



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Accreditation

Almost all international schools – certainly all good ones – are accredited. You will most likely see these logos on their websites.



There are a number of accrediting authorities (the four above are just the most common in international schools) but they all do the same thing. They evaluate schools according to detailed and comprehensive protocols that consider everything from the quality of teaching and learning to health and safety, the financial health of the school, the qualifications of the teachers, the existence and effectiveness of necessary policies, and much else besides.

Schools must prepare and submit a very substantial report identifying what they think are their major strengths and weaknesses and then a team of visitors will spend several days in the school forming their own opinions. At length, and after studying both reports, the accrediting authority will issue a list of commendations and recommendations and – we hope! – accredit the school for another five years or more.

WIS is accredited by both CIS and NEASC (see above) and our last visit was in 2015. The cycle will start again later in 2018 as we begin the ‘self-study’ that will lead to the report we will submit in 2019 prior to our next visit in 2020.

However, since 2015 NEASC has radically revised their accreditation protocol. It now goes by the acronym ACE. Many schools in southern Africa are accredited by NEASC and, like us, they want to know more about the new ACE protocol. So NEASC asked us if we would host a one-day training workshop and we were delighted to agree to do so.



Learning **Architecture** , Learning **Culture** , Learning **Ecology**

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Dates to Remember

March 2018

- **21: Independence Day**
No school, Public Holiday
- **23 & 24: Romeo & Juliet**
- **30: Good Friday -**
Public Holiday

April 2018

- **02: Easter Monday -**
Public Holiday
- **25-26: Primary Sport DayS**

WEEKLY PUZZLER

Stephen Hawking died this week on 3/14. Among many other things, he once said, "My goal is simple. It is a complete understanding of the universe, why it is as it is and why it exists at all."

This week's puzzler is even simpler (or is it?). You have a wheel with a diameter of 1 meter. If the wheel rolls and completes a precise 360 degree turn, how many meters has it travelled? For this puzzler we require absolute precision, no rounding or chopping off of digits. And because of this, you will not be able to use our commonly used digits of 0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9.

As always, if you find any fun and interesting puzzlers please send them to pfarrell@wis.edu.na



The workshop will take place tomorrow (Saturday) and almost thirty WIS staff will be joined by others from Botswana and South Africa to learn more about the new model. An immediate benefit is that it will enable us to get much more out of the re-accreditation process we will soon be starting.

But another significant advantage is that attendance at this one-day event is the first step towards joining the list of professionals whom NEASC use to conduct school visits. In other words, WIS staff may be invited by NEASC to serve on teams visiting other schools. Being a team member evaluating another school is extremely hard work but it is also extraordinarily valuable professional development. Spending three or four days looking in depth at an aspect of another school's operation and then writing a report on it helps you to see your own school through very different eyes.

Good schools are forever reflecting on their own performance and looking to improve. "An International Community of Learners" has never meant only the students here and it certainly will not tomorrow. I am looking forward to a very stimulating and interesting day.

2019-2020 Calendar

Please note that the school calendar for 2019-2020 has now been published on the school website.

Peter MacKenzie

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Helping vs Interference

Parents often ask how they can support their children at home. Have you ever considered that sometimes your support might be interfering with your children's learning? Let me give an example.

Your child has a project due and the weekend or night before the deadline your child tells you that the project is not done. What do you do?

- Take over and do the project yourself
- Ask your child what he/she needs help with and let your child carry on with the project while you offer support where needed.

If you choose a), your child's project gets completed beautifully and looks perfect. You may even stay up late to complete the project while your child sleeps soundly unaware of the hard work you are putting into the project. But whose project is it and what has your child learned?

- If assignments are left to the last minute Mom or Dad will do the project.
- The work would never turn out as well or be as perfect as what Mom or Dad did.

If you choose b), there may be tears and frustration on everyone's part. The project may not be completed as well or as neatly as if more time were available. Your child may not finish the project. What has your child learned?

