



**PARENT INFORMATION PORTAL**  
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# THE ORYX

*The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School*

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear WIS Community,

On a cold day back in August, all the teachers and educational assistants came together to begin a conversation about defining the kind of learning we want to see at WIS. The facilitator for our conversation was Kevin Bartlett, a person who is ideally suited for this role due to his well-deserved reputation as a founder of the IB PYP and his role as the WIS Director back in the 1990. Kevin is now the Founding Director at [The Common Ground Collaborative](#), and he used CGC protocols to walk us through the process of using research and personal professional experience to identify WIS Learning Principles. These Learning Principles will serve as our agreements for what we should be seeing in the classroom. Once established, these Learning Principles will equally serve as guideposts for setting a new vision, strategic plan, and fiscal priorities for our school. I include a draft of these below. We will have time in the coming months for parents and students to provide feedback on these. You may choose to [add your comments or suggestions here](#). Nothing is yet set in stone!

### The PURPOSE Principle

*We all seek to make sense of things. Learning is a process of making meaning and must be driven by clear, intentional purpose. Learners are more engaged when they are convinced by 'the why'.*

### The PEOPLE Principle

*We believe that relationships are the most powerful influencer of learner success. Learning is not only cognitive, it is also a deeply personal, social, and emotional process*

### The POSITIVITY Principle

*We believe that our mindset has a major impact on our learning. A positive attitude and high expectations, combined with resilience and determination, can transform our performance and our progress.*

### The OWNERSHIP Principle

*We all have the right to own our learning story. The time and pace of each journey is unique and is shaped through feedback. We meet each learner where they are and help them build the capacity for growth and self regulation.*

### The CONNECTIONS Principle

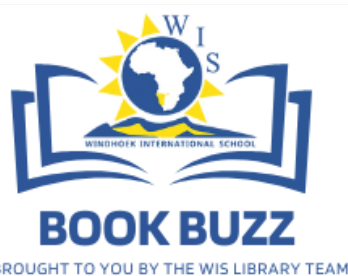
*We learn by making connections with our prior knowledge and perspectives, gained across disciplines and learning experiences. Transfer of learning happens best in authentic, relevant, real-world contexts both in and out of the classroom.*

### The WONDER Principle

*We are naturally curious and playful. We learn through a lifelong process of wondering, discovering, reflecting, finding patterns and then inquiring further.*

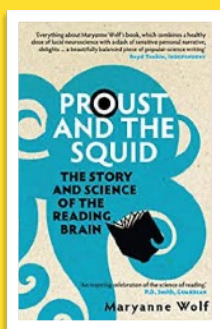
Sincerely,  
Ethan Van Drunen

## WIS BOOK BUZZ



Did you know that the first written communication dates all the way back to 3500 B.C.? During this time only a small number of people learned to read and write. In those days, people who knew how to read held public performances, displaying their skills.

In the same way, reading is one of the single most remarkable inventions in history. In the book, *The Proust and the Squid*, the authors wrote, "Human beings invented reading only a few thousand years ago. And with this invention, we rearranged the very organisation of our brain, which in turn expanded the ways we were able to think, which altered the intellectual evolution of our species." Be sure to add this book to your reading list and let us know whether you believe that reading is an invention that revolutionised the way we think.



*Proust and the Squid* is a celebration of written language. It tells the story of the evolution of reading, first as a product of human civilisation and then as an educational journey each individual goes through.

