



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Reports

We issue formal reports twice a year at the end of each semester.

They serve a number of purposes. The very act of writing them is an opportunity for the teacher to pause and take stock of where each learner is. Reports are in a sense a message from the teacher to the learner, putting in writing and formally the advice they have been giving over the past several weeks. They are also, of course, a formal communication from school to home, giving parents an assessment of how far their children have come and of where they are going. And reports are an important record when children transfer between schools.

What information is included in the report and how it is presented is then the next question and reports have evolved over the years just as our understanding of how children learn has evolved.

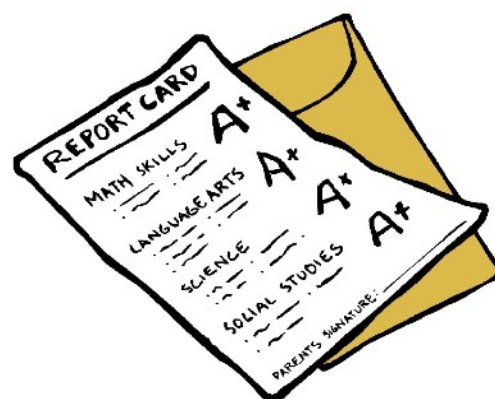
In that context, we have been reviewing our biannual reports and you will shortly see that we have made a number of changes. We have also taken the opportunity to streamline the writing process – not least to try to avoid the small but frustrating errors that sometimes slip through.

We are confident that the new reports will be an improvement on previous versions but (isn't there always a but?) the new reporting program we have adopted is proving more challenging to implement than we had anticipated.

So, it seems unlikely that we will be able to get all reports written, checked and published before we close on 8th December. Secondary reports are simpler than Primary and we hope they will be ready for distribution as normal but Primary reports will most likely not be ready until January.

I apologise for this but it should only be a once-off hiccup. We will be back on schedule for Semester 2. Thank you for your understanding.

Peter MacKenzie
Director



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Dates to Remember

November 2017

- **11:** International day
- **14:** World Diabetes Day
- **17:** Staff Work Day - No school for students
- **28:** Board meeting

December 2017

- **1:** Last day for AA Term 2 - Primary & Secondary

WEEKLY PUZZLER

Congratulations to Sarah Tibazarwa, Matthew du Plessis, and Ezra Roscoe (all from 7B) for solving last week's puzzler. A solution written by Sarah can be found [here](#). Well done!

Let's talk about potatoes this week. Now let's assume that potatoes are 99% water. If you take a 100kgs of potatoes and put them in the sun to dry they will become lighter as the water evaporates. How much will they weigh when they are 98% water. Warning: hasty guesses can lead to mathematical accidents.

Please send your solution to pfarrell@wis.edu.na

New puzzles can also be submitted to pfarrell@wis.edu.na.

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





Sports News

Well done to Reuben Jackson-Read.

His Inline Hockey Team got to the final in the NIIHA U8's Champions last weekend.

We also had present and past students from the senior school participating in the event.

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

How we report on student performance

We are in the process of reviewing the way we look at student performance. When we were kids, our performance was merely expressed by a number/symbol. You got an A or 56% or something that was quantifiable.

Today, education is more about acquiring skills and competencies in conjunction with seeing concepts in their bigger contexts. The IB has developed Approaches to Teaching and Learning that encompass several skills young people should learn in order to become independent and confident learners rather than knowledge machines who can produce content (see my article in the first newsletter of this academic year - 11 August 2017).

