



# THE ORYX

*The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School*

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

**Thank you...**

...to the 70+ parents and staff who gave up their Saturday morning last weekend to discuss how to take the school forward.



There was a wonderful sense of community and the recognition of the challenges we face was met with considerable optimism and resolve.



Saturday was the latest in a series of consultative meetings where the board has solicited the opinions of constituents, the better to understand what our priorities must be as we plan for the future.

**The first concrete result of these deliberations is a letter that all members of the community will receive today regarding tuition fees for 2020-2021. If you do not receive the letter, please contact the School Office.**

Peter MacKenzie

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### Dates to Remember

#### November 2019

- **07:** Deadline to order photos
- **09:** International Day
- **21 - 23:** Staff Work Days
- **27:** Election Day
- **29:** AA End for all Students

#### December 2019

- **04:** Founder's Day
- **04:** Upper Primary Production
- **06:** End of Term 2



VISIT US ON:



## WIS Business Development Subcommittee

All interested parents and staff are invited to join an ad hoc Business Development Subcommittee on Thursday, 7 November at 17:30 in the staff room. It's a kick-off meeting to brainstorm proposals for ways to attract alternative sources of funding to WIS. We are looking for proposals that can be implemented in the short- to medium-term and for participants with the expertise, contacts and know-how to get things done. If you have questions, email: [lisalindy@gmail.com](mailto:lisalindy@gmail.com)

Lisa O'Donoghue-Lindy

### PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

This past week I have been participating as a NEASC visiting team member at an international school in Dubai. As you know, NEASC is WIS's accrediting body and our visit from NEASC representatives will be taking place in January. Maggie Reiff has written several articles for the Oryx about NEASC's ACE (Architecture, Culture, Ecology) protocol and our process with it.

This visit was my first one working with the ACE protocol. As a visitor I found it to be a refreshing format because the whole focus of the visit was on teaching and learning and the school's progress on its transformational journey. The visiting team's purpose is to observe the learning happening in classrooms, looking for evidence in relation to the ten Learning Principles of ACE. Here is an overview of the Learning Principles. It should be noted that these Learning Principles complement the PYP.

Pillars of ACE	Learning Principle	Definition
<b>Architecture</b> Defines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>what learners learn,</li> <li>why they learn it, how they learn it, how learning is assessed and communicated,</li> <li>to what extent learners are able to choose their own learning, and</li> <li>how the learning community knows that it has achieved the desired impact on the learner.</li> </ul>	1. Learning Goals	Learners demonstrate understandings, competencies, knowledge, dispositions, and values that will allow them to become responsible and successful citizens.
	2. Dimensions of Learning	Learning encompasses creative, moral, social, experiential and entrepreneurial dimensions.
	3. Assessment For, Of, and As Learning	Assessment measures the effect of learning on the learner. Assessment for, of and as learning includes qualitative as well as quantitative criteria.
	4. Learning Perspectives	Meaningful learning is extended when learners explore the unfamiliar, consider a range of perspectives, and take informed risks. Mistakes are seen as opportunities for learning.
<b>Culture of Learning</b> defines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the learning community's beliefs about the</li> </ul>	5. Learner Engagement and Autonomy	Learners are engaged with and inspired by their learning. They have autonomy over their learning and make informed choices, supported by teachers acting as coaches and mentors.

<p>conditions that underpin effective learning,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the norms and core values to which it adheres, and</li> <li>the impact leadership, governance, and staff have on the learning community's sustainability and evolution.</li> </ul>	6. Research and Reflection on Learning	Research, reflection, and future design-oriented thinking are valued and acted upon by the community of learners.
	7. Inclusiveness of Learning	The learning community embraces a culture of inclusiveness.
	8. Governance and Leadership for Learning	Governance, leadership, and management support, embody, and promote the organization's intended Learning Impacts, norms and values.
<p><b>Ecology of Learning</b></p> <p>defines the physical and social/emotional 'space' in which learning occurs.</p>	9. Learning Space and Time	The design of learning spaces and the structuring of learning time are driven and shaped by the learning community's intended Learning Impacts.
	10. Learning Community	Respectful, healthy, ethical relationships and interactions create a true sense of community. Communication is honest and transparent. Community values are clearly stated, actively lived, and define a distinct, sustained identity.

