



# THE ORYX

*The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School*

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

For obvious reasons, there is a rather sombre mood hanging over the school today. It feels a bit like a bereavement.

I have written twice to the community and will continue to give updates as we work through this situation. Our priorities must be:

1. To understand exactly what happened. (In fact, we believe we are in full possession of most, if not all, of the facts.)
2. To understand what lessons can and must be learned from this.
3. To remind ourselves that the school continues to function perfectly normally and will continue to do so. The situation is serious but not grave. We'll get through this.

*Peter MacKenzie*

## PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

### Oryx? Blogs? Seesaw? D6? Where do I look for what?

From time to time we hear from parents that our forms of communication are confusing and there is too much information. Perhaps that's a compliment in that we are communicating. On the other hand, perhaps the information could be streamlined a bit as it all can be overwhelming, especially for parents who are new to the school. (I remember well my own feelings of being overwhelmed as I tried to make sense of it all, but in a short time it became second nature.) The following is an outline and explanation of the various means of communication we use in the Primary School.

**Oryx** - The School's weekly newsletter with information about what's happening in the various sections of the School is published on Fridays. It often contains reminders of dates and events and important news (such as the progress on development, accreditation visits, school fees). A link to the Oryx is sent by email before the end of the day on Fridays. **Depending on your interests the Oryx takes about 15-20 minutes to read.**

**Blogs** - Each homeroom teacher in the Primary School has a blog. Posts about what students are learning in the class are made during the week or a summary of the week's learning is posted on Fridays. Parents who have subscribed to the specific blog receive emails when new posts have been



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## Dates to Remember

### October 2018

- **29 - 01 Nov:** Secondary Week A

### November 2018

- **10:** International Day
- **16:** Staff Work Day
- **30:** AA End for all Grades



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## WEEKLY PUZZLER

We are getting more solvers by the week! Last week's code was cracked by several parents and teachers. Understandably, they wish to avoid the distraction from the fame that comes with having their names published. They will remain anonymous. Several students also cracked the code: Ezra (EY3), Eden (3V), and 2 IB students. IBDP students are so smart that it's not enough just to solve the puzzle. They do it with speed: Martin in 11 minutes; Daniel in 16 minutes. Well done everybody!

On to a new one. Lisa has three sisters. All four of them are mothers. Her sister Kay has two nephews and three nieces. Her sister Jane has one nephew and three nieces. Her sister Belle has one nephew and five nieces. Lisa has one daughter. How many nephews and nieces does Lisa have?

Answers can be submitted to [pfarrell@wis.edu.na](mailto:pfarrell@wis.edu.na). New puzzles can also be submitted to the same address.



uploaded. The blog posts often include photographs of the students engaged in their learning, information about the concepts or skills being focused on during the week, reminders, and upcoming dates. Reading the blog can spark questions for you to ask your child about what he/she has been learning. **The blog posts take about 10-15 minutes to read.**

**Seesaw** - Each Primary student has a digital learning journal through Seesaw. The children post examples of their work. Last year, parents could only view their child's learning journal during the conferences or upon leaving the school. This year, Seesaw has been opened up for parents to have access after they've attended a workshop offered by Ms Pamela Mungate. (The workshops are offered once a term for those who are not yet connected.) This is another tool for parents to have a window into their child's learning. Notification settings can be changed in the Seesaw Families app or at the bottom of every email from seesaw. **One can spend as little or as much time as available exploring your child's learning journal.**



**D6** - is a communication tool, which can be downloaded to any device with internet access. The D6 Communicator will keep you informed of whole school or special events. In addition, you can find such information as the academic calendar, policies, handbooks, fee structures, strategic plan, and many other school related documents and information. Reminders about events are red popups on your computer screen. **The popups take a minute or two to read.**

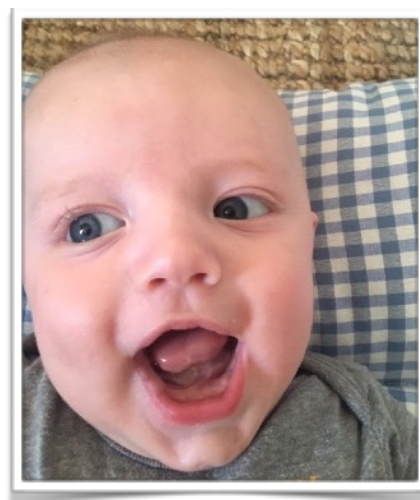
I hope these descriptions of the various means for communication used in the Primary School help provide a better understanding of the many ways we do communicate, in addition to emails. While it seems overwhelming, in actuality the time to read the information posted can be productive and result in everyone having a better understanding of our processes and activities here at school.

