



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Annual General Meeting

The 2019-2020 AGM will be held on **Wednesday 29th January 2020** at 6 p.m.

There will be the opportunity to stand for election to the Board of Directors as two of the current members are stepping down. Nomination papers will be available from Monday 6th January.

Marketing

You may have seen these two ads in newspapers yesterday. More will follow.

In not altogether unrelated news, we currently have eighteen confirmed enrolments for January with the likelihood of more to come.

Nice to finish the year on an upswing!

Holidays

The School Office will be open all next week (except Tuesday which is a public holiday) but then will be closed from Monday 16th December. It will re-open on Friday 3rd January ... 2020!

Peter MacKenzie

Contents

- From the Director p. 1
- Primary News p. 2 - 6
- Secondary News p. 7 - 8
- Other News p. 8 - 11

Dates to Remember

December 2019

- **06:** End of Term 2

January 2020

- **06:** Staff Work Day
- **07:** Start of Term 3
- **07:** Gr. 10 & 12 Mock Exams Start
- **13:** Afternoon Activities Start



Facebook



Instagram



Twitter

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

The rain this week has been welcomed and a time to celebrate. The end of the semester is a time of celebration of all that has been accomplished since August. We've had assessment conferences, student-led conferences, inter-school athletics, MAP Growth testing, International Day, sports leagues, Fun Run/Walk/Cycle event, spirit week, Pupkewitz swim gala, PTA sponsored themed coffee mornings and more. This week's Primary production of *Pirates vs Mermaids* was a wonderful way to finish the first half of this school year. I think everyone in attendance would agree that it was an enjoyable performance, the children did a great job and we all left feeling good and smiling from the humour throughout the show.

Reports

Your child's semester report will be sent by email next week between the 9th-13th. Please note that the reports are sent by Grade Level so sibling reports may not arrive on the same day.

As a reminder, the report includes a section for each subject, with descriptors or baselines for each subject. These don't cover all aspects of the subject but do include the key skills and concepts for the Grade Level. Each subject is followed by one to four Strengths and Goals in bullet form. These should provide parents and students with some key areas where the child is doing well in a particular subject and some target areas for improvement. Keep in mind that progress indicators (E, D, P, EX, EXB) themselves shouldn't be the focus but the explanation that goes with them. It is also important to look at the progress indicators combined with the strengths and goals.

Goodbye and Good Luck

We have a few children who are leaving and not returning to WIS after the holidays. To these children and their families, thank you for being a part of our school community. Best wishes to you in your new locale and/or school. We especially wish Ms. Gisela all the best and thank you for teaching Grade 3G this semester.

Happy Holidays

To all of you, may your holidays include safe travels, laughter, relaxation and quality time with your children. I look forward to seeing you when school resumes on Tuesday, the 7th of January.

**Regards,
Beth Smith**

The Day Ms Jan went to the Moon!

Ms. Jan went on the moon with the whole class. She saw an alien. She was surprised. We were playing with the alien. - **By Ngumeitiza**

She took a rocketship to the moon. She saw many aliens. She made friends with the aliens. She brought food. Ms. Jan shared the food with them. And there were hot flowers on the moon. - **By Ina**

It was a holiday and Ms. Jan wanted to go to the moon so she went in a rocket ship and she saw the moon. Ms. Jan jumped and jumped. She had fun and Ms. Jan saw Earth and different planets. - **By Tinevimbo**

It was a normal school day but Ms. Jan wanted to go to the moon and we said, 'Are you crazy?' she said. 'But I want to go to the moon.' We said, 'Really?' Ms. Jan said, 'Yes, I will be going tomorrow, OK.'

The next day Ms. Jan said 'Bye, bye, bye, bye' and there she went.

