

THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School



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Dates to Remember

April 2018

- **21:** PTA Family Braai
- **25 - 26:** Primary Sport Days
- **30:** School Closed

May 2018

- **01 - 04:** School Closed
- **10 - 11:** Public holiday - School Closed



VISIT US ON:



FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Future is International

You may have seen our new billboard on the corner of Hendrik Witbooi Drive and David Hosea Meroro Road.

“The Future is International” is a sentiment I have liked and believed for many years. Though I’m beginning to wonder...

I was born in the 1950s. Intercontinental travel was slow, expensive and uncommon. The nation state was still the only political unit that really counted. (This was long before the European Union and other transnational entities came into being.) The Cold War still had decades to run. Our knowledge of other peoples was often limited and characterised by stereotypes and prejudice.

How things have changed!

Long-distance travel is now commonplace. Technology now means that we can communicate in real time with people on the other side of the planet. Our knowledge problem now is that we have too much rather than too little. Shameful inequalities still exist but the world is immeasurably fairer, more equal, and more connected than it has ever been.

And yet, and yet...

You don’t have to look hard to find examples of people and peoples retreating into narrow and pointedly exclusive identities based on nationality, religion, language or race. They are looking inwards. They are looking backwards.

That cannot be the future. The future has to be what this school proudly stands for: inclusivity, mutual understanding and respect, acceptance, diversity...

The future must be international.

Peter MacKenzie

WEEKLY PUZZLER

Ester from Learning Support solved our hourglass puzzler.

Well done! If you are still struggling perhaps you can ask her for a clue.

Now on to a new one. Suppose you're on a game show, and you have won one of three possible prizes, a chicken, a turkey, or a brand new car (we make the assumption that a car is preferred over a chicken or a turkey). There are three doors with a prize behind each. You choose a door, let's say door No. 1. The host, who knows what's behind the doors, opens another door, say No. 3, which does not have the car. He then says to you, "Do you want to pick door No. 2?"

Is it to your advantage to switch your choice? In other words, by switching to door No. 2 do you increase your probability of winning?

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



PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Beginning this Monday and continuing through the middle of May, Years 2-6 will once again be taking the MAP Growth (*Measures of Academic Progress*) tests. Years 2-3 will take two tests: Language and Mathematics while Years 4-6 will take three tests: Language, Reading and Mathematics. The purpose of these tests is to show the growth in student learning over time, as well as to provide teachers with information about what students are ready to learn now.

The MAP Growth tests that the students took in November provided a baseline for us to see where the students were at with their learning. The results from the upcoming tests will show growth in their learning from November. These results will be posted in the iSAMS portal in June and available to those parents who have attended a MAP information session. For those parents who haven't been able to attend an information session, another one will be scheduled next month. For more information about MAP, here's a link to the Parent's Guide to MAP Growth: <https://goo.gl/yw9C7E>.



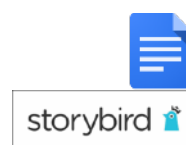
Since this year is the first year we have administered MAP, we decided to test in November and again in April/May. For the 2018-2019 school year we will test at the beginning of the school year and in March. (MAP refers to these sessions as Fall and Spring). This will enable the teachers to use the information gained throughout the academic year. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

*Regards,
Beth Smith*

Technology Tools - Writing

[Google Docs](#) and [Storybird](#) are two of the tools to promote writing skills. **They complement other traditional methods and approaches to writing that are taught in the classroom.**

[CLICK HERE](#) to find out how these tools are being used.



SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Some things worth reporting on

Schools are busy places. We often hear and say that, but do we know what is happening in our school? We know what our kids are doing, but what is happening at WIS?

There certainly is a lot happening that is worth mentioning. And I probably am not talking about it all.

We have had different **field trips** happening in the past weeks. The Year 9s went on a three day trip to Spitzkoppe. Today, Friday, the 20th, the Year 8s are on a one day outing to Okapuka. These trips are a good opportunity for children to work together, to get to know each other better and to experience each other in a different environment.

On Friday the 13th we said **farewell** to our Year 13 IBDP students. They are now on study leave and will start their final examination on the 2nd of May. We will also say goodbye to our Year 11 IGCSE students today (the 20th) before they embark on their examination on the 2nd of May.



