



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Annual General Meeting

Next week all WIS parents will receive official notification of the 2017-2018 Annual General Meeting (AGM). (Reminders will also be sent out once we return in January.)

The date of the AGM is **Tuesday 23rd January 2018**. It will be held in the school auditorium at 6pm.

There will be a number of important items of business to conduct including the election (or re-election) of parent Board members.

The Board currently numbers eight. One (elected) member is resigning and our constitution allows us to elect at this AGM two parents to join the Board of Directors. The Board may itself appoint further members.

Details of who is eligible to stand for election will be included along with formal notification of the AGM.

Not everyone understands what Board members do or don't do so anyone who is considering standing for election is warmly invited to meet the current Board over a glass of wine on **Thursday 11th January**. The venue and time will be confirmed later.

Of course, you don't need to wait till January to ask current Board members (or members of the SLT) what is involved in being a Board member. If you want to have an informal chat, I will be happy to talk to you.

The first meeting of the new Board will be on Tuesday 30th January 2018.

Peter MacKenzie
Director

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Contents

- From the Director p. 1
- Primary News p. 2 - 4
- Secondary News p. 4 - 10
- Other News p. 11 - 13



Dates to Remember

December 2017

- **1:** Last day for AA Term 2
- Primary & Secondary
- **4:** Founder's Day
- Normal School Day
- **6:** Primary Performance
- 19:00 @ WIS Auditorium
- **8:** End of term 2
- School closes @ 11:40
- **10:** Human Rights Day
- Public Holiday
- **11:** Public Holiday
- Office Closed

WEEKLY PUZZLER

We had four solvers of last week's puzzler: Sarah (yr 7), Emilio & JM (yr 9), and Ms. Rimmington! Great work all! A solution can be found [here](#).

This week's puzzler is an old one. Achilles (known to be very fast) and a tortoise (not known to be very fast) decided to have a race. The tortoise was given a 100m head start. Achilles ran exactly ten times faster than the tortoise.

Here are some points in the race:

1. When Achilles had run 100m, the tortoise had run 10m and so was ahead by 10m.
2. After Achilles ran the next 10m the tortoise was 1m ahead.
3. After Achilles ran the next 1m the tortoise was 0.1m ahead.
4. And on, and on, and on...

Did Achilles ever catch the tortoise? If so, at which point on the course. In other words, how far did Achilles have to run to catch the tortoise.

Please send your solution to pfarrell@wis.edu.na

New puzzles can also be submitted to pfarrell@wis.edu.na

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

With the end of the term just a week away, it's a good time to highlight many events, activities and accomplishments that have taken place this semester.

Our weekly assemblies have given classes and/or year levels the opportunity to present different facets of their learning. Year 2A, Year 3 and Year 1C have each taken the stage, facilitating a specific week's assembly and sharing their learning from a particular unit of inquiry. During the assemblies we also recognise students who exemplify the Learner Profile and Attitudes, recognise upcoming birthdays, welcome new students, bid farewell to leaving students, and acknowledge students' achievements that have taken place outside of school.

The Three Way Conferences that were held in October gave parents insight into their children's progress and learning. In addition they involved students in the process, giving them the opportunity to reflect about their progress and set goals for the rest of the school year.

Our own Inter-House Swim Gala, which was held at the Katutura swimming pool, was well attended and participants represented every year level from Year 1-Year 6. Many of the students went on to swim in the annual Pupkewitz Swim Gala.

Students broadened their knowledge of the world through International Day. The songs and dances they learned as well as the information gained while preparing for International Day gave them insight into the chosen country they represented.

Taking part in activities centred around Universal Children's Day, wearing blue for diabetes and bringing in stationery to donate to the Omaandi School in the north, helped the Primary children increase their awareness of others and those who are less fortunate than they are.

The MAP Growth tests have taken place during these last three weeks. Children in Years 2-6 have generally been enthusiastic about the process. The teachers are now reviewing the results and how they can make best use of the information provided.

Last but not least, we'll finish the semester with the Primary Production of *Far Away* which will be performed this next Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Ms Junelle, her husband Blessing, Ms Jan and the cast have worked tirelessly this semester to bring this play to life. It promises to be an entertaining performance.

