



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

And They Said It Would Never Last

I arrived at WIS in August 2015. One of the first things I did was to propose that we issue a weekly newsletter - The Oryx. It would be fair to say that there was some scepticism. "Every week?"

Well, this is issue 198 and I know it is important and enjoyable weekly reading for parents and staff. It seems to have found its niche!

If that is one part of the legacy I will leave the school, there is another of which I should perhaps not be quite as proud. I started work a few months before our 25th anniversary. In planning our celebrations, I tried to find out the exact day that we could call our birthday. It turned out there were three.

The school opened and the first classes were taught on 16th January 1991. The official opening ceremony was 23rd January 1991. But the school (which is technically a company) was founded on 4th December 1990.

Thus, on 4th December 2015 we celebrated 'Founders Day' and that has now become a school tradition. Indeed, as I look out of my office window, I can see staff, parents and children preparing for our 30th celebration later today.

There's only one thing ...



I was wrong. It wasn't 4th December. It was 14th December.

Oh well. We're always on holiday by the 14th so let's just stick with the 4th. So, one of the things I will bequeath to the school is to celebrate in perpetuity its birthday on the wrong day. Sorry.

Primary Principal

We are getting close to appointing a new Primary Principal for August 2021. Of the thirty applications that were received, Ethan Van Drunen and I have whittled it down to the last three. They are all outstanding candidates. Final interviews are taking place over the coming days (including the weekend) and I am cautiously optimistic that we may be able to make an offer next week.

How nice it would be to go into the imminent holiday with the successful appointment of a new Director and a new Primary Principal.

On Holiday

This is the final issue of The Oryx this term and, indeed, of 2020. And what a year it has been. What is heartening, however, is that the school is finishing very much on an upswing. Remote learning is behind us (we hope for good but we will go back to if

Contents

- From the Director p. 1
- Primary News p. 3 - 5
- Secondary News p. 5 - 12
- Other News p. 12 - 16

Dates to Remember

December 2020

- **09:** End of Term 2
- **10:** Human Rights Day

January 2021

- **01:** New Year's Day
- **08:** Staff Work Day - No school for students
- **11:** Term 3 Starts



Facebook



Instagram



Twitter

it is necessary), the school is almost back to normal, enrolment has risen every week since August (and we have eleven new students starting in January), and we've appointed a new and highly experienced Director. There is much to be grateful for and to feel optimistic about.

That said ... I think we all need a holiday! I hope yours is a good one.

Office Hours

The school will be open until and including 18th December 8am to 3pm. It will reopen on Tuesday 5th January.

Peter MacKenzie

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Members of the WIS Community

Thank you again to everyone who was actively involved in the search process for a new Director. This is one of the most important responsibilities of any Board and we are grateful that the whole community came together in such a positive spirit to offer support.

As you know, Ethan Van Drunen has been offered and has accepted the position. He will arrive with his family in August and we know he is very excited to be joining WIS. We are just as excited that he has accepted our offer.

He will be joining WIS after the school has enjoyed six years of stability in terms of leadership. Peter MacKenzie arrived in 2015, Beth Smith came in 2014 and Maggie Reiff has been here for much longer. The school has undoubtedly benefited from this continuity.

However, not only is Peter leaving, Beth is too. Thus, after six years of the same leadership team, two-thirds of the SLT will be new.

This need not be a cause for anxiety. Ethan Van Drunen is experienced and we are confident he will provide strong leadership. Also, interviews for the position of Primary Principal are well advanced with a number of very strong candidates. We hope to be able to make an appointment shortly.

Nevertheless, both the new Director and Primary Principal will face steep learning curves. We know they will enjoy and benefit from the support of the whole staff but, inevitably, it will be Maggie Reiff, as the remaining member of the SLT, on whose shoulders the burden will be heaviest.

The Board has therefore taken the decision to create the position of **Deputy Director** for the 2021-2022 school year and Maggie has kindly agreed to accept it. This will take effect from August when Ethan Van Drunen and the new Primary Principal will arrive.

