police marching band entertained those at the Parliament Gardens. From there the Speaker handed the baton to the presidents of the Senior Student Council Selina Kinne and Alicia Reiff. With all our students placed in pairs around the Christuskirche and down past the old presidents residency and ending at the NTN, the baton was passed on and proudly carried by our students not only representing WIS but Namibia.



We would like to thank Mr. Mr. Jackson-Read and Mrs. Reiff who accompanied us on our trip, Mr. Sylvester for driving and lastly the Namibian Olympic Committee for giving us the opportunity to represent Namibia in the 2018 games.



Namibia was one of 70 nations that are receiving the baton.

Alicia Reiff

THERE ARE TONS OF TALENT IN NAMIBIA AND WITH OUT THE PROPER EQUIPMENT THEY CAN'T THRIVE AND BECOME BETTER SO WE ARE CREATING A SPORT EQUIPMENT DRIVE



IF YOU HAVE OLD BALLS, SHOES OR ANY TYPE OF SPORT EQUIPMENT PLEASE DONATE (SOCCER, BASKETBALL AND HOCKEY ETC)



ANY SOCCER/BALLS BOOTS WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED

DONATION BOXES WILL BE AT ROOM 30 (YEAR 6A CLASS) AND AT THE WIS RECEPTION

PLEASE DONATE IF YOU CAN, YOU WOULD BE PUTTING SMILES ON LITTLE KIDS FACES



DATES:
THUR 11 MAY -
WED 18 MAY

PIC•COLLAGE

EXHIBITION FASHION ACTION

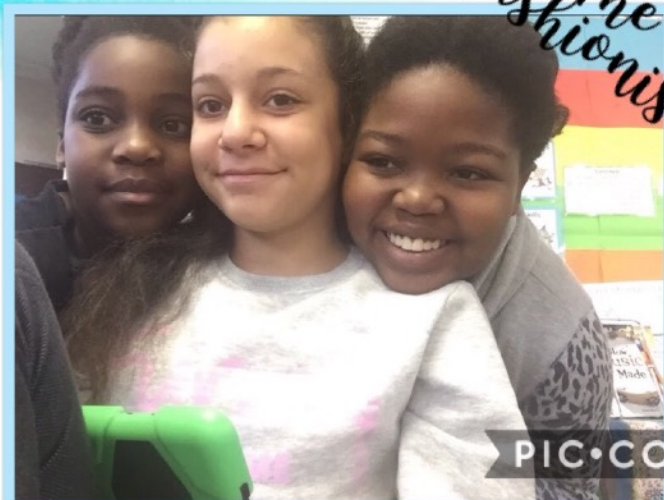


WE ARE FOCUSING ON THE STUDY OF STEREOTYPING THROUGH FASHION AND WE BELIEVE IT WILL BE A GOOD IDEA TO GIVE CLOTHING THAT WE NO LONGER USE BUT IS STILL IN GOOD CONDITION TO AN ORPHANAGE THAT W.I.S IS CURRENTLY SUPPORTING

YOU COULD BRING CLOTHES TO ROOMS 30 AND 35 AND RECEPTION

ALL CLOTHES MUST BE GIVEN BY TUESDAY THE 16TH

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE !



The Fashionistas



TIPS TO STAY SAFE DURING DOG BITE PREVENTION WEEK & ALL YEAR ROUND

FOR CHILDREN:

- Never approach an unknown dog or a dog that is alone without an owner, and always ask for permission before petting the dog.
- Never approach an injured animal – find an adult who can get the help s/he needs
- Never approach a dog that is eating, sleeping or nursing puppies.
- Don't poke, hit, pull, pinch or tease a dog.

FOR DOG OWNERS:

- Never leave a baby or small child alone with a dog, even if it is a family pet.
- Interactions between children and dogs should always be monitored to ensure the safety of both your child and your dog.
- Teach your children to treat the dog with respect and not to engage in rough or aggressive play.
- Make sure your pet is socialized as a young puppy so it feels at ease around people and other animals.
- Never put your dog in a position where s/he feels threatened.
- Walk and exercise your dog regularly to keep him/her healthy and to provide mental stimulation.
- Use a leash in public to ensure you are able to control your dog.
- Regular veterinary care is essential to maintain your dog's health; a sick or injured dog is more likely to bite.