- It's a lesson in time management. Perhaps the next time there is an assignment, your child will plan better.
- There are consequences when work isn't completed on time.
- Your child learns what it means to take pride in one's work and to reflect on how the work can be improved in the future.

Teachers can usually tell when parents have done the Science Fair project, have written the report, made the model, or created the digital presentation. Have you ever considered that when you take over and do your child's assignments or redo your child's work that you take away his/her ownership? When your child brings the project to school and has to present it to the class, it's difficult for the child to explain if he/she hasn't been involved in creating the project. The child has no ownership. At school we are teaching the children to become independent, to take responsibility, to be thinkers and to be principled. When parents do the work for their children, this action doesn't encourage the development of the previously mentioned attributes.

The following link takes you to a New York Times blog post <https://goo.gl/kZz9no> that reinforces the information mentioned in this article. The next time your child has a project or an assignment due, how will you support your child?

**Regards,
Beth Smith**

Zone B Athletics

The city of Windhoek has about 28 primary schools which are divided into four zones. On 2nd March, nine WIS students took part in the Zone B athletics meet. This competition also gives athletes (u/13) the opportunity to qualify for regionals which is followed by the Namibian Schools Athletics Championship.

In this year's Zone B meet, WIS athletes achieved some outstanding results:

Olwen Black	Year 5	Under 10 Girls	Shot put	Gold
Natalie Segamwenge	Year 7	Under 12 Girls	High jump 100m sprint finals	Gold Silver
Amani Enkara *qualified for regionals in two events	Year 8	Under 13 Boys	Shot put Javelin Discus	Gold Silver Silver
Dante Luiperth	Year 5	Under 10 Boys	Long jump	Bronze

Quentin Strauss, Ndahafa Muadinohamba, Salomé Rey, Shamiso Mawire and Kevin Amaambo just finished outside the top four positions in their respective events, however, I have to commend them for their fighting spirit; they competed against strong competitors.

Fernando Beukes

SCHOOL FEES 2018 - 2019 PAYMENT

For those who pay monthly, please note that 20% of the annual fee payment should be made before the first day of school - i.e. before Monday 13th August 2018.

This means it must be received by the school by Friday 10th August 2018.

It may be prudent to start planning for this now.

If you have any questions about this, please contact the Finance Manager, Maryke Coetzee.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

If you pay monthly, please bear in mind that the final invoice for the 2017 - 2018 school year must be settled before we can release reports, the yearbook and so on. You are respectfully asked to ensure that all outstanding amounts are in the account by Monday, 2nd April 2018.

Please also note that if any fees or dues are still outstanding from the previous year, no child from that family will be eligible for re-registration for the next academic year.

Mountain Biking

All students that are mountain biking enthusiasts are invited to take part in the FNB Schools Mountain Bike League - to earn individual and team points for their respective schools. Age groups from U8 - U18 are welcome:

- Costs are N\$ 10.00/Cyclist per Race.

For more information, parents can email me at fbeukes@wis.edu.na

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Spray A Thon - Student Parent Teacher Conferences - Sports Day

The last week of term was busy in terms of events we hosted for students and parents and we are happy to say that all three events were supported well. A great way to end the term.

Student Parent Teacher Conferences

Our bi-annual Student Parent Teacher Conferences were held on 28th February and 1st March in the afternoon. For the second time, we did the sign ups online and found it a useful tool from the school's side. However, we noticed that some parents did not seem to have received the link or the email landed in their spam folder. We would appreciate any feedback from parents and students about the signing up process. We would also like to get some feedback on the dates and times for the conferences. Would you prefer to have the conferences over a whole day? Would you want the conferences to be longer (15 minutes for example)?

We invited some students' parents to attend the conferences because we felt that there was a need to meet with the students and parents to discuss their progress. Do you feel that it is useful to get an invitation if we would like to see you and your child? Do you have any other comments or feedback that can help us make these conferences even more beneficial for you and your child?

