



**PARENT INFORMATION PORTAL**  
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## Dates to Remember 2022

- **17 January**  
After School Activities Begin
- **23 January**  
Grade 9 - 10 Orange River Trip
- **26 January**  
WIS Annual General Meeting
- **2 February**  
Board Meeting (6-8pm)
- **4 - 5 February**  
Swimming Gala
- **7 - 11 March**  
WIS Arts Festival & Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences



# THE ORYX

*The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School*

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Community,

Happy New Semester! It has been a joy to welcome our students back into our classes. In 2022, our focus will be on increasingly making our school an inclusive and inspiring place where our [definition of learning](#) is a lived reality. The school's [SOAR Schoolwide Goals](#) will lay a sound foundation for what will become the next stage of our school's growth. When executed, I believe that these small and sequential goals will make our school more **student-centred**, **open-minded**, **action-oriented**, and **reflective**. These goals are still in a draft form, and [your feedback](#) is appreciated as we set our objectives and budget for 2022 and 2023.

### Parent Class Representatives

On Thursday, we had a meeting with the parents who have volunteered to be class representatives. It was agreed that this volunteer position will have the following responsibilities:

- Facilitate communication within the grade level
- Welcome new parents to the community
- Organise parent meetings once a semester to discuss events and plan initiatives
- Assist teachers with field trips and sourcing volunteers/experts to help with learning
- Coordinate initiatives to improve the school campus and provide services for the wider community
- Staff appreciation
- Assist with sourcing volunteers for committees (such as for International Day)

Parent Representatives and the Grade Level GoogleChat/Padlet will not be used for:

- A reminder for daily homework
- What the teacher is already responsible for
- Matters pertaining to curriculum
- An avenue for concerns related to teaching and learning
- Planning individual birthday parties etc for students

The following individuals are serving as parent representatives. You will be hearing from your parent rep later this month. We must first finalise our communication platforms to be built for this purpose. Please note that we are still seeking Parent Representatives for Grades 6, 8, 9, 11, and 12.



## Alumni Corner



**Taimi Itembu**

Proudly African, Proudly Namibian and Proudly a WIS Kid.

It is without doubt that my adventures, the accolades that I celebrate and the rooms I've entered are inextricably related to the foundations established at WIS.

In true WIS kid fashion, being the round peg in a square hole is the legacy that I would like to be remembered by. To be remembered as the one who was audacious enough to cross the Atlantic ocean to spend four years in Nova Scotia, Canada, at St. Francis Xavier University. The one who believed that dreams are real and that even Namibians can earn a spot in the world's most prestigious Harvard University earning my Masters in Public Policy.

The endless debates with Ms. Rimmington and Mr. Manda about the world order ushered me into the rooms where I could influence government, implement policy reform in the Judiciary and support efforts in legislative development in Parliament.

The culture of volunteerism and serving at WIS implanted the seed that service is the joy of thinking of others. When the opportunities arose, I stepped up to the plate, leading the Special Olympics African Leadership Council, as Chairperson for the next 2 years and as Chair of the African Development Conference at Harvard and working with the dynamic Physically Active Youth team.

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<b>Early Years 1&amp;2</b>	Hilia Sikanda	
<b>Early Years 3</b>	Hester Coetzee	
<b>Grade 1</b>	Janine Deselaers (1D)	Natasha Tjongarero (1C)
<b>Grade 2</b>	Welda Mouton (2B)	Anne Scharrenbroich 2D
<b>Grade 3</b>	Danielle Gogolz (3C)	Lizl Opperman
<b>Grade 4</b>	Cintia Martin	
<b>Grade 5</b>	Palesa Hekandjo (5A)	Moketha de Almeida (5A)
<b>Grade 5</b>	Celestine Mouton (5J)	
<b>Grade 6</b>	Not yet	
<b>Grade 7</b>	Michelle Jackson-Read (7UD)	Belinda Bruwer & Lizl Swart
<b>Grade 8</b>	Open	
<b>Grade 9</b>	Open	
<b>Grade 10</b>	Tanya du Plessis	
<b>Grade 11</b>	Open	
<b>Grade 12</b>	Open	

### Security Update

As noted in previous communication, on Tuesday morning there was a security breach and theft on campus. The safety and security of our staff and students is the highest priority for our school, and on Thursday we had a very productive meeting between school administration, the local community watch, representatives of the US Embassy, Tephcor, and parents. We identified some immediate and very positive actions that include clearing brush from the perimeter of the school, training and modifying security guard procedures, advocating for increased police presence in the area, increasing the use of spotlights and CCTV, improving the timeliness and regularity of Tephcor-police-neighborhood watch communication, and closer monitoring of the school fence. In the medium term, a new and improved perimeter fence system will be purchased and installed. Thank you for your continued support and compliance with pedestrian and vehicular entrance protocols. I know that the security guards appreciate your support and understanding in this area as well.

