



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

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Dates to Remember

November 2020

- **25:** Public Holiday - No school
- **27:** 30th Logo design deadline

December 2020

- **04:** WIS 30th Birthday
- **09:** End of Term 2
- **10:** Human Rights Day

January 2021

- **01:** New Year's Day



Director Search Update

The Director Search Committee would like to thank the students, parents, teachers, and staff who participated in our virtual site visits over the past week. We were pleased to have three finalists "meet" with many of you over Google Meet and Zoom, and we appreciate the time you took out of your busy schedules (and day off for the students) to introduce the candidates to our school.

Additionally, the feedback that was provided by those who participated in the conversations is extremely valuable, and it has been shared with the Board of Directors. The Board is currently conducting a final round of interviews with the finalists and hopes to announce the appointment for a new Director in the very near future.

One common theme that has been shared by the finalists is that the WIS community is proud of and cares deeply for our school. In a year that has been filled with uncertainty, it is very encouraging to see the WIS community show up and share why we believe in our school. Thank you for your support!

On behalf of the Director Search Committee

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

As I mentioned in my article in last week's Oryx, we will be having our Primary Assessment conferences the afternoon of 1 December and all day Wednesday, 2 December.

Please note: **Primary students do not come to school on Wednesday.** These conferences will provide parents with an opportunity to have a conversation with the child's various teachers about their progress, next steps in their learning and how parents can help at home. You should receive the sign-up form today. I hope you will schedule a conference with the specialist teachers as well as the homeroom teachers as this will give you insight into your child's progress in all areas.

The following guidelines will help ensure a meaningful conference.

BEFORE	DURING	AFTER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss with your child: What is going well in school? What would make school better? • Make notes of what you think your child is doing well and what your child needs to work on both academically and socially, as well as emotionally. • Prepare questions you'd like to ask the teacher(s) about your child's learning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrive on time for the conference. If you arrive late, your meeting with the teacher will be limited to the remaining time scheduled. • Turn your cell phone off or put your phone on silent so that you can devote your full attention to the conference.  • Focus on where your child is currently achieving and what the goals are for your child to make growth during the remainder of this academic year. • Ask questions to help you understand your child's progress thus far. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss goals set with your child and monitor progress towards achieving goals. • Continue to encourage your child. • Follow through on the suggestions of how you can support your child's learning at home. • Communicate with the homeroom teacher and/or the specialist teachers regarding any concerns, or questions. • Follow-up on points discussed during the conference.

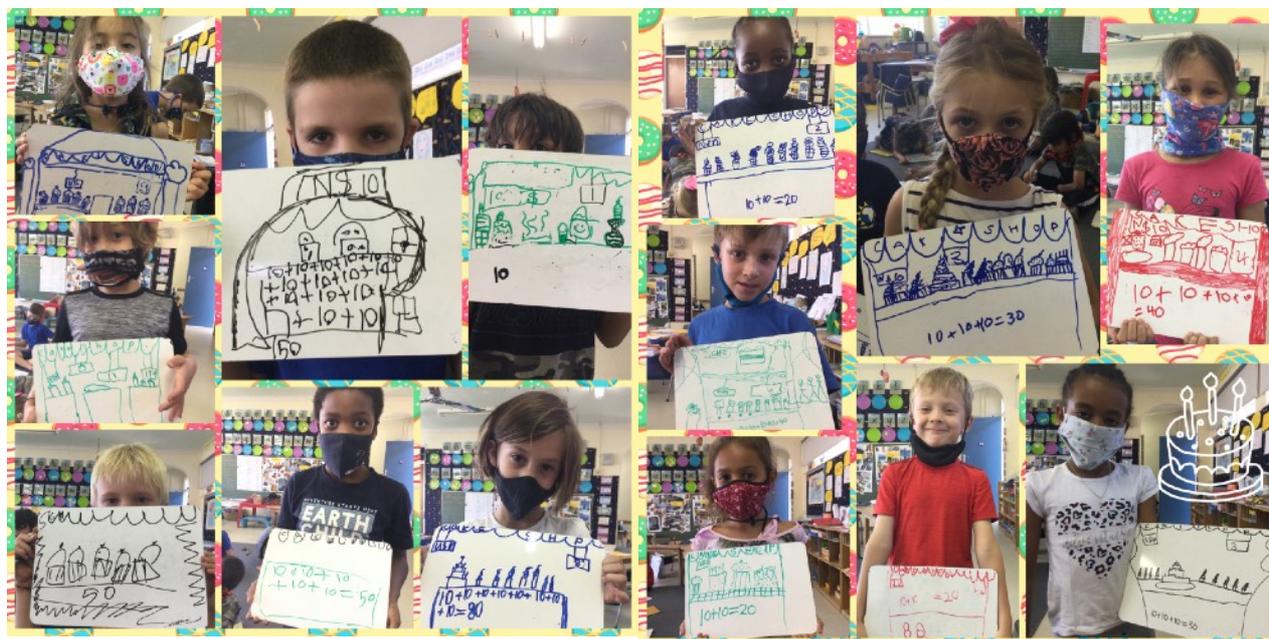
Regards,
Beth Smith

W.O.R.D.
Tolou Wolf and Kylie Beall in Grade 8JM reading for WORD!



