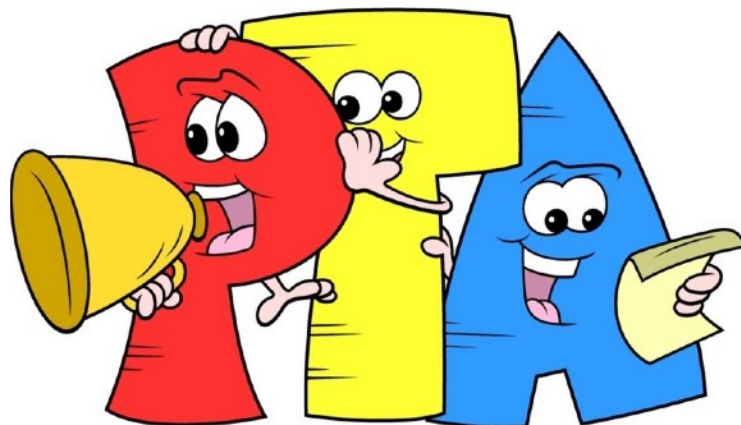




# THE ORYX

*The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School*



## FROM THE DIRECTOR

### PTA

It was good to see so many parents at today's PTA Coffee Morning. The PTA does extraordinarily valuable work for the school and we remain very grateful. But, as I said this morning, they cannot do everything and they are always looking for more parent volunteers. If you can give your time or expertise to the PTA it will make a difference and the beneficiaries will ultimately be our students – your children.

### NEW TEACHER

It is my pleasure to welcome to the school a new teacher, Ms. Carin Vogelaar. She starts on Monday as a member of the Learning Support department. Carin has both US and Dutch nationalities and will introduce herself in next week's issue of The Oryx. We are delighted to welcome her to the WIS community.

With best wishes  
**Peter MacKenzie**

### IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL PARENTS

Please be advised that from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016 the school will charge interest on overdue fees. The rate will be 10% p.a. charged on a monthly basis.

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## Dates to Remember

### February

- **16:** Early Close @ 11:40
- **18:** IGCSE & IBDP information sessions
- **23:** Lower Primary Sports Day
- **24:** Upper Primary Sports Day
- **25:** Secondary Sports Day

## Teacher Feature

**Mari-Louise Schumann:**  
**Secondary Music and Drama**



My name is Mari-Louise Schumann and I was born and raised in the lovely coast of Swakopmund. After finishing school I moved to Cape Town, South Africa.

I graduated from The Waterfront Theatre College. I graduated with a Licentiate in Teaching Drama (level 6), a Licentiate in Performing Musical Theatre (level 6), an Associate in Teaching Modern Theatre Dance and an Associate in Teaching Tap.

In addition to these teaching diplomas, I have also achieved advanced levels in Drama, Modern Theatre Dance and Tap and Jazz Dance performance.

These qualifications are accredited by Trinity Guildhall and The Imperial Society for Teachers of Dance.

I started the teacher-training aspect of my course in my second year of study.

**Continues on page 3**

## PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

With the 100th day of school behind us and the fact that we are almost halfway through the month of February, I'm reminded how quickly the school year is going. There are many upcoming events this term for you to diarise, including Early Close this coming Tuesday, Sports Days, PYP Parent Workshops and Student-Led Conferences.

The Sports Days are in two weeks time. I hope you've had a chance to sign up for one of the upcoming PYP Parent Workshops. This semester the student-led conferences will be held the afternoon of Wednesday, March 16 (13:00-15:00) and all day Thursday, March 17 (7:30-15:00). Please note that there will be no school for Primary students on Thursday, March 17. Students will only come to school for their schedule conference. More information about the conferences and sign up for the conferences will be coming near the end of February.

### Theft

We have recently received some concerns and complaints about theft at school. Theft, whether it's a hat, school bag, phone, or money is never pleasant and a loss is a loss. The measures the Primary School has taken include: making students and teachers aware of the importance of emptying lockers at the end of the day; keeping lockers closed during the day; having the students help each other check their lockers; anything that's left in the locker should be put in the classroom over night; and reminding students not to keep anything of value in the lockers. Many of the classes are also using S hooks on the lockers during the day to serve as a deterrent and the Year 6s are allowed to use locks on their lockers.

