



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Friday Thoughts

Several times now I have attended conferences and workshops where the presenters claim that "research" shows that the two most complex organisations to manage are schools and hospitals.

(Of course, the presenters have always been educationalists and they are addressing audiences of teachers and school heads so no-one is going to argue. Perhaps people who manage hotels or supermarkets think that their organisations are pretty complex too.)

On the face of it, it makes sense. If your business is selling washing machines, there is unlikely to be a lot of emotion involved. If you are running a restaurant and you serve a bad meal, it's a pity but no great harm is done. If you work for an airline, everyone knows and understands the criteria by which you measure the airline's success – punctuality, safety, market share, profitability...

But schools are not like any of the above examples. They are a lot more ... well, complex.

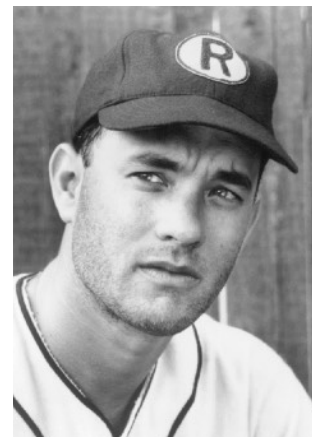
Attempts have been made to liken schools to the factory model with inputs, processes, and outputs. But they quickly run into trouble when we try to identify (far less measure), for example, outputs. (Exam results simply won't do.) Models that compare schools to farms (planting seeds, nurturing, etc.) are no more successful.

And, of course, everyone has an opinion on what schools are or should be. Most people reading this don't work for an airline and haven't much idea about selling washing machines. But you all went to school and you are probably parents (or prospective parents) of children at WIS.

So, we do our best. Sometimes we get it right and sometimes we don't.

But, as Tom Hanks says in *A League of their Own*, "It's supposed to be hard; if it were easy, everyone would do it." I think that'll be tonight's DVD. (I can't keep watching *Casino Royale* and wishing I was Daniel Craig.)

Peter MacKenzie
Director



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Dates to Remember

November 2017

- **28:** Board meeting

December 2017

- **1:** Last day for AA Term 2
- Primary & Secondary
- **4:** Founder's Day
- Normal School Day
- **8:** End of term 2
- School closes @ 11:40

WEEKLY PUZZLER

The chicken and a half laying an egg and a half proved to be a stumper. There were no solutions, so back to the vault it goes.

Here is this week's puzzler:

2 boys on bicycles, 20 kilometres apart, began racing toward each other. The instant they started, a fly on the handle bar of one of the bikes started flying toward the other bike's handle bar. As soon as it reached, it turned around and went to the other bike and so on until the bikes met. If each bike had a constant speed of 10 km/hr, and the fly was traveling 15 km/hr constantly, how far did the fly travel?

Please send your solution to pfarrell@wis.edu.na

New puzzles can also be submitted to pfarrell@wis.edu.na

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

In last week's Oryx, Mr MacKenzie described the value of last Friday's Professional Development Day for teachers. This proved to be very true for the Primary Staff. While teachers have the opportunity to meet and collaborate with their year level partner(s) or in their departments during the week, it is rare to have quality, as well as quantity time to share, discuss and plan. Friday's PD Day afforded just that opportunity. Following is a snapshot of what the day included.

We began the morning on Friday, with Ms Viviana and Ms Charné's presentation about some of what they had learned during the workshop, the Role of Science and Social Studies in the PYP, which they participated in at the end of October. Their presentation sparked discussion about different types of assessment and the importance of aligning achievement targets to assessments.

Mr Danai presented information from the EdTech Conference he attended in early October. His presentation confirmed that WIS Primary School is headed in the right direction with regard to the integration of technology into classrooms and in many respects we are ahead of where many other schools are. We will endeavour to establish ourselves as trendsetters in the country.

In her role as Primary Language Subject Leader, Ms Lyndsay presented the results of the Language Survey which the homeroom teachers had completed earlier in the week. What followed was a discussion about next steps for Language. Most teachers agree that a focus on defining how we teach spelling and grammar and the importance of consistency across the Primary School is in order. To begin the conversation the teachers participated in an inquiry looking at spelling and grammar through the Key Concepts (form, function, causation, change, connection, perspective, responsibility, reflection). We will continue to make this a focal point during the second semester with the goal of establishing a common understanding for the teaching of spelling and grammar.

The afternoon session allowed for teachers and teaching assistants to get together to collaborate and plan for their units of inquiry. The time also enabled the single subject teachers (Art, Drama, French/Portuguese, Music, and PE) to collaborate as specialists, as well as with the various year levels.

While the children having a day off from school may have been an inconvenience for many parents, ultimately the children gain from such a day through the teachers having the opportunity to learn, reflect and collaborate.

Regards,
Beth Smith



Year 3B visit to Nampost

Year 3B students making authentic connections and real life experiences to our central idea: Advances in technology change the way we communicate.

The year 3 students visited Nampost in Aussspannplats. Students had a chance to witness letters being stamped, sorted and put in their respective boxes. They saw clients being assisted inside the post office and clients that collecting their mail from their mailboxes.

See pictures below of students imitating their visit to Nampost.



Happy Birthday



Year 2 made a card and we visited him in his workshop for our Unit, 'How we organise ourselves'

Primary School

Celebrates Universal Children’s Day

The United Nations Universal Children’s Day is celebrated each year on November 20th. This special day was started in 1954. The purpose of Children’s Day is to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children’s welfare. November 20th was chosen because that’s the date when the Declaration of the Rights of the Child was adopted (1959) as well as the date that the Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted (1989).

