



# THE ORYX

*The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School*

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

### Fees

You should receive today a letter from the Chair of the Board of Directors. It announces what the school fees will be for next year (2017-2018). (If you did not receive the letter, please contact the School Office.)

You are also invited to meet the Board to discuss fees on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm in the Auditorium.

Many parents will remember that fees were last adjusted in 2014. At that time, the Board stated that there would be no increase beyond the rate of inflation for three years. That promise has been kept.

Moreover, the two-tier tuition fee structure that was modified (not introduced) in 2014 has been retained and the level of subsidy decided in 2014 is unchanged.

Fee increases are never popular but in a school that is growing and developing they are sometimes necessary. It should also be noted that the increase this year is the first increase in real terms (i.e. above the rate of inflation) to standard fees (i.e. non-subsidised) for ten years.

WIS is a not-for-profit school and all fee income is re-invested in the school. Your school fees will ensure that we can continue to improve the quality of teaching and learning and the ultimate beneficiaries will be, of course, your children.

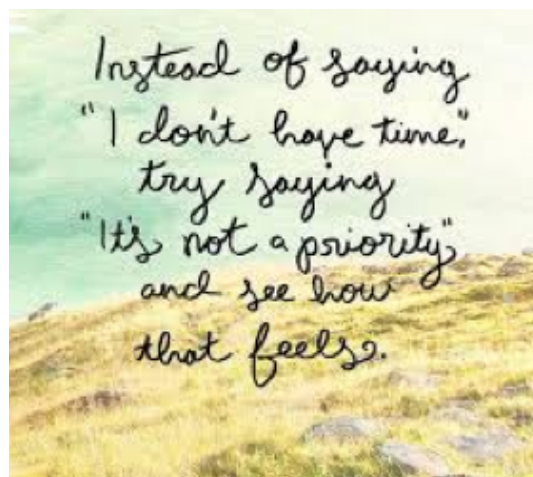
**With best wishes**

**Peter MacKenzie**

## PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

### I don't have time

At school we have often heard the comment from parents and guardians, "I don't have time." I, too, have been known to utter this statement from time to time so I've been reflecting on the fact that we all have 24 hours in a day. There are many sayings and quotes about time, but when I came across this quote by Laura Vanderkam, it made me stop and think. See how the statement fits with not having time to fulfill some of the expectations of



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## Dates to Remember

### April 2017

- **18 - 21:** Secondary Week A
- **22:** PTA Family BBQ - Fun Walk
- **26:** Science Fair Prize giving

### May 2017

- **1 - 5:** School closed

having your child enrolled in an international school, such as Windhoek International School.

- ❖ *It's not a priority* to read the class blog to be informed about my child's day/week.
- ❖ *It's not a priority* to read the Oryx, which often has important information about upcoming events or plans for the school.
- ❖ *It's not a priority* to look at the D-6 which has pertinent information relevant to events, policies, and general resources about the school.
- ❖ *It's not a priority* to ensure that my child arrives at school by 7:20 so that my child doesn't miss out on any learning, social interactions or just being able to start the day without feeling rushed.
- ❖ *It's not a priority* to collect my child at 13:30 or when after school activities finish at 14:45 so that my child doesn't have to anxiously wait for a ride home after a long day.
- ❖ *It's not a priority* to read with my child or oversee my child's homework.
- ❖ *It's not a priority* to attend the three way or student-led conferences giving my child the opportunity to share his/her progress and learning.
- ❖ *It's not a priority* to get involved with school events and activities so that I'm part of and contributing to the school community.
- ❖ *It's not a priority* to ...

Yes, we all have 24 hours in a day. Is your child's education a priority and if so are you making the time to keep informed and be involved with what's happening in your child's school life?

Regards,  
Beth Smith

## HOW WE ORGANISE OURSELVES

### Year 5

Our unit is about money and the value of it. In class we have been working on a project called, "Classroom economy". We were offered different jobs such as, News Directors, Economist, Homework Monitor, Clerk, Banker, Custodian, Police Officer, among others. We chose the job we thought would be best for us and filled in a job application, then our teachers offered us a job and a weekly salary. Our job is being a News Director. Everyday we bring news to class and tell everyone about it. Every Friday everyone gets their paychecks for their job. You also have to fill in a bank log if you get fines, bonuses and pay taxes. We also rent our desks for \$200 per week; if we want to buy our desk we have to pay \$1000.

Every Friday, we have been having auctions; we take part if we have enough money and we want to spend, or we just simply carry on saving. We have also received the "Saver Award certificate" to the student that saves the most money throughout the week.

In class we discussed other ways to get things rather than money, like exchange and bartering. We had two sessions in our class, one to barter toys and one to barter books, and reflected on this activity. Some of us thought it would be better to go back to bartering instead of using money and some others think money makes life easier.



Mr Pretorius, the school's finance manager, visited our classes and talked to us about the importance of saving and not wasting our money.

