



# THE ORYX

*The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School*

## Contents

- From the Director p. 1
- Primary News p. 2 - 3
- Secondary News p. 3 - 7
- Other News p. 8

## Dates to Remember

### January 2020

- **13:** Afternoon Activities Start
- **20 - 24:** ACE Visit
- **29:** AGM

### February 2020

- **05:** Board Meeting
- **12 - 14:** Grade 5 Camp
- **17 - 21:** Book Week
- **17:** Grade 7 Trip
- **20:** IGCSE Info Session



Facebook



Instagram



Twitter

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

### Annual General Meeting

The 2019-2020 AGM will be held on **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020** at 6 p.m.

There will be the opportunity to stand for election to the Board of Directors as two of the current members are stepping down. Nomination papers are available on the D6.

Nominations and all supporting documents must be received by the Nominations Committee no later than **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January**.

Please note that only parents whose fees are up to date may (a) stand for election, (b) nominate other parents for election, or (c) vote at the AGM or by proxy. If you are uncertain about your financial status, the Finance Office will be happy to advise you.

### Car Park / Security

Work will shortly start on installing enhanced security features in the parent car park. This will inevitably cause some short-term disruption. Thank you for your understanding.

Please be advised that once the work has been completed ALL vehicles ALWAYS (i.e. at all times of the day) will enter through the main gate and ALL vehicles ALWAYS will exit by the West Gate (on the "other" side of the PLC).

### Windscreen Stickers

Please also be reminded that once work is complete, only vehicles bearing 2019-2020 windscreen stickers will be granted access to the school. They are available from the School Office.

**Peter MacKenzie**

**REMINDER:**  
Please collect your  
2019-2020 windscreen  
sticker at the Office!



## PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Happy New Year and welcome back to school. A special welcome to our new families. The beginning of a new calendar year, as well as the second semester, brings the opportunity to revisit goals and set new goals and challenges. It's a good time to review your children's goals with them and discuss their progress in achieving their goals.



There are many events to look forward to during this semester. Following is an overview of the various events. More detailed information about the individual events will be provided in the near future.

The week of 20th January is our ACE External Review Visit as part of the accreditation process. We've been preparing for this visit for a year and are looking forward to the commendations and recommendations that will help us continue to move forward with teaching and learning.

February 12-14 the Grade 5 students, along with their teachers Ms. Kaye, Ms. Pamela, and Mr. Gerson, as well as Mr. Danai and I, will be heading off to West Nest Lodge for their annual overnight camp. The purpose of the camp is team building and preparation for the PYP Exhibition.

MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) tests will be administered during the month of February.

Assessment Conferences will be held Wednesday, 4 March. This conference is an opportunity for parents to have individual conferences with their children's teachers. The student-led conferences will take place later in the semester.

March also brings the 3rd annual WIZART exhibition where Primary children's artworks will be on display at a local gallery. Those who have attended the WIZART exhibitions in the past know they can expect to see a wonderful display and variety of art. In addition to WIZART, a Primary Music concert is being planned for as well.

The annual Grade 5 PYP Exhibition will take place in April. Following the overnight camp, the students will soon be starting the process for the Exhibition and planning the topic they'd like to inquire about and research.

There is more to look forward to including pop-up Art exhibitions, end of unit presentations by the various classes, field trips, assemblies, etc. More information and details will be provided nearer to the time of each event.

I wish everyone a positive and successful 2020, as well as for the second semester.

Regards,  
Beth Smith

## Spekboom

### Help fight climate change!

In Grade 4A we planted two Spekboom plants in front of our class. Spekboom is very special. Why is it so special, it's just another plant? No, a Spekboom helps fight air pollution! It takes carbon dioxide from the air and changes it into plant matter. One hectare of Spekboom can absorb between 4 and 10 tonnes of carbon per year. A Spekboom is also called a 'pork bush'. Its Scientific name is *Portulacaria afra*.

Spekbooms are spread throughout SADC countries such as Namibia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, and Zambia.

