



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Toddlers

For a number of years the school has included a class for children who enter at the age of two – Toddlers. This exists outside of the scope of the IB Primary Years Programme (PYP) which is designed for children from the age of three. Moreover, demand for this class appears to be declining. We opened this year with just two children (though we are now up to half a dozen).

Obviously, such a small class is not cost-effective and the Board and management are reviewing the future of the Toddlers class.

If you have any strong opinions on the matter, please let me know.

AISA

The school is, and has been for many years, an active member of the Association of International Schools in Africa ([AISA](#)). There are currently 75 member schools including the oldest and biggest on the continent. Annually AISA organises many valuable conferences and workshops (for example, we have three staff going to one in Johannesburg in February) and the organisation has also taken a global lead in areas such as Child Protection.

Once a year the Heads of AISA member schools come together to discuss matters of mutual interest and to hear from visiting experts in various fields. This year's Heads' Retreat has been taking place this week and that is why I have been out of school for a few days. I will be back on Tuesday.

Peter MacKenzie
Director

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Primary Three-Way Conferences: An opportunity for reflection about learning

When will the conferences be held?

The Three-Way Conferences are just two weeks away. As you will have seen on the school calendar this semester's conferences are being held the afternoon of Wednesday, **4 October** and during the day of Thursday, **5 October**. You should have already received an invitation with the scheduled time of your child's conference. The conference schedules are also posted on the class blogs. *(Please note that Thursday, 5 October is not a normal school day. Children only come to school for their conferences.)*

What can I expect to happen during the conferences?

The Three-Way conference includes and involves the learner, teacher and parent, so it is very important that your child attends the conference with you. During the

Contents

- From the Director p. 1
- Primary News p. 1 - 6
- Secondary News p. 7
- Other News p. 7 - 13



Dates to Remember

September 2017

- **25:** Primary School
- Photo Day
- **26:** Secondary School
- Photo Day
- **27:** Primary School
- Photo Day
- **28 - 10Oct:** JoMUN



Teacher Feature

Kelsey Daignault
Middle School - Humanities

Ms. Kelsey Daignault (Ms. D to her students), is a beloved Social Studies and English teacher in the Middle School. She is from Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. She has taught for many years in her hometown at an IB Sports Academy Middle School before starting her international teaching career overseas. Before coming to teach at WIS this year, Ms. Daignault taught in Macau, China at another international school.

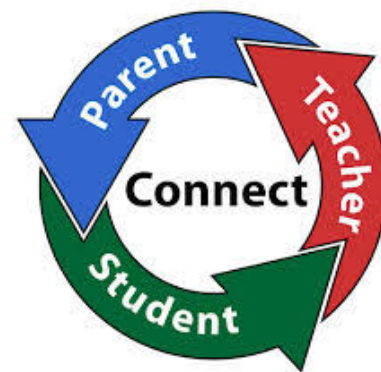
She describes herself as outgoing, positive, well read, curious, and adventurous but we feel she is humorous along with kind and understanding. She is a very interesting and fun teacher! Not only does Ms. Daignault love to travel the world, teach, and coach volleyball, she also knows how to speak French, and a smattering of German and Spanish. She would really like to learn Afrikaans too!

When asked if Ms. Daignault could have any job in the world, she said "a teacher or a travel writer!". She has always wanted to be a teacher and loves to travel.

Continues on page 3

conferences the students will discuss their learning and understanding with their parents and teacher.

The parent's and teacher's roles are to support the student through this process. Prior to the conferences, the students will be reflecting upon their work and selecting samples that they would like to share during the conference. In addition to sharing of the student's work, the conference is also a time for the student, parent(s) and teacher to collaboratively identify the student's strengths, as well as areas for improvement, followed by support for any new goals set.



Where will the conferences take place?

The conferences will be held in the child's Homeroom classroom and are scheduled for 20 minutes. While conferences with the Single Subject teachers haven't been scheduled, you are strongly encouraged to visit and meet with these various teachers in their classrooms as their subjects are an equally important part of your child's learning. Please do plan to take time to visit with the Art, Drama, French/Portuguese, Music, and P.E. teachers.

