



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

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Dates to Remember

April 2020

- **29:** PTA AGM @ 18:00

May 2021

- **04:** Cassinga Day - Public Holiday
- **13:** Ascension Day - Public Holiday
- **25:** Africa Day - Public Holiday

June 2021

- **17:** End of term 4
- **18:** Staff work day

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

It's not often that I get to interact with students individually to talk about their learning. This week I've had the pleasure of listening to Grade 5 students present their ideas for their Exhibition topics. Armed with clipboards holding their notes, iPads to share their slides, and steeled nerves the students came one by one to meet with me. *(I sometimes forget how daunting it can be to visit the principal's office.)* Many of these students were in what was then KG2 when I joined the school so it was delightful to see them now near the end of their Primary Years.

Listening to the students' interests and ideas for solving a problem showed how much the children are aware and know about the world around them, as well as what concerns them. Some of the many topics included climate change, ocean pollution, natural disasters, advantages and disadvantages of technology, animal cruelty and cell cancer. With each presentation the students showed confidence (even if they were nervous), enthusiasm, and a desire to inquire further to learn more. I'm looking forward to seeing their progress through the Exhibition process.

MAP Growth

We are almost finished with the makeup tests for MAP Growth. Parents will receive the *Family Report* next week. Wednesday, 22 April I will facilitate a parent information session to explain MAP Growth and answer questions. Here are the links:

- [MAP Growth - 22 April 2021](#)
- [Slido.com](#) - Please post your questions in advance.

Student-Led Conferences

An email was sent to all parents on Monday with the link to sign up for Student-Led Conferences. If you haven't done so already, please be sure to sign up for the conferences;

- Tuesday, 27 April (afternoon)
- Wednesday, 28 April (during the day) - (Not a regular school day, students only come to school for their conferences.)

Regards,
Beth Smith



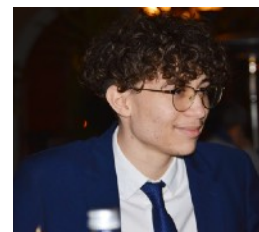
SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

It is time to say goodbye again

It is the time of the year where we say goodbye to our Grade 10 and 12 students. This year, we are able to celebrate this occasion with all of you again. As you will remember, last year, the examinations were cancelled and Grade 10 and 12 students were not able to finish their school education in person.

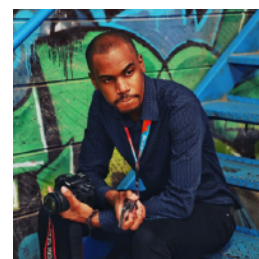
Here is what one of last year's graduates is currently doing:

Jayden van Rooyen completed the IB Diploma programme last year. Last year IB Diploma students were awarded diplomas even though they did not write exams and these diplomas were accepted internationally by universities.



Here is what Jayden sent us: *"I finished the IB Diploma last year and am currently in Cape Town studying at UCT towards a BCom (Financial Accounting) degree. Student life is quite different now that we are still fighting the pandemic. I have not yet set foot on campus as all classes are still online. However, I'm doing well and hope to attend classes in person soon.*

And for our graduates - soon to be alumni as well - I want to share another alumni story that inspires. It shows how our students enter the workforce with initiative and in a confident way once they completed their tertiary education. It also shows how occupations and careers have changed resulting from changed circumstances and demands:



I started working at Incentro this month as their online marketeer. I'm responsible for all their online activity for all of Africa. This includes planning webinars, designing and publishing web banner ads, e-mail marketing campaigns, blog articles and press releases. Basically anything related to B2B marketing. Matthew Munyiri .

Today, Friday, 16 April 2021, Grade 10 & 12 students will have their last official school day. They then have a bit more than a week before their first examination starts.

We wish them well for the coming weeks and hope that they can successfully complete these examinations. Despite the difficult and often challenging situation the pandemic has created, they are well prepared and now it is their opportunity to put what they have learnt over the past 10, 12 or more years into "practice".

We have confident, self-assured and responsible students who will make a success of this opportunity to prepare for the next step of their educational journey.

Image on the right: *Our Grade 12 students had this to say about the time they spent at WIS and what their education meant to them.*

Regards,
Maggie Reiff



Genre writing

The Grade 8 students are exploring and developing their creative writing through writing in different genres. This past week the students were asked to write a thriller as part of their creative story spelling assessments.

