



# THE ORYX

*The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School*

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear WIS Community,

Within this week's edition of the Oryx Newsletter you will see evidence of how we as a school are pivoting towards an emphasis on making students the owners of their own learning. Here at WIS, we view education as more like lighting a fire, and less like filling up a bucket. Today's after school sports and enrichment activities signup fair is just one example of how we value student voice and choice when designing our holistic approach to education.

We will never be able to predict which enrichment experience or learning engagement will spark a new and lifelong passion for a student, so we encourage students to first explore widely - and then to dive deep. We believe that students learn best in an environment that is inclusive, supportive, and which challenges each student to be their very best.

Our approach to curriculum and assessment follows this same philosophy. Our unit plans and Assessment OF, FOR, and AS Learning methods are designed in a way that requires students to apply their learning to real life - and as the owner of their learning journey, to reflect on their Approaches to Learning. You will learn more about our approach to curriculum and assessment at the **Back-to-School Night on August 24 (5:30-7:30pm)**.

This educational philosophy is the primary reason why we are presently embarking on a curricular change from following an IGCSE approach to the International Baccalaureate's Middle Years Programme in Grades 6-10. As shared in the [February 2022 MYP Feasibility Study Presentation](#), we feel that the long-term best fit for our curriculum will be a continuum of learning which is inspired by Reggio Emilia in the Early Years, the IB's Primary Years Programme in Grades 1-5, the IB's Middle Years Programme in Grades 6-10, and the IB's Diploma Programme in Grades 11-12. We also have a High School Diploma in place for Grades 9-12, so students now have more flexibility in their course pathway - especially in Grades 11 and 12. The IB Diploma Programme remains the gold standard in terms of university placement worldwide, and the IB MYP eAssessment is increasingly recognised as equivalent to the IGCSE. Research has shown the MYP to be the best preparation for students' success in the IB Diploma. Our [MYP Authorization Process and Implementation Plan](#) is now underway, and we are equally committed to successfully offering the IGCSE for the current Grade 9 and Grade 10 cohorts so that they are also on track for a successful academic pathway here at WIS.

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

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### Dates to Remember 2022

- **24 August 2022**  
Back-to-school fair
- **26 August 2022**  
Heroes' Day - School closed
- **29 August 2022**  
Staff work Day
- **1 September 2022**  
Parent Coffee Morning
- **2 September 2022**  
SSC Spring Dance
- **3 September 2022**  
WIS Fun Walk/Run



The [WIS Aftercare Programme Flyer](#) is included below. If you are interested in this programme for your children in August then [sign up here](#) by Sunday August 21.

**Signups for September will take place by August 31st.**

Sincerely,  
Ethan Van Drunen

## PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Please mark the events below in your calendar and sign up for the conferences. We look forward to seeing you!

### Back-to-school night Wednesday 24th August

We are delighted to welcome you 'back-to-school' on Wednesday 24th of August. This is an opportunity to experience 'a day in the life' of your child at WIS.

Time	Session
17:30 - 18:45	<p><b>Homeroom Classrooms &amp; Specialist Classrooms Presentations will be at the following times:</b></p> <p><i>Parents will visit classrooms and meet teachers as a day in the life of your child. Start in the homeroom and then visit the specialist classrooms on rotation as you like. Specialist classes include Music, Choir, &amp; Movement; Physical Education; Portuguese/French; Art; and Library. If you have multiple children, then please plan to be in the homeroom for presentations which are set to occur at the following times:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 17:30 EY1/2, EY3, Grade 1</li> <li>• 17:50 Grade 2, Grade 3</li> <li>• 18:10 Grade 4, Grade 5</li> </ul>
18:45 - 19:15	Primary Conversation About Curriculum and the 2022-23 Academic Calendar
19:15 - 19:30	Refreshments in the atrium (fundraiser for student council)

### Primary School Schedule

We ask that your children stay at home for this event, as teachers will be busy presenting themselves as teams, talking about curriculum and answering questions. There will be plenty of opportunities for families to come to school together in the coming months.

### Learner Portrait of My Child Conferences August 30th and August 31st

- **30th August, 14:00 - 17:00 and 31st August 08:00 - 13:00.**

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 these days, as our Educational Assistants will be working with them. You will have received a set of questions from your Homeroom teacher beforehand that can be used as talking points.

Please sign up for these conferences using [this link](#).

