



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

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Dates to Remember

August

- **26** - Heroes' Day: Public Holiday, school closed
- **29** - Back to School Night (Primary)
- **30** - Back to School Night (Middle School)
- **31** - Back to school Night (IGCSE & IBDP)

FROM THE DIRECTOR

I only met Bill Powell once. He had a distinguished career as an international school teacher, Principal and Head in celebrated schools in Tanzania, Indonesia and Malaysia, among others. He was also a prolific writer and, latterly, working always with his wife, Ochan, a highly regarded lecturer and workshop leader on the international circuit. He was also a passionate advocate of inclusive education. He died a couple of months ago.

I am currently reading his latest and last book, Teacher Self-Supervision (2015), and I caught myself nodding vigorously and muttering approval to an empty room when I read this:

In the corporate sector there is an old adage: if you can't measure it, you can't manage it. This assumption has nefariously slipped into education. The most important outcomes in education are manageable and observable, but are extremely difficult, nigh impossible to measure: integrity; perseverance in the face of adversity; courage of convictions; compassion; citizenship; empathy; honesty; enthusiasm for learning, etc. As usual, Einstein got it right when he said: "Education is what remains after one has forgotten all that has been learned."

Quite so.

With best wishes
Peter MacKenzie

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

How many times have you asked your child, "What did you do in school today?" and your child's response was, "Nothing". The following poem describes what a Pre-School/Kindergarten child's day might be like.

The Nothing Poem
When children come home
At the end of the day,
There's a question they're asked
As they scurry to play.

"Tell me, what did you do in school today?"
"Nothing. I did nothing today!"

Perhaps nothing means that I played with blocks.
Tied my own shoes, or found beautiful rocks.



Teacher Feature

Anna Scholtz - Year 5B

My name is Anna Scholtz and I come from South-Africa. This is my first year at WIS. I'm the year 5B classroom teacher.

I come from a town in the Northern-Cape called Hartswater. After Grade 12, I studied at the Free State University in South-Africa.

I studied B.Ed Intermediate phase where I also specialised in Math, English and Afrikaans to teach secondary grades.

I enjoy teaching. I believe that all children can learn, achieve goals and succeed. The best reward is when a child achieved a goal or learned something new.

You are never too old to learn, and with kids and their creative, interesting minds they teach us lessons everyday.

For the past 6 years I lived and taught in Dubai. Before that I had the privilege to teach in South-Korea and England as well.

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*Maybe the monarchs hatched today.
Or maybe I found a new friend to play.*

*Maybe today was the very first time
My scissors followed a very straight line.
Perhaps I learned a new song, and sang all the words,
Or I touched a feather from the strangest of birds.*

*When you're in preschool and your heart has wings,
"Nothing" can mean some wonderful things!
- Author Unknown*

Children in Years 1-6 also have new discoveries and experiences in a day. I've adapted the "Nothing" Poem for this age range.

*The Nothing Poem for Years 1-6
Nothing can mean that I read a new book,
Wrote a story on my own, or in After School Activities learned to cook.
Maybe I made a new friend today.
Or maybe I learned a song on my recorder to play.*

*Maybe I understood a Math concept finally at last
Or in PE I ran really, really fast.
In Language class I learned to speak a new sentence or two,
Or perhaps I used an app on my iPad in a way that was new.*

*During Art I used wax and dye to make batik
Maybe in Drama I acted out a character in a way that was unique.
Today during Break I played soccer and scored!
My day was full and I was never bored.*

*When you're in Primary School and your heart has wings,
"Nothing" can mean just about anything!*

The next time you ask "What did you do in school today?" and the answer is, "Nothing", consider the above and that "nothing" is really saying much more.

I look forward to seeing you on Monday for the Primary School Back to School Night. This will be an opportunity for you to meet your child's teacher, learn more about what your child's school day is like and understand more what "nothing" really means.

Regards,
Beth Smith

The Primary School Back to School Night : Monday, 29th August.
17:30-18:10 Toddlers-Year 3 parents meet in the child's homeroom.

18:15-18:40 Toddlers-Year 6 parents meet in the auditorium of the PLC.
18:45 -19:25 Years 4-6 parents meet in the child's homeroom.

For more details see the d6!

Teacher Feature continued

'I decided to move to Namibia to be closer to home and challenge myself. We don't grow when things are easy, we grow when we face challenges.

So I left the comfort zone. I enjoy spending time with my family, friends and pets. I love travelling, eating (a lot), reading, fishing, snorkelling and watching reality programs (especially survivor) and series.

Things you don't know about me:

- *I've been on the fastest roller coaster in the world, and I will NEVER do it again. (240 km/h).*
- *I've licked the Great Wall of China. (in my defence it was a dare).*
- *I can't whistle or ski (I have accepted that)*
- *One day I would like to write a book.*
- *Fav food: Indian, Fav colour: Toss up between red and blue, Fav city: London, Fav country: Sri Lanka, Fav movie: Jurassic Park (all), Fav animation: Ice Age (all)*
- *Motto: Don't do to others what you wouldn't want done to you.*
- *Things I don't like: Lies, spinach, cockroaches, irresponsible drivers.*



Find out how the BYOD (Bring Your Own Device Program) is beginning in Year 5 [here](#).

