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Dates to Remember

September 2018

- **24 - 28:** Secondary Week A
- **25 - 27:** Photo Days - See d6 for details!

October 2018

- **02 - 03:** Secondary SPTC - See d6 for details!
- **04:** Secondary Inter-house sports
- **05:** End of Term 1



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THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

AISA

WIS is a member of the Association of International Schools in Africa, a continent-wide body that brings together eighty (at the last count) schools with common interests, concerns and goals. It is an invaluable source of information and advice, not least for the more isolated schools such as ours.

Each year the Heads of AISA schools meet over a weekend to share news, information, and ideas. So by the time you read these words I will be in Zimbabwe where, among other things, I will be making a presentation to my colleagues about our innovative salary structure.

Next month, the annual AISA Educators' Conference will take place in Dakar, Senegal and we will be sending a number of WIS teachers to attend appropriate workshops.

I will be back in the office on Tuesday.

Peter MacKenzie

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

In recent weeks there have been many opportunities for parents to connect with and support their child's learning:

- We've had three parent workshops: Seesaw, where parents were introduced to and given access to their child's digital portfolio; Introduction to the PYP - one for Grades 1-5 and one for the Early Years.
- Grade 4 parents were invited to a Family Art session where parents became students in the class while the children were the teachers for a lesson in optic art.
- Many parents have visited the Art Room with their child to view the Primary School Portrait Pop-Up Exhibition.
- Parents have attended Grade Level meetings to begin planning for International Day.
- A few parents have been able to share their expertise with their child's class/Grade, enhancing the current unit of inquiry.
- Several parents attended the WIS Swim Gala (and some even participated in the parents' race).
- Of course, reading the class blogs, discussing what's been happening during your child's school day, viewing the Seesaw posts and reading to/with your child are other examples of connecting with your child's learning.

I'm sure there are a few other examples which I have missed. Thank you to all of you for your various contributions and participation in these first five weeks of school.



Teacher Feature

Elizabeth Chege
Librarian

What is your educational background?

I started school in Nairobi Secondary / High School in Central Kenya.

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Nairobi. My dad was working for Kenya Airways while my mum was a stay home mum.

What motivated you to be a Librarian?

After school I was clueless about what I wanted to be or do. One day my dad came home and suggested that instead of just sitting at home I should enrol in a Library course. I did and after one year training, I worked in a school as a Librarian and I loved it. I decided it was not a bad career after all and continued to pursue Librarianship further..... And the rest is history.

Continues on page 3

The MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) testing concluded at the beginning of this week. The teachers are reviewing the results and planning how the results will be used to help the students continue to make progress with their learning. For those of you who attended one of the MAP information sessions last year, you should receive your child’s results via email by Wednesday, 26 September. If you did not attend one of the sessions last year, in order to receive your child’s results, it is required that you attend one of the upcoming information sessions:

Thursday, 27 September - 12:30-13:30

Tuesday, 2 October - 7:30 - 8:30

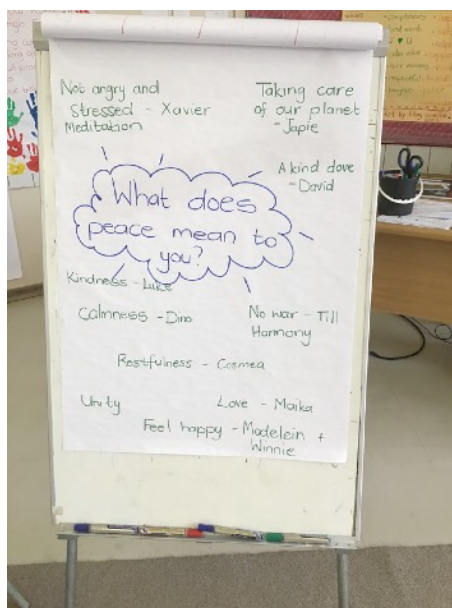
Please click [here](#) for the form to sign up to attend.

The Primary Three-Way Conferences will be taking place following the October Break. The dates to diarise are Wednesday, 17 October and Thursday, 18 October (*It should be noted that there will be no school for Primary students this day.*) Confirmation of the date and time for your child’s conference will be sent home at the end of next week.

Regards,
Beth Smith

Art Attack Students

Celebrating International Day of Peace - 21 September



Teacher Feature continued

What do you like most about your job?

