



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Association of International Schools in Africa

I am writing this in Nairobi where I am attending the annual AISA Leadership Conference. There are 140 school leaders here from AISA's 75 or so member schools located in almost every African country.

I'm joined this year by two colleagues – **Angatha Janse van Rensburg** and **Maryke Coetzee**. Over the coming three days, both will attend workshops relevant to their roles in school and, while I attend an AISA Board meeting today, they are attending a pre-conference day about Women in Leadership.

Perhaps the best thing about these conferences is the networking. Chatting to the person sitting next to you, meeting someone in the lift, talking over coffee, you find that you and others in other schools face similar problems and can discuss solutions. WIS is the only authentic international school in Namibia (and certainly the only IB World School) and we can feel a bit isolated sometimes. Conferences like this one allow us to make contacts and catch up with what other similar schools are doing. It is impossible to return from these events without feeling energised.

Peter MacKenzie

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Student-Led Conferences

The annual Student-Led Conferences have come and gone and from all reports they were a success. Most of the students showed confidence in leading the discussions about their learning. I'm sure that in many cases parents were quite surprised by how well the children were able to explain what they have learned, how well they reflected on their progress and the goals they have set for the remainder of the semester.

Parent participation is a very important part of the conference. The interest you show in your children's learning encourages your children to want to strive to do their best. It is also good for your children to hear from you what you think they are doing well. Thank you for your participation in the conference and a special thank you to those who were able to take the time to visit the Specialist classes so that you have a broader picture of your child's progress in all areas. As always, your feedback about the conferences will be appreciated and welcome.

Parent Participation

In addition to your participation in the conferences, parents play an important role in other ways as well, such as keeping current with what's happening in your children's school life through reading the class blogs and making comments, and reading the Oryx each week. Many parents have been able to attend the assemblies when their

Contents

- From the Director p. 1
- Primary News p. 1 - 5, 9, 10, 11
- Secondary News p. 5 - 7, 11, 12
- Other News p. 13 - 14



Dates to Remember

March 2018

- **12:** Start of Term 4
- **21:** Independence Day
No school, Public Holiday
- **23 & 24:** Romeo & Juliet
- **30:** Good Friday -
Public Holiday

April 2018

- **02:** Easter Monday -
Public Holiday

WEEKLY PUZZLER

We received no correct solutions for the pie puzzler nor any pieces of pie. Please keep working on it.

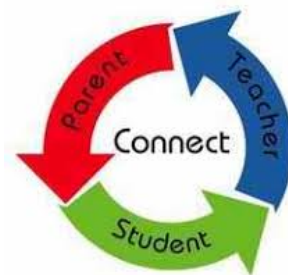
The puzzler will take a week off, but here is a good site: areamaze.com

Go there for some fun mental exercise during the holiday, and come back with some super brain power!

As always, if you find any fun and interesting puzzlers please send them to pfarrell@wis.edu.na



children are performing, and have also attended the end of unit class presentations. You support your children by encouraging and allowing them to bring items to school that support a unit of inquiry. For class field trips, you support with paying for the cost of the trip and ensuring your children have the WIS t-shirt to wear on the day of the trip. The list of ways that you participate in supporting your children at school goes on. Your time, support and participation are appreciated.



Semester One Progress Reports

It has come to my attention that many parents have not received the Semester One Progress Reports. An email that included directions and a link for accessing your children's reports was sent three weeks ago to the email address we have on file. If you haven't received such an email, please contact Ms Catherine (reception@wis.edu.na). If you did receive the email but haven't read your child's report yet, please do make the time to do so.

MAP Test Results

Thank you to the parents who were able to attend last week's MAP Test Results information session. Many of you indicated that you were not able to attend the session but would like to have the results. As this is the first time we've given the MAP Tests, it is important that you attend an information session so that you understand the results. I am offering another session on **Wednesday, March 14 at 12:45**.

