



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

Contents

- From the Director p1
- Primary News p1 - 4
- Secondary News p5 - 8
- Other News p9 - 12



Dates to Remember

May

- **1-6:** School Closed
- **25:** Africa Day - Public Holiday
- **27:** IBDP Dinner

FROM THE DIRECTOR

One of the important jobs that schools must do is to show children where the boundaries are. They must learn what behaviour is acceptable and what is not.

We prefer to do this by praising and encouraging behaviour that is considerate, responsible and sensible. But there are also times when we need to point out when children's actions are foolish, hurtful or even dangerous.

And throughout it all we must and we do underline the essential reality that actions have consequences.

The school can do its bit but it is critical that children get the same message at home. That is why we are explicit about our values and expectations. Parents who enrol their children at WIS are not so much 'customers' as 'partners' and the relationship is most successful when parents actively endorse the inclusive and internationalist philosophy of the school.

Thank you for doing so!

With best wishes

Peter MacKenzie

Children whose fees have not been settled in full for the 2015-2016 school year will not be permitted to re-enrol until all outstanding amounts have been cleared.

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

One of the many things I enjoy about greeting children and parents each morning is observing the growth of children's independence. At the beginning of the year many children are accompanied to class by their parents, grandparents, caregivers, etc. and the adults are often carrying the children's school bags and belongings. There comes a point in the year when children begin to want to carry their own school bags. While this becomes a lighter load for the adult, it can take a little longer (and perhaps be a little more frustrating) in getting the children to class in a timely manner.

The next phase in independence seems to be for children to indicate that they don't need to be accompanied to class. "I can go on my own." "You don't need to follow me." "Go." I can imagine that these are difficult statements for parents to hear. Thoughts of "My child doesn't need me," or "Will my child get to class okay?" may go through one's mind. Yet from an educator's point of



Teacher Feature

Sharon Gorelick: School Nurse & Counsellor

My name is Sharon Gorelick. I joined the WIS family as a parent in January 1996 when the first of my three children started at WIS. In August 1999 I joined the staff as the school's first full time nurse.

Two years later the role of counsellor was added to my responsibilities. My son and two daughters attended WIS from a very young age and completed the IB programme here.

Currently my eldest (son) lives and works in New York while my youngest daughter is furthering her studies in Vancouver, Canada.

Because the most common type of cancer in Namibia is skin cancer, one of my first tasks at the school was to put in place safe sun practice for our staff and young students. With the support of the teachers I am proud to say that since February 2000 all our primary students wear hats when they are outdoors and are aware of the dangers of sunburn in Namibia's hot sun.

Continues on page 3

view it's exciting to observe. Children can do far more than we often expect or allow them to do.

As I walk through the campus or pop into classrooms I observe independence in other ways. Children show confidence and independence in getting from one class to another, bringing messages to the office, or going to the Tuck Shop. They know the routines of the classroom, where to get materials, work independently on projects and how to navigate on an iPad. You might be surprised to know, as I was, that in art class children as young as Year 1 have used an iron (with supervision). The Year 6 classes are well into the PYP Exhibition. The Year 6 classes are well into the PYP Exhibition.

They are showing their independence in the research they are doing, keeping appointments with mentors, scheduling interviews and meeting deadlines. If parents could be a fly on the wall of their children's classrooms, there would be amazement at just how independent their children can be.

Why should independence be encourage and supported? Children are making sense of their world. Each age is a transition to becoming more independent. Encouraging children with independence helps to develop their self-confidence and also to make sense of and navigate the world around them.

What are some ways that parents can encourage independence at school and home? Allow your child to carry his/her own school bag, unpack it at school and put away belongings. Be supportive of homework but remember that the homework and projects are your child's tasks to do. (The teachers want to see what the child can do, not what the parents can do on a task.) Give your child responsibilities at home, such as preparing snacks and lunch for school, packing his/her own school bag the night before going to school, making his/her bed, folding and putting away laundered clothes, etc.

Letting go is probably the hardest part for parents and caregivers. Nevertheless, when parents do let go and allow their children to do more, one will be amazed by what children can do and accomplish.

Kind regards,
Beth Smith

Field trip to the FNCC

Bonjour à tous!

