



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

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Dates to Remember

June 2021

- **17:** End of term 4
- **18:** Staff work day

August 2021

- **02 - 06:** Staff work week
- **09:** Start of New Year 2021-22

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

At this time of the school year, I always find myself questioning where the year has gone and thinking there is so much to be done in the time that remains. While the end of the school year seems to still be in the distant future, it's just three weeks away.

Some of the Primary students will be leaving Windhoek International School and going to new schools either in Windhoek or in another country. It's important that those who are leaving have closure to their time at WIS and also that those who are returning to WIS have closure with their friends who are leaving. At school we support the students with this transition by making goodbye books, setting time aside on the child's last day for doing something special, acknowledging the leaving children at assembly, and meeting with Ms. Sharon to talk about what they look forward to as well as what they are going to miss. When we know in advance of the actual date of a child's last day of school, we can plan accordingly.

Some suggestions for how you can prepare your child for transitioning to a new school include:

- Acknowledge your child's emotions about moving to a new school or another country.
- Talk about what your child looks forward to in the new school, what will be missed about WIS, and any worries he/she may have.
- Schedule playdates with close friends - they might create a scrapbook or video about their friendship and include photos and a list or description of favourite activities they've done together.
- Get contact details (email addresses, phone numbers) of your child's friends and share your contact details so that they can keep in touch.



Similar suggestions can be applied to helping your child whose friend is moving to a new school or to another country:

- Acknowledge your child's emotions about his/her friend's moving,
- Talk about what your child has enjoyed about their friendship and what will be missed; include a discussion about the friends he/she will continue to have at WIS and who might become a new friend;



- Schedule a playdate with the friend who is leaving - they might create a scrapbook or video about their friendship and include photos and a list or description of favourite activities they've done together;
- Get contact details (email addresses, phone numbers) of the friend who is leaving and share your contact details so that the children can keep in touch.

If you know that your child will be leaving WIS in the next month, please inform your child's teacher, Ms. Carol (cheimstadt@wis.edu.na), and Ms. Catherine (reception@wis.edu.na) so we can ensure that your child has the chance to have closure for his/her time at WIS and give your child a proper farewell.

Regards,
Beth Smith

WIS students learn and play Swift 30

SDG Edition



The United Nations in Namibia joined forces with the Windhoek International School on 19 May 2021 to introduce the newly launched board game Swift 30: SDG Edition to the students from Grades 1-5.

It was an exciting day in the School Library, where students joined a series of play sessions facilitated by the United Nations (UN) Namibia team. The students got a chance to experience the brand new game from UN Namibia which was officially launched on 12 May 2021 by the Deputy Minister of Education, Hon. Faustina Caley, and Sen Pang, UN Resident Coordinator in Namibia.

Swift 30: SDG Edition is a locally made board game that brings the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into the hands of the youth, to educate them on Namibia and its goals and how they can positively impact their future. The game was produced in collaboration with Namibian entrepreneur Ms. Ndeshi Fikameni and her company, Afroprintline. The game is sustainably designed and built on the concept of her successful Namibian "30 second" rendition, the original "Swift 30." Ndeshi attended the session helping to explain the rules and trouble shooting, alongside the UN team.

The activation with WIS was the first of many to get the game in front of learners to teach them about the UN's seventeen Sustainable Development Goals. The coordination lead from WIS, Ms Debbie Carew hailed the initiative as an "out of the box way to connect the concepts of the goals with the students, which is fully aligned to the learning ethos of WIS."

The Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice, and are streamlined into Namibia's National Development Plans. The SDGs were adopted in 2015 by world leaders. "Guided by the goals, it is now up to all of us, governments, businesses, civil society and the general public to work together to build a better future for everyone," said Errollice Tjipura, from the Resident Coordinator's Office in Namibia.

Through the creation of this game, UN Namibia aims to empower youth to take their future into their own hands and embody the premise of the SDGs to take action and make an impact in their daily lives. The UN team visiting the school were impressed with the knowledge the WIS students have of the SDGs. "It was enlightening to see the level of exposure the students have to specific SDGs, even the Grade 1 learners could relate to some

of the goals. We are grateful for the opportunity to complement your units of study on the SDGs through this game," said Welda Mouton, from the United Nations Information Centre.