Please complete the following form if you plan to attend so that I can ensure to have your child's results available for you: <https://goo.gl/forms/UYrg4pijMZALB2MD2>.



Regards,
Beth Smith



The [Teach Your Monster to Read app](http://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com) has just become free to download from all app stores from today until this Sunday (4th March). The usual price is around USD4.00 and free only when paid for on a computer in a web browser at www.teachyourmonstertoread.com

Teach Your Monster To Read is a phonics and reading game that has helped over a million children learn to read. It covers the first two years of learning to read, from matching letters and sounds to enjoying little books. The app includes all three games with over 16 hours of phonics learning. Students in Year 1 and 2 usually have personal accounts that give them access to the apps and track their learning.

If your child does not have an account you are free to create an account for them at home to practice with your supervision.

Download the app this week for free. Plus there is nothing to pay after the free period ends. Hurry, the free period ends this Sunday!

How old should my child be to use social media?

Smartphones are now a necessity and the general trend is that students are getting phones of their own at younger ages, as early as Year 3 I believe. What is one their phones? How old should they be to use social media apps? [Click here to find out more>](#)



Danai Maramba

Primary French

Bonjour à tous! Once a month the Primary French Club participants are going to go to the Franco Namibian Cultural Centre!

The aim is to offer the children an opportunity to to be in a French atmosphere, to hear the language and to practice what they are learning in class with Madame Laetitia.

Our first visit was on Monday 26th of February. We were kindly received by Madame Dolis and Madame Mizgin. First we toured the Centre, then Madame Mizgin told us a story in French and explained the vocabulary to us. Finally we all enjoyed a refreshment that we ordered in French at the brand new restaurant "Les Saveurs d'Afrique".



We are looking forward to continuing the story next month and enjoying plenty of other activities in French.

Madame Laetitia, Ms. Shanice, and the Frenchies!

The swimming journey continues...



It's a great pleasure to write about swimming. As you all know by now, my daughter Oliwia is a passionate swimmer. She trains three times a week and takes part in swimming competitions, but... she is not the only one from WIS. Last weekend the swimming journey continued outside the school for ten of our students. *Viktoria Ellmies (14), Ashraf Hishamuddin (17), Kamogelo de Almeida (12), Martha Kali (11), Kgosana Hekandjo (10), Oliwia*

Stephanus (10) and Kabelo Hekandjo (7) were representing Dolphin Swimming Club. Sarah Tibazarwa (12) and her brother Mark Tibazarwa (8) were representing Aqua Swimming Club and Emilio Leto (14) was representing Marlins in the Bank Windhoek Namibian National Long Course Championship 2018.

Some of swimmers started swimming on Thursday afternoon and continued swimming until Sunday. Warm-ups at 7:00 were challenging, especially on Sunday morning with cold wind and even colder water.

All our students did exceptionally well and I think that all of them deserve a big round of applause. As a proud member of the WIS community, I would like to share with you the many significant achievements of our young swimmers.

*This is what **Viktor** said about the Nationals:*

*"This was my **most successful championship yet**, I won **21 medals (15 Gold and 6 Silver)**. I also received four trophies:*

- 1) For the **Fastest (Female) 100m Freestyle** time overall age groups
- 2) For the **Fastest 200m Freestyle** time overall age groups
- 3) A shared trophy for the single best performance for my 200 freestyle
- 4) The Junior Victrix Ludorum Trophy for the **Best Junior Female Swimmer**



*At the end of May I will attend a two-week training camp in the Czech Republic, after which I will be competing in a **European competition**. I have also **qualified for the SA Junior Nationals** but will not attend so I don't miss too much school."*

***Ashraf** said: In "this competition I have managed to get: **2 Gold, 3 Bronze and 3 Silvers**. It now brings my current **medal tally to 110!** I have also qualified for the **Level 3 Championships**, which will be taking place in Cape Town later this year."*

