



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

Contents

- Primary News p. 1 - 3
- Secondary News p. 3 - 5
- Other News p. 6 - 8

Dates to Remember

October 2018

- **22 - 26:** Secondary Week B
- **24:** UN Day

November 2018

- **10:** International Day
- **16:** Staff Work Day
- **30:** AA End for all Grades



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PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Thank you to all who attended the Primary Three-Way conferences this week, not only the conference with the Homeroom Teacher but with the Single Subject Teachers as well. While the conferences take time out of your busy schedules, I trust you found them to be informative and to give you insight to your child's learning. One parent was innovative in using Whatsapp during the conference so that the other parent, who was traveling, could participate in the conference.

I had the privilege to sit in on a couple of conferences and was impressed by the confidence that the children displayed, as well as the awareness of their strengths and areas they want to improve. The conferences are an example of ways in which our children are becoming self directed learners. Comments about the conferences from teachers, parents and students have been positive. I welcome any further feedback (positive, as well as suggestions for improvement). Your comments can be sent to me, bsmith@wis.edu.na. It's important to note that the next conferences will be held **Thursday, March 28**.



Regards,
Beth Smith

EduTECH Conference in Johannesburg

During the break, Danai Maramba (aka Mr. D) and myself were fortunate enough to be able to attend the EduTECH conference in Johannesburg. Speakers from all over the world presented at the plenary sessions. I was particularly inspired by Sameer Rawjee (Dean of O School, South Africa) who gave a stirring talk about what students need to succeed in life (I was very much reminded of the IB Learner Profile and Attitudes) and Ian Russell (Board member of IamtheCODE, South Africa) who is passionate about critical thinking and coding (I'd better start attempting Patrick Farrell's weekly brain teasers in the Oryx!)

There was a wide variety of break-out sessions - a notable one was "Gamification: adding fun and transforming the way we teach" by Louis Pienaar (Parklands College). Our very own Danai, presented an interesting and informative session on "What's the story? EduTech in Namibia" and proved himself to be a risk-taker as he stepped in to cover an ailing presenter's slot about "Flipped Classrooms".

In between sessions, we had the opportunity to network with other educators, visit tech stands in the exhibition hall and try out exciting new technology - such as using coding to guide robotic vehicles and taking a tour with a virtual reality headset!

My overall feeling at the end of the conference – “WIS, you’ve got this!”

WEEKLY PUZZLER

We had several solvers of last week’s puzzler: Mathew Varghese Gr 6, Eden Walker Gr 3, Ezra Dzuiban (again!) EY3, and someone (dare I say, a big wig) who would like to remain anonymous. Well done! Let’s see some new names join the list this week!

On to a new challenge. Jesse James' lesser known brother, Eddie has also decided to take up robbing banks for a living. He is unfortunately a little slow and has forgotten to bring the dynamite to blow open the safe!

Using logic, the following clues and a large amount of patience, can you figure out the 10 digit number to crack the safe?

- All digits from 0 to 9 are used exactly once.
- The sum of the 2nd, 5th, 6th and 8th digits is a single digit number.
- The 4th digit is a perfect square.
- The 3rd digit is 1.
- The sum of the 4th and 7th digits is a perfect square.
- The value of the 10th digit is twice that of the 2nd.
- The product of the 4th and 6th digits is equal to that of the 10th and 2nd digits.
- The 5 is next to the 6 but not the 4.

Answers can be submitted to pfarrell@wis.edu.na. New puzzles can also be submitted to the same address.



Jan le Roux

International Day News!



Dear WIS community

Don't forget! You are invited to the big event for the year: "International Day"

When: 10 NOVEMBER 2018

Time: 10:00 - 15:00

Where: WIS big sports field.

Please bring along family and friends and help us celebrate our diverse culture in a fun day out.

We look forward to seeing you there.

