



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Community

My thanks to everyone who came out to the Annual General Meeting. The [AGM PowerPoint](#) is now available and minutes will be shared later in the year. I came away from the evening feeling inspired by parents' comments about what matters most for our school. The meeting's main decisions were as follows:

1. In line with good corporate governance it was decided to rotate auditors to Stier Vente Associates (SVA) for the financial year ended 31 July 2022. Grant Thornton Neuhaus had been our school's auditors since 1995.
2. There were no new elections to the Board of Directors this year. The AGM confirmed the appointment of Beata Stephanus as the staff member represented on the Board of Directors.
3. The audited Annual Financial Statements for the year ending July 2021 were formally adopted.

As we look ahead, our mission and definition of learning will guide us, and the [SOAR Schoolwide Goals](#) and our Diversity Equity and Inclusion plan ([see DEI Appendix 1](#)) will serve as a draft roadmap for how we hope to increasingly make our mission, vision, and definition of learning increasingly a reality for our community of learners. If you have not yet contributed your thoughts on these priorities then there is still time to register your feedback in the [Schoolwide Goals Survey](#).

I am often amazed by all that happens here at WIS in just one week - and many of these things couldn't happen were it not for the help and support of our parent community. I was glad to see so many people attending and actively participating in the excellent Human Rights Exhibit organised by Beata and Welda. The Grade 7s are on a leadership retreat to Na'ankuse. The DP Theory of Knowledge students submitted the first draft of their essay. We celebrated the achievements of our U11 LiquiFruit Soccer League Players. And I am writing this with slightly soggy clothing, having just stepped in from participating in the Early Years Fun Day organised by Hester and the EY parents.



Please remember to sign up for the [Swim Gala](#) happening on Saturday February 5th!

PARENT INFORMATION PORTAL
Click here for more information

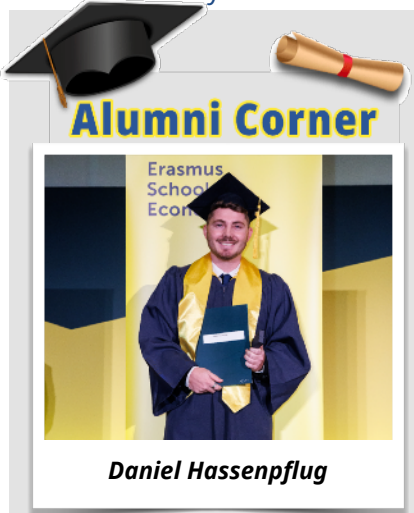
Contents

- From the Director p. 1 - 2
- Primary News p. 2 - 6
- Secondary News p. 7 - 11
- Other News p. 11 - 14

Dates to Remember 2022

- **2 February**
Board Meeting (6-8pm)
- **5 February**
Swimming Gala - [Sign-up](#)
- **7 - 11 March**
WIS Arts Festival & Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences
- **22 March - Namibian Independence Day Assembly**
- **4 - 6 April - IB Evaluation Visit**
- **22 April - International Mother Earth Day**





Daniel Hassenpflug

Daniel graduated from WIS with the IB Diploma in 2017. He is now doing his Master in Behavioural Economics at the Erasmus School of Economics in Rotterdam.

I joined WIS in 2013 with little academic interest. At that point, I wanted to become a mechanical engineer or something similar – I wasn't exactly sure what I wanted. I remember getting around 38% in my first Business Studies test ... not great. Nevertheless, I realised I had a profound interest in the subject and that (almost by itself) helped me excel at it.

In the IB, this interest shifted towards economics as I became fascinated by the extent to which economics was involved in such diverse topics and how it helped my own decision making. Economics studies human behaviour and are involved in almost everything after all. I cannot take all the credit for my enthusiasm, because much like Warren Buffet attributes most of his success to winning the ovarian lottery, I additionally won the "passionate-teacher" lottery with my economics teacher Mr. McLennan. I remember the business opportunity Mr. McLennan offered me in one of the school breaks, which was Inflatable Security Guards because they "essentially do the same thing".