On Tuesday, a group of students left for Barcelona to attend the annual **Change the World MUN** (Model United Nations) conference. Having attended the JoMUN conference in the past two years, this is a step further for our students to get exposure in the international arena and to make have some memorable experiences.

Our **Student Councils** were active as well. The Middle School Student Council organised an Easter Egg Hunt just before Easter which all students thoroughly enjoyed. The Senior Student Council organised a Movie Night in collaboration with St. Paul's last Saturday. Both events went very well. On Saturday, the 7th, WIS participated in the annual Street Parade of the Windhoek Karneval. WIS won vouchers to the amount of N\$6000 that will be used towards our tuckshop.

In collaboration with some CAS students, the Student Councils will be organising a winter drive for different worthy causes in the next weeks.

Our Social Committee organised the **International Day of Happiness** on the 20th of March where we formed a smiley on the field with all students. After this, all students received an ice lolly. We sold stickers with a smiley face and the proceeds were donated to the Cancer Association of Namibia.

Our Secondary Students had the privilege to have a session with a renowned **author Mr. Dorian Haarhoff** on creative writing and story writing.

And then there was the Science Fair for Years 7 & 8, the IBDP Visual Arts Exhibition, the performances of Romeo and Juliet and on Saturday there will be the Family Braai and Earth Day event. All this in only about 14 weeks of school.

We are nearing the end of our academic year and the biggest focus now will be on preparing for the final examination in the different year groups.

Regards,
Maggie Reiff

Year 7 Medieval Times Board Games



As a final project for the Social Studies unit of Medieval Times, the Year 7s created their own board games to show their learning of the time period. The board games included trivia questions, elements of strategy and were very creative as they added their own spin on traditional games. It was a fun way to share our historical knowledge together!

Kelsey Daignault

Middle- School Musings

The Year 8s recent focus in English has been Non-Fiction Literature. They were asked to write a news article on a topic that was important to them and could be published in the Oryx.

Here is a sampling of some of their articles.

Social bullying at WIS

People find safety in numbers, you feel most protected when you're with your friends even when you know that they're wrong. Social bullying is a real problem in modern society, it happens every day everywhere, it's not just on social media. Social bullying is also big problem at Windhoek International School, even if people don't realize it. Whether you're gossiping about someone, talking behind their back, insulting them or being mean to someone, it's bullying and we've all done it at least once.

You probably think that you haven't bullied someone, since you've never hurt anyone purposefully, but you have and so has everyone else.

Nearly 27.8% of schools report bullying yearly, every seven minutes a child is bullied and suicide rates are up to 50% for children under 14. "I find it something that is not so usual. But bullying is something that can happen, and sometimes kids do bully, because of things like jealousy" -Leonhardt Fischer-Buder. At WIS they are trying to put a stop to bullying. They are learning about cyberbullying in class and are having meetings about bullying in middle school. Social bullying is very subtle at WIS but it happens a lot.

In conclusion WIS has a lot of social bullying. People need to start doing something about it soon or it could get extremely worse. An student who wishes to remain anonymous said, "You don't see it as much as you do in other schools, if it happens it's really subtle but it's still there." There have been tragedies at other schools that had to do with bullying. We don't want WIS to have the same problems. WIS is a great school, one of the best in Namibia actually! Don't ruin Windhoek International School's reputation. Speak up before someone gets hurt, or you could be to blame for it.

Written by: Sahara Kamwanyah 8A

Elite Ballers, but not balling in funds**Elite ballers WIS Netball team league beginning in May, but are they ready?**

Many people feel that WIS isn't very serious about sports, but this is an opening to the sports world for WIS. Unfortunately, there have been many bumps in the road for the team to get into a league.

Finding sponsors for a uniform was very challenging as we struggled to find any offers. Which also delayed us from playing in games against other schools such as the Concordia Netball Team. These are many missed opportunities so hopefully this could change, invest more in sports.

The under 15's have played 1 friendly game against a Zimbabwean team. With only 3 weeks of practice on the 4th of December the girls won 33-1. Although it was a unofficial game, they did very well.