Is there school on Friday, 6 October?

Yes. Children are expected to be in school on Friday, 6 October. The day finishes at the normal dismissal time of 13:30. The children will be reflecting on the conference experience and making plans for achieving the goals that were set during the conference. They will also be finishing up any unit related work and bringing closure to the term.

In next week's Oryx, I will share some suggestions for how you can prepare for your children's conferences and the kinds of questions you might ask.

Regards,
Beth Smith

Peace Fun Run - Cape Town

Ohole Ngodji (1A) participated in the 2017 Cape Town Peace Fun Run on Saturday, 16 Sept, where she completed the 4.2km route, in good spirits.

She is photographed below with her mom and mom's friend.

The Fun Run was one of the side events preceding the Cape Town Marathon which took place on Sunday, 17 September.



Teacher Feature continued

She loves, “molding the young minds of the future!” and enjoys that each day in the classroom is different! She is inspired by her students and by many past teachers as well, which encourages her to be a life-long learner. Ms. D. has travelled to many countries already! She has had a lot of fun volunteering with pandas, going to the Great Wall of China, trekking in Tibet and Nepal, snorkeling with whale sharks and seeing so many amazing historical sites around the globe. She has been on many adventures and if you asked her she could tell you many more fascinating adventures which come from her travels.

It is no surprise that her favorite genre is historical fiction considering that if she could travel onto the past or future, she would travel to the past to see historical moments and meet people. As stated, if she had the chance, she would like to sit and eat with past historical figures and ask what they were thinking when they made good or bad decisions.

Ms. D likes to be active in her free time and is proud of her abilities on a snowboard and a stand up paddle-board.

Her favorite sports are ice hockey and rugby. She enjoys cooking and listening to music, her favorite is Rock and Roll! She also finds time to relax and watch a movie at times such as her favorite “Star Wars” or maybe recline with a cool drink and read a book.

Continues on page 4

FROM OUR PAD

We have just concluded an interesting exhibition of portraits and figure drawings across the Primary School, KG1-Year 6. Two hundred and ninety students exhibited, taking proportions and spatial awareness into account and seeing the development of art through the Year levels. We had many pop-in visitors in the early mornings on Friday through Wednesday. Thank you to all you wonderful parents and interested people who dropped in, talking to their children about what they saw, sharing useful comments, interesting observations and analyses of art. We look forward to more exhibitions on a smaller scale in the near future. You will be notified.



Teacher Feature continued

Her favorite is one she never gets tired of reading, "Catcher in the Rye". Normally, she a good book multiple times.

She is a very outdoorsy person and cares for nature. She said that she came to Namibia for an adventure in Africa and loves all the animals, and wildlife, including the desert which she finds fascinating! She's also getting used to the peace and quiet.

I think her favorite color green, might be inspired by her love of the outdoors and nature. Her favorite food or snack is kind of surprising, it is popcorn with white cheddar. She enjoys eating ethnic food from different countries and is always willing to try new foods in places she visits.

We had asked if she could vacation anywhere, where would it be? One thing that was a must was that it had to be near a beach! To her a holiday means relaxing! She decides after a very hard choice that she would like to go to Seychelles or the Maldives. If she could live anywhere it would be in Borneo, Indonesia because it is a stunning, untouched part of the world.

"Much to learn you still have, this is just the beginning,"
-Yoda

Interview conducted and written by Malia Silver, Ella Thomas and Sahara Ellen, Year 8A students



Ms Genie and Ms Sigrid

Annual Cancer Walk



On Saturday, 16th September, the Annual Cancer Walk took place, in seven different cities across Namibia. The objectives of these events is to raise funds and to create awareness about cancer in Namibia. This initiative also aimed to conscientise the public about the importance of choosing a healthy and active lifestyle from a young age.

Cancer affects most people either directly or through family members who are affected by this disease. BREAST cancer is one of the most common cancers in Namibia. In second place is skin cancer, then Kaposi Sarcoma, prostate and cervical cancer (<https://www.namibian.com.na/>, 2014)

Some WIS staff members and young students got together to join this event. The event was well attended in general and all participants received a medal at the end of the 5km walk.

