



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Thirty Years

It seems just yesterday that we were celebrating our 25th anniversary but our 30th is already almost upon us.

Windhoek International School was officially established in December 1990 and opened its doors in January 1991. In fact, we opened our doors twice in January 1991 – once on the 16th when classes began and again on the 23rd when the official opening ceremony was honoured by the presence of the Rt. Hon. Nahas Angula, then Minister of Education.

Events to celebrate our anniversary will take place throughout 2021 but we are kicking off with a competition to design a 30th anniversary logo. See the poster with details elsewhere in this issue of the Oryx.

Stay safe.

Peter MacKenzie

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

MAP Growth

The MAP Growth testing sessions for Grades 1-5 have gone well. The children have shown confidence and enthusiasm in the process. I even heard a few children say, "Yes!" when it was time to take the test. Most of the children have completed the tests and those who were absent during any of the tests or those who still need to complete the tests are being given time to do so. We anticipate having all the tests finished by Monday afternoon. Next week the teachers will be reviewing the results and determining next steps.



Parents should receive the Family Report explaining their child's results by Monday 16 November. **Wednesday 18 November**, I will offer a **parent information session** via Google Meets with the topic being MAP Growth. The links for the meeting and slido.com will be in next week's Oryx, as well as in an email reminder.

Playgrounds Reopening

The children have now been in school full day for three weeks. They have shown they are knowledgeable about social distancing, wearing masks and sanitising. I'm very proud of our students and how well they have adapted to the new "normal".

This week Karen Kunz, one of the Occupational Therapists who works with some of our students, spoke with the Primary Staff about the importance of movement and

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Dates to Remember

November 2020

- **14:** Staff Work Day - No school for students
- **27:** 30th Logo design deadline

December 2020

- **04:** WIS 30th Birthday Bash
- **09:** End of Term 2
- **10:** Human Rights Day



Facebook



Instagram



Twitter

sensory breaks during the school day. She also commented that children in addition to the social and emotional aspects of play, are missing out on that important part of physical development that happens when children play on the jungle gyms and other playground equipment.

When we opened school following the hybrid schedule, we closed the playgrounds to ensure social distancing and also due to time constraints with the shortened day. We continued to keep the playgrounds closed when everyone returned to school for a full day. We now feel it's time to take the next step in the process and transition to reopening the playgrounds. I received a wonderful proposal from 1J explaining how they would use the playground safely [1J Playground Proposal](#). It's another example of our children being thinkers and showing they are knowledgeable. We will gradually reopen the playgrounds beginning from Monday. I know there will be many shouts of joy from the Primary Students.

Regards,
Beth Smith

Sharing The Planet

We're learning about how important plants are. We've explored plants on a campus walk, shared Show and Tell presentations about plant products, planted tomato seedlings, looked at what parts of plants we eat and even made a delicious salad.



Jan le Roux (Grade 1J)

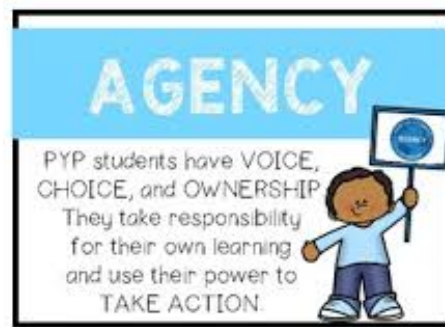
WIS Primary Student Council

Dear Parents & Guardians,

We come to that time of the year to vote for a student council representative for each Homeroom per grade level. Students from Grade 1 through Grade 5 will be our representatives. The passion pitch and voting will happen in the classroom this week. If your child is interested in being nominated, encourage them to sign up with their homeroom teacher. The results will be announced next week, Thursday 12th November 2020.

What is the student council?

In the PYP it is a great opportunity for students to play an active, positive role in the life of our school. Representatives are a voice for the student body and can have input and give ideas of events and actions they can take, throughout the year. The student council comes up with ideas of how we can help our school community, build and develop school spirit and suggest ways we can support various charities or fundraising as part of a whole school. The student council encourages and role models the IB Learner Profile traits. They are a support to all Primary students.