This is an additional responsibility. Maggie will remain as Secondary Principal.

Allow me to wish you all a relaxing and well-earned holiday.

Flora Ismail

Chair of the Board of Directors

From the Nominations Committee

As noted in the message from the Educational Director last week, there will be an opportunity for parents to stand for election to the Board of Directors at the AGM that will be held on Wednesday the 27th of January. The Board encourages willing and committed parents, especially those with experience and expertise in the areas of

finance, policy, legal matters, business development, marketing, and communication, to consider standing for election. Necessary documents to submit prior to standing will be available after the new year.

Parents who may be interested in standing for election to the Board of Directors are invited to come and have a conversation with members of the Board on **Tuesday, 12 January at 18:00** at the **Stellenbosch Tasting Room**. This will be an opportunity to gain information on the various Board mandates as well as to ask questions of current members of the Board. Please consider attending if you are interested in serving WIS in this very important and essential way.

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Conferences

The assessment conferences held this week were well attended. From conversations I've had with teachers and parents the conferences seem to have been positive and it was important that they took place at this time. Parents will be sent a feedback form to offer more specific feedback. We are planning that the next conferences will be student-led. Confirmation about these conferences will be sent in the new academic year.

Goodbye and Good Luck

We have a few children who are leaving and not returning to WIS after the holidays. To these children and their families, thank you for being a part of our school community. Best wishes to you in your new school.

Happy Holidays

To all of you, may you keep safe and may your holidays include laughter, relaxation and quality time with your children. I look forward to seeing you when school resumes on Monday, the 11th of January.

Regards,
Beth Smith

EY 3S Learner Profile Certificates

The EY3 students have shown wonderful commitment in class. Our focus has been on identifying and acknowledging what kind of learner each of them are and enjoyed noticing and appreciating each other. Each day, over that week, the students will draw a name of a student and for that day they have to notice positive qualities of that person, that reflects the learner profile. The students even make a certificate for the nominated

person to take home. This process has been to encourage the children to become familiar with what the learner profile attributes mean: e.g. what it means to be caring. It also encourages children to model and take action on learning traits. It is teaching the students that we can look for the positive things in people and encourage this.

Thank you EY3 for showing appreciation to your fellow classmates and always treating each other with respect!

EY3 the place to be!

Ms. Sonandré and Ms. Esther



Grade 2: How We Organise Ourselves

Students inquiry into the interconnectedness of human-made systems and communities; the structure and function of organisations; societal decision-making; economic activities and their impact on humankind and the environment. Some of our community members (Ms. Yolanda Visser and Ms. Michelle Jackson-Read) offered their skills and time to show our students practical designs that could help them to understand that “Many products go through a variety of processes before they reach consumers.” Students had an opportunity to develop thinking skills, identify needs and opportunities, generate ideas and visualise solutions and of course, evaluate products and processes.

Ms. Yolanda shared interesting facts and explained the steps on how to use recycled materials to create useful products such as pots for plants, book holders and shopping bags.

Ms. Michelle shared her creativity by showing how to make lovely earrings using recycled materials as well. Ms. Michelle explained that her production of different earrings and bracelets support the Grade 7s' Community Project (Daycare Centre in Havana).



Students were exploring and discovering, through class discussions and inquiry, where those goods come from and the processes they go through from the source to the consumer.

At the end of the week, on a high and exciting note, students looked at the process of making bread.

Here is what they have learned;

- *'First you plant the seed the seed grows into wheat, they cut the wheat take it to the mill and then in an oven.'* - Ronan
- *'The process of making a bread: First you plant a seed then the seeds grow into wheat then a farmer cuts the wheat and makes flour. You will need hot water , sugar, and flour to make the dough. Bread on a fire was yummy!'* - Elaina
- *'First you put in the yeast flour, sugar and a little bit of salt. Then you let it rise, after it becomes hard and then you shape it into a ball and you cook it. At the end consumers eat the bread.'* - Craig
- *'Plant the seeds of the wheat, then you cut the wheat when it's grown. Then you make the flour and then you make the dough. You put the dough in the oven and then you've got bread.'* - Logan

Ms. Deidré and Ms. Beata

The Ileni Tulikwafeni Project

As the holiday season (and Christmas) approaches, many students will be getting excited about what this means for them. In Grade 5, we have initiated a 'Reverse Advent Calendar' project. The idea was that the students give to those who are less fortunate.