Visiting classrooms, talking with students and teachers all provide insight and evidence to where the school is at on its learning journey. Conversing with colleagues about our observations provides professional learning.

This experience also helped me to reflect on WIS's learning journey and what we can expect during our visit in January. One of my takeaways from this NEASC visit is the importance of the school community's involvement and understanding of the purpose of ACE and the Learning Principles. As has been announced we are having a community workshop about WIS's internal reflection and the way forward or next steps on our transformational journey, Saturday, **16 November**. I encourage you to mark this on your calendars and plan to attend.

Regards,  
Beth Smith

## SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

### 21st Century Learning

#### Celebrating what we do - enjoying learning in a different way

A lot of changes to the way we approach teaching and learning are happening at WIS. Embracing change and being open for change was one of the points mentioned at the community meeting on the new Strategic Plan last Saturday. It is in this spirit that I would like to share some positive feedback and experiences.

In our ATL class this past week, students were given the choice to decide how they think they could work on ATL skills or Mindfulness in the last week in this cycle. Liam suggested that we play games. 'What does



playing games have to do with ATL or Mindfulness?' A good question indeed. Here are some comments from the Grade 7 students after the ATL lesson to answer the question: 'Why was this lesson meaningful and how did it connect to ATL and Mindfulness?'

- It involved Mathematics - division, subtraction, multiplication.
- We had to strategise, use our thinking skills, social skills - team work to play with each other and our communication skills and social skills to make sure we work together positively.
- We have to learn to lose.
- The lesson calmed us down - mindfulness.



The ATL lesson was a fun and joyful 75 minutes of the day and the laughter and happy faces during the entire lesson were a testimony to that.

On the 29th of October Michael Parsons and I attended a symposium hosted by different organisations under the umbrella of the Embassy of Finland, Business Finland and Team Finland in collaboration with SAIS (Southern Africa Innovation Support) and Dololo. The day's theme was: 'Key to a nation's success - Opportunities for Finnish-Namibian cooperation in the education sector. The event was an excellent opportunity for us to reaffirm our current approach to teaching and learning. Focus in education moves towards learner-centred education and utilising learning spaces to make learning more engaged and connected to real world experiences. Finland spends a big percentage of their annual budget on research on education - their aim is to spend 4% on research in the future.



### Education is a Journey not a Destination

Finland is currently a leading expert in educational research and implementation of current understanding of education. However, it became clear that this is not something that happens overnight. A huge investment needs to be made - not necessarily monetary - to move towards this change of approach.

With the support of Finland, Namibia is starting to implement changes in teaching and learning in pilot schools around the Khomas region. WIS could potentially become a partner in these innovative initiatives with regard to teacher training and piloting changes in the physical learning environment of classes.

For the past week, Mary Montgomery worked with Secondary teachers on strategies of planning and mapping curriculum. This was an invaluable opportunity for our teachers to collaborate and work together to come to a common understanding of our teaching philosophy. Mary brought with her her goddaughter, Sophie (Grade 12), who visited the DP classes for a bit more than a week. Sophie's impression of her experience here at WIS was: *She wishes she could stay and finish her year here in this school. She cannot believe how caring and approachable teachers are. The students are great. She has learned so many things. The lessons are engaging, cool and interesting. She has a list of topics that she is going to look up when she gets home. She cannot believe that this kind of school can exist.*



Being able to write about these positive experiences around education is encouraging and makes our job in education rewarding and worthwhile.

Regards,  
Maggie Reiff

# WIS Website Update

Happy Friday WIS Nation!


There are some exciting changes to the WIS website ([www.wis.edu.na](http://www.wis.edu.na)). In the tabs on the website, you will now see the tab Teaching and Learning. We are in the process of updating the information available on the school's website and adding new information to help explain the changes happening in the school.



We want to increase and improve our online presence by trying to drive more traffic through the website. We have a Social Media Committee and there are now teachers helping keep Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter up to date. We are working on the website to get it more functional and informative.

Currently, there are three new sections to the Teaching and Learning section of the website. Course Overviews, Subject Criteria and Parent Information. All three of these sections are Secondary School focused, but more whole school and Primary School information will be added in the coming weeks.

The first tab is Course Overviews. Each Secondary course now has an online Course Overview. These overviews will provide information about the courses, what the current unit of study is, what curriculum benchmarks are the focus, what concepts are linked to the content and what will be assessed in the unit. These overviews will be updated as the year progresses. An example of the Grade 6 Science Course Overview is below.



