

PARENT INFORMATION PORTAL Click here for more information

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Dates to Remember 2022

- March 2 from 3 6pm
 Parent-Teacher Conferences
- March 7 from 7:30 2:00pm (no classes) Parent-Teacher Conferences
- **7 11 March**WIS Arts Festival
- 11 March End of Term 3
- 22 March Namibian
 Independence Day Assembly
- 4 6 April IB Evaluation Visit



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Community,

At the February meeting, the Board of Directors passed our <u>SOAR 2022 School Improvement Goals</u> as a way to prioritise actions for school improvement. I am delighted to say that we are already making some good progress.

A group of Fish Eagles is called a Soar, and our goals for 2022 will broaden our school's horizons in every direction. The S-O-A-R acronym is a helpful way to organise our efforts because education at WIS is student-centred, open-minded, action-oriented, and reflective and responsible.

Education at WIS is Student-Centred

- Professional Growth & Appraisal is now happening on an annual basis. Teachers
 engage in Learning Walks to visit one another's classes, reflect on student
 achievement data, audit their curriculum development and professional
 responsibilities, and set professional goals for themselves. We will next focus on
 implementing a professional growth and appraisal policy for Educational
 Assistants (EAs) and Administrative Staff and School Leadership.
- Playgrounds are being improved in all areas of the school. The parent class reps are busily implementing #ProjectPlayground and I'm especially excited to see what the Grades 1, 2, and 4 playground areas look like after tomorrow's work day!
- The <u>WIS Plant-a-Tree Fundraiser</u> initiative will make our campus greener for decades to come! Please click the link above if you wish to sponsor a tree and create a personalised bronze plaque for posterity. The plaque can either include a short quote or an engraving which states "This tree is donated by".
- In terms of security, 2e are presently working with our school architect to formulate an issue for the tender of an integrated fence and improved video surveillance system around campus.

Education at WIS is Open-Minded

- If you have not yet done so, please consider reading our <u>Identity</u>, <u>Belonging</u>, <u>and Equity Policy</u>. We feel that it captures the policies and actions that are necessary in order for every member of our community to be included, challenged, and experience success.
- A Calendar of Events celebrates our community's diversity. You will be receiving an email about the plans for our upcoming events such as Arts Festival and International Day. Please read it carefully and consider how you'd like to be involved.

Education at WIS is Action-Oriented

- After School Activities & The Arts:
- We will once again begin basketball practices for the following teams Monday through Thursday from 3:00pm to 4:30pm:
- U16 girls team, U14 girls team, U19 boys team, U16 boys team
- U11 boys and girls will continue practicing on Mondays from 1:45pm to 2:45pm.
- There are lots of great things happening with Athletics, Netball, Soccer/Football, Volleyball, and Swimming. We will hold a GoogleMeets community meeting about the future of WIS Sports.

Sports at WIS

Wednesday, February 23 · 6:00 - 7:00pm

Google Meet Video call link: https://meet.google.com/ugb-wdzy-cet

Or dial: (US) +1 443-671-2803 PIN: 525 129 386#

- The WIS Solar Power Project will be reviewed by the board at the March 9 meeting, and will be tendered shortly thereafter.
- The EdCamp initiative is now well underway. Made possible by a grant from Australia DFAT, on May 6 and 7 we will be hosting 70 teachers representing 6 founding schools from across the country to launch a student-entered teaching network. We were honoured when the Namibia First Lady's Office issued the following statement about this exciting initiative:

"My eagerness to participate in this initiative is due to my conviction that partnerships between private and public schools are critical. You can imagine my delight to see the Ed Camp Cluster School Initiative being driven with the energy it deserves." - Monica Geingos

Last night, the school hosted a webinar about the IB Middle Years Programme. The slides from this webinar are <u>linked here</u>. There was no recording, but the speaker notes have been added to each slide. I encourage you to familiarise yourself with the MYP and to raise any questions or thoughts which may help the school consider whether to adopt the MYP as our curriculum for Grades 6-10.

