



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

As indicated in the previous issue of The Oryx, the PTA AGM will take place in school next month (date to be confirmed).

All parents/guardians and members of the educational staff are automatically members of the PTA and are warmly invited to attend. After the disruptions of 2020, this is the first AGM for eighteen months. We have a mostly new Board of Directors and from August a new Educational Director and Primary Principal. It would be great to have a strong and active PTA as the school enters a new and, I'm sure, exciting chapter.

From the current constitution:

The agenda of the AGM shall include:

1. *Election of the Executive Committee*
2. *Annual report from the Executive Committee- presented by the Chairperson*
3. *Financial report from the Executive Committee- presented by the Treasurer*
4. *The Educational Director's Report*
5. *Work plan for the following academic year*
6. *Amendments to the Constitution*
7. *Issues raised by the Executive Committee and/or members of the WIS-PTA*

Full details and confirmation of the date will follow next week.

Peter MacKenzie

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

One Year Ago

It's hard to believe that a year ago last week was the beginning of remote learning and changes in how we do things due to COVID-19. It's been a year of adapting, being flexible, reflection and rethinking. Listening to my colleagues who work in other schools around the world, as well as reading the stories of other educators, I think we are very blessed here at WIS to have been in face to face learning for the majority of this academic year. Many schools have been in remote learning for a year or more. Being able to be outside and to travel within Namibia is also something not to be taken for granted while many countries are in lockdown and have imposed tight restrictions.

MAP Growth Testing

The MAP Growth testing this week has gone well. The Grade 1-5 classes took the Reading Test this week. Next week will be the Mathematics test. Grade 4 will take the Language Test as well. Following the Easter weekend, Grade 3 and Grade 5 will take

Contents

- *From the Director p. 1*
- *Primary News p. 1 - 3*
- *Secondary News p. 3 - 6*
- *Other News p. 6 - 9*

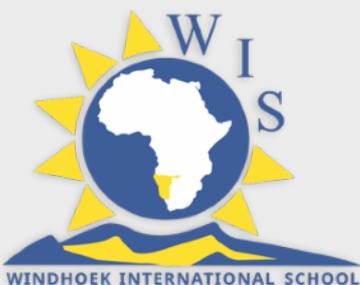
Dates to Remember

April 2021

- **02:** Good Friday - Public Holiday
- **05:** Easter Monday - Public Holiday

May 2021

- **04:** Cassinga Day - Public Holiday
- **13:** Ascension Day - Public Holiday
- **25:** Africa Day - Public Holiday



the Language Test and makeup tests will be given for those students who were absent or who didn't finish the respective tests. Results will be sent to parents before the Student-Led Conferences.

Student-Led Conferences

The Student-Led Conferences will be held Tuesday afternoon, April 27th and during the day Wednesday, April 28th. Please note that the 28th is not a school day for students. They only come to school for their conferences. The sign up form to schedule the conferences will be sent the week of April 12.

Assemblies

One of the changes that the pandemic has brought is reducing the number of people we can have in the auditorium at one time. Unfortunately, we haven't been able to invite parents to attend. Hopefully that will change for the next school year. We've also had to split the assemblies into two sessions - Upper Primary and Lower Primary. Currently the assemblies are being held on alternate weeks. One of the features of our assemblies is Special Recognition. This is to showcase student achievement outside of school. If your child has participated in some event (such as Karate, gymnastics, piano, a marathon, etc.) please send me an email with a photo and a brief explanation so that your child can be recognised during one of our assemblies.

