



**Arbeits- und  
Fördergemeinschaft  
der Deutschen Schulvereine in Namibia**  
(21/82/070 - Incorporated Association not for gain)  
Telefon +264 81 150 0120 · Postfach 5662 Windhoek Namibia  
E-Mail-Adresse: [admin@agdsnamibia.com](mailto:admin@agdsnamibia.com)

30 June 2025

[www.agdsnamibia.com](http://www.agdsnamibia.com)

# 3rd Newsletter



## Updates on the Executive

On March 3, 2025, Mrs. Carola Hornickel unfortunately resigned from the AGDS executive committee for personal reasons. She was actively involved not only in the executive committee but also in the Pedagogical Advisory Board.

We sincerely thank her for her dedication and wish her all the best for the future.

We were able to co-opt Mr. Götz Friedrich into the executive committee and warmly welcome him.

## Board meetings of the AGDS in the first half of 2025

The first board meeting of the AGDS as well as a strategy session took place on March 8, 2025, in Otjiwarongo, following the Heimfest at the Private School Otjiwarongo.

We thank all school associations for their active participation and the productive discussions. Special thanks go to the German Student Hostel Otjiwarongo for the excellent hospitality, as well as to the Private School Otjiwarongo for providing a classroom.

Our next board meeting will take place on November 1, 2025, in Windhoek.

## School enrollment 2025

Dear First Graders,  
a new chapter in your life is about to begin – your exciting journey into the world of learning!  
We at AGDS warmly welcome you and look forward to accompanying you on this path.  
With curiosity, joy, and courage, you will discover and achieve so much.  
Wishing you lots of fun and success –  
Your AGDS



## Culture Festival 2025 – Private School Otjiwarongo In the Footsteps of Richard the Lionheart

Under the motto “The Return of the King and the Stolen Crown,” this year’s cultural festival took place in Otjiwarongo from March 13–16. Children from Grades 4 to 7 traveled from Windhoek, Swakopmund, and Otavi to take part. Inspired by experiential education approaches, the weekend was marked by teamwork, creativity, and adventure.

The goal was to recover the crown of Richard the Lionheart. To achieve this, the students—divided into mixed groups—had to overcome numerous challenges that tested them both physically and mentally.

A special highlight was the knight’s tournament, which called for skill, courage, and fairness. Additional activities such as cooperation games, castle-building crafts, an exciting nighttime mission, and a wide range of team-strengthening exercises offered the children diverse opportunities to surpass themselves and form new friendships.

The search for the crown was carried out with great dedication and was ultimately successful. In a festive ceremony on the final evening, the crown was ceremoniously returned to Sir Lionheart. The evening was further enriched by a musical performance, a self-written sketch, and a dance.

A big thank you goes to Ume Goldbeck, who supported us with the program, as well as to the chaperones who were always ready to lend a helping hand.



## The Dieter Esslinger Educational Conference 2025

From April 4th to 6th, the annual Dieter Esslinger Educational Conference took place in Otjiwarongo. Over 100 educators from across Namibia gathered at the invitation of AGDS, the Goethe-Institut, UNAM, and the Educational Advisory Board. The event was once again supported by the Mopane Fund.

The opening session featured a plenary lecture by Prof. Dr. Sandra Ballweg (University of Paderborn) on the topic "German in the Context of Multilingualism." The topic sparked great interest due to Namibia's linguistic diversity.

On Saturday morning, four workshops were held. Jenny Sobek spoke about educational areas in practice, Iris Grädler shared creative ideas for teaching German as a Foreign Language with mini-stories, Laura Kiefer focused on multilingual literature, and Anitta Calitz demonstrated practical applications of Google tools and AI in teaching.

In the afternoon, additional workshops continued: Sobek offered tips for professional parent-teacher conversations, Dörte Witte presented her music-pedagogical approach "SPRING," Gerda Wittman shared strategies for teaching German as a Foreign Language in large classes, and Sylvia Schlettwein inspired writing with her "Creative Filling Station."

After level discussions, publisher meetings, and a social evening, Sunday featured an impactful lecture by Dr. Manfred Janik on teacher well-being. His words resonated with participants and provided practical insights for self-care in daily school life. Other workshops addressed creative environmental education (Jasmin Geisler), metacognition (Christine Milne), the introduction of the new DaF curriculum (NIED team), and reading promotion with the Goethe-Institut (Detlef Pfeifer). Everywhere, it was clear that exchange, understanding, and concrete support were the main focus.

The event was excellently organized – special thanks to the Educational Advisory Board, especially Karin Rothkegel, for the dedicated execution.

*Marianne Zappen-Thomson*



# Kindergarten Network Discussion Circle & Family Festival

## Review of the KiGa Network Meeting on 27.02.2025

The KiGa Network meeting focused on key topics related to language promotion, equity, and education. Among other things, the effects of half- and full-day care on German language development, the need for funding for families with low incomes, and the importance of linguistically competent educators were discussed.

The network plans to involve the Goethe-Institut and the German Embassy more closely in order to explore support opportunities for German-speaking kindergartens. Additionally, the idea of creating a dedicated textbook for daycare centers (KiTas) and a related workshop at the DEPT was introduced.

Another key focus was on parent engagement and how families can be motivated to take a more active role in their children's daily lives. Plans also include a new survey on multilingualism and considerations regarding the training of educators in Namibia.

The next steps include contacting external partners, further developing the survey, and jointly planning future offerings and formats.



## The First Family Festival 2025

On April 12th, the first Family Festival took place at Hooves & Gardens, about 25 km south of Windhoek. The event was organized by the Kindergarten Network and supported by AGDS. There were booths from various kindergartens, including Delta Kindergarten, Bärchenhöhle, Kammis Kinderwelt, DHPS Campus, Das Kinderhaus Windhoek, and the Waldorf Kindergarten Klein Windhoek, as well as booths from the Goethe-Institute, the 5th Windhoek Scouts – Cubs, and AGDS.

Visitors had the opportunity to learn more about the facilities at the booths and take part in various activities, including face painting, crawling sack races, sensory games, tin can throwing, or a fairy tale quiz. Hooves & Gardens provided food and drinks, and fresh products were available for purchase. Feeding the animals was also allowed, and children had the chance to go horseback riding.

## Kindergarten Network Discussion Circle & Family Festival

At 12:30 PM, the first and second place winners of the drawing competition organized by the Kindergarten Network were announced, and the prizes were awarded. We congratulate the following winners:

### Age group 5–6:

1st place: Wyatt Davies

2nd place: Lia Oppermann

### Age group 7–8:

1st place: Sebastian Wormsbächer

2nd place: Vanessa Klink

### Age group 8–9:

1st place: Edith Rohkemper

2nd place: Valentina Herzog

### Age group 9–10:

1st place: Kiara Harrison

2nd place: Dominik Klink

### Age group 10–11:

1st place: Dominik von Lieres

2nd place: Alyssa Vivo

### Age group 11–12:

1st place: Georgina Kambonde

2nd place: Carina Herzog



At 3:00 PM, the event was officially concluded. This festival is planned to take place once or twice a year in the future – then together with the AGDS schools and kindergartens.

The AGDS would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Kati Romeis, Heide Zirzow, and Tabea Mukoya for their fantastic organization.

