



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Security (again)

I wrote a few weeks about security on campus. The first change we are going to make will be to reintroduce windscreen stickers for cars.

We will give you more information once we have the stickers but the idea is that every WIS car (belonging to a parent, staff member or whoever) will have a colour-coded and numbered sticker in their windscreen. It may look something like this.

At a glance, our security personnel will be able to ascertain that the sticker is valid (the colour will change every school year) and, when necessary, record the number. (At drop-off and pick-up the volume of traffic will be too great for this to work but at other times cars entering and leaving the school will be recorded.)

Cars without stickers will need to stop at the gate and sign in.

In the longer term, we are looking at the possibility of bar-coding stickers or even having an automated system that records as and when authorized vehicles enter and leave the premises.

Stickers will, of course, be free and families may have as many as they have cars. But they will be required. No exceptions.

As I say, more to follow once we have the stickers.

Orphans

After their last class or afternoon activity, children need to be collected. Most are. Some, however, are abandoned.

They hang around the School Office looking forlorn and begging for scraps of food. It makes the office staff sad. Eventually, we all have to go home. We leave the orphans second-hand sleeping bags and bottles of water. Carol and Catherine sometimes bring them breakfast in the morning and then we send them off to class. But they are often back at 1.30. "Will my mummy come to get me today?" they ask. We try to reassure them but no-one ever knows for sure...



Contents

- From the Director p. 1 - 2
- Primary News p. 2 - 5
- Secondary News p. 6 - 9
- Other News p. 9 - 12



Dates to Remember

February 2017

- **13:** Secondary week A
- **14:** PTA Coffee Morning
- **14:** Inter-house Athletics
- **15 - 17:** Primary Sport Events
- **16:** IB/ IGCSE Info Session
- **20 - 24:** Book Week
- **25:** PTA Bazaar





Staff Feature

Jean-Pierre Bruwer Systems Administrator

I moved to Namibia in 1989 with my family. Namibia was so different to South Africa, but all in a good way.

I grew up watching Science Fiction, Action movies, playing loads of now, very old TV games and tinkering with all kinds of electronics. I disassembled everything thing that was broken, or that I thought did not work the way it was supposed to.

I have always been interested in how things work. I was first introduced to computers with very basic computer lessons in Primary School, working with Turtle on monochrome (Yellow and black) monitors.

In High School I really found a love for IT. Partly sparked by my love of all electronics and needing to understand how machines work. Only in High School I learned how to do basic programming and gained basic knowledge of a computer's basic functioning.

[Continues on page 3](#)

So, the message is: please don't abandon your children. Please don't leave them languishing alone and unloved in the School Office till 5 o'clock. Thank you.

With best wishes
Peter MacKenzie

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Do Primary School children really need tutoring?

Periodically parents of children in the Primary School ask the teachers, teaching assistants or me about recommendations for tutors for their children. It has caused me to wonder why a child would need to be tutored, if it isn't recommended by the classroom teacher. Is it because the parents don't feel that the child is learning in school what the parents deem important?

Is it because it's the cultural norm that children are tutored after school? Is it because of parents wanting to ensure their child gets ahead? Is it just because the child's peers are being tutored and parents want their child to keep up with his/her peers? Or is it really that the child could use a boost in understanding the concepts being taught in class.

Whatever the reason for tutoring there are some things to keep in mind.

- Children have a full day at school which is often followed by a programme of after school activities. They are tired at the end of the day. To then have a tutoring session, followed by doing homework, doesn't really give children any down time.
- In order for the tutoring to be successful and support your child's learning at school, it is important for the classroom teacher to be guiding what the tutor does. Otherwise, the tutor may be contradicting what's being taught in school and ultimately confusing your child, thus defeating the purpose of having a tutor in the first place. The tutor should be in regular contact with the classroom teacher and understand how the concepts are being taught in school so that the tutor can reinforce the concepts during the tutoring session.
- If you are questioning whether or not your child should be tutored, consult with the classroom teacher first. Your child's teacher has a good understanding of your child's progress and whether your child might benefit from being tutored in a particular subject.

