



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Annual General Meeting

Thank you to everyone who attended (virtually) the AGM on Wednesday evening.

The Board Chair, the Board Treasurer and the Educational Director submitted reports and took questions. We always endeavour to be transparent in all we do and occasions like this when interested parents can question the Board and management are important.

And thank you to those who voted prior to the AGM.

The new Board comprises seven members.

Belinda BRUWER
John CHADYIWA
James DAMON
Keri DZIUBAN
Vengesai MUZENDA
Edmund NEL
Beata STEPHANUS

The first meeting of the new Board of Directors will be on **Wednesday 3rd February** at **6pm**.

Peter MacKenzie

New Primary School Principal

Dear WIS Community,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter to introduce myself as the new Primary School Principal of Windhoek International School. Interactions with Peter, Ethan, Beth, Maggie, teachers, parents and board members during the selection process confirmed to me that WIS is an inclusive and thriving international school community that I am incredibly honoured to become part of. I thank you all for making me feel so welcome.

The true international ethos of the school is one that I hold very close to my heart. This is for two reasons: As a mother of two IB educated children, and a product of a global upbringing, I understand the true value of growing up in an international community. The second reason is



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Dates to Remember

March 2021

- **12:** End of Term 3
- **22:** Public Holiday
- **23:** Start of Term 4

April 2021

- **02:** Public Holiday
- **05:** Public Holiday



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Instagram



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that in my 23-year journey as an educator, I have been privileged to develop my experience in passionate learning communities often found in international schools. These are shaped by a spirit of inquiry, whereby students, teachers, and parents work together to develop the learning mindsets that are crucial to success in a complex world. A sense of community that deepens understanding of different cultures and perspectives, warmth, endeavour and passion for learning are the things that inspire me to work in international education. I think you will agree with me when I say these are also characteristics of WIS and I believe I have come to the right place!

As Principal of the Primary School my goal will be to work collaboratively with leadership, teachers and parents, while remaining firmly connected to the lives of young students, learning and growing in the classroom. Young children have extraordinary curiosity and capacity for learning and new experience and I see it as my responsibility to ensure that every student feels safe, valued, looked after and inspired within a high quality teaching and learning environment. I look forward to continuing the good work of Beth in this area and she and I are already working to ensure a smooth transition.

In closing I would like to emphasise my sincere gratitude for your trust in me as the new Primary Principal and I look forward to getting to know each and every one of you in August. In the meantime, please stay happy, healthy and safe!

Warmest regards,
Marcelle van Leenen

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Last weekend I ventured south to see the *Crinum Paludosum* lilies in full bloom, as I know many of you did too. What a special treat that was to experience. What beauty comes from all the rain. Seeing how green the landscape has become gave me a sense of enthusiasm and vibrancy. In some ways the blooming of the lilies reminds me of returning to school for face to face learning. The school has been very quiet and lonely without the students. Tuesday, the school came to life again. There has been such a buzz around the campus as once again we could see the joy of the students as they reunited with their classmates or met their classmates in person for the first time. Teachers were excited and relieved, as I can imagine many parents were as well. It has felt like the first day of a new school year all over again.

In the WIDA (*World- Class Instructional Design and Assessment*) January newsletter, Jon Nordmeyer describes last year as one of grieving. We grieved the loss of holidays, celebrating traditions, time spent with family and friends, travel plans, gatherings, family members, and life as we knew it. Nordmeyer goes on to say that though we lost many things, the one thing we didn't lose was community. Tuesday was a reminder of that and no matter what aspect of learning is taking place, we are still a community.

These last nine months have been a time of learning new ways to stay connected as a community. Wednesday's AGM and our parent information evenings have been an example of that. We haven't been able to meet face to face, but in many ways, the virtual meetings have enabled us to be more connected. One is able to join the meetings from anywhere and a recording is sent for those who weren't able to attend or for those who want to listen to the meeting again. We've adapted to new ways of doing things and in some ways, it's been better.

