



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

A Visit from the US Ambassador

We were very pleased on Tuesday this week to welcome Ms. Lisa Johnson, the Ambassador of the United States, to the school. We have a significant number of children at WIS whose parents work at the US Embassy and we enjoy a close and valuable relationship with the Ambassador and her staff.



We also receive an annual grant and other financial support from the US State Department and I am happy to take this opportunity to reiterate our gratitude. We hope to see Ms. Johnson at future school events.

Staffing

I know that the school community will be sorry to learn that **Fernando Beukes** – Mr. B – has accepted the offer of a teaching position at another school and will be leaving us this month. He has been here for ten years and I know that he is held in very high regard by parents, colleagues, and, especially, students. He will be sorely missed but we wish him every success in his new job.

His position will be taken by **Edwin Chinyemba** who will be joining us from Harare International School. He is a highly experienced teacher of P.E. with substantial knowledge of both the IB PYP and MYP programmes and I am excited to be welcoming him to the teaching staff.

The Oryx

The final week of the school year will include just three school days so next week's issue of The Oryx will be the last until August.

Peter MacKenzie

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

MAP (Measures of Academic Progress)

Thank you to all of the parents who attended the MAP information session on Thursday. There is another session this coming Tuesday at 12:50 in Ms Viviana's classroom. Here is the link to sign up: <https://goo.gl/cAQ3x1>. Parents who attended the session in February should have received the test results by email.

The Last Two Weeks of School

There is a misconception that nothing happens in the last two weeks of school. While the learning of new concepts and skills may not be taking place, there is a lot happening at the end of the semester and what is happening is important. The units

Contents

- From the Director p. 1
- Primary News p. 1 - 4
- Secondary News p. 5 - 6
- Other News p. 7 - 9

Dates to Remember

June 2018

- **11:** Internal Exams Start
- **20:** Term 4 Ends - Last day of Academic year
- **21 - 22:** Staff Work Days

August 2018

- **13:** Term 1 Starts: - New Academic Year 2018 - 2019



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in the homeroom as well as the single subjects are finishing. Many classes are doing unit presentations, which will be followed by reflections about the unit. The students are being assessed on their progress with reading, writing, spelling and mathematics. They will be adding final reflections to their portfolios. Creative works in Art are being finished and displayed. Field trips are being taken.

During the last week of school students will have the opportunity to visit the next year level classrooms where students will see where they'll be next year and be able to ask the teachers questions about the new year level. Students will be involved in closure activities. As I have mentioned in a previous article, closure is important as it taps into the social and emotional aspect of school. Closure activities allow for children to say goodbye to the current year level, as well as to friends and teachers/teaching assistants who are leaving. They also allow for the teachers and students to celebrate their accomplishments and the completion of the school year. The last day of school includes a closure assembly where we will celebrate each year level moving to the new year level and saying goodbye to the Year 6 students. It is important for children to attend school through to the very last day of school.

A Few End of Year reminders:

- All library books are now due. Please help your child look at home for any books that belong to the library (or to the classroom) and return the books to school.
- If your child will not be returning to WIS next year, please be sure to inform the office, as well as your child's teacher, of your child's last day at WIS.
- If your child will be returning to WIS next year but is leaving before the last day of school, please be sure to inform the office, as well as your child's teacher, of the date of your child's last day attending school.

*Regards,
Beth Smith*

Mobile Device Protection

A well protected mobile device will last longer. It will not cost you a lot of money in repairs. If you are shopping this school holiday, here is something to consider.



Danai Maramba

FNCC

Bonjour à tous,

The next creative workshop in French will take place this coming **Saturday 9 June 2018** with **"Knights and Princesses"** theme. Create your own helmet, sword or Princess hat and become one!!

It will take place at the **FNCC, from 10:00 till 12:00** under the supervision of **Ms Isabelle De Joannis De Verclos**, French teacher.

Cost: N\$ 60/ child per workshop, payment on arrival.

In order to adapt the workshop to the age and number of participating children, thank you for letting me know in advance if your child will be participating.

It is still possible to enroll last minute as well!

Please, feel free to contact me on lborrioni@wis.edu.na or 081 834 76 55, should you have any questions, requests or suggestions.

Laetitia Borroni

Young Entrepreneurs

*Our aim is to assist and encourage students, by providing them with essential skills, motivation and ideas to participate in community activities eg. car boot sales and other school events. **Ronel and Kathleen.***

This is what Naeem and Irvine had to say:

When we started our first lesson we did not know the definition of entrepreneur nor what the lessons would be about.

