



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Community,

From WIS Got Talent to Inter-house Sports Days to the Tygerberg Children’s Concert, a wide range of talent was on display on the WIS campus over the past week. Here at WIS, we know that it is not just what we learn - but how we learn it - that counts. An education at WIS will have all the academic rigour you’d expect; however, it is so much more than that. Learning is transformational when students find ways, inside the class and out, to show within themselves the attributes of the IB Learner Profile.

Here are some photos from this week’s Tygerberg Choir visit. My congratulations to the students in the WIS choir and especially to Ms. Michelle du Preez and Mr. Gerson Kastoor for their excellent work building up a choir in just three weeks which had the privilege of sharing the Auditorium stage with the world’s highest ranked choir! As the composer Brian Eno put it, “I believe in singing. I believe in singing together.”

PARENT INFORMATION PORTAL
Click here for more information

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Dates to Remember 2022

- **07 October 2022**
End of Term 1
- **10 - 14 October 2022**
October break
- **17 October 2022**
Start of Term 2
- **15 - 21 October 2022**
Gr. Field trip
- **20 October 2022**
Gr. 9 & 10 Parent coffee morning
- **26 October 2022**
Board Meeting



WIS BOOK BUZZ



BOOK BUZZ

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE WIS LIBRARY TEAM

As we embark on a week-long break, we thought it was fitting to introduce the idea of a reading vacation. A reading vacation can be whatever your family wants it to be — the only required ingredient is time set aside for reading. As an example, your family may find time to visit Swakopmund with the sole intention of reading, relaxing, and soaking up the sunshine. While there it's important to remember that words are everywhere, so allow your child to read what they find enjoyable: comic books, graphic novels, magazines, newspapers, brochures, etc.

Here are some reading vacation tips to help you plan, be sure to choose your own adventure:

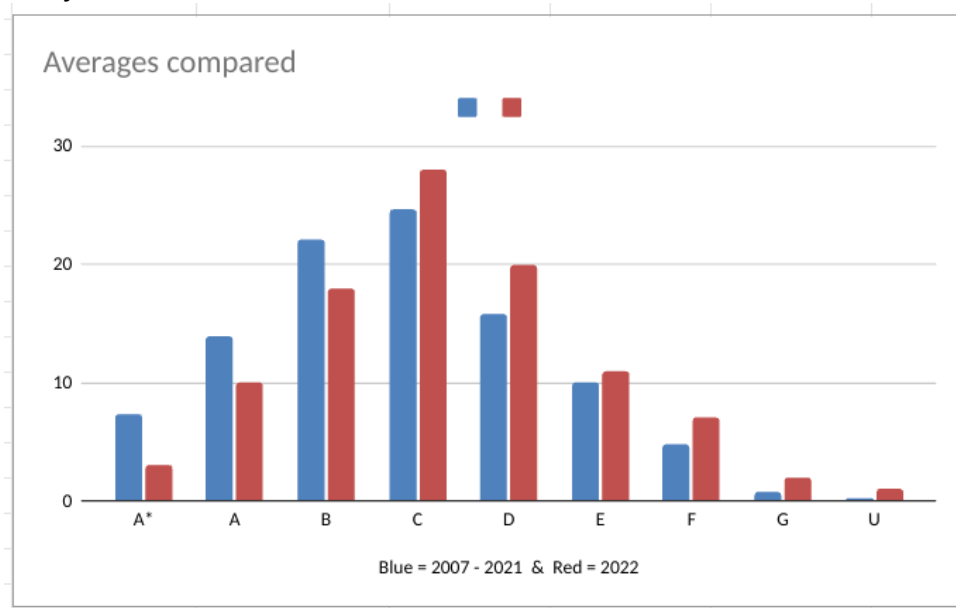
- Take a vacation anywhere on your bucket list, and simply enjoy reading while you're there.
- Travel to a new place and discover a new area to read in every day.
- Explore [the best libraries in the world](#) and breathe in that paper-and-leather aroma while you flip through a novel.
- Choose a city intentionally based on the number one book on your to-be-read list, then savour that book once you arrive and are entrenched in the setting.
- Have a staycation and block off your schedule for a long weekend during which your only responsibility is to embark on literary escapades.