It is edible with very high nutritional values. It is a favoured food of black rhinos, elephants, and kudus. We can also eat it, it has a slight lemony taste. The leaves are juicy and full of moisture. A Spekboom can live up to two hundred years old.

If you want to see a Spekboom in real life and smell some fresh air you can walk pass our class, and if you want to help fight climate change: **PLANT A SPEKBOOM!**



By: Jessica Damon and Jackson Dukes

## SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

### The start of a new decade - or is it not?

Welcome back from the December break and a warm welcome to all our new families. We hope your time here at WIS will be exceptional.

I have had some conversations about 2020 and whether it is the start of a new decade. I don't think that matters that much. It is a nice number and certainly shows the way to the future - into the 20s.

In education 2020 certainly guides us to consciously reflect on and review things that 'we always used to do'.

Here at WIS, we have already started since last year to actively review our practices. You are probably aware of many things that changed and there will probably be more changes coming. It is important that we share these ideas, approaches and new ways of thinking and doing with our community. After all, most of us have been educated and raised in very different circumstances. It is often difficult to adapt to the 'new generation' and



their priorities and understand that things are different and changing so fast. But that is the reality and we need to go with it to be able to give our kids the best possible preparation for their future.

At WIS, we, therefore, endeavour to hold regular information evenings and give parents the opportunity to attend events where we talk about these changes. I urge parents to take advantage of these opportunities. You have to understand and support your child(ren) along the way. This is sometimes quite a challenge if one does not have all the 'new ideas' ready to use.

One initiative that we want to embark on in the near future - and we will probably hold our first event of this kind at the end of January - is ***Conversations over coffee***.



We want to create opportunities to talk about new approaches in education and how we address these changes here at school in order to be able to be on top of things. And as we often say, we are in a partnership of education - child/parent/school. Only if we talk with each other and have a common understanding of the way things are going, will we be able to support our kids from all sides and ensure that they get the best possible start to their adult life eventually.

We also have numerous student-parent-teacher conferences where we show what we do in the classroom and how we do it. Please take the opportunity to attend these and familiarise yourself with your child's school day. No matter whether your child just entered school or is at the end of their school career - it is never a mute undertaking to take an interest in their learning and support it in an active way. It will be for the benefit of all involved.

I am looking forward to welcoming you on a regular basis here in school to talk about and reflect on the things we do in education. More detailed information will be coming to you nearer to the time - in the Oryx and on Edmodo.

**Regards,  
Maggie Reiff**

## Accreditation Visit - ACE Learning - NEASC

From Sunday, 19 January 2020 until Friday, 24 January 2020, a team of four visitors will be at WIS conducting the External Review Visit that is the final part of our accreditation process for this cycle.

We have had a visit from NEASC in November of 2018. After the visit, WIS received a Report with commendations and recommendations on Teaching and Learning. We then had six months to reflect on our practices and in November 2019, we submitted an Internal Reflection Report. The external visit will conclude the process and will result in an External Review Report that we will get after the visit in January.

The process was consultative and all stakeholders were involved at some stage in the process. We now ask that all stakeholders are also actively involved in the last phase of this process and participate in the activities of the External Visit as much as possible. [Here](#) is the schedule for the visit.

The visitors will be meeting with the Board, with students, teachers and parents in the week to get a good impression of Teaching and Learning at WIS.



**Of particular importance is the conversation scheduled with parents on:**

- **Monday 20th January from 07:30 - 08:15**
- **The meeting will be at the PTA Community Centre**

and all parents are welcome to attend this conversation. It is an informal conversation where the visitors try to gauge the parents' experiences with regard to their child(ren)'s Teaching and Learning experiences at WIS.



**It would be great if we can have many parents attend this conversation.**

If you would like to be better prepared for this conversation: **here is a short description of the ACE Learning Protocol:**

**NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES, INC.  
COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION**

### **ACE Learning Eco-System**

**Architecture of Learning (A)** defines what learners learn, why they learn it, how they learn it, how learning is assessed and communicated, to what extent learners are able to choose their own learning, and how the learning community knows that it has achieved the desired impact on the learner. In an environment characterised by a shared understanding and language of learning, learners demonstrate qualities of mind and heart that allow them to become responsible and successful citizens. An effective learning community fosters creative and critical thinking, performance, action, and entrepreneurship. In such a community learning and creating, thinking, doing, and 'making' are valued equally.