Our first guests were two ladies who came and taught us how to make sleeping bags from recycled newspaper. We thought it was just amazing. We decided to use the sleeping bags for the Student Council's Annual Winter Charity Drive. We approached the Primary Student Council and asked if they would be interested to make some sleeping bags with us. We met and spoke to Ms Avril and the outcome was that we shared our knowledge with the Primary Student Council who helped us to make eight sleeping bags. The people who really embraced this project were in 5B: Pandu, Adiah, Ndahafa, Talaki and Jody and in 5A: Faduli, Felcina and Jaedyn.

On 4th June we went to N/a'an Ku sê with Ms Avril and the Student Council. We delivered all the donated clothing, blankets and books including our 8 sleeping bags.

Our second guest speaker was Ms Urte who showed us how to make découpage Easter eggs from real eggs. It was a long process and took about five to six hours to complete one, unlike the sleeping bags which took half an hour to one hour to make.





We soon discovered that we needed a budget and supplies. The sleeping bags cost more than the eggs. And for everything we needed we found we had to have a budget. We learnt that you always need a budget and a business plan.

We took action and got others on board to create something. We provided work for people and a community service. We found an outlet for our goods. We thought we could start a business making sleeping bags and are working on a small business plan for this. We are well on our way to being Young Entrepreneurs and look forward to developing a solid small business plan.

Naeem and Irvine - Year 5

Under Seven

On Friday afternoon four WIS football teams were in action in the LFL league hosted at DTS. It was a victorious day for the WIS teams with three of the four teams in action winning their matches.

- U8 beat SKW 8 - 1
- U9 beat Delta 11 - 0
- U10 beat DSW 6 - 0

Congratulations to all parents, coaches and players.

In Wednesday's fixture the U7 team won their match with a hard fought victory against AFC. The only goal in the match coming from Watufe Neri.



Thomas Jackson-Read

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Moving to the next year - promotion or non-promotion

We often get students and parents asking whether their child passed the Grade.

At WIS, students do not “fail” a class. In normal circumstances, students move from one year group to the next, i.e. they are promoted to the next grade in August. This is an often misunderstood and wrongly appreciated practice. It does not mean that students do not need to perform in order to move to the next grade. It does not mean that we don't have expectations for each specific year group. It does not mean that we are not taking learning seriously and that academic performance is not important.

When progression to the next year is “automatic”, the motivation for performance is not only that one gets good grades. Learning cannot happen effectively if it is only driven by the motivation to get good grades. We try to let children know that learning makes us grow, that we learn our whole life long. Unfortunately, however, too many things still depend on how good you were at school, which grades you received. To be admitted into a prestigious university, you need to be competitive, which means, you need top grades. This is also the reason why admittance into the IBDP at WIS is dependent on a C-average performance in the IGCSE or the previous grade if you come from another school.

This is a dilemma we find ourselves in. How can we manage to emphasise the value of learning in itself if admissions are still driven by grades and academic performances?

Here in school, we monitor students' progress through the year. If we feel that a student would benefit from repeating a Grade, we will get in touch with parents early on in the year to discuss this. If a student seems to lack the necessary foundation in several subjects and is not performing to their ability, it is sometimes advisable to repeat a Grade. The school's curriculum is one of continuity. The child therefore should have mastered the skills on one level before moving to the next. When repeating, a child may be able to catch up on missed concepts; not all children are learning at the same pace. Repeating therefore is not meant to be a punishment, but it is meant to be an opportunity to consolidate knowledge and sometimes to grow and develop to the expected level.

This should be a topic of discussion in homes as well. Does your child perform and work to the best of their ability? If yes, it is not necessary to expect only A-grades in all subjects. If no, it might be necessary to reflect on the way your child works, the support he/she gets from home, the needs he/she has. Together with the school (your child's teachers) one can then work out a way to support the child to become as good as he/she can get. This is, however, only possible if we all (the child, the home and the school) work together in the best interest of the child's learning.

Regards,
Maggie Reiff

Extra-Ordinary Achievement

Viktorija Ellmies has consistently been performing to an exceptionally high standard in the swimming pool for several years now. She embodies exemplary sporting characteristics with a committed and dedicated approach to training.

She has recently returned from a two week training camp and swim gala in The Czech Republic along with 21 other swimmers from her swim team. There were 700 swimmers from 10 different countries competing. The Team from Namibia achieved 5th place overall from the 80 competing teams.

Viktorija achieve PB's (personal best times) in 6 of her 7 and made the finals in both 100m and 200m freestyle. Her time in the 100m final was 1:00.50 which is a new Namibian record, she now holds three Namibian records.



Huge congratulations Viktoria!
Thomas Jackson-Read

THANK YOU PTA

This week the PTA hosted an open bar and snacks table at the Y6 Exhibition and they sponsored three Netball games with a protein bar and a drink for the Netball team.

