



**PARENT INFORMATION PORTAL**  
Click here for more information

## Contents

- From the Director p. 1 - 3
- Primary News p. 3 - 5
- Secondary News p. 5 - 10
- Other News p. 10 - 13

## Dates to Remember 2022

- **10 August 2022**  
Board Meeting
- **18 August 2022**  
Parent Coffee Morning
- **24 August 2022**  
Back-to-school night
- **26 August 2022**  
Heroes' Day
- **29 August 2022**  
Staff work Day
- **1 September 2022**  
Parent Coffee Morning



# THE ORYX

*The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School*

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear WIS Community,

Welcome to the 2022-23 School Year! It was a joy to see the campus come alive this week with the sights and sounds of laughter, excitement of new beginnings, co-creation of classroom norms and expectations, and the human connections of old friends and new. *My hope is that every student, parent, and staff member will enter into this first well-earned weekend of the school year with this shared belief: I belong here. I am going to grow this year. I can flourish at WIS by simply being myself. I am part of a team that is working towards something that is bigger than myself - and I will make a difference.*



**Former WIS Director Kevin Bartlett provided an in service workshop for WIS Coordinators and Academic Heads.**

When I began as the Educational Director of WIS at this time last year, we held a series of digital town halls, community surveys, and one-on-one meetings with every member of staff. From those conversations arose the [SOAR Schoolwide Goals](#) that have prioritised our actions for 2022 and 2023. These are I'd like to share an update on some of those initiatives:

### After School Sports and Enrichment Activities

You have home and work/school, and we want WIS after school to increasingly become that special third place where you can be your best self. Under the supervision of Jako Fourie as our new Head of Sports and Enrichment, we will be holding sign-ups for our after school Sports and Enrichment Activities according to the following schedule:

1. **Tuesday August 16th** - You will receive an email signup sheet for all WIS Sports & Enrichment Activities
2. **Thursday August 18th at 7:15-8:00am** - Parent Coffee Morning - We will share information and hold a Q&A Session relating to our 2022-23 Sports and Enrichment



## Alumni Corner



**Ushashi Lahiri**

I completed the IB from WIS back in 2008. It was a rough couple of years, owing both to a personal setback and the tough and demanding nature of the IB programme. My predicted grades were much higher than my actual result and, safe to say, I was sorely disappointed.

However, after completing the IB, I decided to pursue my higher education in my home country, India, where I'd barely spent any time and had never truly experienced living there. I enrolled in Delhi University, and went on to do my Master's in English language and literature. Post my Master's, I also completed my Bachelor's in Education. I spent 6 years in University, which I still consider my best years, and part of the credit goes to the IB for being so rigorous that all the assignments and hectic schedule of Uni did not phase me in the least. Moreover, it just seemed like an extension of IB. While pursuing the IB, we were always told how it really prepares you for college, but I realised this only after stepping into college.

I have always been a firm believer in actively working for something wherein I can make a difference to the community at large. Moreover, I feel privileged to have had the opportunity of receiving exemplary education from around the world, especially during what I consider my most formative years, and spending them in WIS.

**Continues on the next page ...**

### Activities

**3. Friday August 19th at 1:00-1:30pm** - Sports & Enrichment Activities Signup Fair in the Indoor Gym. Parents and Students will meet their coaches/advisors and sign the necessary paperwork and indemnity forms. It is possible to also sign up online. The online forms are also due at 1:30pm on Friday August 19.

**4. Monday August 22nd at 1:45-3:00pm** - Sports and Enrichment Activities will commence.

*If you have any questions then please email [jfourie@wis.edu.na](mailto:jfourie@wis.edu.na)*

### **WIS KIDS AFTER SCHOOL CARE: Monday through Friday 1:45 - 5:30pm**

WIS Kids After Care is designed to meet the needs of working parents' schedules and to offer additional opportunities for learning, enrichment, and social interaction for students from Early Years through Grade 8. After Care will run concurrently and in addition to our Sports and Enrichment Activities, and parents enrolled in this programme will be able to pick their children up at any time prior to 5:30pm. The number of WIS Kids Aftercare Facilitators we employ for this will be contingent upon the number and age of students enrolled. We therefore request that you complete the form below to help us gauge demand. This new programme will start on August 22nd.

