



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Community,

This has been another eventful week at WIS! From summative assessments and learning celebrations to a Science Fair and the completion of the IGCSE and DP mock examinations, our focus on academic excellence at WIS has been easy to see. Equally present is our school's commitment to a well-rounded and international education: many WIS students had the opportunity meet and hear the First Lady of the United States this week, many are excited to participate in tomorrow's [WIS Fishing Bonanza](#) set to take place at Monte Christo, our high school students have planned a social and dance to be co-hosted by WIS and DHPS, preparations for March 11 International Day are underway, and most of our students are now actively involved in our regularly scheduled After School Activities and Sports Programme.

With so many worthy activities and important personal goals, there is always a push to do more and to do it quickly. It is difficult to avoid the trap of trying to do too many things at once - of doing many things that feel necessary but not strategic; that are productive but may not be meaningful.

We need to ask ourselves: What matters most? How will our values and guiding principles inform our actions? What are the few strategic goals we want to set for ourselves? What is the timeline for these goals?

To help us answer this question, after many rounds of feedback on March 1st the WIS Board will consider our [WIS Principles document](#) for formal approval. You are welcome to make comments on this document or email any suggested changes to me.

In February of 2022, the WIS Board and SLT had set the following school-wide goals with the acronym S-O-A-R (a WIS education is Student-Centred, Open-Minded, Action-Orientated with Academic Excellence, and Reflective and Responsible). So how did we do? What follows is a summary of the [goals](#) we had set for ourselves in the 2022 calendar year:

I) Student-Centred

1. Implement a system of professional growth and appraisal for teachers and staff
2. Improve playgrounds
3. Remodel the Middle School Science Classroom so that it is a purpose-built Science Lab for student-led scientific inquiry.
4. Improve the safety and security of the WIS campus.

Status: With significant support from the US Office of Overseas Schools for the completion of the security fence, all of these goals will have been very well achieved by the end of March 2023. We can of course still do some more to improve our playgrounds and sports facilities.

PARENT INFORMATION PORTAL
Click here for more information

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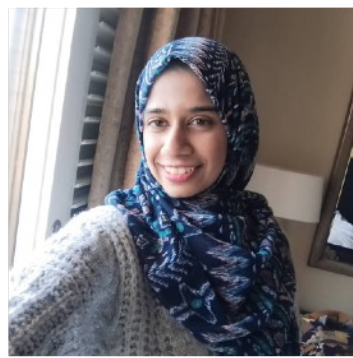
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Dates to Remember 2023

- **2 - 28 February**
[Black History Month](#)
- **25 February**
WIS Fish Eagle Fishing Bonanza
- **27 February - 3 March**
Book Week
- **1 March**
IBDP Parent Coffee Morning
- **1 March**
BoD meeting
- **2 March**
Dr. Seuss Day



NEW STAFF 2023 - 2024

**Nazeema Rattansi - Sciences**

We are delighted to share that Nazeema Rattansi will join WIS in August 2023. A specialist in Biology and Integrated Sciences, Nazeema has university degrees in both Science and Education and eight years of experience teaching sciences at international schools offering International Baccalaureate, IGCSE and American curricula. She has taught both in her home country of Tanzania and overseas in Turkey, Oman and Egypt. Nazeema has a passion for teaching secondary students from MYP integrated sciences to DP Biology, as well as the DP's Theory of Knowledge course (TOK). She has a great interest for inter-disciplinary learning, and looks for ways to merge skills from across various disciplines. Nazeema has shared that her approach to teaching is to expose students to real-life scenarios and authentic learning experiences, guiding them to use both creativity and the scientific method to problem-solve and find out-of-the-box solutions. She believes that service learning is of integral importance to becoming responsible citizens of the world. Nazeema and her husband love exploring new places and cultures. They are currently in Egypt and are excited to explore Southern Africa.