The WIS learners all enjoyed a friendly (yet fierce) competition when playing Swift 30: SDG Edition. The game is fast-paced, entertaining, and, most importantly, educational. All the questions are geared towards a Namibian audience along with a global perspective and therefore the players get to learn about the country in a fun and interactive way.

Students and teachers were completely immersed in the fun and provided the following feedback:

"I really like the game. It was very fun and it helped us with teamwork and with world health." Gabriella, 4D

"I enjoyed the game because of how well thought out it was and the fact that there were things where we needed to read the card upside down or switch players! I loved the team work, sometimes we would make mistakes but it was fun nonetheless. The game was about the world and equal advantages and it really made me think about the fact that not all people have things like houses, money, food, electricity and that they have even more worries than me. It's sad how everyone can't have an equal life and it makes me so happy that they are trying to help and give everyone an equal advantage," Hazel, 4D

"The game was very fun and enjoyable, I learnt a lot of new things and I hope I can do stuff that helps achieve the goals and sustain a more connected planet," Frenzy, Grade 5.

"I liked that it was fun and at the same time we learned something new, it was challenging and gave us an idea of what to do to fix things. I also liked that it was made out of sustainable resources," Yael, Grade 4



"I loved the way I could learn more in a fun way. I would love to play the game again soon. I appreciate the hard work you guys put into the game. Again thank you!" Shafa, Grade 5.

"I loved the game, it was fun, I wish I could play it all day long." Chloe, 4D

Debbie Carew in collaboration with Welda Mouton (UN Information Centre Namibia)



SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Wrapping up 2020-2021 - a time to reflect and look ahead

The end of the academic year gives us a good opportunity to reflect on the year that ends, but also to look ahead to the year ahead.

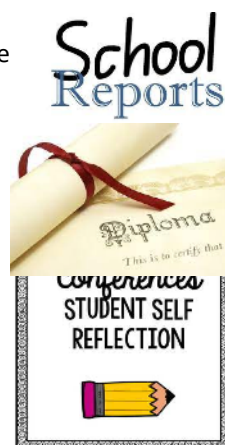
In the coming weeks, there are several opportunities for students, teachers and parents to come together to reflect and set goals for the coming year.

- **Wednesday, 2 June - Grade 5 Transition to Middle School** - this is an opportunity for Grade 5 parents to inform themselves about the transition of their child to

TRANSITIONS

Middle School. Information will be shared about changes and what to expect in Middle School.

- Friday, 4 June - Final Transcripts for secondary students are sent to parents
- **Monday, 7 June - Parent Information Session on the introduction of the WIS High School Diploma** - as mentioned previously, WIS will be introducing the WIS High School Diploma (WIS HSD) at the start of the new academic year. In order for parents and students to understand what this means, we want to present this to the community, specifically Grades 8 upward and any other interested parents. This will be an opportunity to ask questions and have a conversation about the WIS HSD. Further details will follow.
- **Thursday, 10 June and Friday 11 June - Reflection Conferences for Secondary School** - these conferences will be an opportunity for students together with their teachers and parents to:
 - reflect on the past year and set goals for the coming year:
 - discuss Map Growth for the year (Grade 6 & 7)
 - discuss Criteria Growth for the year
 - discuss next steps for students
 - There will be no lessons for secondary students on both days. We do, however, recommend that parents sign up and attend these conferences together with their child(ren).
 - Conference times:
 - Thursday, 10 June - 07:30 - 15:00
 - Friday, 11 June - 07:30 - 14:00
 - Conferences will be 10 minutes long per student with the teacher with a 5 minute transition time between the different conferences.
 - More information on signing up for the conferences will be shared at the start of next week.
- **Thursday, 17 June - Last day for students**
 - Final end of year assembly
 - Returning of all school materials and signing of Exit Slips
 - School ends at 11:30.

