



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Water Woes

Last Friday we discovered that we had a water leak – a big one. Attempts to locate the leak over the weekend were unsuccessful. On Monday we brought in a specialist with sophisticated equipment. The location of the leak was discovered at about 4pm. By Tuesday it was clear that the leak was extremely deep (more than 3m underground) and in close proximity to an electrical junction. As I am writing this on Wednesday, they are still digging. I have no doubt that the leak will be fixed eventually but it is a big and complicated job.



We have had other leaks in the past. They are sometimes repaired within a few hours. Having no water for a couple of hours is inconvenient but just about manageable. The biggest problem – on a campus where six hundred people work and eat and drink every day – is how we flush the toilets. We have rainwater and we have buckets but it is an imperfect solution.

So, reluctantly, we took the decision to keep the school closed on Monday and then again on Tuesday. There was a chance that the leak would be fixed by Wednesday (it wasn't) and we were increasingly anxious about the instructional time the students were missing, so we re-opened the school.

Contents

- From the Director p. 1 - 2
- Primary News p. 2 - 3
- Secondary News p. 3 - 5
- Other News p. 6 - 8

Dates to Remember

April 2019

- **23 - 26:** Secondary Week A
- **19:** Good Friday - No school
- **22:** Easter Monday - No School
- **24:** Concert of Colours
- **27:** PTA Family Braai

May 2019

- **01:** Workers Day - No School
- **08:** Bot meeting @ 18:00 - staffroom



VISIT US ON:



WEEKLY PUZZLER

Mathew, Tiancheng, Eden, and Ezra solved last week's puzzler. They are members of Einstein's 2% club!

This week let's take a trip to the island of knights and knaves. Knights always tell the truth and knaves always lie. You are approached by three people, Jim, Jon and Joe.

Jim says, "at least one of the following is true, that Joe is a knave or that I am a knight."

Jon says, "Jim could claim that I am a knave."

Joe says, "neither Jim nor Jon are knights."

Who is a knight and who is a knave?

Please send solutions, or any fun and interesting puzzlers to pfarrell@wis.edu.na



Some parents think we were wrong to close the school. Others think we were wrong to re-open it on Wednesday. To both sets of parents, I can only apologise.

What is clear is that we must try to ensure this does not happen again. A weakness of the current system is that a leak anywhere means that the water must be shut off everywhere. Can we modify our piping so that a leak means that only one part of the school is without water? We don't know but we are finding out. And must we wait for the next leak or can we be more proactive and identify problems before they happen? Again, we are taking advice.

These days have been extremely frustrating for everyone and I offer the school's sincere apologies. For what it's worth, this is the first time we've had to close the school in the four years I've been here (and, I suspect, a good deal longer). It is certainly not a decision we take lightly.

Thank you for your understanding.
Peter MacKenzie

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

One of the essential elements of the PYP is action. The PYP defines action as, "Demonstrations of deeper learning in responsible behaviour through responsible action; a manifestation in practice of the other essential elements."

Action can be as simple as inquiring further into a unit or topic during or after it's been completed, teaching someone else about something learned, or doing volunteer work. Taking some form of action is encouraged throughout the Primary School.

Yesterday was one example of taking action. Students had the opportunity to bring in a piece of clothing from home to donate to someone less fortunate. While some may have been given the items to donate by their parents, others did choose something of their own to donate. The clothing strung along the covered walkway by the PTA Community Center was an example of the WIS community's caring and responding to those in need.

Another example of taking action was the bake sale that took place today. Last week, several Grade 4 girls came to see me asking if they could have a bake sale to raise money for a disabled person that one of the girls had come in contact with during the weekend. Through our conversation and the girls' conversations at home, it was decided to raise money for SOS Children's Villages to support disabled children. The girls planned the bake sale, advertised, took pre-orders and did the baking themselves. Well done Clara, Muta, Hilja, Hope, Lozé, Hala, Guilhermina, and Skye.

As Dr. Seuss said, "Nobody can do everything, but everyone can do something. Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."

Regards,
Beth Smith

EARLY MORNING TRAIL RUNNING

Since January Ms. Beata, Ms. Richenda and Mr. Chi have been offering early morning running and athletics for all students. This happens on a Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 6:50 to 7:15am. Goals include training and preparing athletes for interschool athletics and general fitness to achieve some of the goals in this article [Aerobic Exercises for Kids](#).

[School Finding Social-Emotional, Academic Benefits from Morning Exercise Programs](#)



To date, on any given day there are on average thirty students that attend the sessions regularly. Teachers have reported an improved mood in students in the morning and some parents say that it has significantly changed the morning routine as students push their parents to get to school early. We envisage that we will carry on with the morning runs as we prepare for an inter-schools event in 2019. Students will also begin to work on their individual events. See Oryx and [WIS Sports blog](#).