How to become a member of student council:

- If you, as students, are keen - you can put your name forward to your Homeroom teacher.
- Pitch your message: Draw a picture, write a piece or pitch a speech to your class, as to why you should represent the class - "Why should you be the student council rep?", "What kind of Learner are you?", "How would you help?"
- Then your class will vote by secret ballot- write down the name and drop it in a vote box to your teacher.
- Your teacher will count out the votes.
- One student is to be voted for per class per grade, from Grade 1 through Grade 5.

Student's role:

Representatives act as a channel of communication within the school and model the following:

- I show **Commitment** to my role in being part of the Primary Student Council.
- I am **Open-minded** and a **Communicator**, speak for the student body and make sure their ideas and messages are heard.
- I am **Caring** in my support of fellow students in our school.
- I am **Principled** and show myself to be a role model to others.
- I take **ACTION** in improving our school and supporting the community around me.

I look forward to seeing our students' proposals.

Kind regards,

Ms. Avril, PYP Coordinator



SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

When do we think about what next?

It is the time of year, when our senior students are working on their university applications, the time of year, when the thought of finishing school is so distant, but then it is so close as well. University applications for universities in the northern hemisphere are mostly due at the beginning of the year. So currently, our Grade 12 students are working tirelessly to decide, plan and apply.

But when is a good time to start planning for “this future”? Often, the realisation that school is almost finished and that applications for universities need to be done, comes somewhere in Grade 12. But starting the process of “thinking of the future” should start much earlier. In fact, it should start when children are quite young. How is that possible?

Giving children a purpose, letting them find and pursue their interests early on in life, gives them a steadfast start into a future career. If children are passionate about something early on and work on strengthening their interest and passion, they will more likely be able to find a future path to embark on.

Part of this process certainly is the environment young people are exposed to. Conversations in the family about what I love and what I want to do one day, are excellent opportunities to strengthen what a child believes is great and worth pursuing. Conversations about opportunities and possibilities are more important than ever. Given the vast array of opportunities, the decision on what to do once school is completed, can be a stressful one and is not something that is easily made. It is therefore important that the family looks into options together, has conversations and discussions on possibilities and that parents support their child in making realistic choices for their future. These choices need to take into consideration what the means are for someone to pursue a tertiary education. Firstly, it is a costly undertaking. Where do the finances come from? Secondly, it is a competitive process. There are limited places available at universities and the competition to get into your chosen university is potentially massive.

It is therefore also important to “build” a strong profile for your university application early on in high school. A part of “building this profile” is being interested in things - participating in sports or extracurricular activities. The work experience that our students do in Grade 9 or 10 is another strong contributor to informing future decisions and strengthening a student’s application. The work experience further helps develop some of the important soft skills that are so clearly a priority these days: collaboration skills, communication skills, social skills, being able to be creative and think and operate outside of the box.

My wish for our young adults is that they have the opportunity to find their niche - through conversations with family and friends, through thorough research about opportunities, but most importantly through a dedicated approach to their studies in their final years of school. If this is a habit young people learn early on in their lives, it will be so much easier to manage the increasing demands of the academic work in the higher years of school.

Regards,
Maggie Reiff

Congratulations Henrik!

Congratulations to Henrik Diekmann who has made the selection for the 2021 **NIHA National Team**.

The **Namibian Ice & Inline Hockey Association** is arguably Namibia’s most successful sporting federation with Namibia ranking 6th globally.





Well Done to Henrik who qualified for the Junior Men's and Senior Men's Teams.
Thomas Jackson-Read

Learner Profile: Communicators

We would like to congratulate the following students for displaying the IB Learner Profile trait - Communicator for the month of October.

Tinashe, Jisele, Kgosi, Jade, Leo, PJ, and Angela understand and expresses ideas and information confidently and creatively in more than one language and in a variety of modes of communication. They work effectively and willingly in collaboration with others. IB students regularly deliver stimulating presentations and drive excellence in group assignments.

Well done to the above-mentioned students!

Our next IB Learner Profile Trait, for the month of November, will be 'THINKER'. "Creative thinking inspires ideas. Ideas inspire change!"



How do you approach problems? What is critical thinking? What are the thinking strategies? What is lateral thinking? What is the nature of creativity? Where do ethics come in? How can you become a better thinker?

Ms. Angie

Raising money for Katutura

Please bring in your metal bottle caps to raise money for those in need in Katutura. Drop-off boxes are in the school office and staffroom.

