



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

This is [World Kindness Week](#) around the world, and we are celebrating it here at WIS through our [daily activities](#) and throughout our Units of Inquiry. Please be sure to read Ms. Maggie's reflection on kindness in the Secondary School and Ms. Marcelle's article on our PYP approach to Units of Inquiry.

The cultivation of kindness and inquiry is core to a WIS education. Our school's mission and vision have remained unchanged for many years, and I go back to them whenever I need to make difficult decisions or prioritise the allocation of our scarce time and resources. I thought I'd share them again in today's Oryx.

We have a **mission statement** which explains our reason for existing:

To develop the full potential of each student in a stimulating environment of academic excellence, cultural diversity and active social responsibility to become internationally-minded independent thinkers.

We have a **vision statement** which articulates our aspirations as a learning community:

We aspire to be a world class international school that provides an internationally accredited curriculum, high-quality facilities, and a diverse staff to prepare independent, inquiring, and self-motivated citizens of the world.

We have a **definition of learning** which explains our shared understanding of how learning happens:

Learning at WIS is a journey of inquiring, discovering, and experimenting while developing understanding and acquiring new knowledge, skills and concepts. In the process, the learner constructs meaning by making connections and applying these in daily life situations. The learner realises individual potential through continued reflection and exploration. The learning environment is multi-sensory, collaborative, enjoyable and encourages international-mindedness.

We have a **curriculum** scope and sequence that is under review for continuous improvement. In April 2022 the WIS Board of Directors authorised the school's decision to adopt the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme in Grades 6 through 10. This decision arose from a review of our curriculum's effectiveness and continuity, through a series of surveys and consultations, and a feasibility study which took into account our school's foundational documents and community context. This means that from 2025 onwards, WIS will be an authorised **IB Continuum School** offering the Primary Years Programme, Middle Years Programme, and Diploma Programme. We will also ensure that the IGCSE is effectively delivered for our students who are presently in Grades 9 and 10. The school begins its formal journey towards MYP Authorisation today, with an all-day workshop delivered by the IB appropriately entitled: IB Workshop: *Developing the MYP*.

PARENT INFORMATION PORTAL
Click here for more information

Contents

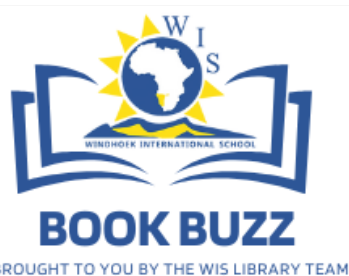
- From the Director p. 1 - 2
- Primary News p. 2 - 4
- Secondary News p. 5 - 10
- Other News p. 10 - 15

Dates to Remember 2022

- **17 November 2022**
Parent coffee morning
- **22 - 24 November 2022**
School Photos: [See Schedule](#)
- **25 November 2022**
Movie night SSC
- **30 November 2022**
BoD meeting
- **1 December 2022**
Coffee morning
- **3 December 2022**
WIS Fun walk



WIS BOOK BUZZ



The countdown to our holiday break has officially begun! As we imagine all of the time we'll have to read, let's also consider the literary holidays that are coming up.

November is considered National Family Literacy Month and National Novel Writing Month. With that in mind, November has a few holidays worth noting.

Take a look at the holiday list we've created below:

- 11/8-14 - *National Young Readers Week (starts the Monday of the second full week in November)*
- 11/8-14 - *Children's Book Week (also celebrated in May)*
- 11/10 - *Sesame Street Premier Day (November 10, 1969)*
- 11/14 - *Astrid Lindgren's birthday (author of Pippi Longstocking)*
- 11/15 - *I Love to Write Day*
- 11/16 - *World Philosophy Day*
- 11/18 - *High-Five a Librarian Day*
- 11/30 - *Joy of Cooking publication anniversary, November 30, 1924 - cookbook clubs, unite!*

Will you celebrate any of the November holidays listed? Let us know at jwashington@wis.edu.na and mnaftali@wis.edu.na.

Also If you'd like to suggest a book for our library collection, you can do so by visiting this link [BOOK SUGGESTION FORM](#).