My post-WIS journey started in the fall of 2018, when I got accepted to the Erasmus School of Economics in Rotterdam. I first thought I do some travelling and so I moved to Australia for six months to do just that.

Continues on the next page ...



It's all a part of living out our WIS Definition of Learning:

Learning at WIS is a journey of inquiring, discovering, and experimenting while developing understanding and acquiring new knowledge, skills and concepts.

In the process the learner constructs meaning by making connections and applying these in daily life situations.

The learner realises individual potential through continued reflection and exploration.

The learning environment is multi-sensory, collaborative, enjoyable and encourages international-mindedness.

In 2022 the WIS Fish Eagles will soar together,

**Sincerely,
Ethan Van Drunen**

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Dear WIS Community,

Never a dull week in the Primary at WIS! This week was a busy one and as always I am grateful to our WIS colleagues for making it happen.

Kindness Challenge

Thank you to Ms Gisela for instigating, Ms. Madelein for organising and to our teachers who decided to join The Great Kindness Challenge this week. This challenge asked students to complete as many acts of kindness in one week.



The hardships I endured throughout the first five months of working and the joys of travelling in the last month were incredibly conducive to my personal development. I strongly believe that a gap year before your studies is essential because you won't have the right mindset nor the time after your studies when you concern yourself with entering the labour market. It may not seem so at face value, but in hindsight, it was the most rewarding experience I had.

In September 2018 I started at the Erasmus School of Economics. In my first year, I joined an investment society where students compete against each other in groups by constructing an investment portfolio. The group with the highest return relative to risk would win the annual competition. After doing this for three years, I can safely say that finance within an investment capacity is not my thing. I also undertook some teaching jobs at my university. This entailed teaching weekly material to a small group of students and solving exercises with them, in my case for the courses International Economics and History of Economic Thought. The university relies almost entirely on students to teach these tutorials. I had a great experience doing this because I developed many useful skills.

However, through the questions I received from students and the ones I asked myself when preparing for the lessons, I realised how unrealistic standard economic models are (turns out, we aren't as rational as we think we are). When I partook in the course Behavioural Economics, I immediately became an aficionado, because it was raising and trying to answer the same concerns that were almost universal to all students of standard economics. Fast-forward to today, I finished my bachelor's, and I am currently doing my master's degree in behavioural economics.

If there is one message I would like to express, it is that you should always try new things. A dislike of one's experience does not mean it was a failure or that it was a mistake. I learned the most about myself and my interests from the things that I did not like because much like science, we make progress through mistakes.

End-of-season Sports Celebration

Thank you to Ms Laura, Ms Sinead, the U11 Soccer players and their parents for attending the end-of-season sports celebration. Every player was properly and very eloquently celebrated by a very proud Ms Laura! Well done team, parents and coaches!



How we learn at WIS: Introduction to the PYP Workshop

Thank you to Ms. Avril and Mr. Danai for leading the Introduction to PYP Workshop in which parents were asked to be active learners themselves. We look forward to many more of these opportunities where parents and teachers come together to learn. Please see the list of workshops below and mark your calendars. An RSVP will be sent out closer to the dates.



- Thursday 18th February- Language and Literacy in the PYP
- Thursday 24th February- March IB PYP Exhibition Parent information Workshop
- Thursday Assessment and MAP Growth at WIS Primary (3rd March) preceding the Parent Teacher Conferences (8-10 March, specific times TBC)
- Thursday 24th March - The Early Years and Reggio Emilia, Play-based learning
- Thursday 7th April Maths in the PYP and ways to support at home
- Thursday 21st April- Multilingual Learners: learning in English and supporting the home language
- Friday May 13th - The Exhibition launch and parent evening
- Thursday 2nd June- Transition coffee morning - Grade 5

Human Rights Day

Thank you to Ms. Beata for organising Human Rights Day and involving the entire school on this very important day. I hope you got a chance to see the wonderful display at the Fish Eagle’s Nest. Even our youngest learners displayed artwork on gender equality.



#PUBPDAfrica

Professional learning done informally and in style over a drink or two. WIS teachers joined many other international schools across Africa in this monthly event. Discussion questions are posted on Twitter and take-aways from various pub locations are then tweeted back, resulting in a feed of rich professional conversation. A unique way for international educators to connect and learn from each other.