Then she was flying and when she was flying she was saying, 'What the heck am I doing? Oh, I wanted to go here. OK, I am landing. What should I look at OH what black space? Let us find out what is that I think it is an alien. Excuse me, what will do to me?' The alien said, "I will throw you to earth.' Ms. Jan said, 'OK, won't it hurt.' The alien said, 'No it won't hurt.' Ms. Jan said, 'OK, so when I am going to get thrown?' The alien said, 'Now!' Ms. Jan said, 'But I am not ready to land aaaaahhhhhhhh! I am flying through space so I am almost there, I am



falling in the water.' splash. 'Ok, now I have to find my home that would be easy to do because I first need to find a taxi. OK, now I am home.' - **By Logan**

Ms. Jan went to the U.S.A. launch rocket and she asked: 'I want to go and check out the ship.' She got it for free. She didn't have her glasses. She saw a button. She thought it said air-con but it actually said blast off, she pressed it 5,4,3,2,1, blast off! The ship went up, it took three days. IT TOOK HER TO THE MOON! Of course, she crashed but an alien threw her ... HOME! - **By Ezra**



PIRATES vs MERMAIDS



PIRATES
 CAP'N SCARYPANTS: Skye
 PIRATE NARATOR: Dino
 ACE: Martin
 SCAR: Jean
 GANGRENE: Matthew
 HEADTEACHER: Reuben
 PROF. FORK: Dino
 PROF. DOUBLOON: Till
 PROF. SCURVY: Gavin
 PROF. CANNONBAL: Doudou

PIRATE CREW
 Carlos
 Elyandro
 Afonso
 Luke
 Lisa
 Mark
 Tangeni

CRAZY PARROT: Benjamin

MERMAIDS
 ATLANTIS: Nelao
 NEPTUNA: Ondeya
 SCAMPI & CHIPS: Hijja
 MERMAID BOSS: Phalana
 HEAD OF SECURITY: Hala

MERMAID CREW
 Jane
 Cosmea
 Bulipe
 Anna
 Vivian
 Nour
 Alia
 Yael

CHOIR: Michelle du Preez, Ella and Sinead, Amelia, Aminata, Connie, Fiji, Filippo, Guilherme, Kahilo, Laith, Xavier, Lillian, Hope, Isabella, Shamiso

Directed by Junelle Stroh (Merliama Sparkle Storm) and Jan le Roux (Short Jan Silver)



Nick: The fantastic boat!
 Louise: Costumes
 Backstage assistants: Audrey, Auriëd & Sinead
 Extra help: Jackie F., Jackie B.
 Makeup: Kate, Teresa, Clara and Amit
 PLC Teachers: use of rooms
 Danai: Mr. Tech
 Heike: Adapting the poster
 Catherine and Beata: selling tickets
 Upper Primary Teachers: flexibility
 Oliwia: Filming
 PTA: Always supportive where needed



REMINDER:

Please collect your 2019-2020 windscreen sticker at the Office!



Great kindness challenge

A few weeks ago we wrote an article about the actions the students want to take in the wake of Kindness Day. The students brought blankets to donate to the SPCA association and we had a visit from SkyLA and Finja and Ms Petra from the SPCA. We enjoyed having the two dogs visit us. Our SPCA guests were incredibly sweet and calm, students enjoyed every minute.



The **Great Kindness Challenge** is a free PreK-12 program intended to spread **kindness** in schools all over the world. We saw the abundance of joy and kindness in our students. The Grade 2 students would like to thank each and everyone who donated a blanket or two to the SPCA. The blankets were received well and will keep the animals warm for the rainy season.

The students learned about what the SPCA does, how we can take care of dogs and other animals. These are some reflections from the students:

- *"The SPCA helps different animals." Zara*
- *"We should not cut dogs hair a lot." Linet*
- *"The dogs are cool and nice, they need a home. Alexander*
- *"We hope that the animals will get nice owners." Johan*
- *"It was interesting because they said what they do at the SPCA Ms Petra came to collect blankets and towels."- Chloe*
- *"We asked a lot of questions. The dogs were cool."- Elias*
- *"SPCA helps animals. They need our help. The SPCA has a lot of dogs and cats, please go and get one"- Inês*
- *"SPCA came to our school and they brought two dogs. Dogs were nice and fun."- Ajay*
- *"The SPCA came to visit us at school. The dogs were kind and Petra was telling us all about them"- Johann*
- **Thank you for all the blankets and towels.**



Thank you so much Petra for the opportunity. Each student received a PAKO magazine.