Regards,
Beth Smith

Preparing For The BYOD Programme

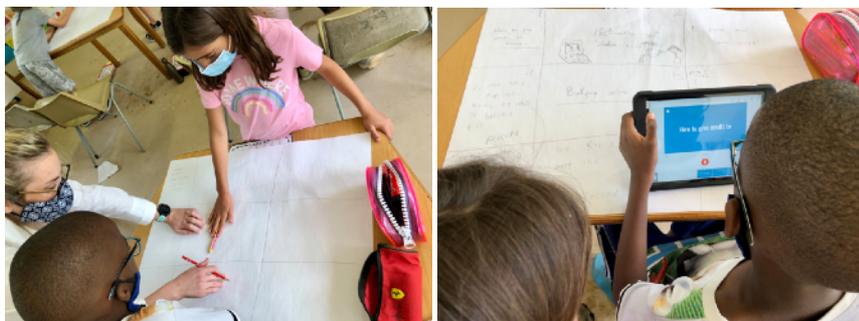
Facilitated by Mr Danai Maramba

Our BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) Programme begins in Grade 4 and goes up to Grade 12. Students are expected to bring a [Chromebook](#) to school to use for learning (devices are used as and when needed). Chromebooks are purchased on order at [Nanodog](#) at Maerua Mall.

While discussions about digital citizenship happen across the school, Grade 3 students played six games on the [digitalpassport.org](#) website to learn some Digital Citizenship skills.



After playing all six games, the students reflected on their learning and put ideas down on a storyboard in order to create Digital Safety campaigns.



[Here](#) is a video made by two students to teach others [how to create secure passwords](#).



Action through Art - Grade 3

Initiated by students, PYP action is authentic, meaningful and responsive. During the Grade 3 unit of inquiry into How We Organise Ourselves students were asked ‘How can we use our art skills to help others?’ The multitude of answers ranged from putting a smile on someone’s face, making others think, donating artwork, to teaching someone a new skill or art lesson. After much discussion as entrepreneurs the students decided to take action by volunteering their time and skillset to make and sell arts and craft to raise awareness and money for Oxfam Namibia.



We decided to cut, sand, design and decorate Himba inspired bracelets as well as laminate unique night lights. The entrepreneurial skills the students demonstrated through their actions are impressive and we invite you to come and see for yourselves this Monday. We hope you can support us.

Laura Smith



SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Be The Change - there is much to be grateful for!

In our homeroom programme, we have a unit “Be The Change” where students decide on an activity that they would like to do to make a difference. I would like to commend our different classes, under the excellent guidance of their homeroom teachers, for the different projects they have embarked on. Being able to think about ways to support other people who are less fortunate than we are, makes us learn about other people, other circumstances and situations other people find themselves in, that we can often hardly imagine.

Thank you Ms. Heike and Mr. B and the Grade 6s for organising the Spray-A-Thon to raise funds for the **Cancer Association of Namibia**. This was a successful event and the Grade 6s did an outstanding job with this. **Thank you Ms. Isabeau and Ms. Christina and the Grade 7s** for planning their support of the **Tumandje Daycare Centre in Havana**. Several students have already engaged in activities to raise money for this project - you might have seen the jewellery that was sold at the PTA centre and you might have also heard about the cupcakes that were made to raise money for this good cause. **Thank you Ms. Angie and Mr. Johan and the Grade 8s** who are doing their project at the **Happy Kindergarten** in Katutura where they are collecting books and had planned to read to those little children. Unfortunately, due to Covid, this could not yet happen.



Despite unprecedented circumstances that the pandemic has thrown us into, our teachers and students, supported by our parents, have risen to the challenges we are facing. Even though many of us are anxious and stressed in our current situation, we have reason to be grateful for the opportunities we have and that we can continue making a difference. It might feel like a small difference everyone makes, but it is certainly changing some lives and putting smiles on some faces.

Respectfully submitted

Regards,
Maggie Reiff

Appreciating Poetry in Grade 8

After completing the Poetry Unit the Grade 8 students were asked to reflect by writing an essay to express how their understanding and appreciation for poetry has evolved. The students had to use the P.E.E.L essay structure (Point, Evidence, Explanation & Link) to make their reflection clear. This is what Nijia and Maedot wrote:

The Intersection - Nijia Yang Grade 8AJ

Out of all the topics in our curriculum, poetry allows me to gather the climax of my emotional ups and downs. When my poems are created in this way, even when nobody peruses them, I feel that my delight will be endorsed, my pain will be nursed. As a result, when the unit of poetry was announced, I claimed that this unit was going to “heal” me. Read ahead, you will find out about why it’s a pleasant way of recording our moods, discover the changes of my opinions on poetry, and lastly why poetry, this beautiful form of literature should be immortal.

Poetry is probably the best way to record our feelings. Jotting down my gratitudes in a journal privately is what I usually do, and still find it enjoyable to do nowadays, it’s more of a secret strongbox to me. However, throughout the unit, I gradually realised a more comprehensive way of recording my feelings. Since our emotions are not just momentary, and lives can be intertwined with both joy and grief, to me, one’s mood is always boundless. Therefore, in this form of literature, words used should be more or less figurative, and the story hidden behind the words may sound like it’s still yet to be written. At this point, literally, nothing suits the job better than poetry.

Poetry is illimitable, I underestimated it. As stated in *Poetry Foundation*, poetry is a wide range of perspectives, purposes, and possibilities of languages. It is embarrassing to say, but undeniable that the 7th grade me, before all of these poetry units was still stuck with the idea of “poetry is complicated, it requires accurate rhythms, well word choices and strict usage of poetic devices”. Not so long after, I realised that not only is poetry what I thought it was. It can be free verse, it conveys the writer’s artistic intentions, it lets the readers explore a deeper sense of being, and everything in poetry is so meaningful that single punctuation plays a big role in a poem, it can be tranquil but persuasive. After a whole process of digging into the elements of poetry during several poems analysing activities, even the enchanting dusk is not as attractive as the beauty in poetry. Overall, it was the numerous possibilities of poetry that turned my opinion around.



This art form in the human language should be passed on forever. In conformity with the *Writer Digest* website, poetry is found highly lacking in the new-age educational landscape. I personally think we should not overlook its importance, especially how it stirs our emotions by portraying our daily lives. Poems are gifts from poets, once a poem sneaks into one's mind, this poem can be so powerful that it might turn into a temporary dominant of that person, that reminds me of Tolkien's *The Roads Goes Ever On*, Shakespeare's *Sonnet 18*, they are all just so engrossing and memorable. You probably have noticed the songs that we are listening to nowadays are more or fewer poems, the most obvious difference is that the songs contain more melodies. I believe that our generation will enlighten and cherish poetry instead of letting it buried in the past.

In summary, throughout the unit, I changed my perspectives on poetry, especially the analysing activities. Right now, I see poetry as imaginative self-expression and an emotive way of journaling that intersects both the generosity of the writer and the exploration of the readers. When you're distressed, sure that poetry will never disappoint you when you enlist help, it vaguely warns you about the bright sides of the world and, sometimes stops you from the endless demands. I suppose that we praise poetry due to its unique way of expressing it, and not only because it has a place in our curriculum.

Appreciation on poetry - Maedot Abeje Grade 8AJ

It's no surprise that poetry is a beautiful thing, it's an art form in which we can express how we feel. Not everyone gets it at first but once they do they start to understand the true beauty of it. I was one of the people who didn't get it at first but I've grown to see it in a new light. This essay is going to discuss what I've learned about poetry, how I appreciate it, and how it helps me in my everyday life.



I have learned beyond more than I thought I would. There were different topics that we covered within this whole unit such as poetic devices and different types of poetry. Poetic devices helped me shape my poem and give it a visual element. This could be done by creating rhythm. The different types of poems helped create different sounds and feelings. An example of this would be when I write a narrative poem, it would tell a story, but if I write an acrostic poem it won't give off the same effect. Overall, poetic devices and different types of poems were the key elements in this unit.

Poetry helps me understand and appreciate the world around me. We can appreciate it in different ways because it's an expressive medium. Some include reading the poem out loud or reading it several times. This could enhance the greatness or even the intensity of the poem. The emotion you read it in could also impact the way the poem sounds. Therefore we can see that you can gain an understanding of poetry by appreciating poems.

Poetry can be found in everyday life. Such as having a conversation with someone, reading books, looking at quotes, or listening to music. All of these are very similar because they all help express emotions just in different forms. They help keep me calm, and it effectively collects my mind from all the craziness in the world. It's almost freeing and gives you an inner reading of the poet's mind. Quite inspiring. All things considered, we can see that poetry is a daily thing in our lives.

To conclude everything, poetry can change how we feel and express a poet's emotions. During this unit, we learned how to use any poetic device in any type of poem. We can appreciate poems by reading them out loud and reading them several times. Poetry can be found in books, music, or conversations. Personally, my mindset has completely changed on poetry instead of seeing it as a bunch of words, I see it as a creative piece of writing that has power and feelings which have yet to be discovered.

How to ...

Study for a Foreign Language Test/Exam

After the recent trial assessments, I asked my students to write a reflection on how they performed in the assessment. While reading the students' reflections one thing came up consistently: They felt that they did not know how to study for a foreign language exam. I can understand them, as the exams are mostly skills based and do not explicitly test grammatical structures. So how do I study for an exam that is based on texts I have never seen or heard before? Here are a few tips:

1. Probably the most important thing is to consistently work throughout the year to acquire new vocabulary and grammatical structures. A language cannot be crammed in a day before the exam; it is something that slowly builds as you learn more.
2. Divide your studies into the different topics that you studied in class over the year. Language is best learned in context, so it helps to connect your learning to a specific topic.
3. Don't learn vocabulary or grammar randomly. Take one topic at a time and learn words and structures in this context.
4. Pick two or three grammatical structures that are important, for example verb conjugations, and learn to apply those consistently, rather than trying to learn all the grammar.
5. Immerse yourself in the language. Try to listen to radio shows in the foreign language, read magazines and books in the target language and find a "language buddy" with whom you can practise speaking the language.
6. Do as many past papers for practice as you can.
7. Be consistent. Practise every day.

If you do all or most of those things listed, you should be well prepared for the foreign language exams.

Carola Beyer



Remain vigilant and Stay Safe!

Dear WIS Community,

The Covid cases in Namibia are currently on the rise again. At WIS we continue to do our best to keep students and staff safe by sticking to our Covid Health and Safety protocols. Please work with us by talking regularly to your children about safe behaviour to keep our community protected.

Sharon Gorelick - Nurse & Counsellor

WIS Primary 5 a side Soccer Tournament

Announcing the WIS Primary 5-a-Side Soccer Tournament only for students currently signed up and participating in the after school soccer program.

Please note that the Tournament is on Monday 29th March. All students involved in the WIS after-school soccer programme may participate EXCEPT GRADE 6 BOYS.



**WIS Primary
5-A-Side Soccer
Tournament**

Date: 29 March 2021
Time: 13:45 - 14:45
Place: Big field
WHO: Primary girl's and boy's soccer teams!

Please [confirm](#) your child's participation in the tournament by filling in the google form. **No soccer shoes will be allowed for games.**



GRADE 3

ARTS & CRAFTS POP-UP MARKET

Date: Monday 29 March 2021
Time: 08:00 - 10:00
Place: @ The PTA Centre

Himba inspired bracelets and night lights all N\$20!

How can we use our art skills to help others? | What is my responsibility?

Please come and support our action in art.

*During our unit of inquiry we have researched organisations that support people and we will donate all proceeds to **Oxfam Namibia**.*



**LEARNER PROFILE ATTRIBUTES:
INQUIRER | CARING | PRINCIPLED**



Looking for items for your home?
Why not REUSE/ REDUCE?
BUY SECONDHAND!!

ALL FUNDS COLLECTED DIRECTLY HELP THE ANIMALS AT SPCA WINDHOEK!

SPCA WINDHOEK YARD SALE FUNDRAISER



YARD SALE

SATURDAY, 27 MARCH, 2021

09:00 - 13:00

145 ROBERT MUGABE AVENUE

DONATE YOUR STUFF!

Do you have "stuff" to get rid of?
We will gladly take it off your hands.

DROP OFF DEADLINE: 25 MARCH 2021, 09:00 - 13:00

@ 145 Robert Mugabe Avenue, Windhoek, Namibia

OR

Call us on 061 238 654 to make other arrangements!