



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Community,

The Class of 2022 Graduation Day was a very special time where the school was able to celebrate the graduation of these 26 talented and capable individuals. These students came from India, Cameroon, South Africa, Angola, Italy, Belgium, Portugal, Germany, the United States of America, France, India, Russia, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and of course Namibia. Where they go and what they do will be impossible to predict, but we know that they are leaving with an education which has inculcated within them the skills, values, and dispositions that will make us proud.



This year's commencement speaker was US Embassy Chargé d'Affaires, Jessica Long. Jessica encouraged our graduating Grade 12s to be on guard against believing four lies that they may be tempted to believe in themselves:

- 1) It's too difficult. I can't do it.
- 2) More money, fame, or power will make me happy.
- 3) My success is up to me. I need to go it alone.
- 4) I have to figure it all out now.

An IB education inculcates an approach to life and learning which balances humility and service with a strong sense of self and a commitment to excellence and hard work. Along those lines, I want to conclude this week's message with a quote that Jessica shared with our graduating class:

PARENT INFORMATION PORTAL
Click here for more information

Contents

- From the Director p. 1 - 2
- Primary News p. 2 - 3
- Secondary News p. 3 - 6
- Other News p. 6 - 10

Dates to Remember 2022

- **9 - 10 June**
Prim & Sec 3-Way Conferences
- **13 - 16 June**
Spirit Week
- **16 June**
Day of the African Child & Final Assembly
- **16 June**
End of year
- **17 June**
Staff Work Day



LEAVING TEACHERS!

LAETITIA BORRONI



It is with a heavy heart that I say goodbye to you! My twelve years of a beautiful journey in Namibia is ending and another one will start soon for my family and I in Mauritius.

After eleven years of being part of the WIS staff and community, I would like to thank you ALL, my students, colleagues, management and lovely parents who always showed appreciation, trust in and kindness to me along the way.

What next in Mauritius? I am in contact with International schools and particularly one in the Northern part of the island where we will be living; I am also willing to take a bit of time for myself, discover the landscape and do some walking trails, meet people, discover a new culture and simply enjoy the Indian Ocean.

I am excited for this unexpected life opportunity and very grateful to be able to continue my journey in Africa; I will truly miss my students that gave me so much love and kindness; Namibia, my adopted country where my daughters grew up; my friends who have become family; the beautiful People; the never-ending and breathtaking landscapes; the smell of the bush after the rain; the epic sunrises and sunsets and so on... (even the cold winter!) Namibia will remain my happy place.

I will be back to visit Namibia for holidays and will definitely come to WIS to say a little "Bonjour" to my former students and colleagues that will remain in my heart forever. Au revoir!

I slept and I dreamed that life is all joy. I woke and I saw that life is all service. I served and I saw that service is joy. – Khalil Gibran

**Service is joy,
Ethan**

P.S. And just for your information, on Wednesday the WIS Board of Directors approved an updated [Child Protection Policy](#) and passed the [Access & Admissions Policy](#) and Procedures. All school policies are published on the [Parent Information Portal](#). The school reviews all policies on a [rotational basis](#).

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Dear WIS Community,

We are quickly approaching the end of the school year. Below is a list of important end-of-year dates and events that I would like to share with you.

Transition to next year

Class lists as well as your child's teacher for the 2022/23 school year will be made known to you in the last week of school. Following that, children in grades EY1-2 to Grade 4 will have an opportunity to meet their new teacher during an orientation day on Wednesday the 15th of June. For Grade 5 students the Grade 6 meet-and-greet takes place next week.

There will be an end-of-year celebration and farewell assembly on Thursday June 16th. The Grade 5 students will be awarded a certificate of completion and wished good luck as they hand over the torch to Grade 4. We really hope next year this can be an event attended by the whole community, however due to rising COVID numbers this assembly will be for students and teachers only. We will make sure to take lots of pictures!

MAP Growth Testing and end-of-year reports

This year in the Primary we made targeted efforts to make sure students were fully prepared and set up for success for MAP Growth testing. Our efforts have really paid off and 95% of our students have made substantial growth. If this growth continues, we expect that as a school we will be soon on a par with the world-wide average in Maths, Language Usage and Reading.