Some members of the WIS team are concerned about how they practice because they don't have a proper court as it isn't the right measurements and it's too small. This has proved to be a big problem, as when they play a real game the spacing would be completely different. So for this school to become more involved in Netball, we have to have the right equipment to practice with. They have been practicing since January and both under 15s and 18s have made it into the B Group, thanks to our coaches Ms. Audrey Ms. Kristin and Ms. Debbie.

The next event for the Netball team is coming up in May when they play in their first league, all support will be very appreciated from the WIS community.

Written by Davan Pokolo 8B

Water use at Windhoek International School***How WIS can save water during a drought.***

Namibia is a dry country. The rain water here has become less and less. People who live in Namibia need to save water for the future.

I asked if there is enough water for the people living in Namibia in the future?

Ms Carin said: "I think there is not going to be enough water. The dams in Namibia are not filling up and the water inside has become less. If people want to get out of this drought they need to start saving water. For example by building "desalination plants".

I think students and teachers have to make sure they close the taps properly after they use them in school. The school also can collect rainwater to water the plants in the school and put some plants under the tap outside so they can get water when you are washing your hands. When people in the school are washing their hands don't open the tap fully or it will lose too much water.

If we all save water and do the things I proposed, Namibia won't be this dry and we will not be in drought conditions in the future.

By: Jiaheng Li 8B

WIS Students Present Final Science Projects

Science projects were presented in the PE hall on the 5th and 6th of April from 2:30 to 5:30 and 8:00 to 1:30. Nerves were high as the year 7s and 8s showed their projects after 3 months of nonstop hard work during and out of school. There were over 70 participants and about 10 judges.

Since January, the students have been working non stop on their projects, they came up with their own topics with lots of research, decorated and designed their own boards, and typed their own articles about the topics. The last week leading up to the presentations has been chaotic as the students struggle to get their boards ready on time for the judges. The point of them making these projects was so that they could learn how to

independently write scientific research and design their own projects. This would help them prepare for the future in which doing projects like this is very common, so practicing is most definitely helpful. The judges come from all over schools and companies in Windhoek, a few from the college of technology, a few experienced parents, and many teachers from WIS like Ms. Kate, Mr. Cuthbert and Mr. José, there was also a representative of the school's sponsor. The student's work will be acknowledged and awarded in a ceremony soon after the presentations, they will be presented with either a gold, silver, or bronze medal or a certificate of participation. The respective students will move on to the National Science Fair if their projects met the criteria. At the end of the day, the students would not have been able to get as far with the projects without the help of the year 7, 8 and 9 Science teacher, Ms. Urte, who instructed them and gave them several useful tips along the way.

The science fair was very memorable as almost all of the students worked extremely hard to get their boards and projects done in time and they also learned a lot from the experience. They learned about working independently and how to present professionally and to get their work together all in time so they wouldn't be disqualified. All in all, the work was good and something the year 7s and 8s should be proud of.

Written by Sophie Lindy 8A

Sports News

IGCSE PE

The Y10's IGCSE cohort embarked on a run/walk up Signal Hill in Auasblick on Wednesday as part of their PE theory lesson. We are learning about the body's response to exercise specifically interns of cardiac output.



WIS Football Teams in Action at DTS

Our U7, U8, U9, U10 teams were in action in the LFL league fixtures held at DTS last Friday. The sports teams continue to develop well and we are really proud our the effort, commitment and enthusiasm of the boys and girls involved. Keep it up WIS!

Year 9 Spitzkoppe field trip



On the morning of Friday the 13th massive bags and tents and many bottles of water were brought along in addition to our usual school bags. Why? We were going to go to Spitzkoppe. For two nights with absolutely no water except what we brought. There we were expected to have *fun*. We were told the only water would be what we had brought, of course there would be no showering, possible scorpions and snakes, and sweaty armpits mixed with deodorant as well as smokey smelling clothes. So naturally we were all ecstatic.

