



# THE ORYX

*The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School*

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

### Moving on...

As most people will know, we have been managing without a Finance Manager since late October. Thankfully, there was little impact on parents but, behind the scenes, there has been a lot of activity. I really want to thank **Yolanda Visser** and **Hedwig Heyn** for their professionalism and hard work through this difficult time.

And I must offer a special and profoundly sincere expression of gratitude to **Fran Aylott**, the Board Treasurer, for stepping in to fill the breach.

Only a few of us will ever know the many hours that Fran has spent painstakingly working through every aspect of our financial operations. That everything is now in order is entirely due to her selfless efforts. We owe her a great debt of gratitude.

More good news is that our new Finance Manager starts work in January. I am very happy to welcome **Susanne Haugk** to the WIS community.

From January you will also find all three members of the Finance Office in new offices. This will greatly improve efficiency.

As for the event that brought us to this place, the matter has been in the hands of the police for five weeks.

So, from January we will be looking forwards and not back. And there is much to look forward to.

Have a great vacation!

**Peter MacKenzie**

## PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

The end of the semester has finally arrived and I think we are all ready for a break. The children, not to mention the teachers and educational assistants, have worked hard this semester. Now it's time for some rest, relaxation, rejuvenation and having some quality family time.

### Reports

Your child's semester report will be sent by email next week between the 10th - 14th. Please note that the reports are sent by Grade Level so sibling reports may not arrive on the same day.

As you will recall last year we had a few problems with our reports. This year we've created the report templates ourselves affording us the flexibility in the format. As a reminder, the report includes a section for each subject, with descriptors or baselines for each subject. These don't cover all aspects of the subject but do include

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## Dates to Remember

### January 2019

- **08 - 11:** Secondary Week A
- **07:** Staff Work Day
- **08:** Start of Term 3



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## WEEKLY PUZZLER

Tiancheng from Grade 6, and Edén from Grade 3 gave correct answers to last week's puzzler.

Well done!

We will leave the year with a game rather than a puzzler. The game is a form of the game called Nim.

There are two players. There is a target number and a list of consecutive numbers that can be added. For example, let's make the target 15 and the numbers that can be added are 1,2,3 or 4.

The game proceeds like this:

Bart: 3 (he could say any number from 1 to 4)

Milhouse: 5 (he could add 1, 2, 3, or 4 to Bart's number, choosing to add 2)

Bart: 7 (choosing to add 2)

Milhouse: 10 (choosing to add 3)

Bart: 14 (choosing to add 4)

Milhouse: 15 (choosing to add 1)

Milhouse is the winner because he hit the target. For some variety you can change the target, and the sequence of numbers to add.

Have fun on your journeys this holiday and pass the time with some mental maths. A word of warning: beware of playing this game for money against certain Grade 9's. They will take you to the cleaners.

Please send answers, or any fun and interesting puzzlers to [pfarrell@wis.edu.na](mailto:pfarrell@wis.edu.na)



the key skills and concepts for the Grade Level. Each subject is followed by between one to four Strengths and Goals in bullet form. These should provide parents and students with some key areas where the child is doing well in the particular subject and some target areas for improvement. Keep in mind that progress indicators (E, D, P, EX, EXB) themselves shouldn't be the focus but the descriptions that go with the letters. It is also important to look at the progress indicators combined with the strengths and goals.

### Goodbye and Good Luck

We have a few children who are leaving and not returning to WIS after the holidays. To these children and their families, thank you for being a part of our school community. Best wishes to you in your new locale and/or school.

### Happy Holidays

To all of you, may your holidays include safe travels, laughter, relaxation and quality time with your children. I look forward to seeing you when school resumes on Tuesday, the 8th of January.

Regards,  
**Beth Smith**

## Unit of Inquiry

### How we organise ourselves Grade 1J



There's an old saying, "It takes a village to raise a child". Maybe we could adapt this saying to WIS and say, "It takes a school community to teach a child". During our unit we had a component about how tools help us to do tasks. Parents and staff volunteered their time to talk about the tools they use in their jobs and hobbies.

Thank you to Ms Urte for sharing her measurement tools and Ms Sharon for inviting us to the Health Room to see all the medical tools she uses.

Please take a look at the "[Quik](#)" movie of a fantastic woodwork lesson by one of our parents, Mr. Bill Walker.

**Jan Le Roux**

## HAPPY LEARNING CHINESE



Please join my after school classes in Room 33 on Thursdays from 13:45 until 14:45

**Tiancheng He**

### **SECONDARY PRINCIPAL**

**It's only the last week! We are travelling! Nothing happens in school on the last days of school?**

This past week, I had to send numerous emails to parents with regard to explaining to them why we do not approve of families taking their children out of school early - or coming back late after the break. Why would we not approve?

As mentioned in all my correspondence - classes continue until the end of the last day of term - every term throughout the year. Parents are informed about the holiday dates when the academic calendar is published about 18 months in advance.

Why should students be in school until the last day?

Because:

- Lessons continue until the end of term.
- Their absence affects their own learning.
- Their absence affects the learning of the class as a whole.
- Often, during the last days of the term, important interpersonal/bonding activities are planned by teachers and we celebrate learning and successes of students. That is not important? It is, it is a crucial part of the educational experience, because it often irons out some of the frustrations and fears children have.
- We want to model reliability, responsibility, thoughtfulness, considerate behaviour and many more attributes. What message are we sending, if we say to our kids, we will go on holiday early?

There are sometimes valid reasons for leaving early. However, each time before longer holidays, we have so many students leave early, that it does have an impact on our classes in the last days of school.

I therefore appeal to all families to plan their holidays in a way that does not impact on their child(ren)'s learning and school attendance.

### December Reports

Reports for Secondary students will be sent to all families during the week 10 - 14 December. Please note that reports are sent to families via email. These reports are commenting on progress for the first semester and on the ATL skills addressed in the first semester.

**Finally, let me wish all our families a happy holiday and a happy New Year.**

**May you have the time to spend with your loved ones and come back re-energised and ready for the second part of the year.** We look forward to seeing you back at school on the 8th of January 2019.

*Regards,*

**Maggie Reiff**



## SKW Football Club Prize-giving

Congratulations to our soccer boys!

The SKW Youth Football Awards evening took place on the 27 November 2018, with WIS students featuring prominently in the older age groups.

For each Age group players were nominated in the following categories:

- most Ambitious,
- most Disciplined,
- most Improved and
- Player of the Year.



Each category had three nominees, with all three of the under 17 "Player of the Year" nominees coming from WIS. These were Yeabsira Zegeye Abeje, Alexander Mc Nab and Kyle Webb. Kyle Webb was also nominated for the under 19 Player of the Year, having played for both teams through the season.

In what was reportedly a tight contest, Kyle Webb was awarded both the under 17 and under 19 player of the year awards.

The coaches words for Kyle during the prize giving:

"Our Goalkeeper, the brick wall, constantly giving consistent performances for both teams, running from one game to the other without complaining and always giving his best. Handling penalties under a lot of pressure, and staying humble throughout."

**Uschi Webb**

## Grade 8

*Another story to share with our community from one of our Grade 8 students, as part of their story writing spelling tests. Hope you enjoy it as much as I did.*

### Until She Comes Back

It was shocking. We never thought the day would come. He has left us. We are here standing at the anteroom of the church, and as we enter the church, we receive an epistle, it's the protocol and the order in which we are going to go though this ceremony. The prophet has arrived. He walked up to the coffin and he bowed down to it

as a way to show respect. As the prophet walks up to the podium, you could hear the soft sobs of the attendants. It was such a *premature* death. As we walked up to the graveyard, we all had goosebumps from the unbearable cold. They unveiled the head stone and we all read the *epitaph* out loud and in unison. Our *epidermises* started to chill as the choir *prelude* the final song. This song was a *proposal* saying please come back to us so that we can do this better. The priest had *presupposed* that we should pray, and we did just that, as she lied in her eternal bed. Until she comes back.

**Pohamba Kapolo**

## Swakopmund Adventure Trip

This past weekend, the Grade 10 students departed to Swakopmund for a weekend of fun. Both classes, including Mr. Smit, Ms. Audrey and Mrs. Kelsey, left Friday afternoon straight after school and arrived at the Swakopmund municipality bungalows around 6 pm. The bus ride was filled with loud music and lots of laughter. Once the students arrived in their rooms, they got ready to go to the beach where some decided to swim in the freezing ocean while others took pictures as the sun set.

On Saturday morning, 18 students ventured on an exciting trip to Walvis Bay for kayaking. The rest of the students slept for a bit longer and made their way to breakfast at the Village Café at around 09:00. Both groups, along with the three teachers, met up for a Catamaran trip at 12:00. After the catamaran trip we all crawled, walked or ran up Dune 7 for a picture, which was thwarted by what I think was the biggest sandstorm in the history of mankind. Everyone went back to the bungalows and got ready for dinner at the Waterfront mall in Swakopmund. We were given the opportunity to eat wherever we wished and agreed to meet up later that evening before returning back. Saturday night was filled with lots of fun and both classes played truth or dare together. Most students went to bed after midnight, which led to the other 18 students struggling to get up the next morning for their kayaking excursion.



The rest of the students spent their Sunday eating breakfast at Café Anton, visiting the aquarium and exploring the streets of Swakopmund. Everyone met up around 13:00 and made their way back to Windhoek that afternoon. Since the Kodak moment couldn't happen the day before, we took a detour via the Moon Landscape Valley first. The weekend was a trip to remember and many unforgettable memories were made.

**Lené Liebenberg**

## Senior Student Council

### Wishes To the WIS Community...

On Wednesday, the Senior Student Council had, as is the tradition, their get together Secret Santa.

It was a time to embrace our Learner Profile attributes (Caring, Principled, Reflective).

SSC learners were able to enjoy each others' company, exchange gifts, eat Pastéis de Nata, dance and sing.

We wish all students safe and Happy Holidays!!



## Notre soirée pyjama à l'école

Le vendredi 30 Novembre, la classe de français de Grade 7 a fait l'expérience de dormir à l'école.

Mais d'abord notre classe a travaillé sur les fêtes et les invitations. On devait créer des invitations par groupe et à la fin on devait voter pour la fête que nous voulions avoir. On a aimé toutes les invitations mais seulement une a été choisie: la fête pyjama!

On a tout préparé pour la fête. On devait tous amener des matelas, une couverture, un oreiller et aussi une tasse pour boire du chocolat chaud le matin. Puis on a décidé qui devait amener quoi et quelle pizza on aller commandé.

A la fête on a fait des cocktails sans alcool, on a dansé, joué, regardé un film, fait du karaoké puis on est allés aux lit.

On a tous aimé cette nouvelle expérience et j'espère qu'on aura l'occasion de le refaire.

**Par Sylvain Dia (Grade 7LC)**



**Our pyjama party at school**

On Friday, November 30, the Grade 7 French class had the experience of sleeping at school.

But first our class worked on parties and invitations. We had to create invitations in groups and at the end of all the presentations we had to vote for the party we wanted to happen. We loved all the invitations but only one was chosen: the pyjama party!

We prepared everything for the party. We all had to bring mattresses, a blanket, a pillow and also a mug to drink hot chocolate in the morning. Then we decided who would bring what and which pizzas to order.

At the party we had mock-tails, we danced, we played, we watched a movie, we did some karaoke and went to bed after that. We all liked this new experience and I hope we will have the opportunity to do it again.

**Translated By: Sarah Tibazarwa (Grade 7LC)**

HAPPY  
*holidays*

## The Debate club

The debate club would like to thank each and everyone for the toy donations! Your contribution was highly appreciated. This will be donated to the children’s cancer ward .



**KEEP CALM AND DEBATE, and raise your voice for GOOD .  
HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE DEBATING CLUB!!!**

## Interview with Henrik Diekmann

What is your latest achievement in Inline Hockey? I have been recently selected for the Junior Men’s National team.

At which events will you take part? We will play in the Africa Cup, which will be carried out in the Dome in Swakop end of May 2019. We will also play at the world championships in Barcelona in June 2019.

There has been a lot of good competition at the recent trials, what did you do in order to be selected? I have been practicing very hard and in different age groups. The open category is the most challenging. I use every opportunity to play Inline Hockey. I always give my best. I also practice in the gym in order to be strong.



Africa Cup 2018



# M-IDENTITY – A sculpture exhibition by Grade 8



## Visual Arts in Middle School

With meaningful re-used materials make an in-the-round sculpture that captures your ideas about identity in general and your own identity in particular.

**IDENTITY CHART**

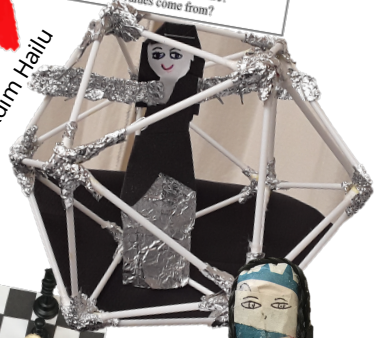
**WHO AM I?**

<p><b>SELF-IMAGE</b></p> <p>WHO DO I THINK I AM?          What is my personality?          What do I do well?          How do I have to improve?          Am I proud of myself?          Do I put myself down a lot?          What are my personal dreams and goals?          What are my fears and worries?</p>	<p><b>RELATIONSHIPS</b></p> <p>WITH FRIENDS? WITH FAMILY?          What kind of people do I hang out with?          Do I fit in well in my group of friends?          Do I have a special relationship in my life?          How do I get along with my family?          Is my family life important to me?</p>
<p><b>PUBLIC IMAGE</b></p> <p>HOW DO OTHERS SEE ME?          Am I outgoing or shy?          How do I look?          Do I worry about what others think of me?          Do I like to be different?          Do others come to me for advice?          Do adults treat me differently from my friends?          Do I need or try to impress people?</p>	<p><b>CULTURE</b></p> <p>BACKGROUND? PLACE IN SOCIETY?          What is the influence of my ethnicity?          What is the influence of my religion?          What is the influence of music, TV and social media?          What do I want to be in the future?          Is school very important to me?          Do I feel I belong to a certain culture?          Where do my values come from?</p>

Giulia Ferrari



Mekdim Hailu



Pohamba Kapolo



Xuwei Huang



Diva Goël



Amani Enkara



Lenny Bagwitz



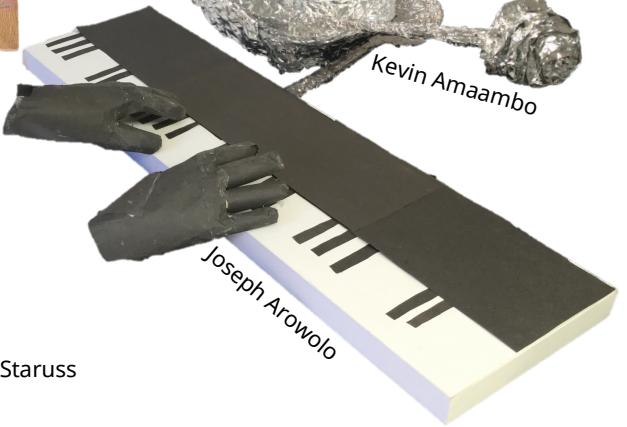
Kevin Amaambo



Zuraida Staruss



Joseph Arowolo



### **PTA IN NOVEMBER:**

- **Sponsoring of the sound system and generator for International Day**
- **Sponsoring 5 prizes for the International Day passport competition**
- **Sponsoring light lunches during the Denmark school visit**

## **PTA Festive Coffee Morning**



You may be used to the PTA coffee mornings by now, but this week's surpassed all the others! Festive attire, inviting drinks, a fantastic spread of food and holiday music all made this a morning to remember!

Thank you to everyone who has supported the PTA this past semester by either being on the committee, attending events or volunteering their time on special occasions. Look out for more great events and sponsorship in the next semester!

If you are interested in joining the PTA committee, feel free to send an email to [PTA@wis.edu.na](mailto:PTA@wis.edu.na) - we would love to hear from you!



Worlds will collide on Friday 7 December when two of our staff members take on the Desert Dash. Crossing the world's oldest desert, will they be victorious or will they bite the dust? Do not miss this epic...

# DASH OF THE TITANS



DASH IS OUT



**TOM "JITTERY" JACKSON-READ**  
Age: 39  
Weight: 88 KG  
Weaknesses: OVERLY ATTACHED TO HIS  
NEW BICYCLE  
Strengths: CAN GROW A BEARD

## VS

**Mike "Paranoid" Parsons**  
Age: 45  
Weight: 76 KG  
Weaknesses: Snow is not sand...  
Strengths: No wind resistance on  
head



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**YOUTH AGES 6-10**  
2pm - 4:30pm

**YOUTH AGES 11 - 15**  
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