



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Marise Du Plooy

This month the school is saying farewell to one of its longest-serving members of staff. Marise joined WIS in 1999 and is now in her nineteenth year in the school. To put that in context, she has worked with eight (!) Heads of School.

I was going to write, "She has worked in the Finance Office..." It would be more accurate to say that for much of this time Marise has *been* the Finance Office. Through good times and bad over almost two decades she has worked tirelessly to manage the school's finances. That the school in 2017 is financially secure is in no small part thanks to Marise's prudent management.

News of her departure was met with tears in some cases and this illustrates the affection and respect that her colleagues have for her. She is moving to another position in Windhoek so she will not be too far away. We hope she will come back and visit the school that she has done so much to help build.

Marise's last day will be on Friday of next week but her successor, **Maryke Coetzee**, has already arrived at WIS and I am confident that the hand-over will be smooth.



Everyone will want to join me in wishing Marise every success and happiness in her new position. We will miss you.

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Dates to Remember

December 2017

- **8:** End of term 2
- School closes @ 11:40
- **10:** Human Rights Day
- Public Holiday
- **11:** Public Holiday
- Office Closed
- **19 Dec - 3 Jan:** Office Closed

WEEKLY PUZZLER

Achilles and the tortoise had some brains working overtime and spurred some musings on the infinite and the infinitesimal. An algebraic solution giving the precise point where Achilles reaches the tortoise can be found [here](#).

As you head off to your holiday destinations we will leave you with something more like a debate than a puzzler. If you are given the following number 0.49 (ie, 9 repeating) and told to round off to the nearest unit, would you say 0 or 1? It's not often that we get to debate things in Mathematics so enjoy!

Please send your thoughts or any good puzzlers to pfarrell@wis.edu.na

Opening Hours

During the holidays the School Office will be open from 8am till 3pm on 12th-15th December, 18th December, and 4th-5th January.

Monday 11th December is a public holiday and the Office will be closed.

The school will be closed from Tuesday 19th December to Wednesday 3rd January inclusive.

Safe travels and a relaxing break to one and all!

Peter MacKenzie
Director

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

The end of the semester has finally arrived and I think we are all ready for a break. The children, not to mention the teachers and teaching assistants, have worked hard this semester. Now it's time for some rest, relaxation, rejuvenation and having some quality family time.

Children having a month off from school can prove to be challenging for parents and caregivers. The NMC's December 2017 newsletter had several suggestions in their article, *Holiday Survival Guide for Parents*. Here are a few of their suggestions:

- **Keep some semblance of routine and structure** - vacations bring later bedtimes, overeating, more screen time, playdates, and family gatherings. The change in routine can throw children off and emotions can run high. Trying to keep to a "normal" routine might not only help with a calmer holiday, it can also help children transition back to school routines after being away for a month.
- **Share plans for each day with your children** - Giving children an idea of what to expect each day also helps with routine.
- **Keep your cool** - If your child has a meltdown, rather than yell or shout, have your child go to a quiet place to calm down and reflect on his/her behaviour. When he/she is ready to talk calmly, you can discuss the behaviour and what your child could do differently next time.
- **Get crafty** - Give your child some boxes, glue, coloured markers, pencils and/or anything else you can find around the house and see how creative your child can be in using these materials to make something.

In addition to NMC's suggestions, here are a few more from *PBS Parents: 7 Family Time and Learning Tips for the Holidays*, by Laura Bay.

- **Play Games** - Playing board games and card games are a good way for families to enjoy some quality family time.
- **Make Holiday Greeting Cards and Gifts; Write Thank you Notes** - There is nothing more special than a homemade gift or card made by a child. Not only does this tap into a child's creativity, it also gives your child the opportunity to practice and reinforce good handwriting, grammar and spelling. In addition to practicing writing skills, writing thank you notes for gifts received teaches and reinforces gratitude.

- **Read Every Day** - Reading every day helps your child to increase vocabulary, develop imagination, build self-confidence in reading, improve fluency and comprehension, and much more. Read to your child or with your child. If children see you reading, they will be encouraged to read. Choose a favourite story to read together. Older children might enjoy reading a novel together with you.