How can parents help and support us to alleviate theft? Ensure your child's belongings are labelled which can assist with returning items to your child. Check your child's locker (or remind your child to check his/her locker) at the end of the day to make sure that there is nothing left behind. Don't allow your child to bring valuable items to school.

### Field Trips

Several year levels have taken or will be taking field trips in the near future. These field trips enhance the units of inquiry and ultimately student learning. Yesterday, the Year 1 classes visited the Owela National Museum to look at different types of dwellings and living spaces in Namibia for their unit, How We Organize Ourselves. The Year 5 students are inquiring into the theme of Where We Are in Place and Time and will be doing a city tour of Windhoek. The Year 6 classes will also be taking a trip next week to the Habitat Centre for their unit, How the World Works.

They will be finding out information about what the centre does, the process and the materials that are used and most importantly, why this is done.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to all of the Year 5 and 6 students who took part in the Small Schools Athletics event that took place on Wednesday. Our students represented WIS well, both those who participated in an event and those who were cheering our athletes on.

**Teacher Feature continued**

I started to teach Drama to learners in the Part-time programme. The ages of these learners ranged from Primary to Teens.

Next, I shifted my focus to Dance, in addition to teaching drama, started to teach a mixture of Tap and Modern Theatre Dance classes.

These dance classes were also taught within the Part-time as well as our Full-time programme catering for children right through to adults.

I joined Windhoek International School in 2012 when I decided to move back closer to home.

Working outside of a theatre school with everything that it entails was a challenge at first.

However, I soon realized that I was still surrounded by creative colleagues who aspire to make a difference.

My time at WIS has been one filled with many great moments; the fun Sports Days with water balloons, International day with great food and culture, taking students to compete in NATME (Namibian Associate of Talent, Modeling and Entertainment) Observing Year 6 student's exhibition and the art exhibitions.

**Continues on page 4**

Happy Lunar New Year and Happy Valentine's Day.

Kind regards,  
**Beth Smith**

## 100th School Day

Every day, Year 2 count how many days they've been at school. Last week we celebrated the 100th School Day. We brought in collections of 100 objects and counted them in 2's, 5's and 10's. We made very stylish 100 card glasses and necklaces with 100 'Oatees'. One student said, 'I've been waiting for this day all my life'!

**Jan Le Roux**



## SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

The focus in Secondary School this coming week is certainly IGCSE, the IBDP and further education. I want to spend some time to just remind all parents and students about the events on Thursday the 18th and hope that we can welcome many of you parents and students at the respective sessions.

- From 7:30 - 8:45 - IGCSE information session. There will be a short outline of the programme. The subject teachers of the subjects that are new, will be speaking briefly about their subject.
- Business Studies, Art & Design, Drama, Physical Education
- The Mathematics teachers will briefly talk about the different levels of Mathematics for IGCSE
- From 13:00 - 14:00, Mr. Chris Payne, admissions officer from the University of British Columbia (Canada) will be visiting WIS to talk about the university and admission to UBC. Parents are very welcome to attend this presentation.
- In the evening we will host the IBDP information session.

There will be a short presentation by our IBDP Coordinator, Mrs. Nadar-Japal

**Teacher Feature continued**

I love everything that the school strives for; being an inclusive school, developing a child as a whole while exposing them to different cultures and world views.

I am passionate about identifying each student's potential and finding ways for them to achieve this by creating an environment where making mistakes are the best way of learning and improving.

I believe that students do not care about what I know, until they know that I care.

about the IB Diploma Programme. IBDP subject teachers will outline their subject briefly.

The Cooperation Attachée for French Language at the French Embassy in Windhoek, Emmanuelle Houdebourg, and Roadine Willemse from Kaplan International Colleges will be talking about their respective institutions.

