

THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Reports

As was explained in a number of issues of The Oryx towards the end of last year, we are currently in the process of introducing new biannual school reports for all learners at WIS.

Secondary reports (or what I might describe as "beta" versions thereof) were issued last month and feedback so far has been positive. We will continue to revise these and by June they should be more or less finalised.

Primary reports are being written even as I type and our student information management system provider is working on the interface that parents will see once everything is complete. Again, I apologise that Primary reports were not ready for publication in December but I am confident that the new format will (a) be a great improvement on the old and (b) be in parents' hands before the end of the month.

Thank you for your understanding.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This is the final reminder that the AGM will be held on Tuesday 23rd January at 6pm in the school auditorium.

A Moving Target

One of the books I'm currently reading is a recent one by the British political commentator, Robert Peston. The other night I read:

Our schools are teaching the wrong things. They are creating a generation of young workers vulnerable to being made irrelevant and unnecessary by machines. Maths, reading and writing are vital for living, but not so much for earning a decent living, because machines can already do all basic information management and processing much faster and more accurately than us. What machines can't do – and quite possibly never will be able to do – is negotiate, build relationships, empathise, instil confidence, win trust, create great art, write moral philosophy, dream, or any of the other emotional and intuitive activities that are central both to highly paid careers and the sheer joy of being alive.

With schools ordered by governments to become sausage factories churning out students with the best exam grades, they do not spend enough time helping young people become more creative, better communicators or adept empathisers. [The move to measure] students' success back towards exam prowess and away from project work is especially nuts because it disproportionately rewards ability to memorise and meet deadlines and inadequately captures initiative and team-working.

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Dates to Remember

January 2018

- **23:** AGM @ 18:00
In the PLC Auditorium
- **25:** Board Meeting
- **30:** Board Meeting

WEEKLY PUZZLER

Last week's puzzler was solved by Ezra Roscoe (7B), and Grace Farrell (9B). Well done! A solution can be found [here](#).

This week's puzzler comes from the days of kings, knights, and fair maidens. The fair maiden Rowena wishes to wed. Her father, the evil king, has devised a way to drive off suitors. He has a little quiz for them, and here it is. There are three boxes on the table. One is made of gold. One is made of silver. And the third is made of lead.

Inside one of these boxes is a picture of the fair Rowena. It is the job of the knight, the white knight, to figure out which one has her picture (without opening of course). Now, to assist him in this endeavor there are inscriptions on each of the boxes.

The gold box says, "Rowena's picture is in this box."

The silver box says, "The picture isn't in this box."

And the lead box says, "The picture isn't in the gold box."

Here is a hint: one of the statements, and only one, is true.

Please send your answer or any good puzzlers to pfarrell@wis.edu.na



He is writing about schools in the UK but the same concerns could be (and have been) raised about schools the world over. None of what he writes is particularly new but it is another reminder that the world is changing fast and educational practices have to keep up. We are chasing a moving target, as are all schools, but I'd like to think that we are at least asking the right questions. I'm not sure many schools have even got that far.

Peter MacKenzie

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Now that we've been back in school for two weeks, and with many new students recently joining WIS, it is a good time to give a few friendly reminders:

SCHOOL HOURS

- The Primary School day begins at 7:20 and ends at 13:30.
 - If your children are arriving at school after 7:20, please sign them in at Reception (otherwise they will be marked unauthorised absent).
 - If you need to collect your children prior to the 13:30 dismissal, please sign them out at Reception and collect an exit slip for each child from Ms Catherine. Exit slips then need to be given to the security guard.
 - If your children are absent on any given day, please send an email to your children's teachers, as well as to reception@wis.edu.na. If notice is not given, it will be considered an unauthorised absence.



HATS & WATER BOTTLES

- Children are expected to wear hats during their break times. Lately, many children are conveniently forgetting their hats at home. Please ensure that your children have wide-brimmed hats to wear at school, as well as a water bottle, especially for these hot days. The PTA Community Center sells both of these items. Remember that hats and other belongings that have a name written on them are more likely to be returned to the owner if left somewhere.



COMMUNICATION

- The various ways that we communicate with parents include: the D-6, e-mail, classroom blogs, and The Oryx. Reading these will keep you aware and up to date of what is happening at school.
- Every Thursday at 7:30, there is a coffee morning at the PTA Community Center. Members of the PTA, Ms Avril (PYP Coordinator), Mr Danai (IT Coach) and Ms Sharon (School Nurse) are available to meet with parents. Come enjoy a cup of coffee, meet other parents, ask questions, get help with logging onto the class blog, learn about how your child uses technology at school, learn about the PYP, hear more about our health and safety and more. Everyone is welcome.