MYP eAssessment Frequently Asked Questions

IB MYP Course Results and MYP Certificate Information Sheet

School policies and a calendar of upcoming events are shared on the <u>Parent Information Portal</u>. Please note that our Parent-Teacher-Student 3-Way Conferences will take place on the afternoon of March 2 and all day on March 7. The signup links for these conferences will be released on Wednesday February 23. There will be no regular classes on March 7.



Sincerely, Ethan Van Drunen



THE PIP IS HERE!

Have you seen our **Parent Information Portal** and all it has to offer? <u>Click here</u> to explore!

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Dear WIS Community,

Language and Literacy at WIS Parent Workshop

Thank you for attending the Language and Literacy workshop on Thursday. Here is a short summary and <u>a link</u> to the slides for those who couldn't make it.

- The way we approach the teaching of language in international schools is guided by the understanding that most if not all students are learning on a bilingual continuum and that we use all our languages for learning. At WIS we have students with many different cultural and linguistic backgrounds. As educators we must value the home language as it is tied to identity and culture, which are both important for learning. The workshop outlined some ways in which we address this in the classroom, such as Language Profiles, providing culturally accessible resources and Translanguaging.
- The way we teach literacy (reading, writing, viewing, speaking and listening) is through an integrated approach. Within the units of inquiry, students are given opportunities to look at how texts are used in the real world, break them down, develop success criteria and opportunities to create texts for authentic audiences.
- Literacy is also taught separately. For example we have dedicated time in which we focus on reading, spelling, punctuation and grammar.
- We use developmental continuums to look at literacy development. This allows us to see where a student is and plan for further literacy instruction.

Upcoming Three-Way Conferences

Please remember to sign up for the three- way conferences held on 3rd March 3-6pm and on the 7th March from 7.30 am-2pm. The three-way conferences are an opportunity for you and your child to speak about progress and goals with your child's teacher. On Wednesday 3rd of March at 7.30, there will be a parent information session on Assessment and MAP in the Primary School. I strongly encourage you to attend, so that you have the information you need before the conferences.

Save the date: PYP Exhibition Workshop Thursday 24th February

I invite all grade 4 and 5 parents to attend the PYP Exhibition parent workshop next Thursday at 8 am in the staffroom. We will explain what the Exhibition is, some ways you can support and prepare your child and what it will look like this year for our Grade Five students.

Grade 4 and 5 Parent Meeting Thursday 24th February

Following this, at 8.45, there will be an opportunity for parents to talk about media use, how it may affect relationships and behaviour in the classroom and to exchange ideas on how to support children in the age of technology.

GRADE 5 PYP PARENT EXHIBITION WORKSHOP





Dear Grade 5 Parents,

Join the PYP Exhibition Workshop, to find out what this year's PYP Exhibition is all about!

Date: Thursday, 24th February | Time: 08:00 | Place: WIS staff room

Digital Safety- Roblox

It has come to our attention that some children are playing the game Roblox and meeting on a chat forum called Discord, for which the entry age is 13. Information about this game can be found here. Please monitor your child's use of Apps on their devices and stay informed on the latest trends in media by subscribing to the Common Sense Media Newsletter. If you have concerns about a particular App or game, we would appreciate you sharing with us as well. In the fast-paced world of technology, let's keep each other informed and help students make the right choices.

WIS NEWS

I end this week's Oryx with happy news of how children use technology in positive ways. Please enjoy this week's WIS News!

Warm regards, Marcelle van Leenen

The transdisciplinary nature of jelly!

As part of our unit, "How the world works", Grade 2 are exploring different states of matter. We had a great lesson identifying solid (jelly powder), liquid (hot and cold water) and gas (steam from the kettle). We noted how after putting our jelly in the fridge, the liquid changed into a delicious solid!

But that's not all, there were many other lessons to be learned along the way.

- Reading and following instructions
- Team work
- Measuring
- Sharing (division)
- Procedural (step by step) writing
- Internationalism! Jelly (U.K.) Jello (U.S.A)
- Arrays

The last one was an unexpected bonus. One of the students pointed out, "Look, we've made an array of jelly five rows of three jellies." Always a great moment when students make their own connections.



