



PARENT INFORMATION PORTAL
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THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear WIS Community,

The Windhoek International School mission is *"To 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."* Here at WIS, we take our mandate to "develop the full potential of each student" very seriously indeed.

We know that each and every learner at WIS holds within themselves a boundless and unique human potential. This deep inner purpose can be obscured by routines, constraints, distractions, prejudice, and the daily tyrannies of the urgent, so we are careful to structure our school to ensure that each learner feels known, challenged, and supported in their learning journey as they make a positive contribution to Windhoek and the world.



WIS BOOK BUZZ



BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE WIS LIBRARY TEAM

You may not be a reading teacher, but lucky for you, you get to be your child's favourite teacher!

Whether you love books, magazines, or graphic novels, your child will learn to love reading by watching you. So make reading a part of your family's everyday life.

Encourage your child to read, and let your child see you read.

Have conversations about the books that everyone in the family is reading. Make sure there are lots of books around the house. All of these things will send your child a clear message that reading is important—it's not a chore!

*** We are looking for gently loved items to stock our Secondary Library reading corner. If you have a rug, coffee table or artwork to donate, we'd cherish your items.*

For questions and inquiries, please email us at jwashington@wis.edu.na and mneftali@wis.edu.na



It was wonderful to see so many parents at this week's Back-to-School evening. Our holistic approach to education requires a close connection between teachers and parents, and it was fun to see our WIS parents gamely hiking across campus and participating in the day-in-a-life of their children. With three weeks into the new school year, classroom routines are now in place and after school sports and enrichment activities have begun.

It is also wonderful to see how many students are participating in the expanded offering of after school sports and activities that launched this week. We now have 29 weekly enrichment activities and 17 sports teams happening at WIS. We will profile one such activity or sports team each week in this year's Oryx. We will start next week with the girls netball teams. It has been remarkable to see the growth and progress that our athletes have made just over the last year.



We know from the educational researcher [John Hattie's meta analyses](#) that the largest school-wide effect size on student learning is "Collective Teacher Efficacy". Collective Teacher Efficacy (CTE) is defined as **a staff's shared belief that through their collective action, they can positively influence student outcomes, including those who are disengaged or disadvantaged** (Hattie, 2016).

So we will close school for Teacher Inservice on Monday, 29th of August. All Teachers and EAs will look first at strategies and then at individual cohorts of students, identifying the strategies and tools which we will use for our students to succeed. I hold high hopes for the learning that will ensue in this school year!

We have included some photos in this week's Oryx which capture just some of the efforts being made to prioritise relationships and place learning within meaningful real-world contexts. Please enjoy this long weekend. We will start school once again at the normal time on Tuesday, 30th of August.



Sincerely,
Ethan Van Drunen

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Dear WIS Community,



Thank you to everyone for attending Back-to-School Night. This year, teachers engaged parents with Kahoot quizzes, question walls, QR codes, brain breaks and learning stations. What a team of amazingly dedicated educators we have at WIS! Together with next week's 'Learner Profile of my Child' conferences, I hope you and your child's teacher will have the opportunity to establish an effective learning partnership.


Effective Learning Partnerships

As was mentioned last night, I cannot emphasise enough the importance of mutually supportive parent-teacher relationships. Research has shown that children perform better in school if their parents are involved in their education. When children see both parents and teachers working together to support their learning, they develop crucial ideas about the importance of positive relationships. This in turn leads to parents trusting and respecting teachers and their work. At WIS, we want parents to be an active part of learning celebrations and events of the school and to contribute to their child's learning experience. Please consider whether you could offer a guest talk, or if you know an expert in an area, please let us know.

Making Learning Visible: SeeSaw and Learning Celebrations

To get a real-time in-depth view of your child's learning journey, please regularly visit our SeeSaw App, through which teachers share student learning products documenting the growth and development of your child. We encourage you to leave feedback on your child's work that is specific, timely and respectful, shown in the infographic on the next page.

Principle 1
Feedback should cause **THINKING**, not an emotional reaction.



Don't grade
Grades remove the focus on feedback and it is ignored


Don't compare
Comparing students triggers negative emotional reactions

Be descriptive
Be concise and focus on the task achievement

FORMATIVE FEEDBACK


that works

Orlino Miles @orlino



Teacher "You need to be more systematic in your writing."


