



Contents

- From the Director p. 1
- Primary News p. 1 - 2
- Secondary News p. 3 - 7
- Other News p. 7 - 8



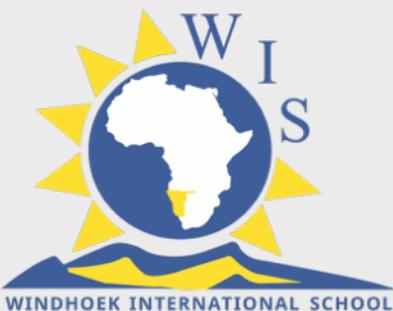
Facebook



Instagram



Twitter



WINDHOEK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

I Spoke Too Soon

No sooner had I announced our 2020 exam results last week than the IB revised a significant number of grades – upwards! So, please disregard last week's statistics. Here is the correct situation.

IB Diploma

Every year we compare ourselves against international averages. But with comparatively small cohorts (we've been averaging 13.4 IB DP candidates over the past ten years) it is more meaningful to look at five- or ten-year rolling averages.

Over the past ten years we have entered 134 students for the IB Diploma with a pass rate of 91% and an average score of 31 points.

Over the past five years we have entered 77 students for the IB Diploma with a pass rate of 95% and, again, an average score of 31 points.

Before the IB reconsidered the 2020 results, the worldwide average was 30 points and the pass rate was 79%. We should have the updated averages at the end of September.

IGCSE

We have been informed by Cambridge that IGCSE grades will also be revised upwards. I will share the new statistics with the community once we have them.

New Teachers

Two weeks ago I introduced the three new teachers who are coming in from outside Namibia. Getting them here continues to be a challenge but I'm delighted to report that the first of them, Jane Harrison who will teach Grade 5, arrived in the country this morning. She is now in quarantine but, with luck, should be out by the start of September.

We are close to having all the necessary paperwork for Laura Smith and Lize van Rensburg and, as soon as we do, we'll be able to book them on the next repatriation flights. They're coming!

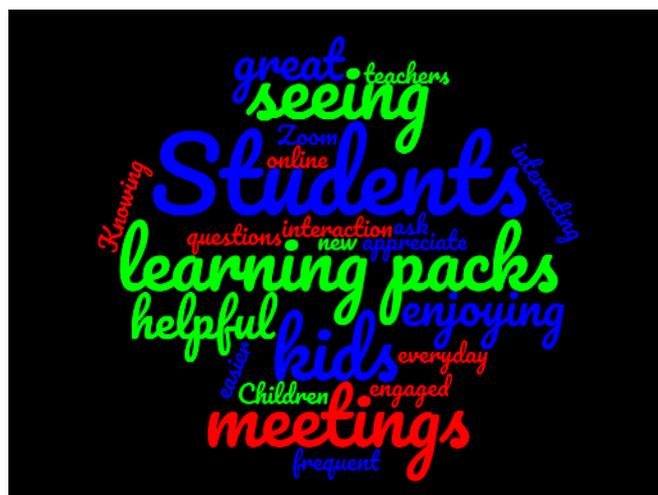
Stay safe.

Peter MacKenzie

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

During the Primary virtual Staff meeting this week the teachers offered feedback as to what's going well and what has been challenging so far with remote learning. It was wonderful to read all of the positive feedback teachers were posting in the chat section. I took the liberty of putting the keywords into a word cloud. All of the

comments were about the students, how great it's been to see them online and that the students seem to be enjoying seeing each other. Most of the students are engaged and interacting during the meeting sessions. The frequency of the Zoom and Google Meets sessions is appreciated. In addition, from the teachers' perspective, the children are well versed in Seesaw and the learning packs have been a positive addition.



Some of the challenges of these first two weeks of remote learning have included poor internet connections, some children being absent from the meeting sessions, and the workspace isn't quiet due to background noise or conversations. A poor internet connection can be frustrating for everyone and that is out of our control. More than one family member needing a device and the internet to connect to a meeting can be challenging. This can also contribute to limited quiet workspaces in the home. It might be helpful to review the workspace with your child, show your child how to mute the microphone, and as much as possible eliminate any distractions from that space. We understand and appreciate all that you are doing to support your children during this time of remote learning to make it as positive an experience as possible.

Next week's Primary Parent Information session will be held Tuesday, 25 August from 17:30-18:30. The topic will be Google Classroom, Seesaw and feedback on Remote Learning. Click on this link [Primary Information Session - August 25](#) to join the meeting. To provide feedback, add your question(s) or any future topics you'd like to have discussed, click this link to [Slido.com](#).

