



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

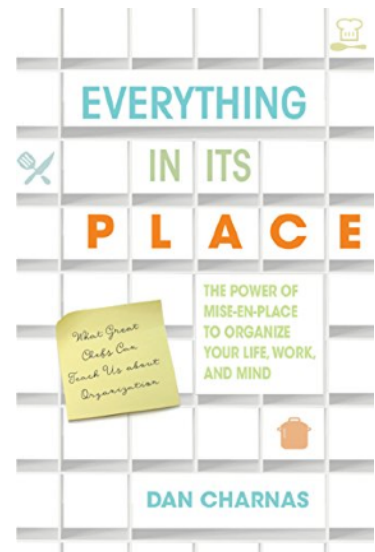
Dear Community,

Whenever I face competing priorities and feel a sense that there's more to do than time to do it, I make a list. In his book "[Everything in Its Place: The Power of Mise-En-Place to Organize Your Life, Work, and Mind](#)", Dan Charnas shares how the world's greatest chefs organise themselves to focus their actions and accomplish their work. It turns out that these principles can be equally applied to school and work. When you make a list and identify how much time each task will take, it's possible to prioritise and plan your day.

Although there are many apps now available for keeping digital lists, the use of physical to-do lists [have been shown](#) to significantly reduce stress and improve productivity. There's still no replacement for pen and paper.

In the 2022-23 School Year, we hope to provide students with a very useful Student Planner that will be used on a daily basis to keep track of tasks and ensure that everything is in its place. Here is a photo of Ms Angie and Mr Michael providing a sneak peak of this new planner. Each planner will cost N\$150 and we hope to provide them to all 200 students in Grades 5 through 8 next school year and have some available on an optional basis for the other grade levels. If you or your business would like to be one of nine sponsors for N\$3000 then we would love to add your message or company logo to the back of this daily student planner! Please let Ms Angie know if you're interested in this sponsorship by writing to ajvrensburg@wis.edu.na.

At WIS, we don't just focus on knowledge and concepts. We also teach students to *learn how to learn*. Self-Management is one of the five core skills the International Baccalaureate has identified within its "[Approaches to Learning](#)" framework, and we deliberately build these strategies, skills, and attitudes into our teaching and learning environment.



PARENT INFORMATION PORTAL
Click here for more information

Contents

- From the Director p. 1 - 2
- Primary News p. 2 - 5
- Secondary News p. 6 - 9
- Other News p. 10 - 12

Dates to Remember 2022

- **23 January**
Grade 9 - 10 Orange River Trip
- **26 January**
WIS Annual General Meeting
- **27 January**
Human Right's Expo
- **2 February**
Board Meeting (6-8pm)
- **4 - 5 February**
Swimming Gala
- **7 - 11 March**
WIS Arts Festival & Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences





Alumni Corner



Jenny Alexander

Jenny completed her IB Diploma at WIS in 2010. An IBDP class of 13 students. She studied Accounting at the University of Cape Town and returned to work as an accountant at Ernst & Young in Windhoek where she was the Chairperson of the Corporate Social Responsibility Committee of EY.

This is her story now:

She lives with her partner Martin in Bali, Indonesia

We Started a Business!
@chaiofthetigerbali

Read the below to find out how we got here.

In May 2021 we decided to embark on a sort of gap year/sabbatical/mini retirement in search of new perspectives and self growth. Thereafter the plan was to emigrate to a first world country and continue pursuing our professional careers.

Taking the time off? Some thought we were crazy, some were inspired, and some have marvelled at what we have done, unable to believe they were capable of the same.

Things changed however.

Martin had the idea to start a business in July 2021 and we figured this was the best way to gain new perspectives and grow.

Continues on the next page ...

Each month, we highlight one of the IB Learner Profiles as part of our homeroom and “ATL” lessons. We would like to collect quotes which pertain to each of these values, and include them in the Student Planner (and in the Oryx). If you have a “quote of the week” relating to one of the IB Learner Profiles that you think our community would benefit from meditating upon - perhaps a quote or saying from your home language or culture - then please share it by completing [this form](#) by the end of this month.

Learner Profiles - Focus Month	
Learner Profile	Month
Inquirers	August
Communicators	September
Risk-takers	October
Thinkers	November
	December
Balanced	January
Knowledgeable	February
Caring	March
Principled	April
Open-minded	May
Reflective	June

[Share an Inspiring Quote for the WIS Community](#)

Finally, a friendly reminder that this year’s Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 26th January 2022. The reports and financials were shared this week by email.