PARKING

- Park only in the designated areas and not on the zebra crossings or outside of the outlined parking spaces. Parking behind other cars by the Toddlers area is also prohibited.
- Please use the zebra crossings when navigating across the car park and encourage your child to do so as well.



AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

- Most Primary After School Activities are held from 13:45-14:45.
 - It is important that children are collected on time from their activities.
 - There is no supervision for children after 14:45.
 - If on the rare occasion that you are running late and won't be on time to pick up your children, please call the school office to inform Ms Catherine.



**Regards,
Beth Smith**

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL**Alternatives - IGCSE, IBDP, Vocational, Academic**

When students enter their final years of school, the decision on what the next step will be is a difficult, time consuming and complex decision. Do I continue with the IB Diploma? Do I use my IGCSE certification to go into a more vocational field? Do I want to study in an academic institution or do I rather want to do something more practical.

We cannot all pursue academic careers - we do not all want to pursue academic careers. But what options do we have?

I'd like to introduce to you an option that might be something to look into for some of our students once they complete their school education - CATS.

What does CATS stand for? - "Commercial Advancement Training Scheme"

(<http://www.catsnamibia.org/>)

CATS offers a two year training programme to school leaving students who want to embark on more practical careers in their future. CATS students receive both theoretical and practical training in an institution affiliated to CATS. Students receive theoretical training four days a week and then work in a company for two days a week.

We have invited Ms. Twitileni Nyamu who is the programme coordinator for CATS Namibia to do a presentation to our school community on this initiative. Ms. Nyamu is a graduate of WIS, knows our school and our programmes and is very keen to cooperate with WIS to enrol our students with CATS in future.

This might be a useful information session for students who are thinking of starting a more vocational route once they have completed their IGCSE course.

Parents and students are invited to attend this information session on CATS on Tuesday the 6th of February at 18:00 in the Auditorium of the PLC.

**Regards,
Maggie Reiff**

Secondary Student Council

The Student Council is pleased to welcome everyone to the New Year and a new term! As representatives of the student body, each member works hard to improve school life for our fellow students.

Last year was an exciting year for the Student Council. To end the year, the Student Council organized a Secret Santa for its members. Celebrating the holiday spirit, gifts were exchanged amidst smiles and laughs.

The council organized a Spirit Week in which, for four days, students dressed up to reflect different themes and show school spirit. The themes were Meme Monday, Twin Tuesday, Gender Swap Wednesday and Blast from the



Past Thursday. The Year 12 class was adjudged the class with the most spirit and received a pizza party as its reward. We want to thank the PTA for sponsoring the pizza party.

Finally, on the last day of school, the Student Council arranged a dress code presentation for the Secondary classes. This presentation sought to remind students of which clothes were appropriate for school and which were not.

All in all, 2017 was a successful year for the Student Council. We look forward to the New Year and hope to continue bettering the lives of students in Windhoek International.

Secondary Student Council



Be a WISe Consumer. Keep your coffee warm for longer & Reduce the use of plastic Covers. PTA & Coffee Peddler. Together WE Care.

PTA/ PYP COFFEE MORNINGS
From 7.30am to 8.3am
Every Thursday. New families welcome!

Be informed - Be Connected



WELCOME TO THE PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAMME
Scan the QR Code below with your mobile phone to find out about the PYP Program at our school



OR visit wispp.blogspot.com



Any questions?
Avril van Zyl - PYP Coordinator: avanzyl@wis.edu.na
Beth Smith - Principal: bsmith@wis.edu.na
Danai Maramba - Technology Coach dmaramba@wis.edu.na

What's up in the PYP?

Dear parents

Welcome back to a new term in the PYP. The students and teachers look well rested and ready to get going again.

We have had a lot of new families entering our school this term. So welcome to them. I hope you are all settling in well.

Just a reminder to all parents that the **PTA Community Centre** is a great place to visit, have a coffee and meet parents and staff, also buy the things you need for your child.

On **Thursday mornings** from 7:30 am till 8:00 am there is a more formal meet and greet to the PYP for all new parents. Myself (PYP Coordinator), Mr. Danai (Technological Coach) and Ms. Sharon (School Nurse and Counsellor), will pop down during this time to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

PYP FOCUS FOR THE NEXT SIX TO EIGHT WEEKS:

This week the teacher's will be posting the next PYP Newsletter on the classroom blogs. Every Unit of Inquiry cycle these are uploaded for parent information. Please check the class blog, as this is a great way to know what is happening in your child's learning and find out how you can support them. The following are the current transdisciplinary themes by Year level.

