



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Community,

Thank you for all of the excellent turnout and very positive contributions made at last night's Annual General Meeting.

For the AGM Board Elections, we had a truly exceptional slate of 11 candidates, and 129 ballots were cast. The four candidates who received the most votes are as follows:

Rui Afonso
Edmund Nel
Natasha Tjongerero
Michèle Wium

Congratulations to these four parents! They will now join those who are continuing on the Board: John Chadyiwa, Sarah Lange, and Swapna Sharma.

On 1st February, the newly constituted Board will appoint up to four additional members and will elect from their ranks this term's Board Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer.

I thought that the comments, content, and all of the candidates at last night's AGM put WIS's inspiring values and vision for learning at the very center of the discussion. Furthermore, at last night's meeting the financials and audit were accepted and the body voted to appoint Stier Vente Associates as auditors for the financial year ending 31 July 2023.

I am deeply thankful to the 2022-23 Board for their wise counsel and hard work. I hope you will join me in thanking Vengesai Muzenda, Vincent Bridgens, Albin Armstrong, Liezel Swart, Charmaine van der Westhuizen, Edmund Nel, Swapna Sharma, Beata Stephanus, John Chadyiwa, Sarah Lange, Tura Murdock, James Damon, and our Chair Dr Belinda Bruwer for their outstanding efforts overseeing a time of leadership transition and a turn in financial sustainability.

For your reference, the powerpoint used at last night's AGM is linked [here](#). This year's AGM Minutes will be shared in advance of the January 2024 meeting. The WIS Fish Eagles will soar in 2023!

Sincerely,
Ethan Van Drunen

PARENT INFORMATION PORTAL
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Dates to Remember 2023

- **1 February**
IBDP Parent coffee morning
- **1 February**
Board meeting
- **7 February**
Inter-house Competition
- **9 February**
Coffee Morning
- **13 February**
Mock Exams start
- **14 February**
Valentines Day Activities



WIS BOOK BUZZ

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Dear WIS Community,

Last week I wrote about our Learning Principles and how these are further articulated in a set of high-impact research-based teaching practices that we have agreed should be visible in our classrooms. One of these practices is making clear to students what the learning intentions are and what success looks like. Learning intentions make students aware of what they are learning. They provide a road map for the learning process. Providing students with these at the beginning of a unit or topic, and then constantly referring to them throughout, means that students and teachers can evaluate and track progress.

Over the past year as a school we have identified the need to make a clear link between learning intentions (what we want children to know and do) and learning engagements (how students will apply and practice knowledge and skills). Nowhere is this clearer than when you enter the EY3 classroom! This morning, for our Early Years parent workshop, parents were invited to explore lots of hands-on learning engagements and shown how these related directly to achieving learning goals. As Principal this shows me there has been intentional planning, thought about learning and assessment of student progress. It is also wonderful to see the effort that the team put into making this transparent to parents!



Another high-impact strategy I came across this week was:

Worked Examples

- Use of modelled examples that are worked through with the students
- Showing steps that are required to complete a task or solve a problem
- Co-constructing texts with students
- Collectively analysing a model
- Co-constructing success criteria

Grade 2 students were learning how to write instructions (or procedural text) as part of a science unit. The teachers showed them many examples of procedural writing which they then analysed and took apart as a class. After making popcorn, the teachers and students wrote the instructions together. They also created success criteria. Learners were then equipped to write their own procedural text.

Black History Month is an annual observance recently observed in Ireland, and the United Kingdom but with an origination in the United States. It began as a way of remembering important people and events in the history of the African diaspora.

This year our theme is Black History Month: A Namibian Perspective. We will have many events throughout February for you to enjoy and here is our official list of events:

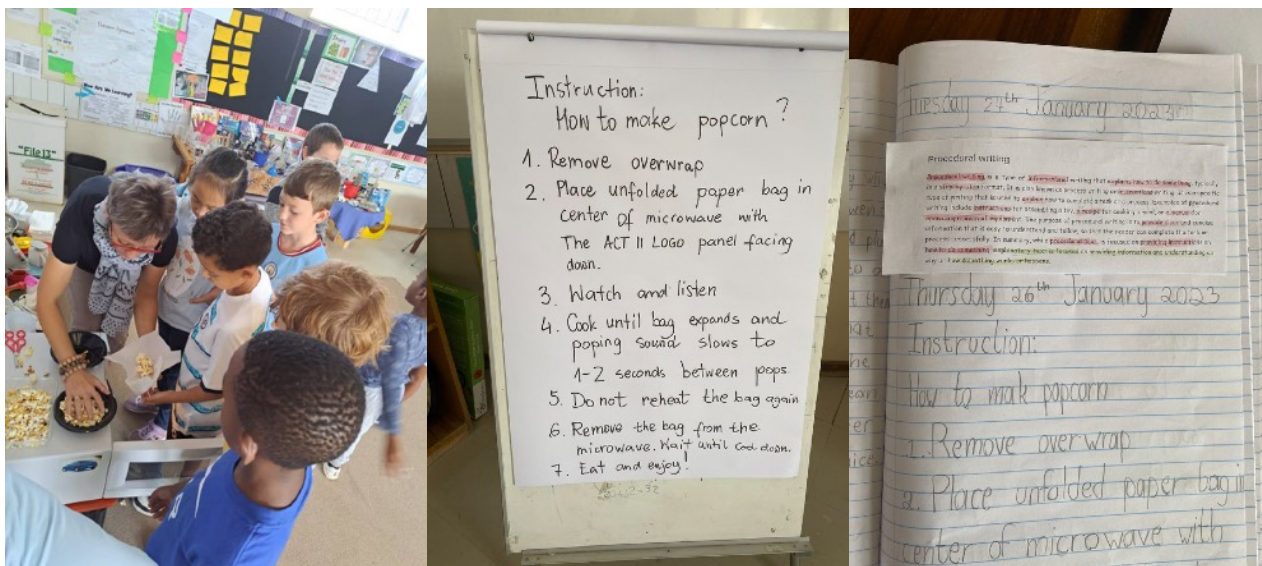
Thursday, February 2, 2023
Movie + Meet the Film Crew | Baxu and the Giants
Auditorium | 1:45 pm to 3:00 pm

Monday, February 6, 2023
COLLIDE! Where poetry & hip-hop meet
Auditorium | 1:45 pm to 3:30 pm

Featuring Mr Glo, Sunny Boy, Phat Boy Lutor, and DJ Cheri

Wednesday, February 15, 2023
Storybook Reading: The People Could Fly African American Folktales
Secondary Library | 1:45 pm to 3:00 pm

February 20-28 2023
Student Exhibition | Leaders, Legends, and Legacies
Secondary Library | Daily during school hours



I hope this has given you a glimpse into #LearningAtWIS!

**Warm regards,
Marcelle van Leenen**

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

A Community of Learners

Yesterday WIS held its Annual General Meeting. The attendance, the conversations and the atmosphere were in the spirit of our WIS community. The thorough preparation of the meeting allowed for transparency and clarity and Mr. John Chadyiwa, Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors and Chair of the Nominations committee, efficiently led the meeting.

The WIS community is a tight knit community and all stakeholders have an invested interest in the growth and development of the school facilities as well as the ongoing advancement of our educational approaches to ensure that we prepare learners for the 21st century.



Contributions from parents were thoughtful and positive suggestions for the further development of the school in light of current priorities in learning. A question from a parent who is an ex-student on plans to introduce design thinking in the curriculum and to have facilities to enhance this newer area of learning, was welcomed by the Board and Educational Director with plans already in place to build a Design Lab and create a space at school where the community can come together to be creative, build and repair and celebrate our community.

One of WIS' pillars is our belief in our community and how we have managed through the years, to overcome challenges and turn these into opportunities for growth. And at this juncture, WIS is a healthy school - cognisant of its areas for development, but also aware and proud of our achievements and successes over the past years.

In this positive climate, it is possible to address concerns and challenges in the spirit of progress and learning and utilise these opportunities to grow and advance.

Thank you to all the members in our community who contribute to this positive and constructive dialog and help further build our WIS community to something that we all appreciate and support.



Look out for Black History Month: A Namibian Perspective - a month of events to celebrate our diversity and how we are all connected - a community of learners.

Regards,
Maggie Reiff

Alumni Corner

Arlana Shikongo - Class of 2013

Wow! 10 years have flown by, and just like that I am reminded of how quickly I am aging.

Careful kids, before you know it you'll be pushing 30, paying mortgages and waging war against an unending recession.

Jokes aside, here is a brief life update:

I have been back in Namibia since 2018, after four years of university in upstate New York and one year working in Chicago.

When I returned home with my BA in Journalism, I started working for The Namibian. I started as a junior reporter and worked my way up to assistant editor of the newspaper's multimedia desk.

In 2021, the newspaper ventured into radio and launched Desert Radio, where I worked as a news anchor and presenter for the past year and a half.

I have now resigned from the newspaper and radio, to explore new horizons on the journalism landscape as a freelancer and take on opportunities for international reporting.

As I write this, it really baffles and amuses me how much I have been able to do since I graduated from WIS; and reminds me of how much that experience propelled me into living my dreams. During IB, I did a job shadowing at The Namibian for two months, and it was that exchange that left a memory of my ambitions in the minds of the people I got to work with at that time. When I came back to Namibia and sent in my resume, they called me immediately to join them briefly as an intern and pick up where I left off.



Who would have thought that that time would be the catalyst into my career a few years later.

Life has been quite the journey, but I think fondly of my time at WIS because it truly punctuates all I have been able to achieve.