Our school also has [strategic objectives](#) which will help the Board to measure the progress we make towards achieving our vision. One of the most important tools for measuring our progress will be an annual school climate survey. This survey will utilise questions asked by most Council of International Schools (CIS) member schools on an annual basis. It will also include some of our own questions which are aligned to our strategic plan and objectives. So when you see this survey in your inbox next week, I ask you to set aside 15 minutes to provide your feedback. It will be important for our school as we reflect on the present and plan for the future.

Sincerely,
Ethan Van Drunen

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

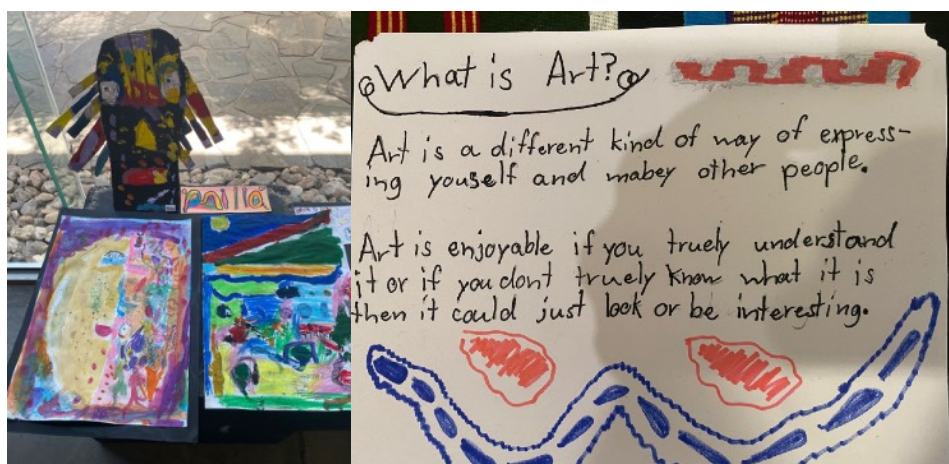
Dear WIS Community,

Nothing makes my teacher heart beat faster than a good unit of inquiry! I have just returned from the Grade 4 Learning Celebration and am justifiably proud of the learning I saw evidenced there. The best part was seeing how justifiably proud the students were!

Our approach to teaching and learning is transdisciplinary- this enables students to make connections between subjects so that they develop deep understanding. The transdisciplinary theme of this unit was:

How we express ourselves: an inquiry into the ways in which we discover and express ideas, feelings, nature, culture, beliefs and values; the ways in which we reflect on, extend and enjoy our creativity, our appreciation of the aesthetic.

To plan for a unit of inquiry requires collaboration by specialist teachers and the Homeroom team. Together they design learning experiences for students that allow them to inquire into a big idea. Along the way learners pick up valuable skills and knowledge of- in this case- literacy, music, art and social studies, performance, communication, collaboration and creativity.



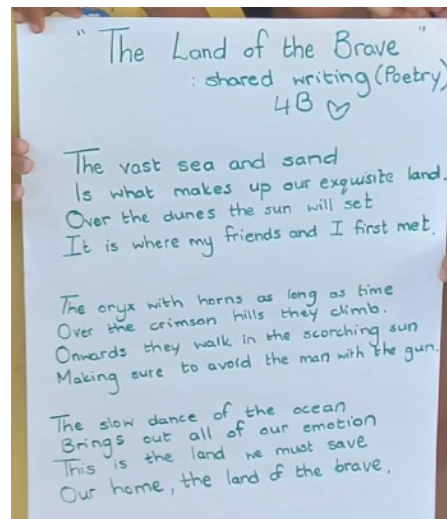
To celebrate and share their learning, with the help of their teachers, students then organise an end-of-unit event to which they invite the community.



During this Grade 4 unit, students were exposed to a variety of art forms. Students learned 'writing to entertain' by investigating different poetry forms and poetic devices. They created and performed a class poem 'The Land of the Brave'.

