



LÜDERITZ BLUE SCHOOL

Inspiring wild and curious minds

Annual Update
January - December 2025



2025 IN BRIEF

It has been another extraordinary year of growth with lots of firsts, as well as some challenges that we have had to take in our stride while keeping the ship steaming ahead. We welcomed 11 new staff, including three new international staff to lead our Secondary school and Boarding offering as well as strengthening the management in the Primary School. Our enrollment numbers reached almost 70, with growth in both the primary and secondary schools. We took part in a number of cross-school competitions and events and made our mark on the global stage - joining The Alliance of Sustainable Schools, the Boarding School Association and being shortlisted for an International Teaching Award by TES. We look forward to building on these achievements and continuing to grow next year.

SECONDARY SCHOOL

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We officially opened our Secondary School this year, having done a test run with Year 7 in 2024. By the second term of 2025, we welcomed Ms Megan Goodes as our new Head of Secondary which also allowed us to move away from Cambrilearn (an online learning platform) and offer all our subjects with in-person teachers.

In 2026, our first cohort of students will start preparing for their IGCSE exams which will be taken in 2027. In 2026, we will have 3 classes - Skates and Rays (Years 7 and 8), Lionfish (Year 9) and the Shark Class (Year 10).



CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL

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In March, we gained our official accreditation from Cambridge International as a Primary and Lower Secondary Cambridge School. This gives us a global seal of quality, a network of other quality schools and access to a world-class curriculum. We will expand our membership to include Senior Secondary and an exam centre in the coming years. This marked the culmination of a lengthy application and approval process and was a significant milestone in the growth of the school.



STAFF UPDATES

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We welcomed Megan Goodes as our new Head of Secondary, Eleanor Staddon-Davis as Head of Primary (Academic), Patrick Davis as Head of Boarding - creating a strong management team ready to take the school forward to the next stage of growth. We also welcomed Crystal Jantjies as our Secondary Humanities Teacher, Nicolene Hall as Maths Teacher, Rhenay Korner as Art Teacher, Francis Swiegers and Simone Sihamba to run our Boarding House, Cornelia Swanepoel as Afrikaans Teacher, Jessica Shaw as School Librarian and Tamsyn Bailey joined the Admin Team.



INTERNS AND VOLUNTEERES

06

A lot of what we do is made possible by interns and volunteers who bring their unique skills and allow us to offer activities and teach skills that are otherwise not available in Luderitz. This year we had interns and volunteers with expertise in Surfing, Robotics, Model United Nations, Drama and Performing Arts, Biochemistry, Volleyball, Marine and Maritime Studies, Early Years Education, Coastal Rowing, Mental Health and Counselling, Science and more.



WHOLE SCHOOL EVENTS

07

As the school grows, we do more and more of our activities in separate age groups. But for special occasions, we still all come together to celebrate, to commemorate, to compete and create. These are some of the memorable events we have marked this year.

Special Assembly to Commemorate the life of Sam Nujoma



World Recycling Day

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To mark World Recycling Day, the Octopus, Skates and Rays made bags from recycled materials and displayed their work with a fashion parade.



Namibian Independence Day

On Namibian Independence Day everyone came in National Dress or the colours of the Namibian Flag. Our special assembly enjoyed singing and dancing from different cultures in Namibia and lots of delicious traditional food.



Primary School Spelling Bee

09

We held our first Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6) Upper Primary School spelling bee this year. The competition was fierce but our winners held their nerve. Congratulations to them all!



Careers Day

The students were inspired by our visitors for careers day who shared their experience working in different sectors. We had representatives from the police, the Ministry of Fisheries, a lawyer, the hospitality industry, and a doctor. But the most memorable (and for some rather wet!) moment was a display of the fire service demonstrating their fire engine.



World Book Day

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On world book day, the whole school came dressed as characters from their favourite books and took part in literary-inspired activities from quizzes to escape rooms. It was a beautiful day of celebrating reading and the joy of books.



Readathon

We took part in the Lüderitz Readathon event at the Waterfront Auditorium organised by the Kharas Regional Council and the Lüderitz Public Library. The students performed a short play about what reading means to them.



Family Fun Sports Day

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In August, we had a family fun sports day at the stadium with students from all ages competing in their Houses. We also had a tug of war and teachers vs parents relay race. The competition was fierce, the teamwork and sportsmanship was cheering and the team manning the braai did a heroic effort to keep everyone happy and well fed.



Oceans Day Talent Show

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As part of their Marine and Maritime Studies unit and to mark World Ocean Day, the Octopus Class organised a full school talent show. Our judges were impressed with some excellent performances from all age groups - from silly to serious, with lots of original, creative pieces.