Tuck Shop arrangements

You will be aware that we discontinued our tuck shop services as they were and have introduced an alternative system for the interim until such time that a more satisfactory, sustainable solution has been found. We welcome constructive feedback on this new system to help us improve what we have now introduced.

Spray A Thon

WIS participated once again in the annual Spray A Thon the Cancer Association of Namibia is hosting. The Student Councils and PTA helped us on the 2nd of March to collect donations and spray students' and teachers' hair. We were able to collect almost N\$3000 for the Cancer Association. Thank you to everyone who participated and the PTA and the Student Council who helped during the day.



Secondary Sports Day

During the last lessons on Friday we had our termly sports day. It was amazing to see the the enthusiasm and energy that was put into the games the students played. Whether it was Netball, Volleyball or Handball, it was evident that students enjoyed themselves, despite the heat and the sun and gave it their all during the games. Well done to all our students for participating and thank you to Mr. Jackson-Read and the teachers for conducting the day in a positive and fun way.



Regards,
Maggie Reiff
mreiff@wis.edu.na

SECONDARY SCHOOL INTER-HOUSE



Our Term 3 Secondary Inter-House Sports Competition on 2nd March 2018 was an excellent event. All secondary children competed with their peers in one of three different sports codes.

Middle School and Senior Girls played Netball. Middle School and Senior Boys played European Handball. Y12/13 Played Mixed Volleyball.

A total of 30 matches were played with Team LEOPARDS securing a fantastic win overall.

- Final Positions
 - 1st Leopards - 51 Points
 - 2nd Cheetahs - 47 Points
 - 3rd Lions - 43 Points
 - 4th Caracals - 39 Points

Congratulations to the Leopards!

Other Sports News



Christian Du Plessis, in Year 10, shooting at SKW in the February Open Archery Competition.



The WIS Chess Team at the Regionals hosted at St Paul's.

Romeo and Juliet 1 week left! Blog #2

THEY ALL ARE JUST SO EXCITED TO SHOW YOU WHAT THEY GOT!

We only have one week left and let me tell you the cast has been working so hard, taking up their break times and after school time!

They had their rehearsals in the auditorium where the stage is all set up and beautifully done as you can see!

We have awesome year 12 students helping with the lights and sound effects! They are doing a superb job!

Fights and romance on set, we will see you there right?

Don't forget to get your tickets!

- Adult=N\$50
- Kg1-Year6= N\$30

R.A.J blogger = Lili Zhang ❤️



[An' taitld]



IBDP Visual Arts Graduation Exhibition

A big THANK YOU to each and every one who was involved with, who helped, sponsored, visited and gave feedback in connection with the Visual Arts Graduate Exhibition. It is an invaluable experience for the young artists and here is what they had to say about opening night:

Anna: "Opening my first art exhibition was nerve-wrecking, especially the last few minutes before people arrived. Once people started coming in and looking around in awe, my heart felt a huge relief and by the end of the day I didn't want it to end. I felt proud as an artist."

Micaela: "It was scary, but exciting at the same time. Showing your art publicly for the first time is terrifying and makes you feel vulnerable to criticism, but after observing the first few reactions I was happy I had done it."

Alicia: "Being able to achieve and display my first exhibition included a whole concoction of feelings ranging from nervous and excited to relieved and also somewhat sad. You have been working on these pieces for what feels like forever and then you have to 'let them go' and be 'judged' by others. This is far more terrifying than one thinks. Then, on opening night, it is also surprising and exhilarating; definitely one of the big personal achievements of my life so far."

Kiami: "It was a lot of work, frightening but also wonderful at the same time. I wouldn't mind to repeat this experience over and over again."

With gratitude,
Heike Mayer (Rubbert)

A poster for a fundraiser bake sale. The background is a black and white photograph of a wire mesh cage with a brown blanket and a round cookie with almonds. A large, semi-transparent blue rectangle is centered over the image. The text is white and yellow. There are two white star-shaped corner markers on the blue rectangle, one at the top-left and one at the bottom-right.