(PTA/Events committee)

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

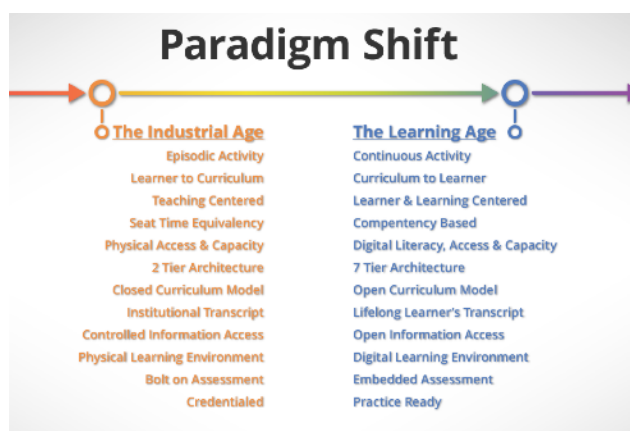
A shift away from purely grade based assessments in school

This week, Ofsted (a governmental organisation in the UK that regulates services that care for children and services providing education in the UK) announced that they would move away from inspections that are purely exam focussed (<https://bbc.in/2NK5wUg>). This seems to be a trend internationally.

During the past years, Approaches to Teaching and Learning (ATL) has become a focus in all four IB programmes. The emphasis is placed on a different kind of learning. Learning no longer consists of the learning of subject matter only, but includes learning skills such as Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Self-Management Skills, Social Skills, Research Skills (ATL in the different IB Programmes). The IB places emphasis on learning that is inquiry based and focused on conceptual understanding. Learning is meant to be about effective teamwork and collaboration more than just the acquisition of knowledge.

This all sounds very logical and straightforward. But in practice this is something that needs quite a shift in our thinking about learning and education in schools. Most of us have been educated in systems where we learnt timetables, we learnt grammar structures and the periodic table. We still need our children to know the content of their different subjects. But they learn this in a different manner.

This does need a shift in the way we teach and learn and understand education. Students are still writing exams at the end of their school career and they are admitted to universities according to the grades they get in their final exit exams. But, the way they get to these results is now different - young people have to learn to achieve by acquiring the skills necessary to independently learn and not only be told what to know.

