



# THE ORYX

*The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School*

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

### Here We Go Again...!

It was a joy this week to hear again the happy laughter of children filling the air. The first week has passed (successfully) and the school's twenty-eighth year is up and running.

There are six new faces (and one surprise but very welcome returnee) among the teaching staff and they will introduce themselves to you in the pages of The Oryx over the coming weeks.

The most obvious physical change you are likely to notice is that the area formerly occupied by Toddlers has been renovated to provide a far more practical and welcoming venue for meeting new parents as well as three much-needed offices for **Avril van Zyl** (PYP Coordinator), **Danai Maramba** (IT Coordinator), and **JP Bruwer** (Systems Administrator).

The months ahead will see us starting work on a revised Middle School curriculum, as well as welcoming visits from representatives of the **International Baccalaureate** (in September) and the **New England Association of Schools and Colleges** (in November). Both visits, in different ways, are quality control exercises. We are authorised by the IB and accredited by NEASC. We work with both to ensure that we meet their high standards and that we are in line with best practice internationally.

I am also hopeful that construction work on a number of new projects will start this calendar year. Watch this space!

**Peter MacKenzie**

## PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Smiles and enthusiasm abounded this week as the children returned to school for the new school year. It's been wonderful to see the confidence that the children have exhibited and amazing to see how much the children have grown during the holidays.

I have always appreciated the fact that with a Northern Hemisphere school calendar, there are two times in a year for a fresh start and making changes ~ the new school year in August and the new calendar year in January. We are beginning this academic year with many changes that have taken place since school closed in June.

One change that we are all getting used to is referring to Grades and Early Years instead of Years and KG. We are also getting used to the classes being defined by the first letter of the homeroom teacher's name instead of A or B. Another change we have made is the title of the assistants from Teaching Assistant (TA) to Educational

## Contents

- *From the Director p. 1*
- *Primary News p. 1 - 4*
- *Secondary News p. 4 - 9*
- *Other News p. 10 - 11*

## Dates to Remember

### August 2018

- **20 - 24:** Secondary Week B
- **21:** Middle School - BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT
- **23:** IGCSE/IBDP - BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT
- **26 - 27:** Public Holiday
- **28:** Whole school AA Start
- **28:** EY1 - Gr.2 - BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT
- **29:** Gr. 3 - 5 - BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT



VISIT US ON:



Facebook



Instagram



## Teacher Feature

**Rick Fitzpatrick**  
**Secondary History &**  
**CAS Coordinator**

### What is your educational background?

*\*High School - Notre Dame High School, Connecticut, USA \*University - Boston College, Massachusetts, USA \*Graduate School - A) (Law and Diplomacy) - Tufts University, Massachusetts, USA B) (Teaching) - College of Notre Dame - Maryland, USA*

### Where did you grow up?

*\*Eastern USA (Michigan, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts) / happy life as a regular kid from the suburbs (played sports, did community service work, learned French, dreamed of the world beyond, followed the news)*

### What motivated you to be a History teacher?

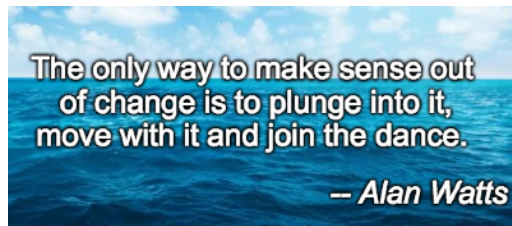
*a) The love of learning; b) enjoyment of working with adolescents; c) the vibrancy/dynamism of the classroom.*

### What do you enjoy most in your job? / What makes you passionate about your job?

*a) crafting innovative, effective and engaging lessons and participating in the IB world;*

**Continues on page 3**

Assistant (EA). Some of the teachers and EAs have moved to a new Grade level. (Please note that this doesn't mean a promotion or demotion ~ it's a change due to professional interest on the part of the teacher, or a need of the school.) Lastly, the Drama classroom has moved to a new location behind the EY3 classrooms and the former Toddlers area has become Admissions and offices. All of these changes are positive, contribute to a fresh start and a new beginning of the school year.



The Primary Back to School Nights are coming up in a little over a week's time. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend these informative evenings to meet your child's teachers and learn more about the focus and expectations for this year. The Back to School Nights are as follows: EY1-Grade 2 - August 28; Grades 3-5 - August 29.

