



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Peter MacKenzie is attending the annual AISA conference in Johannesburg and will be back on Monday.

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PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

As you know, at WIS we focus on developing the whole child. The events during the month of February have been a good example of this as Primary School students were involved in a variety of different activities.

The month began with the celebration in many classes of the 100th day of school. This is a fun way of exploring and thinking about the number 100, whether it's counting 100 objects, writing about what item the children would like a hundred of, telling what they'd buy with \$100 and why, or drawing a picture of what they'll look like at age 100.

Sports was a major focus this month. Twenty-seven Year 5 and 6 students represented WIS in the annual Small Schools Athletics meet, while the rest of the Year 5 and 6 students cheered them on. Years 1-6 participated in a morning of Traditional Games, such as tug of war, 3-legged race, and various other relay races. Years 3-6 also participated in a sports day that had more skills based activities. About fifty students representing Years 2-6 took part in the WIS swim gala held at the UNAM School of Medicine pool.

During Book Week students travelled around the world in 5 days. The week was filled with students writing stories, reading and listening to stories in English, as well as in other languages, acting out stories, and contributing recipes to a digital cookbook. The week culminated in a parade of children and staff dressed as their favorite characters followed by spending a session with visiting author Helvi Wheeler.

Photos and information about these various events and activities have been posted on the class blogs and/or have been written about in previous issues of the Oryx. Thank you to all the parents who have attended these events and for cheering your children on. A special thank you goes to the PTA for supporting these events with providing refreshments and selling WIS clothing.

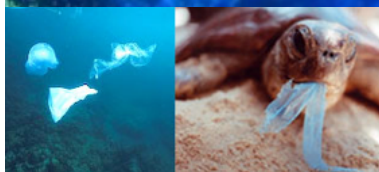
Regards,
Beth Smith

Dates to Remember

March 2017

- **6 - 10:** Secondary Week B
- **10:** AA Last Day
- **15 - 16:** SPTC/ Primary SLC
- **16:** Independence Assembly
- **17:** End of Term 3

STOP USING PLASTIC



PLASTIC BAGS LOOK LIKE JELLYFISH AND KILL TURTLES AND OTHER MARINE LIFE THAT EAT IT, MISTAKING THEM FOR JELLYFISH

Roots and Shoots members have been working on a few projects. One of our projects is the plastic bag problem which has been going on for a long time. Our solution to this problem is trying to convince others to stop using plastic bags and instead use reusable ones. Plastic is not Fantastic! Our team wants you to use reusable bags.

Marine animals also die every month because of the littering in the ocean. Turtles and other marine life see plastics as jellyfish and eat it and die. You can see the difference between jellyfish and plastic but turtles and other marine animals can't.

If you stop littering you encourage everyone to stop which helps not only the animals but also everyone else. Why because one day if you don't stop littering the Earth will become a home for plastic. So stop now and save the future generation. Make a change. Use reusable bags. Encourage everyone to help.

Barbara Wilson



Docs

See what we have done with Google Docs! Read one of our e-books, find out how Ms Melissa Kandido's students created an e-book using Google Docs collaboratively on multiple devices! [HERE is the whole story!](#)

What's up in the PYP?

This week we held a Parent Exhibition coffee morning to share what the exhibition is all about. A big thank you goes out to all the PTA reps who came and provided coffee. Thanks to all the Year 6 parents who attended this workshop.

The Year 6 students have been preparing and are leading up to the Exhibition. What is the PYP Exhibition all about?

- A culminating project for the PYP.
- A collaborative inquiry that students have a personal interest in exploring.
- An inquiry that requires them to apply their learning from previous years experiences.
- An experience that uses the essential elements of the PYP.
- A demonstration of how students can take action as a result of their learning.
- A celebration of who the students are as learners.