[WIS KIDS AFTER SCHOOL CARE SIGNUP FORM](#)

### **Solar Power Project - WIS is Committed to Treading Lightly on the Earth**

On Tuesday August 9th we were able to flip the switch on the WIS Solar Energy Project. There are now 108 solar panels, each capable of producing 475 watts, on the roof of the PLC language classrooms. The cost of this project was NAD 668,718.93, and we project that the investment will pay itself back over approximately four years while reducing our school's energy costs by upwards of 80%. There are still a few final aspects of this project that are yet to be completed, so stay tuned for information about a ribbon cutting ceremony set to take place at the end of the month! Along with other energy saving efforts and the *Our Campus Our Planet* initiatives, this project shows our learning community's commitment to treading lightly on the earth.



### **Perimeter Fence Grant - Making our Campus a Secure and Safe Place to Learn**

Thanks to a very generous grant of US\$338,800 from the US Department of State Office of Overseas Schools, we will soon break ground on a significant upgrade to our perimeter security of the WIS Campus. The construction of this new fence and integrated security system will take approximately two months to complete. The

WIS and the IB allowed me to move beyond just academics and develop my personality as a whole, which at that time I did not realise, however I am reminded of it every step of the way these days. The extended essay, thinking beyond the obvious comfort zones because of TOK, all the CAS hours; everything contributed to building a strong foundation for me personally. The perseverance, resilience, critical and out-of-the box thinking were all a by-product of the hours put in by all my teachers at WIS, and I shall truly be grateful to them. So despite the disappointment of my final grades, I still learnt a lot!

Thus, I've felt a compelling need to further the cause of education in my own country as well and I truly believe that education is where I feel my contribution could be of most value.

It also provides me with an opportunity to use the knowledge I have gained so far and to implement it in a creative manner while also providing the space to be able to grow exponentially as a working professional and on a personal level both and immerse further into the education domain.

This need and want to be involved in the education field in whatever manner has led me to be involved in multiple ways within this area. From teaching to developing content for children who are learning English as a second language to being heavily involved in the children's book publishing industry and publishing books in local Indian languages, authoring my own children's book in Hindi (the last language I ever thought I'd write in!) and to now being involved in developing meaningful assessments for teachers to use in schools to help understand where the learning gap of their students lie.

It's been an adventure so far and going from inhabiting the classroom in different capacities, to being at the backend of a software to help young children better their learning outcome, to publishing books; all of it has been an eye-opening and humbling experience.

fence will slightly expand the usability of our campus, and it will certainly resolve the nighttime break-ins and burglaries we have experienced over the past year. In July, we also switched security companies and now utilise G4S for all our security contractor needs.

#### **Important Dates in August**

- August 18 - 7:15-8:00 Parent Coffee Morning (Focus on Sports and Enrichment Activities)
- August 22 - In-School MAP Tests Begin
- August 24 - 5:30-7:30pm Back-to-School Night (An All School Parent Evening to Meet the Teachers)
- August 26 - Heroes' Day (No School)
- August 29 - Staff Professional Development Day (No School)

**Sincerely,  
Ethan Van Drunen**

## **PRIMARY PRINCIPAL**

Dear WIS Community,

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year! Everyone in Primary is thrilled to welcome our students back to school and it has been lovely to see the smiles that have been hidden behind masks for so long! My first Oryx article of the year serves to inform you of some of the great things we have planned in the Primary School.

#### **Building connections**

It is appropriate that at the start of the year we focus on creating strong connections between students, teachers and parents. With this in mind, we have scheduled the following:

- August 15th and 16th: Team building days. Happy, safe and nurturing learning environments help children thrive and learn. All classes will be involved in fostering connections through team building activities and creating norms and essential agreements. Grade 4 and 5 will go to Farm Windhoek and other classes will remain on campus to engage in fun activities.
- August 30 and 31st: Learner Portrait of My Child Conference. These conferences are an opportunity for you to meet with your child's Homeroom teacher and to tell them anything they may need to know. Please be prepared to do all the talking as the more your child's teacher knows about your child the better she will be able to assist your child's learning. Your child will come to school as normal on the day and sign-ups will be sent out next week. We will send out a list of questions beforehand that can be used as talking points.