Last week, we had a field trip to Spar. Each of us brought N\$60 to buy lunch, a drink, something healthy to eat and small treat. We had to bring back to class some change and our slip. We all found this activity useful for us to understand the value of money and what it costs our parents to buy our lunch boxes.

We have recently started our financial planning for the last three weeks. Our teachers have given us the opportunity to choose a holiday package. We had to look at our financial planning and choose a holiday package that we could afford and work out how much we will be able to pay each week.

This week we are working on a presentation about what careers we want to fulfil when we are older. It is very interesting, because we get to research the responsibilities, the advantages and disadvantages of doing this job, the country we want to study in, and how much the university will cost. We also research how much a person that does this job earns



We really enjoyed this unit, because we learn how to make decisions about money, budgeting, saving and it prepares us for the future.

*Salome Rey & Evie Mraz*

## SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

**So far off the hype of big universities and cities - how can we prepare our students to be ready for the "big wide world" when they leave school?**

This week we are saying goodbye to our IBDP students Class of 2017. As every year, we are letting them venture into the world, but are they ready? Did we manage to give them all the skills they need to make a great start in whatever they plan to do once they have completed their school education?

In an attempt to expose our students more to the different opportunities around the world, we appreciate visits from tertiary institutions around the world. These visitors can normally answer questions our students have, but they can also sketch a realistic picture for our students. Often we don't hear here how stressful the competition is to get into universities. The minimum requirements on the university website are hardly sufficient to guarantee an offer for the university. There are 1000s of applicants and only a limited number of places available.

We have now signed up with 100 Mentors, where our students can connect with experts (mentors) around the world to get a picture of what is expected and how life is like when they enter university or the workplace.

On Tuesday we had our second session with 100 Mentors. Admissions staff from the University of Cambridge and the University of Newcastle presented their institution and answered questions from our students. These

sessions will be available for our students to refer back to and they can also get in touch with these presenters should they have more questions. This is an excellent way for our students to get involved and informed about opportunities available to them.

We will have more regularly scheduled sessions with 100 Mentors to give our students access to as much information as possible to be able to plan for their future and make the right decisions.

Being open-minded and inquisitive about the opportunities out there can help guide these decisions and can make our students knowledgeable to make the right decisions.

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

## Football Focus

We participated in the Hopsal Football League which includes all the best clubs from Windhoek. We did lose our first five games, but in our minds we won all of them. The first match we didn't know how to play as a team. From that day on we strengthened our team and we played harder. We changed formations and that really complimented our style of play. We liked that this league has challenged us and encouraged us to play better. Most of the games we played were against clubs and academies, which discouraged us a little, but we still took on the challenge although it was really hard. We enjoyed playing in the league and we will play better and better until we win.

**-Malachi Urib & Justice Agolory**

The team has improved significantly during the first five game. We are get to record our first win but we have been doing better. We are practicing a lot and we are improving. I think we can win the next match if we are concentrating and we pass together, and we do not play around too much at the back. We should play at the front and use our talents. I really liked the challenge, although it was hard playing such good teams like the Falcons Academy. These matches helped the team to get better and stop making silly mistakes.

**-Sergio Ferreira**

I thought the first game would be easy, but it wasn't. We kept losing, but I shouldn't have expected to win without practice. After the training we got better, not by goals, but by keeping the other team's goals on a low number. We played against very good clubs. The best team I think was the RC club. This experience has taught me not to just play by myself, I should play with the whole team. Also that this soccer games it does not matter if we lose, all that matters is we have fun. Soon we will get better with more practice.

**-Deacan Bester**

## Step Forward The Heroes

### Senior boys basketball vs DHPS

When the senior boys arrived in the Gym at DHPS there was a look somewhere between anxiety, fear and sheer terror. One of the boys, who shall remain anonymous, said '*Sir, are you really expecting us to play these guys, they are twice the size of you Sir, how can we play against them?*

*Play against them, we did...*

*Fight for the ball at every opportunity, we did...*

*Work as a team, we did...*

*Put our training into practice against an excellent opposition team, we did...*

*Kept the score board ticking over, we did.*

*Win the game with a truly epic 3 pointer with 1 second left on the timer, WE DID!!!*

It was a really thrilling game to watch and the boys were rightly overjoyed with their achievements. We are all looking forward to the next test already.