Though the lilies have come and gone for now, the joy they brought lives on. I think the joy and appreciation of returning to school for face to face learning will linger for a while. I'm optimistic that we'll be able to continue with face to face learning for the remainder of this academic year.

Regards,
Beth Smith

What's happening in the PYP?

Dear Parents,

Please find attached the third edition of the IB PYP Newsletter: Unit of Inquiry 3. Please click [here](#) to be informed of the learning and teaching in primary for the coming weeks ahead.

Kind regards,

Avril van Zyl , PYP Coordinator



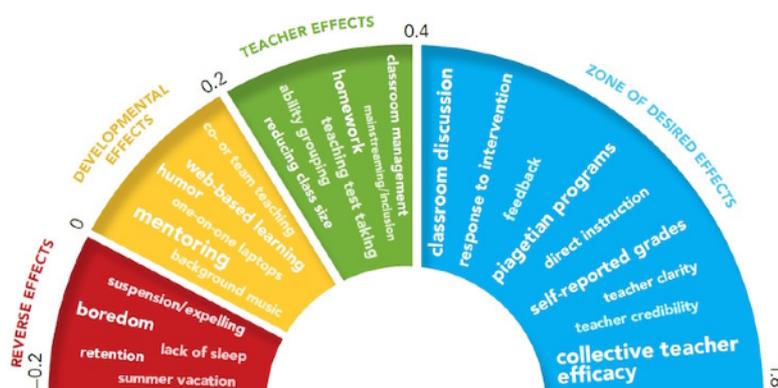
SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

We learn best from making mistakes - reflecting and getting feedback

In school we are currently working on “Assessment AS a Learner” as Professional Learning. Through the process, we learn what that means, but we also learn to reflect on our practices and how we approach assessment. Research shows that the top effect on learning is “student expectations” (John Hattie) - i.e. students predicting their performance to be able to set themselves realistic goals in their learning. It was found that students are very critical and accurate in predicting their own performance and that this has the biggest impact on their learning.

In Grades 10 and 12, we will be doing ‘alternative assessments’ (as I like to call them). Why alternative? Because we are not sure what is going to happen with the final examinations in May/June, but we still need our students to be as well prepared as possible for every eventuality. And we need to ensure that we adhere to safety precautions as much as possible. Doing these assessments is a chance for our students to a). predict their own performance, b). reflect on their progress and c). get feedback from teachers to be able to work on areas in need of improvement.

When we are actively involved in the process of assessing our progress, we learn the best. When we make mistakes and take the time to analyse the



Practices That Yield Desired Effects

Collective teacher efficacy	1.57	Classroom discussion	.82
Self-reported grades	1.33	Teacher clarity	.75
Response to intervention	1.29	Feedback	.70
Piagetian programs	1.28	Direct instruction	.60
Teacher credibility	.90	Providing formative evaluation	.48

Practices That Yield Typical Teacher Effects

Classroom management	.35	Homework	.29
Ability grouping (gifted students)	.30	Mainstreaming/inclusion	.27
Teaching test taking and coaching	.30	Reducing class size	.21

Practices That Yield Developmental Effects

Co- or team teaching	.19	Mentoring	.12
Web-based learning	.18	Background music	.10
One-on-one laptops	.16	Humor	.04

Practices That Yield Reverse Effects

Summer vacation effect	-.02	Retention (holding students back)	-.32
Lack of sleep	-.05	Moving between schools	-.34
Suspension/expelling students	-.20	Boredom	-.49

situation and the reasons for making these mistakes, we can learn from them and approach situations in a different manner in future. If we are just given a reprimand and don't understand what we did wrong, there is not much scope for learning.

This is the reason why we approach learning in a different way here at WIS. Students need to have the opportunity to be active participants in their learning; not just to receive a grade for what they have submitted. But more importantly, they need to assess their own learning by reflecting on the things that did not go well and also by getting detailed feedback from their teachers.

