

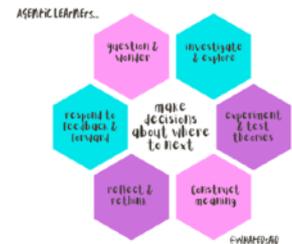


THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

There have been several Oryx articles written this year that mention student or learner agency. This week I would like to highlight an example of such, but before I do, here is a review of what agency is as described by the IBYP in *The Learner* December 2017.



What is agency?

Agency is the power to take meaningful and intentional action, and acknowledges the rights and responsibilities of the individual, supporting voice, choice and ownership for everyone in the learning community.

Students with agency:

- have voice, choice and ownership; and a propensity to take action
- influence and direct learning
- contribute to and participate in the learning community.

Why is agency important?

Agency is fundamental to learning. Agency “enable[s] people to play a part in their self development, adaptation, and self-renewal with changing times” (Bandura 2001).

How do learners demonstrate agency?

Agency is demonstrated when learners:

- ask questions and express wonderings
- communicate understandings
- construct new meanings
- influence and direct their own learning
- make choices
- participate in and contribute to the learning community
- voice opinions

The Grade 4 students recently completed a unit of inquiry under the Transdisciplinary Theme: *How We Organise Ourselves*. The central idea was: *A country’s economy depends on the ability to produce, supply and exchange goods and services*. One of the lines of inquiry was *understanding the value of money*. The students were quite engaged in this unit and it sparked interest in earning money. This is where agency comes in.

Over the last month several students have requested to meet with me to discuss proposals for selling items during break time. Some came with a detailed outline of the different roles of their team (CEO, treasurer, buyer, seller). Others came with a complete menu, a plan for advanced orders, pricing and the percentage to be donated to charity. I was impressed by the confidence these students showed, as

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Dates to Remember

May 2021

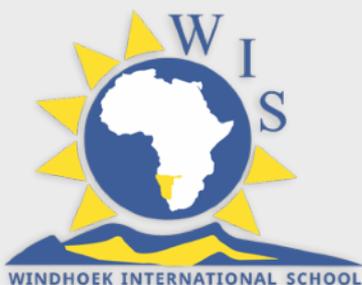
- **25:** Africa Day - Public Holiday

June 2021

- **17:** End of term 4
- **18:** Staff work day

August 2021

- **02 - 06:** Staff work week
- **09:** Start of New Year 2021-22



well as their initiative and their creativity. Initially their idea was to “make money” and split the profits. A few faces fell when I told them that the school policy is that any money made has to either be spent on something for the class or to be donated to charity. That said, they bounced back and with enthusiasm continued with their plans and (with the support and encouragement from their parents) have had the experience of selling items during break time. So far a few books have been purchased for the classroom and other items are on the list. It’s been a learning experience for these young entrepreneurs. They have certainly demonstrated agency inspired by their learning during the unit.

Regards,
Beth Smith

Teaching Multiplication

Fun ways of teaching and learning multiplication in Grade 2

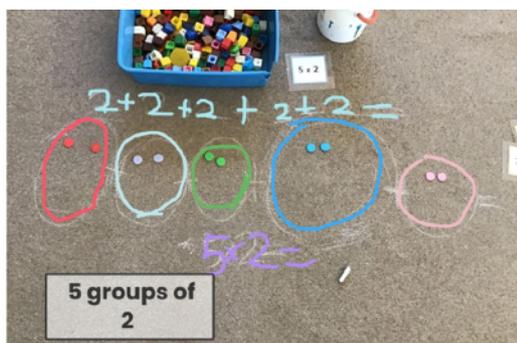
We are always on the lookout for new ideas to help students master their mathematical skills. *What is Multiplication?* Multiplication is “one of the four basic operations of arithmetic, and gives the result of combining groups of equal sizes”.

I’m sure that many of us remember long hours of sitting and memorising the facts. It was a boring activity! Our parents were making sure we had flashcards and drilled all of the multiplication facts one by one.

We want to make sure that learning multiplication facts doesn't have to be a dull task for students and this is how it looks in our classrooms.



Learning multiplication can be engaging, creative and fun.



Here is an example of arrays and groups.

x	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
2	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
3	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
4	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
5	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
6	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

5 groups of 8
 $5 \times 8 = 40$

6 groups of 8
 $40 + 8 = 48$
 So, $6 \times 8 = 48$.

1 group of 8
 $1 \times 8 = 8$

In Grade 2, we are using different multiplication strategies to support the conceptual understanding of multiplication. For example, we use repeated addition, groups of objects and arrays. Groups of objects and arrays provide a visual model for the student not only to understand the concept of multiplication but also to learn the multiplication facts.

Please click [HERE](#) to listen and watch one of our students sharing her understanding of the concept of groups and arrays.

