

THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR



The Tuck Shop

Please note that the Tuck Shop in its present form will close two weeks today – **Friday 2nd March**. This is the last day before the week-long March break.

When we reopen on Monday 12th March we will be introducing a new model of providing hot meals. Full details will follow shortly but some of the changes will be as follows.

- No food will be prepared in the Tuck Shop.
- A limited but varied and nutritious choice will be offered each day.
- Meals must be ordered in advance.
- The Tuck Shop will only be open during second break.
- A limited range of waters, juices and healthy snacks will also be on sale.

It has been noted many times that the Tuck Shop was never intended to be a facility that could provide cooked meals for a school where 600 people work (and eat!) every day and we have decided the time has come to stop trying.

And even the new model will be – and can only be – a stop-gap measure pending the construction of a new facility that is designed from the outset to meet the needs of the school.

On that front, we are making good progress. The concept is fast taking shape and I hope to be able to share with you further details soon.

Reports

The much-delayed Primary reports were issued a week ago today. Not unexpectedly, there were a few glitches but, for the most part, the new system appears to have worked. (Phew!)

Quite independently of the method of delivery, the reports themselves are much-changed from previous versions. If you have any observations about any aspect of the new reports, we would be grateful to hear them.

Peter MacKenzie



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Dates to Remember

February 2018

- **16:** Braai, Bagpipes & Bar Party - Starts @ 18:00
- **20:** IBDP/IGCSE - Info session (7:30 - 9:00)
- **20:** UBC Representative visiting (18:00)
- **28:** SPTC details TBC

March 2018

- **1:** PSLC - Details TBC
- **2:** Secondary Sports Day
- **2:** End of term 3

WEEKLY PUZZLER

Riegardt Smit solved last week's puzzler. He correctly said that the coin marked 200 BC must be a counterfeit and therefore worthless. How did he know this?

This week's puzzler is fairly straight forward. If a brick weighs 3 kgs plus half a brick, how much does a brick and a half weigh? (Again, algebra is your friend here).

Please send your solution, or any interesting puzzlers, to pfarrell@wis.edu.na

**PRIMARY PRINCIPAL****Student-Led Conferences**

The Student-Led Conferences will be here before we know it. They are taking place during the day on **Thursday, 1st March**. (Please note that **there is no school for Primary students** on this day; students only come to school for their scheduled conferences.) If you haven't already received the invitation with your scheduled time, you should be receiving it today or Monday at the latest. If there is a conflict with the scheduled time that you have been given, please contact your child's teacher to make arrangements for another time.

What is the format for the Student-Led Conference?

The students are responsible for leading the conference and sharing their learning with their parents. They may demonstrate their learning through different stations or centres, sharing samples of their work and their portfolios. There will most likely be other children scheduled at the same time for the conference in the Homeroom.

You are strongly encouraged to make time to visit the Specialist classes, either before or after the Homeroom conference, as these classes are an equally important part of your child's school experience. The Specialist teachers will also have stations, activities and/or work for your child to show you. Your child will have a checklist of the various Specialist teachers to be visited, and will be your guide to these classrooms.

What is my role as a parent during the conference?

First and foremost it is important that you are fully present. Your cellphone should be turned off or put on silent so that you are not distracted during your conference. Your role is to listen, encourage, show interest, be constructive, be sensitive and to ask questions. This is your child's time to have your undivided attention. It is a time to celebrate your child's learning and the accomplishments that he/she has made so far this academic year. During the conference you will also be able to support your child with reflecting on what he/she has done well and with setting goals for areas that can be further developed.

What if I want to talk with the teacher about my child's progress?

The teacher will be present during the conference, supporting the students as needed. Your child's sharing of his/her learning and work should provide evidence of the progress your child is making. If there are any specific concerns that you would like to discuss with the teacher, please arrange with the teacher for a separate appointment to take place the week prior to the conferences or after the March holiday.

I'm sure you will find the conferences to be a rewarding experience for both you and your child.

**Regards,
Beth Smith**



Year 5 Field trip

Visit to the Ministry of Mines and Energy



We visited the Ministry of Mines and Energy and the Earth Museum on Wednesday 7th February. We met our tour guide and she was a very nice lady. She showed us the pentagon exhibit and in all five boxes there were many different gemstones, rocks and minerals. After that, we went to another box that had rocks and stones with shark teeth in them. We also saw an exhibit that had the different diamond cuts. After that we all went to a small box that had lots of rocks and minerals that we use to make different parts of a car, she let us touch most of the minerals except one called Lead, it was poisonous!