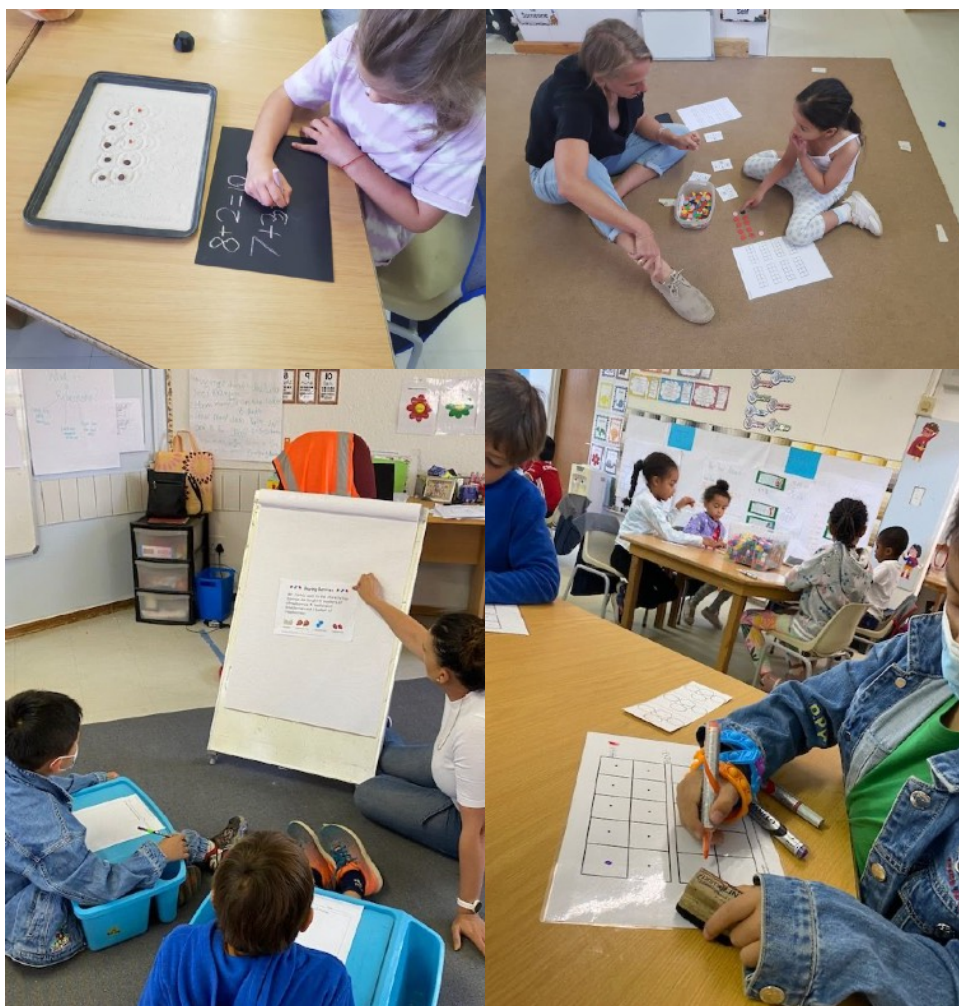
For questions and inquiries, please email us at [jwashington@wis.edu.na](mailto:jwashington@wis.edu.na) and [mneftali@wis.edu.na](mailto:mneftali@wis.edu.na)

## PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Dear WIS Community,

My goal this year is to spend more time in classrooms in order to understand how I can support teachers to impact learning. Spending a day in a class is by far the best way to understand how the planning, teaching, learning and assessment is articulated in your school. Respect for the professionals you work with increases, you understand more, you get to know the learners and by being visible and building relationships you are able to give targeted support and wonder about things together- all in pursuit of good learning. This week I spent a day in Grade 1.

One thing I noticed was the strength of our new Maths resource, and the impact of our newly appointed Maths coordinator on teaching and learning. Learners were using Maths language, moving confidently around Maths stations using inquiry skills and being good thinkers. Groups allowed teachers to differentiate, providing support and extension.



*One learner commented "I know the ten frame is already a ten and then all I need to do is count on from that to get to the number thirteen."*



I was impressed with the Three Protocol which teaches students the skills to solve word problems, a skill they will need to build on throughout their Maths learning journey in school.

**How Many Ducks?**

Name: Zeake Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Julia went to a lake with her grandpa. She saw 2 ducks flying in the sky. She saw 3 ducks sitting on the grass and 8 more ducks in the lake.

What is this story about?

What are the quantities and units?

quantities	unit
2	ducks
3	ducks
8	ducks

**The Three Protocol**

**First Read Focus:**  
What is the story about?  
eg. Julia went to a lake with her grandpa. She saw 2 ducks flying in the sky. She saw 3 ducks sitting on the grass and 8 more ducks in the lake.

**Second Read Focus:**  
What are the quantities and units in the story?

Quantities	Units
2	ducks
3	ducks
8	ducks

**Third Read Focus:**  
What math question could we ask about the story?  
How many ducks did Julia see altogether?  
How many ducks were in the pond and in the grass?  
How many more ducks were flying and in the pond together?  
How many more ducks were in the grass than in the pond?

