



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

CARPARK

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Dates to Remember

October 2017

- **6:** Term 1 Ends
- **16:** Start of Term 2
- **16:** AA Start
- **24:** UN Day Assembly
- **24:** Board Meeting

November 2017

- **11:** International day
- **14:** World Diabetes Day

FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Car Park

"There is no such thing as society." Who said that? Well, she was wrong.

Type "society" into Google and see what you get. I did and two of the definitions I liked are "a large group of people who live together in an organized way, making decisions about how to do things" and "the aggregate of people living together in a more or less ordered community".

"...a more or less ordered community".

"...ordered".

Let's bring that down to a small scale that we can easily understand. Let's apply it to an example chosen entirely at random. Let's pick the – oh, I don't know – the car park.

Let's imagine there were no rules in the car park. Imagine a car park with no white lines defining the spaces and no yellow lines meaning "don't park here!". There are no rules about entering by one gate and leaving by another. There are no speed bumps and no zebra crossings.

Anyone can park anywhere. And they do.

But wait. What's this? Some cars are circulating clockwise and some anti-clockwise. Some cars have parked where they are blocking others. With vehicles moving in all directions and people getting in and out of vehicles all over the place, it's only going to be a matter of time before someone gets hurt. Oof! One car just reversed into another and what's that shouting? Oh, a car is trying to enter by the main gate while another is trying to exit. Both drivers have now got out of their vehicles and are yelling at each other.

I don't think this is working. I think we need some ... order.

WEEKLY PUZZLER

There were no solvers of last week's water jug puzzle and so the answer will remain hidden. Perhaps the Year 10's with their recent experience of hauling their own water jugs will come back with necessary knowledge.

This week we will be weighing golf balls. You are given eight golf balls. Seven of the balls weigh 100g. One is either heavier or lighter than 100g. You have a two sided scale on which the golf balls can be compared. Your job is to determine which ball is of an odd weight and whether it is heavier or lighter than 100g. You can only use the scale three times.

Answers can be submitted to pfarrell@wis.edu.na. New puzzles can also be submitted to the same address.

New puzzles can also be submitted to the same address.

You agree? Oh, good.

But here's the thing. It can't just be "some" order. It's sort of all or nothing. If one person parks where they (know they) shouldn't, it will probably do no great harm. But then the next person thinks, "Well, if he can park there, I'm going to park here..." and before we know it people are parking any old where and it's not working.

So if you are politely reminded that you may not park somewhere or loiter or otherwise disregard the Car Park rules, please remember that we are doing nothing less than trying to prevent the collapse of society.

Parking on a yellow line today; lawlessness and the end of civilisation tomorrow.

Peter MacKenzie
Director

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Thank you to all who attended the Primary Three-Way conferences this week, not only the conference with the Homeroom Teacher but with the Single Subject Teachers as well. It was good to see so many smiling faces on both parents and students. The feedback from the teachers has also been positive. Following the week's break, we'll be reflecting on what worked well with these conferences and what could be improved or done differently. Any feedback that you have will be helpful and appreciated. Your comments can be sent to me, bsmith@wis.edu.na.



Next week's October break is a time for children and teachers alike to get rested, rejuvenated, reenergized and ready for Term 2. For those who are traveling, may your travels be smooth and safe. I wish everyone a restful, relaxing and fun holiday that includes some quality family time. I look forward to welcoming you back to school on Monday, 16 October.

Regards,
Beth Smith

Thinking outside the Fruit Bowl!

2B brought fruit from home and we worked together to make a delicious fruit salad. Then we had a discussion about, "How is 2B like a Fruit Salad?"

"We are a lot and we are small." (Nini)

"We have vitamins." (Dino)

"Fruit grows and so do we." (Alexandre)

"We're different colours and we have different parts." (Wetufe)

"We go to class and they go into the bowl." (Nour)

"We are different sizes." (Carlos)

"We mix together." (Wetufe)

"We can make something good together." (Miss Jan)



What's up in the PYP?

What a nice two days it has been observing parents and children wandering around the school for the [PYP Three-Way conferences](#). This is one way to take time to stop and reflect on student learning. It's also a great tool for communication and a means of reporting back to parents on how your child is doing.



Assessment without feedback is merely judgment; feedback is the component of assessment that lets us interpret the judgment and improve our work.