On Thursday 21st of April all the Year 2 French learners went the Franco Namibian Cultural Centre (FNCC) enjoy a storytelling in French and a had a small breakfast in "La Bonne Table Restaurant". The field trip was part of our Unit of Inquiry How We Express Ourselves. While we were there, we met Nicolas, the FNCC Librarian, we greeted him in French, we introduced ourselves and we were very enthusiastic to practice the words that we have learned during this year.

Teacher Feature continued

It might no longer be the case, but for many years WIS was the only school that insisted on all primary students wearing hats when leaving the classroom.

I was born in South Africa and grew up on a sheep farm in the Karoo. Undoubtedly this is why I felt so at home in the climate and wide open spaces when I moved to Namibia where I have lived for nearly 40 years.

My husband was born here and so were our children. I studied nursing and midwifery at Groote Schuur, Red Cross Children’s Hospital and Mowbray Maternity Hospital in Cape Town before moving to Namibia to work first at the Windhoek Central Hospital and later at the Roman Catholic Hospital.

For many years I taught ante natal classes to new parents and am proud to have been a founder member of the Breastfeeding Association of Namibia. In this capacity I was part of the Ministry of Health’s Mother & Baby-friendly hospitals team, a global initiative that encouraged mothers and hospital staff to embrace breastfeeding through correct hospital practices.

I travelled to many parts of the country training breastfeeding counsellors and assessing hospitals regarding changes that were required for them to meet the criteria. I have worked as a volunteer counsellor at LifeLine/Childline for 12 years and have been a member of their Board for most of that time.

Continues on page 4



We all enjoyed to taste the delicious croissants and pains au chocolat (our favourite moment of the field trip!) and did not leave one crumb!



The Year 2 & Madame Laetitia.

YEAR 2 - WATER SAVING!



Teacher Feature continued

Recognizing the need and benefits of students being able to offer emotional support to their peers, I began the WIS Peer Counselling training programme in 2010 with students in Year 10 who volunteer to do this.

The current group of trainees will be the 7th group of WIS Peer Counsellors to have participated in the training. I am very proud of these students and the kindness and care they offer their peers.

Reading and listening to and playing music are my passions. I also love rocks and stones which I collect for their shapes, colours, textures and size. I enjoy displaying these rocks and turning them into ever changing installations in my garden and house. My dogs keep me sane.

I have lived through many changes at WIS in the years that I have been a parent and staff member. In my job, my days are unpredictable and no two days are alike. Quite honestly, I think I have the best job in the world.



BLOOD DONATION

Do you fancy a date with free cool drinks and biscuits? Then try his 'n' hers blood donating at The Grove Mall! There's a critical shortage in Namibia, so go on, give it a go!
 Jan le Roux -
 2B Homeroom Teacher

BOOK WEEK 2016



Fairy Tale Book Week 2016 went by 'like a dream'. The students went on many adventures like hearing stories in different languages, field trips, watching musicals and plays performed by Middle School, writing and reading poems and stories, inter-exchanging activities between different year levels, collecting books for the Okonjima Country School and of course the dressing up for the fabulous book parade!

Look through the WIS Primary Blogs and check out our students' creative electronic books on Pinterest at [Click Here](#)
 A BIG thank you to ALL involved - WIS staff, students and community - for making this week special! Events Committee



"If there's a book that you want to read, but it hasn't been written yet, then you must write it." — Toni Morrison
Junelle Stroh

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

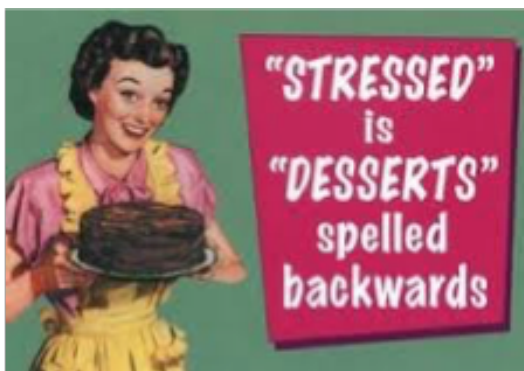
In times where there are many tests and assessments due



We are heading towards the end of the year and reports are coming up at the end of May. At the end of each term there is normally a series of tests (summative assessment) that is the biggest factor in determining the end of semester grade in Secondary School. However, grades are not just comprising of summative assessment. During the semester a lot of formative assessment tasks are given to determine a student's progress in a specific area or on a specific topic. These also contribute to the semester grade.

