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THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Reopening on Monday

The State of Emergency is over. The Pandemic isn't.

As you know, we will be reopening school for all Grades next week. Grades 9 to 12 are already in school. Grades 3 to 8 will join them on Monday. Grades EY to 2 will start on Tuesday.

Our 'hybrid' model was introduced to the parent body last month and met with widespread (though not universal) approval. We will launch it on Monday and, as has been the case with remote learning since we started in March, we will see how it goes. It may be possible to tinker with it at the margins but we don't anticipate making any wholesale changes until at least Monday 19th October.

We will also be enforcing **without exception** sensible practices regarding social distancing, the wearing of masks, and so on. We recognise that there are different opinions about how to protect ourselves and others from the virus but this cannot be a matter of personal choice.

Once anyone passes through the school gates, our own rules and protocols will apply.

The teachers are happy to be back in their classrooms and are impatient to see again – or in some cases meet for the first time – the learners they will be teaching. When I addressed the entire staff this morning, I observed that this is where we 'belong'. So do your children. We are very much looking forward to having them back.

New Teachers

Our remaining two new teachers – **Laura Smith** (Primary Art) and **Lize van Rensburg** (Secondary Chemistry) are both expected to arrive in Namibia in the next few days. They will need to complete quarantine formalities but then we will have the pleasure of welcoming them to school.

We're getting there!

Stay safe.

Peter MacKenzie

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Monday, September 21, is the UN's International Day of Peace. This year's theme is "Shaping Peace Together". On this day the UN encourages us to "celebrate the day by spreading peace". During this



past week and next week, the focus of some of the learning activities has been and will be centred around this theme. It might be a conversation that you can have as a family this weekend as to some of the ways you can shape peace together.

It seems fitting that school is re-opening for face to face learning on International Day of Peace. I think for many families having the children return to school will bring a sense of peace. While these are challenging times and the world has changed as we know it, it's important for all of us to stop, breathe and find moments of peace during the day so that we can radiate and spread peace to others, particularly for our children.

The energy and excitement among the teachers and EAs feel like the beginning of a new school year. While the teachers have been getting to know the students online, this next week they will be getting to know the students face to face in a class setting. The students will also be getting used to being back in school and the transition from working at home to working at school. It is important to remember that this is an adjustment for everyone and that the social/emotional is as important as the academic. I look forward to welcoming the Grades 3-5 students back to school on Monday and EY1-2 on Tuesday. It's been a long time in coming.

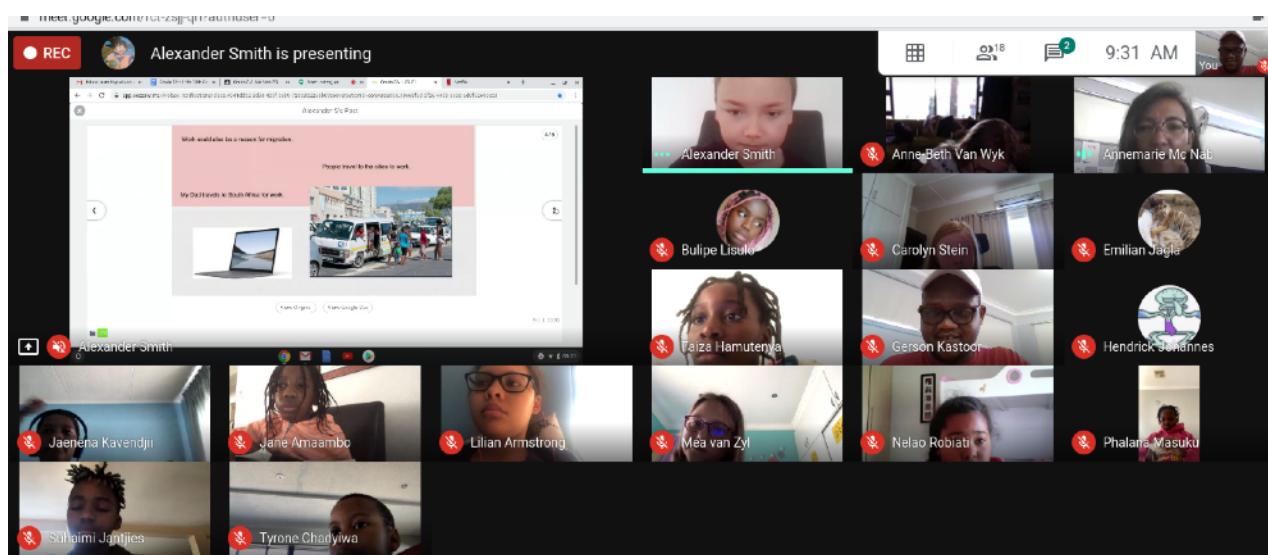
We will continue the remote assemblies for a while until such time as we can have assemblies at school. Here is this week's assembly: [Remote learning Assembly - 18 September 2020](#).