Many of the Primary School classes recognised Universal Children’s Day through a variety of activities. What follows is examples of how the day was celebrated.

KG2A

We decorated circles with various materials such as coloured pasta, paper, crepe paper and coloured sago. This helped strengthen our fine motor skills but it also helped the children recognize and identify the symbol for World Children’s Day.



We danced to the tune of Pink's song "What About Us" and tried to do the signature move! After looking at and discussing other children who are not as lucky as we are the children were asked to reflect upon what they had seen and think what they could give the children to help them and why. Here's the link to a video with their pictures: [Click Here](#).

KG2B

We made the circles to represent the world and explained to the students that world children's day means there are billions of children in the world and everyone has the right to education and feel safe. We also did a dance and the students loved it.



Year 1B

In our class we showed the kids a video about Children's Day that we found on YouTube and we danced to the song they had. Then we discussed what it was all about and took this photo.

**2A**

On World Children's Day, we spoke about the importance of this day. One student asked why we celebrate it and what it means and so we looked at some of the videos from the links from the UN's website. Students were asked to show through drawings what they would like to do for children that are not as lucky as themselves. What you see in these drawings are innocent ideas...from giving food and clothes, to love and toys.





2B - The children in 2B made connected paper dolls representing children.

5B - The students in 5B created emoji's that represent World Children's Day.

Physical Education in the PYP

In the PYP, students aim to develop an understanding of concepts and skills used in different physical activities. In class, students inquire into the "BIG IDEA" through a variety of general or specific games such as Invasion Games, Racquet Sports, Striking and Fielding Games, Athletics, etc.

Through student-initiated action, practising at home or joining an afternoon activity can help improve their performance. Students can practise individually, with a sibling or a parent, and some of the equipment are inexpensive and requires little space to set up.

So, encourage your child to "Get up and Move".



Unit 3 "Cool Tools" in PE



Unit 3 Athletics - Hurdles

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

How do we make sure our kids turn out to be responsible and caring citizens of the world once they leave our care?

In the past few weeks I have focussed more on high school matters with regards to universities and "life after school".

However, in order for our kids to be well prepared not only intellectually, but also in every other respect, we need to do a really good job already much earlier than in high school. In fact, the teenage years, puberty, and all that comes with that, might be even more crucial to the development of responsible young people. In the years where kids go through Middle School, there is so much that needs to develop - socially, emotionally, physically, intellectually. If we succeed in raising our children to learn to take responsibility for their actions early in their lives, they can be role models and will certainly have a foundation that will enable them to pursue their dreams later in their lives.

This is one of the reasons WIS subscribes to the IB Learner Profile and our Vision and Mission also underlines these beliefs: "... *prepare independent, inquiring and self-motivated citizens of the world.*" And our Mission says that we: ... "*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.*"

In Middle School, we deal with quite a lot of incidents where students make choices that are not appropriate and that have consequences. This is not something that we need to be worried about. After all, we learn by doing and we grow by making mistakes. However, children need to understand, that consequences are given to change behaviour and even if WIS has a positive approach to behaviour management, there comes a time when the family and the school need to discuss the suitability of the school environment for a specific student.

It is for that reason that we place so much emphasis on students learning to take responsibility for their own actions - they should be taught (in school and at home) that certain kinds of behaviour are not acceptable. The most common incidents of wrong behaviour we experience in school are students having a "could not care less" attitude or student who do not respect their environment - i.e. their physical as well as their social environment. If they are educated at home and at school that they are responsible for tidying up after themselves, for respecting others around them, for being caring and understanding of their peers and for being open-minded in the environment they live in, they will be able to apply these skills throughout their lives to the benefit of themselves and their surroundings.

We encourage parents to discuss these matters at home, to give your child responsibilities in the house and to make your child responsible for their own belongings and the choices he/she makes.

**Regards,
Maggie Reiff**

*Parents are the ultimate
role models for children.
Every word, movement
and action has an effect.
No other person or outside
force has a greater
influence on a child than
the parent.*

- Bob Keeshan

END OF TERM 2

Last day for term2 and the start of the December break.
The school will close @11:40

Secondary Netball

We now have three teams training on Wednesday evening including an a staff/parents team. All welcome to come and join in.

5.30 - 7.00 every Wednesday!



Afternoon Activities

Karate Activity

Our young Karate kids are getting to grips with some serious stretching and balancing as Sensei leads the way!



Chess Activity

Mr Robert teaching the classic 'triple fork' move!



WIS donates to the Windhoek SPCA

On Friday, 17th November 2017, Windhoek International School donated seven previously used Nano Pc's and twelve Wireless Access Points to the SPCA of Windhoek, to the value of N\$25 000. The hardware was handed over by the Director of WIS, Mr. Peter MacKenzie and was warmly accepted by IT advisor & executive member of SPCA Namibia, Mr Johan Maritz. These devices are all still in a very good condition and will help the SPCA with some of their technological needs in their future plans for expansion.



If you wish to support the SPCA of Windhoek, check out their [Facebook](#) page or give them a call!



Once upon a time in a land not so



“FARAWAY...”

Date: 6th December 2017 Time: 19:00

Venue: Windhoek International School Auditorium

2017

SPIRIT WEEK

4th-7th December

MONDAY

MEME MONDAY

TUESDAY

 TWIN TUESDAY 

WEDNESDAY

 Gender Swap 

THURSDAY

Blast From the Past 

Best class will receive a homeroom pizza party!

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 required
* put **N\$200** in cash in the box **PLUS**
* **For our Cats:** pampers/ Friskies/ whiskers 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 2017
Email: spcawhk@mweb.com.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!