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Dates to Remember

April 2017

- **24 - 28:** Secondary Week B
- **22:** PTA Family BBQ - Fun Walk
- **26:** Science Fair Prize giving

May 2017

- **1 - 5:** School closed

THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Trips

Much as I enjoy my job, rather too much of it involves staring at a computer screen in an air-conditioned office with only glimpses of students and teachers as they pass my office window. So when I was invited to join the Year 12 trip to Okonjima, I was delighted to accept. (How Year 12s feel about having the School Director along for the ride has not been recorded.)

I am writing this before departing but by the time this issue of The Oryx has been published we should all be back in Windhoek, tired, a little dusty, looking forward to a proper bed, and full of memories and stories.

Any good school trip should include a number of elements. It should, of course, be educational. The students should come home knowing more than they did before the trip. It should also be an opportunity to learn a bit about yourself by moving outside your comfort zone. Similarly, it should be an occasion to learn about your classmates and, indeed, your teachers. The word "bonding" is sometimes used and it is not to be laughed at. Cohorts of students (not least those in the middle of an IB Diploma) perform best when they are supporting each other, when they share each other's triumphs and challenges, and when they feel a responsibility towards each other.

In much the same way, the relationship between teacher and student is often enhanced when each sees the other in an unfamiliar context. Students may learn that their teachers are more "human" than they had previously realized. Teachers may see in their students qualities such as leadership that are less obvious in the classroom. Both may find they have unexpected interests in common. When trips work well everyone comes back with increased respect for those they have spent time with.

And every trip should contain a healthy dose of enjoyment. Having fun and learning are not mutually exclusive – quite the opposite.

A successful trip is time well spent. I'll try not to miss the office too much.

With best wishes

Peter MacKenzie

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

One of the wonderful aspects about an international school such as WIS, is the diversity and the variety of nationalities represented in the school. The flip side of this is that many students are only part of the school for a short time. With the end

of the school year just a few months away, many Primary students are aware that they or their friends will be leaving WIS to either go to another school in Windhoek (or elsewhere in Namibia), or to move to a new school in a new country. This is a time of transition that is important to acknowledge, not only for those who are leaving, but also for those who are staying. The following are just a few ways that might help children with this transition.

- Have your child make a special book of photos of friends and the things they like to do together. Plan some special play dates or get-togethers and be sure to take photos to be added to the book. If you are moving to a new country, include in the book special places in Namibia that your child has enjoyed.
- Encourage your child that with email, Skype, FaceTime, Facebook, etc. it will be possible to keep in touch with his/her friends. The various addresses can be added to the special book.
- Discuss the upcoming transition with your child by asking questions such as, "What are you going to miss about your friend(s)? What have you enjoyed about your friendship? Who are your other friends who will be staying at WIS? What are you looking forward to about your next school?"
- It is important to acknowledge your child's feelings of concern, fear, anxiety and sadness, as well as for your child to understand that these feelings are normal.
- It is also important to be positive and encourage your child that new friendships will be made and new schools bring new opportunities.

While these are just a few of the many ideas to help children cope with transition, I think these are some of the key ones which I hope you find useful.

Regards,
Beth Smith

Creatubbles™
Children. Creativity. Community.

[CLICK HERE](#) to see how Year5 students used this tool to express themselves in the Art class. Creatubbles was originally suggested and tried out in Ms Pamela's Year3A class.

Archery Competition

At the end of Term 3, a group of students from Years 4, 5 and 6 competed in an archery competition at the SKW. Our students scores ranged from 233 to 442. They all improved significantly during the day and showed themselves to be risk-takers and principled as they represented the school. We are very proud of them and look forward to seeing them continue to grow as archers.