As we explore ways to keep our students engaged and explore lifelong learning through the inspiration of the Grade 5 exhibition we are exploring ways of being involved with the [Windhoek City Runners](#) club. This weekend they held a fun run starting at the Daan Viljoen police checkpoint and WIS was represented by Talaki, Oliwia, Estée, and Jody. They all successfully completed 7km. Well done to these brave souls for making it for a 6am start.

Edwin Chinyemba

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Goodbye is not farewell

In the last two days we said goodbye to two classes. Our IGCSE Class of 2019 and our IBDP Class of 2019.

It is always a beautiful celebration and an opportunity to celebrate our learning. Learning has many different forms and these occasions give our students the opportunity to show different skills that are not academic.

The preparation of the assemblies is guided by teachers, but executed by our students. And both, the Grade 11 students and the

Exams and grades
are temporary,
but education
is permanent.



Grade 9 students, made us proud with the programme they had put together and the maturity and effort that went into ensuring that parents, our Grade 10 and 12 students, teachers and the other students from Secondary School could be treated with a walk down memory lane and some nice performances to celebrate the end of a part of the road in our students' education.

We wish our Grade 10 and 12 students all the best with their upcoming examinations. At this point in time, your exams and your grades are of great importance. However, if you put your energy into these exams and do the best you can, this will pave the way to a great and successful future. Embrace the opportunities given to you and acknowledge the chances given to you.

**Regards,
Maggie Reiff**

JOMUN XVII

26th - 28th September 2019



We have received our official invitation to JOMUN XVII which will take place from 26th-28th September 2019, hosted by the American International School of Johannesburg.

WIS has successfully taken part in the JOMUN conference since 2016 and the number of participants has grown from an initial 7 delegates in 2016 to 14 in 2018.

The MUN afternoon activity will restart on 29th April 2019 to register and prepare delegates for the upcoming event and are therefore looking for expressions of interest from students in present Grades 8-11 in representing WIS at JOMUN XVII.

The deadline for registration with AISJ is 18th May. Contact : Ms E. Rimmington (Room 65) and/or Mrs M. Mathew (Room 61)



JOMUN XV Delegates 2016



JOMUN Delegates 2018

MINI BASKETBALL CONVENTION

The Namibia Basketball Federation (NBF) together with the International Basketball Foundation (IBF) and the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) hosted the first English speaking African [Mini Basketball Convention](#) in Namibia.

[Second FIBA Mini Basketball Africa Convention proves a hit in Namibia](#)

Coaches from 16 African countries were invited for this convention, which ran from 12th to 13th April 2019 in Windhoek. Cedric, an 11th-grade IBDP student/qualified coach, and Ms. Audrey attended all the sessions. 250 students from the basketball school league and local schools ranging from ages 7 to 12, including over forty students from Windhoek International School, were involved in the basketball jamboree held on Friday 12th April. Each participant was given a t-shirt and a basketball for their efforts.

The event had mentions in attendance; Namibian Basketball Federation(NBF) President Andrew Masongo, Deputy Director for the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service Johanna Manuel, FIBA Africa President Hamane Niang, International Basketball Foundation(IBF) Representative Theren Bullock, German Ambassador Mathias Schlaga, and German Sports Federation (DBB) Representative Joachim Spaegele.



Cedric giving feedback from a group discussion to a room full of coaches on problems affecting basketball in Namibia.



Students going through drills with the participating coaches.



Picture of the 200 participants and coaches at the closing ceremony.

Edwin Chinyemba

JUDO

Within the PE department we strive to offer our learners a stimulating and diverse educational experience. We are very pleased to be offering 'starter' sessions in Judo to all our Middle School learners over the coming weeks.



This will extend to Primary School towards the end of term four.

We will also be offering parents/carers sessions as we further develop the extent of sports and physical activities available here at WIS.

LFL FRIDAY FOOTBALL

Well done to the U7, U8 and U9 teams who had super games on Friday at DTS.



Tom Jackson-Read





PTA FAMILY BRAAI UPDATE

1. The PTA is so excited for the upcoming Family Braai and Earth Day Celebration! There will be fun for the **WHOLE** family including the Fun Run, Live Music for **EVERYONE** to enjoy, and Kids' Olympics with lots of games to play! We hope to have a large turnout of our WIS Families.
2. Car Boot Sale **CLARIFICATION**: We have had great interest in the Car Boot Sale, and there will be lots of wonderful items for purchase. **NO** food or drink will be allowed to be sold at the Car Boot Sale (these will be sold at other areas of the party). Please adjust your sales strategies accordingly. Thank you for your understanding.

[Silent Auction Sign-up](#) and [Car Boot Sale](#)

WINDHOEK INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL

***Join us for the Annual
PTA Family Braai!***

- *Great Food***
- *Silent Auction***
- *Carboot Sale***
- *Jumping Castles***
- *Color Walk/Run***
- *Kids Mini Olympics***
- *Live Music by the Ells***

APRIL 27TH, 2019
9AM - 1PM