Students in Year 9 & 11 have done Aptitude and Interest tests this past Tuesday. Ms. Bosch and Ms. Knouwds are currently writing a report for each student to outline their aptitude and interests. These reports should provide further information to students to decide on the subject choice for their IGCSE or IBDP course respectively.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who has been involved in the different stages of arranging these information sessions.

Parents are very warmly invited to attend the sessions and then use the information to decide together with their son/daughter on the way forward. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us: Mrs. Keil (IGCSE Coordinator), Mrs. Nadar-Japal (IBDP Coordinator), Ms. Reiff (Secondary Principal & Career Guidance Counsellor).

Kind regards,  
**Maggie Reiff**

## VOLLEYBALL FOR ALL

*Saturday 6th February*

***"And so, the pupil surpasses the teacher ..."***

I can not recall if it was Plato, or Master Yoda to whom this quote is attributed but either way, it was never more true than at the DTS Volleyball for All tournament held last weekend.

There was a palpable sense of optimism as both the staff and students volleyball teams assembled at the DTS sports ground on Saturday morning. Warm-up matches and training sessions progressed well, fitness and conditioning standards were approaching the 'elite' standards to which

we aspire and we all looked exceedingly smart in our WIS sponsored t-shirts. The student team started the day in enthusiastic fashion and secured a critical win in their first game. Throughout the group phase of the tournament the students performed with a combination of skill, agility, cohesion and exemplary attitude towards the game, the opposition and to their team mates.



**Saturday Morning Dodge-ball Club with Mr Jackson-Read**

**NEW TIME: 9 AM until 11 AM**

**Y3 - Y6**

**All Welcome: Please bring a drink, sports cloths and lots of energy!**

**Session will be on on the following days**

- **Saturday 13th February**
- **Saturday 27th February**
- **Saturday 19th February**

**WIS MERCHANDISE**

The PTA will be selling hats, shirts etc on Thursdays from 13:00 - 13:45 @ the PTA HUT!

Sport day is coming up, please get your house-team shirt.

Primary school will have a number of sporting events coming up for our students during the last semester of the school year.

Please take note of the following dates:

- March - April Small Schools 7 a side Soccer League u/9, u/11, u/13 (Schedule still to be decide between participating schools)
- U/12: Boys Field Hockey (Awaiting schedule from league administrators)

More information will be shared with the WIS community closer to the time.

With consistently strong performances and a series of wins from their group the student team, playing under the name of the 'WIS Falcons' emerged as group winners and progressed to the quarter-final phase.



The staff team were not quite able to achieve the results that the students managed, and emerged 3rd in their group with 2 emphatic wins but disastrously, 3 narrow but crushing defeats. The superb link-up play shown by Ms Charne and Ms Viviana was indeed prolific but not quite

enough to get through the group stages much to Mr B's disappointment.

The excellent Falcons won two more games as they progressed through the last 16 phase of the competition and into the last 8 teams out of the 240 teams entered, one more win would have put them into the semi-final, however it was just one step too far as they lost narrowly to a highly professional outfit from one of our partner schools in Windhoek; our students have shown a great standard of performance but, even more crucially, and exemplary standard of sportsmanship.

Sincere thanks to all the parents and staff who attended and showed their loyal support and very well done to all who participated.

*Thomas Jackson-Read*

## JUNIOR CITY COUNCIL

The Junior City Council represents the Windhoek City Council from a youth point of view. As a group, we try to tackle problems that affect the youth, whether they are drug problems, sickness, teenage pregnancy or many other aspects.

A student in Year 11 is selected to act as the understudy. I, Yanika Anuszkiewicz, was chosen as the first understudy in the year of 2015. I am currently acting as the councillor representing Windhoek International School.

In the Council, we create projects where we help the youth. These projects all fall under a main theme of SALT, which stands for Save A Life Today. A project we have done in 2015 is donating collected food to Acacia House in Windhoek West. This is an old age home that we support annually. Other yearly projects include and Elderly Project, where the councillors aid the elderly by doing activities with them, clean up gardens, etc, and the Core Project. The Core Project is the biggest project that incorporates many of the issues facing the youth and provides information for most of them such as how to stop or prevent them from occurring or if it has happened, how to deal with it.

