



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School



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Dates to Remember

February 2017

- **6:** Secondary week B
- **13:** Secondary week A
- **14:** Inter-house Athletics
- **16:** IB/ IGCSE Info Session
- **20 - 24:** Book Week
- **25:** PTA Bazaar

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Home or School? Parents or Teachers?

I am indebted to a parent who this week brought to my attention something that has "gone viral" (as they say) on social media.

A school in Portugal apparently produced and displayed in its corridors a poster that said:

- We would like to remind you that magic words such as hello, please, you're welcome, I'm sorry, and thank you, all begin to be learned at home.
- It's also at home that children learn to be honest, to be on time, diligent, show friends their sympathy, as well as show utmost respect for their elders and all teachers.
- Home is where they learn to be clean, not talk with their mouths full, and how/ where to properly dispose of garbage.
- Home is also where they learn to be organized, to take good care of their belongings, and that it's not ok to touch others.
- Here at school, on the other hand, we teach language, maths, history, geography, physics, sciences, and physical education. We only reinforce the education that children receive at home from their parents.

What are your reactions to this?

My own thoughts are that – at least at schools like WIS – everything we do should be a partnership. Teachers and parents have a shared responsibility to educate and guide, advise and teach. But I do think it is fair enough to suggest that we'll take the lead in terms of academics but expect the home to be where children first learn about manners, respect, courtesy and compassion.

I should be interested to hear what you think.

**With best wishes,
Peter MacKenzie**



Staff Feature

Carol Heimstadt
Admissions Officer & Site
Coordinator

I grew up in a town called Sasolburg in the Vaal Triangle in South Africa. When I got married 30 years ago we moved to Sundowner in the Northern Suburbs of Johannesburg.

I moved to Windhoek in 1990 with my husband Horst who is Namibian. I started working at WIS in 2001, 16 years ago but I came to WIS with a long history. My daughter Nicole started at WIS in Ms. Ruby's class when the school still rented premises at Van Ryan school in Windhoek North.

Both my children are graduates of WIS and I strongly believe that WIS positively influenced the successful adults both Nicole and Kai are today.

I look forward to my Granddaughter joining our dynamic community soon.

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PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

What do children learn by your example?

The Learner Profile is a set of attributes which describe the International Baccalaureate's mission statement. Ultimately these define the characteristic of an international, global-minded citizen. The Learner Profile is for all members of the school community, not just the learners. Throughout the day your children are encouraged to practice the attributes of the Learner Profile whether it be during lessons, at break time, or in their general interactions with peers. The educators try to model these attributes as well. This isn't for show or to tick a box with the IB. This is what we believe is important not only in school but in life. It is with this in mind that my article for this week concerns the car park.

Almost on a daily basis when I am outside greeting families in the morning or saying goodbye in the afternoon, I remind someone about being parked in a "No Parking" area. I can appreciate that spaces near the Lower Primary classrooms are limited and for many there's a time crunch to collect the children quickly so that parents can get back to work, or to get the children to an outside activity. However, does that make it okay to park in a no parking zone?

While it may require a few more steps, there are between 6-10 spaces usually available in the row of spaces near the PLC. One could also park outside the gates and walk into the school grounds. We teach the children to be *balanced*. A little further walk will be good exercise after a full day at school.

We teach the children to be *principled* (doing what's right, being honest and fair). What do they learn when they see cars parked "illegally" in the car park? We also expect that the children use the zebra crossings when negotiating the car park, even during the day when there are few if any cars around. What do the children learn when they are guided by their parents to walk through the open car park without using the zebra crossings?

We teach the children to be *caring*. They can't always be first in line. They need to be respectful of others. When cars are parked in the "no parking" areas, it causes congestion, blocks the flow of traffic and can present safety concerns. What message are the children getting about being caring when they see cars parked in areas meant to ensure safety for the pedestrians in the car park?

We teach the children to be *knowledgeable*, whether it's being knowledgeable about a specific subject or about the expectations in school. Please model for the children your knowledge of expectations in the car park. A rule of thumb to follow: If your car is not parked between two white lines, it is not parked legally. As a friendly reminder, the following pictures indicate the "No Parking Areas." Please share this with anyone else who transports your children to or from school.

Staff Feature continued

Before employment at WIS my husband was a board member and I was the PTA chairperson for a few years. I am proud to say that I have attended every International day the school has had.

I think my role as admissions officer is the reason I love working at WIS. I have taken so many new students to class and it is always a emotional experience. It is special to see the little one's say goodbye to their parents.

