

*Tjike!* Hello! Welcome to Namibia!





Namibia is a large country in Africa. It is home to two million people. It is also home to many kinds of animals like zebras, elephants, giraffes, and springbok.





My name is Elissa. I served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Namibia. I was a teacher at Waterberg Primary School. Here I am with two of favorite first graders, Vijanda and Kaejova.





Waterberg Primary School is probably like your school in many ways. It has classrooms, a principal's office, a library, a computer lab, and a cafeteria.





But there is one thing that might be different from your school. Children don't just go to classes here, but they eat, wash, play, and sleep here too!





At night, the children sleep in buildings called blocks. Each block has a bathroom, cold water showers, and flushing toilets.



The blocks also have big sinks and clotheslines, where children can wash their clothes by hand and hang them out to dry.





After breakfast they head to school for the morning assembly. At assembly they sing the national anthem of Namibia.





Now it is time for the school day to begin! Until fourth grade, children learn all subjects in their own language, called *Otjiherero*. After fourth grade, they are taught only in English.





In the computer lab, the children are learning how to type their names, draw pictures, and play games on the computer.



At 1:00, the school day is over and it's time for lunch! The school ends early because the afternoons in Namibia can be very hot. There are no air conditioners or fans in the school. Children change into their play clothes and line up outside the dining hall.





Today, they will eat meat and bread for lunch. As a special treat, they sometimes eat apples with their lunch, too.





After lunch, children line up for tea. The youngest children always eat and drink first. Older children help serve. When the younger children finish their tea, they hand their cups off to the children who are behind them in line.





Now the children are ready to play.





Netball, soccer, dancing, singing, and baking are popular afterschool activities.






At the end of the day, the school grows quiet and the sounds of insects fill the air. Tomorrow the rising sun and the rooster's crow will signal the start of a new day. For now, everyone rests.





A group of African children are looking out from a window of a school building. The children are of various ages and are smiling or looking towards the camera. The building has a light-colored wall and a window frame. The text "Thank you for visiting our school, and *kaende nawa*, go well and goodbye." is overlaid on the image in the upper right corner.

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