We're wishing you a happy reading vacation! For questions and inquiries, please email us at jwashington@wis.edu.na and mneftali@wis.edu.na

WIS's Approach to Data-based Decision Making in the IGCSE

We reviewed our recent MAP Growth Test results and DP results in the previous two Oryx articles. On **20 October 07:30 - 8:30 in the Staff Room**, Ms. Margarete Reiff, Mr. Johan Meyer, Ms. Angelina Costa, and Mr. Rick Fitzpatrick will provide an overview of the recent trends we are seeing in our WIS external examination results, and identify actions the school and students will be taking to continuously improve our academic achievement here at WIS. While tailored to the interests of Grade 9 and 10 parents, all are welcome to attend this Q&A session. The slide deck will be shared for parents not able to make it. Here are some key take-aways from our previous IGCSE results.

- The graph below shows the grade distribution for all IGCSE examinations undertaken in May/June 2022 (red bar graphs) vs. the average over previous years.



The parent Q&A will focus in more depth upon these observations and strategies:

- The criterion-referenced approach to grading prepares students well for the IBDP; however, the time-intensive nature of this approach likely contributed to the lower than historical average IGCSE results achieved by the May/June 2022 test taking cohort.
- Removing the Criterion requirement for the May/June 2023 and May/June 2024 IGCSE cohorts will allow teachers to focus on test preparation for the IGCSE exam itself.
- For the final two cohorts, the school will therefore follow an **IGCSE**-based approach to assessment in IGCSE (removing MYP Criterion Requirements for now).
- For 2023 and 2024 IGCSEs, teachers will use mock examinations to inform review and revision teaching.
- We are supplementing IGCSE classes with an emphasis on Pre-DP Skills Development.
- In line with our Grades 1-8 MAP Achievement Scores, the IGCSE students achieved strong marks courses requiring reading comprehension and writing, and lower marks in areas of Mathematics, Sciences, and Arts. We are therefore reviewing how these subjects are taught both within the IGCSE and school-wide.
- Students achieving a "D" and below in English Lang & Lit will benefit from more academic writing support.

- The school is introducing after school supervised study time mandatory for students who are underperforming or falling behind on their work.

Have a safe and relaxing October break!

Sincerely,
Ethan Van Drunen

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

Please mark your calendars for the following events:

On the 27th of October Elsa Swanepoel, our Maths Coordinator, will be leading a parent workshop on Maths at WIS and ways to support at home. We will also be hosting a parent meeting for Digital Wellbeing and Safety for Grade 3, 4 and 5 parents. The morning will look like this

8.00-8.20 Introduction to Maths at WIS for all Primary Parents	Staff room
8.20- 9.00 Maths in Lower Primary (Grades EY-Grade 2)	Staff room
8.20-9.00 Digital Wellbeing and Safety- Parent Meeting Grade 3, 4 and 5 parents	Media room
9.00-9.40 Maths in Upper Primary (Grades 3-5)	Staff room

The Digital Wellbeing and Safety meeting will be an opportunity to connect about supporting our learners with technology at home and at school. Technology is a tool that can enhance learning, and can have positive and negative impacts. It is a forever changing landscape that as parents and educators can be tricky to navigate. Technology is here to stay- all the more reason to have conversations that will help us find the best way to support our learners. I am sharing the article from Common Sense Media 4 [Conversations to Have with Older Kids and Teens](#), which you might like to read before the meeting.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Warm regards,
Marcelle van Leenen

Using Freckle to accelerate learning

For Early Years 3 to Grade 8 Math Students

Earlier this week you received an email introducing you to Freckle and by now you should have also received your child's login information. If not please follow up with your child's homeroom teacher (EY 3 - Gr. 5) or Maths Teacher (Gr. 6 - 8).

We strongly believe that regular practice on Freckle Maths will help benefit your child's Maths learning as it;



Freckle
by Renaissance

1. Meets the needs of every student

The program is designed to continuously adapt for student practice in math, differentiating at your child's level.

2. Keeps students engaged while learning

Freckle is designed to be fun and engaging by offering students incentives for completing tasks.

3. Accelerates student growth

Through standard-based skill development in math as well as personalised goal setting (for upper grades) the program increases student growth and proficiency.

When your child is doing Freckle at home they will either have assigned activities from the teacher to complete or if nothing was assigned from the teacher they will have the opportunity to choose what they would like to practice for the day. We believe that student choice boosts interest and engagement. Students will be given a choice of domains in which to work. Students can choose the domain and work on their level within the domain by selecting the green practice button. Please note that mastering a level may take several sessions, even if your child scores 100% in a session.