There are weekly meetings to discuss all projects we do as well as possible new ones. Overall, the Junior City Council is an eye opening and informative

experience which involves helping others, learning about leadership and bonding as a “family” in order to have the best results for any and all initiatives.

*Yanika Anuskiewicz, Year 12*

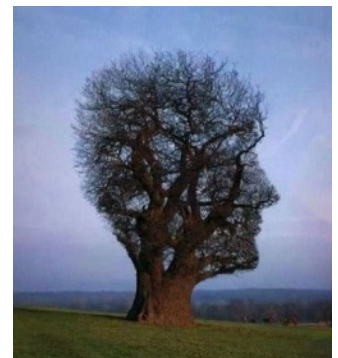
## YEAR 7 ENGLISH

In English the Year 7 students had to look at the picture and describe it as best as possible. Emilio Leto was the only student who used poetry to describe the image. His poem describes it perfectly and I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

### The human tree

*By Emilio Leto*

Withered elderly branches entwined and trimmed by an expert craftsman  
 Deprived of its leaves, the tree stood there solemnly  
 It's beauty and size dwarfed the surrounding countryside,  
 Yet it stood there calm and placid  
 a thousand storms must have tried to make the history of the tree short lived,  
 Many tried, all failed!  
 The tree stood there stock still, surprisingly calm,  
 an astonishing feat for one so powerful,  
 It's immense size and its magnificent beauty will never cease to astonish me,  
 For this crazy face-shaped tree seems to belong in another reality.



## Dorian Haarhoff WORDshop

On Wednesday, 10 February, writer and creativity promoter Dorian Haarhoff facilitated a WORDshop to a combined room of ten Year 13 HL English students and ten Year 8B students. The goal of our guest was to create a space wherein the students communicate ideas and produce content and to build ideas with people of all levels and all thought-processes. As students spend much time deconstructing English texts, students must also balance what it means to create one's own content via theme, tone, metaphor, movement of words and ideas.

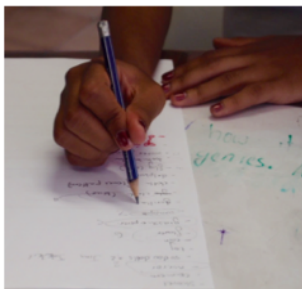
Students in 3B had an opportunity to experience story through movement and also worked with partners and independently to create stories through various activities. Mr. Dorian engaged the students through telling his stories and encouraged the crafting of their own stories using objects, pictures and memories.



This opportunity brought the 8B students (Byran Herholdt, Nishant Shejwal, Jonathan Katzao, Fiona Farrell, Noam Babluki, Jamie-Leigh Jacobs, Johannes Shali, Maria De la Paz-Nápoles, and Dominique Strauss) closer to their goal with writing creative stories in English in order to improve skills with imagery and revive the joy in wordsmithing ideas. They learned about mapping

hope, growing crafted organization using writer's voice and processing experiences through association with concrete objects and images. As young writers, they learned to use the fabric of





their own life and fabricate stories in order to make sense of things we often cannot put into words.

The collaboration deepened the IB English curriculum beyond analysing audience and construction of texts. For the HL English students in Year 13 (Pandeni Idhenga, Jasmin Tegethoff, Alynna Temple, Emilia Koch, Filipe Cardoso, Celine Farrell, Tamara Winschiers, Goldie Swart, Annerita Maritz and Jolene Ekuam), the two-hour cooperative learning environment allowed them

to experience learning through the senses, using various objects to promote awareness of our surroundings as well as texts. Through Dorian’s lens, writing can serve as a cathartic examination process wherein we understand how our story impacts the way we understand others’ writing. As students work to understand various IB English texts, this wordshop brought the psychological narrative of our life and time to the forefront as to how students analyse other texts.



The students manipulated both dominant and non-dominant hands to generate and share how pictures and words manifest stories via the concrete image while alluding to the abstract. They listened attentively to their partners in order to connect ideas so that when they write for or analyse an intended audience, they grow more aware of the writing and reading process. The students employed their own memories to write patterns and shapes with their words. According to Dorian, we must put

on ‘writer’s eyes’ in order to look, gather energy and ripen our writing with concrete items so that our analysis is present and paralleled with our own emotional truths.