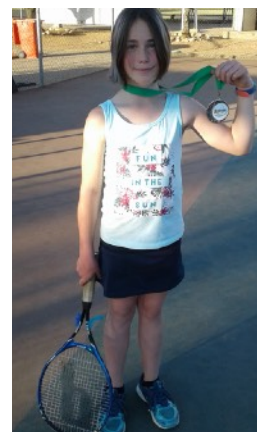
Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year, especially to our new families. I look forward to a positive, enriching and successful year.

**Regards,**  
**Beth Smith**

## Congratulations!

### Karate

During the holidays Nini Ren in Grade 2D Received two gold medals for her age group (6-7 years) in the **2018 Namibia Goju Kai Karate National Championship for KATA and KUMITE Karate.**



### Tennis

On 29 June Daniella Prinsloo in Grade 5 took part in her first tennis tournament and won the Silver medal, losing the Gold by just one point.

## Swimming Gala

Dear WIS Community,

The Sports committee would like to invite all WIS students who are swimmers to sign up for our **Inter House Swim Gala** which will take place 15 September 2018 at WHS. All students from Grade 1 until Grade 12 are welcome to participate.

Refreshments will be provided for the swimmers and medals will be hand out at the end of the gala. We would like to take the opportunity to bring our community together and celebrate accomplishments of our young students.



### Teacher Feature continued

b) providing pastoral support to unleash the marvellous creativity, ingenuity and intelligence gifts that each of adolescent student possesses;

c) participating (and where possible leading) in a dynamic cross-cultural faculty team that collectively acts to move forward a great international school; d) interacting with a fabulous array of parents who, like me, want the best for their kids; e) mentoring young teachers who make a mark in this great profession.

### What do you think are important qualities a History Teacher at an international school should have?

A) love of learning about the past; B) inquisitive mind; C) creativity; D) humility & integrity; E) content knowledge; F) capacity to teach written and oral communication skills.

### Can you tell me a little bit about your personal life and hobbies?

*We as a family moved from Tanzania where we lived/ worked at the International School Moshi for the last eight years and which followed eight years working at international schools in Egypt (5 years) and Germany (3 years). I love learning new languages. Tennis is my sport. I enjoy non-fiction reading and travel in sub-Saharan Africa for its cross-cultural learning opportunities. I am an avid global politics/current affairs-enthusiast.*

### Could you describe your personality?

*energetic, enthusiastic, extroverted, open to new experiences and steadfast.*

### What is your favourite motto and that you use students?

*Proper Planning Prevents Poor Performance*

To make this event a success we would like to ask parents for active participation. You are welcome to sign up your child by filling in the [google form](#).

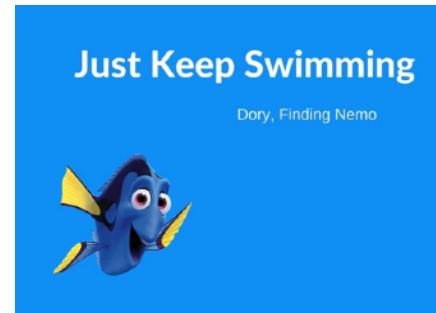
This gala will be a great practice for our swimmers before the Inter Schools Pupkewitz Gala, which will take place on the 26th & 27th October. This event provides our students an opportunity to represent their school at a NASU recognised event and helps promote our continuous effort to develop school spirit amongst our learners.

#### Further details:

- Swimmers should **be able to swim 50m**
- Students can sign up for - Freestyle, Backstroke, Fly, Breaststroke and Team Relay

More information about Pupkewitz swim gala will be posted soon.

*On behalf of the Sports Committee,  
Beata Stephanus*



## Welcome to the PYP!

Dear WIS PYP families,

Welcome back to an exciting year for 2018-2019 in the Primary Years Programme. I am very excited for our new year ahead in the PYP. The teachers and Educational assistants have all been working very hard to make this start to the year a welcoming and happy transition for your children.

I would like to introduce myself; my name is Avril van Zyl and I am originally from Australia. I have travelled around the world since 1999. I came to Namibia in 2005 and am married to a Namibian (Willem) and we have two terrific boys, Matthew and Luke. In my spare time I love to go 4X4 and camping and explore Namibia with my family. I also like spending quality time with my boys.



I have been working within the IB PYP philosophy for over 10 years and am passionate about this holistic, child-centred programme. I am the Primary Years Programme coordinator and IB Educator.

#### What is inquiry learning in the PYP?

Learning through Inquiry gives learners an opportunity to examine the complexity of their world, to explore how it works and their place in it as they form their own understandings instead of being told simple answers to complex problems. It recognises that students are powerful learners who must be actively engaged in the process of investigating, processing, organising, synthesising, refining, extending and applying their knowledge.

