



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Information Evening

Last night we had an almost full house of people eager to find out about our Cambridge IGCSE and IB Diploma programmes.



Many of our own students and parents were there but it was also good to see so much interest in the school from others who are not (yet!) WIS parents.

Peter MacKenzie

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

This week I am writing to you from Dubai where I am participating as a team member for NEASC school accreditation. (I am away through 27 February.) This visit is a rather historic one as it is the last school to be using the NEASC 8th protocol for its self-study and accreditation visit. As you may recall, WIS recently went through the accreditation process using the new ACE protocol. Having experienced the ACE protocol both through a previous school visit and the WIS internal review, I can appreciate this new protocol as a means to support schools moving forward with teaching and learning. Nevertheless, no matter which protocol is used, the purpose of bringing in an accreditation team is to ultimately support the school's journey to improve and become better.

During the week of the visit, the team's primary responsibilities are: to provide an assessment on the school's conclusions of their self-study; and to evaluate the school according to the Standards for Accreditation in relation to its own Guiding Statements and beliefs. The first few days are spent getting to see the school first hand, gathering evidence through interviewing the various stakeholders (teachers, board members, students and parents); looking through the school's documentation and of course, the best part is visiting classrooms where one can see learning in action. Once the evidence is gathered, each team member writes a

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Dates to Remember

February 2020

- **27 - 01:** St. John's College Tournament

March 2020

- **03:** Sec Inter-house
- **06:** End of Term 3
- **16:** Start of Term 4
- **21:** Independence Day



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ALUMNI CORNER

Pandeni Idhenga

I'm currently studying at Baruch College in New York City and I plan to graduate in May 2020. I'm majoring in Finance and minoring in Political Science. I have been able to secure various internships in New York.

One possibility for me starting my career is that I will work in London.

Another option would be to get a masters degree or maybe I could go back to Namibia and work full time.



Pandeni at the UN General Assembly in 2018 and in London December 2019.

PLEASE NOTE CURRENT STUDENTS:

If there are any students who would like to study in the U.S. I would encourage them to email me at pandeni.idhenga@gmail.com

I would be interested in coaching them through the process since I'm currently doing the same with my younger brother.

report for his/her assigned section. As a team, we read and review all of the sections of the report to ensure accuracy and consistency. Part of the report writing also includes making major commendations and recommendations to assist the school with realising its potential.

While serving on an accreditation team requires lots of reading and preparation ahead of the visit, as well as long days and short nights during the visit, the process is definitely worthwhile. Seeing what other schools are doing, as well as having the opportunity to discuss and interact with colleagues from other international schools is a form of professional development that one can't necessarily get from a workshop or online course. In addition, participating as a team member for a school accreditation visit provides me with a fresh view of the expectations for accreditation, some new ideas, and new connections with other schools.

Regards,
Beth Smith

Welcome Interns

On Monday we welcomed two interns who will be spending the next nine weeks at WIS having the opportunity to put into practice what they've learned in their studies and honing their skills as they prepare to become teachers. Robin Wiebcke is under the mentorship of Ms. Beata in 2B while Yoram van Drogen's mentor is Ms. Veena in 4V. Both gentlemen are in their last year of study at Stenden University in The Netherlands. Robin is from Germany and Yoram is from The Netherlands. I'm sure they will find their experience at WIS to be enriching and rewarding while at the same time the students will benefit from Robin's and Yoram's enthusiasm, passion for working with children and the experience they bring from their previous internships.

Beth Smith

PYP Coordinator's message

The introduction to the PYP parent workshop was held this week. This was a great opportunity for new parents to come and find out about the programme. Thank you to the parents that attended. What eventuated was a very insightful discussion about the philosophy and approaches to learning our school takes. It was also very relevant to get feedback from parents on how this is impacting on their own child.



The IB PYP lays the foundation that children need to become lifelong learners. The school is taking a lot of time to reflect on how the PYP aligns itself better with secondary and that we are developing and sustaining a common language, a common philosophy and a collaboration across the school. The PYP is a holistic inquiry based programme that fosters the whole development of the child. Teachers' work alongside students, facilitating student centred and student driven learning, co-constructing and planning for the learning together. Parents are an integral part of

this learning collaboration and their input and feedback are important.

As we reflect on the education we are providing at WIS it is important to incorporate the discussions from parent sessions.