*Regards,  
Beth Smith*

## Baby Daniel De' Ath

Our first child, Daniel David De'Ath, was born on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018 at the local Medi-Clinic hospital. Born at 3,34 kgs Daniel immediately stole our hearts with his fine features with many nurses commenting on his good looks! At the age of around 7 weeks old Daniel was diagnosed with a rare brain condition called 'Hemimegalencephaly' which causes him to have seizures. This condition occurs one in a million pregnancies.

Obviously this was difficult news to digest but with the support of the WIS community and our greater Windhoek family and friends we have managed to work through what has been quite a difficult period.



My husband and I currently joke that we were warned that parenthood would be tough but we have obviously been on a bit of a rollercoaster ride to date. Daniel is very cute and has been seizure free for a few weeks now. Daniel will unfortunately require surgery some time before the end of the year in Cape Town to assist with stopping his seizures when we will travel down to South Africa some time during November.

My husband and I would like to thank the school and staff for their support during this time. We look forward to introducing you to baby Daniel once he is on the road to recovery. I miss the school very much and cannot wait to rejoin the WIS team once everything in our lives has settled down again.

**Charné De'Ath - Grade 3 Teacher**

## U/11 Developmental Tournament

WIS hosted an U/11 Developmental Football Tournament last weekend.



The event was well attended by our local clubs with 10 teams participating. The day was facilitated superbly by our G10 IGCSE Physical Education cohort. The students adopted the roles of Officials, Timekeepers, PA announcers and Referees.

**Thomas Jackson-Read**

## SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

### What do we educate our young people to become?

When children go to school, they are not merely learning Maths and Science, Geography, doing Drama and being creative in Art. Our vision is *“to prepare independent, inquiring and self-motivated citizens of the world.”* What does that mean?

Being an IB school, we place great emphasis on the IB Learner Profile and want our children to be all those attributes. We have recently introduced the ATL Skills in our teaching and learning: Thinking Skills, Social Skills, Self-Management Skills, Communication Skills and Research Skills. But how do the attributes of the IB Learner Profile and the ATL Skills show in our students' everyday lives?

One great example is how our children approach different situations. I am always amazed how friendly they are when I or even strangers cross their paths on campus. Last weekend, WIS hosted a football development tournament and a group of our Grade 10 PE students assisted with the tournament - they fulfilled their duties competently, positively and with enthusiasm. The open and frank manner in which our students voice their opinions and reflect on their choices when, at times, they make the wrong choice, is another great example of the confidence our students have in their own abilities.

When on the big field during break times, students from different classes often play together and it does not seem to matter that some of them are older and some are younger and that they often don't even seem to

know each other. They get along with each other without much fuss about differences in year group. They are open minded and tolerant and enjoy each other's company.

Visitors to WIS often comment on the positive and polite manner in which they are approached and greeted. This is great testimony to the way we approach interactions with each other at the school - be it students among each other, students and teachers or teachers among each other.

**Regards,**  
**Maggie Reiff**

Diabetes Awareness Day  
Click [here](#) for more info.

## Grade 8 English

I would like to share two short stories Sahara and Anushka in Grade 8 wrote as part of their English Spelling Assessment.

It was **forbidden** to go outside after sunset. No one knew why, but for as long as she had known, no one ever went out. This rule wasn't just **preferred** by the citizens of this town, no - there were guards **patrolling** the city as soon as the lights went out. No one knows what happens after dark. Some people talk about monsters and ghouls roaming around the town but no one knows for sure.

I remember a tale of a little boy who accidentally stayed out after dark. The government **expelled** him from his school and **deterred** him from ever **conferring** with anyone again. The boy was never the same after that again. He never could do anything again and just sat in the corner of his house and stared out into space thinking about the **unforgettable** things he saw that time. It makes you wonder what the government is hiding from us.

I was a good child. Growing up with **controlling** parents and no siblings to talk to, I learned to be the best. The best at school, the best at sports, the best at friends, I was even the best at being the best. But this was all part of my plan. So that no one would know what I was going to do, and no one could have **deferred** it. That day was the day I did it.

After school I told my friends I had homework and went to my house. I told my parents I was sleeping at a friend's house but actually hid in the bushes next to the street. I waited until sunset and then I saw it. A terrible, horrible thing that I can't even stand to think about. I stayed in those bushes for two days. Two whole days frozen in fright at what I saw. My family and friends sent **transmitting** signals to find me, called everyone they knew and when they finally found me, the government did the same thing to me as they did to that boy, and I sat in a corner just the same not speaking, writing or reading. I stayed there until death came upon me at last, and I never told a single soul what I saw!