We are aware of and understand that parents are concerned about the time their children spend on devices per day. Therefore we encourage parents to check that their children do not spend more than 15 - 30 min (depending on their age) per day and 4 days per week on Freckle. We also hope that 'Freckle time' would be a good substitute for undirected 'Youtube' time.

Should you have questions regarding Freckle please speak to your Homeroom teacher (EY 3 - Grade 5) or Maths Teacher (Grade 6-8).

Alternatively, you can email our Primary Math Coordinator, Elsa Swanepoel at eswanepoel@wis.edu.na

Primary sports Days

We had a wonderful primary sports day for lower primary and upper primary last week. It was wonderful to see the spirit, engagement and skill of all of our learners out on the big field. Thank you to our primary sports department for this great celebration of movement and physical activity at WIS. Thank you to all the teachers, parents and staff who helped make this event a huge success.



A very special congratulations to the Leopards who finished with the most points for this sports day! Our primary leopards will be acknowledged in the primary school assembly on Friday. Our next big sports day will be primary school athletics on 27th January 2023. Stay tuned.

Seodhna Keown



SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

What does a culture of excellence in the workplace look like?

"Excellence is an art won by training and habituation. We do not act rightly because we have virtue or excellence, but we rather have those because we have acted rightly. We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit." - Aristotle



When we expect excellence from our students, what does that look like? I would be so happy if I got some feedback from parents and students on this: [What does excellence at the workplace look like?](#)

When we expect excellence in school, what do we really expect?

- A culture where authority determines conduct and interaction?
 - A culture where I do what I am told to do?
 - A culture where I keep quiet and get on with my work?
- by no means that!

When we expect a culture of excellence and want to be true to our mission, we need to have certain expectations and routines that promote this culture.

Our mission at WIS is: *"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."*

In order to achieve these goals as a community, but particularly for our students, excellence has to become an intrinsic characteristic of all our students. And, as our mission states, excellence is not merely academic. Excellence, the way WIS promotes it is a holistic way of being that respects ourselves, others and our environment. Excellence at WIS celebrates and acknowledges our diversity but also our responsibility to our community and society at large. We have to be able to educate citizens of this world who are internationally minded and independent, responsible and respectful.

What does the "stimulating environment of academic excellence" in our mission refer to? It is probably up to individual interpretation. We do, however, as a community need to have a concept of how this looks, so that we can promote it in our families and in school and build on it along the way.

A stimulating environment in our context is an environment that gives each student an opportunity to shine and to be the best they can possibly be. This does, however, mean that students need to know who their best self is. To promote academic excellence, we need to ensure that all students can learn at their level and with their learning styles feeling supported and safe in the environment they learn in. Students need to believe in themselves and be proud of the work they deliver. This does not happen by default - it is a culture that needs to

be created and lived. To be excellent in what we do, we have to be determined to give our best and to be the best we can be.

We are currently discussing concrete strategies to promote a work ethic amongst our students that is excellent:

- handing in work that you are proud of - always!
- respecting academic integrity!
- handing in work on time!
- being prepared for class by doing work at home that is scheduled!
- having a quiet work space at home to do work for school!
- respecting others' work routines in the classroom!
- supporting each other to present and produce excellent work!

➔ What else would you suggest is included in our "Expectations of Excellence" here at WIS?

If we can achieve this: an attitude that promotes excellence and pride in what we do and how we conduct ourselves, we can achieve our mission in every aspect.

I appeal to all of our students younger and more senior to take pride in your work at school and be a role model for excellence. In the end you, your community and society at large will benefit from that.

Regards,
Maggie Reiff



Inspirational Writing

The Grade 8 students ended their first term with a summative for Criterion C - Producing Text by writing an inspirational story with the given vocabulary. It was fascinating to see the different points of view with regard to what seems to be inspirational to our teenagers. I am happy to share some of their work they produced.