Reports and MAP scores will be sent out by Wednesday 8th of June. The three-way conferences on the 9th and 10th of June are then an opportunity for your child to reflect on the year with you and your child's teacher.

Sports Week

The Primary Sports Department will be adapting our final sports day into a fun sports week for the last week of school. Children will be put in teams and will do a round robin tournament within their own classrooms. Time allowing, children will participate in a variety of sports including futsal, volleyball, trail run, parachute games, football and more.



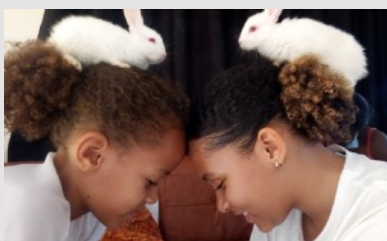
Mandy Liedke - PYP Art

My name is Mandy Liedke and I am going to be your new PYP Art teacher. I am an artist, art teacher and mother. I am originally from Germany, but have lived for the past sixteen years in Uganda. I am passionate about art and education with a BA (Hons) in Fine Art from Chelsea College of Art and Design, London/UK and the iPGCE from the University of Sheffield/UK. I have twelve years of teaching experience in International Schools in Uganda from Early Years to Secondary School. Before becoming an art teacher, I worked for ten years with the L'Arche community, which caters for people with learning disabilities, in Edinburgh, Ireland and Uganda.

I am dedicated to engaging all students in their learning through fostering a growth mindset, developing creative thinking and problem-solving skills. All my students will go on an exciting learning journey with me discovering new places, artists, materials and techniques. They will be able to develop their unique artistic skills through challenging and fun projects. My personal mantra is: "Mistakes are a fantastic learning opportunity!"

An interesting fact about me is that I am also a Mindfulness teacher and I have successfully used mindfulness practices in my classroom creating a calm and focused atmosphere. In my free time, I love to meditate, do yoga, spend time with my friends and family and discover new cultures and places.

I will come to Namibia with my husband Joseph, who is also an artist and my two lovely daughters Amethyst (9) and Melissa (14), who will be joining the school. We are a very creative family and we are looking forward to sharing our creative genes with you all.



PYP Newsletter

Please also look out for our PYP newsletter which will be published in the last week of school. This will be a celebratory edition to showcase all the good work that has taken place in the Primary School over the past year.

**Warm regards,
Marcelle van Leenen**

NEW WIS TEACHERS: Each week in April and May, this column will profile the inspiring educators who will be joining our WIS community starting in August 2022.

When life gives you lemons ...

When Ms. Maggie Reiff brought in some lemons from her garden, Ms. Laura used the opportunity for the Early Years students to engage in looking closely and developing their skills of representational art.



SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

It is this time of the year where transitions happen and where big changes are exciting but also causing anxiety with some of us.



Families are moving, Grade 5s are transitioning to Middle School, Grade 10 IGCSE students are moving into the International Baccalaureate Diploma and our Grade 12s are transitioning into their further education.



These are opportunities to celebrate. As a school we want to congratulate all our students who move from one phase to the next. Be proud of what you have invested in your education so far and be determined to continue giving your best whatever the next academic phase brings. When we invest all our efforts and energy into our education, we can only be proud and we should celebrate this with our families as well as our friends. CELEBRATE and BE PROUD!

The families that move to other countries or other schools, celebrate your time here at WIS and we wish you all the best in your new school.

A graphic featuring a portrait of Nelson Mandela on the left. On the right, a black background contains the text: "Remember to celebrate milestones as you prepare for the road ahead." followed by "— Nelson Mandela —" and the "AZ QUOTES" logo at the bottom.

Regards,
Maggie Reiff

A yellow banner with black text that reads: "Car Security Stickers Please collect your 2022 - 2023 windscreen sticker at the Office!". On the right side of the banner is a circular logo for WIS (Windhoek International School) with the text "2022 - 2023" and "000" below it.