Regards,
Beth Smith

Virtual presentations

Grade 5A

We have reached the 6th week of remote learning during which students have overcome many challenges. However, we want to celebrate our achievements/victories as well. Students have acquired different skills and gained confidence in many areas of learning. They started inquiring into the unit: **Where we are in place and time**. The central idea for this unit is **Human migration is a response to challenges, risks and opportunities**. They have started to research what the meaning of migration is and what effects it has on human kind. The students had options of how to record their findings and they were eager to share their research. In the image below Alex was sharing his slide presentation. He shared his screen and he was explaining just as if he would have done in the classroom. His presentation was welcomed by all students and the normal question and answering session followed. It was an awesome experience, creating an atmosphere of togetherness.



Annemarie Mc Nab

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

The next step toward a 'new normal'

On Monday almost all classes will return to school after about six months of 'no physical school' experience. It will be a very different experience for everybody, but it will start a learning model that will somehow introduce some aspects of the 'new normal' we need to learn to live with.



This 'new normal' certainly prioritises our health and safety. We will therefore still be socially distancing and wearing masks. The wearing of masks was one of the most commented on and most debated questions on our [Slido](#) portal from last night's Parent Info Evening. Although the wearing of masks is not compulsory all around the world, it is a recommendation almost everywhere in public places. We will continue expecting our community members who are on campus to wear a mask - out of respect for others - because the main reason for wearing masks is to not infect others if you are ill. How we will enforce the wearing of masks in lessons and in PE classes will have to be determined by the severity of the situation at any given time - at the moment we will be wearing masks indoors and for PE. But this might - will most probably - change sometime in the future. [HERE](#) is the recording of last night's meeting. You can read the chat [HERE](#). We will also adhere to the other safety measures taken to keep healthy and not infect others or ourselves. We will keep social distancing a priority and will encourage hand washing and 'clean' use of materials.

The other aspect that this 'new normal' has had a critical effect on, is our way of seeing learning and in that regard teaching. Teaching is not confined to a physical space, and certainly not to a classroom. It is no longer the case that teaching and learning only happens 'in school'. Remote learning and [blended learning](#) have become part of our 'new normal'.

As of Monday, we will have two sessions for students to learn each day. In one session, they will be in school with their teachers and their classmates and there will be opportunity for discussion, feedback, clarification of tasks and assignments given and the opportunity to learn with each other. In the other session - where students are not in school - they will be learning independently on tasks that result from the lesson in the face to face time or in preparation for the next lesson that they will have face to face. We have to move away from the thought of having to rely on textbooks or teachers to grow or learn.

