



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

## Contents

- From the Director p. 1 - 3
- Primary News p. 3 - 6
- Secondary News p. 7
- Other News p. 8 - 11

## Dates to Remember 2022

- **21 May**  
Grade 12 IB Graduation
- **24 May**  
Last day for AA
- **27 May**  
School closed
- **9 - 10 June**  
Prim & Sec 3-Way Conferences
- **13 - 16 June**  
Spirit Week
- **16 June**  
Day of the African Child & Final Assembly



# THE ORYX

*The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School*

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear WIS Community,

Tomorrow the Class of 2022 will graduate from Windhoek International School. The proceedings will take place in the PLC Auditorium on the WIS Campus. Due to capacity constraints, we have limited in-person attendance to family members of one of the graduating class or invited guests. However, all members of our community are welcome to join the school's [Facebook Livestream](#) at 3pm on Saturday, 21st May.

It is in recognition of their successful completion of these standards and to celebrate the Learner Profile of a WIS graduate that, for the first time in our school's history, we are able to officially award the WIS High School Diploma to our graduating class. Whereas the International Baccalaureate Diploma is an external credential which is conferred in July by the IB upon completion of all IB Diploma requirements, WIS is able to award the High School Diploma as a formal qualification because of our accreditation through NEASC, the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

The High School Diploma is an official school leaving certification that is recognised for entry into certain institutions of Higher Education. Depending on the country and university, it may be used in conjunction with an IB Diploma, IB Course Certificates, or standardised tests such as the SAT, ACT, TOEFL, or IELTS. For your information, the credit requirements are as follows.

### Credit Requirements (Class of 2022 & 2023)

- 4 English
- 3 Mathematics
- 4 Additional Language
- 3 Sciences
- 2 Individuals and Societies
- 5 Elective credits

Elective credits entail one credit per year of full-time courses completed in any of the above subjects. This may also include Drama, Visual Arts, Music, Design, Physical & Health Education, or credits accrued through pre-approved Independent Study.

Required: 23 Total Credits

Sincerely,  
Ethan Van Drunen





**JP Bruwer**  
**Design & Technology**

JP has been involved in education since 2003. He started his career as a trainer at an IT college and moved to WIS in 2007 as the whole school ICT Teacher.

He taught grade levels from Kindergarten 1 all the way up to Year 11. At the end of 2012 he transitioned to a more technical position at WIS as the Systems Administrator.

JP loves technology, robotics, tinkering and problem solving and thus has offered numerous afternoon activities at WIS featuring many of these themes. He is also a motorcycle, horror movie and 3D printing enthusiast. *Oh yes, has he told you that he is Vegan yet? (Bad vegan joke!)* 🤔

From August 2022, he will be offering Design and Technology as a subject, and is looking forward to teaching and inspiring students to solve problems by working through the design cycle, which is: **"inquiring and analysing, developing ideas, creating the solution and evaluating"**.



**NEW WIS TEACHERS:** Each week in April and May, this column will profile the inspiring educators who will be joining our WIS community starting in August 2022.

## EdCamp Namibia

**Collaborating with Educators to Improve Student-Centred Learning Across Namibia.**



On Saturday 7th May, 2022, Windhoek International School hosted a one-day Ed Camp - part of WIS's Ed Camp Cluster School Initiative funded by a grant from the Australian High Commission in South Africa under its Direct Aid Program. The project's goal is to empower Namibian public school educators to enhance their teaching practice using student-centred and inquiry-based learning strategies - a key element of our day-to-day teaching and learning approach at the Windhoek International School.

The Ed Camp Cluster School Initiative is a three-part initiative including :

- The "Ed Camp" event on Saturday 7th May, 2022 for 70 teachers from seven schools;
- Exchange programme where Namibian public school teachers partner with WIS teachers;
- Ongoing social media exchange and partnership between WIS teachers and colleagues teaching in the six partner Namibian public schools.

Participating schools include: Kanuni Haruwodi Combined School, Havana Primary School, Havana Secondary School, Namutuni Primary School, Namib Sky Little Bugs School, Nancuse Primary School, and PAY Namibia. Within this framework the teachers from these schools are using social media to stay in touch and share best practices for student-centred approaches to teaching and learning.