**Thomas Jackson-Read**



## Self-initiated CAS Project

### Foreword

We all know that the IBDP is a challenging academic programme designed for young people of 16yrs and older. What perhaps isn't as well known is that the DP also incorporates a less cerebral but equally challenging component in the form of Creativity, Activity, Service or CAS. It is designed to give students a chance to shine outside of the classroom, to develop interests or discover new ones, to independently plan an entire project from start to finish and to learn from achievements and obstacles. As a CAS Coordinator it is heart-warming to come across students who don't look upon CAS as a chore, but take it on as a challenge and enjoy the life's lessons that can be learned from each experience, students



who gladly give their time for others. In this particular project Abhinab had quite a few obstacles thrown in his path, so many that I would have given up, but he persevered, he pushed through the difficulties and achieved what he set out to achieve. *Edwina Rimmington CAS Coordinator*

### WHOSE SHOE IS IT ANYWAY?

Being the professional procrastinator that I am, last week I finished my self-initiated CAS project for the IB Diploma Programme. For those who may not know, CAS (acronym for Creativity, Activity and Service) is a compulsory part of the IBDP and is to be completed over 18 months. It is meant to teach students skills that are needed beyond the classroom. As a creativity and service activity, I aimed to collect shoes for the underprivileged in Namibia who would need them this winter. However, I felt that just doing a shoe collection drive not be nearly as fun. Therefore, I decided to do this by organising an improvisational theater show at the school by the name of *Whose shoe is it anyway?*, whereby people could donate shoes instead of paying cash to watch the show.

My inspiration for this form of theater (ie: improv) came in early Year 12, when I was invited to watch a local improvisational theater performance. I was pulled into it and I knew I had to get it going. What better opportunity than this? Doing something for the community while having fun. This show gave me the idea for my CAS project.

Little did I realize that it would not be an easy task. I had never organized an event before, let alone a theater production. This was a serious challenge for me: I had to find actors, a venue, as well as advertise the show. I experienced much frustration as were not available, or actors had problems coming to practice. I began to feel

nervous as well, as the day for the show drew closer. However, despite these shortcomings, I was in for a surprise.



The show was a success, with over 40 pairs of shoes being donated. On top of that, many found the performance highly entertaining, which was a reward in itself. This was a phenomenal learning experience. I learnt how to manage a crisis situation and stress, improve my time management and communication skills. Most importantly, I learnt

about humility from my teammates.

I have many to thank for helping with the show. First, the actors Tuliikeni, Verii, Lahja, Monika and Remember, all from UNAM and Thyra from WIS for participating in my show out of their kindness and nothing more. Their selflessness and indomitable spirit was remarkable. A special to Thyra, as she stepped in at the last minute. Our CAS coordinator, Ms Rimmington, stood behind me like a rock, encouraging me to pursue, at times when I nearly gave up. Thank you ma'am. This show would not have taken off without the guidance and support of Mr and Mrs Mbonambi, who were part of the first improvisational theater production I saw. Thank you, Mr Blessing for mentoring me. I thank my mother and the WIS PTA, who arranged catering (at my last-minute request). Finally, to the Auas Rotary Club, who have accepted these donations, and will handle distribution.

As a parting message from an IB student to those about to begin this challenge, CAS is compulsory, but it is not "boring". It is only as fun as you make it, it is as good as you design it to be.

**Abhinab Sarma**

## Blood Donations at WIS

On Tuesday this week the Mobile Unit of the Blood Transfusion Service of Namibia set up shop for the morning at WIS. Staff and students 16 years and older and with parental permission, participated in this worthy cause, some brave souls for the first time. Those of you who are regular donors at the main branch of NAMBTS in town will have experienced the professionalism of this team. Being so close to Easter, the donors were treated to a Lindt easter chocolate on their snack tray. NAMBTS left with 20 units of blood in total, which according to a displayed sign, would help to save 60 lives. Thanks to all the donors, and to Ms Catherine at reception for organising it.



**Sharon Gorelick**

**SELL YOUR RAFFLE BOOKS & STAND A CHANCE TO WIN AMAZING PRIZES!**

# W I S FAMILY BBQ

**RAFFLE DRAW | FUN WALK | ICE CREAM | JUMPING  
CASTLE | MUSIC | PLANT A SEED ... AND MORE!**

**22ND APRIL | SATURDAY | STAFF CARPARK | 8:00 - 16:30**

**Join us for a day of fun!**  
**DON'T MISS OUT!**



**FOOD WILL BE ON SALE!**

**THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS:**

Amazing Grace | Auto Sueco | Avani Wellness Centre | BDO | Caotinha Guest Cottage | Creative silver | Devil's Claw | Engineering Centre | Felix unite | Joes Beer House | Gondwana Card Collection | Garnish Restaurant | Goju Ryu Karate Namibia | Ntema family | Haiku sushi | Oukulele Day Spa | Hotel Europa Hof Swakopmund | Iam Hair Salon | Lisa Atkins Photographer | Nietzsche Reiter | Robbiati distribution | Sardinia Blue Olive | Windhoek Go-Carting | Westlane Spar | Jonno's Bistro



**Come and Join us for  
Family Fun Walk  
22 April, Saturday @ 8:00**

WIS Sports Committee emphasis on a healthy lifestyle by encouraging people that "walking is fun, and best of all it's free". This event will help to create a friendly atmosphere among all the community members and will form part of the Earth Day Celebration.

**HAPPY WEEKEND**  
**MAKE IT SWEET!**