#### **Focus on wellbeing: Choir and Movement**

In an effort to place emphasis on student wellbeing and building community, we are delighted that this year we are offering Choir and Movement to all Primary classes led by Mr Gerson. Mr Gerson will be working with our students on singing and movement. I am sure you will be delighted to see this happening during our assemblies to which parents will be invited this year. Expect to hear a lot of happy singing voices on campus!



## Primary Learning Hub

At WIS we have an amazing learning community. We believe that a love for learning is best acquired through active modelling and leading by example. Like our students, teachers at WIS are Thinkers, Reflective, Inquirers and Knowledgeable. Last year in the Primary we worked to align our ACARA standards with the units of inquiry, to improve MAP Growth scores and to create strong foundational units for Maths and Literacy. This work will continue and our systems this year have been designed to support professional growth in these areas. In our Primary Learning Hub (what was previously the Admissions Area), teachers will meet and learn about impactful teaching and learning with our newly appointed Maths coordinator, Elsa Swanepoel and highly experienced PYP Curriculum coordinator Avril van Zyl. This year we have also set up Professional Learning Communities in which groups of teachers learn together, become experts in a given area and lead professional development for other teachers. Teachers have all identified goals for the year with which they will be supported through feedback on their practice.



As parents you are part of our learning community so please look out for Parent Workshop dates, Learning Celebrations, coffee mornings and assemblies. We are also always looking for guest speakers- please let your child's teachers know if there is anything you could offer in relation to the units of inquiry.

I am looking forward to another great year of learning at WIS and look forward to seeing you at Back-to-School Night on the 24th of August!

**Warm regards,**  
**Marcelle van Leenen**

## The Learning Enrichment Department

This is a quick introduction to the Learning Enrichment Department LED previously known as the Learning Support Department LSD. You will find us at the top of the hill rooms 47, 48 and 49. Parents are always welcome!

We plan to work together with a wider community enriching all students and providing a supportive, positive and caring environment for a diverse range of students.

Hannah will be helping out in Grade 3 for three months and Lizl is our newly appointed leader and Head of Identity, Belonging and Equity

Tanya-May will be working in the Early Years up to Grade 2. Martha is the Secondary LED with Jackie B supporting her and Kathleen EAL Primary.



*Left to right: Jackie B, Lizl, Tanya-May, Martha, Kathleen and Hannah*

You will be hearing from us regularly in future, so please watch this space for exciting new ideas and events coming up.

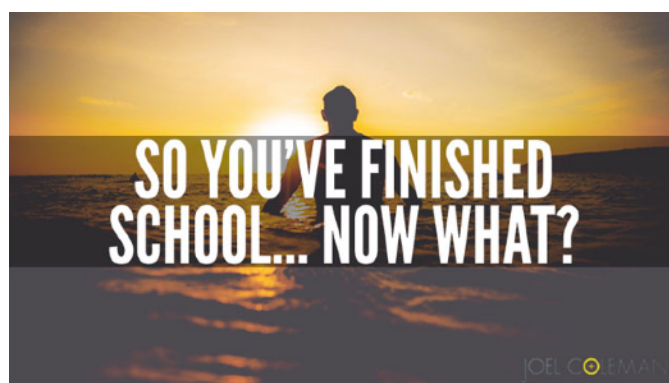


## SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

It is great to see all students back on campus and to start the new academic year “normal” and with a positive vibe. This also gives us the opportunity to be able to welcome tertiary universities back on our campus when they do their recruitment tours. I want to talk about our university and tertiary education landscape a bit in today’s newsletter.

Firstly I want to congratulate our Well done!

*Class of*  
**2022**



You will be starting your studies in the Netherlands, the UK, Canada, India and Belgium. Some of you have decided to take a gap year to pursue other learning opportunities. We wish you all the best with your future endeavours!

The pandemic has made it possible for us to connect with many tertiary institutions across the world and this trend of offering virtual university recruitment sessions continues. This is particularly important for us here in Namibia. Namibia is often not a priority when universities plan their school visits. We are off the travel route and the only international school in the country. It is therefore a great opportunity, when a tertiary institution plans

to visit our school. I recommend that students (and their parents) attend these events. Often, information is shared and connections made, that can inform decisions and even bring another angle to the discussion about universities or education post secondary school.

