



# THE ORYX

*The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School*

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR

### INTERNATIONAL DAY

Tomorrow I hope to be seeing many of you at our annual International Day. Let's hope it doesn't rain! (Actually, on second thoughts, let's hope it does rain. We need it.)

Many people have worked tirelessly for many weeks to prepare for this day and I want to acknowledge their work and thank them. There is also, of course, a high level of student and parent involvement and it truly will be a community event.

*A community... An international community... An international community of learners.*

We have (as of today) children of 41 nationalities and teachers from twenty countries. No single country or culture dominates. There's almost a danger that we take it for granted but this is actually quite extraordinary. The educational experience most children have in most countries (even today) is largely monocultural, inward-looking, and, at its worst, suspicious of "the other".

What WIS students experience, by contrast, is multicultural, outward-looking and embracing of diversity.



## Dates to Remember

### November

- **14** - International Day
- **18** - PTA Meeting
- **20** - PTA Coffee Morning
- **24 - 26** - Photo Days



## Teacher Feature

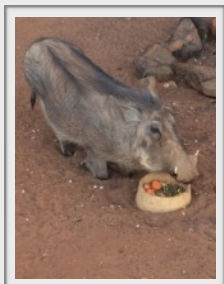
### Sandra Keil - German & IGCSE

Coming to you from the most beautiful country: Namibia, I joined WIS for the first time in 2003 as a part time German and Drama teacher, later full time teaching German and PE. 2007 I moved to Dubai to join the Taaleem group of schools where I worked at the Uptown school. There I taught German First Language and Foreign Language to grade 1 to 12 and PE. During my time in Dubai I have been to several MYP/DP and CAS workshops. I was the CAS coordinator and Fieldtrip 'supervisor'. June 2010 it was time to come home and to join WIS again at the beginning of August. Currently I teach German Foreign Language to years 10 to 13 and I am the IGCSE coordinator.

Besides the passion for my work, I have a passion for animals, especially horses and the farm life.

Another side of me, is the sporty side. Karate is part of my life as well, although I don't train officially at the moment, but planning to do so again next year.

A highlight of my Karate career was getting a silver medal at the world championships in South Africa 2010.



That is what makes authentic international schools so special, so important. And that is what we will be celebrating tomorrow.

### UK Universities Prefer the IBDP

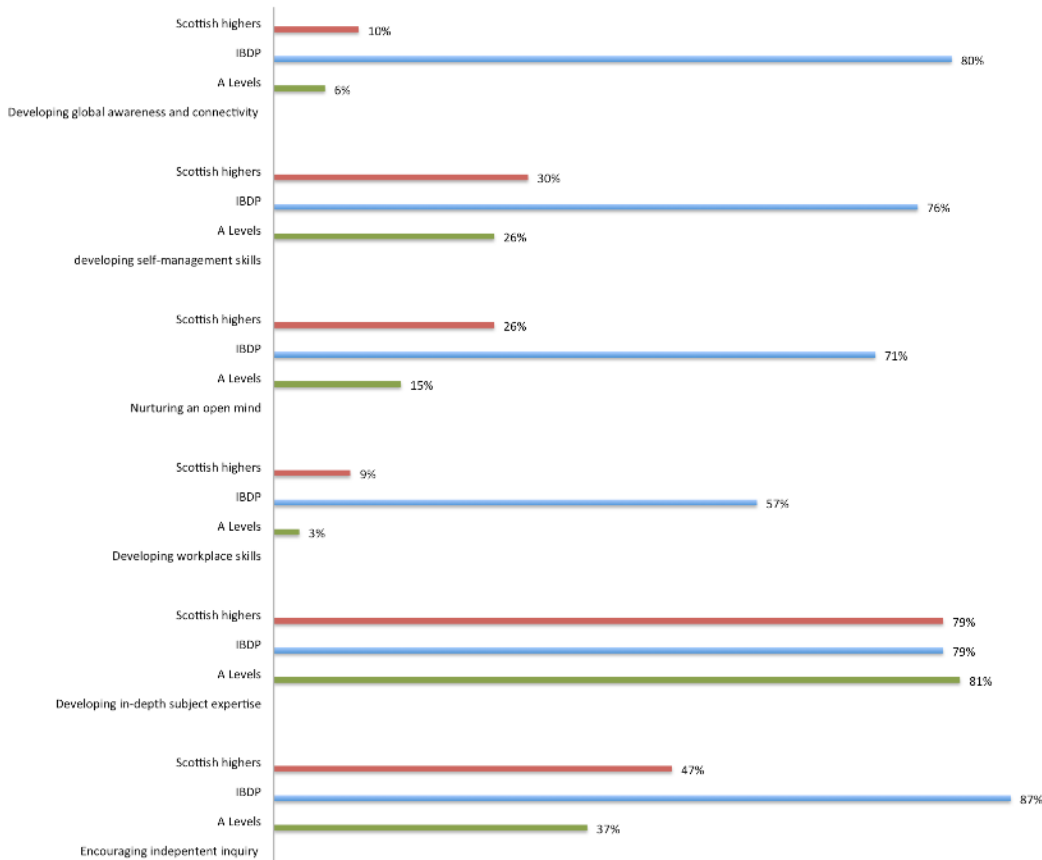
WIS is one of 3000+ schools in the world (but the *only* one in Namibia) offering the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme.