The project involved the students bringing in items (the suggestion was daily - Advent Calendar style; however, all donations at any point during the month were welcomed).

The Grade 5 students took it upon themselves to collect various food items - dried foods, tins, packets, rice, and oil. Anything non-perishable. The donated items will go to **The Ileni Tulikwafeni Project**.

Background about the "ILENI TULIKWAFENI CENTRE;

It is a community-based organisation that was founded by the people of Five Rand Camp in 2003. The organisation promotes social, environmental and financial sustainability in Five Rand Camp amongst women.

They support and cater to the following;

- Orphans and Vulnerable Children
- Church Youth Group
- Out of School Youth
- School Going Youth
- Senior Citizens and people living with a disability (meals are provided once a month to this group)
- HIV and TB Patients (we provide this group of community members with food parcels whenever we receive a donation).

The Grade 5 team.

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

2020 coming to an end - time to reflect, time to be thankful

As this year draws to a close, there is a lot to reflect on. An unprecedented year in so many ways that will be written into the history of our time. In the past 12 months, we have gone from one world to a completely different world.

I often wonder what lessons are the most important to learn from our experiences in the past year. Is it that we are vulnerable? Is it that we need to listen to our planet? Is it that we need to be more aware that we need each other and that we need to support each other? These are certainly all messages we can take from the experiences this past year has brought us.

But then, at the end of this year, I find it most appropriate to be thankful and to see the positive sides this past year has brought us. I am thankful for being able to continue with our school right through the whole pandemic

- even if the remote learning times were something totally new and came upon us unexpectedly. I want to thank everyone who has gone beyond their call of duty, who has invested everything and more to be able to cope with a situation that was unexpected, could not be planned for and was something this world has not experienced in more than a generation if at all.



THANK YOU to our teachers - they embraced their responsibility to continue working with our children from the onset. It certainly was not something that came easy and that could be prepared. It just happened and YOU, our teachers, took this challenge head on and worked relentlessly to do a great job, to continue with something that was so foreign to all of us before - teaching remotely, learning many new skills, having the patience, the energy and the perseverance to continue through the remote learning phase, through the hybrid phase, where you had to work a double schedule, into a different and new normal.



THANK YOU to all other colleagues at WIS who have all together ensured that we could continue to learn and teach even if everything was somewhat upside down.

THANK YOU to our students - you have embraced this challenge. Many of you have worked through an unknown challenge and turned it into an opportunity to grow and to learn. Many of you will have realised how valuable the experience of face-to-face school is - the experience of being with people, of interacting directly with each other and with your teachers. I hope also, that many of you will have realised that there are different ways of learning, but that, in the end, you are the master of your own destiny. For all those of you who have turned the challenges of this past year into an opportunity for growth, this will come in good stead in your future development.



THANK YOU to all our parents. Having to live through a time where you have to become the teachers in the house - where the responsibility for your children's academic progress is partly put on you at home - has certainly been something new and for many a challenge that needed to be "learnt and embraced". It might, however, also have given you a little insight into the lives of your children during the school day and the life of a teacher on a daily basis.

We will have all learnt that we need each other and what our own strengths and limitations are in a situation that does sometimes lead us to the extreme of what we think we can endure. This must be something that

we can utilise for a better together and a better future once the world becomes more "normal" again, even if this is going to be a different, new normal.

And amidst all this uncertainty and change, we are celebrating WIS' 30th birthday. We are proud to be able to celebrate this milestone birthday together; celebrate our successes in the past year in different areas of the school, celebrate our togetherness and our diversity - something that cannot be taken for granted in societies across the world at the moment.

I wish you all a peaceful, safe and happy holiday. Take care of yourself and each other and we look forward to having everybody back safely after the holiday.