The conferences are designed to involve parents, students and teachers as partners, reflect what the school community values, be comprehensive, honest, fair and credible, and to be clear and understandable to all parties.

Three-way conferences is a time to involve and empower the students in their own learning. To have an opportunity as parents and teachers to discuss their learning with them. This is to be positive and supportive of the student through this process.

Students are responsible for reflecting upon work samples they have chosen to share, that have been previously selected with guidance and support from the teacher and could be from the student's portfolio. The student, parents and the teacher collaborate to establish and identify the student's strengths and areas for improvement. This may lead to the setting of new goals, with all determining how they can support the achievement of the goals.

When students are involved, reassured and supported they are happy, thriving individuals who will continue to grow and move forward.

Kind regards

Avril van Zyl - PYP Coordinator



SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Looking back at Term 1

We have come to the end of the first term of this academic year and there certainly are some things that we can reflect on and that we can celebrate.

What can we celebrate from the past eight weeks?

- We have had some successful field trips in our Secondary School - the Year 12 trip to Okonjima, the Year 7 trip to Arnhem Caves and the Orange River trip for Year 10. We are happy about these trips and how they went and want to thank both our students and accompanying teachers for making these trips memorable and successful.
- We had two well attended Back to School Nights that seemed to have had the intended effect and parents had the opportunity to meet and talk to their children's subject teachers on these nights.
- Twelve of our senior students attended the Model United Conference at the American International School in Johannesburg and came back inspired and happy about the role they played in this event. Some of our students were delegates at the conference, some were even appointed as chairs of the different committees. Thank you again for the teachers who accompanied the students for their time and effort invested in preparing the students and accompanying them to the conference.
- During the past week we hosted our annual Student Parent Teacher Conference and for the first time parents were able to sign up online. Overall the feedback from parents and teachers about the conferences is positive. There are little things we can do to improve on this method of signing up. However, having the opportunity for students, teachers and parents to sit together and discuss the progress seems to be an increasing interest of parents.

As mentioned in previous contributions, we always welcome feedback from parents, teachers and students on what we do. If you had suggestions or ideas, please don't hesitate to contact us so that we can take note of those.

I wish you all a peaceful and happy holiday and we will see you back in school on Monday the 16th of October.



Regards,

Maggie Reiff

IGCSE Student of the Month

As you know, IGCSE is a two year programme and culminates in the final exams in Year 11.

It is challenging and stressful sometimes, but if approached with positivity by students, teachers and parents it can be a very good preparation for a student's future.

This time should also be a positive and fun time of a WIS student's life. Let's therefore celebrate students' achievements.

From today, every end of the month IGCSE teachers will



commend a student for his/her achievements.

For September, we have decided that the Year 11B student, Tjaku (Veringo) Pujatura is our Student of the Month, for his work ethic, and for being a committed student. He is also well liked amongst his peers.

Students who experience a greater sense of competence and self-direction in their daily learning are more likely to persist with difficult learning tasks and they experience an enhanced sense of personal well being and satisfaction upon completion (Baard, Deci, & Ryan, 2004; Sheldon & Kasser, 1998).

Teresa Araújo - IGCSE Coordinator

Namibian Junior Open Squash Championships

Last weekend the Namibian Junior Squash Championships took place in Walvis Bay. This is always a great tournament and this year was no exception. Two scholars from WIS, Sasha Jarvis and Arno Diekmann, took Part in the competition. Some excellent squash was displayed in this tournament.

Sasha managed to win the first prize in the girls U 16 section while Arno, who had entered in the U19 boys section in order to have a greater challenge, came third. Congratulations to both!



Year 7 Field Trip

Arnhem Cave Campsite - September 2017

Year 7 students enjoyed a trip at the Arnhem Cave Campsite from 27th - 29th September. They participated in team building experiences as well as some rather challenging and physically demanding hiking and caving. The group were a credit to our school, behaving well and enjoying the experience.

Below are quotes from some the Year 7 students....

"The Arnhem caves trip was an amazing experience."





"The cave tour itself was the highlight of the trip, especially when we got to go deeper into the caves and find a water source in the caves and all the species of bats we saw."

"We have learnt a lot from the trip like how to be independant and know when you need help and how to respect each other."

"Even if the caves were exhausting, humid and smelly.....it was worth it and the adventure was quite fulfilling."

"I learned things that I could not learn in everyday life, not only about myself but also about others."

"It couldn't be easier without electronics. We found things to do: pool games, soccer...all the things mums say they used to do as a

child."