Student "If I knew how to be more systematic I would have been more systematic the first time."



"This kind of feedback is **accurate** - it is describing what needs to happen - but it **not helpful** because the learner does not know how to use the feedback to improve. It is rather like telling an unsuccessful comedian to be funnier - accurate, but not particularly helpful advice."

(Dylan William)

Principle 2
Be **HELPFUL** in your feedback, not only accurate."



Ask questions
E.g. Student does not make an in-depth analysis of a historical event. Ask, "Can you connect this event with...this? What would the similarities be?"

Give hints
E.g. Student does not solve a problem correctly. Highlight the specific step where the error was made: add a focused comment, "Here you could use this... strategy/theorem."

Provide scaffolds
E.g. Student writes an essay but the language is not complex enough. Provide a list of connectives, adverbs, and adjectives s/he can use to improve.

Through our **Learning Celebrations** parents are provided a window into the approaches to teaching and learning at WIS. We encourage you to visit these- children love preparing for these and their motivation increases if they know they have their favourite audience there to share their learning with.

Parent Workshops

By involving parents in the workings of the curriculum and program, they better appreciate the value of inquiry-based learning, the school's vision and learn about the attitudes and skills that their children are developing. Please see below the workshops we will be offering this year. These will start at 8.00 am and take place in the staff room.

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Thursday 1st September | <i>How we learn at WIS: Introduction to the PYP, SeeSaw and giving feedback</i> |
| Thursday 29th September | <i>Language and Literacy in the PYP</i> |
| Thursday 27th October | <i>Maths in the PYP and ways to support at home</i> |
| Thursday 24th November | <i>Thursday Assessment and MAP Growth at WIS Primary</i> |
| Thursday 26th of January | <i>The Early Years and Reggio Emilia, Play-based learning</i> |
| Thursday 23rd February | <i>IB PYP Exhibition Parent information Workshop</i> |
| Thursday 30th March | <i>Supporting neurodiverse learners</i> |
| Thursday 27th April | <i>Multilingual Learners: learning in English, supporting the home language and family language strategies</i> |
| Thursday 1st June | <i>Digital Citizenship</i> |

I look forward to seeing you at the Learner Portrait of my Child days next week and I wish all families a relaxing short break.

Warm regards,
Marcelle van Leenen

Grade 4 and 5 team-building

Farm Windhoek Team building and Outdoor Education

On the 15th and 16th of August the Primary PE department organised a back to school team-building outing for



Grades 4 - 5 at the IJG trails at Farm Windhoek.

We hiked some challenging trails, participated in nature based team-building and began the process of building a strong and resilient community in Upper Primary.



Seodhna Keown

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Partnerships in Learning - Parent - Student - Teacher/School

Last night's Back to School Fair was a good example of our partnership in education. Parents meeting their child's teachers, teachers meeting their students' parents and students leading the way from one class to the next. I appreciated the positive atmosphere I experienced when coming into all the different classrooms.



I also appreciated the proactive arrangement of the Grade 12 class to do a small fundraiser for their IB Graduation. It was clear that they had worked together with the support of Mr. Donoho, their advisory teacher to plan and share the responsibilities for this event.

Next Thursday, **1st of September** from 17:30 - 18:30, we have another opportunity to connect with each other.

Again, this should be done together - parents are informed about opportunities post high school and children should be part of this event. It is about your - students' - future. So you should be the centre of the dialog about your future. Parents can lead the way, but essentially, our young people need to actively "create" their future by being engaged in the process as much as possible - discussing and researching their ideas, being proactive and engaged in the process and taking the lead now already with regard to their future plans. These discussions, research and plans need to be realistic, but we need to be open minded and positive about them as well. It is my firm belief that, with the necessary engagement, every young person will find their journey and good place in their future where they can thrive and be successful. But the process is not simple and requires this parent-student-school partnership to be an active one.

It would be great, therefore, if as many families as possible could join us next Thursday for this initial information session. It will be mostly to present the different options available to our young people post high school, but also inform parents about the platforms we are using in school to ensure our students get the best exposure possible to opportunities.

Parents and students always feel free to get in touch with the school for anything that can be meaningful and helpful to aide the process of planning for the future.

Regards,
Maggie Reiff



Grade 8 Creative Writing

The Ultimate Duo - By Shani Kriessbach

Six Months Ago ...

