



# THE ORYX

*The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School*

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

### Peace

It has always been the case but it is true today more than ever. Peace is elusive because there are those who stand to benefit from war, hatred, division, and prejudice. Media outlets are commonly owned by the rich and the powerful who use them to promote their own selfish and cynical agendas. Social media - once believed to be how democracy would re-invent and sustain itself - are now used by deeply undemocratic forces to manipulate and misinform. Presidents and prime ministers lie. Politicians and leaders of wisdom, integrity, and humility are few and far between. Who can you trust?

The answer, I think, is that we need to trust ourselves. Democracy only works and peace will only prevail when people make sensible and rational decisions based on a careful consideration of all available evidence. But that requires people to be able to differentiate between the bogus and the authentic, so-called fake news and the truth. It requires people to question rather than obey, to doubt rather than accept, and to challenge what some would have us believe are immutable truths.

It requires, in other words, education. An education that encourages people to think. An education that encourages learners to reach their own conclusions and accept responsibility for their actions. An education that promotes understanding and compassion.

We want our students to be leaders, not followers. We want them to have the confidence to think for themselves. We want them to understand that war and conflict only ever benefit the few whereas peace benefit the many.

There is no more important work that a school can do.

*Peter MacKenzie*

## PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

### International Day of Peace

In celebration of International Day of Peace, the Primary classes have been discussing and doing activities related to peace. I'm sure those who attended this morning's assembly would agree that it was a lovely mix of expressions of peace from EY1 - Grade 5 finishing with the choir's song, "There is Peace". I don't think there was a dry eye among the adults in attendance watching the performances. The future looks bright with our children as the leaders and activists working for peace.



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## Dates to Remember

### September 2019

- **21:** World Peace Day
- **21:** World Clean-up Day
- **22:** Gr. 9 Trip Depart
- **25:** Gr. 6 Trip Depart

### October 2019

- **03 - 05:** AISJ Volleyball
- **04:** End of Term 1
- **07 - 11:** October break
- **14:** Start of Term 2



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**WEEKLY PUZZLER**

Tiancheng (Grade 7) and Eden (Grade 4) solved last week's puzzler. Well done!

*They both said that  $1 = .999\dots$ . This may be surprising, but look at Eden's explanation and you may be convinced: "I thought about a whole pizza. One third of the pizza is  $\frac{1}{3}$  which is equal to .33333333 (keep going). If I give that to my mom and keep  $\frac{2}{3}$  its like I eat .66666666 (keep going) of the pizza. But, if I put the pieces together it's the whole pizza (1). If I add them as decimals is .99999999 so . . . .  $1 = .999999$ (keep going)."*

*Interestingly, there are some who disagree with the premise that  $\frac{1}{3} = .333\dots$ . Here is a [video](#) that is sure to cause some head scratching.*

Now let's look at probability. A family has two children, one of the children is a boy. Assume that the probability of having a girl is equal to that of having a boy,  $\frac{1}{2}$ . What is the probability that the other child is also a boy?

Please send solutions, or any fun and interesting puzzlers to [pfarrell@wis.edu.na](mailto:pfarrell@wis.edu.na)



**MAP**

The MAP testing sessions have gone well and the children have shown confidence and enthusiasm in the process. The make-up sessions will be completed early next week.



Thursday, 26 September, the Grade 1 - 5 homeroom teachers and Learning Support teachers will be participating in a MAP workshop with Mr Lindsay Stoelting, a consultant from NWEA. This workshop will help us to further develop an understanding of MAP, as well as to delve deeper into how the MAP test results can support student learning.

All Grade 1 - 6 parents/ guardians are invited to a Map information evening **Thursday, September 26 at 18:00** in the Staff Room. Lindsay and I will be presenting an overview about MAP and there will be an opportunity for your questions to be answered.

In October, Grade 6 will take the MAP tests. Those children who were in the Primary School for Grade 4 and/or Grade 5 will be familiar with the MAP test process.

**Assessment Conferences**

The Assessment conferences will be taking place Tuesday afternoon, 1 October and Wednesday, 2 October. (Please note these conferences are for parents and teachers. Children should not come to the conference. They also **don't come to school on October 2.**) Early next week a link will be sent for parents to sign up for the conferences with the Homeroom teachers as well as with the specialists.