I am passionate about libraries and the impact they have on lifelong learning. I believe "information is power" and it can empower and make a difference in the lives of every student.

What do you think are important qualities for a Library teacher?

To be able to motivate students to read by having a welcoming, conducive and comfortable library with different genres that they enjoy reading.

Can you tell me a little bit about your personal life and hobbies?

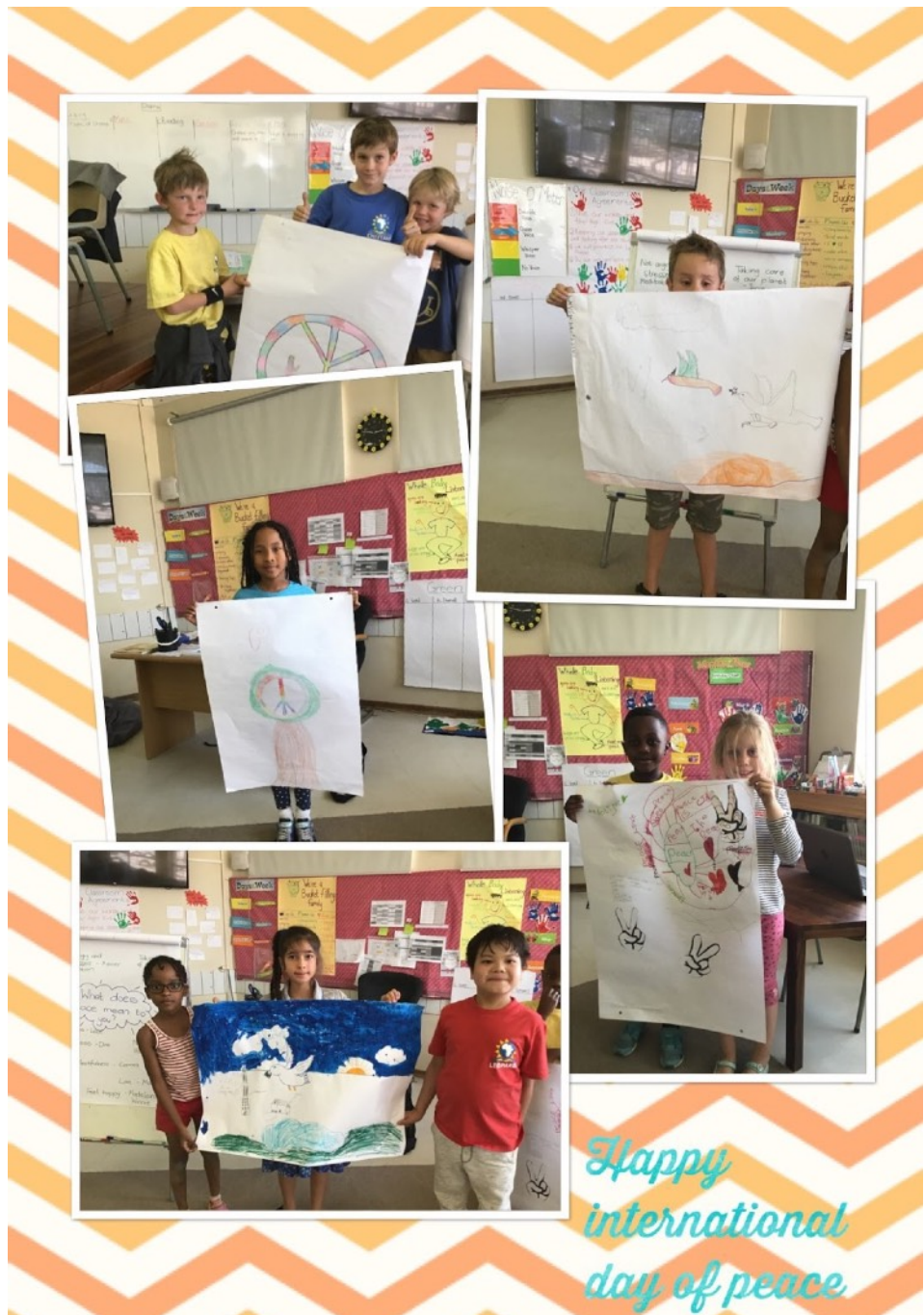
I enjoy travelling and reading in my free time. I also read the books the students are reading especially the popular ones to be able to know why and what makes them love these books.