Regards,
Maggie Reiff

From the Secondary Student Council

Hello fellow Students!

I hope that you all had a lovely Movember and a wonderful week. As you may all know the Student Council has been selling moustaches in order to support the cause of Movember. We had promised that there would be a small competition between classes and that the class that bought the most moustaches would win said competition.

We calculated all sales and we are happy to announce that Ms. Heike's Grade 6 class has won!! They will be able to have a small party which will be organised by the SSC next week Tuesday!

We would like to thank everyone for participating in buying the moustaches! See the poster on page 15.

From your Student Council

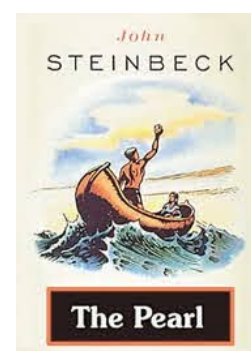
Grade 8 Essay writing

Showing analytical thinking after reading *The Pearl*

In the past term, the Grade 8 students focused on novel study as part of their second unit. The students read the book *The Pearl* written by John Steinbeck. As part of their Criterion A - Analysing summative assessment, students were asked to explain 'What message did Steinbeck want to convey to his readers?' in an essay format. This is what some of our students thought:

What is the point of *The Pearl*? - Salome Rey Grade 8A1

The Pearl is a novel written by John Steinbeck in 1947. This book is about a poor Native American family finding a huge and priceless pearl in the United States. It is a parable, a story that teaches the readers a lesson/moral that they can apply in real life. So, what message is John Steinbeck trying to convey? What lesson is *The Pearl* trying to teach us? Is it about family? Is it about our place in society? Is it about finding what makes us happy? Or is it about all these things?



Family is one of the most apparent themes in *The Pearl*. In the beginning of *The Pearl*, Kino and his family have practically nothing, yet, they are a happy family that really loves each other. They have a song called "The Song of the Family" to express how much family means to them. After they got "The Pearl of the World" though, their family started becoming more and more broken and separated. Kino's thirst for money ate him up and transformed him into a monster. When Juana noticed this, she went to the beach to throw the pearl back into the sea, but Kino found out and he beat and kicked her. After that, everything started unraveling itself. Kino murdered and abused to get what he wanted, and in the end, Coyotito was killed. This tragic event will forever rest on Kino's conscience, ripping his soul apart. They went from being a close and happy family, an entity as a whole, to a distant and dysfunctional family. They became merely a couple after the loss of their first son. I would leave this sentence out, as the last sentence sums up your paragraph.

In *The Pearl*, your place in society defines you. If you are from a poor family, you are an unimportant member of society. "The loss of the pearl was a punishment visited on those who tried to leave their station. And the Father made it clear that each man and woman is like a soldier sent by God to guard some part of the castle of the Universe. And some are in the ramparts and some far deep in the darkness of the walls. But each one must remain faithful to his post and must not go running about, else the castle is in danger from the assaults of Hell." This sermon remembered by Kino illustrates that the common belief in the book is that it is a sin to try to change your place in society. If you are born poor, you die poor. This fact becomes even cruder when you are of a different race. "Have I nothing better to do than cure insect bites for little Indians? I am a doctor, not a veterinarian." The doctor said after Kino spoke to him about Coyotito's scorpion bite. "'Has he any money?' The doctor demanded, 'No, they never have any money.'" These are examples where racism and social injustice take place. The doctor refuses to treat Coyotito because he is a poor "little Indian" and he doesn't want to waste his

time on people that won't give him proper payment. When the doctor found out, though, that Kino acquired "the Pearl of the World" his attitude toward him completely changed.

