



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

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Dates to Remember

November 2018

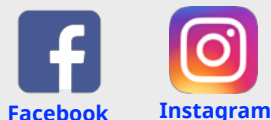
- **12 - 16:** Secondary Week A
- **10:** International Day
- **16:** Staff Work Day
- **30:** AA End for all Grades

December 2018

- **04:** WIS Founder's Day
- **07:** End of Term 2



VISIT US ON:



Learning
Architecture



Learning
Culture



Learning
Ecology

ACE

The ultimate purpose of any school is teaching and learning. All the other stuff matters too but it is only there to support the core purpose of the school.

So whenever we review our practices (which should be – and is – often), the most important question must always be, “How will/does/might this impact student learning?”

These questions have been in the forefront of our minds all week as two visitors from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) have talked to us, observed us, questioned us, and advised us. Diane Ullman and Andrew Chaplin have been this week exactly the kind of “critical friends” that good schools need. They have complimented us on our strengths and have helped us to bring into focus areas where we need to grow.

What happens now is a year-long self-study through which we will dig deep into our shared understanding of what learning really looks like. This will culminate in a report we will submit in November (of *next* year!) and then in January 2020 NEASC will send a team of four who will spend a week in school helping us to understand how far we have travelled and where we now need to go.

Please note that nowhere above have I used the word “inspection” or anything like it. That is not what this is about. We can’t “pass” or “fail”. We won’t be given a grade or a score.

The best analogy – rather delightfully – is the job that good teachers do every day. A student is where he or she is. That’s just the reality. So the job of a teacher is to help them build on strengths, identify areas for growth, encourage them, guide them – be their coach, if you will.

And that is what the ACE protocol of NEASC does.

Find out more [here](#).

Peter MacKenzie

WEEKLY PUZZLER

Eden in Grade 3 once again solved our puzzler. He is definitely a member of the Puzzler Hall of Fame!

Here is our new one. Under what condition could this statement be true:
 $1000 - 100 = 100?$

Here is a clue: Meghan Trainor had a hit song in 2014 called "All About that _____".
 All about that what?

Answers can be submitted to pfarrell@wis.edu.na.

New puzzles can also be submitted to the same address.



PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

The Primary School has been abuzz this week with year levels practicing their performances and making decorations for their stalls for International Day. International Day is a time for us to come together to celebrate our international community. Our "internationalness" is what makes Windhoek International School special and unique. Not all international schools have the diverse student population that WIS is fortunate to have.

But why do we celebrate International Day? Is it a celebration of what's referred to as the five Fs (food, festivals, flags, fashion and famous people)? These certainly are the fun and interesting aspects of such a celebration, and tap into our senses, though they only scratch the surface of what it means to be international.

"The term international is made up of both inter and national. International understanding does not replace a sense of nationhood with something "bigger" and "better," but rather uses and builds on a sense of one's own national identity to understand and work with the national identities experienced and felt by others. We can, at the same time, be Californian and American, British and European, Nigerian and African, citizens of a country and of the world. These are complementary, not opposing, concepts." (*Education Leadership, October 2002 | Volume 60 | Number 2 The World in the Classroom Pages 52-55*)

In the image shown to the right, the five Fs would be the tip of the iceberg, or what is seen. Below the iceberg are the deeper aspects of internationalism that are generally not seen. In my opinion the items below the iceberg require one to draw on the IB Learner Profile attributes, specifically open-minded, reflective, thinker and communicator. The IB defines open-minded people as: *They understand and appreciate their own cultures and personal histories, and are open to the perspectives, values and traditions of other individuals and communities. They are accustomed to seeking and evaluating a range of points of view, and are willing to grow from the experience."*



"The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognising their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world." (*Making the PYP Happen: A curriculum framework for Primary Education.*)

So why do we celebrate International Day? It builds community spirit, celebrates who we are, helps us to learn about others in a fun way, encourages us to be open to new or different ways of doing things, to celebrate our similarities and to recognise our differences.

Thank you to all who have contributed to this year's International Day. While the day is centred on many aspects of food, festivals, flags, fashion and famous people, I know such an event is just the beginning of furthering one's understanding of what it means to be international and internationally-minded.