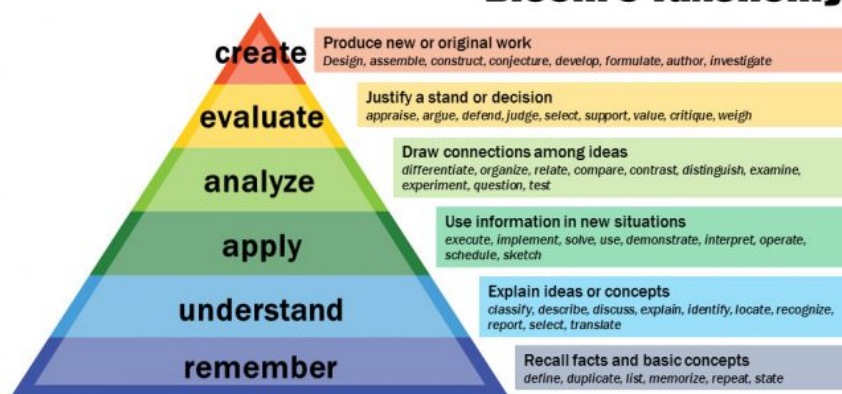
WIS is reviewing the way we teach and assess students. Young people today have to find their way around a much more globalised and competitive world. There are so many more opportunities and challenges than what we experienced ten or twenty years ago.

But, change never happens by itself. It has to be introduced and driven. It normally comes with resistance and sometimes anxiety, because we leave the comfortable sphere of the known to venture into unknown territory. Change, however, is also invigorating. It helps us leave our comfort zones and try out different things.

We will be changing the format of our reports as of December 2017. The focus will be less on quantifiable performance (i.e. grades) and more on skills - cognitive as well as Approaches to Learning skills. How well can our young people think, manage themselves, communicate and do research? How well can they behave in their social environment? Their cognitive skills are assessed in these different areas: knowledge and understanding, application, analysis, evaluation, creativity. This is related to Bloom's Taxonomy:

We want to help our young people to move beyond remembering and understanding and reach stages where they can analyse, evaluate and even create themselves. In order for this to be possible, we need to move away from just "teaching numbers and letters". This is a challenge in every school context, but we are willing and happy to embrace this opportunity and learn to do things differently to be able to guide our students to become lifelong learners in a global context.

Bloom's Taxonomy



"Without change there is no innovation, creativity, or incentive for improvement. Those who initiate change will have a better opportunity to manage the change that is inevitable." (William Pollard)

Read more at: https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/w/williampol163245.html?src=t_change

**Regards,
Maggie Reiff**

Please send in pictures of your child participating in their favourite sports event out of school. Send them to tjackson-read@wis.edu.na and we'll share their success in the Oryx. All team and individual sports welcome!

Visit of Dr. Kedra Ishop

If you are considering to apply for studies in the USA

As mentioned in my contribution last week in the Oryx, we have the honour to welcome Dr. Kedra Ishop - Vice Provost for Enrolment Management at the University of Michigan in the US here at WIS on the **20th and 21st November 2017**.

Dr. Ishop's visit has been arranged in conjunction with the Overseas Schools Project of the State Department. This is what she said about the visit: "I am excited to have been given an opportunity to visit with you, your staff, your students and parents. Mary Russman, the Regional Education Officer from the State Department, recommended your school for a visit. In partnership with the College Board, this Project is designed to enhance college guidance for students, parents, counselors and administrators, effectively connecting overseas guidance professionals and students to current U.S. college admissions and financial aid information."

The following sessions are of interest to our current senior students and/or their parents:

- **Monday, 20 November:**
 - 14:00 - 15:00 - Recommendation writing - this is aimed to inform our teachers who are often writing recommendations for our students when they apply at colleges in the US. The recommendation is a crucial part of the application process in the US and has and plays an important role in the holistic admissions process of American colleges.
 - 15:00 - 16:00 - Policies, Procedures, Financial Aid - this is aimed at school counsellors to advise them in guiding students if they are in need of Financial Aid.
 - **17:00 - 19:00 - The Application Process, Common Application, Financial Aid, SATs and ACTs, FAQs - For parents and students**
- **Tuesday, 21 November**
 - **10:00 - 11:00 Standardised Tests - ACTs and SATs - For interested parents and students**
 - **Please let Ms. Reiff (mreiff@wis.edu.na) know if you would want an individual meeting with Dr. Ishop.**

The sessions will happen in the PLC - either in the Media Room or in the Auditorium. For any questions, please contact Maggie Reiff (mreiff@wis.edu.na).

