



# THE ORYX

*The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School*

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

### School Fees 2019-2020

Today you should have received (or will shortly receive) a letter from the Chair of the Board of Directors concerning school fees for 2019-2020.

The new schedule will also shortly be placed on the school website.

**Peter MacKenzie**

## PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

One of the wonderful aspects about an international school such as WIS, is the diversity and the variety of nationalities represented in the school. The flip side of this is that many students are only part of the school community for a short time. With the end of the school year just six weeks away, many Primary students are aware that they or their friends will be leaving WIS to either go to another school in Windhoek (or elsewhere in Namibia), or to move to a new school in a new country (or return to their home country). This is a time of transition that is important to acknowledge, not only for those who are leaving, but also for those who are staying.

At school we support leaving students by:

- Making a goodbye book from the class, including messages from the children's various teachers during their time at WIS
- During the assembly nearest to their last day of school, recognising the children who are leaving and "whooshing" them well
- Ms Sharon meeting with the children near to the time that they are leaving to talk about their thoughts and feelings about leaving, what they are looking forward to in their new school and strategies they have for making new friends.

The following are just a few ways that parents might help children with this transition.

- Have your child make a special memory book of photos of friends and the things they like to do together.
- Plan some special playdates or get-togethers with friends and be sure to take photos to be added to the memory book. If you are moving to a new country, include in the book special places in Namibia that your child has enjoyed.
- Encourage your child that with email, Skype, FaceTime, Facebook, etc. it will be possible to keep in touch with his/her friends. The various addresses of the friends can be added to the special book.
- Discuss the upcoming transition with your child by asking questions such as,
  - What are you going to miss about your friends?
  - What have you enjoyed about your friendship?
  - What have you enjoyed about WIS? What are you looking forward to about your next school?

## Contents

- From the Director p. 1
- Primary News p. 1 - 3
- Secondary News p. 4 - 7
- Other News p. 7 - 9

## Dates to Remember

### May 2019

- **13 - 17:** Week B
- **25:** Africa Day - Public Holiday
- **29:** Secondary AA End
- **30:** Ascension Day - No school
- **31:** School Closed

### June 2019

- **07:** Primary AA End
- **10:** Internal Exams Start
- **19:** End of term 4



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**WEEKLY PUZZLER**

Eden in grade 3 correctly answered last week's puzzler. There are 13 different ways to arrange the switches having no adjacent switches both off. Well done!

This week we return to the mysterious island with knights, who always tell the truth, knaves, who always lie, and now add spies, who can be honest or dishonest at will.

On the island of knights and knaves and spies, you are approached by three men. One wears blue, one wears red, and one wears green. You know that one is a knight, one is a knave, and one is a spy.

The man in blue says, "I am not a spy."

The man in red says, "I am a knave."

The man in green says, "If you asked me, I would say that the man in red is the spy."

What are the true identities of these three men?

Send your answer to [pfarrell@wis.edu.na](mailto:pfarrell@wis.edu.na)



It is important to acknowledge your child's feelings of excitement, concern, fear, anxiety and sadness, as well as for your child to understand that these feelings are normal. It is also important to be positive and encourage your child that new friendships will be made and new schools bring new opportunities.

While these are just a few of the many ideas to help children cope with transition, I think these are some of the key ones which I hope you find useful.

If your child will be leaving WIS, please be sure to complete the withdrawal form, and inform Ms. Catherine (Reception), Ms. Carol (Admissions) and the Homeroom teacher in advance of the child's last day so that we can be sure to support your child in the transition process.

Regards,  
Beth Smith

**PYP Coordinator's Message**

*Through its inquiry-led, transdisciplinary framework, the PYP challenges students to think for themselves and take responsibility for their learning as they explore local and global issues and opportunities in real-life contexts.*

One such opportunity has arisen for our WIS students next week:

Introducing Dr. Kate Leeming who will be arriving in Namibia from Australia this Saturday to embark on an inspiring and motivational expedition.

Please read the story below:



***Skeleton Coast - Breaking the cycle in Africa - Education Expedition cyclist Kate Leeming is about to begin the first ever bicycle expedition down the length of the Skeleton Coast in Namibia, from the mouth of the Kunene River on the Angolan border, through the forbidden diamond mining region to the mouth of the Orange River on the South African border.***

***Tracking the shoreline, where the world's oldest desert, the Namib, meets the cold South Atlantic swell, Kate will encounter raging headwinds and sandstorms, tackle the territory of the endangered Kunene Lions, investigate some of the rusting hulls of a thousand shipwrecks and meet with some of the local indigenous cultures such as the Khoi-San, Himba and Herero.***

Be a part of the adventure and receive the blog by REGISTERING FOR THE NEWSLETTER at <http://www.breakingthecycle.education/>

This Expedition will be supported by our very own "Karibu Safari".