KG 1: How We Express Ourselves, Learners will explore and experiment with different art mediums, music/movement, visual art/creative mediums, imaginative role play as a means to express their personal feelings and ideas.

KG 2: How the World Works Learners will be exploring materials and the world around them using their five senses. This will be very play based, experimental and hands on as learners develop awareness of their senses and how they help us.

Year 1: Sharing the Planet Learners will explore and experiment with the form of **water** and discover the function and purpose of water and why it is so important. This unit will be experimental and hands on with real life experiences. Learners will begin to become aware of our responsibility to water.

Year 2: How the World Works, Learners will be exploring, experiment with and research varying forms of energy in the world around them, this includes light, sound and heat.

Year 3: How the World Works Learners will be experimenting with various materials and matter and will be developing skills on how to apply the scientific process to their questioning and learning about the world.

Year 4: Sharing the Planet Learners will be exploring, discovering and researching living things and their environment. There will be connections made with the ecosystems and what living things need to survive.

Year 5: Sharing the Planet Learners will be discovering earth's natural resources and human need of these resources. Learners should start to make connections with why our earth is so precious and the impact humans can have on it.

Year 6: How the World Works Learners will be exploring, researching into what is climate and how it is impacted or can be changed. There will be an exploration from a local and global perspective of our Earth and its climate, the geography, impact of climate and the need for sustainability.



I wish you all the best this term.

Kind regards

Avril van Zyl

PYP Coordinator

Activities get underway again!



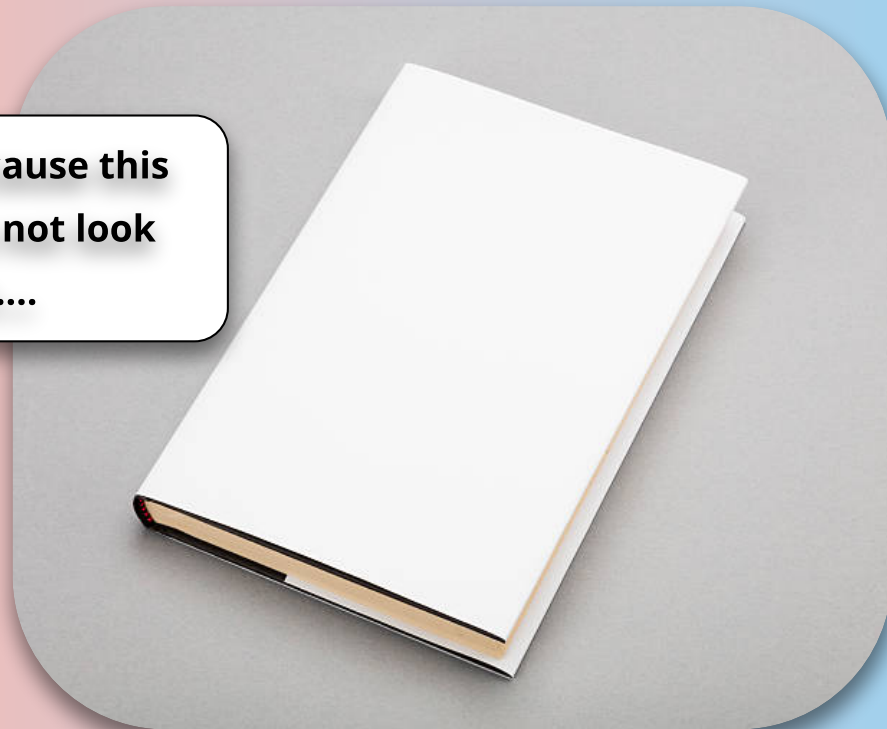
New Jungle Gym



This week the Year 2 and 3 students celebrated the opening of the new playground jungle gym located next to the Year 2 classrooms. Some of the new additions include a slide, rope ramp, balancing beam, rock climbing wall, cargo net ramp, tire tower, and monkey rails. The new jungle gym is sure to be a popular break time option.

YEARBOOK COVER COMPETITION

**...because this
does not look
right....**



STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO DESIGN A COVER FOR THIS YEAR'S YEARBOOK. THE BEST ONE WILL BE PRINTED ON THE FRONT COVER OF EVERY 2017/ 2018 BOOK!

RULES

- ▶ THE DESIGN MUST BE A4 SIZED
- ▶ ENTRIES ARE TO BE SUBMITTED DIGITALLY
- ▶ CLOSING DATE: 15 MARCH 2018
- ▶ MAXIMUM OF 3 ENTRIES PER STUDENT
- ▶ PRIMARY ENTRIES SUBMITTED TO VNAMBIAR@WIS.EDU.NA
- ▶ SECONDARY ENTRIES SUBMITTED TO RSMIT@WIS.EDU.NA
- ▶ THE FOLLOWING TEXT MUST BE ON THE COVER (ANYWHERE):
 - WINDHOEK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
 - YEARBOOK 2017/ 2018

Weekend Tennis Clinics



Do you want to take your tennis to the next level?
These weekend tennis clinics will do *just that!*

“These clinics are a great opportunity to build technique and learn new skills”.

