



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Contents

- From the Director p. 1 - 2
- Primary News p. 2 - 4
- Secondary News p. 4 - 7
- Other News p. 7 - 10

Dates to Remember

June 2021

- 17: End of term 4 @ 11:30
- 18: Staff work day

August 2021

- 02 - 06: Staff work week
- 09: Start of New Year 2021-22

Earlier this week, the Board and the SLT announced the creation of **WISCA** – the **Windhoek International School Community Association**.

In its Terms of Reference, the purpose of WISCA is defined thus:

***WISCA** exists in order to foster, reinforce and celebrate the community that is Windhoek International School*

It is a community-wide association that includes all parents and all employees of the school.

The last community-building event of any significance was the International Day held in November 2019. More than eighteen months later, it is high time we launched a rolling programme of events that are celebratory, affirmative, inclusive, morale-building, and, most of all, enjoyable. That is the task that WISCA will set itself from the very start of the 2021-2022 school year.

The inaugural meeting of **WISCA** will take place in August. Nearer the time, nomination forms will be available and you will be informed of how, when and where to vote.



The day to day management of **WISCA** will be the responsibility of a Steering Committee elected for that purpose. It will number eighteen (18). Each of fourteen Grades (EY1/2, EY3, and Grades 1 to 12) will be represented on the Steering Committee by a parent of a child in that Grade elected by the other parents. The Committee will also include an Educational Assistant, two teachers (one Primary and one Secondary), and a member of the admin staff.

We want the Steering Committee of **WISCA** to be representative of the very diverse nature of our community. And we want **WISCA** to be a body that is proud of being associated with the school and happy to work constructively and harmoniously with the administration and Board of Directors.

At the end of what has been a tough year, it is nice to have something positive to look forward to.

Peter MacKenzie

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

PYP Exhibition

This week the Grade 5 PYP Exhibition was launched. The Exhibition is the culmination of the Grade 5 students' time in the PYP, whether it be from Early Years or from Grade 5. The students worked for ten weeks researching a topic of interest under the theme of How the World Works. In addition to the knowledge gained about their topic the students learned about time management, working together as group members, conflict resolution, conducting an interview, research skills, thinking skills, responsibility, taking action, creating a Google Site, and more. These are lifelong skills that are part of the Primary Years Programme. The Exhibition has provided students with the opportunity to put together all of these skills in a way that allowed them to show what they have learned in their years in the PYP.

This is the second year that the Exhibition has been launched virtually. While it's disappointing that we couldn't hold the Exhibition in person, perhaps having a virtual one allows for more people to see the wonderful work the students have accomplished. Please take time to view the site and provide feedback to the students - [Grade 5 PYP Exhibition 2021](#). I think you will be impressed by what these students have accomplished. Congratulations to all of the Grade 5 students for what they have achieved.

Regards,
Beth Smith



The Grade 5 PYP Exhibition

Over the past three weeks during the *creative synthesis studio time*, Grade 5 students had the opportunity to discuss, explain and show their understanding of their research data and express the importance of what they found through the creative arts platforms of their choice. They used the creative cycle to guide them through brainstorming ideas, researching artists of interest and developing their plans through rehearsing, creating or composing their artworks.

Grade 5 students were committed throughout the creative process and should be very proud of their research and planning skills, as well as their creative thinking and communication skills. You will have the honour of viewing their artworks on the Grade 5 IB PYP Exhibition website that you can view [here](#).

We are very proud of the Grade 5 students and wish them well in their transition to Grade 6.



PYP Arts Team

Purros Community

Dear WIS Community,

On behalf of Cosmea and Emilian in Grade 5 and the Primary Student Council, we would like to extend a thanks to all those who took part in the Purros Winter Donation Drive. The community is really thankful. Mr. Jimmy, from Karibu Safaris, took our clothing and blanket donations to the community over the weekend. Attached is a special video message from the Purros community extending their thanks.

