



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

A Busy Week!

Thank you to everyone who came out on Friday night to enjoy the return of **The First Piper, Ross Jennings**. The PTA organised an excellent braai and it was great to see families and friends relaxing together. We should do this kind of thing more often. (Just not sure where we'll get the bagpipes...)

And just a few hours later, many of us were back for Saturday's **Tech Camp**. This was an initiative of the ICT Committee and it was a huge success. Teachers from schools all across Windhoek came to hear how technology is changing the face of education. The presenters were teachers – and, indeed, students – from WIS and they demonstrated and explained to their audiences multiple ways to enhance teaching and learning through technology. The PTA again supported the event as did numerous colleagues and parents. It was an event that really showed WIS at its best and helps to cement our reputation as a leading school in the country. The intention is now to make the Tech Camp an annual event. Congratulations and thanks to all involved.

Another important event this week was on Thursday when Beth Smith, Primary Principal, introduced **MAP Testing** to an audience of interested parents. We ran the tests for the first time in November and this was an opportunity to help parents understand what the tests are for, what they reveal (and what they don't), and how they can inform teaching.

Development

And in other news (as they say), members of the Development Committee met yesterday with our architect to review progress on the new ~~cafeteria~~ restaurant. The concept is taking shape and the design we studied yesterday is quite advanced. It's happening!

Peter MacKenzie

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

What is bullying?

I have been thinking about the word "bullying" and what it means. It has become a common word used for a variety of interactions, some of which are considered bullying and some of which are not. I would be naive to think that bullying doesn't happen at WIS. However, I do believe that it is a rare occurrence.

Bullying is defined as when **intentional, repeated** harassment and abuse is committed through direct or indirect physical, verbal or emotional intimidation by one or more persons against others. The key words in this definition are *intentional* and *repeated*. Bullying also includes an imbalance of power.

Contents

- From the Director p. 1
- Primary News p. 1 - 3
- Secondary News p. 3 - 7
- Other News p. 8 - 11



Dates to Remember

February 2018

- **28:** SPTC details TBC

March 2018

- **1:** PSLC - Details TBC
- **2:** Secondary Sports Day
- **2:** End of term 3
- **12:** Start of Term 4
- **21:** Independence Day
No school, Public Holiday

WEEKLY PUZZLER

We received no correct solutions for the brick and a half puzzler. We'll put it back in the vault.

On to the new puzzler and a subject that should be popular with all. We will be cutting slices of pie this week. One straight slice through one whole pie divides the pie into two pieces. Simple enough. A second straight cut, crossing the first, will produce four pieces. A third cut, directed through the intersection of the first two, will make six pieces -but a third slice, strategically placed, can actually create as many as seven pieces. What is the maximum number of pieces you can produce with six straight cuts? Feel free to bring your pieces of pie to your Maths teacher for inspection and collection.

Please send your solution, or any interesting puzzlers, to pfarrell@wis.edu.na



Bullying can take a variety of forms: verbal, social/emotional and physical; it can be direct or indirect. The following chart lists examples of the different types of bullying.

Types of Bullying	Examples of Direct Bullying	Examples of Indirect Bullying
Verbal Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbal Insults • Racial/ethnic insults • Sexual harassment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persuading another person to criticize or insult someone • Spreading malicious rumors • Anonymous phone calls, emails and text messages. • Threatening and obscene gestures
Social/Emotional Bullying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using guilt, 'You won't be my friend if...' • Manipulation • Being unfriendly • Forming tight groups or cliques against someone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliberately turning away or averting one's gaze to ignore someone • Rolling eyes • Persuading people to exclude someone • Posting on websites/blogs • The use of multimedia messages
Physical Means	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Striking or hitting • Throwing things • Using a weapon • Removing and hiding belongings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persuading another person to assault someone

We do not tolerate bullying at school and address any concerns of children being mean to one another. We encourage the children to communicate with each other using words to solve problems and to use the High Five strategies when someone does something they don't like. We are trying to help the children learn and understand the difference between being a snitch or tattle-tale and when it's important to tell a teacher. A tattle-tale is purposefully trying to get someone else in trouble. When someone is intentionally hurt by someone else, or is doing something that could be potentially hurtful or harmful to others - that's the time to tell.

So how can you help your child?

When your child complains of an altercation with one or more classmates or peers, ask if the action was intentional and if it has been repeated. Consider also if there has been an imbalance of power. If the answer to each of these questions is yes, then your child is most likely being bullied and this should be reported to the Homeroom Teacher or to the Primary Principal. Ask your child if he/she reported the incident to the teacher - if not, why not. Encourage your child to tell a teacher so that the teacher can follow up and to be aware of what's happening. It is important as well if at any time there are concerns about your child's well-being that you share your concerns with the Homeroom Teacher. If and when we know what's happening, we are then able to follow up and do something. Every child should feel happy, safe and look forward to coming to school.

