



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School



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Dates to Remember

November 2017

- **11:** *International day*
- **14:** *World Diabetes Day*
- **17:** *Staff Work Day - No school for students*
- **28:** *Board meeting*

December 2017

- **1:** *Last day for AA Term 2 - Primary & Secondary*

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Facilities Survey

Thank you to those who have completed the online survey about facilities. We have so far received between 200 and 300 responses and these will greatly assist us as we work with the newly-appointed architect to plan the school's future development.

AGM

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 23rd January. Formal notification will be sent to all parents later this month.

Recruitment

(Again!) Every year a number of teachers move on and we need to recruit new staff. This is healthy. It is good that experienced WIS staff can take what they have learned and apply it elsewhere and it is beneficial for us to welcome new practitioners who bring fresh eyes and ideas to our school.

Annually, turn-over at WIS is quite low and to date I have received just two firm resignations. Of course, no-one is going anywhere before the end of the school year in June but it is again time to advertise and interview. I will keep parents informed as we make progress.

Peter MacKenzie
Director

WEEKLY PUZZLER

The competition with last week's puzzler was a low scoring affair. Students win by a score of 1-0.

Congratulations (again!) to Sarah Tibazarwa (7B) for solving and scoring for the students!

Check [here](#) for a lovely algebraic solution from Sarah. (She received some anonymous help with the write up.)

Here is the new puzzler: You have 59 cubic blocks. What is the minimum number that needs to be taken away in order to construct a solid cube with none left over? Alright, get yourself to the store, buy 59 dice, and get puzzling!

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

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

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Introducing MAP

During the weeks of November 13 and November 24, the Years 2-6 students will be taking the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Growth tests. These tests are unique and different from standardized tests in that they are adaptive, meaning that they adapt to the child's level of learning. If the child answers a question correctly, the next question is more challenging. If the child answers incorrectly, the next one is easier. This results in a detailed picture of what the child knows and is ready to learn—whether it is on, above, or below their grade level. The tests will be taken on iPads and the focus of the tests will be Mathematics and Language.

Many international schools use the MAP Growth tests and the feedback from these schools has been positive. We have decided to implement the MAP Growth tests as another tool to help teachers determine their students' instructional level and to measure academic growth throughout the school year, as well as from year to year, in Mathematics and Language. This year the tests will be given in November and May. We will review the timeframe of the tests and adjust accordingly for the next academic year.

Later this month parents/guardians will be invited to attend an informational meeting that fully explains the purposes of the tests and how we will use the information obtained to promote your child's learning with a focus on your child's individual growth and achievement.

*Regards,
Beth Smith*

Goethe Centre Halloween Night

On Friday 27 October, the Goethe Centre in Windhoek had their annual Halloween Night.

Children between the ages of 7 and 12 met at 5 O'Clock in the afternoon and spent the night telling spooky stories and poems, getting their faces painted and watching scary movies and plays. The next morning at 9 O'Clock the moms and dads were entertained with readings and poetry that the children had created during the night and then Ms Junelle Mbonambe-Stroh and Mr Blessing Mbonambe performed two hilarious plays; The Grinch and Frankenstein! Finally there was a lucky draw to win a Spooky Stories book and then everyone could go home and have a well deserved nap.

PHOTO: Ms Junelle Mbonambe-Stroh, Daniella Prinsloo Y5B, Mr Blessing Mbonambe



What's up in the PYP at WIS?

A message from Primary Student Council!

Dear WIS Community



WHOLE SCHOOL COUNCIL PROJECT:

This year Windhoek International School will be supporting a school in the North of Namibia. They do not have the kind of facilities and resources like we have at WIS.

All donations will be collected until the end of November and donated to this school in the North. Please bring donations to your child's class. Please don't forget to help us:

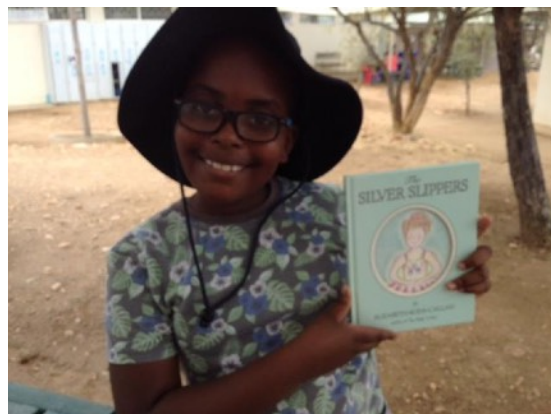
Donations could include -

- Good quality reading books
- Art supplies - paint/glue/paper
- Stationery: pencils/kokies/crayons
- Exercise books and paper
- Sports equipment - soccer balls, beanbags, or hoops

Thanks to those who have supported this good cause so far!