***Kgasana** received a **Gold medal** in (10 & under) for the **200 Freestyle Relay** and **Silver** for the **200m Medley Relay**. Kgosana also qualified for the **RSA Level 2 age group Swim Gala in Oudtshoorn Western Cape**. The gala will take place from 7 to 9 April 2018.*

***Oliwia** received her **first medal** (Bronze) in (10 & under) for the **200m Freestyle Relay** and achieved a personal best in the **200m Medley, 100m Freestyle** and **50m Fly**.*

***Kabelo** received a **Gold medal** in the **Freestyle Relay** (8 & under) and beat his personal record in the **50m Fly**.*

***Martha** won **2 Bronze medals** in the **200m Freestyle** and **200m Medley Relay** (11&12).*



Mark won a **Gold medal** in the **50m Backstroke** ; **Silver** in the **50m Freestyle** and achieved a personal record.

Sarah (personal record in **200 Im**); **Emilio** (4th place in the **200m Medley Relay**) and **Kamogelo** (personal record in **100m Free** and **200 Im**)

The swimmers have shown determination and personal best in many different strokes.

I hope that many of our community members and swimming fans will read my article and come up with ideas on how we can support our swimmers! I know that there are many good swimmers at WIS!

Beata Stephanus

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Are our ideas of values changing with time?

"There are little eyes upon you and they're watching night and day.

There are little ears that quickly take in every word you say.

There are little hands all eager to do everything you do.

And a little child who's dreaming of the day he'll be like you."

(author unknown)

Even if the eyes, the ears and the hands are not little anymore, they still observe what we adults are doing and very often, take that at face value. What are our core values these days? Respect, integrity, honesty, kindness?

Why do we teach our children values? Values provide direction and meaning to our life and inspire constructive behaviour. We as adults need to model these values to in-still them in our children. If our lives are driven only by materialistic things - money, belongings, big cars and cell phones - then we cannot expect our children to be guided by more intrinsic values. We should engage with our children, spend time with them and respect them as much as we expect to be respected. We should be honest and open with them and kind - so that in return, they can be honest and open and kind to us. Then our children will learn what it means to have integrity and all the "values" we expect them to have. But if we don't model these as adults, we cannot expect our children to behave in a manner that is respectful and open.

Some of the values we come across on a daily basis are also to be considerate of others and care for our environment. When others experience us as taking them into consideration, we will mostly get that in return from them. When we listen to our children they will learn to listen to people around them. When we do what we say we are doing, our children learn to trust us and to rely on us and trust and reliability are key to interpersonal relationships.

Often we focus on reprimanding and "lecturing" our children. But it is more rewarding if not more meaningful to praise and commend your child on their good actions or behaviour. All humankind flourishes on positive and constructive feedback and will in return give back this positive energy to their environment.

Regards,

Maggie Reiff



Sports News

Basketball Tour to RSA



It is not merely the job of a PE teacher to in-still sound sporting skills, knowledge, tactical awareness, proper sporting etiquette and a sound understanding of health related fitness.

Occasionally sporting opportunities arise for PE Teachers and Sports Coaches where you have the chance to expose the learners in your care to a new and challenging level of competition. The senior boys have been training and playing together for several months now and having played most of the teams in Windhoek, we went further afield to pit our skills and wits against the best South Africa had to offer in the prestigious St Stithians U16 Basketball Tournament.

The August Campus of St Stithians presented an imposing backdrop for this auspicious event.

Our boys team consisted of Alexander McNab, Arno Diekmann, Karim El-Kallawi, Diogo Vieira Ferreira, Jason Schmidt, Luca Monteforte and our Captain, Robbie Winschiers.



The boys excelled throughout and surpassed expectations with excellent performances throughout the three days of matches.

We recorded wins against **St David, St Andrews** and **The American International School of Johannesburg (AISJ)**. We missed out on progressing to the semi-finals due to narrow losses in games against **Pretoria Boys** and **Kernsey College** (a margin of 3 points and 2 points respectively).