Welcome to Middle School Gr. 5s!

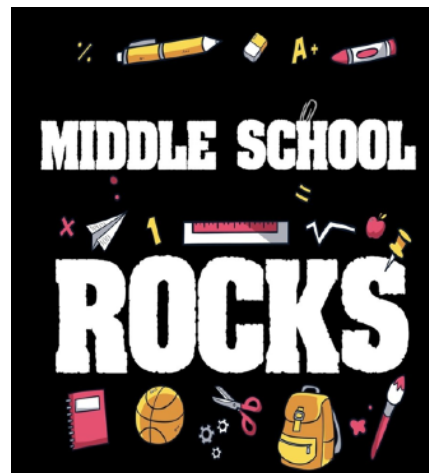
Soon you will be moving from being the oldest in Primary to being the youngest in Secondary and that could be a very daunting thought. I hope that we have put these fears and concerns at ease through our Google Meet on Thursday morning?

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 or 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, we cannot wait to get to know you better and teach you all the amazing things we know ;)



Ms. Angie, MS Coordinator

Descriptive writing meets Poetry

The Grade 7s were exploring the deeper meaning behind the poem by Rober Frost - *The Road Not Taken* as part of their last unit for this year. As the students realised that this poem is an allegory and that the hidden meaning of it is all about making a difficult decision, the students were asked to write two descriptive paragraphs about a time when they had to make a difficult decision.

This is what some of the boys shared:

Darius Swart - Gr. 7JV

Switching from Gymnasium to WIS was hard for me. The hardest part about it was not the transition, but rather the decision itself. It was difficult because WIS offered a better education but it would come with the cost of me seeing my Gymnasium friends less frequently. I had quite a few friends there which I had known for several years.

After a lot of thinking, I decided to give it a try and see how it goes, and I was not disappointed because everyone was so welcoming and the teachers were friendly, and unlike Gymnasium, they treated you with respect and try to help you improve on anything you are struggling with. In the end, I was so happy that I decided to stay at WIS. If you never try something you will never know how it is.

Benjamin Oldenburg - Gr. 7JV

I once had to pick a country for my project in my old school but I was choosing between Belgium and Australia. It was like a curse I always had to think about that decision and how it will be the wrong decision either way.

After a week of thinking I knew what I had to do. I had to use the infamous eeny meeny miny moe which would decide it all for me. I was extremely nervous. I did not know if this was the correct way to settle something so important, but in the end, it landed in Australia but I decided to go with Belgium.

Charlie Rocha - Gr. 7JV

When I lived in Russia three years ago I had to make a hard decision. It was harder than opening a jar with soapy hands. I had to decide what to keep and what to sell or throw away. Some of my prized possessions I had to throw away because they have been harmed over the years I've used them.

One of my prized possessions was a fan that had a nice windy breeze coming out of it, keeping me nice and cool on the hottest days like an oasis in a hot desert. In Namibia, I am now sad because I do not have my fan because I was my fan's biggest fan.

Gardening Workshop ...

With the Goethe Institut

As many of you know, *My Campus My Planet* was successful with our application for funding from the Goethe Institut and their Schools Go Green with Goethe initiative - [Schulen: Partner Der Zukunft \(PASCH\) Initiative](#).

Part of this funding includes a workshop that Goethe will hold with our students and community members who are interested in joining. In this workshop we will get some practical gardening advice from our 'Goethe Garden Ranger'. This will include conversations on why earth works are so important in the Windhoek context and why it is necessary to study the landscape before any interventions. Students and available teachers will be engaged with marking the land and digging. We will possibly also look at more areas around school that can be uplifted through gardening.

These workshops are due to take place on the 7th and 8th June from 8am - 12pm. Ms. Urte will be working alongside the Goethe Garden Ranger to engage a few middle school classes for both days during this time. Any parents who would like to join are more than welcome to do so. Please get in contact with Ms. Urte via email if you plan on attending - udorgeloh@wis.edu.na.