Jeanne Vieira and Teresa Araújo



WEEKLY PUZZLER



Welcome to the first edition of the Weekly Puzzler, brought to you by the Maths Department. Each week we will present a challenge to the WIS community (students, parents and staff). Solvers of the puzzle will be recognised in the next Oryx. Alright, time to put your thinking caps on...

A student is given a number and must determine whether or not it is a perfect square (without a calculator). Perfect squares are 1, 4, 9, 16, 25 and so on.

Each student is assigned a particular number. Bart's number is 334,912,740,121,562. The teacher wants to know if this is a perfect square.

His friend Milhouse comes and sees the problem. He immediately says, "That's a very easy number. I know the answer."

What does Milhouse know?

Answers can be submitted to pfarrell@wis.edu.na

New puzzles can also be submitted to the same address.

Year 5 goes to United Nations



We went on a field trip to the United Nations for our unit about children's rights. One of my classmates interviewed Anthea Basson, she asked her if the right to education is important and why. They also talked to us about the agency that works for children's rights - Unicef which stands for United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund. Lindsay and her assistant showed us a presentation about children's rights. They asked us questions and showed examples to make it easier for us to understand. At the end of the slide show we got a paper with different events about children without their rights. They answered questions about these events. It was really interesting and we learned a lot. This fieldtrip was important to me because I will know how to help or know what to do if I or someone else is not being treated right.



Tapiwanashe Murwira

What's going on the in the PYP?

Dear parents

The Primary Years Programme fosters a language rich learning environment. In the PYP we work from a developmental and constructivist approach. We believe in building on foundational blocks to support further academic learning.

What do you think are the key PYP understandings about language learning?

Our focus is to ensure language is:

- **Connected**
- **Coherent**
- **Meaningful**



Language as a discipline can be immersed and integrated through inquiry based exploration and the concept driven curriculum.

When exploring language for reading, we believe children need time to acquire certain foundational understandings as they start to read:

Toddlers, KG 1 & KG 2: The Purple reading blocks- Print concepts

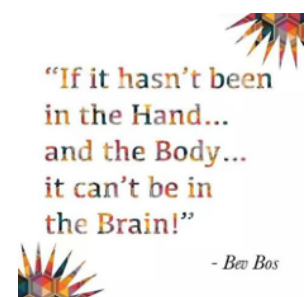
- Children are learning to handle and explore books (turning pages)
- They start to recognise that print conveys meaning
- They are exposed to text format from left to right
- Can connect to visuals and knows parts of a story

KG 2 & Year 2 The Yellow reading blocks - Alphabetic system: Phonemic Awareness - Phonics

- Exploring environmental sounds
- Becoming aware of letters and sounds - in my name
- Reads CVC words and knows most sounds of letters
- Names upper and lowercase letters

KG 2 through to Year 1 and 2: The Orange reading blocks - Alphabetic system: Phonemic Awareness - Phonics

- Starts with the big - introduced to a sentence "The cat is black".
- Learns to identify and break down the words in a sentence - segment.
- Explores the idea of compound words and segments these "rain-bow".
- Explores the words and breaks them into syllables e.g. A/lex.
- Starts to be introduced to letter sounds "ssss" and identify things that start with this sound.
- As letter sounds are introduced they start to blend the sounds to make words.



Please refer to the [link](#) and visit the wispyp.blogspot.com to find out more.

Kind regards,
Avril van Zyl - PYP Coordinator



SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Summer has arrived ...

It is getting hot now and we can get rid of jackets, jerseys, long pants and all those heavy clothes. This is in itself a pleasant experience.

However, how do we present ourselves in our community?

Each year, when it gets hot, we find ourselves asking whether our dress code should be more prescriptive. Should we wear some kind of uniform? Should we tell students what to wear and what not to wear?

And every year, there are some situations where there is disagreement and disappointment among students and staff about what is appropriate to wear to school and what is not acceptable. There is no right answer, but there can be guidelines. How specific should guidelines be?