Another important aspect of the process is that we have opportunities to talk about our learning, our failures, our journey to improve. This is where the conversations and discussions at home are meaningful and supportive in your child's learning journey. When we talk about our mistakes and things that did not go as hoped, we articulate how it could be done differently, we discuss alternatives and different approaches to a learning moment. In those instances, learning comes alive and becomes much more effective.

My appeal to students - take the time to reflect on what you have learnt, get feedback and predict your own progress. It will most probably be as accurate, if not more accurate as the grade/mark your teacher gives you - if you are reflective and realistic. And take the time to talk about your learning with your teachers and parents - this reflection and the feedback you are getting is a powerful tool to aid your learning.

Regards,
Maggie Reiff

Grade 7 English

The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13 $\frac{3}{4}$

The Gr. 7 students were reading Adrian Mole by Sue Townsend as part of our novel study in English. The end task for the students was to add the last diary entry to the book, keeping in mind the author's style of writing and what has happened in the last few entries. I would like to share with you what some of our students wrote. I will add the last two entries from the book and then what our students came up with.

Friday, April 2nd

I am fifteen, but legally I am still a child. There is nothing I can do today that I couldn't do yesterday. Worse luck!

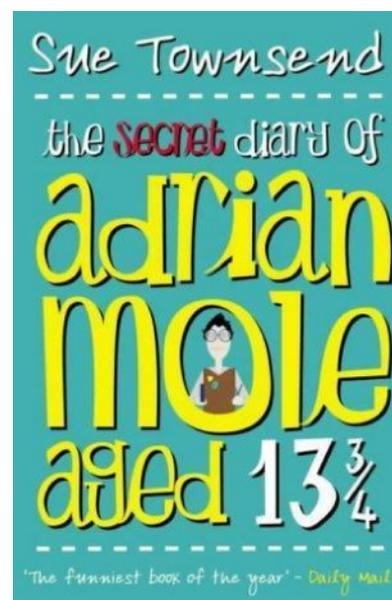
Had seven cards from relations and three from friends. My presents were the usual load of Japanese rubbish, though I did get a model aeroplane from Bert that was made in West Germany.

Pandora has ignored my birthday. I don't blame her. I betrayed her trust. Boz, Baz, Daz, Maz, Kev and Melv came back from the canal and gave me the bumps. Boz gave me a tube of glue for my model aeroplane.

Saturday, April 3rd

8 a.m. Britain is at war with Argentina!!! Radio Four has just announced it. I am overcome with excitement. Half of me thinks it is tragic and the other half of me thinks it is dead exciting.

10 a.m. Woke my father up to tell him Argentina has invaded the Falklands. He shot out of bed because he thought the Falklands lay off the coast of Scotland. When I pointed out that they were eight thousand miles away he got back into bed and pulled the covers over his head.



4 p.m. I have just had the most humiliating experience of my life. It started when I began to assemble my model aeroplane. I had nearly finished it when I thought I would try an experimental sniff of glue. I put my nose to the undercarriage and sniffed for five seconds, nothing spiritual happened but my nose stuck to the plane! My father took me to Casualty to have it removed, how I endured the laughing and sniggering I don't know. The Casualty doctor wrote 'Glue Sniffer' on my outpatient's card.

I rang Pandora; she is coming round after her viola lesson. Love is the only thing that keeps me sane...

Abigail Segamwenge - Grade 7CK, Sunday, April 4th

Had a reverse charged phone call with Pandora. We talked about the tragic war between England and Argentina. She seemed pretty worried about how this will affect our country. She gave a bloody expensive tie from an expensive shop. She said every young man has to have a tie.

Had a shave this morning. I could see a few hairs growing in. Worse luck that I had to shave today. My parents are dead mad this morning. The shops hadn't restocked on cigarettes so they had to wait. So much for a relaxing Sunday.

Tapiwa Murwira - Grade 7CK, Sunday, April 4th

8: a.m. Listened to Radio Four. The Argentinians still have control over the Falklands. War isn't very interesting when you're eight thousand miles away, I hope something interesting happens soon. I mean isn't war about guns, bombs, and dying.

10: a.m. I have borrowed *The Art of War* by 'Sun Tzu' from the library.