Every Difference Made Counts - By Luca Steenkamp Gr. 8AJ

This story is going to be about a small girl who makes small differences but causes a big impact. Once upon a time, there was an **earnest** man. This old man lived in a village very close to the seaside. The village he lived in depended on the sea for **sustenance**. Even though this village was not very rich they all had freedom and **glory**. This man always brought his neighbour's loaves of bread to express his kindness to them. The reason he did it was that he used to struggle a lot financially. The man could not feed his family or pay his rent for his house at the time. But there was always one little **catalyst** girl who brought the man loaves of bread. The girl did this to help the village man **overcome** his struggles.

Since that girl's actions, it **motivated** the man. He then always went out giving people loaves of bread who struggled just like he once did. After all the man's struggles, he could enjoy his life with his family again. One morning the man went out to the ocean for a walk, he had a habit of walking on the beach every morning before he began his work. He was walking along the shore after a big storm had passed and found the massive beach littered with starfish as far as the eye could see, stretching in both directions. He walked on for a bit until he saw a little figure in the distance. He couldn't really make out what it was because of the mist so he walked on to have a closer look. On the way there he stepped on a sharp shell. The man thought that he could actually use it as a **versatile** tool. He put the shell in his pocket and walked on for a while. He saw it was the girl who used to bring him loaves of bread. The man walked up to her and asked "What are you doing?" She replied by saying: "I am throwing starfish back into the ocean." The sea has washed them upon the shore and there isn't a way for them to return by themselves, the girl said. The man said that there is no possible way that she can return all the hundreds of thousands of starfish that have been washed up on the beach. The girl bent down, picked up another starfish and threw it back into the ocean, and said: "It made a difference to that one." She then also said, "**Envision** the world if everyone saves one starfish a day." The girl's action **admired** the man. The man

figured the job he is doing at the moment is not very fulfilling. So he quit his job and started to inspire people to make small differences. He then became one of the most well-known people in his village and has inspired people a lot. Everyone loved and respected the man. He would have never been who he is now if it wasn't for that one special girl.

Every little counts. Doing something to make a positive change is always better than nothing! Everyone can do simple things to make a difference, and every little bit will count.

Book of Inspiration - By Ely Hausiku Gr. 8AJ

I was writing a book about inspiration and I wanted to add some clicks to it. I call the book glory, to symbolise that when you read this book, you will be inspired and would want to learn from it. I started to publish my book and as it was released, people were admiring how good my book was, awesome book awesome, and inspiring to others, it even helped children overcome their fears. As the weeks went by, I was invited to the annual best author awards and I came first by 1 vote, I then said a motive that I wrote and explained why I started writing the book., I said: " I started writing inspirational books to make people happy, I wanted to show them how they can handle stuff and go through things when they are tight, I wanted to be like my father, a very great writer and a great father., I wanted to carry on the legacy he left behind when he retired, and I'm making sure it lasts forever". I said. The audience clapped in cheer as they were honouring me like some legend.

I then wrote a sustenance book to teach children about food, planning on envisioning better books in the future, winning the award of earnest writers, and making a book that teaches catalyst reactions. I was able to versatile all these exciting ideas that have come into my head and when the time came for my retirement, I felt ready to say goodbye to my office and know that I fulfilled something in my life, my books.

The selfish versatile - By Ikuu Tjiuoro Gr. 8AJ

As a kid, I was very shy, I had low self-esteem and I always judged people because I was insecure about myself. My parents tried so hard to help me overcome my self-hate. During my childhood, my mom always told me a story about the Selfish versatile. The story was about a young boy who was once shy and insecure, but as he grew he wanted to be stronger so he became full of himself, and he achieved lots of things. He was at the top of his class and everyone admired him for his good looks and grades, but even if he was all of that, he was extremely selfish, he would show off and rub it in everyone's faces. His motive was to make sure he was on top of everyone and that no one would ever disobey him. I never knew why my mom had told me about this story, but she would always say: " There's nothing wrong with being shy, but just remember that boy was once like you". I never saw the glory of being confident, I never liked the thought of being popular, and everyone worshiping me.