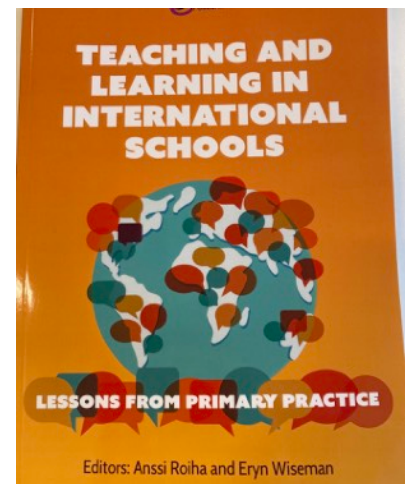
**Sincerely,
Ethan Van Druenen**

Watch the first Episode of WIS News [here!](#)

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Dear WIS Community,

This week in the Primary, WIS News was launched by Grade 2B. This (revived) initiative will be led by a different class every two weeks and will report on the latest news in the Primary School. Mr. Danai and Mr. JP have set up the Green Screen and students will get the opportunity to step into the role of news presenters, interviewers, journalists and editors. In this week’s Oryx I would like to explain why I am delighted to see this happen and why from an educational perspective, initiatives like these are excellent and an important part of literacy development. I am going to take some excerpts from my own work in a chapter I wrote entitled Rethinking Literacy published in the book Teaching and Learning in International Schools: Lessons from Primary Practice.



“If it were possible to define generally the mission of education, it could be said that its fundamental purpose is to ensure that all students benefit from learning in ways that allow them to participate fully in public, community, [Creative] and economic life.” (New London Group, 2000, in Jenkins 2006)



Once we evaluated the risks and rewards of starting a cafe, we had to come up with the name, the concept, the recipes, find staff, register the business, design and renovate a property, manage our finances and most difficult of all, learn to deal with uncertainty.

We had to figure out how to manage our new business relationship in parallel with our personal relationship, dividing responsibility and communicating more effectively.

Our first child together, Chai of the Tiger was brought to life with a gestation period of only 3 months. Many people have been surprised by this speed, existing business owners, aspiring ones, friends and family.

AGAIN: Some thought we were crazy, some were inspired, and some have marvelled in what we have done, unable to believe they were capable of something similar themselves.

However, we are lucky to say that no-one actually discouraged us, and that we have each-other's support in it all.

We are by no means saying we know what we are doing, nor that it was easy, but we are learning a whole lot, and even more rapidly than when things seemed more "certain".

We may or may not still emigrate, but we are figuring out our values. Tim Ferris used the following quote in the "4-hour work week" (one of our mini-retirement reads).

"Make mistakes of ambition and not mistakes of sloth. Develop the strength to do bold things, not the strength to suffer." — **Niccolo Machiavelli, The Prince**

In today's world, most students have almost unlimited access to mobile devices. More than ever before, students are creating their own media, something not witnessed in past generations. A quick Youtube search will show an abundance of content created by young people. Educators need to teach not only the traditional literacy skills students need to succeed but also the critical thinking skills that allow students to not only consume but create digital content. If, as educators, we fail to incorporate the importance of media literacy, we are consigning our students to a future in which they only know how to respond to stimulus created by those who know how to tell our technology what to do (Pannell, 2019). An approach to teaching literacy that includes critical thinking skills to decipher media but also the creation of all kinds of media, particularly the kinds of media that students engage with on a daily basis, is of paramount importance to develop 21st century global digital citizens.

The great news is that technology, such as Green Screen, iMovie and a range of other webtools offer educators a wealth of opportunities to teach not only new literacy skills, but other valuable skills, too. They allow children to, as the quotation above mentions, to participate fully in public, community, and economic life.

As an example, students may publish their work to the web allowing not only their peers but a global audience to give feedback on their work.

Through the creation and publishing of digital media students and educators share, teach and learn from each other. They learn engagement, accountability and motivation while contributing to community experience that expands their knowledge of communication in our global society.

I can't wait to see how all of this evolves through WIS News!

[I can't wait to see how all of this evolves through WIS News- please enjoy the first episode!](#)

**Warm regards,
Marcelle van Leenen**



← **Tweet**

 **Marcelle van Leenen** @marcelleleenen

When students are given a platform to publish for an authentic audience just watch the quality improve! Great idea to use Padlet and invite feedback for Grade 3G Informational Text Books @WIS_NAM #LearningAtWIS



 **Celebration OF LEARNING**
padlet.com
Grade 3G Informational Text Books

18:32 · 19/01/2022 · Twitter Web App

||| View Tweet activity

1 Retweet 1 Like

 Add another Tweet

How Grade 2 discovered their new unit

First, Grade 2D and 2B students had to find out which groups they were in. There was much excitement as both classes were mixed up.