Fundraiser **BAKE SALE**

Proceeds will benefit
Children's Camp Namibia

Give the children a place where they can play and learn at the same time, affording them the opportunity to just be children.

Thursday, March 29

Help Support a Great Cause

**PIZZA, KFC , ICE CREAM & MORE.
2 RAFFLE BASKETS FOR STUDENTS AND
TEACHERS/PARENTS!**

Raffle tickets available Tuesday the 13 of March sold exclusively by group members

By: Elizabeth, Fausto, Gérsia Martin and Samuel

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FNCC

PROGRAMME

MONDAY 19th MARCH

A day at the Osirée Refugee Camp

11h – 16h : celebrations on stage with children and local artists (dance, songs, theatre, shows) football match between the team from the camp and an external team.



THURSDAY 22nd MARCH at the Franco Namibian Cultural Centre

Opening of the Francophonie Week in Windhoek

15h-16h30: Official presentation of the French language teacher's association in Namibia at the French Residence.

14h-15h30: Cinema for children, *Sophie's misfortunes* (Christophe Honoré, 2015).

15h30-16h30: Special Trivial Pursuit about Francophonie for children from 10 to 17 years.

16h45-17h45: Literary encounter with the French-speaking writer, Christine Rosana.

18h-21h: Opening evening at the Franco-Namibian Cultural Centre

Speech by the director of the FNCC and representatives of the French-speaking communities.

Screening of a street interview video « C'est quoi la Francophonie ? » (What is La Francophonie?)" and presentation of the Campus France space.

Display of French-speaking artist's productions (painting exhibitions, sales, handcrafted productions).

Fashion show with special creations by SORO, Ivorian designer.

Concert with local French-speaking artists and Namibian artists especially Slickartie.

FRIDAY 23rd MARCH

14h: Official ceremony of La Francophonie (speeches by official).

14h30-16h: Diplomas ceremony of DELF-DALF.

16h-16h30: Dancing and singing show.

17h30-19h30: French-speaking cinema-debate around the screening of *Mama Colone!* (Dieudonné Hamadi, 2017, DRC).

SATURDAY 24th MARCH

9h-14h: Football tournament « Francophone CAN ».

10h30-13h30: Schools participation around the theme of the week « United we stand » and children bazaar.

17h-22h: Food market (sales of African and French food).

Closing concert with

Dark Blue Orchestra - Shungu

Dollar - Four by Four





ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DE la francophonie

Join the French-speaking countries of the world to celebrate *Rejoignez les communautés francophones pour célébrer la*

FRANCO PHONIE 2018

Soirée d'ouverture

Official Opening

ART, FASHION, CRAFTS & MUSIC
Art, mode, artisanat et musique

Come wearing your traditional attire.
Portez votre habit traditionnel.

THURSDAY / JEUDI
22 MARCH 2018 / 22 MARS 2018

18h00 | FNCC Gallery & Terrace | Free Entry / Entrée gratuite

Franco-Namibian Cultural Centre | 118 Robert Mugabe Avenue | Tel. 061 387 330 | Find us online www.fncc.org.na **RTS**

WIS CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL DAY OF HAPPINESS!

LET'S HELP BRIGHTEN THE LIVES OF PEOPLE WITH CANCER.



FUNDRAISER

WHEN?

Tuesday, 20 March

WHAT?

Come dressed in the allocated class colours (yellow or black) to help make a whole school emoji smiley face on the big field at 11:00am.

There will be a special treat for everyone after taking the photo...

STICKERS

Available for N\$10.00! On sale from homeroom teachers from 19 February - 20 March.

