



# THE ORYX

*The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School*

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Community,

This week a parent approached me with a thought-provoking question: "How does WIS decide what's worth learning and why?" The answer to this question is both simple and complex; what we teach is both timeless and rapidly changing. Listening to the university admissions representatives at week's WIS University Fair, it was clear why they place a high value on the International Baccalaureate Diploma as the gold standard for high school credential: it is [the best and most rigorous preparation for success at university](#).

We are confident that our approach to education is preparing WIS learners to thrive in the mid-21st Century. With the rise of artificial intelligence, chatbots, and a "post-truth" social media landscape, the IB's Director General Olli-Pekka Heinonen has identified [five major challenges facing international schools in 2023](#) and the IB's Head of Assessment Matt Glanville has identified that [IB assessments](#) will begin prioritising and measuring students' abilities to identify biased data, creatively communicate, utilise design thinking to solve problems, collaborate and work in teams, and engage in rigorous scientific inquiry. Rather than mere memorisation, criteria for success in IB examinations measures skills and is concept-based.

Our school first offered IB courses in 1998, and as an inclusive (ie non-selective) school we are very proud of our annual success with a historic pass rate of nearly 95%. Last year's IBDP results had an average of 31 points, which is good enough not only for admissions but also for advanced standing at many universities worldwide. We are now entering that point in the year where our 10th grade students are consolidating their learning in preparation for the IGCSE, and our 12th grade students are preparing for the IB Diploma course reviews. In [this article from the IB](#), a recent IB Diploma graduate shares recommendations for how to prepare for the last mile of these rigorous two-year courses.

At the recent [MYP Parent Information Evening](#), our MYP Coordinator Mr Adrian von Wrede-Jervis shared why the five Principles of an MYP education lead to success in the IB Diploma.

1. Teaching and learning is best in **context**
2. Conceptual **understanding** develops sophisticated thinkers
3. **Skills** are essential for becoming a lifelong learner
4. **Service** as Action develops the learner
5. **Learning to inquire** is a powerful tool in **self directed learning**.

**PARENT INFORMATION PORTAL**  
Click here for more information

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## Dates to Remember 2023

- **7 - 10 April**  
Easter Weekend (School closed)
- **7 April**  
World Health Day
- **17 April**  
Egyptian spring festival - sham el Nessim
- **22 - 24 April**  
Eid Al Fitr
- **22 April**  
Earth Day
- **24 - 28 April**  
Library Week



We are in the process of transforming our classrooms, curriculum, and approaches to teaching and learning to align with these principles. If you get the opportunity, I invite you to check out our new Middle School Science Lab. The new lab is handicapped accessible, and all stations have water, gas, stools, modern electrical plugs, and safety features specified for CLEAPPS international standards for school science labs. Our middle school students require these sorts of facilities in order to engage in “hands-on, minds-on” learning where they complete tasks which require scientific inquiry and analysis. Our continued emphasis on MYP Drama and Visual Arts similarly reflects the importance of developing the skills to be creative and compelling communicators.



We are now re-envisioning how our Primary and Secondary Libraries can best support our IB Continuum of Learning. This past week, our Libraries Team of Ms. Jeannette Washington, Ms .Merjam Naftali, and Ms. Madelein Ockhuizen attended the “Centering Africa” AISA Librarians Conference at the American International School of Mozambique. We have some good ideas. If you are an interior designer, or are someone who would like to help to contribute to the development of our new approach to libraries, then please reach out to myself or Jeannette!

I hope that you have a wonderful Easter break!

**Warm regards,  
Ethan Van Drunen**

## PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Dear WIS Community,

We continue to work hard on improving teaching and learning and in the Primary School at WIS and we have been especially focused on improving the quality of our literacy and maths programmes. Last year we appointed Elsa Swanepoel as Maths Coordinator and I am delighted to share with you the [maths update](#) Elsa has created which outlines all the developments that have happened since she started. Please take some time to read this.

With Elsa leaving to pursue her career internationally, we are excited to share that [Beata Stephanus](#) will continue in this very important role next school year!