## WEEKLY PUZZLER

Welcome back to a new school year full of fun, challenging, brain-teasing puzzlers.

If you were in the Eastern Hemisphere for the holiday you had the good fortune to be able to see a lunar eclipse on July 27.

To say it was beautiful is certainly an understatement! In fact, the duration of the total eclipse of the moon (103 minutes) was the longest that will be seen this century. We will all be into our 100's when a longer one comes along.

So the question: Why are some lunar eclipses longer than others? There can be more than one reason. Can you give one? Please use your own brain, or work with a team of brains among your friends, i.e, no Google.  
no Google.

Send your answer to:  
[pfarrell@wis.edu.na](mailto:pfarrell@wis.edu.na)



As Primary Programme Coordinator my role is to facilitate and support the implementation of the curriculum framework. This means I work closely with Ms Beth (Primary Principal) and the teachers and students. I am also keen to continue this collaboration of support with parents. You are part of our collaborative learning community. Stay posted for PYP workshops which help to explain more about how our programme works and makes you feel connected to your child's learning.



### Upcoming information events include:

- Back to school night to meet and greet the PYP staff and teachers
- Introduction to the PYP parent workshops
- Regular "Meet & Greet" Thursday mornings at the PTA community centre - where I will be available to answer any queries
- Please subscribe to the [WIS PYP blog](#) to find out more

You will be receiving a IB PYP Newsletter from your teacher(s) to inform you of the learning and inquiry that will be taking place this term. **Please make sure you subscribe to your child's blog.**



I look forward to seeing you soon and getting to know you better.

For all new families welcome again to our WIS community.

Kind regards  
Avril van Zyl  
PYP Coordinator  
[avanzyl@wis.edu.na](mailto:avanzyl@wis.edu.na)

## SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Welcome back to a brand new year - to new development, to new challenges to new adventures



We've been back for a week and things have been busy as they always are in schools. First of all I would like to welcome all our new families to WIS. May your time at WIS be happy and successful and may you take fond memories with you once you leave WIS. Then I would like to welcome our new teachers in Secondary School: Mr. Rick Fitzpatrick who is teaching History and Mr. Michael Parsons who will be teaching Mathematics and ICT in Middle School. Mrs. Isabeau will be our new EAL teacher and Mrs. Lizl Opperman has joined the Learning Support team for support in the Secondary School. And welcome back to all our returning families and staff.

At the start of a new school year it is always good to remind everyone about some of our expectations that are at times overlooked:

- Please **excuse your child in writing** with an email to the office or your child's homeroom teacher, if they miss school for any reason. We will then inform the teachers concerned.
  - Try not to take children out of school if at all avoidable.
- Students are expected to have a **charged device at school every day**.
  - Should the device not be in a working condition for any reason, please email Ms. Reiff ([mreiff@wis.edu.na](mailto:mreiff@wis.edu.na)) so that the respective teachers can be informed.
  - Students are responsible for the safety of their device.
- **Cell phones are not allowed** to be used during school hours. If used, they will be confiscated and parents have to collect the phone from Ms. Reiff after school.
- Please do not **drop off** food or school materials for your child at the office.
- The **Student Handbooks** are posted on the D6. Kindly familiarise yourself with the respective handbooks.
- **Contact email addresses of all teachers** are on the D6, posted under "Contacts". You will also find the subjects the teachers are teaching under that link.
- Homework for all students is posted on **Edmodo**. Parents have received the parent code for their children's Edmodo account from their child's Homeroom Teacher.
- We try to manage behaviour in a positive manner. When students fail to meet expectations repeatedly, they will have to attend a **Friday Reflection Session** which runs from 13:45 until 16:00 each Friday. Parents will be informed in writing by Wednesday of the respective week if a student has to attend a reflection session.
- Please cross the **Car Park** at the zebra crossings. Students should wait in front of the PE hall to be picked up. Pick up time is 13:30 for Middle School and 14:20 for students in Grades 9 - 12.
- Students finding it difficult to get their homework done at home, can join the **Homework Club** every afternoon from 13:45 to 14:45. Students waiting for their siblings should also join the Homework Club.

### Back - to - School - Nights

All families are cordially invited to join us at our Back to School Nights to get to know the teachers and have their queries addressed:

**Tuesday, 21 August - 18:00 for Middle School**

**Thursday, 23 August - 18:00 for IBDP and IGCSE**

The PTA cash bar will be open and the Grade 12s will have some snacks for sale.



*Regards,  
Maggie Reiff*

### PTA SIGN-UP!

Please take a moment to sign up on this form if you can help the PTA or know someone that can contribute with their time and knowledge to such a great cause.