Here at WIS we are proud of the diversity we have in every respect. Students and families represent different cultures, religions, levels of society, belief and values. How far do we restrict certain expressions of self in order to accommodate each other? I do not have the answer for that. But, we need to respect each other, and respect is mostly expressed in the way we treat each other - in our words, and articulation of ourselves toward each other, in our actions towards each other and in the way we accept each others' differences.

We are currently looking at creating guidelines for a dress code for Secondary students. What would you think is appropriate? What would you put in a list of guidelines for appropriate dress in school?

I would very much appreciate the input of parents and students in determining in how far we want to prescribe what students wear. We want to leave our young people to express themselves through the way they dress. We value diversity and individuality. But we need to keep in mind that the diversity and individuality also asks us to be aware of others and to take their beliefs and opinions into consideration. Only then can we celebrate the individuality and diversity in our community.

I would welcome some feedback from students and parents on this topic in order for us to try to accommodate the views of many different people in designing an acceptable procedure to follow (mreiff@wis.edu.na).

***Respectfully submitted,
Maggie Reiff***

Scan this!

You have seen QR Codes around the city/country/world. If you haven't you are now going to notice them after reading this! Each primary school class should have one that links to their class blog.

What are they? How do i use them? Can i make my own?

[Click here to find out more about QR Codes](#)



PTA WIS Bazaar

The WIS Bazaar and car boot sale was held on Saturday, 16 September from 10am until 3pm in the school's car park near the new PTA Community Center.

Shading was a challenge and we were lucky enough to secure additional gazebos thanks to BDO for two and Atousa's contacts, Cycletec and Old Mutual amongst a total of seven. Great teamwork yet again by our awesome PTA and school management. Many thanks to Sylvester and Antonio for helping us to get everything set up and to Sabina for supervising the kids at play.

The PTA boosted their coffers with just over N\$3000.00 in vendor ticket and drinks sales after expenses. The proceeds of this event will contribute to small initiatives at school.



The day had a festive feel to it with good food and bric-a-brac bargains bought and sold. WIS was also hosting a soccer tournament on the day which was an added bonus and increased our sales. Some of our students tried out their entrepreneurial skills with success and then went and spent their proceeds at other stalls.

An informal survey reported that trading was generally worthwhile for the effort involved. One of the buyers, Tanya, said that she bought many bargains and kept going back and forth to the car to deposit things which included books, children's clothing and toys. One of the sellers, Avril, said that she wasn't thinking about



actually making money but satisfyingly did, enough to buy groceries for a week and said her friend was even more successful with sales. They sold towels and sheets which were snapped up immediately. They also sold women and children's clothing and odds and ends. Pricing was good. As this event gains popularity, so too will feet on the ground traffic. Some people felt that the bazaar would be better at the end of a calendar month. Others felt that we needed to extend the invitation to the greater community and public. We would then have to consider security. There were one or two incidences where people felt entitled to help themselves to goods which was nipped in the bud.

The children had a great time and by all accounts found the day to be fun-filled.

We look forward to the next one possibly at the end of November though with International Day looming on the 11 November 2017, everyone might feel overwhelmed with another event so soon. Time will tell!

A percentage of the WIS Bazaar revenue, will go to support the Swimming Gala on the 29th September. There has also been a request to buy more football socks.

Kathleen on behalf of the PTA

German Classics Meet Namibia

The College of the Arts (COTA) through the Namibian National Symphony Orchestra (NNSO) is pleased to present this new musical project where Namibian and German music and musicians are performing together as part of the German Weeks program. Since we have noticed that in the last decades classical music is remaining a marginal actor in the cultural Namibian life, we have developed a new approach for bringing the astonishing landscape of the greatest European composer nearer to the Namibian culture.

We do not want to present the 'better music' and pretend that it is the only owner of true beauty, we want to prepare a 'meeting' between two cultural traditions: a sort of 'Date between two Persons that do not know each other yet'.

On 22 and 23 September the NNSO, under the capable hands of Alexander Fokkens, will start the program with the Mozart Concertante in Eb major. Jürgen Kriess and Enrico Palascino will be the violin and viola soloists. Two young Namibians, Eike Coetzee and Ronaldo Kandume, take the German journey further by performing as soloists in the Beethoven Romance in F major. The final items of the program bring the music back to Namibia, when Lyvodia #Ouses and Eslon Hindundu will perform Namibian songs with orchestral accompaniment.

