



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

From the Board of Directors

All parents and staff are invited to a consultative meeting on Saturday, 26th October. This is a fundamental part of the school's Strategic Planning process. If you wish to have a say in discussions around securing the sustainability of the school, it is critical you attend. The event will be facilitated and involve some presentations but mostly be comprised of breakaway sessions and brainstorming which will be fed into the next Board meeting at the end of November. Registration opens at 8.30 and the meeting starts punctually at 9 am and will finish by 12pm. Snacks and beverages will be available. Please RSVP (by e-mail to the School Office) so we can ensure we have enough for everyone. We will confirm the location (at school) when we know how many are attending.

Peter MacKenzie

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

With the start of the new term the students, with their teachers, have begun reflecting on their strengths and goals for the next two terms. This is an important part of their learning and is an example of students having voice, choice and ownership in their learning. The students' reflections on their strengths and goals will be uploaded to Seesaw.

Another example of students having ownership in their learning is the upcoming **Student-Led Conferences** which will be held after school during **the week of 11th November**. This will be an opportunity for your children to share with you their strengths and goals and the progress they have made so far this year.

In the last several editions of the Oryx, Maggie Reiff has written about the ACE Pillars and Learning Principles. Student voice, choice and ownership come under the following Learning Principles:

- LP 1: **Learning Goals** - *Learners demonstrate understandings, competencies, knowledge, dispositions, and values that will allow them to become responsible and successful citizens.*
- LP 5: **Learner Engagement and Autonomy** - *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.*
- LP 6: **Research and Reflection on Learning** - *Research, reflection, and future design-oriented thinking are valued and acted upon by the community of learners.*

In addition to the goal-setting and the student-led conferences, there are many other ways in which students have voice, choice and ownership, such as Student Council, our Grade 5 students serving as MCs for our assemblies, deciding how the classroom should be arranged and where in the classroom students want to sit to do

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Dates to Remember

October 2019

- **26:** Consultative Meeting
- **31:** WIS Info Parent Session

November 2019

- **01:** Sec School Dance
- **09:** International Day
- **21 - 23:** Staff Work Days
- **27:** Election Day
- **29:** AA End for all Students



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WEEKLY PUZZLER

Eden, Tiancheng, and Elias (Gr. 2) solved last week's puzzler. Well done!

We move from the lazy sloth to the hardworking Mr. Johan who is a lumberjack. He can chop a log of wood into four pieces in 12 minutes. How long would he take to chop a log into five pieces?

Please send your answers, or other great puzzles, to pfarrell@wis.edu.na

Please send solutions, or any fun and interesting puzzlers to pfarrell@wis.edu.na



their work. These are just a few examples.

I have received a couple of responses giving feedback to the Assessment Conferences held before the mid-semester break and would appreciate more. Please take a few minutes to complete this [Assessment Conference Feedback form](#). Your responses are valued.

*Regards,
Beth Smith*

Question of the week!

What came first? The chicken or the egg? Please help curious Grade 2 students solve the mystery. Fill out the survey [HERE!](#)

The students would like to know your opinions and thoughts.

Thank you in advance.

Grade 2 students

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Culture in the ACE Protocol

Today I will be addressing the last section of the ACE Protocol that we are working with for our accreditation. We connect these Learning Principles to our Unit Planning to make the accreditation process meaningful. We believe that these Learning Principles are a great guideline for us to follow to ensure that our teaching and learning is relevant and current.



Culture of Learning 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. (ACE Internal Reflection Booklet - School Guide.)

Culture of Learning is mostly about giving students the opportunity to learn at all different levels so that they will be able to use their learning in real life. Learners should be **engaged** in their learning and should be **inspired** by their learning. They should have **autonomy over their learning and be able to make informed choices**. In order for us to achieve this, we need to give students the tools and strategies to become independent and confident learners and to see learning as an ongoing process for growth. Teachers will act as facilitators and mentors in the learning process compared to the traditional approach of being more lecturers and doing all the talking and work.