This week's Remote Learning Assembly can be viewed here: [Remote Learning Assembly 21 August 2020](#)

Regards,
Beth Smith

Grade 1

Grade 1 preparing for online learning. And Grade 1J Zooming!



Car Security Stickers

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



2020 - 2021
000

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

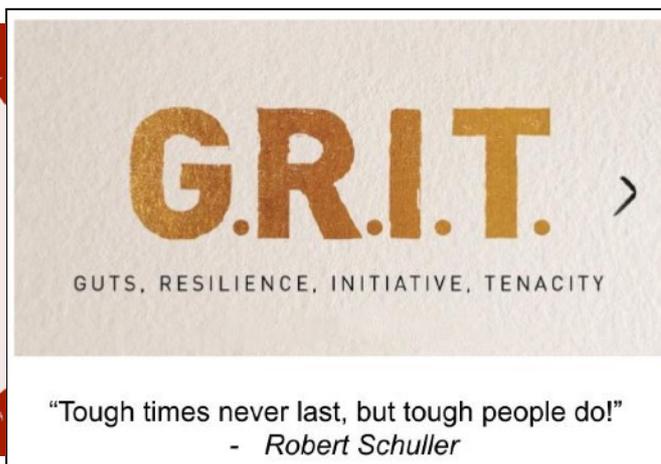
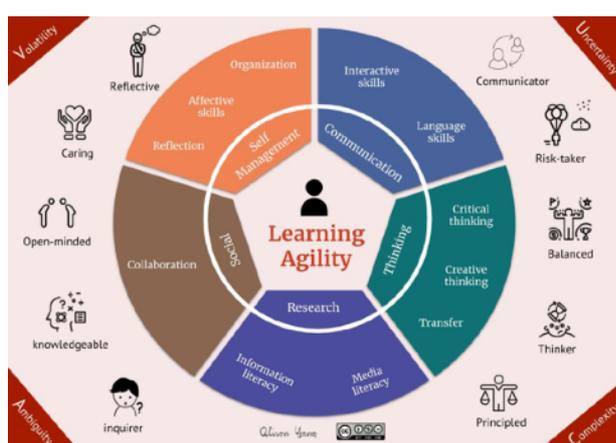
**The current situation presents the most challenging experience most of us have gone through, but ...
“smooth seas do not make skilful sailors” (African Proverb)**

In the past months, in fact through most of 2020, we have been living in a world that is stressful, uncertain, difficult to control and scary to live in.

But this stress and uncertainty gives us opportunities: opportunities to rise to the challenges we are facing, opportunities to grow, opportunities to become more connected and humane in our way of living.

This also applies to our students. They have been thrown in the deep end. It is expected of them to work independently, be mature, sincere and motivated all in an environment that is potentially threatening and unpleasant. Still, most of our young people have risen to this challenge.

In the past two weeks, back in school, starting a new academic year, we teachers - and I am sure many of our parents - are impressed with the determination and motivation of our students. Most of our students are embracing this challenge, and showing us skills that cannot be learnt from a textbook. For some time now, WIS is endeavouring to in-still in our students ATL skills - thinking, research, social, communication and self management skills. All these skills are necessary in the current situation where a lot depends on a students' own initiative, motivation and engagement. It is heartwarming to see the interactions between students and teachers during check ins in the mornings or with regard to the senior learners on campus amidst the required measures of social distancing and wearing masks, having to sanitise all day long and not being able to socialise in the way we were used to.



We appreciate our students and the support they are receiving from home to rise to this challenge and to make an opportunity out of the difficult situations they find themselves in. The skills that our students have to use currently, will be invaluable in any situation they find themselves in at the moment, but most importantly in their lives overall.

Our young people have an opportunity to develop skills in an authentic yet unusual environment and it will hopefully manifest itself in their goals and plans for the future.

We value your contribution to ensure we keep growing as well:

- We had two excellent **Parent Information Sessions** this past week with Dr. Eric Dziuban from the CDC. Many questions on health and safety and the remote learning process were discussed. Here is the recording of the event:
 - [Secondary Parent Info Session](#)
- The **Ministry of Education** is consulting the wider community on the next steps with regard to remote learning and/or the reopening of schools. They are circulating this [Survey](#) to get input from everybody involved in education. This survey should be submitted before the end of the week.
- To review the first two weeks of our academic year, we would appreciate the feedback from parents on their experiences with remote learning so far. Please complete these two forms to give us **feedback**:
 - [Grades 6 - 8](#)
 - [Grade 9](#)
- We will have a **Parent Information Session next week Thursday, 27 August** from 17:30 - 18:30 to hear from parents how things are going with Remote Learning or - for Grades 10 - 12 - with face to face learning.
 - You can access the meeting with this link: [Secondary Parent Information Session 27 August](#).
 - You can also post your questions or send us your comments in advance via [Slido.com](#)

Regards,
Maggie Reiff



An Attitude of Gratitude

Grade 7IB

Something new and exciting that has been introduced in the WIS Middle School AtLi Homeroom programme is a Gratitude Journal. Once a week all the students in Middle School will spend 20 minutes thinking and writing about everything they are thankful for.