With the help of Ms. Michelle the Grade 4 students performed the songs Hard Knock Life from the musical Annie. The learning celebration also featured Food, Food, Glorious Food from the musical Oliver. Our Choir and Movement teacher Mr Gerson led the Grade 4s in performing Beethoven body percussion. **All were superb!**

In Art with Ms. Mandy, students researched masks from around the world and then created their own. They also created portraits and applied their learning about Cubism. The work was beautifully displayed and accompanied by artist statements, sending the message that 'we are artists'.



#LearningAtWIS is getting better all the time!

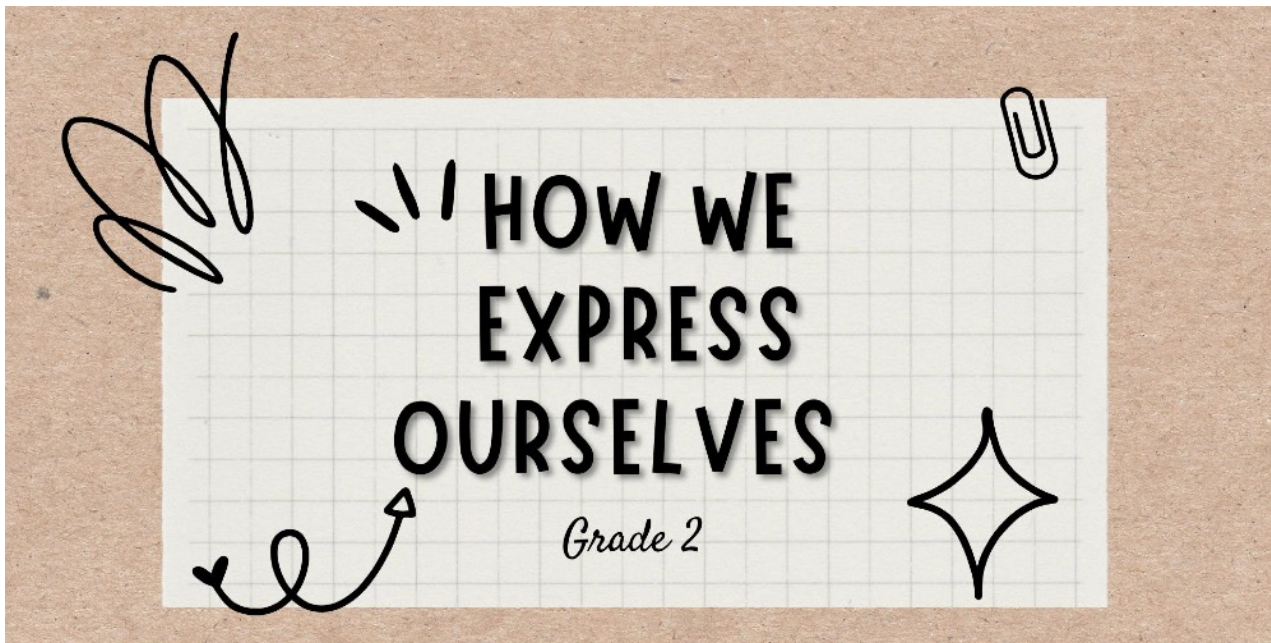
Warm regards,
Marcelle van Leenen

Grade 2 - How we Express Ourselves

Dear Community members,

In Grade 2, we are doing 'How we Express Ourselves' as our Unit of Inquiry and we are looking at different cultures and their traditions/celebrations.

Please sign up [HERE](#) for a class visit between 15 November and 8 December 2022. We would like to hear stories, do arts and crafts with the students and learn more from you. If there is a particular celebration which is not on our list please let us know.



Here are our email addresses if you have any questions.

bstephanus@wis.edu.na

dsmith@wis.edu.na

Thank you in advance. We are looking forward to hear from you!

Grade 2 Team



Alumni Corner

Lené Liebenberg - My Journey

After finishing the IBDP in May of 2021, my twin brother and I decided to start tutoring a few students in Maths, Science, and English for the rest of the year. This fantastic experience taught us many new skills and was a fun way to earn some money before starting our studies at the start of this year.

At the start of 2022, we moved to Stellenbosch and started our undergraduate degrees at the University of Stellenbosch. I got accepted into an all-girls residence, which was definitely the highlight of my year. I have had the opportunity to meet so many new people and build amazing friendships this past year. I have grown as a person in all aspects and can genuinely say that this has been the best year of my life.