Yours in nature, Urte

Ms. Urte showing Ms. Helvi Shikwambi from the Goethe Institut the soil erosion problem at WIS.



Ms. Urte and Ms. Kate inviting Ms. Helvi Shikwambi from the Goethe Institut to WIS on behalf of My Campus My Planet.

Our next and final IB Learner Profile for this year is **REFLECTIVE**.

A **REFLECTIVE** student gives thoughtful consideration to their own learning and experience. They are able to assess and understand their strengths and limitations in order to support their learning and personal development. IB students have developed an ability to reflect on their learning and to articulate how they learnt. They have learned that critical reflection is an important academic and life skill.

REFLECTIVE

thinking turns experience into insight.

Do you reflect on and evaluate your own performance in class and in your work? Are you able to recognise and take on board your strengths and weaknesses? Do you revise your work and adapt your behaviour based on reflection?

This is a short month - so can I ask that all nominations for reflective students and teachers be sent to Ms. Angie at ajvrensborg@wis.edu.na by next week **Friday, 10 June 2022**. This will ensure that I can prepare the Site and get the voting form out as well as announce our winners before school closes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences:

- Thursday 9 June (14:00 - 17:00) *School will operate with the normal timings on this day.*
- Friday 10 June (08:00 - 13:00) *There will be no class lessons on this day; however, students should accompany parents to the conferences.*

June 16 - Last day of school

The last day of school will end at Second Break on Thursday June 16th. That is 11:45 for Secondary and 11:40 for Primary.



Clear Shelter

SPCA Windhoek is participating in a national SPCA adoption drive to find homes for the many deserving animals in our care across the country!

Saturday, 4 June 2022

Thank you to our sponsors **Bravecto**, **FNB** and **Hill's**! When you adopt a cat/dog on the day of Clear the Shelter you will receive a FREE little goodie bag from our sponsors Hill's and Bravecto!



50% off adoption* fees for one day only! **Normal adoption procedures apply*
The one time only fees are: **Dog adoption fee: N\$ 650 | Cat adoption fee: N\$ 450**

Special open hours: 09h00 - 13h00 and 15h00 - 17h00
@ The SPCA Windhoek shelter

For more information contact us: SPCA Windhoek | 145 Robert Mugabe Avenue, Windhoek | Tel: 061-238 654
Fax: 061-225 715 | Cell: 081-124 4520 Emergency (After Hours Only) | Email: info@spcawindhoek.org.na



**PLEASE SUPPORT
OUR COMMUNITY
BY DONATING A
WARM BLANKET
TO SOMEONE
LESS FORTUNATE**

**HELP SOMEONE LESS FORTUNATE
STAY WARM THIS WINTER.**

IPEP **FUTUREMEDIA**

**Indongo
TOYOTA**

**Indongo Toyota
Cares**

PAY TODAY

DMS
YOUR MOBILE SOLUTIONS PARTNER

ROUNDTABLE

Indongo

Indongo

Indongo

NOVA

#IAMAWINTERKNIGHT ...



MEMBER OF
IMTA
INTERNATIONAL
MODELS & TALENT



PROJECT AIM
ASPIRING INTERNATIONAL MODELS PTY LTD

WWW.FIGURESMODELSSA.COM
JUANITA KOEN
08 1209696 1

ACADEMY

AGENCY

FINISHING SCHOOL

ETIQUETTE

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

RUNWAY TECHNIQUE

ACTING

PUBLIC SPEAKING

PHOTOGRAPHIC TRAINING

FASHION



FASHION SHOWS

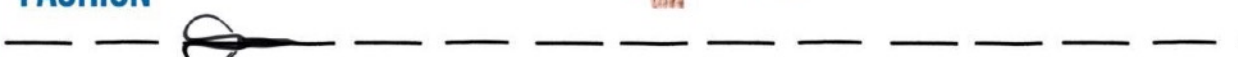
INTERNATIONAL

COMPETITIONS

CASTINGS & AUDITIONS

TRAVELING

PHOTO SHOTS



Name:.....

Age:.....

Parent Name:.....

Contact no:.....