More PD: Reading and Research at WIS Primary

Thanks to Ms. Kathleen, Mr. Danai and Ms Liz for helping me lead a teacher workshop on teaching reading comprehension and effective ways for students to do research online with learners from different linguistic backgrounds.

And last but not least...

PE Update

We are delighted that Seodhna Keown will be joining the Primary Physical Education Department again at WIS starting Monday, 31st January. She will be working closely with Ms. Audrey and will remain with WIS until the end of June. To kick off the month of February, the primary PE curriculum will be focusing on athletics (also called track & field). Over the course of the next 6 weeks, students will have lots of time to try-out, practice and strengthen their skills in various sprint events, middle distance running & field events. We will have lots of fun and will enhance our athletics skills through the use of age appropriate games, dynamic drills, mobility & agility work, event specific training programs and more.

Please make sure all students come to school from next week (on their respective PE day) in their appropriate sports clothes and running shoes with a hat and plenty of water.

Please note that we will be planning a Primary inter-house athletics day before the March break so keep an eye-out for our announcement about that in coming weeks!

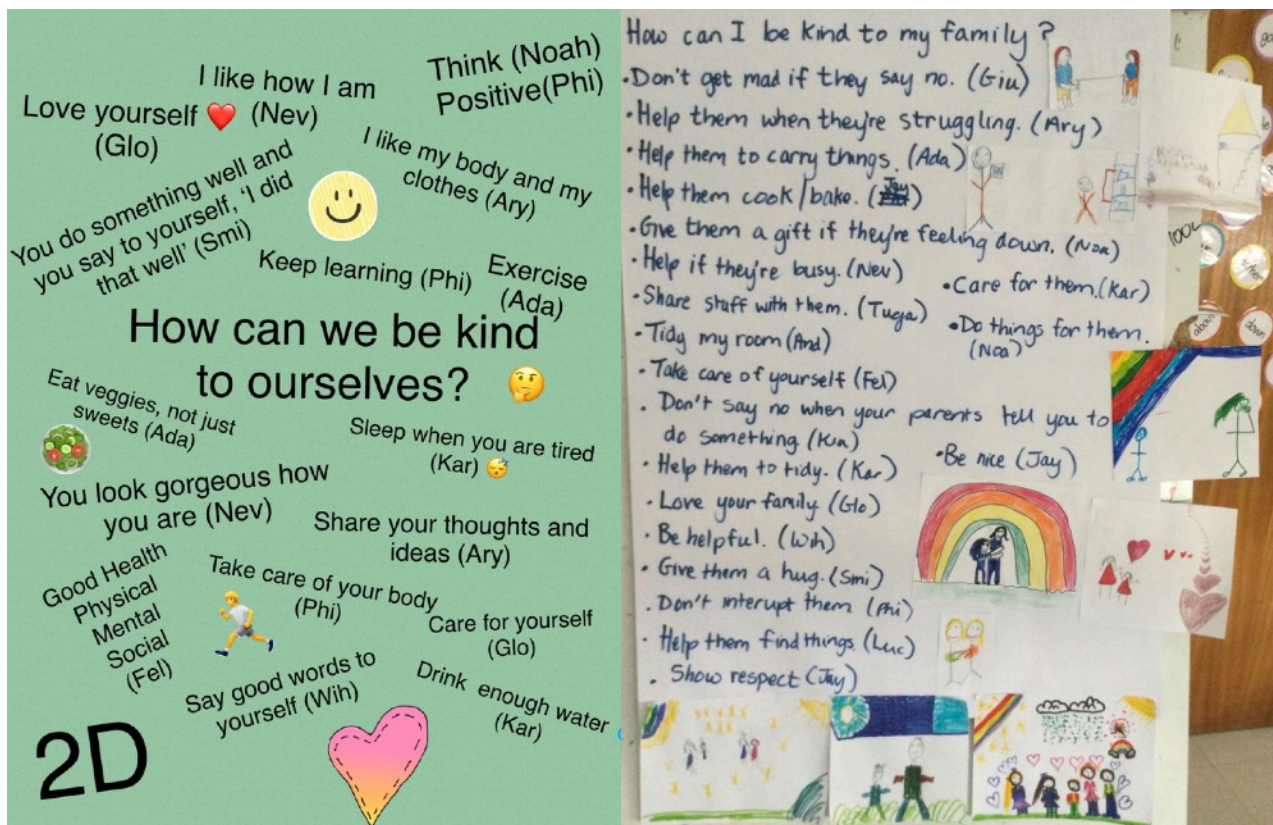
We would also like to take this opportunity to thank coach Virginia for stepping in as PE teacher for the weeks before and after the December break.