While packing some of us realised we had brought a little too much. While some realised they had brought too little - like John who brought a single camelback filled with water to last him two days and a half. After we

packed and clambered into the crowded school bus we could immediately smell the heavenly scent of freshly cut roses as the harsh sunlight streamed through the windows and bodies sweltered. Fortunately as we set off the rushing wind dispersed of the smell. We ate snacks, slept, and chatted for two and a half hours before hitting the gravel road. (We all did this except for Aaron. He slept - the whole way. We suspected he had died. He hadn't. That was a good thing). Dust streamed in as we drove on the gravel but now we had set sight on our destination, an epic cluster of soaring rocks out of a barren windswept landscape, we didn't care for the dust. We arrived at the campsite an hour or so before dark and quickly set up our tents. Most of us relaxed and talked while a cooking team busied themselves with Spaghetti Bolognese in very little torch light. Ms.Angie miraculously made the sauce out of only one kilo of mince!

After eating our fill we relaxed again. Some of us did a lot of relaxing on the trip. It was pretty relaxing, as you probably guessed. Some of us took a short walk which turned into a short sprint as pranksters were all too quick to take advantage of the dark night and others played with glow sticks. What we all did, however, was notice the magnificent and millions of bright stars that littered the night sky. We learnt about some constellations and stars and we even saw Jupiter. At midnight we all eventually crawled into our tents and slept soundly - except for me.

In the morning most of us woke around six, except for a couple of us. We woke up at 4:30 am. We had a small breakfast of rusks, tea and coffee before going to a place in Spitzkoppe, called Bushman's Paradise. Here Frans (our guide) showed us many plants and bushes and explained their numerous uses. The highlight of the hike was the rock paintings where Frans explained their messages and how the Bushmen in this area lived, hunted and communicated. Later that morning we made our way to a small man made rock pool which we walked around in. Then Mr. Smit had a violent "sneeze" that just so happened to splash everyone in a 10 metre radius. Soon we were soaked, swimming and splashing. We went back to the campsite for a chicken schnitzel "brunch" which was ready at 2 pm but it was really good so it was worth the wait. Shout out to Chef J.M. The afternoon was mainly up to you. Some chatted, played guitar, snoozed, visited the rock pool again or clambered the massive boulders and small mountains surrounding the camp.

As the sun approached the horizon, we made our way to an arch to take a group photo. Here a short vertical slope provided a challenge. People ran up it trying to reach the top without the aid of their hands. Then Abraham cut his foot open - he wasn't wearing shoes. Blood dripped onto the rocks, making some accidental rock paintings.

As dinner approached I lost track of things as my digestive system betrayed me and I was rather preoccupied that evening. The amount of toilet paper drastically dropped that evening and don't ask me how and don't look at the surrounding bush of Spitzkoppe campsite no.7

We enjoyed another relaxed evening with boerewors rolls, relish and salad. Then again we relaxed (I told you there was a lot of relaxing). Some of us chatted, joked, while others played dare or slap.

The next morning we had rusks, tea and coffee before packing all of our equipment. Once most of that was done we had a breakfast of scrambled eggs, brotchens, bacon and boerewors rolls. As we packed the last bits



and bobs Grace felt a thorn in her lower leg. It was a pretty unique thorn as it had fangs, no limbs, a scaly camouflaged body and looked like a snake. It bit her. Grace kicked the snake. The snake went into a bush. Grace didn't seem too worried and there were some arguments about the snake's species and if she had been bitten. She left early to go to the reception and then went to the hospital where they confirmed she had been bitten by a horned adder. Luckily not anything life

threatening. Back at camp we were packing the remaining gear (Tessa must have packed at least 4 tents!) when Mrs. Smit spotted a scorpion in a tent cover. She then “accidentally” moved the cover so that the scorpion was flung into the crowd of innocent school children.

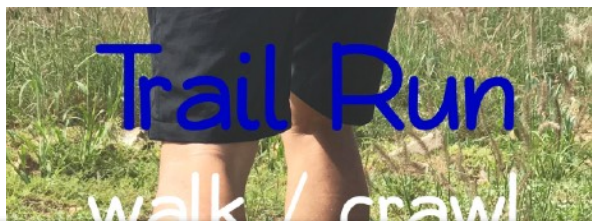
On the bus ride home we also chatted, ate snacks and slept. Some of us were quite tired and looking forward to a hot shower. Some of us though really enjoyed the bus ride...

