



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Progress Report

Our current Strategic Plan covers the years 2015 to 2020. We are therefore rather more than half-way through it and it is a good time to take stock of where we are.

You should receive a link along with this issue of The Oryx that will take you to our "Half-Term Report". It is also on the school website under Who We Are.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me.



IB Diploma Programme Visit

This week two visitors were in school on behalf of the IB to take a look at our Diploma Programme in Grades 11 and 12. This is part of the routine cycle of quality control the IB exercises over the 3,000+ DP schools all around the world.

They spent three days observing classes, talking to teachers, parents, learners, board members and the school leadership and they shared their findings with me yesterday. There were no surprises but it was good to have external consultants confirm what we already knew.

Our next scheduled visit is in 2023 and between now and then we will continue to strengthen, improve and develop our Diploma Programme assisted, as always, by the good people who work for the IB.

Admissions

We are making good progress on the new Admissions Office. It is located where Toddlers used to be. People often tell us that we are the most welcoming school in Windhoek. That's a reputation we are determined to keep.



Peter MacKenzie

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Dates to Remember

September 2018

- **11 - 14:** Secondary Week A
- **10:** Staff Work Day - no school for students
- **15:** WIS Swim Gala
- **25 - 27:** Photo Days- Details TBC



VISIT US ON:



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Teacher Feature

Lizl Opperman Learning Support

Back at WIS!

Some of you might still remember me, I left WIS in 2015 when my son was born and I have now returned after 3 years as Secondary Learning Support Teacher. While I was away I worked at an excellent Government School where I got thrown into the deep end, I learned how to fight and stand up for what's right I was part of a school that continues to thrive and succeed with limited resources, because of passion.

They are fighting a battle everyday, to sustain the quality and high standard of the school. I gained so much experience and knowledge there but mostly I made good friends there who will stay in my heart.

My first day back at WIS I immediately felt welcome and part everything of and like I belong. The following week my two children joined WIS and I could see they felt it too.

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PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

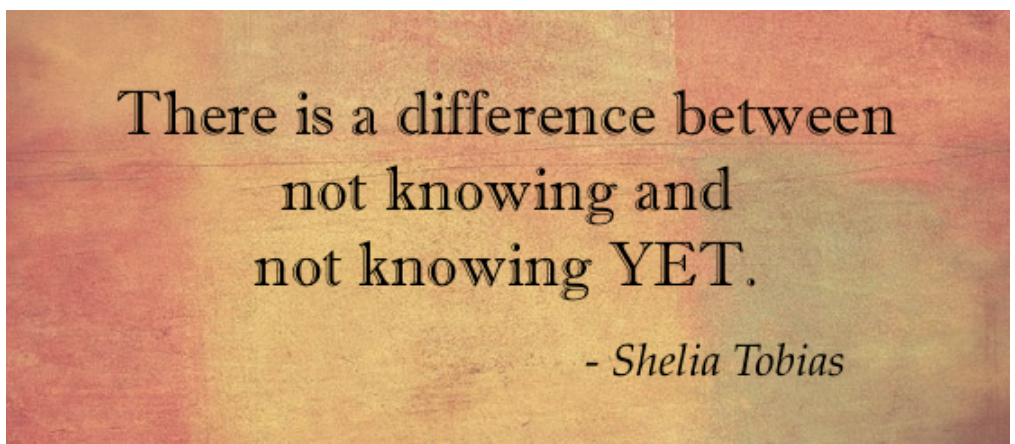
The Power of Yet

A few weeks ago, the 1J class presented at assembly the concept of *The Power of Yet*. Each child had drawn a picture of something that they can't do - yet. One by one, they held up their pictures and stated, "I can't swim - YET!", "I can't dance - YET!" "I can't read, YET!" and so on. While the presentation was only a few minutes long, the concept has resonated with me and I have been reflecting on the importance of *The Power of Yet* which is part of having a growth vs fixed mindset.

Developing a Growth Mindset, has been around for several years now. The idea was developed by Carol Dweck, psychologist and author of the book, Mindset: The New Psychology of Success. It is amazing how using the word, "yet" - a small but powerful three letter word - can change one's thinking and ultimately turn perceived failures into successes.

While we are in the first month of a new school year, it is a good time to encourage a growth mindset in your children. Some of the ways parents can do so include:

- Recognize and praise the process (effort and hard work) over success and results.
- When you hear your child say, "I can't..." encourage the word, "yet" being added to the end of the sentence.
- Model a growth mindset yourself - an example is when using technology and a new App that you can't figure out say, "I don't understand how this App works - yet."



Back to School Night

Thank you to those who have given feedback about the Back to School Night. The responses so far have indicated that we should keep the start time at 6:00 pm and on two different nights. If you haven't had a chance to give feedback but would like to do so, please complete this [form](#) by next Friday, 14 September.

Regards,
Beth Smith

Teacher Feature continued

I am still figuring out what that feeling is, but for now I want to call it something special in the atmosphere here at WIS.

