



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

PARENT INFORMATION PORTAL
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Dates to Remember 2023

- **2 - 28 February**
[Black History Month](#)
- **21 February**
International Mother Language Day
- **22 February**
Lent
- **23 February**
Parent Coffee Morning
- **25 February**
WIS Fish Eagle Fishing Bonanza
- **27 February - 3 March**
Book Week



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Community,

In this Oryx article you will find a few different reminders and requests. You may want to act on some of these or stow them away for future reference.

WIS School Phones

- Due to recent weather conditions, the school has been experiencing regular phone line outages at our **main phone landline: +264 61 241 783**
- We have therefore purchased an official school cell phone. Teachers and staff may sometimes also utilise this phone when calling parents about student-related matters. Could you please save the following number to your trusted contacts?
WIS cell phone number: 081 146 0243.
- Please continue to use the main phone landline number as the main number for contacting the school.

Metal Detectors Wanted

- As part of our site expansion safety procedure and for educational purposes as well, we would like to utilise a metal detector to scan the ground located within the newly enclosed area of the school campus. If you have one of these and wouldn't mind loaning it or helping the school with this project then please notify reception@wis.edu.na

International Day

- It takes a global village! Please add your name to the hyperlinks here if you would like to be involved in serving for an hour as an [extra eye for security](#), or [serving on the rota as a bar tender](#). Please email reception@wis.edu.na if you would like to have a stall or booth and you have not yet signed up.
- Please invite your friends and colleagues. This is an open event to which the wider community is invited.

Have a lovely weekend,

Ethan Van Drunen

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Junior Peer Counsellor (JPC) Programme at Windhoek International School

As an IB World school, WIS values opportunities for learners to play an active role in decisions affecting them, plan and review actions taken as well as taking responsibility for how things will happen. Children in Grade 3-5 can contribute and show leadership by being a Junior Peer Counsellor (JPC). In this role, they share responsibility for the WIS school community and aim to help the wellbeing of people around them. If anyone needs support or company at playtime, a JPC can help!

The role of the Junior Peer Counsellor

A Junior Peer Counsellor...

- is a friendly and approachable person we can ask for help
- organises or teaches playtime games
- helps look after playtime equipment
- plays with children who are lonely
- helps with friendship problems
- informs adults of concerns

Preparing for the role

In the Grade 3-5 Homerooms, all children will be introduced to the role of the Junior Peer Counsellor. Students can apply by submitting a one-minute video pitch in which they explain why they would be suitable for the role. This should be submitted to Ms. Marcelle (mvanleenen@wis.edu.na) or Ms. Christelien (crjarman@wis.edu.na) by 3rd of March.

The appointment of the junior peer counsellor will be for one term. 4 JPCs per grade (2 per class) will be appointed. Once appointed, a training session will be delivered to ensure children are confident in their role and feel supported. The training will include:

- Skills in active listening
- Resolving Conflict
- How to teach and organise playtime games
- Identifying bullying
- An invitation to the Knights of the Round Table (lunch club)
- Upper Primary Counsellors supporting Lower Primary Counsellors

The points of contact (leads) for the peer counsellors are Ms. Christelien, Ms. Marcelle and Ms. Sharon. This way it is clear who to speak to if at any time a JPC feels concerned or at all overwhelmed by their role. Children are welcome to come and discuss their role, including any concerns or worries, at any time with the Junior Peer Counsellor leads.

Supporting the Junior Peer Counsellors in class and across the school

All children, teachers and EAs will be made aware of the important role of the Junior Peer Counsellors. The idea is to create a culture in which everyone is on board with a safe and happy play environment and supports the peer counsellors. The JPCs will be introduced during assembly and will be visible on the playground. Their pictures will be displayed so that students recognise them.

Here are some things students may be introduced to in class to support the role:

- How to be an active listener
- Playground choices- social stories
- Playtime issues scenarios
- What makes a good friend?
- Resolving conflict cards
- When to share (and when not to)

- The Learner Profile in action on the playground.
- What is bullying?

As parents, please support this very important role and encourage your child to apply!

**Warm regards,
Marcelle van Leenen**

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

The journeys we all take - often, they take unexpected turns, but in the end, we reach our destination ...

When hearing from students who have already graduated from WIS and when working with students across the secondary school on their plans for the future, I am excited to see how this process unfolds.



Very often, young people find it really hard to decide what they want to do in their future. In our world today, it is particularly challenging to find the right path and know what you want to do. Students no longer study for one career that they will follow for the rest of their lives, they no longer have a straightforward route to take. In fact, young people these days need to be open minded and considerate of so many different factors when making decisions on their careers.

While our Grade 12 students are in the last stretches of their high school lives, they are planning and exploring all the options that lie ahead of them; a challenging task, given the multitude of different opportunities that present themselves to young people these days.

It is, however, a critical element of this decision making process, that our young people invest time and energy into researching what is feasible, financially possible and sustainable for their futures. Many of our young adults aspire to become citizens of the world who are not focussed on one location. Many will be transient and live and work around the world - as many of our former students already do. In order to be able to do that, our young people need to be adaptive, resilient, resourceful and confident.

I have been fortunate to be in touch with many of our alumni, and I find, again and again, that they have all these attributes, more so, they are able to be actively involved and engaged in their societies and communities in what they do in their lives and careers. So many of our young people take responsibility for the world they live in and are role models for their generation and generations to come in the way they approach their futures.

WIS, in our approach to educate young people 'to become internationally-minded independent thinkers' and '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' engages students in more than just learning different subjects . WIS in line with current pedagogical thinking, aims to make learners more self-directed, more critical thinkers and more aware and active in and or their surroundings. This in turn then educates young people to become confident, critical thinkers who know what they want, but who also know what the world needs



In a world where there is so much conflict and disharmony, we need young people to create futures for themselves where they can have an active role in helping solve conflict and helping prevent further conflict and ensure that the world around us can sustain itself and flourish through citizens of the world who take care of humanity and our planet as a whole

**Regards,
Maggie Reiff**

Update

Progress regarding school security and construction possibilities.

In recent months a major concern of the school has been a lack of security, especially regarding the fence and numerous break-ins. Multiple classrooms and teachers have been robbed which is a major crisis for the school. Following these events the school has been making a great effort to upgrade school security. They have been able to complete a few major goals which we are reporting on.

Firstly the school has completed the revamp of the boundary fence, they have increased the area the fence surrounds. The new fence is a stronger, less vulnerable type of fence that cannot be easily cut by potential thieves. A CCTV system has been installed allowing for the monitoring of the perimeter. These upgrades have been made possible through the grant of US\$ 338800 from the US Department of State Office of Overseas Schools the school received. The main contractors were Fortitude Construction, the secondary contractors were Hangula Construction and Vosch Cameras installed the CCTV. The school also has plans to implement a security guard training program.

As the area the fence surrounds has increased, there are opportunities for possible construction, a few possibilities are a multi-sports centre or a recreational area for students. In fact, we intend to send out a google form requesting suggestions and votes on pre-existing ideas for the open area.

In conclusion, the school has achieved their goal of increasing the security and safety of the school allowing for all of us to receive the education we need with peace of mind.

**Rishabh, Panduleni, O'brien and Adam
Grade 9 ATL Technology, Innovation and Safety Committee**



17 February, 2023

Random Acts Of Kindness Day

One good deed can change a person for a whole day



Car Security Stickers

Please collect your 2022 - 2023
windscreen sticker at the Office!





PANGOLIN CONSERVATION & RESEARCH FOUNDATION PCRF

Registration & Tickets Run & Event
 18+ \$150
 18 under \$100

Event
 18+ \$150 in advance
 18+ \$200 gate
 18 under \$80

Tickets available at WebTickets & PickNPay

web tickets NAMIBIA
 AVAILABLE ONLINE AND IN-STORE **Pick n Play**

WORLD PANGOLIN DAY

Raising awareness for the conservation of pangolins
18 February 2023 @ Eagles Beer Garden
TRAIL RUN & FUN RUN/WALK
1.5 KM for the Kiddos
5KM for the more motivated

Pet Friendly **Swimming Pools**

7:00 : Registration & Indemnity
 7:30: Run starts (Prizes for top three 18+ women/men category, & kids prizes also)
 9:00: Yoga on the lawn by Eva Eichorn
 9:30: Pangolin roll & Expert competition
 10:00 Prize Giving
 9:00-11:00: Kids face painting, bounce house, activities
 11:00-5:00: Market & fun
 1:00-5:00: Music with the Ells & more
 4:00: Raffle draw (tickets available at event and on PayToday)

MARKET & MUSIC

- Kiddy Corner all day long, play ground bounce house, pools & activities with prizes
- Nice grass for the doggos
- Food and Craft vendors: Jewelry, Art, Hand-made goodies, products & more
- Some art from Let Every Scale Count exhibition
- Music & Wine Tasting for the Adults
- Raffle with prizes totalling over N\$40,000!

The Ells & more!

Scan for more info!



**RAFFLE GRAND PRIZE: 2 ROUNDTRIP TICKETS TO CAPE TOWN
 GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY FLY NAMIBIA & MUCH MORE!**



WINDHOEK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

INTERNATIONAL DAY

SAVE THE DATE!

11 MARCH 2023

14:00 - 18:30



**WATCH THIS SPACE
FOR MORE INFO SOON!**

FUND RAISING FOR THE WINDHOEK SPCA



Primary Student council would appreciate it if:

You can support the SPCA by:

- Donating blankets.
- Donating dog and cat food.
- Donating animal toys.
- Adopt our fury friends.



We will be accepting donations from the 10th of Feb up until the 31st March.





YFU SOUTH AFRICA
make the world your home



Discover the World as a YFU Exchange Student!

Become a YFU High School Exchange Student

An exchange year, semester or term with Youth for Understanding (YFU) gives you the opportunity to discover a different culture, learn a new language, and find a 'home away from home' on the other side of the world. It will open your eyes to different possibilities for further study, employment and personal growth. Thousands of learners, host families, schools and volunteers have joined YFU in the 70 years of its existence. Why don't you!?

YFU offers the following high school exchange programmes:

- **Destinations:** Over 20 countries in Europe and Latin America
- **Duration:** From 8 weeks to 10 months
- **Departure:** In August or January (and June or November for selected programmes)
- **Homestay:** All YFU exchange students live with a local host family
- **Educational:** All students attend a local high school in their host country
- **Add-Ons:** Language courses and specializations (sports, art, music...) available upon request
- **Fees & Funding:** Visit our [website](#), download our [fee overview](#), or contact our office
- **Application:** [Application forms](#) to be submitted at least 6 months prior to the departure date
- **Requirements:** 15-18 years old, in grade 9-11, average of at least 65% across all subjects

Youth for Understanding: Changing lives since 1951

YFU is one of the world's oldest and largest non-profit exchange organizations and has provided study abroad opportunities for over 270,000 high school learners since 1951. We opened our doors in South Africa in 1995 and started offering our programmes in Namibia and Botswana in 2022. YFU is a volunteer-driven organization with offices in 50+ countries and we continue to create international friendships and promote intercultural understanding and global citizenship.

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Get in touch with us!

✉ info@yfu.org.za
☎ +27 82 464 3957
🌐 www.yfu.org.za

Or find us on social media!

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