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Dates to Remember

June 2017

- **21:** End of term 4 - last day of school - 11:40
- **22 - 23:** Staff Work Days
- **26:** Fish River Trip

July 2017

- **31 July - 4 Aug:** Staff Work Week

August 2017

- **07:** Term 1 Starts

THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

On Holiday

The last day for students will be Wednesday of next week. The last day for teachers is Friday. Thereafter, the School Office will be open (from 8am till 3pm) until and including Friday 30th June. It will then be closed until Monday 17th July. The 2017-2018 school year will start on Monday 7th August.

Let me wish everyone a relaxing and refreshing break. Travel safely.

With best wishes

Peter MacKenzie

Goodbye

This will be the last issue of The Oryx this school year. It means that another year has reached its conclusion and that means that we are having to say goodbye to a number of students and to some of our colleagues.

Teacher Assistants, **Mariana Arase, Magdalene Fillipe, Samolia Kwere** and **Hulda Jennifer Oxurus**, are departing and we wish them every success in their next endeavours.

Melissa Kandido, Yolandé Stander, Chris Pretorius and **Barbara Wilson** are moving to new schools in faraway countries and we look forward to hearing of their new adventures.

And particular mention must be made of **Ruby Duffield-Harding** who is leaving WIS after all of twenty-four years. The school will not be the same place without her and a small but sincere tribute to Ruby appears in the following pages.

We thank each and every one of our departing friends for the contributions they have made to the school and wish them health, success and happiness in the future.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

If you pay monthly, please bear in mind that the final invoice for the 2016-2017 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 school account by **Monday 19th June**. Thank you.

Ruby Duffield-Harding

A WIS gem since 1993

Ruby has taught at WIS with great dedication and loyalty for an amazing 24 years! She will be greatly missed by all who have worked with her and remembered fondly by all who were taught by her. Ruby will be returning to the U.K.



Canned Food Drive

for Nelson Mandela Day

Thank you to everyone who has brought in tinned food in support of the drive we are organising in cooperation with the United Nations Information Office in Windhoek. We are still counting them but we certainly have many hundreds of cans to hand over.

They will be going to the Kids' Soup Kitchen in the Ombilli Community Centre in Katatura and representatives of the Centre and of the UN will be in school on Tuesday to receive the food.

That means, of course, that there is still time to bring in a few more. Every tin makes a difference.



Thank you!

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

It is hard to believe that the end of the academic year is finally upon us. With just three days left in the semester, there are a few reminders:

- The second semester progress reports will be sent home between Tuesday and Friday June 20-23. If you do not receive your child's report, please contact the office on or after Monday, June 26. When reading the report please keep the definition of the descriptors in mind, along with the comments.
- If your child is leaving WIS and you would like to donate the WIS t-shirts and hats for us to use as extras, please bring them to the office.
- The last day of school is Wednesday, June 21. **Dismissal is at 11:40.**

The end of the school year is always filled with mixed emotions - excitement for the holidays and looking ahead to a new school year, while at the same time sadness in saying goodbye to classmates, friends teachers and teaching assistants who are moving away or going to another school here in Namibia. While we are sad to be saying goodbye to our Homeroom Teachers: Barbara Wilson, Ruby Duffield-Harding, and Yolandé Stander; and Teacher Assistants: Jennifer Oxurus, Magdalena Fillipe, Mariana Arase, and Samolia Kwere, we wish them all the best in the new chapters of their lives and thank them for their contributions to WIS. *Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Some stay for a while, leave footprints on our hearts, and we are never, ever the same. (Flavia Weedn)*

Many parents ask how they can help their children at home. The best thing you can do during the holidays to support your child's learning is to encourage reading, whether it be reading to your child, having your child read to you or your child reads independently. The teachers will be posting on the class blogs some additional ideas for things your children can do during the holidays.

Thank you to all of you for your support this academic year. For those of you who are leaving WIS, best wishes to you and your children with transitioning to a new country, returning to your home country, and/or to a new school. If you are travelling during the holidays, may your journeys be safe, smooth and fun. To all who are returning to WIS for the new academic year I look forward to welcoming you back to school on August 7.

Regards,
Beth Smith

FROM OUR PAD

YR 1 AND YR 3 EXHIBITION

Thank you to all the parents who came to our art exhibition last Friday. Many of you had sibling students there too. Our students are so proud of their work, that they extended the exhibition into showing their portfolios too!! Wonderful to have such enthusiasm. We observed many of the students using the appropriate vocabulary too explaining in depth about their art pieces - well done Yr 1 and Yr 3! Happy holidays, see you all in our PAD next year.



