



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

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Dates to Remember

February 2019

- **18 - 22:** Sec Week A
- **20:** IGCSE/IBDP - Info session
- **23:** #EDU2019 Tech Camp
- **28:** Digital Learning Day

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Have you been able to attend a Primary Assembly this year? If so, you'll know what a great job the various classes or Grade levels have done in sharing learning that's been happening in the homeroom and in the various specialist lessons. Assemblies provide opportunities for students to be on stage in various ways, such as singing a song, doing a dance, performing a short play, showing artwork, doing a gymnastic routine, being the MC, being recognized for exemplifying a Learner Profile attribute and more. It's wonderful to see the confidence and the enthusiasm that the children display for being on stage.

Book week is taking place next week. Thursday, February 21 from 17:00-19:00 is a family reading time in the Library. I hope you and your children will be able to take part in this wonderful opportunity to share books and the love of reading.

Thank you to all of the parents who supported the recent Diskonto Books sale. The school receives credit for each book sold and with the credits earned Ms Liz was able to purchase many new books for the Library.

The PTA deserves recognition and appreciation for supporting various events throughout the year. The members of the PTA work tirelessly volunteering and giving their time be it serving refreshments before and after the AGM; school productions, or the Book Week family reading evening; providing coffee and snacks during the Sports Days, having themed coffee mornings such as yesterday's Valentine's Day coffee morning; sponsoring sports team uniforms; hosting community events such as the annual Family Braai, and on the list goes. Thank you PTA for all that you do to support the School.

Regards,
Beth Smith

Let's Celebrate Mother Tongue at WIS

21st of February 2019

The importance of Mother Tongue

As a Primary Foreign Language teacher I have noticed that some, not all students, are losing their mother tongue ability because at home families are adopting one common language and not speaking the language of their parents or ancestors.

The consequences are widespread. Sentiments, culture, attitudes, priorities and opportunities are lost instead of being enriched and empowered by it.



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WEEKLY PUZZLER

Last week's puzzler proved to be a tough one, though if you used your divisibility rules and some processes of elimination, it was doable. Only Tiancheng (Gr 6) solved it. Well done!

Here is a new one:

This sentence contains the letter e _____ times.

Seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven

How many of these answers will produce a true statement?

Good luck! Please send your answer to pfarrell@wis.edu.na, and if you find a great puzzle send it to the same address.



Laetitia Borroni.

*'Those who know nothing of foreign languages, knows nothing of their own'.
Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe*

What will happen in Primary Foreign Language classes next week?

You and your children are invited to celebrate Mother Tongue, select a poem or story or make up one of your own, in your language of choice and recite and tell it during Foreign Language classes during that week.

Grade 5 Exhibition Update



The Grade 5s are currently in their fourth week of Exhibition. While it may seem chaotic and a bit confusing as the students brainstorm, discuss, revise, discuss, reflect and ultimately select and develop their key concepts, lines of inquiry and central ideas their brains are primed for learning. **They are thinking about their thinking.** That in itself requires a whole lot of mental energy! They are examining what they think they know and understand about the overall concept they will explore in this journey and they are learning to ask meaningful questions; questions that will take them beyond “knowing” facts to understanding big, conceptual, ideas.

The students are learning that a central idea is more than a factual statement, but it is also enduring, cross-cultural and cross-contextual. Then they are learning how to write one! They are discovering that through the development of their lines of inquiry they are selecting the lens through which they will develop their understanding. And through it all, they are learning the more they know, the more they know they don’t know! It’s a wonderful kind of exhausting... And this is just the beginning! They are also continually reflecting on their use of the ATL skills and setting goals for personal improvement.

The Grade 5’s are considering how they will showcase all their newfound knowledge and understanding creatively through the arts, through writing and through maths! They may at times struggle to recall and articulate all they are doing, learning, and experiencing at home, but they are thoroughly “tuning-in” in class! The next steps will see the interest groups “finding-out” more about their concept through research, interviews, reading, observing, and collecting data.

Lyndsay Bain

Book Week -18th-22nd February 2019

Dear WIS community,

Next week is Book Week. This year our theme connects to WIS as an INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE COMMUNITY and incorporates International Mother Tongue Day.



Some exciting engagements and events will be happening next week. So please come and get involved.