When Kino found the pearl, greediness, and ungratefulness entered the picture. Kino and his family were content with what they had before the pearl came into their life. Sure, they were just barely making it because they didn't have much money, but they appreciated every single thing they possessed. The pearl brought endless possibilities to the family, they could finally have what they wanted most. "What will you do now that you have become a rich man?" Juan Thomas, Kino's brother, asked him. "We will be married - in the church. We will have new clothes. Perhaps a rifle. My son will go to school." These are all the things Kino listed. All of a sudden, because they got the pearl, things that weren't essential before became a necessity. This really shows that when someone gets something, instead of being grateful for what they got, they are already thinking of what more they could obtain. This is a vicious cycle and, unfortunately, most people don't resurface from it. The pearl brought out the worst in everyone and blinded them from what they already had.

John Steinbeck is revealing how sickening the human race can be. *The Pearl* brought to light every single bad trait we humans have. Greed is one of the most evident, by turning friends into enemies, tearing families apart, and making us lose sight of what's important in life. Social hierarchy, by dismissing and disregarding people that rank lower on the social pyramid and assuming what a person is like based on that ranking. Racism by discriminating, segregating, and presuming that everyone of a specific race is identical. *The Pearl* was an eye-opener and a bit of a slap to the face. There are definitely lessons to learn from *The Pearl*. To me, the most prominent moral is that one should not let greed and envy over-power the sense of gratitude one should have towards the things they already possess.

The Point of 'The Pearl'. - Ananya Pandey Grade 8JM

The story of 'The Pearl' begins with a description of the seemingly ideal family life of the poor pearl fisherman Kino, his wife Juana, and their infant son, Coyotito. It is about how a pearl completely changes their lives and how their choices affected them. In this essay, I am going to talk about paradox, greed, and discrimination.

Kino's choices were paradoxical. In Chapter 1 when Kino first looked at the pearl he saw a church wedding for Juana and himself but he ended up beating up his wife, killing someone, and having his son shot dead. So, Kino imagined well-being for himself and his family but ended up ruining their lives. It is clear that instead of making a better life for him and his family; Kino made their condition worse.

Greed is a necessary evil. Kino wanted to find a Pearl to pay the doctor's fees to recover Coyotito from the scorpion's poisonous sting. Since Coyotito recovered, Kino wanted to use the pearl to send Coyotito to school and much more. This proves that at first Kino wanted nothing much from life and he was unprivileged but now he wanted a better life. So, the cycle of greed goes on; without it, you want and get nothing but with greed there comes a pitfall. It is clear that once you step into the dirty trap of greed, there are no limits to stop.

Discrimination is a crime against God and human beings. Discrimination can be seen most prominently in how the doctor treats Kino. When Kino's son Coyotito gets stung by the scorpion the doctor refuses to treat him because Kino's family is Indian and has no money. It is clear that discrimination is unholy. So be like a panda. They are not racist. They are black and white.

In conclusion, the lesson of 'The Pearl' is that dream big but don't dream greedy.

The message Steinbeck wanted to give his readers. - Tristan Tittus Grade 8JM

After reading through this book with my class, it is obvious that we all have different perspectives of this book and the goal that Kino tries to achieve. The writer of this book (John Steinbeck) tries to convey a message that you should not be consumed by evil things such as the pearl and that it is only good and evil in our world.

"There are only good and bad things and black and white things and good and evil things and there is no in-between anywhere." In this sentence, the writer (John Steinbeck) states that there are only 2 things, evil and good, black and white, good and bad. And there is nothing in-between and how evil is stronger than good. In

the book, Kino's pearl is an evil thing and despite Juana's pleading to Kino, he is still focused on selling the pearl and giving his family a better life. Despite all that has happened, the pearl almost got stolen and Kino's head sliced, even going as far as almost ripping apart his family. He is still focused on selling it. So determination is a key part of the story.

I think this story also displays how all of a sudden people can get jealous when someone suddenly obtains great wealth and will do anything to get a piece of it. Like the doctor, he poisoned Kino's baby and later healed the child expecting payment in return. People started attacking Kino in his own home, trying to steal the pearl. So this can lead to danger within someone's life when people are willing to do anything to get what they want.

Kino was consumed by the pearl, he was imagining a wedding in a church and his son going to school., opening and reading books. He was consumed by this, these imaginations made him lose sight of what was really important and but in the end all he found was misery and grief. In the end, his child never got to open and read books, and he never got that wedding in a church. So the main point of this book to me is to not let yourself be consumed by evil things. Otherwise, it will lead you to do bad things, that you might regret in the future. Wealth over happiness.