Thank you for your support.
Grade 7CK

The Social Committee to the rescue!



The Social Committee decided to lift the staff morale and spirit on Friday, 30 October 2020 by lighting a fire and braai-ing some boerewors. The members of the Social Committee planned and organised boerewors rolls and soft drinks for everyone. There was a nice vibe during second break with the smell of wors in the air and music coming from the staffroom. The staffroom was, unusually, full of people enjoying lunch together. As we are a diverse group, we catered for our vegan staff too.

Thank you to our braai masters - Johan & Mike!



Which make of Chromebooks is the best? Nanodog, the local supplier only provides ASUS. How good is that compared to other brands?

Chromebooks run the Chrome OS (Operating System). It seems to work well on any model. The local supplier's model, whichever one it is, is best because it is covered by my warranty locally. Repairs will be easier to do should anything go wrong. One could still buy any brand overseas though.

Ask anonymously at www.bit.ly/wis-techq read your answer in the ORYX

USED ITEMS NEEDED!

Do you have any of the following used items that you don't need anymore?

- glass jars (*jam jars*)
- second hand t-shirts
- magazines
- old shoes (*to be used as pots for planting*)
- objects for still life (*such as bottles, books, vase, statues*)

**Please donate them to the
WIS Primary School Art room!**

World Vegan Day

WIS Staff celebrating World Vegan Day - 1 November 2020

World Vegan Day was first observed in the UK by Louise Wallis in 1994. She wanted to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Vegan Society in the UK which was founded in 1944. Over the past 76 years this movement has come a long way raising awareness for the health benefits of a plant based diet, as well as for the positive effects on the natural environment. What started off as a diet fad, Veganism has grown into a cruelty-free, animal rights awareness lifestyle option for a growing number of people the world over.

Thank you to Jolene and JP for the cupcakes you baked for your colleagues to celebrate World Vegan Day. I'm sure many of us were pleasantly surprised by how delicious they were, despite not using a single animal product in the ingredients.



Sharon Gorelick

WIS Celebrates 30 Years!

Join us on 4th December to celebrate **30 Years of WIS** with an evening of fun, dance and laughter!

Birthdays are always a special time and should be celebrated. Our school is a young school, filled with passion, memories and a strong desire to do the best for our students. Therefore it is with great pleasure that we invite you to join us in celebrating this momentous occasion.

On Friday, 4th December we will be hosting an evening with a 90s theme, dress up or come as you are. Join in the laughter and happiness and a chance to build community memories. You will be welcomed in the PE hall with a welcome drink and there will be a photo-booth for you to capture those fun moments. We will have a cash bar and food for sale should you want to purchase anything. Please note that this event is for **adults only!**

However, due to COVID-19 government regulations we need to limit this event, and although there are no entrance fees, we do need you to sign up so that we can make sure we stick to the 200 people limit. Please sign up using [this google form](#).

If you would like to assist in any way with ideas, plans, volunteering please do not hesitate in contacting us! Jacky Ferreira (jferreira@wis.edu.na) or Beata Stephanus (bstephanus@wis.edu.na)

Looking forward to a magical 90s filled-memory-making-evening!

Beata and Jacky

YOU'RE INVITED TO

Back to the

90S

WIS **30th** Birthday Bash!

JOIN US FOR A COMMUNITY GET TOGETHER!

DATE: 4 DECEMBER 2020 | TIME: 19:00 - 22:00

PLACE: WIS PE HALL | 90s THEME (OPTIONAL)

CASH BAR | FOOD WILL BE ON SALE

RSVP VIA THE SIGN-UP SHEET!

ADULTS ONLY!

LIMITED 200 SIGN-UPS





Do you have a creative spark? Then this Logo Design Competition is for you!

Here is what you need to do:
Design a logo that celebrates the WIS 30 Year Anniversary.

The logo must:
Include the school logo and colours
Include the number 30
Be visually eye-catching
Be powerful
Be positive

You can submit multiple entries as an individual, team, or family.
It can be a digital submission or hand-drawn, and no bigger than A5 size.
Include your name, surname, and grade.

The winner/s will receive a framed print of their logo and a voucher!

Deadline for all entries: 27 November 2020. Drop your hand-drawn logos with **Ms. Laura Smith** in the **Primary Art room** or email your digital design to **jnel@wis.edu.na**