**Secondary Course Overview**  
**Science Grade 6**  
**Academic Year 2019/2020**

Course Description
The WIS sciences framework aims to guide students to independently and collaboratively investigate issues through research, observation and experimentation. WIS sciences curriculum explores the connections between science and everyday life. In Grade 6 Sciences, the learners will have 5 units of study. The units the learners will engage in are: Bootcamp (Scientific Method), It's Alive! (Biology), Let's Get Physical Reactions (Chemistry), It's Enlightening (Physics), and (Earth/Space Science). Learners will be assessed on four MYP Science criteria. Criterion A - Knowing and Understanding (Unit Test), B - Inquiring and Designing (Lab Design), C - Processing and Evaluating and D - Reflecting on the Impacts of Science.

**Unit 2:**

Unit Title:	Classification	Unit Length	Start Date: 23 September Total Weeks: 8
Key Concept(s)	Systems	Related Concepts	Models, Form
Live Local, Think Global Connection	How are human actions in Namibia affecting the survival of different animal populations?		
Statement of Inquiry	Organisms are grouped based on similar characteristics.		
Criterion to be assessed in this unit.	<b>AD</b>	Approaches to Learning Focus	Research Social
Learning Goals (Knowledge and skills from Australian Curriculum)	Classification helps organise the diverse group of organisms (ACSSU111) Interactions between organisms, including the effects of human activities can be represented by food chains and food webs (ACSSU112)		

The second tab is the Subject Criteria. This section contains the summative assessment criteria for all the subjects for Grades 6 to 9 (and Grade 10 next year). We are in the process of building all of the criteria and this should be fully functional by the end of next week. There is also a description of how assessments have changed in the Secondary School and how we will know and provide feedback on what students are understanding. There are descriptions of Assessment FOR, OF and AS Learning and what part they play in your child's development. Finally, there is a description of the Overall Achievement Levels. Overall Achievement Levels are

determined by how well your child is understanding the curriculum content assessed through the set and defined subject criteria.

Below are links to the different subject-specific criteria. Explanations of Assessment FOR, OF and AS Learning can be found under the criteria links.

**Grade 6 - 8 Subject Criteria**

- [Science](#)
- [Mathematics](#)
- [English](#)
- [Social Studies](#)
- [Art](#)
- [Drama](#)
- [Languages](#)
- [P.E.](#)

**Grade 9 - 10 Subject Criteria**

- [Science \(Biology, Physics, Chemistry\)](#)
- [Mathematics](#)
- [Literature](#)
- [Unpacking of Criteria \(Literature\)](#)
- [English](#)
- [Unpacking of Criteria \(English First Language\)](#)
- [Geography](#)
- [History](#)
- [Business Studies](#)
- [P.E.](#)
- [Visual Arts](#)

ASSESSMENTS		
FOR LEARNING (Formative)	AS LEARNING (Reflection)	OF LEARNING (Summative)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By teachers &amp; students</li> <li>• To determine what to do next instructionally (strategies, differentiation) - teacher</li> <li>• To provide feedback to students (what they are doing well, what needs improvement and how to improve) - teacher</li> <li>• To provide direction for AS Learning - student</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By student</li> <li>• To determine what to do next in my learning (e.g. strategy, focus)</li> <li>• To provide descriptive feedback to peers and self (peer and self-assessment)</li> <li>• The goal is to become reflective, self-monitoring learner</li> <li>• Provides a focus for planning of SDL sessions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By teacher</li> <li>• To determine a student's level of achievement of curriculum benchmarks through criterion assessments</li> <li>• As evidence to support the professional judgment of student understanding</li> <li>• Determines Overall Achievement Levels (Interim and Final)</li> </ul>

The final tab under Teaching and Learning is Parent Information. Here you can find the different presentations given during the monthly Parent Information Evenings. The last Wednesday or Thursday of each month we host a Parent Information Evening in the staffroom. This month we talked about assessment. These sessions are designed to provide parents with information about the changes happening at the school and to help clarify the path WIS is taking to provide your child with a 21st-century education.



Changes, improvements and additions will continue.

What's Happening @ WIS will be something added to the homepage in the near future. This will be updated on a regular basis and help us highlight all the amazing things happening at WIS.

Go Fish Eagles!