Could you describe your personality?

I am an extrovert and keen to make new friends around me.

What is your favourite motto that you use with students?

Get smart @ your library



Grade 1J

The Grade 1J are talking about how they can help the school community. This group would like us all to recycle. See video [here](#).



Grade 4 Family Art Session

Grade 4 students have been inquiring into how people express themselves through different art. They have been looking at visual, literary and performing art. Parents were invited to come and learn a visual art skill. They had the opportunity to create 3D/optic art. Positions were swapped; students became teachers, parents became the students. Parents were involved and spent some quality time with their "teachers". A big thank you to all the parents who came with an open-mind to learn a new skill. See you soon for some more learning experiences in Grade 4.



Comments from the "teachers":

- *Mezerije: I enjoyed it when my mom came. We had lots of fun.*
- *Till: My dad and I did a 3D hand together. They both turned out very well and then my dad finished colouring before me.*
- *Hope: I felt happy doing it. My mom was just distracting me, but I liked it. It was the best art thing I have ever done with my mom. I loved it.*
- *Roelf: I enjoyed working with my dad, he was a good student. It was the first time that I could do an activity in class with my dad, it was special.*
- *Bilal: I had fun creating something with my mom, I enjoyed creating optic art.*
- *Skye: Working with my mom was really fun, she was the best student I could have asked for. It was the first time we created something together.*
- *Jaden: I was happy when my dad came into my classroom, because we got to spend time together.*



From the Primary Art Room

A huge big thank you for coming to our Pop-up Art Exhibition on Portraits this past week. The students like telling us that they came with their parents to see the exhibition. I trust you read and enjoyed the link I sent with the invitation. In case you haven't, [here](#) it is again.



SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Student-Parent-Teacher Conferences Secondary School

Tuesday, 2 October 2018 - 15:00 - 18:00

Wednesday, 3 October 2018 - 17:00 - 20:00

We are at the end of the first term of the academic year. By now, school is in full swing and teachers will have gotten to know their students and it is always a good thing to get to know the students' parents as well. For parents it is great to meet their child's subject teachers and to be able to get first feedback on the child's progress to date.

The Student Parent Teacher Conferences are an opportunity for parents together with their child, to discuss the child's progress with each subject teacher.

As the student is the key stakeholder in the process and it is about their education, we expect students to join their parents for the **STUDENT-PARENT-TEACHER** conferences. We believe that it is imperative to discuss student progress with the student present. It is therefore expected that your son/daughter joins you for these conferences so that this can be a truly consultative process involving all parties.

- **Dates for Student Parent Teacher Conferences:**
 - **Tuesday, 2 October 2018 - 15:00 - 18:00**
 - **Wednesday 3 October 2018 - 17:00 - 20:00**
- **Venue: Portuguese Language Centre (all subjects)**
- **Signing up:** You will sign up electronically with your child's teacher.
 - **The link for the sign up feature will be shared with families on Wednesday, 26th September 2018 and will be open until Monday, 1st of October at 13:30.**
 - You can sign up with your child's/children's teachers in 10-minute slots.
 - If a teacher teaches your child in more than one subject, a one 10-minute slot is sufficient to get feedback on both subjects.

- If you have two or three children in Secondary School, please sign up for separate slots for each child so that there is sufficient time to discuss each child's progress with the teacher.
 - When signing up, please write the name of the student and the Grade level (e.g. Michael Grade 6UD).
 - **Reminder: Invitations to attend Student Parent Teacher Conferences will be sent to parents/guardians when the school feels that it is important to share some information with the parents/guardians at this point in time to assist students to improve certain areas of their approach to school. We appeal to those parents to sign up with the teachers - students should know which subjects are of concern.**
 - **Please make every possible attempt to see your child's teachers, should you receive an individual invitation from school to attend Student Parent Teacher Conferences.**
 - Please sign up with your child's subject teachers only unless requested otherwise by the coordinators or homeroom teachers.
 - Should you want to see one of the Coordinators or the Homeroom teacher, please make a separate appointment with them via email either before or after the October break.
 - **Learning Support:** If your child is supported by our LS Department and you would like to discuss her/his progress with the LS teachers, please arrange a meeting with them individually.
- Please note:
Teachers' availability:
 - **Ms. Kelsey Daignault** will not be available during the SPTC. Please email her individually (kdaignault@wis.edu.na) should you wish to speak to her about your child's progress. Ms. Daignault will also get in touch with parents where she feels she wants to speak to parents/guardians about the child's progress.
 - **Part-time teachers will be available on one of the two days:**
 - **Ms. Vieira** will be available on Tuesday, the 2nd for Portuguese Language students.
 - **Mrs. Krappmann** will be available on Tuesday, the 2nd for German Foreign Language students.
 - **Mr. Farrell** will be available on Wednesday the 3rd October for Grade 9 & 10 Mathematics.
 - **Mr. Edwin Chinyemba** will be available on Tuesday, the 2nd October for Grade 6 PE.
 - **Mrs. Laetitia Borroni** will be available on Tuesday, the 2nd October for Grade 6 French.
 - **Mr. Naftal Chivure** will be available on Tuesday, the 2nd October for Grade 6 Portuguese.
 - E-mail addresses of all teachers are posted on the d6 – Contacts.