**II. Open-Minded**

1. Approve and begin implementing a IBE Policy and IBE [Action Plan](#) (Appx. 1)
2. Plan and implement a calendar of events for the 2022-23 school year which celebrates our community's diversity as a significant source of learning at WIS.
3. Establish parent committees which support student learning in the form of classroom representatives, school advancement, teacher support, and International Day.

Status: The Identity, Belonging, and Equity Policy is in place and we will have Alkimia deliver a 3-day workshop at WIS at the end of April. Led by the Library Committee and others, we have a good lineup of events happening this year. Parent volunteer and staff wellness opportunities will continue to be a goal in 2023.

III. Action-Oriented Academic Excellence

1. Increase and improve opportunities for creative expression, sports, and after school activities at WIS, especially including Netball, Soccer, Basketball, Athletics, Choir, Visual Arts, and Drama.
2. Secure and implement a grant for WIS EdCamp, a private-public school partnership initiative funded by DFID and evidence of WIS's commitment to the development of Namibia's teaching workforce.
3. Reduce our community's carbon footprint by installing solar panels on our campus.

Status: These three goals are well achieved. We have additionally established a Memorandum of Understanding with UNAM which fulfils UNAM's teacher training pipeline requirements and WIS's understudy and work visa requirements.

IV. Reflective and Responsible

1. Conduct studies to determine whether WIS should introduce the International Baccalaureate's Middle Years Programme (MYP) and Career-related Programme curricular frameworks; establish the policies and procedures required to confer the WIS United States High School Diploma.
2. Review what if any timetable and org chart changes would maximise efficiencies and improve student learning;
3. Promote the IB Learner Profile as a common code of conduct for all members of the WIS community.
4. Conduct an audit of Professional Responsibilities undertaken, and update the Staff Working Agreement to reflect school priorities, values, and suitable remuneration. Improve and update the school's online presence and curriculum guides to attract international families considering Windhoek as an option.

Status: We have taken the decision to adopt the MYP and we are still considering the IBCP. A new org chart is in development with the goal to identify gaps and maximise efficiencies. We will revert from a bi-weekly to weekly timetable in 2023-24. Communication has become more standardised and will continue to be a priority in 2023.

What should be the school's priorities in 2023?

I would appreciate hearing from you! If you have not yet completed the annual parent community survey, then please consider doing this [linked here](#). The board, leadership team, teachers, and staff are interested in what you think about our school.

Your contributions will help us to identify the strengths of the school and areas for improvement. The survey will take approximately 7-11 minutes to complete. We hope you can spare some time to help the school in its desire to improve. Please make comments in the document or email me if you have any ideas for how to modify or change our [SOAR Schoolwide Goals for 2023](#).

**Gone fishin',
Ethan Van Drunen**

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Dear WIS Community,

Thanks to all the Grade 5 parents for attending today's coffee morning. I hope all your questions concerning the camp and its role as a launch to the Exhibition have been answered. Students and teachers are super excited and I am sure this will be a memorable few days for our Grade 5 learners, in which they delve deeper into what it is to be a life-long learner, discovering their passions, their strengths and their ability to work in a team.

The camp is an important part of the Grade 5 PYP Exhibition which is a hallmark of the PYP, and it is an opportunity for students to demonstrate the application of the IB Mission Statement

"...to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world.."

Although this is a uniquely personal journey for students, we welcome parent involvement. We have created this guide for the community, so please feel free to go through [this guide](#) with your children. Also if they are not in Grade 5, all PYP students know this is coming up and it is not too soon to start talking about this event with your child.

One of the most important aspects of any unit of inquiry, but especially the Exhibition is **taking action**. Student action is about young people making positive changes (big or small) as a result of their learning. Action can be demonstrated through **participation, advocacy, social justice, social entrepreneurship** and **lifestyle choices**.

WIS IB PYP Exhibition A Guide for Parents



WIS Mission Statement
To develop the full potential of each student in a stimulating environment of academic excellence, cultural diversity, and active social responsibility to become interdependently-minded independent thinkers.