Some of the feedback:

- I see a profound difference in my child since coming to WIS.
- I see my child becoming confident and keen to ask questions.
- I see my child taking independent initiative for their learning.
- I see my child happy to come to school.
- This school provides an opportunity for children to learn in different ways.

Avril van Zyl

FROM OUR magic PAD

Many thanks to a super gathering of parents and students alike on Friday 14th February at 7:00 am and after assembly for another Pop-Up Art Exhibition showcasing **Pointillism** inspired by *George Seurat*. Grade 2B and 2D did us proud - they now understand the concept of colours better and how the eye transforms colours that aren't necessarily there through painting with dots.

They have also understood the power of perseverance in art in that one needs time to journey through creativity to completion. George Seurat took 4 years to complete some of his massive canvasses! Some comments from students:



- I love showing my art to my parents
- I'm so proud of myself
- I like explaining to my parents how I did it
- They (parents) also learn about art from me
- I am now a George Seurat artist!
- It took me a long time to do it
- I am a risk-taker, I thought I couldn't do it, but then found I can!

Ms. Genie and Ms. Sigrid

A visit to the Grade 8 Science Class

Over the past two weeks, the Grade one classes have been visiting the Middle School Science class to find out more about their unit How the World Works. The students have been inquiring into how light, heat and sound can be produced and used in different ways. Ms. Urte and Mr. Cuthbert showed the students some experiments on sources of energy - namely light, sound, heat and the properties thereof.

Light: Students discovered that light travels in a straight line, it reflects or bounces off surfaces, it also refracts or bends when passing through different mediums.

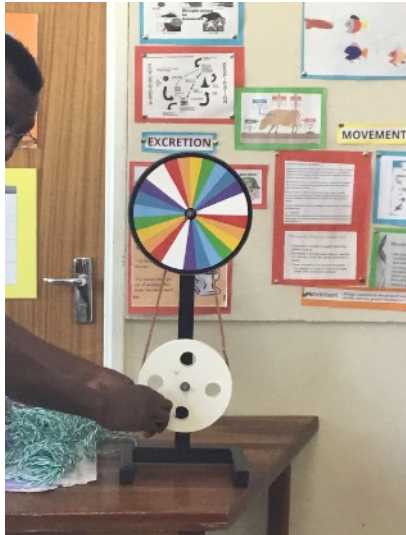
Sound: Students learned that sound energy is made by vibrations. When an object vibrates it causes movement in the air particles this movement is called sound waves.

Heat: It is the energy that is transferred from an object at a higher temperature to a lower temperature, it is also called thermal energy and can be measured with a thermometer.

Light reflects.



Light is white.



Light bounces off surfaces.



Click [here](#) to see our Quik Movie

Grade 1 team.

Grade 2s visiting Secondary Science and Biology classes.

Looks like Primary students are busy with the units which all have a scientific inquiry focus. In our current Unit of Inquiry, our **Grade 2** students are exploring the transdisciplinary theme of **How the World Works** where we are focusing on the central idea of how **experimentation and inquiry can help discover the world.**

In the classroom, we started off by exploring the scientific process of experimentation. We had many interesting discussions about what inspires you to play and discover? and what would you like to



know about the world? We looked at how things are changing and what cause the change and the effect. This is where we apply the knowledge and understanding of Science.

As we explored more about the scientific method and the Heart (in connection with Valentine’s Day), we had the opportunity to visit Ms. Rose and her Grade 10 Biology class and Ms. Mariamma (science teacher) and Mr. Cuthbert (Lab assistant/technician).

During the process of exploring and understanding this Unit, we have found out that collaboration with Secondary students and teachers was valuable for our Units of Inquiry. We have experienced more exciting and interesting learning engagements. We have not only used our research skills, but we also used communication and social skill in working together.



Please click [HERE](#) to watch a video about the heart made by Grade 2B students, and [Here](#) you will find a short video about the Fire Experiment.