At the end of May students will receive a report with detailed comments in their different subjects to advise on their progress and on areas that need special attention in preparation of the final examination that will be taking place at the beginning of June. The examination will then be an assessment of the work done through the year and the grade is based on the examination only. At the end of the year, students will receive a transcript that will indicate their first semester, second semester and examination grade.

There is an advantage to having test series and writing exams. It places students in a situation that is similar to the exam period in IGCSE and the IBDP and prepares them to handle the stress they experience when writing final exams.



In these times it is important that there is support from home and that children get the guidance at home and in school on how to manage this stressful situation - manage their study time, manage their diet ([Click here](#)), manage a balanced lifestyle. It is important as well that children continue with extra-curricular activities to take away from the academic stress and give a balance to their daily routine. It is, however, crucial that there is supervision and guidance at home with regards to eating and resting habits and some guidance on studying and managing time wisely.

[Click Here](#)

Kind regards,
Maggie Reiff

THE MOON

By Ndaa - Yr. 9B

White radiate celestial body
Surrounded by stars that brighten everybody
To go away in the day
Some just wish you would stay

She controls the tide waves
Wolf howl at her beauty
The sun bows down and stares
Illuminating you through and through

They say you have a dark side?
That controls the wind and tide
Some may want to hide
But i do not fear beauty
Thus I am not afraid of thy

For you are the apple of my eye
So beautiful I might cry
Then the sun steals you away
I just hope you will come back some day

Annual Football Tournament



It is Sunday, 13:25, the Namibian sun is scorching, twenty two bodies jog onto a field. Their breathing is rapid, they are nervous. They get into their positions and wait for the whistle, this is where it all begins and ends.

You must be asking yourself what are they doing there? What is going on?

Let us rewind to 48 hours earlier:

Many teams of soccer players meet at the Sport Klub Windhoek for the annual soccer tournament. Teams from Windhoek, Swakopmund and Otjiwarongo gather on the fields. Players as young as under 7 all the way up to under 17.

The goal is common, to take home the cup for their age level.



The Under 15 team met at 15:00 at SKW, their home ground. The coaches prepare their players, all the weeks of training had led to this, now to put into practice what had been ingrained at the training sessions. They were victorious! They won both their games on Friday evening. The players needed to meet up Saturday at 7 am. They found an obstacle when they encountered the team from Swakopmund (SFC), they lost 1-0. The following game made up for it and they succeeded in winning the following two matches.

The players left the field at 20:00 on Saturday evening, they had a long day, even though they managed to secure a place at the semi finals.

Early Sunday morning, the players met for their "make it or break it" match against Otjiwarongo Football Club (OFC). A single goal earned them a spot in the final.



We are back where we started: on the field, waiting for the whistle to blow. One set of eleven bodies make up the SKW Under 15 A team, the other set of eleven bodies is Swallows Soccer Club.

The whistle blows, the coaches are shouting instructions onto the field. The game is fast paced. The nerves are high, the parents are chanting and shouting.

The first goal happens, it is for SKW! Just before the halftime whistle another goal for SKW. We are leading 2-0. The second half starts and the Swallows breathes new life into their players, the 2-1 happens soon.

The parents cannot contain themselves. The anticipation for the end of the match makes times go by very slowly. Swallows rapidly move into the goal post and the one player shoots the ball into the SKW goals, luckily our super goalkeeper and the goal post saved that goal.

A few minutes later, the final whistle is blown. One of our coaches falls to the ground!

We have won GOLD!!!

A huge congratulations to the super coach Ville Kivimaki and the players Kyle Webb, Nicolas Kivimaki, Alexander McNab and Diogo Ferreira.

The pressure is on for the next tournaments.

A big fan and proud mom - Jeanne Vieira

Year 11 Trip to Daan Viljoen

On 21st April the Year 10 students produced a wonderful assembly to say farewell to the Year 11 group. They had finished their lessons and were about to embark on their study leave.

Since many Year 11 students won't be joining us in Year 12, due to reasons such as leaving Namibia, it has become customary to have a last day outing where the whole group can hang out and chill together.



This year was no exception. On 22nd April we headed off to Daan Viljoen for the day.

As soon as we arrived the students showed just what a well organised group they are - they immediately opened and set up the Volleyball net they had organised to bring themselves and they played together. Then they swam together. Then they ate together, they danced together and they had fun together!