Across the school we have many action projects, such as gardens to combat erosion, support for the SPCA, entrepreneurial projects to support charity organisations, garden improvement projects and the buddy bench programme. I am looking forward to the action that comes out of the Exhibition this year and the impact, however big or small, students will make.

**Warm regards,
Marcelle van Leenen**

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

When is the right time to start planning for our futures?

Is it ever too early?

In the coming months, we have several opportunities where our students and parents can experience first hand study and learning opportunities post school through different events.

What can we do along the way to prepare our children to have the necessary interest, skills and exposure to future opportunities?

When is the right time to expose our children to events and opportunities to spark their interest and nurture their passion?

There is no right time. It is important to guide our young people right through their lives to become responsible, respectful and considerate citizens of their communities as well as the planet and to learn to build a passion for things that matter in their lives.

In a TED talk by Angela Lee Duckworth, that I would like to share [HERE](#), she speaks about the “Power of Passion and Perseverance” and concludes that it is NOT Emotional Intelligence or IQ that determines success in young people, but rather GRIT.

‘Doing well in school and in life depends on much more than your ability to learn quickly and easily. GRIT is passion and perseverance for very long term goals. GRIT is having stamina. GRIT is sticking with your future - day in and day out - not just for the week, not just for the month, but for years. And working really hard to make that future a reality. GRIT is living life like it’s a marathon, not a sprint.’ ... Grittier kids are significantly more likely to be successful and graduate even if their socioeconomic status, their family situation, or their educational exposure is not perfect and necessarily easy.

How do we build grit in kids?

Talent does not make you gritty. According to Duckworth, grit is unrelated or even inversely related to talent. We can develop grit in kids through a growth mindset - the belief that the ability to learn is not fixed, that it can change with your effort. With a growth mindset, we persevere when we fail, because we don’t believe that failure is a permanent condition.

‘We need more! We need to examine ourselves, our ideas. We have to be willing to fail, to be wrong, to start over again and with lessons learnt. We need to be gritty about getting our kids grittier.’

So there is no set time to start planning for the future. There are resources for us to use and support is available to guide and give our kids the skills, but in the end, with perseverance and passion, they will succeed and keep on growing.



About Angela Duckworth

Angela Duckworth is co-founder, chief scientist, and a board member of Character Lab, a nonprofit whose mission is to advance scientific insights that help children thrive. She is also a professor of psychology at the University of Pennsylvania and in 2013 was named a MacArthur Fellow. Prior to her career in research, she was a math and science teacher at public schools in New York City, San Francisco, and Philadelphia.

What we as parents can do for them is support them in their growth, but don't take away opportunities for them to fail, fall and learn; don't take away opportunities for them to persevere and help them find their passions.

In the coming months there are some great opportunities for our students to explore different options available post-secondary school!

- 2 March - Eduvos: Want to know about Growth Mindset - webinar - [register HERE](#).
- 21 March - CIS University Exploration Day Africa - [sign up HERE](#)
- 3 April - WREN Tours - Southern Africa Spring Tour
- 20 & 21 April - Vocational Training Fair for students interested in doing vocational training in Germany



Regards,
Maggie Reiff

CIS University Exploration Day Africa

in collaboration with:

Tuesday
21 March 2023

12:00 - 15:00 CAT
11:00 - 14:00 WAT
13:00 - 16:00 EAT

Meet college and university representatives from all over the world at this FREE virtual event!

Plus... join sessions on:

- Financial considerations for university
- Beyond academics
- Student panel - hear from your peers!

Register and see the full list of universities attending:
<https://cis.swoogo.com/africa2023>

WIS Inter-House Athletics

On behalf of Physical Health Education Department

Inclusive celebratory inter-house sporting events have been a regular feature of our collective approach to sport over recent years. Watching students put into action the abilities they have in addition to skills they have learned in the Physical Health Education classes into competitive and practical situations has proved an encouraging aspect of the growth of sport at WIS.

Many professionals involved in sport would argue that a solid athletics programme forms the foundation of a successful Physical Health Education programme. The WIS Physical Health Education department is no exception.