**WINDHOEK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL**  
**Primary Mathematics Update Report**  
**APRIL 2023 UPDATE**

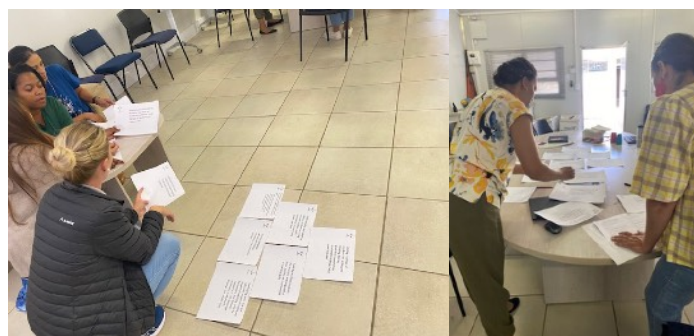
In recent years, there has been an increasing emphasis on the importance of mathematics education in primary schools. Windhoek International School has responded to this by appointing a Mathematics Coordinator to oversee the teaching and learning of mathematics within the school. As the Mathematics Coordinator for the 2022-2023 Academic Year, I am pleased to present this Primary Mathematics Update Report. Over the past year, Windhoek International School has taken significant steps to strengthen the foundations of mathematics education.

To further encourage a love for Mathematics, we have introduced various Math Clubs as enrichment activities across all grade levels and encouraged students to participate in an online Math Olympiad. Today we celebrate our community's commitment to improving Mathematics across the Primary School.

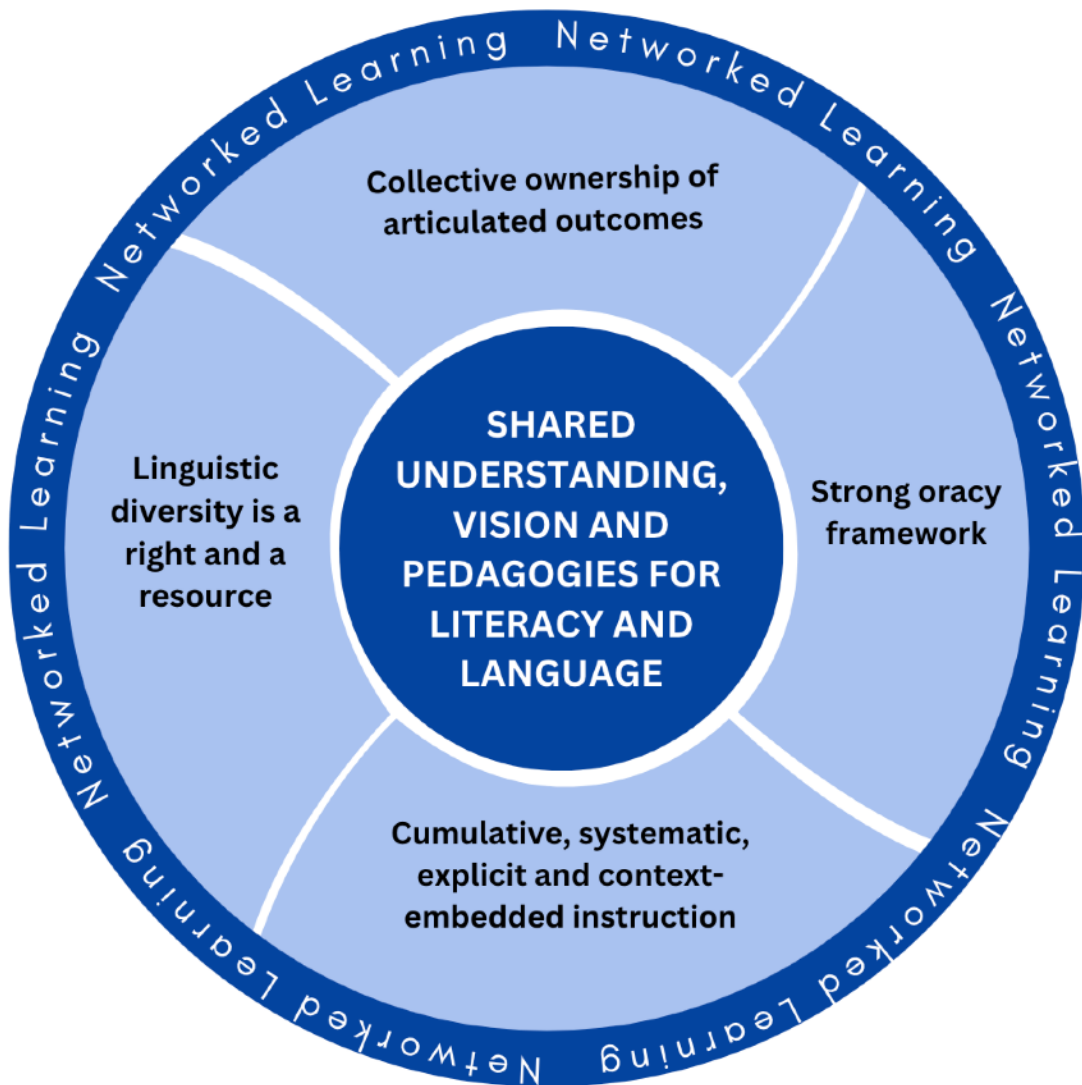
Sincerely,  
*Elsa Swanepoel*  
Mathematics Coordinator

