



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am always amazed when I hear about the good work that WIS parents and alumni are doing, and I am inspired to do more myself when I see what our students are accomplishing together. As we enter into this hectic end-of-year festive season, I hope that we are able to take time to pause, to be thankful, and to reflect upon our impact on our community and our world.

Thanks to the Primary Student Council for organising the Giving Tree Drive, and to our many WIS families who have sponsored a child from Purros or Na'ankuse. There are still at least 30 children that need a sponsor. [Sign up here](#)

If you do not have time to buy a gift but want to contribute you can give a cash donation, and Ms. Avril (PYP Coordinator) will collect these funds to organize the gift for you. Just pop the funds in an envelope with your name on it, identify the child you would like to sponsor, and leave it at the school reception for collection.

Thanks also to our students for all the small and large ways that they have contributed their leadership to make our school community a better, cleaner, and kinder place. From peer counselling to campus clean-up to CAS Projects and organising school events, the skills and dispositions gained from this kind of volunteerism will prepare students to become ethical and impactful future leaders.

I also want to thank our parents for the many ways they volunteer their time, connections, and insights for the benefit of our school. Here are some photos from the past two Saturdays' recent playground improvement project.



At WIS, we aren't afraid to talk about our values and principles, and what really matters. It fosters a climate where learners are increasingly intrinsically motivated to do the right thing.

**Sincerely,
Ethan Van Drunen**

PARENT INFORMATION PORTAL
Click here for more information

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Dates to Remember 2022

- **22 - 24 November 2022**
School Photos: [See Schedule](#)
- **23, 30 Nov and 6 Dec 2022**
FIFA World Cup stream
- **25 November 2022**
Movie night SSC
- **30 November 2022**
BoD meeting
- **1 December 2022**
Coffee morning
- **3 December 2022**
WIS Fun walk



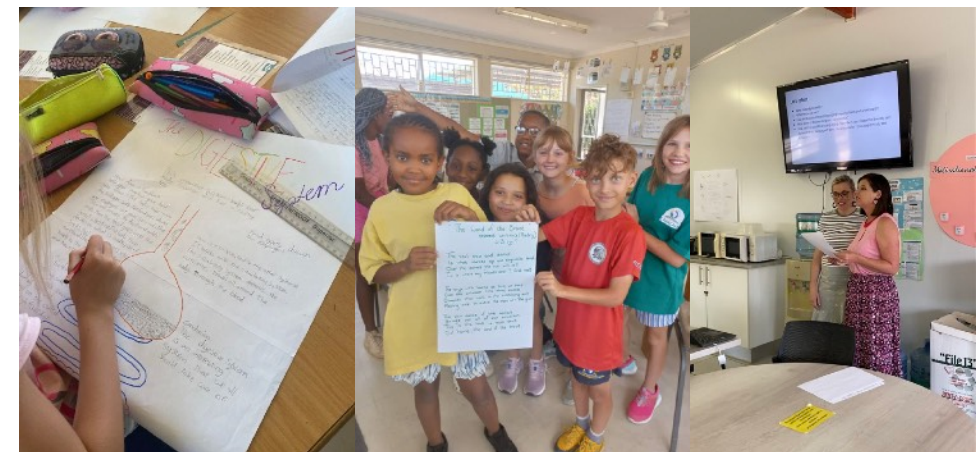
WIS BOOK BUZZ

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Dear WIS Community,

Teachers in the Primary at Windhoek International School have been learning about teaching language and literacy through an inquiry-based, functional approach to language. A functional approach looks at how language enables us to do things: to share information, to inquire, to express attitudes, to entertain, to argue, to construct ideas, and make sense of the world. We can empower students by explicitly teaching the functions of language and how they work: by breaking down texts and allowing them to inquire into their structure and language features. Research shows that this approach to teaching literacy and language is impactful.

In a series of workshops this semester, teachers practised writing different text forms with tools and resources available to us to develop a plan on how we would then teach these. Teachers created explanation texts, persuasive pieces, recounts and even Podcasts. The impact of these workshops can be seen in classes: learners are being taught 'how texts work.'



During the workshops, teachers also delved deeper into the pedagogy of translanguaging. Translanguaging is the term used to describe practices that allow and encourage learners to use their full linguistic repertoire in order to empower them and help them to realise their full potential. This means encouraging them to speak, write and/or translate to and from their first language or any language they speak and English, to support their learning.

