



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

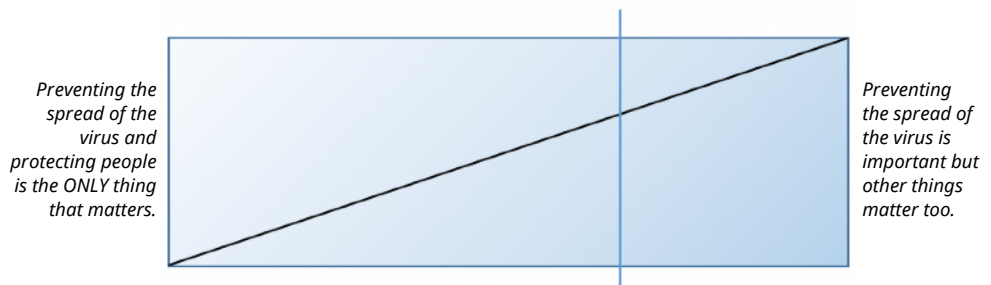
Priorities

Ten days ago we asked parents whether or not we should reopen more or less fully after the imminent break. To no one's surprise, there was a broad range of opinions. Close to 70% were in favour – some enthusiastically, some with reservations. And, of course, 30% were opposed – some hesitantly, some stridently.

The simple diagram below may help to put the question in context. No one is suggesting that the pandemic is over or that there is no risk. But, whereas for some people the danger of catching (or perhaps spreading) COVID-19 overshadows everything else, for others it is only one of a number of priorities.

To be clear, there is no "right" answer. Each individual must decide for themselves what is and is not an acceptable risk. (And, quite obviously, that isn't limited to one's response to COVID.)

Seven out of ten parents wanting the school to open on the 19th suggests that the balance of opinion at WIS is somewhat to the right below.



New Staff

We are fully staffed! **Lize van Rensburg** (Chemistry) arrived on Tuesday. All of our new teachers are now in Windhoek.

Stay safe.

Peter MacKenzie

Genie Albrecht

All but very new parents will know that Genie Albrecht taught at WIS from the very day it opened in January 1991 until June 2020 – an extraordinary 29½ years!

How, we wondered, could we commemorate this unique and never to be equalled achievement.

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Facebook



Instagram



Twitter



Well, if you go to London, you will see on various walls blue plaques recording that famous people have lived or worked there. And while Genie is proudly Namibian, she did work in London for a while and her son lives and works there now.

That was the answer. A plaque. You will see it outside the Primary Art Room.

Congratulations again, Genie!



Reopening

As was announced to all parents on 2nd October, the school will reopen more or less fully on Monday 19th October.

- Morning registration will be at the normal times. Students should be here no later than **07:20**.
- Classes will end for **EY to Grade 9** at **1pm**.
- Classes will end for **Grades 10 to 12** at **2pm** (except on Wednesdays when they finish at **1pm**).
- The Friday schedule in Secondary will now be the same as Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.
- There will be no afternoon activities until further notice.
- The tuck shop will not be open.
- Learners will take their breaks in designated areas.

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Term Reflections

As this first term comes to a close, it's good to reflect on the last eight weeks. Beginning the academic year with remote learning was a challenge (not to mention a disappointment) for everyone ~ teachers, students, and parents alike. Yet everyone rose to the occasion and made the best of the situation. For the last three weeks we've been following the hybrid schedule with only half of the students on campus at one time. I have been very impressed, pleased and proud of the students as they have adjusted to the various changes this term and shown their knowledge of the health and safety expectations while on campus.

The weekly parent information sessions have had such topics as Mathematics in the Primary School, online safety, and COVID-19, as well as offering parents an opportunity to ask questions and make comments. Thank you to all the parents who have attended the weekly sessions and/or taken the time to listen to the recordings.