That's all from the Primary- enjoy your weekend and see you next week!

**Warm regards,
Marcelle van Leenen**

Grade 2D

We have been thinking about kindness.

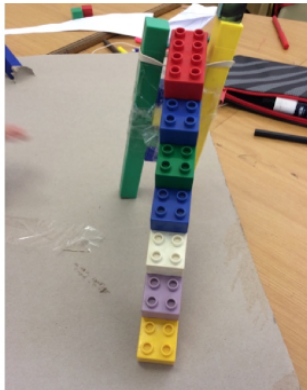


Storytelling and problem solving!

Grade 1 students are inquiring into different ways stories can be told and interpreted. This week students listened to a well known fairy tale Rapunzel. The task: *Rapunzel must escape from the tower before the witch comes!* How can you help her?



We made a slide and a trampoline.



We made a ladder and stairs.



We made a fort with a chain to climb down.



We made a slide and a chain rope.

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Prioritising our well-being is a critical exercise that we should not neglect!

In this fast paced world, facing multiple challenges every day and having to satisfy the demands of a world that is constantly changing, we tend to get caught up in our “daily routines” and we tend to not make time to take care of our own well-being. Being healthy in spirit and in body is not something that happens automatically, it is something we need to take time to do.

I came across the image below about the SPICE Model for well-being, and it made me smile: if we do all these five things, we add the necessary spice to our lives. Consciously making time for these aspects of our lives, will ensure that we can take care of our well-being.



- SOCIAL** This includes fostering meaningful connections with other people
- PHYSICAL** This includes physical activity and ensuring quality sleep
- INGESTIVE** This includes all nutrition that we ingest into our body
- COGNITIVE** This includes our intellectual well-being and the ability to evolve and be lifelong learners
- EMOTIONAL** This includes metacognitive well-being and the ability to be able to self-regulate and self-monitor emotions and feelings

SPICE MODEL FOR WELL-BEING



© 2021 DR. JENNIFER CHANG WATHALL | WWW.JENNIFERCHANGWATHALL.COM

 SPICE model for well being by Dr Jennifer Chang Wathall. Creative Commons attribution 4.0 International License. In short you can copy, distribute and transmit but you must attribute the work and cannot charge or sell. This work is not for commercial purposes.



No matter whether we are a student, a teacher, or in any other profession, a parent, a sibling or another family member, it is worth taking time to connect with each other, looking out for each other, but also taking care of ourselves.



**Regards,
Maggie Reiff**

Grade 7 Articles

Adrian Mole Aged 13 ¾ - Diary Entries - English Gr. 7

Even though keeping a diary may seem old-fashioned it is certainly what many prominent people have done in the past. If you did not know that keeping a diary has many benefits, you might find it interesting to know that it improves mental health by giving you a place to emit your feelings and to process difficult experiences.

The Grade 7 students just finished reading *The Secret Diary Of Adrian Mole, Aged 13 ¾* as part of their novel study. For a Criterion C (producing text) summative assessment, they were required to write the last diary entry to this book.

As their English teacher, I found it astonishing how well the students were able to mimic the author's style in their own writing and how well their ideas tied into the previous diary entries ensuring their diary entries seemed to be part of the book. I hope you enjoy reading their entries as much as I did.

Amanda Fernandez Ruiz - Gr. 7JV

Sunday, 4th April

Birthday of Tony Benn

4. pm Yesterday Pandora came, but she was dead mad. She said that she would forgive me, but that she needed a "break" from our relationship. Is it because I was with Barbara for a short period of time? Honestly, what did I do wrong?