This year's focus falls under the Transdisciplinary theme: How We Express Ourselves; *An inquiry into the ways in which we discover and express ideas, feelings, nature, culture, beliefs and values; the ways in which we reflect on, extend and enjoy our creativity; our appreciation of the aesthetic.*

The PYP Exhibition is:

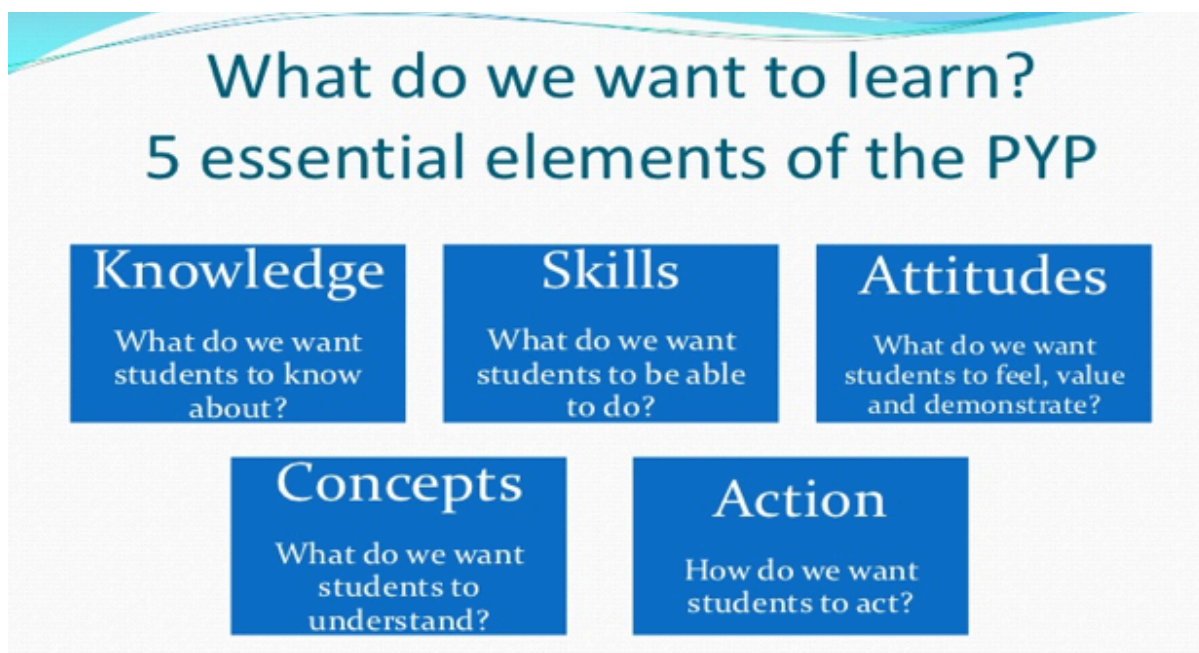
- ❖ *Intense*
- ❖ *Tiring*
- ❖ *Exciting*
- ❖ *Self-directed*
- ❖ *Process driven*
- ❖ *Rewarding*
- ❖ *Action provoking*

The PYP Exhibition is not:

- ❖ *A science Fair*
- ❖ *A poster contest*
- ❖ *A competition*
- ❖ *Individual*
- ❖ *Product driven*
- ❖ *Adult directed*
- ❖ *A burden*



Over a period of weeks during March, April and May, the students will be working on a self-directed project of inquiry. They will be selecting a topic of interest based on "How We Express Ourselves" and inquiring into this topic. They will use the elements of the PYP to support and guide their journey. These elements include:



During this inquiry they will tap into the transdisciplinary skills:

- *Communication Skills*
- *Social Skills*
- *Research Skills*
- *Self-management Skills*
- *Thinking Skills*

They will also be showing **positive Attitudes of:** appreciation, commitment, confidence, curiosity, creativity, cooperation, empathy, enthusiasm, independence, integrity, respect, tolerance. **Learner Profiles:** thinker, open-minded, caring, principled, reflective, inquirer, knowledgeable, risk-taker, communicator and balanced.

This is a journey and a process and the students will be supported within our WIS community by the **Homeroom teachers** as facilitators; Ms Yolandé Stander and Ms Kaye Van Rooi, who have already done a lot of ground work with our students; the **parents** - who are there to help keep the calm and who are another important added support system; and the **mentors**, who consist of volunteers from the staff and are there to guide and support the students; the **PYP Arts teachers**, who will provide their expertise; Mr Danai, to provide any support with technology or tools that can be used, Ms. Beth and myself. This is a collaborative journey and one that is also an opportunity to celebrate with the Year 6 students as they finish their journey in the PYP and transition to Middle School. For those who missed the coffee morning and would like to find out more about the PYP Exhibition please visit the [BLOG](#) or email me: avanzyl@wis.edu.na

Avril van Zyl - PYP Coordinator

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Best fit - how do we make sure our students find the right career path?