Soon after that we went to visit the ancient times in the dinosaur exhibit! She showed us a few fossils of an extinct dino species and one huge model of a dinosaur. After we played a little game of finding bones in a pit of red pebbles. Later we watched presentations about layers of the earth, about natural resources and about mines. After all that fun we all got some colouring books and got to colour at school.

It was so much fun and we learned about different types of natural resources that we did not know and their use!

By Abigail Segamwenge. Year 5A

Swimming Gala

Our second Swim Gala took place on the 2nd February 2018 at Aqua Swimming Club in Khomasdal. What a day for the Primary students! Congratulations and well done to all the swimmers who showed commitment, enthusiasm and fairness. It was good to see that 42 students signed up to take part in our Inter-House Swimming Competition. Swimmers have shown determination and speed; there were some tremendous competitive races which all seemed to enjoy. We gave



28 **Medals of Participation** (for participation in both Inter house Swim Galas: September and February) 7 Certificates for being a **Risk-Taker** and **34 Gold, 32 Silver** and **32 Bronze Medals**.



Happy swimmers from Year2B



The Sports Committee would like to say thank you to our PTA for supporting the Swim Gala once again by giving all swimmers an energy bar and a juice.

The Sports Committee is planning a very exciting Inter-house Swim Gala for Primary and Secondary School on **September 15, 2018, at Dolphins Swimming Pool at WHS.**

Our September, Inter-house Swim Gala will be followed by the Pupkewitz Inter School Gala on 26 & 27 October 2018. The Sports Committee in partnership with PTA would like to encourage all swimmers who will represent WIS to purchase a WIS swimming cap, the WIS swimming t-shirt and a Hoodie at the beginning of the new academic year 2018/2019.

Please click [here](#) to view more photos from this event. Once again thank you all for taking part in the Inter-house Swim Gala!

Beata Stephanus

Volleyball for all

We all were super excited about the Volleyball for all. My afternoon activity which is Volleyball was part of the tournament. I want to thank them for all their hard work and dedication during their practice and their time that they offer willingly. They played against six teams and they played their hearts out... They had lots of fun during their games. They played as a team and they made me proud. With more intense practice I know we will go very far. We are excited about the next tournaments to come...

Auried Bock



Please click [here](#) to view more photos from this event. Thank you to Social committee for sponsoring food and drinks for the teacher team members.

Small school athletics

Last week Thursday, WIS took part in the Small Schools Athletics Meet. The other competing schools that took part in this event were St. Paul's, Holy Cross Convent, The Waldorf School and Highlands Christian School.



The WIS Team consisted of students from Year 5 to Year 8 competing in various events such as the 1200m, 100m, long jump, shot put, etc.

The middle distances (800m and 1200m) are always the most challenging; an athlete needs good stamina and muscular endurance. We had runners in both events, but only two athletes (Quentin Strauss and Salome Rey) managed to qualify for the Zone B Athletics Meet.

In the short sprints, WIS always faces stiff competition from the other schools. Sprinters should have speed, power and run with proper technique. Although many of our sprinters finished in top four positions, only Ndahafa Muadinohamba, Natalie Segamwenge and Kevin Amaambo qualified for Zone B.

In the field events, most of our athletes demonstrated proper technique. Dante Luiperth finished first in the long jump and his older brother, Amani, finished first in the Shot-put and Javelin, and second in the Discus. Ndahafa Muadinohamba and Olwen Black finished first and second respectively in the girls Shot-put; in the High Jump girls under twelve, Natalie Segamwenge finished in first place. All these athletes qualified for Zone B.

WIS finished third overall on the points table which is an achievement considering the size of our student body; we are looking forward to next year's competition and to achieve even better results!

I also want to give a BIG thank you to all the athletes for their efforts and to staff members that assisted as officials.

Fernando Beukes

****The Sports Committee requests that all students purchase the navy blue school t-shirt to show that they are part of the WIS school community whenever they represent the school at sporting events.***

Please click [here](#) to view more photos from the Small Schools Athletics Meet. Thank you to Atousa Fischer-Büder who made an effort to go and buy SlowTown coffee and sandwiches for the teachers at the athletics.

Celebrating Mother Tongue every week!

We are celebrating our mother tongues every week during the primary assemblies.