We have a few children who are leaving and not returning to WIS after the holidays. To these children and their families, thank you for being a part of our school community. Best wishes to you in your new locale and/or school.

To all of you, may your holidays include safe travels, laughter, relaxation and quality time with your children. I look forward to seeing you when school resumes on Tuesday, 9th January.

Regards,
Beth Smith

What’s up in the PYP at WIS?

A message from: Primary Student Council!



Thanks goes out to Estée Jacobs (Year 5B) and family who have had these fantastic “WIS bumper stickers” printed for all our school community. These will be handed out to students to take home. Thank you !



Thank you for supporting us this week with School spirit week. It made fostered togetherness, calm and fun as we spent the last week of the term as a community. Thank you to all that participated and we wish you a safe and enjoyable break.

More photos can be seen on the [WIS facebook page!](#)



Happy holidays!
Avril van Zyl

Welcome Back and Goodbye

Welcome back to Ms Kaye van Rooi, Year 6B teacher who returned to school last Friday following her maternity leave. As was mentioned in an earlier Oryx article, Ms Kaye gave birth to Landan Evan van Rooi on August 6.

Today we've said goodbye to Ms Christelien Du Plessis who has been the Year 6B teacher this semester. In the few months she's been at WIS, Ms Christelien has very much been an involved and engaged member of staff. We wish her well in her new teaching position at Windhoek Gymnasium.

DEBATING

Ms Elizabeth Cloete from Year 1C ran a successful first Semester of Debating as an Afternoon Activity. The Debating Team included Irvine Njenga 5B, Kendra Daisy van der Merwe 7B, Anushka Arya 7B, Dante Luiperth 5A and Ali Iyambo 6B.

The Dawid Bezuidenhout Debate Team also came to WIS and did an exhibition debate for our new debaters.



Inter-School Sports

WIS vs Tynwald Primary School

This past week, WIS had a successful inter-school sports meet with a visiting school from Zimbabwe, Tynwald Primary School. About 30 players from each school participated in different sports codes: Football, Netball, Boys and Girls' Field Hockey and Tag Rugby.

Games started on Monday with football and netball. WIS fielded an experienced boys football team, consisting of players from Year 3 to Year 8, and won convincingly 5 - 0. In netball, WIS won with a very high score, and it gave our coaches a chance to see the team apply what they have learned of the last few months. The netball team is looking forward to new challenges in 2018.

The matches continued on Tuesday with field hockey and tag rugby, and both schools were very competitive. The boys field hockey game was exciting with both teams playing "aggressively", attacking the goals at every opportunity and executing solid defending. After a hard battle, WIS deservingly won 5 - 2.

Our girls' hockey team played their first-ever match as a team and acquitted themselves well. They fought hard, holding off numerous attacks from their opponents, but at the end, the score was 4 - 0, in favour of the visitors.





Tag/Flag Rugby is a new addition to our sports program - instead of tackling, you have to take an opponent's flag, to stop them from scoring with the ball. Tynwald Primary is a rugby-playing school, but our boys held their own and the match ended 15 - 15.

The practise of any physical activity and sports has many health benefits, but it also requires regular practise, commitment and perseverance to be at the top of your game.



Well done to all the WIS players!
Fernando Beukes

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

The end of another year - a time to reflect and a time to look forward

When we reach the end of a calendar year, we normally look back and forward at the same time. And there are always lessons to learn from the past when we think about tomorrow.

The last six months have been busy - as they always are in a school. We have had some interesting events in Secondary School of which I will but name a few:

- The Police presentation with their helicopter landing on our field and a range of expert presenting to us their skills.



- A visit by a group of 8 students and 2 teachers from the Struer Statsgymnasium from Denmark. The students had some Namibian experiences (a braai, a tour through some of the country, a city tour in Windhoek) and were kindly hosted by some of our Year 12 families.
- We had the Peace Pals presentation from UNIC and our students attended the MUN conference in Johannesburg.
- The Year 8s, 10s and 12s went on their respective field trips.
- A successful International Day to celebrate our different culture and nationalities.
- An assembly about Substance Abuse led by three of our Year 12 students with a guest speaker.