Grade 1J

We were inspired by the Grade 7 cupcake fundraiser and made sums about cupcakes!



SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

[MAP Growth - Measures of Academic Progress in the Secondary School](#)



We have been doing MAP Growth testing for several years now in the Primary School. We have now started to do MAP Growth testing in the Middle School in Grades 6 & 7.

What is MAP Growth?

NWEA calls these tests “Powerful assessments to improve instruction and drive growth”. This is exactly what the purpose of these tests are. Students take these tests and with their results, we can adapt our teaching, inform our planning and support student growth. Teachers can ‘identify learning needs’ in their classes, they can ‘plan for growth’, which means that they can adapt their planning to accommodate the different learning profiles of students in their class, and they can ‘deliver effective instruction’, which means that their way of teaching can tune in to the students’ specific needs. They can differentiate better and determine their instructional activities according to the different groups of students in their classes.

What does that mean for students? ‘Through easy-to-use technology, MAP Growth is built to reveal what each student knows - and what they’re ready to learn. Due to its adaptive nature, MAP Growth tests take the learner from where they are in their learning. The tests identify where the learner is and what they are ready to learn next. With a pool of more than 50 000 high quality questions, MAP Growth can assess students on the full breadth and depth of standards in math, reading, English/language arts and science.

Once the test has been taken, results will tell teachers which areas in their subjects to focus on. Teachers can create groups of proficiency level in their group work and tasks to enable students to be engaged on their level of proficiency as well as support areas in need of strengthening in a specific area of either math or language.

Overall, MAP Growth scores are a valuable way to help planning and instruction and through that ensure a more valuable learning experience for learners.

We will host a MAP Growth Parent Info Session for parents with children in Grades 6 and/or 7 next week Thursday, 26 November 2020 from 17:30 - 18:30. [HERE](#) is the meeting link.

slido You can also submit your questions with regard to MAP Growth [HERE](#) in this Slido event (#31405).

Regards,
Maggie Reiff

Gymnastics

Why we love gymnastics and what it takes to be a serious athlete.



My sister, Mea, and I are both rhythmic gymnasts. We have been training for four years and just completed Level 4. It is a very competitive sport that requires a lot of training. We spend, on average, between seven to nine hours per week in formal coaching. In addition, we are also required to work on mastery and flexibility on our own almost every day. I also do weekly ballet training, which compliments my rhythmic abilities.

To be a gymnast, or any other athlete for that matter, you need to be focused and dedicated and you need to work very hard. No matter how talented you are, if you don't work hard, you will not develop and succeed as a gymnast. It means that you have to push your limits and do things that might scare you. It is also important to know and respect your body and what it can do. As time passes and you see the progress that you have made, it motivates you even more. Many times we have had to sacrifice our free time, time with friends and other events to go to training instead.

It is not always easy, but if you are not willing to make such sacrifices and stay focused, then you will not succeed. Having a great coach is also very important. You need to work closely with your coach if you want to succeed and you need to learn to handle criticism.

For me, all the sacrifices have been worth it. When you know that you have worked very hard and have given your very best the rewards are always amazing. For me, the best part is receiving a gold medal after a year of very hard work. Sometimes it also means that your best may not be the best at a competition, and then you have to learn to be happy for the one that has won and to remain dedicated and work even harder to try and win that first place.

My dream is to compete internationally and I keep that goal in mind every time I go to training. It keeps me focused and determined. *"A dream does not become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination, and hard work"* (Colin Powell, former US Secretary of State). That is what being an athlete is all about.