Songs from the Sea

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To close off term 2 the whole school performed a selection of hymns, songs and sea shanties inspired by the Ocean in the beautiful surroundings of the Felsen Church.



Recycled Fashion show

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Maja and the Environment Club organised a fashion show to demonstrate creative ways to breathe new life into recycled material and scraps of fabric. Awards were given for best outfit and best catwalk performance.



SPORTING EVENTS

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We participated in the Zonal Athletics competition for the first time, competing against other schools from Lüderitz, Aus, Rosh Pinah and Oranjemund. We also joined the inaugural Lüderitz Schools football and netball tournaments, and sent athletes to South Africa to compete for Namibia on the international stage in Karate.



VISITORS TO LBS

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We were lucky enough to welcome a host of fascinating guests to the school this year who shared their unique experiences and stories with our students. Stem cell collectors in their renovated bus, Crispin Clay talking about Luderitz history, Auntie Francina explaining Nama culture, Dr Kat Bruce telling us about her rowing adventures, Jenna Gibson “the world’s fastest woman” told us about windsurfing on the Luderitz trench, the ambulance crew trained our future paramedics and lots of memorable show and tells with parents.



REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR 17

We sent our first team to the Regional Science Fair in Keetmanshoop this year and two of our students brought home Silver and Bronze medals. It was a great learning experience for all, students and teachers alike - we learnt how the fairs work, what the judges are looking for and how to best prepare the students for the the interview section. We look forward to putting that learning into practice next year.



CHESS TOURNAMENTS

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We love chess at the Luderitz Blue School and this year we had lots to celebrate. In July we hosted our first ever open tournament with competitors from across Luderitz and the Kharas Region - under the leadership of our very own Ms Dausas, who is Zonal Chairperson for the Namibia Chess Federation. Blue School students won the overall Junior Prize and the Bronze Medal in the Women's competition.



Chess Tournaments

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Inspired by their success, we hosted a whole school knock-out competition later in the year for students and teachers. A big congratulations to our Primary and Secondary School winners Tjama and Freddie.



Mental Health Awareness Month 20

This year we marked Mental Health Awareness Month in October with a number of different activities designed to encourage students and teachers to check in with each other about their mental health and to take time to talk and to unwind with some of the well-being activities. The highlight of the month was a sunrise walk - we were joined by people from across the community, setting off in the dark and walking into the light.



GREENHOUSE PROJECT

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With generous funding from the Rotary Club, we built our first Greenhouse this year to be able to grow vegetables and herbs from seed. Our students will learn how to care for plants and how to nurture them from seed to plate. All produce will be used in the school kitchen and in cooking club. The Greenhouse is named to honour the memory of Ms Danielle and to keep her smiling face forever present in our school. A big thank you to Ms Camilla for seeing the project from idea through to completion.



Oceans Day continued to be the highlight of the week; this year we had two separate groups doing different activities every week. The Strand Cubs and Oceans Day students made memorable visits to Kelp Blue to understand the process of nurturing baby kelp in the hatchery and to play an ocean themed game of Jeopardy, they learnt about sessile species with a visit to Shearwater Bay to watch the dolphins jumping while identifying new species, they learnt about the life of a diver, they visited the Pescanova fish factory, the wind turbines, the Luderitz waste site, the Namcob penguins and enjoyed a special afternoon visit to Kolmanskop,. They went Hyena tracking with resident brown hyena expert Marie Lemerle, learnt how to surf with Mr Jakob and spent many fantastic afternoons on Agate Beach enjoying the waves and playing on the beach. The winners of the Oceans Day jeopardy were given the chance to write their names on the Kelp Blue barge just before it was relaunched.





Oceans Day groups exploring rock pools and getting hands on with local kelp species on Shark Island.



SAILING AND ROWING

25

Our sailing club grew this year and we started sailing in Robert Harbour from our very own boathouse with many more sailors joining the group and trying their hand in the Optimists. We received two coastal rowing boats as a donation from the Namibia Canoe and Rowing Federation and we launched ourselves into coastal rowing for the first time under the guidance of experienced rower Mr Jakob. He ran a rowing camp for secondary students and we held a rowing competition with timed races across a course in the harbour – hopefully the first of many.





BOARDING HOUSE ADVENTURES

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With the arrival of Mr Davis as the Head of Boarding, the boarders have had some fantastic activities and unforgettable experiences outside of school hours - from fishing trips to camping on Shark Island, stargazing, early morning surfing, cycling and even a big Blue House sleepover. We look forward to many more as our boarding house grows next year.



SECONDARY SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

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We launched our Secondary Scholarships this year to help us find some talented young people from Lüderitz to join our ranks while spreading the word about the school. The categories for the scholarships were Wavemaker for those with a passion for the ocean, Music and Performing Arts, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and Sports. The scholarships were open to all schools in Luderitz and the first cohort will start in January 2026.