The next opportunity to receive feedback on your child's performance will be at the end of the semester in December when parents will receive a written report on their child's progress and performance.

Regards,
Maggie Reiff



How much screen time is OK for my kid(s)?
Our children are surrounded by screens everywhere. Everyone is talking about screen time and how it is bad for children. Shall we get rid of those screens?
[Find out what some experts say here.](#)

Sports News

Girls Football

Come and join the senior girls football. We play Friday 17:30 - 18:30. All Grades welcome!



WIS Senior Basketball Success

Last week the senior boys played 4 Inter School League matches against Khomas High, Dawid Bezuidenhout Secondary School, Immanuel Shifidi and CMZ High School. The boys played fantastically well and won all four matches.

Archery

Christian Du Plessis in Grade 10 shooting at the Archery National event on Saturday, 16th September 2018.



Thomas Jackson-Read

We are the Champions...

HOPSOL YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE – CENTRAL 2018 FINALS U 17 WINNER SKW



It has been a long year filled with training sessions and matches played home and away that culminated in this last match for the 2018 season.

At 7am on a cool Saturday morning: 22 players are getting ready to be on the field to play their final league match. It will be the match that decides who will be crowned HopSol Youth League Champions.

Nine o'clock approaches and the parents are getting more nervous than the players, if not all, at least a handful of us are getting extremely nervous. We are playing our biggest rivals, it is the City Derby. If you think "el classico" is big, you haven't watched a SKW versus Ramblers match.

The referee blows the whistle and the game starts. SKW score an early goal and lead by one goal. Ramblers try very hard to equalise. All attempts fail. At half time the boys are starting to feel tired as the heat is unbearable. The second half starts and the players carry on where they left off. A few more attempts are made to score a goal but both teams are unsuccessful. The testosterone levels are rising and patience is wearing thin. The second half seems never ending, I suspect even more for the supporters.

Finally, the referee blows the whistle and SKW celebrates another victory. WIS is also a winner, four of our students play for the Under 17 team: Alexander Mc Nab, Diogo Ferreira, Kyle Webb and Yeabsira Abeje.

SKW is crowned HopSol Youth League Champions for under 17.

Jeanne Vieira



Grade 7 Mathematics

Grade 7 have been enjoying using technology and playing games in Mathematics.



In a recent unit on calculations with multiple operations, they created their own real life examples of why it is necessary to perform operations in a specific order, and shared their ideas on a class Padlet.

After completing the questions set by their peers on the Padlet, they practised their skills by pairing up and playing a range of differentiated levels of a connect 4 board game. Look at the pictures to see the kids in action!

Whoever said Mathematics was boring? Not at this school!

Lian Cohen

English Spelling Programme

As part of our spelling programme in English we give the students 10 words for the week. They have to study the words, understand the meaning and find synonyms too. The Grade 8 students are expected to memorise the 10 words and then write a story using the words in context each week. Sahara Kamwanyah in Grade 8MP wrote the following story with the list of words she received.

An unfortunate event

The year was 1923. People were still suffering from the aftermath of World War 1. Everyone was poor, unhealthy and suffering from depression. Citizens were boycotting their jobs to earn more money, yet they ended up earning less than before. It was a sad time for families who had to deal with the acceptance that their husbands and sons were dead. A girl named Eliza was born in a field next to a factory. When the factory workers came out, they saw Eliza's dead mother and a baby covered from head to toe with blood, sweat and pollen. They decided to take her home and raise her as their own, so she wouldn't fall victim to the corrupt world around her.