In the coming months, there are multiple opportunities for students to attend university events - both in person and virtually.

[HERE](#) is a form that gauges your interest in attending these. I would appreciate a great response to this questionnaire to be able to tailor university visits and presentations to the needs of our community and students.

Below is a list of events and opportunities for further information sharing in the coming months:



**18 August - 18:00 - 19:00 WIS Auditorium**

[OVC](#) (work and travel) - this is a great opportunity to explore if you are planning to do a gap year or want to do some travelling and working once you finish school.

**20 September 2022 - 11:00 - 14:00**

[CIS University Exploration Day Africa 2022](#) (11:00 - 14:00 CAT for students and parents) - virtual fair

**25 August - 18:30 - 19:30 WIS Auditorium**

Parent Information Evening to introduce our research and university platforms Coursera and [Unifrog](#)

**29 September 2022 - 17:30 - 18:30**

[Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences](#) (studying in the Netherlands - virtual event)

- [15 on the 15th](#) - US Liberal Arts Colleges - virtual university session every 15th of the month March through December.
- Other institutions interested in visiting WIS to present their programmes:
  - [Windhoek Hospitality and Culinary College](#)
  - Namibia University of Science and Technology
  - University of Namibia
  - [Eduvos](#) - Your Education Your Future
  - [Desert Air Flight School](#)
  - [The Dome](#) - gap year programmes

... and many more.

I am looking forward to meeting many parents and students during these in person and virtual events this coming year.

Regards,

**Maggie Reiff - Secondary Principal and Career Guidance Counsellor**



## IB Learner Profile

We will kick this academic year off by focusing on the following IB Learner Profile for the month of August:

An **INQUIRER** endeavour to develop their natural curiosity. They acquire the skills necessary to conduct inquiry and research and show independence in learning. They actively enjoy learning and this love of learning will be sustained throughout their lives. University faculties regularly note IB students' passion for discovery.

We will continue nominating students and teachers. Any student can nominate any other student and/or teacher. All nominations must be sent to [ajyrensburg@wis.edu.na](mailto:ajyrensburg@wis.edu.na) - nominations will be put onto the IB Learner Profile Site only if the reason/description that you send matches the profile. So please make sure that your nominations fit the profile - e.g. **INQUIRER**

**All nominations should be in by 25 August 2022.**

Did you know??? Bill Gates is a perfect example of a famous inquirer - he inquired about a new form of technology and invented new software that is widely used across the world and ushered the era of personal computers.

Thank you and have one awesome Day!

**Ms. Angie**

## Sporting Reflections





### Seismic Shifts

Every four years sports performers from across the world compete in the Commonwealth Games, contrary to general opinion the Commonwealth isn't an exclusive club of associate nations and, although the roots stem from the British Empire, all nationals can be part of the organisations.

Namibia has a long and proud history of performing at the highest level of international sport, to use a sporting analogy we could say the 'Namibia consistently punches above its weight'. This has been acutely evident in the games held in Birmingham with the small team of athletes from Namibia winning four bronze medals.



### Medalists

TEAM	ATHLETE NAME	
	Namibia	Helalia Johannes
	Namibia	Christine Mboma
	Namibia	Ananias Shikongo
	Namibia	Alexander Miller

Throughout the winter break the Women Euro's were also hosted in the UK, when discussing the teams success the England captain Leah Williamson, after she praised German, the losing finalist, she deflected person congratulation for her teams success and her own contribution and quickly delivered the success towards everyone involved in the tournament and beyond.