### Some Upcoming Events

17 January	After School Activities Begin ( <a href="mailto:reception@wis.edu.na">reception@wis.edu.na</a> for questions)
23 January	Grade 9 & 10 Orange River Trip Begins
26 January	WIS Annual General Meeting (6-8pm)
2 February	Board Meeting (6-8pm)
4-5 February	Swimming Gala
7-11 March	WIS Arts Festival & Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences
23 April	International Day
13 May	Grade 5 PYP Exhibition
21 May	Grade 12 Graduation
16 June	Final Assemblies and Final Day of School

Today, I've entered into one of the biggest and most influential rooms in the world, working at one of the largest companies in the world, ExxonMobil. With all this in my back pocket, my duty remains to lead the world in the energy transitions, serve my country and continent to end the energy poverty crisis.

Even though I've rubbed shoulders with leaders such as Bozoma St Johns, Ban Ki Moon, Ellen Johnson, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and First Lady Monica Gaingos - it remains that the leaders at WIS - the support staff, teachers and friends will always be the shoulders that held me up to see beyond the limitations. Proudly and Forever a WIS KID Taimi Itembu

"The top of one mountain is the beginning of the next, so keep climbing" - Andre Shields



**Covid and In-Person Learning**

We are all so thankful to be able to return to school in-person. Our mask, close contact, and social-distancing protocols seem to be working thus far. Let's all continue to do our part by notifying school if a family member tests positive, by staying home if we have any symptoms, and by getting vaccinated/boosted whenever we are eligible to do so.

It's going to be a great year,

Sincerely,  
**Ethan Van Drunen**



**PRIMARY PRINCIPAL**

Dear Parents,

First of all, Happy New Year and best wishes for 2022! The holiday already feels like a distant memory with all the developments that have been happening in the Primary this week of which I would like to give you an update:

**Community of Learners**



*"If we want young people to develop the habits of thinking for themselves, using their imagination, being open to new ideas, saying when they don't understand, and exploring real challenges together, then they have to see their teachers doing the same thing."* - Guy Claxton- Hair Brain, Tortoise Mind

The PYP values teachers' learning and capacity building. Teachers who model themselves as learners and feel empowered and responsible for their own learning have an impact on student learning. With this in mind, as one of our goals in the Primary this year is to articulate our language and literacy programme using the

ACARA standards, teachers this week engaged in the second offering of a series of workshops about language and literacy development. The aims of these workshops are to:

- Create a whole-school approach to the teaching of literacy and a common language to talk about student progress in the literacy areas
- Empower teachers to impact student learning
- Enhance communication with parents, Learning Support and EAL specialists.
- Identify student needs with regards to literacy
- Understand what it is we need to teach and assess

### Home languages

Before the December break, I sent out surveys asking for interest in the offering of home languages as ASA. Thank you very much for all your responses. I'm excited to share that we are now offering Afrikaans and Oshiwambo as ASA and are still exploring possibilities of offering Mandarin and German. We are looking for more interest and teachers to offer these languages.

### Parent workshops

Please mark your calendars for the following parent workshops in 2022. Reminders, rsvp and specific times will be sent out closer to the date:

- Thursday 27th January- How we learn at WIS: Introduction to the PYP
- Thursday 18th February- Language and Literacy in the PYP
- Thursday 24th February- March IB PYP Exhibition Parent information Workshop
- Thursday Assessment and MAP Growth at WIS Primary (3rd March) preceding the Parent Teacher Conferences (8-10 March, specific times TBC)
- Thursday 24th March - The Early Years and Reggio Emilia, Play-based learning
- Thursday 7th April Maths in the PYP and ways to support at home
- Thursday 21st April- Multilingual Learners: learning in English and supporting the home language
- Friday May 13th - The Exhibition launch and parent evening
- Thursday 2nd June- Transition coffee morning - Grade 5

***\*Please note that some dates have changed to the ones mentioned in the recent PYP Newsletter.***

We value the opportunity to discuss education with our parent community, so I really hope you can attend some if not all of these events.

**Warm regards,  
Marcelle van Leenen**

## **SPORTS CELEBRATION**

The WIS U10-11 Liqui Football League players will be awarded certificates for their participation, commitment and enthusiasm this Thursday at the Eagle's Nest (not in the auditorium ). Please join us!

## SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

*Take up the challenge to make the difference this world needs... young leaders! (One Young World)*



At the start of the new year, I'd like to honour a person I greatly admire, a person who has been so genuine and so completely human; a person, who is an inspiration and has shared some wise words at the [Young World Summit 2010](#) with youth leaders around the world.

"Dream dreams ... go on being idealistic, just go on dreaming that we are going to have a different kind of world than the one that we are leaving you. When we come back and we look at what you have done: what would we see? A world, hey, there's no longer any poverty, there's no longer any hunger, there's no longer any war. Hey, you are going to make this a beautiful, beautiful world. ... But you, I want to ask you to do me just one little favour ... I think you're fantastic, and I want to clap (for) you, but if I clap you all by myself, people are going to say aahhh, we always thought ... no. So please join me in clapping some of the most fantastic human beings in the world - come on, join me, thank you, thank you ..." [Tutu addresses the Young World Summit 2010](#)

Starting a new year always brings reflections, thoughts, wonderings and deliberations about what is to come. We have been through two difficult years, and still we try to come to grips with the global pandemic. But, starting a new year, once again gives us an opportunity to invest in positive actions and to become engaged in making our planet, our society and our personal space better.

