



# THE ORYX

*The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School*

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR

### WIS @ 25

Herewith a brief update on the major events coming up over the next few weeks.

**Friday 4th December.** This will be the 25th anniversary of the day when the school was officially founded. We propose calling it "Founders' Day" (stop me if I'm going too fast for you) and we will mark the occasion this year with a short celebration after which all students will receive a cupcake and juice. On the day everyone should wear blue and yellow, the school colours.



**Saturday 16th January.** This will be the 25th anniversary of the first day of school. We will have a big family/staff celebration on the field (think International Day) starting in mid-afternoon and officially ending when it gets dark but probably not finishing until the last people have fallen asleep under the fairy lights in the trees. Tom Jackson-Read is kindly arranging a sequence of fun games/competitions for teams of students (which will be vertical - i.e. including young and old students) and there will be a potjie



## Dates to Remember

### November

- 27 - Public Holiday
- 30 - Walk for Water

### December

- 1 - Board Meeting
- 9 - End of term - Last day of school



## Teacher Feature

**Angie Janse van Rensburg - Multi-faceted, multi-talented South African rock chick with a**



### Timeline:

**Born:** Potchefstroom, South Africa 29th September not too long ago.

**Married:** 19th October 2006 Friedel Janse van Rensburg. Ms Angie has two lovely sons, Japie (4) and Neil (2) who are currently at school here at WIS.

**Work history:** " I was working as a waitress in a coffee shop for eight years."

Started working at WIS in 2006 as a private tutor → then became a teacher in Learning Support → Year 6 homeroom teacher → Upper Primary Coordinator and Year 6 homeroom teacher → Middle School teacher → Middle School teacher and Middle School Coordinator.

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competition (rules to follow). Hit Radio Namibia will be broadcasting live from the event. There will probably be a short speech or two.

**Saturday 23rd January.** This will be the 25th anniversary of the official opening ceremony. We will mark the occasion with a formal dinner at the Hilton from 7pm till 10pm. The Right Hon. Nahas Angula, erstwhile Prime Minister of Namibia, made a speech at the opening ceremony (when he was Minister of Education, Sport and Culture) and he has graciously agreed to be our guest of honour and to speak at the dinner. Tickets will be \$300 per person and there will be a cash bar. Seating is limited to 150 and all parents and staff will be invited so, if you want to come, don't delay booking your place.



During the school week between the 16th and 23rd there will be further, smaller events on a daily basis but the three above will constitute the major occasions where your presence and involvement is kindly requested.

### And that's not all!

Look for a shiny new billboard at the traffic lights where Hendrik Witbooi and David Hosea Merero meet. We have also produced a big banner celebrating 25 years for use at each of the occasions above (and others). Further surprises are planned...



### WATER

I am still a newcomer to the country and I can only go by what I'm told but it does seem that Namibia is about to face a water crisis of unprecedented proportions.

Quite what this means for the school, we are not yet sure but we are trying to be proactive. A number of small but important steps have been taken to reduce the amount of water we use and we are continuously looking for ways to conserve water.

Beyond that, a Water Action Committee is being set up with a brief to find further water-saving measures, raise awareness of the water problem and, perhaps most importantly, to draw up contingency plans in the event that water is rationed or even cut off for hours at a time.

If any parents have expertise in this area or have constructive suggestions to make, we would be glad to hear from them.

With best wishes  
**Peter MacKenzie**

*Teacher Feature continued*

**Dreams and aspirations:** When she was younger she wanted to become a paediatrician or a psychologist, but decided to pursue a B.Ed Hons specialising in different learning strategies at the Potchefstroom campus of the North-West University. She would love to open a Blues Bar one day when she is done having a positive effect on students lives. Making a difference in the lives of young people is why she became a teacher in the first place!

**About the job:** Ms Angie absolutely loves her job, but she likes it some days more than others! But, she says, that's the way things are in life in general.....good days and not so good days. The most difficult thing about being a teacher is keeping everyone happy simultaneously and being creative all the time. Her advice to other teachers would be to be consistent and fair with all students, but most importantly to be yourself.

**About herself:** Ms Angie describes herself as committed and determined to do what is expected of her. She takes her work seriously and can be relied on to carry out her duties. She works well under pressure and handles many different tasks simultaneously.

As a young person she loved English, it was always her favourite subject. She always defended the underdog and stuck up for their rights.