The Diploma Programme (DP) was created in the mid-1960s and is approaching its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Over the years millions of students have left school with the IB Diploma and entered universities in over 100 countries. Many research exercises have looked at the success rate of DP students and the appeal of the DP to university Admissions Officers.

You can read the latest [here](#). It is the annual IB University Admissions Officers Report.

You can read through it yourself but, being British, the following caught my eye. (NB : A Levels are the qualifications students in England and Wales gain at the age of 18 and Scottish Highers are the equivalent qualification in Scotland.) (\*)

UK university admissions officers were asked this question: "How well do you think each of these exam systems develop the following qualities in students?" here is what they answered.



*(\*) If you want a brief explanation of why England & Wales and Scotland are different, drop in and see me. I'll be happy to explain. But it won't be brief...*

With best wishes  
**Peter MacKenzie**

## PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Mr. MacKenzie mentioned in an earlier issue of the The Oryx that I'd be serving as a team member for an upcoming school accreditation visit in Qatar. This week I've been in Doha and thought I'd share some of the "behind the scenes" of an accreditation visit. Unrelated to the visit is the interesting fact that the oryx is the national animal of Qatar and also the symbol for Qatar Airways.

Unlike inspection visits typical in many countries, the purpose of bringing in an accreditation team is to help the school improve and become better. That has certainly been the focus of the thirteen member team, coming from schools in Beirut, Boston, Casa Blanca, Dubai, Leysin, London, Munich, Mexico City, Prague, Shanghai, Windhoek and Zurich.

During the week it was the team's responsibility to look for evidence to support how the school compared itself to the standards in its self-study report. This included interviewing teachers, board members, students and parents; looking through the school's documentation and of course the best part was visiting classrooms seeing learning in action. Once the evidence was gathered, each team member wrote a report for his/her assigned topic. As a team we read and reviewed all of the sections of the report to ensure accuracy and consistency. Part of the report writing also included making major commendations and recommendations to assist the school with their journey from being a good school to an excellent school.

While serving on an accreditation team required lots of reading and preparation ahead of the visit, as well as long days and short nights during the visit, the process was definitely worthwhile. Seeing what other schools are doing, as well as having the opportunity to discuss and interact with colleagues from other international schools is a form of professional development that one can't necessarily get from a workshop or online course. I've returned to Windhoek with a fresh view of the standards, some new ideas, and new connections with other international schools.

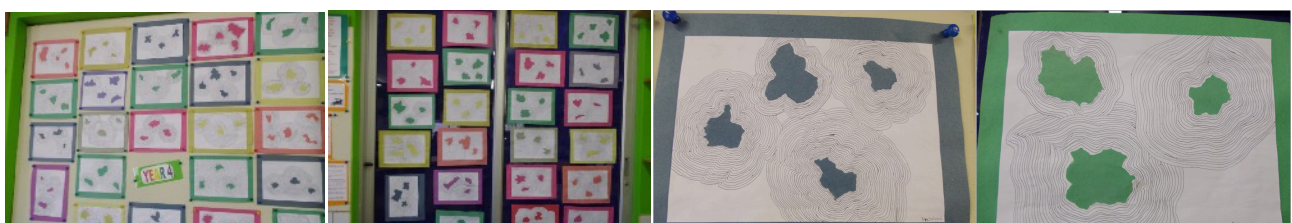
Kind regards,  
**Beth Smith**

## PRIMARY ART DEPARTMENT

**From the Primary Art Department (PAD) – TERM 2**

Here are some exhibits from the "SUDDEN" Year 4 Art exhibition: "Element of Line" held recently.

