



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Grade 11 ... and Grade 9 !

Our Grade 11 students returned to school this week. It was wonderful to see learners on the campus and in classrooms again. And I know how important it was for them to see their friends and teachers again.

And there is more good news.

As schools slowly reopen, the government has prioritised Grades 11 and 12 because of the important exams they are preparing for. Our Grade 9 students are also preparing for their IGCSE exams so we requested permission for them to return too. I am delighted to report that permission was granted and so Grade 9 will be back in school from Monday.

We are, of course, implementing strict precautionary measures. Temperatures are taken, masks and visors are worn, social distancing is observed, student movement between rooms is minimised, hand sanitisers are ubiquitous, and so on.

Like schools all over the country and, indeed, all over the world, we are adapting to the new realities.

School Hours

With ever more students and teachers on campus, we have reverted to normal office hours – 7am to 4pm (3pm on Fridays).

Please also note that the School Office will be open until and including **Friday 3rd July**.

It will then be closed for two weeks and will reopen on **Monday 20th July**.

For students, the new school year will start, as scheduled, on **Monday 10th August**.

Car Windscreen Stickers ...

... are going fast! Get yours while stocks last!

Re-Registration for 2020-2021

If you have not yet re-registered for next year, please do so.

Peter MacKenzie

Contents

- From the Director p. 1
- Primary News p. 2 - 3
- Secondary News p. 3 - 4
- Other News p. 5 - 7



Facebook



Instagram



Twitter



PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

This week, (3 June to be exact) is the 22nd anniversary of WIS becoming authorised to offer the Primary Years Programme. We are proud to be one of the early adopters of the PYP, which now is offered in more than 1,798 schools (and growing) in over 109 countries around the world.

The IB introduced the Primary Years Programme in 1997 and just a year later, WIS became an IB World School. The PYP has grown and developed since its inception, as has the programme itself at WIS. Having been introduced to the PYP in 1999, I have seen how the PYP has evolved over the years and I have witnessed first hand how students in an IB World School are different, in a positive way, from those in other schools. Based on my experience, as well as conversations with teachers and parents, students who attend IB schools:

- are more confident,
- learn how to learn
- take responsibility for their own learning
- think critically
- ask questions



One of the aspects of the IB programmes that I value is the Learner Profile. The Learner Profile is the IB's mission in action.

The International Baccalaureate® aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end the organisation works with schools, governments and international organisations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right. (International Baccalaureate Organisation).

The ten attributes that comprise the Learner Profile (*Inquirer, Knowledgeable, Thinker, Communicator, Principled, Open-Minded, Caring, Risk-Taker, Balanced, Reflective*) provide a common vocabulary for everyone in the school community. These last few months of remote learning have certainly highlighted the various attributes of the Learner Profile. The following are just a few examples. We have all had to try to be open-minded about remote learning and reflective of the process, making changes as necessary. It has been particularly important to be balanced in our use of screen time, ensuring we are not working all day long, taking breaks, as well as getting exercise. We have been caring about one another and how we have been faring in the process. It hasn't been easy for any of us but I believe we have risen above the challenges and everyone ~ students, parents, teachers ~ can be congratulated for doing the best they can under the circumstances.

WIS Art Remote Learning Exhibition

One of the Art tasks students were given during remote learning was to choose two of their artworks to showcase evidence of their creative learning and submit for our remote learning exhibition. The artworks presented here are all student choice: [WIS Art Remote Learning Exhibition](#). I hope you'll take the time to view and enjoy the exhibition.

Remote Learning Assembly

Here is the link for this week's remote learning assembly: [Primary Assembly - 5 June 2020](#)

**Regards,
Beth Smith**

VOICE AND CHOICE for ART

REMOTE LEARNING

Visiting virtual art galleries is a chance to see artworks that cannot be viewed in the 'real-life' of art galleries and art museums! Many 'museums and galleries are looking to digital channels to keep cultural capital flowing during lockdown' (Artsyshark.com). Lockdown and Remote Learning lent itself to exactly this exhibition. Our budding young artists and art appreciators were given a task of selecting any two artworks of their choice from their remote learning art portfolio for a virtual exhibition.

They were also encouraged to describe/comment on their artwork submitted. With the superb technical expertise of Mr. Danai, we have come up with our first primary **VIRTUAL ART GALLERY @ WIS**. Herewith their selection of art pieces. Please enjoy and do comment on their creativity.

This is the link to the website <https://bit.ly/2U90RBw>. Congratulations Primary Art Students.

Genie Albrecht

Car Security Stickers

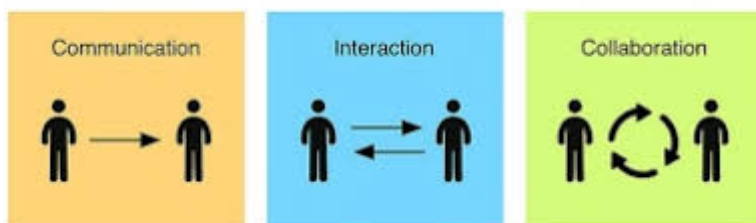
Please collect your 2020 - 2021
windscreen sticker at the Office!



SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Collaboration and Communication

During the past three months, more than before, collaboration and communication were essential tools and skills to have in order to be able to be able to continue working, continue learning and continue being connected.



grow and develop further. Working together, **opens up channels of communication**. When we work together and exchange our experiences, we also experience new ways of communicating. When we are open to communication and collaboration, we become more confident in our skills of communicating and collaborating. Both communication and collaboration **boosts morale in an organisation**, be it a school, a company or any other entity where people come together. Collaboration makes us **more efficient as learners and people in society**.

The Blog [7 reasons why collaboration is important](#) has made me think about this in the context of our current situation. We work together to **solve problems** in all areas of our daily lives. Collaboration **brings people together**, even if it is remotely. It makes us **learn from each other**. We share our skills and experiences and we hear different opinions and viewpoints. By that, we



Positive and constructive teamwork (collaboration and communication is something that no class, no school, no organisation can underestimate. It is a glue that holds any group of people together. It is the glue that holds our society together.

Regards,
Maggie Reiff

From The Health room



Yesterday our Grade 11 students returned to school. They sanitised their hands, signed in, and had their temperatures taken. Parents and drivers were asked to remain in their cars until given the signal that they could leave. Anyone entering the campus with a temperature of 37.5°C and above will be re-checked after 10 minutes (waiting separately from others) with a conventional thermometer, and sent home should their temperature remain elevated.

Students will enter a cleaned and sanitised classroom before every lesson. They will apply hand sanitiser on entry, and sit in the same place every time. Desks have been placed far apart to maintain social distancing, and everyone on campus wears a mask. The washrooms are cleaned and sanitised twice a day. Students are regularly reminded about social distancing, frequent hand-washing, the correct way to cough and sneeze, and not to come to school if they are unwell. If a student feels unwell while at school I will call parents to pick up their child. Please answer your phones even if the number shows up as 'unknown'.

It was clear yesterday that the Grade 11s were happy to see their friends. The teachers' feedback at the end of the day was positive. We are monitoring their social and emotional well-being. We are doing our best to create the safest environment we can on campus. Students are encouraged to voice any fears they might have with

regard to their health and safety on campus. And last but not least, thank you to the Grade 11s for sticking to the safety rules and adapting to the current situation at school.

Sharon Gorelick, Nurse & Counsellor

Devices 2020-21

Windhoek International School recommends Chromebooks for the year 2020-21 and onwards. iPads have served us well thanks to their portability and versatile use. Chromebooks have become popular in the educational setting for the following reasons;



1. They last longer. The typical lifespan is about 5 years
2. They offer a full-size keyboard. This is something that the teachers in secondary school have requested.
3. No technical hassles. Unlike other devices, they update themselves, only requiring a quick restart. To date, they are not affected by viruses or malware.
4. They start up quickly. It takes about 7 seconds to boot up a Chromebook making it ready for use immediately.
5. Long battery life. They have about 12 hours of battery life on average, depending on the model.

We are a Google Suite For Education School. In February 2020 we celebrated 10 years of using the G-Suite for Education platform at Tech Camp 2020. An annual conference we host for schools in and around Namibia. We use Google Apps for document creation, editing, collaboration, storage and publishing. We are moving to fully utilise Google Classroom as our Learning Management System making it one platform, one sign in for our teachers and students. Our teachers are working towards becoming Certified Google Educators. G-Suite Apps are native to Chromebooks and allow for documents to be accessed both online and offline, although they are theoretically stored in 'the cloud'.

Chromebooks have not been seen much of a Namibian market share up to now. They are becoming popular in schools in South Africa. This makes them accessible to us. They are cost effective compared to other devices. We look forward to seeing them support **a blended approach to learning at WIS**. Watch a 1minute 40 second video about the device [here](#).

If you are thinking of replacing your child's device for the next academic year, we recommend that you have a look at an offer from Nanodog below. Financing is available through Nanodog.

See poster on the next page for more info.

ASUS CHROMEBOOK

Flip C214MA - Celeron N4000

CPU:
Intel Celeron N4000
(1.1GHz / 2-Cores / 2-Threads)

Memory:
4GB DDR4-2133 (4GB Onboard)

Hard Drive:
64GB eMMC

Display:
11.6" LED (1366x768)
Flip Touchscreen

Operating System:
Chrome OS



OPTION:1

SAVE: N\$ 575

***W.I.S. PROMO PRICE: N\$7245**

NORMAL PRICE: N\$ 7820

ASUS CHROMEBOOK

C204MA - Celeron N4000

CPU:
Intel Celeron N4000
(1.1GHz / 2-Cores / 2-Threads)

Memory:
4GB DDR4-2133 (4GB Onboard)

Storage:
32GB eMMC

Display:
11.6" LED (1366x768) Touchscreen

Operating System:
Chrome OS



OPTION:2

SAVE: N\$ 575

*** W.I.S. PROMO PRICE: N\$5980**

NORMAL PRICE: N\$ 6555

**Promo Prices are only valid for orders placed before the end of June 2020
+264 61 225 221 (Windhoek) | +264 64 464 192 (Swakop) | info@nanodog.net*



WIS Birthday Gala Dinner

30

5 December 2020
19:30 for 20:00
RSVP by 27 November 2020
Business Casual

ADULTS ONLY - N\$500.00PP
Buffet Dinner
Cash Bar

**All proceeds will go to the development of the
new sports courts.**