"The highlight was definitely the cave as it is truly amazing....it's a journey with ladders to get to the different sections of the cave and lots of dust." **Quotes from: Sarah (7b), Omer (7b), Raey (7a) & Tomi (7a)**



Lian Cohen

Swimming Competitions

"The strongest people aren't always the people who win, but the people who don't give up when they lose".



Most people associate swimming with summer time; however, it's a physical activity in which anyone can participate any time of the year if there is an indoor or outdoor pool available. Swimming isn't just a fun way to cool off during the summer; it is one of the few physical activities that holds no age restrictions.

Our annual **Inter House Swimming Gala** was a success. Over 40 swimmers enjoyed the cold waters of the Western Suburb Swimming Pool, and there was competition amongst each other. Students swam in their age groups in different events such as butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke, freestyle, and individual medley.

Learning a swimming stroke is difficult and takes time. Some of our swimmers are ready to go to the next level, and some will need more practice. Overall, everyone did extremely well, and we are proud to see so many enthusiastic swimmers at WIS.

Sports committee would like to say thank you **PTA** and **Secondary Student Council** for support and enthusiasm during the event. A special thank you to **Mr. Bill Walker** for taking photos of our swimmers. You are welcome to visit our gallery [here](#).



Below you will find Primary and Secondary results :

[Primary 25m Results, Sep 2017](#)

[Primary 50m Results Sept 2017](#)

[Secondary 25m Results Sept 2017](#)

[Secondary 50m Results Sept 2017](#)

Namibia Short Course National Championship

Another important swimming competition organised by NASU took place in Swakopmund on the 29th of September to the 1 October.

Six students from WIS participated in the Namibia Short Course National Championship representing Dolphins Swim Club: Kgosana Hekandjo (Year 6), Zoe Thomas (Year 6), Oliwia Stephanus (Year 5), Kamogelo De Almeida (Year 7), Martha Kali (Year 7) and Viktoria Ellmies (Year 10). All of them demonstrated commitment, enthusiasm, and determination in their respective races .

Results

- **Oliwia, Martha, and Kamogelo** did well in their individual prelims.
- **Kgosana** did well in his individual prelims and qualified to 7 finals
- **Zoe** reached the finals in four different events - finishing 4th in the 50m Backstroke and 5th in the 100m Backstroke in two of her finals
- **Viktoria** competed in age group 13/14. She improved all her personal best times, and won 2 silver and 4 bronze medals in her age group.

The Sports Committee would like to congratulate all the swimmers for their commitment, determination, and encourage them to keep up their hard work.



The next major swim gala will be the Pupkewitz Inter-School Gala which will take place on the 20-21 October - Western Suburbs Swimming Pool in Katutura. WIS will compete against other schools from Windhoek.

***"If you want to be the best, you have to do things that other people aren't willing to do."* Michael Phelps
Sports Committee**

Year 12 Okonjima Trip



On 18th September, seventeen Year 12 students, myself included, got into a bus headed to our latest adventure, a field trip to Okonjima. Living on a campsite in the middle of the wild, we learnt more about nature and why we needed to conserve it. From the spiders in our tents to the cheetahs in the bush, we met animals of all shapes and sizes.

Everyday at dawn and at dusk, we sat in the sand to watch the sun rise and set. It was a calming experience that gave opportunity for reflection. We took long walks in the bush during which the guide would explain to us the significance of trees around us. It was a serene, ethereally beautiful escape from reality. Admiring the beauty of the wildlife around us, we began to appreciate natural life more.

At the school in Okonjima, we met young, vibrant children whose smiles were contagious. In the words of my fellow classmates, this trip was fun, educational, enlightening and amazing. It gave us the opportunity to bond as a class, getting to know more about each other. The memories we made on this trip will remain unforgettable.

Afua Brantuo



Why Community theatre is a useful outlet to solve any group problem

-Written by Emilio Leto.

The past month in Drama we've been learning about a concept called Community Theatre. Community Theatre is about involving the full spectrum of the community and everyone in it. The reason you need to work with all people within the community is because you manage to cut the community's problems by the roots. So when



you do Community Theatre you work with other people in your community even if they are not trained actors. Then through discussions, activities, and storytelling you start to uncover little bits and pieces and you learn about your Community's problems. To take action you can make a play about these problems. The play will spread awareness on the topic, get discussions started and people riled up and ultimately to solve these problems themselves!