I also noticed learners being confident communicators and the level of vocabulary they were using when they were reflecting on their puppet shows in which they explored concepts of choice, conflict, consequence and relationships as part of their unit of inquiry on class relationships and conflict resolution. Using the learning community as a resource, they had previously interviewed their parents and each other. Learners were reflective, articulate, engaged and part of a learning community.



The day ended with a focus on reading and writing. An array of interactive and differentiated activities were laid out for students to practise foundational literacy skills. It made me realise the detail of planning that goes into lesson design at WIS. One book that is a must read is '[I want my hat back](#)' by Jon Klassen!



Thanks to the Grade 1 team for a great day of [#LearningAtWIS](#)!

Warm regards,  
Marcelle van Leenen

## Learning Enrichment Department

### New learning opportunities in the Learning Enrichment Department

At the beginning of this academic year Melita van Dyk (a certified Literacy Links instructor) was invited to WIS, and she has agreed to offer the Literacy Links programme to identified students in Primary and Middle school.

This programme is a combination of the two most renowned programmes for students who have difficulty in reading and writing. Furthermore at the end of the day we will have the benefit of four trained teachers to support the whole student community.

Lizl Opperman



## SECONDARY PRINCIPAL



### **Opportunities of growth - growth mindset and continuous learning**

This week I am fortunate to visit another CIS school - the Lusaka International School - as a team member for their CIS/NEASC accreditation. These visits are excellent opportunities for growth and learning through conversations we have with the school we are visiting.

This is a good example of how we can learn best when we have a growth mindset and engage with peers to reflect on what we do and how we do things. This is the case for all of us in our daily lives. We have opportunities to embrace stimuli around us, if we are willing to keep learning and keep growing.

Learning in this regard is happening simply through conversations and observing what the Lusaka International School does and how they do things in their school from teaching and learning to facilities to wellbeing, staff and governance. These aspects are pillars in every school and are evolving on a continuous basis. Reflecting together on how the other school does things and why, is an opportunity for me as the peer educator to keep reviewing our own practices and to make connections and explore similarities and opportunities. I really value these opportunities and my own practice benefits immensely from this.

For the Council of International Schools - of whom WIS is a member - the four drivers of international education are:

- Purpose and Direction
- Wellbeing
- High Quality Learning and Teaching
- The Development of Global Citizenship

In our framework of accreditation with the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), we have the 4 Cs:

- Conceptual Understanding
- Commitment
- Capacity
- Competency

and the 10 Learning Principles, which are closely related to the CIS drivers.

This is why WIS is accredited with NEASC but also a CIS member school.

In international education, we have the opportunity to be leaders in topics that are relevant and important in current education and pedagogy. When doing the self study and preparing for accreditation - and re-accreditation - we have the opportunity to review, reflect and progress in our approach and understanding of high quality education.

Central to these reflections and conversations are our vision and mission and the Definition of Learning.

Take a moment to reflect on our Definition of Learning and how this shapes your understanding of high quality education for our children:

*"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."*

What can WIS do better? What should be our focus when we continue with our accreditation process? What are your thoughts? I am happy to get any and all feedback on this to keep us aware of our purpose and direction in being as good as we can be as a school - for our children's learning.

Regards,  
Maggie Reiff

## Upcoming events for consideration:

### WIS GOT TALENT SEMI FINAL

16 September 2022 @18:00

### CIS EXPLORATION DAY AFRICA (VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY FAIR)

20 September 2022 @ 11:00-14:00

Grades 9 - 12: Parents and students can sign up [HERE](#).

### PAUL TOSIO - STUDY SKILLS

*(Please refer to the invitation in this Oryx as well as our social media posts in this regard.)*

- 29 September 2022 - Parent Coffee Morning @ 07:00 - 08:00
- 30 September 2022 - Presentation for students Grade 9 - 12 @ 10:45 - 11:25

### UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY AND STUDYING IN CANADA

15 September 2022 @ 18:00 - 19:00 WIS Auditorium

### STUDYING IN THE NETHERLANDS

29 September 2022 @ 17:30 - 18:30 (virtual) High School

[HERE](#) is the link to join the session.

