



# THE ORYX

*The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School*

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

### Weapons

Although I have not lived in the UK for many years, I was born British and I still follow the news in that country with interest. It is currently experiencing a significant rise in the number of attacks and other crimes involving the use of knives with the BBC this week reporting that "knife crime" is up 16% compared to last year.

In the USA the debate continues about the ownership and use of firearms, not least in and around schools.

Our near neighbours, Swaziland, Lesotho, Botswana and South Africa, have the highest murder rates in Africa and the Namibia rate is also high by African standards.

Sobering stuff.

Guns, knives, and other instruments such as crossbows and explosive devices are designed to kill and injure. That is their purpose. It is therefore wrong to consider them playthings. Nor are they things to show off or boast about.

We have therefore thoroughly revised our Weapons Policy and the new draft was approved by the Board of Directors this week. Essentially, the policy insists on a zero tolerance policy towards weapons – real or facsimile – in school or at any school event. Happily, the possession of weapons – far less their use – has never been a problem at WIS. It is our intention that it never is.

The full policy has been posted on D6 and copies may be requested from the School Office.

**Peter MacKenzie**

## PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

### International Day

Another International Day is behind us. What a wonderful day it was from start to finish, from the flag parade, performances, food, drink, and games to the community spirit all in celebration of our diversity. Thank you to everyone for your participation.

### Permission for Student Absences

It's that time of year when we are a few weeks away from the December holidays and I'm receiving requests from parents for permission for their children to be absent from school due to the family vacation. It should be noted that the School does not give permission for such absences. The calendar is published well in advance so that holidays can be planned accordingly. The 2019-2020 calendar can be found on the School website as well as on the D-6 under *Resources: School Calendar*.

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## Dates to Remember

### November 2018

- **19 - 23:** Secondary Week B
- **23:** Etoshaloshia
- **30:** AA End for all Grades
- **30:** Photo payment and pickup deadline.

### December 2018

- **04:** WIS Founder's Day
- **07:** End of Term 2



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## WEEKLY PUZZLER

We had several correct answers last week including Tiancheng from Grade 6, and Eden again from Grade 3. Apologies to Eden for referring to her as he last week.

1000 - 100 = 100 is true if you are in the base 2 system ("It's All About that Bass"). Base 2, also known as binary, uses only 2 digits; 0 and 1. 8 is written as 1000 and 4 is written as 100. So translating back to base 10:  $8 - 4 = 4$ .

This week we'd like to dust off one from last year and revisit what is known as the Monty Hall Problem. There are three doors and behind one is a prize. You can choose one door. After that, someone who knows where the prize is opens one of the remaining two doors and shows you that there is no prize there. She asks, "Would you like to change your initial choice to the remaining unopened door?" What should you do? Should you switch choices or does it not matter?

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



Do take the school calendar into consideration when planning your holidays for the next academic year. We understand that there are extenuating circumstances that require families to travel during school time. Please bear in mind that teachers plan lessons and teach up to the last day of the term. There are many activities, as well as social interactions that can't be made up or completed after the fact.

### Upcoming Events

Seesaw Workshop - Thursday, November 22. Ms Pamela will be facilitating a workshop for parents about Seesaw, our learning journal and digital portfolio. Parents are given access to their child's Seesaw portfolio only after they've attended a workshop. If you haven't previously attended such a workshop, please plan to come to either the morning (7:25) or afternoon session (12:10) on Thursday.

Etoshaloshia - the Primary Production, will be performed Friday, November 23 at 7:00p.m. The performance promises to be very entertaining, so I don't think you'll want to miss this opportunity to have a fun evening out with your children.

Regards,  
**Beth Smith**

## Young Entrepreneurs

### What is young entrepreneurs all about?

Young entrepreneurs is a very interesting activity to do because we solve problems and learn things like CAF which stands for Consider All Factors. *Shamiso*

Young entrepreneurs is basically about solving problems and finding solutions. One Monday we were challenged to creative ways of thinking and finding ways of rearranging matches to form certain shapes.