*Regards,
Beth Smith*

Primary School Book-week

The book-week in the Primary, saw students and teachers engaging in several different activities. Parents and teachers were forthcoming in reading to students in different languages. Students listened to stories in Afrikaans, Hebrew, Latvian, Hindi, Portuguese, Welsh, Polish, Damara, English and many other languages. Students made peace cards, caring books, class story books and a visiting author to Year 3 educated students on good story writing skills. As part of buddy reading, Primary and Secondary students were given the opportunity to read with and to each other. At the reading corner set up during lunch break, many students were seen giving their lunch play time a miss to listen to stories being read by different teachers and in different languages. Show and tell where students shared their favourite books from varied cultures was also very educating.



All these activities were aimed at developing a love for reading from a young age and students seem to have enjoyed the book week experiences very well.

Students in 6A read traditional Alaskan Folktales, rewrote some popular stories, practiced reading comprehension with wordless picture books, wrote the ending for *Journey*, by Aaron Becker and practiced viewing skills by watching *The Fantastic Flying Books of Morris Lessmore* while the teacher read the story.

Some of the activities from the drama classes were:

- The Year 6B students performed 'Two Sideways Stories' from the series of books 'Wayside School' by Louis Sachar to the Year 1 students.
- The Year 4B students performed the dramatised version of the poem 'Shoe Town' to the KG2 students.
- A groups from Year 6A performed a story to the Year 2 students.
- Different groups were also introduced to books like 'Burglar Bill' by Janet and Allan Ahlberg and old folktale like 'The Little Red Hen'.

Here are students' responses to the ending for the [Journey](#)

We practiced inferring, predicting, questioning, connecting, summarising and visualising while viewing the first five minutes of the story. We stopped to write our own versions of the last one minute. After we drafted, edited, revised we then shared our endings with our classmates. Finally!, we got to view the final one minute. ONE of our students actually wrote something very similar to the author's version. Can you spot it? [See responses here.](#)

Lyndsay Bain

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Student Parent Teacher Conferences are around the corner

Next week Wednesday, 28th February (14:30 - 17:30) and Thursday, 1st March (17:00 - 20:00) we will have our Student Parent Teacher Conferences again.

What is the purpose of these conferences?

We are in the last third of the academic year and by this time it is quite evident where the students are with regard to their progress in the different subjects. It is therefore a good opportunity for students, with their parents, to get some feedback from teachers on how they are doing, what they can work on and what goes well.

There will be detailed written reports at the end of May ahead of the final examination at the end of the year. The Student Parent Teacher Conferences now are just another step in reporting on progress and looking at ways to work on areas in need of strengthening.

Many students find it difficult to organise their studies, to manage their time and be consistent in their efforts. The Student Parent Teacher Conferences are an opportunity to talk about strategies to work on these areas and strengthen them to eventually benefit the whole study process and experience for the students.

Another important benefit of the SPTC is the opportunity for parents to meet their child's teachers. It is sometimes quite astonishing how many people do not know who teaches their children in the different subjects. It is good to be involved to such an extent that you are aware of who teaches your children and what they have to say about your child's progress. It is further good to be able to discuss this. On the other side, it is good for teachers to know who their students' parents are. A personal relationship can only be positive for the interaction between school and home.

**Regards,
Maggie Reiff**



My Year 1 Adventure



When you are my age and are on the brink of going into high school you tend to forget just how many people are in your school community. Well my class and myself had some special Year 1 kids come to our class so that we could read with them and draw the cutest pictures ever.



After we all introduced ourselves my courageous classmate Tessa read the book "The Man On the Moon". A pretty good story if I do say so myself but that was not the point, this was a bonding and fun event organised to represent the pure joy of book week. Most people forget that book week is not only about reading books, it is a way of showing how people can enjoy things together and share common likings and we chose to experience this shared joy through books.

Some of my classmates really enjoyed this experience and had a few comments to share with me. "It was a great experience you know! I don't think I was as smart as these kids when I was that age." "Their creativity is somehow better than mine then and now". "I really just think it was a fun time and I like seeing how kids are nowadays." Well this is my experience of our adventure with the Year 1s and I hope I get to see them again soon!

