



#ARTISEVERYWHERE

SPECIAL EDITION ORYX 244

WIS Arts Festival Week: 8 - 11 March 2022



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

PARENT INFORMATION PORTAL
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Dates to Remember 2022

- **22 March**
Namibian Ind Day Assembly
- **2 April**
Middle School Dance
- **4 - 6 April**
IB Evaluation Visit
- **22 April**
Int Mother Earth Day
- **23 April**
WIS International Day
- **17 - 18 May**
Primary 3-Way Conferences



1. Foreword

The WIS community believes in a vision of education that facilitates opportunities for students—as athletes, artists, scientists, activists, explorers, environmentalists, and entrepreneurs—to apply their knowledge and skills to meaningful tasks. To do this, our design of curriculum and assessment oftentimes requires authentic audiences and real-world application. Sometimes we even need to move outside the timetable and beyond the classroom.

We need our next generation to be creative and imaginative because the world's problems and today's crises cannot be solved at the level at which they arose. At WIS, we believe that transformational thinking often occurs through a curated encounter with the unexpected.

- An encounter with an inspiring individual
- A new way of looking at the same old space
- A new skill applied to the world a better or more interesting place
- Collaborating with learners from a diversity of age ranges and perspectives.

I am deeply grateful to our Arts Team for organising this first-ever WIS Arts Festival. Also to the students who gamely participated in the workshops that matched their interest, to the parents who volunteered their time or resources, and especially to the high-calibre workshop facilitators who shared their passion and their craft. You have all helped our community create something new.

[#artiseverywhere](#)

Ethan Van Drunen

2. #Artsiseverywhere

Did we succeed?

Six months ago the Arts team shared an aspiration that many of us believed was timely and potentially transformational for our community - to use the Arts as the vehicle, the glue, to inquire into a big brave idea:

'Community festivals can be a powerful tradition that provides space to explore and celebrate our cultural expressions and identity.'

This initiative planted a seed ... It began to transform and animate our school's time and spaces; brought the primary and secondary school together in new ways; and strengthened our relationships with the Namibian arts community. The experience has proven that we are all a source of our own and others' creativity, belonging, empowerment and unity.

Students were encouraged to use their cultural backgrounds, histories, traditions, dreams, beliefs, feelings, curiosities, natural environment and immediate surroundings as sources of inspiration for this week of creativity and art-making.



When students integrate their learning into the real-world and community-centred spaces, they begin to see the world through the lens of creativity and creation. Art is about experiencing and experimenting with different art forms, different people, different situations - just that act alone is rich enough - yet we wait in anticipation to see all the beautiful connections made this week start to blossom. Our collective unity and creativity at WIS is a source of infinite possibility and growth.

So, in the end, did we accomplish what we all hoped to achieve? Did we accomplish our shared big idea? We will let you decide!

The Arts Team

3. The week in photos - Event Photographers

This week, Wildlife photographer, [Forrest Donoho](#) guided his team of 20 event photographers to skill-fully capture our WIS Arts Festival week in photos. Congratulations to the photographers on such exquisite storytelling.

Thank you to the following students for the wonderful photography work: *Uzuva Kanguuehi, Sergio Ferreira, Nour Ayoub, Sascha Bruckert, Priye hakweenda, George Kalomoh, Oliwia Stephanus, Hala Ayoub, Shamiso Mombeshora, Evat Nghiyolwa, Tinashe Musavengana, Bilal Beyhum, Muta Amunyela, Charlie Rocha, Benjamin Oldenburg, Gideon Bruwer, Darius Swart, Christa Pienaar, Amanda Fernandez Ruiz and Jonker Du Plessis.*

Click [here](#) to see more photos.



PRINT MAKING



YOGA



WIRE WEAVING



THEATRE SPORTS



SILHOUETTE STORY TELLING



ROCK PAINTING



CROCHET



MY CAMPUS MY PLANET



PORTUGUESE FOLK DANCING



AFRICAN BATIK



ZUMBA



AFRICAN CULTURAL DANCE



KNITTING



MURAL PAINTING



FRENCH ARTISTS

4. In the Spotlight

Artist Name: Tom Kenesi (African Batik)

- **Why did you choose to be a part of the WIS arts festival?**
Through festivals I can share my skill with many who love batik arts. It's my goal and aim to empower fellow men and women to generate income through batik art.
- **What has been a highlight for you this week?**
Seeing the potential in everyone who participated and them able to make batik in a short period of time.

The arts ARE ... a universal language to communicate ones creativity and their own story.

Artist Name: Edith (mural Painting)

- **Why did you choose to be a part of the WIS arts festival?**
To expose kids to what mural painting is, and teach them, students, the skill of mural painting. To demonstrate how a space can be transformed using mural painting.
- **What has been a highlight for you this week?**
Seeing the kids incorporate their skills and to see what they have created on the wall.

The arts ARE ... transformative

Artist Name: Madelein Ockhuizen (Shadow Puppetry)

- **Why did you choose to be a part of the WIS arts festival?**
To share a unique form of art with WIS students, using their bodies to create shadows of different things.
- **What has been a highlight for you this week?**
That every person sees art in a different way and also shows it in their own way.