We made our mark of the global stage, becoming the first school in Africa to join The Alliance for Sustainable Schools (TASS), becoming associate members of the Boarding School Association and being shortlisted for the TES International School Awards. Marnie Erasmus travelled to Nice for Oceans Week to share the Blue School story with other leaders in Blue Education and Lucy joined the Head of UNDP Namibia and James Mnyupe on a panel at the One Economy Foundation-sponsored Big Talk event.



KEY STAGE GRADUATION

Following the Cambridge model, our school is separated into Key Stages that divide up the curriculum. The end of each Key Stage represents a significant jump into the next phase of learning so these achievements were marked by an end of year Key Stage Graduation Ceremony. It was a beautiful event that allowed children throughout the school to be celebrated and to mark their journey from Starfish through to Shark.

- Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS): Reception
- Key Stage 1 (KS1): Years 1 & 2
- Key Stage 2 (KS2): Years 3, 4, 5, & 6
- Key Stage 3 (KS3): Years 7, 8, & 9
- Key Stage 4 (KS4): Years 10 & 11, leading to IGCSEs

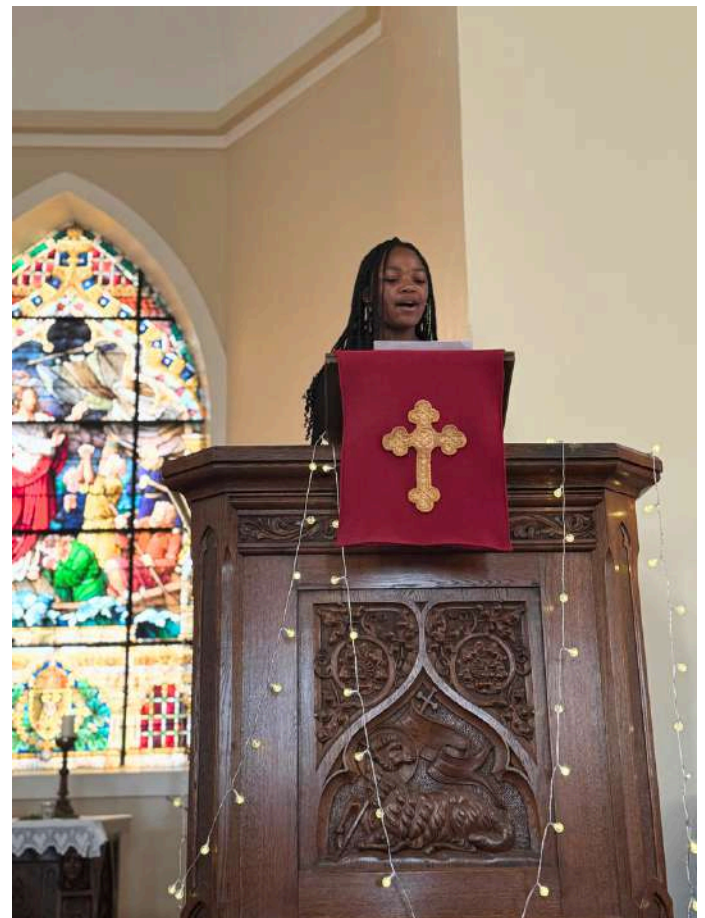


END OF YEAR PERFORMANCES

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We rounded off the year with the Primary Christmas Showcase, a 'Verbatim' theatre piece devised by the Secondary School team and a very special Christmas carol concert in the Felsen Church.





LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

Next year we are looking forward to a growing secondary school with three classes and our first cohort of students beginning their preparation for their IGCSE exams. We will welcome two new interns in January with top-level experience in rugby and water sports who will help us with our extra-curricular programme. We also have a Marine Sciences teacher coming to help set up our Marine and Maritime Studies secondary programme and our Marine Science IGCSE offering. We will be appointing a new Sports Coordinator to be able to expand our sports programme.

We will be launching our first Biodiversity Camps - two-week programmes for schools to come and experience the unique ecosystems of Lüderitz, which includes some of the most pristine terrestrial and coastal environments on Earth. The visiting students will stay in our new boarding house and will experience the best of Blue education in a unique part of the world. This will help us to raise funds to help cover the costs of running the school and allow us to continue to offer a generous proportion of scholarship places.

This is just the first of lots of new plans in the pipeline as we grow towards our target of financial sustainability and putting the school on the global map as a destination for unique experiences and blue education.

Join us for another year of adventure, exploration, learning, inspiration and growth.



Next year these reports will be produced every term. If you haven't already you can sign up on our website to have them delivered straight to your inbox.