**Michael Parsons**  
**Director of Teaching and Learning.**

## German Class Trip

On the week of the 13th of September, the Grade 10 German class took a weekend trip to "Mini- Deutschland" Swakopmund.

We drove from school to Swakop in a matter of four hours with a small break for drinks. As soon as we arrived, the smell of the fresh ocean breeze took over and we immediately felt calmer and more relaxed. Ready to practice our German skills in any way possible, we went to the Brauhaus restaurant to eat. Here the German students eloquently ordered their food and drinks in German. This was the end of our first day and merely the beginning of our weekend trip.

Day 2 started with a hearty breakfast at one of the apartments we stayed at. We spoke German and discussed the day's events. Firstly we went to the museum of Swakopmund, where we went on an informative tour. Frau Nadine explained to us every aspect of the museum in nothing but German and answered some burning



questions we had. Next, we headed off for lunch on the beach (Lovely weather by the way). We enjoyed some homemade sandwiches and got to know each other better in a setting outside the classroom.



Since we are Grade 10 students, we had work to do. Being responsible, we finished off our lunch and headed back home to finish our work for the weekend. Eventually, it was time for us to go up the dunes we ran across the sun-kissed sand, playing around in the sand and our coats flapping in the wind. Discussing our day in German as we walked.

Soon enough we returned home and cooked dinner. While we waited we played some board games, including an amazing German game where you flick your piece to hit tokens and get them into a hole. It was both intense and fun! The dinner was delicious.

We decided to test each other's knowledge in our German vocabulary, so we opened a dictionary and would ask another student to first translate the word and then spell it out. It was great practice and we had lots of fun making up words like *Radiergummi* and *Schmetterling*.

We relaxed and played some more games for a while before we went to bed.

Sadly the next morning it was time for us to leave. We had breakfast again and reminisced over the past events while packing the car. Obviously we couldn't leave without getting ice-cream from Cafe Raith! So we drove down and ordered some delicious ice-cream, in German, and headed off to the Woermann tower. Here we stared out onto the breathtaking ocean and desert. Thereafter we finally left to drive back home.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Frau Christina Krappmann, Frau Carola Beyer and Herr Herman Beyer for taking their time off from their work and taking us under their care, giving us a once in a lifetime experience and a platform to get to know our soon to be IB German teacher (Frau Carola Beyer). We would also like to thank Herr Herman and Frau Carola for the hospitality and their generosity.

Frau Christina we would like to thank for organising the trip and entrusting us to be responsible with everything we got ourselves involved in. It was one of the best trips we went on and we appreciate everything that you have done for us during our IGCSE course.

It was a lovely trip, so many new experiences and bonds. *Wir haben auch unsere Sprachkenntnisse verbessert. Es war eine super Erfahrung für uns!*

This really was a trip I will always remember, and it will really help me in my exams as I was able to use my knowledge in a practical situation and not only in a classroom on paper.

Really glad it happened. Can't wait for my next German adventure.

Auf Wiedersehen.

**Olivia Shino**

## SCHOOL PHOTO ORDERS: DEADLINE

Please note the final date to pay for school photos with your child/ children's Homeroom teacher is Thursday, 7 November 2019.

## LF League

As the Friday LFL games draw to a conclusion we can reflect on the loyalty, effort and achievements of our wonderful young players. Teams in U7, U8, U9, U10 and U11 have all played their part in making WIS Football a force to be reckoned with since our inception last year.



Each player has progressed on an exciting journey of growth, sporting pride and commitment throughout the seasons and the enthusiasm on display has been magnificent.

Well done to the U7 and U10s who participated in the DTS tournament on Saturday.

Special recognition to the U7 team who finished 6th out of the 12 competing teams.

## Mini portable lab donation

The Middle School Science section is very excited to have received a portable mini-laboratory, equipped with a counter, sink, gas station and other apparatus. Grade 9 students understood concepts of Diffusion and Osmosis better as Mr. Cuthbert demonstrated this using our new mini-laboratory. Students enjoyed this experience as they did not have the disruption of moving to the main laboratories to do the experiment and could stay in their classes. Thank you to the school on behalf of the science department and students as this will provide hours of fun and investigations.



## [The Grade 8s are calling the rain](#)



## From the Sports Desk

### 19 September 2019, Athletics competition update

On 19 September 2019 WIS was proud to take part in the Sportsfest 2019, an athletics competition historically competed in by Delta Primary School, Holy Cross Convent and DHPS. ninety-eight participants from WIS took part in the competition.