Regards,  
**Beth Smith**

**AN AFTERNOON ACTIVITY**

The afternoon activity "Learning to Illustrate a Book/Story" coincided with International Dot Day on 15th September. The Grade 3 students Luke, Nini, Alia, Dou-Dou, and Glenda were keen to illustrate The Dot by Peter Reynolds and present it at last week's Assembly. Luke ably planned and led the presentation with additional information given by some of the students.

HIGH FIVE to our risk-takers, communicators and knowledgeable students!





## PEACE IS US!

EVERY DAY SHOULD BE A DAY OF PEACE.

Peace Art created during break: Gizelle, Jessica and Eden

## Can you say peace?



Grade 1D students learnt how children from all over the world say the word 'peace'.

Children everywhere will:

- wish for peace,
- hope for peace,
- and ask for peace.

To all the children around the world, our peacemakers of the future.

## SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

### Fridays for future - International Day of Peace - Our responsibility

Ahead of the start of the UN Climate Change Summit, today the *Fridays for Future* demos will be happening across the world with the biggest demo expected to be happening in New York. Millions of people around the world will take to the streets to urge leaders to take *Climate Change* seriously.



As an educational institution, we recognise the importance of initiative and action to make a change to things that are not right. However, our responsibility goes further. We have to make



sure that we educate the generation that will have to find solutions to these major challenges the world is facing in a way that will save the planet. In our day-to-day educational efforts, as a school, we need to be pro-active (if that is still possible) and outspoken about our concerns and actively promote any initiative that finds solutions and does something to address current political and environmental crises.

Greta Thunberg ([Protect, Restore, Fund](#)) is a prime example of someone who has taken action, who is doing something. But do we need our young people to have to jeopardise their education in order for us - the current generation in charge of things - to hear and become active? We should be the ones taking action, we have to be the ones educating young people to be more aware, active and less wasteful in their communities in the future. And this starts with small things - at home, recycling, reducing waste, saving water and electricity. And here at school, we have to take the initiative to become more aware and sustainable in our actions to promote peace in the local but also in the global context and to protect and save our environment.



Namibia is a country that has to rely on its natural resources - agriculture, tourism, mining. We are experiencing a major drought at the moment. Marine phosphate mining and its effect on the ocean is a big debate in Namibia. Our timber is being harvested and exported to the detriment of the natural beauty of our country. These and many more challenges need to be addressed right in our community.

And then we want to educate our young people to be strong, courageous and active on the international stage one day to preserve our environment and *fight for peace* across the world.

This is the reason why we here at WIS are educating young people to question, to challenge, to be actively involved in the world around them. We teach young people to see more than just the academics and the grades. We want them to see *the bigger picture*, to be educated to become *independent, inquiring and self-motivated citizens of the world* (WIS Vision). Our Mission is *to develop the full potential of each student in a stimulating environment of academic excellence, cultural diversity and active social responsibility*.

With activities like MUN, My Campus, My Planet, working with PAY Namibia, Applied Digital Skills, we are making an effort to instil these values in our children and urge all our families to do just that at home as well.

**Regards,  
Maggie Reiff**

**W.O.R.D.**  
Guess who is also reading during our  
scheduled reading lessons...



## Grade 7 Peace Day

Grade 7LC is celebrating their diversity for International Day of Peace. They celebrate being 15 students with a total of 13 nationalities and they all work well together. They wish the world could live in Peace, just like they do!



## WIS IB Students Make a Difference

### [PAY Namibia](#)

Ten Grade 11 and 12 students volunteer on Monday afternoons as after-school tutors, mentors, and sporty friends to learners at PAY Namibia. The reciprocal benefits from this experience are innumerable. Observing the generosity of WIS students is a treat! CAS provides tremendous real-life benefits to learners and serves as a deliberate, innovative supplementary tool for learning and is a great contrast from the rigours of the IB DP student.