I am currently attending the CIS-AISA Institute in Africa: Institute on International Admission and Guidance.

During this three day conference, there will be a lot of debate and discussion about the way we counsel and guide our students to find the right career path. There are so many factors influencing this choice,

that we are in agreement, that a lot of guidance and information needs to accompany the decision, students have to make.

Some questions that need to be answered to determine the “best fit”:

- *What are my interests? What do I want to do for the rest of my life?*
- *Where do I want to study? Where do I want to live one day? Today, young people are much more mobile and orientated on the global scene than 10 years ago.*
- *What are my financial resources? - Scholarships are available, but they are highly competitive.*
- *What is a realistic goal for me to study? This is determined mostly by academic performance - it is not possible to study course where subjects are required that are not your strength. This is a hard decision to make, but it is a decision that has to be made realistically and with the best information available to make the right decision.*
- *Well known and high ranked universities are very tempting to apply to. However, do I want to study at a place that is massive, where I will mostly just be a number? Do I want to study in a huge city, when I come from a small and personable environment?*

In discussions students need to answer these questions for themselves and try to find the right answers to ensure that they move on to their tertiary education confidently and enjoy the time they have to explore their future. To make the right decisions requires intensive research that should be assisted by parents’ ideas, teachers’ advice and discussions with experts in the field of tertiary education.

One big risk, however, with these decisions, is when parents portray their ideas and possible dreams onto their children. Each child is an individual and might not have the same aspirations and dreams their parents have for them. We as parents want the best for our children. But we should guard against placing our ideas onto our children if they might have other dreams and ideas for their future. There is a place for all different careers and occupations in this world - doctors and engineers are important, however, we also need artists, musicians and artisans.

Our appeal to students and parents: Take the time to explore your interests and future plans - and make decisions that best fit you as an individual.

Regards,
Maggie Reiff

Book & Cook Week

In the Modern Language Department

Last week, in the Modern Language department, we celebrated “Book Week” with recipes!

In French, the classes from Year 4 to Year 10 discovered the recipe of “Pain Perdu”: they read, they cooked and they enjoyed eating them! In Portuguese, the Year 7 baked biscuits and they created a Portuguese recipe. They also performed a role play: “cooking TV Show”.

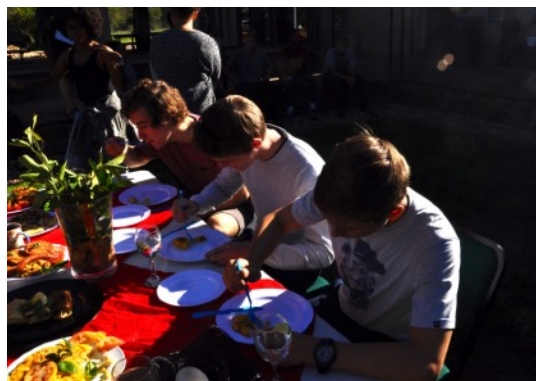


And the Year 12 French, German and Portuguese classes competed against each other in a "Masterchef competition". They were judged according to 5 criteria. The Portuguese won for Collaboration and Recipe. The German won for Presentation and Taste. The French won for Creativity and Taste.

Articles in French, German and Portuguese:

Mercredi dernier, le 22 février, la classe de Year 12 a participé à un atelier de cuisine "Masterchef". Les classes de langues (allemand, français et portugais) se sont affrontées. Chaque groupe devait cuisiner un repas avec des ingrédients présélectionnés et créer ses propres recettes. Ils ont été jugés selon cinq critères: la créativité, le goût, la présentation, la recette et la collaboration.

Am 22. Februar 2017, genauer gesagt, letzten Mittwoch, standen wir vor dem Foyer. An der Wand hing ein Plakat mit der Aufschrift " Masterchef". Überraschung!



