

THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

And on we go...

As you will know, the lockdown has been extended. The government's latest instructions are that teachers may return to their places of work on Wednesday 6th May. It is not clear yet when schools may fully reopen and admit learners.

I think we should assume that we will be continuing with remote learning for several more weeks.

We all want to get back to what we think of as normal but it would be reckless and probably counter-productive to act prematurely. As and when the school is allowed to reopen, it seems likely that some form of social distancing will need to remain in place.

What I'm saying is that our lives have been turned upside down and I cannot see that changing any time soon. Even if we can ease restrictions somewhat, we must expect that we are very far away from 'normal'.

It is on that basis that the school is looking at the future.

Interestingly, and very encouragingly, we continue to receive applications for enrolment. A number of students have joined (or will shortly join) the school during this period of remote learning. Further applications have been received for entry in August.

In terms of staffing, three new teachers had already been contracted before the lockdown. Subsequently, further hiring has been put on hold though interviews have been conducted and two excellent teachers have verbally accepted positions here pending confirmation that they will be needed.

While I am on the subject, you might be interested to know that six current WIS teachers will be leaving in June. It is always sad to say goodbye to colleagues but, having worked in seven schools (including six international schools) myself, I am also pleased for them and, indeed, proud of them and the school when they find new positions in other fine international schools. Quite simply, it reflects well upon WIS. One of our colleagues is retiring and five others will be going to IB schools in Azerbaijan, China, Ethiopia, Gabon, and Saudi Arabia. We wish them all the best.

Thank you to the parents, teachers, and students who have made short videos reflecting on their experience of remote learning. It remains an unfamiliar and challenging experience for us all and I'm sure we still have much to learn. There remains no substitute for face to face teaching in school but I am confident that we are absolutely making the most of the current situation. It is heartening to watch and hear the positive stories coming out of the videos. Thank you.

Peter MacKenzie



Contents

- From the Director p. 1
- Primary News p. 2 - 3
- Secondary News p. 4 - 6
- Other News p. 7 - 9



[Facebook](#)



[Instagram](#)



[Twitter](#)



PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Let Children Make Mistakes

For the past 5 weeks children have been experiencing a new way of school ~ learning remotely. Parents are perhaps more engaged in their children's learning than ever before. They are seeing first hand the way children manage their time, organise their work and how they take responsibility for their learning. Some parents are surprised by how their children are showing independence, while others are receiving confirmation of what they already know about their child's ATL (approaches to learning) skills.

Since children are now working at home, there are times when 'perfect' work is submitted and teachers know when it's not the child who has completed the work. Learning at WIS is different from the more traditional approach where the focus is on perfection, ranking, and percentages. We do want and expect children to do their best and work to their full potential. Sometimes their best is not getting the correct answers to all the mathematics problems or writing a story with no spelling errors. When teachers see the mistakes that children are making, they know how to support the child or how to encourage the child to improve and do better.

It's important to let children make mistakes so they can learn from them. This helps them to build resilience and self-confidence. It gives them ownership in their work when they see where they have made a mistake or where they have to find the errors.

It gives children a sense of pride when it's their own work. Yes it is important for parents to support and guide children and be involved with their learning. There are different kinds of support. Here are some suggestions for questions you can ask your child that will encourage and support your child in a positive way. Instead of telling a child that the answer is wrong, ask your child if there are any answers that they are unsure of. What do they think about the effort put into the assignment? Is it the best effort, why or why not? Are there any parts of the assignment that could be better, if so, what? If you were your teacher, what feedback would you give about this assignment? The answers your child gives might surprise you and just might encourage your child to go back and make some changes without being told to do so.

To view this week's remote learning assembly, please click [Primary School Assembly 17 April 2020](#).

Regards,
Beth Smith

Grade 6 French Students

Cuisine's ensemble! Let's cook together!

Last week, to celebrate Easter and as part of our Unit about Hobbies, Grade 6 students showed to be risk-takers! They were invited to prepare with their families at home a traditional French dessert "*mousse au chocolat*".

On Edmodo I have shared with the learners the recipe in French with ingredients and steps to follow as well as a video tutorial.

Through this activity the learners needed to focus on their Thinking Skills (interpret data) and the learning objectives were to be able to:

- Identify basic facts, messages, main ideas and supporting details
- Recognise basic conventions
- Engage with the spoken and visual text by identifying ideas, opinions and attitudes and by making a personal response to the text

Learners were asked to:

- Post a picture of their "Chocolate Mousse" they have made.

- Record themselves sharing if they enjoyed doing this activity and why? And give an opinion in French such as: "J'adore/j'aime/Je n'aime pas/je déteste la mousse au chocolat"!