Rick Fitzpatrick

## WIS Historians Grapple with Peace-Building



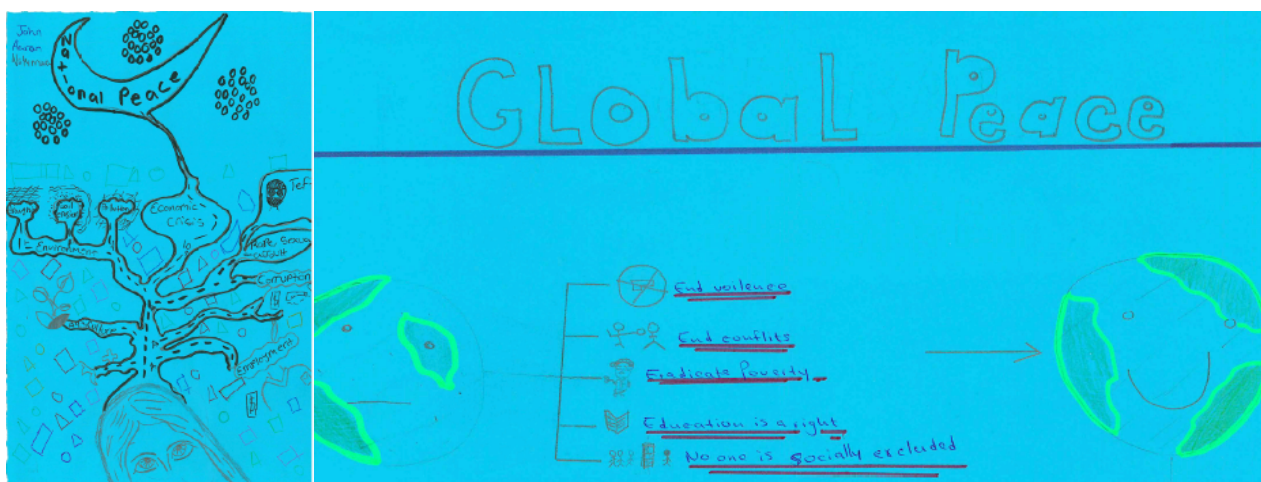
Secondary school historians intellectually grappled with the concepts of peace and justice within an engaging student-led class conversations. They then transformed their verbal ideas into these imaginative written and visual works you can see below. The Grade 10 History students led the way and their wonderful discussion on 'Crafting a Road Map to Peace in our City, Nation, and World!' was exceptional.

Key conversation points included:

- a) *the importance of eradicating poverty;*
- b) *the need to eliminate resentment;*
- c) *can we make our communities more inclusive?;*
- d) *can we further develop unity and ensure security for all?;*
- e) *can we provide quality education for everyone?;*
- f) *eliminating negativity;*
- g) *finding ways to end violence and reduce the presence of guns/weapons.*

This challenge is elusive (ie. hard to reach) and we move from being utopian/idealistic as we look to the future but at the same time we are determined to contemplate and act on the pragmatic challenges involved in building peace in our city, nation and world.