The programme is designed to enhance your game, enhance enjoyment of successful play **and** get you into tennis shape again after the festive season.

The clinic will be given by a British Lawn Tennis Association accredited coach.

Ages 6 onwards

6 to 12 years: Fri 2nd Feb 2-5pm : Sat 3rd Feb 9-12 noon

13 to 18 years: Fri 9th Feb 2-5pm : Sat 10th Feb 9-12 noon

Adults: Fri 16th Feb 2-5pm : Sat 17th Feb 9-12 noon

Flexibility on dates is possible depending upon who signs up

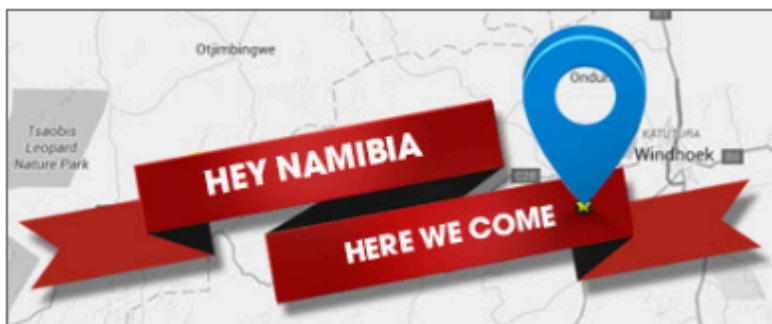
(tournament held at the end of the clinic)

On Windhoek International School court

For a fun filled intense week end of tennis

Sign up now. Register with l.symondsmayes@gmail.com
081 222 2132

Cost: N\$350/weekend
Maximum 10 participants per clinic



+27 11 950 4009

Dear Precious Bwanya,

You are invited to join a Monash South Africa application session. Join us to find out more about our quality education, the unforgettable student experience at MSA and how we will prepare you for future career success.

Date: Saturday, 20 January 2018

Time: 9:00 - 17:00

Venue: Protea Hotel Thuringehof, Corner of Bahnhof & Independence Avenues, Windhoek

Remember to bring: Your latest certified academic results and a certified copy of your National I.D/Passport or Birth Certificate.

You'll be able to apply on the day and start your studies in February 2018.

Submit a full application during the session and you could receive a 25% tuition enrolment award and have your application fee waived.

If you feel uncertain about which degree to study, you can contact our helpful Student Advisors today. They are equipped to advise, provide guidance on career options and answer any other questions you may have.

Remember that processing your visa may take some time, so be sure to submit your application as soon as possible.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Monash South Africa family.

Kind regards

Cleopatra Nyoni
International School Consultant
cleopatra.nyoni@monash.edu

The following courses are available in 2018.

Pathway programme

- [Foundation Programme](#)

Diploma

- [Diploma in Entrepreneurial and Small Business Operations](#)

Undergraduate

- [Bachelor of Business Science](#)
- [Bachelor of Business Science \(Specialising in Accounting\)](#)
- [Bachelor of Commerce in Law](#)
- [Bachelor of Computer and Information Sciences](#)
- [Bachelor of Public Health](#)
- [Bachelor of Social Science](#)
- [Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical and Electronic Engineering](#)

Connect with us on Social Media



It's about happiness, love, joy, kindness & pride between owner & pet

I LOVE MY PET

SPCA PHOTO COMPETITION

COMPETITION RUNS FROM:
15 January 2018 - 28 February 2018

HOW TO TAKE PART IN OUR COMPETITION!

Send your photo and proof of payment of the entry fee to :

spca.moniquer@gmail.com

Include the following information: name of person & name of pet, short description of why you love your pet, how he/she adds value to your life.

CASH PRIZES
TO BE WON!

1st Prize: N\$1000
2nd Prize: N\$600
3rd Prize: N\$400



COMPETITION RULES:

- Any age individual with his/her pet (one entry per pet)
- Photos can be taken by camera or cell phone - quality not the main factor - it is more about happiness, love, joy, kindness & pride between owner & pet.
- **N\$100 per entry!**
- Winners to be announced: **10 March 2018**
- Judges decision final
- All photos will be posted on the SPCA Windhoek Facebook page.
- Press Release with photos of winners will be send to all media