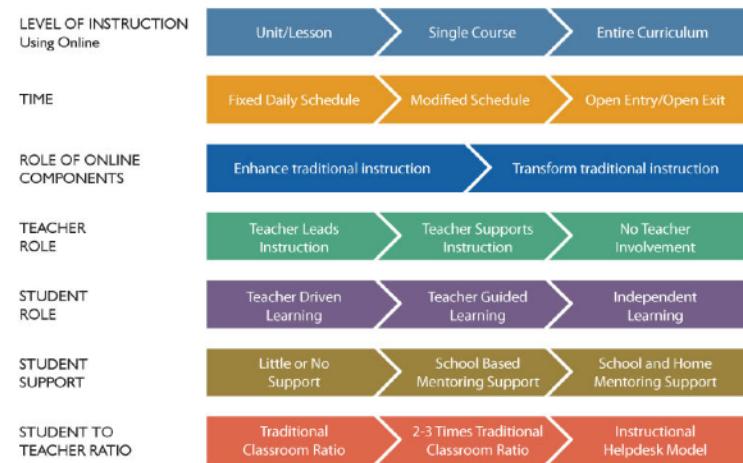
Intrinsic motivation to grow and learn gives a much stronger basis for a fulfilled life and a way of life that is not only connected to external factors that make us dependable and throw us off when they are not there.

Specifically in the situation we are in right now with so many things not being in our control, having the confidence, skills and determination to take control of the things we can take control of, will make us stronger and happier.

I wish us all a strong start to the next phase of our 'new normal' and I also wish us to work together and embrace the challenges and opportunities that come with these in an open and flexible way.

Regards,
Maggie Reiff

The Defining Dimensions of Blended Learning Models



© Keeping Pace with K-12 Online Learning, 2010, www.kpk12.com Source: Michigan Virtual University®



JoMUN XVIII

PROMOTING AFRICA'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, 17, 18 & 19 SEPTEMBER 2020



If you wish to follow the proceedings at the conference, we received this email from the team at AISJ yesterday morning.

Today starts the first-ever virtual Johannesburg Model United Nations (JoMUN) and the 18th conference.

Each committee debates different types of issues ranging from human rights to economic policy. Overall conference themes each year center on current issues in Africa, such as development, security, and equality. These are also issues recently discussed within the United Nations (UN) itself. The debates at JoMUN always mirror real-world scenarios and encourage students to develop innovative solutions to modern-day issues. For more details on the conference, please click this link <https://wwwaisj-jhb.com/high-school-resources/jomun>. Passkey: Johannesburg20/21

Good Luck to the WIS delegates, Luna Zhakata, Tanatswa Murwira, Mrinalini Agarwal, Amelie Gross and Olivia Shino.

Edwina Rimmington

Skeleton Coast Adventure tour



In June this year, seven WIS families took a much-needed break after our first lockdown and took off on a Skeleton Coast Adventure tour. Jimmy Marais, a WIS parent himself and owner of Skeleton Coast Adventure

Tours and Karibu Safaris, organised a fabulous family-friendly adventure all the way to the mouth of the Kunene River at the Angolan Border.

Our WIS group also had a huge age range of travellers ranging between a tiny adventurous 3 year old to a skilled 4x4 Blue-Ranger driving 79 years old!

We were eight different nationalities; ranging from 2 to 79 years old and four WIS teachers were part of the group. It was a tremendous community-building experience and many of these families have remained close friends.

Jimmy helped every family to make sure they had enough petrol, drinking water, and all we needed for our desert camping. Finally, our cars were packed for a proper 4x4 adventure tour! This once in a lifetime tour included twists and turns through the beautiful Huariseb River, camping under majestic rock formations, driving through the ancient Namib Dunes and discovering some of the shipwrecks of the wild Atlantic Coast. The magnificent and always changing scenery was a HUGE highlight. It was truly amazing to drive many hundreds of kilometres without seeing another soul and to be unplugged from technology and mobile phones. There was no signal for at least 5 days!

In the morning we could slip out of our tents and the Skeleton Coast Team would have a prepared breakfast ready for us. After a day of driving and exploring shipwrecks, animal tracks, oases, abandoned oil rigs, and ancient settlement sites, we would set up camp and then come together to enjoy a sundowner. Again we had the luxury of having a warm and comforting meal prepared for us by the wonderful and always helpful Skeleton Coast team.