[PTA Sign-up Form](#)

## Join our PTA

### (Parent Teacher Association)

A great way to get involved in your child’s school is to become active in the Parent Teacher Association.



Each year, the PTA supports various school events like International Day (which will be on the 10th of November), the IBDP Dinner, the Grade 5 Exhibition, the Science Fair, Sports Days and many other events. We appreciate the time and effort that goes into this.

**If you want to join - it only takes a commitment to participate in organising events and being available for events, please contact Catherine at reception ([reception@wis.edu.na](mailto:reception@wis.edu.na)) and give her your name and contact details.**

**There will be a PTA meeting on Thursday, the 23rd of August at 12:00 in the PTA Community Centre. All interested parents are welcome to join the meeting and then sign up for the PTA.**

**PTA AGM: 13 September 2018 @ 12:00 in the PTA Community Centre.**

## PTA Welcome!

Dear SLT, teachers, parents & students.

The Parents and Teachers Association would like to welcome you all, especially the new families and all who are returning to WIS this academic year. We wish you a very successful, fruitful and positive year ahead at WIS.

By way of introduction I am Atousa Fischer-Buder, the current Chairperson of the PTA. We have two wonderful sons at WIS.

WIS provides a very different approach of teaching and learning to most schools we know and our sons have never experienced such a joy in learning.

As a mother here at WIS, I became involved with the PTA last year as deputy chair and when our chairperson left the country I took over as interim till new election happen.

### What is the PTA?

The PTA (Parents & Teachers Association) is constituted of all parents/legal guardians of students enrolled in WIS as well as teachers employed at the school.

Therefore I wish to encourage all parents/guardians and teachers who are the custodians of this Association by default, to familiarise themselves with the PTA Constitution. Furthermore to feel free to approach the PTA Committee with any input and suggestion but most of all to feel free to volunteer for and support projects.

The constitution of PTA is a legal document which can be found on the D6, and it explains about the PTA, the committee and its work.

The PTA committee is made up of 12 members from the parent community, a Primary School



representative, a Secondary School representative as well as the Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

The PTA as defined in its constitution engages in activities, projects and programmes that will contribute to the betterment of the school.

We (the PTA) work hand in hand with the WIS Leadership Team in order to assist the school's annual work programme, by providing support to teachers & students in their various curricular programmes in order to help WIS to continue to be a school of excellence and a leader in all of its programmes.

*This support takes many forms. A few examples are:*

- *We support the school's Events Committee on their programmes such as Book Week and, International Day.*
- *Fundraising activities such as the Raffle, by far our biggest fundraising initiative. The funds raised by the selling of raffle books allow us, the PTA to support the students in their extracurricular programmes as well as the various social events that take place at WIS during the school academic year such as the Science Fair, Grade 5 Exhibition, IBDP Dinner to name a few.*
- *Supporting sports teams in their activities, which includes uniforms, refreshments, etc.*
- *We support the Primary, and Senior Student Councils with their fun and charitable events.*

The funds collected, allow us also to support new families, by holding regular social events to help new families to settle, and mingle easily in Namibia and at WIS.

To summarise, being part of the PTA is a lot of fun with responsibilities and some volunteer time put in to build a stronger, receptive community, and it is indeed a community service by all members and parents of WIS for our students at school.

A strong community and a helpful community, create a healthy environment where our children will blossom. So please do join us, by volunteering a few hours of your valuable time, experience and company. The PTA nominations will be sent electronically to WIS families on the 16th of August.

The PTA team wishes you all, a great Year at WIS.

***Atousa Fischer-Buder***  
***PTA Chairperson***

## **URGENT NEW ANNOUNCEMENT**

**NamBTS - Blood Drive on 22 August.**  
**We have just been informed that NamBTS will only be taking O blood types on Wednesday during the planned Blood Drive at WIS.**

## **Liqui Fruit League Teams**

All four of the primary football teams have been in action during the holidays.

Many of the players attended the WIS Football camp and enjoyed putting their new skills into practice. The U7, U8 , U9, U10 school teams are participating in the LFL league, they are in action every Friday until against the established Windhoek clubs that include DTS, ACFC, SKW, Ramblers, Falcons and Delta. Please click on the link [LFL Team Sheets](#) to see the list.



Well Done to the boys and girls who have represented the school. We are continually proud of your commitment and achievements.

**Great Job Grade 8!**

The first PE lesson of the year and the whole class remembered their WIS/ House T-shirts for PE!