Behind the scenes of running Zoom or Google Meets sessions, teaching double sessions, preparing Learning Plans and Learning Packs, providing feedback on Seesaw, and connecting with those students who are working from home, the teachers have been meeting regularly with Michael Parsons (Director of Teaching and Learning) and Avril Van Zyl (PYP Coordinator) to discuss and unpack the ACARA Mathematics Benchmarks. They have planned formative and summative assessments for the current unit identifying indicators for Proficient, Emerging, Developing and Expanding at the specific Grade level. The conversations that are happening about Mathematics are rich and making a difference in how Mathematics is being taught. The same process has begun with Language. More information about how students are being assessed will be shared with parents in the second term.

As we transition to returning to school after the mid-semester holiday, there will be some changes. In addition to the health and safety, I'm sure many parents are concerned about the parking and the number of spaces that have been cordoned off. The morning check-in and dismissal will be moved to the small field so that more parking spaces will be made available. As with these last three weeks, Grades 1-5 will check-in at the tables now located on the small field. EY1-3 students will go directly to their classrooms where they will have their temperatures taken before entering the classroom. For dismissal, Grades 1-5 students will be brought to the small field to be collected and EY1-3 will be collected from the classroom. As a friendly reminder, students should arrive at school between 7:05-7:20. After 7:20 students should go to the office to check in and have their temperature taken. Dismissal is at 13:00.

MAP Growth

Since we will be returning to school as "normal" after the week's holiday, we will be administering MAP Growth (*Measures of Academic Progress*) tests to Grades 1-5. The purpose of these tests is to determine your child's instructional level and measure the growth in student learning over time. Many parents have expressed concern about their children falling behind as a result of remote learning, The results of these tests will provide teachers with information about what the students are ready to learn now, as well as serve as an indication if the students have fallen behind. More information about MAP Growth will be shared at the beginning of the new term.

Here is the link to this week's remote assembly: [Remote Learning Assembly 9 Oct 2020](#)

During this next week's holiday, I encourage your children to have a break from their devices and instead read, play and to have fun so that they are well-rested and ready to learn upon their return to school.

**Regards,
Beth Smith**

IB PYP Newsletter

Dear parents,
Please enjoy the IB PYP Newsletter: Specialists October Edition: Click [here](#) and enjoy.

Best wishes,
Avril van Zyl , PYP Coordinator

WIS Community

During our 'Who We Are' Unit, Grade 1 interviewed some people from our WIS community. Please click on the links below to find out more.

Click [here](#) for Ms. Laura

Click [here](#) for Ms. Sharon



Click [here](#) for Mr. D

Click [here](#) for Mr. Chi



Grade 1J

Student's Agency

Grade 2 students started this year with a creative mind and passion for learning.

At the beginning of our Unit WHO WE ARE we asked students if they could relate to the four Pillars of Inquiry. (The Four Pillars of Inquiry by Trevor MacKenzie and Rebecca Bathurst-Hunt).

Students approached this task with enthusiasm and clarity in mind. Student Agency was giving them an opportunity to take ownership of their learning, make their own choices, take initiative, be independent and creative.



Let's give you a few examples:

'My passion is drawings and colouring, my target is to ride a bike, being a thinker and inquirer helps me solve problems, the challenge is something you need to be open-minded about.' - **Kayla**

'My passion is gymnastics, I'm targeting to speak Portuguese, I want to find out how does the sun travel around the Earth in 365 days? the challenge ... when you are struggling with your work there is a way to finish.' - **Elaina**

'Passion- I like ART, my target is to improve English, inquirer about English questions to help me with comprehension, challenge/choice is to find a balance between study English and Chinese.' - **Nami**

'My passion is swimming and learning, the goal is to be a fast swimmer and pass all my grades, I'm curious how electronics work, the challenge is all about practice, learn from my mistakes and discipline.' - **Anashe**

As you see, those things are not written in the curriculum, but surely we can see that they are important for our students. Students will learn faster if we engage them in something they like to do and they are passionate about. To promote **Student Agency** in my classroom, I try to promote a **Culture of Inquiry**, look at the students' **interests**, share our learning **goals**, **facilitate feedback** and allow students to **reflect**. Reflection and taking Action are very important elements of the PYP. Our students are still very young, however, they are confident and knowledgeable, open-minded and definitely risk-takers. Some students took the Advocacy and Advisor role to promote Good Health and Well-Being.