**Watch this space world!**



**Rick Fitzpatrick**

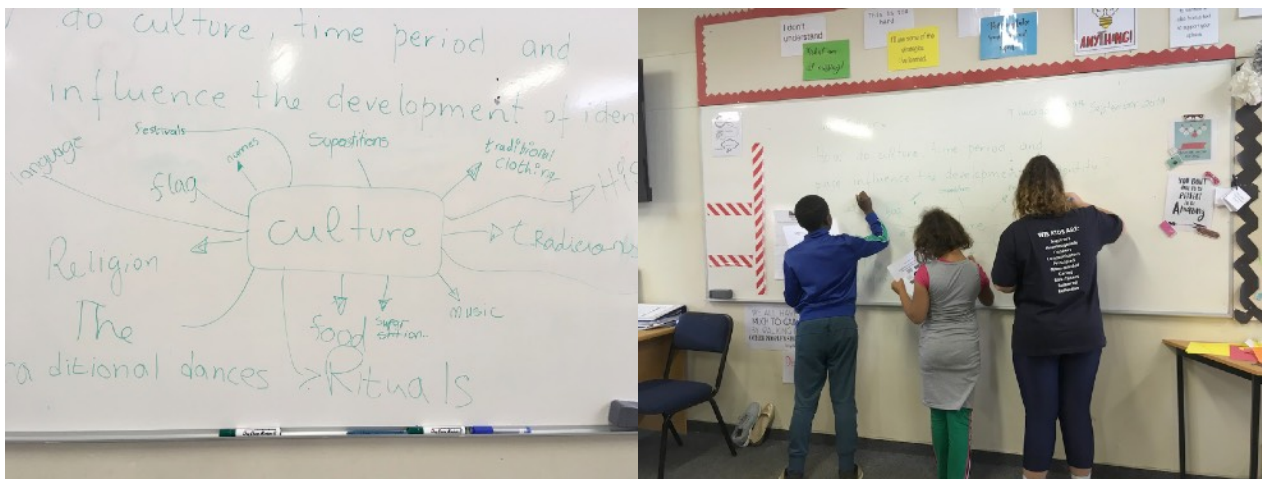


# Unit: Culture

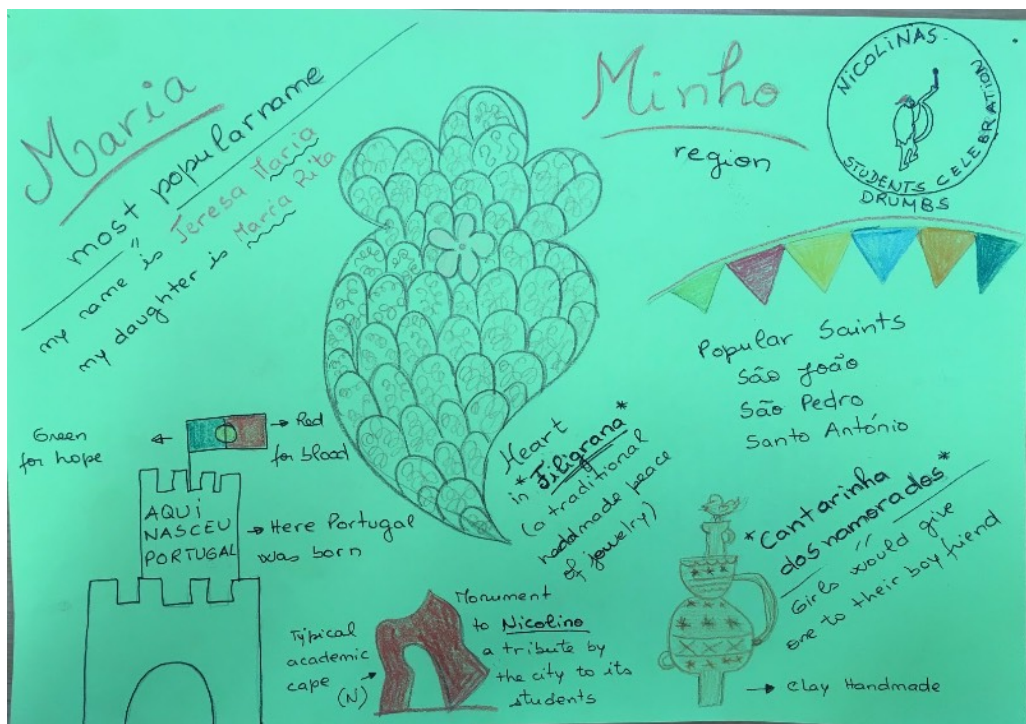
## Grade 6 Social Studies Class

How do culture, time period and place influence the development of identity?

Students brainstorm about CULTURE and how all traits of culture influence who we are as a community, person, country...



And they did a representation of who they are.



Today I am sharing with the WIS COMMUNITY who I am ... next week you will see some students' work!

### DIVERSITY

**Mrs. Teresa** - "working together to find common ground"

## GRADE 6 JB & HM

### PINWHEELS FOR PEACE



Pinwheels for Peace (<http://www.pinwheelsforpeace.com>) is an art installation project started by two art teachers, Ann Ayers and Ellen McMillan, who teach at Monarch High School in Coconut Creek, Florida, as a way for students to express their feelings about what's going on in the world and in their lives. The project was quickly embraced by their students and the entire school community. <https://www.educationworld.com>

#### Here are some of the Grade 6's thoughts about peace and the project:

- *'Peace starts with a smile.'*
- *'Imagine a world without conflict, hunger, poverty, etc. You're probably thinking that it is not possible, but what if it was? Wouldn't it be great?'*
- *'I find when the pinwheels spin, peace has been made.'*
- *'Peace means being loving and kind to others.'*
- *'I think peace day is good, because people just need to stop fighting and get along for a little bit of time and who knows, they might like each other and become friends.'*
- *'Being in peace is going to get some ice cream together.'*
- *'Peace is about sharing and showing love.'*
- *'Peace is important in the world so wars, terrorism etc. don't happen and the world can be a happier place.'*
- *'The pinwheels of peace fly in the air and create empathy throughout the world.'*
- *'I was at peace when making and then playing with the pinwheel. It makes a small difference on the outside, but a big difference in my heart.'*



## CREATIVE WRITING ASSESSMENT

### NATALIE SEGAMWENGE, 8AJ: CHALLENGES AND REWARDS OF WORKING TOGETHER

**Write an informative essay that will link with PEACE DAY on “What are the challenges and reward for working together?”**

There are several rewards as well as challenges when it comes to working together. It's important to be aware of these differences in order to produce great quality results and work peacefully with other people. Some challenges regarding working together are; conflict and tension, ethnic and cultural differences, accommodation of beliefs and unequal workloads. While there are many challenges there are also quite a few rewards such as it fosters creativity and learning, it blends complementary strengths and teaches conflict resolution skills.