Year 11 Activity

For the last couple of weeks the year 11s prepared a few activities to do with some primary classes.



The aim of these activities is to foster the pleasure of using the language and to enable students to interact through it.

One group chose to play Twister. This group researched the vocabulary that they needed. When the primary students arrived, they were given the instructions and the game was a lot of fun.

The other group prepared a treasure hunt, from the PLC all the way to the soccer field and back to the classroom. The clues were all written in Portuguese and the students had to decipher them. At the end, they found their treasure! A bag with some chocolates.

All in all the activity was a lot of fun and both groups consolidated some concepts.

Thank you to the Year 11 students for being so enthusiastic and thank you to Mr. Naftal and the year 5 students.

Teresa Araújo and Jeanne Vieira

In The Classroom: IBDP History



In IBDP History, we study the past. Specifically, we study the 19th and 20th Centuries covering topics like Imperial Russia, the Causes of World War II, the rise of Communism and Fascism, the Soviet Union, the development of the Cold War as well as a comparison of the dictatorships of Stalin, Hitler and Mao.

At the moment, for our Higher Level class, we have begun examining the rise of Italian Fascism in the Inter-War years of 1919-1939. Fascism was a political ideology that rose after the First World War which promoted a

strong leader, censorship of the press, extreme nationalism and the use of violence to achieve its aims.

We've had the chance to engage with the material creatively by designing an opposition Italian newspaper that reported on the methods which Mussolini used to become "Il Duce" or the Dictator of Italy. Mussolini was a strict, ruthless politician who used bullying methods and his strong public speaking skills to capture the hearts of the Italian people.

In class, we also watched the Italian film "The Conformist" which tells the story of a Fascist agent on a mission to murder an exiled member of the opposition in Paris. The film was an intricate tale of the clash between socialism and fascism as well as the struggle within an individual for loyalty to himself or the loyalty to the state.

A big part of studying History is about being able to present an analysis - not just to tell a 'story' of what happened in the past. In class, we have begun developing a style and structure which is helping us to organise the facts so we can present an argument which looks at different factors and perspectives.

Overall, History an intriguing class which is expanding our knowledge of various cultures and letting us learn more about our complex past.

Sam, Afua and Marcia - Year 12 History

PTA - Getting Involved



Many thanks to the PTA for their great support during the final day of matches in the Hopsol League last weekend.

All the boys who played received a drink and snack courtesy of our super support group of parents.

Thanks to Sandra, Ajit and Pricilla for your contribution to the day.



WIS INTERNATIONAL DAY!

PROGRAMME FOR THE 11TH NOVEMBER 2017



Dear WIS Community

Finally that time is near! International day is upon us. It has been an exciting and educational process preparing for this special day. Thank you to all parents, students, staff and PTA members who have worked tirelessly to make this day possible. We look forward to seeing you all at the event and it should be a fabulous day.

Below are some details, times and the programme for the day:

- 08:00 - the gates will be open for setup and organisation of the stalls
- There will be one passport per family - do not forget to collect your passport near the Art Thatch as you enter
- Passports should be returned to the Art Thatch by 14:25, once completed, if you wish to enter the prize draw - you could be the lucky winner of a WIS branded water bottle, hat or cap and maybe more!
- 10:00 - International Day is open. The whole community will gather near the PE hall close to the small sports field to hear the opening speech, by Mr. Peter MacKenzie.
- Performances will start at 11:00 and finish around 12:30. Our *Master of Ceremony* is Ms. Junelle Stroh
- 12:30 until 15:00 - Wander the stalls and enjoy the information/food/crafts/activities etc.
- 14:30 - Thank you speech and Passport draw.....as a family you can enter the draw to win a prize
- 15:00 - International Day is finished.