I was working in the lab playing Frankenstein, the mad **scientist**, trying to make a creature that will scare all the bad away from me. Little did I know I made something better... My best friend.



One Hour Ago ...

At this very moment, Frankie and I are running away from Jane and her clan at lightning speed. Jane has always been a bully, but she was always the harshest towards me. Today we got our revenge by breaking into her school locker and placing a bunch of **amphibians** inside. Jane let out an ear-piercing screeching **squawk**-screech sound. She was screaming and running around like a crazy person when about twenty lizards came falling out. Her glare landed on me and realisation drew on her face. She ran towards me, **signalling** for her minions to come and help her. That was our cue to leave. We dashed through the hallway with Jane short on our heels. We take a right, another right, and a left. We ran straight toward the **anthropology** classroom. We planned to climb through the large window. As soon as we were out we dashed for the street but were spotted by one of the minions.

The Present ...

We curve around the streets trying to shake them off our backs. We twist, turn, and dodge so many people I'm surprised they didn't ask what was going on. When we finally got lost in the crowd, the safe-house was our next stop. By the time we reach the safe-house I'm **panting** and gulping down lungfuls of air. Frankie didn't even break a sweat since, well, she is a robot. I programmed her to act like a normal teenage girl, but she still has the advantage of an endless supply of energy. The only thing that is out of place in her almost flawless appearance is her stingy yarn-like hair that is standing in every direction from all the energy she gathered from running past all those street-lamps. Frankie is super sophisticated, super talented, and ... oh yeah, a super-computer. She can

do surgeries to defend you in court. It's almost like she **graduated** from all those different schools but she just has the knowledge. Somehow I think she started updating herself and taking her skills to the next level. She is the definition of **evolution**.

I let out an involuntary **chuckle** that made her eyes dart to me within an instant. "What is it now?" She questions me with an accusing tone that makes my chuckle into a laughing fest. "You... may... want... to... take... a... look... in... the... mirror". I wheezed between every word. Frankie **grunts**, turns, and walks towards the bathroom. She comes out grumbling with hair that is somewhat smoothed down. She falls down next to me and starts discussing our next attack.

Frankie is my best friend and partner in crime.

The Squirrels' message - By Courtney Loubser

One day there were two **squirrels** in a forest **chasing** each other for a very long time. They ran and ran until they stopped dead in their tracks. They spotted a secret hole in the ground that they have never ever seen before. Now they decided to go into this mysterious hole. In darkness scared and alone, the two squirrels spotted a green light. They moved closer and closer until they **noticed** it was a green lantern. With a **message** underneath it. The two squirrels took it out from underneath it. It read, Dear **mammals**, **reptiles**, and squirrels, we kindly want to send this message for a very good reason. We have noticed that there has been no **laughter** or **studying** in the forest school. We would like for you animals to encourage our students to do these tasks. Sincerely Forest council.



After the squirrels had read that message that had been hidden there for years, the squirrels ran out of the secret hole and back to their den, they sent that message to the forest school a. And waited. Finally, the school replied they will do everything that the council said and that was it. The school did that and was very happy. Now that the squirrels were home they **connected** and had a relaxing **bonding** time with no worries and they were as happy as a pig in mud.

Trapped - By Jani Engelbrecht

It was a cold winter and that night the whole town was buzzing about the party being held at the palace. It's been the first time in decades that an event happened at the palace, minus the executions.



"Father!" Yelled Grace, my younger sister.

"Hello sweetheart, how are you? Where is your sister?" He was panting in between breaths.

Father is an **anthropologist**. He **graduated** top of his class.

"Ah, Evelin! How are you?" He **singled** for me to follow him into the kitchen.

"I'm well Father, how's Aunt Helen? Would you like some tea?" I put the kettle on the stove while getting the tea bags. I got a **grunt**. He seemed troubled. He also ran home, something was not right.

"Something troubling you father? Is it the party at the palace?" I got the cups out.

"It's nothing, my dear. Work was just a bit... Tiring"

"Father?" Asked James from behind the kitchen door.

He hummed in response.

"Where's Mother?" He slowly made his way from the door to me. Father was silent for a moment.

"She's at the palace, son." Father didn't even look at him. James nodded. "Eve, could I please have a cookie?" He tugged on my dress. "You'll spoil your dinner. Please go run a bath for you and Grace." I asked before I gave him a kiss on the cheek. He nodded and walked off. James was the youngest of us all, he was born just 3 years before his mother was taken away by the guards. We haven't seen or heard from her since.