The generous sponsorship of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Namibia made it possible that the Musai Quartet from Germany will be part of the NNSO. Other sponsors are the German Embassy in Namibia and Schenker Logistics, as well as private sponsors.

The Concerts, starting at 19:00, will be in the Dutch Reformed church, corner of Lüderitz and Munamava streets, opposite the old state house in Robert Mugabe avenue. Admission is free of charge, but donations are welcome! For more information please contact Johanita de Waal, 081 272 9922 or johanita@dewaals.com

WIS

INTER HOUSE SWIM GALA

2017

Year groups: 2-13

Events

- 25m Freestyle
- 25m Backstroke
- 25m Butterfly
- 25m Breaststroke
- 50m Freestyle
- 50m Backstroke
- 50m Breaststroke
- 50m Butterfly

Date: Friday, 29 September 2017

Venue: Western Suburb swimming pool

Time: 12:00 - 15:00



Signing up for Student Parent Teacher Conferences (SPTC) in Secondary School

We have exciting news on the sign ups for the SPTC happening on the 3rd and 4th of October. Last week in the Oryx, we explained the Student Parent Teacher Conferences. Now I'd like to inform you of a change in the way of signing up for the conferences.

On Monday, 25th September, parents will receive a link to sign up for their child/ren('s) conferences with their subject teachers. The process is quite straight forward and easy to do.

- *You go to the teacher's name*
- *Sign up for a time that is available*
- *Save it*
- *Go back to "All sign ups"*
- *Sign up for the next teacher - at the next available time*
- *And continue until you have signed up with all your child/ren('s) teachers*
- *You will receive emails stating the teacher's name and time that the appointment is at.*

We are trialling this online sign up procedure for these conferences. If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Ms. Catherine (reception@wis.edu.na) to assist you. **Please note that Ms. Nadar and Mr. Rishchynski will also not be present at the SPTC. They will be on a professional learning course during the week.**

Feedback and comments on the procedure are welcome.

Maggie Reiff

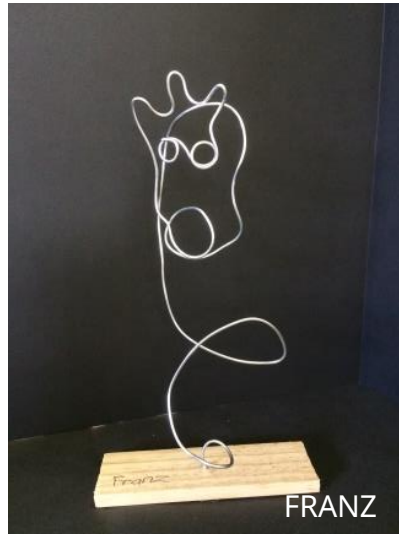
Secondary Principal





JADE

PERPLEXED?



FRANZ

STARTLED?



TANGI

CONTRITE?

EMOTIONS IN WIRE

(UNIT: Elements of Art, ARTIST: Alexander Calder)

TAKING 'LINE' INTO 3D

YEAR 7 A&B



PAOLO

UPSET?



RUTH

PENSIVE?



JAYDEN

BAFFLED?

GERMAN WEEKS 2017 TOGETHER WITH THE NAMIBIAN NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PRESENTS

German CLASSICS MEET NAMIBIA

PLAYING MOZART, BEETHOVEN AND NAMIBIAN FOLK SONGS

FEATURING THE MUSAI QUARTETT FROM GERMANY

22 & 23
September 2017
@ 19:00

CONDUCTOR: ALEXANDER FOKKENS

SOLOISTS: ENRICO PALASCINO, JÜRGEN KRIESS, EIKE COETZEE & RONALDO KANDUME

VOICE SOLOISTS: LYVODIA #OUSES AND ESLON HINDUNDU

DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH WINDHOEK
CORNER OF LUDERITZ AND MUNAMAYA STREET
OPPOSITE OLD STATE HOUSE

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