In Grade 7IB we started off by talking and sharing our ideas about what gratitude means to us and identifying the many things and people in our lives that we are grateful for.

Here are some snippets that Grade 7IB would like to share with you.

Activity 1 Awareness

The students watched a video, [Gratitude HD - Moving Art™](#), and they talked about...

What did you notice?

Zehnya: I noticed that we are all different and the difference makes us who we are.

Oliwia: I noticed that there were so many different people that have gratitude.

Naeem: I noticed that every smile has a story.

What did you wonder?

Zehnya: I wondered if we change will other people change too?

Jody: I wondered if a lot of people have gratitude, because I don't think many people have it.

How did the video make you feel?

Shali & Ishaan: It made us feel sad, that we are not grateful. It made us feel that when we mistreat people, one day they could disappear, and then we will realise our appreciation for them.

Activity 2 Think about the concept

What is gratitude?

Jody: I think gratitude is feeling grateful for everything you have and all the things that make you happy and keeps you waking up in the morning.

What does it mean to be grateful?

Lakeesha: To be grateful means you're happy with what you have and to know that you do not need anything else to be happy.

Adiah: Being grateful is when you show appreciation and acknowledgement to something or someone.

Olwen & Ghewa: Gratitude is being aware and grateful of the things and people around you. It means to be content and happy with what you have and not wanting more.

Why is gratitude important?

Klaudia & Jayden: Gratitude helps people have more positive emotions, good experiences, improve their health, deal with adversity and build stronger meaningful relationships.

Talaki: Gratitude is important because we need to show that we appreciate what we are receiving or getting, or just what we have, and be happy with what we got because not a lot of people may not have what you have.

Activity 3 Gratitude is my attitude!

Students were also asked to choose a Photo Card of Gratitude and write about it.

	<p>This picture makes me feel grateful, because it just shows how beautiful the animals are on earth.</p> <p>I remember going to a zoo in Finland and I got to see a tiger in person and it was stunning the way the fur moves in the wind is just amazing.</p> <p>Which makes me feel really grateful because us humans always have something beautiful and majestic to look at. I hope I get to see one of these beautiful beasts again. - Shali</p>
	<p>I feel grateful when I see this picture because it reminds me of many memories with my family.</p> <p>I am privileged to be able to come and see this around once a year and explore something we don't get to see every day as well as even get tickets to fly there.</p> <p>It also makes me excited that we get to try/do something new every year, explore the culture, enjoy nature, and enjoy the late/ beautiful sunsets.</p> <p>I look forward to going here in the future and being able to spend time with my family and have many adventures together and create many great memories. - Klaudia</p>

	<p>I feel grateful when I see this picture because it makes me feel very free and open.</p> <p>I feel grateful for getting to breathe fresh air, touch the ground beneath my feet and feel the weather on my skin.</p> <p>I feel like I need to continue growing to get work harder and be stronger. - Jody</p>
	<p>I am grateful for this food. It is just astounding how so many people do not get food, while I get it. I feel so privileged for this food.</p> <p>Not only that, but in India, many foods are filled with pesticides, and adulterated. Luckily, in Namibia, we can have fresh and healthy food, no pesticides and adulteration.</p> <p>At the same time, I will always remember the amount of people who can not afford food, while I am eating my food, which millions can't get. - Ishaan</p>
	<p>I'm grateful when I see this photo because we have sun and water and resources that we can use, and we have animals and we have oxygen. - Daniella</p>
	<p>I chose Central Park because it gives a lot of oxygen and it's a really beautiful place.</p> <p>You can see glacial landforms all over the park. Almost all of the visible bedrock in Central Park was formed by glaciers. It once housed hundreds of sheep. Amazing! - Malik</p>



I feel grateful when I see this image because it reminds me that I am from one of the best environments in the world and that my family is there and that's something that I always feel grateful for.

Secondly, I appreciate the fact that I can open my eyes to views like these in the desert. It makes me feel very happy and free inside. - Faduli

Grade 9 W.O.R.D.