12 a.m. Pandora's here, she looks really sad. She must feel betrayed by me, or maybe it's something else, I wonder if it's because she didn't tune her viola and couldn't play anything well.

I asked her how her viola lesson went and she said it went great. Her teacher was very impressed with her progress.

She's definitely sad because of me.

Me and Pandora had a heart to heart talk and she decided to forgive me, only if I promised to never talk to Barbara Boyer or any other girl again. We pinky swore, so it's official.

I will never ever talk to any other girls again.

Faduli Ayoub - Grade 7IB, Sunday, 4 April

7 a.m. I woke up today feeling a bit stiff and sore and in need of something. I went downstairs and as always my mother was having one of her meetings again, I caught a glimpse of the tube of glue that I tried yesterday and I had a temptation to try it again. I mean it couldn't hurt, right?

11 a.m. I overdosed on glue! I woke up in the middle of a hospital bed and was told that I had passed out, my whole family was beside my bed, so was Pandora but I think she is still mad about the Barbara situation so I did not make direct eye contact that much. The doctor told mom and dad that they should let me off easy because I might still be a bit dizzy. As soon as we got home mom and dad started yelling at me and told me how their life goal was not to raise a drug-addicted child.

2 p.m. I decided to take a nap and when I woke up Pandora was right next to me looking down at me. We talked for a bit, mostly about the Barbara incident but she also mentioned something; she said that I was brave for trying something new which I didn't really appreciate because I'm pretty sure I could have died but I'll take it.

Photo Competition

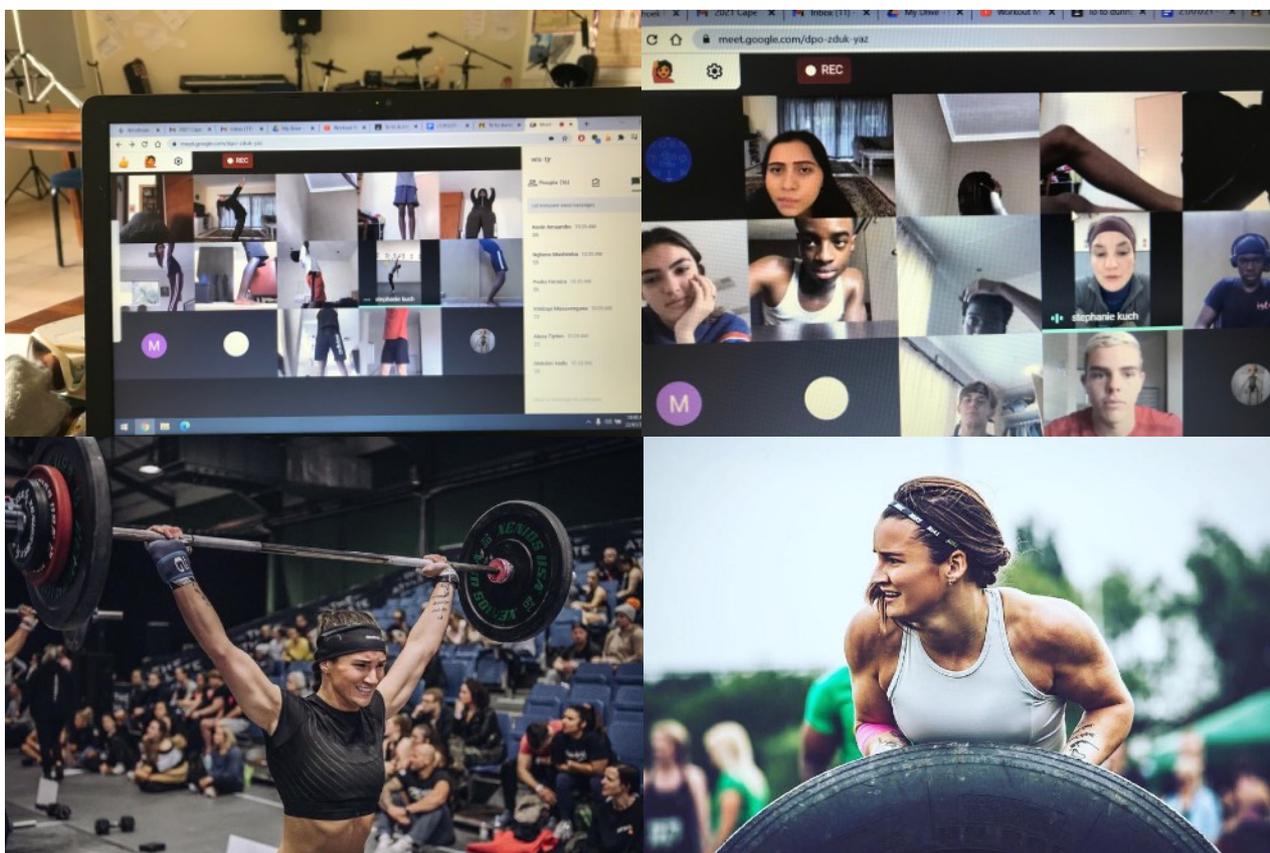
The last *Oryx* of the month will include a photo competition. We will start next month.