I enjoyed **Shamiso Mawire's** story and I hope you find it as thrilling as I did. - **Angie Janse van Rensburg**

His Art Piece

I ran as fast as I could, the blood and sweat dripping from the side of my head as my legs took me as far as they could. I take a quick glance behind me to see if he was still there, only to see him staring at me with a **tranquil glance** as if he hasn't done anything. How can one be so calm whilst trying to kill another? Surely it was **peculiar** but I hadn't had time to think about it before I was roughly dragged by my hair. I soon enough I screamed in agony caused by the feeling of being dragged back by my hair, the skin on my legs being shredded by the tough pavement. I opened my eyes only to be greeted by a trail of blood, my blood. A light-**tinkled** sound rang, and that was the last thing I heard before I closed my eyes. I was sitting upright and tied to a chair inhaling the smell of a lit **blunt**. I was **motionless**, my blood had already **congealed** and I could barely feel my legs. The bright moon was slightly **translucent** through the cloth covering my eyes. The peace was short-lived before the blindfold was taken off with care and I was painfully met with the blinding light. As soon as I got used to the light I was met with the most breathtaking sight of the man who'd taken me against my will. He soon walked towards a **sideboard** filled with what I'm assuming to be his torture items. When I finally decided to speak up I was cut off by his words "I like to paint, do you?" He asked with a raspy voice, I nodded hoping he wouldn't do anything to me. "Good. So you must know what it's like to run out of canvas paper, right?" I nod again, not daring to trust my words. "I'll make you my *permanent* art piece." He whispered in my ear, a spine-chilling wave rushed over me as he picked up the knife. He had jabbed it right under my rib. A loud shriek left my mouth as he dragged it down, ripping me open. "Blood for red..." He whispered. He had repeatedly punched me, surly hard enough to leave marks. "And bruises for blue and purple" he took in a deep breath as he untied me, he then took me outside behind his shed and into the woods. With no strength left to fight him or scream. He'd brought an axe and a shovel with him and he laid me down in a ditch filled with bones, he's done this before. Before I could even react, the axe had already met my body. I couldn't do anything but look down at the blood spilled out of my chest and smile. At least I don't have to worry about anything anymore, that was my last thought before I shut my eyes and took my last breath.

Decoding adversities in Grade 8



During one of our Homeroom lessons this week we decided to focus on team building and working together. The students were tasked to create a circle by holding hands. They had to move the hula hoop around without breaking the link. This was quite fun watching our students find a rhythm and a way to do this specific activity as

successfully as possible. We first had the boys against the girls where the boys finished the task the quickest. Go boys! Then we had Grade 8AJ against Grade 8JM - 8AJ won here. The students had a lot of fun and showed us how and why working together is important. The last activity was where we asked the students to volunteer to show their hula hoop skills against one another. This was just a fun and a relaxing sight to see. Some laughter and lightness in all the uncertainty of what we are experiencing today.



[Emmanuel in action!](#)
Angie Janse van Rensburg

The depARTSment

FARE WELL!

GRADE 10 IGCSE ART & DESIGN (0400) STUDENTS

This is what some of the Grade 10 IGCSE Art & Design students had to say about their 2-year course:

- KIRUBEL - If you have a passion for art, then this is the perfect place for you. Just like any other subject it's not easy and you'll need to sacrifice but when you're finally done with it and look back at your progress, you'll feel good and fulfilled.
- TANGA - it takes a lot of hard work and dedication with some patience.
- LARA - You learn so much about media, techniques, and artists. It's marvellous.
- YILIN - It's hard, difficult and tiring to complete art, but it makes you feel fulfilled.
- IMMS - No one can make art hard for you but you just put your head into it. Art is a subject that anyone can enjoy.
- TUMI - The process of IGCSE Art & Design expresses the land of determination, creativity and imagination. It's hard to resist!



WE NEED BOXES PLEASE!

The Grade 5s will be creating recording booths for their upcoming Exhibition soon. They will need boxes and egg-cartons please. You can drop it off in the ART ROOM. ~ Ms. Laura



Destruction in the name of black gold

[Referring to the ReconAfrica Press Release, April 15, 2021:](#) Can this really be happening? How shocking! Our country is willing to give up one of the few natural ecosystems left in the world. Disrupt it? No, destroy it.

