



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

AGM

Annual General Meeting

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Dates to Remember

November 2018

- **26 - 30:** Secondary Week B
- **30:** AA End for all Grades
- **30:** Photo payment and pickup deadline - Last Day.

December 2018

- **04:** WIS Founder's Day
- **06:** PTA Festive Coffee Morning
- **07:** End of Term 2



VISIT US ON:



Facebook



Instagram

Annual General Meeting

The school is a Section 21 (not for profit) company. It is also sometimes referred to in official documents as an Association. All parents whose children are enrolled at WIS are Members of the Association.

Our Articles of Association require that not fewer than three members of the Board of Directors are parents of children currently enrolled at WIS elected by the Members of the Association at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). (Other members of the Board are appointed directly by the Board and, at present, every member of the Board has children currently enrolled at WIS.)

Any Member of the Association may stand for election at the AGM. However, he/she must be formally nominated and seconded by other Members.

Please note that any Member whose fees are in arrears may not (1) stand for election, (2) nominate or second a candidate, or (3) vote in the subsequent election either in person or by proxy.

The AGM this school year will be held on **Wednesday 30th January 2019 at 6pm.**

Nomination forms will be available from the School Office from Tuesday 8th January and must be submitted no later than the weekend of 19th/20th January.

Please note that there will be three (3) vacancies on the Board for Members (parents) to be elected at the AGM.

Please also note that nominations may not be made from the floor during the AGM.

Peter MacKenzie

WEEKLY PUZZLER

Tiancheng from Grade 6, and Edén from Grade 3 gave correct answers to last week's puzzler.

Contrary to many people's intuition, it is always to your benefit to switch choices. In fact you will double your chances of winning by switching.

Tiancheng has a good explanation that you can find [here](#).

Alright, time to put on your thinking caps. There are three brothers: Al, Ben and Carl. Two of the three brothers are boxers. Here are some facts:

1. The shorter of Al and Ben is the older boxer.
2. The younger of Ben and Carl is the shorter boxer.
3. The taller of Al and Carl is the younger boxer.

Please send answers, or any fun and interesting puzzlers to pfarrell@wis.edu.na



PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

ATL (Approaches to Learning) Skills have been mentioned periodically in previous Oryx articles. In the PYP these are currently known as *Transdisciplinary Skills*. (Due to the PYP being enhanced and updated, from August of next year these skills will be referred to as ATL Skills.) Why have these skills been called Transdisciplinary? They are relevant across all subject areas and areas of learning. They support students in becoming successful learners and ultimately successful in life.

What are the ATL or Transdisciplinary Skills?

Communication, Research, Self-Management, Social, and Thinking. (Just reading the names of these skills might cause one to think that these are the very skills students will need to be able to use and apply in their future jobs.) These skills are integrated into the various subject areas and units of inquiry. Students experience each of these skills at an age appropriate level not only during their Primary School years but will also continue to do so in the Secondary School.

The focus on the ATL skills, combined with the Learner Profile attributes, help to develop and prepare our students for whatever lies ahead of them. These skills and attributes contribute to our students knowing how to learn, as well as getting noticed in the way they present themselves during assemblies, on field trips, sporting competitions, and other events. They are what makes WIS stand out in a positive way from other schools.

