

THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School



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Dates to Remember

September

- **5** - Primary Back to School: rescheduled
- **12** - Staff work Day: No school for students
- **23** - Secondary: Last day AA
- **26** - Year 10 & 12 Trips
- **30** - Primary: Last day AA



FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Oryx is one year old! The first issue was published on 4th September last year and it has become a popular and valuable means of keeping everyone informed about school life.

But we are always looking for ways to improve communication between school and home and we are always open to ideas. If you think The Oryx could be improved – or if you like it just the way it is – please let me know.

Imminently – perhaps even by the time you read these words – we are replacing the 25th anniversary billboard at the junction of Hendrik Witbooi Drive and David Hosea Merero Road with the one above.

Our status as an IB World School is very important to us and we are proud to be the only IB school in Namibia. And we genuinely believe that an IB education is an advantage in the modern world. Help us spread the word!

With best wishes
Peter MacKenzie

DONATION FROM BDO

During the recent holiday we took delivery of a substantial amount of equipment for our sports and PE programmes. They include professional standard hockey goals, a professional standard pitch marker (which we've badly needed for a long time), netball posts, primary Break time equipment, and other useful items.



Teacher Feature

Anthony Rishchynski: Middle School, IGCSE & IB History

"Histories, like ancient ruins, are the fictions of empire. While everything forgotten hangs in dark dreams of the past, ever threatening to return."

This is a quote I like to share with my students to get them to start thinking of history as not merely the 'great deeds' of men and women but as something much more complicated, messy and ultimately revealing.

Though at times, the study of history can be one long record of our collective follies it can also be a light on our most creative flourishes; the past as an inspiring reservoir where thousands of poets, statesmen, artists, philosophers and citizens still live, speak and teach. land as well.

I am from Canada but as the child of a diplomat I accompanied my parents on postings to Australia, North and South America, Southeast Asia and the Middle East.

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Tom Jackson-Read on behalf of the PE Department has written, *"The PE department are hugely gratefully for the sponsored equipment. We have already enjoyed reaping the benefits of this investment as reflected in [Mr. B's] successful U10 Hockey team."*

All of the above was very generously donated by BDO and we greatly appreciate their continuing support of the school.



Thank you!

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Thank you to all who attended the Primary Back to School evening on Monday. The attendance was fantastic. It was unfortunate that we lost power just before the session in the auditorium.

Your understanding and flexibility were appreciated. As you will have seen announced on the D-6, the Back to School Night has been rescheduled for Monday, 5 September.

We will begin the evening with meeting in the Auditorium at 5:30. Homeroom Teachers, Teaching Assistants, and Specialists will be introduced. There will also be information and a review of expectations relevant to all of the Primary School. Following the session in the auditorium, the Years 4-6 presentations will take place in the homerooms. I hope you'll be able to devote another night out to attend the rescheduled Primary Back to School Night.

For the last three weeks Lenia Gunreben has been doing an Art internship under the tutelage of Ms Genie. Today was Lenia's last day at WIS and she will be returning to Germany to finish her studies at Friedrich-Alexander Universität in Nürnberg, Germany. During her time at WIS Lenia has been a positive addition to the art lessons and we hope her experience here has been an enriching one.

Congratulations to Ms Michelle, her husband and children on the birth of their daughter/sister Michaela on Friday, 19 August.

Ms Michelle is on maternity leave through the end of October. Ms Avril, Mr. D and I have been taking the music lessons this month. From Monday, Rolien Schaaf will be teaching the music lessons for Years 1-6, while Ms Avril will continue with teaching the Kindergarten music lessons.

Regards,
Beth Smith

From our PAD: Positive Art Day

Art Exhibition

From KG1 through Year 3 we have been 'wondering' "Who we Are" and why? Yes, we wanted to see what we look like through our own eyes, or what we think we look like! So we drew ourselves taking proportions and spatial awareness into consideration.

Teacher Feature continued

As a result, I spent very little time in Canada and this nomadic upbringing has continued into my adult life with stints in Mexico, Kuwait, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Ethiopia, Mozambique and the United Kingdom.