Padjependa Shidute, Year 9

Netball Excursion

Our Seniors Girls Netball teams are preparing for the start of the season with twice weekly training sessions. The girls have shown great enthusiasm and commitment and are developing into a good team. They will participate in the inter-schools league which is due to start in March.

On Monday the girls went to UNAM to watch the UNAM ladies (National Champion 2017) complete a skills training session.

Thanks to Ms Debbie, Ms Kirsten and Ms Audrey for their wonderful commitment in preparing the girls.



[Secondary Inter House Netball and Handball Fixtures](#) - Friday 2nd March from 11:00 - 13:30

Basketball



The Sports Committee has been working hard recently to further develop the range and quality of sporting opportunities for our learners.

Quality sporting opportunities are a consistent feature of a successful school and are embedded within our collective aspirations.

By the time you are reading this article our Y11 Senior Boys Basketball Team will be playing at the prestigious St Stithians College, Sandton, Johannesburg.

We have five group games against opponents from institutes around Southern Africa. These teams include AISJ, Pretoria Boys, St Andrews, and Kernsney Collage.

The success of these games will determine if we make the finals knock-out stages on Sunday.

Full trip report in next week's ORYX

Tom Jackson-Read

Secondary School Book-week

Book-week in Secondary included students and teachers engaging in several different activities.

Our students enjoyed sharing their love of reading with several of the Primary classes. Some of our Year 11 and 10 students read in French to Primary students during their French classes. The Year 9 group read with the Year 1s, and our Year 7 group read with the Year 2 and 3 classes during the week!

Reading is cross curricular and many subject specific books were shared in the classes as well.

The Year 8 group enjoyed having a guest author as well as a WIS parent, Mr. Ndumba J. Kamwanyah join our classes to share his inspirations and experiences as a writer.

Mr. Ndumba J. Kamwanyah writes for numerous publications, including a weekly piece in The Namibian. The Year 8 groups also created a script based on a story the "Gruffalo" by Julia Donaldson and performed it, using puppets to the Primary classes.

The weekly Middle School Book Club met and we discussed how books turned into movies seem to let us down as an audience, as we felt at times there are omissions of the plot and actors and actresses' cast as the book characters are not what we imagined them to be or described in the story. We are currently reading " Small Steps" by Louis Sachar.

All WIS students participated in the inaugural WIS Reading River! We all gathered as Year groups along our school pathways with various books to enjoy some reading time together. It was a wonderful event to end off Book Week!

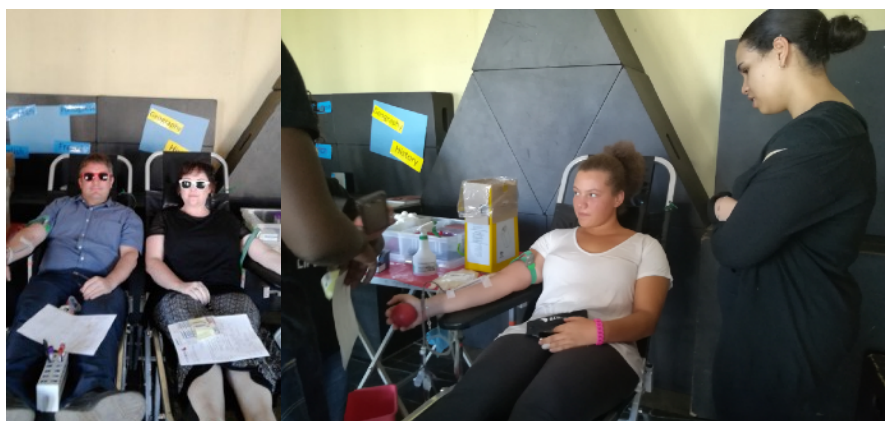
Another WIS Book Week tradition was the Book Parade, where all students were encouraged to " Dress like a Book Character or Author". The participation was amazing!

Kelsey Daignault

WIS Blood Donation Drive a success

On Wednesday this week NamBTS (Namibian Blood Transfusion Service) came to the school to take blood donations from students, staff and parents. Everyone who donated blood received either a pair of sunglasses or a pencil case with their juice and biscuits.

In total, NamBTS received 23 donations that day so we can proudly say that we have helped to save 69 lives!



Romeo and Juliet stage building! Blog #1

Are you guys ready for the Romeo and Juliet play coming from Windhoek International School? A few special people have been helping to make the stage. So this first blog is dedicated to them!

Tessa's dad, Ruediger Wolf - He is the building project manager and is a master builder.

He is also a seriously wonderful human, he has gone out of his way to source the materials we are using to build the set, basically designed the whole thing, found prices for materials, negotiated the best prices with Pupkewitz, asked the other dads to help out. The set build would not have happened without him.