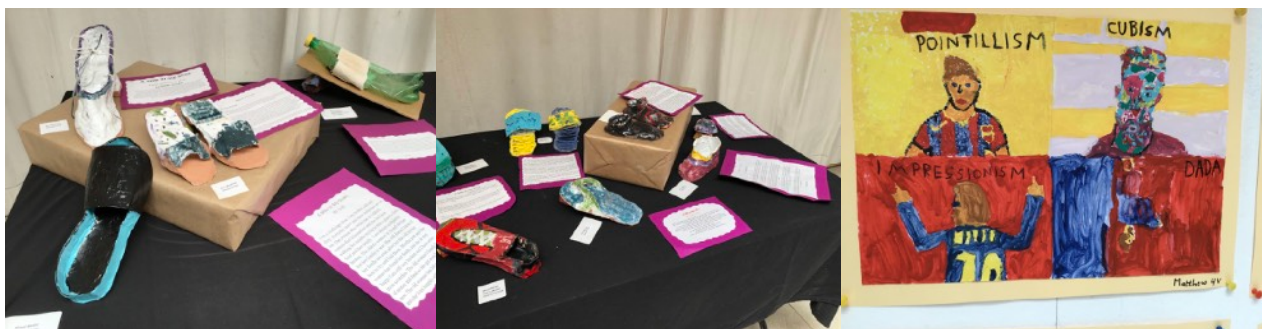
Regards,
Beth Smith

THE PRIMARY ART EXHIBITION

Showcasing: A Mile in My Shoe and Art Movements



A Visual Art Exhibition is the destination of a lengthy creative process of inquiring into, exploring, journeying through various problems and coming up with solutions. The personal creative solution is portrayed in each and every exhibit at an exhibition. The entire journey brings together understood concepts, skills, and techniques for each student. It takes a while to journey through to completion and remains pertinent to an art piece. Relevant written stories can also be exhibited. Once the final piece is produced it needs to be backed, labelled, mounted/positioned and exhibited in a pleasing manner.



The exhibition of the Grade 4s and 5s: “Art Movements” and “A Mile in my Shoe” respectively opened at International Day on 10th November and ran for another four days thereafter. Invitations (via The Oryx) and reminders (D6) were sent out prior to and during the exhibition time.

Thank you so very much to the not-so-many-people who made the effort to visit and talk to the students. Students (and curators) really appreciate the time you made to see what is happening in The Arts at WIS and how the students are responding and creating to visual art.

It was, however, disappointing that so many parents did not drop by. You may well have seen it on your child’s IT device (which is great), but **real live art** is a different matter. It also gives an overall impression of and encouragement for our future budding artists as well as boosts their ego.

Next time!
Genie Albrecht

It’s SHOW TIME!

Etoshaloshia - the story behind the story



Way back in 2007, a former colleague, Jackie Luyt - said, "Why don't we do a production - what about something like the "Lion King", go on Jan, you can write it!"

Having lived for more than 13 years in Etosha, I thought it would be fun to set the story there (all the place names are real) so I drafted a script and added references from the IB Learner Profile to Shakespeare and everything else in between!

Junelle, Avril and I had an afternoon activity with Middle School Students and "The Etosha Wisical" came to being in the P.E. Hall in 2008.

The time was ripe for a 10 Year Anniversary Production (Now doesn't that sound grand!). Junelle "Drama Llama" Stroh renamed it "Etoshaloha", organised auditions and we were on our way!

Enter stage left, Michelle "Dramachelley" Jackson-Reed, ready to take us to infinity and beyond!

Enter stage right, Michelle "Music" du Preez and man of many songs, Mr. G.

We have merged the dedicated actors from Upper Primary, the Primary Choir and the Secondary Band (Artificial Intelligence) to create a production filled with drama, music, action, comedy and even a slight hint of romance!

Please buy your tickets from Ms. Catherine at reception.

We hope you enjoy it!

7pm, Friday 23rd November, WIS Auditorium

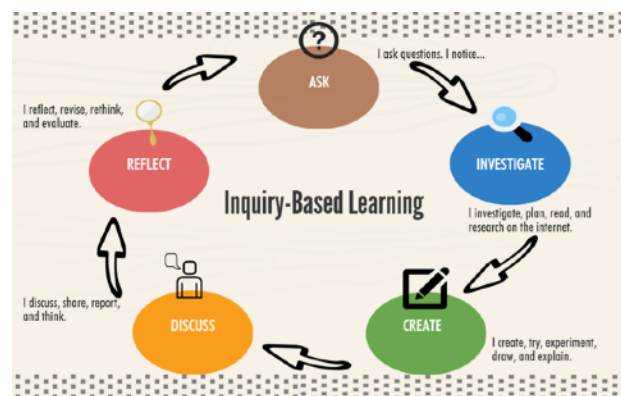
Jan le Roux

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Exciting times in our Middle School

For a long time, the Middle School at WIS was the "step child" of the school. We have the PYP, the IB Diploma and IGCSE. All three well developed and sound programmes. These programmes guide our teaching and learning in the school. The Middle School was always a "home made" programme that worked, but was never as shiny as the other programmes.

On Thursday night we invited parents to join us to share some progress that has been made to structure our Middle School and reach a point where our Middle School can become a strong programme that is innovative and that is on par with current pedagogical thinking and approaches.



Teaching is no longer sitting behind books and listening to the teacher talking. We don't have chalkboards anymore where teachers stand in front and students listen and copy from the board. Teaching has evolved to include the learner much more in the process, to engage him/her more and to make learners more active participants in their learning journey.