We are immensely proud of the achievements of our boys and look forward to further opportunities to establish WIS as a contender in the regional sporting events.

The boys were very well supported by Coach Aba Leukes, a third Year Law Undergraduate who has been assisting with coaching this semester.

Luca Monteforte was also named among the tournaments' MVP, (most valuable players) and received a trophy in recognition of his achievements.

Athletics Regional Zones Competition

The following children are competing at the Regional Athletics competition on Friday 2nd March. Good Luck Athletes!

- *Kevin Amaambo*
- *Amani Enkara*
- *Natalie Segamwenge*

Hopsol League Fixture @WIS

WIS boys in action on Wednesday night as the Hopsol League Fixtures commenced.



Thomas Jackson-Read

CAS FINAL STAGE

On the 27th of February 2018 the final stage of our Indigenous Garden+Water Conservation Project took place at the PLC from 9:40 am to 11:30 am. Prior to the day, we stayed back for a few hours after school not only to relocate the plants that were in the area but also to add more soil and make sure everything was ready for the next day. We also met with Mrs Angelina Costa the deputy coordinator of the Portuguese Language Centre, to make sure she was aware of what was happening as well as Ms Carol Steenkamp, the owner of Namib Trees, who got the plants we wanted.

We faced a few obstacles before successfully completing this project. For those who have read our previous Oryx articles you may know that



during the first stage of this project we planted a few seedlings with the Year 4s. Unfortunately due to the harsh dry weather the plants were unable to grow and we needed a new plan.

We thought about it and realised that a drip irrigation system wasn't the only way we could conserve water. The kind of plants we planted would also determine the amount of water we save. Therefore, our new plan was to plant succulents which were indigenous to Namibia.

The morning of the day finally arrived and those who followed us on our journey know that Mr Fabian von Hase was supposed to come and help us. However due to a few issues he was unable to make his trip here, as he is not based in Windhoek. At first, we were nervous, but we were confident that we knew everything we needed to know.

At 9:00 am we began preparing for the Year 4s. This included organising the stations as well as going through the design of our garden. At 9:40 am the students arrived, and we began with our project. We split the two classes into three different stations where each station lasted for 30 minutes. Ashraf was in charge of station one, where the students were educated on the features and uses of the different species of plants we were planting. They also learnt how the San and different animals use these plants in their daily lives. Station two was monitored by Kyle and Leart. Here the children learnt about the design of our garden. Not only did they help wash the rocks, but they also helped us place them carefully around our plants. Gabie was in charge of station three and it is here where the students did the physical act of digging and planting the plants into the garden.

The Year 4 students were amazing to work with. They polite and enthusiastic about the whole project. Without their energy this project would not have been as fun as it was. We would like to say a huge thank you to Ms Kirsten as well as Ms Charné for taking the time to bring their students for our CAS project and for helping us complete the garden!