We are sincerely grateful to the staff at Wanders for hosting our recent athletics meet in addition to the overwhelming supportive, encouraging words and actions from our WIS community.

This event saw the culmination of the student's hard work in both their Physical Health Education lessons in addition to the early morning and after-school training sessions, which some students have diligently engaged in.

Our event was wonderfully well supported with talented and enthusiastic runners, jumpers and throwers from Grades 1 - 9.

It was great to see classy and conditioned athletes throwing down impressive times, heights and distances in addition to students giving their best effort at their first athletics meeting. Hopefully the first of many.

The fourth-coming Khomas Zone A athletics meet will be an exciting opportunity for the top two placed athletes in each age group to compete with the best athletes in the region at the Independence Stadium.

On behalf of the PHE department we are sincerely grateful to all members of the WIS community's valuable contributions have been both gratefully received and have not gone unnoticed.

And finally to the students who all performed magnificently.

Physical Health Education Team

Grade 7 camp

Last week the Grade 7s and four of their teachers went on a three day camp to the Cheetah Conservation Fund. Due to COVID, this was the first overnight camp the students had the opportunity to experience together.



The first challenge was to set up tents without parents onsite to help; this was quickly achieved. Afterwards we had a tour of the facility and our first glimpse of cheetahs before going on a short hike to Leopard Hill which offered us some beautiful views of the surrounding land and Waterberg Plateau. On Friday, the day was packed with activities. We learned how farmers can manage their farms to reduce predator attacks on their livestock and, using life sized goats, how to identify which predator killed the goat.

We were introduced to the Anatolian shepherd dogs, who guard the goat and sheep herds, and some specially trained dogs who identify cheetah scat which is used for genetic monitoring of wild cheetahs.

Finally, we were able to appreciate the cheetahs up close when they were being fed. There was also time for team building and games. We returned to WIS tired but appreciative of the time together.



Here are reflections from some of the students:

Tomas

I enjoyed the model farms, the hikes and the genetics. I learned about cheetahs' history, about their genetics and how they trained the scat detector dogs. I also liked how we got to know each other and see the cheetahs run to their food. I also learnt how to identify what predator/animal killed my goat (activity) and cheetahs' characteristics. I also liked roasting marshmallows by the campfire and listening to scary stories. I also liked sleeping in a tent with my classmates and the food. I learned about the Anatolian Shepherd and how they were also used thousands of years ago as guard dogs. I also really enjoyed stargazing.

Semon

I enjoyed the experience of living without my parents, and I had lots of fun with my peers and teachers. I also enjoyed learning about cheetahs and different animals; And how cheetahs are getting more and more endangered. We also learned how they have little genetic diversity, and how it is negatively affecting them. We had loads of fun going on hikes, seeing how we interact with each other, setting up our tents, and just having fun in general. During nighttime, we had marshmallows and told scary stories. I feel like the cheetah feeding and the campfires are the highlights of the camp. I hope that in grade 8, we can do another camp, and have even more fun.

Kacey

I enjoyed the ability to bond with the whole grade and being able to come together. I was able to have fun with friends, whether I knew them before or not. I also had the privilege to learn about cheetahs that are endangered. Learning how we can save such an amazing animal is a privilege and it's something I think everyone should work towards. I also got to learn skills such as, setting up a tent, socialising with everyone, being equal, taking turns. My favourite part of it all was doing people's hair and makeup, in my opinion it brought everyone together and it was truly a bonding experience. If I had the chance to do this trip again I would jump at the chance.

Tyrese

I loved the fact we had our own independence away from our parents, I also loved spending time with friends and people I usually don't talk to at school as we as a class got to get a better connection/bond with each other outside of school, I loved learning new things like how the cheetahs are endangered and ways we can save them, getting to learn which predator killed your livestock so that we don't kill the wrong animal. I loved getting to know people even if they weren't my friends before and getting to have a better connection that's not from school. This was a great experience to be together because at the end of the day, grade 7 is a second family and family should be there for each other. Great time and nice bonding experience.