After 1 hour of reflecting as an intellectual would, I'm considering that she might've found out that I sniffed glue and that it could be a possible reason why she needs a so-called "break", but I swear it wasn't like that! It's all Boz, he was the one who encouraged me to sniff the glue!

6. pm Was listening to the radio, I think the part of me that was dead excited for the war is now dead. They announced that more than a hundred people had died even though the war only started yesterday. I, I feel dead awful for the families of those soldiers.

9. pm I forgot that tomorrow I have another English test, this time it's about "comprehending" a text. This was just added to my list of things to worry about, now I have to stress about my relationship with Pandora, my spots, the war, my anorexic self, and now a test. My life is a complete mess, I wish I could be 16 right now so I could marry Pandora, but I don't think she would agree with the statement I just made. I think I'm slowly getting depressed. Pandora my love, forgive me for my dishonesty and come back to me.

Shamiso Mombeshora - Gr. 7JV

Sunday 4th April

8 a.m Told Nigel about the glue-smelling incident and made him swear to secrecy once again. It's already bad enough that he was the cause of my relationship with Pandora ending! My mother and father have been laughing at me all day because of what happened yesterday. They, clearly have forgotten about their breakup because they are paying no attention to mine, I think I am slowly going insane. Pandora came over today and I apologised to her. She said she will consider getting back together with me because she still loves me. I wrote a poem about my love for Pandora and sent it to the BBC once again. They replied almost instantly and told me that it was a very heartfelt piece but said they wouldn't air it. I don't blame them. My mother and father seem to be feeling better but it's probably because they caved in and went back to smoking. I have a scar from shaving too much.

4 p.m Just got off the phone with Pandora! We are officially back together. Word has got out about my glue-smelling incident! Every kid on the block has been laughing about it and pointing every time I walk past. Nigel might as well dig his own grave and hide in there because once I see him again he is dead meat. I asked my mother how to do a karate chop because I wanted to get back at Nigel but she just laughed in my face and told me that I couldn't learn it if my life depended on it. I think I am falling into a state of severe depression because

of everything that has happened in the past few days. I am still upset at Nigel and in great despair because my spots have reappeared and Pandora still hasn't given me an answer yet. Oh, Pandora! What will I ever do without you?

Christine Nwankwo - Gr. 7UD

Sunday, April 4th

Grandma Mole had phoned at around 5 am! She said she wanted us to come over so we could go to church. I had pretended to be sick but it didn't work. I was sure my acting was dead good, but somehow my parents didn't manage to believe it. The service was very interesting. I wasn't really concentrating though. I was preparing what I was going to say if Pandora came over. After church, I went over to Pandora's house for the Pink Brigade. She wasn't there.

Pandora came around this afternoon. She said she wanted a break from me. Pandora said it would take some time for her to forgive me and then she left. I had tears in my eyes as I saw her walk out that door. I stormed up to my room and slammed the door so hard I heard the dog whimper. Just my luck! I decided to take this emotion and make a lovely apology poem for Pandora.

It says:

Oh, Pandora! How I miss your aura. Bright as the sun you always make my day fun. I grieve because I have offended you so. Your dark brown hair is like the beautiful coffee I wish I could drink. Every minute thinking of the way this relationship would end. Without you in my life means my soul has left me to fade into the unknown. If we were not taking a break from each other I'm sure she would have said it was lovely. Truly now I know what it feels like to lose someone you love.

7 pm Mom called me for dinner. We ate while listening to the news about the war.

8 pm Thought about Pandora while singing songs of sadness in the shower.

9 pm Cried because of the heartbreak.

10 pm Went to bed with tears in my eyes.

Grade 11 Theory of Knowledge

In Theory of Knowledge the Grade 11 were asked to consider these two questions:

1. At what point do methods of acquiring knowledge become unethical?
2. To what extent does knowing something carry an ethical responsibility?

They had 30 minutes to discuss these questions in small groups. Their answers can be read in the table below

1. At what point do methods of acquiring knowledge become unethical?

Taking information from others without their consent.