In conclusion I would say we all had a fun camping trip and Spitzkoppe was really beautiful. I think we are all looking forward to the Orange River trip which is quite soon. Especially since Mr. Smit said if it is possible we will be the first year group to abseil on the cliffs of Orange River since we did not abseil on this particular trip. Despite not being able to abseil it was fun and successful. Thanks to Ms. Kelsey, Ms. Angie, Mr. Rishchynski and Mr. Smit for practically running the entire camp and enduring us for two extra days. Also thanks to the students - but we already know how great we are.

I hope all future year 9s are luckily enough to continue to have an extra field trip like this.

Emilio Leto

<p>PTA FAMILY BRAAI! Date: 21 April 2018 Time: 07:30 - 17:00 Place: WIS Campus <i>(Food (incl. Meat, chicken, sosatie, sausage, boerewors, salads and desserts) sold by Brakwater Neighbourhood watch - Drinks sold by the PTA)</i></p>	<p><u>RE-REGISTRATION 2018/2019 SCHOOL YEAR</u></p> <p>Please complete the Re-registration form <i>(available on the d6)</i> and return it to the School Office before 31 May 2018 for your child/ren to be re-enrolled for the 2018/2019 School Year.</p>
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TAKE NOTE: TRAIL RUN CANCELLED !





WIS FAMILY DAY

HOUSE CUP

7 A SIDE FOOTBALL

Only WIS community
Double Elimination
16 minutes (8 mins per half)
Start: 9:30

PARTICIPANTS NEED TO WEAR THEIR HOUSE COLOURS

BLANKETS FOR WINTER

The Windhoek SPCA is in urgent need of blankets for our animals before the winter comes.
PLEASE DONATE ANY BLANKETS, OLD OR NEW!



Blankets can be dropped at our Office:
145 ROBERT MUGABE AVE. - WINDHOEK





LET'S EMPOWER WOMEN

According to UNICEF, 1 out of 10 African schoolgirls skips school or drops out simply due to a lack of menstrual products and poor access to proper sanitation.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

This Hochland 154 Round Table initiative will provide DIY kits and skills development training to teach rural women to make their own reusable sanitary pads.

What we need from you is the material!

Bring as many second-hand cotton towels, t-shirts and bedding as you can! 100% cotton is preferable, but everything helps and will be donated to the community!

Donation boxes can be found at reception and will be collected on 24th April. Contact Lucy - 0818792788 or Marizelle - 0814890326 for more information on how to help.



Cancer Association of Namibia

21/81/096 – WO 30 – Incorporated Association not for Gain

www.can.org.na

E-mail: help@can.org.na

Tel: 061 – 237740

Fax: 061 – 237741

PO Box 30230

Windhoek

17 April 2018

Windhoek International School
Windhoek
 e-mail: ajvrensburg@wis.edu.na

All the children at Windhoek International school and

- Anna Scholtz
- Padmini Nadar
- Kirstin Hildebrand
- Deidre van Wyk
- Urte Dorgeloh
- Hannah Gorelick
- Auried Bock
- Margarete Reiff
- Angatha Janse van Rensburg,

It is with sincere gratitude that the Board of Directors of the Cancer Association of Namibia thanks each one of you for your donation of N\$ 4 350.00 raised with your project the International Day of Happiness which was held on the 21st of March 2018 towards the Association.

The Cancer Association of Namibia is totally dependent on fundraising projects, goodwill from the general public and the involvement of the business community to raise funds. These funds go directly towards the realizing of its objectives, namely; physical assistance to cancer sufferers across Namibia, information and awareness campaigns throughout the year and research on cancer in Namibia.

It is only with your continued support and unwavering commitment that we can win the fight against cancer – together each one of us can make a difference.

Yours sincerely,

Estelle Viljoen
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Cancer Association

Directors: Mrs S Nambinga (President), Mr R Hansen (CEO), Mrs L Swart (Vice President),
 Ms M van Niekerk (Treasurer) Sr M Katjire, Dr JF Steyn, Dr M Greeff, Mr H Diehl, Ms S de Waal, Sr A van Wyk