All this, however, does not happen overnight. We need to educate ourselves, we need to change our thinking and mindset about how we approach teaching and learning and, as teachers, we need to learn ourselves and have the courage to step out of our comfort zone into quite an unknown territory. This is what is happening at the moment. We have formed a New Middle School Committee and under the very competent leadership of Mr. Michael Parsons, who has been through this process in his former schools already, we have now progressed to an exciting stage of this development.

We will focus much more on the inquiry component of learning - letting students find out more themselves about big ideas and connecting what they are learning to their everyday lives. Learning concepts more than just the content that is given to us in textbooks. Learning to think and hopefully to problem solve. Learning to

manage themselves. In our teaching, the ATL skills are embedded to enable our students to become independent and pro-active learners, to take initiative.

When visiting classes at the moment, I see the enthusiasm and the inspiration teachers are getting out of this new approach and am glad to see how our students flourish in this environment.

This exciting stage does, however, need to be supported by everyone who is involved in the education of our children - parents, teachers and the students themselves. We therefore urge parents to take every opportunity to inform themselves about these new steps we are taking and support us and their children in becoming independent learners who can take action and be confident in the way they approach their learning.

Regards,

Maggie Reiff



Middle School Parent Evening

If you would like access to the presentation and resources from yesterday's Middle School Parent Evening please go to this link. [Middle School Parent Presentation](#). If you have any questions please go to [slido.com](#) and enter the code X870 and ask away. All the questions have been read from the session last night and will be answered in the coming weeks. Thank you to all the parents who attended.

Michael Parsons (Middle School Mathematics teacher, New Middle School Programme Coordinator)

70th Anniversary

Of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

On Tuesday, the 20th, representatives of our Student Councils attended the opening of a photo exhibition to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights.

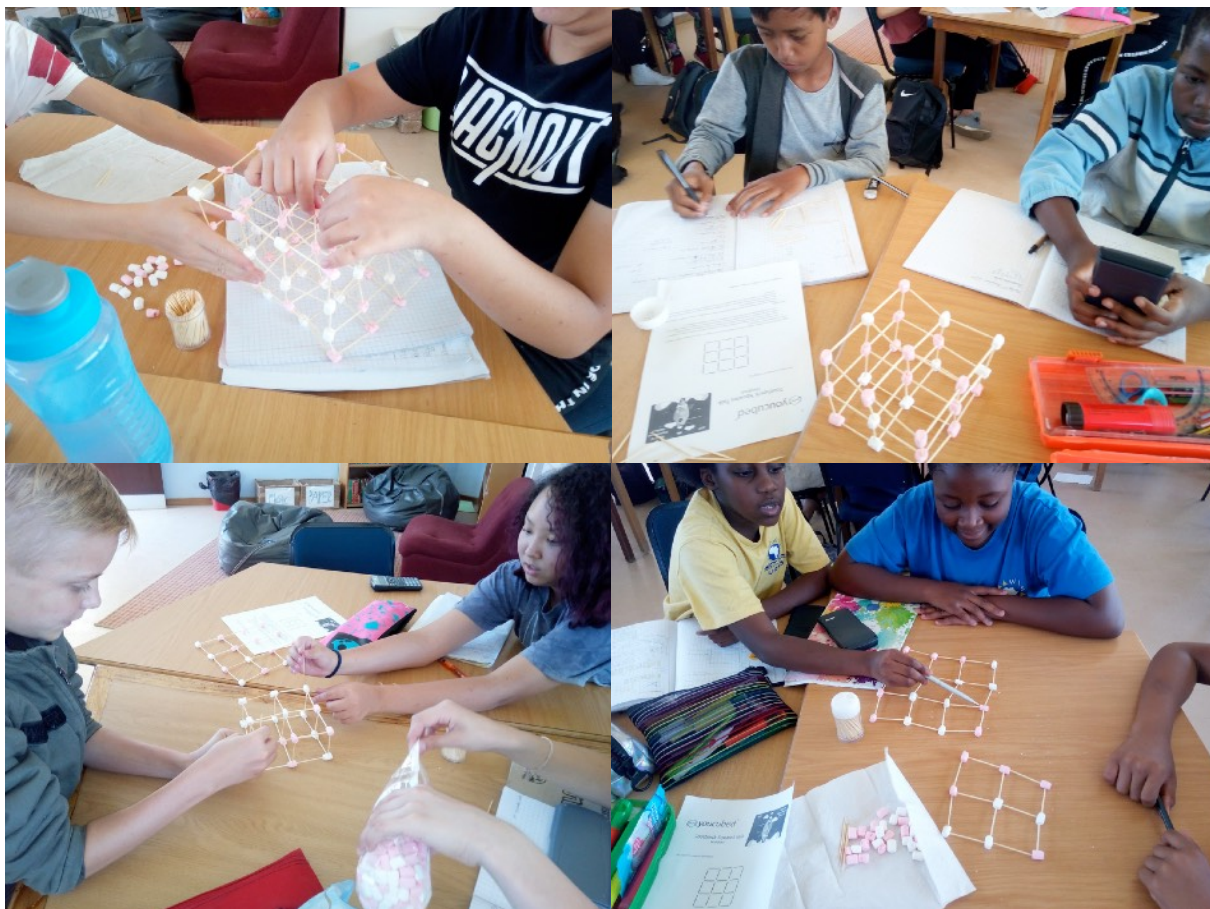
The event was held by UNIC in partnership with UNAM with the aim to inspire dialogue and debate to visualise the Universal Declaration of Human Rights among the youth in Namibia. The exhibition showcases those who played a key role in shaping the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and wants to inspire the youth and the public to reflect on progress and challenges and ways that each one of us can stand up for human rights. The exhibition also intends to seek new ways of exhibiting and discussing the past, present and the future of human rights.

At the end of the event, there was a quiz on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which our students participated in and the audience was impressed by the enthusiasm and commendable conduct our students displayed during this event.

Maggie Reiff



Marshmallow Mathematics



Did you ever use toothpicks and marshmallows in Mathematics class?

As an introduction to their Algebra unit, Grade 7 learners recently explored how 2-dimensional square patterns grow. They used toothpicks and marshmallows to model their shapes. They then extended their thinking by exploring what would happen if they built 3-dimensional cubes. By using hands on resources they were able to see the growth in a series of patterns and hence lead towards deriving a general rule for the number of toothpicks and marshmallows needed for any sized square and cube. This helped their understanding of the importance of using letters to represent variables and reinforced the message that Mathematics is a visual subject that requires deep thinking. Here are some photos of the learners in action...

Lian Cohen

Diabetes fundraiser



Dear School Community,

The Middle School Student Council would like to thank everyone who helped raising close to N\$8000.00 for the Diabetes Association on 15 November 2018. We ordered 345 cupcakes and sold stickers too to raise the funds.

The money was given to Ms. Nicole Dreyer who is part of the Association and they will be using the funds to help the 17 kids who cannot afford their medication.

Angatha Janse van Rensburg

NEARPOD

What is Nearpod?



That is the question you might be asking yourself. Nearpod is an interactive classroom tool used by teachers to engage their students.

In Nearpod, teachers can create engaging lessons including polls, quizzes, videos, images, drawing boards, add web content and so much more. Students access the Nearpod presentation lesson through a code and the teacher controls the slides during the presentation.

Students enjoy the Nearpod lessons as they are both interactive and fun.

Nearpod is an award winning educational platform and just received the award for "Company of the Year". WIS has two Nearpod Certified Educators (NCE) Catherine Mousseau and I are both certified educators, we had to complete some training, send through a few lessons created by ourselves and we were awarded the Certified Educators badge.

We have presented Nearpod to colleagues from WIS and other schools. The feedback we receive is usually positive. In February 2019, during the next Tech Camp we will be doing another presentation, feel free to join us.

Jeanne Vieira

The Red Dot Jazz Special

Date: Saturday November 17

A night to remember (and in a good cause as well)

The Red Dot concert offered a beguiling medley of jazzy beats, spoken word poetry, soulful singing, acoustic folk, easy listening classics, and Namibian rap. All on a makeshift stage under the awning outside the school's auditorium.

The soft breeze blowing through the PLC area and the occasional spots of light rain added to the chilled atmosphere enjoyed by the over 70 people who attended.

Most importantly all this enjoyment was in aid of a good cause - with thousands of dollars being raised for the Power Pad Girls, a local organisation that distributes menstrual hygiene packs to schoolgirls.



The fundraising concert was the collective brainchild of WIS IB students Kelly Atud, Lucy Hopwood, Marizelle Bezuidenhout, Thyra Eysselinck and Bennet Krappmann. All the artists performed free of charge while Coca-Cola and Westlane SuperSpar donated drinks and food respectively.

