



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Annual General Meeting

Notification was sent out in early December but let me remind parents of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) to be held at school on Wednesday 30th January at 6pm. I hope that all parents will make an effort to be there.

May

For the past three years (at least) there has been a week's holiday in May. This is because Workers' Day (1st May) and Cassinga Day (4th May) often fall in the same week (and in 2016 we had Ascension in the same week too).

But this year Cassinga Day falls on a Saturday and Easter is elsewhere so we only have 1st May (a Wednesday) to accommodate. So there will be no week-long holiday in May.

En passant, people (teachers, parents...) often ask me if it possible to accommodate such-and-such in next year's calendar. The answer is pretty much always, yes. Almost anything is "possible". But there must always be a trade-off. A two-week holiday in March? Sure. But then we need to have a shorter holiday somewhere else. Finish the school year earlier in June? Why not? But then maybe we need to have a shorter break in December.

Years ago I read about a figure in a senior leadership position. His favourite saying was, "I can do anything; but I can't do everything".

School calendars are a bit like that.

Peter MacKenzie

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Are you a Maths person? Do you solve problems quickly? Do you like Maths?

The Grades 1-5 Homeroom Teachers are currently participating in a self-paced online course: Mathematical Mindsets, which is being offered through Stanford University. During the course the teachers are "learning about the latest neuroscientific research about the best methods by which students learn Maths, as well as learning specific methods and approaches that can be used to successfully help students develop a growth mindset." (Excerpt from the course description).

This week 2P and 4V watched a video about having a growth mindset in Maths. They've written reflections about what they learned. These have been posted in the classroom or outside on the bulletin board. Here are some of the comments the students wrote:

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Dates to Remember

January 2019

- **21 - 25:** Secondary Week A
- **21:** Afternoon Activities Start
- **30:** 2018 - 2019 AGM @18:00



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Staff Feature

Susanne Haugk Finance Manager

I have lived my whole life in Windhoek, Namibia. I am the second of three children and, growing up, my parents always encouraged us all to nurture intellectual curiosity. My sister is in the medical field, my brother is studying law and I crunch numbers. Which, as you can imagine, makes family conversations very interesting.

I went to Holy Cross Convent Primary School and for secondary school, I went to Windhoek High School. It was at high school that I discovered my love for accounting. The numbers made so much sense to me and I believe that anything in life can be translated into numbers, which makes my work tremendously enjoyable.

After high school, I was lucky enough to start my audit articles while completing my degree through distance studies. This equipped me with both practical and theoretical knowledge.

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- Mistakes are proof that you are trying
- It's good to make mistakes. You learn from your mistakes.
- When I make a mistake, I shouldn't feel down because making a mistake is another way of learning and that makes you get smarter and helps your brain grow.
- Don't give up and try again.
- You don't need to rush to show you are good.
- There is no such thing as smart or not smart.
- Challenging activities are good for your brain.
- When you do Maths quickly it doesn't prove that you are smart.
- You should never give up when you are doing Maths because when you get it wrong you try again.
- Making mistakes is good for you.
- Never give up.
- Play with ideas
- If you stop thinking it's like a wave that washes away.
- Even if you are slow at Maths it means that you are thinking deeply.
- Fixed mindset people only think that they can do some things.
- Double check your Maths.
- You do not need to be fast to be good in Maths.
- I can learn whatever I want in Maths and achieve the highest levels.
- It's not about speed but about thinking deeply.
- Keep trying until you get it.
- There is no such thing as a Maths person, everybody is a Maths person.



Some of the children have enthusiastically shared their learning with me. It's been exciting to hear from them what they are learning and taking to heart.

After reading this article would you change your answer to the questions, Are you a Maths Person? Do you solve problems quickly? I know I would have benefitted from such a learning experience when I was in school, how about you?

Regards,
Beth Smith

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Progress in Middle School - the way forward

At the end of the last term, we hosted a parent information evening that was well received by the parent in attendance and we mentioned then, that we will be having more of these meetings in the next months to keep our parents updated with the progress we are making in the Middle School.