Warm regards,  
 Marcelle van Leenen

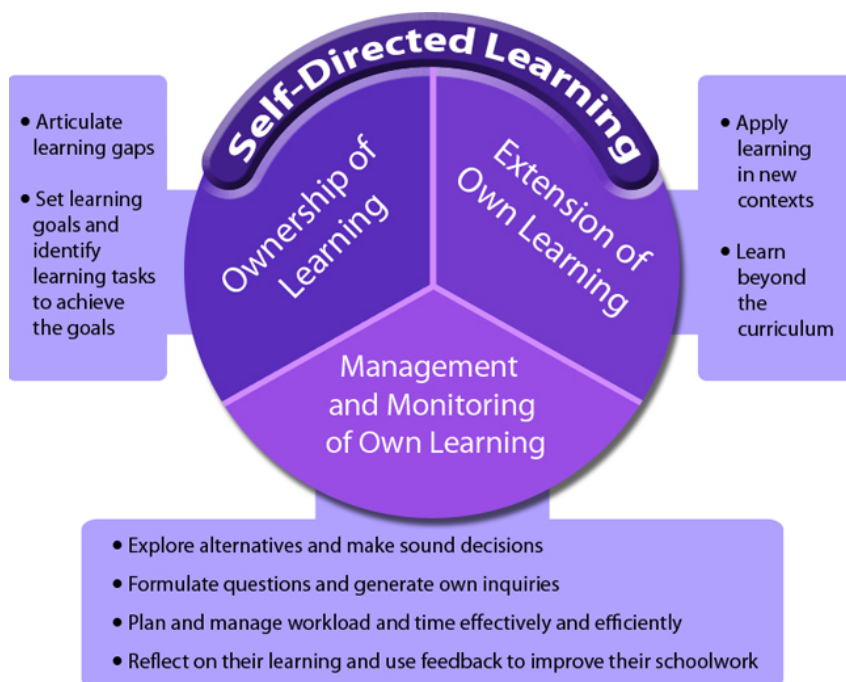


## SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

### Self directed and self determined learners - learn best!

This week we relaunched our SDL sessions that we will be doing on Fridays in the last session from 12:25 - 13:30. We had previously done SDLs, but when covid started, we had to discontinue with these. Many students as well as parents have, however, asked for us to reintroduce these sessions. I would think, because students as well as parents realise the value of these sessions for student learning.

Self-directed learning is a process where individuals take primary charge of planning, continuing and evaluating their learning experiences (Merriam et al., 2007). In self-directed learning, the responsibility to learn shifts from an external source (teacher, etc.) to the individual.



Source: *The ICT Connection* [<http://ictconnection.edumall.sa>]

The most important factor of SDL is that the responsibility for learning shifts away from the “teacher” to the learner. This requires planning, reflection, critical thinking, an open mind to learning, a growth mindset and most importantly a proactive approach to learning.

We are starting the process this week with students signing up for SDLs. The sign up process already requires the student to reflect, think and plan and have a good idea what type of academic immersion she/he intends to engage in. Do you want to work on something that you are finding challenging or do you want to extend yourself in something that you are strong at?

[HERE](#) is the presentation with all the information on SDLs that we did in our assembly today. A HUGE thank you to Ms. Heike for preparing this and the sign ups. We trust that all our students will make the best use of this opportunity to continue learning and to become self directed learners in other areas of their learning as well.

**Regards,  
Maggie Reiff**

## Spring kick-off!

With new students joining the school, what better way to start the academic year than with a spring kick-off! A chance to meet new peers and get to know others better, let’s celebrate this new year together.

The Senior Student Council welcomes you to a Spring kick off on **2nd September 2022** from 17:00 to 21:00 at the PLC area for Grades 9 - 12. There will be dancing, games, food, and so much more (you’ll just have to come and see).

Buy tickets through the student council representative in your homeroom class for only N\$50 an entry plus a free drink or N\$80 for entry, a free drink and a free hotdog.

We hope to see you there for a cozy evening.

**Senior Student Council**

**Car Security Stickers**  
**Please collect your 2022 - 2023**  
**windscreen sticker at the Office!**





**BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR**

**24 August @17:30 - 19:30**

The poster features a light yellow background with various school supplies icons scattered around, including pencils, erasers, sharpeners, a laptop, a pencil case, and notebooks. The text is centered in a bold, blue font.



**WIS FUN WALK/ RUN**

A fundraiser for WIS Sports activities

**JOIN US FOR A WIS FUN WALK/RUN!**

Date: Saturday, 3 September 2022  
Time: Starts at 08:00  
Place: WIS Soccer field

DOGS ON A LEASH WELCOME!

**N\$10**  
ENTRY FEE PER PERSON

The poster has a vibrant, abstract background with yellow, blue, red, and pink sections. It includes the WIS logo (Windhoek International School) in the top left, a circular image of a dog in the bottom left, and decorative sunburst icons. The main title 'WIS FUN WALK/ RUN' is in large, bold, multi-colored letters.



**THE WIS SECONDARY STUDENT COUNCIL  
PRESENTS...**

# Spring

## KICK OFF!!!

**LET'S SPRING TO THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR WITH THIS SPRING  
KICK OFF!!**

**A time for the upper secondary to get to know one another,  
celebrate this new start, and have fun!**

*DATE: Friday 2 September 2022*

*TIME: 5pm-9pm*

*DRESSCODE: Spring Casual*

*GRADES: 9-12*

**BUY TICKETS IN YOUR HOMEROOM CLASS!**

**VENUE: THE PLC**

**TICKET PRICES: N\$80 for entry, + a free hot dog and drink  
or**

**N\$50 for entry + one free drink**

*(food will be sold at the venue as well)*

*dance, play games, eat snacks and have a good time!*

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL THERE  
P.S BRING A SWEATER IT STILL GETS COLD WHEN  
IT GETS DARK...**

SCULPTURE BY  
ANNABELLE VENTER

EXHIBITION OPENING AT THE  
**NATIONAL ART GALLERY OF NAMIBIA**  
18 AUGUST 2022 18H00

# CERAMICS

NATIONAL ■

## BIENNALE



**JUDGES**

ANTHONY SHAPIRO  
HERCULES VILJOEN

**SHOW RUNS**

18 AUGUST 2022 -  
16 SEPTEMBER 2022

**GALLERY TIMES**

MON: 14H00 - 17H00  
TUE-FRI: 08H00 - 17H00  
SAT: 09H00 - 14H00

**INQUIRIES**

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**ADDRESS**

CNR. JOHN MEINERT & ROBERT MUGABE AVE. WHK

