

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate](#)[View this email in your browser](#)

## Hello's and Goodbye's

A huge thank you to Babs for all her fantastic work as Manager of MYO for three and a half years. Babs was valuable to MYO in many ways.

- She ensured the smooth running of the organisation, managing the day to day routines and ensured the planning of all activities so the school was

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate](#)

- She made sure the students were happy and inspired in their learning while at the same time maintaining discipline and structure for the best learning environment, praising the students when they performed well and helping them when they did not.
- Importantly, she was a great support to the teachers sharing the experiences they encountered with the students and in their lessons. She knew the children individually and offered both professional advice and insight to their behaviours and progress in study.

**Babs has been a wonderful asset to MYO. She will be greatly missed as a friend and a professional. We wish her well in her next adventures.**

### **Introducing our new manager, Neels Strijdom:**

Neels is our new manager and he brings a breath of youth and experience which can only be good for our success and development. We welcome Neels, and his wife Kath, who will be teaching English. We wish them great joy and satisfaction in their work at MYO and we are sure that with their energy and enthusiasm they will add even more to the quality of MYO.



### **Vera Leech – MYO Trustee**

---

*In this newsletter, we have tried to give you a summary, in a nutshell, of our experiences in 2018. We enjoyed a number of heartfelt moments, and exciting events.*

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate](#)

*Jannes (left) and Pia (right)*

*Mein Name ist Jannis Herling, ich komme aus einem Dorf bei Braunschweig und bin 20 Jahre alt. Ich habe mich für den entwicklungspolitischen Freiwilligendienst mit dem DRK entschieden, weil ich meine Erfahrung im Bereich Arbeit mit Kindern noch intensivieren möchte nachdem ich dies als Judo Trainer in Deutschland bereits kennen gelernt habe.*

*Diese Kenntnisse kann ich hier als Sportlehrer gut nutzen und werde durch die sehr engagierten anderen Lehrkräfte dabei mit besten Kräften unterstützt.*

*Ich hoffe sehr, dass mein Jahr beim MYO so wunderbar weitergeht, wie es gestartet ist.*



*Hallo, ich heiße Pia Mauritz und bin 18 Jahre alt. Ein Jahr lang absolviere ich einen entwicklungspolitischen Freiwilligendienst mit dem Deutschen Roten Kreuz beim MYO in Swakopmund, Namibia. Ich komme aus Göttingen und spiele Querflöte. Beim MYO*



*Hello, I am Jane and I am English. I have lived all my life in England in a town called Reading just 40 miles south of London.*

*Googling 'volunteering in Swakopmund' found MYO and I enquired. Corresponding like crazy with Vera, MYO's responsive trustee, encouraged me to sort my life in England and come to Namibia to teach at MYO. I am so pleased to have got here.*

*Six weeks into the experience I have learnt more than I could ever have imagined; about Swakopmund and Mondesa, teaching English and Mathematics, and about 10 to 15 year old Namibian students who are the 'brightest of the bunch'. Oh – and about riding a mountain bike! (My mode of transport during my stay.)*

*I am here for six months and then return to my home, family and friends in England. I will be wiser with an abundance of stories to tell. So far it has been an experience I won't forget. And I have met many lovely people who have enriched my life.*



[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate](#)

---

2<sup>nd</sup> week of school opening 2019.

---



## Reading Makes me Clever!

We do our best, year-round, to instil this value into the conscious knowledge of our learners. It is a truth which is so often forgotten. Sadly, the school syllabus lets our nation of scholars down badly in this regard....The syllabus gives time and emphasis to the teaching of reading from Grade 1 – 4 and after that, it is taken for granted that the children of Namibia can read. No more reading lessons, no more time specifically allocated to the teaching of reading. Given that teachers are usually not competently trained to teach reading in the first place; and that graded reading books are simply not provided, it is no surprise that our national literacy rate is appallingly low.

Our learners often enter the system with very limited English, speak only their cultural languages at home and with their friends, and very few are actually 'ready' to learn how to read well, in their early years. They are then pushed up to grade 4 and above with a low reading ability, and this is never addressed again. Some children fail their grades from this point onwards, until they are 'promoted' out of the school system because of their age.