Then, each group was given a clipboard and clues. They had to complete a jigsaw puzzle and think about where they might find the picture on the school grounds.

Once they found the Science Lab, they read out the rhyme and worked out which transdisciplinary theme we will be focussing on. In the PYP, so it would seem
 We like to look at different themes.
 Who we are, what makes you, you?
 A sense of self and family too
 Where we are in place in time
 Discoveries, and history of humankind
 How the world works, for you and me
 Could be science or technology
 How we express ourselves
 Our culture, our art
 How we organise ourselves
 How do we start?
 Sharing the planet,
 SDG goals
 We're in this together
 That's how we roll
 Take a good look at all the clues
 Which theme are we about to do?



These questions were given to the groups and they shared their thoughts in a class discussion.

What inspires you to play and learn	How is our understanding of the world changing every day	What do you think we will do in our unit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fun • Being together • Find out stuff • Inspired by others (teachers, friends, family) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corona has changed the world • Scientists want to know more about Corona • Weather changes • We learn more every day • Learning helps us to understand the world 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science • Figuring stuff out • Testing • Experiments • How things change • Explore • Measure • Research

Ms. Beata & Ms. Jan

Time for a break !

'The playground, instead of telling the child what to do, becomes a place for endless exploration, of endless opportunity for changing play'. - **Isamu Noguchi**

Grade 2 had so much fun during break. Some students played soccer as usual and some explored new activities with our beautiful new tree trunks. It was sad to see the trees go, however, students were very excited to see the up cycled trunks adding a new dimension to their playground.



Thank you Grade 2 parents for the support and initiative in improving our playground.

Grade 2 Team

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Assessment and Grading - what's the difference?

It's not about a pass or fail! It's about learning!

Most of us have grown up with "grades", tests, exams - pressure from these to perform and compare ourselves. At WIS and with current developments in education, the focus of progress shifts to a student's growth - to learning that is more than rote memorisation. Learning has to include the acquisition of skills that a young person can use later in their education and career and in life.



Assessment and grading are often used as synonyms. They are, however, very different from each other. Grading revolves around performance - numbers, letters - quantitative data. Assessment, on the other hand, provides learners with feedback so that gaps in learning can be identified and addressed - in that way real learning and growth will occur.

To outline the differences between assessment and grading, it is prudent to determine what the goal is of grading and what the goal of assessment is.

The goal of **grading** is to evaluate individual student performance against a set of criteria for a given unit or course. Grades may or may not be an accurate measure of student learning, depending on what is being evaluated. For example, attendance, on-time assignment submission, formatting, and participation may not

reveal a lot about how much a student has learned, but they can offer indicators or signals for instructor intervention. (Turnitin Newsletter/January 2022 - [blog entry](#))

Grades alone do not provide feedback that results in learning. They provide a standardised measurement of what was tested. Thomas Guskey argues that, when grades are used alone, “even accurate, task-involving grades don’t lead to improved student learning. Students get no direction for improvement from a letter, number, word, phrase, or symbol attached to evidence of their learning. Only when grades are paired with individualised comments that offer guidance and direction for improvement do they enhance achievement and foster learning progress” (Guskey, 2019).

Assessment on the other hand, is more than just a number, a letter or a phrase. Assessment gives room for feedback on a deeper level which in turn leads to learning on a more real and deeper level. Assessment can guide students to the next step in their learning, it can help a student reflect on their learning and take responsibility for their learning. Formative assessments are low stakes tasks that are assessed along the way to guide and feed back to the learner. This can then direct learning towards the summative assessment that occurs at the end of a teaching period.

At WIS, assessments are intended to put our Definition of Learning into practice: Learning at WIS is a journey of inquiring, discovering, and experimenting while developing understanding and acquiring new knowledge, skills and concepts. In the process the learner constructs meaning by making connections and applying these in daily life situations. The learner realises individual potential through continued reflection and exploration. The learning environment is multi-sensory, collaborative, enjoyable and encourages international-mindedness.

When learning happens in this context, it can be meaningful and long lasting and support a young person’s journey across disciplines and in multiple ways.

As adults, we need to be wary of “pushing for good grades”. Although universities still admit students according to their numeric performance, there is a clear shift towards a more holistic approach to learning also at tertiary institutions. Students who have had the opportunity to follow the International Baccalaureate curriculum, will have had the chance to develop more holistically - to be able to think critically, learn independently and be actively involved in their learning journey.

