



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WIS!

Bigger celebrations will follow next month but, for the historians, today is the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the school.

A birthday cake for 600 would have been ... ambitious (!) but everyone is getting a cup cake decorated in the school colours of blue and yellow and we are marking the occasion with a brief ceremony and a short film about the school. Look out for photos of our celebration in the first issue of The Oryx in January.

...in January? Indeed. The school closes next week and we will all be enjoying a well-earned break.

Whether you are travelling or staying in Windhoek (as I am), I wish you and your families a relaxing and enjoyable vacation.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2016-2017

The 2016-2017 school calendar has been published. You can find it on D6 and on the school website.

With best wishes
Peter MacKenzie

Dates to Remember

December

- 9 - End of term - Last day of school
- 10 - Human Rights Day:
Public Holiday
- 25 - Christmas Day
- 26 - Family Day



Teacher Feature

Kahlil Danai Maramba
Primary ICT

I am writing this after an evening of exercise on the tennis courts in Olympia. Muscles hurt from the sudden twisting and turning in all directions in an attempt to return every ball and score. This is what I enjoy best about Namibia. I meet and socialise with people from all over the world, including friendly and welcoming Namibians. My wife, Priscila, and my son, Kyle, love Namibia.

I have taught at an International School in Harare, an American School in Morocco and a private school in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, where my son was born. We enjoy travelling and seeing different parts of the world. We have learned to appreciate differences in how people do things, or relate to one another.

After I graduated I worked with students on a school website in Harare.

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PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

It's hard to believe that the end of the semester is upon us. Students and teachers alike have worked hard and all are ready for a holiday. The end of a semester signals not only a holiday but progress reports as well. These reports will be sent via email next week. The Primary progress reports provide communication about your child's progress during the semester. Please be sure to read the information accompanying the report especially the descriptors for the evaluations. It is important to note that the evaluations do not equate grades. The evaluation mark is a description of a child's work and behaviour for a designated period of time. These evaluations are based upon curriculum expectations for each year level. It is important to discuss the reports with your child, especially what he/she is doing well and what are some areas where goals can be set for improvement.

We have some staffing changes in the Primary School beginning the start of the second semester. The Board has approved the hiring of an additional teaching assistant for Year 4. Mariana Arase will be working with Ms Charne and the 4B class, while Ms Esther will work with Ms Viviana and 4A. Ms Kate (6B teacher) and Ms Eden (KG2B TA) are leaving WIS, with next Wednesday being their last day of school. We wish them well in their future endeavours. Ms Kaye Van Rooi (who has been working in Learning Support for this term) has been hired to teach the Year 6B class. We are still interviewing for the KG2A teaching assistant position.

May this school holiday provide some rest, relaxation and quality family time. For those of who are traveling during the holidays, I wish you a safe and smooth journey. I look forward to seeing the children returning to school in January refreshed, rejuvenated and excited to be back at school.

Kind regards,
Beth Smith

Year 2B

We had a brainstorm about things we are thankful for and made our own thankful chains.



Congratulations to Maths Wizards, Sophia and Reuben. They know how to

Teacher Feature continued

I was amazed at how they used a software tool to sort information for their web page.

This inspired my career which has moved from webmaster, technology coordinator, technology teacher to Technology Integrationist. I like working with technology as there is always something new everyday. You never get bored of the same thing over and over again.

apply their skills and knowledge in Maths quizzes!



The nail biting match between 2A and 2B!
Final score: 2A 1 2B 1

!NOTICE!

OFFICE HOURS DURING THE HOLIDAY

The School Office will be closed on Thursday 10th December (Human Rights Day) and from Monday 21st December. It will be open again on Monday 4th January. During the holiday office hours will be 8am till 3pm.

Teachers return to work on Friday 8th January and the new semester begins on Monday 11th January.

END OF TERM 2:

School will close for the December break at 11:40 on Wednesday 9 December.

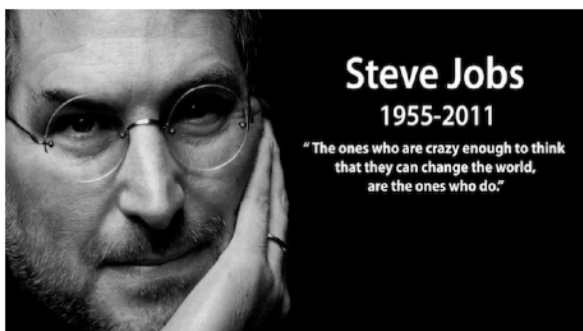
SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Preparing for some quiet time this holiday?
At the end of a term and the year, we all feel quite drained and exhausted. I am sure this applies to parents, students and teachers alike. So how would we want to spend our time during these weeks that are more "flexible" than our everyday lives?
Relaxing at the pool?
Travelling?
Resting?
Meeting with people close to us?
All these might apply to some extent to all of us. However, some of our students are heading towards a crucial time in their academic careers. The Mock Examination will be written by Year 11 and 13

students as soon as they come back from the break. Mock Examinations have a distinct purpose: to assess the strengths and challenges in each student’s academic progress. When reading teachers’ comments in the December Report, students can get valuable advice on how to prepare for the Mock Examination. However, they will have to spend their time wisely during the holiday to balance studying with resting and recuperating. It is of great importance that students take the time to rest and relax, but also invest a lot of time and effort to make the most of the Mock



Examination opportunity to assess their level of proficiency in the different subjects they are taking.



