



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School



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Dates to Remember

January 2017

- **30:** Secondary week A
- **31:** Board Meeting

February 2017

- **6:** Secondary week B
- **13:** Secondary week A
- **20 - 24:** Book Week
- **25:** PTA Bazaar

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Security

Any school's top priority must be to ensure the safety and well-being of its students. Hardly less important is to make sure that those who work there, their property, and the school's property are protected.

Yet at the same time schools strive to be welcoming places. The word 'community' is often and rightly used in the context of such schools.

And schools must also be mindful of the subliminal messages they communicate to children and others. Do armed guards, razor-wire, and CCTV cameras make you feel safe or tell you that you need to be afraid?

The balance is a delicate one. And different schools in different contexts will – understandably – reach different conclusions.

And we need to know what it is that we are trying to guard against. The spectrum from suicide bombers to petty opportunistic theft is a broad one.

We are currently conducting such a review and we are considering a number of changes to our current arrangements.

WIS is a very warm and welcoming school and we never want to lose that. But we also want to be sure that the security measure we have in place are practical, prudent and effective.

With best wishes

Peter MacKenzie

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Is your child getting enough sleep?

Now that we're three weeks into the second semester and the weather is changing, I've noticed that many of the children have been a little more tired of late. Being well-rested can make the difference between a good day at school and a bad one. I know I'm more productive when I've had a good night's sleep and am well-rested.

The following is from my November 6, 2015 Oryx article.

According to the National Sleep Foundation (<https://sleepfoundation.org/sleep-topics/children-and-sleep>) and Kids Health (kidshealth.org) the recommended number of hours of sleep that children need in a 24 hour period (including naps) are:

- *Toddlers (ages 1-2): 11-14 hours*
- *KG1-Year 1 (ages 3-5): 10-13 hours*
- *Year 2-Year 9 (ages 6-13): 9-11 hours*

Based on these recommendations, is your child getting enough sleep? If not, consider the following advantages and disadvantages:

When children do get enough sleep they are likely to:

- pay better attention in school
- make connections in their learning
- be more creative and think of new ideas
- fight sickness to stay healthy
- be in a good mood
- get along with classmates and friends
- make better choices and solve problems better

When children don't get enough sleep they are likely to:

- forget what they've learned
- have trouble making good choices
- be irritable and in a bad mood
- have trouble playing games and sports
- be less patient with classmates and friends
- have trouble listening to their teachers

As Benjamin Franklin (American author, inventor and statesman) once said, "Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise." I'm not sure about the wealthy part, but certainly a good night's sleep can influence one's health and wisdom.

Regards,
Beth Smith

From our PAD

A lovely exhibition was held last Friday in our PAD. Year 4's displayed their Op Art (drawings, collage weaving and cubes) in the style of British artist, Bridget Riley, as well as their Contour Art. All work is optical art and plays "tricks" on the eyes! Thank you to all the parents who popped in to spend time with their child celebrating their creativity. It's always wonderful seeing you again in our PAD. Do keep rolling in for these Pop-in exhibitions.

Genie Albrecht



Staff Feature

Catherine O'Connor-Smith School secretary

I was born in Windhoek 35 years ago and have been here most of my life, living in South Africa for a few years while I was at Rhodes University in Grahamstown.

For primary school I was in St Georges and for high school I went to St Paul's College.

I have been to almost every part of Namibia thanks to my parents who took us traveling every school break. We also regularly holidayed in Botswana, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

I have had a wide range of job experiences – working in medical settings, workshops, other schools, as an Au Pair... but now I'm happily settled in WIS and have been here since 2012

I am very pleased to be able to say that I love my job.

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Staff Feature continued

I have a daughter, Daniella, she is in Year 4 at WIS and we have 2 cats, a tiny dog and a bunny.

She and I love spending the weekends in pyjamas, watching movies and reading. We also enjoy gardening and going to the cinema.



Parent Teacher Association

[PTA Blog](#)

We have a blog for the PTA! Keep up to date with what the PTA is up to. We will share our upcoming activities and general info on our blog.

YEAR 5 How We Express Ourselves

Let my art speak to me!



You are invited to a Year 5 art exhibition in the FOYER of the auditorium running from Friday (today) to Wednesday (1st February)next week.

Students have been exploring three art movements: Impressionism, Surrealism and Cubism culminating in a final art piece of their favourite art movement explored in a medium they enjoy.

Please pop in whenever it suits you.

Ms Genie and Ms Sigrid



Primary Student Council taking action

Van Rhyn Dam



Few people know about the “gem” that we have right here in the Pionierspark Extension 1 neighbourhood: the Van Rhyn Dam. It is a beautiful and secluded spot filled with bird life as well as lush vegetation and, of course, the dam. Unfortunately, this area is not safe and the litter is an eye-sore.