Leah also eluded to the impact the tournament would have on every girl who has had to prove herself and overcome challenges to participate in Football,

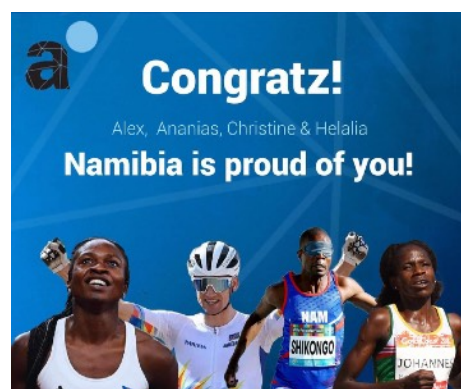
*The England captain, Leah Williamson, believes that whatever the result of Sunday's Euro 2022 final against Germany at Wembley, the tournament will prove transformational for not just women's football but wider gender equality.*

"What we've seen in the tournament already is that this hasn't just been a change for women's football but society in general, it's about how we're looked upon," said Williamson.

[Full Article](#)

If this is the legacy of a Women's tournament for a world that is working towards gender equality then that truly does make Football a beautiful game.

**Thomas Jackson-Read**



## Grade 11 Orientation

### Scavenger Hunt, Alumni Advice, Hike and Defining Success Panel

Our journey began at Maerua Mall, where Mr Fitzpatrick left us stranded. The first task was to count all the stores in the mall. Instead of taking all that time, we simply took a picture of the guide of stores and moved on. We made a slow pace through town as we found different businesses and NGOs, such as Hollard and Project Hope. After taking pictures in front of their slogans (as seen in the picture), we found and learnt about the



history of many monumental artefacts. Tired after climbing all 300 stairs of the National Museum, we finally made our way to a relaxing ice cream parlour on independence avenue. It was a fun adventure even though we struggled to find our way and had to compromise at times to fulfil our time limit. Overall it was a fun adventure to start school with. [Aqeela Nel and teammates]

#### **Team 4 - (Fiona, Allan, Aqeela, Jade & Alya)**

On the incredible Grade 11 orientation that was planned by Mr Fitzpatrick, we went on a scavenger hunt and a hike. The scavenger hunt was a fun activity where we searched for clues all around Windhoek. The activities that we did were filled with teamwork and were a very educational and informative experience. Alongside, the scavenger hunt and the hike we also had presentations from parents (\*) that was very motivational. We were very lucky to be able to ask the alumni some questions about IBDP as well. Overall, I feel that I learned a lot from the orientation and It was a fun and academic experience.

**Tendai**

*[\*For those interested in 'watching' it, the full 70-minute livestream recording of the amazing nine 'Defining Success: My Work, My World, My View' motivational talks has been posted [here on the WIS Facebook page](#).]*

#### **WIS Grade 11s & 'Fearless Thinker' Statue**



As part of their orientation the WIS Grade 11s received a wonderful, motivational talk from WIS parent, Taimi Shejavali, who is the CEO of Ashburton Investments, a fellow subsidiary of FirstRand with RMBon the exciting and beautiful recently unveiled work of art - [Fearless Thinker](#) - in centre city Windhoek at the entrance to the FNB headquarters' building. Ms. Shejavali listened to and then spoke to the students of perseverance, imagination and dreams - all of which the famed statue represents. This served as a perfect talk at the start of these learners' rigorous two-year IBDP course of study.

#### **WIS Grade 11 Orientation Trip - Climbing Stairs, Fantastic Views & Leadership**



At the Ford dealership near Mont Blanc Street, our team gets dropped off. There were various tasks we had to complete along the quest. But ultimately, we faced a big defeat. Our favourite parts of the entire trip were when we walked up the stairs of the Namibian Independence Museum. It was a challenging task, and we were

rewarded with a beautiful view of the entire city of Windhoek when we got to the restaurant at the top. While touring the museum we learned a lot about how SWAPO soldiers gave their lives for future freedom and betterment. The nicest part was getting ice cream to cool off and relax at the conclusion. Overall, it was a fantastic experience that helped us develop our leadership abilities and general area-specific emphasis.



**(By Vishu on behalf of the team that started their scavenger hunt at the Novel Ford dealership on Independence Ave)**

## WIS Health Hub

As though COVID hasn't kept us on our guard enough over the past two years, we now have a global outbreak of Monkeypox to contend with. The initial cluster was confirmed in the United Kingdom in May 2022. Their first case appears to have been linked to an individual with travel links to Nigeria. We started paying closer attention to the outbreak after the South African Health Minister reported the first case in SA on June 23rd this year.