I would like to acknowledge a particular student Adam Nel in Grade 6HM for sharing an outstanding presentation and for his commitment in the French Remote Learning class ([Picture attached](#)).

I am happy to share my secret recipe with the WIS Community!

<https://www.latableadessert.fr/recettes-dessert-chocolat/recette-mousse-au-chocolat>

Prenez soin de vous! Stay well!

Madame Laetitia

Spreading Kindness Around the World

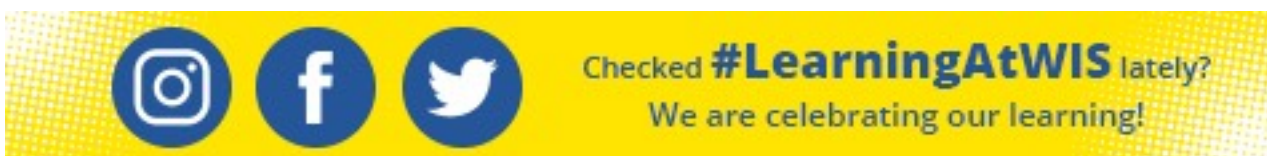
During this time where we are all staying home with family. Somewhere around the world, someone may be feeling lonely and missing school or facing other difficulties. The grade 2 students thought of ways we can inspire others to keep hanging in there and to cheer them up. We created rainbows and wrote messages of encouragement for anyone who sees the message.

Rainbows can motivate us to continue and endure through dark times, such as this. Another way that rainbows provide us with hope and motivation is because they are often thought to bring good fortune. It's time to take a fresh look at the opportunities available to us during this time. Let us move into a new light, and see things with a new perspective.



'It takes sunshine and rain to make a rainbow', so keep strong, everything will be fine!

Grade 2 team



SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

What if?

The current pandemic has many people anxious and wondering, uncertain about what will be and wondering about the future. Our young people certainly have their share to deal with this situation. Many of the emotions in the image below might pop up during this time of crisis. This situation is most certainly an unprecedented challenge to our youth. We are trying to do remote learning as best we can and encourage our students to keep up learning and working. A request that, for many, cannot be easy to follow all the time. We need to be organised, self-disciplined, mature, responsible and confident in ourselves despite the questions and anxieties that sometimes might numb us, despite the technological challenges we might face.



If they shorten the rest of the school year, students would miss months of education.

Many people are concerned about students falling behind because of this. Yes, they may fall behind when it comes to classroom education...

But what if...

What if instead of falling "behind", this group of kids are ADVANCED because of this?

What if they have more empathy, they enjoy family connection, they can be more creative and entertain themselves, they love to read, they love to express themselves in writing.

What if they enjoy the simple things, like their own backyard and sitting near a window in the quiet.

What if they notice the birds and the dates the different flowers emerge, and the calming renewal of a gentle rain shower?

What if this generation are the ones to learn to cook, organise their space, do their laundry, and keep a well run home?

What if they learn to stretch money and to live with less?

What if they learn to plan shopping trips and meals at home?

What if they learn the value of eating together as a family and finding the good to share in the small delights of the everyday?

What if they are the ones to place great value on our teachers and educational professionals, librarians, public servants and the previously invisible essential support workers like truck drivers, grocers, cashiers, custodians, logistics, and health care workers and their supporting staff, just to name a few of the millions taking care of us right now while we are sheltered in place?

What if among these children, a great leader emerges who had the benefit of a slower pace and a simpler life to truly learn what really matters in this life?

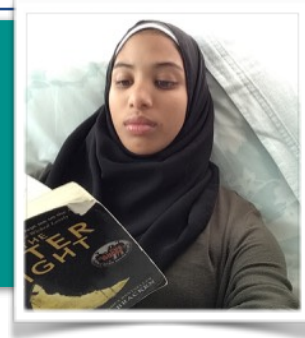
What if they are ahead?

~ Author unknown~

**Regards,
Maggie Reiff**

W.O.R.D.

Aqeela Nel in Gr. 8AJ still reading for WORD during remote learning!



La solidarité

Remote learning with the Grade 9 in French

In French, with the Grade 9 class, we are currently exploring the theme "The world around us". In the past few weeks, we uncovered the concept of human solidarity and how to give back to our community. Amongst other activities, students read an interview with young French speaking students of their age, watched a short video [la solidarité humaine](#) and participated in a collaborative poem.