Here is what some of the students had to say about their experience:

- ♦ *"The archery competition was fun and it was surprising because shooting from 15 metres was easier than 10 metres."* - Franz Hangula, Year 6
- ♦ *"I learned about being brave and a risk-taker and I have improved a lot since the first competition."* - Olwen Black, Year 4
- ♦ *"I liked the archery competition and learnt new things. I learned how to check my scores and how to knock my arrows better."* - Ali Mohammed, Year 4
- ♦ *"The competition was very competitive but I enjoyed doing it anyway. I learned that there are strict rules to follow during the competition."* - Diana Tjombe, Year 5
- ♦ *"Something that I learnt that I need to work on is finding my perfect "sweet-spot" on the target."* - Awana, Year 6
- ♦ *"I learnt to how cooperate with others by helping out my"*



partner when we were completing the scoring sheet.”- Ben-Timothy, Year 6

♦ *“I learnt that archery is a very nice sport and I was surprised that I did so well.” Jayden, Year 6*
Kirstin and Audrey

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Examination time is coming

We are nearing the end of this academic year and the final examinations of the year. On Thursday we said goodbye to our current Year 11 students in a wonderful assembly organised by the Year 10s and their teachers. Next week Friday marks the start of the IBDP examination and in the past days, our Year 9s have written their Checkpoint examination.

There is a lot of debate about the usefulness of examinations and how fairly they attest to ability. There are so many factors influencing the performance in an examination, that it is often disputed, how well examinations really communicate the real ability a person has.

It is, however, still a common way to measure performance and it is used by further educational institutions to determine a young person's suitability for a specific course or institution. We therefore have to put the necessary emphasis on examinations and appeal to all who are involved in the process to approach this time of their educational careers with earnest and commitment.

What does a person need to be able to perform at his/her best in an examination situation?

- Every year there are students who are left alone at home when it comes to exam time. The most important thing students need when it comes to exam time is support and care from home and from school. A young person can be independent and self-reliant most of the time, but when it comes to stressful times like exams, the support from parents and home is invaluable. Teachers often make extra time to help students prepare for the examination. Students are aware what is at stake, they now need encouragement and care to feel that they can get through this. We adults have been through these situations and might not think that it is such a big deal, but for our young adults, this is a challenging time that needs to be supported by the people closest to them.
- Just as important is the decision a young person has to make to dedicate their time to preparing for the examination. This is a stressful time, but our students are well prepared through the year, so with commitment from the individual student, the process should not be too daunting.
- And then there are the usual necessities:
 - ♦ A quiet space to study (where there is not too much noise from siblings and space to spread out)
 - ♦ A balanced and healthy nutrition - and drinking a lot of water.
 - ♦ Balance study time with down-time. There needs to be time to relax even in the stressful time of examination.
 - ♦ Avoid all-nighters - the body still needs rest and the brain needs to rest as well.
 - ♦ Don't study ad hoc - work out a study timetable to help with time management and to get through everything.
 - ♦ And many more tips that we all know
- WIS wishes all our students who embark on exams in the next weeks all the best and hopes that you all are happy with the outcome once the exams are over and you start with your next journey wherever it will be to.