Best wishes,

Primary Student Council (on behalf of all school councils)



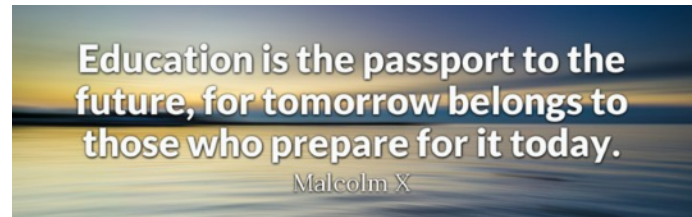
Far, Faraway - *Coming soon to an auditorium near you! Here's how our rehearsals are shaping up.*



SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

When do I start my college and university planning?

We are nearing the end of the calendar year and in the northern hemisphere, most universities will have their application deadlines in the next months. Many parents and students wonder when it is appropriate and time to start planning for their education after school. There is no clear answer, but students should start thinking about their future and their careers when they enter Year 10 (IGCSE). Why?:



- Academic transcripts from Year 10 onward will be required by many tertiary institutions when applying at the end of your school career.
- Some students won't pursue an academic education after they finish their IGCSE, so they will need their IGCSE to apply for work places and whatever they plan to do after IGCSE.
- When choosing subjects for IGCSE it is beneficial to already start moving into your field of interest, be it Sciences, the Arts or other fields of study.

What are the main factors determining where and what I can do after I finish school?

- Unfortunately, academic transcripts are still the main selection criterion for admission to tertiary and other institutions. And since the competition for places at institutions is quite fierce, a mere pass is mostly not a sufficient qualification.
- Financial considerations are probably the biggest deciding factor of where someone can study. Fees, accommodation and all other costs are getting increasingly more demanding on parents and students themselves.
- What are my academic and other strengths? It is important to be realistic about what one can study or become. For example, even if becoming an Engineer is my biggest wish, I won't be able to study engineering, if I don't meet certain academic requirements.

During the past weeks, we had the opportunity to speak to mentors that have made a success of their careers. In the coming weeks, we will have further opportunities, to engage with experts in the field of tertiary education.

- From the 13th to the 17th of November I will be attending the CIS Forum on Admission and Guidance. More than 400 participants will have the opportunity to meet and exchange expertise. I will be able to meet personally with some university admissions officers. This opportunity enables us to become known in the global environment of further education. I have asked students to look through the list of universities that will be attending the Forum and I will make an effort to meet with those specific admissions officers.
- On Monday the 20th and Tuesday the 21st of November, we have the privilege to welcome Dr. Kedra Ishop – Vice Provost for Enrollment Management at the University of Michigan. She will be hosting some workshops for students and teachers on different aspects of the application process for universities in the USA. Parents will also have the opportunity to meet with her.

For our students from Years 10 - 13 these opportunities are ideal to help make decisions. These decisions are probably the most important decisions young people make and the first decisions they make themselves about their future. It is therefore important that our young people are guided and supported by their parents and by us in school to help make the right decisions.

Regards,

Maggie Reiff

Language and Cultural Exchange



The Language Committee is organising a “Language and Cultural Exchange” between the Primary and the Secondary learners. This week, the Year 11 French “Francophone” Students Francesco, Nacim and Lola, came to the Year 6’s French class to present a Powerpoint, to make a quiz and a treasure hunt about **la Francophonie** which is part of the Y6’s unit of Inquiry “Where We are in Place and Time”.

Nacim said: “ I found this to be a very enjoyable experience, the students were surprisingly knowledgeable, they were all very excited to learn about all of the French speaking countries, and when they started their treasure hunt they were enthusiastic and playful.”

Francesco said: “ I was surprised to see how much the kids knew about French speaking countries, they were all incredibly excited and enthusiastic to have us year 11’s give them a lesson, they were all very eager to contribute to class and they also enjoyed the lesson a lot. I really want to do this again, with them again or another class.”

Lola said: “ The whole group really enjoyed learning more about la Francophonie in a fun way, it was a great opportunity to share our knowledge with the younger students. They all contributed enthusiastically and were open-minded about all the questions and answers.”

The language committee would like to thank specially the Year 11 students for being creative and enthusiastic and the Year 6 students for showing appreciation and enthusiasm during this initiative. We are looking forward to experience it again soon.



On behalf on the Language Committee: Catherine, Teresa, Naftal and Laetitia

Halloween Stories

The Year 9's wrote short stories this week and would like to share their Halloween ideas with you.



