



# THE ORYX

*The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School*

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## Dates to Remember

### May 2021

- **13:** Ascension Day - Public Holiday
- **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

## PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

### Student-Led Conferences

Thank you to all parents and students for your participation in last week's Student-Led Conferences. The feedback that I've received from teachers, parents and students has been positive. These conferences are important because they engage the students in their learning allowing them to take ownership and responsibility. The conferences also help parents see their child in a different light and see through their child's eyes what and how they are learning at school.

### Remote Learning

We have been very fortunate for most of this academic year that we've had very few disruptions due to the pandemic. This week we've been reminded that it's still with us and we could be back in remote learning at any time. The focus of our weekly Primary Staff meeting was a review of our remote learning practices and procedures for what worked well and what could be improved or done differently. The improvements we make will help for more clarity and understanding of our remote learning.

### Reminders

As the weather is changing and getting colder, please help your children to remember to bring a jacket, fleece or something to put on if it's cold. Children should have a spare mask in their school bags or kept in the classroom. Lastly, if your child is experiencing any cold or flu symptoms, please keep your child at home.

### Regards,

**Beth Smith**

## WIS Charity Drive

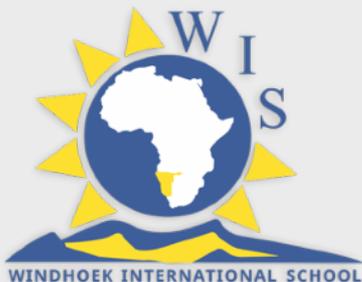
### Purros Clothes Collections

Dear WIS community,

Emilian and Cosmea (Grade 5) are proposing a WIS Charity Drive. We were fortunate to experience the Skeleton Coast Tour with Karibu Safaris: <https://www.karibunamibia.com/>



Along the way and during the trip we visited Purros and met the local people who live there. We could see the people are in need and we would like to help them before the cold winter comes. Purros is a village in the north of Namibia, where people don't have a lot of food and depend on donations. We are proposing a **clothing and blanket collection**. We would like to donate these collections to Purros.



Grade 5 students and teachers have already begun collecting, but we would also like to ask the help from the wider **WIS community**. If you have any good quality clothes, that don't fit you or if you can donate blankets, please give these to Emilian and Cosmea.

The Primary Student Council has offered to help with the sorting and collection of the donations. We will store them in Room 11.

We would like to collect up until 28th May. Mr Jimmy Marais - tour operator from Karibu Safaris, has offered to deliver these donations to the people of Purros.

We would really appreciate your help in supporting these people and this initiative.

Kind regards,  
**Cosmea and Emilian (Grade 5)**

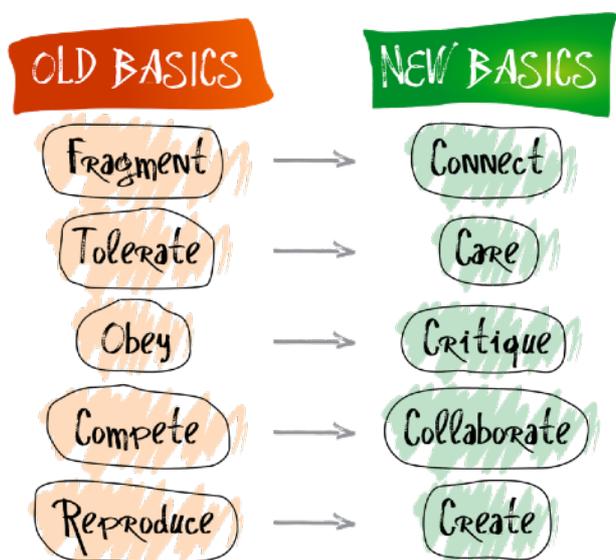


## SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

### Parent information evening - Grade 9 2021-2022 - IGCSE and future choices

We had a positive parent information session on Thursday. Thank you to teachers and parents who attended the evening. A lot of valuable information was discussed and we hope that parents have a better insight into the IGCSE course, but also what comes next. Once students have completed their IGCSE course, they will mostly enter the International Baccalaureate Diploma programme. This will then prepare them for university studies.