We are pleased to say that Kate has volunteered to come to our school next Monday 13th May, between 8:20 am and 10:40 am. This is a fantastic opportunity to meet this explorer. Kate has visited various International schools around the world sharing her message. She has volunteered to take time and come and visit our school to talk about her mission and her reason to come to Africa. Her main message is the "Importance of Education for all"....particularly in poverty stricken areas of Africa.



Kate has already cycled around Africa - going West to East .....22,000km. ...trying to share her message on how we can support education - she takes this education programme with her and is keen to share this with as many schools as possible. This is a great opportunity for our students to experience "real life and authentic connections" with inspirational people who try and make a difference.

There may be a photographer present at the presentation (which may be used for promotional articles). If you have any objections to your child being photographed during this presentation, please forward your message to [bsmith@wis.edu.na](mailto:bsmith@wis.edu.na) or [mreiff@wis.edu.na](mailto:mreiff@wis.edu.na).

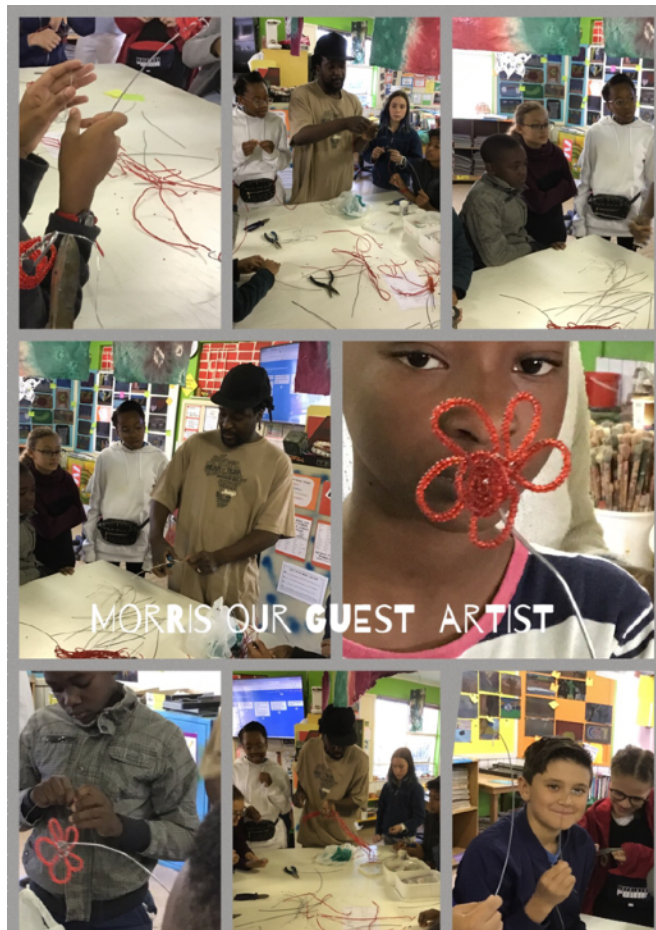
Avril van Zyl

## Morris a street artist visits the PAD

Morris, our guest street artist, visited the art room on Monday 6th May. He demonstrated how he makes his wire flowers. Students were in awe on how long it takes to thread the beads and then to secure them and wrap them into various shapes before even making the object! Some responses were: "WOW it was awesome!" "I had no idea what went into beading" "I would love to try this at home!" Selling these flowers is how Morris makes his living. Please support him. You can find him just outside the main entrance of the Craft Centre with a spectacular array of small and larger wire projects. They make excellent gifts!

Thank you to Arthur Stephanus, a WIS parent, who made this suggestion. And of course a HUGE thank you to Morris!

Genie Albrecht



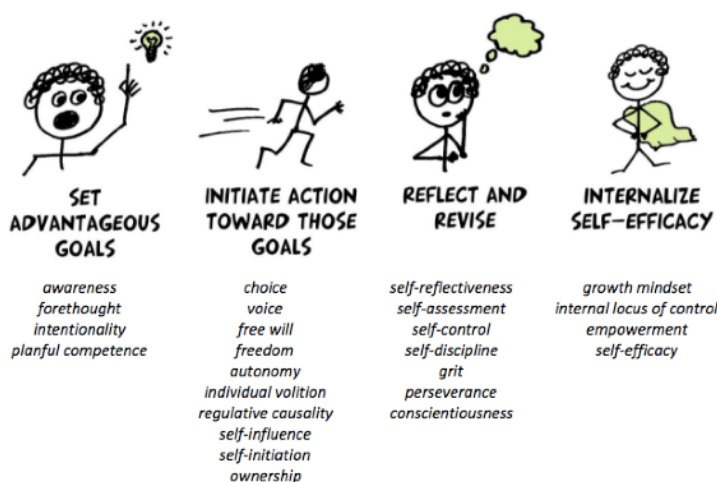
## SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