Student-centred learning at EdCamp is:

- Inquiry-based: Engages students in their own learning
- Collaborative: Prioritises teachers working together as a team
- Differentiated (or Personalised): Meets the diverse learning needs of all learners
- Developmental: Provides learners with regular, helpful feedback
- Technological: Uses technology as a tool for teaching and learning

**Saturday's EdCamp workshops and facilitators were:**

- "Fun & Games in Mathematics" - Lian Cohen
- "Teacher Ethics: What Would You Do?" - Joanne Marshall
- "Steps To Teach Reading - Primary" - Elsa Swanepoel & Tanya-May Knowds
- "Approaches to Teaching and Learning" - Rick Fitzpatrick
- "Identify and Support Learning Difficulties" - Lizl Opperman
- "Words Their Way" - Debbie Carew
- "Praxis: Connecting Philosophy and Practice in 21st Century Education" - Forrest Donoho
- "Strategies: Increasing Student Engagement & Providing Students Feedback" - Ethan Van Drunen
- "Integration of Performance Analysis in PE Lessons" - Thomas Jackson-Read
- "Practising Metacognition in the Classroom" - Swapna Sharma
- "Concept Based Inquiry Instruction in the Languages and Arts" - Carola Beyer
- "Employment Skills For Today's Youth" - Margarete Reiff
- "Loose Parts from Nature to Provoke and Support Learning in Early Years" - Ekaterina Shino
- "Collaborative Online International Learning" - Dr Colin Stanley
- "Social Media, Connectivism, and Building the EdCamp Community" - Marcelle van Leenen & Danai Maramba

The day began with speeches from Edda Bohn of the Ministry of Education, Johanna Asino, the Principal of Namutoni Primary School Katutura, and Ed Humphreys of the Australia High Commission in Pretoria and ended with a video compiled by Avril van Zyl and our CAS students, as well as the distribution of student-centred teaching resources made possible by this grant. Feedback from the participants has been enthusiastic, and the [EdCamp Namibia](#) Closed FaceBook Group is actively sharing ideas gleaned from the day's workshops. I would like to especially thank Danai Maramba, JP Bruwer, Rick Fitzpatrick, and Terry Farrell for their committed effort to make this event and initiative a success.

**Ethan Van Drunen**

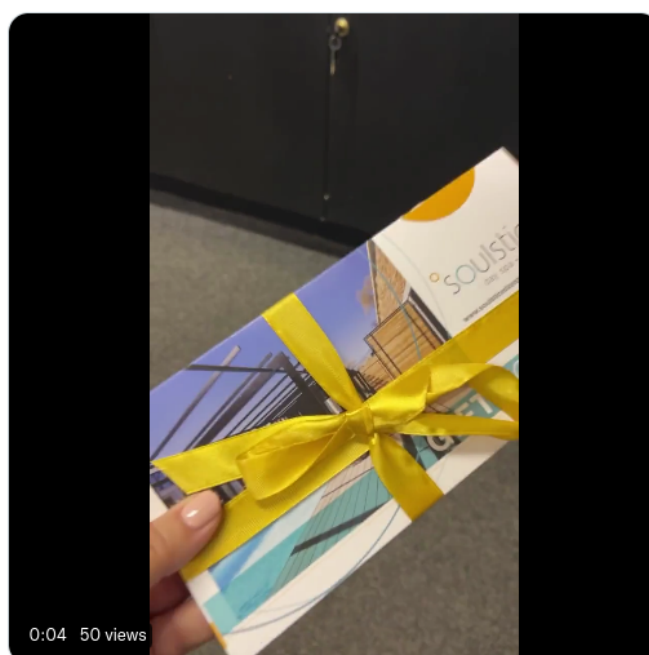
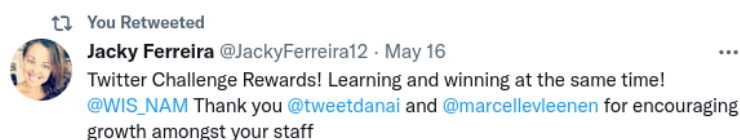
## PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Dear WIS Community,

*"If we are to better educate our students, first we need to better educate their educators."*

Research shows that professional development for teachers has a large impact on student learning. It is also one of the hallmarks of the Primary Years Programme (PYP). In order to instil life-long learning in students, teachers must model it themselves.

Collaboration is a key component in learning, both students and teachers learn through sharing of resources, ideas, concepts, knowledge and skills. Collaboration, learning from each other and *building* on that learning is important for the evolution of teaching methodology and pedagogy. Before the technology era, teachers needed to be face to face and in the same place for professional learning through collaboration, which would have limitations in terms of cost and time and not be accessible to all educators.



Those times have changed. Through technology we are now able to curate, communicate, collaborate and create with educators globally at any time. It has created a new model for educators in the 21st century. We call them connected educators. A connected educator:

- Believes in sharing and collaboration
- Uses technology and its connection to other educators to learn and teach
- Practices and models lifelong learning, the goal of an IB education
- Uses the tools of technology to personalise his/ her professional development
- Is willing to explore, question, elaborate, and advance ideas through connections with other educators
- If not comfortable with new technology, still shows a willingness to explore its use
- Views failure as part of the process of learning
- May put creation over content, and relevance over doctrine.

As this is a paradigm shift, we have made targeted efforts to support and develop the **connected educator** mindset at WIS. We have set up a WhatsApp "PD on the Go" group on which we share and celebrate amongst each other. To take it a step further and to connect with educators globally, to develop a 'Professional Learning Network' (PLN), our Technology Facilitator Mr. Danai set up a 15 day Twitter challenge for teachers in the Primary.

Day 9



Surround yourself with like minded educators!

In the twitter search box, type in any of these hashtags to see what people are saying about a particular idea/subject/topic/UOI. Just read/browse.

#ibpyp #uoi  
 #pyp #pypchat #pypconcepts  
 #hweo #wwatp #pypexhibition  
 #hwoo #htww  
 #edchat  
 #africaed

Add a note on the next page and tell us what you notice about the posts?



We also join **#PubPDAfrica**, which is an innovative and informal way of connecting face-to-face locally and then sharing collective ideas with educators globally, through Twitter.



**Marcelle van Leenen** @marcellevleenen · May 5

@WIS\_NAM joining #pubpdAfrica!



1



3



15



Many educators have experienced unprecedented growth in their learning as a result of becoming a connected educator. As we are also preparing learners for a world of continuous technological change, we need to understand that dynamic and harness the tools of communication, collaboration, and creation. The connected educator is a model for all educators and their learners as we move forward. I am truly a **#proudprincipal** to see teachers at WIS show this mindset!

Warm regards,  
Marcelle van Leenen

## Grade 5 PYP Exhibition

The exhibition seemed a very nerve wracking project when we first heard about it. It seemed as if it was so nerve wracking because it was the transition from grade 5 to grade 6, but now that it's finished, it was quite a lot less nerve wracking as before. It was quite a fun experience, and I think we all learned a lot from it. Some of the most fun activities were making our creative synthesis.



Another fun activity we did was actually before the exhibition began, when we had team building with Grade 9. We had multiple activities in a group, and it was quite a fun experience. It was fun to teach the lower grades about each of our topics, and I hope that they also learned something from our exhibition.

**Xavier Li Hin Kam**

[Secret Sunrise activity](#)

### Exhibition journey

We will be sharing our exhibition journey with you. While we were doing the exhibition it was a bit stressful but we got through it. The way we got through it is when we got our work done then the stress level went down a bit. Through the exhibition we learned more about each other's topics and learned more about our topics as well. Sometimes it was fun. There were some ups and downs but everyone finished in the end with amazing work and projects. When the exhibition was finished everyone was happy and excited that we could take a break and relax a bit. The learner profile and the research was the part that was stressful and trying to make the Line of Inquiry and to get interviews was a bit hard. With exhibition you had to put lots of effort into your work piece and creative project.



**Amelia**

### PLEASE NOTE: NEXT WEEK'S ORYX!

There will be no Oryx for next week, due to the short week.

The next Oryx will be published again on **Friday, 3rd June.**

## SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

**Until you spread your wings you will have no idea how far you can fly ...**

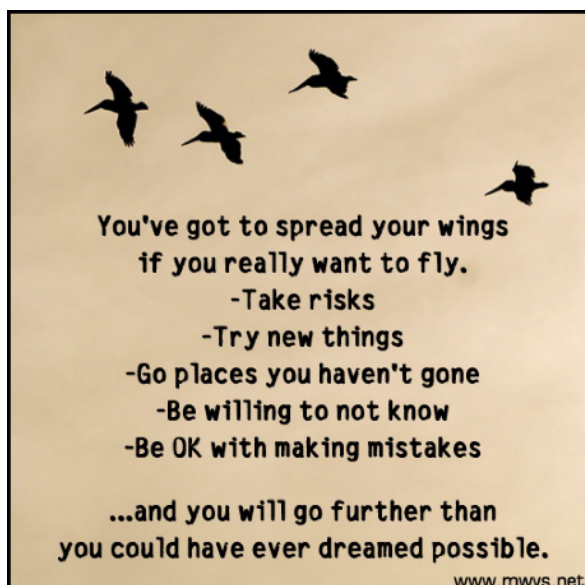


Another year has gone by and another group of young people are heading off into the world. What has their world so far given them to prepare them for the world "out there"?

Our WIS Mission aims **'to develop the full potential of each student in a stimulating environment of academic excellence, cultural diversity and active social responsibility to become internationally-minded independent thinkers.'** And our Vision is that we **'aspire to prepare independent, inquiring and self-motivated citizens of the world.'**

Have we as a school, as parents, as a community achieved these aspirations? Do we send young people into the world that can manage the challenges coming their way independently and with confidence? Time will tell what these young people will achieve in their lives. But I have every faith in their ability to spread their wings and fly. The International Baccalaureate will have given them the opportunity to learn to become independent and critical thinkers and be compassionate about their environment as well as their communities and society as large. What you young adults do with the skills and knowledge you have acquired in your school career will now largely be up to you. Your parents and teachers, your home and the school, will have facilitated these opportunities, but now it is up to you to fully take charge and take advantage of the opportunities

you were given and make life fully your own. But in the process, don't forget where you come from. Don't forget who was next to your side along the way. Treasure and appreciate the great chance you were given through an excellent education from home and from school. Don't ever take these things for granted, because not a whole lot of people are fortunate enough to experience an education like you did.



In the spirit of the IB Learner Profile, be risk-takers - but with the right conviction; be caring - care for others but also take care for yourself; continue to be thinkers, inquirers and communicators, and continue to be knowledgeable, reflective; stay principled - act with integrity and honesty and a sense of fairness, justice and respect for the dignity of the individual, groups and communities; ensure that your life is balanced with the right amount of life and work ingredients ingrained in your futures; and most of all, be open minded and embrace what the world has in store for you - understand and appreciate your own culture and personal histories and be open to the perspectives, values and traditions of other individuals and communities. ([IB learner profile](#))

On your way forward, believe in yourself and your abilities, be realistic but bold in your actions and approaches.

Windhoek International School wishes our Class of 2022 all the best for your future. Fare well, but stay in touch.

**Regards,  
Maggie Reiff**

**Car Security Stickers**  
**Please collect your 2022 - 2023**  
**windscreen sticker at the Office!**



## **The Mountain Tigers - donations needed**

The 'mountain tigers', is a soccer team consisting of San youth based in Tsumkwe. They are encouraging fellow youth by engaging in sports instead of hanging around in bars and have high hopes of playing in the National league one day. They are looking for uniforms, soccer boots and soccer balls.

Any Good Samaritans or company willing to assist these guys? **Please contact Saskia Sheehama on 081 272 7391 if you wish to help in anyway.**





# KIDS CLIMBING CLASSES



**MONDAYS -THURSDAYS**

**6 - 9 YRS:**

**14H15 - 15H45**

**10 - 15 YRS:**

**15H45 - 15H15**

**MONTHLY RATES**

**1 CLASS**

**PER WEEK: N\$400**

**2 CLASSES**

**PER WEEK: N\$650**

**CONTACT:**

**[climbnamibia@gmail.com](mailto:climbnamibia@gmail.com)**

**081 816 4240**

You've got clothes  
you don't use anymore?  
We'd be happy to take them off your hands  
to generate funds for our charity  
or donate them directly to those in need.

Please call 0812254914  
or WhatsApp +393334940904  
to arrange a pick-up with us  
for your donation



# DID YOU KNOW ... 20 MAY IS RESCUE DOG DAY

**Psst! Want to know a secret?**

You can adopt your bestest friend @ the SPCA today!