**(Learning Principles Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4 focus on a community's Learning Architecture)**



**Culture of Learning (C)** defines the learning community's beliefs about the conditions that underpin effective learning, the norms and core values to which it adheres, and the impact leadership, governance, and staff have on the learning community's sustainability and evolution. Learning culture represents the statutory as well as unspoken agreements woven into a fabric that creates community, sustains purpose and defines direction. Transformational learning communities have designed mechanisms that support intentional and systemic reflection, research, and future-oriented thinking.

**(Learning Principles Nos. 5, 6, 7, and 8 focus on a community's Learning Culture)**

**Ecology of Learning (E)** defines the physical and social/emotional 'space' in which learning occurs. It encompasses the nature of relationships, interactions, and communication within the learning community that sustain its values and norms. An effective learning ecology supports and is aligned with the architecture and culture of learning. Its principles are indispensable to the achievement of the purpose for which the learning community exists. Such communities also recognize that effective learning is not necessarily a function of fixed spaces, times, or forms.

**(Learning Principles Nos. 9 and 10 focus on a community's Learning Ecology)**

You can have a look at the 10 Learning Principles [HERE](#).

## Grade 11 Historians


### Analyse Mandela's role in the South African Anti-apartheid Struggle

The nine engaged learners in the Grade 11 History class held an engaging student-led dialogue which focused on *SIGNIFICANCE* as a historical concept and with reference to Mandela's contribution to the anti-apartheid struggle.

All collaboratively considered, drafted and shared their ideas on these two challenging tasks:

Source: *History for the IB Diploma Paper 1 Rights and Protest*, Jean Bottaro, John Stanley, Cambridge University Press, 2017.

- 1 Write an obituary for Nelson Mandela in which you try to give an objective perspective of the significance of the role he played in South African history between 1948 and 1964.
- 2 How does this cartoonist try to portray Mandela's significance in the struggle for rights and freedom in South Africa? *Explain*



**Figure 7.14** This cartoon by Leslie Illingworth was published in the *Daily Mail* on 15 June 1964 after Mandela had been sentenced to life imprisonment



Well done historians!

**Rick Fitzpatrick**

## Special Visitor

### Inspires WIS Grade 11 Students

Lola Borrioni, a former WIS student, gave an exceptionally inspirational talk to the Grade 11 students in which she discussed her adjustment to life as a full-time student away from home at university in California. A skilled dancer with high expectations for a career in the Arts and in Dance, Lola described her passion and love for Dance and her courageous choice to begin her studies abroad. All listeners present left the session impressed with her determination and dedication and appreciative of her advice to *'be serious about your studies... and ... follow your dreams.'*

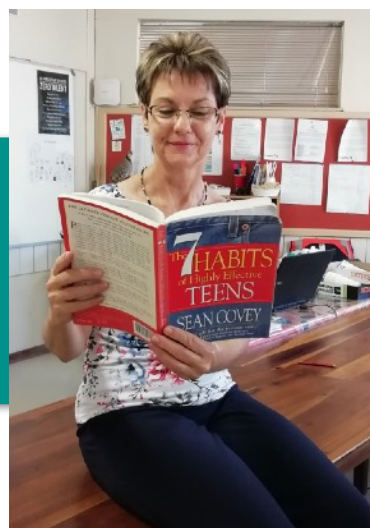
Thank you, Lola, for sharing the inspirational story of your life after WIS over the last half-year.



Rick Fitzpatrick

### W.O.R.D.

Guess who is also reading during our scheduled reading lessons, Mrs. Urte!







# GIVE

A LIFESAVING GIFT



**For ONLY N\$1 a Day!**

**You Can Become a Lifesaving Member!**

**N\$365**  
membership fee/year

Contact us for more information via email:  
[membership@spcawindhoek.org.na](mailto:membership@spcawindhoek.org.na) or call us on 061-238 654