### Student Agency

This week I came across a term that made me think about the purpose of education - at home as well as in school. I write about this almost every week and reflect on it a lot. How well do we as parents and we as a school manage to give our kids the tools to have this so called "Student Agency". Ms. Jan from Primary shared a post about student agency with us this past week and that made me look into this term a little more closely.

The PYP places a lot of emphasis on *learner agency*. Looking at the different aspects of learner agency, is that not what we want for all our kids from toddlers right to when they leave our houses after finishing school? Is it not what we want in society? Having people set goals, take action, reflect on the outcome of their actions and be "self-effective". After familiarising myself a little more with this term, I thought it suitable to share this in my contribution this week and hope to start some conversations and discourse on this - amongst families, in school, between colleagues or peers.

Below is a good description of "student agency" - four components and related skills. This fits right into our efforts currently to look at the way we teach - and change our teaching to enable our learners to acquire these skills right through their school journey.



Don't we as adults aspire to most of the characteristics below? And having these at our disposal, would we not be able to act, interact and communicate with each other in a more effective way? At WIS, we certainly try to instil a lot of the characteristics in our children and by focussing on these, we help them become more independent and members of society who add value to relations and interactions between us.

[Part 1: What Do You Mean When You Say "Student Agency"?](#) (Insights 11 September 2018) by Jennifer Davis Poon, Center for Innovation in Education

Regards,  
Maggie Reiff

## Interested in studying in the US? Diarise this event!

Ms. Selma Toohey from International University Alliance (IUA) in Boston, USA will be visiting WIS on the **21st May 2019 @ 12:00.**

She is a representative of a non-profit alliance of U.S. institutions that are trying to make the process of applying to study in the U.S. easier and help students succeed once they are on campus.

### They are also an official partner of the IB!

The IUA comprises of:

- Adelphi University
- American University, DC
- Auburn University
- Florida International University
- Louisiana State University
- University of Dayton

- University of Central Florida
- University of Illinois Chicago
- University of Kansas
- University of South Carolina
- University of the Pacific

**All IUA partner schools waive application fees for international students, waive SAT/ACT requirements for international students and offer partial scholarships at all the above universities and offer wrap around services for international students to help them succeed once they are on campus.**

"I will be visiting Namibia briefly for the first time and I would love the opportunity to visit Windhoek International School to talk to students about studying in the U.S."

**Ms. Toohy is also happy to talk to parents on the 21st in the evening. If you are interested in meeting her, kindly email Ms. Maggie Reiff ([mreiff@wis.edu.na](mailto:mreiff@wis.edu.na)) by Monday, 13th May so that arrangements for this can be made.**

**Maggie Reiff**

## Earth Day Celebration

### Meets charity donation

The Social Committee would like to thank everyone at WIS for their generous clothing donations on 17 April 2019. It is amazing to see how well the WIS community came together to successfully pull off a clothing drive like this. Earth Day is celebrated globally every year to support the protection of our environment.



In school the teachers explained and discussed the importance of reducing, reusing and recycling to link with this specific topic. It is necessary that we raise awareness about how we consume materials, especially plastic. How does the use of plastic contribute to climate change? The gases methane and ethylene get released into the atmosphere when exposed to sunlight. Plastic products like water bottles, shopping bags and food containers are amongst these, which is why awareness can make a difference. By donating our unwanted clothes to less fortunate people, we show that we care and that we understand why reusing is merely one way to show how we can contribute positively to help save our planet.

The clothes will be sorted according to ages - since we received so much that we can donate enough to three different charities. Some of it will go to P.A.Y Namibia, a charity our CAS students are currently working with. Some clothes will be donated to the Cancer Association of Namibia, as many patients who come for treatment do not have proper clothing either, and the rest will be donated to a school in Otjimanangombe.



Thank you again for all your support in celebrating Earth Day.

**Angatha Janse van Rensburg**

## Student Choice

### Why student choice is important in the classroom

It has become clearer to me as a teacher, especially going through the transition and changes in Middle School, that giving learners more choice in their learning is important and positively impacts each and every learner's progress. Not every learner needs to complete the exact same assignment to achieve the same goals. All learners in this particular assignment received the same assessment rubric and time to complete their investigation.