The day after South Africa's announcement, Dr. Kalumbi Shangula (Namibia's Minister of Health) reported that "Namibia has not recorded a case of monkeypox but is ready to identify cases, and has the capability to confirm monkeypox through laboratory diagnosis. The public should remain calm," To date, I've not heard or seen any news to the contrary.



### Further information:

- Monkeypox is a viral zoonotic disease (an infectious disease that is transmitted between species from animals to humans and vice versa) that occurs primarily in tropical rainforest areas of central and west Africa and is occasionally exported to other regions.
- Symptoms last from 2 to 4 weeks. Severe cases can occur. In recent times, the case fatality ratio has been around 3–6%.
- The clinical presentation of monkeypox resembles that of smallpox, a related orthopoxvirus infection which was declared eradicated worldwide in 1980. Monkeypox is less contagious than smallpox and causes less severe illness.
- Monkeypox typically presents clinically with fever, rash, and swollen lymph nodes and may lead to a range of medical complications. Scabs form when the skin lesions have dried, similar to chicken pox.
- The Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says monkeypox spreads in different ways. The virus can spread from person to person through direct contact with the infectious rash, scabs or body fluids; respiratory secretions during prolonged, face-to-face contact, or during intimate physical contact such as kissing, cuddling or sex; and touching items (such as clothing or linen) that previously touched the infectious rash or bodily fluids. It is also alleged that expectant mothers can spread the virus to their foetus through the placenta. The main feature of transmission of this disease is through close contact.

**Is there a cure?**

There is no cure for monkeypox, but some antiviral drugs may be effective in treating the disease. According to the WHO website an antiviral agent developed for the treatment of smallpox has also been licensed for the treatment of monkeypox.

Should you or a family member develop any of the above-mentioned symptoms, please see your doctor and inform the school should there be a positive outcome.

**A few reminders re Covid:**

It was wonderful to welcome our staff and students back to school with mask wearing now an optional precaution. We hope to avoid having to go back to 'the way things were before' and parents can help us by not sending sick (cold/flu symptoms) children to school, and informing me should anyone in the family be exposed to or develop Covid.

**Sharon Gorelick**



**WELCOME BACK PARENTS!  
COFFEE MORNING**

Date: 18 August 2022  
Time: 07:15 - 08:15  
Place: Eagle's Nest tuck shop!

*Please join us for a warm cup of coffee and a light snack to kick off the new academic year!*

**WE WILL ...**

- Meet the new sports and enrichment coach, **Mr. Jako Fourie**.
- There will be a **Q&A** regarding the activities and sign-ups!
- Let's brainstorm upcoming **WIS calendar events!**



WIS is home. The same but different.



**WINDHOEK HIGH SCHOOL  
PRESENTS**



# Annie

## The Musical

**18, 19 & 20 August 2022: 19:00**

**20 August 2022: 11:00**

**Windhoek High School Main Hall**

**Tickets: N\$100**

**Children under 13: N\$50**

**Tickets available @  
[www.webtickets.com.na](http://www.webtickets.com.na)  
& all Pick n Pay stores.**



# Mutt-Strutt



**MUTTS** and **PUREBREDS** alike are invited to our dog walk to celebrate our canine companions!

*The SPCA Windhoek is excited to participate in a national dog-walk day taking place with your SPCAs nationwide.*

## 3 September 2022

**TIME:** 1st sign-in from 07:30; 1st walk @ 08:00

2nd sign-in from 08:30; 2nd walk @ 09:00

**PLACE:** Eagles Restaurant | Avis Damm

**ENTRY FEE: N\$100**

### WALK REGISTRATION!

Opens **1 August** and closes **2 September** @17:30 at the SPCA Windhoek.

### PET-CENTRIC MARKET

Do you have some pet related products that you wish to sell?

*The pet-centric market will be open until 11h00!*

**VENDORS PRE-REGISTRATION:**  
N\$100/vendor fee



### THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:

First 60 registrants get a goodie bag sponsored by Hill's and Bravecto!



**ENS africa**



**BRAVECTO**



**Greenspace**



### DON'T HAVE A DOG?

Come anyway and walk one of the SPCA dogs  
(PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED)

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](mailto:info@spcawindhoek.org.na)