Despite what they are saying about keeping best practices with regard to natural resources: is that even remotely, realistically possible? Destroying the natural migration route of elephants. Destroying our tourism industry. Destroying the beautiful, pristine, untouched Kavango Sedimentary Basin and Kalahari Desert of North Eastern Namibia. For what? For a few barrels of Petroleum? For only a few rich to get rich? For WHO to get richer?

We want some answers. Let us be honest with ourselves for once. The local Namibian people will not benefit from this. We will only experience the devastating loss of one of the most spectacular sights for wildlife in their natural habitat. How shocking! Are we just going to stand by and watch this happen? This is a call for all Namibians and environmentalists world wide to take a stand against this atrocity.

- **Recon Africa's environmental impact assessment on oil exploration availed for public input deadline extended until 23 April 2021! Please send your comments to this e-mail address: info.pro@met.gov.na**

Tanya-May Knouwds

W.O.R.D.
Grade 8AJ
reading for WORD!





WIS PTA AGM

You are invited to join our AGM

DATE: 29 April 2021

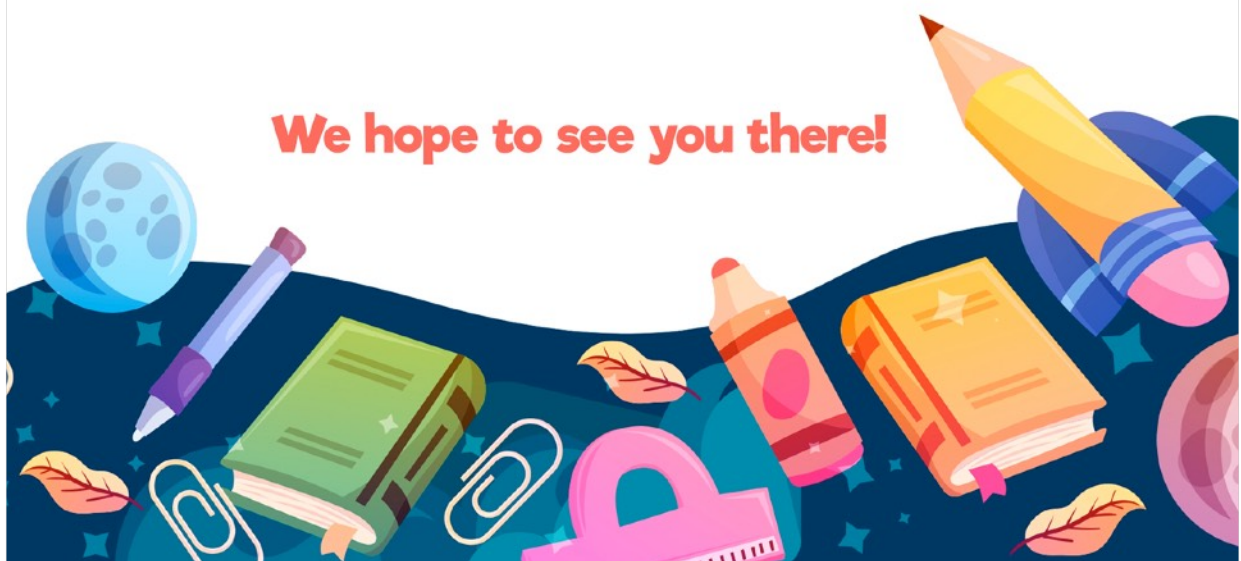
TIME: 18:00

PLACE: WIS Admissions Office

Can't join? Not a problem!
You can join us via ZOOM ...

A ZOOM link will be sent out
closer to the time.

We hope to see you there!



To our Grade 10 and Grade 12 Students ...

GOOD-BYE &
Good Luck

Match YOUR Donation CHALLENGE

Our cat intake enclosure is in dire need of renovation in order to prevent disease transmission and minimize stress on incoming cats.

The total amount needed is **N\$85,000**; **N\$29,000** has been donated so far and a generous anonymous donor has pledged to match **YOUR** donation up to **N\$25,000!**

WILL YOU HELP US REACH OUR GOAL?

Donate before **30th April 2021** to have your *donation matched! Use the reference MDC and your name!

**Donations will be matched up to N\$25,000 total.*

Our Bank Details: First National Bank | Branch: Old Power Station
Code: 281174 | Current Account | Account Number: 62247995915