This is what the Grade 9s created:

Poème solidaire

La solidarité, une mosaïque où chaque vers, chaque contribution, crée un poème unique! (Catherine)

Une histoire à découvrir, une âme éveillée à quelques instants de vie. (Javas)

Les peuples du monde réunis se joignent pour servir la cause commune (Kirubel)

Soyons unis, non pour une race, un pays ou une religion spécifiques, mais plutôt pour l'humanité. (Kevin)

Tu peux accomplir beaucoup plus avec les autres que tu peux accomplir seul. (Sophie)

Toujours prêt à aider, sans jamais rien attendre (Malia)

Trop jeune pour perdre espoir, trop prématuré (Giulia)

L'acte de solidarité n'est jamais trop petit. (Vee)

La paix et la clarté sont tout, c'est ce que nous voulons et c'est ce que nous cherchons (Ben)

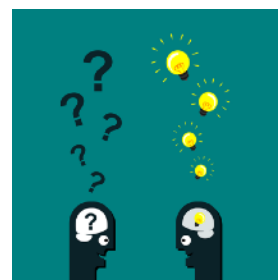
Il s'agit d'avoir un peu d'empathie et d'agir en donnant et en ne s'attendant pas à recevoir quelque chose. (Mekdim)

Quand nous sommes gentils avec les autres, nous faisons preuve de solidarité et nous pouvons nous améliorer. (Naomi)

La solidarité nous renforce et nous aide à faire bien plus de choses sachant que c'est un effort partagé et que nous sommes acceptés et accompagnés par la communauté. (Tumi)

Alors venons du monde entier et servons ensemble! (Isaac)

I would like to congratulate all the Grade 9 students who participated in creating this poem for their collaboration and thinking skills, and their enthusiasm and creativity! Bravo!



Catherine Mousseau

Grade 8 Short Stories

The Grade 8 students are currently busy with their new unit that focuses on short stories in English. They were asked to read the short story Amigo Brothers, complete the set questions to develop understanding and then write a sequel to the story. This is what Natalie wrote...

If you are into boxing and would like to read the original story of Amigo Brothers written by Piri Thomas click [here](#).

Amigo Brothers Sequel - by Natalie Segamwenge Grade 8AJ

As the two brothers walked away, there was still audible cheering coming from the stadium. It got quieter for a few seconds then muffled sounds double be heard possibly coming from the microphone. All of a sudden the silence was disturbed and the cheering increased tenfold, the crowd began to cheer. "FELIX! FELIX! FELIX!" could be heard from miles away.

Antonio turned to his brother with a wide grin plastered on his face. They stopped walking and ended up next to a bench a few blocks away from where the fight was held.

'You did it man!' He yelled

Felix was shocked he could've bet his life savings Antonio would've won. Sure his hits were more damaging but Antonia managed to make him stumble quite a few times.

After the initial shock, Felix could feel the excitement grow within himself.

'I couldn't have done it without you dude,' he stated, " If anything I think you deserve this spot more than I do".

" Hell no Felix," Antonio replied, " Did you see yourself in there you were amazing!"

"Thanks, bro," Felix said before giving Antonio a hug.

"But hey next time, you're gonna go down for sure," Antonio laughed.

"You're on," Felix said happily.

Of course, Antonio was happy for Felix; he'd known him for years and knew how important this was for him, but it was important to himself as well so he couldn't help but feel disappointed in the results of this match. But of course, he'd deal with these feelings alone.

Felix was ecstatic about this win. It meant he'd get to compete in the tournament. It would be a big achievement in his career even if he just participated, he could make connections and get his name out there. But he wanted the same for Antonio.

"Hey Tony, I have an idea," Felix said, " You should come with me to the tournament since I can bring a plus one."

"But I didn't qualify," Antonio rubbed his head in confusion and brushed his hair out of his eyes.

"No, but you could get your name out there and make connections with other coaches and boxers," Felix answered, " And then we could both get recognised and start our careers outside of the place."

"You'd really do that for me, bro?" Antonio questioned.

"Of course Tony," Felix replied, " If I was here you'd do it for m-"



Felix was interrupted by a hug from his brother. That's when the boys knew, no matter the outcome of any match they'd participate in they'd always have each other's backs. No matter what.

Collecting Foodstuffs for Katutura

If you have visited the Maerua Superspar recently, you may have seen that a collection of essential foodstuffs has been organised in the foyer. You may already have contributed.

The foods are distributed to those in need in Katutura. Flour, rice, pasta, Top Score meal, canned food, cooking oils and fresh food too. All donations are gratefully received. Small packets, easy to distribute, are preferred.

A number of WIS staff have contributed to this and have invited the school community to join us. Many of you have. Thank you.

To keep it simple, we are raising money with which we will then buy the essential foods that are being distributed by this very worthwhile initiative.