**Sahara Kamwanyah, Grade 8MP**

It was late night, an officer was **patrolling** a school. It was **forbidden** for kids to go in at night as the school was already closed. This was one of the many **unforgettable** rules. It was the officer's job to make sure no kids or anyone entered. The students had a week off school but for their luck, the date was **deferred** to when school should open. There were also cameras everywhere but for security only. The monitor **controller** made sure everything was okay. A rebellious group **preferred** breaking the rules, they wanted to **transmit** some illegal

stuff onto the computers about a kid they picked on. They wanted to embarrass this kid until the kid decided to commit suicide. But for that they needed to get into the school first.

So they made sure when the officer and controller **conferred** with each other, they would sneak in. A minute later the controller and kids walked in quietly and covered every camera. The controller saw something was wrong as the cameras blacked out, so they went to check it out. He saw the kids on the computers and made sure that they got **expelled**. He also **deferred** the rebel group from posting anything. The kids got expelled and the other kid that they picked on, never found out about the whole event.

**Anushka Singh, Grade 8MP**

## Basketball News



On Friday 19 October the under 11 Basketball mixed team played a Schools League Game against DHPS(B) it was a more relaxed and fun game for the children after the week before when we lost to DHPS(A). The children had a lot of fun and they won that game. That gave them a lot of confidence for the Saturday when we had to play against DHPS again. **The final score for Friday was DHPS(B) 2 : WIS 29.**

On Saturday 20 October with the win on our side from Friday, we went to DHPS again full of confidence and ready for the challenge. Our first game was against DHPS(A). It was a very tough game and the children played their hearts out but at the end they lost, but there was a big improvement to what happened a week before and this time WIS made it onto the scoreboard. **The final score was DHPS 28 : WIS 9.**



On the same Saturday at 11:45am we played again against DHPS(C). All I asked from the children was to have fun and play as a team. With that they went and stunned me as the coach by achieving their highest score ever in the Schools League. **The final score was DHPS(C) 8 : WIS 35.**

We as the WIS Basketball Team just want to thank the PTA for the sponsorship that they gave us, it was a real cool refreshment after the games.

**Audrey Bock**

## JoMUN XVI (Part 1)

This year fourteen WIS students participated in the JoMUN conference at the American International School of Johannesburg, which took place between the 27th and the 30th of September. Here are the thoughts of some of our student delegates.....more next week!



**Name: Tanatswa N. Murwira**

**Role: Delegate of Burkina Faso**

**Committee: Human Rights Commission**

As it was my first MUN conference, I gained a lot of experience and some knowledge that will surely help me in the future. When working in a group, with people I had never met before, I learnt how to truly collaborate with others to reach a common goal and about some of my strengths and weaknesses I should work on. I also learnt that no matter how great you think your idea is, you can always be challenged on it. In such cases you need to be able to stand your ground, and convince everyone of your idea.

Going to JoMUN I had expected it to be as serious as the UN discussing a major world issue. Instead I'll remember the times when we weren't in the theatre, during breaks and the evenings, however the theatre was still a friendly environment. I made some good friends originating from as far away as South Korea, and I had the pleasure of staying with the most kind and welcoming host family. The experience was great overall and I would hope to do it again and meet up with some of the awesome people I got to know at this conference.



**Name: Tuundjakuje Tengee**

**Role: Delegate of Mozambique**

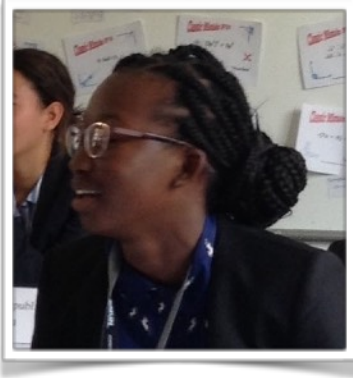
**Committee: General Assembly**

What I learned from the conference;

- To be confident and always stand up for what you believe.
- I learned that there are issues in society that requires urgent attention and that through cooperation we can bring solutions to them.
- I also learned that we should not break down any resolution but instead build up.
- Being respectful and polite towards other delegates was the only way to make it through the conference.
- I learned so much on how to write a good resolution. And that to be good at anything learn to accept correction from those who know better than you do .

ii) social aspect of the conference

- I felt good being in a room full of intelligent people and I learned a lot.
- I came across a very interesting person one I can never forget ,he stole my heart .
- Note passing to other delegates was so much fun especially when you are eyeing someone ,that was an opportunity of a lifetime .
- The food was amazing we were treated as royalty.
- Only one word can express my JOMUN experience and that is AMAZING!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



**Name: Tosca Simon (Ndina)**

**Role: The Arabic Republic of Egypt**

**Committee: GA3**

I was honoured to be a WIS representative at the JoMUN XVI "Africa Rising" conference which was based on major world issues specifically in Africa. The main theme of the conference was "Africa Rising" which was on how African countries are contributing / having a say on major world issues, what is being done within a country facing a major problem, how is the issue being resolved and how as a continent Africa is willing to rise and develop.