Jaden

I loved spending two nights in a tent without my parents. It was awesome. The cheetah feeding was great and funny. Some cheetahs ate it out of the bowl, some were eating it very fast. The dog that was protecting the goats was awesome. The museum was super big and I loved the video where the CCF protects and watches the cheetahs. I loved the experience of the campfire. I would love to go there again.

Rigby

This trip was definitely worth the drive. It was very fascinating to learn about cheetahs in depth. My favourite part was seeing the puppies. Even though we didn't get to pet them. Spending some time with my classmates really let me get to know them better. I hope grade seven can spread awareness about cheetah conservation.

Zac

I enjoyed the whole trip but I mostly had fun playing with friends away from school and getting away from our parents. I also really enjoyed the cheetah feeding as well.

Sarthak

I liked how I got to spend more time with my friends and play. I also enjoyed looking at the animals and getting to touch them. When there were 8 cheetahs sent to India, I was at the airport and I got to see them through the hole in the box. I was wondering about the process of sending cheetahs, while I was at the airport. I got to ask them about the process! I loved this trip.

Suhaimi

I liked how we got the opportunity to get together and sleep in the same tent and tell campfire stories. I also liked how we got to learn about how dogs smell animal faeces to tell which animal was there.

Phalana

I've always wondered what it would be like if we had a sleepover at school and we basically had the opportunity to do that at camp. I really enjoyed camp because we had the opportunity to bond, socialise, laugh and play games with our friends and people that we don't normally connect with at school. I also enjoyed seeing and learning about cheetahs, how we affect wildlife and how to prevent human wildlife conflict. This camp was extra special for us especially because we waited about two years to have one (due to the pandemic). It was definitely a fun and memorable experience.

Tyrone


One thing I really enjoyed about the camp was the cheetah feeding. We got some facts and information about how cheetahs also eat really fast to avoid their food being stolen or avoid getting eaten from the behind, maybe in the front. The second thing I enjoyed was the Who Killed My Goat activity, because we got to work as a team to see which animal killed the Goat based on where and how it bites or scratches.

Mea

I really enjoyed the field trip. Especially when my group had dish duty. We started a soap fight and it was so funny. I also made a lot of friends.



Free Entrance




Please register

The First Image of a Black Hole
Public Talk by Heino Falcke
24 February 2023 at 18h30
 Venue: Windhoek Afrikaanse Privaatskool,
 5 Drakensberg Street, Windhoek



Namibia Scientific Society

e-mail: info@namscience.com • Tel. 061-225372 • www.namscience.com/event/heino-falcke



QUIZ
Night

Cash Bar available!

Put your knowledge to the test!

Join us for a fun night of trivia @ the Old Wheelers Club in Windhoek.
Sign up your team and support the animals at the SPCA!

WHEN AND WHERE?
DATE: Thursday, 16 March 2023
TIME: 19:00-21:00 (Sign-in starts at 18:30)
PLACE: Old Wheelers Club, Windhoek

The evening includes:
Lots of fun and laughter! | Secret prizes for the winners

You're in? This is how we do it: N\$900 for a team of 4, or N\$250 per person.
Email events@spcawindhoek.org.na or swing by the SPCA to sign up!