**Regards,
 Beth Smith**

International Day

Saturday, November 10th from 10:00-15:00 (Set-up can be done from 08:00)

Some important information about the upcoming annual WIS International Day!

At the entrance of the event you will see a WIS Passport collection and WIS ticket booth. Tickets will be used at all the class stalls rather than cash. ****Only the PTA bar and the Embassy tents will be using cash for purchases.****

Families can buy as many tickets as they wish at the ticket booth and then they will be used to purchase food samples /goods or to participate in activities at the stalls.

WIS Passports

As part of our WIS International Day, each WIS family will receive an **International Day Passport** upon entry into the event. The passports are meant to be another fun and educational way to participate in our International Day.

To participate in the passport draw, which will be held at the end of the day, an eligible passport would be completely filled in. The pages should be filled in by the family, firstly, by writing in the country visited, then adding a short detail about what they learned or experienced at that stall. Lastly, they receive a stamp from that country to show they "visited " that country. **Example: Namibia** - I learnt that **Namibia is** home to two large but very distinct deserts, the Namib desert and the Kalahari desert.

Country stamp!

WIS families may chose to keep their passport rather than participate in the draw, as a memory of the day too! Happy Travelling!

- **The Opening Ceremony and the Flag Parade** will commence at 10:10 am. *If your child is participating in the Flag Parade, please have them in the PE hall by 9:45 a.m. Thank you.*
- **Performances** will start after the Namibian National anthem. A performance schedule will be shared with WIS families at the event. See the performance schedule [HERE](#). Find the [MAP HERE](#).

Environmental Mindfulness: We would like to encourage our WIS families and visitors to bring reusable containers to be used for food stall samples or take aways. No plastic straws will be on site. Recycling and Rubbish bins will be placed throughout the campus. Please do not litter.

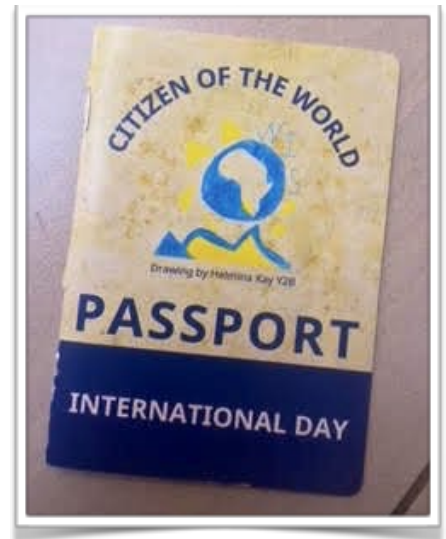
Set-Up: Our WIS ground crew will be on site and open the gates to allow for set up from 08:00 onwards and we ask that vehicles that are being used to help set- up the stalls be removed from the large sports field by 09:00. Thank you.

We look forward to a wonderful day of International travel. Our staff, students, PTA and parents have worked very hard to put together this fantastic annual event. We hope you enjoy!

The Events Committee

Grade 4 & 5 Art Exhibition

Please visit our Grade 4 & 5 Art Exhibition: **Art Movements and a Mile in My Shoe - Migration** at International Day in the art department at the art thatch. The exhibition will run for the whole of next week too, so please pop in when convenient.





Ms Genie and Ms Sigrid

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

International Day - So much to see and so much to do



We are celebrating International Day again this coming Saturday and the school has been abuzz with preparations for the day. This is really good opportunity for the community to come together and celebrate our diversity.

When asked about things that make WIS special and where we stand out, the comment is often, the many different cultures and people that are part of our community. Here at WIS, being different is something great, we are all different in a certain way and we are happy to celebrate these differences in culture, beliefs and many other aspects of life. We learn from each other and we enjoy being with so many people from different countries and places in this world.

The IB Learner Profile fits perfectly to celebrating these differences. We want to be open minded and caring. We also want to be risk takers

- try something new that we did not know before. But we also want to be reflective and look inside ourselves and who we are. And we want to inquire into things that are not familiar to us.

All these things make our community special and on International Day, we celebrate all these. We also want to have everyone engaged in this day. There are many ways to participate - by being there, but especially also by lending a hand and giving a bit of your time to your child's stall. If you have not yet volunteered your time to contribute to this day, it would be great to approach your child's homeroom teacher. There might be something you could help with. Or you could help at the other stalls. All help is much appreciated.

