



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Development

For some time, the School has been talking about 'Development'. There are facilities we would like to add and others we want to renovate.

I am therefore delighted to be able to inform parents that we have recently engaged an architect who will partner the school in assessing our future needs and the best ways in which to meet them.

It is very much the intention of the Board of Directors that this is the first step towards a significant building programme that will take place over coming years.

In connection with this, parents, students and teachers will shortly be invited to complete a survey to gain their opinions of our current facilities and their priorities for additional facilities. Details will follow in the coming weeks.

Toddlers

A month ago I wrote in The Oryx that the Board of Directors were reviewing the future of our Toddlers class. Demand for a class for two year-olds is limited and we have to ask if we could make better use of the facilities and staffing. I invited comments from parents and teachers with strong opinions either way. I received none.

At the October Board meeting this week the Board took the view that the Toddlers class is unlikely to continue beyond August 2018. If so, this would have no impact on children currently enrolled but we would not be accepting any new applications for August 2018.

A final decision will be taken at the November Board meeting.

The Board of Directors...

... makes important decisions regarding the strategic future of the school. (See above.) It numbers not fewer than seven and not more than twelve members, most of whom are WIS parents.

There are two routes onto the Board. One is to be appointed (at any time) by the Board. This is useful as and when the Board wants to add someone with specific experience or expertise. The other route is to be elected by current WIS parents at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

This year the AGM is planned to be in the middle of January. (You will receive formal confirmation of the date shortly.)

Peter MacKenzie
Director

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Dates to Remember

November 2017

- **11:** International day
- **14:** World Diabetes Day
- **17:** Staff Work Day - No school for students
- **28:** Board meeting

December 2017

- **1:** Last day for AA Term 2 - Primary & Secondary

WEEKLY PUZZLER

Scalene triangles were nowhere to be seen this past week. The solution to this puzzler is challenging to explain in words, and anyway, we don't want to spoil the fun of solving it. And so, back to the vault of unsolved puzzlers it goes.

Here is the new puzzler: Haikera is twice as old as Nairenge was when Haikera was as old as Nairenge is now. The combined age of Haikera and Nairenge is 112 years. How old are Haikera and Nairenge now? (Hint: use of algebra might make it easier.)

We should get some solutions this week. How about adding a little twist? How about a competition: parents vs. students. Who will win puzzler bragging rights?

Please send your solution to pfarrell@wis.edu.na

New puzzles can also be submitted to pfarrell@wis.edu.na.

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

This week I am writing from The Hague where Avril van Zyl and I are attending the IB Global Conference. There are 1500 participants in attendance from schools all over the Africa, Europe and Middle East region, representing over 100 countries, not to mention the numerous languages spoken.

This conference is allowing us to hear about the latest developments with the PYP and attend workshops related to teaching and learning. We have been inspired by the plenary speakers: Daniel Goleman (author of the book, Emotional Intelligence), Tony Wagner (whose latest book is, Most Likely to Succeed: Preparing Our Kids for the Innovation Era), Patrick Awuah who is the founder and president of Ashesi University in Ghana, and Ewan McIntosh (the author of How to Come Up with Great Ideas and Actually Make them Happen) who spoke about stimulating students to change the world. We have been able to speak with the various vendors and see some of the products they have to offer. We have met and interacted with colleagues in similar roles in other schools, as well as connected with friends and acquaintances. We shall return to school inspired, having some new ideas, as well as the affirmation that the Primary School is moving forward in a positive direction.

Following the Global Conference I'll be flying to Libreville, Gabon to participate in a PYP School Team Visit for authorisation. I will return to school on Thursday, 2nd November.

*Regards,
Beth Smith*

WIS International Day 2017

Dear Members of the WIS Community,

As you know, International Day will be held on 11th November this year between 10am and 3pm at school on Scheppmann Street.

International Day, a WIS tradition for more than a quarter of a century, is our biggest event of the year. It is a community-wide event that recognises, celebrates, and appreciates the diversity that makes WIS such a unique school in Namibia. This event is organised by the Parent Teacher Association Executive Committee, school Events Committee, parents, staff and students collaborating together but is also open event to the public and to our wider community to enjoy.


The goal and vision of International Day at WIS is to bring our community and families together to celebrate unity in diversity. For our students (and for others) it is a valuable learning opportunity made possible by the presence and participation of people (and peoples) from all over the World. The school's ethos is proudly internationalist. But internationalism does not mean denying or diluting one's cultural identity. Quite the opposite: true internationalism is rooted in an understanding and appreciation of one's own culture and its place in the World.

The event will be student-oriented and, as much as possible, student-driven. Visitors will enjoy cultural, educational and culinary experiences from all the countries being showcased by our students and the participating Embassies.

We very much hope that you will be a part of International Day 2017!

More information will be coming out from various Year level teachers and the PTA.

Yours sincerely
PTA and WIS Events Committee



e-Learning

If you had a chair and a desk, you were lucky. It functioned. Look at where we all are today. Does this classroom set up work today? Could it be better?
[CLICK HERE to read more...](#)

The classroom as we knew it

Pupkewitz Gala

Interschool Swimming Competition



The past weekend, swimmers from 12 different schools in Windhoek and even as far as Swakopmund participated in the annual Pupkewitz Schools Gala. The Pupkewitz Foundation has been supporting this project for more than 48 years and with the help of the Namibia Swimming Union, the gala was truly a great experience for those that participated.