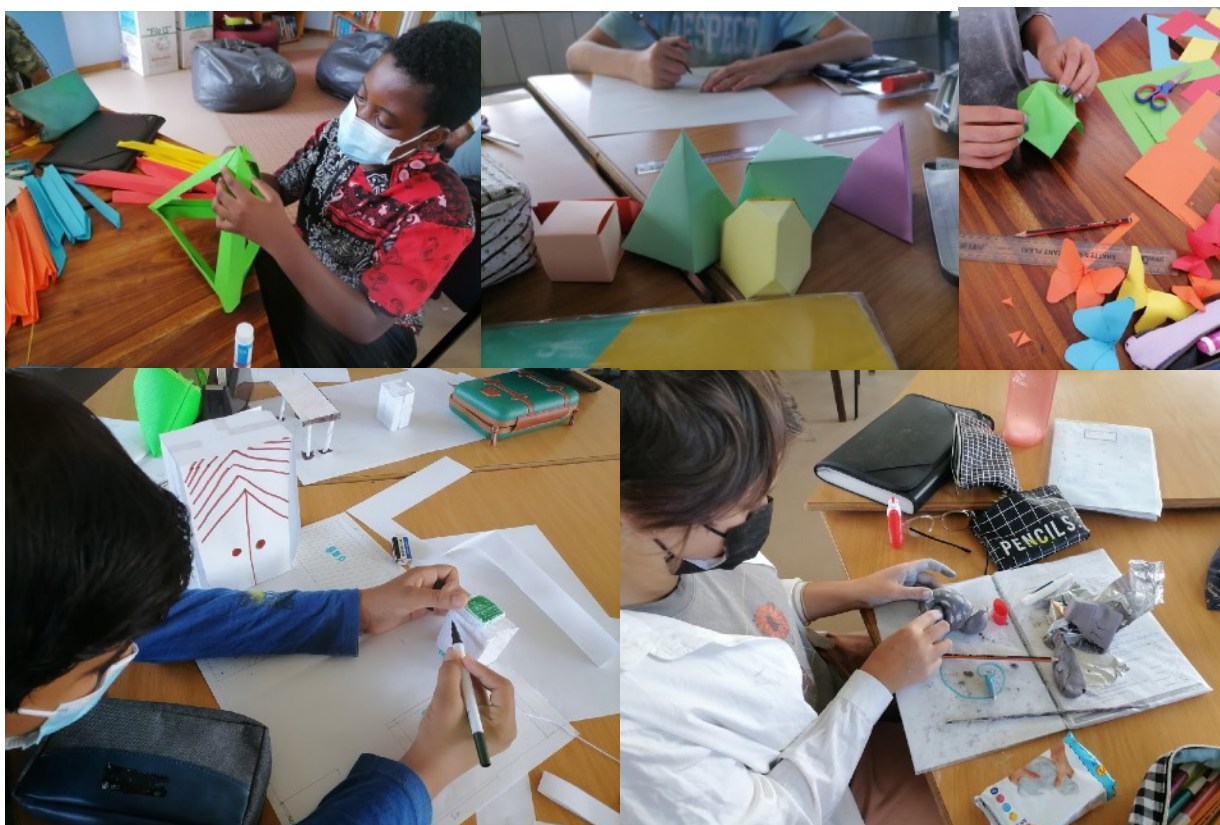
**Regards,
Maggie Reiff**

Maths and Art

The wonderful world of Maths and Art

Grade 8 students have been busy working towards display pieces for the Arts festival in March. They were tasked with thinking about their mathematical learning and using their creativity to explore how it could be presented in an artistic way for the upcoming Arts festival. Ideas have included geometric designs, golden ratio scale models using clay, 3-dimensional scale drawings, origami, amongst others. I hope you are as excited as we are to see their final pieces displayed at the Arts festival in March!

Here are some photos of the works in progress ...



Lian Cohen

Avis Dam Triathlon – SPRINT and SUPER SPRINT

DATE: Saturday, 29 January

PLACE: Avis Dam Triathlon – SPRINT and SUPER SPRINT

TIME: Race starts @08:00



Several WIS Kids and Parents did it last year and it was so much fun.

The Sprint **Triathlon** (750m Swim/+10km off-road bike/5km off-road run) can be done solo or in a team.