Enchante got proceedings underway and did what her name suggests with her repertoire of self-composed lovelorn acoustic numbers. The mood then switched to the cleverly constructed and socially aware verse of Delusional Sam. WIS alumni Nasim got the audience going with several soul slammers including a spirited version of Amy Winehouse's Valerie. By now the audience was ready for something more raucous from The Ells who mixed up their funky originals with some familiar cover versions.



The sister and brother act - Leo & Pewa - started off the second half of the evening with a series of sweetly delivered ballads before Fiddy the Rapper had the crowd chanting his name in response to his lively and witty performance. The evening drew to a close with the vibrant and astute insights of spoken word artists Ama and the increasingly popular Ashwyn Mberi. Lucy Hopwood returned the show to its theme by expanding on the need to ensure schoolgirls have access to re-useable pads. She ended the programme by gracing covers of Haley Heynderickx and Billie Eilish songs with her haunting folk voice. And then everyone drifted into the night - happy and humming.

Graham Hopwood

WIS Mathletes Take on the World!



The Caribou Maths Competition is a worldwide online Maths Competition. 26,447 students from 29 countries are competing in Grades 5 to 8 alone! It is comprised of 6 separate tests held throughout the school year. Students are scored after each individual test and at the end of the year, they are ranked against their peers based on their five best scores.

So far this year there have been two tests completed. The competition is for Grades 3 to 12 and new students are welcome to join the Competition Club each Thursday from 1:30 pm to 2:40 pm in Room 71.

WIS students are doing extremely well. The students currently competing are Grade 8's Diva Goel and Leonhardt Fischer-Buder and Grade 6's Gerhard Fischer-Buder, Tiancheng He, Mathew Varghese and Ivy Andersen.



We have had some amazing results. Diva and Gerhard were both scored in the top 5% in the world on the first test and Tiancheng finished 19th out of 10,167 on the second test. That places him in the top 99.8% in the world! Tiancheng got all 18 questions correct, but he finished 1 minute behind the number 1 student. When asked about his time Tian replied: "I'd rather take extra time and make sure my answers are correct, than rush and make a mistake." Pretty good for Grade 6!"

In the overall Caribou Cup Season competition both Gerhard and Diva are ranked in the top 6% in the world.

The maths is definitely with this group! I hope to see more fresh faces at the next after school session. Students from Grades 3 through 12 are welcome to join. The next competition will be held on Thursday, January 17, 2019. If you are interested you can find more information on the Caribou website: <https://cariboutests.com/>.

Michael Parsons

The Heart of Biology at WIS



The structure of the sheep heart is a close representation of the human heart.



In the Biology class learning involves a practical approach through experimental work that characterises sciences. Dissections are an essential part of studying the anatomy and physiology of the human organs and systems. Below is a picture of Gabie and Léart (Grade 12) busy cutting the arteries and veins of the sheep heart to separate it from the lungs.



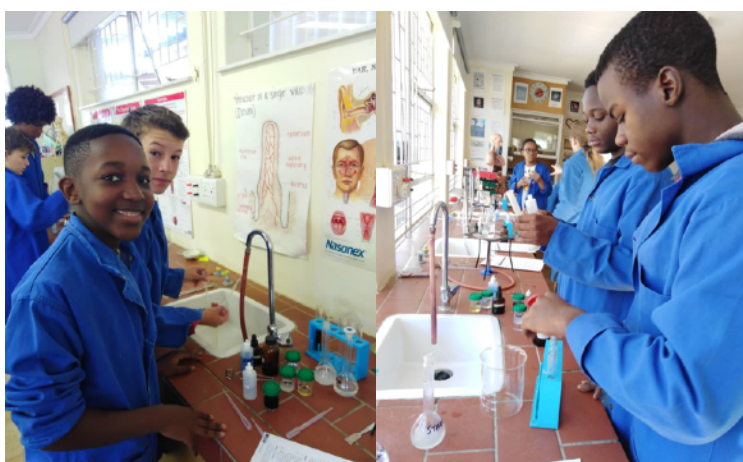
Marcia and Ashraf are exploring the structure of the sheep lungs.



The Grade 11 students used their scientific skills to design experiments and to integrate technology, using the Vernier pro software to test the rate of enzyme reactions in the laboratory. The software allows students to obtain precise and accurate results. Above (from left to right) are Bennet, Peyo, Jayden, Arno and Marco working to collect relevant data.