We wish our Year 11 and 13 students the right level of urgency to study balanced with a healthy period of resting so that they can successfully perform to their ability in the Mock Examination.

We also wish our school community a safe holiday and some valuable time to spend with friends and family.

Maggie Reiff

Year 10 - Mathematics Rocks

Early in the first term Ms Rubbert shared an article with me about the Slovenian artist Miha Brinovec [Click here](#). He makes amazing stone towers that stay in place thanks to Mathematics! He builds his stone sculptures around unlikely spots in Slovenia's beautiful wilderness and has stated “Mathematically, I have to find three points on each stone so it can stand still.”



So, I thought these stone towers look incredible and they combine Mathematics, Physics and Art and would be an interesting activity to help beautify our environment. My Year 10 Maths class seemed to be the ideal candidates so I asked them if they would like to try some stone sculptures of their own. Of course they jumped at the opportunity and immediately started bringing rocks, stones, pebbles, etc to class following any trips away out of town.



We collected these rocks until the middle of November and then decided it was time to create our Mathematical Art piece!

Following quite some time planning and creating, here are some pictures of their (albeit not on the same scale as Brinovec) wonderful pieces!

Lian Cohen

We would like to say



to all staff, students and parents for participating in the WIS Walk For Water event on Monday, 30 November 2015. A Big thank you to Sovereign Trust for sponsoring 350 water bottles, Ok Foods for sponsoring 100 water bottles and the El-Kallawi family for donating the oranges the students received after a tiring 3.5 km walk. Everyone's participation is much appreciated!

Angie & Yolande

Walk for water



On Monday the 30th of November 2015 WIS participated in a Walk for Water. This walk took place at 9:00am, and Kindergarten all the way up to year 9 took part in this event. Teachers and Students walked round Scheppmann Street completing a loop that lead us back to school. Some of the Year 9's and a few Year 8's walked with the young Kindergarten kids and carried them when they got tired. In total we walked 3.5 Kilometres.

As an entry fee, each student participating had to pay N\$ 100 dollars a few weeks before the walk took place. On the day of the walk, we were given a t-shirt and water bottle which was basically our ticket for the walk. The bottles were sponsored by Sovereign Trust and OK Foods and either came in blue or yellow. The money raised will be donated to a Climate Change Charity.



The reason we did this walk is linked to the climate change conference that is taking place in Paris. More than 190 nations have gathered in Paris to talk about Climate Change problems and how they can fix them. An agreement will hopefully be signed which aims to reduce greenhouse gases produced and to try and avoid dangerous climate change. One of the key aims, is to make a global agreement to limit global temperature increases to no more than 2 degrees Celsius. We took part in this walk to support and create awareness about climate change. Overall it was a huge success as it was great fun and raised a great amount of money.

Sasha Jarvis

And so it begins... Our first International Trip!

A dream that has been in the making for a long time...now becomes reality! On Friday of next week 28 students will depart on our school's first-ever International Trip. Destination: Austria. The mission: Try to get these students, most of whom only know the sand and sun of Namibia, to stay on skis and snowboards for a whole week, while also enjoying the Austrian culture and cuisine.

We are very excited about this opportunity. We hope that this will be the first of many International tours and trips. We look forward to seeing the white Christmas atmosphere, tasting Hot Chocolate the way it was meant to be but hopefully also show our hosts a bit of our own culture and leave a (positive) lasting impression.

I am not going to give too much detail in this article though. The next time you read the Oryx you will have something that will leave you feeling green with envy, complete with photos, anecdotes and quotes from our Ski Trip.


Riegardt Smit



*City of
many faces*

City of Windhoek

Vision: To enhance the quality of life of all our people



PUBLIC NOTICE

ANNOUNCEMENT OF A WATER CRISIS IN WINDHOEK

The City of Windhoek (CoW) hereby announces that the persistent drought has left the CoW little choice but to announce a Water Crisis scenario in the capital in relation to the CoW Drought Management Plan.

The Water Crisis will have a significant impact on the residents of Windhoek and as a result we announce with immediate effect the strict enforcement of the following:

- Watering of gardens is restricted to trees, shrubs and perennials once every second week. Watering of lawns, flowers, vegetables, etc. is strictly prohibited;
- No washing of cars (at home) other than utilising certified car washes;
- No watering of public parks & sport fields unless through an approved semi-purified irrigation water connection;
- Pool covers are mandatory and no further filling of private pools are allowed;
- No water features, fountains, ponds, etc. are to be operated and filled.

The full list of requirements applicable to the Water Crisis is available from the City of Windhoek website (www.cityofwindhoek.org.na) - Windhoek Drought Response Plan.

We count on the unwavering support of all our loyal residents to cooperate and assist in this regard and it is important to note that fines will be strictly applied to any transgressions on the above.

Should there be any further enquiries regarding the above statement the CoW Corporate Communication Office can be contacted.

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