The Sports Committee would like to acknowledge the parents for dropping off and picking up their children in a timely manner. Our grateful thanks to the WIS staff who did a stellar job as team managers and officials in various capacities on the track.



Below are the outstanding results from the event. First to third place will receive a certificate. We would like to extend an invitation to these athletes and any others who are interested who would like to take part in the Khomas Zone A competition in early February (this replaces Small Schools and Zone B competitions). Hurdles and Javelin will be extra events at that meet.

Name	Age Group	M/F	Event	Position
Fitzpatrick, Dominic	U13	Boys	100m	3rd
Fitzpatrick, Dominic	U13	Boys	800m	3rd
Musavengana, Tinashe	U10	Boys	75m	3rd
Van Zyl, Matthew	U11	Boys	HJ	3rd
Fitzpatrick, Dominic	U13	Boys	LJ	4th
Johnson, Rigby	U11	Boys	800m	4th
Maselesele, Moses	U13	Boys	100m	4th
Partner, Till	U11	Boys	HJ	4th

### Girls

Name	Age Group	M/F	Event	Position
Segamwenge, Natalie	U13	Girls	HJ	1st
Black, Olwen	U11	Girls	Shot Put	2nd
Neri, Ondeya	U9	Girls	LJ	2nd
Stephanus, Oliwia	U11	Girls	800m	2nd
Mawire, Shamiso	U12	Girls	Shot Put	3rd
Muadinohamba, Ndahafa	U11	Girls	Shot Put	3rd
Neumbo, Adiah	U12	Girls	HJ	3rd
Steenkamp, Ezahra	U11	Girls	HJ	3rd

### Drive for old bicycles

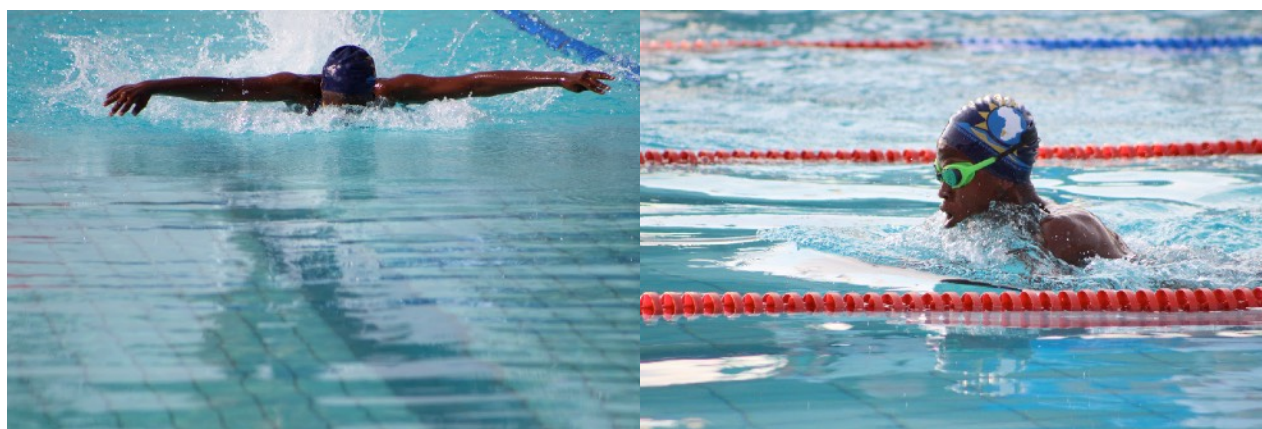
In a bid to keep up with 21st century trends in PE we would like to appeal for donations of 2nd hand bicycles so we can improve the diversity of our PE program. A snap survey indicates that a majority of our students are unable to ride a bicycle and we would like to give them an opportunity to learn.

## Testing The Waters

The Pupkewitz Developmental Swimming Gala took place last weekend at three venues - at the Western Suburbs Pool in Katutura, at the Oranjemund Private School, and at the Cube Swimming Pool in Swakopmund.

The Gala started on Friday afternoon and continued until midday on Saturday. The Pupkewitz Foundation has supported this gala for 50 years. We had more than 1700 individual entries from 26 different schools, and most importantly, 850 swimmers in total in Windhoek. It was my 7th Pupkewitz Gala and I must say we never had so many swimmers. **Forty** students across the school represented WIS.