Daily I am amazed by what they learn, how they learn and how they are actually acknowledged and SEEN as individuals here at WIS. My first week back I told a colleague that I need to inform the teacher that my little girl falls a lot, so they must please keep an eye on her, especially during break times. I was expecting a reply that I am use to, such as: oh shame or why does it happen? My colleague's reply surprised me so much. She focused on the fact that my child is such a risk taker, trying things even if she might fall. It was then I again realised something is different here at WIS.

At WIS we speak positively and we focus on the strengths. The time away gave me so much perspective and opened my eyes to so many things that we should be grateful for here at WIS.

I needed to be away for a few years to come back and experience WIS. It is true we prepare students for the future, we embrace variety, individuals. We should be thankful for what we have at WIS and continue to grow and strive to be better, but never lose that something special in the WIS atmosphere.

PYP Coordinator's message

Primary Student Council meet every Tuesday at the Art thatch. This week we were sharing ideas about what is our job? How can we help the school? What do we need to show?



They said:

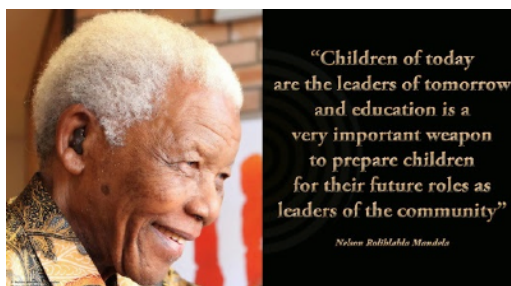
- Be a model wear our hats
- Show the Learner Profile
- Encourage all to pick up litter and keep school clean
- Be respectful
- Help people
- Show Commitment and Responsibility

Avril van Zyl

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Caring for our children's wellbeing

Welcome to this 111st edition of our Oryx. A lucky number indeed. On this note I want to dedicate my little contribution in today's edition to the wellbeing of our children and to making an effort to support them all the way through their education until we are comfortable that they are good to stand on their own feet. My experiences and emotions in the past week - taking my daughter to university and letting her start "her own life" surely contribute to the sentiment in this article.



WEEKLY PUZZLER

The triangular journey of the polar bear is strange because each of the the three angles measures 90 degrees making the sum of the angles equal to 270 degrees. "But," you say, "the sum of the interior angles of a triangle must equal 180 degrees!" (not without a hint of outrage). Well, that is only true if your triangle is on a flat surface. Conclusion: the earth is not flat.

Here's a new one. A high school has a strange principal. On the first day, he has his students perform an odd opening day ceremony:

There are one thousand lockers and one thousand students in the school. The principal asks the first student to go to every locker and open it. Then he has the second student go to every second locker and close it. The third goes to every third locker and, if it is closed, he opens it, and if it is open, he closes it. The fourth student does this to every fourth locker, and so on. After the process is completed with the thousandth student, how many lockers are open?

Answers can be submitted to pfarrell@wis.edu.na. New puzzles can also be submitted to the same address.

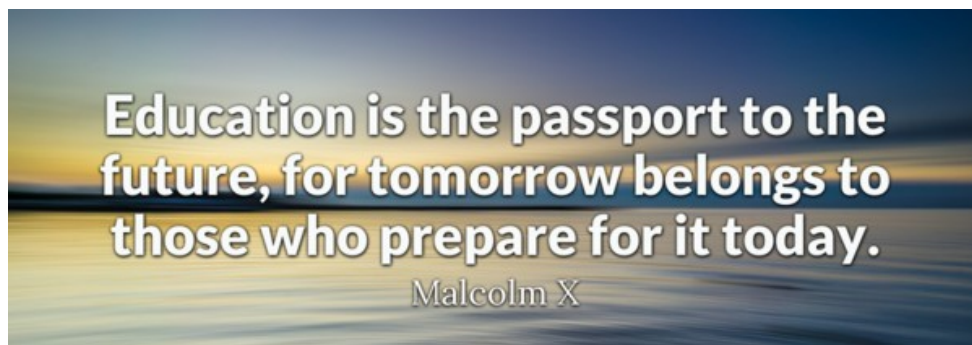


As parents, we do a lot of different things to make sure our children are taken care of in many different ways. We make sure they have a safe home, they are well supervised, they are educated well, and they basically have all they need to thrive. And then there are the extra things that need to be taken care of to ensure that our children are well supported.

Cyber Safety and Cyberbullying

All our children spend a considerable amount of time on their devices every day. Some spend more time, some less, but in today's society, the internet is just one of the things that are there and we cannot think or wish them away anymore. So we need to ensure that our children's digital footprint is safe and in their own best interests. Last week I spoke about VPN's that probably many of us use, but that we cannot allow students to use during their school hours.

Many of you will also be aware of the risks online interaction of people entail. Often our children are not aware of the risks inherent in their online behaviour and unknowingly, they put themselves in difficult situations. Our digital footprint is difficult if not impossible to erase, once it is out in the world.



