



# THE ORYX

*The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School*

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

### Fees at WIS (part 2)

Last week in The Oryx I published the fees charged in a selection of other international schools across Africa and further afield. They were (are) all substantially more expensive than WIS.

"Ah yes," has been a typical response when I've made this point before. "But this is Windhoek, not Johannesburg (or Tokyo or Moscow or Frankfurt or wherever). They can afford those fees. We cannot."

The argument is that because Windhoek is smaller than some of those cities (or has fewer embassies or less industry or whatever), we should charge lower fees. (And, as I demonstrated last week, we do but the people I talk to mean *even lower*.) The assumption is that we could *afford* to charge lower fees but still offer the same kind of education.

However, this is an incorrect assumption.

International schools (which are almost all not-for-profit entities) don't set their fees according to what "the market" can afford. They calculate how much income they need to provide the quality of education they offer and that is what determines the fees.

That is what we do. If we need, say N\$50,000,000 a year to run the school, that dictates the fees we must charge. (Remember – to all intents and purposes, we have only one source of income. Many other private schools in Windhoek are subsidised to some degree. We are not.)

The surprising reality is that it costs more or less the same to run an international school like ours wherever it is located. The membership fees we must pay (to the International Baccalaureate or NEASC, for example) are the same. The text books and other essential teaching tools cost the same. (Indeed, they sometimes cost more in remoter parts of the world like Windhoek.) The cost of recruiting teachers and providing them with professional development opportunities is the same. (If we register a teacher for a conference in Dubai and the fee is US\$500, it's no use us protesting that we are from Namibia. We must pay the same US\$500 as the International School of Paris or anyone else who wishes to attend the conference.)

And consider the following.

- Our class sizes are small. We almost never have more than twenty in a class and many classes are smaller. By comparison, I know that two other leading private schools in Windhoek have class sizes of 27-30. So, crudely, for 60 learners, they'd need to pay two teachers but we'd need to pay three.

## Contents

- *From the Director p. 1 - 2*
- *Primary News p. 3 - 6*
- *Secondary News p. 6 - 8*
- *Other News p. 8 - 12*

## Dates to Remember

### April 2019

- **08 - 12:** Secondary Week A
- **10 - 12:** PYP Exhibition
- **18:** Last Day for Grade 10 - Celebration Assembly
- **19:** Good Friday - No school
- **22:** Easter Monday - No School
- **27:** PTA Family Braai



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## WEEKLY PUZZLER

Eden, Ezra, and Tiancheng once again solved last week's puzzler.

Well done!

This week, let's look at a magic square:

9	6	3	16
4	13	10	5
14	1	8	11
7	12	15	2

All rows, columns, and 2 main diagonals should add up to the same number. However, two of the numbers are in the wrong place. Which two numbers are they?

Please send solutions, or any fun and interesting puzzlers to [pfarrell@wis.edu.na](mailto:pfarrell@wis.edu.na)



- In (almost) every Primary class we have not only a teacher but also a teacher assistant. I understand that is not common elsewhere.
- In order to maintain our international and diverse population and to have people with previous experience of teaching IB programmes, we hire a number of our teachers from overseas. So do thousands of international schools and it's a competitive market. So we have to pay them the same salary anyone local would get plus a housing allowance plus regular flights to their home countries plus utilities and travel allowances. (*In fact, we still pay our teachers a lot less than most comparable international schools do.*)
- Even recruiting these teachers is expensive. If I hire an American teaching in Korea, we must pay for him and his family to relocate to Namibia.
- I don't know exactly what other Windhoek schools do about Learning Support and English as an Additional Language, but we employ **nine** full-time staff just to provide these services at no extra charge.
- The programmes we offer are themselves expensive. Our annual fees are several hundred thousand Nam \$.
- We are the only IB school in the country. So when teachers go for training, they aren't driving across town, they are flying to Dubai or Amsterdam or Dakar or wherever. We spend around N\$900,000 a year on staff professional development.

In short, our fees are what they are. They are what they have to be. They would only be excessive if...