To date, we have adopted the Australian curriculum for the Middle School. We have also made quite significant changes in the way we approach our teaching and assessment. Especially with the visit of the NEASC team and the subsequent ACE report that we received, we have had confirmation that the route we are embarking on is desirable and will improve our learning across the school.

We will host another parent information session next Thursday, the 24th of January at 18:00 in the auditorium to reflect on the progress made so far and to inform

Staff Feature continued

Once I completed my articles I moved from the auditing world to financial accounting.

The shift was challenging but exciting. I gained much knowledge during my eight years in the corporate industry. Now I am embarking on a new adventure within my field of expertise and WIS has been a refreshing change.

I am a passionate person and I love acquiring new knowledge. I believe that you should never stop learning.

"It always seems impossible until it is done" - Nelson Mandela, is a life motto that I have carried with me for a long time and now I bring it with me here to WIS.

I am very excited to be here and to be part of the WIS community. Thank you all for the support and kindness. I love all the people involved and the sentiment of education they forward.

parents of the next steps in the process of moving to a more inquiry based and a criterion based way of teaching and learning.

Most of us have grown up using textbooks and being told what to know and what to learn. This is no longer the case in school today. We want our children to be more pro-active in their learning. We want them to come out of the learning process feeling that what they have learnt makes sense and is useful. Of course, they will still have to learn content, the times tables, the periodic table, poetic devices. But how they learn this is different.

We as teachers have to become more of a facilitator than a lecturer; we have to coach our kids more than "preach" to them. This is a big transition for all of us - students, teacher and parents. Which means that we all need to be open and receptive to these changes.

I want to use this opportunity to thank our teachers for the dedication, energy, commitment and effort they have put into making these changes in their approach to teaching. It is a big task and a big goal we have set ourselves, but we are making good progress and are proud of our achievements in the past months.

We therefore invite you to attend our parent meetings, to ask questions, to be critical and to learn with us a new way of learning. I urge all parents to make use of these opportunities to get to know what is happening so that you are better able to understand and support your child's learning at home and in collaboration with the school.

Join us on Thursday, 24th of January 2019

18:00

PLC Auditorium

Around here, we don't look backwards for very long... We keep moving forward, opening up new doors and doing new things because we're curious... and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths. ~Walt Disney~

**Regards,
Maggie Reiff**

Designing CAS Projects

Grade 11 Investigates & Prepares

Brainstorming, Dialoging and Reflecting - the twenty plus Grade 11 students dedicated an hour's time (see photos) to planning their 'CAS Project.' Wonderful ideas arose. Insightful questions were asked. Great collaboration took place. Super advice was given by long-time experienced WIS CAS Coordinator Edwina Remington.

For your information, a requirement to pass CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service) the CAS project is a collaborative endeavour (often with a service learning bent) and extends over a month or more and it serves to nudge these IBDP adolescents forward and helps them to learn, grow and expand their horizons. This talented Gr 11 WIS group will undoubtedly design some neat CAS projects. Stay tuned for more info and learn more about the CAS projects at: (<https://www.ibo.org/programmes/diploma-programme/curriculum/creativity-activity-and-service/cas-projects/>).



WEEKLY PUZZLER

Last week's puzzler was solved by Ezra (EY3), Tiancheng (Gr 6), and Li (Gr 9).

Some of our puzzle loving staff also solved it. Well done everyone!

Let's try a logic puzzle. To prevent your head from spinning, try using paper and pen to keep these statements straight.

The Queen of Spades always lies for the whole day or tells the truth for the whole day. Which of these statements can she never say?

- A: "Yesterday, I told the truth";
- B: "Yesterday, I lied";
- C: "Today, I tell the truth";
- D: "Today, I lie";
- E: "Tomorrow, I shall tell the truth".