Thank you and look forward to seeing you there. Enjoy your international travels!

PTA and the Events Committee

International Day Performance Programme:

| YEAR GROUP | COUNTRY | PERFORMANCE TIME IN PE HALL | ANNOUNCEMENT: SONG / DANCE / ITEM TITLE / ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR MC |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Mr. Peter Mackenzie (Head of WIS) | Opening Speech | 10:00- 10:20 | Our Head of school, Mr. Peter MacKenzie, will be making the opening speech. WIS community to congregate on the big field near the back of the PE Hall. |
| Students and staff | FLAG PARADE | 10:20 15 MINS | Mr. McKenzie will call out our selected flag bearers. They will enter the large sports field and display their flags of the countries currently represented in our school community. |
| MC Ms Junelle and Year 3 | National Anthem | 10:40 | Year 3 (Namibian representatives will be on stage) all WIS community upstanding for the Namibian National Anthem. |
| Toddlers KG1 KG2 | Samoa | 11:00 | The KG1, 2 and Toddler girls will be performing "We know the Way". Followed by the boys doing their Samoan "Haka", Manu Siva Tau. |
| Year 4 | New Zealand | 11:10 | Year 4 boys will be working with the Early Years Samoan group for their performance. Then stay posted for the he Year 4 boys riveting Haka, followed by the girls doing a traditional Kiwi Poi ball dance called, "Hoki Hoki". |
| Year 1 | Canada | 11:15 | Year 1 will be performing the Canadian National Anthem followed by a few dance moves to, "Canadian Please". Enjoy! |
| Year 2 | India | 11:20 | Year 2's will perform the very popular, foot tapping bollywood song - Kala Chashma, which translates to black (kala) glasses (chashma) |

| | | | |
|----------------|---|--------------|--|
| | | | MC - Bring your dark glasses out to witness a dazzling performance! |
| Year 3 | Namibia | 11:25 | Year 3 will be performing to a song by Elemotho (Namibian artist.) The songs rich Namibian rhythm and beats, will have everyone standing on their feet. |
| | | 11:30 | ANNOUNCEMENTS |
| Year 5 | Cuba | 11:35 | Hola amigos!, Welcome to the Caribbean and some latin flavour. Get your hips ready to dance salsa with Year 5 - Welcome to Cuba! |
| Year 6 | Oman | 11:40 | The Year 6's will dazzle you with their modern take on a traditional dance. |
| Extra | Hip Hop Dance Crew Beat Revolution | 11:45 | The Hip hop crew "Beat Revolution"! An amazing dance interlude! |
| Year 7 | Japan | 11:50 | Now some Year 7 students will delight us with a Japanese style dance. |
| Year 8 | Brazil | 11:55 | Brazilians are here to enthrall you with their performance! |
| Year 9 | Ireland | 12:00 | Welcome to Ireland! Hope you enjoy their performance. |
| Year 10 | Croatia | 12:05 | The Year 10 students will perform a Mix of Traditional Songs from Croatia and Hip Hop songs. |
| Year 11 | Nigeria | 12:10 | Medley of contemporary Nigerian dance with Cameo from Mr Oluwasanmi |
| Year 12 | Denmark | 12:15 | Year 12 is set to give you a little Denmark SURPRISE! |

CAS Project

Futsal (street soccer) Tournament - September 2017

On 18th September four IBDP students began a 2-week long street soccer tournament. The tournament was exclusively for the middle school students and it aimed to stimulate class bonding and teach sportsmanship. This was emphasised because the students were only permitted to enter teams consisting of a single year group and although the team seeding was aimed at equity, this meant that there were some tough games for certain teams, specifically the younger classes. From the perspective of the organisers, the tournament was a success. We saw relationships and sportsmanship develop especially in moments of intensity. The project was inspired by the CAS aspect of the IB Diploma and besides the soccer, it was a fundraiser too. Each team was required to pay an entrance fee which contributed to the winning team's prize as well as the Môreson special needs school in Windhoek. Funding the school was done in accordance with a fellow student, Selina Kinne's fantastic project, the "Môreson Classical Concert". We hope that this project is taken up by future IBDP students to continue helping those in need around Windhoek to eventually, over time, make Windhoek a stronger community. We are in the process of planning an assembly to encourage this.