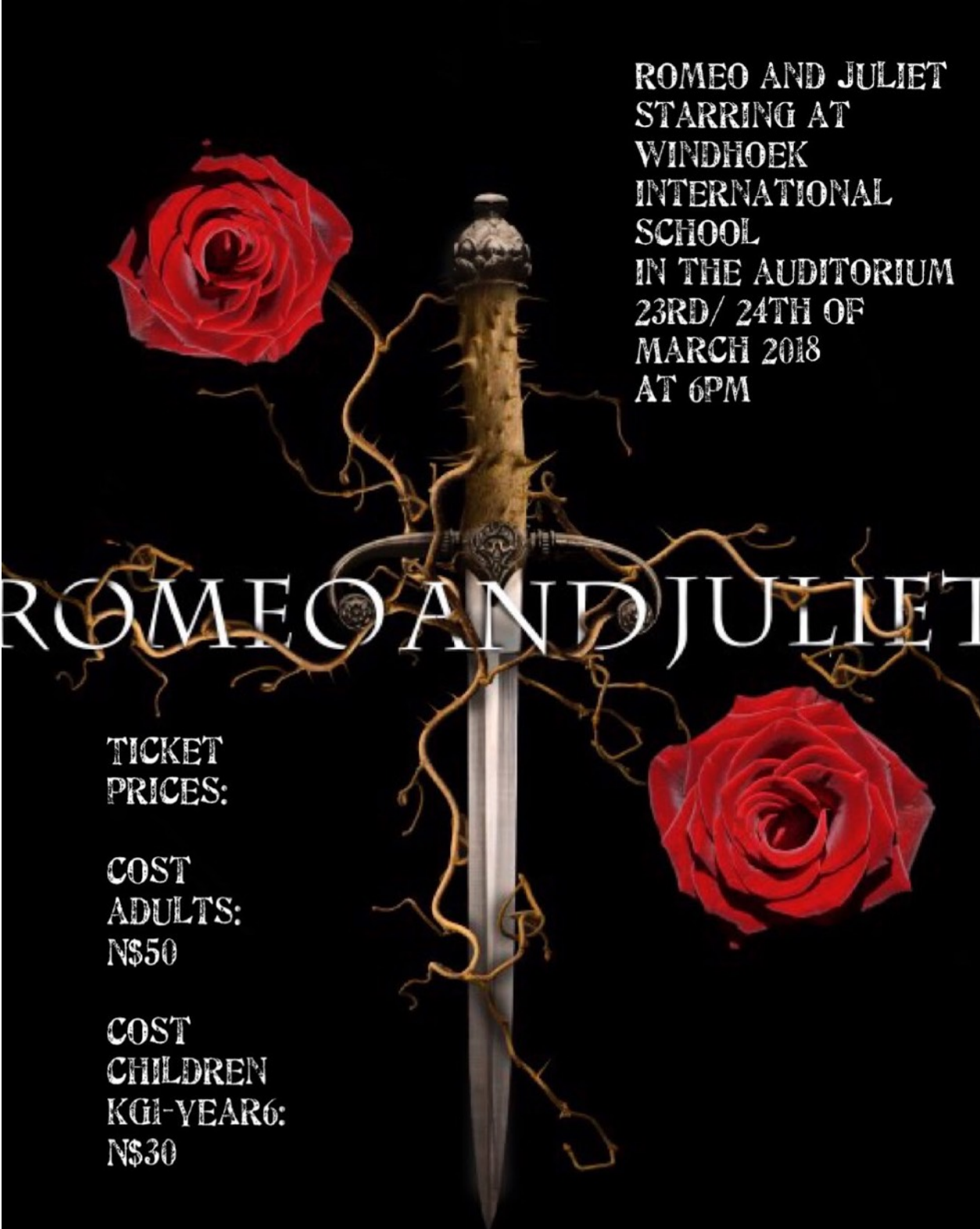
Please buy one (or many!) and support cancer patients. All proceeds will be donated to the Cancer Association.

PTA Raffle Sponsors



Haiku Sushi Lounge





ROMEO AND JULIET
STARRING AT
WINDHOEK
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL
IN THE AUDITORIUM
23RD/ 24TH OF
MARCH 2018
AT 6PM

**TICKET
PRICES:**

**COST
ADULTS:
N\$50**

**COST
CHILDREN
KGI-YEAR6:
N\$30**