And many more smaller events in the classroom, on the sports field and around school.

Now we look forward to 2018. The Mock Examinations are around the corner and will mean some serious preparation time during the break for Year 11 and 13 students.

We have embarked on a new report format that will hopefully lead us to more informative communication with regard to our approach here in school and these will be put on iSAMS for the May session. And we look forward to a second semester to complete this academic year.

To all families who are leaving WIS now, we wish you all the best with your future endeavours and hope you stay in touch.

To all our families returning on 9th January 2018, we wish you a peaceful break. May you have time to spend with your loved ones and come back rested and in good health with lots of energy to embrace the second semester.



OR



**Regards,
Maggie Reiff**

Seasons Greetings from PTA

As the school calendar for 2017 draws to a close we can proudly reflect on a very productive year for the PTA.

We have a cheery PTA Community Centre with aromatic coffee mornings and colourful clothing and paraphernalia to sell.

The PTA has supported many small initiatives, causes and events amongst them but not exclusively: swimming galas, football games and tournaments, hosting visiting International students, car boot bazaars and a successful International day.

As Francis of Assisi said **“For it is in giving that we receive.”** The PTA is grateful to receive many smiles and thank yous from the community. It confirms the role of the PTA in helping WIS to become the best school in Windhoek with a very supportive group of parents.



“Commitment is a powerful tool for change”

Last Friday the PTA hosted an end of year function at Que Tapas restaurant. We enjoyed an informal evening with the SLT and volunteer parents, good company, tasty treats and wine and took pleasure in a thoughtful exchange of ‘Secret Santa’ gifts.

We would like to thank everyone for their commitment and help with all things big and small. We could not do this without you, and the success of the PTA can be directly linked and measured with the involvement of all in the community.

Next on our to do list for 2018 is the annual WIS raffle. We hope this will be as successful as always, and if you know of anyone out there who would like to sponsor or donate a prize for this, please encourage them to do so. If everyone finds just one benefactor, we will have effortless sales and an irresistible raffle.

Wishing the WIS community a ‘WIZY’ holiday season.

Enjoy the family time & see you all next year with plenty of energy and drive to succeed in our joint endeavours.

Sandra & Kathleen for the PTA

Guess what happened in school?

It’s a great thing!!

On 5th December, 2017, the WIS Las Vegas Science Group had a video conference with students in Las Vegas, Professor Eric Hamilton at the University of Pepperdine, and Ms. Kristina Lux, who has met us earlier in the year. We collaborated with them via Fuze, an online global meeting program, which allowed us to talk about our projects, depression within teenagers, the Namibian Desert and wildlife, what is in Coke and what does it do to us.

We even found out a little bit about our friends in Las Vegas. One of them, whose name is Jake, couldn’t have dogs or big pets, so instead he got a milk snake, and a dragon (a small lizard). He also made a project regarding the amount of students that manage to get a diploma, and how to get better performances from students. How to motivate them, who can motivate them, and how depression can affect your school.



We, the group, met in school at 18h00, and ate some pizza, while they talked to us and we had conversations regarding our projects. We enjoyed the night, had giggles and laughs, and even danced and listened to music when we were done.

Urte Dorgeloh

Baking with the Year 8s



Last Friday the German class was baking some traditional German cookies to test our skills of following instructions in German. We divided into groups to make 3 different cookies. The 3 different cookies that we made were: "Mürbeteig Plätzchen", "Haferflocken Rosinen Plätzchen" and "Vanillekipferl". After we chose our groups and recipes, we got the ingredients in our groups. Then on Friday we went to Frau Christina's house. We first ate then we started with our baking. During the process of our baking, we tasted each other's cookie dough, and ate lots of sprinkles during decorating. After we baked our cookies, we went swimming and enjoyed our delicious cookies. Here is how we made them:

German Cookie recipes

MÜRBEITEIG - PLÄTZCHEN



Ingredients:

- 300 g Flour
- 200 g Butter, cold
- 100 g powdered sugar
- 1 Egg (s), small or medium sized
- Aroma (vanilla)

For decoration:

Chocolate, nuts or sugar sprinkles

Preparation:

Put the flour on the work surface and press a hollow in the middle. Put the powdered sugar, the egg and the aroma in the bowl. Distribute the cold butter in small pieces on the flour, then knead everything quickly to a smooth dough. Then place the dough wrapped in foil for about 30 minutes in the refrigerator. Preheat the oven to 180 ° C. Roll out the dough thinly and cut out any shapes. Bake the cookies on baking sheets lined with baking paper for approx. 10 minutes each. Makes about 3 sheets. After cooling, decorate with chocolate, chopped nuts or sugar sprinkles.