These changes have been positively received by students, parents, and teachers, who have noted throughout the school year that there has been a positive movement in Mathematics across the Primary School.

To continue building a strong foundation for Mathematics at WIS, we have aimed to ensure that all stakeholders, including students, teachers, and parents, know what, when, why, and how Mathematics is taught throughout the Primary Years.



We also continue to solidify our literacy programme, and this morning teachers engaged in professional development about the elements of an effective literacy programme in an international school. Using this framework, the job of Ms Jenna, our newly appointed Literacy and PYP coordinator, will be to guide teachers in implementing systematic, explicit and context-embedded literacy instruction.



*Key Elements of an Effective Literacy Programme in International Schools*

In next week's Oryx, I will elaborate on the key elements of an effective literacy programme as shown in the model above, so please stay tuned!

I hope that you and your loved ones have a restful and enjoyable Easter break.

**Warm regards,  
Marcelle van Leenen**

## Field trip to Naankuse

Grade 2 recently visited the Naankuse animal sanctuary and had an amazing time learning about animals and their habitats. During their visit, the students had the opportunity to see a variety of animals up close, including leopards, warthogs and monkeys. They also learned about the different habitats these animals live in and how they adapt to their surroundings.



Our hands-on learning experiences allowed students to explore new concepts in real-world settings, which provided a deeper understanding of many related concepts such as environment, adaptation, and conservation and broadened the students' perspectives on the world around them.

The field trip would not have been possible without the generous support of **Lloyd Januarie -Shuttles & Tours**, who provided safe and reliable transportation for the students.



Thanks to their assistance, the students were able to travel to the sanctuary in comfort and style, ensuring that they arrived safely and ready for a day of learning and fun.

Field trips to places where students can see animals can be a valuable learning experience. Not only do they provide an opportunity to learn about different species, but they also help students understand the importance of conservation and the role humans play in protecting animal habitats. In addition, these types of field trips can help build empathy and understanding of the natural world, fostering a sense of partnership and responsibility.

Overall, the Naankuse animal sanctuary field trip was a great success, and the Grade 2 students had a wonderful time learning and exploring the animal kingdom. The support of Lloyd Januarie was greatly appreciated, and we look forward to partnering with them again in the future.

#### Grade 2 Team



## SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

### Parenting and Educating - what is the difference?

Parenting happens at home and education mainly happens in a formal educational setting. So there does not seem to be a real connection.

*Education is explicit. Parenting is implicit.*

*Education is teaching hard skills. Parenting is teaching soft skills.*

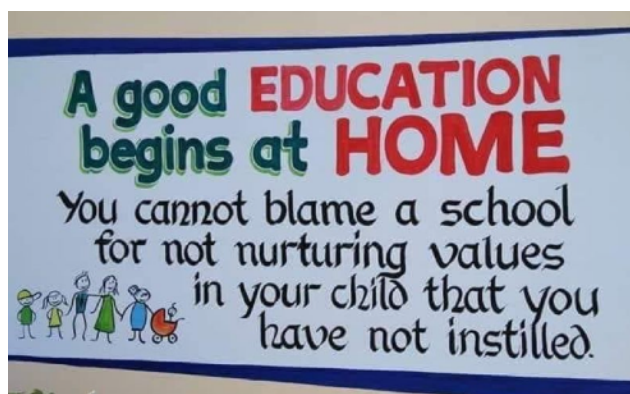
*Education is teaching knowledge. Parenting is teaching application. (What is the difference between Education and Parenting; Yuying Chen-Wynn)*

I don't know if I agree with these statements, but that is certainly what education used to be. These days, the lines between teaching hard and soft skills and between teaching knowledge and application are not so clearly defined anymore. Schools often are tasked with teaching hard skills as well as soft skills and preparing young people to thrive in an uncertain, ever changing world. For a young person to be able to thrive, they need to be confident, self-motivated and self-driven. More and more, workplaces look to employ young people who have skills that are more than just knowledge.