There are many schools in Windhoek who are taking part in the PAKO education project. We can also support this organisation by subscribing. We need a minimum of 20 kids to subscribe. For 6 issues a year for only N\$ 110.00 (including delivery). They hand out free magazines to Grade 1 kids (including subscription form) each year so parents can have a look.

Please let Debisa dcooper@wis.edu.na or Beata bstephanus@wis.edu.na know if you are interested.

This is not the end of the Kindness Challenge

For the upcoming festive season, the students also thought of giving back to those who do not have, by donating toys and books. During this week students wrapped Christmas presents for children diagnosed with cancer. Students were on fire with so much love and enthusiasm within them. It was good to see our world citizens sharing and empowering others.

More than 50 gifts (mostly soft toys and books) will be delivered to the Cancer Association next week.

Thank you so much for all your kind thoughts and support Grade 2 students. We are looking forward to seeing what they will come up with in January!



Grade 2 Students and Teachers are wishing everyone a Fantastic Festive Season.

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

It's time to say thank you and to celebrate

It is the end of the first semester of the academic year 2019-2020. We will soon be writing the year 2020. And it is time to celebrate what we have achieved and what we can be proud of from the past semester.

The 'Bottle Top Pathway' is a visual testimony to the work done by teachers, students and our support staff during the last semester: a great idea by Ms. Matzopoulos - a lot of sweat, energy and time invested by our students during SDL sessions and by David and Antonio (our Maintenance Crew) in every available minute of their busy schedules. And the result is a colourful pathway that can be a symbol of the journey we have taken in the past five months.



It's the perspective that makes us see things in different ways!

There were a lot of new initiatives that needed to be embraced and understood by us all - teachers, students and parents: a new (block) schedule, longer lessons, a longer school day and different schedule times.

Then there was the change in the way we assess our students in Grades 6 - 8, the introduction of SDL (Self Directed Learning), a Coaching Programme for teachers and a number of other, not insignificant, changes to the way we do things.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who invested energy, time and many thoughts into these changes. It is encouraging to see how our teachers are committed to making these changes a part of their daily routines, how our students are embracing the changes and becoming more and more proactive in the process and how some parents are actively involved in the lives of their children here at WIS. With this dedication and commitment of all involved, we were able to move forward much faster than anticipated and find ourselves transformed in many ways in and outside of the classrooms.

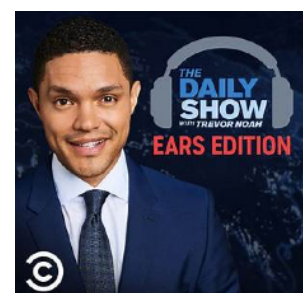
For the upcoming holidays, I wish all our families and staff from WIS a peaceful, safe journey if you are traveling, and a lot of time together with loved ones.

Regards,
Maggie Reiff

Altruistic Hero

The Grade 9s did numerous activities during ATL and ACT, defining the meaning of altruism and what it means to us as Grade 9s. We did one activity where we had to choose somebody that was an altruistic hero to us (somebody that has a concern and does something great for the world and the well-being of others) and write a few sentences about the impact they had on the world.

By the end of the activity we had a debating discussion on the heroes we chose because some people disagreed on some of the altruistic heroes other people chose because they didn't consider them as altruistic heroes alone. A good example of this would be with one student that chose Trevor Noah as an altruistic hero, people would consider him as not a hero because he's a comedian, the student argued that he is still an altruistic hero because he makes a large audience laugh and feel happiness because that affects the well-being of the person and it may positively affect the person's life.



At the end of the discussion we concluded that as long as somebody does something that positively affects the world and the well-being of other people they can still be considered as an altruistic hero.