Please enjoy reading and listening about **Well-being** by two of our students, who still continues learning remotely with us and has interesting facts and thoughts to share with you. Click on the link to listen to Maria's advice. [Well-being by Maria Gomes](#)

Well-Being in 2020

Well-being is now more important than ever with COVID-19. This pandemic is hard for kids, too. We couldn't go to school. It's very hard to see our friends, and even harder to see foreign relatives. You can only give hugs to your family. That's why it's important to keep safe and stay healthy.



There are many ways to do that. One way is sleeping well, which means a good bedtime and a good time to wake up. Another way is eating a balanced diet, which can include fruits, vegetables, proteins, carbs, and limited sugar. The next way is to exercise, which is good for your bones, muscles, heart, and brain. These are all things that are good for your physical health.

But nowhere are some things for your mental health. One way to have good mental well-being is to stay positive, which is very important especially in scary times. It's also OK to show your emotions. If you are sad, you shouldn't try to hide it, because it is OK. You can be sad that a relative has caught coronavirus. You can be mad that you can't have a play date with your best friend. Or you could be happy because you just got a nice gift.

Be a pond. That means that if you're a pond, and the fish in the pond are your thoughts, you don't let yourself become a fish. Don't let one emotion or thought take over yourself. It's important to stay confident in yourself, especially if you are doing something hard. And it's important for growing that you reflect on your bad choices and try to replace them with better choices in the future.

These are hard times for everybody. But by sustaining healthy well-being, you can keep yourself safe from this virus. We all want the pandemic to end but complaining about it won't solve the problem. It was always important to be healthy, but now it's more important than ever.

By Ezra Dziuban

Beata Stephanus and Grade 2B students



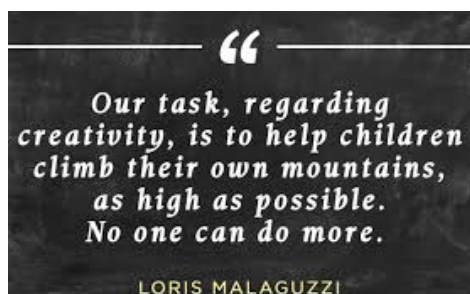
SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

If you have a moment, say thank you to our teachers

On Monday was [World Teachers' Day](#). "Held annually on **5 October** since 1994, World **Teachers' Day** commemorates the anniversary of the adoption of the 1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of **Teachers**".

So often, we take for granted that teachers are available, are there for everyone and mostly they are. But in the last almost 8 months, teachers played an even more important role in kids' lives than they would "normally" do. Without much notice, school and learning drastically changed and will most probably have changed for the future. Teachers and our learners had to adapt to different situations within a day. And we expected teachers to make changes, adapt, be flexible, be innovative and creative without much guidance from anywhere. Everyone had to find a way to continue working in their profession to the best of their knowledge amidst global challenges and uncertainties. Our teachers did an outstanding job in doing this - we can only be grateful for that! Because of that, our students could continue learning almost without interruption.

It would be great if you - students and maybe parents - could spare a moment to say thank you or to pass on a word of appreciation to a teacher or to your teachers.



The teaching profession is a special profession. Who of us does not remember that one teacher that made a lasting impression on our growth, on the way we see life or on how we approach certain situations in our lives? The teachers that have made learning exciting and made us remember a certain class or a certain lesson. Some of us started their careers being inspired by that one teacher.

Teachers have their own mountains to climb, have their own worries and especially at this time, their own anxieties. However, they have embraced the situation and accepted the challenge to re-invent their teaching within a very short period of time. This challenge has

turned out to be an opportunity for us all to grow and learn and rise to it.

Thank you for your passion, dedication and commitment - all our teachers.

Regards,
Maggie Reiff

Movie reviews - Grade 7

Soon it will be holiday and you might find yourself not knowing what to do. The Grade 7s recently watched the movie 'Nacho Libre' in class. This formed part of their summative assessment; Criterion B - Organisation. The students were meant to analyse the film in terms of its artistic value and technical skill, analyse the film in terms of its message and cultural representations, whether the film is appropriate viewing for children, and most importantly give their opinion and reviews.