Violating people's privacy for one's own benefit.

When there is an intention of hurting or threatening others.

In certain circumstances some methods of acquiring knowledge become unethical. For example, cheating because in the moral sense cheating gives you an unfair advantage.

When it endangers or harms the lives of others

When it is against the law

When the information will be used for bad intent.

When the outcome is harmful to others even though the intent was not bad.

Methods of acquiring knowledge become unethical when; it involves invasion of privacy; it would cause damage to someone's career, physical person or livelihood; goes too far/causes damage - Jean Seberg.

If the benefit of knowing the knowledge outweighs the disadvantages of the methods used to obtain the knowledge, that method is unethical.

When the pursuit of knowledge leads to the implication of harm towards the environment and the living organisms in it, it becomes unethical → Can methods of acquiring knowledge in an unethical manner be justified?

Methods of acquiring knowledge become unethical when it puts the acquisition of information above oneself and others. To then use that information for personal gain

2. To what extent does knowing something carry an ethical responsibility?

When telling others will benefit society (eg. preventing cruel acts).

When you know a piece of information that has the potential of harming someone else. Protecting the interest of one person may cause harm to someone else.

It carries a high ethical responsibility to the people it concerns - the extent varies depending on the information.

Knowledge of unfair advantages, physical or mental damage must be shared.

If you are provided with the knowledge that someone will take actions that will harm themselves/ others, you must share it.

If you are aware that something is wrong or you feel it is inhumane, you have a moral obligation to speak out or do something about it. If people don't know any better, being well-informed allows you to change that.

Whatever knowledge you obtain in school gives you the moral obligation to use it in a rightful manner.

Inter-house swimming Gala

Dear WIS Community!

We are excited to announce that the Swimming Gala is taking place on 5th February 2022. This event will take place in two parts. Inter House Swimming Competition Gala (9:00-10:30) and Fun Development Gala (11:00-13:00)

At the moment we have only received 37 entries. Unfortunately, we will need more students to participate for the gala to take place. Please make sure you sign up! The Google form will close on Monday and no more entries will be accepted after that. Thank you to those who signed up already.

We are looking forward to an exciting gala!



WIS INTER-HOUSE SWIMMING GALA

DATE: Saturday, 5 February 2022

TIME: 08:30 to 14:00

PLACE: MAC pool
(next to the Olympia Swimming pool)

WHO: All students from EY1 - Grade 12

SIGN-UPS: [Scan the QR code to sign-up!](#)





**VOICES OF WINDHOEK
(FORMERLY COTA YOUTH CHOIR NAMIBIA)**

AUDITIONS 2022

WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE HAVE A FEW VACANCIES IN OUR CHOIR THAT NEEDS TO BE FILLED!

IF YOU THINK YOU'RE THE VOICE WE NEED, PLEASE SEND A MESSAGE TO **081 127 5465 TO BOOK YOUR AUDITION SLOT. CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS FRIDAY, 28 JANUARY.**

DATE: 29 JANUARY 2022

TIME: 10H00 ONWARDS (Your individual time will be communicated once you booked your audition.)

WHAT TO PREPARE FOR YOUR AUDITION? A SHORT SONG, OWN CHOICE, TO PERFORM.

AUDITIONS:
WINDHOEK CHILDREN'S
VOICES
SINGERS BETWEEN 10-15 YEARS

This multicultural choir launched end 2021 and strives to achieve the highest standard in choir singing. The conductor is Mr Fanie Dorfling (Master's Degree in conducting, LTCL in voice.)

DATE: 28 January 2022
between 15h00-17h00.

VENUE: ST GEORGES COLLEGE
PRIMARY SCHOOL HALL

HOW TO BOOK AN AUDITION:
PLEASE WHATSAPP YOUR NAME TO 081 127 5465
YOU WILL THEN RECEIVE AN AUDITION TIME.



GIVE A LIFESAVING GIFT

You Can Become a Lifesaving Member!

For **ONLY N\$1** a Day!

N\$365
membership fee/year

Contact us for more information via email:
membership@spcawindhoek.org.na or call us on 061-238 654