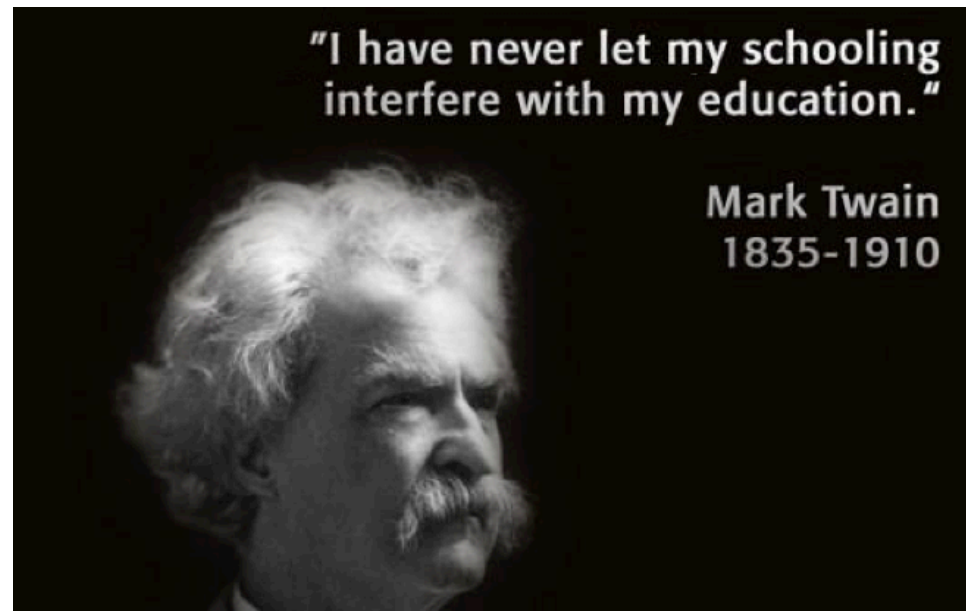




THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR



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Dates to Remember

March 2017

- **21:** Independence Day
- **27:** Start of Term 4
- **27 - 31:** Secondary Week B

Education or Schooling?

What was Mark Twain getting at? What is the difference between “education” and “schooling”?

It seems to me that *education* is the opening of doors, the encouragement of critical thinking, the acquiring of knowledge, the honing of skills, the opportunity to experiment, the gaining of understanding, being encouraged to question and doubt, the growth of self-knowledge, and the experience of both success and failure.

(Well, there’s more to it than that but this short list isn’t a bad start.)

Schooling, however, is about training, conditioning, promoting acceptance and obedience, discouraging individuality, and stifling creativity and originality.

But isn’t “schooling” what happens in schools? Alas, it often is. And alas (even more), many governments and not a few parents wouldn’t have it any other way. Schools, according to them, exist to mould young people according to the prevailing orthodoxy, be it political, cultural, religious, or whatever. It tells young people what to think, not how to think.

That is why I tell people that one critical characteristic of an international school is that it is not a national school. It’s a statement that at first seems banal. But the potential released by that “banal” statement is actually rather extraordinary.



Staff Feature

Mariana Arase - Year 4 Teaching Assistant

My name is Mariana Arase and I am proudly Namibian-Nigerian and I have been working at WIS as a teaching assistant for 14 months now (started Jan 8 2016).

I graduated from the University of Namibia in 2015 with an Honours Degree in Clinical Psychology. I plan to further my studies and get a Postgraduate degree (Masters) in Applied Child Psychology, thus I needed to garner some experience in working with children so I decided to try working in a school environment.

Why Child Psychology:

Children are some of the most complex and fascinating beings to inhabit our world, and often people (me included) wonder why we must study their growth and development. In my short and very limited experience I have come up with 3 reasons:

Continues on page 3

Fees 2017-2018

You should have received yesterday another copy of the payment schedule first published in October. It contains important information about when fees are due for the next school year. If you did not receive the message, please contact the School Office.