Please find some reviews from our Grade 7 WIS students, this might inspire you to watch Nacho Libre during the October holiday. - **Angie Janse van Rensburg**

Klaudia Shino

Nacho is tired of his holy life after serving at the orphanage, for respect and affection he yearns. More importantly, he wants to provide a better quality of life to the orphans he helps care for. The only way to make his dream a possibility is for this flatulent monk to cram into some stretchy pants and become the most respected champion.

The position of science-believing Steven Esqueleto was nailed by Hector Jimenez. His iconic scream is one of my favourite features of this film, which never fails to make me laugh. Jack Black's over the top humour balances his dead-pan comedy style. Not only can they work as a fantastic fighting team, but they're both an amazing comedy pair.

The acting in this movie isn't the only aspect that is exaggerated. It is all insane, from the extras in the movie to the pros. As amazing as the shows are, it's the knowledge that makes this movie so fantastic.

When you watch it, you feel as if a cast or crew member said: "Wait, I have an idea," during the shooting, and next thing you know, Nacho is eating a watermelon in the middle of his big fight for nutrients.

Ishaan Agrawal

Nacho Libre is a comical movie with each scene filled with comedy, and sprinkles of romance on top. An orphan named Ignacio who grows up in a monastery and dreams to be a wrestler, with the title of Nacho Libre but when a new person joins, he falls in love with her and wants to impress her at all costs.

When Ignacio (Jack Black) ends up at a monastery as a cook, over the years he sees that the children are being malnourished. He sees his idol, Ramses (Silver King) being rewarded and showered in fame. Does it seem like life rewards extroverts and not introverts? Then Sister Encarnacion (Ana de la Reguera) joins the monastery, he falls in love with her, and he wants to impress her. He finds someone stealing the monastery's food, and he makes peace with him and they become friends. Steven (Hector Jimenez) and Ignacio start training to wrestle. They enter a tournament with a huge cash reward.

All of the main characters in the movie were performing their role and their personalities like their facial expressions, their body movements excellently. Ignacio stayed in his clumsy, imperfect way, one of the orphans, Chanchito, who had a liking to Ignacio, always acted supportive and loyal. Steven, Nacho's friend acted so loyally, it really gave me the effect that I was inside the movie and this situation was possible.

The music of the movie was slightly repetitive but very old-time, fitting in with the theme of the events, as the events would be taking place in the 1970s. The graphics or the movie, I must rate it 3 out of 10 but this movie was released in 2006 when the graphics were not of today's level and since humans are going through fast development, a 14 - year difference counts as a lot.

My favourite character of Nacho Libre is Steven, a great, loyal and supportive friend. In one scene, Nacho was living in the wild, as he got kicked out of the monastery because his clothes got burnt from a candle while he was praying, and it showed his wrestling suit underneath, and since wrestling was a sin, he was banished from his only home. Well, Steven made Nacho stand up and continue wrestling.

One of the best parts of the movie is the comedy. Clumsiness makes most of us laugh, loyalty can give us happy tears, awkward moments such as Nacho trying to impress Sister Encarnacion by hiring people to fight him but purposely lose so that he can impress her but he fights the wrong people and gets thrashed in front of his crush. Very awkward, embarrassing, and also relatable.

My final thoughts about the movie are that the graphics and the cinematography may not be the best but it is an old movie and the acting and how the actors are in character are tip-top. The music is old but the plot is set



up in the 70s, so it fits the theme. Finally, there's too much comedy and will give you something to smile about. Sadly, the ending is unrealistic and predictable. I recommend this movie and is definitely underrated. This movie will be a great way to spend 90 minutes, trust me.

Adiah Neumbo

Nacho Libre starring Jack Black and Hector Jimenez is a very entertaining movie with a very good and powerful message. The movie begins with Nacho working at an orphanage. This orphanage is struggling to provide for the orphans which inspires Nacho to try and find a way to make money for the orphans, but he needs help, so he asks Steven.

Personally, I feel that the movie was very inspirational. There are much better ways to spread the message other than the way he did. I wouldn't recommend this movie to kids 9 years and younger because they are likely to get the wrong idea but other than that it was a very nice and funny movie.

Leo Jackson-Read

Nacho Libre is a very funny movie for all ages (6 and up). All his life Ignacio has never been a very good monk and now he has the chance to do something with his life.

He decides to become a wrestler so that he can feed the children at the monastery where he lives. Soon a new nun comes and Ignacio falls in love with her though he is not allowed to. Ignacio and his new-found friend lost every match they wrestled in, but the crowds loved them, so they still got paid. I feel that this is a good and intriguing start.

Later the monastery finds out and he must beg forgiveness and is expelled from the monastery. Next comes his second chance, he can now fight the best wrestler in town, Ramses (Silver King).

He invites the nun he likes, Ignacio (Nacho Libre) is losing the match. Soon the nun comes to watch him with the children of the orphanage. He wins the match and a lot of money and he lives happily for the rest of his life. Nacho Libre is one of the funniest movies I have ever seen and I love it!

Let's punctuate!

The Grade 8 students were given a summative assessment - Criterion D - Using Language in English. They had to put their creative thinking skills into action by creating a fun and age-appropriate story for Grade 2 students, teaching them about the main punctuation marks. The students were tasked to effectively use a varied range of appropriate vocabulary, sentence structure, and forms of expression, write in a consistently appropriate register and style that serve the context and intention. The students should use grammar, syntax, and punctuation with a high degree of accuracy and communication should be effective. Lastly, the students should make effective use of appropriate non-verbal communication techniques, in this case, appropriate pictures.



These stories will be shared with the Grade 2 teachers to show their classes what the Grade 8s can teach them about punctuation.

Click on the following links to enjoy the Google Slide/Stories some of our students have created:

- [T.P.G - The Punctuation Game by Tolou Wolf](#)
- [Punctuation Pals by Sadie Andrew](#)
- [The punctuation mystery by Tristan Tittus](#)
- [Punctuation Heroes by Sam Shipoke](#)