The competition will be themed and we will use one of the **Related Learning Concept** from the **Physical Health Guide**. February Related concept is ADAPTATION.

Remote Learning Part II in PE

Staying active during the last 12 months has been a huge challenge. Challenges however provide opportunity for creativity and adaptability.

During Grade 8 and Grade 10 PE lessons we were joined by my cousin in the UK who has, for the last 3 years been practicing CrossFit.



The students were really put through their paces by Stevie and had the chance to discuss the motivational factors, physical and mental health benefits, social advantages and regional and national competition options that CrossFit has afforded her.

Thomas Jackson-Read



The depARTSment



MYTHICAL CREATURES

GRADE 6 - VISUAL ARTS UNIT 2

>>Human culture has always had mythology and we have a need to produce explanations of things that we do not understand. We like the idea that there are other worlds [and maybe there are?] that can be contacted through mythological creatures but we also like to feel fear at a safe distance. [Fear being a warning sign after all.] As a result, the line between fantasy and reality can become blurred, making it harder to know where one ends and the other begins.<< (<https://theconversation.com/africa>)

Grade 6 students used these blurred lines to engage their fantasy, creativity and inventiveness in a recent Visual Arts unit.

After an introduction into the unit, each student was asked to choose 5 animals from a given website (<https://etc.usf.edu/clipart/galleries/730-animals>). We printed these and then the fun began; cutting the pictures of their chosen animals apart to create a 'new one', a mythical creature, their mythical creature.

Below a few of the watercolour paintings which were the final outcome of this unit.



Congratulations Nombango!

Congratulations to Nombango in Grade 6JB, who had a great season with ACFC. Good luck to all the footballers for the 2021 season.



Girls football starting this term!

We will use fun and engaging coaching techniques in football training to develop fitness, skills, tactics, and team building opportunities to give our football players a well-rounded understanding of the game.

- Who? Grades 3 - 6 are welcome
- When? Mondays and Thursdays from 13:15 - 14:15
- Where? WIS Sports Hall
- Why? Create a team to play in a local league
- What to bring? PE kit, sun hat, water bottle and a smile

Look forward to seeing you there,
Ms. Laura and Mr. Chi



Cycle Saturday Workshop

We would like to offer a Saturday morning cycling skills session through February and March. The purpose of the session is to improve cycling skills and introduce children to basic bike maintenance.

The session will be open to Grade 3 - 7. The attendees will need a working bicycle, bike helmet and a positive attitude.

Please fill in this [form](#) should your child be interested in taking part.

VALENTINE'S DAY
YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE
I LOVE YOU

**Don't know what to get that special someone??
Here are some things SSC will be selling:**

- 3D Hearts** 🍷💖
- Sweeties for your sweetie;)** 🍬
- Roses for the clichés** 🌹
- And helium balloons to blow them away** 🎈



WINDHOEK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL