



**Arbeits- und
Fördergemeinschaft
der Deutschen Schulvereine in Namibia**
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22 NOVEMBER 2024

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2ND NEWSLETTER



Introducing the Executive Board Members

On November 2, 2024, the 68th annual general meeting took place, during which the board was re-elected. According to the schedule, Carola Hornickel, Sonja Pack, and Karola Redecker were due to step down, but they stood for re-election.

3. Board Meeting in Windhoek

The third board meeting of AGDS took place in the second half of 2024 in Windhoek. We thank all the school associations for their active participation and the productive discussions. Special thanks go to Goethe Café for the excellent catering and to the Goethe-Institute for providing the auditorium. Our next board meeting will take place on March 8, 2025, in Otjiwarongo.

Kulturfest 2024

From August 1 to August 4, 2024, the Cultural Festival was held at DPS Omaruru. Four schools participated with a total of 26 students. The schools represented were Grootfontein, DSW, PSS, and DPSO. To get to know each other, all students left their handprints on the wall. This year's theme was "Peace." Three rotating workshops were offered on the theme.

One group focused on poems, quotes, and smile stones. Another station facilitated the discussion of peace treaties and the design of flags on fabric. Additionally, peace symbols could be painted on stones.

The festival concluded with an exhibition of all the crafted and painted artworks. Two songs were sung, and a dance was performed to close the event.

We thank the AGDS for their support and making it possible to offer the Cultural Festival.

written by Ingrid Kollmitz



Horst-Kreft-Lesefest



On August 31, 2024, we welcomed 13 eager bookworms to the "Räuberwald" in Private School Grootfontein. Under the watchful eyes of an expert jury and a large audience, each reader gave their best. For this reason, it was not easy for the jury to determine the top reader.

We congratulate the winners!

Grades 3-4

- 1st place: Dominik Klink, DHPS (Windhoek)
- 2nd place: Sonja von Maltzahn, DPOtavi
- 3rd place: Aniana Jung, PSO (Otjiwarongo)

Grades 5-6

- 1st place: Malia Seifert, PSS (Swakopmund)
- 2nd place: Jonathan Trede, DHPS (Windhoek)
- 3rd place: Isabelle Hassenpflug, PSO (Otjiwarongo)

Project Lily - Gala Evening 2024

On September 20, 2024, the final Gala Evening of the "Lily" took place at Hotel Mercure/Mövenpick.

In a grand setting, Tilman Friedrich was surprised with the Platinum Lily award for his tireless efforts as chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Tilman Friedrich's volunteer work began in 1986. He himself is a former student of PSK but did not voluntarily join the PSK school association. He borrowed money from his father on the condition that he would not have to repay it if he became and remained a member of the PSK association. Thus, in 1976, Tilman became a member and has remained true to his father's condition ever since. In 1986, Tilman took on the task of serving the board voluntarily.

In a donation agreement between AGDS and PSK, the proceeds were transferred to AGDS, with the agreement that a special fund called the PSK Fund would be established with specific conditions.

A major concern for the board members is that school graduates are no longer interested in the teaching profession and that teachers do not receive the recognition they deserve. Therefore, they consulted with recently retired educator Mr. Dieter Esslinger to turn the idea of honoring teachers into a practical concept. This led to the Lily Project, which formally honors teachers during an annual gala evening.

For over 20 years, the Lily Project achieved its goals. Unfortunately, the time has come to set a new course, which includes this final gala evening. The decision was not easy for the Board of Trustees. For 18 months, we debated and struggled with this decision from meeting to meeting. The original goals of the Lily Project are sadly no longer attainable. The sharp decline in native German-speaking students and the shortage of teachers present new challenges. Promoting the German language in early childhood has suddenly become a priority. New doors are opening. For example, the Kindergarten Network, which focuses intensively on these issues, was formed in close collaboration with AGDS and UNAM.

The AGDS board is already working on these new tasks and will continue to do so. The PSK Fund will thus always fulfill its goals, and PSK will always be part of new developments, all in the spirit of promoting the German language and culture



German Ambassador visits AGDS schools in Swakopmund and Otjiwarongo



We would like to express our sincere thanks to Ambassador Dr. Thorsten Hutter as well as Silke Bergemann. They made it possible for the Deutsche Schulverein Swakopmund, the Private School Swakopmund, and the Namib High School to receive a visit on October 10 and 11, 2024.

On October 17, 2024, Dr. Hutter visited the AGDS schools in Otjiwarongo.



A big thank you goes to the representatives of the AGDS, the school associations, as well as the management of the schools and kindergartens who took the time for these visits.



Honorary Members of the AGDS



On September 23, 2024, Dieter Springer passed away. We mourn the loss of our honorary member, former chairman, and generous supporter of the German language and culture.

Hanjo Böhme was honored as an honorary member of AGDS on November 2, 2024. We thank him for his 40 years of commitment to the German language and culture.

Christmas greetings from Sonja Pack

We have now reached the end of the year. A year full of changes, adjustments, and restructuring for AGDS. Next year, we will convene a new strategy meeting to define the direction of AGDS.

I am proud to be able to present AGDS in this way and would like to sincerely thank the AGDS team, the executive board, the AGDS office, and all those who supported us behind the scenes.

AGDS is an association dependent on members and donations. We can only finance our projects and goals with members, and we would like to recruit members in person.

Please share our website www.agdsnamibia.com.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to see what opportunities AGDS is creating with German in Namibia.

With this in mind, we wish everyone a blessed Christmas, relaxing holidays with your children and family, and all the best for 2025.