Supported by : The Old Wheelers Club Windhoek and FNB



DESIGN-A-YEARBOOK-COVER

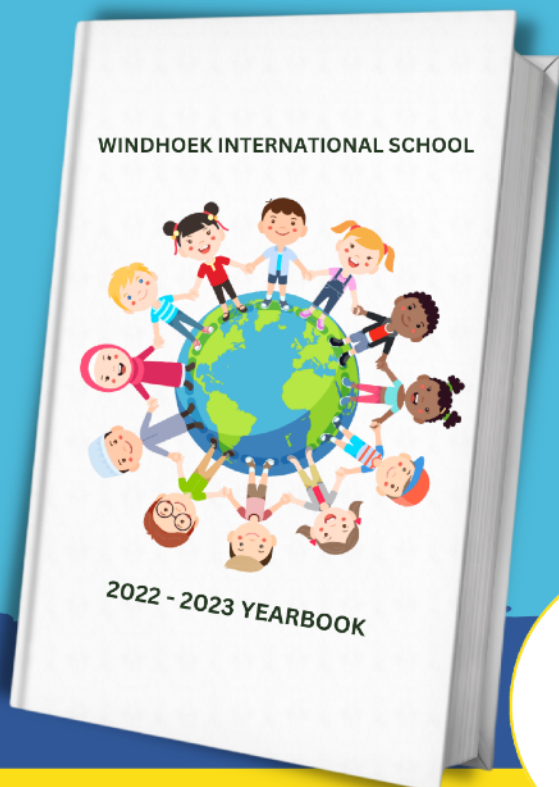
Grade 4 - 12 WIS Students are invited to create and design the WIS Yearbook Cover for 2022-2023!

THEME: "MANY FRIENDS, ONE WORLD"

DESIGN GUIDELINES:

Theme: *Many friends, one world. (This theme must be used.)*

1. Only open to Grades 4 - 12 WIS Students.
2. Page size must be A4, portrait layout.
3. The cover must be digital, either drawn by hand and then scanned in high resolution or designed with design software like Photoshop or CANVA. It can also be a photo, the photo must be your own photo.
4. The final file should be sent in .PDF, .JPG, or .PNG file format, files can be shared via CANVA or as PSD files. **Final designs can be sent to: jnel@wis.edu.na.**
5. Please add your full name and grade when you send the final design.
6. Submission deadline 31 March 2023.



*Prizes sponsored by the
MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL!*

WHAT CAN YOU WIN?

1st Prize

Your design is the 2022 - 2023 Yearbook Cover!
N\$250 TYPO VOUCHER!

2nd Prize

Your design is on the first page of the Yearbook!
N\$150 TYPO VOUCHER!

3rd Prize

Your design is on the last page of the Yearbook!
N\$100 TUCK SHOP VOUCHER



Students can use the art room #42 on Tuesday afternoons from 13:45-15:00 for this project!



Discover the World as a YFU Exchange Student!

Become a YFU High School Exchange Student

An exchange year, semester or term with Youth for Understanding (YFU) gives you the opportunity to discover a different culture, learn a new language, and find a 'home away from home' on the other side of the world. It will open your eyes to different possibilities for further study, employment and personal growth. Thousands of learners, host families, schools and volunteers have joined YFU in the 70 years of its existence. Why don't you!?

YFU offers the following high school exchange programmes:

- **Destinations:** Over 20 countries in Europe and Latin America
- **Duration:** From 8 weeks to 10 months
- **Departure:** In August or January (and June or November for selected programmes)
- **Homestay:** All YFU exchange students live with a local host family
- **Educational:** All students attend a local high school in their host country
- **Add-Ons:** Language courses and specializations (sports, art, music...) available upon request
- **Fees & Funding:** Visit our [website](#), download our [fee overview](#), or contact our office
- **Application:** [Application forms](#) to be submitted at least 6 months prior to the departure date
- **Requirements:** 15-18 years old, in grade 9-11, average of at least 65% across all subjects

Youth for Understanding: Changing lives since 1951

YFU is one of the world's oldest and largest non-profit exchange organizations and has provided study abroad opportunities for over 270,000 high school learners since 1951. We opened our doors in South Africa in 1995 and started offering our programmes in Namibia and Botswana in 2022. YFU is a volunteer-driven organization with offices in 50+ countries and we continue to create international friendships and promote intercultural understanding and global citizenship.

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Get in touch with us!

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Or find us on social media!

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YFU.ORG.ZA



Built to Be™
PAEDIATRIC OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
SOW | CULTIVATE | HARVEST

INFORMATION EVENING

Screenetime

presented by Nehle Rohrmüller
on 16 March 2023, 17:30 at
Built To Be Occupational Therapy
1 Otto Nietzsche Street
Everybody welcome

An entrance donation of 20 N\$ is applicable

Reply

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