Regards,
Beth Smith

What is happening in French?

Bonjour!

Since a few weeks, we the Year 1A students are experiencing an exchange with a KG2/ Year 1 class in Southeast of France. The school is situated in Cagnes-sur-Mer, a city closed to Nice, the homeroom teacher's name is Miss Laurie.

We first introduced ourselves in French with a short video and sent them pictures of our school and classroom. A few days later we received videos, pictures of them and the school. We discovered such a different environment, a different classroom, playground and could make comparison with our school.



We are now sharing with them activities such as songs that we are learning with Mrs Laetitia and next week Tuesday we will enjoy a Skype session and looking forward to meet our new friends in real!

The Year 1A students

WIS School Sports

On 4-5 December, WIS will play inter-school matches with a visiting school from Zimbabwe, Tynwald Primary School. The event was organised on short-notice; as WIS don't get many opportunities to participate in inter-school competitions, we did not hesitate to say yes.

The programme will be as follow:

Monday, 4 December - 14:30 (both games start at the same time)

1. Boys Football (big field)
2. Girls Netball (netball court)

Tuesday, 5 December - 14:30 (25 minute games)

1. Boys Field Hockey (Game 1)
2. Girls Field Hockey (Game 2)
3. Boys 7-a-side Tag Rugby (Game 3)

The teams were selected from across Upper Primary and Middle School. Many students wanted to be part of this event, but we could only select a small number of players per year level.

For those that were selected, we wish them all the best and represent your school with pride.

Fernando Beukes

"Faraway!" Production

Dear WIS Community

Join the Upper Primary cast in a land far, "Faraway!" Come and delight in some fairy tale characters in search of their happily ever after.

Wednesday 6 December 19:00 sharp

Refreshments will be on sale from 18:00 courtesy of the PTA

WIS Auditorium

Tickets on sale at WIS Reception N\$50 Adults & N\$30 Children



SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Some thoughts on our new reports

At the beginning of the first week of the holidays, we will be sending out our Semester 1 reports. As mentioned in a previous communication in the Oryx, they will look quite different to the reports you will have received in the last years.

As mentioned, we want to focus more on ATL (Approaches to Teaching and Learning). I.e. skills that students acquire and less on numbers/grades. Since the IGCSE and IB Diploma still consist of external exams, students in Years 10 - 13 will, in addition to the ATL assessment, also be awarded numerical grades as it is done in IGCSE and the IBDP.

We would welcome any constructive comments and suggestions feedback from parents regarding this new format of reports. We will work through iSAMS in future and when uploading the reports to iSAMS, we will take comments and suggestions into consideration in order for the reports to be user friendly and give useful feedback on your child's progress in school.

Please note: Secondary reports will be sent to parents via email on 11th and 12th of December.

The importance of parent support in times of stress

When we are experiencing stressful situations, we often rely on those closest to us to support us through these situations.

Our Year 11 and 13 students will embark on their Mock examinations at the start of Semester 2. This might not seem to be a big deal for some of you. However, we have experienced it many times, that students, who cannot rely on support from home during these stressful times, find it much more difficult to cope than those who have a solid support at home.

What does that mean for students in an examination?

- ★ Does your child have a quiet study place at home?
- ★ Does your child have the time to study - i.e. not have too many chores to do and other responsibilities that push him/her in a corner and not give them time to study thoroughly.
- ★ Does the child eat healthily and get sufficient rest?
- ★ Is there an open ear at home when things are difficult? Do you sit together as a family and talk about your child’s experiences with the examination? Do you possibly also talk about what your son/daughter wants to do in their future career so that they can have the peace of mind their parents/guardians care and want to be part of this development?

More detailed information regarding the Mock Examinations will be posted on the D6 in the next days.

*Regards,
Maggie Reiff*

WIS receives visitors from Denmark



The 6th November has become a very memorable day to some of my classmates and me. We had the honour of meeting eight Danish exchange-program students and two teachers from the **Struer Statsgymnasium** in

Denmark. What a fun experience this was! We welcomed our guests with a very generous banquet, i.e. braai. We engaged in interesting conversations and even played a fun round of UNO with them.

