



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Development developments

All parents should have received on Monday a message from Matthew Black, Chair of the Board of Directors, announcing that the first phase of our development plan has been approved.

Sports facilities

It may not be widely known but the school owns most of the land beyond the fence at the western end of the campus (i.e. beyond the sports field and the staff car park). This is where the first work will begin, constructing four multi-use courts adjacent to the field. These will be used for basketball, tennis, netball and volleyball. At the same time, the big field will be re-surfaced and expanded.

Cafeteria, Canteen, Restaurant

Well, whatever we end up calling it, it will be located between the sports hall and the staff car park and will include a large area of covered seating where learners (and their parents?), staff, teachers and visitors may enjoy healthy freshly-cooked hot and cold food.

Phase Two

Detailed designs have already been completed for the next phase and it is hoped that this may be approved in time to be built concurrently with Phase One. This would see a major refurbishment of the sports hall and the construction of two specialist teaching rooms.

And then?

The next step will be to construct a new workshop in a more remote (but, ironically, more accessible) part of the campus allowing the conversion of the current workshop into a space for teaching and learning.

There is much more in the masterplan but, realistically, the above should be do-able within the next eighteen months and will be a great improvement on our current facilities.

Want to know more?

There will be a stand at this year's International Day (Saturday 10th November) at which members of the Board and the Development Committee will be happy to show you the plans and explain the thinking behind the development programme.

Peter MacKenzie

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Dates to Remember

October 2018

- **01 - 05:** Secondary Week B
- **02 - 03:** Secondary SPTC - See d6 for details!
- **04:** Secondary Inter-house sports
- **05:** End of Term 1



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Teacher Feature

Michael "P" Parsons
Math & ICT Teacher

Please call me "P"

I was very lucky growing up. I went to a small elementary school named C.D Howe that went from Kindergarten to Grade 8. My favourite teachers were my Grade 1 and 2 teacher Ms. Storozuk and my Grade 5 and 6 teacher Mr. Morgan. Both taught me for two years and they really helped me develop and figure out who I am as a learner. My parents were very supportive and teaching is in my DNA. My father was an English Professor at the local university, my Mother taught Nursing at the local college and my sister currently teaches Education at the University of Victoria in Canada. Because of this, my childhood home was full of learning, discussions and exploration. In high school, I was even luckier. I had the best teacher on the planet, Mr. Curtis. He was my PE teacher all through high school. Not only was he my teacher, but he was my coach, my teammate and later on became my friend.

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PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Windhoek International School is one of more than 1000 international schools in 146 countries currently using Measures of Academic Progress® (MAP® Growth™) to support their students' growth and achievement. The individual results of our recent testing have been sent to those parents who attended an information session last year. If you haven't received your child's results but attended an information session, please send me an email: bsmith@wis.edu.na. There will be another information session Tuesday, 2 October - 7:30 - 8:30. Click [here](#) for the form to sign up to attend.

We will be using the results of the September testing to help students to grow in their learning of mathematics, reading and language usage. The results will also be used in conjunction with curriculum review. The next testing sessions will take place in February/March.

For more information about MAP and resources for parents, visit the website: www.nwea.org. In addition, this [Parent Toolkit](#) can be downloaded from the NWEA website. The Parent Toolkit includes answers to frequently asked questions, *A Parent's Guide to MAP Growth* (which has options for translated versions in many languages) and a link to the NWEA education blog.

Regards,
Beth Smith

PYP Coordinator's message

Dear Families

Thank you to all those parents who attended the two PYP parent workshop sessions. There were some very interesting discussions. Parents were inquiring into and building on their own understanding of the PYP framework, what inquiry is and how their children learn.

They explored the particular Unit of Inquiry their child's grade level has been doing and fed back to the group on what it looked liked, sounded like and felt like. Some wonderful feedback from parents is that their children are making real life connections in their learning and that they are witnessing this being transferred and applied in their home setting. In the Early Years, parents were becoming familiar with what multi-sensory play based learning is and how play fosters and is a vehicle to support young children's inquiry and investigation of the world around them.



and investigation of the world around them.