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## PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

A few weeks ago I wrote about my experience as a visiting team member for a NEASC school accreditation. This week I am serving as a visiting team member for a PYP evaluation visit to a school in Tanzania. What's the difference? Organizations such as NEASC and CIS have standards that focus on the whole school, including: School Guiding Statements, Teaching and Learning, Governance and Leadership, Faculty and Support Staff, Access to Teaching and Learning, School Culture and Partnerships for Learning, Operational Systems.

The PYP Evaluation concerns the standards and practices of the PYP program. These areas include: Philosophy, Organization (Leadership and Structure, Resources and Support), Curriculum (Collaborative Planning, Written Curriculum, Teaching and Learning, Assessment). The purpose of an evaluation visit is to verify the school's assessment of its implementation of the PYP program and to ensure that the standards and practices are maintained and furthered.

Participating in visits for both of these organizations has been a form of professional development as it has given me the opportunity to see other schools, make connections with colleagues and to reflect on my own school's program implementation. In addition, being on the "other side" of the accreditation or evaluation process provides an understanding of the process for when we next prepare for our own accreditation or evaluation visits, the latter of which is fast approaching.

Avril Van Zyl (PYP Coordinator) also recently participated in a team visit for a school in Uganda. In January, the WIS Primary School will begin preparing for our own PYP Evaluation visit which is due to take place during the 2016-2017 school year. Both Avril's and my recent team visit experiences have helped us to keep current with the PYP standards and practices, as well as to reflect on how we can best guide the self-study process. In the coming months you will be hearing more about the self-study and our preparation for the evaluation visit.

Kind regards,  
**Beth Smith**

## WIS SATURDAY BALL CLUB

Fun ball games involving throwing, catching and dodging to develop hand-eye coordination, teamwork, sportsmanship and enthusiasm for sports

**Who:** WIS Year 2 to Year 6 Students, led by Thomas Jackson-Read

**Dates:** Saturday, November 28

**Time:** 10 am - 12 pm (just show up; no registration needed)

**Location:** WIS PE Hall

**Fee:** N\$100 per child, per day (due Saturdays upon arrival)



"Dodgeball is not just a sport. Dodgeball is a way of life."

## Sharing the Planet in 5B

**Teacher Feature continued**

She loves going to the movies all by herself, especially when there is hardly anyone in the cinema. She's done some bass fishing. She loves listening to 70's rock bands. Some of her favourite bands are Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd, Neil Young and Bob Dylan to mention a few. One of her favourite books is "All Quiet on the Western Front" by Erich Maria Remarque, and her favourite poem is "Preludes" by T.S.Eliot. Her favourite song? There are too many she says, but what came to mind was "Heart of Gold" by Neil Young. Coincidence? I think not.

**Edwina Rimmington**

**What I have learnt in Sharing the Planet**

People should not waste water because it is a limited resource and not most people have much of it. The people walk miles to get water because they do not want to die. The cause is the people are drinking dirty water and effect is people are getting disease or even death. Sustainability is keeping balanced between something. Some people are unequal access to clean water. Unequal means something is not fair. You can link unfair unequal sustainability , water because people are getting unequal access to because it is not fair.

**Anushka Ayra 5B**

**5B Sharing the Planet.**

In our class we were talking about sharing the planet. In our unit we did lots of things. For starters we did an experiment to clean water with a gadget that our teacher got from a village. We made lots of posters about saving water,saving earth and what are the cause to unequal access to water.We watched lots of videos about water.We learnt what the word sustainability meant and we learnt that fair is not always equal, That is what 5B did and learnt for our exciting new unit called Sharing the Planet.

**Ben-Timothy 5B**

When we started our new unit we looked at a specific word and that word is sustainability and it means to keep things going to keep something balanced and also to have the ability to do something.The next thing we looked at was water and we learnt that girls and women have to walk miles and miles for

water and they walk more than three hours just to get water and when they get their water it is full of viruses,bacteria,germs and also deadly diseases.Our class found out that we must try to find a solution to help people to have the right amount of water shared.Right now the world does not have equal access to clean water so we must sustain ways to clean help get clean access to water equally.

**Ruth Ntema 5B**

**What I learned this during this unit: Sharing the Planet**

Sharing the planet is one of the best units we have ever done, too bad it had to end.

When we first started we looked at water. We all knew that Namibia was becoming a drought and now we learned that not everybody in the world has access to clean drinking water.some people walk for hours and even do sacrifices like end their education or leave their families to just get an amount of water to survive and they really have no choice. Our teacher Ms Natasha showed us different kinds of videos about the water crisis why we need water and more, in one video it tells us about the water crisis and facts about water. And in an other one it shows how much water we use, and so far my favorite video is this one called " water changes everything", it tells you how much diseases and deaths are caused because of dirty water and how many deaths there are because of dirty water and how dangerous it is to go hiking for water. And there is this part were it says solutions but we could not watch it because we are the solution. After that our teacher told us to write an experiment about turning dirty water clean and we are suppose to take other people experiment and make it work.