The Board is currently working on next year’s budget and an announcement regarding fees should be made shortly.

With best wishes
Peter MacKenzie

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Thank you to all parents and guardians who supported the Student-Led Conferences, visiting the Homeroom, as well as the Specialists classes. I hope the conferences gave you a window into your child’s day and that you were positively surprised by the independence and the progress your child has made. It was wonderful to see the children happily and proudly showing their parents to their different classes.

The Primary staff will be reflecting on the student-led conferences - what were the positives and what could be improved. Your input will be appreciated as well. Please take a few minutes to complete the Google form, which can be accessed via this link: [Click Here](#)

Have a wonderful holiday break with your child. Please remember that one of the best things you can do educationally, is to encourage reading: read to and with your child, as well as encouraging your child to read independently.

I look forward to welcoming all of the Primary children back to school on Monday, 27 March.

Regards,
Beth Smith

Year 3B students are **</learning to code>** using their classroom iPads. [CLICK HERE](#) to read more and hear what they have to say about it!



Staff Feature continued

Children like to have their environment explained- thus I have to look at what they are looking at from their point of view and try to understand them from their perspective.

Children are intuitive- Honesty goes a long way with kiddies. do not be brutal about it just be honest with them.

Emotional development- Most important (my opinion) and is very crucial at any age, but is especially important during the 'inquisitive' stages.

Working here at WIS and interacting with children on a daily basis has been amazing, to say the least. I learn something new from them every day.

When I got my degree and decided to gain practical experience with children, I did not picture myself in a room full of 20+ kids as I am an introvert and they may be little humans but I was scared and overwhelmed. Children are hypersensitive to somatic pain, anxiety etc. so once I was introduced to them, a little girl who probably noticed my discomfort, came up to me and asked : "How tall are you exactly?" and the rest they say is history.

I live by the saying "Numquam Satis" which means "Never Enough". Education, love, respect etc. there is never enough but we give and receive it anyway. Children are our future, I simply want to be part of nurturing and molding them into the great men and women they will become.

Great Soccer

Take two...

The WIS U9's, U11's, and U13's boys performed admirably in their third fixture in the newly formed HopSol Football League. Our boys embodied all the positive characteristics of the learner profile that we value so highly at WIS. Across all three age groups the teams have really progressed in a very positive way and we look forward to their continued progression and success.

We are also looking for new recruits so if your son is interested in participating sign up for training next term.

Thanks again to our parents for their super support and encouragement.

We are also in contact with our local partner schools about having some inter school football for the girls.



Watch this space.....

Thomas Jackson-Read

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Time flies when you are having fun

It seems just a short while ago that we celebrated our 25th Anniversary and with that a special edition of the yearbook.

Going through the different sections for this yearbook, I am reminded of a great amount of events we were able to host and celebrate this past year.



International Day once again, was a fun day and with the collaboration of all concerned, parents, teachers, students and the wider community, we managed to celebrate our diversity in all its culinary and colourful breadth.

With our Outdoor Education Coordinator and the assistance of different teachers, we were able to host a variety of field trips from the Arnhem Caves that were visited by Year 12s and Year 7s, to the Oranje River, that the Year 10s bravely attempted again, to summiting the Kilimanjaro with our WIS and Namibia flags. This was certainly a once in a lifetime experience for the whole group participating.

Our Student Councils organised different events, among them the Spirit Week, Peace Month where living essentials for the Osire Refugee Camp were collected. We supported the Cancer Association with the annual Movember Drive and the Spray-a-thon. The Middle School celebrated a Halloween Party and arranged a Christmas in a Shoebox present for an orphanage. In March, the Senior Student Council in collaboration with DHPS hosted a Masquerade Ball. This was a huge undertaking and in the end, after the stress of collaboratively organising an event, both DHPS and WIS Student Councils should be commended for a great event.

For the first time in a long time, WIS participated in the Johannesburg Model United Nations again. This was an experience that your students prepared for very intensely with the assistance of Ms. Rimmington, Mr. Jose and Mr. Rishcynski. The students learnt a lot and met some new friends.



And there is so much more we celebrate and we are proud to have been part of. To all who were involved in any of the events taking place in school this past year - well done, you make us proud and you ensure that we are a vibrant, connected community. Enjoy this yearbook that will elaborate more on the different events and showcase our diverse community from Namibia and around the world.

Regards,
Maggie Reiff

Celebrating Independence Day

Yesterday, 16 March, we celebrated our annual Independence Day Assembly. Namibia will turn 27 on the 21st of March. Our celebration ventured around the independence of women and empowering people to be bold and care for the people around them. Among our presentations were two impressive drum pieces, a video about the Afternoon Activity Unsung (Her) Stories, a poem and two very eloquent MCs.

Our guest speaker was a former WIS students, Taimi Itembu. She graduated from WIS in 2003 and is still very proud to be a member of our WIS community and part of the WIS Alumni.

We would like to share Taimi's biography with our community and want to express our appreciation for her to take the time to address our students at the Independence Day Assembly.

"Taimi Itembu gained her BA Joint Major in Political Science and Psychology from St. Francis Xavier University in Canada where she focused on International Relations and Gender Psychology.



Her overall passion is the study and work around micro- and macro-economic policies, international aid regimes, and the overall effects of international organizations and non-state actors in global policy.

To date, she has fulfilled her passions by working in direct service and management with international students and residence life programmes for two years at STFX University where she advocated for the awareness on social issues of poverty, hunger and promoting tolerance through diversity campaigns to inspire global citizenship, mutual understanding and respect.

Upon her return to Namibia, she worked with various organizations, working alongside fellow WIS kids such as Ben Gorelick and Rowland Brown assisting in projects at the Institute for Public Policy Research which is an organization that is home to Namibia's thinkers in economics and politics.



While working as a Junior Consultant, she also worked as the Alumni Coordinator for the US Embassy which was a role focused on diplomatic promotion of community development, peace, democracy and stability. She worked with various community-based organizations assisting in funding campaigns for organisations such as Pots Of Hope for women living with HIV/AIDS and mentorship programmes with Young Achievers Namibia and Physically Active Youth.

Feeling like an outsider in her first 2 years in Namibia, she felt the need to blend her career

environment and took on a job working with the Planning and International Relations department at the Namibia University of Science and Technology, where she worked as the lead coordinator on large scale programmes such as the EU/Intra-ACP Programme and the planning officer to assist the Polytechnic of Namibia to implement the transformation activities towards becoming the Namibia Institute of Science and Technology.

She was later employed by the former Chairperson of the National Council where she assisted the Chairperson and advised on social and political issues, civic engagement and community economic programmes for Namibia.

To date, she is facing her biggest challenge yet, working for the Judiciary of Namibia and is part of the team that is setting up policies and in general establishing the newest Office in the Namibian State.

In addition to her academic and professional credentials, Ms. Itembu has built a successful health-and-wellness business with a fellow WIS KID, Nangado Kauluma where they advocate for health and wellness across the country. The Pulse Health and Wellness studio is home to her famous dance fitness classes and often also advises Namibian corporates on wellness programmes within the workplace.

If asked to describe her in two words, she is a dancer and smiler and she believes that the two should always be executed jointly.

Maggie Reiff



Osire Refugee Camp

On the 25th of February, 2017, eight students from the Windhoek International Student Council finally delivered the donations collected for the Osire Refugee Camp, which is situated 200 km north from the capital Windhoek. After a long drive, we finally arrived and were allowed to drive through the camp once the bags with donations were placed inside the office. The camp is divided into different sections, of which we were allowed to see three. We participated in sports that the children were playing, like football and basketball. Overall, it was a heart-warming experience and we would love to visit them again.

Selina Kinne

Calling All Basketball Players!

Training for basketball has started very positively on Tuesday and Thursday afternoon between 3 and 4 pm. We are delighted to welcome Coach Mpume who will be working with all our talented young players.



Recess Cafe

A heartfelt thanks to all for your on-going support! It is a pleasure for us as a team to serve the school community, and we hope to continue striving towards providing healthier meals for students, teachers and parents alike.

As we all know, this is the end of the financial year and prices increase. **Price increases** will take effect at the tuck-shop as from next term due to the anticipated annual increases from our suppliers, and can be expected to be 10% across the board. This means that students that spend N\$20 a day will now need N\$22 or N\$25 a day.

Our menu will be getting a bit of an update over the break too! We are excited to cut out some of the bread items and include more fresh vegetarian and vegan dishes. Keep an eye in the Oryx early next term.

We wish everyone a peaceful and safe break and look forward to seeing everyone back next term!

Kindest regards,

Peter and the Recess café team!





**Windhoek International School Parent Teacher Association
(PTA)**

Dear parents & Caregivers

16 March 2017

Annual Raffle

The WIS Raffle is an annual fundraising event that has always proved to be our most successful way of generating funds for the PTA.

All money raised by the PTA is channelled directly back into the school into the various projects, all of which aim to improve the Windhoek International school vision of being a World Class International School with diverse staff to prepare independent, inquiring and self-motivate citizens of the World.

The PTA team has collectively gathered 22 **Fantastic Family Prizes**, which means that each prize caters for Mum, Dad and child.

Our target this year is to raise N\$200 000. With each student selling just one book, we can achieve this. Each student is allocated a Raffle Book with 10 tickets at N\$50 each ticket.

Students are encouraged to sell as many raffle Books as they want and Parents and staff may also sell tickets. The PTA will reward the class that sells most tickets within the due date. Additional books can be obtained from Carol Heimstead's office: Administration Building.

All Raffle Books must be returned by the 18th April 2017. All Raffle books must be accounted for, even if all tickets are not sold. If a Raffle book is lost or not returned it will have to be paid for by the family concerned. The Price of the **Raffle Book is N\$500**. As soon as the Raffle Book is full, it is advisable to hand it in to the home room with the money.

The Raffle Draw will take place on the 22nd April 2017 during the Family Braai at WIS.

Thank you in anticipation of a great response, we really appreciate your willing contribution to the most successful Raffle WIS ever had.

P.S: Should you object to participate in our Annual Fund Raiser, please kindly return the Raffle book by 13 April 2017, a donation in lieu of selling the tickets would be appreciated.

Sandra Camilo-Giroud

PTA Chairperson

Thank You!



Dear Raffle Sponsors

We the PTA Team at Windhoek International School would like to thank you for your kind generosity and commitment to donate to the WIS Community an array of fantastic raffle prizes.

We would like to thank the following sponsors:

- ***Amazing Grace***
- ***Auto Sueco***
- ***Avani Wellness Centre***
- ***BDO***
- ***Caotinha Guest Cottage.***
- ***Creative silver***
- ***Devil's Claw***
- ***Engineering Centre***
- ***Felix unite***
- ***Joes Beer House***
- ***Gondwana Card Collection***
- ***Garnish Restaurant***
- ***Goju Ryu Karate Namibia***
- ***Ntema family***
- ***Haiku sushi***
- ***Oukulele Day Spa***
- ***Hotel Europa Hof Swakopmund***
- ***Iam Hair Salon***
- ***Lisa Atkins Photographer***
- ***Nitzsche Reiter***
- ***Robbiati distribution***
- ***Sardinia Blue Olive***
- ***Windhoek Go-Carting***
- ***Westlane Spar***

WIS PTA

**THE TRIAL
OF
GOLDILOCKS**
by Joseph Robinette

31st March 19:00
Tickets: N\$30 at WIS Auditorium
Presented By Arrangement With DALRO

OMBA GALLERY EXHIBITION

Y(OUR) RE-AXSHUN

IBDP VISUAL ARTS
EXHIBITION

OPENING NIGHT: APRIL 4TH
2017

DURATION: APRIL 4-11 2017

TIME: 18:00-20:00

*Daniela Santos
and Rautia Abner*



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