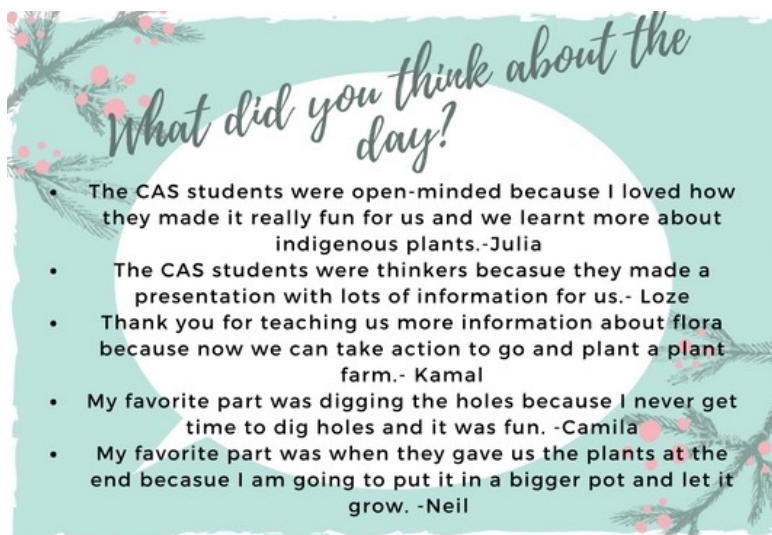


After an hour and a half of planting and shifting through the different stations, the children washed their hands and each received an apple while they rested. To say thank you we gave each student a small pot with a young plant. In total we gave them 40 small plants of various species. The kids are reminded that those plants only need water once a week and in order for them to get larger they must plant it into their own garden. We hope this small plant resembles a piece of this project which they will be able to look at and remember the project in the upcoming years.

We mentioned in our previous article that we were looking for sponsors, for this project. We received N\$10,000 from various sponsors. We have successfully planted 14 Aloe Zebrinas, 4 Maerua Junceas, 2 Sansevierias, 2 Kleinia Longifloras, 1 Willd Grape, 1 Aloe Esculenta, 1 Aloe Thraskii, 1 Euphorbia Virosa as well as a Hoodia. After we have graduated, we hope the Year 4s will continue to watch these plants grow as their journey at WIS continues and remember that it would not have been possible without them.



We would like to say a special thank you to Mrs Reiff, Ms Carol, Ms



Rimmington, Ms Angelina as well as the gardeners of WIS for supporting us for the last 5 months. We would like to inform the readers of the Oryx that the garden is now 90% complete. We will be putting the final touches of our garden soon. We hope you enjoy the new and redesigned indigenous garden at the PLC and hope that a few members of the upcoming IBDP class will continue to maintain it and add new plants and design features for their CAS project!

Thank you to everyone who has made this project possible and we hope you have enjoyed reading about our journey.

Ashraf, Gabie, Kyle and Léart - Class of IBDP 2019

We commend and congratulate Ashraf, Léart, Gabie and Kyle for organising an excellent CAS project. In the process they had to incorporate quite a number of skills into their planning - for example, they had to work out a plan on how to conduct their research, on how to get their resources and how to communicate effectively with the much younger Year 4 students. They had to work on a strict timeline and make sure they managed their time well to get everything planned and put into practice within the time frame. This was an excellent example of implementing the different ATL skills into their project. Thinking skills, Communication skills, Research Skills, Self-Management Skills and Social Skills were all integral in the planning and execution of the project. It is evident that the students and all involved have benefited enormously from this exercise and have learnt a great deal. Well done - and we hope, as mentioned in their final article, that the next DP CAS students will build on this project in their plans.



We would also like to thank and commend the Year 4s for being such great helpers in the project and for being open-minded and caring about their environment. In the process you have also become more knowledgeable and will see the greater good of your efforts.

Maggie Reiff on behalf of the school community

Chess Tournament

On Saturday 17 February 2017 the Windhoek International School Chess Club participated in the 2018 Zonal Schools National Tournament which was held at the Windhoek Gymnasium School in Windhoek.

A chess tournament is basically a series of chess games (in this instance 7 rounds) played competitively to determine a winning individual or team. In this case the tournament had medals for the individuals who placed first, second or third. There were 136 players in total representing schools in Windhoek as well as from other parts of the country. Although the children showed up promptly for the expected 9:30AM start, the tournament was delayed for



Beritha gets encouragement from Dad before Round 1

numerous reasons, and did not begin until almost noontime. Even little Beritha (who is only in Year 1!) waited to play her first round at nearly noon! That is genuine commitment!

As mentioned, in the end there were only three winners. However in my mind, the children are all winners (lots of brownie points) for staying the course even after the multiple delays, and for cheering on the winners.

There were no participation certificates, which our WIS kids were a little disappointed about, so we promised them that we would ensure that they received a cameo in the Oryx Newsletter to show just how proud the WIS community is of them! There is something good to be said for showing up and giving it a go. GO WIS KIDS! And of course the supporting crew of all the WIS parents, siblings friends. Three cheers to all of you for cheering on the kids!