- (a) We made a huge profit every year. (And we certainly do not.)
- (b) There was considerable inefficiency and wastage. (In fact, we are a pretty lean operation.)
- (c) Our salaries were excessively generous. (In fact, the opposite is true. Our salaries are still so low that it is hard to recruit teachers with international and IB experience. When we can attract such teachers, in almost every case they take a pay cut to come here.)

I probably have more conversations with parents about fees than any other subject. (And, for what it's worth, that's pretty common in most international schools.) And I do understand their worries and concerns. So do the members of the Board of Directors.

But I hope that this brief article helps parents to understand some of the realities we are dealing with.

If you wish to write to me about this or come and see me in person, I am always happy to talk.

**Peter MacKenzie**

# PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

## WIZART2

Tuesday evening was the opening of the WIZART2 Primary Art Exhibition at Omba Gallery. The Exhibition is a wonderful display of Primary children’s artwork from EY1-Grade 5. I’m sure those of you who have been able to visit the exhibition have been amazed and impressed by the creativity of our students, as well as by the variety of mediums the children have experienced. If you haven’t had a chance yet to visit the gallery, there is still time as the exhibition continues through April 12.



## Grade 5 Exhibition

For the past eight weeks the Grade 5 students have been preparing for the PYP Exhibition. Students have been inquiring into and researching about a topic that they are interested in and passionate about under the transdisciplinary theme of *Who We Are*. The opening is taking place Wednesday evening at 6:00 in the auditorium and the sports hall.

## MAP Information Session

Thank you to the parents who attended yesterday’s MAP information session. If you weren’t able to attend but have questions about MAP, please feel free to make an appointment with me. The NWEA website (nwea.org) has several helpful resources for parents. [Here's a link](#) to many of these resources.

**Regards,**  
**Beth Smith**

## Grade 1J Box Stories

This is what we did.....

1. Made a story setting in a box
2. Added at least two characters
3. Drew up a story plan
4. Wrote a story
5. Read our story aloud so it could be typed
6. Created a folding book
7. Shared our stories in a “Boxebition”!

**Jan Le Roux**



## Showbox stories by Grade 1B

Storytelling is one of the oldest forms of communication and one of the ATL skills. Grade 1B students created great stories using shoe boxes. Encouragement, exploration, and imagination were the key to success. Students could retell the story to our young friends from EY2. They gained an understanding of the story and gave the drawings a meaning.

**Beata Stephanus**



## Sharing the Planet

The Grade 2s are about to explore an inquiry into: "Sharing the Planet". The main focus of this inquiry is to explore habitats within our environment and to realise the positive and negative impacts faced when humans share these natural habitats with other living things. For students to make authentic connections and to provoke their wondering and questions we try to provide authentic, real life experiences for them to gain new understandings.

This week kicked off with a viewing of a documentary on Carte Blanche named "Could the great insect extinction impact human survival?"

The Grade 2 students began the provocation to the unit by exploring and reflecting on the documentary, from here we had class discussions and made connections to our Lines of inquiry:

- **How living things and humans interact**
- **The positive and negative effects human actions have on the environment/habitats**

**Key Concepts: Causation, Function, and connection.**

**Some questions that provoked the students thinking included:**

**Causation -**

- Why is it like this?
- What will happen if insects die out?
- Why is there a 40% decline of insects?

**Some student answers and responses included:**

- Ecosystems cannot function well. Insects habitat loss, Pollution (including insecticides) and climate change.

**Function-**

- What are the functions of insects in habitats and ecosystems?



**Some student answers and responses included:**

- Insects are pollinators, they collect and spread pollen from flower to flower, they are decomposers and Bees make honey.

**Connection:**

- How is human interference affecting insect habitats?
- What can we do to save the insects?

**Some student answers and responses included:**

- Humans use animal habitats to build on, They use the land for farming and cultivating on.
- Human cause a lot of air pollution (CO2) that lead to climate change.
- Use fewer insecticides, plants vegetable gardens, allow grass to grow longer in your backyard, do not cause air pollution.

