



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

The school is actually a company – a Section 21 company. As such, it is required by the Companies Act to have and adhere to its own Articles of Association. These define, among other things, what the duties and responsibilities of the Board of Directors are. They explain how and when parents (and others) may be elected to the Board. They stipulate what kind of financial records must be kept. And so on.

So the Articles of Association are extremely important. They are a legal requirement and it is essential that they are comprehensive and up-to-date.

The current Articles of Association date from the school's foundation in 1990 and have not been updated since.

So the Board of Directors has spent very many hours reviewing the Articles to ensure that they provide an appropriate framework for the governance of the school in 2016 and for the foreseeable future.

Quite correctly, any revisions to the Articles of Association must be approved by a majority of the Members – i.e. the parents. So you will shortly be hearing from the Chair of the Board who will make available the existing Articles and the proposed revised version. He will also explain why the revisions are necessary and what the process will be to seek the approval of parents.

Please do take the time to read through the various letters and papers you will



Dates to Remember

February

- **12:** PTA Coffee Morning
- **16:** Early Close
- **18:** IGCSE & IBDP information sessions
- **23:** Lower Primary Sports Day
- **24:** Upper Primary Sports Day
- **25:** Secondary Sports Day



Teacher Feature

**Heike Rubbert: Visual Arts
Teacher Secondary School**

A while ago a colleague and friend looked at my desk and said: "This desk shows your struggle for balance, it is complete chaos but somehow orderly at the same time." He has an eye for recognizing patterns... finding the balance between these two polarities has been and still is the red thread through my life.

Growing up on a farm with 5 siblings between 7 and 14 years older than me taught me early on to feel comfortable with both situations. Chaos needed to be dealt with or succumbed to when they were all five home from boarding school.



shortly receive. We want this process to be as inclusive and transparent as possible.

And, of course, should you have any questions, I or any of the ten Board members will be very happy to answer you.

FEES

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL PARENTS

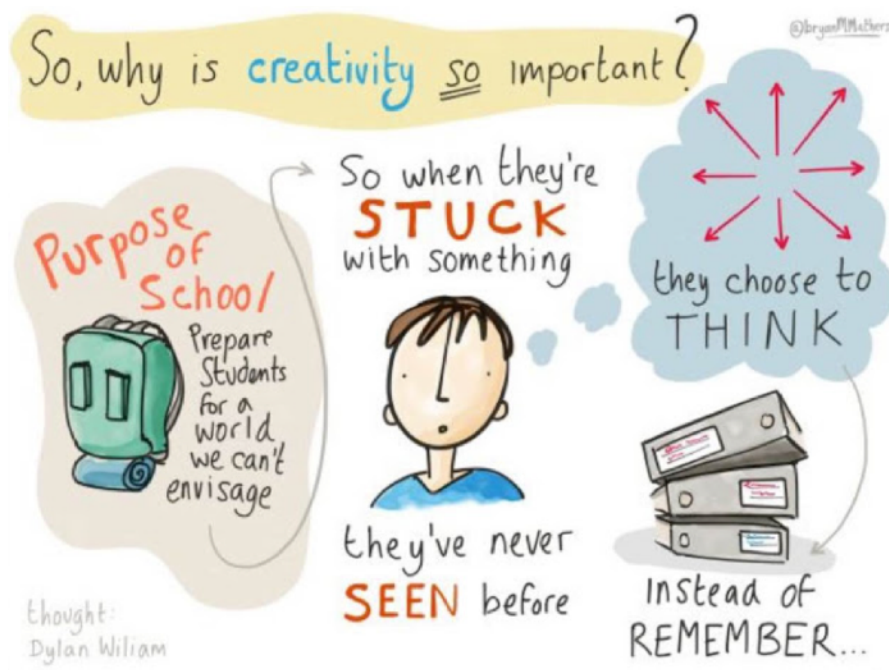
Please be advised that from 1st March 2016 the school will charge interest on overdue fees. The rate will be 10% p.a. charged on a monthly basis.

Beyond a couple of very welcome but still quite modest annual grants, the school has only one source of income – school fees.

Please make every effort to pay fees in full and on time. Thank you.
With best wishes
Peter MacKenzie

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

It is often said that a picture is worth a thousand words. The following illustration from **MindShift@MindShiftKQED** was shared with me and has also been posted on Facebook and Twitter. The thoughts are by educational researcher Dylan William while the illustration is by Bryan Matthews. I think this illustration highlights one of the many aspects of the Primary Years Programme - teaching children to think.