At WIS, our educational philosophy is 'to develop the full potential of each student in a stimulating environment of academic excellence, cultural diversity and active social responsibility to become internationally minded independent thinkers.' (WIS Mission). In doing so, we strive to educate young people beyond the academics of the classroom. We need to educate young people to take responsibility for their world, their environments, their society and their own growth. We need to be able to send young people into the world that can do exactly what Archbishop Tutu elaborated on in his speech - change the current state of our society, our planet and our own greed and make this world a better place.

This was Archbishop Tutu's life goal. With determination, never succumbing to any injustice and pressure, he championed a world that is better for all of us - where there is no more injustice, inequality and discrimination.

We have the duty and the opportunity to do our little bit to turn our world around a little. From something that is in many ways corrupted and unjust - to a world that gives room for diversity, inclusivity and justice in all areas of life. In memory of Archbishop Tutu, that is my wish for this year and for ourselves - young and old - to keep on dreaming about a better world, but to actively pursue these dreams and make this world a better place.

**Regards,  
Maggie Reiff**

## Thank you!

Thank you to Mr. Jeff Bonazzo for working to refurbish and restore the Class of 2002 commemorative bench. This was the first-ever class to graduate with the IB Diploma Programme. Best wishes to our Class of 2022 as you prepare for your final semester at Windhoek International School!



## African Cup of Nations

We hope you are enjoying watching the African Cup of Nations tournament hosted in Cameroon this year.

A WIS shout out to the first-ever female referee at AFCON - Rwanda's Salima Mukansanga.



## WIS Health Hub

### Vaccinations for teens against Covid-19

The Namibian Ministry of Health & Social Services has approved and advised vaccinating our 12 year olds and older against COVID-19. Windhoek Central Hospital administers vaccinations, as do the following two central sites:

1. **OSH-Med International Walk -In at Maerua Mall opposite Food Lovers.**

Opening times: Tuesday to Friday: 10:00 - 18:00  
Sat & Sun: 10:00 - 14:00

2. **NG Church Eros: (Next to/opp Eros Post Office on Nelson Mandela)**

Opening times: Mon to Fri: 9:00 - 15:30  
Sat: 8:00 - 14:30  
Sun: Closed

Some additional information:

- The vaccinations are free
- Only the **Pfizer** option is available for teens (12 - 17 years old)
- Two shots are given, 21 days apart
- No booster for teens at this stage
- Parental consent is required. Parents are asked to accompany their children

Common side effects:

- Pain and redness at the injection site
- Chills
- Fever
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Nausea
- Muscle pain

These side effects take some hours to develop and should go away in a day or two.

A cold compress to the painful arm, plenty of fluids and rest will help relieve symptoms. Information about taking OTC pain relief is conflicting. I would recommend speaking to your doctor or pharmacist about giving your child e.g. ibuprofen or paracetamol for pain relief.

The CDC lists, amongst others, the following advantages for getting your child vaccinated:

- Helps to protect family members, including siblings who are not yet eligible for vaccination and vulnerable family members who have chronic illnesses or are elderly
- Significantly reduces the risk of a child developing Multi-system Inflammatory Syndrome (MIS-C) or requiring hospitalisation, or developing long-term complications from COVID-19

**An excerpt from the statement made on the 13th January 2022 by Dr Kalumbi Shangala, Minister of Health & Social Services :**

*"We have noted with utter disgust, the persistent and sustained anti-vaccination campaigns laced with false narratives that people who are dying from Covid-19 are those who are vaccinated. Whereas the anti-vaccination proponents de-campaign vaccination, they have no viable alternative to offer in relation to vaccination. An analysis of the Covid-19 statistics from the 1st -11th January shows that:*

- *81% of new infections is among the unvaccinated individuals;*
- *97% of admissions to hospitals is of the unvaccinated individuals;*
- *94% of ICU admissions is of the unvaccinated individuals; and*
- *91% of deaths is of the unvaccinated individuals.*

*Statistics do not lie. Numbers do not lie. The benefits of vaccination are convincingly demonstrated even in Namibia. It is unethical and morally repugnant to deny a scientifically proven benefit to an individual without offering a viable alternative to the proven benefits."*

**Sharon Gorelick, School Nurse & Counsellor**

Our next IB Learner Profile Trait for the month of January is:

# BALANCED

A **B A L A N C E D** student understands the importance of intellectual, physical, and emotional balance to achieve a state of personal well-being for themselves and others. IB students are active participants in a wide range of aspects of campus life, as well as focusing on their academic development.

You can do ANYTHING but not EVERYTHING - focus on being **B A L A N C E D**. Do you work consistently through the year, planning and spreading the load of learning as evenly as you can? Are you able to discuss this with your teachers? Are you fair to others when you are working together? Please send your nominations before 27 January 2022 to [ajvrensborg@wis.edu.na](mailto:ajvrensborg@wis.edu.na)