Before they knew it, she was already a teenager that didn't need their assistance any more. They sent her off into the world, where she would hopefully be free and safe. Before she left, the workers told her that if she was ever in trouble she could summon them and they would be there for her. They didn't know about the dangers she'd face soon enough.

Eliza travelled all over the world and soon became very famous for her journalism. Eliza honestly hated the publicity, but she suppressed her feelings. As the world became more modern, Eliza had more problems to face, like immigration and new laws. Just a few years ago you could travel as long as you had money, but now it was a necessity to have all these papers and forms.

One day Eliza was walking along in her old neighbourhood when a man mugged her and then kidnapped her, taking her to a field near an old factory. The man was one of the old workers that had raised her. They told her about her past and then shot Eliza. When asked later in court, the man simply said; "The baby died at birth, but she kept coming back". He was sentenced to life.

Sahara Kamwanyah Grade 8MP

History Alive



The Grade 12 History students created/acted out an innovative, first-rate skit to collectively demonstrate the causal factors that led to the Russian Revolution a century ago (see photo). Meanwhile, their counterparts in Grade 11 designed and acted out an excellent rendition of a violent apartheid-era confrontation that demonstrated the inhumane and unjust system of apartheid in South Africa in the mid-1950s. (see photo).

CAS Corner

A dozen WIS high school students will venture weekly to PAY-Namibia (<http://paynamibia.org/>) starting this Monday afternoon Sept 24th from 2:30-4:30 and help is really needed from another teacher or parent who could assist and share on a bi-weekly basis responsibility for this fabulously rewarding trip to this first-rate 'after school tutoring' placement in Katatura. Who can assist? Thank you very much. rfitzpatrick@wis.edu.na

Rick Fitzpatrick

Rice Krispies Day

Rice Krispies Day, believe it or not, is observed annually on September 18.



Thanks to our Social Committee, who are always on the lookout to surprise and delight the WIS staff, we were treated to two types of Rice Krispies treats today, hand-delivered to our rooms. Many of us will have fond memories of eating Rice Krispies as children, with various toppings such as sliced bananas or strawberries. This quote should ring a bell: “As a kid I ate too many Rice Krispies. Now all my body does is ***Snap! Crackle! and Pop!***”

Sharon Goreick

International Day of Peace

The International Day of Peace is observed each year on the 21st of September. This day was declared as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and people.

WIS is also celebrating this day with different activities to show our solidarity to the idea of peace and the pursuit of peace in the world.

The 2018 Theme of the day is: “The Right to Peace - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70”. The theme celebrates the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a milestone document in the history of human rights. Drafted by representatives with different legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world, the Declaration was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on 10 December 1948 as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations.

The Universal Declaration – the most translated document in the world, available in more than 500 languages - is as relevant today as it was on the day that it was adopted.



Children's Peace Memorial - Hiroshima

“It is time all nations and all people live up to the words of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which recognises the inherent dignity and equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human race. This year marks the 70th anniversary of that landmark document.” -- Secretary-General António Guterres (<http://www.un.org/en/events/peaceday/>)

Our Senior Student Council planned different activities to celebrate the International Day of Peace in school. Many classes in the Primary School also recognised the day through such activities as reading stories about peace and art projects.

Inter-House Swimming Gala

15 September 2018

The school community gathered at the Dolphins Pool on Saturday morning for the first Inter-House Swimming Gala. Students from Grade 1 to Grade 12 showed a fantastic display of swimming. Swimmers competed in Freestyle, Backstroke, Breaststroke and Butterfly. All houses showed great support for their swimmers in all races as well in house relays.

For some of our participants, this was their first taste of an Inter-House competition and despite being a bit nervous, they really enjoyed it. The Sports Committee would like to express its gratitude to all the teachers, parents, officials, and swimmers who took part in this event, your enthusiasm and support is highly appreciated.



A big thank you to **Westlane Spar** for participating in our school event once again and for the lunch they sponsored for all the swimmers and officials. The Sports Committee would like to continue with swimming events, therefore you are welcome to share your ideas and thoughts about swimming with Mr. Edwin Chinyemba (echinyemba@wis.edu.na).