"Father, I'll be back by 11, please make sure that Grace and James are in bed." I put on my coat. I was invited to the palace as a plus one by one of my friends. Father seemed disappointed in me for going but didn't stop me. I left without saying a word to him.

The palace looked like something out of a fairytale. The people talking, the wonderful music! Oh, the music was simply the best! I and my friend made our way through the crowds of nobles and royals from all over the world. We ate and we danced all night. Until the clock struck 11. "I'm afraid I have to leave now," I said with sorrow. She nodded and we were about to leave when suddenly the guards surrounded us and shut all the doors and windows. Everyone started screaming and yelling to let us out. The room started filling up with gas. What on Earth?

I woke up in a cold cell. My legs cell my legs were chained to the wall. My dress was filthy! I got up and started begging to be let out. I was all alone there alone in there for months. I lost my voice so many times while I was begging for help. I only got one slice of bread a day and a small bowl of water. It was given through some odd contraption that would deliver food from above. After at least a year, I think I gave up. I stopped asking to be let out and stopped crying.

One day a little **amphibian** came out of the contraption. The next day I heard a **squawk** this time it was a crow. The next day it was a small rabbit. Are they making this place a zoo now?

I befriended those animals. The amphibian I named Wendy, the crow was Quinn and the rabbit was Bugs.

Then the day came. I was let out and a guard came in and pulled me out of the cell. Another one was getting the shackles off me. The animals scrambled out after me. The guard dragging me let out a small **chuckle**.

I was brought into a strange room in a tower. There was a scientist at a desk. There was something about **evolution** on the wall behind him.

"Hello hello hello, I am Dr. Ferdinand. I'm sorry about your living conditions down there but I'm afraid his majesty only allowed me the dungeons for my experiments." He gave me a very unconvincing smile. He seemed to be a **scientist**.

"You're the only survivor of my little experiment. Thus you will just be burned at the stake instead of what his majesty wanted to do."

"What?! I just saw daylight after who knows how long and now I'm just going to die?!" I got up and threw something at him.

"Ow. And I'm sorry subject 2079 but this is what he wants. We can't let you go out and blab." He got up and called the guards in.

The fire felt warm. So so warm. After being in the cold for so long ... I felt more at peace.

Middle School Student Council



We want to introduce our **AWESOME** group of middle school students representing the Middle School Student Council this year. As you can see, it is quite a large group of students but Ms. Richenda and I decided that we want to welcome anyone who would like to be part of this unit for the year. We will still go through a voting process for our President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Advisor.

This will apply only to the Grade 7 and 8 students. The Grade 6 students will find out what the MSSC is all about for this year and serve as class representatives.

Our first calendar date for a fun event is already scheduled for **28 October 2022**, so please keep an eye out for more communication that will go out about the details.

We will be focusing on instilling leadership skills and addressing any concerns our middle school students might be experiencing, as well as making life for the middle school student more fun!

I am looking forward to seeing you all every Monday during second break and I cannot wait to see the awesome events we will be planning together!

Ms. Angie

Survival Guide for Newcomers

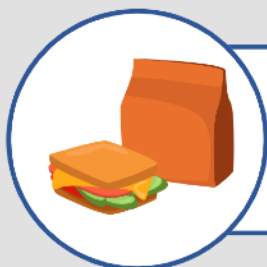
If you have been stressed for the new school year in Windhoek International School, then have no fear, the tips and tricks committee is here. In this article, we'll be discussing tips and tricks and a little survival guide. Yes, I know that you don't feel like reading this and that you can navigate the school year yourself but, bear with us.

- Number one, **STAY ORGANISED!** We can't explain all the times we haven't been organized and ended up finding ourselves being stressed.
- Number two, **BE OPEN MINDED!** WIS is one for its diverse cultures, identities, and thoughts. As an individual, being open-minded is always an awesome trait to have in order to succeed at school as well as the world.
- Number three, **DON'T BE RUDE.** Yes, this is an obvious one, but it shouldn't be slept on. Being rude to people isn't beneficial to anyone. It's okay to disagree, but it's not okay to be mean.
- Number four, **BE A RISK-TAKER,** don't be scared to try new things, meet new people, or do things out of your comfort zone!
- Number, five, **BE REFLECTIVE.** Understand when you're wrong and understand the situation and what events led up to the final product.