Jede Klasse hatte zwei Tische, auf denen standen Zutaten wie Mehl, Zucker, Schokolade, Sahne, Tomaten und Fisch (Sardinen). Wir bekamen eine Schürze, Kochlöffel, Kochutensilien und einen Gaskocher. Aufgabe war es, mit den Zutaten ein leckeres Gericht zuzubereiten. Die Kriterien waren : Kreativität, Geschmack, Rezept, Zusammenarbeit und Dekoration. Es sollte was für das Auge und den Magen sein. Unsere Klasse hat Schokoladenmousse mit

Limetten-Pfannkuchen und Käse-Tomatensosse gekocht. Der Tisch wurde draussen sehr schön von uns allen mit Kerzen und Blumen gedeckt und dekoriert. Wir waren sehr aufgeregt. Olof hat die Füllung gemacht, Erik die Pfannkuchen rausgebacken, Alicia und Albè haben das Schokoladenmousse gerührt, Anna das Rezept geschrieben, Lucas die Schokolade geraspelt und Emilia die Schokolade gegessen. So hatte jeder seine Aufgabe. Und dann hiess es "guten Appetit!"



Na passada quarta-feira, nós tivemos uma competição entre as turmas das línguas estrangeiras. Nós estivemos a cozinhar um prato usando uma receita criada por cada turma. Cada equipa foi avaliada nos seguintes critérios: receita, colaboração, sabor, apresentação, e criatividade.

Nós tivemos 50 minutos para preparar o nosso prato, usando ingredientes limitados. O nosso grupo teve tomates, queijo, cebolas, batatas, leite, açúcar, azeite, ovos e salsa. O grupo de francês ganhou nas criterias de criatividade e sabor. Eles fizeram um pequeno-almoço completo. O grupo de alemão ganharam em nas criterias de receita e sabor. Eles fizeram panquecas doces e salgadas e mousse de chocolate. Nós do grupo de português, fizemos um omelete. Nós ganhamos nas criterias de colaboração e receita.

We would like to thank all the students and parents who sent us a traditional recipe. We are now busy compiling our "WIS traditional recipes cookbook".

The Language Department

Junior Open Squash Tournament



Arno Diekmann, a student in Year 10 at WIS, participated in the Bloemfontein Junior Open Squash Tournament from 24th to 26th of February 2017. This is one of the most prestigious tournaments in South Africa and it was Arno's aim to get a good ranking in South Africa.

Arno was seeded 8th in the B-section of the under-16 boys. His aim is to play in the A-section and in order to achieve this aim he would need to be placed under the top four B-players. Arno did extremely well by winning the first four games which granted him a place in the final. After a 2:0 lead in the final Arno eventually lost 2:3. Nevertheless, he can be extremely proud of his achievement and now qualifies for the A-section, which means that he is seeded among top 32 under-16 players in South Africa. ***WIS congratulates Arno and wishes him success in his future sporting career.***

What a week!

'Book Week' and 'Mother Tongue Day'!

Last week was filled with many activities in the classroom and outside. WIS had many visitors from the community and artists. These are some of the highlights:

- **The (un)Sung Herstories**

On Monday, the (un) Sung Herstories project worked on a collaborative story-creation effort. There were two groups and each needed to honor a Namibian Woman's life under the theme of independence. They brainstormed, outlined, wrote, edited and then illustrated their books. This was a day's effort from 7:30-1:30 and they worked diligently to get their goals accomplished.

We had two published authors--Helvi Wheeler and Katie Crouch helping with the writing process and IBDP Visual Arts students, Tia and Daniela in the visualization of the imagery for the books.

One team worked digitally--through Google Docs, photography--their publication began and ended in a digital format. We employed Mr. D's help throughout the process as well! This book is historical fiction and has some content that is sensitive (death and HIV-related illnesses) and is dedicated to Monica Imanga who runs the Home of Good Hope Soup Kitchen and found independence from sadness through giving and providing for children, despite losing her own child and husband.

The other team created a paper book which they painted, glued, collaged, tissue-papered, water-colored and glitter-fied. We have scanned it into the digital ISSUU format so that we can give the hard-copy original to the First Lady herself. This book is more child-friendly and is about the First Lady of Namibia, Monica Geingos. We used various adjectives and biographical information about her life to demonstrate her independence from titles and how she exemplifies many of the learner profiles.