Each Friday, a group of students sings the "Happy Birthday" song in their mother tongue to the birthday children of the week, accompanied by Ms Beth and her guitar.

So far, we had the chance to listen to the French, Oshiwambo, Portuguese, Damara Nama and Dutch song.

It is a great opportunity for the children to share a few words in their home language to the community, to realise the chance they have to be able to communicate in several languages. For all of us, it provides a cultural, exotic and enthusiastic touch to our primary assemblies.



The Language Committee

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Information session coming up - IGCSE and IBDP - What do I need to know to be able to ensure my child picks the right subjects?

Next week Tuesday, 20th February 2018, we have our annual Information Session for students in Years 9 & 11 to give them some information about the course they will be embarking upon in the next academic year.

The IGCSE course selection is still very broad and students are encouraged to choose courses/subjects they enjoy. When choosing subjects for the IBDP, however, more thought and discussion needs to accompany the choice of subjects. Depending on what a student plans to do in their future, these subject choices are important. When planning to move into the field of science, sciences should certainly be a focus. When planning to go into the field of business English and Economics should be chosen as Higher Level subjects.



The role of parents in this process is critical. Parents should have a realistic judgement of their child's aptitude and strengths and advise their child accordingly. Another aspect that always plays a big role is the availability of funds. Tertiary education is becoming increasingly costly and scholarships are available, but the competition for places and scholarships at prestigious universities is fierce.

Another consideration that might play into the discussion of subject choices is the country where a student will want to pursue their further education once they have completed school. Again, it is important to be realistic both with regard to a student's strengths as well as with regard to the financial means available for such education.

We therefore urge parents to take the time to inform themselves together with their children about choices that are eminent now at the end of Year 9 or Year 11.

On Tuesday, we will also have other institutions present at our information session. CATS will be available to chat about their programme. The FNCC, will also be available to talk about their institution.

We look forward to welcoming many parents to our information session on Tuesday. It is an excellent opportunity to meet subject teachers, coordinators and speak to students who are currently completing the IB Diploma.

*Regards,
Maggie Reiff*

Year 9 story writing

The year 9 students were asked to write a Horror story using a list of specific vocabulary - this is what Aryaman wrote:

Today I officially bought a new house on top of the hills. My old house was next to a factory that made a lot of noise. The noise felt like a headphone on full volume for 24 hours. The waste of the factory was also **decomposing** and it gave off a putrid smell. This caused a lot of **dissatisfaction** for the visitors and living in these conditions were a **disadvantage**.

I shifted into the house tonight. People had told me that the house was haunted by a **malevolent** creature, but I didn't believe them until I saw it on one fateful night.



I was using my electrical **decanter** on a 500 year old cherry brandy when suddenly, the decanter stopped working. It seemed as if an electrical **malfunction** had happened. Since the main way to the generator room used electrical doors, we had to take a **detour**. On the way to the generator room I saw a **metaphor** written on the floor. It was quiet on the route. So quiet, you could hear a person whispering from mile away. At first, when I saw the metaphor, I ignored it, but then I saw it again. The metaphor read, "This night is the silence before the storm."

Creeped out, I walked into the generator room and immediately felt my vision getting **distorted**. That is when I saw it - it was a ghost who was in the middle of the process of **metamorphosis**. He was turning into a bull and that was when he saw me. He charged at me with full speed. The world went blank. When I woke up, I realised that my life had changed. I was now part of the house!

WIS NETBALL TEAM NEWS

Dear WIS Community,

Our middle school netball girls team have been hard at training the past couple of weeks! They have given up their Wednesday afternoons to practise at school from 17:30 to 19:00 under the guidance of their coaches Ms Audrey, Ms Debisa and Ms Kirsten. In fact, this past week they have agreed to up their training to twice a week! That's true dedication!



Because the netball team is a new team, they unfortunately have no uniform! We therefore appeal to the WIS community to help us by sponsoring a netball kit which the girls can confidently wear when they begin playing against other schools in March.

We have the kits designed and we have the quotation from the printing company - all we need is a sponsor!

If you would like to sponsor one of the team kits, please contact Ms Audrey abock@wis.edu.na or Ms Debisa dcooper@wis.edu.na or Ms Kirsten khildebrandt@wis.edu.na or Ms Jacky jferreira@wis.edu.na

Valentine's Day 14 February 2018



On Wednesday, 14th February, love was in the air as the WIS community celebrated Valentine's Day.