Teacher Feature continued

It was their holiday and clearly their time. Order could be enjoyed when it was only me and my parents; structured, peaceful and predictable. Imagination could roam free and ideas started filling the wide open spaces and when 'chaos' came back home the next time, these ideas were challenged, influenced and altered, to yet grow wider when peace had returned.

The ebb and flow of life continued when I moved to DHPS boarding school myself. Ending my high school career with the German Abitur, I went on to study for a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Cape Town, took my gap year after that, work-traveling Europe and then decided to return to Cape Town.

At Ruth Prowse School of Art earned my Diploma of Fine Arts with distinction specializing in Jewellery design and went on to work at various Jewellers in Namibia and abroad for the next five years with an interruption to fulfil my dream of seeing 'the real Arica'.

Upon returning home from backpacking East Africa for 8 months, I set up my own jewellery business, 'Amulett Schmuckschmiede'.

The ebb and flow continued and six years later (11 years ago) I started to work for WIS as the Art Teacher for Secondary School.

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As for the news from the Primary School, last Friday, the KG1A class said goodbye to Willensia (Loretta) Jarson who has moved to Mariental to be closer to her family. On Monday we welcomed Nadia Sande as the new KG1A teaching assistant.

Kind regards,
Beth Smith

From our PAD

THANK YOU TO THE 2A PARENTS WHO CAME AT DROP-OFF TIME LAST FRIDAY TO VISIT OUR ART EXHIBITION: The Year 2A students and parents came to the art room last Friday to see the end of the unit Exhibition: How We organise ourselves with 'Cool Art Tools' Students were delighted whilst explaining to their parents how they created the various pictures with other objects to paint with and a pair of scissors to 'draw' with.



THANK YOU!!

Primary Art Department

YEAR 2

Under the organising theme, 'How the world works', Year 2 is exploring light. Miss Ruby put old technology to good use when she used the overhead projector to start the students off on their silhouette pictures.



Teacher Feature continued

As a Visual Arts Teacher I continue to move between the two extremes, chaos and order; sometimes in a split second, sometimes with the luxury of time for the transition.

Moving back and forth between staying inside the proverbial box on the one hand and venturing outside of this box on the other hand is what is known as Creativity – moving between the wild mind and the disciplined eye as someone more eloquent than me once defined it.

Within the 'orderly' and well-known comfort zone we learn to exercise the necessary (self-) discipline and can safely practise new skills, play with ideas and develop vision. Venturing out of this comfort zone on the other hand is essential for applying these acquired skills in exploring new horizons, applying creative thought, dealing with people and the world around us and continuously renewing our outlook.

I am still learning and also wish to teach the acceptance of this wave-like movement of life so that we may find many moments, however fleetingly, of the bliss of balance.

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL**Preparing for the future - Aptitude tests and mock examination**

How can we prepare our children to make the right career choices once they leave school?

Firstly, they need a respectable school leaving qualification. Our Year 11 & 13 students have just completed their mock examination. In order to be competitive, students need to perform to the best of their ability. Mock exams are there to show what needs to be worked on and where there are still gaps that need to be consolidated. This enables students to then know how to prepare for the final examination.

Mock examination reports are issued today and we urge all parents to take the time to reflect on the performance of their child in these exams. A lot of time goes into writing the comment for each subject and the comments contain meaningful advice to students on what to work on. Discussing this with your child can also prompt a discussion on the further path of education for your son/daughter.

Another way of preparing our students for their future careers is trying to guide them into the right direction. We therefore do aptitude tests with our Year 9 & 11 students before they embark on their IGCSE and IBDP courses and to guide them in their subject choices for these two courses.

Choosing subjects for the IGCSE course in Year 10 & 11 is not such a challenge yet. The different fields that are available make a holistic programme with a First Language, a second/foreign language, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and more technical, creative or vocational subjects.

In the IB, however, subject choices might determine the field a student can study in when entering tertiary education. It is therefore essential to thoroughly consider the subject choices at this stage to ensure that no doors are closed at this stage already.

The following tests are used to determine aptitude, interest and career choice. We are using the Differential Aptitude Test Form S (Year 9 - Junior) and Form L (Year 11 - Senior). We are also using a general career interest questionnaire as well as the Jung Personality Questionnaire (JPQ).

Once again, this is a great opportunity to discuss future plans with your son/daughter.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me at mreiff@wis.edu.na

Lots of our children spend many hours a day on an electronic device, on their iPad, laptop, and phone. They chat on social media platforms and participate in discussions about their lives and experiences.