### WIS GOT TALENT FINAL

30 September 2022 @ (Auditorium)

## Middle School

### Student Council Congratulations!

Please congratulate the following students for being voted for the following roles in Middle School Student Council:

- *President - Joan van Zyl*
- *Vice - President - Muta Amunyela*
- *Secretary - Mea van Zyl*
- *Treasurer - Deon Bruwer*
- *Advisor - Nicholis Swart*



Thank you for taking up these important roles for the year. We wish you all the best with your duties and we are looking forward to working closely and collaboratively with you during our middle school student council sessions.



Ms. Angie & Ms. Richenda

## Cleaning up campus

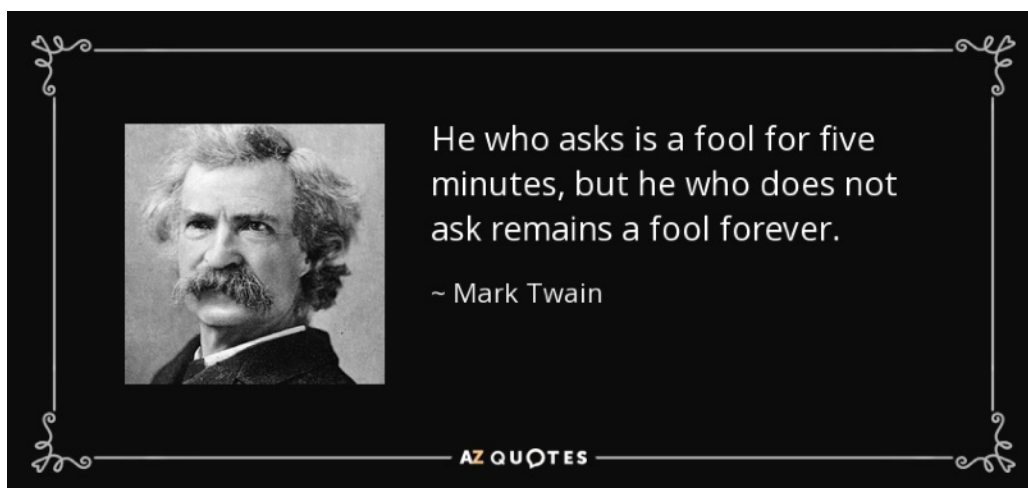
This week, the Grade 10 outdoor education class took it upon themselves to pick up trash around campus. In their ecology unit, they would like to encourage a culture on campus in which people pick up after themselves and each other.



## IB Learner Profile

**Congratulations to our INQUIRERS!**

Gr. 6 - Ingrid Pienaar, Gr. 7 - Sarthak Kumar, Gr. 8 - Darius Swart, Gr. 9 - Jisele Du Preez, Gr. 10 - Mathew Varghese, Gr. 11 - Tjijandjeua Mbehtjiha, Gr. 12 - Tanga Nandjiwa and Teacher - Mr. Andrian van Wrede-Jervis.





## The success of the spring kickoff!

Last Friday, 2nd September, the senior student council hosted a back-to-school spring kickoff! This event was held at the PLC for Grades 9 - 12. Laughs were shared amongst new peers and old, as well as a few students from other schools. We played board games, had darts, sang karaoke and danced. The PLC was decorated with lanterns hung up, as well as fairy lights which shone through the night. Snacks were sold by the student council, and we also had Mr. Johan's famous braai selling throughout the night.

I think that we as the student council have well planned this event. It taught us to think creatively about the decorations needed for the theme, how to work together with new members of the team, and how we can incorporate each other's ideas and skills to produce such a fun event!

The student council wishes to continue creating fun events for the school community, such as the spring kickoff. It was a learning experience for all members, and a magical night filled with fun for everyone to spring off into the new year.



Aqeela Nel

## GRADE 12 GEOGRAPHY SURVEY

Good day, as part of our **IBDP Geography course** (at WIS) we are required to complete a report based on primary data.

Our area of interest is participation in sporting activities among residents of Windhoek aged 12 years and upward.

We would appreciate it if you would take a few minutes of your time to complete [this questionnaire](#), and if you would help to distribute the questionnaire among your friends and acquaintances resident in Windhoek.