My conclusion is that most children do not need tutoring after school. They need time to unwind after the day and enjoy playing. Encouraging children to read is one of the best things a parent can do to support children's learning.

Regards,
Beth Smith

Helvi Wheeler

Namibian Storyteller and Author visits WIS on Friday, February 24th

Helvi Itenge Wheeler, Namibian author and storyteller, will be meeting with Primary students at WIS to share her love and passion for literacy and culture through storytelling and story writing on Friday, February 24th. We are very

Staff Feature continued

Computers and all electronics behave in a certain manner. It all makes sense, it's all within a pattern and structure. I continued with my love for computers by completing a various local Diplomas and International Certifications. I also have a great love for playing guitar and weight training. Both of these hobbies require dedication and perseverance to achieve results. I also have two awesome canine companions that are like my very own children.

The last four years have been eye-opening with what is happening in the world regarding animal agriculture, what we do to the planet and to ourselves. I made a conscience choice to exclude animal products from my life, for these reasons and was blessed with major health benefits as a result.

I will leave you with a nice Geeky riddle / statement.
 "There are only 10 types of people in the world; those who understand binary and those who don't."

excited for her visit. Here is her inspiring and sobering 2015 [TedxWindhoek Talk](#).

Helvi Wheeler's books can be **Pre-Ordered**. You can send money - exact amounts only - in an envelope with your child's name, classroom, book title/s to Ms. Catherine at **WIS Reception** until **Wednesday, February 22nd**. Preorders will be accepted with payment only.

Books will be available for sale and if pre-ordered and pre-paid for pick-up on Friday, February 24th at 11:40 at the PTA Hut. (See the selection below.) (Please send exact amounts only in an envelope with your child's name, classroom and book titles.)



Here is a list of titles and prices:

- Sam Nujoma - 110
- Iinamwenyo/ Animals - 70
- Dancing Tortoise - 70
- Mrs Kangaroo Visits Namibia - 70
- Kishikishi - 60
- Nehoya and the Crocodile - 60
- Jackal and the Hyena - 60

Barbara Wilson

FROM OUR PAD

YEAR 5 ART EXHIBITION in the foyer

YEAR 5'S finished their art unit on How We Express Ourselves exploring three art movements: Impressionism, Surrealism and Cubism ending with an

WIS BAZAAR
Saturday 25
February 2017
from 11:00 - 17:00
Venue: WIS staff
car park



exhibition. The students selected which art movement they favoured and completed their final work referring to the relevant style. Hope you had time to view this exhibition.



Genie Albrecht

Primary School Sports Days

Wednesday, 15 February

- Traditional games : Year 1-6
- Everyone should wear their house shirts
- start at 08:00 - 10:00 (students return to their classes after a 20 minute break)
- All students will participate in the six stations
- 10 minutes per station

Thursday, 16 February

- Sports Day (sports skills-based events) : Year 3-6
- 08:00 - 10:00 (students will return to their classes after a 20 minute break)
- Everyone should wear their house shirts
- All students will participate in these events

WIS**INTER HOUSE SWIM GALA****2017****Year groups: Year 2-6****Events**

- 25m Freestyle
- 25m Backstroke
- 25m Butterfly
- 25m Breaststroke

Date: Friday, 17 February 2017**Venue: UNAM School of Medicine****Time: 12:00 - 13:00 (transport will be provided from WIS)****Entry forms on D6 and class blogs****Friday, 17 February**

- WIS Primary Swim Gala : Year 2-6
- 12:00 - 13:15
- only swimmers that signed up will attend this event outside of school (UNAM School of Medicine)
- due date for signing up is 13 February 2017
- WIS will provide transport to the pool and bring students back, unless parents want to pick up their child at the pool
- a permission slip will be send to parents that confirmed their child's participation in the gala, if they want their child to be transported to the pool and back to WIS.