At the moment, WIS is also working on the WIS High School Diploma. This will be a qualification students receive that will enable them to enter universities in different countries around the world. Since WIS is accredited by NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges) we will be able to use the WIS High School Diploma with the quality stamp of NEASC, which makes it a valuable qualification for entry into universities in the USA, Canada and other countries around the world. Please refer to the website of the IBO for further information on IB programmes: <https://www.ibo.org/>



We also spoke about WIS' approach to education that is quite different to the traditional model of education. In following the IB programmes and teaching on a concept based approach, we attempt to educate students to be critical thinkers, to be able to be independent and confident learners throughout their lives. These days it is much more valuable if children are educated in a holistic way so that their future is open for them to enter fields of study that might not yet be available as careers. Education has changed drastically over the last years, and the focus is more and more on educating young people to be able to be open minded and venture into the unknown. Our responsibility as educators is to give them the tools to be able to do that. This is why ATL (Approaches to Teaching and Learning) and the homeroom/pastoral programme are such central parts of our programme.

As parents and educators, we need to give our children the chance to explore a variety of different fields. If they pursue a broad range of subjects in their school career, we can ensure that they have varied and diverse options when they start their career paths.

[HERE](#) is the recording from the meeting. We always appreciate feedback and input from parents to ensure we keep moving ahead and design our programmes in the best interest of our children.

Regards,  
Maggie Reiff

## Grade 7 Fables

### A Lesson to be taught

*Want to learn a lesson? As if we do not learn lessons often enough in life ... what about reading some of our Grade 7 Fables? You might learn something new today!*

*As part of the Grade 7 Summative Assessment in Term 4, the students were given a specific moral where they had to write their own fable, using animals as characters to fit the moral they were given. They have been assessed on Criterion D - Using Language. Please enjoy our students' writing. - Angie Janse van Rensburg*

### Friends are Special - Jody Van Rooyen

There was once a little tortoise that lived in a tropical rainforest. He was very lonely and didn't seem to make any friends. He always loved being near water, on the beach. But he never had company. One day though, something changed.

Unlike most tortoises, he didn't eat any insects, just plants, so he was walking through the forest looking for some fresh grass to eat. He then stumbled upon a bunch of snails. They all, as quickly as they could, went away. "Wait, please wait", the tortoise said. "Scram", the snails screamed. "I won't hurt you!". But it was too late. He truly was devastated, all he wanted were some friends. He decided to go to the beach, where he loved it most. "Why doesn't anyone like me", "I just want some friends. He said. "You know what, I don't care anymore, I don't want any friends". He said aggressively.



Later on, he felt a presence behind him, it was the snail leader. "Hey, what do you want", the tortoise said. "I'm sorry we ran off like that, but we had no choice, you could have eaten us", the snail said. "I don't even eat insects". "What about this, to make it up to you, I will invite you to my family". The snail said. "It's fine, I don't care anymore, no one even likes me anyway". "Well, I would like to be friends with you". The tortoise was in shock, he never thought that anyone would say that to him. "C'mon let's go", the snail said. The tortoise was happier than ever, he finally made a friend.

The snail and the tortoise were both so happy, they were the besets of friends. They always spent time together, especially at the beach. The tortoise wasn't lonely anymore, and made the greatest friend anyone could ever ask for.

### The sad frog - misery loves company - Naeem Robiati

Once upon a time there was a frog named Lip. Lip lived in a swamp with other frogs but these frogs were not very kind to Lip because he had a very short tongue and could not shoot it far.

Everyday Lip would be bullied and bullied until he became very sad and depressed, he started believing he was not a good enough frog and he was unwanted.

Lip started to become miserable, then one day he had an idea. His idea was that maybe if he made everyone else depressed and miserable he would not feel as bad



and they would all feel the same.

So he set out to go to the other frogs in the swamp and find bad things about them. Lip went to a frog in his school named Frip and told him his eyes were too small and that means he is not a good frog. This made Frip very sad and went into his house and cried. Flip went to Nip and told her, her ears were too small and he got the same response as he got from Frip. Lip did this the whole day until everyone was miserable. He continued to do this bullying every day and made other frogs bully too.

After a month of repeatedly bullying, everyone in the swamp was sad now. Lip thought he felt a little better, but was still miserable inside. Lip was still wondering why he was sad and realised, what he did did not make him any happier.