Jan le Roux and Beata Stephanus

PAGE to STAGE

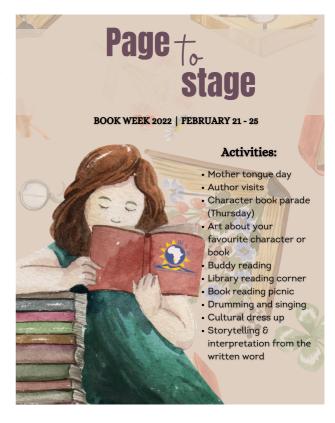
WIS BOOK WEEK: 21 - 25 February 2022

- Peer readings across WIS
- Teacher readings around WIS
- Mother-Tongue readings across WIS.
 Volunteers Welcome! Please fill in the form and we will be in touch ASAP with confirmation WIS Mother-Tongue Day sign up 2022
- Reading spot / corner / nook beneath thatch
- Book character parade
- Writing books as a class
- Publishing books with technology
- Local & International speakers during classes
- "Theatre Sport" introduction & performance with artist, teachers and students
- Book Character Parade THURSDAY 24th February 2022 starting @ o7:30 on the small field

PLEASE LOOK OUT FOR DETAILS ABOUT THE WEEK on student's Google Classroom / Seesaw / iSams

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or if you would like to volunteer or take part in anything.

Book Week Committee (via jstroh@wis.edu.na)



SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Conversations about progress

Progress Reports and Three Way Conferences

We are grateful to be able to have in person conferences after our last conferences had to be cancelled in the past year. Our conferences this term will be on:

Wednesday - 2 March 2022 - 15:00 - 18:00 Monday - 7 March 2022 - 07:30 - 14:00

This term's Progress Reports will be sent to students and parents via Google Classroom by March 2nd so that they can also inform the progress of the student in their different subjects.

To make these conferences meaningful, it is essential that students, with their parents and teachers, prepare for these. The purpose of the conferences is to reflect on progress so far and have a conversation about the actions to be taken by all involved to ensure a successful remainder of the year's learning.

Suggested actions that will be helpful to prepare for the conferences:

- Have conversations at home about the progress in the different subjects looking at the communication from Google Classroom in the past semester.
- Students reflecting on their progress and thinking about areas for improvement and ways to work towards reaching their personal goals in their different subjects.
- Students approaching teachers for some feedback or advice if that is helpful to the conversation during the conferences.

Essentially, it is important that students take an active role in their learning and this is an excellent opportunity to do so. The more actively engaged students are, the better the learning experience will become and the easier it will be to support and guide their learning in their different classes as well as at home.

University information evening for students and parents: 23 February 2022@17:30 in the WIS Auditorium



<u>UCAS</u> <u>Common Application</u> & <u>College Board</u> <u>Studielink</u> & <u>Study in Holland</u> <u>BridgeU</u>

Upcoming events - virtual and in person: Question and Answers - <u>Slido</u> (#428862) - please post your questions and anything you'd like to have discussed at the meeting on Slido ahead of time so that I can adequately prepare and if necessary get the information required to answer your questions.

Regards, Maggie Reiff

It's Alive!

Grade 6 Scientists are Growing Mould on Bread

During our 'It's Alive!' biological sciences unit, Grade 6 students have discovered what it means for an organism to be alive. As well, they have determined the basic needs of all living creatures, in terms of an individual within a species. These needs are food, water, and a hospitable environment.



They have begun to look at taxonomy and classification too; from the least specific-most general 'Domain Level', down to the most specific 'Species Level' and have learned how organisms are classified by common traits of characteristics, including some of the most amazing native Namibian organisms. They have also learned how and why we express the scientific names of organisms like *Homo sapiens*, humans, and *Loxodonta africana*, the African elephant.