Kind regards,
Maggie Reiff

Saturday Morning Dodge-ball Club with Mr Jackson-Read

NEW TIME: 9 AM until 11 AM

Y3 - Y6

All Welcome: Please bring a drink, sports cloths and lots of energy!

Session will be on on the following days

- Saturday 13th February
- Saturday 27th February
- Saturday 5th February
- Saturday 12th February
- Saturday 19th February

WIS GOT TALENT WINNERS



1st place: Lucy Hopwood, 2nd place: Thyra Eysseleinck, 3rd place: Lola Borroni

Primary school will have a number of sporting events coming up for our students during the last semester of the school year.

Please take note of the following dates:

- March - April Small Schools 7 a side Soccer League u/9, u/11, u/13 (Schedule still to be decide between participating schools)
- U/12: Boys Field Hockey (Awaiting schedule from league administrators)

More information will be shared with the WIS community closer to time.



Thursday, 4th February was the 100th School Day

dePARTment Corner

RISK-TAKER
Mia Sorenson
Year 4
describing all the natural dyes she explored at home for the start of the art unit:
"Where we are in Place and Time"
Ancient Civilisations
(with Ms. Genie)



25th Anniversary Gala Dinner: 23 January 2016









WIS Primary School

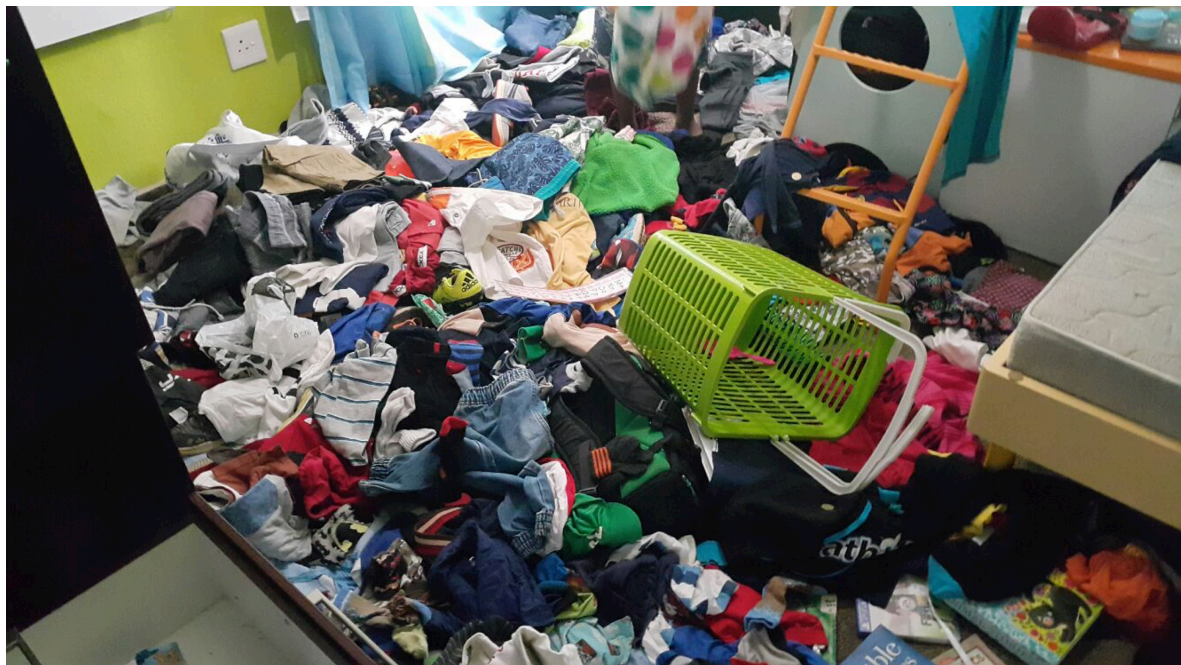
SNAP & WIN

A GIFT VOUCHER TO Recess Café

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

WINNER!

PHOTO BY PENA YEAR 4B



Theme for the picture above: Messy

Theme due Thursday at 3pm: Photoshopped

What is it?

This is a digital photography competition where primary students are given a theme every week for their photographs. Students can submit photos they've taken by Thursday 3 pm. Each week's winner will be announced on Friday and receive a N\$20 gift voucher to the WIS Recess Café (aka, The Tuck Shop). Winning photograph will be displayed here every Friday morning.

Please submit your photo by Thursday 3 pm to Mr. Marc. Try to submit file size 500 KB to 5 MB.

mdragon@wis.edu.na or USB flash drive to Room 33

Photo credits: nelllorance.files.wordpress.com, zazzle.com, Peter Dalton