During the teacher workshops, it was a real eye-opener for everyone to create texts in English and their home language. Rich discussion came from asking:

How did the use of translanguaging help you learn and understand?

How did the use of translanguaging help others appreciate the diversity and richness of our languages? How did you see this person differently once you heard how capable they were in another language? What does this do for honouring diversity and inclusion? What message are we sending to our students by using translanguaging as a pedagogy?

Why aren't you reading more? Has your attention span changed? Has your interests changed? Whatever the rhythm or reason, we've gathered some of the most common problems and ways to address them; when it comes to reading.

- 1.Problem:** The reading space or 'vibe' isn't right. Too noisy. Too quiet. Too many distractions. Too warm, too cold—we all have circumstances we like to read in. **Possible solutions:** Use white noise apps. Create reading spaces in your home. Ask your librarian/media specialist for suggestions. Turn the lights down. Start pinning some ideas to Pinterest and emulate them.
- 2.Problem:** You need a reason to read. If it's not assigned; you don't see a point to reading. **Possible solutions:** Make reading social. The process, the reflections, the outcomes. This will help you and your child value both the process of reading (critical thinking), and the outcomes of reading (knowledge). Help each other see reading as part of the relationship between the life you have and the life you want to have.
- 3.Problem:** You have too much else to do. Your time is limited and reading is the last thing on your mind. It's hard to read if you have a million things to do. Who wants to "enjoy a good book" when you've got 20 pages of homework to do? **Possible solutions:** Help them create a personalised reading schedule that works for them based on their life.
- 4.Problem:** It's not a habit. Reading is a muscle. The more you read, the more you'll want to read. **Possible solutions:** Use at home reading apps like Epic.

Did any of these problems resonate with you? Let us know at jwashington@wis.edu.na and mnaftali@wis.edu.na. Also If you'd like to suggest a book for our library collection, you can do so by visiting this link [BOOK SUGGESTION FORM](#).

A few examples of what translanguaging can look like in the classroom are:

- Note making (e.g. making their own notes from a text, graphic organiser or during practical work), in their first language, English or a mixture
- Note taking (e.g. noting down information while someone is talking or while watching a video), in any language(s)
- Use of subject specific books in the first language
- Any collaborative group or pair activity with peers who share a language, where the discussion can be in their language(s) of choice

The importance of a positive attitude to multilingualism has been suggested by various researchers for a long time. The positive effect was clearly visible when visiting classrooms this semester!



'(writing an information report in French)... connects us with our home language. Even though I only go to France once a year, it's still good to read and write in French. Because I think that will make my dad super happy.'

'We are writing about the digestive system. How it functions and how you can take care of it.. And how it connects with other systems. Luckily one of our assistant teachers speaks German so she could help me correct my words. Digestive system in German is Das Verdauungssystem.'

**Warm regards,
Marcelle van Leenen**

Grade 2 - How we Express Ourselves

Dear Community members,

In Grade 2, we are doing 'How we Express Ourselves' as our Unit of Inquiry and we are looking at different cultures and their traditions/celebrations.



Please sign up [HERE](#) for a class visit between 15 November and 8 December 2022. We would like to hear stories, do arts and crafts with the students and learn more from you. If there is a particular celebration which is not on our list please let us know.

Here are our email addresses if you have any questions.

bstephanus@wis.edu.na

dsmith@wis.edu.na

Thank you in advance. We are looking forward to hear from you!

Grade 2 Team



Car Security Stickers
Please collect your 2022 - 2023
windscreen sticker at the Office!



SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

The impact of connections and connecting when transitioning into post-secondary life

This past week I had the opportunity to attend the CIS Global Forum on Admission and Guidance. This is an annual conference where university admission representatives have an opportunity to connect with school guidance counsellors. The conference was informative and gave me a chance to connect with colleges from across the world to discuss the transition from high school to university.

At the moment, our Grade 12s are in the midst of their post-secondary school planning and a lot of conversation, planning, exploration and sometimes anxious times go along with this phase of a student's life. The transition to university is a huge step for young people and being well prepared for this transition in every respect, is a critical ingredient of their success and wellbeing when they leave home.