Our swimmers from Primary and Secondary did extremely well competing against other schools. In the category: **Girls 14 & Under for 200m Freestyle Relay**, our senior girls (Zuleika Hiwilepo, Oliwia Stephanus, Salomé Rey, Martha Kali) received **1st place** with a time of 2:20.



With great pleasure, I have to announce that WIS Primary came 5th and Secondary, with only two swimmers (Victoria Ellmies and Sarah Tibazarwa) came 7th in the school team ranking. Our youngest swimmers were students from Grade 2 (Johanna Oldenburg, Francis Farrell, Lee Neels and Gabriel Fitzpatrick) - it was their first Interschool Gala.

On behalf of the Sports committee, I would like to thank, Westlane Spar, Robiati Distribution, the PTA , Mr Antonio, and everyone who made this event a success.

Thank you, our WIS supporters/parents, especially: Priscila Maramba, Christa Fischer-Walker, Jana Ellmies, Mary Fitzpatrick, Catherine Mousseau and Richenda Bok for many hours of officiating during this gala.

The biggest thank you goes to all **WIS swimmers** for showing commitment, enthusiasm, open-mindedness, determination and team spirit.

I also would like to share some exciting news with the WIS community. Three of our students (**Mark Tibazarwa, Kgosana Hekandjo and Salomé Rey**) qualified to represent Namibia at the 2020 CANA (Junior African Swimming Championships ) Zone IV Swimming Championship which will be held in Gaborone, Botswana from 20 - 23 February 2020. The swimming championship is a designated FINA qualifying event where swimmers can achieve the FINA Swimming Qualifying Standard-Times. **Congratulations!!!**

[Pupkewitz Swimming Gala 2019](#)- made by Mr. D.

[Photo album](#)- made by Mr. Chi

'Just Keep Swimming!'