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate

English 2nd	100	40	29	45	36	58	34	52	34	36	34	52
Afrikaans 2nd	100	40	45	49	45	50	36	47	36	41	36	47
Mathematics	100	40	16	36	13	36	13	30	13	14	13	30
Physical Sc.	100	40	33	44	28	43	23	38	23	30	23	38
Life Science	100	40	25	42	37	44	21	34	21	48	21	34
Geography	100	40	21	42	18	43	16	39	16	19	16	39
History	100	40	34	47	36	51	29	42	29	35	29	42
Accounting	100	40	30	38	30	38	21	38	21	30	21	38
Entrepreneurs	100	40	56	49	58	49	38	46	38	50	38	46
Life Skills				D			D					
Arts				C			B					
Religious Edu.				C			C					
Information&Communin				C			B					
TOTALS			289	392	301	412	231	366		231	366	

REMARKS: [redacted] is Transferred to Gr.10 due to age.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
04 DEC 2018

Days Absent this year: 26

Sadly many Namibian reports look like this.

MYO addresses this problem seriously. We continue with structured Reading lessons until the end of grade 8; during our English lessons we add Class Reading with some exciting story, or play-reading to bring in a difference, and then we have a good stock of stories and reference books available in our library. It is a three-fold initiative. We show and prove to our learners that even maths is a 'reading' subject, and that without the ability to read fluently, with understanding, they will never be well educated.

## Extra Encouragement!

MYO manager, Babs Oosthuizen had yet another very cunning strategy! In the office Babs kept a limited supply of really popular story books, and these books were lent out during particular lessons, to one class only. They had to be returned at the end of that lesson, and they had to be shared amongst that select number of readers. Oh, but the competition was fierce! Eager children rushed in to secure their chosen books, and progress was carefully marked via book marks. Interest and enjoyment were at peak, and the whole process was a great success. Babs borrowed the books from her clever grandchildren who

[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate](#)

---

the stories. The focus was on two main series: *Dork Diaries* and *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*.

**Here are some of the remarks made by the keen readers....**

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate

I like Dork Diary books because they are so interesting and when you read them you are feeling like you were there when the story was written!

KAINO SHIKOLO, Gr 5

*Why I like reading Diary of a Wimpy Kid:*

*I like reading the books because they are funny and reading them helps me when I am angry. It always makes me smile!!*



PRINCESS, GR 5

The reason I LOVE Dork Diaries is because it INSPIRES me and it ENTERTAINS me when I feel bored. DORK DIARIES are very INTERESTING and FASCINATING. I hope Rachel Renee Russell continues all her hard work and be comes more successful. Dork Diaries are the BEST and they make me learn more. I AM A DORK FREAK!!



ANONYMOUS



Dork Diaries are very interesting. They make me feel as if they are talking about me! I love them!

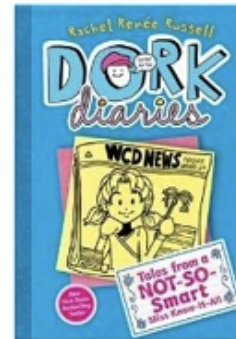
ELZIRA CLOETE, Gr 5

I love reading books because they ARE ENTERTAINMENT and keeps me busy when I have nothing to do or when I AM BORED. They are my TYPES of books.

GIDEON, Gr 5

FUN Books! CHEER you up! Teaches you new vocabulary!!

JESAYA, Gr 5





[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate](#)

# 2018

## Exam Results

We follow our past learners very carefully, keeping our experienced fingers on them at all times, guiding them, answering their queries and often helping them in times of need. We follow them through Grade 10, then Grade 12 and even into their extended study or career fields. We need to know that our investment in them has been good, and that we have made a difference.

How delighted we are then, to inform you, that for the 2018 examinations, any learner that went through our hands, passed the exam – most of them achieving top symbols in the subjects they were taught at MYO. *We can proudly tell you that Grade 10 MYO learners had a 100% pass rate!* (Namibia wide, the pass rate is sadly just above 50%)

Grade 12 results are not completely out at this time, as we still await Ordinary Grade marks, but the assessment of those who wrote their exams on Higher Grade shows that without any further mark coming in from their lower grade subjects, several of our alumni have already gained enough marks to qualify for acceptance to tertiary studies!