There are also many symbols in the book, each meaning something different. Take for example the scorpion... This is a symbol of evil, and it tries to take what is most valuable to him in his life. His baby is stung by the scorpion and falls ill, Kino seeks the help of a doctor, but he refuses. The response is "Have I nothing better to do than cure insect bites for 'little Indians'? I am a doctor, not a veterinary." This also exhibits the amount of racism in the book and in the world, not just with the skin but also culture. Kino refused to give up, so he went pearl fishing. This is where he finds his next symbol, the pearl. While fishing underwater, he finds the pearl in a clam. Kino thought this pearl would bring wealth to his family, but this pearl was a corrupt, sinful thing in the disguise of a blessing.

Kino's plan was to sell the pearl in order to pay for his infant son's treatment, but his son was healed. So Kino sees what the pearl could bring his family, so Kino sets his eye on a different goal ... selling the pearl so his family could live a better life. Kino's family goes through hell because of their choices regarding the pearl. The message I received from this is to value family more over wealth. Kino's family was happy and towards the ending of the book, his family has ripped apart.

Grief also plays a part in the story of Kino's life. Kino suffers greatly from his choices, he gets his house burned down by some mysterious men. Because of his stubbornness, he loses a lot. He decided that he and his family will travel north to sell the pearl for a greater price. Along the way, he loses his son and sees that all is useless now and decides to throw the pearl away.

Once it Starts - Nijia Yang Grade 8A]

The flawlessly rounded surface of the pearl glimmering in the deep blue waters, its soft light attracted humans for centuries, forever pursuing the faint glow of the pearl. I used to think that the pearl is the most beautiful gift of the sea until I read this story written by John Steinbeck. The message that I get from the author is that once evil starts, it has no end. The points that I think Steinbeck focuses on in this novel are the similarities between Kino's greediness and the oyster's self-protection, how destiny should not be changed, and how discrimination shapes who you become.

Kino ended up destroying his family exactly how an oyster destroys itself through self-protection. "An accident could happen to these oysters, a grain of sand could lie in the folds of muscle and irritate the flesh until in self-protection the flesh coated the grain with a layer of smooth cement. But once started, the flesh continued to coat the foreign body until it fell free in some tidal flurry or until the oyster was destroyed." The greediness of Kino is the grain of sand that irritates the oyster. Kino wanted more and more just like how the oyster covered this grain of sand continuously until it was destroyed. In my opinion, Kino just wants to be wealthy enough to be capable of protecting himself and his family. However, it is clear that once greed is planted in one's heart, it can easily conquer.

Destiny should not be changed. "And this Kino knew also that the gods do not love men's plans, and the gods do not love success unless it comes by accident. He knew that the gods take their revenge on a man if he is successful through his own efforts." You may work hard to get good grades. You may work hard on an investment program for your boss to be happy. Putting effort into things that you need to do is necessary, nothing wrong. However, you should never try everything to change your destiny, like what Kino did. All your life experiences lead you to the direction that you're supposed to go. It is true that the meaning of life is we work hard for it, on the other hand, it is also true that live the life God has appointed for you, so that you may experience the best meaning of everything.

You never know one of your actions will affect a person's life. "For a long time, Kino stood in front of the gate with Juana beside him. Slowly he put his suppliant hat on his head. Then, without warning, he struck the gate a crushing blow with his fist. He looked down in wonder at his split knuckles and at the blood that flowed down between his fingers." Kino's desire for money began at that moment, as he knew clearly that the doctor was inside the house, it's just that he didn't want to come out. Since he's an Indian that the doctor discriminates against, and he doesn't have money. If that day, the doctor came out and treated Coyotito, Kino wouldn't have found 'The Pearl of the World'. If he didn't find that pearl, he wouldn't keep on seeking a luxurious life and try to change his destiny. Then he wouldn't end up destroying himself and his family. Overall, nobody is born evil, human nature depends on how we shape it with our behaviours.