**Beata Stephanus**



**Only 3 awesome hoodies left. Hurry up!**

**Grade 11 "21 and above" fundraising raffle**

*2X wine (from Exclusive Wines who generously sponsored 1 bottle)*

*1X Lindt und Sprüngli Chilli chocolate*

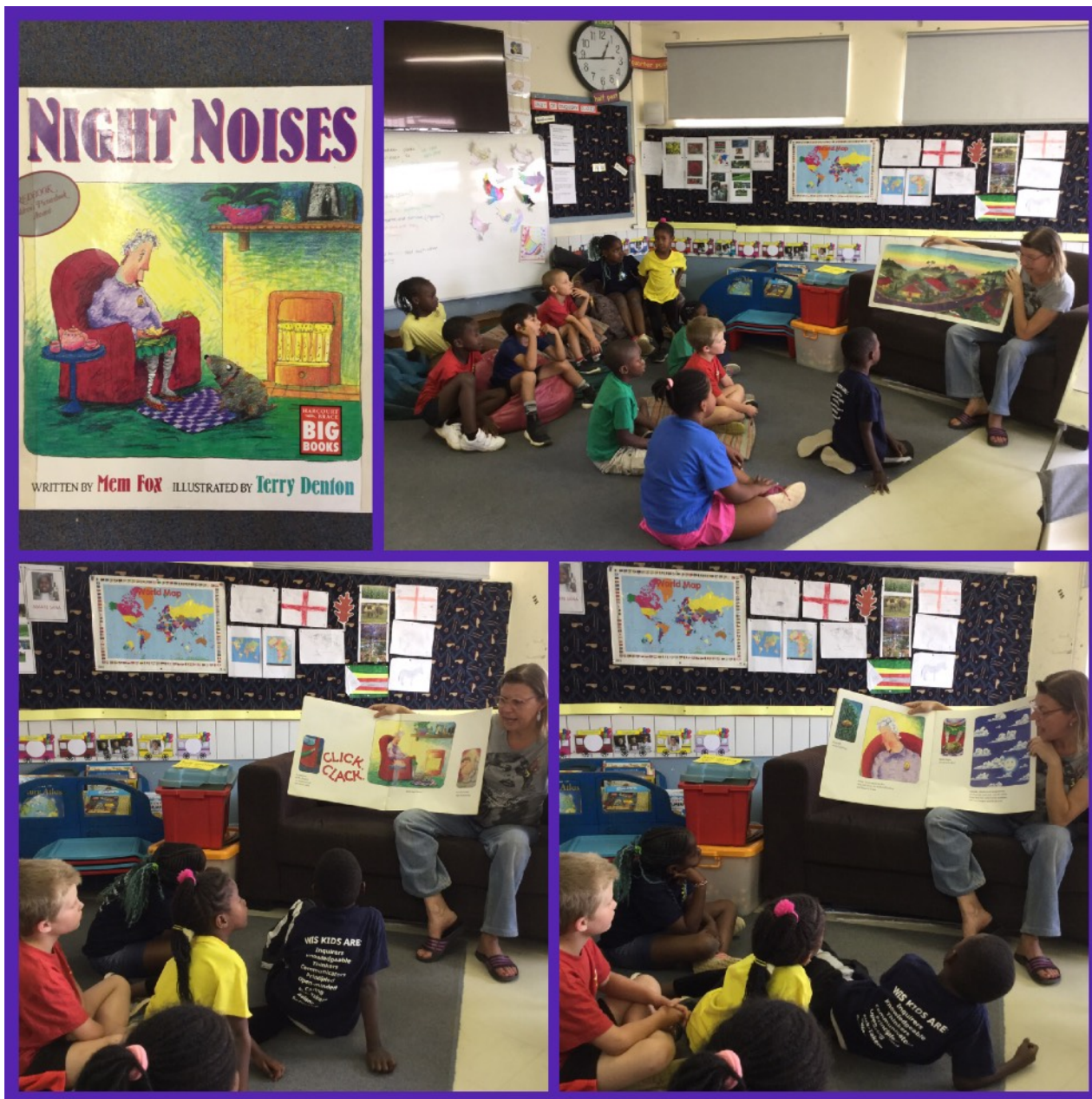
*100g Oupa's biltong*

*100g Oupa's droë wors*

Tickets NAD20 each.  
Draw for the winner.....  
Friday 8th November!

Buy a ticket!  
Buy 2!!!!!!!!!!!!!!





## PTA NEWS

**International Day** is only a week away - it is going to be great fun!

Please take a look at this [link](#) if you would like to know a few more details, like the fact that your child could win a pizza party if their class brings in the most cultural food.

There are other ways in which you can support the day. For example, by helping us be more environmentally friendly.

You could:

- Sponsor some bamboo cutlery for us to use instead of plastic (I have seen these at the Lifestyle Mega Centre)
- Bring your own dishes to put food in
- Put your litter in the correct recycling bin

Thank you to those who have already offered lots of yummy food. We look forward to receiving a lot more. On that note, please bring your own warming or cooling tools. We are avoiding the use of electricity, but the good news is that **GASIT** are going to be sponsoring us at International Day by providing gas.

Please let Ms. Araújo know if you would like to make use of this great opportunity [taraujo@wis.edu.na](mailto:taraujo@wis.edu.na)


Have a lovely weekend (Good luck to South Africa and England).  
We look forward to partying with you next Saturday.

**Warmly, the PTA**



**W.O.R.D.**  
Guess who is also reading during our scheduled reading lessons: Luna in Grade 11



 **Z-life Studio**  
**ZUMBA**<sup>®</sup> fitness with Nadine  
coming to  
**Windhoek INTERNATIONAL School**  
International Day celebration  
Date: **9. Nov 2019**  
Time: **11:30 - 12:00**  
**FREE**  
**Open to the Public**

# DO YOU HAVE A CREATIVE BRAIN?

The WIS Yearbook Committee invites all secondary students to take part.

## **DESIGN THE WIS YEARBOOK COVER FOR 2019-2020!**

What can you win?  
**A N\$150 GIFT VOUCHER and your design on the cover of the Yearbook!**

### Design criteria:

- ~ The design must be A4 in size
- ~ High quality (*more than 2MB in size*)
- ~ Digital format (JPEG or PDF)
- ~ **USE YOUR OWN DESIGN, DON'T PLAGIARIZE!**
- ~ And have the following wording:  
**WINDHOEK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL YEARBOOK 2019-2020**

*\*Please note only digital A4 designs will qualify for consideration.*

Send your final design to:  
**YOUR HOMEROOM TEACHER!**

**INCLUDE YOUR FULL NAME, AND GRADE!**

**DEADLINE: 31 January 2020**