We looked at geographical contours on mountains and used this idea in an art form but with even spacing. A good exercise on observation and hand/eye coordination.



The students found this intense yet very therapeutic ~ quiet with music in the background. Upon completion, comments from the students were that they found that some of the shapes tucked into the other shapes, some were overlayed and others underlayed. It was a great experience having you in our PAD seeing this unit as a whole and chatting to you as well as getting to know you.

*Genie Albrecht*

## SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

### When to give and when to take

Society today is often egocentric and mostly concerned with the self. In the IB Diploma programme, students participate in activities for their compulsory CAS (Creativity, Action, Service) component. CAS, according to the IB, has the following objectives: "CAS enables students to enhance their personal and interpersonal development by learning through experience. It provides opportunities for self-determination and collaboration with others, fostering a sense of accomplishment and enjoyment from their work. At the same time, CAS is an important counterbalance to the academic pressures of the DP."

At WIS we try to make our students aware of the world around them. There are numerous opportunities where children can get involved in activities to serve the community. One of these activities is the Junior City Council; young people tackling the issues of their peers and giving back to their community. One of our students, Yanika Anuszkiewicz (Year 12) represents WIS as a Junior City Counsellor (see her contribution below).

Another such activity is our "Walk for Water" on the 30th of November. This is an attempt to raise awareness about Global Warming, to sensitise our peers to the dire situation our country is facing if the rains do not come. Our children need to be aware of these matters even though it often does not yet directly impact on their lives. Why should children learn to be involved in their community? Today's life is so much about taking and consuming, throwing away rather than repairing. The risk of this attitude is that we lose sight of the value of things and our environment. If we can educate the young generation to contribute to the well-being of society, to care for their surroundings and to be compassionate about the people around them, we can make a small contribution to ensuring that the next generation is able to evolve and take advantage of their opportunities and still take care of each other.

Kind regards,  
*Maggie Reiff*

## JUNIOR CITY COUNCIL TRAINING CAMP



The Junior City Council is an organisation which aims to connect the youth with the City Council of Windhoek. This is done so that community issues can be addressed. These issues we mainly focus on involves typical teen issues such as alcohol and drug abuse, teen pregnancies, suicide and many more. We also look to aid the elderly and those incapable of helping themselves such as children in hospitals with fatal conditions.

From the 6th to the 8th of November, there was a training and planning camp held at the Rock Lodge. The purpose of this weekend was to get teamwork into action using obstacle courses and paint-balling. This allowed the council to grow closer not only a colleagues but also as friends. The second objective of the camp was to plan events and projects set for next year up until March as this is when the new understudies will be inaugurated and the members that have been in the council for two years take a step down.

The experience was an amazing one. Not only did we bond as a council but it can be said that everyone learnt something new about themselves and everyone else. We learned to trust ourselves and each other to aid in difficult times. We used motivation and rewards to complete all tasks successfully and efficiently. Overall the weekend was progressive and it was a growing experience.

***Yanika Anuszkiewicz***

## GUITAR WORKSHOP

Keziah Jones and Shishani Vranckx gave a free workshop/discussion/jam session at Warehouse Theatre on Saturday. Eyana and Hakumeni Kandido and Grace and Fiona Farrell attended with other guitarists. Eyana shared her song with Shishani and their concert at NICE restaurant was great!



***Melissa Kandido***

## SAVE WATER

Year 8A and B have put together some useful tips to SAVE WATER in the looming crisis. These tips can be used at home.

1. Put a bucket in the shower. Let the cold water run into the bucket while you wait for the hot water to come through.
2. This clean water collected in the bucket can be used to pour onto flower beds.
3. Another shower hint: Wet body and turn off tap. Lather body with soap. Turn on tap to rinse.
4. Do NOT fill the bath with water when bathing.
5. Only turn on the dishwasher when full of cutlery and crockery. Do not wash unnecessarily.

6. Water gardens early morning or late afternoon. NOT during the hottest time of day when evaporation is at its peak.
7. Water the garden twice a week, not more.
8. Plant a 'dry' garden with succulents etc that do not need so much watering.
9. Use only a bucket of water to wash your car.
10. A water tank to collect rain water.
11. Keep pool covered to prevent too much evaporation.
12. Use a cup of water to brush teeth, instead of leaving the tap to run.
13. Put a brick in the toilet cistern so less water is used for flushing.
14. Use the water from boiling vegetables to make gravy.
15. Keep a plastic basin in the washing-up sink to rinse hands (instead of tap running with water)
16. Use commercial hand sanitiser.
17. Check leaking taps and pipes.
18. Put washing machine on a shorter cycle.