It is interesting to see how connected we already are and what these connections enable us to do. During the conference, a session was held where students from different parts of the world who just started studying participated in a panel discussion: **Inclusion, belonging and equity in the transition to university** - "This panel aimed to provide first-hand perspective on how international students from minorities backgrounds / the Global South experience transition and integration into a new (mostly western) environment. This was an opportunity for schools and universities to ask candid questions to recently graduated international students who have gone through the experience personally and were willing to share insights and opportunities on how to strengthen transition care for these students."

I am very proud to say that Tanatswa Murwira, WIS graduate from 2021, who started studying medicine at St. Georges University in Grenada just recently. You will recall his alumni story a few weeks ago in the Oryx.

On Thursday, Tanatswa participated in the panel discussion mentioned above. It was thrilling to see his confident and assertive communication and how well he has managed to adapt and connect to university. He had to start his university online, because of visa difficulties, but his confident and independent approach to managing these challenges is a testament to a strong support from home and the education he was able to enjoy in our school. I was very proud to hear him talk about the connections he has made so quickly, the approach to transitioning to a totally different environment, culture and challenges that being so far away from home brings.

This short success story of one of our alumni is reassuring. It confirms that our efforts and approach to education and pedagogy are having a positive impact on young people's lives and that these efforts are getting our graduates to realise their dreams and potential. It is, however, necessary to mention, that this could never have been possible without the dedicated support of his family and his teachers in school as well as a committed, motivated and engaged approach to his education.

Tanatswa is sharing this experience with us as well:

"When I was first told about this forum, I could have easily said no as I was still catching up on school work, learning my way around the city and getting all my documents sorted. Yet, I said yes out of interest.

The experience was great, as it was an opportunity for me to reflect on my transition to university. There were little things I was doing to make it easier that I hadn't realised before, like intentionally spending time outside my room where I can meet people, saying yes to any and all invites/events or making it a challenge to learn as many names as I could.



Cassandra

This is an impressive group of young adults who have some excellent coping skills and were prepared to thrive on their campuses through their sheer determination. I am curious if they observed international students who were not able to make it work. What lessons were learned from those students experiences?

Despite arriving 3 weeks late (due to VISA delays), I felt well equipped and prepared to cope with the situation through my time at WIS and my own efforts for personal development."

Hearing the similarities and differences in experience of my fellow panelists was eye-opening, as it showed me that the transition into tertiary education is a unique event to every student."

Well done, Tanatswa for reaching your goals and in the process confirming that your education - at home and at WIS - was and still is a solid foundation for a successful future.

**Regards,
Maggie Reiff**

STUDY IN FRANCE

We had the opportunity to listen to Alice Jacot, Chargée de mission pédagogique / Campus France Namibie / Franco Namibian Cultural Centre on opportunities to study in France. Please find the presentation [Studying in France](#) here. If you have any questions with regard to this, kindly approach Alice in the FNCC directly. Applications are sent to the FNCC and are then approved and submitted to the French universities.

PEEL Essays

(Point - Evidence - Explanation - Link)



For the past term, the Grade 8 students have been learning about essay writing. We use the PEEL structure to help students formulate and share their ideas in a logical and clear way. It helps to ensure that arguments are strong by keeping their paragraphs focused. The PEEL structure allows students to link opinions and facts with evidence. These students were able to demonstrate their understanding of the PEEL structure in a comprehensive way. Enjoy reading their essays!

Should parents keep an eye on what their children do on the internet?

By Nicholis Swart Gr. 8AJ

The internet is something that everyone uses on a daily basis. Over the years it has grown to become a vast network of information, games, and communication, but where there is good there is also bad. There are many websites and apps that have explicit content, there are many scammers who try to steal from the average person, and there are inappropriate users. One in every three internet users is under the age of 18. This makes many young children very vulnerable to being scammed. Parents should be able to monitor their young children online.

Parents should monitor their young child's browser history for explicit websites. Whether it is by mistake or on purpose many small children watch content that was not meant for them. There are thousands of websites that feature this kind of content. To make it worse, the average child watches this kind of content at the young age of 11. About one in 5 children have watched explicit content, sometimes not even by choice but by accidentally clicking the wrong link. It is a parent's responsibility to guide their child away from these websites until they are capable of avoiding them themselves. It is obvious that parents should monitor their young child's browser history.

Parents should view their young child's message history to check for scammers. Scammers are a massive problem, especially for young children and the elderly. Every year 1 million children are scammed with their identities being stolen, about 67% of these cases involve children under 8 years old. These scams occur mainly via messages and calls. These scams can be executed in a variety of ways from trying to make friends with the child to claim that they have won a cash prize. After stealing the information the scammers threaten the parents and request a ransom to be paid or their personal information to be leaked. Considering all this, it is clear that parents should monitor their small child's messages.