Grade 2 team

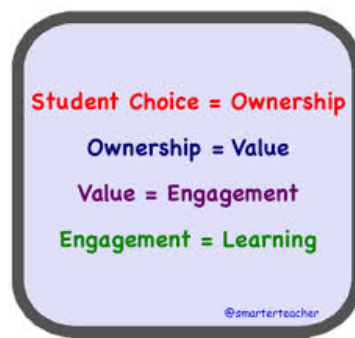


SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

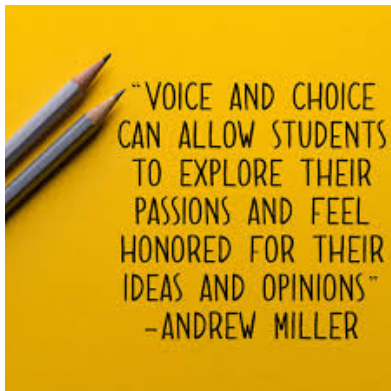
Voice and Choice

We all feel much more satisfied and validated if we have a voice and a choice in the things we do in our lives. The same applies to our children. If we educate them to have the confidence to make responsible choices in the best of their own interest, we help them become citizens in their country, society and ultimately in the world who have a voice and can make a difference in their society.

Yesterday, we had our IGCSE/IBDP Information Evening. There is a good variety of choice in the subjects our students can choose for their IGCSE or IBDP courses. However, if we as adults are too dominant and make the decisions for our children, we don’t give them the voice that they need to have



to pursue their passion and their interests. Our children do not necessarily have the same strengths and interests that we have. They will most probably not move into the field of work that we are working in. What is even more important to consider is, that they will most likely not pursue only one career in their lifetime.



It is therefore important to make choices taking into consideration your child's voice. Having conversations with your child(ren) about their learning, their interests and their passions, knowing your child(ren) is so important to ensure that you advise them right in the choices they make when they embark on the final years of their education at school.

As mentioned yesterday, it is also important to give children a broad education that leaves flexibility in the future choices they have to make. Very few young people know already when they are 14 or 16 years old what they want to do later on in life. Make sure you give them the freedom to choose what they love doing and to guide them in these choices in an open minded manner.

For all our children who are now choosing subjects, do this purposefully and in consultation with your parents, teachers and others who can give you advice. Do not choose subjects because you think you have to, because your buddy chooses the subject or because you are told to choose a certain subject. You will be the one who has to build on these choices later on in life. Make sure your choices are such that you can be flexible and adaptable to pursue your passion and interests later in life.

Regards,
Maggie Reiff

REMINDER:
Please collect your 2019-2020 windscreen
sticker at the Office!



Basketball Reflects

The annual St. Stitians Senior Basketball Tournament has become a sporting highlight for our school in recent years. We are warmly welcomed by the twenty-three other schools who compete for the converted trophy in this auspicious event.

There was something different about this year's Pool game as we faced Queens College, Clifton, Micheal House, St. Benedicts and the hosts, St. Stitians.

In previous years WIS has been to a tournament as a 'dark horse', an unknown quantity. This year, from the first whistle WIS gave no quarter or leniency; we received the respect that our impressive performances in 2017, 2018 and 2019 have earned.

WIS powered their way through the first two games as we convincingly beat Queens and Clifton College. In our next game we played last year's losing finalists who were St. Benedicts. They proved too strong for us at last and we went into our last pool match against the host St. Stitians, during this match, which was played on the centre court in front of 400+ spectators both the Saints and WIS performed to an exceedingly high standard.



Saints took an early lead and the home-crowd were in a celebratory mood but were soon silenced by some slick WIS passing and we took the lead with a spectacular slam dunk from Massimo on the stroke of half time. As the second half progressed the lead changed a total of eleven times with both teams showing some superb moments of sporting brilliance.

The Saints had strength on the bench and their coach used their substitutes to great effect as they finally managed to close out the omnipresent threat posed by the boys from WIS.

We left the tournament with our heads held high, WIS was there to compete, we gave a few of the mighty RSA schools a good run for their money.

We now concentrate our efforts towards the 2020 League and will embark on the campaign full of confidence.

Jethro took third place in the Free Throw competition and Massimo wowed the capacity crowd by winning the Dunk Competition.

Thanks to the parental support for their ongoing efforts with the basketball programme and we look forward to the positive expansion of the programme in the future.

Thomas Jackson-Read

Go Namibia! Go WIS!

Two of our students, **Kgosana Hekandjo** and **Salomé Rey** qualified to represent Namibia at the 2020 CANA (Junior African Swimming Championships) Zone IV Swimming Championship, which is taking place in Gaborone, Botswana from 20 – 23 February 2020. The swimming championship is a designated FINA qualifying event where swimmers can achieve the FINA Swimming Qualifying Standard-Times.