Students have investigated environmental organisation. Seeking to better understand what it means for a species to be a species while conceptualising an organism's place as an individual within a population of that given species. While interconnected with other species' populations, they form a community, whether their 'niche' is that of predator, prey, scavenger, parasite, or competition. All of these are the 'biotic factors' that interact with their surroundings and environment or ecosystem, which collectively are known as the 'abiotic factors' which affect life on our planet.

To better understand how these factors can affect an ecosystem, the students set out to measure the growth of mould (multicellular organisms from the Fungi Kingdom) on a slice of bread placed in a - sealed for safety - Glad Zip Seal sandwich bag (the ecosystem). The bread will serve as the 'food' for this investigation as Criteria B and C Assessment.

Groups selected one Independent Variable (IV) from a list of 'biotic factors' including the amount of water given (no water, one spray of water, two sprays, etc.), the type of water given (plain tap water, saltwater, sugar water,

milky-water, coffee-water, chlorinated pool water, etc.), or amount of heat/light given (sunny/warm window, dark/warm class storeroom, or cold/dark science refrigerator) or even looking at the effects of adding sand from outside the classroom to the bread samples; all the while identifying and controlling several other key variables that may affect the mould growth.

Over a span of two school weeks, students made ten observations of their three samples for each change to the IV they have identified. They measured mould growth in terms of area coverage on the surface of the bread and measured it in square centimetres based on grids that had been drawn on the bags.

Overall, students noted that mould grows best in a warm, moist environment, regardless of sunlight. And that different moulds grew in both the light or dark conditions. Moreover, students found that more mould grew in the warm/dark conditions than the others. We also clearly noted that the samples in which a small amount of sand was added to the bread, whether dry or wet, caused sooner and more abundant mould growth, proving to us that mould spores are all around us in our environment.

We hope everyone walking past Room 71 for the last couple of weeks enjoyed seeing our investigation on display. It was an eye-opening and disgusting experience watching our food decay in front of our eyes.

Mr. Jeff Bonazzo

The velvet salt bag

Makda Shepard Gr. 8JM

It was a chilled morning as the detective walked down the street. In the background were the workers and machines attempting to clean the roads after the heavy snow of the previous night. There were the sounds of children laughing and playing, but those did not affect his concentration. It was 3 days until Christmas. Okay, I know what you are thinking. Really all of that for Christmas! But no, This detective was on a mission to find the ever-elusive skull gang. He was hired by the FBI after they got intel that they were in the midst of creating a monster. Under their control, they could destroy the universe. Here was the problem, no one knows anything about them, and anyone who has even gotten close disappeared within a day. And in their very last spot is a velvet bag filled with salt. The FBI was stumped and therefore hired Mr. Jones.

3 months ago the FBI hired me to find the skull gang. I was allowed to look at the first crime scene. It was clean, all that was left behind was a fancy velvet bag filled to the brim with salt. I saw that a small amount of blood was smeared on the bag. No doubt left from the fight. I went home with that small piece of evidence in my pocket. They tested the blood, it was the victims. One day I went to the lab to pick up the blood results when I overheard some interns talking about the monster. They were betting on what animal it was, so silly, they did not understand the seriousness of this.

I was about to leave when a boy spoke up and started to give random ideas. He was too enthralled about the creature. His apparel was a black coat unlike the other white coats with a red label sewn into the pocket, 'head intern'. I walked in and they all looked shamefaced. I asked where the laboratory was and they directed me. As I thanked them they hurriedly scurried away. Day after day I looked over the results. It was normal, no indifference. Finally, it occurred to me, this bag was filled to the top, all the others were filled to the middle. I carefully dumped all the salt on the table and searched through it. There I found my clue. On a scale, the salt must have dried it up as it was already falling apart. I had 13 days left and a lab test would take at least 10 days so I ran my own tests. Sadly I got nothing, but I knew the creature was an animal with scales. I scarcely remembered the name of a deadly large snake, a BASILISK! I had an old fakir friend, I went to college after his parents finally disowned him. When I arrived I had 9 days left. He examined it and it turns out I was right. That night I went to bed feeling accomplished when I woke up to the sound of slithering. I jumped out of my bed and ran out of the house, I never looked back. All I had was the small velvet salt bag. When there were only 4 days left I finally had the courage to follow it. I hadn't slept because every time I closed my eyes exactly 10 minutes later I could hear it. That night I followed it down into the sewers. Screams betokened pain and fear resounded through the tunnels. There was a twist in my stomach but I kept going.

