



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

A Time to Reflect

This is the final issue of The Oryx for this school year.

In ordinary times, I would be looking back on the school year that started in August and celebrating the progress we have made.

But these are not ordinary times and August of last year seems a lifetime ago.

Far more important, I think, and far more urgent is to focus not on the school year 2019-2020 but the calendar year 2020. I have been studying and teaching History for decades and History is often about change. Change is sometimes gradual and sometimes abrupt. Sometimes you can see that change has occurred but it's hard to pin down when or how it happened. But at other times it is suddenly and blindingly obvious.

The year 2020 will go down as a moment of change.

The year is only half over. So far, it has thrown up questions. Massive questions that touch upon the lives of everyone on the planet. What answers will we come up with in the second half of the year and beyond?

The virus is seen by some as evidence that the way we were living has been proved to be unsustainable. Our economic and agricultural models are polluting the environment, contributing to climate change, decimating the natural world, and increasing inequality and precarity for all but the very rich.

Meanwhile, the politics of hate and division are in the ascendant. We are falsely told that we need to see life in terms of "us and them". Discrimination and injustice remain a reality for countless millions.

None of the above is new. None of it comes as a surprise. But is 2020 the year when we actually start to do something about it?

As a school – and an international school, moreover – we have an obligation to be part of the answer.

Peter MacKenzie

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

The end of the school year is always filled with mixed emotions. The finish of this school year is unique with the remote learning having been thrust upon us for the final term. Teachers and students haven't been able to have the closure that we are

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used to and we are having to say goodbye to leaving students and teachers remotely. That being said, we've adapted some of the ways we do things to make the best of the situation.

One of the positives of an international school such as WIS, is the diversity of the staff. One of the downsides is the transient nature and people moving on. This year, in particular we are saying farewell to several Primary School teachers. Ms. Anna is moving to Saudi Arabia; Ms. Lyndsay is staying in Africa but is off to Ethiopia; Ms. Veena is also staying in Africa as she is moving to Gabon, and Ms. Pamela is venturing off to Azerbaijan. As you may know, Ms. Genie has been at WIS since day one and has decided after all these years in various roles at WIS that it's time to pursue new adventures. She will still be in Windhoek and I'm sure we will see her around town. (You can read more about Ms. Genie in this edition of the Oryx.) While we are sad to be saying goodbye, we wish each of them all the best in the new chapters of their lives and thank them for their contributions to WIS. ***Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Some stay for a while, leave footprints on our hearts, and we are never, ever the same. (Flavia Weedn)***

Many parents ask how they can help their children at home. The best thing you can do to support your child's learning during the upcoming winter (summer) holiday is to encourage reading, whether it be reading to your child, having your child read to you or your child reads independently. The following information is from Scholastic:

reminder

Here are a few reminders:

- The second semester progress reports will be sent via email by the end of the day Friday, June 26.
- Class Lists for the 2020-2021 school year will be posted on Friday, August 7.



Thank you to all of you for your support this academic year. For those of you who are leaving WIS, best wishes to you and your children with transitioning to a new school and/or new country, and returning to your home country. Keep safe and healthy during the holidays and I hope you are able to get out and have some fun. To all who are returning to WIS for the new academic year I look forward to welcoming you back to school on Monday, August 10. It will be wonderful to see you all back on campus then.

Thank
You

Here is link to this week's assembly: [Remote Learning Assembly](#). We will have one more remote learning assembly next Thursday.

Regards,
Beth Smith

Car Security Stickers
Please collect your 2020 - 2021
windscreen sticker at the Office!



Ms. J's adventures

With the Dramallama WIZKIDS

Mea's Memoir

One of the great parts of being at WIS, for me, is drama classes. Drama is one of the things I look forward to every week. However, due to Covid-19 lockdown, we started with remote learning in March 2020, so we could not go to school and we could not attend our drama lessons. Luckily Ms. J came to our rescue. She kept the drama flames alive for us.

Every week Ms. J sent us a drama video. She played different characters and showed us her acting skills. After watching each week's instalment, I could not wait to see what would happen next and whom she would be bringing to our screens. I really enjoyed the drama videos, and here is why:

Every clip was fun and entertaining. It made me laugh and lightened my mood. It made me forget, for a while, about the stress of lockdown and remote learning. It also made me feel a part of the WIS campus, as I could still be a small part of the fun things that happen at WIS. As it was lockdown, we were all a bit stressed and lonely and we could not see each other. That made the drama videos so much more special and entertaining for me.