The arts ARE ... everything you can visualise

Artist Name: Frans Uuona (drawing)

- **Why did you choose to be a part of the WIS arts festival?**
I chose to be part of the festival for the love of art. I'm always happy to share my skills and talent with others. It makes me happy to see others happy.
- **What has been a highlight for you this week?**
Seeing the students happy and interacting - some were able to open up and share their personal challenges and I was able to advise where I could.

Art is ... therapy

Uunona: If I don't create, I will go Crazy

■ Paheja Siririka

DRAWN to an eye-catching piece of a bleeding heart, pierced by arrows and blood dripping into a cyathus vinarius, this reporter approached the creator Frans Uunona to explain its meaning.

The painting is a replica of what people are going through, he said.

"I look at everyone as victims of the circulation of activities happening in different ways, whether in friendship or family. This portrays it, it is depicting different elements."

"The roses represent people who are coming into your life. They appear to be sweet at first or at most times, but in the end – when they exit your life – they exit as arrows emanating from a crush, misunderstanding or fallout, and it is the moment you realise that person is not what you thought they were," said Uunona.

In a candid interview on the sidelines of the recent Kasi Vibe Festival, where he was exhibiting and teaching people how to paint, he told *VIBEZ!* there is a lot of pain in the creation process, adding that the smoke resembles the exhaustion, "that deep breath", and the wine glass filling up with blood represents those individuals who rejoice over other people's miseries. "When they see other people down, they are usually happy that people are going through those tribulations," he added.

The creator went on to say: "Nothing exists without art, and people should learn to appreciate it, and not look at artists as if we are beggars". Uunona then urged people to not think they are doing them a favour when buying their art.

"I spend a lot of time working on one piece for months to see its perfection, and for someone to adore the artwork and be disappointed with the price, is quite disheartening." People not willing to pay the price is thus devaluing the piece, and not appreciating the work of an artist.

"Art is not recognised in Namibia to the level that it should be. There is the constant interrogation of the price of art pieces. The material alone is expensive, the space to paint is another expense," said the 32-year-old painter.

The prices of his pieces are determined by the time spent on it, materials, and "inspiration I deposit in my work, but I try my best to meet my clients halfway".

Queried about his participation in Kasi Vibe, he said such platforms are what they as creatives need to expose their work to the masses.

"I was ecstatic when I was allowed to showcase at the Kasi Vibe Festival and present my work. I saw people who were surprised to see such artwork here. They were mostly looking forward to drinking and eating and clothes when they saw the artwork, and they saw something different," he said.

Uunona, who has been a professional visual artist for 10 years, said he decided to engage in visual artistry because of the love he has for art. "I pursued visual arts because that is what I am good at. I love painting, I love creating. I feel like if I don't create, I will go crazy. I was raised by a single mother, and my work is also partially inspired by that." The College of the Arts' graduate said his work is motivated by the world at large, activities and everything that happens around him. "I draw my energy from what's happening around me. I find inspiration and create from that. My emotions also play a role in terms of comfort," he shared.

His plans for the future involve going "international".

"So far, I have been selling locally and internationally, but I want to take it there myself and represent my country and fellow artists. I see myself overseas."

Uunona can be found at his studio at 35 Nelson Mandela Avenue in Klein Windhoek, 081 881 3449 or on his IG handle @fransuunona. - psiririka@nepc.com.na

Master of the pieces... Frans Uunona with his art at the Kasi Vibe Festival. Photo: Emmency Nuuakala

Mixed Media Art

Twenty-one learners from different ages across the school enjoyed their time preparing artworks with pencil and then painting their drawings. Encouraged by the two talented art teachers from Okahandja, (*Mr. Rudolph Seibeb and Mr. Ricardo Paulus Strauniss*), the ambience in the secondary art room was lively, filled with nice small talk between students and generally relaxed and very pleasant.

Mr. Seibeb and Mr Paulus answered the question: "How is Art important to the students...and in Education?"

- Art is connecting and bringing people together;
- Art is something you learn;

- Art is very important for children's' development;
- Through art, the learner uses his/her imagination;
- Art gives real value to a student's education.

The students participating in the Mixed Media sessions in this Art Festival each conveyed that:

- When it is this art lesson, I can express my artistic abilities freely;
- I can explore colour theory;
- It has been therapeutic and fun;
- The experience of collaborating with students from other classes has been special!

Jacqueline Bassingthwaight and Rick Fitzpatrick

5. Conclusion

QR Codes on campus!?

When you next walk on campus you will notice new installations, exhibits, gardens, murals, innovations and sprinkles of magic everywhere! These were created during class-time or during the festival. Each of these transformed spaces will have a QR code close by.

Short for quick response, QR codes are scannable barcodes that store data. In the Arts sphere QR codes add an interactive component by turning static content into dynamic call-to-action interaction. Galleries, museums, libraries, and public spaces are using QR codes.

If your device allows you to, you can scan the QR code and the story of these community projects will be at your fingertips. It will provide you the artists' information and processes used.

Here is one to try out below, with so much gratitude, from the Arts Team!