It is, however, still critical that the fundamentals of values, respect and integrity are nurtured and supported at home. When children have these as fundamental values they are more successful in learning in school and their education in school can be meaningful and progress them into reaching their goals. If, however, the home situation does not instil these values, the school does not have much opportunity to educate. Learning without the necessary foundation is not solid and bound to lack the pillars of strength of character, compassion and integrity.

### There has to be a partnership between HOME and SCHOOL

Resilience, persistence, self-reliance, self-care, and emotion management are skills that sets people apart. If we learn these at home and they get reinforced in school, a successful career, and a life that is led with compassion for our environment and community will be the result. We all want to raise and educate our children to be able to have an impact and make a difference in their communities and in the world.



To be able to achieve this, we need to work in partnership with each other.

At the University Fair WIS hosted this past week, the response from the university representatives was overwhelmingly positive and all of the reps commented on their appreciation that they had parents attending the event as well. They further all mentioned that they were impressed with the depth of questions that they received and how our children had already explored their future plans. When the school and home emphasise similar aspects of character and personality, then the result will be well rounded, balanced and caring, reflective and inquiring young people who care for their environment, their community and for their own wellbeing.

I want to use this opportunity to express WIS' appreciation for the university visit that we were able to host. This was a first for WIS, but hopefully not the last time we are able to welcome university representatives from across the world in our school.



Regards,  
Maggie Reiff



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# LIBRARY Week

**MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2023**  
Game On! | 1:40pm to 3:00pm  
Place: Secondary Library  
**ALL AGES ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2023**  
Book to Movie | 1:50pm to 3:30pm  
Place: PLC (Auditorium)  
**ALL AGES ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023**  
Book Fair | 11:00am to 2:00pm  
**ALL AGES ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2023**  
Science of Reading Workshop | 10:30am to 11:30am  
Place: Secondary Library  
**ALL PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND CAREGIVERS ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2023**  
Books & Characters Day | ALL DAY  
**ALL AGES ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE**



# FOR SALE

## MAC MINI (2015)

19" LCD Monitor (While Stock lasts) or 14" LCD Monitor, USB Keyboard & Mouse included.

**N\$ 4500**



**Collection only from end of June 2023!**  
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### MAC MINI (2015) - SPECS

#### PROCESSOR

- 1.4GHz
- 1.4GHz dual-core Intel Core i5 (Turbo Boost up to 2.7GHz) with 3MB on-chip shared L3 cache

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#### MEMORY

- 4GB of 1600MHz LPDDR3 memory
- Configurable to 8GB or 16GB

#### GRAPHICS

- Intel HD Graphics 5000

#### COMMUNICATIONS

- Wi-Fi
- 802.11ac Wi-Fi wireless networking; IEEE 802.11a/g/b/n compatible
- Bluetooth
- Bluetooth 4.0 wireless technology
- Ethernet
- 10/100/1000BASE-T Ethernet (RJ-45 connector)

Contact Heskiel at [hedward@wis.edu.na](mailto:hedward@wis.edu.na)

# SPCA WINDHOEK



## AN SPCA WINDHOEK FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY, 13 MAY 2023 | 09:00 - 13:00  
145 ROBERT MUGABE AVENUE WINDHOEK

### DONATE YOUR STUFF!

Do you have "stuff" to get rid of? We will gladly take it off your hands.

**DROP OFF DEADLINE: THURSDAY, 11 MAY 2023 @ 17:00!**

@ 145 Robert Mugabe Avenue, Windhoek, Namibia **OR**  
Call us on 061 238 654 to make other arrangements!

Looking for items for your home? Why not REUSE/ REDUCE? BUY SECONDHAND!

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