Parents should make sure that their young children don't talk to inappropriate users. Of all the users on the internet, there are of course some bad people in between. You can find these users on a variety of apps and websites, ranging from Twitter to Instagram. Over 70% of children encounter users like this while browsing the internet. It is a parent's responsibility to make sure that the correct safety setting is enabled to prevent users from sending inappropriate messages to their children. Often these users attempt to make friends with young children and then share inappropriate content with them. They then trick the child into sending explicit pictures of themselves. Over the long run, this could be bad for the child's mental health and self-esteem. Looking at this, it is clear that parents should make sure that their young children don't talk to inappropriate users.

To conclude, the internet could be a very dangerous place, especially for a young crowd. This is why sometimes young children need their parent's guidance online. This is to protect not only the child's identity but also the entire family's identity. It also protects the mental health of the child and teaches him/her to be responsible online. and teach their children the same things one day. This is why it is important for parents to keep an eye on what their children do on the internet.

Simple things you can do to make you stay healthy longer

By Carolina Berna Gr. 8AJ

Staying healthy is a very simple thing to do. It is also a very important thing to do because it prevents you from dying at a young age or being extremely ill. All you need to do is be physically active everyday, eat healthy food and test your mind. You should also have good friends (this improves your mental health) and stay clean.

First of all, to live a long and healthy life you need to stay active. Data shows that being physically active for at least thirty minutes a day builds memory and brain function, helps managing weight, strengthens bones and muscles and it also minimises the risk of chronic diseases (cancer or heart disease). Staying physically active can also lower your blood pressure and improve your heart health. Therefore, if you do sport or physical activity for more than thirty minutes a day you will stay healthy. From this, we can conclude that to improve your health you need to stay active daily.

Secondly, to stay healthy you need to eat nutritious food. For example, if you eat different food everyday that contains protein, fats and carbohydrates and have less salt or sugar like dark green vegetables , beans and lentils, whole grains, fish, and berries, you will be healthier because eating healthy food provides enough energy to stay active. Nutrition also equals growth and repair which makes you strong and does not make you feel lazy or dull. This means that eating healthy and staying hydrated will make you have more energy for the day and can also prevent other diseases like diabetes. In conclusion, eating healthy food gives you energy and brain power, which improves your health to live longer.

Another point to consider to stay healthy is mental fitness. Everyone knows that physical fitness is super important because the more you help your body the more you help your mind, but mental fitness should not be neglected. This is illustrated when you go to bed. When you go to bed your body relaxes but your mind does not. If you imagine a peaceful or calm place it will help your mind fall asleep. This provokes your less dominant side of the brain (the side that controls emotions of self-doubt and optimism), So when you visualise you calm down mentally. Other ways to do this are by reading, daydreaming, laughing, staying positive, relaxing, doing memory exercises, and by playing games. This means that if you do these things you will have less stress and anxiety. From this we can conclude mental fitness is just as important as physical fitness.

If you do stay active, eat healthy food and stay mentally fit every day, I guarantee you will have a long, happy and healthy life. Do not be a couch potato!

Kifaru Lodge Gr. 8 Field Trip

Excitement filled the air on the morning of 3 November as the Gr. 8 students got ready to take their trip to Kifaru Lodge in Outjo. These students enjoyed a two-day trip as part of a team-building activity and learning about rhino conservation.



The Gr. 8 students left early on Thursday morning with Mr. JP, Mr. Johan, Ms. Angie, and Ms. Reiff. We stopped for a breakfast at Okahandja Wimpy where Carla, the owner, and her team of staff awaited to serve us in a friendly manner. We then left for Kifaru Lodge and arrived around 13:30, just in time for lunch. After lunch and after the students unpacked their bags the students were divided into two groups. One group prepared and got ready for their game drive and learning experience about the Rhino Momma Project while the other group relaxed and enjoyed their time together in the pool.

In order to take precautionary measures in the ongoing fight against rhino poaching, the rhinos go through a dehorning process. This process involves a substantial part of the horn getting removed. The hope is to deter any poachers and limit the risk of danger by removing their horns.

The dehorning process does not harm any of these animals and is done by skilled professionals. The Rhino Momma Project is dedicated to the care and repopulation of the rhino species in Southern Africa.