In young entrepreneurs we designed and made a lemon picker and learnt about CAF - consider all factors. We were also challenged to wire plugs for lamps and were successful. *Hilja*

Young Entrepreneurs is an afternoon activity where we research problems and try to solve them using CAF. We had a task to do where we had to advertise the school. *Phalana*



**Shamiso, Hilya, Tapiwa, Loze, Laila, Adia**



**Mrs Karin Stonehouse**

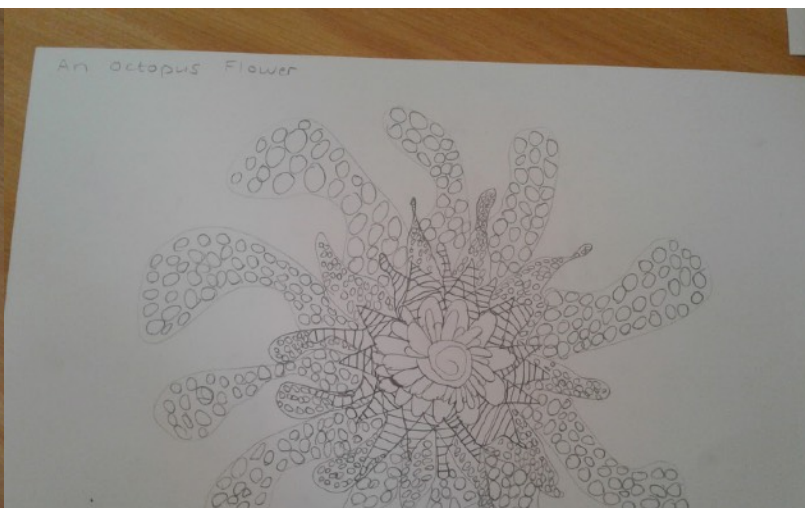
The first session we did was this. Ms Kathleen was having some trouble picking lemons from her trees. We were thinking of ways to solve this so we got together in groups and brainstormed and designed different lemon pickers. Loze made one. Ms Kathleen took it home and tried it. It worked! *Phalana*

Our latest challenge was learning how to design Mandalas. Mrs Karin Stonehouse came to show us how. Then the following lesson we tried another version of a mandala. We followed an easy tutorial on You Tube which helped and improved our perspective.

**Kathleen Britz**



**Muta's Big Star**



**Octopus Flower by Phoenix**

## Our NEW Middle School

As many of you are aware, a working party of teachers under the guidance of Mr. Parsons has started looking at the structure, curriculum, and coherence of the Middle School (Grades 6 to 8). It is also examining the relationship between the Middle School and the PYP (used up to and including Grade 5) and the "exam years" when students study for IGCSEs and the IB Diploma in Grades 9 to 12. This is part of a broader effort to ensure consistency of practice throughout the entire school.

A review of this magnitude will not be concluded quickly but the working party will be making recommendations (and we will be implementing them) as they work through the many questions they have asked themselves. Change is therefore in the air.



We would like to invite all our Middle School parents (and anyone else interested in finding out what we are currently working on) to an information evening next week. The Director,

the Secondary Principal, and members of the working party will be present to make a brief presentation and take your questions.

**Date: Thursday, 22 November 2018**

**Time: 18:00 - 19:00**

**Venue: PLC Auditorium**

## **SECONDARY PRINCIPAL**

**Time to achieve the things we want to achieve**

How do we as educators - parents and teachers - make sure the children in our care become responsible members of their community?

When educating children, we want them to become reliable, responsible, resilient and take care of themselves and their environment. We want them to take initiative and be proactive. How do we "teach" them these attributes?



Firstly, we have to model what we preach. If we want our children to be reliable, we have to be reliable. If we say we fetch them at a certain time, we should be there on time. If we want them to take care of themselves, we need to show them that we take care of ourselves.