## Learning2Africa - a conference with a difference

Learning 2.0 is an educational conference with a difference. Started in 2007 by international school teachers in China, Learning 2.0 is a conference created and run by international school teachers for international school teachers.



The name Learning 2.0 indicates that - like Web 2.0 services - this is not a static "read-only" conference with experts presenting to attendees. The intention is that participants are actively engaged and contributing to the learning that happens at the conference. The name also reveals that it is not technology or tools that is the focus, but learning and teaching. At a Learning 2.0 conference, participants are expected to "be different," "be social," and "be a connector." [Learn2Africa](#)

Last week Lian Cohen, Swapna Sarma and Jan le Roux, went to the Learning2 Africa conference in Johannesburg. This was a three day conference, hosted at AISJ (American International School of Johannesburg), which was held for teachers and also run by teachers. The conference structure was

unlike any other we have been to – there were Preconference sessions, Extended sessions, Workshops, Cohort meetings and even Unconference sessions. The Unconference sessions gave a chance for all participants to make suggestions on what they would like a session on and then another participant could step up to offer some advice and lead a group on that topic.

This conference had the slogan "Beyond Borders" and the emphasis was all about pushing education to its limits, seeing how technological advances can change the face of education for the better. Since we at WIS have been advancing so fast with our technological integration over the last couple of years, this conference couldn't have come at a better time to inspire us to try new ways of integrating the use of devices to assist us in ensuring every child is catered for and able to access learning at this school. We went to sessions on topics such as Blended Learning and Flipping Classrooms and will soon feedback to the whole staff to share our enthusiasm and ideas on how our new learning can be integrated across WIS.

**Lian Cohen**

## MOVEMBER

It is that time of year again, Movember, and the Senior Student Council has planned something very special.

Currently, there are nine cups placed on the table in the school's office with our nine lovely contestants' faces on them.

These nine contestants will be participating in a competition where they need to grow as much facial hair as possible to celebrate Movember.



The money raised will go straight to the cancer association and the winner will receive various prizes. So please, go to the school office and vote for your favorite contestant by putting as much money in their cup as possible.

*Nancy Eagles*

## WIS's GOT TALENT!

The PTA, in collaboration with the school, is very proud to announce our very first talent competition. We want to encourage our students to take part in this event. The auditions will be held on Wednesday 3rd of December 2015.

This event serves to acknowledge the performing arts. Categories are vocals, modelling, instruments, drama and dance. These categories will be divided into kindergarten - year 2, year 3 - 6 (primary), year 7 - 9 (middle school) and year 10-13 (high school). See the attached document for the entry form, which is also available with Ms Catherine at the office. Completed entry forms must be submitted with Ms Catherine before 30th November.

The final timetable for the auditions will be published on the 1st of December. We request, where possible, that parents/caregivers attend the auditions with the children. Especially for primary, to help with logistics.

We have obtained generous sponsorships from the private sector for our prizes, as well as trophies for each category, and medals for the top 3 performers of each year group. Our judges will be announced at a later date.

The top performer in each category will receive a trophy, and the overall top 3 performers will receive a cash prize. These prizes will be given at the showcase in January (date to be finalized) to coincide with our 25th year birthday celebrations. The top 5 performers of each category will also perform at this event.

For more information please contact Mrs. Nerine Petrick on +264 81 2207028

**DANCE \* VOCALS \* DRAMA**

**WIS'S GOT TALENT**

**AUDITIONS**

**DATE: 03/12/2015**

**VENUE: WIS Auditorium**

**TIME: 14h30**

**Entry Forms available @ Ms. Catherine**  
**Any enquiries please phone +264 81 220 7028**

**1st Prize - N\$7500**  
**2nd Prize - N\$5000**  
**3rd Prize - N\$3000**

**MODELING \* INSTRUMENTAL**



Entry form for



# WIS GOT TALENT 2015



## INFORMATION

Name of Contestant: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

## CATEGORIES (mark with x)

Drama \_\_\_\_\_

Dance \_\_\_\_\_

Vocal \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument \_\_\_\_\_

Modelling \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill in the form and give it to your homeroom teacher

Entries close **30 November 2015**

Signature of parent:





# CONTRIBUTIONS 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR