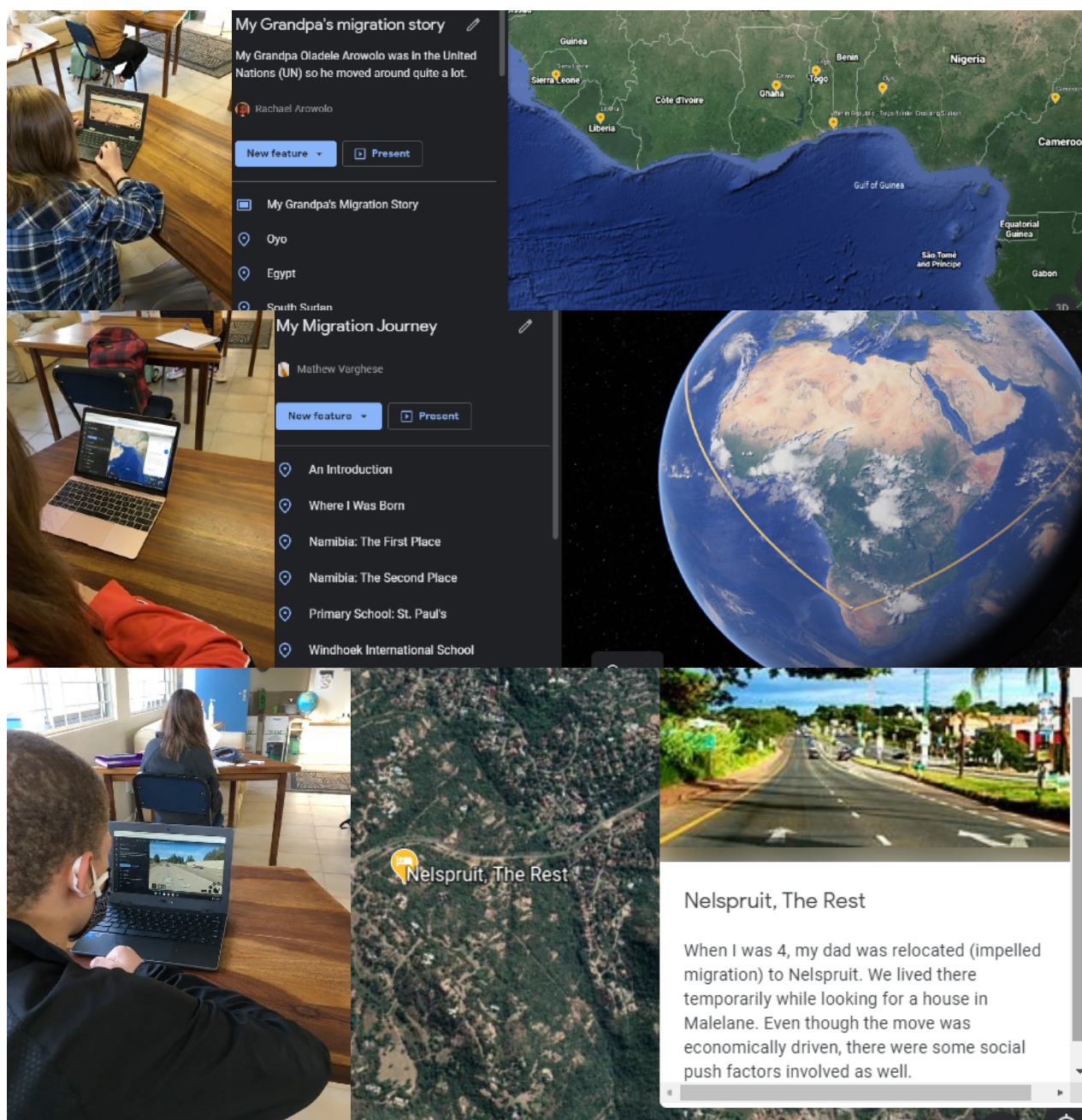
Angie Janse van Rensburg

Personal Migration Maps

Grade 8s map their own personal migrations

Our Grade 8s have been looking at *Migration* in Social Studies over the last couple of weeks. During our lessons this week, we've been using Google Earth to map our own personal migration stories, or those of a relative or celebrity.

We identified different *Push and Pull factors*, the type of migration and some impacts of the move(s). Not only could we 'personalise' migration, but we also discovered how to use a new app.



Johan Meyer

Feed the herds

Hello, we are the Feed the Herds team,

We are a small team with the goal of providing drought relief in Southern Namibia. Did you know Namibia has been facing its worst drought in 90 years since 2013? Well, as of 2019 the percentage of fertile land in Namibia is only 0.97%. This however is not the worst fact. In 2020 alone there have been up to 100,000 livestock deaths, not only cattle, goats, and sheep that are affected, but other domestic animals such as horses, donkeys, and even dogs.



We are planning on hosting fundraising events that will be used for our cause, however, if you want to donate you can do so through our personal website (<https://www.feedtheherds.com/>).

If you can't donate please follow us on our social media @feedtheherds on all platforms, and help us spread awareness for our cause!

With your help, we can bring a change to these small farming communities, and help their livestock survive the drought.

Through this, we won't only be saving their livestock, but we will also be helping the farming families, as their lives depend on their livestock.

CAS Students: Amelie, PJ, Mathis and Lukene

The Secondary IB Learner Profile Trait for the month of October is:

Communicator

A COMMUNICATOR understands and expresses ideas and information confidently and creatively in more than one language and in a variety of modes of communication. They work effectively and willingly in collaboration with others. IB students regularly deliver stimulating presentations and drive excellence in group assignments.

Check out the Oryx at the end of this month to see who will be our WIS Communicators...

Cricket

One of the responsibilities of a PHE (Physical and Health Education) practitioner is to expose learners to the extensive range of Sports related activities within the locality of the school and to encourage positive healthy habits. This week we have welcomed in the Cricket coaches from Namspire Cricket Academy to lead Grade 6 - 9 PHE lessons.



Cricket is a sport that often polarises opinion, for those who have a in depth knowledge of the rules and strategies it is a highly engaging sport. For others it's utterly baffling how a sport that can be played consecutively for five days can end in a draw.