Teacher Feature continued

I was born in Thunder Bay, Ontario Canada. I grew up playing ice hockey, baseball and racing mountain bikes. My family is really into sports. My sister was an all-star basketball player and sprinter and my father was athlete of the year (Basketball) for Lakehead University in 1964. My grandfather was on Team Canada for ice hockey and my cousin Liam won a Bronze Medal in Rowing at the Beijing Olympics in 2008. My 17-year-old niece is an amazing basketball player and an all provincial rugby player. I love sports! I was lucky enough to play ice hockey and club baseball at Lakehead University where I graduated with degrees in Natural Sciences, Psychology and Education. Sports have given me some amazing opportunities such as coaching both the Chinese Women's National Ice Hockey Team and the New Zealand Men's Ice Hockey Team. I was also fortunate to have coached Varsity Girls Softball for 10 years at two different international schools. Contrary to what some might believe, the greatest thing about all the sports I've played or coached was not the winning or the championships, but the teammates, opponents and coaches I met along the way.

I love teaching and coaching. My passions are sports, nutrition and education. I try and model a healthy and balanced lifestyle for the students to emulate. This is my 6th school. I have lived in five countries and travelled to over 60. I am hoping the students and community here at WIS will help me learn all the things I need to know about life here in Namibia. I am very excited to be at WIS and living in this amazing country. Thank you for all the support and kindness.



Please refer to the wisyp.blogspot.com to find out more about the PYP.

More information workshops coming up for Term 2:

- PYP Parent Workshop
- Seesaw Workshop

Avril van Zyl

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Bits and pieces from Secondary School for Information

We often say that schools are busy places, but do outsiders see what happens in our school if they are not always directly part of what is happening?

Next week, we are having our bi-annual Student Parent Teacher Conferences. Have you signed up to speak to your child/ren's teachers?

Our IGCSE Art and Design students just completed a project on graphic communications. Students designed pictograms of different subjects and the WIS community was invited to give feedback on the pictograms the five students had made of some of their subjects. This was a great insight into a small part of IGCSE Art and Design and an opportunity for active and "real life" feedback.



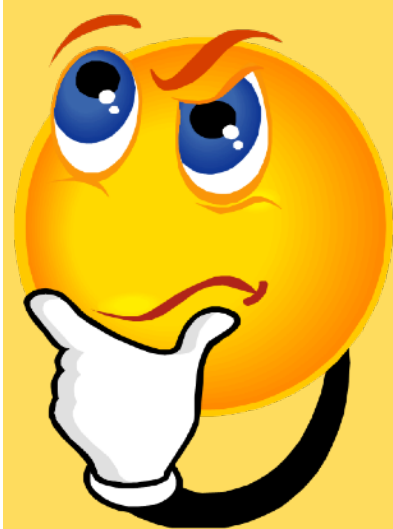
WEEKLY PUZZLER

Here is a fun game to try: [Tower of Hanoi](#).

According to a legend there is a Vietnamese temple where monks have shifting 64 golden disks (as in the Tower of Hanoi game above). Once they have completed the task, the universe will end. If they can move one disk per second, how many years will it take to complete this task? You can round off your answer to the nearest billion years.

Answers can be submitted to pfarrell@wis.edu.na.

New puzzles can also be submitted to the same address.



Another opportunity our senior students need to be introduced to is the opportunity to apply for a scholarship to attend one of **The United World Colleges** (www.uwc.org). This is intended for students in Grade 10 who are planning to enter the IB Diploma after completing the IGCSE in May 2019.

“UWC is a movement that delivers a challenging and transformational educational experience to a **deliberately diverse group of young people**, inspiring them to become agents of positive change.” This is in line with the IB Learner Profile and WIS’ Mission and Vision.

Central to the ethos of UWC is the belief that education can bring together young people from all backgrounds on the basis of their **shared humanity**, to engage with the possibility of **social change** through courageous action, personal example and selfless leadership. Today, UWC has **17 schools and colleges on 4 continents**. These colleges teach the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma as their formal curriculum for Grade 11 and 12 while also emphasising the importance of experiential learning, community service and outdoor activities.

UWC college selection is based on demonstrated promise and potential. In accordance with the UWC ethos that **education should be independent of the student’s socioeconomic means**, the majority of students receive **scholarship assistance**, based on their needs.

Applications are invited for 2019 entry for students currently in Grade 10.