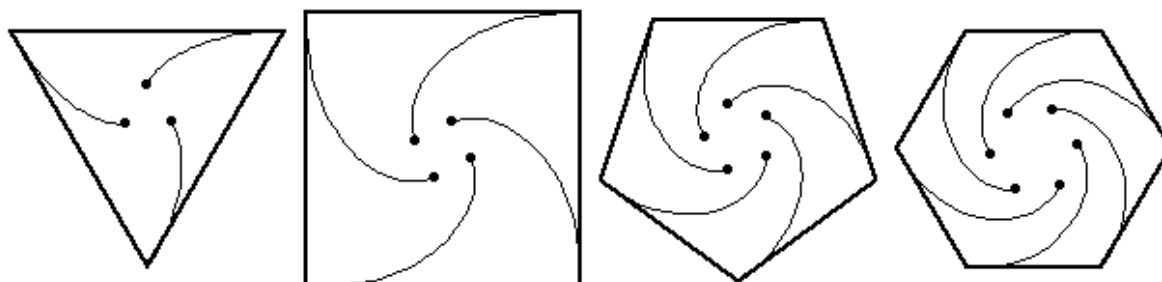


We hope to welcome many students and parents to these different opportunities to share information and to reflect and look ahead.

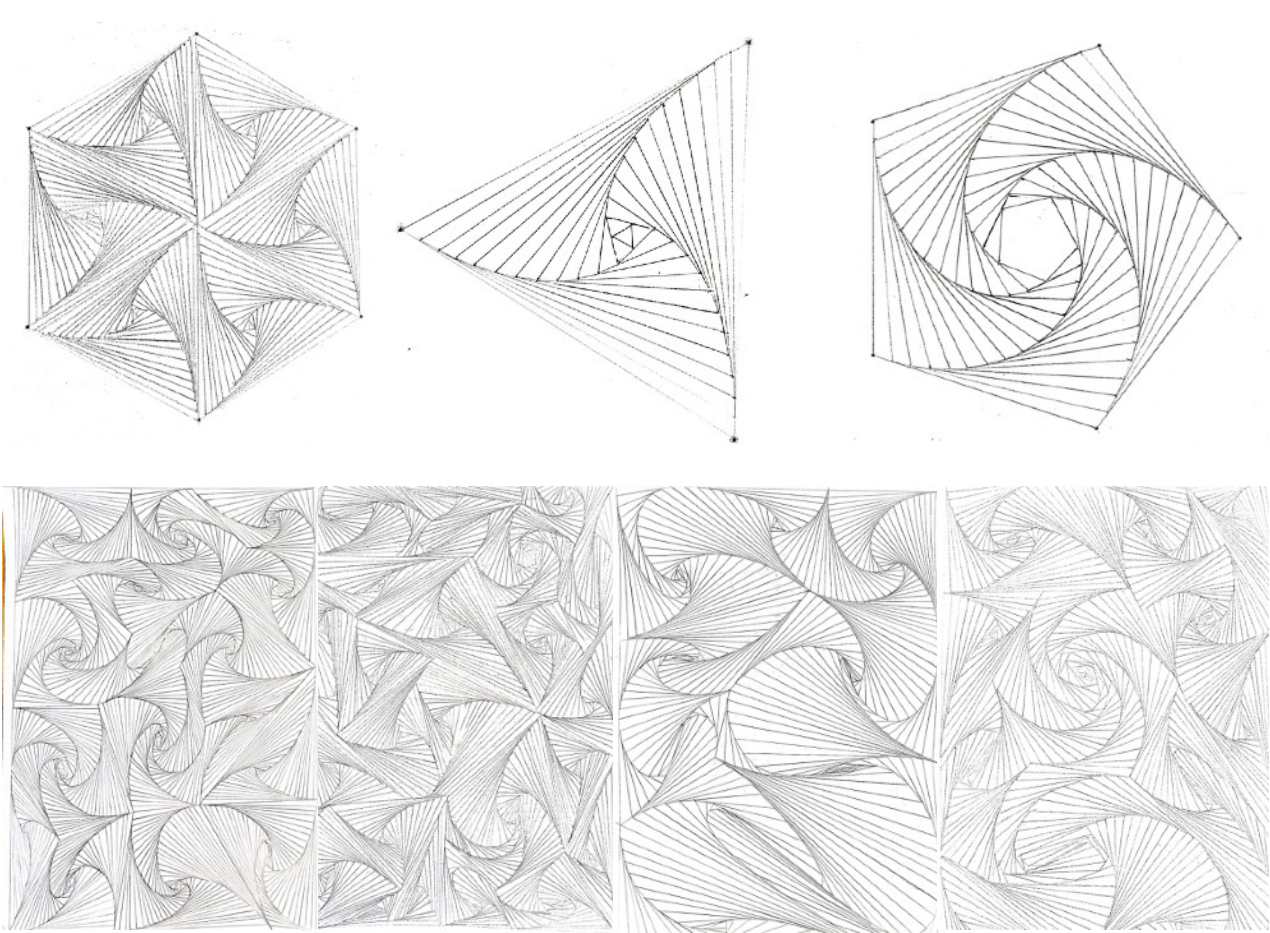
Regards,
Maggie Reiff

PURSUIT CURVES

In the mice problem, also called the beetle problem, mice start at the corners of a regular polygon of unit side length, each heading towards its closest neighbouring mouse in an anti-clockwise direction at constant speed. The mice each trace out a logarithmic spiral and meet in the centre of the polygon.



Grade 9 students constructed their own regular polygons and created Pursuit Curves using only a series of straight lines. They then investigated what it would look like with irregular polygons, and also many different polygons side by side, creating the most beautiful designs. Here are some of their images:



IBDP History

Students deepen their grasp of Namibia's decolonisation process



Two recent guest speakers - one in person and the other virtually - enlightened the dozen WIS Grade 11 Historians about aspects of Namibia's first ten years after independence. [Author of Good Morning Namibia](#), Erika von Wietersheim provided learners with an in-depth look at the experience of the Nama in the years around 1990. Ms. von Wietersheim highlighted that the ending in the mid-1970s of apartheid laws in Namibia helped considerably, but the legacy of the decades of apartheid was still evident. Last week Henning Melber, the Namibian analyst who lives in Sweden and wrote [Understanding Namibia](#) provided [a superb overview via our Google Meet virtual link up](#) of the challenges of state-building that Namibia faced in the 1990s. Learners conveyed their appreciation to both speakers, highlighting how the personal connection helped them grasp the reality more deeply.