On **Thursday, 13 September 2018 at 11:15** WIS is hosting a road show on **Cyber Safety and Cyberbullying**. Please see the invitation letter here: <http://bit.ly/2LV2OKA>. Parents are welcome to join us for this show.

There is another matter that we as parents really have to devote quite a lot of time to when our children reach the end of their school careers - **their further education**.

At WIS, we try to accommodate as many visits of tertiary institutions as possible to give our students a broad idea about the opportunities they could have. We have just signed up to **BridgeU** for our students to have a platform that assists with their university preparation.

WIS also does **Aptitude tests** in Grade 10 and Grade 9 to guide students in their choices. This coming Monday, the Grade 9 students will do the Aptitude tests in our Learning Support Department. After the test, the psychologists in Learning Support will write a detailed report for each student which the parents receive and a discussion is held with the students - and with parents if parents are interested.

On **Wednesday, 12 September 2018 at 18:00** we have a visit from a lady representing **Monash University** - (<https://www.monash.edu/>). **Monash** also has a campus in Malaysia.

On **Thursday, 13 September 2018 at 18:00** Sergio Rodriguez, a gentleman representing the **EU Business School**, will do a presentation at WIS. The EU Business School has campuses in Barcelona, Geneva, Montreux and Munich and their courses are in English.

The decision what to do and where to study once students leave school is a difficult one. There are a lot of factors involved in making the decision - finances, academic performance, preferences, and many more. The process is a long process and needs extensive research and discussion with parents, the career guidance counsellor and university admissions officers. It can never be too early to start and WIS is trying to support our students in different ways to be able to make the right choices. But in the end, the student and his/her family have to make the decision taking into consideration all the factors and doing the application.

Regards,
Maggie Reiff

WIS Student Council Reps 2018-2019



Primary Representatives include:

*Grade 1: Zara and David, Grade 2: Zena and Nini
Grade 3: Jessica and Nelao, Grade 4: Mbango and Lozé,
Grade 5: Irvine and Abigail*

Middle Representatives include:

Grade 6: Diana, Yasmine, Tin Tin, Kgosi, Gerhard, Zuleika, Salomé

Grade 7: Omer, Jade, Jaylan, Ignacio

Grade 8: Pohamba, Kiko, Leo, Genuine, JJ

Senior Student Representatives include:

Grade 9: Li, Olivia and Tessa

Grade 10: Ndina, Maxwell, Fiona, Zola, Kumbee, Zandr ea, Victor, Luna and Natangwe

Grade 11: Bennet, Amrita, Robin, Ilay and Nacim

What is student council?

At WIS, student council is a great opportunity for learners to play an active, positive role in the life of their school. Representatives are the active voice and change agents for the student body and can have input and give ideas of events throughout the year. The student council come up with ideas of how we can support various charity and fundraising as a whole school. Student council representatives are also role models of the way we as international IB Learners strive to be. They are there as a support and model to other students. They are the activators of good causes and charities and encourage our school community to help. Charities we have supported include: Cancer society, Diabetes awareness, SPCA, Home of Good Hope, the San people, and soup kitchens.

The student council is also about creating connections amongst our older and young student body at WIS. They organise events like School Spirit Week which brings the age groups together and encourages a collaborative school community. These representatives above were voted in by their fellow peers.

WIS Student council support teachers:

Ms Avril van Zyl - Primary School

Ms Angatha van Rensburg - Middle school

Ms Teresa Ara ujo - Senior Student Council

Mr Rick Fitzpatrick - CAS

Research/Referencing Presentation for IB Students

WIS Librarian/Media Specialist Ms. Liz Chege gave an interesting and informative presentation (see photo) on Thursday 6 September to all Grade 11s and Grade 12s on the research/writing and referencing process – key skills for DP coursework.



CAS Corner

Great Volunteering Opportunities for WIS Students in Katatura

CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service) is a required and valued aspect of the holistic IB DP education that 42 WIS students enjoy (25 – Grade 11; 17 – Grade 12) and the CAS guide (<http://bit.ly/2oJddA7>) emphasizes real learning from out-of-your-comfort zone experiences whether it be a new sport

(Activity), a different hobby (Creativity) and most critically an altruistic action of service...then reflecting on these including on ManageBac.



This week on-site visits were made to two exciting service learning opportunities in Katatura where WIS DP students can/will make a real difference. First, a visit was made to the 'Moses/ Garoëb Youth Club Soup Kitchen' managed by the inspiring Samuel Kapepo (see photo) and which serves meals to over a hundred people mainly children on Wednesdays and Sundays. Secondly, the organized, tidy and well-structured 'after-school tutoring/physically active youth (**PAY-Namibia**)' program for 120 disadvantaged youngsters - see '<http://paynamibia.org/>.' WIS students will commit to either of these or other worthwhile acts of giving of their time and energies to good causes...and will undoubtedly learn/grow immensely from these opportunities.

Rick Fitzpatrick, CAS Coordinator