Our Middle School and Grade 9 learners had a chance to play a super streamlined version of the game as we invited Coach Tino, Coach Niasha and Coach Chris.

Thank you to the Coaches from Namspire Cricket Academy for your enthusiasm, expertise and energy.



Thomas Jackson-Read

WIS Learning Support Department

Walking up the pathway – up to the very top
 Three circular rooms will bring you to a stop
 You peek inside, wondering what there'll be

Pictures, games, books and big smiles are what you'll see
 The atmosphere is peaceful, although the kids work hard
 Here all are equal and in their unique way, all are truly smart

Each student has a programme specifically tailored just for his need
 With individual, group or in class support we will help him succeed
 We believe learning must be multi-sensory and lots of fun

Students learn when they hop on a ball, play, jump and even run
 The teachers are kind and about the kids they really care
 Not just academically, but also about their emotional welfare

Notes, summaries, differentiation, being a scribe and a reader
 Are all part of their work which they do with passion, always eager
 The Learning Support Department believes that all children can learn and grow
 With love and encouragement, that is exactly what our students can show!

Second term after school sports



Please see below all sports activities that have been listed for the 2nd quarter. Activities will be open for Grades 3 through 12. Sporting codes will be incorporated into others if less than five students sign up.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Grade 3-5 1:15-2:15	Athletics	Netball	Athletics	Netball
	Basketball	Soccer	Basketball	Soccer
Grade 6-9 1:15-2:15	Netball	Athletics	Netball	Athletics
	Boys Soccer	Basketball	Boys Soccer	Basketball
	Girls Soccer		Girls Soccer	
Grade 10-12 2:15-3:30	Basketball	Basketball	Basketball	Basketball
	Boys & Girls Soccer	Athletics	Boys & Girls Soccer	Athletics
		Volleyball		Volleyball
Netball	3:30pm-5pm		3:30pm-5:00pm	

There will be 2 sessions offered:

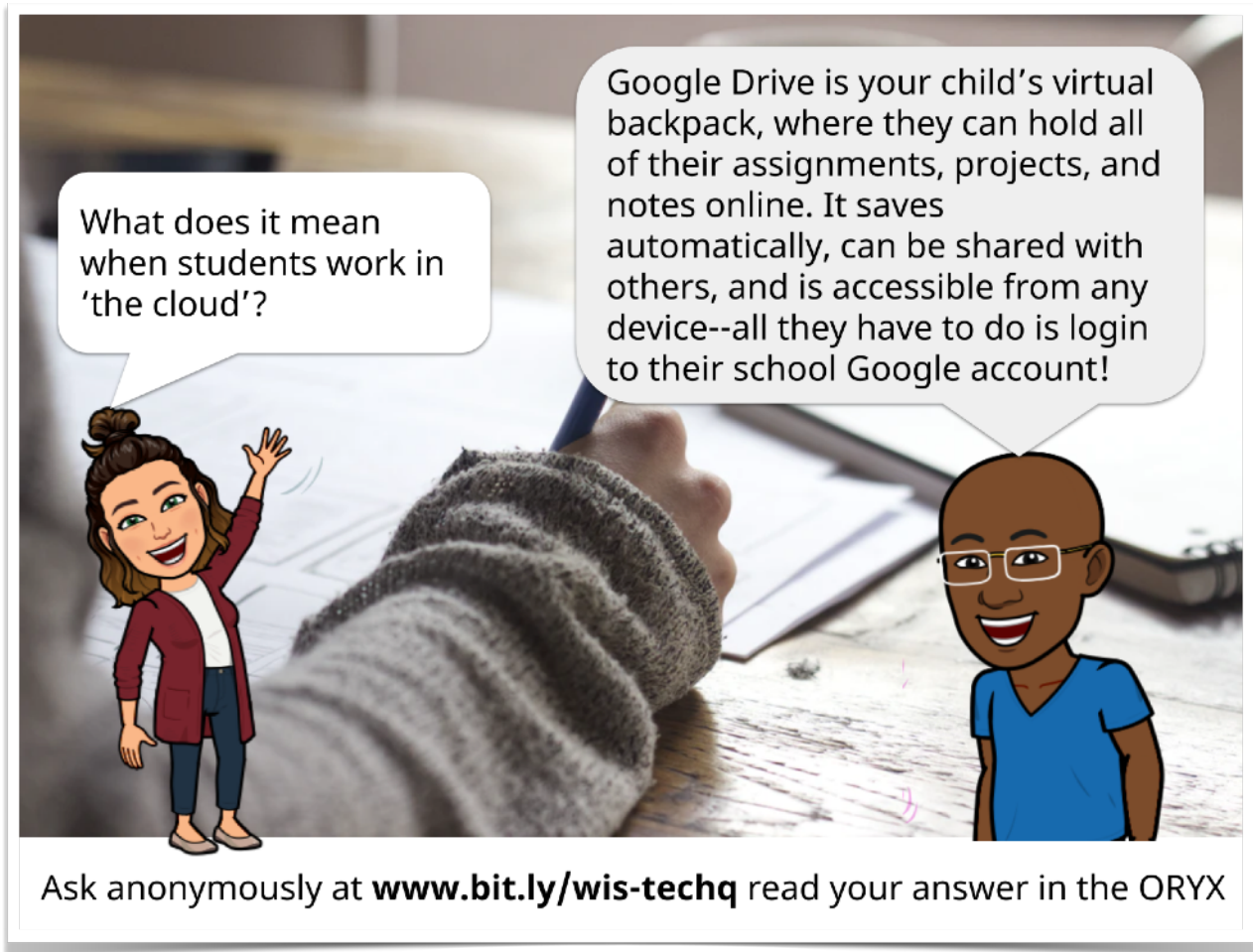
1:15-2:15 Grade 3-9

2:15-3:30 Grade 10-12 and any invited from the younger grades that are in regional Khomas teams.

Please note Netball for Grade 10-12 and those Grade 6-9 who want to represent the school will be from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm.

There will be a session offered for basketball on Friday for students selected into the Khomas Under 16 team.

Use the link to sign up: [2nd Quarter After School Sports](#)



What does it mean when students work in 'the cloud'?

Google Drive is your child's virtual backpack, where they can hold all of their assignments, projects, and notes online. It saves automatically, can be shared with others, and is accessible from any device--all they have to do is login to their school Google account!

Ask anonymously at www.bit.ly/wis-techq read your answer in the ORYX

World Teachers' Day

On Monday, 5th October, people young and old, the world over, celebrated their teachers. Thank you to the WIS Social Committee for valuing and appreciating our teachers.



Word Health Day

[World Mental Health Day](#)

'This year's World Mental Health Day, on 10 October, comes at a time when our daily lives have changed considerably as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The past months have brought many challenges: for health-care workers, providing care in difficult circumstances, going to work fearful of bringing COVID-19 home with them; for students, adapting to taking classes from home, with little contact with teachers and friends, and anxious about their futures; for workers whose livelihoods are threatened; for the vast number of people caught in poverty or in fragile humanitarian settings with extremely limited protection from COVID-19; and for people with mental health conditions, many experiencing even greater social isolation than before.'

Just in time for our October break - we advise all - students, parents and teachers to be sure to take some time to look after their own mental health and to take time for yourselves to relax, re-energise and enjoy some quality time with special people. Now more than ever, we are seeing how important community and compassion is. There is no excuse for taking time for yourself -

MYTHS ABOUT SELF-CARE

- ✘
Self-care is an indulgence
- ✔
Meaningful self-care includes making mindful changes in patterns of thoughts and behaviours that do not contribute to your wellbeing.
- ✘
Self-care is selfish
- ✔
When you make time for yourself and get sufficient rest & exercise, you feel more energetic and will be able to do more - for yourself as well as for those around you.
- ✘
Self-care is a one-time experience
- ✔
Looking after yourself is an ongoing practice in building resilience to face hardships and in preventing burnout.
- ✘
Self-care is time consuming
- ✔
Self-care does not require you to take out a huge chunk of time from your busy day.

www.mymind oasis.com