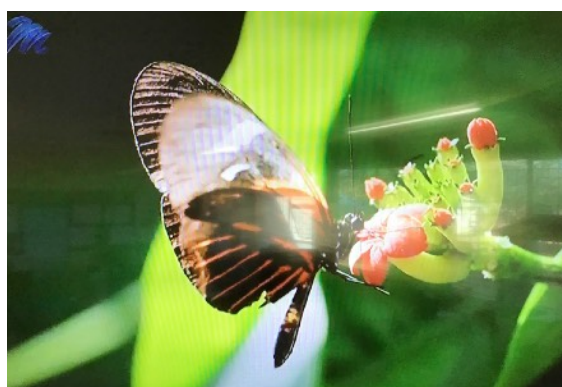


Here are the details if you wish to view this episode on DSTV now/Catch Up shows.

<https://now.dstv.com/>

**Carte Blanche: Sundays on M-net channel 102 S31, Episode 52. (The episode will be available for viewing until Monday 15 April)**

**Title: Could the great insect extinction impact human survival?**



We are looking forward to seeing how our students respond as they grow and develop as responsible and caring stewards of our environment.

**Debbie Carew**

## Religions in WIS

Grade 5 is in the process of the PYP Exhibition. Our concept is Beliefs and our central idea is *Perspective on Belief Structures can change over time*. We are the Beliefs group. Our action for the PYP Exhibition is writing this article for the school Oryx. The Beliefs group has sent out surveys based on the different beliefs that one would get at W.I.S. and we also conducted interviews with relevant teachers at school on their beliefs.

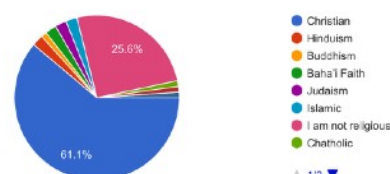
In the survey that the Beliefs group sent out last week, we received 90 responses. One of the questions in the survey was, "What is your religion?" and that got amazing facts from the 90 responses. It was interesting reading the responses. This is what we received based on the following religions at WIS 61.1% of the responses as Christians. 25.6% not religious and 5% Islamic, 5% Judaism, 3% Baha'i and 3% Hinduism. 3% are Catholic, one said, "I'm sort of Christian", one of them said, "I'm agnostic".

Most people are very passionate about their religion and beliefs. According to my research, 50.6% were passionate about their religion and are committed to all their beliefs in their religion. 28.7% say it is good but do not practice it as often. 20.7% said that they don't really know but some said they love it and some said they dislike it.

There are a variety of different beliefs at WIS that people respect and believe in. Religions like Christianity are one of the main ones. According to our research, 61.1% of the school is Christian. In one of our

2. What is your religion?

90 responses

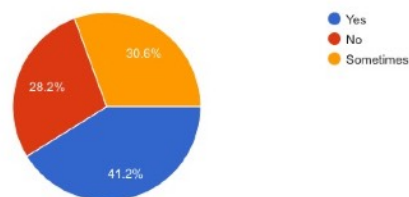


interviews, they think that religions should not exist and think there should just be one whole religion altogether. According to our research, 25.6% of the school is not religious.

According to the results we got from our survey 41.2% of the people who answered our survey said they are committed to their beliefs, that meant they didn't disobey their beliefs. 30.6% said sometimes because they were being honest that they didn't always follow their beliefs. 28.2% said they don't follow their religious beliefs.

6. Do you always follow your religions beliefs?

85 responses



In conclusion, from the results we got from the survey it is good to know that WIS accepts everyone's religion and no one is disrespected or treated unfairly.

*"There should be no discrimination against languages people speak, skin color or religion." - Malala Yousafzai*

**Beliefs group**

**Naeem, Pandu, Ndahafa, Powmene**



**SECONDARY PRINCIPAL**

**Communication - know what is happening and what your child is doing - celebrate with us the experiences in and out of school**

Communication these days is instant and fast. We communicate with each other via social media, WhatsApp and other digital ways. Even if, sometimes, we (older generation) are skeptical about this new way of communicating with each other, it is the reality and we need

to embrace it and use it sensibly.

In Secondary School at WIS, we have now opened an Edmodo group - **WIS Secondary School Group**. This group is for us to communicate to the Secondary School community things that we are proud of, things that we are doing and things that we celebrate. All teachers and students are on this Edmodo groups and parents of Secondary students are automatically able to join this group if they have joined their child on Edmodo. If information is for the whole community, we will post it so that the whole community can see it. If information is solely for students, students and teachers can see these posts.