To most of the Danish students, their trip to Namibia was their first taste of Africa. And they loved it! They had the luxury of walking the sandy beaches of what is arguably Namibia's greatest coastal town, Swakopmund, and they gaped at Namibia's diverse and exotic fauna from in between the tall grasses of Otjiwa. They also went on a Biology class field-trip to Daan Viljoen with the Year 12 Biology students, where they were taken on an excursion by the Giraffe Conservation Fund.

The host families, who were kind and hospitable to open the doors of their homes to the Danish kids, certainly got the most out of the experience. They spent most of their time with the Danish students and they did everything ranging from sightseeing to shopping with the Danish students. During the last two days of their stay, the Danish students were given an opportunity to see WIS through the eyes of the students: they attended classes with us, had breakfast and lunch with us and even took part in a really awesome assembly.

They admitted on many occasions that WIS was a great school. They were kind enough to introduce us to *Rundbold* (Rounders), a Danish sport which is remarkably very similar to America's baseball. We bid them a teary eyed goodbye after inviting them to a closing banquet hosted by the PTA (Thank you to the PTA). We gave them a few gifts to ensure that they would never forget us.

We certainly cherish the various memories that we shared with them. We hope that we'll be able to enjoy several wonderful experiences that are similar to this in the future.

Written by: Aaditya Pillai and Daniel Sindila

Photos: Ashraf Hishamuddin

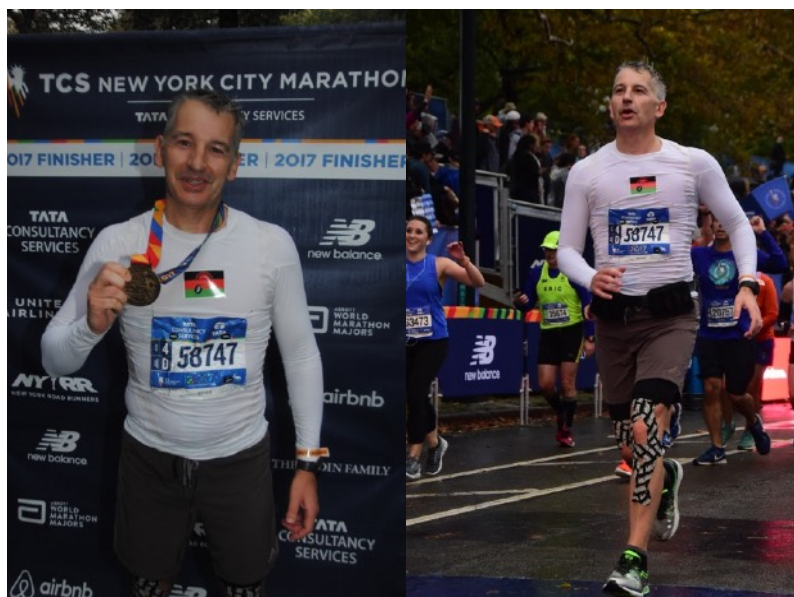
Sports News

Desert Dash - Dust and Dunes

Mr T J-R is attempting to complete the Solo Desert Dash mountain bike endurance event next Friday. The worlds longest single stage race start at Grove Mall on 8th Dec and riders must arrive at Tiger Reef in Swakop before 3 pm the following day.

Good luck to all the members of our school community who are joining in, especially our fantastic 'Coffee Peddler' Mr Nick Partner.





Raniero's NYC Marathon

Most of us know Raniero Leto as one of the strategic minds serving the school on the Board of Directors. It may be news to some that last month he managed a very respectable time of 4 hours and 36 minutes at the New York Marathon. Well done Mr Leto!



Other sports

Xuwei in Y9 is preparing diligently for his forthcoming dressage event.

Old Age Home Project 2017

The Middle School Student Council decided to host a lunch for the Senior Park Old Age Home on Monday, 27 November 2017. The students felt they wanted to interact and show appreciation to our senior citizens by giving something back to them. The whole of Middle School contributed money towards paying for the meatballs, the juice was sponsored by Manny Ferreira of OK Foods, Ms. Tuyeni Tonateni sponsored the potato salad and carrot salad and the PTA sponsored the Vanilla Ice-cream. Without their help, this project would have been impossible. The students served the food to 150 pensioners, cleaned the tables and the dishes afterwards and had nice conversations with them.