- All week you can sign up with your classes as visiting readers. Or come to the library at break times to share stories and books from your culture.
- All week students will be sharing their favourite books from their collections and culture.
- Buddy reading - our secondary students will be visiting Primary to share books.
- Story writing and sharing of books across the school and many other book related engagements.
- Wednesday 20th February, Alison Gardener, Namibian author and storyteller is coming to share her books: “The Little Weaver Bird” and “Gordon Guinea fowl”.
- Thursday 21st February, “WIS Reading River” - the whole WIS community will stop at 07:30 am to come together on the central pathway and read.
- Thursday evening we will be holding a “Family Reading Night”. PTA will be selling refreshments. Please come along and spend some time reading with your child between 5:00 - 7:00 pm.
- A mother tongue language wall will be created at the thatch all week. Community members one and all can come and post the phrase:
 - *Languages can take you anywhere.* Write it creatively in your language and younger children can draw a picture and write it with their parents.
- Friday 22nd, there will be a Book Week Dress up parade for Primary, on the small sports field. Dress up as your favourite story character from your culture. Bring the book and make a little poster that is connected to your book or as a favourite story character from your culture. Event starts at 7:45am-8:20 am.
- Finally on Friday, visiting author Helvi Wheeler will visit to share her books with Primary students.

Avril van Zyl

OMG! Who uses that?



The way we communicate has changed over time. Our children know how to get a message across using a variety of tools and languages. Emojis help us express ourselves better and quickly. Acronyms are developed every day in order to type quickly. There comes a time when we all need to write a formal letter, signed and (or) posted. Some e-mails need to be formal.



Grade 5 and 6 students have learned what a formal e-mail looks like. [Click here to find out more...](#)

Danai Maramba

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Fun times in the classroom - is that a contradiction in terms?

When I walk around campus and sit in in classes, I am always excited to see so much happening that makes our learners engage in their learning. Learning Principle 5 of the ACE Protocol is "Learner Engagement and Autonomy". It says that "Learners are engaged with and inspired by their learning. They have autonomy over their learning and make informed choices, supported by teachers acting as coaches and mentors." I see this happening in classes on a daily basis.

Yesterday I visited a Grade 6 Science class. They were making popcorn! What? Making popcorn in class? Yes, an exciting activity! Purpose? To determine thermal energy of different heat sources.



In English, learners were writing a ballad. They chose what to write, but used the specific formal poetic devices in their poems.

In Drama, the practitioner of the month is Shakespeare. We all have read Shakespeare in school and remember parts of it. But in the Drama lesson, his work somehow came to life. Students were devising their own pieces and acting these out. And when sitting and watching all these activities, I do not see a single learner who is not participating and actively engaged.



When I sit next to the field in PE I see students encouraging each other while playing Volleyball, there is competition, but also sportsmanship. The teacher is part of the team and the comments coming from the teacher and classmates are encouraging and engaging.

The best part of my day is walking around and watching learning happening - in classrooms, on the field, during break time - in interactions between students, in interactions between teachers and students.

Regards,
Maggie Reiff

Sports News

Swimming

Ashraf was one of the delegates at the FINA training sessions in preparation for the CANA zone 4 swim meet next week. A number of our pupils are competing in this prestigious event.



Basketball

GOOD LUCK TO THE SENIOR BASKETBALL TEAM! We will be playing at the St Stitian's Tournament this weekend in Johannesburg. 24 Elite Teams from Southern Africa will compete for the converted title.

Soccer

Also Good Luck to the U8, U10 and U12 Football Teams who will be playing in the DTS Futsal Tournament on Saturday.

Thomas Jackson-Read

PTA Thank you

Thank you to everyone who came to the PTA Festive Coffee Morning on 14 February. We had a lovely time meeting new faces and catching up with familiar ones. It is such a pleasure to build relationships with the amazing community at WIS!



Keri Dziuban





**CANA
Zone IV
2019**
Windhoek (Namibia) • 16-20 February 2019

**OANOB DAM
17/02/2019**

4 X 500M FAMILY RELAY

REGISTRATION: 13:30

COMPULSORY TECHNICAL BRIEFING: 14:00

RACE START: 14:30

4 X 1.25KM MIXED RELAY

REGISTRATION: 14:30

COMPULSORY TECHNICAL BRIEFING: 15:00

RACE START: 15:30

**JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON FILLED WITH FUN, FAMILY AND SWIMMING.
VISIT NASU.COM.NA FOR MORE.**