Also, the videos opened my eyes about drama in two ways. Firstly, I saw that you could use drama to communicate and capture people's attention. This makes it a powerful tool in communication. You can reach a whole audience with a powerful message or with a lot of emotion through drama. Secondly I realised that although acting is fun, it is also hard work. It must have taken a lot of planning and practice to be able to do the videos. I never realised how much work it was to act.

Ms. J's drama videos inspired me, taught me and made me happy. I look forward to drama so much more when we are allowed back on campus. Thank you Ms. J, for all your hard work and for keeping our drama flames burning brightly.

[Some Introductions for "Missjay's Adventures with the DramaLLama WIZkids"](#)

Mea van Zyl, Grade 4V



W.O.R.D.
Tobel Melese in Gr. 8AJ still reading for WORD during remote learning!



Mariamamma Mathew, our Chemistry teacher, who will be starting a new teaching position as a Chemistry teacher in the American International School of Guangzhou, China. WIS wishes you all the best, Mariamma, and we hope that this new post gives you amazing opportunities for your future.

I wish all our families who are returning an enjoyable break and we are looking forward to having everyone back here in August for a new and fresh start. It will certainly be different, but it will be exciting to see everyone back in school on the 10th of August.

Regards,
Maggie Reiff

Secondary's Favourite Comfort Food

What is WIS Secondary's Favourite Comfort Food?

In these stressful and uncertain times, much of the world, including Namibia, has been facing lockdowns and a major shift in the way we live and interact due to the global coronavirus pandemic. Physically isolated and unable to see family, friends, and loved ones in person, many of us have turned to food for comfort.

Unable to eat out at restaurants, more and more of us have been cooking and baking at home; honing our culinary skills or learning new ones. With the help of the internet and celebrity chefs around the world, we have had the opportunity to get back to basics. **Comfort Food** has taken the world by storm!

Different dishes are considered '**comfort food**' around the world. Usually they're typically high in at least one of: *sugar, fat, or salt*. These flavours are key in not only making us feel happy and full, but also in solidifying these dishes in our cherished memories of '*childhood*', '*home*' and '*home cooking*'.

We were inspired by Insider's YouTube vlog called [20 Comfort Foods From Around the World](#), where twenty people from different cultural backgrounds each shared what their favourite comfort foods are and what it means to them.

So, we decided to ask our Secondary School students and teachers about [WIS' Favourite Comfort Foods and here's what we found out!](#)

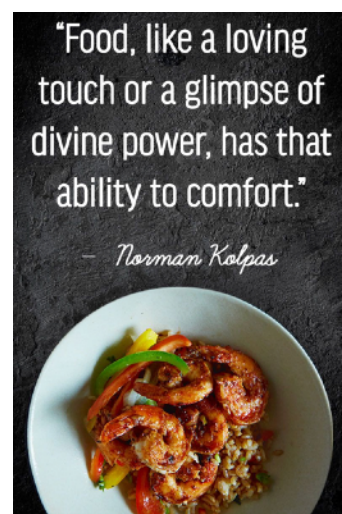
Jeff Bonazzo

Grade 6 Mathematics Update

For the past two weeks our Grade 6 mathletes have been learning about ratios, rates and unit rates. To put their mathematics into perspective and to show an application of how ratios are used in the real world, the students were given a basic pancake recipe in the form of a ratio that would serve just one person and were tasked with:

1. Understanding how ratios and rates work;
2. Adjusting the recipe ratio to feed their entire family;
3. Cooking a delicious pancake breakfast or brunch for their family that suits their tastes as a family, with evidence;
4. Build a Google Site to communicate the history of pancakes, the mathematics of ratios, rates and unit rates, while showcasing their cooking and their mathematical skills.

We welcome you to learn more along with us by [visiting our website](#). Please warm up these cold winter mornings by making your very own pancakes for your own family!



Perfect Pancakes - Using Ratios

Home Page · Maths Lessons · Recipe by Ratio · 6HM Students · 6JB Students

[Perfect Pancakes - Using Ratios]

A Grade 6 Maths Lesson @ WIS

Baking is all about Mathematics and Chemistry. A good baker spends years mastering his/her craft and honing their fundamental understanding of these two subjects. In this lesson our Grade 6 students #LearningAtWIS will use their Mathematics skills in applying their knowledge of RATIOS to make the perfect pancakes to feed their family.

Award of Excellence!