**Ruth Abraham 5B**

**In Year 5B, we are learning about sharing the planet and the main topic is Water.**

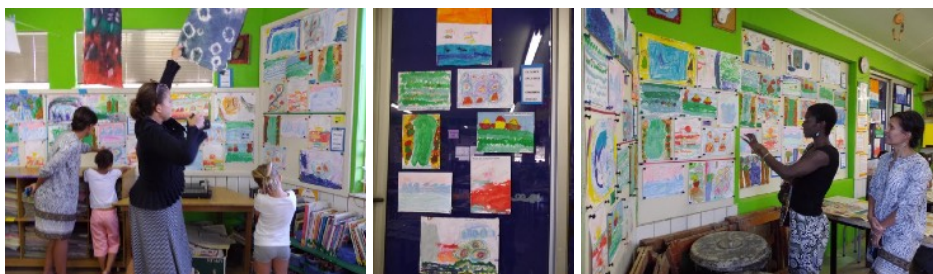
Sustainability is the best goal that we want to achieve about water, which basically means "Having the ability to sustain" or "Continuously keeping balance". Water have been wasted everyday by people that have access to water, and the people that doesn't have access to water have to walk miles to get water, and that have caused the unequal access to water. The cause and effect in this situation will be: Because people waste water, so not everyone can have the equal amount of access to water.

**Sean Wang 5B**

When we started our unit, sharing the planet our main topic was water. We learnt how valuable water is to the human body, 70% of our bodies live on water. Water is a resource that is sometimes wasted there is water all over the planet but not all of the water is clean. And some people do not have access to clean water. They walk miles only to get dirty water but what choice do they have. In connection to people not having access to clean water we were given an affordable solar uisive gadget. That could turn bacteria infected water into drinkable water. And we were put into groups to try and figure out how it works after we figured out how it works we experimented. We had to lay the gadget down in direct sunlight and wait until a sad face on the gadget turned into a smiley face. For most of the groups the experiment worked out most of the groups gadgets had smiley faces on them. We learnt that they are severe droughts and people not having access to clean water. So please save water and use it wisely.

**Awana Andrade 5B**

## FROM OUR PAD



Thank you to all the parents who attended the year 1B Art exhibition on Sharing the Planet last Friday. It was great to have you in our PAD and all your comments are very much appreciated. Do come again!

**Genie Albrecht**

## U7 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Mbango player of the year Under 7 at SKW soccer club



## SOCCKER CHAMPS

This week the year 4As won the Lower Primary Soccer Tournament.



## SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

### An unexpected holiday

What do we do when we are surprised by a holiday that was not expected? I am sure all of us have loads of things to catch up on - reports are currently being finalised to be sent to families during the coming week, end of year preparations are in full swing, preparations for the 25th anniversary are going according to plan.

I would like to spend some time saying a few words about the feedback we give to our families - parents and children - when we send reports at the end of each semester.

Teachers spend a lot of time and try to be accurate with each one of their students when writing their subject's comments for all students. Each teacher spends many days writing the reports and thinking of the best way to inform their students about their efforts and their achievement.

We do find, however, that many of these reports are either not read at all or parents don't share them with their children.

As I mentioned in one of my earlier contributions; there has to be a partnership between the student, the parents and the school. Report time is a perfect opportunity to discuss progress and a student's achievement for the semester. Reports should be an opportunity to reflect on what is going well and what can be worked on. And we as your child's teachers are more than happy to then discuss your ideas or questions with you and your child. It is important to give the right emphasis to communication that comes from school to enable us all to support each other and the students in the first place in their endeavour to reach an acceptable standard of education that can take these young people into the world well educated in the broader sense of the word.

My appeal to you - parents - take the time to discuss your child's report with them. Give them the opportunity to reflect and to plan for the next semester to achieve what they strive for.

Kind regards,  
**Maggie Reiff**

## SKW AWARDS

On Saturday the 21st November SKW had their prize giving event where the top players are recognized. WIS was well represented at the event with three of our students winning top awards. Diogo Ferreira and Mbango Tjombonde won players of the year for the Under13 and Under7's. Alexander McNab won most improved player under13.

Alexander and Diogo's team are also the under13 Namibian League Champions.  
Well done to the boys for their consistent hard work!

**Jaqueline Ferreira**