They behaved impeccably and enjoyed themselves - a true credit to the school! It was a pleasure to spend time with them that day and I wish them all success in their upcoming IGCSE examinations!

Lian Cohen

WIS Winter Charity Drive

The Primary and Secondary student councils have decided to organise a Winter Charity Drive! With the cold season around the corner, we have decided to donate to a Soup Kitchen in Katutura, who can distribute to people in need in the Katutura area. They feed nutritious meals to around 350 children, from ages 3-12, everyday.

We have recently contacted the founder, Hanah Alexander with regards to the needs in the community. We are asking the WIS community to help.

There is a need for these children to have:

- Socks
- Blankets
- Warm clothing
- Toys
- Books
- Adult clothing is also okay, so we can donate to the Parents and Guardians of the children.



*Please do not donate anything broken because these children are just like us, they're just less fortunate. Anything in good condition or anything new is allowed.

We will be collecting donations during the month of May, and the donations will be given to the Soup Kitchen during the first week of June. There will be a donation box in Room 49 (by learning support). Please help us give to the less fortunate, because your donation counts.

Ndemi Mayumbelo Yr7 (Student Council representative)

Yearbook Fundraising Update



Dear WIS Community,

Herewith an update on the fundraising for the yearbook:

Since my email to the community this past Monday I have had ~30 pages sponsored - WOW ! - and some more promised.

Thank you all for the quick response!

The yearbook has 200+ pages and as you know from the letter (which is also available on the D6) we are looking for as many pages as possible to be sponsored so that each family can have a quality book standing in their shelves waiting to be pulled out many-a-time.

All sponsorship has to be paid by Friday 7th of May since the design is due for the printers latest on Monday 9th of May. Thank you for understanding.

Here is a short overview of the contents of the yearbook to give you an idea of what page/s you could sponsor:

- Introduction: Messages from Director/Business Manager/Board of Trustees and PTA
- History: Visual Timeline/Messages from former Leadership/Staff and Alumni/In Memoriam
- Current:
- Primary School: Messages from Principal/PYP Coordinator/Student Council/Class Pages/Specialists pages
- Secondary School: Messages from Principal/Coordinators/Student Council/Class Pages/Specialists pages
- Whole school: Learning support/Health room/Outdoor education/After School Activities/Events

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly at hruibert@wis.edu.na if you have any further questions concerning this.

My gratitude to those who have already replied and looking forward to being contacted by many more of you,

Heike Rubbert



SPCA BLANKET DRIVE

WINTER IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER AND WE ARE IN SERIOUS NEED OF BLANKETS!

We really appreciate every blanket or towel we get; they get used to keep our furry orphans warm and comfortable!

PLEASE HELP US BY SPONSORING ANY BLANKETS OR TOWELS YOU CAN, OLD OR NEW!

They should just be in a good condition!

We invite all schools & business to see who can sponsor us the most! #gameon





The Circus is coming to Town!

ROLL UP! ROLL UP!

COME ONE! COME ALL!

Thursday, 16 June 2016
10:00
Windhoek International School
More details to follow soon!


U.S. Mission Community YARD SALE

SATURDAY, APRIL 30th
2 BASSINGTHWAIGHTE
9:00AM—1:00PM
Sellers may set-up as early as 8am
N\$100 per table
Please RSVP to Michelle Brown (CLO) Friday, April 22nd if you wish to sell or attend
081 124 1979 or brownmg2@state.gov

*City of
many faces*

City of Windhoek

Vision: To enhance the quality of life of all our people



ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

- Watering of lawns, flowers, vegetables, etc. is strictly prohibited
- No washing of cars (at home) other than utilising certified car washes
- Pool covers are mandatory and no filling of private pools are allowed
- No water features, fountains, ponds, etc. are to be operated or filled

Residents are expected to familiarise themselves with the full extent of the CoW Drought Response Plan, in particular restrictions applicable to the current Water Crisis. Perpetrators risk suspension of supply and a penalty of N\$ 2000.00

Enquiries:
Department of Infrastructure, Water & Technical Services
Technician: Water Demand Management
Dieter Tolke
Tel: +264 61 290 2014
Fax: +264 61 290 2114
Email: Dieter.Tolke@windhoekcc.org.na