**Football League Action**

U7 Performed fantastically against Gymnasium school on Wednesday afternoon. We lost an very exciting and hard fought match 1/0.

Special congratulations to goalkeeper Elias Walker, who played confidently and maturely throughout. He put in a commanding performance, and was well supported by his teammate.





The U9 team conceded first in their match against the talented Falcons team. However the U9 goal scoring machine swung into action during the second period as Kyle, Bilal and Ngunoo all scored. WIS were deserved winners as the game finished 5/3

**Thomas Jackson-Read**

## IGCSE Final Examinations Results



As many of you are aware, the IGCSE results were released on Tuesday, the 14th.

It is always a stressful time for our IGCSE students, since they have to wait a month and a half to know their final examination results as Cambridge works worldwide.

As the IGCSE Academic Coordinator at WIS, I have to look at each student in a holistic way. One of my main concerns throughout the course is the students' wellbeing. As an inclusive school, we want to ensure that every single student is well prepared for the final examination.

This year we had 41 students writing the IGCSE examinations.

WIS would like to congratulate our IGCSE students on their success and commend them for the hard work they put into their studies. We would especially like to congratulate **Amrita Nambiar** for attaining 4 A\* and 4 A grades.

We now have 20 students continuing with the IBDP at WIS.

I am glad that most of our students were successful and we wish the new Grade 10 class success for this coming year.

Happy New Academic Year.

**Teresa Araújo**





**!!!JOIN COFFEE MORNINGS EVERY THURSDAY!!!**

**@PTA Center**

**From 07h30 to 08h30**

**Come & Connect with PYP Coordinator & PTA Committee**

# COLLECTION BOX

**FOR THE ART ROOMS WE ARE LOOKING TO RECYCLE:**

EGG BOXES – STYROFOAM TRAYS – NAIL VARNISH –  
MAGAZINES – CEREAL BOXES – MEDICINE BOXES –  
TOILET PAPER ROLLS – ICE CREAM TUBS - AND  
WHATEVER ELSE YOU THINK MIGHT BE USEFUL TO US.

# THANK YOU!

***A friendly reminder of the new grade level changes from this year.  
Please cut this out and keep it close for future reference.***



Old	New	Teacher	Educational Assistant	Room
KG1	<b>Early Years 1 E</b>	Ekaterina Shino	Vicky Hamukoto	11
KG2	<b>Early Years 2 G</b>	Gisela Barrion	Virginia Uapunduka	12
	<b>Early Years 2 S</b>	Sonandr� Fick	Ingrid Ndisiro	15
Year 1	<b>Early Years 3 DC</b>	Debisa Cooper	Elizabeth Cloete	13
	<b>Early Years 3 DS</b>	Deidr� Smith	Qaanita Lombaard	14
Year 2	<b>Grade 1 B</b>	Beata Stephanus	Ella Vries	20
	<b>Grade 1 J</b>	Jan le Roux	Johanna Noabes	21
Year 3	<b>Grade 2 P</b>	Pamela Mungate	Shanice Museta	22
	<b>Grade 2 D</b>	Debbie Carew	Sinead Griffiths	23
Year 4	<b>Grade 3 V</b>	Veena Nambiar	Esther Hango	34
	<b>Grade 3 C</b>	Charne De'Ath	Auri�d Bock	35
Year 5	<b>Grade 4 V</b>	Viviana Beltran	Elsie Andreas	33
	<b>Grade 4 A</b>	Anna Scholtz	Richenda Bock	32
Year 6	<b>Grade 5 K</b>	Kaye van Rooi	Gerson Kastoor	31
	<b>Grade 5 L</b>	Lyndsay Bain	Gerson Kastoor	30
Year 7	<b>Grade 6UD</b>	Urte D�rgeloh		51
	<b>Grade 6KD</b>	Kelsey Daignault		70
Year 8	<b>Grade 7HM</b>	Heike Mayer		42/Art Room
	<b>Grade 7LC</b>	Lian Cohen		63
Year 9	<b>Grade 8AJ</b>	Angatha Janse van Rensburg		72
	<b>Grade 8MP</b>	Michael Parsons		71
Year 10	<b>Grade 9IB</b>	Isabeau Bezuidenhout		45
	<b>Grade 9RS</b>	Riegardt Smit		43/ICT Lab
Year 11	<b>Grade 10JO</b>	Jacob Oluwasanmi		50
	<b>Grade 10TJ</b>	Thomas Jackson-Read		74
Year 12	<b>Grade 11RF</b>	Rick Fitzpatrick		66
Year 13	<b>Grade 12SS</b>	Swapna Sharma		75