The data collected is anonymous and will be used by the Grade 12 Geography students only.

The [link](#) will expire on 16th September 2022.



IB Learner Profile for September is:

# COMMUNICATOR

**Communication is what makes the WIS-team strong!**

*Are you able to choose the best method to communicate what you know? Do you listen carefully to others? Do you contribute? Do you present ideas clearly and coherently, in writing and orally? Do you use language accurately to express ideas? Are you able to understand different points of view?*

A **Communicator** understands and expresses ideas and information confidently and creatively in more than one language and in a variety of modes of communication. They work effectively and willingly in collaboration with others. IB students regularly deliver stimulating presentations and drive excellence in group assignments.

All nominations should be sent to [ajvrensburg@wis.edu.na](mailto:ajvrensburg@wis.edu.na) by 23 September 2022.



**WIS INTER-HOUSE**  **Swimming Gala**

**ALL BEGINNERS WELCOME!**

**ALL GRADES WELCOME! EY 1-GR. 12**


**Join us for a WIS event!**

Date: Saturday, 17 September 2022  
Time: 08:00 - 12:00  
Place: Marlins Swimming Club

- The Development Gala: 08:00 - 09:00 (For all beginners)
- Inter-House Gala: 09:30 - 12:00 (students must be able to swim 25m)

To sign-up scan the QR code!




# Come say hi!

A student recruitment advisor will be visiting your school. Ask us about university life and learn about our programs, admission requirements, awards and more.

When: 15 September 18:00

Where: WIS Auditorium

[ucalgary.ca/future-students](https://ucalgary.ca/future-students)



**29 SEPTEMBER 2022**

**GRADE 9 - 12**

# Parent Coffee Morning


TIME: 07:00 - 08:00

SPEAKER: Paul Tosio - [Easy Cheetah Study Course](#)

PLACE: The Eagle's Nest/ Tuck-shop

**ABOUT PAUL TOSIO:**

*Paul Tosio is a dual British-South African educational specialist and a psychologist qualified at the University of Oxford. He is an alumnus of New College Oxford University.*





# CIS University Exploration Day | Africa

- Meet college and university representatives from all over the world at this **free** *virtual* event.
- One week prior to the fair date, all university booths will be open and remain accessible to you for pre-fair information browsing.
- Representatives from all universities will be online and available to speak with you directly via one-on-one text or video chat or group video chat.

TUESDAY  
20 September  
2022

11:00 – 14:00 CEST  
University Fair



COUNCIL OF  
INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOLS

For more **information:**

<https://cis.swoogo.com/africa22>



**RHINOPARK**  
VETERINARY CLINIC

# WORLD RABIES DAY

**SEPTEMBER  
28, 2022**

## **POSTER-MAKING COMPETITION**

**FOR KIDS  
UNDER 12  
YEARS OLD**

**FOR KIDS  
12 - 18  
YEARS OLD**

**THE POSTERS MUST CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION**

- HOW RABIES IS SPREAD/TRANSMITTED
- WHAT ANIMALS ARE AFFECTED BY RABIES
- HOW CAN RABIES BE CONTROLLED/MANAGED
- HOW CAN AWARENESS BE GENERATED TO MANAGE RABIES