The focus for the Grade 8 learners in Geography the past eight weeks was on Aid and Development. The learners were assessed on Criterion D (thinking critically). They had to show evidence that global warming is actually happening. They had the opportunity to choose a partner they would like to work with as well as how they would like to show their findings and prove their learning to the rest of the class.

I was amazed by the effort, engagement and learning that was taking place in my classroom. The presentations were creative and mind-blowing. One group created a documentary, showing real evidence of how global warming is happening. Another created a board game, with precise and meticulously worked out questions and answers, it was interactive and included all learners. There was a 3D poster with facts and evidence accompanied with a virtual reality headset for all learners to view. Some learners chose to create a slideshow that included actual news videos showing real life examples of contributing factors leading to global warming. Here is one [example](#), a slide show that Pedro and Sahara shared with their peers.

Experiencing the excitement and enthusiasm of the learners during this specific assignment, makes it clear that more choice during class activities and assignments fuels children's motivation and engagement.

**Angatha Janse van Rensburg**

## New ACT Grade 9 Service Initiative

The learning experience for WIS Grade 9 students in the coming school year will have an exciting additional component. These learners will have the fantastic opportunity to develop as persons through their participation in a required, new and important community service initiative called ACT which refers to:

**A = ALTRUISM**  
*in the local, national and global context*  
**C = COMMUNITY**  
**T = TRANSFORMS**  
*us (and our world) for the better!*



The programme’s aim will be to encourage students to give and make a difference with their time, energy and talents. Between August and December 2019 the Grade 9s’ community service experiences will occur on campus, while from January to June 2020 they will, under the guidance of chaperones, venture off campus to <http://paynamibia.org/> or other institutions doing good work in/around Windhoek to contribute and make a difference. Ms. Teresa Araújo and Mr. Rick Fitzpatrick are spearheading this initiative which envisions each Grade 9 learner completing 20 hours per year of ‘community service.’ Considerable enthusiasm exists within the Grade 8s (soon to be Grade 9s) for this new programme as apparent in the recent meeting in which this plan was unveiled. All are welcome to attend a parent info session on this ACT Grade 9 programme on **Tuesday May 28th**.

**Rick Fitzpatrick**

## News from the PTA

### Mini Olympics Highlights



Many MANY thanks to Mr. Jackson-Read for coordinating the Mini-Olympics at the PTA Family Braai and Earth Day Celebration on the 27th of April. Mr. Jackson-Read along with the CAS students did a phenomenal job

planning and executing multiple events that challenged the strength, stamina and wit of the participants.

The Olympics provided a structured, engaging activity for the students and allowed the parents in attendance to take part in the other activities of the day knowing their children were safe and having loads of fun.

It was a close competition, but in the end, the M&Ms team was victorious and took home the rugby ball trophy! Congratulations!

**Keri Dziuban**



## WIKA Street Parade

This morning during our Primary Assembly, two representatives from Pick and Pay - Zenlea and Veripi - handed over a N\$12 000 voucher to WIS. The voucher will be used by the PTA to support student events with healthy snacks and for other functions that require us to purchase food.

As you will remember, at the beginning of April, WIS participated in the WIKA Street Parade along Independence Avenue. We had a big group of learners, parents and teachers walking with our flags and a beautiful float decorated by a group of teachers on Friday afternoon.

Thank you to the teachers who helped with the float and everyone who participated in the parade. We look forward to an even more exciting and colourful float next year.



**Maggie Reiff**



# THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO LIGHT UP LIVES



ADVANTAGE | Y&R

Join the Buy-a-Brick Glow in the Dark Run and help bring light to the lives of low-income shack communities who require warm, brick homes.

17 May 2019 | 18h00 | Windhoek, Oshakati & Walvis Bay

**10km Run / Fun Walk    5km Run / Fun Walk**

- / N\$100 for adults
- / N\$80 for 6 to 18-year olds
- / FREE for 5-year olds and under
- / FREE beanie + soup at the finish line
- / FREE glow in the dark gift

Best Dressed corporate/family competition for all 5km walk participants with loads of prizes up for grabs.

Don't run with your legs. Run with your heart. Bring the family and enjoy music, food, warm drinks and plenty of fun for everyone.

Register online at [www.otbsport.com](http://www.otbsport.com)  
For enquiries, please contact [yvonne@otbsport.com](mailto:yvonne@otbsport.com)  
Online entries close 15 May 2019 at 12:00.