Students have discussed how or when to use their devices including the safety of the devices. Check this corner every week to see how technology is being used across the school.
Danai Maramba

Primary students getting their skates on!



Inline skating has been a really popular addition to the activities schedule.

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Back to school - three weeks into the new school year - quo vadis

At the beginning of the new school year, quite a lot of changes were implemented in Secondary School at WIS. The changes did not affect Middle School as much as it affected the IGCSE and IBDP students, but we have had some feedback on some of the changes.

Changing things in such a big way is always met with some skepticism. It is hard for people to change their ways and be open-minded about change. For the past three weeks, however, in conversations with students, it was good to see the positive approach our students are taking with regards to the changes we made. It would be great to get some more feedback through the year for us to be even more "flexible" in what we offer to our senior students.

Next week, we will have our Back to School nights at WIS. These events are meant to welcome everybody back to school for the new academic year, but mainly to introduce new staff to parents and give new parents and families the opportunity to meet their children's teachers. This is the first opportunity for you as parents to meet the teachers that will teach your child during this coming year in a more informal way.

Knowing how the school functions and who your child's teachers are is a great benefit for your child and it also enables you to form a relationship with your

child's teachers that can be beneficial to all parties involved in the education of your child.

During the Back to School nights, we would like to hear from you what your first impression is of the changes we have implemented and we welcome all constructive criticism and suggestions that can help us make school an even better place for our students.



Regards,
Maggie Reiff

Middle School - Tuesday - 30 August 2016
IGCSE/IBDP - Wednesday - 31 August 2016
@ 18:00 in the Auditorium

Middle School Student Council for 2016-2017



From left to right: Melvina, Tessa, Li, Sola, Ricardo, Kenneth, Ndemi and Olivia. **Absent:** Genevieve, Zandrea, Kula, Dario, JM & Loic

What is our purpose?

- To enforce positive attitudes and model good citizenship
- Promote harmonious relations throughout the school
- Improve student/staff relationships
- Improve school morale and general welfare
- Provide a forum for student expression
- Plan special events and projects

Student council will take place every Monday during second break in Ms. Angie's room. Look out for the appreciation box - the council representatives will give you the information on what it is about - appreciate a friend or teacher by telling them what you appreciated about them via student council.

Any suggestions or issues can be raised with your class representatives, discussions will take place at the next Middle School Student Council meeting. Look out for exciting and interesting events happening throughout the year!

Angatha Janse van Rensburg

News from the Mathematics Department



Here at WIS we understand that many students enjoy using technology in their learning. Whilst technology is being integrated into lessons across the school more and more, we also subscribe to a Mathematics website that all students have access to at home.

This website is www.myimaths.com. Here students can access lessons to help them consolidate what they have learned in class (or catch up from absence), online worksheets that give them instant feedback on how well they have understood the concepts, and games that make learning fun!

Every student from Year 1 to Year 13 has their own personal login details that ensure they are able to keep a record of any online worksheets they complete. This way parents and teachers can also see their progress.

Some teachers will be using the Myimaths website in their lessons, some may set online homework from it and some may just guide the students to visit certain sections of it as and when appropriate.

However, as parents you can also direct your child to practice their mathematical skills through the use of this wonderful resource.

If your child does not yet know their personal login details then they can ask their teacher who has all the information.

So, go visit www.myimaths.com and have some Mathemagical fun!

Lian Cohen

School clothes

The PTA, Student Councils and SLT have looked at our current school clothes to see whether they satisfy our needs effectively. Some of the school clothing was regarded as in need of changing to fit the purpose of school clothes.

School clothes at WIS are used for Physical Education and for students to wear when representing WIS outside of school. Together with the PTA, the SLT has now decided on a new set of school clothing. The house shirts still remain the same as in the past and should be worn by all students during school sport events.

In Primary students will wear a navy blue t-shirt and are required to wear a wide-brimmed hat. Hats are for sale at the PTA shack.

In Secondary, students will have a navy blue polo shirt with the school logo embroidered on it. Students will also be required to wear a cap for Physical Education. There is a WIS cap for sale at the PTA shack.

The PTA is available to sell clothes on Thursdays from 13:30 until 14:30. There are hoodies, water bottles and house shirts on sale as well.

For this year, students can wear either the new shirt or the shirt that they already have. However, as of next year, we would like students to wear the new school clothes.

WIS ITEMS- PRICE LIST

HOUSE COLOR T-SHIRTS: N\$ 90
(AVAILABLE FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY)



NAVY T-SHIRTS: N\$ 90
(AVAILABLE FOR PRIMARY)



NAVY GOLF: N\$ 160
(AVAILABLE FOR SECONDARY)

WIDE BRIM HATS: N\$ 100
(AVAILABLE FOR PRIMARY)

CAPS: N\$ 80
(AVAILABLE FOR SECONDARY)

BIG BOTTLES: N\$ 90 | SMALL BOTTLES: N\$ 70

HOODIES:
AGES: 3-4 & 5-6: N\$ 220
AGES: 7-8 & 9-10: N\$ 240
AGES: 11-12 & 13-14: N\$ 250
SIZES: S-L: N\$ 360
SIZES: XL: N\$ 390