Each morning, announcements are made in the registration period. These announcements are now posted on the Edmodo Secondary School Group so that all students see them and that parents are also aware what is happening. In this manner, we hope to have a transparent and open channel of communication with parents.

Using Edmodo is a good way for our student to responsibly use a Social Media forum and to learn how to use Social Media. We discuss students' responsibilities with them in classes to ensure that they are aware of and take responsibility for their actions on digital platforms. In Grade 6, students last week created a pledge to communicate their responsibilities. [Click here](#) to see an example.

Parents in Grades 6 - 8 now also have the assessments posted on their child's Edmodo profile. This is an opportunity to follow progress and get in touch with the respective teachers should you have questions. Please use this forum to ensure that you are up to date with your child's homework and assessments tasks.

The D6 is still the forum where school-wide announcements are posted and where reminders are posted to make everyone aware of upcoming events.

We appreciate parent and student input on the Edmodo groups.

**Regards,  
Maggie Reiff**

## NamBTS Blood Drive

WIS held another blood drive this Wednesday morning, April, 3rd, in the foyer of the Auditorium. NamBTS currently has a surplus of A and B type blood (which is great) so they only drew from O types. Each donation can save 3 lives.

Blood Group	Gives to these groups	Receives from these groups
O <sup>-</sup>	All	O <sup>-</sup> only
O <sup>+</sup>	AB <sup>+</sup> , A <sup>+</sup> , B <sup>+</sup> , O <sup>+</sup>	O <sup>-</sup> and O <sup>+</sup>
A <sup>-</sup>	AB <sup>-</sup> , AB <sup>+</sup> , A <sup>+</sup> , A <sup>-</sup>	O <sup>-</sup> and A <sup>-</sup>
A <sup>+</sup>	AB <sup>+</sup> and A <sup>+</sup>	O <sup>-</sup> , O <sup>+</sup> , A <sup>-</sup> , A <sup>+</sup>
B <sup>-</sup>	B <sup>-</sup> , B <sup>+</sup> , AB <sup>-</sup> , AB <sup>+</sup>	O <sup>-</sup> and B <sup>-</sup>
B <sup>+</sup>	B <sup>+</sup> and AB <sup>+</sup>	O <sup>-</sup> , O <sup>+</sup> , B <sup>-</sup> , B <sup>+</sup>
AB <sup>-</sup>	AB <sup>-</sup> and AB <sup>+</sup>	O <sup>-</sup> , A <sup>-</sup> , B <sup>-</sup> , AB <sup>-</sup>
AB <sup>+</sup>	AB <sup>+</sup> only	All



**Ms Sharon donating blood**

## Grade 12 CAS

Final interviews demonstrate learning beyond the classroom



Seventeen Grade 12 students shared their varied and impactful CAS experiences on this past Tuesday's CAS final interview day. Powerful vignettes, magnificent photos and martial arts demonstrations typified the impressive array of activities in which these adolescents have been engaged over the last eighteen months. The written and verbal CAS reflections convincingly showed how CAS, particularly in terms of service learning, has transformed these members of the WIS IBDP class of 2019 into becoming life-long learners/global citizens. Here is a random selection of these:

- *CAS hugely helped me learn to be a better manager of my own time and commitments;*
- *It forced me to get out of my 'comfort zone' and helped me grow in new ways;*
- *I learned surprisingly that I possess leadership skills that will be of great use later in life;*

- *As an extrovert and often a leader, I grew in terms of understanding that I sometimes need to be content with being a follower;*
- *Working in and seeing the reality of life for people in Katutura during this CAS experience enabled me to grasp how I am very privileged; and most are not as fortunate as I am;*
- *I never knew how much I would enjoy/find peace in being an artist – a new skill I discovered;*
- *Challenges can be good as they can help you to see what you can achieve.*
- Below is a collection of some of the visual evidence that demonstrated real growth on the IBDP seven learning outcomes – the measure of whether or not a DP student ‘passes’ CAS.