We experienced so many adventures that we could fill a whole Oryx! Get some WIS families and friends together and contact Jimmy Marais if you are interested in this adventure or other tours of the beaten tracks: Jimmy Marais at 081 127 5241.



Anne Scharrenbroich

Student safety

Welcoming our students back safely...

Dear parents and Guardians

Below are the mitigation strategies as set out by the CDC, to support schools in reopening safely. I am pleased to say we have these measures in place. We will do our best to consistently and correctly implement them.

Sharon Gorelick - Nurse/Counsellor

Mitigation strategies to reduce transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in schools:

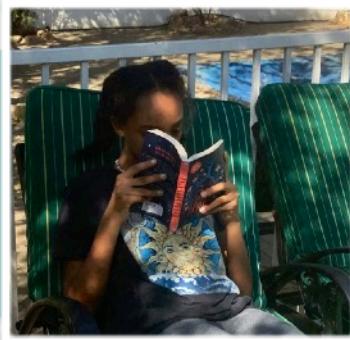
Regardless of what the indicators determine, it is critical to ensure the use and layering of [mitigation strategies](#):

- Masks: Encourage consistent and correct use of face masks, by all students, teachers, and staff to prevent SARS-CoV-2 transmission through respiratory droplets. [Exceptions for use of face masks](#) include children

- under the age of 2 years and persons with or those who support individuals with cognitive, sensory, or behavioural issues.
- Social Distancing to the extent possible: Maintain a distance of at least 6 feet between people. [Learn more](#) about promoting behaviours that reduce the spread of COVID-19.
 - Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette: Teach and reinforce [handwashing](#) with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and increase monitoring to ensure adherence among students and staff. Encourage students and staff to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue and immediately wash their hands after blowing their nose, coughing or sneezing. Persons with disabilities may need assistance with hand hygiene. [Learn more](#) about promoting hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.
 - Cleaning and disinfection: [Clean and disinfect](#) frequently touched surfaces (e.g., playground equipment, door handles, sink handles, toilets, drinking fountains) within the school and on school buses at least daily or between use as much as possible.
 - Contact Tracing: Systematic [contact tracing](#) of infected students, teachers, and staff in collaboration with local health department.
 - Cohorting: [Cohorts](#) (or “pods”) are groups of students, and sometimes teachers or staff, that stay together throughout the school day to minimise exposure for students, teachers, and staff across the school environment. Ensure that cohorts are as static as possible by having the same group of students stay with the same teachers or staff (all day for young children, and as much as possible for older children). If additional space is needed to support cohorting, consider all available safe spaces in the community and any relevant partnerships with properly vetted school volunteers that can support students while minimising group size. Consider ways to support equitable access to cohort support. Limit mixing between cohorts if possible.
 - Staying home when appropriate: Educate staff and families about when they and their child(ren) should [stay home](#) and when they can return to school. [Learn more](#) about preparing for someone is sick with COVID-19.
 - Adequate supplies: Support [healthy hygiene](#) behaviours by providing adequate supplies, including soap, hand sanitiser with at least 60 percent alcohol (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitiser), a way to dry hands, tissues, disinfectant wipes, face masks (as feasible) and no-touch/foot-pedal trash cans.
 - Staggered scheduling: [Stagger](#) school arrival and drop-off times or locations by cohort, or put in place other protocols to limit contact between cohorts, as well as direct contact with parents, as much as possible.
 - Alternating schedules with fixed cohorts: [Alternate schedules](#) with fixed cohorts of students and staff to decrease class size and promote social distancing to prevent wide scale transmission.
 - Shared objects: [Discourage sharing of items](#), particularly those that are difficult to clean or disinfect.
 - Visitors: [Limit any nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities](#) involving external groups or organisations as much as possible – especially with individuals who are not from the local geographic area (e.g., not from the same community, town, city, county). Persons with disabilities may need direct service providers or service animals in a school environment.
 - Ventilation: Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible, for example by opening windows and doors. Do not open windows and doors if doing so poses a safety or health risk (e.g., risk of falling, triggering asthma symptoms) to anyone using the facility.
 - Water systems: [Take steps](#) to ensure that all water systems and features (e.g., sink faucets, decorative fountains) are safe to use after a prolonged facility shutdown.
 - Physical barriers and guides: [Install physical barriers](#), such as sneeze guards and partitions, particularly in areas where it is difficult for individuals to remain at least 6 feet apart (e.g., reception desks).
 - Communal spaces: Close communal use of shared spaces, such as dining halls and playgrounds with shared playground equipment, if possible; otherwise, stagger use and [clean and disinfect](#) between use.
 - Food service: Avoid offering any self-serve food or drink options such as hot and cold food bars, salad or condiment bars, and drink stations. Have children bring their own meals as feasible, or serve individually plated or pre-packaged meals instead, while ensuring the [safety of children with food allergies](#).
 - [pdf icon](#)
 - [Learn more](#) about food service during COVID-19. (*COVID-19 - School Reopening: Indicators to Inform Decision Making / CDC*)