The **Super Sprint Triathlon** (350m Swim/ 5km off-road bike/2.5km off-road run) has been done solo so far. But if we get four teams together they will open up the team option for this event. Let's get a little WIS crowd together!

Entry is open now! The deadline for Registration is next Wednesday 26 January!

The Namibian Triathlon Federation (NTF) tested the water in 2021 and the results came in clean. The water in the Avis Dam is just as clean as Oanob.

For further information: <https://ntf.go.na/1223-2/> and the information below.

Please note that this is not an official WIS event but organised by parents:

- Anna Scharrenbroich (081 723 9315)
- Seodhna Keown (081 286 5080)

**Please call/text Anna or Seodhna if you are interested or have any questions.



DATE / REGISTRATION / LOCATION

Date: 29 January 2022 | Avis Dam
Registration will be from 07:15 on the day of the event
The Sprint race will start at 08:00 and the Super Sprint will start at 08:20
Transition - Avis Parking lot.



ENTRY FEES

Members - N\$ 200
Non Members - N\$ 250
Teams N\$ 450
You can pay via Paytoday or EFT

Namibian Triathlon Federation
FNB Account 62242025345
Branch: Maerua Mall - 282273
Please reference Name + Surname + Avis



DISTANCES

Sprint Distance (750m Swim / +-10km off-road bike / 5km off-road run)
Super Sprint (350m Swim / 1+-5km bike / 2.5km Off-road run)
Team event Only Sprint Distance



Enter at - www.ntf.go.na

Swimming Gala

The school will be hosting our Annual Swimming Gala on Saturday, 5th February 2022 from 08:30 to 14:00.

The Gala will take place at MAC pool, (next to the Olympia Swimming pool). All students from EY1 up to Grade 12 are welcome to participate.

The Gala consists of the following sign-ups:

- Students from Grade 4 to 12 who are able to swim 25m independently are welcome to sign up for the Inter House Competition Gala.
- Students from EY1 to Grade 5 who are not swimmers but would like to have fun, sign up for the Fun Development Gala (see options on the Google form below).



Swimmers can choose one or more of the four competitive strokes. There will be girls' and boys' events in each year group, along with Freestyle mixed relay events.

Refreshments will be for sale and certificates will be handed out at the next assembly.

We would like to take this opportunity to bring our community together and celebrate the accomplishments of our young students. To make this event a success we would like to ask parents for active participation. I would like to strongly encourage everyone to maintain social distance during the event and respect COVID rules and regulations.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. (bstephanus@wis.edu.na)

Please click [HERE](#) to sign up for the Swimming Gala.

[Beata Stephanus](#)

Feeling lost at WIS?

See the complete campus map below.



CALL OUT!

-For PYP Art Festival material donations-
Thank you in advance!

We have begun our artwork and need your help with gathering used items. If you have any of the below materials at work or home that can be donated to the Lower school Art room, please contact me. I can also come and collect lsmith@wis.edu.na

- Yarn/wool
- Fabric and leather cut-offs
- Old T-shirts and jeans for flag making
- Yoghurt pots - big and small
- Water bottles - big and small
- Large and strong cardboard
- Small world bits and bobs or wooden pieces for fairy houses
- Wooden logs for carving x 10 - preferably camel thorn or sweet thorn



Human Rights Day

Universal Declaration of Human Rights Photo & student insight exhibition

You're Invited

**ALL
HUMAN
ALL
EQUAL**

Date: Thursday, 27 January 2022

Venue: Fish Eagles Nest

Time: 07h30 - 13h40

Come and see WIS students' perspectives on the theme:
EQUALITY - Reducing inequalities, advancing human rights

*UN Photo collection



**STAND UP
FOR HUMAN
RIGHTS**

#STANDUP4HUMANRIGHTS



SECOND HAND CLOTHES SALE

BACK TO School Namibia

SATURDAY 22 JANUARY 10:00 TO 18:00

100% of the revenue will be used to purchase school stationery for schools in Kavango.

Clothes from Europe!

A fundraising event at the occasion of the opening of the coffee Shop/ Restaurant Hooves & Gardens.
 Location: Old Aris hotel - 25 km South of Windhoek (12 km before Omeya)
 More info: info@backtoschoolnamibia.com

FRANCO NAMIBIAN CULTURAL CENTRE

KIDS' WORKSHOP

French Crêpe Workshop

SATURDAY 5 FEBRUARY 10AM @FNCC N\$100

+264 81 676 1213 | +264 61 387 330
culturalofficer@fncc.org.na
www.fncc.org.na

118 Robert Mugabe Avenue, Windhoek