Translated by Zuraida Strauss & Christine Shali

VANILLEKIPFERL



Vanillekipferln need little time and fit perfectly into the Christmas season.

Ingredients:

- 200 g butter
- 280 g flour
- 80 g icing sugar
- 100 g ground hazelnuts

Ingredients for rolling:

50g vanilla sugar

Preparation:

Process all ingredients to a sweet dough and let cool for 1 hour.

Roll out the dough at about the size of a thumb and cut into small pieces and shape to "Kipferln".

Place on a tray lined with baking paper and bake lightly over moderate heat (about 170 degrees for about 12-15 minutes).

Roll the still hot Kipferl in a mixture of vanilla sugar and sugar and then let cool.

Translated by Amani Enkara

(written by Ella & Yilin)

Travel safely and ...



Our own Primary Art Teacher, Genie Albrecht, is exhibiting at this event. All welcome!

Heads up... Shed goes Christmas!

Saturday, 9 Dec 17 - 09h00 to 18h00
Sunday, 10 Dec 17 - 10h00 to 15h00

How to get there? The entrance is about 30 km outside Windhoek on the B6 (on the way to the International Airport) directly opposite the turn-off to Dordabis - For more information please contact us via email: the.shed.namibia@gmail.com

Free entrance, generous seating and secure parking

New Year Tennis Clinic



Do you want to take your tennis to the next level?
These week long tennis clinics will do *just that!*

“These clinics are a great opportunity to build technique and learn new skills”.

The programmes is designed to enhance your game, enhance enjoyment of successful play **and** get you into tennis shape again after the festive season.

The clinic will be given by a British Lawn Tennis Association accredited coach.

Some basic tennis skills are preferable

Beginners: 8 to 12 Jan 3 to 5.30pm daily (tournament on Friday)
Intermediate: 15 to 19 Jan 3 to 5.30pm daily (tournament on Friday)
On Windhoek International School court

For a fun filled intense week of tennis

Sign up now. Register with l.symondsmayes@gmail.com
081 222 2132

Cost: N\$650/week
Maximum 10 participants per week

Christmas for Critters Shoebox Drive

The Windhoek SPCA would like to invite you to take part in this inspiring community initiative.

Our aim is to collect Christmas gifts for abandoned animals and as a positive result this project ultimately helps parents to teach their own children the joy of giving!



HOW TO MAKE A CHRISTMAS FOR CRITTERS SHOEBOX:

1. **FIND AN EMPTY SHOE BOX**
We all have empty shoeboxes around the house or know someone who can give us one. Shoe stores usually have empty boxes to give away.
2. **FILL IT WITH GOODIES**
The following items are required
* put **N\$200** in cash in the box **PLUS**
* **For our Cats:** pampers/ Friskies/ whiskers tin/ pouch food
* **For our Dogs:** tin or small bag of dog food
* Optional: toy/ collar lead/ brush, etc.
3. **DECORATE THE BOX:**
Wrap/ decorate the shoebox (draw on it, paint on it, cut out pictures, put stickers on it) the sky is the limit here!
4. **LABEL YOUR BOX:**
Clearly write cat or dog, depending on the gift of your choice
5. **WHERE TO TAKE YOUR BOX?**
Windhoek SPCA, Robert Mugabe Avenue
Put it under our Christmas tree and have your photo taken!

Closing date: 20 December 2017
Email: spcawhk@mweb.com.na

Is **N\$200** too much?
Club together with friends and make a box OR put in whatever you can afford!

Target: 300 boxes