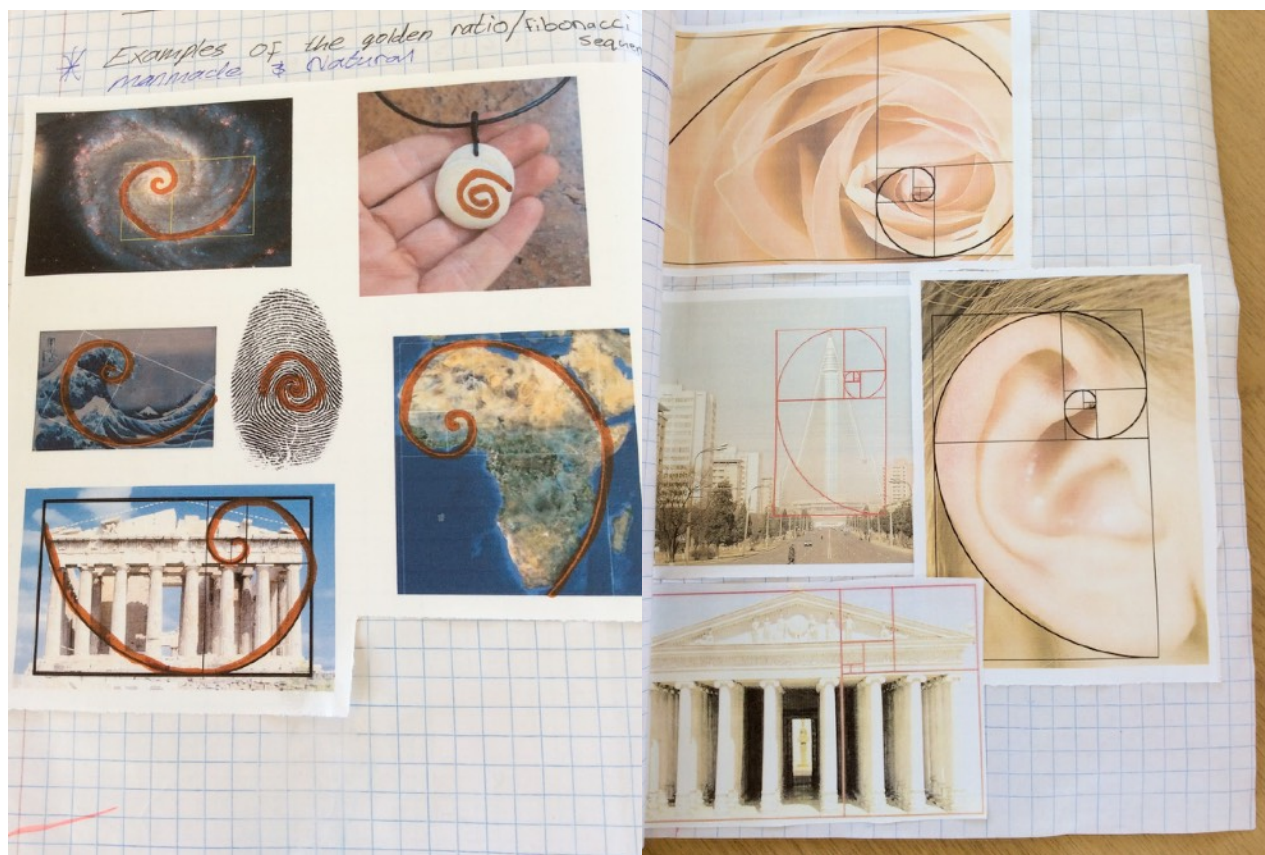


At WIS, having introduced the ATL skills in our teaching and in our reporting is the first step in this direction. Our children are not only assessed around the content they learn in the different subjects, but also in the way they collaborate with other, in the way they do research and in the way they can express their knowledge.

We as parents have to make an extra effort in trying to understand this shift in focus. We have to accept that it is no longer just about the grades our children get, but also about the way they can independently acquire skills and knowledge. By supporting our children in this way, we help them cope with the current vast array of demands put on them when they enter the workforce and are successful in their careers.