These are the responses from our students:

We socialized a lot with the older people and I honestly think they are the kindest people ever. Seeing them enjoying just a little lunch and having someone to talk to and have fun conversations with was really heart warming. At some point I got really emotional because they went through a lot, and for them to now be at a place where they feel safe makes me smile. I felt really good after this project and I hope we got to let them know that there is someone that cares for them and that we are really happy that we got to spend such a special moment with them. They are really lovely people and full of so much love ❤️ -Li Zhang





The act of helping people, who needed it, was always one of the many things I enjoyed doing, but on this Monday we did not only serve lunch to the pensioners, we sat and talked. We talked about how their lives have been, about how one was the director of a movie, about the how war stranded someone in a foreign country for 11 years, we talked about the amount of pain some went through by losing a child or even a partner. It was a mesmerizing experience that's the only way to describe it, I enjoyed their stories the experiences they shared with us. Once we left the compound I was immediately filled with a warm feeling I can only connect with the feeling of happiness. I can only say glad I participated in this trip. -Tessa Marie Wolf

I found the experience very amazing. We got to communicate with the old people and give them a good memory that I personally think will stay in history. The old people loved the food, and the ice-cream, but the best part was the talking. I found out that the managers name is actually the name of the Egyptian desert god "Sept". He said that there are problems with the home, such as power, bills, water, and also other issues that make his job difficult, but he said that every person there find that it's a safe and lovely place to spend your last breaths. I loved that one of the ladies was so open to the kids and loved to talk to me. She was kind and felt sad, as I told her about my life story with the bullying and suffering I went through, and she comforted me for a few minutes. That day, the kids got 3 prayers, each for them. We got so many "thanks" and "may god bless your souls" and so on. I found this a great experience. Thank you for this opportunity - Leonhardt Fischer-Buder

My experience was great and I felt good helping the senior citizens. I met some nice people and had pretty interesting conversations - My experience was good! - Ngheno

As they were eating we would go and talk to them and find out about their lives. It was an amazing experience and I am really glad that I went. All the pensioners were extremely friendly and enjoyed talking to us. At the end they all thanked us and went to their rooms. We helped tidy up The tables and chairs and got a refreshing coke when we were done. I hope we can do something like this again soon. ❤️ ~ Olivia Shino



We would like to thank everyone who was involved with helping with this project - Ms. Atousa, Yr. 5, Ms. Tuyeni, Mr. Manny, Ms. Yolanda and all the Middle School students!

Y8 & Y9 Kramer Eiscafe

Last week Monday we went to Cramer and to the Goethe Institut. We went to go and get ice cream. We ordered our ice cream flavours in German and spoke with the staff in German. At the Institute we talked to some people in German and we rented a German movie.



“ It was wonderfully great because it was something different, we went out of class and did something out of our comfort zones. ” Li Zhang

“ The whole experience was amazing because we got to eat ice cream and we had lots of fun trying to order in German. ” Olivia Shino

“ The ice cream was tasty. I learned how to order ice cream in German. ” Mathis Piebac Luppe

It all started when Zuraida, Amani, Xuwei and Davan had to write dialogues about how to order ice cream. Then we created a poster with ice cream flavours and decorated a trolley.



On a Wednesday we decided to practise our German by selling ice cream to the French and Portuguese class. Our rules were: everybody had to order in German, otherwise they did not get anything. We wanted to help them a little so we provided translators. We had to help the French and Portuguese students with the pronunciation. With our help they managed and everybody got ice cream. If you go to Germany and want to order ice cream, you can say:

“Kann ich bitte eine Kugel Vanille / Schokolade / Erdbeere haben?”

About one week later we went to Cramer Eiscafe. Mr Cramer spoke German to us and we replied back in German.

“ It was a great experience, because it was an actual German ice cream shop”. Amani

“I felt a bit scared, I was afraid to make a mistake. But later on I realised, it is not difficult. And I could use my German vocabularies, what I learned in class. And it helped me!” Rizia

“ I was proud of myself!” Christine

“ I felt excited, because I actually ordered something in German”. Yilin

Mr Cramer welcomed us with open arms and said that he was really impressed with our German vocabulary and with our good manners.