### **The Bunny and the Fox - don't count your chickens before they hatch - Olwen Black**

Once upon a time there lived a Bunny. This bunny had a very green thumb and loved gardening. He would grow all sorts of plants; vegetables, herbs, flowers and many more wonderful things. However, his garden was quite small, for he didn't have enough money for a large house and garden. All of Bunny's friends know this and tried to help as much as they could, but it didn't make much of a difference.



One day on his way home, on his way home from a walk in the woods, he met a fox.

"Well hello there," the Fox said in a very soothing mysterious voice.

"Um hello," he replied.

"I've heard that you like gardening," the Fox said. Bunny's eyes lit up.

"Yes! I love it so much and-"

"Well," Fox interrupted him, "do you think you could get me a few things? I will pay for it." The fox pointed at a large sack, filled with gold coins laying on the ground next to her.

"Yes, what do you need?" Bunny answered, he was so excited at this point.

"I need 50 carrots, 50 red peppers, 50 green peppers and 100 red roses, no more no less," she said. Bunny was staring and the sack thinking about what he could buy with all those coins.

"Yes, I can do it! I've done this millions of times before! This will be a piece of cake. Give me 3 months" he said, unable to control his excitement.

"Are you sure?" the fox said, reaching out her hand.

"Yes" he said and shook her hand and hopped home.

He got straight to work once he was home. He planted exactly 50 carrot seeds, 50 red pepper and green pepper seeds and 100 rose seeds. Weeks went by and the plants started to grow, everything seemed to be going well. His friends saw this and said he could plant just in case, but he laughed and said no. He told everyone about his deal with the fox and how he was going to be the wealthiest bunny that ever lived. As the end of the 3 months came around he started harvesting the crops and flowers. Not even bothering to count. He put all the vegetables in a large wheelbarrow and the flowers in a bag. *Well if I counted the seeds I don't need to count them again now*, he thought to himself.

He made his way to the spot where he met the fox before and there she was sitting, patiently waiting for him. He plopped down everything in front of her and said "Ok! Here it all is," he reached for the sack of coins but she grabbed his hand.

"Wait! I must count them," she said.

After she finished, she looked up and smiled. "You missed 10 peppers and 5 roses".

"What, that doesn't make sense!? I counted!" He said.

"Oh well, what a shame, guess I'll just take my coins elsewhere," the fox said maliciously. And she walked away, laughing at the Bunny's foolishness.

## Creating a lemon battery in IB Physics

Our current topic of study in Physics is the phenomena of electricity and magnetism. To get a practical understanding of one of the units, we conducted a lab to demonstrate the role of particular chemicals in this context, the acid found in lemons in a typical electrochemical circuit. Acting as the electrodes, we infused metals of zinc and copper into a series of lemons and connected a galvanometer (a sensitive device that detects current change) to indicate whether there was any potential difference (voltage) throughout the circuit.

The current produced by the lemon was nowhere near enough to light up a small lightbulb, but we could definitely observe the needle movement in the galvanometer. Even though the circuit consisted of an ideal voltage, which was measured by a voltmeter, its current was simply insufficient to overcome the resistance provided by the bulb.

This practical experiment promoted our understanding of the topic and enforced open mindedness, since something as small as a few lemons could be used as a power source. This effectively enhanced our imagination of the future.



Carried by Mathis, Gauraang, and Benjamin under the supervision of Mr. Jacob & Mr. Cuthbert.

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



**W.O.R.D.**  
Grade 8 boys  
reading for WORD!



## Grades 6 and 7 Special Assembly Report

On Friday, 30 April our Grade 6 and 7 students were treated to a very special Assembly in the WIS Auditorium. The Assembly was presented by two of our Middle School Student Council members, Benjamin Oldenburg from Grade 6, and Naeem Robiati from Grade 7. Due to Covid restrictions over the year this was one of the first assemblies we have managed to hold. And to keep numbers to under 100 participants indoors, only Grade 6 and 7 students and teachers were invited.

We were honored to welcome three members of the Namibian National Women's Indoor Hockey Team, who competed in the African Championship Tournament in Pretoria a couple weeks ago. They blanked the host South Africans by a score of 2-0 in the Gold Medal Game, coming home as African Champions again. This is a huge accomplishment and means the team has earned the right to play at the World Championships in Belgium in 2022.