The Primary Student Council has therefore taken the initiative to firstly raise awareness and then to raise funds in order to help the Pionierspark Extension 1 community fence off the area to make it safe. On Friday in the assembly, the Primary Student Council will therefore give a presentation about the dam as well as their first steps to raise funds. One of their “steps” or initiatives will be to have a “guess-the-number-of-sweets-in-the-jar” competition. Another initiative will be to have a little “station” at the WIS Bazaar. At this station they will share information about the dam initiative and ask for donations with regard to it. More initiatives on raising funds will be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

Eventually, once the fencing is in place, the Primary Student Council will lead a cleanup operation where the school community as well as the Extension 1 neighbourhood will go into the dam area and clear away the litter and make walking trails - recapturing this beautiful piece of land for the benefit of us all.

Tanya-May Knouwds

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Working together - collaborative learning

A generation ago, most of us would still learn by sitting in a classroom and listening to the teacher tell us what we should know. And we learnt well, many of us. However, these days, there is a trend to let learners learn themselves.

Sometimes teachers are hesitant to give the reins to their students to be facilitators, because they fear that they lose control in the process. It has, however, become clear, that we learn better, when we learn together, when we teach each other and are not just receptive in the process.

Teaching in an environment that promotes collaborative learning necessarily means that the teacher needs to be very well prepared and will have to let go of his/her “reins” in some way. But, collaborative learning teams are said to reach a higher-level thinking platform and to keep information ready for longer. Why would that be?

Groups tend to operate by discussing, clarifying uncertainties and gauging each other’s ideas and opinions. This results in information being stored in the long-term memory. Most of us are aware that we only learn about 10% of what we read, we learn 20% of what we hear and 30% of what we see. Even more significant is that we learn 50% of what we see and hear and 70% of what we discuss, 80% of what we experience and 95% of what we teach others. <http://consiliumeducation.com/itm/2017/01/04/two-or-more-heads-are-better-than-one>

In our visually driven world these days, we largely depend on visual stimuli and we experience a growing number of learners who are far more visual learners than auditory learners. This needs to be taken into consideration in our teaching in the everyday classroom. Another aspect that is high on the list of teaching approaches is to let our kids learn by inquiry, by experiencing certain things and by finding out what they need to know themselves.

Below is a small comparison of what has changed from when we learnt in school to how our children should be learning today.

Traditional Approach	Inquiry-based Approach
Listen-to-learn method of learning	Learning is question-oriented with real and authentic goals
Little interaction, individual work	Peer interaction, teamwork
Assessments in the form of tests and term papers	Shared end product with an audience
Limited knowledge imparted by the teacher	Ability to dig deeper into a topic
Mastery of content	Development of skills and questioning along with mastery of content
Receivers of information	Pursuers of information
Mastery of content	Development of habits of the mind
Students are passive recipients of knowledge	Students are actively involved in learning and construction of knowledge
Moderate to low interest	High interest
Textbook dictated learning	Student focused learning
Evaluation at the end	Ongoing assessment

http://courseweb.ischool.illinois.edu/~dafagan2/LIS506LEB/best_practices/traditional_vs_IL.shtml

Although we are not yet all there when it comes to concept based learning and teaching, WIS does strive to move towards the way of learning where our children acquire skills and knowledge that make sense and that are relevant to them and their lives.

Regards,
Maggie Reiff

Secondary Student Council

Last year the school participated in Movember. This is an annual event, which involves growing a moustache during the month of November to raise awareness of men’s cancer. The Movember drive is a annual event organised by the Secondary Student Council.

We raised a total of N\$ 550 for Movember. This money was handed over to the Cancer Association Of Namibia last week. The top contestants were Mr. Jackson-Read, Mr. Peter (Tuckshop) and Olof (Year 12). A big thank you to all the participants, students and teachers who donated money towards this cause. The money will be used to support men fighting cancer in Namibia.

The Secondary Student Council team looks forward to working with the Cancer Association of Namibia on upcoming projects like the Spray-a-thon.

Alicia Reiff



WIS BAZAAR**Saturday 25 February 2017 from 11:00 - 17:00 | Venue: WIS staff car park**

PTA Bazaar

Q & A from the organisers Sandra and Kathleen

- **What is the idea behind it?**

The idea is to stimulate entrepreneurship, create an opportunity to make and sell new and secondhand goods and to socialise. It gives artists a chance to expose their talents and to sell to the public.

- **What happens to the money I make?**

It's all yours!

- **What is the N\$100 fee for?**

This fee is for each vendor only. Tickets can be purchased at the PTA hut before the time and on the day for latecomers. - The proceeds will fund small initiatives throughout the school.