Students were asked to dress in white, pink and red- the colours of love. The Student Council organised roses, brownies and helium balloons to be ordered by the students for each other beforehand. These were then distributed during the day by Student Council members.

Although the Student Council faced a few initial difficulties in the arrangements for the distributed items, the day went very smoothly. The Student Council is proud to have organised this special event for enjoyment of all students.



Afua Brantuo
Student Council Writer

EARLY CLOSING on WEDNESDAY 21st FEBRUARY

Something we have done – and will only ever do – very infrequently is close the school early for staff training. But we have run out of scheduled professional development days for the current school year and we do need to have a couple of hours with all teaching staff before the end of February.

Please be advised, therefore, that on **Wednesday 21st February** all classes will end at 13:30. All classes up to and including Year 9 would in any case finish at 13:30 but on this day Years 10 to 13 will also be dismissed at 13:30.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Peter MacKenzie, Director

CHOOSE
YOUR
FUTURE



Information Session IGCSE & IBDP
Windhoek International School
WIS PLC - Auditorium Foyer and outside
20 February 2018
07:30 - 9:00

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A
S



Work Experience

You are cordially invited to join our IGCSE and IBDP information morning and get information about these two programmes from students, teachers and coordinators.

Find out what your child can choose for the next step in their school career and what the best options are for him/her to find the best possible combinations for their future career.

Language A, Language B, Mathematics, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Economics, Visual Arts, History, Geography

The poster features the text "DONATE BLOOD DONATE LIFE" in large, bold, white letters. The letters are filled with a close-up image of a person's eyes. Below the text is a white heartbeat line. At the bottom left is a QR code. To the right of the QR code is the text "Moving forward with every drop." followed by the NAMBTS logo, which includes the text "NAMBTS donate life" and a red blood drop icon.

QR Code

Moving forward with every drop.

NAMBTS
donate life

PO Box 3434 Windhoek
Tel: 00264 (0)61 386300
www.bts.com.na

WHK International School

VENUE: Foyer at the PLC
DATE: Wednesday 21 February 2018
TIME: 08:30 - 13:00
TARGET: 20+ Blood Donations

**First 20 donors will receive
Complimentary sunglasses**

[WIS Bazaar Flyer](#)

[Raffle Publicity](#)

The PTA Raffle

The PTA Raffle Team is busy gathering fantastic, adventurous prizes, family prizes, surprising prizes, prizes to relax you, prizes to spoil you or someone you care about.

Prizes that will take you to places, prizes that will delight you



BE PART OF THE ADVENTURE

SUPPORT THE PTA RAFFLE & Stand a chance to win.

A BIG THANK YOU ,TO OUR SPONSORS BELOW.



PROUD SPONSORS

WIS

PTA RAFFLE



WIS CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL DAY OF HAPPINESS!

LET'S HELP BRIGHTEN THE LIVES OF PEOPLE WITH CANCER.



FUNDRAISER

WHEN?

Tuesday, 20 March

WHAT?

Come dressed in the allocated class colour (yellow or black) to help make a whole school emoji smiley face on the big field at 11:00am.

There will be a special treat for everyone after taking the photo...

STICKERS

Available for N\$10.00! On sale from homeroom teachers from 19 February - 20 March.

Please buy one (or many!) and support cancer patients. All proceeds will be donated to the Cancer Association.

WIS 2017/18 YEARBOOK COVER COMPETITION

**...because this
does not look
right....**



STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO DESIGN A COVER FOR THIS YEAR'S YEARBOOK. THE BEST ONE WILL BE PRINTED ON THE FRONT COVER OF EVERY 2017/ 2018 BOOK!

RULES

- ▶ THE DESIGN MUST BE A4 SIZED
- ▶ CLOSING DATE: 15 MARCH 2018
- ▶ ENTRIES CAN BE SUBMITTED DIGITALLY OR AS HARD COPIES
- ▶ MAXIMUM OF 3 ENTRIES PER STUDENT
- ▶ PRIMARY ENTRIES SUBMITTED TO MRS VEENA, VNAMBIAR@WIS.EDU.NA
- ▶ SECONDARY ENTRIES SUBMITTED TO MR. SMIT, RSMIT@WIS.EDU.NA
- ▶ THE FOLLOWING TEXT MUST BE ON THE COVER (ANYWHERE):
 - WINDHOEK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
 - YEARBOOK 2017/ 2018