In closing, starting from Coyotito's scorpion sting to family destruction, this whole journey could have been stopped by that doctor, if that doctor could step out of his big cozy house and treat Coyotito, all these horrendous things would not have happened. It is true that once evil starts, there's no end, we as humans, barely anyone can control our selfishness and greediness because who doesn't want a better life? To be honest, I don't think I would do anything different compared to Kino, if I get to own The Pearl of the World, I can only be worse. But not now, not after reading this book. This book means more than just a parable to me. This book has taught me even more than what the author wanted me to learn.

Two visitors in one week!

We are currently learning about storytelling in Grade 7 Drama. Last week we were incredibly fortunate to have had visits from two different storytellers.

West shared and taught us Namibian rhythms and movements and showed us how we could possibly get our audience involved in our storytelling. West is a powerful storyteller and it was interesting to see how he uses his body to tell stories. Amy is a storyteller from Shropshire and visited our classroom virtually - we loved hearing her stories and were fully engaged from start to finish. We have started implementing some of the techniques learned from both West and Amy in our own storytelling.

Being exposed to and learning different storytelling traditions from different parts of the world in an everyday Drama class, is definitely a WIS-difference that we love.

See the photos on the next page.



Know your Middle School Student Council Reps

The MSSC will start as of January 2021. The purpose of this is to give our WIS students the opportunity to develop leadership by organising school-based events and a student voice.

Mr. Jeff Bonazzo and Ms. Angie Janse van Rensburg will be guiding and supporting the Middle School Student Council.

The objective of this council is to:

- To enhance communication between students, management, staff, and parents
- To promote an environment conducive to educational and personal development
- To promote friendship and respect among students
- To support the management and staff in the development of the school
- To represent the views of the students on matters of general concern to them



Grade 8s: Gonçalo Andresen, Tristan Ockhuizen, Rainier Feris, Christian Philip, Sadie Andrew, Salomé Rey & Diana Tjombe

Grade 7s: Ishaan Argawal, Leo Jackson-Read, Naeem Robiati & Abigail Segamwenge

Grade 6s: Roelf Steydtler, Amalia Fühling, Benjamin Oldenburg & Nicholis Swart

Staff Community Project

The WIS Social Committee proposed a community project to our staff where anyone could volunteer to support a child in need. We received 65 names from the Ileni Tulikwafeni Center based in Okahandja. The staff wanted to lead by example by showing our students that we also take part in helping others and that it is not always us asking our students and parents to help and donate. All 65 children were sponsored by our staff.

There are multiple reasons why volunteering and being part of a community service project is beneficial: numerous studies have shown that volunteering isn't just good for your mind and conscience; it's also good for your body. By focusing on others' problems instead of their own, people have reported not only reduced stress but also an overall improvement in mood and health.

We have gotten into contact with the ILENI TULIKWAFENI CENTRE based in Okahandja. It is a soup kitchen that focuses on helping the following:

- Orphans and Vulnerable Children
- Church Youth Group
- Out of School Youth
- School Going Youth
- Senior Citizens and people living with a disability (meals are provided once a month to this group)
- HIV and TB Patients (we provide this group of community members with food parcels whenever they receive a donation)

The Social Committee decided that we will focus on a group of 65 orphans and vulnerable children where we asked our staff to fill a shoebox with the following items: toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, a shirt (t-shirt), a packet of cookies, a sweet treat (any sweetie), an age-appropriate toy, bar of soap, a pen, pencil, notebook, an eraser and a proper Covid face mask. We wanted every child to receive similar items so that when they do open their gifts it would be fair and reasonable. Ms. Urte will be handing these boxes over to the people in charge when our holiday starts.



I have no doubt that we will be making a difference in someone's life this coming Christmas and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone who participated in this initiative.

Angie Janse van Rensburg, Social Committee member

IB Learner Profile

Thinkers

Congratulations to the following seven students for displaying the IB Learner Profile trait, Thinker, for the month of November.