Ms.Kate had kindly organized a chance for us (the 9s) to put what we learnt in practice. We were going to another School in Windhoek. We were to visit two Grade 7 classes three times in three weeks. On the first visit we introduced ourselves and started getting to know them. We did activities where you had to physically connect with our partners. This technique quickly breaks down barriers between strangers. We touched knee to knee, elbow to elbow and the dreaded "Nose to Nose". (Most people ran away at that point but we had already connected). We then exchanged stories and found out about their differences and similarities between us.

On the second day we learnt the students were not allowed to play soccer during break time! And we also learnt soccer was the thing that made them the happiest. We also learnt about social problems in the community. So after going back to WIS we came up with our community theatre play to create awareness of some of the issues the kids face at the School. On our third visit we came to the school with our play. The play was about a group of friends that were banned from playing soccer. They then had nothing to do at break, and they end up starting a fight. In our play the Prefects notice the change that playing football can bring and ask the teachers politely if the students can play soccer because then they would play instead of fighting. The teacher agrees and the prefects then organize and supervise the students so they can play soccer.

After our play we discussed this problem with the students. We debated and exchanged thoughts for a good twenty minutes and introduced an idea of organizing a way to play soccer. Now the problem is exposed they might play soccer now.

Here are some thoughts about community theatre from the 9As:

Dario -

"Well at first I wasn't really confident about community theater until now. I realized that community theater is all about opening up to your audience and release the pain through acting it out."

Zeppy -

"We did many community theatre exercises, I enjoyed it because I've gotten to know the community more. I've learnt there isn't much of a difference between us, different struggles, same goals. We all aim to achieve great goals just like them, though we are more fortunate we still get along nicely and are one big family. Through this experience it really led me to believe that we are similar. It brought the two communities together and made us closer."

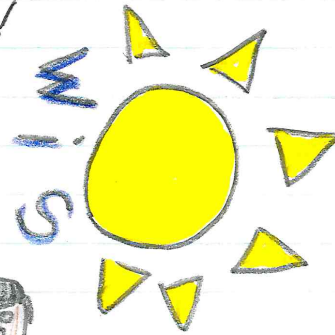
JM -

"What I learned from this community theatre is that football can really bring a whole school together but it can also bring fights, all in all we need football."

Thank You PTA



Dear pta the under 9's
 football team want
 to say thank you!
 Thanks for donating
 money for our Alifiah
 long socks.



Mario

Till

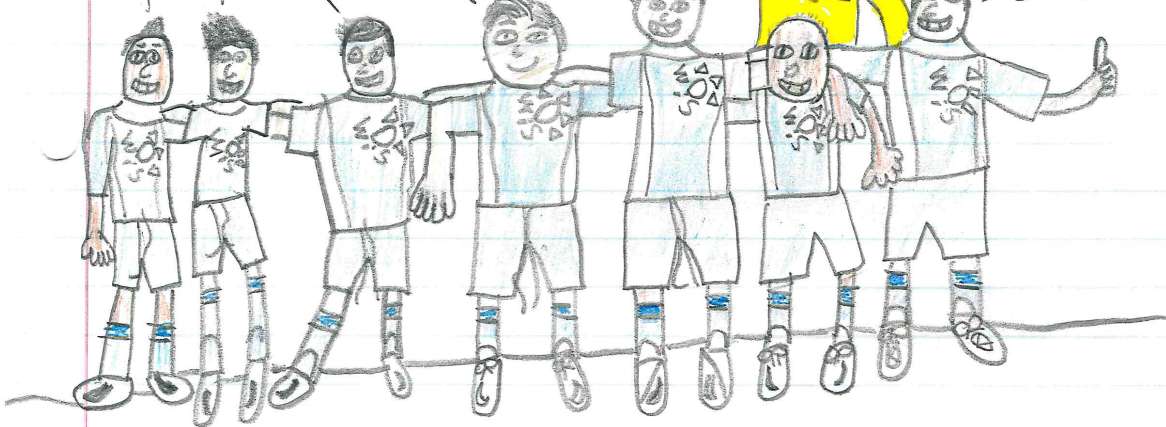
Ben

Matthew

Juliaan



Bilal



From under 9's Evat
Matthew VZ

AUDITIONS



ROMEO AND JULIET

*16th October
1.30 - 3pm
Room 70*