I understand their fears especially those without English. The biggest reward is watching them grow and develop and just enjoy going to school.

Besides work I love keeping fit. I boot camp, go to gym, love running but my favorite remains Yoga.



We teach the children to be *reflective* about their learning, their actions and their personal development. Please reflect on your own actions in the school car park and ensure that you are helping to keep the pedestrians in the car park safe, that you aren't causing unnecessary congestion, and that you are setting a good

example for the children by parking only in the designated areas.

Regards,
Beth Smith

What's going on the in the PYP?

The Learning Environment - The Classroom

The classroom environment sometimes is referred to as "the other teacher." A carefully designed classroom greatly facilitates and supports the implementation of the PYP.

In its role as "the other teacher," the classroom environment has five major goals to meet:



- 1.Promote learning processes in which learners are engaging with one another and with objects of interest, exploring in a focused manner, constructing and representing understandings
- 2.Communicate the identities of the learner and the image of the learner
- 3.Invite learners to take multiple

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



- perspectives and make multiple connections
- 4.Promote a sense of well-being in everyone
- 5.Encourage parents to engage with the life of the classroom.

Once a classroom environment has been constructed with these goals in mind, teachers make ongoing changes in it for a variety of reasons; for example, because children's interests or ideas are moving in new directions, because the teachers see new possibilities for stimulating learner's interests, or because they see a better way for the environment to serve one or more of the five goals stated above.

At WIS our teachers and learners have the advantage to explore and learn in various contexts. We are fortunate that our environment allows us to tap into natural resources and learners and teachers are learning within and outside the classrooms. The learners also have a part to play in the design and use of their classroom.

As you know learners spend a large part of their day in their classroom and I'm sure if you asked them they would say it is also their home away from home. Students have SO much to do and organise in a day – multiple subject, assignments binders, notebooks, projects Taking the classroom outside: Open, outside learning spaces. As seen in the pictures, multi sensory activities and learning centres that encourage exploration and experimentation.

Learners are able to choose how they can work and there is a focus using various levels and areas in the classroom. Depending on the learning and tasks they have had input into how they can group themselves and move around the classroom.



In a PYP classroom you will see a lot of movement and activity rather than rows of desks and all learners doing the same task. Teachers have been rearranging and moving their desks to the side and making more space for learners to use. There is an emphasis on creating a more learner focused environment.

Best,
Avril van Zyl - PYP Coordinator

Making at WIS

Makerspaces are mushrooming around the school to encourage exploration of 21st century skills required in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). [Read more](#)

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

What are the most important values we impart in school

In a society, there are certain values and expectations of conduct, that make society function. If these are not adhered to, there is conflict, disappointment and disharmony that causes an overall feeling of frustration or sadness.



At WIS, we have the IB Learner Profile, that guides our daily interaction with each other and our own approach to situations and interpersonal interaction.

I am inviting you to let us know what you value most in society. What are the key attributes that necessary for us to function as a school and as a community? If you want to contribute to this survey, please send me an email (mreiff@wis.edu.ng).

It will be interesting to see how far we - school, parents, students - are on the same page when it comes to the things we value.

In today’s society, with the fast evolving lifestyle, technology that moves faster than some of us can keep up with, we sometimes need to take a step back and ponder on the things that are really important for us to be happy and content with our lives.

Regards,
Maggie Reiff

Windhoek International School Meets

Charlotte Latin School in the USA!

Way back in September I was put in touch with a teacher from the Charlotte Latin School in North Carolina, USA. She is a secondary Mathematics teacher just like me. We decided to link up her Grade 8 class with my Year 9 class. So....what would this look like we pondered? How could this work? Her students started,



making individual videos introducing themselves and posing a Mathematical problem for our students. We then partnered the students, and the WIS students made videos in return, introducing themselves and answering the problem, sending an even harder one



WIS Year 9 students, making a "Happy Holidays" video to share with their partner school in December.

in return! And so it began..... Many videos have now been sent back and forth. It is great to find our students working hard to find how to get solutions to the problems being posed, occasionally involving Mathematical concepts they haven't yet covered! Also it's very interesting to learn about the lives of these students in the USA and for them to learn about the lives of our students! They are amazed by how many different

nationalities are represented in a small group of students and how many languages our students can speak! I was delighted that this amazed them as the diversity of our student body is one of the reasons I love to come to work every day!

Lian Cohen

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!

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

WIS BAZAAR

Saturday 25 February 2017 from 11:00 - 17:00

Venue: WIS staff car park

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