Kendra's dad - Michael van der Merwe is another super builder.

Kendra has recently left our school, but her dad is STILL helping out to build this set, AMAZING.

Sola's dad - Gavin Alakija, is an architect and is helping out with the fine tuning of different design features in the set. He is helping with playing around with different design features to create more space and round the whole set off. He is also really really wonderful for lending his time, efforts and skills to making the set for Romeo and Juliet a reality.

Am I the only one excited to see how the stage will turn out? I bet it will be the BEST IN W.I.S. HISTORY!

Stay tuned for more info every Friday!

Check out the Windhoek International School Instagram page for more funny and exciting videos!

R.A.J blogger = Lili Zhang ❤️



WIS CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL DAY OF HAPPINESS!

LET'S HELP BRIGHTEN THE LIVES OF PEOPLE WITH CANCER.



FUNDRAISER

WHEN?

Tuesday, 20 March

WHAT?

Come dressed in the allocated class colours (yellow or black) to help make a whole school emoji smiley face on the big field at 11:00am. There will be a special treat for everyone after taking the photo...

STICKERS

Available for N\$10.00! On sale from homeroom teachers from 19 February - 20 March.

Please buy one (or many!) and support cancer patients. All proceeds will be donated to the Cancer Association.

[WIS Bazaar Flyer](#)

[Raffle Publicity](#)

The PTA Raffle

The PTA Raffle Team is busy gathering fantastic, adventurous prizes, family prizes, surprising prizes, prizes to relax you, prizes to spoil you or someone you care about.

Prizes that will take you to places, prizes that will delight you



BE PART OF THE ADVENTURE

SUPPORT THE PTA RAFFLE & Stand a chance to win.

A BIG THANK YOU ,TO OUR SPONSORS BELOW.



PROUD SPONSORS

WIS

PTA RAFFLE



Technologies (Pty) Ltd

www.lex.na Technology innovation beyond tomorrow



WIS 2017/18 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
- ▶ CLOSING DATE: 15 MARCH 2018
- ▶ ENTRIES CAN BE SUBMITTED DIGITALLY OR AS HARD COPIES
- ▶ MAXIMUM OF 3 ENTRIES PER STUDENT
- ▶ PRIMARY ENTRIES SUBMITTED TO MRS VEENA, VNAMBIAR@WIS.EDU.NA
- ▶ SECONDARY ENTRIES SUBMITTED TO MR. SMIT, RSMIT@WIS.EDU.NA
- ▶ THE FOLLOWING TEXT MUST BE ON THE COVER (ANYWHERE):
 - WINDHOEK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
 - YEARBOOK 2017/ 2018

Entries can be dropped off at Ms. Jolene in the admin office by 20 April 2018.

The 1st Annual SPCA Namibia Animal Educational Poster Contest



The SPCA Namibia invites all youth to take part in our **1st annual Animal Educational Poster Competition!**



WHO CAN ENTER?

Namibian Youth aged 5 - 19 Years

Four Age group Categories: 5 - 8 | 9 - 12 | 13 - 15 | 16 - 19



THE POSTER DESIGN REQUIREMENTS:

All posters must be hand-drawn or painted | A3 in size (42cm x 29.7cm)
The theme of the poster is **"How to care for an animal"**. All pictures drawn must be related to the theme. It is not about the artistic talent, it is about the message.



HOW TO ENTER?

The school to hand in posters at the nearest SPCA branch, or courier it to SPCA Windhoek, 145 Robert Mugabe Ave. Windhoek, Tel 061-238654. Clearly marked with school's name & contact details on envelope. Each poster entered must have the following info on the back: Youth's name, Age, School's name & contact details with name & signature of Teacher/Principal.

CASH PRIZES!

1st Prize: N\$1000 | 2nd prize: N\$600
3rd prize: N\$400 | School Prize: N\$1000*

The school with the most entries wins a prize!

**Min. of 20 entries per school to qualify.*

***TERMS AND CONDITIONS:** The winning posters & other selected will be used by all SPCA Namibia branches as an educational tool. Posters will be showcased on all the SPCA Facebook pages. If sponsorship can be acquired the winning posters will be printed & distributed all over Namibia! A press release with photos of winners & posters will be sent out to all media. All posters entered will be the property of the SPCA Namibia. The judge's decision is final. Terms & conditions apply.

All entries must be entered via the school/ educational establishment &/or art school.

**THE COMPETITION RUNS FROM:
1 MARCH - 30 APRIL 2018
WINNERS TO BE ANNOUNCED: 15 MAY 2018**