W.O.R.D.

Maedot Abeje 8AJ still reading for WORD during remote learning!

**Car Security Stickers**

Please collect your 2020 - 2021 windscreen sticker at the Office!



The Chromebook I found only has 16GB of local storage. Surely, that's not enough is it?



WIS uses G-Suite For Education, documents are stored in 'the cloud'. Local storage capacity does not matter on a Chromebook.



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

Sports News

Week Beginning 27th September the PE department anticipate being able to offer a daily Sport session.

**14:30 until16:00 Monday - Thursday
More information in next week's ORYX**

MOVE your Heart

Brought to you by Bank Windhoek

Help Namibia move 20 000km for the NHF from Friday 2 October to Sunday 4 October 2020.

Walk, run or cycle and raise funds to help the Namibia Heart Foundation (NHF) fight cardiovascular disease.

Where? Anywhere – road, trail, treadmill, indoor bike, even virtual apps like Zwift – just make sure that you MOVE your Heart and add your kms to Namibia's total!

If you are participating in an event on this weekend (Madisa Challenge, Gravel & Dirt Auas Safari, Windhoek City Run), you need to register here as well so your kilometres will count.

Register on Webscorer at <https://www.webscorer.com/register.aspx?pid=1&raceid=221086>

Entry is N\$150 and all proceeds from the entry fees will go directly to the NHF www.namheart.com . When you register you can choose to donate an additional amount to the NHF to support them in assisting heart patients.

Make sure you have an activity tracker app on your phone, watch or device (for example, Strava, Google Fit, FitBit) that will track your walk, run or ride and upload it online.

Walk, run or ride as many kms as you can on Friday 2 October, Saturday 3 October and Sunday 4 October.

Take your MOVE your Heart photos and selfies and post them on social media with #UseHeartNam and #MOVEyourHeart to win great prizes!

Send an email to farmwhkfitnessevents@gmail.com with the online link to your walk, run or cycle by 22:00 on Sunday, 4 October.

Watch the results page to see if we reach the 20 000km target and check your email to see if you have won a lucky draw prize!

Proudly brought to you by the Namibia Heart Foundation, Bank Windhoek and Farm Whk Fitness.

NAMIBIA HEART FOUNDATION

NEVER MISS A BEAT

MOVE YOUR

JOIN US IN OUR
VIRTUAL RACE CHALLENGE

GREAT PRIZES
& LUCKY DRAWS
UP FOR GRABS.

Date:
Saturday
03 Oct 2020

Entry Fee:
N\$150 p/p

**Help NHF to reach
20 000 km**

(You can Walk, Run or Cycle whatever
kms you can - It's going to be a Virtual
FUN Ride-Not Competitive)

All proceeds will go to **NAMIBIA HEART FOUNDATION**. When you register you can choose to donate an additional amount to the **NHF** to support them in their cause.

Contact us on:
+264 81 306 0515
@namheart
info@namheart.com
www.namheart.com



Register on Webscorer at:
<https://www.webscorer.com/register.aspx?pid=1&raceid=221086>

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