We look forward to enjoying International Day with you.

Regards,
Maggie Reiff

Science Class Assessment

Today in science class, we inquired into the practical use of sound and all of its aspects that we have studied and understood, to see a physical model that we could analyse gave many of my classmates, including myself, perspective on the different roles that each part and piece plays for sound to properly function in the real world. We all had the chance to adjust frequency and feel the levels of vibrations change accordingly.

We built trust as a team as we were experiencing and discussing how input and output devices, oscillator, keyboard and speaker work and why they affect the sound we can hear. Overall, as a student present in today's science class, I can say that all students developed a new-found enthusiasm for the science behind sound.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/Bp15ORcF0K/>

Omer Babluki

In our science classes throughout the last four weeks we have been working on **light and sound** (physics).

We did a lot of practical/hands on work in these weeks. Now we are specifically focusing on **sound**.

We used small technology (Little Bits) pieces for testing different sound waves, we had a **speaker** that was connected to the **oscillator**, we tested the different pitches and sound levels, we felt the vibration from the speaker of the different pitches. We do these experiments to conclude our understanding of *how and what are sound waves*.

Zahra Ayoub

The Ancient Greece Research Project

For the second term, the Grade 6 Social Studies students started a new unit - Ancient Greece Civilization.

The general objectives of this unit are:

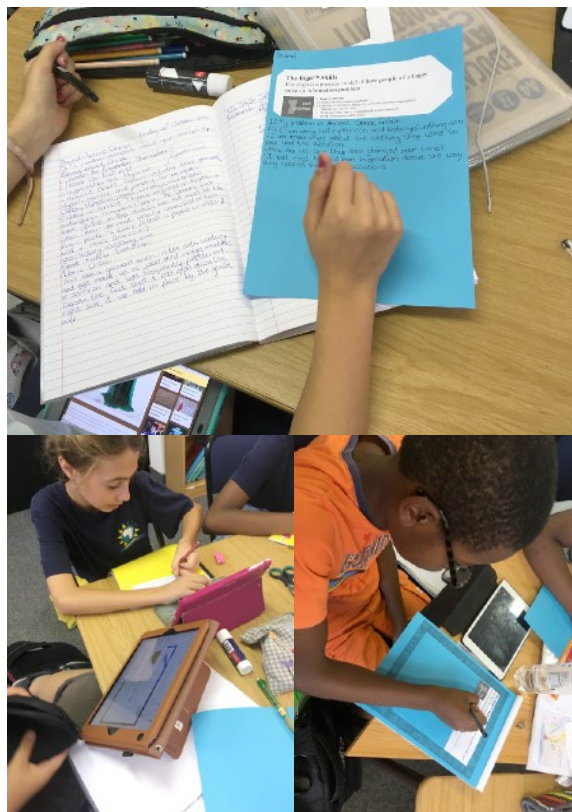
- students **will learn about the contributions of Ancient Greece** in the areas of art, culture, government, architecture, inventions, style and sports;
- students will **compare and contrast aspects** of Ancient Greek life and society to ours in Namibia and their home countries today, focusing on sports, the Olympic Games and the forms of government.

As a History and Language teacher I think it is fundamental to create opportunities for students to **acquire skills to help them make informed decisions**.

For this unit, students have been working in pairs in a specific topic of Ancient Greece. It is important **to learn collaborative skills**. In a world where we are all connected it is crucial to be able to interact and work with others.

Furthermore, students have been working on **"The Big 6 Research Process"**. In: <https://ashley.nhcs.libguides.com/researchprocess/Big6>

Developed by Mike Eisenberg and Bob Berkowitz, the Big6 is the most widely known and widely used **approach to teaching information and technology skills** in the world. Students have to learn how to plan, seek information, use that information and evaluate the full process of research.



Therefore, the Big6 information **problem-solving** model is applicable whenever people need and use information.

Everyday, they are working on one Big 6 step. So far they have covered Steps 1, 2 and 3.

We went to the library to work in collaboration with our Librarian Ms. Elizabeth. Students were involved in the research process, thinking and inquiring about what is a good source of information about citing and making connections between what they are doing in social studies class and other subjects.

