



# Heroes' Day Edition

26 August 2021

Hard times don't create heroes.  
It is during the hard times when the  
'hero' within us is revealed.

**~Bob Riley~**





# THE ORYX

*The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School*

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Community,

I hope that you and your family will have a safe and relaxing long weekend. Please take the time to read Ms. Maggie Reiff's reflection on Heroes Day (Namibia Day) included in this week's Oryx. It is a good reminder that we "cannot become complacent and must continue striving for a better, more just and equal society for all". May we all use this break to find time to reflect on the large and small ways that we will put our individual and collective efforts towards this common goal.

Here are some important school events set to take place following the break:

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| • <b>After School Activities Begin</b>                        | <b>Starting 30 August: 13:45</b>  |
| • <b>Back to School Night - Secondary School</b>              | <b>2 September: 17:30 - 19:00</b> |
| • <b>Parent Association Meeting - New Constitution</b>        | <b>7 September: 16:45 - 17:30</b> |
| • <b>Back to School Night - Primary School</b>                | <b>7 September 17:30 - 19:30</b>  |
| • <b>CIS Virtual University Exploration Day - Gr 9 - 12</b>   | <b>8 September 11:00 - 14:00</b>  |
| • <b>No After School Activities (Staff Prof. Development)</b> | <b>13, 14, 16 September</b>       |
| • <b>Student Term 1 Assessment Conferences</b>                | <b>5-6 October (Times TBA)</b>    |
| • <b>October Break</b>  | <b>9 - 17 October</b>             |
| • <b>University &amp; Work Experience Information Night</b>   | <b>21 October 17:30 - 19:00</b>   |

The parent association team that have volunteered to re-write the PTA foundational documents, have now begun work on a terms of reference document. With wide community input and feedback, I think that we are laying a solid foundation for future success in this critical aspect of our school's community life.

We are also laying a solid foundation in the areas of school governance and strategic planning. This past weekend, the WIS Board of Directors participated in a governance and goal-setting workshop led by Dr. G. Chris Muller.

Our school is a very busy place. As parents, teachers, and students it sometimes feels like we are rushing from one thing to the next without pausing to consider *why* we are doing these things. We need these weekends and holidays to help us once again return to the present - and perhaps to also take some time to plan for what the future may bring.

My family and I will be leaving on Thursday to spend a few days in Swakopmund. When we return from break, the Senior Leadership Team will begin collating and communicating all of the **Soar 2025 Vision** feedback that we have received thus far. There will be more opportunities to provide input on our school priorities and plans at the upcoming Back to School Nights.

Sincerely,  
Ethan Van Drunen

**PARENT INFORMATION PORTAL**  
Click here for more information

### Contents

- From the Director p. 2
- Primary News p. 3
- Secondary News p. 4 - 5
- Other News p. 6 - 7

### Dates to Remember

#### August 2021

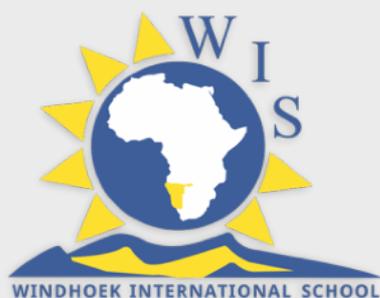
- **26:** Heroes' Day
- **27:** Staff work day

#### September 2021

- **08:** CIS Virtual Exploration

#### October 2021

- **08:** End of Term 1
- **11 - 15:** October break



# PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

## Back to School Night - Tuesday, September 7, 17:30-19:30

This year the Primary Back to School Night will be taking a different format to be more of, "A day in the life of your child." Rather than sitting in the auditorium and the classrooms listening to presentations, you will have the opportunity to experience various aspects of your child's day. The evening is going to be interactive as you participate in a sampling of the kind of "stations" or centres that the children have been, or will be, introduced to this year. In doing so, it is hoped that you will have a better understanding of our approaches to teaching and learning and how they connect to our curriculum benchmarks. In addition, it will give you some insight into the types of activities that your child engages in during the day.



The teachers have created slide presentations with information, routines and expectations for the specific Grade level. These will be shared with you next week. Included at the end of the presentation is a central Padlet where you can post ideas and questions. Your questions will be used to plan parent workshops on various educational topics throughout the year.

Here's the schedule for Tuesday evening:

17:30-18:30	<b>EY1-Grade 2</b> Parents visit the <b>homeroom</b>
	<b>Grades 3-5</b> Parents visit the auditorium to find out a little bit about the PYP and meet with <b>specialists</b> (Art, Makerspace, French/Portuguese, Library, Music, P.E.-PSPE, Learning Support and EAL)
18:30-19:30	<b>EY1-Grade 2</b> Parents visit the auditorium to find out a little bit about the PYP and meet with <b>specialists</b> (Art, Music, French/Portuguese, Library, Maker Space, P.E.-PSPE, Learning Support and EAL)
	<b>Grades 3-5</b> Parents visit the <b>homeroom</b>

*A friendly reminder - the Back to School Night is for parents/guardians only. This evening is not about progress, more an opportunity to meet your child's teacher and to experience learning at WIS. We will be having assessment conferences on October 5th and 6th.*

I hope you find the Back to School Night to be positive and informative. Your feedback following the event will be appreciated.

**Warm regards,  
Marcelle van Leenen**



## SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

### Why we celebrate Heroes Day in Namibia

The 26th of August, **Heroes Day (or Namibia Day as declared by the UN)** is commemorated annually in Namibia on the 26th of August. 1966 is regarded as the start of Namibia's fight for independence. This battle took place in Namibia's northern region, at **Omugulugwombashe**. On that 26th day of August in 1966, the first shots were fired by fighters of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia in retaliation to an ambush by the South African Army. This battle was won by the PLAN fighters and has since been seen as the start of the liberation struggle in Namibia.

This event will still bring difficult memories to people who devoted their lives to the liberation struggle. One can only imagine the courage and resilience of these brave people who took up arms so that we can enjoy the peace that we do in Namibia today. What were these fighters thinking, what must they have been feeling in what must have been a frightful encounter for them? There are many others like them who contributed to making Namibia the peaceful country it is today - through their bravery, their sacrifices and their courage to fight for what they believed to be right.

The holiday creates an opportunity for all Namibians to reflect on our hard earned Independence and thus to promote national pride while stressing the importance of protecting our freedom and our collective belonging in Namibia.

Despite the difficult disparities that still exist in Namibia, the very diverse population has, since independence, managed to live together peacefully. Namibia faces a hopeful future, with many opportunities to reconcile and heal our difficult past. This will certainly be possible if we draw from the potential and strengths inherent in our different cultures and the diversity that Namibia thrives on.

Injustices remain in the country. However, there is a drive to unite all Namibians for the common purpose of a society where equity and equality is realised. Without ongoing attempts to build awareness, respect of and understanding of each other's realities, and differences, our efforts to truly embrace and celebrate the diversity of the many different cultures in the country will not become reality.

Heroes Day is an opportunity for us in Namibia to pause, and reflect on how far we have come as a country. It is also a call to build a more inclusive, kind and accepting society that builds success out of our differences.

We cannot become complacent and must continue striving for a better, more just and equal society for all. Celebrating this day is an opportunity for us in Namibia to focus on reconciliation, resolution and healing and on building a future where all Namibians can prosper and thrive.

WIS as an educational institution has an obligation to contribute to this endeavour. With our mission to '*develop the full potential of each student in a stimulating environment of academic excellence, cultural diversity and active social responsibility to become internationally minded independent thinkers*', we strive to give young people the opportunity to contribute to making the world a more equitable and inclusive place to live in. As a leading educational institution in Namibia, we have the task to make our students aware of their heritage, but also become active in engaging in their community to strive for a better future for their communities.

The IB as an international organisation with its Learner Profile gives us a guideline on how to approach everyday and societal challenges with humility in our respect for what has been achieved in the past.

I would like to acknowledge Ms. Magano Neri who has helped articulate this article in a way that looks at the different angles of this commemoration and how we can benefit from reflecting on our role in remembering historical events today.

If anyone in the community wants to make a contribution to send their wishes to any of the people who were directly affected by this event in 1966, you can share your contribution with Maggie Reiff ([mreiff@wis.edu.na](mailto:mreiff@wis.edu.na)).

We will make sure that it gets delivered to the government for their attention to hopefully distribute this to those who deserve to be acknowledged.

Regards,  
Maggie Reiff

## German class: Who's my hero?

### Mein Held, meine Heldin: Gedanken der 9.Klasse.

- Salomé: Meine Heldin ist Cara Delevingne, weil sie erfolgreich und hübsch ist.
- Nijja: Mein Held ist der Igel, weil es die Welt gerettet hat, und es hat viele Stacheln.
- Frans: Mein Held ist Will Smith. Er ist mein Lieblingsschauspieler.
- Diana: Meine Heldin ist Harriet Tubman. Sie befreite die Sklaven.
- Zoe: Meine Heldin ist Jennifer Aniston. Sie ist eine Darstellerin und hat viel Geld.
- Anna: Meine Heldin ist Adéla Zouharová. Sie ist meine Heldin, weil sie gute Musik macht und sie ist sehr positiv.
- Zuleika: Mein Held ist der neugierige George der Affe, weil er sehr süß und nett ist.
- Rainier: Mein Held ist Gerald Earl Gillum, weil er gute Musik macht und inspirierend ist.
- Marilu: Mein Held ist Jim Carrey weil er eine positive Person ist.
- Julia: Meine Heldin ist Zendaya. Sie ist eine gut Schauspielerin.
- Kaino: Mein Held ist "All Might", weil er mutig und stark ist. Er ist ein erfundener Charakter.
- Tristan: Mein Held ist Tony Hawk oder Anthony Frank Hawk. Er ist ein Skateboarder und er ist eine Inspiration für viele Leute mit dem Skaten anzufangen.

### Die 10.Klasse macht sich Gedanken.

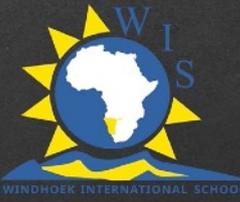
- Benjamin: Mein Held ist J.R.R Tolkien, weil er vieles in seinem Leben durchgemacht hat, sowie Krieg und er hat mein Lieblingsbuch, Herr der Ringe, geschrieben.
- Franz: Elon musk ist mein Held, weil er intelligent und inspirierend ist.
- Jade: Meine Heldin ist meine Tante, weil sie immer für mich da ist.
- James: Mein Held ist mein Vater, er arbeitet sehr hart und er inspiriert mich
- Keasha: Ich habe keinen Held.
- Kim: Harry Styles ist mein Held, weil er gute Musik macht und inspirierend ist.
- Matthew: Ees ist Mein Held, weil er Wuma gemacht b.hat.
- Paolo: Ich habe keinen Held.
- Weya: Meine Heldin ist meine Oma, weil sie sehr stark und frei ist.
- Yannick: Meine Eltern sind meine Helden, weil sie mich inspirieren.
- Zahra: Saweetie ist meine Heldin, weil sie inspirierend ist.

# 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!**


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**CONTACT FOR MORE DETAIL:**

**COACH  
CHARMAINE SHANNON**

**CELL: 0812462767**  
**E-mail: charm-Shannon@afol.com.na**

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- \*FUN
- \*SKILLS
- \*NUTRITION
- \*COORDINATION
- \*TEAM BUILDING
- \* RELAYS
- \*RACES

# Mutt-Strutt

**MUTTS** and **PUREBREDS** alike are invited to our dog walk to celebrate our canine companions!

The SPCA Windhoek is excited to participate in a national dog-walk day taking place with your SPCAs nationwide.

The first **100 entries** will receive a hamper with goodies from Hills and Bravecto.

## 4 September 2021

**TIME:** 1st sign-in from 07:30 | 1st walk at 08:00  
2nd sign-in from 08:30 | 2nd walk at 09:00

**PLACE:** Eagles Restaurant | Avis Damm

**ENTRY FEE:** N\$100

**Due to COVID-19 pre-registration is required.**

PLEASE NOTE: Any COVID-19 regulations and precautions at that time will be adhered to.



**REGISTRATION!**  
Closes **3 September @17:30**  
at the **SPCA Windhoek.**



**DON'T HAVE A DOG?**  
Come anyway and walk one of the SPCA dogs  
(pre-registration required)

Thank you to our Sponsors: All entries may win a hamper from Hills or Bravecto in a lucky draw!



For more information contact us: SPCA Windhoek | 145 Robert Mugabe Avenue, Windhoek | Tel: 061-238 654  
Fax: 061-225 715 | Cell: 081-124 4520 Emergency (After Hours Only) | Email: info@spcawindhoek.org.na