Well done to, Gr. 6 - Tanaka Chinyoka, Gr. 7 - Ndahafa Muadinohamba, Gr. 8 - Nijia Yang, Gr. 9 - Allan Tait, Gr. 10 - Sophie Lindy, Gr. 11 - Gauraang Varshney and Gr. 12 - María de LaPaz-Nápoles.



PAKO Magazine

An educational project

Would you like to become part of the PAKO educational project? PAKO Magazine is an education project in collaboration with the SPCA and other rescue organisations in Namibia.

They are working with schools (teachers, students and parents). PAKO always has parents looking for activities, schools, music lessons etc for their kids. PAKO is trying to gather contacts to make it easier for parents to find the right activities and schools.

They are asking N\$100.00 per month (N\$ 1200/ year). This amount includes the listing in the magazine as well as on their website www.pako4kids.com – and 15 free magazines of every issue they print (6 issues per year).

Please let me know if you are interested to order a monthly subscription bstephanus@wis.edu.na

If you would like to get in contact with the magazine, please contact them on pako@africaonline.com.na



30th Anniversary Logo Competition

As part of our 30th anniversary celebrations, we invited students to submit suggestions for a special logo. Thank you to the dozens of learners who responded.

Here are three that we particularly liked.



Congratulations to Carlos and Laela in Grade 4 and Amalia in Grade 6!

Extra-curricular Activities

We have a growing number of highly talented students regularly participating in a range of sports codes. Namibia is well known for the range of excellent sporting opportunities that are available to all. As a Sports Department it gives us great pleasure to see our students making use of the extensive club sports network in addition to representing the school where opportunities are available.

On the next page is a snapshot of our WIS students in action. Please email tjackson-read@wis.edu.na if you would like your child's sports photos included in future editions of the Oryx.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



Show Your Full Potential!

**MON
DECEMBER 7**

**MONDAY
MADNESS**

WHO WANTS TO BE NORMAL? GET OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE AND LET'S GO MAD!!

**PJ
DAY**

**WED
DECEMBER 9**

**PYJAMA
WEDNESDAY**

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL! LET'S GET STARTED ON THE HOLIDAY! COME TO SCHOOL IN YOUR NICEST PJ'S. LET THE RELAXATION BEGIN!!

**TUE
DECEMBER 8**

**TWIN
TUESDAY**

JOIN WITH A FRIEND AND BECOME SISTER, SISTER OR EVEN MISTER, MISTER!

**SPIRIT
WEEK
DECEMBER
7-9**

**W.I.S
SECONDARY
STUDENT
COUNCIL**

A WEEK OF FUN AND EXCITEMENT FOR THE WHOLE SCHOOL TO ENJOY!

Made with PosterMyWall.com



A WISHLIST TO SANTA

Tis' the season of giving and our animals wish for a few things at this special time!



Dear Santa!

*We have all been very good furry boys and girls! Can you please help us make our **WISHLIST** come true?*

- Feed a dog for a month - **N\$300** (140 dogs on average in our care during December month)
- Feed a cat for a month - **N\$150** (160 cats on average in our care during December month)
- Feed a rabbit for a month - **N\$50** (15 rabbits on average in our care)
- A one, two, or three year EFT monthly commitment (any amount)
- Sink for our dog kennels - **N\$1,500**
- Sink for our dog kennels - **N\$1,500**
- Kitty litter for a month - **N\$5,000**
- New dog collars for walking the dogs - **N\$2,000**
- 'Adopt me' bandanas for dogs at events - **N\$500**
- New fence for visiting area - **N\$1,200**
- Upgrading the dog yards (7 yards total) - **N\$10,000**
- 'Face lift' the reception area - **N\$7,000**
- New uniforms for the SPCA staff - **N\$10,000**
- Building a new cat intake area for our new cat arrivals to decrease stress and disease transmission - **N\$83,600** (N\$30,000 raised, N\$53,600 still needed)

From the animals at the SPCA XOXO

Thank you for keeping the animals in mind during this time of year!

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: santa@spcawindhoek.org.na