Finally, I saw light at the end of the tunnel with shadows of chairs and people in them cast on the walls. I realised that I did not see the snake in front of me anymore. BLACK. I woke up tied to a chair. A voice came out of the darkness, they stayed in the darkness so I could not see their face. "Good job my pet," It said. Then it clicked, the creature never killed me because it wanted to lure me. "Now, time to have some fun!" I tried to escape but I saw men in the black surge towards me. I was in the belly of the beast. I pressed the button in my sleeve that would alert the FBI to come to get me. In a few seconds, salt was sprayed everywhere and the basilisk squirmed. The boss and snake made it out but the rest of the gang was trapped. I end my story here on Christmas eve when I hope to find the villain.

WIS Spirit Week '22

The WIS Middle School Student Council (MSSC) decided to bring some fun and creativity into our school culture, and initiated a school-wide WIS Spirit Week from Monday, 7 February to Friday, 11 February. We partnered with the Secondary Student Council as well as the Elementary Student Council too, in order to make this truly whole school event.



Twins day, Anything but a bag day and Pj day.

Students, as well as teachers, were encouraged to dress up each day according to the set theme for the day. Two weeks before Spirit Week, all us middle schoolers were able to vote for our top five favourite themes compiled from a list created by the MSSC. Later on, the five most popular themes were chosen and shared with the school. To make things a bit more fun, interesting and competitive, every day of Spirit Week classes voted for one person who was the "Best Dressed" according to the theme for the day.

Our Daily Themes were:

Monday was 'Pyjama Day' for the entire WIS community and we all had a chance to come to school wearing our pyjamas. This was a hilarious day to see what your friend and teachers consider as cool pyjamas.

Tuesday was 'Opposite Day!/!yad etisoppO'. There are various ways to dress opposite. Whether it's back to front, T-shirt as trousers, underwear over trousers (superhero style) or simply wearing shoes on the other foot (shoe banana), all of it was hilarious.

Always bringing your bag to school is boring! That's why on Wednesday we had 'Anything But a Backpack Day'. The students and teachers got very creative and brought all sorts of replacements for a backpack. Even if it was a mini car, a floaty, a soup pot, a cooler bin, or a box, etc. there were incredibly great ideas!

Thursday was the opportunity to find our doppelgängers. With two friends or more we could dress up for 'Twins or Triplets Day' by wearing the same clothes or having the same hairstyle. This was an epic day to see who is friends with whom and have a laugh together.

Friday was an early day of love and caring at WIS. We celebrated 'Valentine's Day' early in Secondary to fit into the Spirit Week, while the Primary School went with the 'Caring Day' theme to tie into the IB Learner Profile. On this day there was a wider variety of clothes to wear, due to the only instructions being to wear a red, pink or white outfit. Some were even more creative!



Opposite day

Here were our daily winners in each Homeroom!

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Homeroom	Pajama	Opposites	Anything But A Bag	Twins & Triplets	Caring/Valentine's
6ЈВ	Nelao/Ludwig	Mea	Zia/Gustave	Zia, Bulipe, Sunida, Julia	Zia
6HMR	Thabiso	Tatana	Carolyn	Gizelle & Jane	Tomas
7JV/7IB	Hala	Kiera	Ben	Amalia, Shani & Joan	
7UD	Tanaka	Luca	Muta	Tanaka & Mario	Christine
8AJ	Amaani	Kiara	Naeem	Jisele & Kiara	Maygen
8JM	Olivia/Iyalo	Magen	Klaudia	Leo & Adam	Kylie
9RG	Ali	Ali	Zuleika	Lily-Rose & Lily	Unda & Kylie
9AC	Lee	Kyla	Goncalo	Maedot & Rachael	Salome
10LC	Zahra	Alya	Zahra	-	Allan
10SS	Kim	Aqeela	Peya	Aqeela & Taboka	Chuma
11ER	Janice	Pedro	Kiko	Kevin & Kiko	
12FD	Amalie	Ndemi	Olivia	Jessica & Carmen	Tessa
Teacher	Mr. Bonazzo	Mr. Johan/Mr. Tom	Mr. P	Mr. P & Ms. Angie	