Conflict and tension when working together can diminish the amount of time spent completing important tasks. When there is tension or conflict within groups most of their working time is spent resolving those disputes and creating compromises. That time could definitely be spent working and improving their project and trying to complete it to the best of their abilities.

Differences between cultures and ethnicities can often cause conflict. I state this because different cultures and ethnicities may bring misinformed stereotypes, differences in group identity, different cultural values, and different perceived power. Often those are causes for conflict, and if these conflicts arise in groups it may break trust and friendships. And these conflicts aren't fixed in minutes. Transforming conflict from cultural and ethnic differences takes time and patience and definitely cause problems when working together.

People may treat others poorly because of their beliefs. This can be seen in cases of prejudice and awful behaviour towards people of different beliefs. This means that if someone has different beliefs they may be treated badly in groups. We can therefore see that people with different beliefs may not thrive when working in groups.

When working in groups often there are unequal workloads. The group leader or most determined person usually does most of the work and some people in the group get to avoid doing any actual work. This means some people in a group may be overworked while others learn nothing. It is clear that this defeats the whole purpose of of group work in the end.

There are also quite a few positives to working in groups as well.

Individuals usually get very creative and learn more when working in groups. This is illustrated by people seeing different viewpoints, brainstorming ideas and creating compromises as a group. This creates a lot of learning opportunities and space to become very creative.

Working together leads people to blend their complementary skills. This is shown when group members combine their individual talents and bring their gifts to the table. This leads to unique and creative work which could never be achieved independently. From their group results it is clear that group work helps blend abilities and create amazing results.

Engaging in group work helps people develop ways to resolve conflicts. Disputes are inevitable when working in groups. If people work in groups often they learn what to do when tension arises in teamwork conditions. This means that people can gain conflict resolution skills. From this, we can conclude that working together helps people learn important life skills.

As you can see there are many challenges when it comes to working together, such as; conflict and tension, ethnic and cultural differences, accommodation of beliefs and unequal workloads. Despite that fact, we can see that working together has many positives. For example, it fosters creativity and learning, it blends complementary strengths and teaches conflict resolution skills. All in all group work is still a very positive thing that creates many great learning opportunities. However in only works if we are aware of its challenges and try to fix them.

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## Cutest of the Pack

### Pet Calendar 2020 Photo Contest

Has your pet got what it takes to be crowned a winner?  
Do you have the purrfect pet?

Enter for your pet's chance to be the **Animal of the Year 2020**.  
The top **12 winners** will be featured on a full spread in the calendar.  
The top **120** will be featured in the calendar.

**Enter and vote between 1 September until 1 October 2019.**

Tara Mette

PHOTOGRAPHER

The winner gets a pet photo shoot with professional photographer **Tara Mette** and the calendar cover photo. Photography session can be scheduled in Windhoek and in Swakopmund!

**Cannot wait to enter your pet? Follow these simple steps:**

**STEP 1:** Email a photo of your pet (no humans) sized 1-3MB and include a blurb about your pet (max 100 words) to [photocontest@spcawindhoek.org.na](mailto:photocontest@spcawindhoek.org.na)

**STEP 2:** Pay **NS100** at the SPCA, online, or make an EFT. Now wait!

**STEP 3:** The SPCA will review and upload your pet's photo to our Facebook page within 24 hours.

**STEP 4:** Once the photo is uploaded, it is now up to you to share the photo wide and far with friends and family and get them to vote on YOUR pet!

MOST VOTES ON FACEBOOK WINS!

Would you or your company like to sponsor a page in the calendar?  
Contact us for more information!







**INTERNATIONAL**  
**FOOD**  
**& CRAFT**  
**BAZAAR**

Association of Diplomatic Pouses

Saturday  
28 Sept  
2019

10:00 - 14:00  
FNCC Terrace | Free entry

ALL PROCEEDS FROM THIS YEAR'S EVENT WILL GO TO CHARITIES SUPPORTING YOUNG WOMEN AND FEMALE EMPOWERMENT IN NAMIBIA.





A celebration of the diversity of cultures from around the world

# ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL DAY FESTIVAL

@ Windhoek International School

10:00 - 14:00 | NOV 9TH, 2019

yummy food - great music -  
fun games