Parents are welcome to attend all events.**Fernando Beukes**

Year 9 foundation students are learning the concept of Handling Data by carrying out research of their own. Ms Raji Pillai from secondary school is this week's guest author on the ICT Blog. She explains how students learned to find sources and source them correctly in [THIS ARTICLE](#). [Click to read more.](#)

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Becoming an independent learner

There is a fine line in education and in bringing up a child between caring and letting children become independent.

Often parents and students ask why they don't get a textbook in a certain subject. In class, students will prefer that the teacher hands out notes or writes everything on the board. It is, at times, even regarded as "bad teaching" if there is no textbook and if notes are not supplied.

But, referring to one of my previous contributions, how much do we learn by just consuming - without being actively involved in the process of acquiring new skills and knowledge? We are not learning much. The same applies to bringing up a child. If we give them everything, solve all their problems, have someone clean up behind them, making their bed, putting away their dirty clothes, they don't have to care for anything but themselves. In the end, they might not even be aware that it is not something to be taken for granted in society that you take care of yourself and that you are concerned about your environment and the people you live with.

In society these days, instant gratification is an expectation. I press a button and get the right answer, I talk to my parents and get what I want. I expect and my expectation will be heard and acted upon.

Would it not build stronger character, if children take responsibility for their own learning and growing up to a certain extent? Would it not make our children more aware of their environment if they were to take part in household chores, if they were to write their own notes and take ownership of their learning?

Being an educator and a mother, I have come to believe that we only serve in the best interest of our kids, if we let them take responsibility, if we give them a chance to take initiative and if we let them learn by doing.

Regards,

Maggie Reiff

Desert dash interview

With Mr. Thomas Jackson-Read



•So, Mr Jackson-Read, that's an impressive looking medal, what's it for?

I participated in the annual desert dash bike race to from Windhoek to Swakop last December.

•So the medal is for ' effort and participation' and not for actually winning?

Yes, all the solo finishers received a medal. Sadly I finished the race about 6 hours after the winner! I managed a fairly respectable 21 hours and 50 minutes.

- **6 hours later? Wow, anyway Windhoek to Swakop, that's mostly downhill, did you have to pedal?**

Yes, a lot.

- **What was the worst bit?**

Crossing the start line at the Grove Mall and seeing a sign that said 369 km to go.

- **And the best?**

Falling into my wife's arms after crossing the finish line.

- **Did you, at any point think that you might not make it?**

TBH yes, my training mostly went well but there are lots of strong riders who don't make it so I was really glad to get through.

- **What was your motivation for the trip ?**

I've always enjoyed physical and mental challenges and biking here is a really popular sport, its also a good way to see the country.

- **Would you do it again?**

Possibly but I think I'll get a bike with a motor on if next time.

Marco Aceto

DTS Volleyball for All

Saturday 4th February was a day marked indelibly in the global sporting calendar. Not because it was the day of the start of the six Nation Rugby Union Competition. Saturday 4th was the day of the Annual Volleyball For All at DTS.



This year WIS had Three teams in the competition. The formidable staff team were join by a talented group of Y11,12 and 13 students who have progressed well learning the components and skills of the game during after school activity time. We also entered the Year 10 IGCSE team whom have shown real aptitude for the sport and are a highly talented group of students.

The competition is branded as a social event and encourages all players from Windhoek to develop their skill and experience of the annual event. There were 240 teams entered in this year's event. Each team played 4 matches in their respective pool and the top 2

teams that emerged from each pool progressed into the Knock Out stage of the event. However, as soon as the whistle blows for the start of each match the social component disappears and the competitive nature of all participant shines through.