Sam Jarvis

Planning

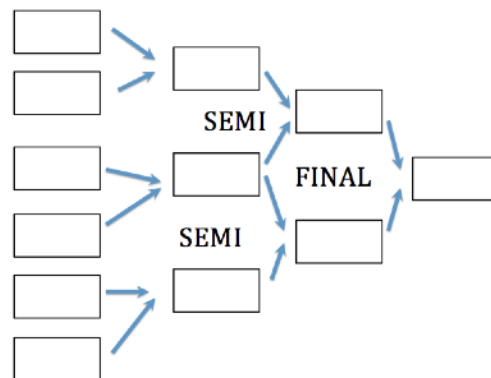
For the planning aspect of the tournament, lots had to be done. First we had to come up with rules, a fee, and venue, create posters and send the information to all home room teachers in question and other small details. The venue chosen was the tennis court with field hockey goals (smaller than normal football goals to make it harder).

The rules were as follows:

- Six players total - five a side including a goalie + one substitute
- Each player pays a fee of 20 = 120 per team
- No outs unless the ball goes out of bounds of the tennis court the team who touched it last does not get the throw in
- When a goal is scored the goalie starts the play from his goal crease
- One continues game 10 minutes

Once all the teams had signed up and paid we explained the rules to them and began with setting up a schedule for the games.

| | Game #1 | | Game #2 | |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 18 th September | Team (A): 7 | Team (B): 0 | Team (C): 1 | Team (D): 6 |
| 19 th September | Team (B): | Team (C): | Team (E): | Team (F): |
| 20 th September | Team (D): | Team (E): | Team (F): | Team (A): |
| 21 st September | Team (A): | Team (C): | Team (D): | Team (B): |
| 22 nd September | Team (C): | Team (F): | Team (B): | Team (E): |
| 25 th September | Team (E): | Team (A): | Team (F): | Team (D): |



Games and refereeing

Warren took the position of time and scorekeeper. Olof ran to fetch the ball if it went over the fence of the tennis court and Sam and myself each reffed a game every break. The tournament took two weeks, the first week was a seeding stage as can be seen above. Every game won was two points; a draw one point each and a loss no points. After the seeding stage the teams were ranked from most points to least points (seeds) the first seed plays last the second plays second last and so on (this creates a second chance for the lower seeds, the higher you seed the better the chances you go further since you play a lower seeded team without).



Results and outcomes.

On Friday 25th September 2017 the final was played. The teams in the final were team A (Ilay, Robin, Alexander, Diogo, Giliano and Ilja) and team F (JM, Aaron, Abraham, Revaldo, Zeppi and Dario). The final score was 7:2 in favour of team A. From this CAS project we managed to raise 1200 N\$ which was donated to help fund a charity concert organised by a classmate.

Future aspirations.

With this tournament comes an opportunity for all future IBDP classes to come to host a tournament like this every year, we hope that the next class will keep this tradition going.

Erik Rubbert

Denim 4 Diabetes

NAMIBIA **DIABETES** 
LIFESTYLE FOUNDATION

FUNDRAISING FOR THE DIABETES FOUNDATION NAMIBIA



Buy a sticker & wear it with your Denim/Jeans to show your support for diabetes in Namibia.

Please contact Heloise at 0812285563 or naroegas@gmail.com

DATE: 17/11/2017

Stickers cost only N\$ 10.00

Get your school or company involved.

Banking Details: Namibia Diabetes Lifestyle Foundation
FNB Account: 62249942914 Branch: 280071