I started my undergraduate degree in BCom International Business, but as the year progressed, I realised that I wanted to study BAccounting instead. When I was visiting home during the June holidays, I worked at EY Namibia for a week with the aim of getting more exposure to auditing and what it is like working at an accounting firm. After my week there, I was offered a full bursary for an undergraduate degree in Accounting from EY Namibia.

Upon reflecting, I realised how grateful I am to have been given the opportunity to complete the IBDP. It has helped me tremendously during my first year in regards to balancing my workload and enjoying the typical student life. I believe the IB taught me how to be an independent learner and manage my time efficiently. I also found the workload to be similar to the IBDP, which helped with adjusting to the learning environment on campus.

I am so grateful and excited for what the future holds. The main life lessons I learned this year were that it is important to do what makes you happy and to embrace experiences that will allow you to develop into the person you strive to be one day. Life is about taking on challenges and building a future that will bring you the most fulfilment. In the end, you will end up where you need to be and wherever that may be, learn to appreciate and embrace where you are and the people around you during every season of your life.

When I finished the IBDP I did not think I was going to study in South Africa, but now I wouldn't want it any other way.

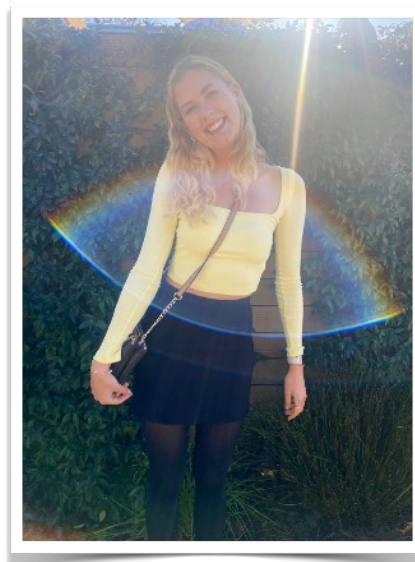
Okavango Delta, Botswana Trip

Dear Secondary Community,

Will you be 16 years old or older by the end of this school year? Then that makes you eligible for a trip of a lifetime to the Okavango Delta, Botswana for a week! If this is something that interests you, please sign up on the Google Sheet attached, or in the Secondary Community Information Group on Google Classroom.

During this amazing week, you will be engulfed in a truly wild experience having the chance to see lion, elephant, buffalo, leopard, cheetah, and many other animals. These animals are unique in that they are not habituated to humans. Some might not have ever seen humans before!

In addition, you will have the opportunity to study the flora and fauna of the Okavango through the academic lenses that you study every day at WIS. For example, we can predict lion and buffalo populations through mathematical modelling, learn about and actually do travel writing ourselves while in the bush, or analyse the geological formation of the Delta and how it relates to the larger geology of Southern Africa. These are just a



few topics that we can study through more traditional academics on our adventure. Students will also absorb more practical knowledge such as animal and plant identification, tracking and signs, and photography. Needless to say, the opportunities for learning are endless!

The total number of students that can participate on the trip is sixteen, therefore participation will be on a first come first serve basis. If there are more students interested in going to the Okavango, we will plan a second trip either this year or at the beginning of next year.

Main Details:

- Minimum Age: 16 years old
- Dates: 9-16 June 2023
- Location: Kwapa Camp, Okavango Delta, Botswana
- Provider: African Guide Academy, Maun, Botswana
- Cost: 16,000 NAD, although with exchange rate subject to change
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner included
- Two game drives or two game walks per day included
- Accommodation: Very comfortable canvas tents, two people per tent, including two single beds, bathroom, and a hot shower
- Transportation: Most likely using WIS Quantum and a second teacher vehicle



This google [Sign-up Sheet](#) is to see initial numbers that are interested in going to the Okavango Delta. As soon as I have a list of potential travellers, I will send a large file with more detailed information about the trip including a weekly schedule, behavioural expectations, and a packing list. That said, if you have any questions at present please do not hesitate to ask. Please sign up by Wednesday, November 12th so that I can communicate with African Guide Academy about logistics.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Mr. Forrest

WIS Football Victory

WIS U13 Football team had a glorious victory against DTS U13 team



On Friday 28th October 2022, the WIS U13 Football team secured a 10:2 victory against the DTS team. A player that did really well in the game, according to Mohamed and Jayden, was Gustave. He is celebrated as the player of the match for not just scoring 4 of the 10 goals but he improved on his ball control and shooting accuracy while communicating well with his teammates.