**THE SUBMISSION DATE  
ON OR BEFORE 29TH SEPTEMBER**

**POSTER SIZE A3/A2  
MUST BE HAND-DRAWN**

**POSTER TO BE DROPPED  
OFF AT THE CLINIC**

**THE JUDGING WILL BE DONE ON ACCURACY OF INFORMATION AND THE ART WORK**

**THE WINNING POSTER WILL BE DISPLAYED AT  
RHINO PARK CLINIC FOR A WHOLE YEAR.**

**A PANEL OF 4 JUDGES WILL SELECT THE WINNING POSTER**

**PLEASE MAKE SURE THE POSTER HAS THE FULL NAME,  
SCHOOL NAME(IF APPLICABLE) & PHONE NUMBER TO CONTACT FOR THE PRIZE**

**2ND PRIZE**

**KIDDIES GIFT  
HAMPER FROM  
SUPERSPAR  
MAERUA  
WORTH  
**N\$500****

**1ST PRIZE**

**IJG TRAILS  
3 PEOPLE BIRDING  
TRIP WORTH  
**N\$900****

**3RD PRIZE**

**KIDDIES FUN  
HAMPER FROM  
PARTY WORLD  
WORTH  
**N\$300****

TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY\*

**A PRIZE FOR THE MOST FUNNY POSTER  
N\$400 PET FOOD/PRODUCTS VOUCHER FROM RHINO PARK VET CLINIC.**



**IJG TRAILS**  
HEAR THE CALL OF THE MOUNTAINS



**PARTY WORLD**



**SUPERSPAR**  
MAERUA

ON THE 26TH, 27TH 28TH AND 29TH OF SEPTEMBER  
WE WILL BE GIVING FREE RABIES VACCINE BETWEEN 12PM AND 15:30PM.  
THIS WILL NOT INCLUDE CONSULTATION IN CASE YOUR PET IS SICK.

\*RHINO PARK VET CLINIC : 54, RHINO STREET, WINDHOEK NORTH  
+264 61 257272/3 | 24HR EMERGENCY NUMBER +264 81 8779708  
RPVCRECEPTIONISTS@GMAIL.COM



# SHARE AFRICA CLI-FI AWARD 2022

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS!

## DEADLINE EXTENDED

**Entries can, but are not limited to:**

- i. Explore life in an age of climate change incensed droughts, heat waves, floods, season shift etc.
- ii. Share lived experiences
- iii. Imagine the future if temperatures continue to rise
- iv. Urge readers to imagine what climate change experiences are or will be like.
- v. Inspire political will

**We are looking for climate change fiction**

The competition is open to all Africans.

**1st prize USD500 | 2nd prize USD300 | 3rd prize USD100**

For full submission guidelines please visit [bshdngo.org](https://bshdngo.org) or visit our Facebook page.

Send short stories to: [contactus@bshdngo.org](mailto:contactus@bshdngo.org)

All longlisted entries will be published. T&Cs Apply.

#COP27inAfrica Let's make some NOISE. Email us today to partner with us. #BSHD

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 5, 2022**

 **BSHD**  
BOTSWANA  
SOCIETY FOR HUMAN  
DEVELOPMENT

Project Partners:  **WIDNEWS**  
WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

 **publiko.**





# ENTER today

WHATSAPP YOUR name, age and school to  
**081 416 6363**

## GRADES 5,6 & 7

**@ WANDERERS SPORT CLUB**  
Tunschel Str, Pionierspark

**INTER-SCHOOL COMPETITION**

### 29 OCTOBER 2022

08h00-12h00



**WANDERERS SPORT CLUB**  
Tunschel Str, Pionierspark



**Even your SCHOOL CAN WIN - N\$ 3 000 up for grabs for the school with most entries**

## WIN

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize**  
**N\$ 1500**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize**  
**N\$ 750**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize**  
**N\$ 500**

## FREE

### PRACTISE SESSIONS

for 3 weeks • every week

DATE	TIME	SCHOOL
03/10, 10/10, 17/10 Mondays	15h00 - 15h45 15h45 - 16h30	Windhoek Afrikaanse Private School Windhoek Gymnasium
04/10, 11/10, 18/10 Tuesdays	15h00 - 15h45 15h45 - 16h30	Pionierspark Primary School Suiderhof Primary School
05/10, 12/10, 19/10 Wednesdays	15h00 - 15h45 15h45 - 16h30	St George's College St Paul's College
06/10, 13/10, 20/10 Thursdays	15h00 - 15h45 15h45 - 16h30	Delta School Windhoek DHPS
07/10, 14/10, 21/10 Fridays	15h00 - 15h45 15h45 - 16h30	Windhoek International School Eros Primary School

**Terms & Conditions:**  
 • Only one registration per school is allowed. • Grades 5, 6 and 7 only. • All the selected schools only. • Squash equipment will be provided by Wanderers Sport Club. • Non-marking and clean squash balls to be used. • Squash balls to be provided by each participating school. • Only players who have registered with Wanderers Sport Club will be eligible to compete in the tournament. • Should you intend not to participate in the tournament please inform us in writing by 01/10/2022.  
 For more info visit: [www.wanderersportclub.com](http://www.wanderersportclub.com) or WhatsApp: 081 416 6363