- **What if I have nothing to sell?**

Come and browse and chat to sellers. You never know, something may catch your eye.

- **Can I tell my friends and family to come along and join in?**

Yes. And friends of friends too.

- **Things to remember**

- Bring comfortable chairs and tables of your own.
- Request a table if you need it beforehand.
- Bring carrier bags for your sold items.
- An umbrella for sun protection (or rain)
- Small change

TIPS

- Create a display at your table.
- Keep your money and valuables safe.
- Lock vehicle.
- Keep handbags and other valuable inside your vehicle well out of sight.
- Remember to check that everything you sell works and is in good condition

! WARNING !

***This morning a parent's laptop was stolen from his car in the school car park.
Please ensure that your car is locked when you leave it unattended.***

WIS Wordsearch

B	N	L	E	S	S	C	I	S	U	M	F	U	N
A	U	P	R	I	M	A	R	Y	R	E	N	D	H
K	M	F	I	E	L	D	T	R	I	P	S	N	E
E	B	S	B	A	D	E	M	I	T	Y	A	L	P
S	E	K	L	R	U	P	R	O	J	E	C	T	S
A	R	O	M	P	Y	P	S	C	E	S	A	R	V
L	S	O	C	D	T	C	N	A	F	U	S	E	E
E	C	B	E	M	P	L	E	R	E	N	A	H	N
M	A	T	H	E	M	A	T	I	C	S	D	C	G
T	D	I	G	A	A	S	M	N	A	A	R	A	L
I	D	D	T	T	I	S	B	G	N	F	A	E	I
K	A	A	R	E	A	M	E	A	C	E	M	T	S
I	C	E	A	S	R	I	T	S	R	R	A	A	H
S	I	R	A	C	T	I	V	I	T	I	E	S	B

- ENGLISH
- PROJECTS
- CLASS
- CARING
- READ
- DRAMA
- NUMBERS
- MATHEMATICS
- PRIMARY
- FIELDTRIP
- MUSIC
- PYP
- ACTIVITIES
- ART
- TEACHER
- PLAYTIME
- BAKESALE
- FUN
- SUNSAFE
- BOOKS

WIS
proudly
presents

Around the World

BOOK WEEK & MOTHER TONGUE DAY

20 to 24 February 2017

Discovery! Exploring! Adventure!

More details to come...
Check e-mails & class blogs & Oryx & D6

Parents! We are looking for:
Storytellers & Mother Tongue Readers & Ideas...
email jstroh@wis.edu.na

5 Days!

Clothes

WIS
WINDHOEK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

WIS BAZAAR

SELL | BUY | PLAY | OLD | NEW | HAND-MADE

Date: 25 February 2017
Time: 11:00 - 17:00
Place: WIS Campus

BOOK A TABLE!
WE HAVE A LIMITED NUMBER OF TABLES AVAILABLE
OR YOU CAN BRING YOUR OWN!

N\$100 vendors fee

BOOKINGS:
PTA Hut on Thursdays 13:00 - 14:00
Contact us on
PTA@wis.edu.na

Face-Paint

***Only for Grade 9s and Above**

THE GREAT GATSBY



Masquerade Ball

Date: 03.03.2017
Time: 18:00-1:00
Venue: DHPS Aula
Price per ticket: \$50
Dress Code:
Formal (Masks Compulsory)



For Tickets Contact:
The WIS SRC or The DHPS SRC



Food and Masks will be sold at event

In Memory of CG Locke

26 May 2015 - 26 January 2017

How very quietly you tiptoed into our world, silently, only a moment you stayed.

But what an imprint your footprints left upon our hearts.

No one knows why bad things happen to those so innocent and whose life has hardly begun. Charles George Locke was a strong, beautiful boy who found his way into many of our hearts. Our words are not adequate to express the sorrow we feel for your loss. We are so blessed and lucky to have known his beauty, and we will keep his spirit alive with the many sacred memories we hold close to our hearts.

We hope these black clouds will roll away for you soon and you can remember CG's short life as the special gift it truly was.



When God comforted me

By Colleen Maclean

From heaven he was delivered
As a baby unto you,
When God said to me softly
I'm trusting you to do
Everything that's needed
To nurture and to love
He's your little angel
Sent from me above.

You see...spirits cannot be
Held, hugged or kissed
The body that was his vessel
Is what you'll surely miss
But his spirit that I shared with you
On that one special day
That is what I promise
To never take away.

So he is back in heaven now
The earth was not his place
He taught you all he could
About dignity and grace
So as you grieve and weep
To see him once again
I promise he's waiting here
When you get to heaven.