**Rick Fitzpatrick**

## Happenings in WIS - Sports

Seasons have started for Soccer and Basketball click on [WIS Sports](#) calendar to access game schedules and venues.

We also have a new blog for PSPE and all [WIS-Sports](#) news.



### Early morning run

Ms. Beata, Ms. Richenda and Mr. Chi have been offering early morning run/athletics training since January with an average of over thirty students, a few moms and a dog making it to school at 6:50 till 7:10 am.

Below are comments from the participants:

- *Oliwia 5K: I go to athletics because I want to train for the Inter-School Athletics in September. I like it because it is fun and I get to run with my friends.*



- *Olwen 5L: I go to athletics so I can train for the Inter-School Athletics, to stay fit and because I really like exercising. Athletics is good for the school because it encourages kids to exercise.*
- *Adiah 5L: I come to athletics because I have never been to Inter House and I thought that it was time for a change. I also need to exercise more.*
- *Mateo 5K: I came to Athletics because I wanted to be challenged in life and I liked being earlier than others. I enjoy running around the school three times and waking up early. I find athletics useful for health.*
- *Naeem 5K: I go to athletics because I want to increase my stamina and my athletic abilities and to run in the morning when it is nice and it is not so hot outside. I also like to do athletics because I work on my Shot-Put, sprinting and relay.*
- *Zuleika KD: I go to athletics because I want to push myself the hardest I can.*
- *Anant 5K: I go to morning athletics because I want to improve my stamina and strength. It is good to do it in the morning because you are fresh and you haven't done any physical activity as yet so it is good when you can do it instead of the evening when it is hot and tiring.*
- *Daniella 5K: Athletics early in the morning is very helpful for me because I'm normally tired so the running makes me wake up a lot and exercise is very good for my body.*
- *Anant 5K: The way we run on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday I think is good exercise, because fitness helps your body rest more in the evening.*
- *Tolou 6UD: I like doing athletics because it's my hobby, I like running and exercising.*
- *Chloe 1J: Why I go to Athletics - because you get better at running and a little faster. It makes my body stronger and I feel you will think better.*



Edwin Chinyemba

## DELFL Diplomas

In September last year, four of our students took part in the DELF examination at the FNCC (the Franco Namibian Cultural Centre): Fausto Leto (Grade 12), Luca Monteforte (Grade 11), Amrita Nambiar (Grade 11) and myself, Janine Tibazarwa (Grade 10).