About Dorian Haarhoff: He is a former teacher trainer and Professor of English at the University of Namibia, and has also taught in a Canadian Creative Writing Faculty and in the Film Studies unit at the University of Colorado in Boulder. He has served as an external



examiner at UCT for the MA programme in Creative Writing. Since 1998 he has run his own business, Creative Workshops. Dorian Haarhoff has on several occasions been invited as poet and as a guest story-teller to Mauritius and to the Conference of Word Affairs in Boulder, Colorado. He has participated in Poetry Africa and an International Poetry Festival in Colombia South America.

*“One thing I can use from today in my school work is the concept of crafting because I can strengthen my writing.”—Year 13 student*

*“One interesting thing Dorian prompted me to think about was the four parts of a story (womb, wound, wander, wonder) and writing bodies of words to make things relatable with models.”—Year 8B student*

*“The most enjoyable part of the workshop was learning that feelings aren’t described along with the story but are made to “float” in the readers’ imaginations so that the reader applies their own situation.”—Year 8B student*

## Masks, Oxygen, Wetsuit- Check!



Only a few weeks ago I wrote an article on our students' antics in the snow of Austria. Being in this dry country, it seems almost as impossible that I will be writing another article, this time on Scuba Diving. And yet that is exactly what this article is about.

9 of our students have started doing the One-Star, Open Water Scuba course this week. In about 6 weeks they will be going to Lake Otjikoto to qualify, leaving a world of opportunities open to them.

The students have already shown a lot of promise and I am confident that we will soon see each one of them walking around with their diving card and the endless grin that accompany one's first successful dive.

This will hopefully be the start of our Underwater Club, which eventually will give us the means to arrange a trips to more

exotic locations. There will be many more opportunities to do the course in future, and also to go on to more advanced courses. Soon, I will be writing again, this time with the results of this first-ever WIS SCUBA course!

**Riegardt Smit**

## SMALL SCHOOLS ATHLETICS




On Wednesday a group of our athletes from Y4 to Y8 went to Independence Stadium to compete in the Annual Small School Athletics competition. This event is a highlight on the sporting calendar and a day in which we enjoyed some good health competition with other school in Windhoek.

The standard of performance was excellent with numerous students achieving personal best times and distance. For many it was the first time competing in a professional sporting arena and the 400m track was somewhat daunting. However all students represented WIS with the exemplary standards of performance and sportsmanship that has become synonymous with our students.

Thank you to all the parental support for those in attendance and to Mr B for preparing the athletes so well.

**Thomas Jackson-Read**






WIS Primary School

# SNAP & WIN

A GIFT VOUCHER TO  
**Recess**  
Café



## PHOTO OF THE WEEK

WINNER!

PHOTO BY  
**ZURAIDA**  
YEAR 6B



Theme for the picture above: Photoshopped

## Theme due Thursday at 3pm: Furry Friends(s)

### What is it?

This is a digital photography competition where primary students are given a theme every week for their photographs. Students can submit photos they've taken by Thursday 3 pm. Each week's winner will be announced on Friday and receive a N\$20 gift voucher to the WIS Recess Café (aka, The Tuck Shop). Winning photograph will be displayed here every Friday morning.

Please submit your photo by Thursday 3 pm to Mr. Marc. Try to submit file size 500 KB to 5 MB.

[mderagon@wis.edu.na](mailto:mderagon@wis.edu.na) or USB flash drive to Room 33

Photo credits: nellislorance.files.wordpress.com, zazzle.com, Peter Dalton



# dePARTSment Corner

In Drama the Year 2 students are exploring and practicing creating shadow theatre with their hands and bodies.



Visit the Windhoek SPCA's [Facebook page](#) for more information

## Kool-Katz Adoption Day

**Date: 5 March 2016**

**Time: 10:00 – 16:00**

**Place: SPCA Premises – Robert Mugabe Av.**

Find that special **Kool-Kat**  
to complete your life!