Ms Genie and Ms Sigrid

Mini-Soccer

This Semester we introduced Mini-Soccer, run by Coach TK, to Years 1-4 and it proved to be one of the most popular activities of the academic year!

Here are some words from the Coach:

"This is the first year for the Mini-Soccer program at WIS! We did not expect to have the large number of children that signed up which only proves the great love that children have for the beautiful game of soccer.

During the last term we managed to cover areas related to proper technique, physique and coordination development. Other aspects of development which we will look at when the 2017/2018 academic year begins will be related to basic tactics and offence and defensive systems."



Thank you Coach TK for your professionalism and reliability during the year.
Mr Tom and Ms Catherine, Afternoon Activity Coordinators

Seesaw

The Learning Journal

The Primary School students develop and maintain their own learning journal on the Seesaw app. This allows them to take snapshots of their work, record their voice or type in text annotations to add descriptions and reflections. We will send you a link to set you up. This allows you to share your child's journal and portfolio with your child's new school.

[Click here](#) to find out why we document learning in the Primary School or [find out what to do if your child is leaving WIS at the end of this academic year.](#)

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

At the end of the academic year ...

At the end of the academic year:

- We are all exhausted
- We look forward to a well deserved break
- We are relieved that the exams are over
- We reflect on the year that was:
 - Did we get through all of the challenges that we encountered and learn from them?
 - Did we make the best out of every opportunity that came our way?
 - Did we do our part in the environment - in

**Teacher at the beginning
of the school year**



**Teacher at the end
of the school year**



- the family, in school, in society?
- And the questions go on.

If, at the end of the year we can be happy with what we achieved, we should relax and enjoy the break. If we are not happy, maybe we need to think about changes to make for the next year.

WIS wishes you all a happy holiday. May you be able to rest and take time off, may you enjoy special moments with special people. We hope you return rested and in good spirits when school starts again on **7th August 2017**.

Goodbyes are not forever.
Goodbyes are not the end.
They simply mean
I'll miss you
until we meet again.

If you are leaving WIS to move to another school, we wish you all the best and hope that you keep us in your thoughts and that you stay in touch. We hope that you take with you special memories of the time spent at WIS.

Regards,
Maggie Reiff

Children's Camp Namibia

CAS (Creativity, Activity and Service) is a requirement for the IB Diploma. It is an 18 month programme, where a student would do different activities that would relate to either creativity, activity or service. CAS teaches student to balance school work with outside of school activities. A requirement for CAS is a self-initiated project, which is a project that would be planned by a group of student for a duration greater than one month.



Children's camp is an organization that is organized by Ms. Susanne. The camp is designed for underprivileged children to have a fun week end at Lake Oanob, or in our case at Teufelsbach because Oanob was flooded. This camp happens every year.

On the 8th April the six of the year 12 students had their CAS project fundraiser. The money that was raised went to the camp. The fundraiser was a braai which ended up being a success. In total N\$6800 was raised.



On the 12th April to 14th April, six Year 12 student (Alicia, Kesnee, Albe, Anna, Princess and Emilia) went on a children’s camp Namibia trip. It started out as a frightening trip, and not just because there was a mix up in transportation but because we had no idea what we were getting ourselves into or what to expect.

Once we arrived we were split up into seven teams. Each team was a different wild animal. Each team consisted of a team leader which was one of the year 12 students, and 7 children aged between 13 and 15.

Each day was its own challenge. We would have had to get up in the early morning in the cold and having to run



around to get warm. Playing football in the burning hot sun just so that we would be able to receive points for our team. And having to try to motivate our teams when everyone would be tired.

The most memorable parts of the trip was sharing jokes and having a laugh with the children. Even though there were mosquitoes, the sun and it was cold at night, the trip was a worthwhile experience and a memory that the six of us will forever remember.

Emilia Sindila Yr.12

NOTICE - YEARBOOK 2016-2017

We have recently been informed that the Yearbook may be delayed. The body of the book is printed but we are still waiting for the hard covers to be delivered. If we are lucky, the Yearbook will be ready for distribution next week but please accept our apologies if it is not available before the end of the school year. If you are not returning in the new year, please leave a forwarding address at reception.

CAFT tournament

Christopher Aiff was a student at WIS who battled with Osteosarcoma. He unfortunately lost the battle in 2014. Every year a group of Year 12 students take up the responsibility to keep Chris’s memory and love for soccer alive in the school.