Atousa Fischer-Buder





KIDS CAMP

Venue: 109 Tunschell St,
Pioneers Park
07:00-14:00

FOUR WEEKS OF HOLIDAY FUN!

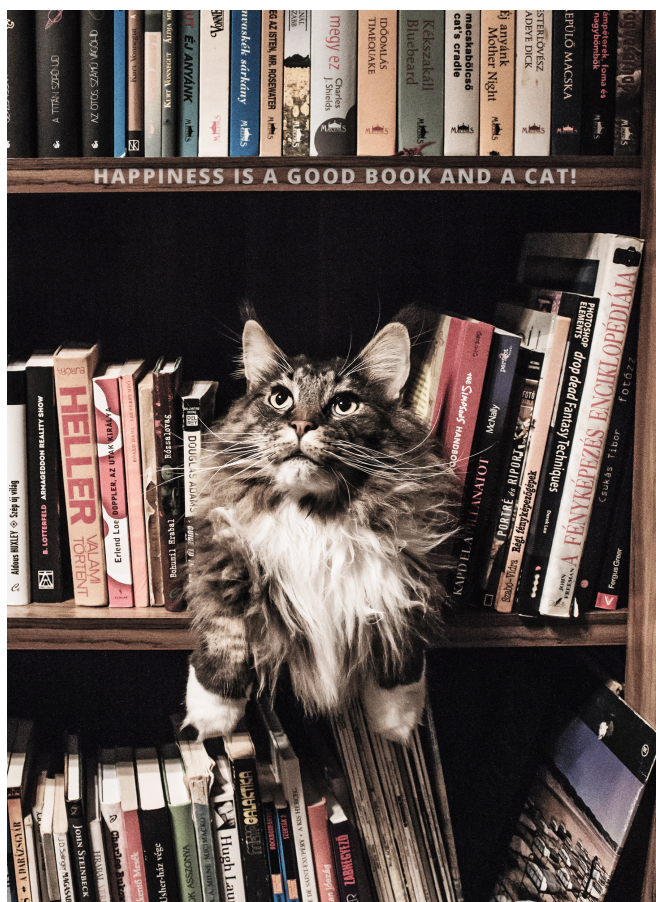
25th June - 20th July

Contact: Avril +264 812239645 (Spaces are limited)

Activities that are geared towards creativity, problem solving, innovation and critical thinking.

- Makerspace - maths, technology, solving, inventing
- Creative Arts - painting, collage, modelling, construction
- Cooking - cooking fun every week
- Green garden fun - exploring and creating in nature
- Creative language arts - writing, reading, self expression
- Meditation, yoga and dance

Cost per day:
N\$100 per child.
Bring your own lunch. Snacks & drinks provided.



SPCA BOOK BONANZA


DON'T MISS THIS **BIG** SPCA BOOK SALE!

The Windhoek SPCA invites you to join our **WEEK-LONG BOOK BONANZA SALE!**

ALL BOOKS PRICED TO GO @N\$10.00 P/B!

DATE: 09 - 15 June 2018
PLACE: Windhoek SPCA Premises

ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO THE WINDHOEK SPCA!



DONATIONS NEEDED!

The Windhoek SPCA will have a stall at the **NEDBANK CITI DASH** on Saturday, 23 June!

PLEASE SPONSOR SOMETHING SWEET THAT WE CAN SELL!

Anything sweet that can be sold @**N\$10.00** or **N\$15.00!**

Donations can be dropped with us on Friday, the 22nd.

Please confirm with Ilse on 061 - 238 654 if you are willing to sponsor something!

2000 PEOPLE ARE EXPECTED! WE REALLY NEED YOUR HELP!

CAKES

MUFFINS

DOUGHNUTS

PANCAKES

SCONES

CUPCAKES

OR ANYTHING SWEET!



The aim of the holiday programme is to provide the children with a safe and fun environment during the school holiday that keeps them stimulated and happy. The holiday program is a private venture and the school is not liable or responsible.

Please contact me for more information! Phone: 0813164298 or Email: amf@iway.na

MISS SONANDRE'S HOLIDAY Programme

now open for
registration

29 JUNE - 31 JULY (MON - FRI)

**FUN LEARNING
NEW EXPERIENCES &
LOTS OF ACTIVITIES**

**07:30 TILL 17:30
JOYFUL NOISE, IFUN, MOVIES,
ZOO, BAKING, COOKING, ART,
SPORTS, READING, FINE & GROSS
MOTOR ACTIVITIES AND MANY
MORE.**

**LIMITED SPACE
AVAILABLE**

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INFO.
081-3164298**

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