The events started on Friday with the 50m Butterfly, 50m Breaststroke and continued with the 50m Backstroke, 50m Freestyle and 200m Freestyle relays on Saturday. Despite stiff competition, WIS students showed courage, determination and team spirit into the last races. I would like to congratulate all swimmers for their effort.

A special congratulation goes to Victoria Ellmies, Hishamuddin Hazim (Ashraf) and Mark Tibazarwa. Victoria won 3 Gold medals in 50m Freestyle, 50m Breaststroke, and 50m Butterfly as well a Silver medal in the 50m Backstroke. Ashraf won 2 Silver medals in 50m Freestyle and 50m Breaststroke and a Bronze medal in the 50m Backstroke. Mark won a Silver medal in 50m Freestyle for in the Primary School Division.



Our youngest swimmer Kabelo Hekandjo (Year 2) came 9th in the 50m Backstroke(1.20. 20). The School had 99 individual entries, which is the most entries we've ever had in this gala.

Is swimming the best sport ever? It is one of the most fun and enjoyable activities. Those who swim will agree with me. I'm not a swimmer; however, my daughter is and so are many other WIS students. **Commitment is the key to success in any sports discipline.** Many of our WIS swimmers are committed to swimming. Even if training sessions are sometimes physically-demanding, an athlete needs to demonstrate self-discipline, responsibility and perseverance.

Thank you to all swimmers, parents, and supporters, without you this Gala couldn't be a success. Please [click here](#) to view more photos from the event.



Congratulations to our daddies for representing WIS in fun- parents -relay. From the left: Thomas Jackson-Read, James Daniel Damon, Berry Schipper, Pierre Giroud

Last, but not least: anyone can take up swimming. You don't have to be an excellent swimmer you just need to show commitment and have fun. So let's keep swimming!

***Date to diarise - Our next Inter House Swim Gala for Primary and Secondary will take place in February 2018.**

I wish all our swimmers strength and lots of success!

Beata Stephanus

(on behalf of the Sports Committee)

Donation to Wake up! Early Education Centre

Approximately two years ago WIS took part in a global challenge to help raise awareness amongst our school community about climate change in general, and water saving in particular. The event took the form of a fundraiser. Students, staff and parents participated in a "Best Slogan" competition and the winning slogan was printed on a T-shirt. Jurg Nel - came up with 'Save a drop, save tomorrow' as the winning slogan. A parent sponsored reusable water bottles for participants to use in the final activity of the day, a 3.5 km walk in the neighbourhood. Students of all ages, staff, parents and extended families joined in.

The funds raised at this event, an amount of N\$16000.00, was donated this week to **Wake up! Early Education Centre.** This preschool, situated in Otjomuise, opened its doors in 2010, and accommodates 80 young students between 2 and 6 years of age. The school caters for children from the immediate vicinity as well as from the informal settlements nearby. Many of the children are considered vulnerable.

On Tuesday this week we were visited by the Principal and founder of the preschool, Ms Loes Bellaart, two of her staff members, Talita and Loide, and 4 young students. Peter MacKenzie handed over the donation on behalf of WIS, and each of the 4 children handed over their own artistic creations to the school as a way of showing their appreciation.

We wish Wake up! all the best in their aim to provide a solid foundation for learning for their young students.



Sharon Gorelick & Angatha Janse van Rensburg

Senior Netball

Staff and Students

Thanks to all who came for the first netball training session on Wednesday evening. We played between 5.30 and 7.00 (in very pleasant temperatures) at the school court.

We are preparing to enter the school into the inter schools netball competition starting in March 2018
New players welcome Y8 and up only.

Parents also welcome to play, please let me know in advance if you'd like to join.



Junior Netball

Our primary players are working hard on their netball skills with Ms Hildebrandt.

I  **NETBALL**



On the brilliance of 17 year-olds

Enrico Palascino and Selina Kinne

At 17 Franz Peter Schubert started composing the music for Erlkönig, a poem by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe that depicts the death of a child assailed by a supernatural being, Another 17-year old, WIS's own Selina Kinne, with help from her Year 13 classmates Mila, Christine, Warren, Emilia, Micaela-Leigh, brought this masterpiece home to us. Last Saturday evening, at the DHPS AULA, it was our utmost privilege and immense pleasure to be captivated by this ballad played by Italian-born master violinist Enrico Palascino and his striking presence on stage. The audience was privy to an outstanding and breath-taking celebration of classical music from Gretel Coetzee's beautiful and rich singing voice to the ferociously powerful violin duet of Palascino and Namibian legend Jurgen Kriess, not to mention Selina's intense piano performance. Towards the end, most people had been through a gamut of emotions that could hardly be contained.



Selina put enormous demands onto herself, being the organiser, the MC and playing no fewer than 6 pieces on the piano, all of them of different styles with various degrees of complexity, ranging from Bach to Gershwin.

This shows how prodigiously hard-working DP students can be. The proceeds, over N\$ 40 000, are all for the benefit of the students of The MÔRESON Special School where Selina volunteers regularly.

Photo: Heike Rubbert

Sources: www.britannica.com

Padmini Nadar-Japal

Once upon a time in a land not so



“FARAWAY...”

Date: 6th December 2017 Time: 19:00

Venue: Windhoek International School Auditorium



The Old

Age



Visit

We would kindly like
to request students
and/or parents to
contribute and
donate items/food



We will be serving
about 150

PENSIONERS!!!

OUR IDEA TO SERVE IS:

- 2 pcs of chicken,
- Potato salad/
- Greek salad, Juice,
- and Vanilla
- Ice-cream



PosterMyWall.com