The last step is going to be the evaluation. It is important to create a routine of self assessment; to **judge the process** and the **effectiveness of the final product**. If students are empowered to make their own decisions and then **evaluate the accuracy** of their own work, they will be able to **transfer** these skills to real life and make knowledgeable decisions every time they face new problems.

Teresa Araújo

MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE

Excitement was planted on everyone's faces as soon as they heard about 'Dancing under the Stars' from Ms Angie. The Middle School Student Council got into action for planning the event. Decided to be held on 2nd November, everyone was supposed to dress as a movie star. The student council designed attractive and aesthetic looking tickets. The PTA area was decked up with fairy lights and glittery stars.

At six in the evening, the red carpet started getting adorned with the celebrities of WIS. Everyone was looking their best as if they came straight from Hollywood. Everyone was dancing to their fullest to the songs being played.

Thanks to the PTA for arranging an amazing photo booth where everyone got themselves clicked in awesome poses. The snacks provided were delicious too. There were plenty of dancing competitions - these will be announced and prizes will be given at our next assembly.



The DJ did justice to his job and kept everyone's feet moving.

It was an incredible experience and I will be waiting for the next one to take place!

Diva Goel - Grade 8AJ

Sports News

The G10 IGCSE Physical Education students have completed a module on Cardiology and Health Related Fitness. We are very grateful to Fran Aylott who shared her valuable insight into contemporary cardiology practices.



The Namibian Ice and Inline Hockey Association finals were held at DTS last weekend. The event is the final tournament in the NIIHA calendar and the culmination of 12 months of training. Congratulations to Reuben Jackson-Read whose team secured a Bronze medal.

Thomas Jackson-Read

Reminder!

WIS will be raising awareness and funds for the Diabetes Association on Thursday, 15 November 2018.

Everyone to wear Blue on the day.
To purchase a sticker for N\$10 and a cupcake for N\$15.

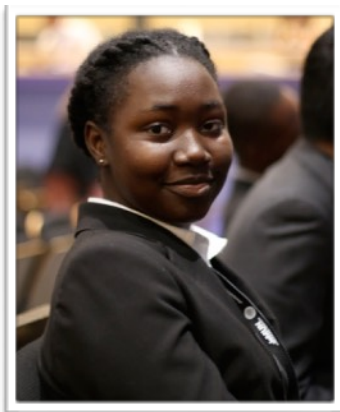
Funds raised will go to 17 kids whose parents cannot afford a medical aid to help manage their condition.

Please be part of this initiative and help save someone's life!

Thank you to those who have already supported.
Angie Janse van Rensburg

Please note!
THURSDAY 15 NOVEMBER - NO AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES.

JoMUN XVI... the final instalment



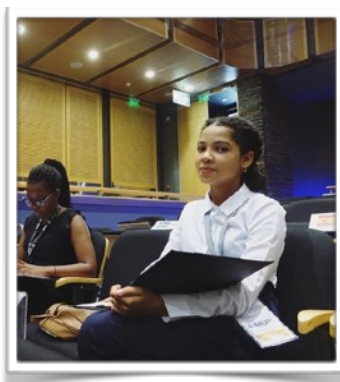
Name: Afua Brantuo

Role: Deputy Chair

Committee: ECOSOC

My third MUN conference was the best so far. I was a lot more confident and active in my committee. I learnt how to be strict and understanding as a leader from my role as deputy chair. I felt a newfound appreciation for the United Nations as coming up with logical and useful solutions in a resolution that will appeal to all member states can be incredibly difficult. I also learnt that speaking is often not as hard as we think as long as we summon up the courage.

Interacting with new people at the conference was daunting but I did my best to overcome my nervousness. I found the people to be not as intimidating as I had thought. They were actually very relatable. I bonded with many people over discussions of the IB struggles we both faced. It was nice to know that I wasn't the only one suffering under IB induced stress. It was a rewarding experience that really encouraged me to be less shy when approaching new people and more confident.



Name: Grace Farrell

Role: The delegate of Morocco

Committee: Human Rights Committee

The first time I attended to JoMUN conference I was terrified, my resolution was only one page long and I barely knew anything about my country. This year was my second time at the JoMUN conference and I must say that I felt much more prepared. I had the same country so that made the research part much easier. I definitely spoke more during the conference this year because I was more experienced.