The application deadline is October 10, 2018. Admission forms are available online and can be accessed through:

<http://muwc.azurewebsites.net/Account/Registration.aspx>

Should you have any questions on this, kindly contact Ms. Reiff for further information. The students in Grade 10 will be informed about this opportunity on Monday morning during their regular registration time.

On Thursday and Friday a number of our senior students participated in the NUST Brain Match where they competed against 31 other schools in General Knowledge, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and Renewable Energy. Watch this space for more information on how our students did.

Another group of senior students from Grades 9 - 12 left for Johannesburg on Thursday, 27th to participate in the annual JoMUN conference where they will be acting as delegates and chairs to the various committees.

Apart from a busy academic schedule our students actively engage in activities outside of school that confirm and strengthen their development to become responsible and engaged citizens of our planet. Well done to all of you.

Regards,
Maggie Reiff

Soccer madness...

as the HopSol league comes to an end!

Friday 21st September was a day to remember. Soccer finals for the younger leagues of the HopSol league. U9,U10,U11 and U13 leagues all played at Ramblers Football Club under an atmosphere of excitement and trepidation. In the end an incredible show of skills from the hard work and dedication of many players.

WIS was well represented and a couple of our students won medals for their respective clubs, with Quinten Strauss (Grade 5) and his ACFA team winning the U11 league and Francisco and Pedro Ferreira (Grade 8) and their SKW team winning the U13 league!

Well done to Tristan Guyon (Grade 3) and his ACFA team who won a Silver medal for the U9's league; Ali Mohammed (Grade 5) and his Ramblers team for winning Bronze for the U10's league; and Deacan Bester (Grade 6) and his ACFA team for winning Bronze for the U11's league.



Well done boys! Your hard work, dedication and passion for football shines through! Wishing all our WIS football players good luck at the Swakopmund Soccer Tournament this weekend!

"When my body gets tired, my mind says "This is where winners are made." When my mind gets tired, my heart says "This is where champions are made."" - Baylor Barbee

Jaqueline Ferreira

Upper Primary Production

Coming soon to an auditorium near you..... Etoshlosha! Here we are in rehearsals with Ms J and Ms Michelle Jackson-Read.



If anyone has large cardboard boxes - the type that new fridges and cookers come in - can you please bring them to Ms Heike in the Secondary Art Room? We need them to create props for our play.

Thanks in advance
Ms Jan

Our School Community

1) spotted a lot of different people from our school community when we went for a walk around the school.



Go to these links to see two items from our recent assembly.

Discovering WIS

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FzinSqzKpeBeqqjrEBE8P4AAQA48RRXN/view?usp=sharing>

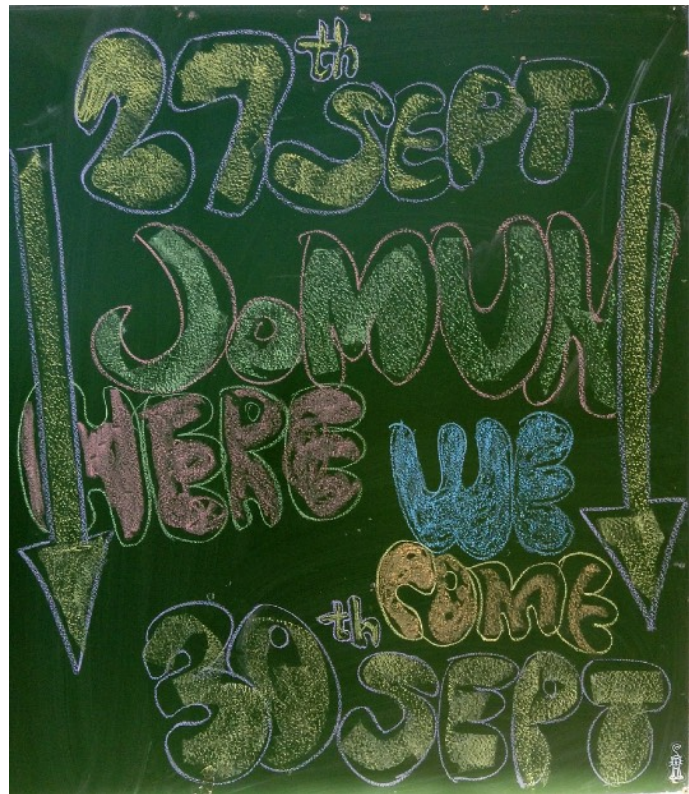
Everyone is important

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hVOFjOuhc20-1L0MG10IdjSOzzSWTYEY/view?usp=sharing>