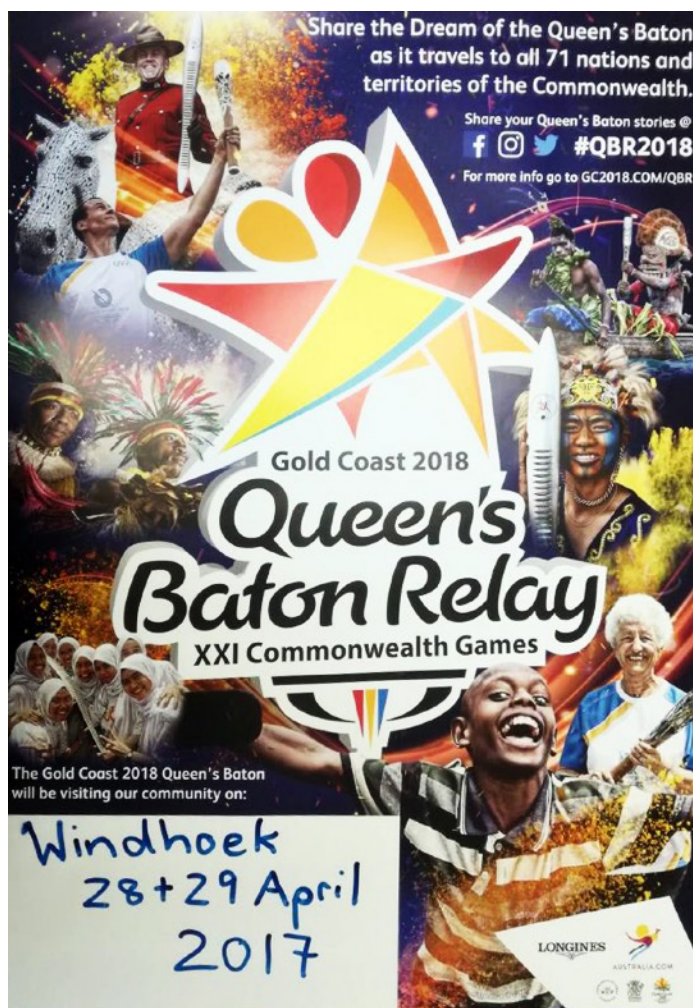


Regards,
 Maggie Reiff

Queen's Baton Relay

Every four years Commonwealth Countries around the world come together to celebrate the Commonwealth Games. The Queen's Baton Relay is a relay around the world held prior to the opening of the Commonwealth Games. The baton travels through all Commonwealth Nations and the people of these different countries get an opportunity to be part of this sporting celebration when the baton travels through their country. At the games, the baton is handed over to the Head of the Commonwealth - currently Queen Elizabeth II, or a representative, who then reads the message that has travelled around the world to open the games.

Next week Friday, the 28th, the baton will be in Windhoek. Four years ago, WIS participated in the relay - the route went along Hendrik Witbooi, so we could all walk to the road and be part of this event. This year, the baton leaves from UN House in Klein Windhoek and travels through the city along Nelson Mandela, to Parliament, along Independence Avenue to the Mayor's Office and then to the Independence Stadium. Some of our students will carry the baton a stretch along that route (more details to follow).



This is again an exciting opportunity where we can show and celebrate diversity and solidarity as people of the world. Although this is a Commonwealth event, it invites all people to celebrate.

Here are a few details about the baton:

- Height: 650mm, Weight: 1.4kg
- The baton was designed by the Queensland-based Designworks - the naturally vibrant essence of the Gold Coast, Queensland, its history and people was their inspiration. The Commonwealth Games will be held at the Gold Coast in Queensland, Australia from the 4th to the 18th of April 2018.
- The baton left the Buckingham Palace in the UK on the 17th of March 2017 and travels around the world to more than one third of the world's population. It will cover 230 000km in 388 days.
- The baton is made of Macadamia wood (native of the Gold Coast) and bright structured reclaimed plastic (collected from the ocean, waterways, beaches and surrounding areas of the Gold Coast). Almost all Commonwealth nations are connected by the ocean.
- "The reclaimed plastic makes us think about over-consumption, pollution and how together we can

create a sustainable future for generations to come”.

- *The Queen’s message is kept in the baton, printed on a special paper made from Spinifex, a grasslike plant that has extensive traditional indigenous uses. The message can be seen in the baton through a clear window.*
- *GPS technology in the baton will allow the baton to be tracked in real time as it travels around the world.*
- *Follow the GC2018 Queen’s Baton at gc2018.com/gbr or #QBR2018*

Onwards and Upwards



In another thrilling sporting encounter, our Senior boys continued their preparation for the Windhoek Inter School Basketball league with a match against the UNAM squad. Our boys rallied well through the game and showed why they are going to be contenders in the league this year. Although we eventually lost by a 17 point margin we were leading for much of the game and proved that we can compete with the best talent in the city.

Thomas Jackson-Read

Year 10 Play

The Y10 drama cohort are getting to grips with a mature and highly engaging play as part of their IGCSE program of study. The play deals with a range of issues that a group of young woman encounter on their respective journeys into adulthood.

Performers are Anya, Chiara, Dora, Zucchiera and Lola.



Thomas Jackson-Read

Welcome

Family Braai & Fun Walk 22nd April @ WIS

Special Thanks

WIS PTA

Ms. Beata Stephanus

**Student Council
& Sponsors**

**Music By
Tangled & Confused**

Event Schedule

- 08:00 – 09:30
Fun walk
 - 09:30 – 10:00
PTA Coffee & Tea - Bread rolls on sale
 - Kids activities (Plant a seed, jumping castle, ice cream)
 - 11:00
Raffle draw opening by the Director in the Auditorium
-
- 12:00
Braai by Pioneers Park Neighborhood watch (Meat, salads, Brötchen) Profits go to the Van Rhyn Dam
 - PTA Bar Open
-
- 12:30
Music by Tangled & Confused staff Band
 - PTA Bar Open
 - 16:00
Event ends