Congratulations to all the winners of these five days and a big thanks to all the students and teachers that participated in this event. A special thanks to the support of the SSC and ESC too! The Middle School Student

Council was very happy to see all the effort that WIS students and teachers put into preparing and participating in WIS Spirit Week this year.

Amalia Führing & Joan van Zyl (7JV)

Cafe Schneider Field Trip



On 7th February 2022 the Grade 10 German class went on a field trip to Cafe Schneider, so we could practice having some conversations in German, ordering food and drinks. Weeks prior, we practiced by doing a lot of role plays and exercises. It was an exclusive field trip organised by our teacher Ms. Christina Krappmann.

It was fun to be on the school bus after a long time. Once we arrived, we took some pictures in front of the cafe to capture the moment, then sat down to order food and drinks. Some of us were hesitant at the beginning to speak in German but the ordering went well, as we had practiced in class. The staff at Cafe Schneider were very encouraging and made us feel comfortable as we conversed in German.

The food and drinks were pretty well prepared and we enjoyed it. The enjoyment was shown through the fact that we finished all the food and drinks with no hesitation. It was fun and well prepared, besides the fact that we were a little bit late. After the field trip the Grade 10 German class realised that German is not just a language

that we are forced to learn in school but a life skill that we are learning and can apply to our lives in many aspects. To conclude, the Grade 10 German class is way more comfortable speaking in German.

Benjamin Löytty

Grade 9 Geography - Clouds

Rows and flows of angel hair, And ice cream castles in the air, And feather canyons everywhere" - Joni Mitchell "Both Sides Now"

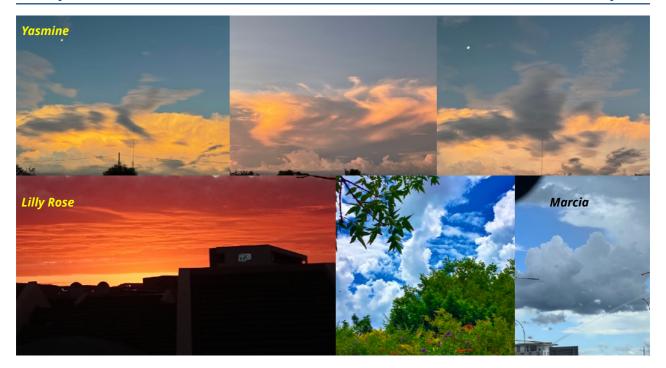
"Clouds" was a topic in Geography class and fortunately we are now in the rainy season, which has given us plenty of opportunity to see clouds. The Grade 9 geography teacher floated (see what I did there?) the idea of a cloud photography competition inspired by photos that Marilu Roos had shared.

Five students answered the call and sent in photos ... not enough for a competition, but here they are. Aren't they beautiful?