Learning should be based on **research and reflection** and should be **future-oriented**. Another strong pillar of the Culture of Learning is the **culture of inclusiveness** in all different situations and across the learning community. WIS has a strong sense of inclusiveness. We celebrate diversity in different areas and try to accommodate language, cultural as well as intellectual differences in our teaching and learning. The **Board of Directors** and the **Senior Leadership Team (SLT)**, our Mission, Vision and

Definition of Learning, embody and promote the norms and values of WIS. We all support the approach to teaching and learning and are in the process of finding a common understanding in the whole school community by aligning the curriculum and teaching approaches across the school.

The ACE Learning Protocol gives us the guidance to reflect and look at our practices on a continuous basis and make amendments where necessary. In the process we all keep learning and growing further.

**Regards,
Maggie Reiff**

Introducing MAP

(Measures of Academic Progress Growth Test) in the Secondary School

In the Primary School, MAP has been done for three years now. We recently had a training workshop with a facilitator from NWEA to guide us in our approach to using these MAP Growth tests to track progress and growth in our students. We have now decided to continue with the MAP Growth tests in the Middle School. This will enable us to track growth further into the school and act accordingly.

On the 24th and the 29th of October, our Grade 6s will be doing the MAP Growth tests for Grade 6 in English Reading and Language Usage and in Mathematics. Having had the experience of MAP testing in the past years already and having data available for the Grade 6s, we believe that their doing MAP Growth tests, will be beneficial for us to track their growth and for students to also get an idea about their growth.

MAP Growth Tests are different from standardised tests in that they are adaptive. This means that they adapt to the child's level of learning. If the child answers a question correctly, the next question is more challenging. If the child answers incorrectly, the next one is easier. This results in a detailed picture of what the child knows and is ready to learn - whether it is on, above, or below their grade level. The tests will be taken on the school's computers or iPads.

Many international schools use the MAP Growth tests and the feedback from these schools has been positive. We have decided to implement the MAP Growth tests in Secondary School as well as another tool to help teachers inform their instruction and to measure academic growth throughout the school year, as well as from year to year, in Mathematics and Language.

In our last parent information session hosted by the facilitator from NWEA, parents/guardians from Grade 6 were invited to attend to get an overview on the purpose of the tests and how we will use the information obtained to promote your child's learning with a focus on your child's individual growth and achievement.

Once our teachers have analysed the results of the tests and reflected on them, we will invite parents and guardians to share our insights and also strategies for parents and guardians to support their child's growth from home.

Feel free to direct any questions to Ms. Reiff (mreiff@wis.edu.na).

EU Business School

Dear Parents and Guardians,



We will be hosting an Information session with [EU Business School](#) again. Regina Mangué, Recruitment Manager of Namibia, will be visiting us and will be speaking to parents :

On 28 October 2019 | From 18:00 - 19:00 | In the PLC Media Room

Ms. Mangué will talk about EU Business School courses, different campuses, and the application process.

If you would like to meet with her personally for an individual meeting, please let Ms. Reiff (mreiff@wis.edu.na) know by Wednesday, 23rd October, so that we can arrange these individual meetings.

Click here to see EU Business School Bachelor [brochure](#) and [Tuition Fees](#), or check [here](#) what it's like to study at EU Business School.

Kindly confirm your attendance by **Wednesday, 23rd October 2019**.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards
Maggie Reiff

Supporting WIS Teaching and Learning

Visit by Mary Montgomery

Dr. Mary Montgomery has been an international educator for 20 years. After a career as a professor at universities in the United States and China, she began teaching exclusively in international schools in 2004. Mary has worked extensively with humanities curricula, including the IB, GCSE, and Australian National Curriculum. She also has a variety of experience working with Science, Design, Arts, and English Language Acquisition, providing in-class EAL support and creating interdisciplinary units in these subjects. Most recently Mary was the Head of the Humanities Department and a Grade 7 teacher at Western Academy of Beijing in China.



