



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Rumours...

A number of parents have expressed concern about the advertisement we placed in The Namibian this week inviting applications for teaching positions at the school. My own job was (is) among them.

It's really not much of a story.

We employ 90+ people. About 70 are Namibians. The rest are international (well, we are an *international* school). Those of us who are guests in the country are awarded work permits, generally for two years. So, every two years we must apply for a new work permit. Understandably, the government of Namibia wishes to promote employment among Namibians. So every year we advertise to see if there are Namibians who could fill the positions of those whose contracts and work permits are expiring.

Our school year runs from 1st August to 31st July (and our employment contracts do too) so now is the time (every year) when we place this ad in the paper.

For the record, at the time of writing, just five of the school's current employees will be moving on at the end of the school year in July. Call it about 5.5%. This is the seventh school I've worked in and turnover here is actually very low.

As for my own position, I am simply one of those whose contract and work permit will expire during the course of the year. Time will tell but I'm very happy here and I hope I will be able to stay.

It may also be necessary to reassure people that this routine (indeed, annual) advertisement in The Namibian has nothing whatsoever to do with last year's theft.

And on that matter I can confirm that the suspect was arrested last month and will, I believe, next appear before a judge on 28th February.

Peter MacKenzie

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Beginning Monday, February 25th and continuing through Friday, March 8th we will be administering the MAP Growth (*Measures of Academic Progress*) tests. Grades 1-2 will take two tests: Language and Mathematics while Grades 3-5 will take three tests: Language, Reading and Mathematics. The tests will be taken on the school iPads.

The purpose of these tests is to determine your child's instructional level and measure the growth in student learning over time. The results will provide teachers with information about what students are ready to learn now, which will be useful for teaching and learning for the remaining academic year.

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Dates to Remember

February 2019

- **25 Feb - 01 Mar:** Sec Week B
- **28:** Digital Learning Day

March 2019

- **08:** Sec Musical
- **09:** Chris Aiff Soccer Tournament
- **12:** SPTC - TBC
- **13:** Sec Interhouse
- **15:** End of Term 3



VISIT US ON:



Facebook

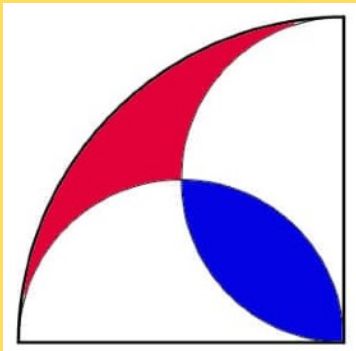


Instagram

WEEKLY PUZZLER

Last week's puzzler was solved by Francis and Elias (Gr 1), Eden (Gr 3) and Tiancheng (Gr 6) Well done all!

Let's do some Geometry! Here we have two semi-circles inscribed in a quarter circle. Prove that the red section is equal to the blue section.



Send your proof to pfarrell@wis.edu.na



Since this will be the fourth time that the tests have been administered, the results will be sent via email after the March Break. There will be an information session offered soon thereafter.

As with any school day, it is important that your child is well-rested, eats breakfast and arrives at school by 7:20. Please encourage your child to do his/her best when taking the MAP tests.

For more information about MAP, here's a link to the Parent's Guide to MAP Growth: <https://goo.gl/yw9C7E>.

Regards,
Beth Smith

POP-UP EXHIBITIONS

In our Primary Art Room



We have recently had two pop-up exhibitions in our art room: The Grade 3s with their Element of Line (A line starts with a dot!) and the Grade 2 Colour for Wellness. Thank you to parents and friends who popped in on the various Fridays to view the exhibitions. It's wonderful listening to parents and students discuss their art. The best thing is the students are using appropriate art language for their artwork instead of the easy boring word: NICE (which, by the way, is a swear word in art !!) Words like colourful, details, patterns, space, diagonal lines, Op Art, installation, etc. all abound now.

Ms. Genie and Ms. Sigrid

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Communicating with each other

One of the most important aspects of inter-personal relationships is transparent and open communication. A school is a place where people interact and where communication is essential for the effective functioning of the institution. **Communication Skills** are one of the 5 ATL skills we address in our daily teaching and learning processes. And, as I mention frequently, without clear and open communication across the different stakeholders in school, an efficient working and learning environment cannot be possible.

Communication happens on many different levels. In every lesson, from school to parents, from parents to school, from teachers to students, from teachers to parents, from parents to teachers, from school to parents and many more. If we communicate efficiently with each other, everybody benefits and knows what is happening. If we don't, there will be misunderstandings and frustrations.

WIS has different mechanisms to communicate with students and parents. As a whole school, we use iSAMS to correspond with parents and to store all necessary information with regard to our students and families - contact details, enrollment, emails sent home and much more. It is essential that parents make sure that their contact details are up to date at all times.

WIS also uses the D6 Communicator (<https://d6.co.za/education/en/downloads/>) for more general communication with the community. The D6 has policies, important documentation, the academic calendar, contact details of staff and much more. Important reminders from the school to parents/the community are red flagged on the D6. It is expected that parents have this application on their computers to keep up to date with happenings in the school.

In Secondary School, we use [Edmodo](https://www.edmodo.com/mobile) (<https://www.edmodo.com/mobile>) and [Managebac](https://www.managebac.com/) (<https://www.managebac.com/>) as Learning Management platforms for our teaching and learning. Parents are expected to create profiles on these platforms to be informed about their child(ren)'s educational progress at all times. Edmodo has many excellent features to enable transparent communication between school and home - there is a chat function that facilitates monitored discussions between students and teachers, homework and assignment deadlines are posted on Edmodo, parents can follow their child's progress on Edmodo by seeing the grades posted. Edmodo is used in the Secondary School for all students from Grade 6 - 10.