From being able to study internationally at an acclaimed journalism school in the United States, to living and working in Chicago and then coming home to work at my dream Namibian publication - every one of those achievements was aided by my studies at WIS.

When we are young, dough-eyed teenagers, it often goes over our heads how important those educational foundations are for the future.

Using Language in Grade 8

The Grade 8 students had to show how they use language in one of their Criterion D summative in English by writing a creative story. They were given choice by deciding the genre and using the given spelling list as part of their stories. The creative juices were definitely flowing during their lesson time. Please enjoy what our students created!

Survivor - By Carolina Berna Gr. 8AJ

Brackatackatack! The plane brushed the ground with great force taking trees and bushes with it as it slid on the dirt slowly decreasing its speed. Once the plane finally reached a complete stop Christina broke the front window to get out of the plane because the plane was on its side. Christina pulled herself out and then jumped to the dirt floor.

She was relieved that she had survived the plane crash, but she did not know where she was. Her stress started to build up as she looked around her, but then she took a step and she felt a burning pain in her right leg. Now she was even more worried because how would she survive without her **dominant** leg working?

She sat down on the rock and regretted every decision she made this year. It was only March and she felt like one year had already passed. For her new year's resolution, she wanted to learn how to fly a plane. Obviously, she did not know how to land one, but she still loved flying. It was the **element** of danger she loved in flying. She looked at the **horizon** and suddenly she had an idea.

In the plane, there had to be a rescue kit or a survival kit. But her leg was hurt and how was she going to climb up to the window? She needed to **reinforce** her leg, but it would take some time.

She examined her leg and thought about how getting her ears **pierced** hurt a hundred times less than this. There was a huge splotch of blood dripping from her leg and she could not quite find where it was coming from. The **sunbeams** were in her face, so she needed to go to a nearby tree to look at it properly. But then she realised that she also needed to clean it or else she could get very sick and even die from blood loss. Too many bad thoughts came rushing into her head, so she decided to go find a shady place to sit.

As she limped to a rock she found that under the rock there was a small stream. Instead of getting some rest, she followed the direction the stream was going to maybe find a source of water. She opened a passage of leaves for herself and there she found a river, or more like a lake.

She tried to run to the lake, but then she felt the pain cursing through her veins, so she slowed to a limpy walk. She reached the lake and took a big handful of water and gulped it down. As she was drinking water she saw her **reflection**. She had a cut on her forehead and a big purple bruise on her cheek. She remembered this song from kindergarten which went like this:

She had a big purple cheek and big black feet
With only eight fingers, so she could not eat

She also had a scar and a big balloon
But she was not lonely because she had you

Christina only remembered the **verse**, but she really hated that song, so she tried to chuck it at the back of her brain.

She cleaned her leg and she saw something **sparkle**. She realised that it was a piece of glass that was jammed in her leg which was now swollen. So she pulled the glass out which caused even more pain and then cleaned her leg again.

She grabbed a leaf from a tree and used it as a bandage to cover her injury. She knew great **insight** into this leaf because she learned about it in biology class. This leaf was a leaf used by doctors in the olden times to heal people.

Tacka tacka tacka tacka. She heard something and then it started getting louder and louder and a helicopter she thought! She remembered that once there was a missing girl and they searched for her with helicopters for three days straight. This means that they were searching for her as well.

She jumped up and started shouting, ignoring the yells of pain from her leg. The helicopter started going down. She knew that it was a miracle that they saw her because she was just a dot in this forest. The helicopter landed not near the lake, but near the plane. She started running in the direction of the plane.

The Missing Girl - Deon Bruwer Gr.8AJ

Once upon a time, there was a small girl called Suzie. She was a shy little girl who loved running around on her own in the lush valleys of the Sharowie flower fields. She would run and run for hours long listening to the sounds of the birds chirping their verses and chasing after the beautiful butterflies. One day it was different. She had her normal sparkle on at school but when she started to dash into the flower fields he ran and ran. She drifted off of her normal course into the dangerous woods of the Scaly Forrest. This forest was known for being a no-entry area because anyone in the past 50 years that entered had never returned. Nevertheless, she kept on running like she was not fazed by this new biome she had entered. She ran until the bright sparkle on her skin had vanished. Suddenly she stopped and fell to the ground as if she had passed out.

**Two days later* (at town)*

Two days passed on the town started taking notice that the little girl had not returned and that she might be gone. Her mother was really scared because the element shard she wore started to become less bright which meant something happened to her daughter's crystal.

Some people speculated that the vast planes of the desert had taken dominance over her and she had lost her sense of navigation back home.

Suzie was still down on the ground and if she did not wake up within the next day all hope would be lost if she was a normal person. Suzie woke up looking pale unlike ever before. She crawled trying to find where the Scaly Forest would end. She looked like passing out but with every beam of sunlight, she regained energy ready to keep on crawling. Finally, she could see a sparkle of the sun setting on the horizon. She finally reached the Sharowie flower fields but she was late because as the sun set she passed out for a second time.

Meanwhile (in town)

Suzie's mother took notice of the Elemental shard flashing with some colour briefly before fading away for a second time. Her mother started to gain insight that she might not be lost but she had got stranded in the Scaly Forest without any evidence, and she had no way to reinforce her claim. Currently, there would be nothing to do but wait and hope that the Shard would sparkle again.

Two weeks later

Weeks passed but there was no glimmer of hope left. Everyone just forgot about her except her mother. It was like a piercing of anguish in her heart. When walking outside to the flower field that her daughter loved but as the elemental crystal grasped the flowers it was like a beam of energy flowing through the flowers. The mother was surprised because the crystal started to sparkle unlike ever before. The mother ran and ran with her light crystal swinging in the air screaming, "SHE IS ALIVE, SUZIE IS ALIVE, WE HAVE TO FIND HER!!!" .Unbeknownst to her, the little girl was not running home but she was flying home like a shooting star with her newfound elemental wings.

In the sky, a small sparkle of energy was visible to all the residents of the small town while the girl was flying home. Suzie arrived home and gave her mother the biggest hug she ever got.

The next day

The mother hosted the largest party ever in the recorded history of this town celebrating the return of Suzie.

Found Poetry

Have you ever tried found poetry? This type of poetry is where you take any text from any book or source and you create a poem using words and phrases from the passage to produce a new meaning. The Gr. 7s explored found poetry and this is what some of the students created:



Car Security Stickers

Please collect your 2022 - 2023
windscreen sticker at the Office!



Out of Nature Country Lodge! *Valentines' Picnic!*

14 February

UNDER THE STARS!

N\$650

per couple



**Booking &
Menu**

reservations@outofnature.com.na

WIS
WINDHOEK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

THE WIS LIBRARY TEAM
AND PARENTS PRESENTS

BLACK

HISTORY

MONTH

A NAMIBIAN PERSPECTIVE

VARIOUS EVENTS TO ENJOY!

02 FEB - 28 FEB

SCAN ME!



**SCAN QR CODE
FOR MORE INFO**



FIVES NAMIBIA ACADEMY

ENROLL NOW!





WELCOME BACK TO CRICKET

MONDAY 9 JANUARY, 2023

@ UNITED CRICKET FIELD

BRING THE ENERGY!

PRACTICE TIMES

- 13:30 > MINI CRICKET
- 14:30 > UNDER 11
- 15:30 > UNDER 13
- 16:30 > SENIORS



KAMIKAZE PRESENTS

ROLLER DISCO

Glow in the dark

**11
FEBRUARY
2023**

DOORS OPEN @18:00 **N\$50** ENTRY FEE **+N\$50** SKATE RENTAL

CASH ONLY - FOOD & DRINKS

WIS FISH EAGLE BONANZA

25 FEBRUARY 2023

TIME : 07:00 TILL LATE

VENUE : MONTE-CHRISTO RIVERSIDE CAMPING

WHAT TO EXPECT: **BIG PRIZES TO BE WON**
VARIOUS STALLS FOR YOU TO SUPPORT
NO FOOD & DRINKS ALLOWED IN PARK
ALL FOOD & DRINKS TO BE BOUGHT FROM STALLS
PROCEEDS IN AID OF FUNDRAISING FOR SCHOOL
PRICE GIVING & DINNER
DINNER @ N\$150 P/PERSON
AUCTION IN AID FOR SCHOOL SPORT

FISH COMPETITION FEE : ADULT - N\$100-00
CHILD - N\$50-00

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES :15 FEB

PARK FEE : @ N\$ 100 P/ADULT
@ N\$ 50 P/CHILD
(UNDER 12)

PARK AVAILABILITIES: CAMPSITES AVAILABLE @ N\$ 200 P/ADULT
@ N\$ 100 P/CHILD

SHOULD YOU MAKE USE OF THE CAMP SITES, PARK FEES ARE FOR FREE

CLOTHING: FISHING SHIRTS & BUFFS
TO BE ORDERED FROM HESTER
DEADLINE FOR ORDERS & PAYMENT : 03 FEB 2023

SUPPORTED BY:



FOR ANY ADDITIONAL ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT HESTER @ 081 462 4572

WINDHOEK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

INTERNATIONAL DAY

SAVE THE DATE!

11 MARCH 2023

14:00 - 18:30



WATCH THIS SPACE
FOR MORE INFO SOON!

Private Bag 16007, Pioneers Park, Windhoek | Schepmann Street, Pioneers Park EXT. 1, Windhoek

| Tel: +264 61 241 783 | Fax: +264 61 243 127 | [E-mail](#) | [Website](#)