Mary visited WIS for the first time in March 2019 where she worked mainly with Middle School teachers in the Humanities. After visiting WIS in March, she is excited to return in October, and check in on the extraordinary progress made by the WIS faculty thus far. We are happy to have her back here in Namibia to continue this work with our teachers and support them in the transition from instruction that is mainly content based, to a learning environment where the learning experiences should become more relevant because teaching and learning happens more through linking concepts to learning and making learning more connected to the real world.

Mary's work with WIS has focused on retooling curricula in Grades 6-10, particularly in the departments of English and Social Studies. In addition to gathering feedback on current curriculum practices and working with departments to develop new curricula, she also offers professional learning opportunities for our teachers in UbD-based unit planning, project-based learning, authentic assessments and curriculum mapping and alignment.

According to Dr. M, re-envisioning curricula is a creative and collaborative process that requires a high degree of perseverance to maintain efficiency and achieve goals, and the faculty at WIS have what it takes to be successful in this endeavour.

Grade 7 Movie reviews

The Gr. 7s are currently focusing on non-fiction literature in Unit 1 for English. Last week we got to work with movie reviews. As part of their assessment, we went to the Grove Mall SterKinekor to watch *Angry Birds 2*. The students had to write a movie review and they were assessed on Criterion B: Organisation. Here are some examples of what the learners wrote:



'*Angry Birds 2*' is a great kid-friendly movie to watch with friends and family. It's a great movie filled with laughter and it kind of relates to the first movie. The animation was very smooth and the art style was enjoyable for everyone. I really like how new characters were added to the 'crew' which made the movie exciting for everyone.

I went to go watch the movie with my whole grade and the movie was very entertaining that the whole theatre was filled with laughter, just from one Grade! I can say that this is enough proof of how enjoyable this movie is. Although there are a lot of memorable moments in the movie, I feel that they rushed the ending. The movie was a bit too predictable and is why I'm giving this movie a 4 out of 5 stars.

Overall, I think this is a great movie to watch if you're looking for a great time with your family and friends.

Ivy Andersen Gr. 7

Angry Birds 2 is a funny, animated family movie that shows the main character, Red, dealing with loneliness and always having to be independent while trying to keep Bird Island safe from the evil pigs on Piggy Island, who are trying to steal the birds' eggs until the pigs suddenly call a truce to work together with the birds to stop Eagle Island from destroying both their homes.

But in order to do that they had to put together a team or a crew of people. Red, who is the leader, Bomb who is all muscle, Chuck who is the speedster, Silver the engineer (and kind of the brains of the whole operation), along with three pigs who also helps the team. In my opinion, I appreciate that even though the movie seems like it's more for a younger audience, the humour and overall story appeals to all ages. In conclusion, I think it is a great movie.

Rachael Arowolo Gr. 7

This movie is definitely a must-watch! It is full of funny moments that just crack you up. At times you think that you have the whole movie figured out and then Boom! out of nowhere the plot changes and everything is completely twisted out of control. It keeps you on your toes. Some of the jokes in the movie might offend one but it isn't meant in that way, it's for entertainment purposes. This movie has a great storyline and it's a lot better than the first movie. This movie gives off a good vibe and you are in a good mood after watching it. Overall this was a fun movie to watch and I definitely recommend this for all families.



Salome Rey Gr. 7

Being a reviewer for the Rich Critics Society, I analyse and review movies. The current film that I wish to review is the latest *Angry Birds* movie, *Angry Birds 2*.

Angry Birds 2 is the sequel to the 2016 film, *Angry Birds*. Right from the opening scene, one can recognise the film as a cliched kiddie movie. Except for a few subtle moments of adult humour, the movie is mainly aimed at an audience of 5 to 10 year olds.

Before we can comment on the latest movie, we have to explain some information about the first movie. The previous screenplay revolves around Red, one of the many flightless birds on Bird Island. The protagonist, has to defeat the evil Green Pigs and prevent them from invading Bird Island. Red banishes them and is considered a hero. Yet, instead of the birds, King Leonard of the Green Pigs, made a truce with Red to defeat Zeta, a maniacal and crazy villain, who has the disposal of a highly powerful weapon, which can destroy both islands in a matter of seconds. Originally, Red decided not to agree, until he realised that he could be glorious. He teams up with the Pigs and his buddies, Bomb, and Chuck, with a few other people. They go through multiple experiences together including a speed-dating sequence and a battle of wits between Red and smart science geek, Silver.

Within the film, there are many pop culture references. One of many is the reference to *Crazy Rich Asians*, a motion picture which hit the box-office recently. Another is the ever-popular songs by David Bowie - *Space Oddity* and Harold Faltermeyer - *Axel F*.

The *Angry Birds* movie has excellent graphics and a film suitable for children. The movie teaches about teamwork and cooperation, skills that are vital in a child's developmental years. Even though the movie was entertaining and worthwhile for both children and adults alike, the movie's screenplay was not well constructed and felt of order. Rating: 6.5 out of 10 stars

Mathew Varghese Gr.7

Grade 8 Punctuation Stories

The Gr. 8 students would like to share some of their Punctuation stories with the WIS community.

Please enjoy their [Interactive book](#)!

Pupkewitz Gala

25th & 26th October 2019

Please visit the PTA Community Centre. Swimming caps and swimming hoodies are still available! Each swimmer who represents WIS needs one!

Thank you to those who have already purchased one!

Sports Committee



PTA NEWS

Thank you to Manu, Ishbal, Veena, Ajit and their families for sharing Diwali with us and providing some beautiful decorations, tasty bitings, music and traditional dress. We also thank Anant and Ishaan (Grade 6) for sharing why they celebrate Diwali.

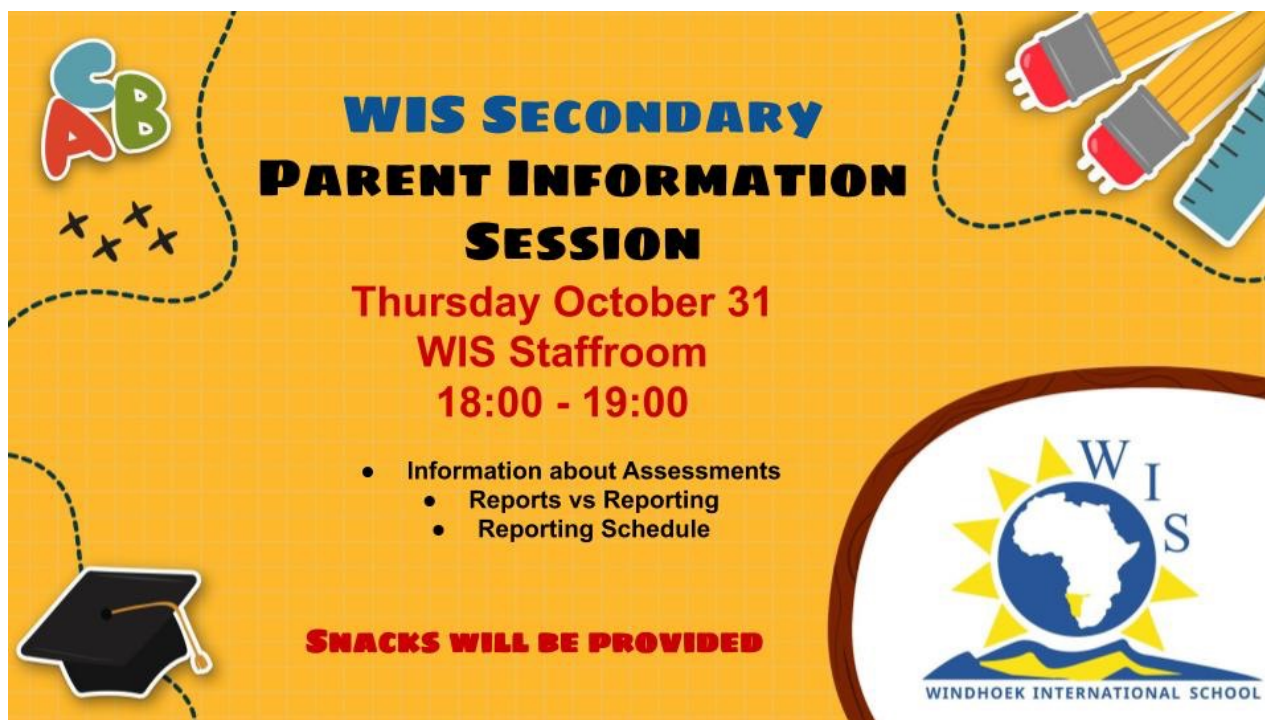
Diwali is actually next week, but unfortunately we need to say farewell to Manu, Ishbal and their family as they go back home to India. We wish you peace and prosperity.