In the IB Diploma Programme WIS uses Managebac as the Learning Management Platform. On Managebac, deadlines are posted, assessments are uploaded to the IB via Managebac and students manage their CAS progress on Managebac. Students (and parents) receive messages via Managebac as well. We will be hosting an information evening for parents in Secondary School on the use of Edmodo and Managebac straight after the March break to guide parents through the different features and also to address possible queries from parents.

Sometimes we are criticised for using too many different tools for communication. However, each tool has its own features and purpose and should be used accordingly. If you have any suggestions on how we can do an even better job communicating, your suggestions are always welcome (mreiff@wis.edu.na).

Regards,

Maggie Reiff



ManageBac

The purpose of reflection



In Grade 7 students focused on rivers, deltas, land formations, floods and more for the past few weeks. A Twitter wall was created in class where students were told that they are expected to reflect after each lesson taught for this specific unit. There are many different ways one can do reflection.

This was merely one example of showcasing the students' understanding after each lesson. Reflection deepens understanding and helps to learn from your experiences and in school from others' experiences too. Reflection creates opportunities to make connections between what you are thinking, what has been taught and what you are going to do. Reflection is a skill we would like to instil within our students. If we do these reflections regularly, reflecting on learning will become a natural process in our students' learning. This will be a vital part of our teaching here at WIS.

Angatha Janse van Rensburg

Sports news

Senior Basketball Tour

Our Senior Basketball Tour to St Stitians RSA has become a highlight on the sports calendar. We traveled to the Premier U16 boys Tournament with eight talented and skilled athletes. Expectations were high as the team had worked hard for the last six months, training three times a week. St Stitians, located in Sandton, Johannesburg, always extends a warm welcome to Southern African teams and we joined 24 teams from RSA, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Botswana.



The standard of Basketball was extremely high and the boys rose to the challenge admirably. We returned with a 3:5 Win/Lose record secure in the knowledge that we carried ourselves with exemplary professionalism and played some exceptional basketball.

The team consisted of;

- **Massimo Ferrari:** *The tournament experience gave me a taste of how tough the competition can really get, it opened my eyes on how tough it is to succeed in this game and as a whole it motivated me to become a better player than what I am at this point.*
- **Jethro Hiwilepo:** *The trip was really an eye opening experience for the entire team. We got to compete against and watch some of the best teams in South Africa. It was an amazing experience all round and the team and I can't thank Mr Jackson-Read enough for enabling us to be able to compete in such a tournament.*
- **Malik Nilson Rombe:** *It was a fun experience for me because it was my first tour with the team and I really enjoyed it. We had a good team and we played well.*
- **Abraham Neumbo:** *It was exciting to hear our team name announced over the PA System on the aeroplane on our return journey.*
- **Tanatswa Murwira:** *This was a great experience for me as it truly was highly competitive, and requiring lots of effort. I will also remember the times spent when not playing, and getting to meet an old friend.*
- **Luca Monteforte:** *We were a bit disappointed with our overall performance, however, the standard of the opposition was phenomenal.*
- **Allessandro (Guest WIS Player):** *I really enjoyed the entire tour. It was a great learning experience and the exposure was a learning curve. I also learnt a lot about my abilities as a player and my team mates. I now have a better idea of what my strengths are as an individual and how to enhance my short comings. It was a very enjoyable experience and it was an honour for me to represent WIS. Thank you to the school and coaches who afforded me the opportunity.*

CANA Zone 4 Swimming

Two of our senior IBPD students took time out of their busy schedule to participate in the CANA Zone Water Polo competition. Ashraf and Francesco had the honour of representing the Namibia Water Polo Team in the Open age group, they played against representative age grade teams from Zimbabwe and RSA.

The senior boys were joined by Mr. Jackson-Read who also had the honour of playing for Namibia.

Thomas Jackson-Read



MODELLING IN IBDP CHEMISTRY



Grade 11 students investigating the different angles and shapes of chemical compounds by using the MOLYMOD molecular models. They were able to model the Octahedral and Triangular Bipyramidal structures with different electron domains. Students used their models to explain the shapes molecules would form and their angles. It was interesting how spatial arrangements were fun for some students and a struggle for others. Overall an interesting lesson.

Mariamamma Mathew

PTA NOTES

APPAREL

All official WIS apparel can be purchased from the PTA Community Centre on Thursday mornings before and after drop-off. There have been a few new shipments of apparel, so stop over on a Thursday to see what is new or refresh your current WIS gear.

YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED

If you are interested in working to creatively find ways to raise funds and support projects happening at WIS, please consider being a part of the PTA. Our next meeting is Thursday, 28 February at 12:15pm at the Community Centre.

Contact pta@wis.edu.na for more information.



QUIZ NIGHT

CASH BAR AVAILABLE!

SPCA WINDHOEK
SINCE 1986

IT IS TIME TO 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!

THE EVENING INCLUDES:

- Lots of fun and laughter!
- Snacks
- Secret prizes for the winners

WHEN AND WHERE?

DATE: Wednesday, February 27

TIME: 19:00-21:00 (Sign-in starts at 18:30)

PLACE: Old Wheelers Club, Windhoek

YOU'RE IN? THIS IS HOW WE DO IT: N\$1,000 for a team (maximum 4 players)

Email events@spcawindhoek.org.na for more information or swing by the SPCA to sign-up!

Supported by
The Old Wheelers Club Windhoek