Thank you, Thank you. Click on the link [here](#).

THANK YOU!



The Early Years teachers and students, on behalf of the WIS community, would like to thank the parents of Ariana Gubiani, for sponsoring and building an enclosure for the rabbits in the Early Years area. Thank you for the beautiful addition to the school.



SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

A celebration worth sharing - IBDP Graduation - Class of 2021



On 22 May, we bid farewell to our Class of 2021 in a beautiful graduation ceremony at WIS. It was a special celebration and our graduates as well as all participants in the programme did WIS proud.



We were treated to some beautiful music by some of our colleagues and then various words of encouragement by Ms. Rimmington, their homeroom teacher, Mr. MacKenzie and Dr. Bruwer.

Victor and Maria reminisced about the time the Grade 12s spent together and how these last two years have contributed in creating a strong bond between the classmates. On behalf of their class they expressed their appreciation and gratitude to their parents and teachers and WIS for the support and guidance particularly during the last two years. You will enjoy reading their words [HERE](#).



When our graduates leave WIS, they receive a WIS High School Certificate that states that they have completed two years of IB courses at WIS and participated in various activities related to Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS). It is amazing to see how our young people grow and mature during these two years of the IBDP programme. From often floating at the start of Grade 11, they become confident, kind, compassionate and considerate young people who can easily stand their place in the world they will enter. We wish them well for all their future endeavours - may they be

happy and successful in the goals they set for themselves.

We also want to congratulate the winners of the awards at the end of Grade 12.

- The Alexander Award went to Viktoria Ellmies. The Alexander family had two children graduate from WIS. As a token of our appreciation, they donated this award to a graduate each year who distinguishes him or herself by exemplary conduct and initiative in line with the IB Learner Profile and WIS Vision and Mission. Viktoria has been an exemplary student all through her school career and a huge role model for her peers academically as well as in other areas.
- The AISA Award of Excellence was handed to Tanatswa Murwira. This is an award AISA (Association of International Schools in Africa) member schools can apply for to recognise and reward the achievements of outstanding students in AISA membership schools; a student who can demonstrate excellent academic results and whose character exemplifies the association's values - promoting a school environment of hospitality, friendliness and community, demonstrating the concept of service to the human family, appreciating and promoting African cultures and enhancing a world view that celebrates unity and diversity. Tanatswa has certainly demonstrated these fine qualities.
- The WIS Award of Excellence was given to Maria de La Paz-Napolés. This award goes to a student who in all of their interactions are open-minded, caring and principled. They are lifelong learners who strive to be knowledgeable, they are critical thinkers who ask questions and reflect and they willingly share their learning with others. The Learner Profile attributes come naturally to them and the school is grateful for the modelling they have provided for others at WIS.
- The WIS Service Award goes to a student service leader who demonstrated a commitment to their community and how they used learning, critical thinking and problem-solving skills to involve themselves in addressing community needs. This was awarded to Jessica Kennedy. Jessica was also our Junior Councillor in the Junior City Council of Windhoek.
- Finally, we awarded the Most Improved Certificate to Yiling Huang. Yiling (Angela) came to WIS two years ago and did not speak much English at the time. Now she has reached the end of Grade 12, has been admitted to a university in China with her IB subjects. She has certainly made a huge jump in her proficiency and confidence and we wanted to acknowledge that.



After the graduation ceremony, we enjoyed some time together at the reception outside the PLC arranged by Tamonika - it was an opportunity to say some final thank yous and goodbyes before most graduates and their parents and some teachers proceeded to the graduation dinner in the evening.



It was a memorable evening with a lot of laughter and probably relief on the part of our graduates that now, they were “free” to embark on the next stage of their life’s journey.

A very special thank you goes to Mrs. Tanya du Plessis and Mrs. Lourette Liebenberg whose dedicated and committed efforts to arrange the graduation ensured that the event was a beautiful ceremony and an unforgettable celebration.

Regards,
Maggie Reiff

Welcome to Middle School Grade 5s!

Soon you will be moving from being the oldest in Primary to being the youngest in Secondary and that could be a very daunting thought. I hope that we have put these fears and concerns at ease through our Google Meet on Thursday morning?



All your teachers, Ms. Reiff, and I are very excited to welcome you to Middle School and we are looking forward to starting your new school phase in August. Secondary school is different in a lot of ways but so are you. We see this as a positive challenge!

If you have any questions and other concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at ajvrensburg@wis.edu.na.

I wish you a happy holiday soon and I hope that you all will come back refreshed and rested to tackle Middle School work.

Good luck and I hope that your time in Middle School will be a positive and memorable one!

Ms. Angie, ATLi Coordinator

Descriptive Writing

In English the students read the short story *The Monkey's Paw* written by W.W. Jacobs. After inquiring more about the story and the themes, the students were asked if they could make three wishes, what would they be? Describe the wishes, and what you think would happen if they were granted. Here are two descriptive pieces to enjoy: “He wanted to show that fate ruled people’s lives, and that those who tried to change it would be sorry.”

Three Wishes - by Gonçalo Andresen Serra

Once I was in a market, shopping for my vegetables, when a small Indian man came up to me and gave me something shrivelled and dry. He explained that it was a monkey’s paw, enchanted to give three wishes and how to use it. He said that I only had one day or the wishes would not come true. He was so serious, I almost started to believe him. I told him I was not interested and did not want to buy it, but he gave it to me for free. He compelled me to take it, so I did.



I wanted to prove him and myself wrong, so, still not believing any of it, jokingly wished for 1 million pounds. The paw twisted like a snake and wriggled out of my hand and I screamed as I dropped it. When I asked the man what that was, he was no longer there. Out of the blue, three vases broke, a donkey brayed loudly and a dog started barking at me.

“I’m becoming superstitious”, I told myself, laughing nervously as I went home. But my gut told me something was wrong as I came home. Everything was silent, but I had a feeling something was watching me. I went to make myself some tea, and all of a sudden in the other room I heard a loud crash. When I went to see what

happened, there was a bag full of pound bills and gold. I never really cared about money, but this amount of money made me drool. Just then, I heard a call, and my body tensed. For some reason, I felt like something bad had happened, and that the phone was going to tell me. Picking up the phone, my fears were confirmed: my uncle was sick of SARS-COVID, and we all had to go and test ourselves. Our family was not very rich, and we were all worried about him and ourselves, as we had been together at a family dinner this week.

When the results came, everyone except me had the virus. I had a lot of money, and I spent all I could on saving them. But they were all gone. Nothing could be done. And I sat there heartbroken, not believing my luck. Just when I had all this money, I got the only thing that money couldn't buy. But it started to occur to me that maybe the two things were related, or the old man would not have given away the monkey's paw. I went out to look for the man and give him a piece of my mind, as to why he didn't warn me and now my whole family was dead. But I couldn't find him, and after the anger came the grief. I threw away the paw and tried to destroy it, but nothing could be done: it was indestructible and it kept reappearing in my pocket somehow. I wanted to wish for the paw to be destroyed, but something told me it wouldn't work, and neither would be wishing for more wishes.

I was heartbroken and wished for happiness in the world, so that at least this paw would bring something good to the world. The paw twisted and fell, the papers on my desk flew, the lights flickered and my cat went crazy. As I looked out the window, I saw that everyone was smiling. But not a real smile, a fake smile, a huge smile. Every argument was still happening and every homeless person was still there, but now everything was done with a huge, unnatural smile. I went down to the street, but now every face was full with creepy smiles and no one was able to show their emotions. I went to talk about this to my friend, but he said nothing, just stared at me and smiled.