Enjoy the (un)Sung Herstories book week contribution!

https://issuu.com/makforwis/docs/abcs_of_an_independent_namibian_wom_140a2e6b2961eb

https://issuu.com/makforwis/docs/thegreatestachievement_digital_book

Here is the video clip: <https://animoto.com/play/UmAGghA1qIVHWKY7FhBZVw>



•Publishing Visit

The Year 6 classes got a visit from a parent, Ms Bryony van der Merwe, whose profession is a Book Weaver. Ms Bryony spoke to both classes and was able to explain to the students the process of making a book and all the details that go into it. Ms Bryony showed the students how a book is made from the editing of the book right up to making the cover page of the book.

Ms Bryony shared some great ideas and answered questions that the students asked concerning writing. They wanted to know how they can make their writing more interesting and expressed how they feel about writing a first and then final draft. Ms Bryony explained to them that as a writer you can get up to 7 drafts before publishing the book.

Ms Bryony shared with the students that they should keep a journal. Every time a writing idea comes to mind they should write it down, so that they don't forget it. Ms Bryony really took her time to answer each student's question. It was a great pleasure having Ms Bryony attend the book week with the Year 6 team. The key to successful writing is keep on reading.

- Different year groups shared their favourite stories in class. Students would present the book and tell the group why they loved that particular book.
- During Book Week we also celebrated 'Mother Tongue Day' on Tuesday the 21st of February. The Foreign Language Department is compiling a 'Mother Tongue Cookbook' from recipes that families make at home

in their own language and then translated. They also made traditional French and Portuguese recipes in class.

- *Director, writer and actor, Blessing Mbonami came to share his love for stories with the Year 2 students. He also wrote a story and made a short video especially for the occasion.*
- *Namibian author Helvi Itenge Wheeler told stories to the whole of the Primary school and did storytelling workshops.*
- *Secondary students read to Primary students and parents read in their Mother Tongue to classes or shared excerpts from books from different countries.*
- *The festivities ended with the Primary School 'costume and character' parade.*

It was a week that will go down in the books!

Junelle Stroh

Celebration of life!

"A baby will make love stronger, days shorter, nights longer, bankroll smaller, home happier, clothes shabbier, the past forgotten, and the future worth living for" ~ Unknown

We would like to congratulate Ms. Ella for having a precious baby girl on 6 February 2017. She was named Doreen Nelao Vries and weighed 3.2kg and measured 51cm long.



And Ms. Sonandre for having a beautiful and healthy baby boy on Friday, 24 February 2017. Anthony Martin Fick weighed 3.45kg and was measured 53cm long.



We wish them all the best with the new addition to the family and hope that these little ones bring them nothing but joy, happiness and love!

Angatha Janse van Rensburg

THE MEMORANDUM

Year 11 Drama students

Tickets : N\$30

Canada

WIS AUDITORIUM

4 March

19:00

Duration: Around an hour

DRESS:

SEMI-FORMAL

Contact the Year 11 Drama
students or Mrs. Kate
Matzopoulos for tickets!

For ALL Windhoek International School families!

Italy Ski Trip

In a WIS first, all families with students in the school are invited to join us on a Ski Trip to Italy.

The resort and hotel we are travelling to cater specifically for families with children. Students in Year 10 and up (from August 2017) are welcome to join the school without their families if they prefer.

Younger children can enjoy various snow-orientated activities in the “Ski Kindergarten” during the day, while the older siblings, parents and staff get instructed in the art of skiing on the slopes next to them.

Various other activities are also available, including Ice Skating, Relaxing in the Spa, Dog Sledding, Shopping, Pizza Evenings etc.

For more information, contact Mr. Smit at rsmit@wis.edu.na, or visit the Outdoor Education Website by following this link/ scanning the QR code below, or see the weekly Oryx.

<https://sites.google.com/a/wis.edu.na/wis-field-trips/italy-ski>



Destination: Passo Tonale, Italy
Date: 8 – 18 December 2017
Who? Any family with children from Toddlers to Year 13