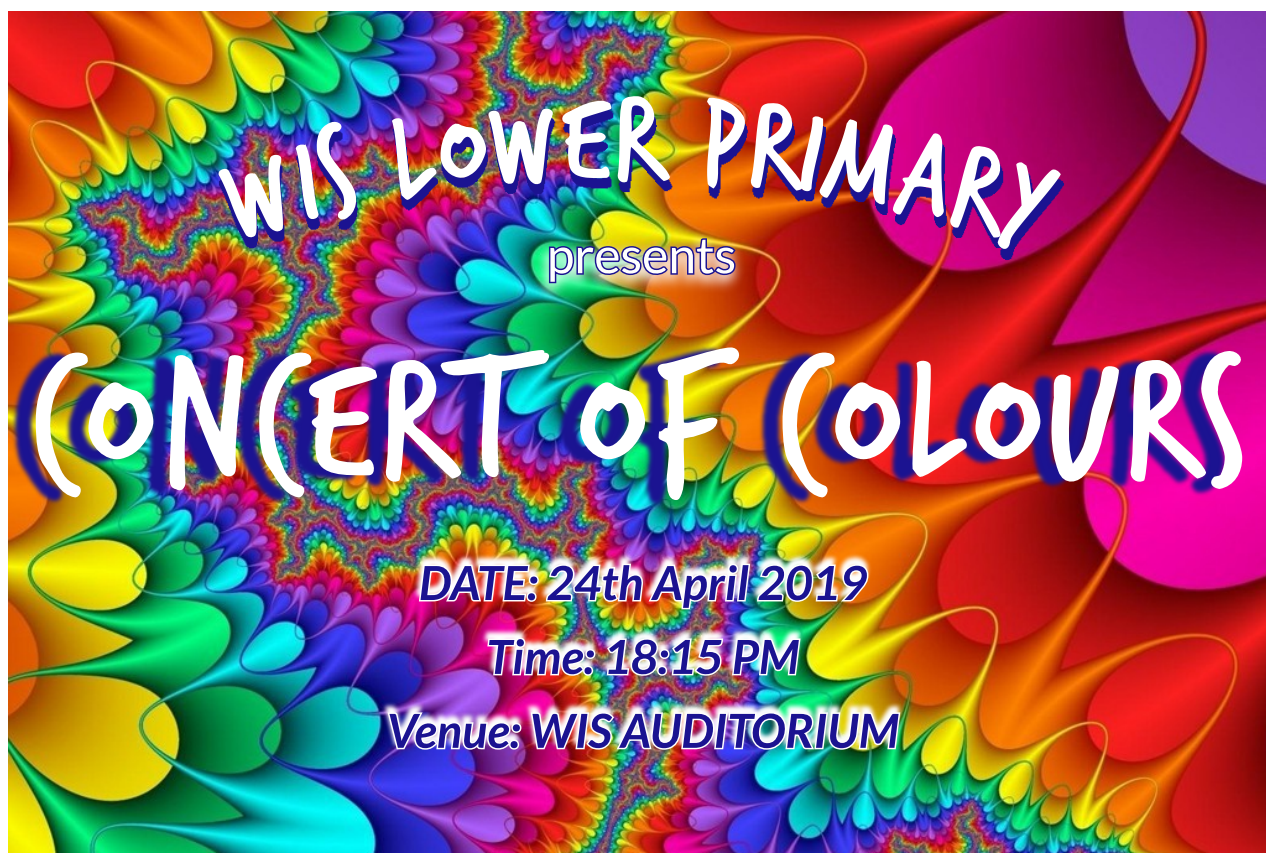
The DELF consists of multiple exams of varying difficulty; the exam taken displays the level of fluency in the French language and the diploma received, if successful, is recognised internationally. Three of us took the B1 exam and Fausto, took the B2. As we all passed our exams, last Friday we were invited to receive our diplomas.





The official ceremony was held at the FNCC, where we were given our diplomas by the French Ambassador, Madame Claire Bodonyi. Additionally, there was entertainment in the form of a lovely musical performance: a Marimba concert. Overall, it was a great experience.

**Janine Tibazarwa (Grade 10)**



## PTA Moving Forward

On Thursday 4 April, the PTA elected members to serve on the Executive Board for the remainder of the school year and into the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year. The members of the Executive Board are as follows:

Chair: Michelle Jackson-Read

Co-Chair: Bill Walker

Secretary: Priscila Maramba

Treasurer: Ajit Nambiar

Now that the Executive Team is in place, the PTA is ready to take on some final initiatives as we near the end of the school year.

1. Freezer needed! Do you have an extra freezer that is not being used? Do you know of a way to obtain a freezer for low or no cost? The PTA needs a freezer to store ice and frozen treats that can be sold out of the PTA Hut. Please contact [pta@wis.edu.na](mailto:pta@wis.edu.na) if you can help.

2. Family Braai and Earth Day

27 April 2019, 9am-1pm

Preparations are coming together for the Family Braai and Earth Day Celebration! Get ready for:

- LIVE music from *The Elles*
- Mini-Olympics, games and activities for kids
- Massive tug-o-war
- School bus pushing competition
- Unique treasures at the Car Boot Sale
- Friendly competition to land the best Silent Auction prizes
- And MUCH more!

Your participation in the Silent Auction and Car Boot Sale is still needed. Click on the appropriate links to find the forms to sign up for both.

Thank you for your continued support for this event. It is shaping up to be an INCREDIBLE day!

## Silent Auction Sign-up and Car Boot Sale



WINDHOEK INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL

***Join us for the Annual  
PTA Family Braai!***

- \*Great Food***
- \*Silent Auction***
- \*Carboot Sale***
- \*Jumping Castles***
- \*Color Walk/Run***
- \*Kids Mini Olympics***
- \*Live Music by the Ells***

APRIL 27TH, 2019  
9AM-1PM