



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Contents

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



Dates to Remember

January 2018

- **15:** Afternoon Activities Start - Secondary & Primary
- **23:** AGM
- **25:** Board Meeting
- **30:** Board Meeting

...and we're back!

People have been asking me how the first week back has gone but I can't think of anything much to say. That worried me at first but I actually think it's a good thing. We've just picked up where we left off in December. No dramas. No surprises. Just business as usual.

Let's hope this augurs well for a successful 2018.

Peter MacKenzie

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Happy New Year! Welcome back to school and to a new semester. A special warm welcome to our new Primary students and their families. With a new semester and calendar year, it's an opportunity to set goals, make changes and think about how one can improve. So, here's a question for you to consider - What kind of mindset do you have? What kind of mindset do your children have?

You may have seen on several of the class blogs reference to a growth mindset. Just what is a growth mindset? Dr. Carol Dweck, a professor of psychology at Stanford University, has spent more than twenty years studying achievement vs success. She is well known in the field of education for her research. Dweck defines a **growth mindset** as, "the belief that most basic abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work - brains and talent are just the starting point. This view creates a love of learning and a resilience that is essential for great accomplishment."

WEEKLY PUZZLER

2018 should be an exciting year for the fans of the Weekly Puzzler, and we hope to add more and more students, parents, and teachers to the illustrious group of puzzle solvers. Alright, let's kick off the new year with a fairly easy one.

A bag contains 64 balls of eight different colours. There are eight of each colour (including red). What is the least number you would have to pick, without looking, to be sure of selecting 3 red balls?

Please send your answer or any good puzzlers to pfarrell@wis.edu.na



What Kind of Mindset Do You Have?



I can learn anything I want to.
When I'm frustrated, I persevere.
I want to challenge myself.
When I fail, I learn.
Tell me I try hard.
If you succeed, I'm inspired.
My effort and attitude determine everything.



I'm either good at it, or I'm not.
When I'm frustrated, I give up.
I don't like to be challenged.
When I fail, I'm no good.
Tell me I'm smart.
If you succeed, I feel threatened.
My abilities determine everything.

Created by: Reid Wilson @wayfaringpath © ① ② ③ Icon from: thenounproject.com

In a **fixed mindset**, people believe their basic abilities, like their intelligence or talents, are just fixed traits. They have a certain amount and that's that, and then their goal becomes to look smart all the time and never look dumb. They spend their time documenting their intelligence or talent.

Dweck advises, "If parents want to give their children a gift, the best thing they can do is to teach their children to love challenges, be intrigued by mistakes, enjoy effort, and keep on learning. That way, their children don't have to be slaves of praise. They will have a lifelong way to build and repair their own confidence." "Carol Dweck Biography" psychology.com. 2016-07-18

A challenge I have for us all in this new year is to encourage our children to develop a growth mindset; to enjoy challenging themselves, to persevere and not give up when they are frustrated or finding things difficult.

For more information, you might be interested in Dweck's TEDx Talk: *The Power of Believing That You Can Improve* (TEDxNorrkoping, Nov. 2014). She has also written the book, Mindset: The New Psychology of Success.

Regards,
Beth Smith

REMINDER: AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES
Starts Monday, 15 January 2018!

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Welcome back to a new year - 2018

For this year 2018, I wish all of you that your hopes and dreams can be developed and grow more and that, at the end of the year, you can look back on a year that fulfilled many of your expectations.

A special welcome to our new families who joined WIS at the start of 2018. May your time at WIS be happy and filled with lovely experiences.



We wish our Year 11 and 13 students all the energy and strength to successfully complete their mock examination which started on the 9th of January. This is a challenging time for these students, but the mock examination is a very good way to practise and to see where there are still areas that need more work for the students. The remaining months until the start of the final IBDP and IGCSE examination will be spent completing the syllabus and submitting coursework/Internal Assessments which make out up to 25% of the final grade in both IBDP and many IGCSE subjects. We appreciate that parents take extra care during this time to ensure that their children are cared for in every respect to give them the opportunity to perform to the best of their ability.

Many of our Year 13 students have also started to plan their future education. A number of students applied to the UK, Canada and will be applying to other tertiary institutions to move on from WIS in June 2018. We wish them well with planning their future and hope that WIS is contributing to enabling them to become successful and happy in their journey.

All families should have received their child's report in December. The format of these reports has changed quite considerably. We appreciate any feedback from parents and students with regard to the new format to guide us to make our reporting to you more efficient and clear. We strive to inform students and parents on a regular basis on the progress a student is making in school. The **Approaches to Teaching and Learning** approach is quite new to us at school as well, but we are convinced that this approach is much more suitable in today's world where knowledge is much more easily accessible. But skills - thinking skills, research skills, social skills, communication skills and self-management skills are skills much more needed to successfully engage in today's society and corporate world.

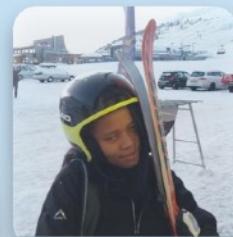


*Regards,
Maggie Reiff*

One tip to ensure your child's device is protected from damage.

A good cover is essential for a student's or any other device. It can save lots of money in repairs and device replacement. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn about [recommended iPad covers](#).





With the heat getting unbearable in Windhoek during December, it stands to reason that some would seek out the colder climates the Northern hemisphere has to offer during this time. And so a group of 51 travelers, consisting of 35 students and 16 adults departed for Passo Tonale, Italy on a ski trip at the end of last term.

For some it was the first time seeing snow. For most it was the first time even being on skis.

As the week progressed some of us got the hang of it, while others....not so much. Falls were common, screams of terror even more so.

At the end of the day it was an amazing experience to learn this new skill, while at the same time experiencing their culture and cuisine.

It was the first time we opened a trip to WIS families and it was a major success. It is also the second time we have done a ski trip and I think it is safe to say that it will become a tradition. This will be a good time to start saving for the next one!





It's about happiness, love, joy, kindness & pride

I LOVE MY PET

between owner & pet

I LOVE MY PET

SPCA PHOTO COMPETITION

COMPETITION RUNS FROM:
15 January 2018 - 28 February 2018

HOW TO TAKE PART IN OUR COMPETITION!

Send your photo and proof of payment of the entry fee to :
spca.moniquer@gmail.com
Include the following information: name of person & name of pet, short description of why you love your pet, how he/she adds value to your life.



COMPETITION RULES:

- Any age individual with his/her pet (one entry per pet)
- Photos can be taken by camera or cell phone - quality not the main factor - it is more about happiness, love, joy, kindness & pride between owner & pet.
- **NS100 per entry!**
- Winners to be announced: **10 March 2018**
- Judges decision final
- All photos will be posted on the SPCA Windhoek Facebook page.
- Press Release with photos of winners will be send to all media

CASH PRIZES TO BE WON!

- 1st Prize: NS1000**
- 2nd Prize: NS600**
- 3rd Prize: NS400**