Vimbayi Musavengana

Desert Dash

Good Luck to our dashing young men on their cycling machines!



Once again, two of our teachers, Mr. Tom and Mr. P have taken on the challenge to cross the world's oldest desert in 24 hours or less. A gruelling ride of 373 km that needs to be completed in a maximum of 24 hours. Starting at the Grove Mall of Namibia at 14:30 on the 6th of December, the route takes the riders across the Uis Pass and the Kuiseb River. It then criss-crosses valleys and rivers of the Khomas Hochland and the Uis Pass and enters the Namib Naukluft Park and then veers into the desert towards Swakopmund where the Desert Dash finishes on the beach at the Platz Am Meer Mall.

The Windhoek International School community wishes our two riders strength and success in this endeavour!

WIS Fun Walk/Run/Ride

The Sports Department's first Fun Walk/Run/Ride event was a success.

The Fun Walk/Run/Ride was a first-time collaboration between Windhoek International School (WIS) and Windhoek City Runners Club (WCRC). This event was inspired to encourage better health in the students, children, parents, caregivers, and teachers of the WIS and its community.

On Saturday 30th November 2019, the day started bright and early with everyone from family, friends and members of the community coming out to support our event. Everyone was energised and ready to take on the open road and simply enjoy the experience and the beautiful nature. We were amazed with how well everyone embraced this new experience organised by the Sports Department.

We would like to thank our beloved students, WIS parents/caregivers and every staff member who assisted and participated. Without your support and donations, this event would not have been possible. We had a lot of fun organising and we are looking forward to building on this experience to make next year's event bigger and better.

On behalf of the WIS Sports Committee, we would like to thank our sponsors:

The Trophy Palace

Absai Simon
www.thetrophypalace.com



H2Glo

Anthony Fick
amf@iway.na



Windhoek City Runners Club

Frans Amakali / Geoffery Muhinda
<https://windhoekcityrunnersclub.com>

Fountain Ok Foods

Immanuel Ferreira
fountain@away.na

And an anonymous WIS parents for sponsoring 150 water bottles and all cash donations.



History at WIS

Inquiry, Engagement, Collaboration.

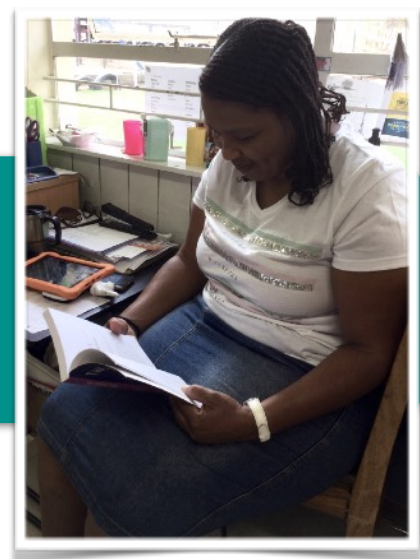
Grade 9 students investigate: *How important was oil in changing the nature of the Arab-Israeli conflict?*



Rick Fitzpatrick

W.O.R.D.

Guess who is also reading during our scheduled reading lessons, Ms. Johanna in Gr. 1J.



DO YOU HAVE A CREATIVE BRAIN?

The WIS Yearbook Committee invites all secondary students to take part.

DESIGN THE WIS YEARBOOK COVER FOR 2019-2020!

What can you win?
A N\$150 GIFT VOUCHER and your design on the cover of the Yearbook!

Design criteria:

- ~ The design must be A4 in size
- ~ High quality (*more than 2MB in size*)
- ~ Digital format (JPEG or PDF)
- ~ **USE YOUR OWN DESIGN, DON'T PLAGIARIZE!**
- ~ And have the following wording:
WINDHOEK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL YEARBOOK 2019-2020

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

Send your final design to:
YOUR HOMEROOM TEACHER!

INCLUDE YOUR FULL NAME, AND GRADE!

DEADLINE: 31 January 2020