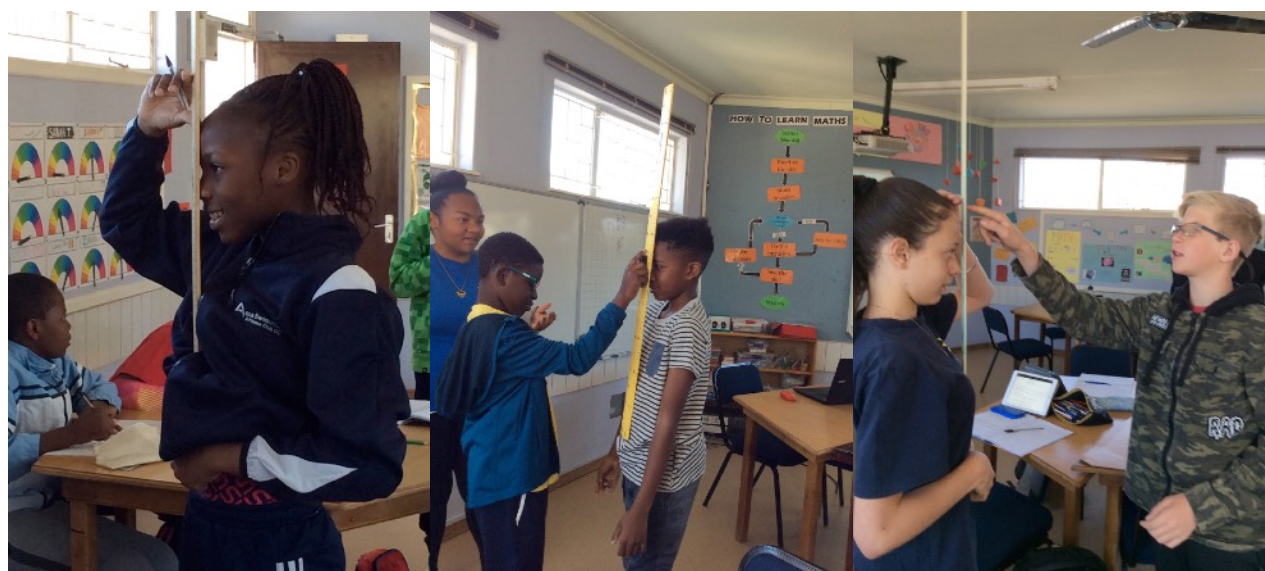
**Regards,
Maggie Reiff**

The Golden Ratio



During their unit on Ratio & Proportion, the Grade 7 Mathematics students investigated the ratio between lengths of different parts of their bodies and discovered there is an approximate value of 1.6 in common with many of the ratios. They then looked at Fibonacci numbers and how calculating the ratio of consecutive numbers in the sequence also gives them an approximate value of 1.6. This led to the discovery of THE GOLDEN RATIO.

Did you know that the Golden Ratio is used by artists and architects? This is because buildings and art pieces are considered to be more beautiful when they use the proportions of the Golden Ratio! Did you know that the



spiral created by golden rectangles (made from squares of Fibonacci numbers) appears in nature such as shells, hurricanes and the galaxy, and that Fibonacci numbers appear in fruits, plants and flowers?

Maths truly is incredible!

Lian Cohen

Pay-Namibia Service Learning

Committed and Dedicated WIS students in Action



A dozen WIS Secondary students (see photo) venture each Monday afternoon for several hours to Katatura and demonstrate the IB Learner Profile attribute of 'Caring.' Their service at the Pay-Namibia 'After-School Tutoring' program demonstrates a real awakening of the beautiful generosity of spirit ever-present in today's adolescents. Whether reading a book to a seven-year old, tutoring Math or History to a fifteen year old or playing chess with an eleven year old, the contribution and commitment of our WIS students at Pay-Namibia has been magnificent to observe.

With each week seeing more altruism (ie more students participating) it is no wonder that each WIS student returns to our campus in Pioneers Park with a story and the uplifting satisfaction for having had a positive impact and making a small difference in our all too often seen broken world. The huge socio-economic (and even racial) gap dividing most WIS students and the life for the disadvantaged who wisely take advantage of Pay-Namibia's awesome program matters little as on the human level as both sides benefit, learn and grow from this super encounter. Join us (faculty, parents or other students) any Monday afternoon!

See Mr F for more details and learn more at <http://paynamibia.org/>.

Rick Fitzpatrick

A picture is worth a thousand words



UNDER THE STARS

THEME: UNDER THE STARS

**DATE & TIME: FRIDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 2018, 18:00 - 21:30
(STRICTLY!)**

PLACE: WIS PARKING LOT @ PTA CONTAINER

PRICE: N\$40.00

DRESS CODE: DRESS UP AS A MOVIE STAR

CONTESTS/COMPETITIONS: BEST DRESS UP, DANCE-OFF

**ESSENTIAL INFO: ONLY MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM WIS
SNACKS & DRINKS TO PURCHASE**



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AMAZING ! 3000 books for sale, from 10 N\$ to 100 N\$!



SCOUTS OF NAMIBIA BOOK SALE



19 & 20 October 2018

Browse the large selection of second hand adults' and children's books in English and German

**St. Paul's College
School Hall, Sam Nujoma Dr.**

**Friday 19th October : 14h00 – 18h00
Saturday 20th October : 8h00 – 17h00**