Rick Fitzpatrick

IB Learner Profile

Open-Minded

Congratulations to the following seven students and one teacher for displaying the IB Learner Profile trait, Open-minded, for the month of May.

Well done to; Gr. 6 - Skye Steenkamp, Gr. 7 - Jayden Kambinda, Gr. 8 - Emmanuel Kalumba, Gr. 9 - Evan Black, Gr. 10 - Roberto Fernandez, Gr. 11 - Amelie Gross, Gr. 12 - Victor Liebenberg and Teacher - Johan Meyer.



Our last IB Learner Profile for this year is: REFLECTIVE

Reflective

A REFLECTIVE student gives thoughtful consideration to their own learning and experience. They are able to assess and understand their strengths and limitations in order to support their learning and personal development. IB students have developed an ability to reflect on their learning and to articulate how they learned. They have learned that critical reflection is an important academic and life skill.

Reflective thinking turns experience into insight.

Do you reflect on and evaluate your own performance in class and in your work? Are you able to recognise and take on board your strengths and weaknesses? Do you revise your work and adapt your behaviour based on reflection?

Please send your nominations for your peers and teachers to Ms. Angie at

ajvrensburg@wis.edu.na

WINDHOEK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

GR. 5/6
TRANSITION
PARENT
MEETING

2 JUNE 2021 @ 18:00
IN WIS AUDITORIUM



COME AND LEARN MORE ABOUT THE
TRANSITION TO MIDDLE SCHOOL!

WINTER WARM UP

The WIS Board of Directors and the SLT would like to invite you to a family event to celebrate the successful conclusion of what has been an interesting year!

FOOD! MUSIC! GAMES!



**Save the date :
Thursday
10th June 2021
5pm to 8pm**

Join us for a much needed community gathering - building community spirit at WIS. Meet teachers, other parents and members of the Board!