There is always room for improvement, we are looking forward to hearing your ideas and strategies to master and understand the concept of multiplication. bstephanus@wis.edu.na or dsmith@wis.edu.na

Grade 2 Team

CHINESE EMBASSY MASK DONATION

On Thursday, 29th April Ms. Sharon and I went to the Chinese Embassy. The Embassy had chosen six other schools to attend. They were donating thousands of masks to each school. We had a few important speeches from the Chinese Ambassador and the Khomas Regional Counsellor. The embassy also donated five electronic thermometers and some art supplies.

I enjoyed the experience of seeing so many important people and it was the first time for me to hear an Ambassador's speech in person. I am very grateful that the Chinese Embassy decided to do this.

Uzuva, Grade 5J



THE MASK HANDING OUT

Last week Uzuva, Julia and Candice from Grade 5J went around the school to hand out 100 masks to each home room class. Whilst handing out the masks we explained to the classes the importance of wearing masks and how to wear one. We handed out to each Primary, Middle School and Secondary homeroom. We also explained to the classes that we were working on our exhibition unit and why we were handing out the masks.

Don't forget to wear your mask over your nose and mouth and only take it down when you are eating. Also remember to social distance.

Candice Rey and Julia Greiter, Grade 5J



SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Time to say goodbye

This is the last week that Grade 12 will be attending school

Like every year, the time has come to say goodbye to our Grade 12 students. They have been writing their final IB Diploma Programme external examinations for the past weeks and will conclude these this coming week.

We hope that they will be happy with the outcome of these exams - we are confident that they were well prepared and worked hard to be the best they can be in this final page of their "Book of School". Closing this book will most certainly have different emotional responses for them. For the past 12 or more years, they have had a clear structured daily routine and mostly someone - parents or the school - who would support and guide them, but also direct them in their daily lives.

Now they venture into a new era of their lives - they are starting to write the first page of a new book after their graduation ceremony which takes place on Saturday, 22 May 2021.

What will you call your new book? I'd love to hear the titles of these 19 books that are now going to be written. Where will the next 12 months take you? We know where many of you plan to go and what you plan to do, but will that really happen the way you have planned it to be?

That is something we cannot say for sure. Especially in the current times, plans often have to be postponed or altered. May you have the grit, confidence and perseverance to pursue your plans and reach for your dreams - ALWAYS!

There will be mountains to climb that might, at times, seem insurmountable. But I am confident that you have been given the tools to approach future challenges with positivity and the will to succeed. I hope that you will focus on looking further than yourself in your future endeavours. Look at what you can do for your communities (as you have had the opportunity to learn during your CAS experiences). Look at what you can contribute to make this planet of ours - "or the corner that you find yourselves in" - a better place for all who live there. You have the skills to take the lead and determine the direction of your future paths and journeys.

Our graduates will be attending university in the Netherlands, South Africa, Canada, China, and possibly Australia, Belgium and Zimbabwe. Some might start their further education here in Namibia and move to other destinations later in their education. Wherever you go, we wish you success and fulfilment in your further studies.

Dear Grade 12s

- *may you keep WIS close to your heart,*
- *may you return to say hi to those who stay behind,*
- *may you reap the fruits of your excellent education and support in the past 12 years,*
- *may you never stop learning, being inquisitive and open minded, being caring, balanced, reflective, communicators, knowledgeable, principled in your actions, risk takers to advance your dreams and hopes,*
- *and may you be grateful for the opportunities you are fortunate to have.*

WIS wishes you well in the next phase of your learning!

(Since we did not do class photos this year, I am sharing their photo from last year).





Regards,
Maggie Reiff

Congratulations!

Grade 9 Maths students!

Fifteen Grade 9 students have worked extremely hard to prepare themselves for the Mathematics IGCSE; entering a year early, so that they can now begin an extra IGCSE subject called Additional Mathematics.



Some of the designs, and the winning tower holding the apple!

Last Friday they had a donuts and juice party to celebrate completing the course, and then had fun in a team challenge where they had to build 30 cm high towers that could support the weight of an apple, using only a limited supply of spaghetti and Prestik. Well done for all your hard work!

Ms. Lian

Emancipating ourselves from mental slavery

The Grade 11 TOK had an astonishing introduction to the natural sciences, a new area of knowledge they will be exploring. They were given the following instructions:

"Draw a picture of a scientist ... do not look at anyone else's drawing ... keep your drawing hidden from others. When you have finished, place your drawing face down on the desk ready for collection."

From those words, we saw a clear pattern emerge in the Grade 11s drawings.



Iuze Limbo

Car Security Stickers
Please collect your 2021 - 2022
windscreen sticker at the Office!



SOCIAL COMMENTARY ART

they are all gone

WE ARE ALL HER

She was asking for it

Friday 14th to Friday 21st MAY 2021 - WIZART GALLERY

GRADE 8 ART EXHIBITION