Tips and Tricks

- Understand your strengths and weaknesses
- Don't be afraid to ask for help.
- Have a planner – adjust it however you want.
- If you struggle to pay attention, sit right in front of the class.
- Learn from mistakes.
- Work hard and be yourself
- Be willing to change, learn and grow

WIS KIDS AFTERCARE



WHAT LUNCH WILL LOOK LIKE

Food will be ordered from Spar and delivered after school. It will consist of fruit, sandwich/ brotchen, and juice.

Orders will be based upon pre-registered attendance days.

WHAT LEARNING STATIONS WILL LOOK LIKE

Learning will be set up each day to foster a fun learning environment filled with well-thought-out, active, and age-appropriate activities to keep children engaged and happy.



PLAYTIME

Playing is very important for the development of a child. We will have a program that makes sure children develop all their motor skills like balancing, crossing the midline, hand and eye coordination and sensory play. For the older students, homework and active play will be balanced.

For more information please contact Ms. Sonandre Fick at sfick@wis.edu.na

[CLICK HERE FOR AUGUST 2022 SIGNUP SHEET](#)

Payment for these days must be made in advance, at the Finance Office. Payment will be calculated as follows:

Payment Process

- Step 1: Calculate daily rate (see right)
- Step 2: Calculate number of days per month
- Step 3: Multiply rate by days
- Step 4: Submit payment to Finance Office
- Payment is due by the 1st of each month

Daily Rate Calculations:

- 5 Days per week = N\$100 per day
- 4 Days per week = N\$110 per day
- 3 Days per week = N\$120 per day
- 2 Days per week = N\$130 per day
- 1 Day per week = N\$140 per day

Hello Spring!

Join us for a Spring inspired coffee morning!

Date: 1 September 2022

Time: 07:00 - 08:00

Place: Fish Eagle's Tuck-shop area

There will be juice or coffee and a light snack to celebrate Spring!





ULTIMATE FRISBEE!



Join us for Ultimate Frisbee!
When: Every Wednesday afternoon
Time: 16:30 - 17:30
Place: WIS Big Field

ALL AGES AND SKILL-LEVEL WELCOME TO JOIN!

LFL DATES

LIQUIFRUIT FOOTBALL LEAGUE



**FOOTBALL @
WIS SOCCER FIELDS**

FROM 15:00 - 18:00

- **SEPTEMBER: 9, 16 & 30**
- **OCTOBER: 7 & 21**
- **NOVEMBER: 4, 11, 18 & 25**

GIRLS CRICKET OPEN DAY

31 August

AGE: 8 – 13 YRS

TIME: 14H30

WANDERERS

**INTRODUCTION
TO CRICKET
WITH CAPRICORN
EAGLES & HEAD
COACH BATTING,
BOWLING AND
FIELDING SKILLS**



**SEPTEMBER TRAINING SCHEDULE
THURSDAYS, 14H00
@ DOC JUBBER FIELD**



NAMIBIA JUDO SCHOOLS

Windhoek International School

Sensei Stompie Matthyser IJF Coach 5th Dan

20 Hugler Street Klein Windhoek P.O.Box 81882

TEL: +264 812885127

Email: stompie.matthyser@gmail.com

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP 2022/23

INFORMATION:

Training Times: Wednesday from 13:30 – 15:00

CLUB FEES: (per term) -
(Per School Term Fee):

All fees strictly payable in advance
1200 NAD per person
800 NAD per person for 2 or more children per family
Annual Club Registration Fee 200 NAD per person

Banking details: FNB Cheque account: C Matthyser, nr.: 62267827768 Branch Code: 280172 (Windhoek)

APPLICATION FORM AND PERSONAL INFORMATION

SURNAME: School Grade:

NAME:(1) ID Number:

NAME:(2) ID Number:

NAME:(3) ID Number:

NAME:(4) ID Number:

ADRES:

Phone or contact number: Email:

Hereby I apply for membership of the Sensei Stompie Matthyser Judo Academy and undertake to pay the relevant fees in time. I accept that my children participate in this sport at their own risk and will not hold the Club/Academy or Coach responsible for any injuries incurred while training, competing, or travelling for Judo

Signature - Parent / Guardian

DATE