For the last several years, I have alternated between positions in government and education but my love for travel (something of a vice!) has led me to my current role as a History teacher here in this beautiful, vast country.

I hold a BA from Queens University, an MA from Georgetown University and a PGDE from the University of Glasgow. But most importantly, I am a graduate of the IB Diploma Programme (Class of 2001!) and know first-hand that the rigorous curriculum prepares students immensely for post-secondary education and future success.

Unlike other programmes of study, the IBDP promotes history as a discipline and strongly encourages a range of critical thinking skills that, in time, will extend far beyond the classroom.

I am very happy to be here at WIS, an international school that brings back memories of my childhood and the rewards of interacting among a multi-cultural community of learners.

I am looking forward to this school year and hope to get to know students, parents and staff better as the months progress.

On Fridays, I wear bow ties.

All of our drawings are exhibited in the Art room. Please pop in on Friday 9th and 16th September at drop off time 7.00am - 7.45am onwards and let your child show you his/her portrait. Please have a look at the various stages of an interesting line of art development through the various age groups.



We look forward to seeing you again in the art room

Genie and Sigrid



Which device is best for a student?

There are so many choices to choose from. Many platforms and devices. They all come with different specifications regarding processing speed, storage and so on. We all prefer different brands and require different specifications depending on what we do with devices (or what we want people to see us using). [Click here to see our BYOD Guide.](#)

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Back to School Nights reviewed

This Tuesday and Wednesday we had our Back to School nights for Secondary School. It was good to see that quite a number of parents attended and hopefully it was informative and parents who attended got a chance to meet their child's teachers. Conducting these events in a more informal manner will have hopefully contributed to parents and teachers having a chance to interact with each other in a more informative manner. Documents handed out on these nights will be available on the D6.

When we organise events for parents, we are always quite anxious to see how the attendance is. This time, it was a positive surprise to see that quite a lot of parents took the time to attend the Back to School nights and the interaction between parents and teachers seemed to be a positive. We would appreciate any feedback you might have on this event.



As a school we value parent participation in the educational process. Only when we all have the same in mind, the positive education of our children, can we achieve what we intend to achieve in the educational process. Parents play such a big role in the academic education of their children. Taking time to attend school events is one of the gifts we can give to our child's education. It might feel small at the time, but in the bigger picture, it certainly pays off.

The next opportunity to meet teachers to discuss your child's progress in the first term will be the Student Parent Teacher Conferences on Monday the 3rd October and Tuesday the 4th October. This is an opportunity for parents to meet their teachers and get an idea about their child's progress in the first term.



Our big annual International Day will be taking place on Saturday the 5th November. Once again we would appreciate your participation in this event - preparing for the event, helping on the day, sponsoring for the day etc.

"At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents." Jane D. Hull



Regards,
Maggie Reiff

Field Trips: 2017 and beyond

This year might just be remembered in future as the Year of Field Trips! For the first time ever, every single year group from Year 6 to 12 will have a field trip at some point during the year!

Furthermore, we have now started looking at future International trips as well as other local trips which are not limited to a specific year group. Of course, not everyone can go on all of the "major" trips, and for this reason I have decided to share with you our plans up until next December, so you can plan accordingly. It will be good if students could try to attend at least one of these trips during their Secondary school career.

Please follow this [link](#), or scan the QR code below which will take you to a website which has been created for this purpose. It will give you more information on each upcoming trip, documents, some photos from past trips and more. It will also be updated constantly, so bookmark the site and make sure to check back whenever you need more information.



Enjoy the site!

Warning- please note that some parents who have visited this site have experienced symptoms of jealousy and longing to be back at school...

Riegardt Smit

Team up! Join PTA

Take an active part in your child's school life

.Nomination forms for PTA elections are available on the D6 under Resources/ PTA

.Forms can be emailed or handed to Catherine at the reception, until Friday 23rd of September at 12:00

The PTA election for 2016/2017 school year will take place at the PTA AGM on Wednesday 28th of September at 12:00, at the PLC

!Hope to see you there