Thus after rigorous hours of planning and meetings, the Christopher Aiff Memorial tournament took place on 27th May. A sunny Saturday morning. Teams from all over



Windhoek gathered together for a day of fun and to remember Chris. Among the teams was the WIS Alumni from Christopher's class who join the competition every year as the Homies. They wore Chris's quote "Happiness is not a limited resource" on their team shirts which was something that Chris created and lived by. Other teams present included the Los salvajes, Eljaroe's team, FC Bokomo as well as FC La Celeste. The matches were intense and took place for 15 minutes each, there were two fields on which teams played against each-other.

This year's first place trophy was taken home by La Celeste for the second year in a row with FC Bokomo in second place. The organizers would like to personally thank each and every person that made the tournament possible and such a success. A special thanks goes out to Ms. Aiff who joined us on the day providing the team with oranges that we believed saved the games.

A special thanks also goes out to Ms Edwina Rimmington for her amazing effort and hard work in assisting us, Mr Beukes for assisting with refereeing and equipment on the day, Mr Jackson- Read for his help in planning, Mr TK for assisting in refereeing and the Windhoek International school for the provision of equipment.



All the help from the community, our peers, teachers and supporters was truly heartwarming and truly achieved our goal of uniting people to play a sport that Chris truly loved.

Princess Tjihumino

IBDP GEOGRAPHY FIELDWORK...

...makes up the Internal Assessment component of the IBDP course.

The purpose of the fieldwork is to reinforce geographic concepts and skills acquired in the classroom and to apply them in the real world.



" It provides opportunities for learning through practical work and fosters cooperation, organisation, investigation and presentation. " Geography guide first examination 2011.

Geography encourages students to be more aware of and curious about the world around them, both the human environment and the physical environment. To look around them, to see a stone and realise that it has a story, to see a dry river bed and ask....why is there sand on that side of the channel, and stones on the other? Why is that bit straight....and that bit curved? Why is that side of the channel flat and the opposite side steep?



Which is what happened in the inquiring minds of the Year 12 geography students when the tributary to the Arebbusch River was cleared and smoothed in February in anticipation of river flow during the rainy season. The river flowed about five times between mid-February and mid-April and with each successive flow the river bed changed from smooth and even to rocky and/or sandy.....the Year 12 Geography set out to find out why.....



And so, on the morning of the 28th April, armed with a tape measure, several lengths of rope, tent pegs, red and white plastic tape some clipboards, a metre stick and recording sheets, the intrepid crew entered the riverbed and began to measure. They measured the width of the river channel, the depth of the river channel...the size of the stones in the river channel, the cross-section of the river, the size of the bedload particles across the river bed

In class we had already discussed how many transects we should use, how far apart the transects should be and why. We had discussed whether to use systematic or random sampling, or a mixture of both. How many measurements should we take across the riverbed? How far apart should they be? Would it be better to take samples from the centre of the river bed and then the mid-points between the centre and the banks? Should we measure every 50 cms or so? Which methods and techniques of measurement will give us a better idea of how river processes operate across a river channel?



Now that the data has been recorded and entered onto a spreadsheet, all that the Year 12s have to do is develop a geographical question;investigate it through generating hypotheses; analyse the data using appropriate graphs, diagrams and statistical techniques and come to a reasoned conclusion.....

Edwina Rimmington - IBDP Geography teacher



Please collect your new security car stickers for 2017-2018 at the Office!

Sports



Senior Basketball



U12 take on Gym at Wanderers - It was one win and one loss from Wednesday's round of fixtures. We missed out to Gymnasium A team 3.1 but bounced back with a win against Namatoni Academy



Double Win for U10 field hockey team - The U10 Hockey Boys served up two spectacular wins on Wednesday in the primary hockey league. 11 goals scored 0 conceded. Heroic Effort boys!

PAYING SCHOOL FEES BY CARD

The school has recently acquired the ability to accept payment by credit card or debit card. You may make such payments in Yolanda Visser's office. Please note, however, that we are charged by the bank a 4% surcharge on card transactions and so must pass on this cost to those taking advantage of the new payment method.

COMPETITION!

WIS Around the World

Terms: #Send us a picture wearing a WIS Goodie wherever you are during your holidays.

The best picture will win a WIS library bag.

Entries close on 20 August 2017.

Send pictures to: pta@wis.edu.na

WIS around the World, Name and grade

Sponsored by PTA & Westlane SPAR.