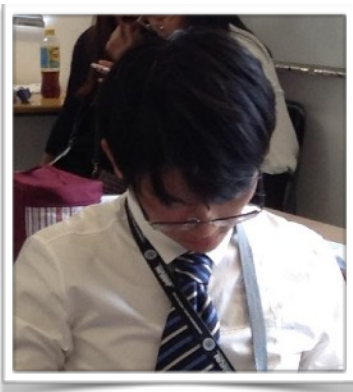
It was my second MUN conference, but my first JoMUN MUN conference and I have learned loads from attending the conference such as:

- I learned that "Communication is the key to success" as it's vital to participate in the debates taking place. if you'd like to state your country's opinion want to be heard you have to stand up and speak up.
- Being interested and enthusiastic on the issues put at hand will most definitely boost up your confidence in speaking and Collaborating with others.
- Attending conferences enhances leadership skills
- As a delegate I improved my negotiation skills
- I Learned how to come up with solutions, responses and how to take action on the spot when being target or facing a problem.

#### Social & Fun experiences

- Staying with a host family was really fun!
- Attending the indaba social event was amazing as making new friends and being around people is weirdly soothing and fun
- Getting buffet meals everyday was fulfilling!!
- Joking around in our committee and sometimes going off topic was fun as we'd debate about sending world heritage sites to the moon and have a confession sessions.

In general being part of the conference and representing WIS was really fun and to say "I was a delegate of the JoMUN XVI Africa Rising conference" is rewarding.



**Name: Yiming (Jimmy) Xu**

**Role: Delegate of Cameroon**

**Committee: Environmental committee**

My JOMUN experience:

It was my very first time to join a MUN trip, I was glad that I had such a good experience.

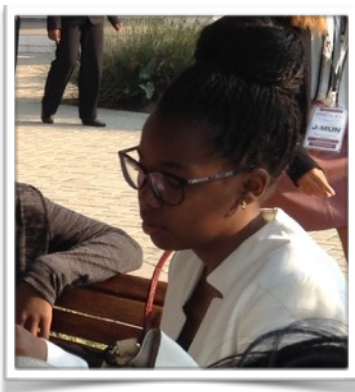
Everything were new to me, therefore, I learned a lot, for example:

- I learned how to team work with the ally delegates during lobbying and merging
- I become more confident for speaking in front of the public
- I learned how MUN works, the key point of the MUN(I thought resolution was the most important thing, but it actually was the background research.)

The social aspect of the conference – the fun stuff.

I've seen quite a few interesting people in the conference, like the Korean and Indian who can speak Chinese, the annoying delegates(who kept on using POI to ask useless questions), and extra...

I was extremely nervous and terrified, as a newcomer, I had no idea what to do, nor how to; but after I realized that most of us were newcomers, I felt more relaxed... Since I wasn't the only one who had lost his mind...



**Name: Diella Barihuta**

**Role: Delegation of The Republic of Mozambique**

**Committee: Human Rights Commission**

At the attending of my second MUN conference but first JOMUN I learned many skills I can take on and use in real life. Listening to others for their ideas and giving mine and trying to merge and compromise to get to an agreement for a resolution. This taught me that everyone has a different perspective on issues and may not have the same perspective as mine. It pushed me to communicate more with people and not be scared to try and contribute, because the goal is to have the perfect resolution. This conference as with the first one are bettering my public speaking and collaboration with others.

Now on the social aspect it took me out of my comfort zone which is me always staying to myself. It made me interact with people. As talking to people that come from different places than you, open your eyes to new things, widening your views and perspective.

There was a French school (Lycée Jules Verne Johannesburg) in attendance and since I also speak French it was fun to talk to them as I don't speak it frequently anymore it was really nice to discuss with them.

Staying with a host family was fun, they were welcoming especially the youngest son. He was energetic and it was fun to play with him.





# DO YOU HAVE A CREATIVE BRAIN?

The WIS Yearbook Committee invites all parents, staff, and students to take part.

## **DESIGN THE WIS YEARBOOK COVER FOR 2018-2019!**

What can you win? An extra yearbook and have your design printed on all the Yearbooks for 2018-2019!

**Design criteria:**

- ~ The design must be A4 in size
- ~ High quality
- ~ Digital format (JPEG or PDF)
- ~ And have the following wording:

**WINDHOEK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL YEARBOOK 2018-2019**

*\*Please note only digital A4 designs will qualify for consideration.*

Send your final design to:  
[jnel@wis.edu.na](mailto:jnel@wis.edu.na)

Include your full name, and or grade!

**DEADLINE: 28 February 2019**