Grade 12 is difficult to assess, as the students write Higher and Lower grade examinations, and without fail, some of them lose their way, having left MYO 4 years previously. We motivate them from Grade 10 onwards, but life is not simple and some do not meet the challenge. Having said that – we still see overall better results from the MYO alumni.

To close, here are the words of one of our students who spoke to us via WhatsApp, when we congratulated him on his excellent results:

*"I owe my intelligence to MYO. I'm grateful that you could see potential in me that I had failed to see".*

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate](#)

*"At MYO it is often hard to explain to our donors what it is we do ( Simply saying we give extra afternoon classes just doesn't cut it) And you have probably hit the nail on the head. We recognise potential and then nurture it and make it grow. You are a living example of that, as are many others who have degrees in a variety of fields. All the best for the future and please stay in touch with MYO and keep us informed of your progress and successes. We care about our alumni!"*

---

## How can you help?



**Dear MYO Supporter:**

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate](#)

It is such a worthy act, to contribute towards the good education of another person who cannot fend for himself. We are so privileged in our lifestyles, so comfortable and so well set up, that really, it does not cost us much to reach out and do a good thing.

We have never needed to ask before this, as we had a good sponsor, but our sponsor has fallen on hard times and closed down. Difficult as that is for us, we appreciate and thank them sincerely for the good years.

This newsletter of ours goes out to supporters in Germany, America, Australia and Africa. It is not a difficult decision, really. You know our integrity, you know our work, and you understand the cause. Please, simply go to your computer and donate for the education of one child.

If/When you do so, please contact MYO and let us know so that we can keep good records. ([myotrust@iway.na](mailto:myotrust@iway.na))

***At MYO, we are very proud of our financial efficiency.***

We spend approximately 97% of every dollar donated on goods and services that directly serve our core mission of educating students. We educate 120 learners at one time, and MYO's running costs, are approximately N\$1,6 million per annum despite our best cost cutting efforts.

We have been fortunate in recent years to have strong local support for our funding needs. But due to the current economic conditions in Namibia, we now find we need to seek funding from our international supporters.

**You can sponsor an MYO learner for the cost of:**

N\$ 14200/year (N\$1180/month)

USD \$182/year (\$15/month)

Euro €213/year (€18/month)

Learner sponsorships can be paid annually or in monthly instalments, and of course you are free to choose a donation amount that suits your budget.

On-line donations via credit card can be made at: <http://mondessayouth.org/how-you-canhelp/donations/>

**Donations can also be made via PayPal or direct bank transfer at:**

Mondesa Youth Opportunities Trust

**Subscribe**

**Past Issues**

**Translate**

---

Branch Code Number: 082-172

Account Number: 240206363

Swift Code: SBNMNANX



Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate



# OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



For lunches we have given out **1,680 apples.**

2



We have made sandwiches from **546 loaves of bread**

3



**SOUP**

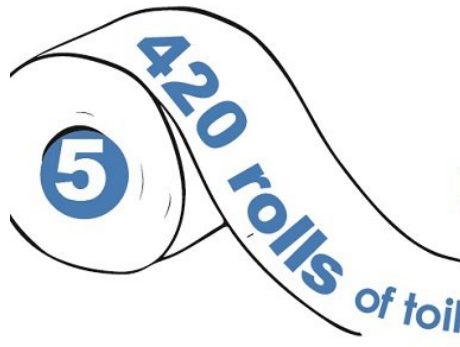
For cooking vegetable soups we have used **42 pockets of potatoes, 126 cabbages, 42 bags of carrots.**

4



For stew we used **54 kg of game meat and 252 kg macaroni/rice/mealie meal.**

5



**420 rolls of toilet paper for the restrooms**

6

+



We completed **450 trips from school to MYO; and 450 trips from MYO to homes of learners.**

**Subscribe**

**Past Issues**

**Translate**



Share



Forward

*Copyright © 2019 Mondesa Youth Opportunities, All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