If I Were Gifted The Monkey's Paw, what three Wishes Would I Opt To Have? by Mathew Varghese

1. Signing paperwork: From what it entails and what effect it has on an individual, my first instinct would be that the monkey's paw has hidden, unforeseen consequences. Hence, considering the monkey paw's are able to grant individual luxuries and pleasures galore, I would like to be granted paperwork that explicitly describes the terms and conditions of the monkey's paw. From this, I can gain a general idea of what the monkey's paw is. Thereafter, I can come to a conclusive conclusion on whether I should take the paw to make some of my life's most difficult decisions. However, this wish may result in me signing papers, in which some of the papers have little to no influence on an individual and his or her wishes.
2. An infinite number of wishes: Wishes are something that an individual asks the universe to help them. It is the kind of thing one never plans for, yet greatly desires. Hence, considering the unforeseen consequences that will arise as a result of the monkey paw's wishes, my first wish is to have an unlimited amount of wishes that have no negative implication that will affect me or people close to me. With an infinite number of wishes, I can wish with suffering devastating repercussions that may arise from my wishes. However, being the nature of the monkey's paw, negative consequences will arise as a result. For example, as a result of this wish, I may be granted with luxuries and the pleasures of life, yet future generations will be burdened by a life plagued with despair, which is all concealed under a veneer of the monkey paw's "jumping off point" to success.
3. Time travel: Knowing the repercussions of the monkey's paw action, everyday, for me, would be looking in the mirror, praying that any of my previous or future unlimited wishes do not pose any negative implications. Hence, that's why my second wish is to be able to travel through. Having the ability can provide me the ability to observe the effect my wishes have. Yet, some problems that will arise is that when time travelling, I get stuck in a timeline in which I observed and am now doomed to witness the calamity that arose as a result of my actions.

Sports News

Exciting pieces of sports news have been few and far between of late, the long awaited LF league finally got stated in early May only to get suspended at the end of May.

However I am reminded of a popular British saying that football





managers and pundits sometimes use, 'You're only as good as your last result.'

Huge congratulations to Ms. Laura's U/10 intrepid squad who dispatched the SKW team with power, precision and purpose.

Our U/13 team had a tantalisingly torrid fixture with the ever imposing ACFC.

Our brave boys and girls battled to a 1:0 win against the LFL ACFC 'A' Team. Well done all, you make us coaches proud!

Resting under the bed

Snuggled against the wall

Lurking behind a cushion

All Library books
are due back by

Monday, 14 June

Relaxing in that bag

Peering out from under the coach

Taking shelter in a drawer

Curled up under the seat

Roosting in the truck

Camouflaged on your shelves

These are some favourite places of library books in the wild ... please look around And send our books home to the library!

OMBA GALLERY EXHIBITION

FROM VILLAGE TO GLOBAL MARKET

INDONESIA'S SMALL MEDIUM ENTERPRISE PROMOTION EXHIBITION

28 May - 10 June 2021



Participants:



Organized by



Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia
Windhoek

Co-Organizer



Indonesian Ladies Association
Windhoek

In collaboration with



ASEP WEST JAVA
Association of Experts and
Producers of Indonesian Handicraft



NAMIBIA
CRAFT
CENTRE

OMBA GALLERY AT THE OLD BREWERIES, 40 TAL ST. WINDHOEK

MON-FRI 9AM-5.30PM SAT 9AM-4PM PUBLIC HOLIDAYS-SUN CLOSED

www.nambiacraftcentre.com | Tel: 061 242 222 | Cell: 081 124 0982 | Craft Centre@lway.na



NAMIBIA
CRAFT
CENTRE

ADOPT A SHELTER CAT MONTH



Cat adoption fee N\$700 for the whole month of **June!***

Let's go Home!

Rescue cats rule!

Save a life!

I'm fully vaccinated, sterilized & microchipped!

To celebrate **ADOPT A SHELTER CAT MONTH**, cat adoption fees have been reduced to ***N\$700** for the month of June at the SPCA Windhoek!

Contact us on 061 238 654 or email info@spcawindhoek.org.na for more information! * Offer applies to cats over 6 months of age.