As I grew older I realised what self-love is, and I focused on myself. I really loved the sustenance my parents gave me during my journey, and It felt like I had fulfilled all my life goals. I became more sociable and made a few trusting friends. I liked the stage I was at but I wanted more. I started participating in charity work, Ii focused a lot on my grades and my looks. Everything went well until I cracked. I didn't see myself as a bad person, but if someone ever talks behind my back, it won't be a problem to teach them a lesson. I ended up getting suspended for a few days because I tore a girl's shirt. My parents got worried for me and my mental health, they thought I was becoming a selfish versatile. My mom had an earnest talk with me and told me she had envisioned me becoming the little boy from the story. I told her she was crazy and that she was jealous that I was finally becoming stronger. "Oh sweetie, there's nothing wrong with being shy, but remember that boy was just like you," my mom said, I asked her what she meant then she told me something that shocked me, "that boy was your dad, he was innocent when he was young, but as he grew older, he changed, he became confident, he made others feel useless and made it a goal to make sure he was the best, but sweetie we will always love you no matter what, just make sure you don't go over the limit", Wow, Ii responded: "That's why I became a catalyst leader, to spread awareness to everyone, and to help others," mom said.

Ever since that talk, I have always watched myself and my limits. I started acting myself. I was still shy but I didn't care. As long as I have people who care about me, I don't need to change anything about myself. Though I never knew my dad was like that, he was always so kind and thoughtful, I guess you could just say "Like father, like daughter."

SFC football tournament

A huge congrats to all of our WIS footballers who played in last weekend's SFC football tournament in Swakopmund! Incredible achievement all around for all of our students who represented various clubs around Windhoek in this annual tournament. - **Seodhna Keown**



Health Hub

Dear WIS families,

A number of our students and staff have either been absent or sent home with flu symptoms over the past two weeks. Many people started talking about a Swine Flu outbreak in Namibia. A report published in a local newspaper added to the concerns about an outbreak of Swine Flu in the country.

Yesterday afternoon the Ministry of Health & Social Services released a notification (see link below) asking the public to remain calm as there is no outbreak of AH1N1 in Namibia.

An excerpt from the notification, in a nutshell:

"Influenza A H1N1 has been reclassified as a seasonal influenza virus after the 2009 epidemic. H1N1 has been circulating globally all year round, however cases peak from the winter season."

"The Ministry underscores that there is no H1N1 or Swine Flu outbreak in Namibia, but rather an increase in seasonal Influenza A H1N1 cases, and this is expected."

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-NuT1JtohLNMGaZQoFOPnJ7DZIxK0IOM/view?usp=sharing>

Hopefully the upcoming break will get everyone rested and feeling strong and well and ready for our next term.

A special appeal to parents:

Many of our students have been with us for a long time. Their medical information might have changed since the time when they enrolled at WIS. If your child, for example, has recently developed or been diagnosed with e.g. asthma and now requires to bring an inhaler to school, or an allergy which requires avoiding certain foods, please do inform me in order that I may update my records.

Sharon Gorelick, Nurse & Counsellor

Poster competition:

We are delighted to announce that we will be putting on our first biggish production since our COVID-days. Some of our middle school students have been rehearsing up to 4 days a week to get our production - Perstephanie Goes Underground ready for our opening and closing night - 21 October.

To announce the production, Ms Heike's grade 10 Art class put together these 4 beautiful posters. We love them all so much that we are unable to choose our favourite one. This is where you guys come in - please vote via [Facebook](#) for the poster that you like best. The poster with the most likes is the one that will be officially printed as our production poster. The runner up posters will be used as the cover page for the show programme and the artwork for our tickets.

Let us know which one you would like to see advertise our show. Many thanks and may the voting begin!



Thank You, Wis

After a very successful concert with the Tygerberg Children's Choir currently ranked (no.1 Interkultur) and WIS choir, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude.

WIS choir students enjoyed and had loads of fun on their journey and getting ready to meet TCC.

They had the privilege to sing alongside TCC, most amazing moment. Some pictures of the day with WIS and TCC.

You can please add some pics or videos.
Choir Team!



PRECISION FOOTBALL PRESENTS

OPEN FOR REGISTRATION

HOLIDAY SOCCER

CAMP

DISCOVER YOUR POTENTIAL SKILLS

BOYS & GIRLS AGES 5 - 13yrs

10 - 13 OCTOBER | 8AM - 11AM
WIS SPORTS GROUND
ENROLLMENT: +264816110893



SCARY MOVIE NIGHT

JOIN US FOR A 'SCARY' LIBRARY FUNDRAISER

DATE: Monday, 31 October 2022
 TIME: 14:00 - 16:00
 PLACE: PLC Auditorium
 WHO: All students welcome!
 COST: N\$10.00PP
 MOVIE: Hotel Transylvania: Transformania

POPCORN & OTHER SNACKS WILL BE ON SALE!