Joan van Zyl - Grade 6JB



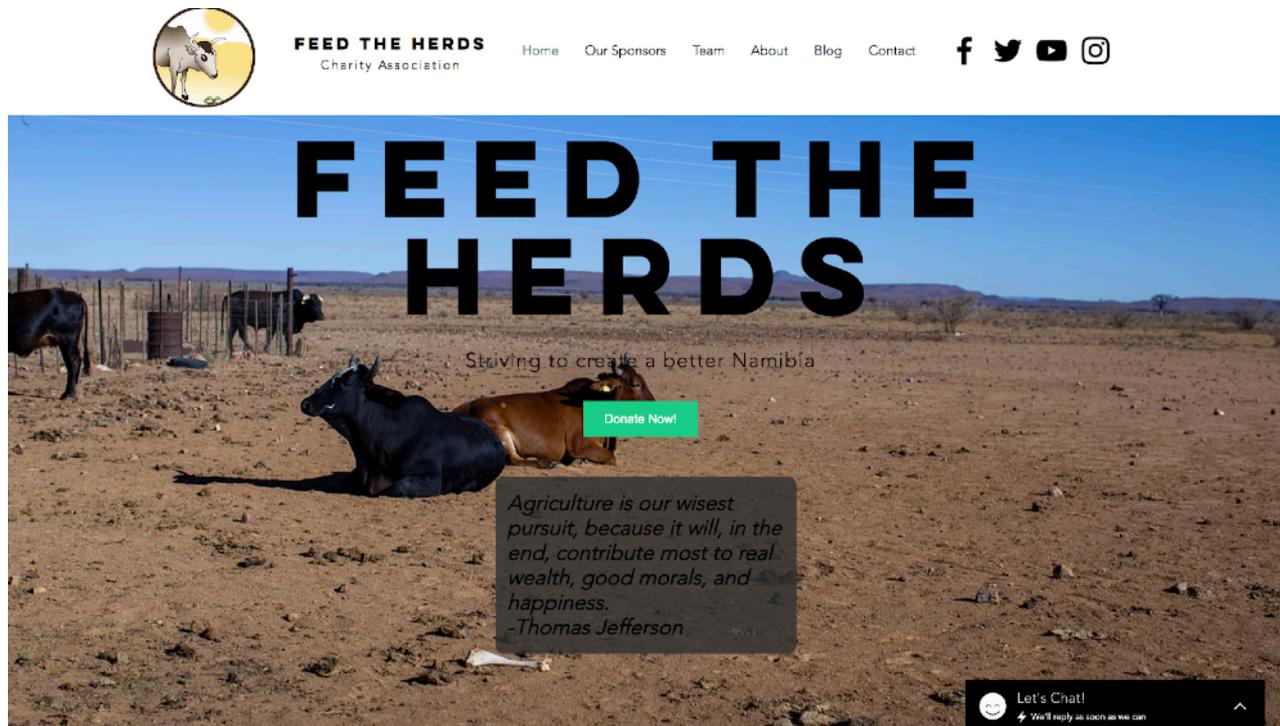
REMINDER

Wednesday, 25th November 2020 is a public holiday!

CAS Projects in the Making

For a Better Future

Feed The Herds is a CAS project started by four students, Lukene, Mathis, PJ and Amelie.



This CAS (Creativity, Activity and Service) project in the format of an organisation with multiple initiatives such as providing land rehabilitation is an excellent opportunity for our students to apply the CAS learning outcomes in an area of great importance for the local farmers. "The purpose of Feed The Herds is to support twenty farmers in Namibia with regard to their cattle herds in their battle against the ongoing drought. The goal is to raise funds through events and sponsorships, which are then donated to farmers."

Feed the Herds will provide immediate relief for cattle herds, ongoing education of farmers about sustainable agricultural practices and ongoing land rehabilitation.

The design of this thoughtful project, from the creation of the website to the different fundraising ideas, came from these Grade 11 students who just started the 18 months IB Diploma Programme and are already positively impacting our local community and with their followers are advertising Namibia internationally.

Please visit their website: <https://www.feedtheherds.com/> and support them by spreading the word.

On behalf of Amelie, Lukene, Mathis and Padjenda - Mrs. Teresa



NamiGreen E-waste Container



You might have noticed, or not, that for a few weeks now, our E-waste container at the main gate has been missing in action.

For those wondering, we were busy-bees, with the help of [NamiGreen](#), our container is now looking great and ready to receive recycling.

[NamiGreen](#) has generously and diligently repainted, repaired and rebranded the old E-waste container for us. WIS is now an official drop-off point for e-waste in Windhoek. Check it out [here!](#)

Please keep our community clean and safe by making use of the new e-waste container.

Recycle your old electronics, this includes **phones, computers, parts, cables, printers, cartridges, and all other electronics!**

Thank you again to [NamiGreen](#) for this great inactive. See the list [here](#) of all their drop-off points in and around Windhoek.

Jolene Nel

E-waste we recycle:

	Computers & tablets		Cell phones, phones, radios
	Ink & Printers/Fax		Servers, mainframes
	TV/Screens, Radio & Video		Appliances
	Cables & PC-accessories		All other electronics & electricals



Christmas for Critters Shoebox Drive



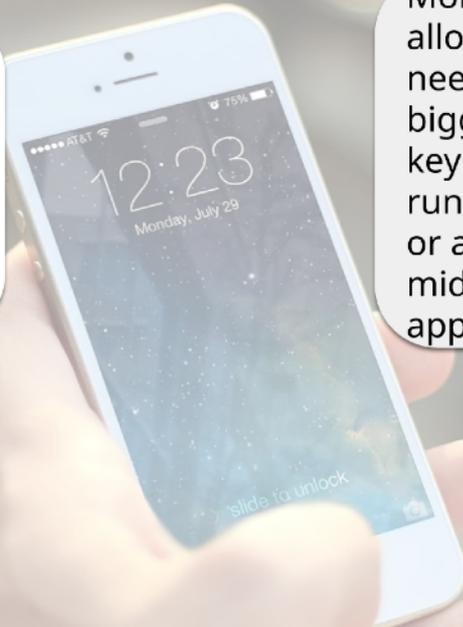
*The SPCA Windhoek invites you to take part in an inspiring community initiative. Our aim is to collect Christmas gifts for abandoned animals. Simply take a shoebox, fill it with a can of cat/dog food, a toy/collar/leash, a N\$100 note (or whatever you are able to give), decorate, and finally - drop it off at the SPCA! - **OR if you don't have time to make a box, why not donate a bag of DRY DOG/CAT FOOD or make an EFT referencing 'Christmas for Critters'.***

Closing date: 23 December 2020

www.spcawindhoek.org.na | Email: info@spcawindhoek.org.na



Merry Christmas!



My child has a smartphone. It connects to the internet! That should be good enough for school.

Mobile phones are not allowed at WIS. Students need a device with a bigger screen and keyboard. An iPad running iOS 13 or newer or a Chromebook - for middle school is appropriate.

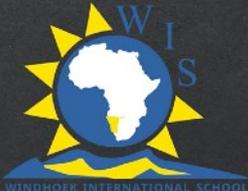
Ask anonymously at www.bit.ly/wis-techq read your answer in the ORYX

USED ITEMS NEEDED!

Do you have any of the following used items that you don't need anymore?

- glass jars (*jam jars*)
- second hand t-shirts
- magazines
- old shoes (*to be used as pots for planting*)
- objects for still life (*such as bottles, books, vase, statues*)

Please donate them to the WIS Primary School Art room!



NOVEMBER EVENTS

Open for all! You don't want to miss this!
entry fee will be donated to a men's health organization

For more info, contact
studentncouncil@wis.edu.na

GROW YOUR MOUSTACHE

In November, people with the ability to comfortably grow a moustache will grow there's **WITHOUT SHAVING**. At the end, everyone's moustaches will be measured and compared. **THE WINNER**, the person with the biggest moustache, will be given a **PRIZE!**

PARENTS CAN PARTICIPATE

MOUSTACHE MASKS

Unfortunately, not all of us can grow wonderful moustaches, so instead you are able to **PURCHASE** a mask with a moustache design. This is to show your support for this cause and still be involved in November!

EVERYONE IS ALLOWED TO PURCHASE ONE

WRITING COMPETITION

If you still want to **WIN A PRIZE**, you can write a **SHORT STORY**, between 350-400 words, about November and/or men's mental health. To **PICK** the winner, a poll will be sent out where you can **VOTE** for your **FAVORITE** story.

ONLY FOR STUDENTS

Moustache:
Nov 1st - 27th
Masks:
Nov 9th - 30th
Writing Competition:
Nov 7th - 30th



Do you have a creative spark? Then this Logo Design Competition is for you!

Here is what you need to do:
Design a logo that celebrates the WIS 30 Year Anniversary.

The logo must:
Include the school logo and colours
Include the number 30
Be visually eye-catching
Be powerful
Be positive

You can submit multiple entries as an individual, team, or family.
It can be a digital submission or hand-drawn, and no bigger than A5 size.
Include your name, surname, and grade.

The winner/s will receive a framed print of their logo and a voucher!

Deadline for all entries: 27 November 2020. Drop your hand-drawn logos with **Ms. Laura Smith** in the **Primary Art room** or email your digital design to **jnel@wis.edu.na**

RSVP HERE

YOU'RE INVITED TO

Back to the

90S!

WIS **30th** Birthday Bash!

JOIN US FOR A COMMUNITY GET TOGETHER!

DATE: 4 DECEMBER 2020 | TIME: 19:00 - 22:00

PLACE: WIS PE HALL | 90s THEME (OPTIONAL)

CASH BAR | FOOD WILL BE ON SALE

RSVP VIA THE SIGN-UP SHEET!

ADULTS ONLY!

LIMITED 200 SIGN-UPS