Unknown

It was a dark, cold night where the kids would get up and gather their scary costumes to get ready for trick or treat and the parents to decorate their house into a scary place and to gathering sweets for the kids whenever they pass by in their scary costumes. During that cold dark night there was this specific house where kids always gets terrified every year, this place was full of pumpkins and clowns on the walkway towards the house where the blackbirds likes relaxing on the main gate. Nobody knows whose house that is, it's always been abandoned everyday, except for Halloween. It's so ironic how that house only participate on Halloween but there's only one reason why it does that, but the thing is no one knows until now it's always been a mysterious house where the people that lives there are Unknown.

Dario Vuma

Grandma missing!

One creepy afternoon an old lady was wandering around town, as soon as she reached a forest, growling became the sound. She wanted to visit her grandchild, but could barely walk a step, so she sat on a log, read her blog and boom off she went! It was a long journey, a tireless one indeed but sadly it wouldn't end there. She reached a house thinking it was her daughter but instead it was a family of bears. Well, I think you know what happens from there. Till this day people wonder why she went into the forest, she never even had a child.

J.M Tjihumino

The Red Path

Halloween, the day that kids go to house after house and get sweets for free, but nobody knows the dark and cold story behind Halloween...until now.

On the 31st of October 1842, in Norway, the Solheim family was walking down the cold street to their house. Katja the youngest was licking a lollipop while walking, but she stopped in her tracks when she saw a red path on the snow, Katja not knowing the risks and letting her curiosity overtake she followed the red path, leaving her family behind.

The red path led to a dead body that had been cut open with a knife, that's when she knew she made a terrible mistake by leaving her family behind, but she was too late. The killer already was behind her with a bloody knife preparing to kill her, she couldn't have anyone finding out of what she he has done, so she cut her open. Her family celebrated her death by asking lollipops to every house nearby, and that's how Halloween was born.

And I should know, because I was there.

Beatrice Cherici

Cabin Fever

One dreadful night in my dad's cabin, far in the north of Tsumeb. I was with my friends Jack and Peter. We came here for a weekend outing. It was 20:10 when we went to go explore the woods, we all went our separate ways until I came across a tall figure standing across my eyes. I moved closer and saw a tree branch with a torn blanket hanging from it, I was shocked and thought my mind was playing tricks on me. I walked further and saw a smaller figure with a hat, I went closer and found out that it was just an old garbage bin with a pile of burnt note books on it. I then knew that my mind had been playing tricks on me. I tried looking for my friends but they suddenly disappeared, I checked in the cabin and found Jack and Peter laying dead to the floor. I found that there were bite marks on their wrists. There was writing in blood on the wall saying "you're not alone".

Ruvelo Soares

Nightmare**By: Aryaman**

It was dark outside. The rain came crashing down on us. Lightning would strike the ground somewhere every few minutes. I was all alone in my house, looking out the window thinking about things I could do. After a few minutes, just when I was about to go inside, I saw it. A red lightning sprite struck the ground straight in front of me. From the lightning sprite a beast came out. It was nothing like I had ever seen before. It had red thick skin, long claws and must have been at least 10 foot tall.

It started heading towards my house screaming, "Jazz". He tore the door off its hinges and jumped in. I was petrified. Not knowing what to do I ran to my bedroom and jumped into the closet. I could hear the beast's footsteps coming closer to my room. His footsteps stopped in front of the closet. He punched the closet door and grabbed my neck pulling me out of the closet splintering the door. The next thing I felt was punches. I let out a high pitched shriek. I opened my eyes. The beast wasn't there. I looked around only to find the door splintered. I tried getting up and saw bruises on my body. The floor was covered in my blood. On the wall I saw the words written in blood, "see you again".



IGCSE Student of the Month

For October, the nominated student of the month is Wendy Swart.

Teachers think she is a focused and consistent student that tries her best in every little thing.

Wendy is a hard working student and was a fundamental element last year in the preparation of year 11's farewell assembly.

Responsible and committed she deserves to be the IGCSE student of the month.

Teresa Araújo
IGCSE Coordinator



Sports news



Thomas Jackson-Read

For those who have been following the weekly update you will be aware that it has been a tough season for our newly formed WIS football teams. Our participation in the Hopsol Youth Soccer League in U9's , U11's and U13 was always going to be a significant test for us as we were playing highly competitive and well established clubs throughout the city.

Our boys have each played 18 matches since the season began in April. The early games were played at DTS, SKW and the majority we hosted here at WIS.

Saturday saw the conclusion of the the competition and the awarding of the trophies.

On behalf of the students and entire sports fraternity we were delighted to receive the Fair Play Award for 2017. It was publicly recognized that WIS made a hugely significant contribution to the league in terms if being a dependable and reliable institution in addition to the use of field and associated support.

DISCOUNT

WIS HOODIES ON SALE!
Children's sizes only N\$100
Adult sizes only N\$150!
Get yours now at the PTA
community centre before they
sell out!