Important vocabularies:

Hallo, guten Morgen! Danke! Vielen Dank! Bitte!

Written by: Amani, Davan, Rizia and Zuraida

Soirée Pyjama en Classe de Francais

On the Friday 24 November 2017, the Year 8 French class had a sleepover in school for one night.

In French class, we had to create an invitation for a party, as it was the topic currently at hand. We split up into groups, and created fun and creative invitations for parties. The invitations were then presented, in French, and we, as a class, voted for which party we wanted to do. The votes went up and down for different parties, but only one could be the winner. Three girls, Melvina Nicol-Wilson [Yr8A(who left school on that Friday)], India Kay [Yr8B], and Vimbayi Musavengana [Yr8B] created an invitation for a pajama party. They won and made the party the best way to have fun: a sleepover in school!

Everyone had to bring N\$30 to pay for the pizza (our dinner!) and also everyone had to bring some snacks, drinks, and sleeping material.

We first ate dinner, and once everyone was there and finished their food, we played block-me in the dark, an alternative way of playing hide-and-seek.

Afterwards, we went into the class and played a new game, FNAF (Five Nights At Freddy's), which is actually a video game, but we turned it into a horror, scare sort of musical statues. One person was the guard, and the rest were the animatronics. Once an animatronic scared the guard, he would become the guard. We played that,

and screams, and laughed a lot too. When it got really dark, we snapped a few glow sticks, and played slender on the big field. Now that was scary!!

After that, we started to watch a French movie, but we never finished it. A lot of kids wanted to talk outside of the class on the grass, so we did that instead. At around 22:30, we went to bed.

The next morning, we had French crêpes (homemade pancakes), and some hot chocolate. After breakfast we packed up, and cleaned the class so well, that no one could see a trace of us. Later on we played in the auditorium, which was dark and fun (we kept the place squeaky clean!).



Once we were done, we played some music, and waited until everyone was gone. I guess we can say, "mission accomplie".

It was a great experience for the whole French class, we had a lot of fun and hope to do it more often!!

Leonhardt Fisher-Buder

END OF TERM 2

Last day for term2 and the start of the December break.

The school will close @11:40

Primary School - Spirit Week



**Wednesday:
Wacky Hair**



Monday: Movies



**Thursday:
Holidays**



**Tuesday:
Twins**

**Friday:
House T-shirts**



Secondary School - Spirit Week

2017


SPIRIT WEEK

4th-7th December

MONDAY

MEME MONDAY

TUESDAY

 TWIN TUESDAY 

WEDNESDAY

 Gender Swap 

THURSDAY

Blast From the Past 

Best class will receive a homeroom pizza party!

Christmas for Critters Shoebox Drive

The Windhoek SPCA would like to invite you to take part in this inspiring community initiative.

Our aim is to collect Christmas gifts for abandoned animals and as a positive result this project ultimately helps parents to teach their own children the joy of giving!



HOW TO MAKE A CHRISTMAS FOR CRITTERS SHOEBOX:

- FIND AN EMPTY SHOE BOX**
 We all have empty shoeboxes around the house or know someone who can give us one. Shoe stores usually have empty boxes to give away.
- FILL IT WITH GOODIES**
The following items are required
 * put **N\$200** in cash in the box **PLUS**
 * **For our Cats:** pampers/ Friskies/ whiskers tin/ pouch food
 * **For our Dogs:** tin or small bag of dog food
 * Optional: toy/ collar lead/ brush, etc.
- DECORATE THE BOX:**
 Wrap/ decorate the shoebox (draw on it, paint on it, cut out pictures, put stickers on it) the sky is the limit here!
- LABEL YOUR BOX:**
 Clearly write cat or dog, depending on the gift of your choice
- WHERE TO TAKE YOUR BOX?**
 Windhoek SPCA, Robert Mugabe Avenue
 Put it under our Christmas tree and have your photo taken!

Closing date: 20 December 2017

Email: spcawhk@mweb.com.na

Is **N\$200** too much?
 Club together with friends and make a box OR put in whatever you can afford!

Target: 300 boxes