EPIC ATHLETICS

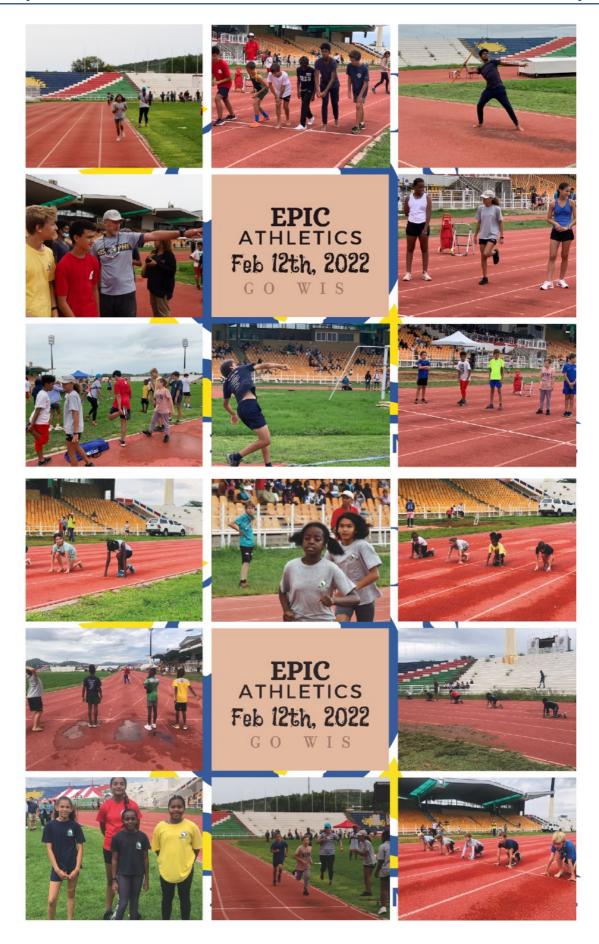
Over 40 WIS students from Grade 2 to 12 participated in the first annual EPIC Development Athletics Meet at Independence Stadium on Saturday 12th February. The focus of the event was on participation, development and fun! Many thanks to ERAN Sports for generously organising this event and for inviting our school to participate.

Our WIS athletes were incredibly enthusiastic and participated very competently in sprint and middle distance races, jumping events and some field throwing events. Our WIS spirit was strong and we were well represented in various events.

Well done to all who came to represent WIS and to challenge yourself to try out an athletics meet, many for the first time!

Thank you to all of the WIS parents and our extended community members who came out to support our WIS team and to cheer passionately from the sidelines. A special thanks to those parents who stepped in to support our athletes and our coaching team over the course of the day to allow for a smooth and successful event. We appreciated the support.

We are awaiting confirmation of final results from the organisers and are still waiting on a few outstanding certificates. As soon as we have the final results, the medals and the last few certificates, we will be awarding all athletes who participated. Please stay tuned for more information early next week. A big congratulations again to all WIS athletes.



The WIS SPORTS Department: Tom, Seodhna and Audrey.

CALL OUT!

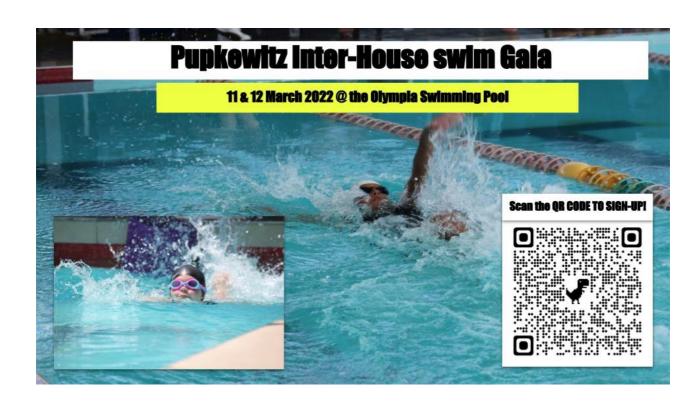
-For PYP Art Festival material donations-Thank you in advance!

We have begun our artwork and need your help with gathering used items.

If you have any of the below materials at work or home that can be donated to the Lower school Art room, please contact me. I can also come and collect lsmith@wis.edu.na

- Yarn/wool
- Fabric and leather cut-offs
- Old T-shirts and jeans for flag making
- Yoghurt pots big and small
- Water bottles big and small
- Large and strong cardboard
- Small world bits and bobs or wooden pieces for fairy houses
- Wooden logs for carving x 10 preferably camel thorn or sweet thorn





WIZART GALLERY



GRADE 8 VISUAL ARTS

MON 21ST - THU 24TH FEBRUARY 2022

THE GRADE 9 ART CLASS IS IN NEED OF CDS

Please donate old CDs that you do not need or want anymore. There will be boxes placed in front of the art room and the reception.