The Grade 7s were asked to create a certificate for one of their peers to show their positive attributes in English as part of our year-end activities. This allows the students to reflect upon the year, be creative, and think critically about the message they want to send. Please enjoy some of the work they have done.



Angie Janse van Rensburg

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

Middle School PE Achievements

Over the last thirteen weeks the Middle School have diligently and enthusiastically shared descriptions along with pictures and videos of their exercise routines on the Middle School Fitness Tracker shared doc.

From live streamed daily workouts to dog walking, from HIIT (High Intensity Impact Training) to leisurely cycling laps of community compounds. Well done to everyone who has maintained and improved their fitness during these challenging times. Keep well, stay active.

Mr. Jackson-Read

Chromebooks

Windhoek International School recommends Chromebooks for Secondary School. Any parents that are considering a new device for their child in Secondary School, should be looking at a Chromebook. We strongly discourage the use of iPads in Secondary School. If you would like to use another laptop and you are concerned about its compatibility, please feel free to contact us and we will assist you.

You can contact Mr. JP jbruwer@wis.edu.na, Mr. Danai dmaramba@wis.edu.na, or Mr. Parsons mparsons@wis.edu.na with your concerns.

We are looking forward to the next school year and aligning the BYOD student and school devices with our goals of becoming a fully certified Google School.

Please see the Chromebook advertisement from Nanodog below. **Note orders from Nanodog will only be placed at the end of June. Arrival of Chromebooks are expected at the end of July, beginning of August.**

ASUS CHROMEBOOK
Flip C214MA - Celeron N4000

CPU:
Intel Celeron N4000
(1.1GHz / 2-Cores / 2-Threads)

Memory:
4GB DDR4-2133 (4GB Onboard)

Hard Drive:
64GB eMMC

Display:
11.6" LED (1366x768)
Flip Touchscreen

Operating System:
Chrome OS

OPTION:1
SAVE: N\$ 575
***W.I.S. PROMO PRICE: N\$7245**
NORMAL PRICE: N\$ 7820

ASUS CHROMEBOOK
C204MA - Celeron N4000

CPU:
Intel Celeron N4000
(1.1GHz / 2-Cores / 2-Threads)

Memory:
4GB DDR4-2133 (4GB Onboard)

Storage:
32GB eMMC

Display:
11.6" LED (1366x768) Touchscreen

Operating System:
Chrome OS

OPTION:2
SAVE: N\$ 575
*** W.I.S. PROMO PRICE: N\$5980**
NORMAL PRICE: N\$ 6555

*Promo Prices are only valid for orders placed before the end of June 2020
+264 61 226 221 (Windhoek) | +264 64 464 192 (Swakop) | info@nanodog.net

nanodog.net
click.shop.play

The International School 'Circuit'

As an international school we are part of a worldwide network of schools staffed by hundreds of thousands of educators from almost every country. It is, in part, the experiences they bring to each new job that makes each school deserving of the label 'international'. Your children may not have lived in Japan or Brazil, Norway or Kuwait but there's a fair chance their teachers might have.

This year five of our teachers are moving on to new challenges in new schools in new countries.

Anna Scholtz is joining Viviana Beltran in **Saudi Arabia**. Mariamma Mathew is going to **China**. Veena Nambiar will be working in a school in **Gabon**. Pamela Mungate is going to find out what life is like in **Azerbaijan**. And Lyndsay Bain is heading off to **Ethiopia**.

How exciting! We wish them all the best.



Genie Albrecht

Next week Genie Albrecht will retire after three decades of service to Windhoek International School.

She was one of the small number of teachers who opened WIS in January 1991. She remembers joining WIS full of curiosity about what this "international school" was all about. Well, she soon found out and she liked what she saw. Over almost thirty years she has been a wonderful ambassador for the school and has embodied our belief in equality, diversity and opportunity.

At the school she has been a class teacher, a Principal, the wonderful Art teacher we all know her as today and, of course, a parent.

And to many she has been a loyal and caring colleague, a mentor, a voice of reason, and a friend. She will always remain a friend of WIS. We wish Genie and her husband Rolf every joy and success in the next stage of their lives.



Farewell Ms. Genie!!

WIS Birthday Gala Dinner

30

5 December 2020
19:30 for 20:00
RSVP by 27 November 2020
Business Casual

ADULTS ONLY - N\$500.00PP
Buffet Dinner
Cash Bar

**All proceeds will go to the development of the
new sports courts.**



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