We also need to invest the time to do things well. In our modern world with instant gratification having such an impact on our lives, we sometimes don't take the time to let things sort themselves out. We often don't have the patience to wait for something - if we need something, we press a button - on our phones or devices, we google, we order online, we demand to be satisfied instantly. That is often the expectation that our children have of life. I am wondering if that is such a good thing - good things take time and for something good and valuable to develop, we need patience, perseverance and a solid foundation. Be it in our personal lives or in our careers or school lives. To become really good in something, we need to invest a lot of energy and time and we need to dedicate

ourselves to that thing. For example - when your child starts an activity - often after a while, the excitement fades a little and they want to stop the activity. Is it then not our responsibility as adults to motivate them to push through.

We don't achieve great things in an instant, but our modern society seems to send that message to our young people to have to demand and expect everything instantly. Isn't it time we took the time take the time to do something great - invest in a great relationship or friendship, invest in our family, invest in our hobby, invest in our interest - invest time, not money? This can be so much more rewarding than just giving money to get something out of our conscience.

**Regards,  
Maggie Reiff**

## Contemporary Ballet Production

One of our WIS secondary student has been selected to be part of the Cast, Lola Borroni! Eric Müller, premieres at the National Theatre of Namibia (NTN) on November 22 and runs until November 24, 2018.

More info: <https://southerntimesafrica.com/site/news/avilo-a-contemporary-namibian-ballet-at-ntn>

## Perfect Bedroom

**What would your perfect bedroom look like?**

In a recent assignment, Grade 7 learners had to select furniture from a catalogue, keeping within a specified budget, and make a scale drawing of the floor plan for their ideal bedroom.

An extension task was to then build a 3-dimensional model of their bedroom, keeping everything to scale as per the dimensions of the furniture in the catalogue.

Here are some photos of the proud learners that managed to complete the extension task and produce a great piece of work through applying their skills and working enthusiastically.

**Lian Cohen**



## iPad Education Summit

**30th October 2018 Namibia**

*WIS Participants: Urte, Debisa & Laetitia*

On October 30th, we were privileged to attend the iPad Education Summit in Gymnasium, Windhoek.

During the day we could choose between 2 out of 6 workshops.

The proposed Apps were the following:

- *Apple Classroom*
- *Robotic Words Search*
- *Apple's Everyone Can Create Curriculum*
- *Introducing Coding to Primary and Middle school*
- *Project Based Learning with Book Creator*



We explored and understand that the learning environments for project and inquiry-based learning are:

- *Camp fire - a place to learn from storytellers and experts*
- *Waterhole - a space for collaboration and discourse for a small group*
- *Cave - a place and space for individual study, quiet reading, reflection, and creative flow.*

We also explored project-based learning and how it is authentic for the IB. Project-based learning is a student-centred pedagogy and a teaching method in which students gain knowledge and skills. Students work for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to an authentic, engaging and complex question, problem, or challenge. The IB programme places structured inquiry at the heart of the learning process. Successful inquiry leads to meaningful reflection and responsible action initiated by students as the result of their inquiry. Project-based Learning is organised around a driving question, which focuses on student work around an important issue or challenge. Some of the applications we used were Book Creator, Popplet, Kahoot e.t.c.



Within Apples, Everyone Can Create Curriculum, we also explored the Clips App, and Apple's fun new video editing for iPad. With this App, we can quickly add video, photos, subtitles, effects, title cards, and music, and share it.

Learners can use Clips as a creative way to demonstrate learning: to describe or to tell a story; they also can interview classmates on a topic and then learn how to edit the video using the simple Trim feature.

I am looking forward presenting it to my learners and implementing the App in my Upper Primary French and Grade 6 lessons.

Coding teaches us how to think and includes a new vocabulary programming is a core literacy in the digital age

We are very grateful for this learning opportunity, and as colleagues we also could learn from each other and with each other and like to share with you our positive journey to the new digital age/ age of technology.

**Laetitia Borroni**

## Missing Jersey

This Canadian ice- hockey jersey has gone missing from Room 73 last week!

I implore the WIS community to please support the return of my beloved, hometown, hockey jersey that has gone missing from my classroom last week. This ice- hockey jersey has sentimental value to me and it was brought from Canada when I joined WIS as I wanted to share with my students a little piece of who I am. I would greatly appreciate its return. Thank you.