RMB Off-Road Triathlon

SUN 30 Oct - Lake Oanob Resort - Teams or Individual

Distances

- Enduro 1.1km/28km/9km
- Sprint 600m/15km/4km
- Mini 300m/4km/2km

Event shirt/gift for the first 150 entries.

[Click to Enter the RMB Off-Road Triathlon](#)

All details on www.otbsport.com

The resort will be selling food and drinks throughout the day.

Participants will not be charged entry into the resort.

For accommodation at Lake Oanob:

Tel: +264 (0) 62 522370/60

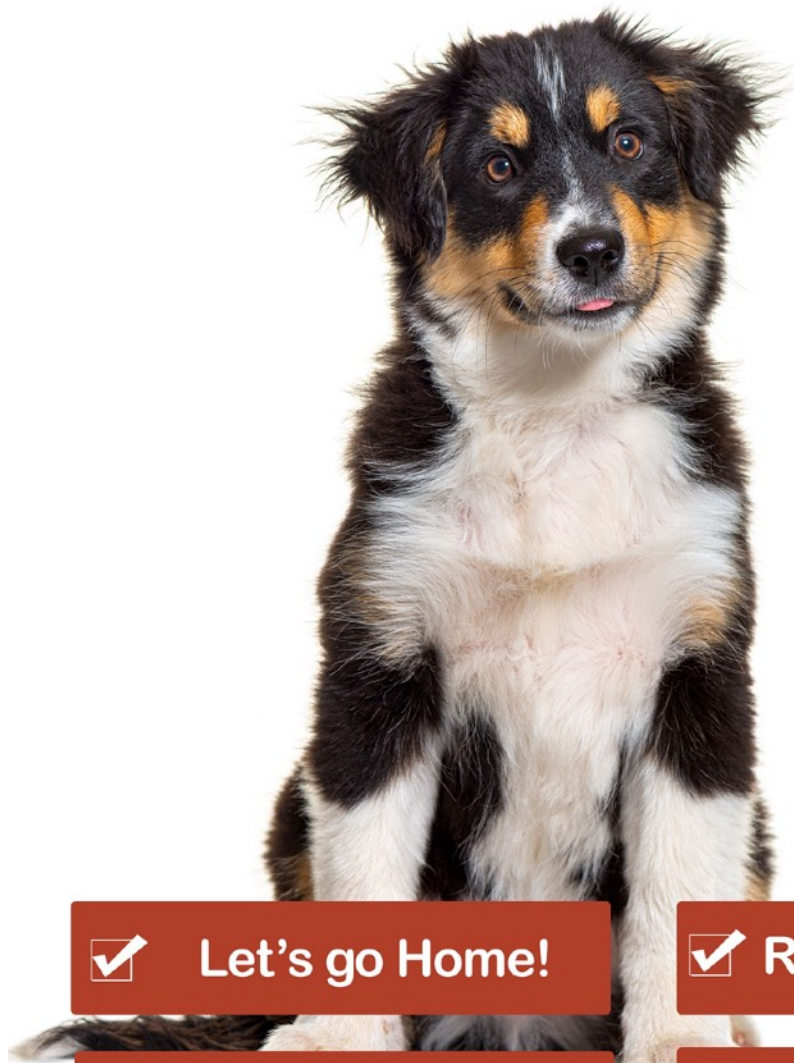
Fax: +264 (0) 62 524112.

reservations@oanob.com.na

FNB Sandman Triathlon - Swakopmund - 4 Dec - ENTRIES and DETAILS ON www.otbsport.com

- Ultra: 1.9km/90km/21km
- Standard: 1km/40km/10km
- Sprint: 400m/20km/3km
- Mini: 150km/6km/3km

OCTOBER IS ADOPT A SHELTER DOG MONTH



Dog adoption fee of
N\$900 for the whole
month of October!

Let's go Home!

Rescue dogs rule!

Save a life!

I'm fully vaccinated,
sterilized & microchipped!

To celebrate **ADOPT A SHELTER DOG MONTH**, dog adoption fees have been reduced to **N\$900** for the month of **OCTOBER 2022** at the SPCA Windhoek!

Consider adding a doggy friend to your family this October!

Contact us: 061 238 654 or email info@spcawindhoek.org.na for more information!

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