Jayden Camnbinda (team member) said this about the game; *"The match environment was very calm and relaxed"*. He saw that the WIS team really improved on their technique and progressed well in recent years. The players enjoyed the camaraderie of the team and playing in the LF League.

And let's not forget to mention, the WIS U8/9 team. They had their debut on the same day and had a wonderful game against the DTS first U9 team. The boys and girls played well. The game finished 3:1 in favour of DTS but our WIS team put on a great performance.

Sports Committee - Brendt, Fadel and Mohamed - Grade 9 ATL Class

WIS Basketball News

WIS Basketball Teams Make WAVES in the 2022 Season

Since April, our WIS basketball teams (U14 boys, U16 girls, U19 girls and boys) have been competing in the **Namibian Basketball School League**. It has been a wonderful season and we are very proud of our WIS basketball athletes. Our student athletes, with support from their families, have put in a lot of hard work, time and commitment to their sport and their team. Our athletes and coaches have practiced three days a week all season and have sacrificed many weekends to fulfil their commitment to their team and to our school.

The WIS Sports Department and our WIS basketball coaching staff would like to thank all of the athletes for their unwavering dedication to their sport. We would also like to thank the parents for their support with transportation of athletes, cheering on the sidelines and flexibility with training and games schedules. We also

could not have gotten through the season without your generous contributions of water, POWERADE, orange slices and most importantly, moral support.

We are very proud to share that of the four teams we had registered in the league, we had three teams advance to the playoffs. Congratulations to the U14 girls team who claimed Gold in the league and to the U16 team who took home Silver for WIS in the finals!

The teams played their hearts out and left everything on the court. As the coaching team, we are so proud of each and every player for what they did and how they have grown and developed in the sport of basketball. We can confidently say that WIS would not have achieved what we did if it was not for all the hard work the athletes put into practice every single day! Thank you WIS basketball athletes!

Our proudest moment as coaches was when Ezahra Skye Steenkamp was called up as the most valuable player (MVP) in the U14 girls category for the whole league. That moment was extended when Zuleika Hiwilepo was announced as the MVP for the U16 girls. And as if that wasn't enough ... Priye Hakweenda was awarded Rookie in the U14 age group.

We look forward to another successful basketball season next year in 2023!



Audrey Bock, Michael and Tawanda (WIS Basketball Coaching Team)

Ride With A Purpose

<https://www.legacyoflove.co/>

Since moving to Namibia my occasional and sporadic enthusiasm for cycling has developed into a regular passion. Namibia offers endless opportunities for cycling enthusiasts and I am glad to have the opportunity to explore this beautiful country on two wheels, self propelled.



The Legacy Of Love foundation was established by some cycling friends who needed to create a cathartic outlet for their own grief following the tragic death of their daughter. The foundation provides healing support for bereaved and grieving families throughout Namibia.

For those who feel compelled to support this cause, I would be hugely grateful to be able to financially support the foundation for which I am riding. Please click the link to see the pledge form [Legacy Of Love](#).

Thomas Jackson-Read

Namibia Junior Ladies In Line Hockey

World Champions

That is not a typing error. On Sunday 6th of November the Namibia Junior Ladies Team defeated team USA in the final of the annual world skate games in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Those who follow Namibian sport are regularly treated to inspirational spectacles and thrilling sporting encounters. A group of twelve Namibia women from Swakop Pirates, Otjiwarongo Scorpions, Badgers, DTS and PGKA took on the best countries in the world.

A huge congratulations to the team, Leighzené Coetzee, Ieesha Hilukiluah, Christine Röttcher, Lomarie Fourie, Ania Borstlap, Bridgit Justinussen, Michelle Wirtz, Lea Reiff, Jada Tati, Lana Bajorat and Maike Dedig!

You make Namibia Proud!



Thomas Jackson-Read

WINDHOEK CHILDREN'S VOICES

WINDHOEK CHILDREN'S VOICES, made up from young singers from all over Windhoek, strives to produce choral music of an exceptional standard.

The choir stands under the dynamic leadership of Fanie Dorfling (M.Mus Conducting). His choirs are recognised internationally as choirs that produce choral music of the highest standard.

Singing in the choir, will afford your child the opportunity to develop their voice and music skills under great guidance.

The choir launched in June 2022 to high acclaim. They performed with the world-renowned Tygerberg Children's Choir in October and received the highest praise. We sing a wide variety of music from classical to African and contemporary.

Windhoek Children's Voices has huge plans of touring internationally in 2023 and are looking for the best children's voices in Windhoek to join our dynamic team.

See the poster on the next page for more information.



CHOIR AUDITIONS!

Windhoek Children's Voices
Conductor: Fanie Dorfling

OPEN TO ALL SINGERS 10-15 YEARS OLD.

25 November 2022
3pm-17pm

TO BOOK AN AUDITION
PLEASE WHATSAPP YOUR NAME AND SURNAME TO
081 127 5465

STUDYING IN FRANCE

PARENT COFFEE MORNING

THURSDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2022

07:30 - 08:15, GRAB A COFFEE @07:00
THE FISH EAGLE'S NEST, TUCK-SHOP AREA!

CAN I STUDY IN FRANCE IN ENGLISH?

- Currently 1660 programmes are taught in English.
- You can find multiple degrees that are taught in English and French.
- Level required to study in French B2 or C1 - if you want to study in French.
 - **You can do a prep course in Namibia before your departure.**
- You can do an Erasmus Exchange Programme abroad in your third year.
 - **You can receive a scholarship to do so.**
- The application process is facilitated by the **FNCC and the Embassy of France in Namibia.**
- Some scholarships are available and when you study you can work in France for a certain amount of time (964 hours a year).

For any questions regarding this event, please contact Ms. Reiff at mreiff@wis.edu.na



Yoga / Pilates / Movement Every Tuesday
15:00 - 16:00 in the PE hall



Open to all WIS staff and parents!



Seodhna leads the sessions and is exceptional at adapting to cater for individual needs. Katharina, Lian & Mandy have been attending for a few weeks and highly recommend it!



Pay as you go...N\$100 per session



WINDHOEK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



Reminder: Photo Days

22-24 November 2022

SCHOOL PHOTOS WILL BE TAKEN BY A PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER.

***We request that students are dressed neatly and presentable.**

Car Security Stickers

**Please collect your 2022 - 2023
windscreen sticker at the Office!**



100

Celebrating the centenary of José Saramago (1922-2022) Nobel-laureate Portuguese writer

Exhibition "Retracing the steps that were taken", based on the life and work of José Saramago
From 15 until 30 November (Monday to Friday, 07h30-15h30)

Screening of Portuguese films based on the life and writings of the author

15 November, 17h00 - José and Pilar (Miguel Gonçalves Mendes, 2010)

21 November, 17h00 - Embargo (António Ferreira, 2010)

28 November, 17h00 - The Year of the Death of Ricardo Reis (João Botelho, 2020)

Centro Camões at Windhoek International School
(Scheppmann Street, Pioneers Park, Ext.1)
Windhoek





Secondary Student Council Presents...

SCARY MOVIE NIGHT!!

GRADES: 9-12

Date: 25/11/2022

Time: 18:00-21:00

TICKET: N\$20

VENUE: The PLC/ The auditorium

Snacks will be sold on site (popcorn, sodas and baked goods!)

Bring a friend!

COME OR YOU WILL FLOAT TOO...

Private Bag 16007, Pioneers Park, Windhoek | Schepmann Street, Pioneers Park EXT. 1, Windhoek

| Tel: +264 61 241 783 | Fax: +264 61 243 127 | [E-mail](#) | [Website](#)