Our WIS swimmers are training with **Aqua Swimming Club** and have plenty of great achievements already.

Salomé will be swimming in the under 14 girls group: 50m, 100m, 200m **Breaststroke** and 100m **Backstroke**.

Kgosana will be swimming in under 12 boys group: **Back:** 50m,100, 200m. **Butterfly:** 50m, 100m. **Freestyle:** 50m, 100m, 200m, 400m. **Breastroke:** 50m,100m, 200m.





Congratulations to you both! We can't wait to hear from you soon!

Beata Stephanus o.b.o the WIS Sports Committee

Book report: Wait Till Helen Comes

Wait Till Helen Comes by Mary Downing was a book Mrs. Angie recommended to me during my SDL session. The book is a horror story that may not seem like much at first, but gets very triggering and a bit scarier towards the end of the story. In this book report, I'm going to be talking about the characters, setting, and plot.

Characters: The main characters of the story are mother Jean, Dave (the stepfather) Heather, Michael, Molly, and of course, Helen. There are many people who may feel or think that this sounds like a regular family (which I thought as well), but as you read the book, you notice how messed up the family is! I feel that the messed-up family can sometimes be more horrifying than Helen herself (the ghost). As you are reading the book about this suicidal and mentally crazy family, you will PRAY for this family to go to therapy.

Setting and plot: This all takes place in a church with a **graveyard** behind it (which is where they live). how did this all happen? Using Molly's perspective, Molly and her mother (Jean) meet a new family. The new father (Dave) and his other children (Heather and Michael). Molly's mother and her stepfather decided to move to a church behind a ... graveyard! Now you just know that this family's messed up!

The family moved in, and Michael and Molly wanted to go adventuring around the graveyard. Heather was afraid of the graveyard and rejected their request of joining them, but Michael wouldn't let her. "Come on, don't be such a baby! It's going to be alright." Michael said. "I'll just help mom with the dishes." Heather insisted. But, when Molly wouldn't stop teasing her, Heather couldn't resist but to go to the graveyard. As they were adventuring around the graveyard, Heather swears that she saw a ghost (Helen). This is when everything goes downhill.

Molly manipulates Jean (mother) and Dave (father) that Heather and Michael have done something that they shouldn't have done, but the real horror begins when Heather goes missing. One day, Molly found Heather, but Heather was talking to... an imaginary friend?! Helen started to make death wishes, goes to the property every night, and Molly even finds out that she has killed her mother (Jean) in a fire. Something was up. Heather has been possessed by a ghost named Helen (who died in a fire in 1880) which explains why Heather killed her mother in a fire. Helen also had two friends who died in the pond Heather always goes to every night. Molly begins to fear for Heather's safety and feels guilty for what she has done for her. Molly needs to find a way to save her family and Heather, and defeat Helen.

This book was fairly triggering to read, and I feel that people who get emotional very easily will not enjoy this book at all. I definitely almost shed some tears reading this book because of how emotional Helen's (the ghost's) past was. I give this book a 10/10 for the emotional part and an 8/10 for the story itself. The book was very cliché yet irritating because of how much you want to help Molly to fix and save her family from Helen.

Ivy Andersen Gr. 7

W.O.R.D.

Guess who is also reading during our scheduled reading lessons, Mrs. Mathews.



CHRISTOPHER AIFF

MEMORIAL CUP

5-A-SIDE

Date: Saturday, 7 March 2020
Place: Windhoek International School, Scheppmann Street, Ext. 1, Pioneers Park
Fee: N\$500.00 p/team

Team requirements: Minimum 7 : Maximum 10 players



For more information email: chriscup@wis.edu.na or WhatsApp: +264 81 569 2511

QUIZ NIGHT

5 March 2020
Old Wheelers Club



Email events@spcawindhoek.org.na for more information or swing by the SPCA to sign-up!



We cordially invite you to
The WIS Gala and Auction Event
(Fundraising for the construction of a WIS Sports Zone)

Date: Saturday, 9 May 2020
Time: 19:30 for 20:00
Place: Hilton Hotel
Tickets: N\$500.00 pp or option to purchase a table
(Electronic Tickets: Please pay electronically)
Dress: Business-Casual
Adults Only

Tel:+264 61 241 783/ Fax: +264 61 264 777 - Schepmann Street, Pioneers Park Ext. 1, Windhoek, Namibia/ [WIS website/ Email: Reception](#)