Good luck! Please send your answer to pfarrell@wis.edu.na



Rick Fitzpatrick (CAS Coordinator)

La galette en classe de français

Before the December holiday, the Grade 7 French class researched about French celebrations. Each student chose a different celebration. Not only did they have to present their findings to their classmates in French, but they also had to show the way to celebrate this event.



One of the celebrations was "L'Épiphanie - la Fête des Rois". In France, we celebrate this event by eating "la galette". So that's what the students did!

Sarah was the lucky one to find "la fève" in her slice of galette. She was crowned Queen for the day and was challenged to bring a galette after the holiday.

Ms. Catherine shared a galette recipe with me. It included flour, milk, butter, yeast, salt, sugar & 1 egg. The recipe was very fun to make and since it was all in French, I got to expand my French knowledge & vocabulary with the help of some pictures.

The best part of the whole process was bringing it to school! Now I can proudly say that I made a galette on my own, with an entirely French recipe and people loved it. I even got people asking me to make more! All in all this was a fun experience & I wonder what the next person's galette will be like. **Sarah Tibazarwa - Grade 7LC**

Middle School History

The Grade 7 and Grade 8 students recently created projects in History that demonstrated the ATL skills of research and communication as well as built upon their knowledge and inquiry skills through their investigations of Ancient Egypt and the Renaissance. The projects were based on investigating topics or individuals that they were curious about. The students decided how they wanted to present their research as well, they could create a visual presentation, role play, create a video, make a 3D model, or a mock social media page to name a few options. The projects were informative, creative and most interesting to any historian!



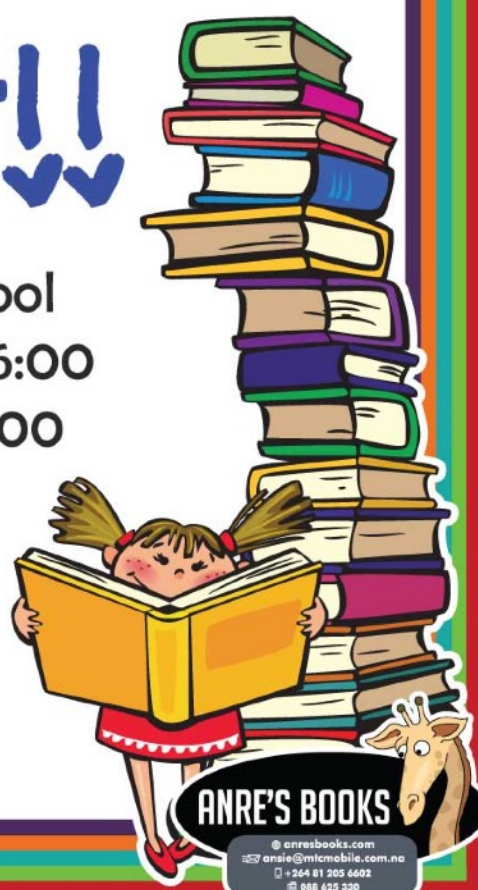
Grade 7- Ancient Egypt

你好
ni hao

THURSDAYS @ the Bake sale thatch.
Learn Chinese with Tiancheng.
Grades 4, 5 6 from 1:45 to 2:45

BOOK FAIR!!

Windhoek International School
Thursday, 31 January, 7:00 – 16:00
Friday, 1 February, 7:00 – 16:00
Speedpoint Available!!
Auditorium



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DO YOU HAVE A CREATIVE BRAIN?

The WIS Yearbook Committee invites all parents, staff, and students to take part.

DESIGN THE WIS YEARBOOK COVER FOR 2018-2019!

What can you win? An extra yearbook and have your design printed on all the Yearbooks for 2018-2019!

Design criteria:

- ~ The design must be A4 in size
- ~ High quality
- ~ Digital format (JPEG or PDF)
- ~ And have the following wording:

WINDHOEK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL YEARBOOK 2018-2019

**Please note only digital A4 designs will qualify for consideration.*

Send your final design to:
jnel@wis.edu.na

Include your full name, and or grade!

DEADLINE: 28 February 2019