In another experiment Grade 11 students investigated the presence of photosynthetic pigment by separating it using paper chromatography.

Amrita (below) is eager to see the outcome. Student collaboration is an essential skill that is developed during experimental work and Mr Cuthbert is always there to lend a helping hand (see below).



The Grade 9 students are discovering the nutrients present in different food sources by using quantitative data to compare observed results with expected results. PJ and Emilio (left) enjoy working together and usually have lots of fun while learning. Ransom and Malik (right) are working with focus to ensure that they obtain accurate results.

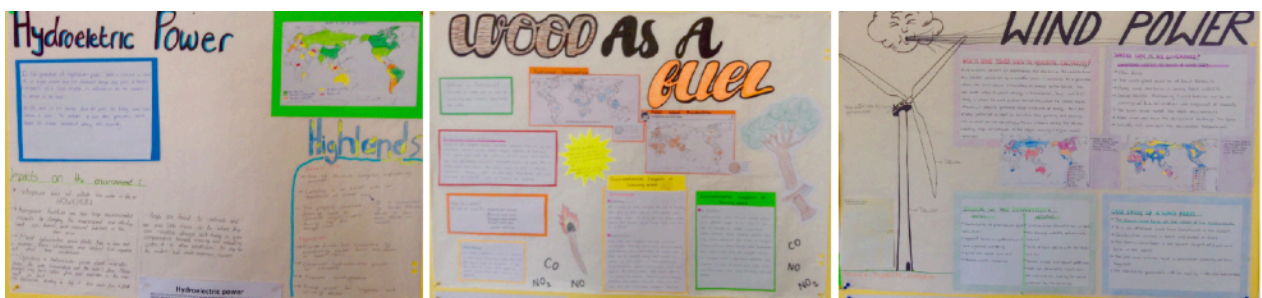
During Biology lessons students develop a better understanding of characteristics of living organisms by observing natural phenomena, questioning theories and

designing methods to solve problems. Students dig deep into the subject matter to discover the heartbeat of life!

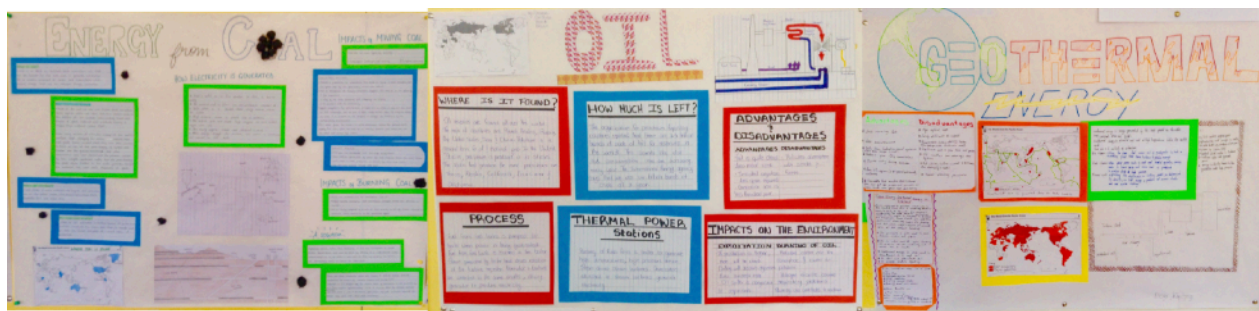
Corinne Smit

Grade 10 Geography

Energy Generation



Last week Grade 10 Geography undertook some research into different forms of energy generation. The students worked in groups of three to put together an informational poster on eight different sources of energy/ways of generating energy.



A relevant topic in a world where alternatives to burning fossil fuels is a priority.

Each poster contained information such as worldwide availability of the energy source, how electricity is generated using this energy source ('This is Physics!' Mr. Oluwasanmi was heard to declare!) and the environmental impacts of using the source of energy. The posters were peer-assessed using a rubric adapted for each type of energy.

As a final reflection the students took notes from each of the posters and wrote an essay defending their choice(s) of the 'best' type of energy generation.- erimmington@wis.edu.na

Edwina Rimmington





The PTA invites you to a festive coffee Morning!

THURSDAY DECEMBER 6TH, 7-8:30AM
@PTA CENTER

COME MEET OTHER WIS PARENTS, ENJOY
YUMMY FESTIVE TREATS & GET UR COFFEE FIX