**With Warmth
PTA**

W.O.R.D.
Guess who is also reading during our
scheduled reading lessons: Ms. Susanne Haugk



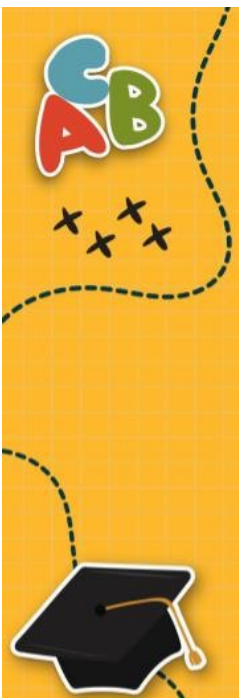



WIS SECONDARY PARENT INFORMATION SESSION

Thursday October 31
WIS Staffroom
18:00 - 19:00

- Information about Assessments
 - Reports vs Reporting
 - Reporting Schedule

SNACKS WILL BE PROVIDED



*The Gateway to
Endless Opportunities*

City of Windhoek

Vision: To be a SMART and Caring City by 2022



PUBLIC NOTICE

**TEMPORARY WATER SUPPLY SHUTDOWN
ON THE VON BACH-WINDHOEK PIPELINE**

The City of Windhoek hereby notifies its consumers of a planned water supply shutdown by NamWater on the Von Bach-Windhoek pumping line. The scheduled water supply shutdown is necessitated by maintenance work from 20 to 22 October 2019.

The shutdown will have an impact on the water supply to Windhoek, and the City of Windhoek will ensure that all reservoirs are full in preparation for the shutdown. However, residents are urged to use water sparingly during this period.

Consumers who get water directly from the NamWater pipeline in the Brakwater area may experience water supply interruptions for the duration of the shutdown and are urged to make the necessary arrangements.

Normal water supply from NamWater is anticipated by the 22 October 2019.

Issued by:
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A celebration of the diversity of cultures from around the world

**ANNUAL
INTERNATIONAL
DAY
FESTIVAL**

@ Windhoek International School

10:00 - 14:00 | **NOV 9TH, 2019**

yummy food - great music -
fun games

Top 5 ways you can help with International Day happening on Nov 9th

WE NEED YOU! YES, YOU!

1. Send us your top 3 favorite songs that represent your country (old or new)
2. Bake a yummy cake for our inaugural cake raffle
3. Prepare a sweet or savory cultural dish for our first ever Food of the World Tent
4. Loan us your gazebo or large event tent (we need more shade!)
5. Sign up for a shift at our popular PTA BAR (pick a 1 hour shift between 10am-2pm)

Email us at pta@wis.edu.na