The WIS children were all very excited (and a whole bunch nervous!) as none of them had played in such a big competition before. Felcina commented that she had butterflies fluttering in her tummy all night!

It was a fun and nail-biting event with some of the participants ranked as some of the world's strongest players.



Felcina is ready to start!



Ondeya in her last game (Phew!)

It wasn't all work, the children also had a fantastic time meeting new friends from other schools and playing very hard on the Windhoek Gymnasium school grounds during the breaks they had between the various rounds.

The WIS Chess Club's coach, Robert Gwaze is himself a world renowned International Master who I believe beats anyone who challenges him pretty much all the time! The children all think he is an absolute rock star!

Seeing him in action on Wednesday afternoons with the kids during practice, one can understand why they adore him. Beside his super human chess super powers, he is a cheerful, supportive and inspiring coach who motivates the children to give it their best go. He was certainly very supportive of the team.

He encouraged them all to participate in order to build confidence in the game and also to give them a feel for the tournament experience. The

tournament as a whole represents a step forward in the development of chess creativity for the children. Way to go coach! Although the WIS Chess club has around 30 players, only 4 children took part as the timing of the tournament was not convenient for many of our families.



Let us hear it for!

| Age Category | Participants from WIS | Year Level | Rank at End of Tournament | Total Players |
|-----------------|-----------------------|------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| U15/17 Boys | None | | | 19 |
| U13/15/17 Girls | None | | | 13 |
| U13 Boys | Kamogelo de Almeida | Year 7A | Statistics not available | 15 |
| U11 Girls | Felcina Matsi | Year 5A | 9 | 15 |
| U11 Boys | None | | | 21 |
| U7/9 Girls | Ondeya Neri | Year 3A | 8 | 23 |
| | Beritha Brendell | Year 1B | Not ranked (not enough U/7's) | 23 |
| U7/9 Boys | None | | | 30 |
| | | | | 136 |

Magano Neri

Romeo and Juliet final rehearsals Blog #2

Time is running out and clocks are ticking!

It's all coming down to the final rehearsals. Our brave actors are so committed and hardworking that they give up their time just to rehearse and get everything prepared for all of you who will be coming to watch on 23rd March! Right!?

The stage is almost done and it's looking fantastic already. The amazing drama teacher, Ms. Kate, has put in so much effort to make this all happen, and how grateful are we!?

Romeo and Juliet is ready to show you what they've got, WIS family!

R.A.J blogger = Lili Zhang ❤️



Hello
my name is



[An'taitid]

WINDHOEK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

**VISUAL ARTS
GRADUATE EXHIBITION**

MONDAY 12 MARCH 2018 TO FRIDAY 16 MARCH 2018

OPENING - MONDAY 12 MARCH - 18:00

[See our Raffle Sponsors here!](#)

The PTA Raffle

The PTA Raffle Team is busy gathering fantastic, adventurous prizes, family prizes, surprising prizes, prizes to relax you, prizes to spoil you or someone you care about.

Prizes that will take you to places, prizes that will delight you



BE PART OF THE ADVENTURE

SUPPORT THE PTA RAFFLE & Stand a chance to win.

A BIG THANK YOU ,TO OUR SPONSORS BELOW.

WIS CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL DAY OF HAPPINESS!

LET'S HELP BRIGHTEN THE LIVES OF PEOPLE WITH CANCER.



FUNDRAISER

WHEN?

Tuesday, 20 March

WHAT?

Come dressed in the allocated class colours (yellow or black) to help make a whole school emoji smiley face on the big field at 11:00am.

There will be a special treat for everyone after taking the photo...

STICKERS

Available for N\$10.00! On sale from homeroom teachers from 19 February - 20 March.

Please buy one (or many!) and support cancer patients. All proceeds will be donated to the Cancer Association.