- I learned how difficult it is to write a resolution that won't get turned down by the whole committee
- I learned many new words
- I learned how to write a good resolution
- I learned that your resolution alphas need to be as detailed as possible
- I learned that it is very important to listen to other people's opinion and questions

The social part of JoMUN

- My sister and I had a wonderful host family
- I made many new friends
- I really enjoyed the food that was provided during breaks
- The social at the end was very enjoyable
- It was nice to be surrounded by people from different schools



Name: Ashraf
Role: Deputy Chair
Committee: Security Council

On the 27th to 30th of September we attended the 16th annual Johannesburg Model United Nations Conference. This was my third and final year attending the JOMUN conference. From being a first year delegate in 2016 where I represented the Kingdom of Sweden in the Environment Commission to being deputy chair of the Disarmament Commission and Security Council, I have learned many valuable skills. These include: public speaking, writing, researching skills and learning how to cooperate with people I have never met before.

Being the president of MUN for the Windhoek International School this year, I have learnt the importance of being organised and being a leader. Alongside my Deputy President, Afua, we managed to prepare 12 students for this conference. Overall everyone's resolutions were passed and their confidence progressed throughout the days. MUN not only teaches us useful skills we can one day use in our future lives while working, but it also creates new friendships we will remember for the rest of our lives. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Rimmington and Mrs Mathew for supporting us throughout this journey. I also wish the future members of the WIS MUN after-school activity good luck and hope to see them in future MUN conferences!



Front row left to right: Maija Lindy, Afua Brantuo, Fiona Farrell. **Back row left to right:** Mrs Mathew, Septian Irfandi, Tanatswa Murwira, Tosca Simon, Diella Barihuta, Sola Morota-Alakija, Grace Farrell, Tuundjakuje Tengee, Ashraf Hishamuddin, Gérsia Capequel, Yiming Xu, Ms. Rimmington

Ashraf and Afua lead the MUN Afternoon Activity as a student-led activity.

The Red Dot Jazz Special

Windhoek International School International Baccalaureate (IB) students Kelly Atud, Lucy Hopwood, Marizelle Bezuidenhout, Thyra Eysselinck, and Bennet Krappmann are hosting a charity concert to raise funds for reusable pads for their fellow Namibian school girls in partnership with The Power Pad Girls.

The Red Dot Jazz Special concert will be held at the **Windhoek International School** at **Scheppmann Street, Pioneers Park, Extension 1**, on **17 November 2018** from **16h00 until 23h00**. The concert will feature performances from Ashwyn Mberi, Antonio, Chantell, Fiddy the Rapper, the Ells and more. Food, beverages and products will be available for purchase at the venue.

A Word from the IB students:

"Thousands of Namibian school girls miss up to five school days per month due to lack of sanitary wear. This can result in girls dropping out of school, teen pregnancies, and fewer educated women, which all lead to gender inequality. It's hard to think, as students ourselves, that many female students miss school or use unsanitary materials due to a natural and uncontrollable bodily function. We believe that all girls deserve an education. Period."

Tickets are N\$80 in advance or N\$100 at the door. For more details about the event or to reserve tickets, you can email lhopwood@wis.edu.na or send a WhatsApp +264 81 879 2788 or +264 81 786 7902.

About The Power Pad Girls:

The Power Pad Girls is a fundraising initiative which aims to purchase reusable sanitary pads for learners so that our Namibian girls can stay in school and continue to empower themselves and their communities. Contact: powerpadgirls@gmail.com

BECAUSE GIRLS DESERVE AN EDUCATION. PERIOD.



WINDHOEK INTERNATIONAL IB STUDENTS
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE POWER PAD GIRLS

**THE RED DOT
JAZZ SPECIAL**
A CHARITY CONCERT
SATURDAY 17 NOV
16:00 TO 23:00
WINDHOEK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
N\$ 80 ADVANCE
N\$ 100 AT THE DOOR

FOOD AND DRINKS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE
WHATSAPP +264 81 879 2788 OR +264 81 786 7902 TO RESERVE TICKETS

The Grade 9s invite you to come and discover

Guatemala

on International Day.

Mouth-watering Food, Chocolate, Gifts, Children's Games (with great prizes!) and a 50-meter zipline!

LOOK FOR THE SMOKING VOLCANO...