We all enjoyed a hearty dinner together and the students were able to make their own S'mores for dessert. After 22:00 we asked the students to get ready for bed, which of course you can just imagine did not happen for a few hours after.

Waking up to a beautiful sunrise, we met for breakfast. The other group went on their game drive early Friday morning. We prepared the bus and around 11:00 we were on our way to Outjo Bakery for lunch.

We arrived safely in Windhoek around 18:00, thanks to Israel our driver from Sense of Africa.

Even though it was a long trip on the bus for a one-night sleepover, we felt that the whole experience was of great value for both the students and teachers. There were great bonding experiences and relationship-building that happened in such a short time.

If you do find yourself in the area of Outjo and would like to have one awesome experience at a lodge, please visit [Kifaru Luxury Lodge](#).

We are looking forward to planning our next adventure with our current Gr. 8 group!

Angie Janse van Rensburg



Sustainable Energy in WIS

After our research, we have found some information about the solar panel project and some other school construction plans.

In recent months, the school has made great efforts to reduce our carbon footprint by installing solar panels on the roofs of the PLC. With the help of the United States Embassy, we have been able to install enough solar panels on the PLC to supply the majority of the school with clean and renewable energy.

At this moment in time, the solar panels are only located on the PLC roofs and there are no plans to extend this to other parts of the school as it seems unnecessary due to the effectiveness of the current solar panels. As it is, the solar panels in place will cover more than 80% of the school's energy consumption.

As students, we believe that this project is a great initiative for the school to improve its sustainable energy capacity.

Committee of Innovation, Technology and Security
Members - Panduleni, Adam and Rishabh - (Grade 9 ATL Class)

WINDHOEK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Reminder: Photo Days
22-24 November 2022

SCHOOL PHOTOS WILL BE TAKEN BY A PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER.
*We request that students are dressed neatly and presentable.



SINCE AUGUST UNTIL NOW SHANI HAS READ MORE THAN 20 BOOKS!

WIS would like to acknowledge and commend her for this passion for reading and for encouraging her peers to do the same. Book Den sponsored a book voucher which she will receive as part of this acknowledgment!

Well done **Shani Kriessbach** and to many more happy reads!





FIFA WORLD CUP

The WIS Sports Community invites you
To celebrate the FIFA World Cup with us!

Games are to be streamed at the Fish Eagle's Nest:

- **Wednesday, 23/11 Spain vs Costa Rica @ 18:00**
- **Wednesday, 30/11 Tonishia vs France @ 17:00**
- **Tuesday 06/12 Quater Finals @ 17:00**



Bring the family!
Cash Bar will be available



- ROCK CLIMBING HOLIDAY CAMP -
12th - 16th December 2022

7 - 10 YRS: 8H30 - 13H00
11 - 15 YRS: 13H00 - 17H30

RATES
N\$250 / DAY
N\$1100 / WEEK

Snacks included
Max 10 kids per session

LET US DRIVE YOUR KIDS UP THE WALL

CLIMBNAMIBIA@GMAIL.COM

0818164240





WIS FUN WALK

Fundraising: WIS Sports Community

SO MANY FUN
ACTIVITIES
TO LOOK OUT
FOR!

- VOLLEYBALL
- BUCKET BALL
- TUG OF WAR

FITNESS CLASSES:

- STEP CLASS
- GRID CLASS
- PILATES

RELAY FAMILY TEAMS!

TEAMS SHOULD DRESS
COSTUMES OR COLOUR
COORDINATE

JOIN US FOR A WIS FUN WALK/RUN!

Date: Saturday, 3 December 2022

Time: 8:00 - 11:00 | Bring & Braai from 10:00

Cash bar (snacks & drinks)

The WIS Sports community would like to promote healthy active students, families, schools, and community.

Toyota Prado 3.0 VX DIESEL 4x4 2016



White Pearl, Automatic
 113,000km
 Serviced with Toyota every
 10,000km.
 Includes extended warranty
 until March 2024; can
 buy 2 more years from
 Toyota for \$10 670.



Seats 7 (rear seats autofold
 up/down)
 4 new Sailun TerraMax tyres
 in past 6 months
 Front Runner roof rack with
 detachable mount for
 2nd spare

In excellent condition and
 has seen a lot of Namibia.



This car makes you feel safe.
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N\$699 998.

Contact: Stephen @
 081 229 79 33