We were lucky enough to have the captain of the team, Maggy Mengo, and star goalkeeper Petro Stoffberg, who won the Player of the Tournament award at the African Championships with us. Along with Kayla Shimming, one of the leading goal scorers in the entire tournament.

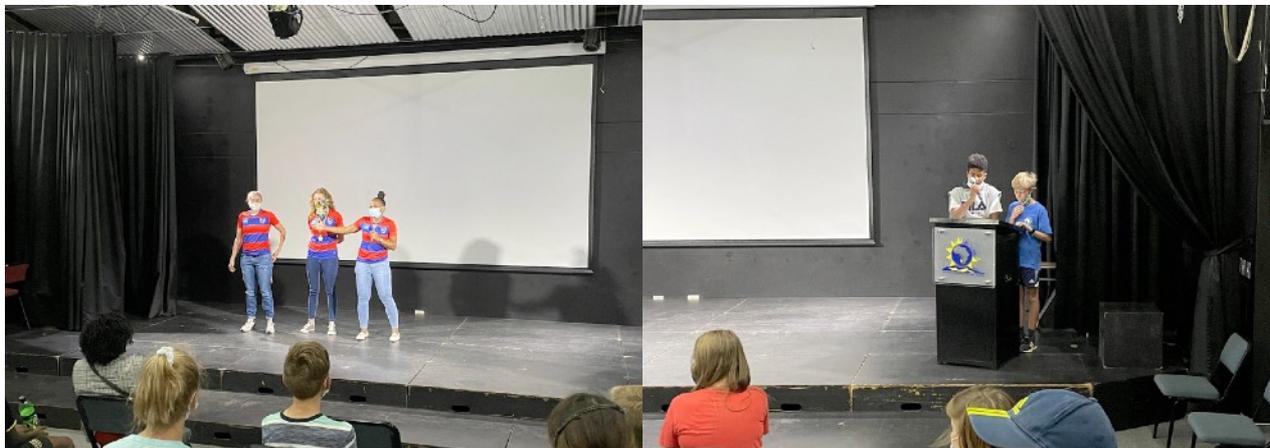
These three star athletes spoke to us about their experiences in the tournament, their build-up, planning and preparation going into the tournament, as well as how they manage to balance all of their commitments so well to achieve at such a high level. Both Maggy and Petro have full time jobs in the private sector, and Kayla is a student who has to balance training, matches and trips away with her class work and assignments.

They spoke in great detail about the mental aspects of their commitment and what it is like to compete at such a high international level. Students had the opportunity to ask excellent questions and drill these ladies about their lives, their motivation, their accomplishments, and even their planning beyond hockey into the future.

For many learners sport provides an escape from the demands of the classroom, for some it may later become a professional occupation, but for the majority of us, we participate in sport because we want to, because we enjoy it, because we value exercise, and we value being part of a team.

Did you know WIS has produced a healthy number of talented elite sports performers over the years and currently has four representatives on the National Basketball programme? Congratulations to Pohamba, Diana, Zuleika, and Jethro from our Secondary School who were recently selected to the squads.

We have also had several athletes playing on the Namibian Inline Hockey National Teams. Henrick Deikman was recently selected to represent Namibia at both junior and senior men's divisions.



Kayla, Petro, and Maggy

Naeem Robiati and Ben Oldenburg

Swimming is a sport that is highly demanding both physically and mentally. Also at WIS we have Viktoria Ellmies who holds national records and Mikah Burger who has recently qualified for the Junior World Swimming Championship to be held in either Hungary or Korea in 2022.

Well done WIS athletes! And congratulations and thanks to our honoured guests for inspiring us to even greater heights.

**Jeff Bonazzo, Middle School Student Council Advisor**

## WIS Fundraising Gala Dinner

Dear WIS Community, it is with great sadness that we unfortunately need to cancel our Fundraising Gala event at the Hilton Hotel. With the rapidly raising number of Covid infections and the uncertainty of what may happen we will not proceed with the event at this time.

More information will be sent to you shortly.





### TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK: 3 - 7 May 2021

“It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge.”

- Albert Einstein -