Grade 9 WORD this week took an unexpected turn as the short story we enjoyed reading together took on a new dimension. As part of the blended learning approach the learners prepared some existential questions pertaining to the short story and the process of imaginative writing. For our follow up session the author, and friend and ex colleague from my time working in Westminster, joined the meeting and we enjoyed a lively and engaging discussion.

Thomas Jackson-Read



NEW LOOK FOR THE LIBRARY

The library has been redesigned creating more conducive study space especially for our secondary students. They can now enjoy working in the library.

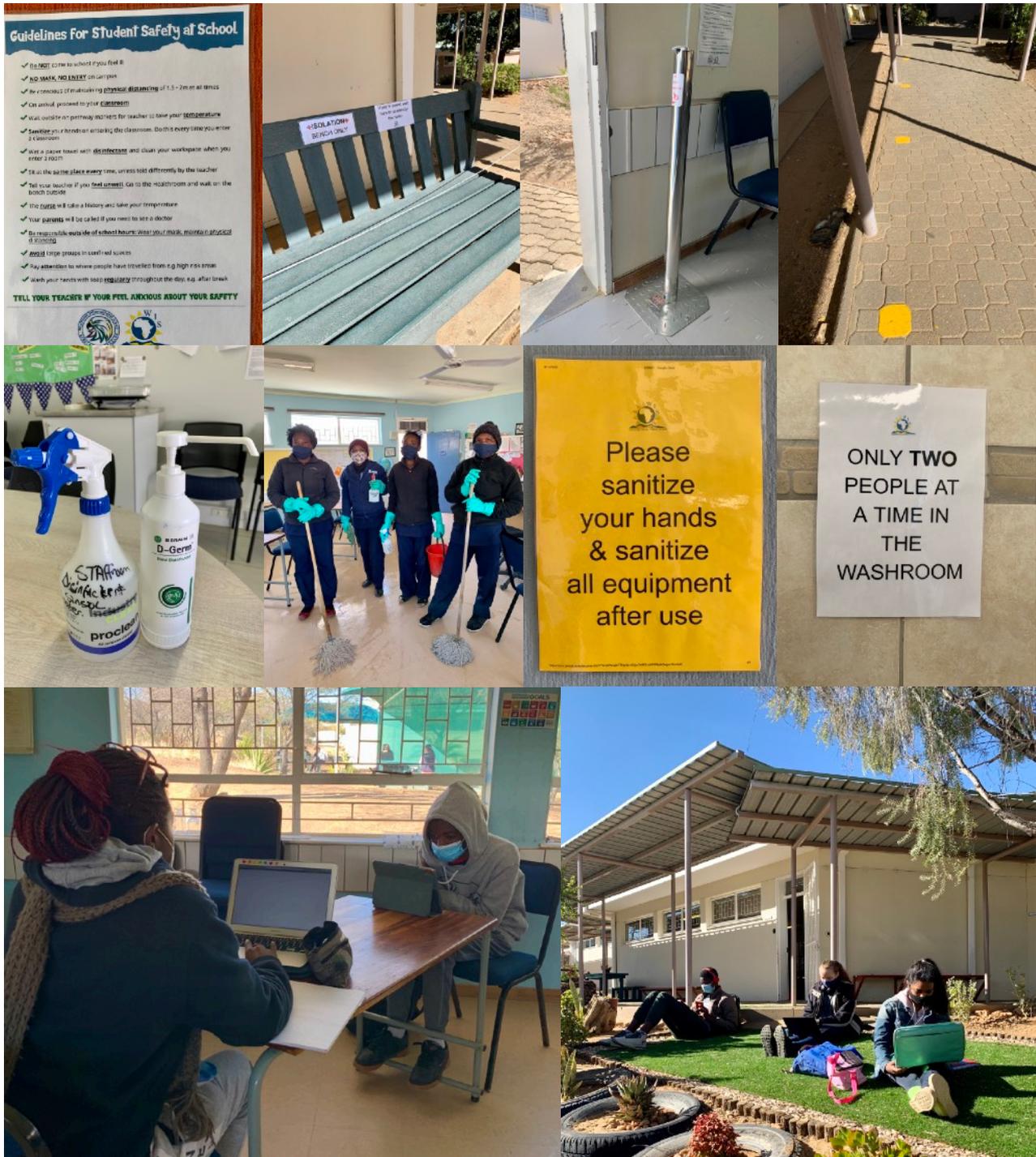


W.O.R.D.
Nijia Yang Gr. 8AJ still reading for WORD during remote learning!



Keeping WIS Safe in Difficult Times

We are doing everything in our power to create a safe environment at school for our Grade 10 - 12 students and all our staff. We are helping to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus by adhering to stringent precautions, as the following photographs will show:



Sharon Gorelick