If you would like to contribute any sum please donate by EFT to the usual school account. Please mark your donation <Covid 19>.

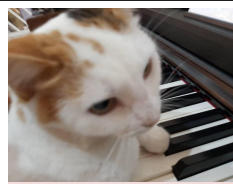


Thank you!

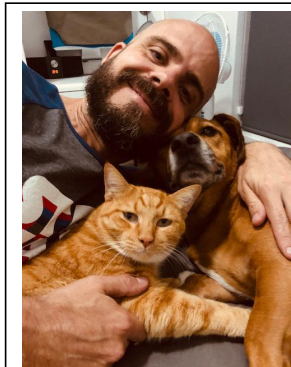


Ms Maggie's cat, Coco. Coco is only 8 years old, but she has some good advice, "REST and STAY at HOME!"

What would we do without our furbabies during lockdown? They're always happy to see us, they always listen and they never complain. They never refuse a cuddle and they don't care if we wear pyjamas all day long or seldom brush our hair. Their love is unconditional- with them at our side, we never need to feel lonely!



Ms Kate has a cat too! Crystal likes motivating the boys to practise piano.



Mr JP's furbabies, Nghalepo and Neo. He loves them to bits!



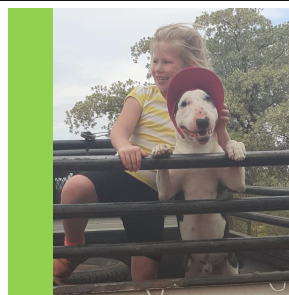
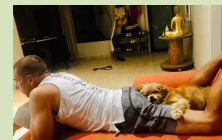
Daniella loves her dog, Jessie! "She makes me happy, because she lets me play with her like a baby."



Ms Angie's dog Bumblebee! "Bumblebee is cute, playful and funny. He makes us happy and loves to jump on us! We love Bumbles a lot!" Niel & Japie



Mr B and Ny. "He is my best buddy and the happiest boy in the world. He loves every second we can be together."



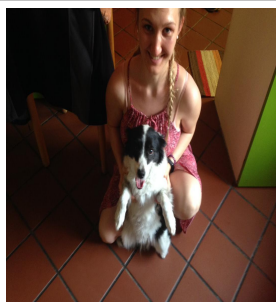
Ms Lizl's daughter with Dawid. "He drives us absolutely crazy, but also makes us exercise and keeps us entertained. We are safe with Dawid in the house!"



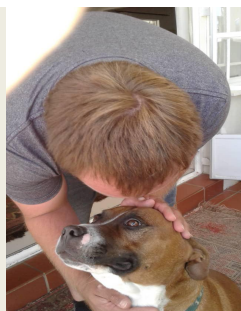
Ms Kate's tiny tortoise, Elvis. "Super cute, relaxing to watch walk up and down. A lot of fun to feed. He is quite fond of grapes."



Ms Carol with her grandchildren and Daisy-May at Avis Dam. Daisy-May loves lockdown, because now she can be with Ms Carol the whole day long!



Ms Christina's daughter, Jana, with their dog, Luna!



Ms Kathleen's son Colin Michael with Josh. "He has been my shadow during lockdown. He is always happy to be by my side, follows me wherever I go and is the best friend anyone could have."



Ms Madelein's kids love Jessie and James. Tristan and Vivian-Leigh play with their dogs every day!



This is Sandy, Ms Tanya-May's dog. She loves the kids and never leaves their side.

Furry Friend

by Hope Harrington Kolb

What would I do without you, My precious, furry friend?
Part mischief, but all blessing,
And faithful to the end!



Lola as a puppy.

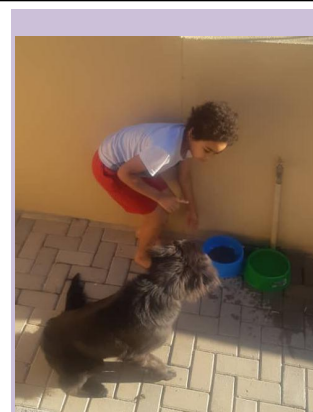
Ms Isabeau's dog, Lola. "She's the most gentle dog and she always wants to jump on everyone's lap."



Ms Maggie's daughter, Alicia with Fluffy and Socks. They're always ready for a cuddle!



Ms Sharon's beautiful rescue dogs, Katy and Jo. "They joined my family as young puppies. They are smart, funny and always ready to offer emotional support to anyone in the family who needs it. They love us unconditionally and bring so much love into our home."



Ms Michelle's son, Jean, and Bella. Jean takes good care of Bella, seeing that she has food and water three times a day. "He enjoys to speak to her, almost like to his best friend."