REMEMBER:

- Bring a soup bowl, a mug for a warm drink, and a spoon
- Energy to play some sport or join the high energy fitness class
- Glühwein and hot chocolate will be served

COVID SAFE EVENT WITH MASKS & SOCIAL DISTANCING IN EFFECT

★ **SOME ACTIVITIES WILL BE ON OFFER:** ★

Volleyball

5-A-Side Football (sign ups on the day)

A fun filled fitness/dance class with high energy music

Live music!

SOUP SIGN-UP!

If any parents would like to volunteer to help out on the day and supply a soup and/or bread for the event, please complete the [FORM](#) or email: reception@wis.edu.na

Soup sign-up deadline Monday, 7 June.

USED ITEMS NEEDED!

Do you have any of the following used items that you don't need anymore?

- glass jars (*jam jars*)
- second hand t-shirts
- magazines
- old shoes (*to be used as pots for planting*)
- objects for still life (*such as bottles, books, vase, statues*)

Please donate them to the WIS Primary School Art room!



NEON ROLLER DISCO

SINCE 1919

TOM JACKSON READ
FOR MORE INFO : + 264 81 778 5135

Entrance N\$ 50
Skate rental N\$ 50

Prizes to be won
Bar and Food available
Games, Music, Fun,

FRIDAY MAY 28

18H00 - 21H00 @DTS



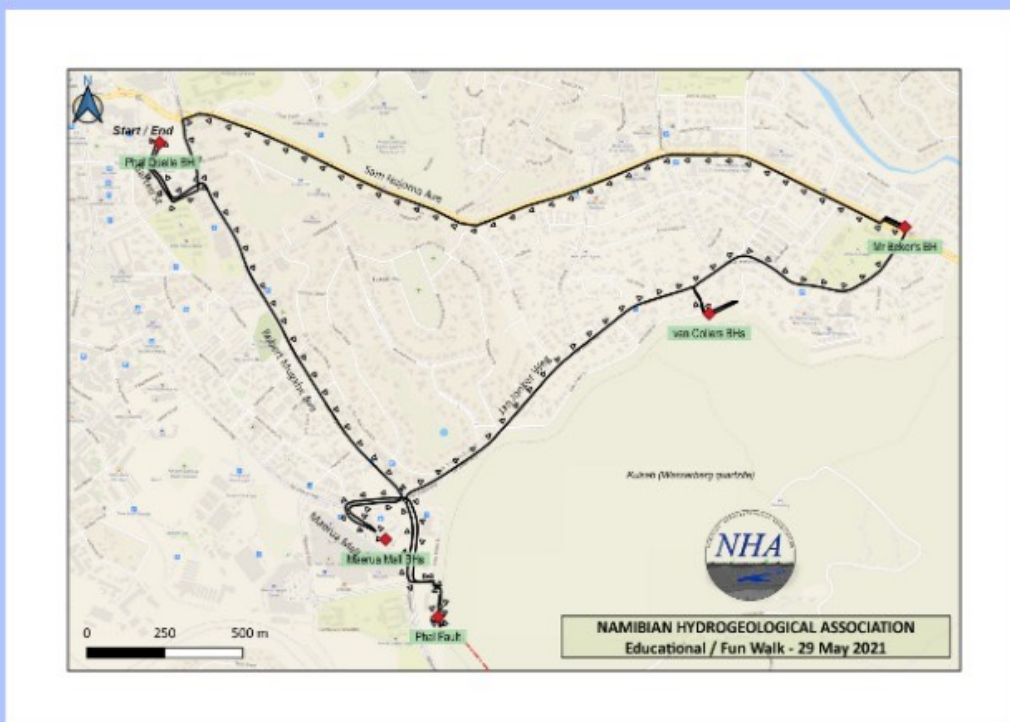
GET TO KNOW WHERE YOUR WATER COMES FROM. CHECK OUT THE CITY'S HOT SPRINGS.

HYDRO-GEOLOGICAL FUN WALK WINDHOEK

29th May 2021

Starting time: 07h00

Starting point: Corner of Garten Str. and Dr. AB May Str., close to Wine Bar.



Adults: N\$50 | Under 16: N\$25

Payment via Ewallet, BlueWallet, EasyWallet to:

0813630066 OR 0814099870

Last day for payment: 27th May 2021

Limited space available

Contact: Ester-0814099870

COVID-19 REGULATIONS TO BE OBSERVED