JOMUN XVI

After months of preparation the MUN afternoon activity group has headed off to the American School of Johannesburg for the annual JOMUN conference. The group left school for the airport at 05:00 on Thursday morning and will return on Sunday at 12:20 after two and a half days of developing resolutions and participating in UN-style debates. The delegates from WIS are Diella Barihuta, Gérsia Capequel, Fiona Farrell, Grace Farrell, Septian Irfandi, Maija Lindy, Tanatswa Murwira, Sola Morota-Alakija, Tosca Ndina Simon, Tuundjakuje Tengee, Yiming Xu and Luna Kudzai Zhakata. Ashraf Hishamuddin is Chair of a committee and Afua Brantua is Deputy Chair of a committee. This will be the fourth time that WIS has participated in a JoMUN conference- the first time in 2008 and more recently in 2016 and 2017. Wish us luck!!!

Edwina Rimmington



MUNNAM

AN EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME!

On Wednesday and Thursday last week, I attended the MUN Namibia conference held at the Safari Hotel.

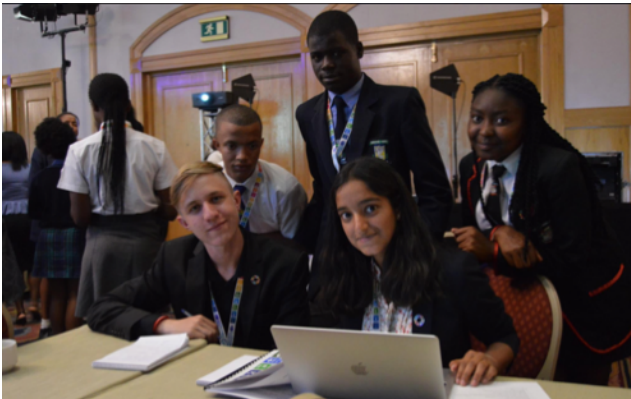
MUN stands for Model United Nations and it is a simulation of how the UN actually works, where participants are given countries to represent and they provide their country's point of view on topics of global significance. It requires the skill to research, come up with rebuttals if and when needed, speak confidently, critical thinking and much more. The conference was a great opportunity to develop my skills in areas that were not my strengths, especially public speaking.

The topics we discussed were 'MUN Advocacy for the Sustainable Development Goals and Global Citizenship' on Day 1 and 'Ensuring Global Water and Sanitation Availability and Sustainability' on Day 2. Like minded countries come together and write a resolution with a number of clauses that all countries must follow, and in the end, delegates vote for the resolution they think is the best for their country. I represented The Republic of Namibia along with another student from DHPS. This event was extremely engaging and exposed us to the positions of so many more countries on the above topics. The setup was very professional and the quality of the conference was also quite high.

Although my partner and I were quite inexperienced, we were one of the 3 (out of 30) nominees for the Best Delegation Award. The nominations were based on how engaged and involved the country was and I was pleased that we were on par with the plethora of more experienced delegates at the event. Although the two days were quite tiring, albeit mentally simulating, it ended with a good note and I look forward to doing it again next year.



An unmoderated caucus (where we're allowed to walk around and talk to other delegates)



Drafting our resolution

I would encourage more students to participate, especially if they are looking for opportunities to be involved in global issues and want to make a difference in the world! We are the future after all!

Amrita Nambiar - Grade 11 RF





ALL FUNDS COLLECTED DIRECTLY HELP THE ANIMALS AT SPCA WINDHOEK!

SPCA WINDHOEK YARD SALE FUNDRAISER



YARD SALE

SATURDAY, 20 OCTOBER, 2018

09:00 - 13:00

145 ROBERT MUGABE AVENUE

DONATE YOUR STUFF!

Do you have "stuff" to get rid of?
We will gladly take it off your hands.

DROP OFF DEADLINE: 13 October 2018, 09:00 - 13:00

@ 145 Robert Mugabe Avenue, Windhoek, Namibia

OR

Call us on 061 238 654 to make other arrangements!