In a heroic and historic achievement all three teams won their respective groups and therefore all progressed to the 'business end' of the competition. In an unprecedented display of skilled performance all 3 teams won again meaning we make it into the final stages of the even. Fate intervened in our merry progress and pitted the staff team



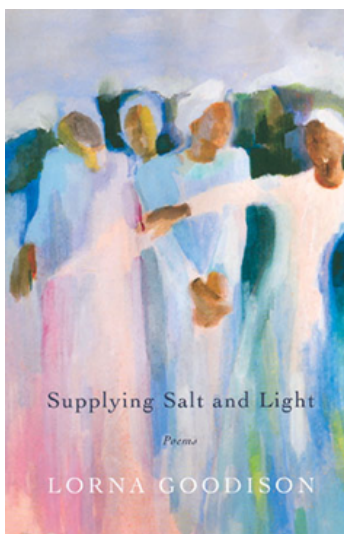
against the Y10 IGCSE team. The staff team had experience on their side and progressed into the next round and the Seniors fought a very close battle but missed out to one on the eventual quarter finalists. Two more wins for the staff team would have taken us to the semi final but disappointingly we were drawn against a superior team whose athleticism and skills ended our progress in the event.



We were hugely grateful for the several members of staff and parents who came to lend their good will, encouraging words and hydration fluids. We are also really grateful to our kind support and sponsorship from Athur Stephanus and Mandy Hugo from West lane Spar.

Thomas Jackson-Read

Poetry is an act of peace. – Pablo Neruda



Goodison’s meticulous word choice and attention to form in her collection of poems, Supplying Salt and Light brings language to life but not as alive as our Skype session last Thursday 2 February. After students completed their second text in Part 4 of the Higher Level English Language and Literature Diploma program, they had the opportunity to talk with the author, Lorna Goodison. Her Goodison’s poems span continents and meshes memories with the past across the African Diaspora.

Goodison fielded a plethora of questions from the students about various people and places mentioned throughout her works—from Jacob to Otis to Ian Fleming and Europe to Africa to the Caribbean. She was able to explain her intended tones, themes and how she wove them into form. She was kind enough to wake up at 5am to speak with us from Half Moon Bay, Canada. The students asked about poems she was commissioned to do,



aspects of her childhood and how reading helped her deal with loss and how to read a formulaically complicated poem that can be read two ways.

Lorna Goodison entered the world via Jamaica as a painter and went on a pilgrimage to poet through the language and landscape of love for humanity. She sails through saltwater with the deft of a captain on her ship carried through the words pushing pages between physical and emotional places of life. She explained that she is interested in the things that heal, that provides goodness and bridges understanding for healing—her poems are acts of Peace.

We wish to thank Mr. Danai for helping set up excellent audio and visual for this learning experience and to Ms. Heike for her flexibility and allowing us to overlap the art of writing into her scheduled studio time.

Melissa Kandido



Secondary Athletics Inter-House Competition
Tuesday 14th February
11:00 - 13:30

WIS
proudly
presents

Around the World

BOOK WEEK & MOTHER TONGUE DAY
20 to 24 February 2017
Discovery! Exploring! Adventure!

More details to come...
Check e-mails & class blogs & Oryx & D6

Parents! We are looking for:
Storytellers & Mother Tongue Readers & Ideas...
email jstroh@wis.edu.na

5 Days!

PTA Bazaar

Q & A from the organisers Sandra and Kathleen

- **What is the idea behind it?**

The idea is to stimulate entrepreneurship, create an opportunity to make and sell new and secondhand goods and to socialise. It gives artists a chance to expose their talents and to sell to the public.

- **What happens to the money I make?**

It's all yours!

- **What is the N\$100 fee for?**

This fee is for each vendor only. Tickets can be purchased at the PTA hut before the time and on the day for latecomers. - The proceeds will fund small initiatives throughout the school.

- **What if I have nothing to sell?**

Come and browse and chat to sellers. You never know, something may catch your eye.

- **Can I tell my friends and family to come along and join in?**

Yes. And friends of friends too.

WIS BAZAAR
 SELL | BUY | PLAY | OLD | NEW | HAND-MADE

Date: 25 February 2017
Time: 11:00 - 17:00
Place: WIS Campus

BOOK A TABLE!
 WE HAVE A LIMITED NUMBER OF TABLES AVAILABLE
 OR YOU CAN BRING YOUR OWN!

N\$100 vendors fee

BOOKINGS:
 PTA Hut on Thursdays 13:00 - 14:00
 Contact us on
PTA@wis.edu.na

Labels: Clothes, Face-Paint, WIS, WINDHOEK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

- **Things to remember**

- Bring comfortable chairs and tables of your own.
- Request a table if you need it beforehand.
- Bring carrier bags for your sold items.
- An umbrella for sun protection (or rain)
- Small change

TIPS

- Create a display at your table.
- Keep your money and valuables safe.
- Lock vehicle.
- Keep handbags and other valuable inside your vehicle well out of sight.
- Remember to check that everything you sell works and is in good condition

PTA Coffee Morning

Chocolate & Roses



Date: 14 February 2017

Time: 07.30 - 08.30

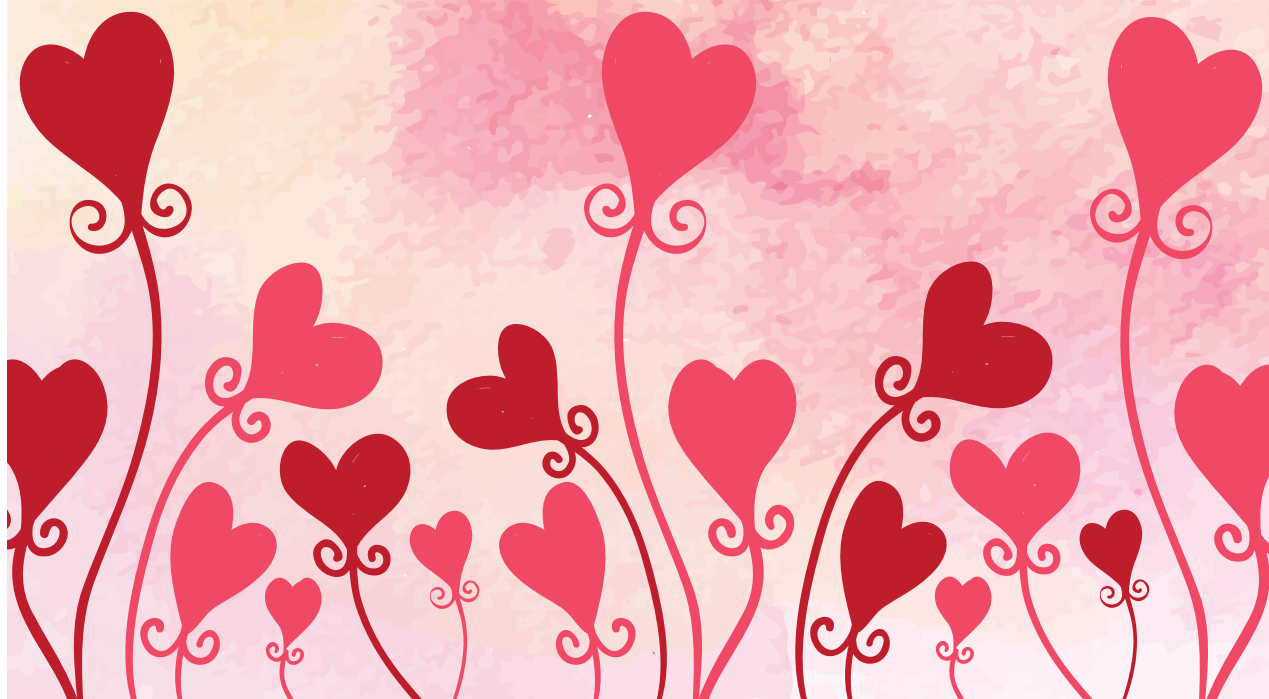
Place: PTA Hut

Who

For all parents & PTA staff

Why

An opportunity to share ideas, meet the staff, enjoy a nice cup of tea & buy a rose or chocolate for your loved one.



***Only for Grade 9s and Above**

THE GREAT GATSBY



Masquerade Ball

Date: 03.03.2017
Time: 18:00-1:00
Venue: DHPS Aula
Price per ticket: \$50
Dress Code:
Formal (Masks Compulsory)



 **For Tickets Contact:**
The WIS SRC or The DHPS SRC 

Food and Masks will be sold at event