**Ms. Kelsey Daignault**



## Sports News

### Senior Basketball Friday and Sunday

On Friday afternoon as, International Day Preparations were reaching a crescendo, DHPS returned to WIS looking for revenge after WIS had dominated the previous two encounters. Once again DHPS left disappointed, the home side dominated proceeding from the outset and performed superbly. Final Score DHPS 28 : WIS 52

We also hosted the U16 National team on Sunday afternoon as Coach Leto from UNAM brought his team to face the senior WIS boys. Coach Leto is preparing his players for an All African Cup Competition in Botswana later this year, the match was of very high calibre throughout and the WIS team faced a well organised and highly skilled squad. Our team however triumphed and left Coach Leto looking to sign a few of our boys to boost his Squad. Match finished 59 : 63 in favour of WIS.



**Wednesday Football at DTS**

The vibe and flow of the LFL season is drawing to a conclusion as we approach the final week of matches. WIS has, on occasion, really found some great form and the opposition teams have been unable to beat a resolute and hard working team. We haven't achieved a consistency during training that is conducive to WIS being competitive throughout the entire season. However, the boys who have played have learned a lot from their sporting escapades. Match Reports 14/11/18

- U7 - Drew 1 : 1 vs Ramblers. Super effort from the team and a very exciting game which both teams had an opportunity take all 3 points.
- U8 - Lost 2 : 0 vs DTS. A very encouraging performance from our team but DTS skills and quality deserved to take the match.
- U9 - Beat Ramblers 3 : 1. Scintillating match in which WIS boys performed superbly and dominated.
- U10 - Lost to DTS 5 : 4

WIS were leading for much of the match but DTS, once again, had the sporting edge and deservedly took the victory, again a very encouraging TEAM performance in which all players made a great contribution.

Thanks again to all the parents who tirelessly come and support their children, we are looking forward to building on the successes of this season in the future.

**Thomas Jackson-Read**



## Windhoek International Day 2018

A big shout out....Thank you!

To the PTA, all Staff, all Parents and all Students for another fabulous "International Day".



**Best wishes  
Events Committee**

WIS Upper Primary Drama Club & Choir & Secondary Band  
PRESENTS



# ET OSHALOSHA!

Friday 23 November 2018  
19:00 SHARP

WIS Auditorium  
N\$50 Adults N\$30 Students  
Tickets @ WIS Reception

"I May LOOK Like a baboon to you... BUT Let Me tell you SOMETHING true  
WHEN ANIMALS LOOK at you and Me, YOU'RE the baboon that they Will See"  
BAB



## Christmas for Critters Shoebox Drive

The Windhoek SPCA would like to invite you to take part in this inspiring community initiative.

Our aim is to collect Christmas gifts for abandoned animals and as a positive result this project ultimately helps parents to teach their own children the joy of giving!




### HOW TO MAKE A CHRISTMAS FOR CRITTERS SHOEBOX:

1. **FIND AN EMPTY SHOE BOX**  
We all have empty shoeboxes around the house or know someone who can give us one. Shoe stores usually have empty boxes to give away.
2. **FILL IT WITH GOODIES**  
The following items are kindly requested:  
  - \* Put N\$200 in cash in the box **PLUS**
  - \* For our Cats: Pampers/ Whiskas tin/ pouch food
  - \* For our Dogs: tin or small bag of dog food
  - \* Optional: toy/ collar lead/ brush, etc.
3. **DECORATE THE BOX:**  
Wrap/ decorate the shoebox (draw on it, paint on it, cut out pictures, put stickers on it) the sky is the limit here!
4. **LABEL YOUR BOX:**  
Clearly write cat or dog, depending on the gift of your choice
5. **WHERE TO TAKE YOUR BOX?**  
Windhoek SPCA, Robert Mugabe Avenue  
Put it under our Christmas tree and have your photo taken!

**Closing date:** 20 December 2018  
**Email:** gm@spcawindhoek.org.na

**Is N\$200 too much?**  
Club together with friends and make a box **OR** put in whatever you can afford!

**Target:** 300 boxes




Merry Christmas!