



# THE ORYX

*The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School*

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

### The AGM

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on Tuesday evening in the Auditorium. Thank you to the many parents who attended. It was good to see such a turn-out.

Reports were received from the Chair of the Board of Directors, the Treasurer, and the Educational Director. For those who couldn't attend the AGM, all reports are available on the D6.

Elections were held to fill five vacant seats on the Board. Two existing Board Members were re-elected (Matthew Black and Raniero Leto) and three parents were elected as new Members (Magano Neri, Frances Aylott, and Albertus Aochamub). All five join three Members who are continuing to serve on the Board (Katrina Agolory-Simon, Yolandé Stander, and Léart Petrick).

The new Board is pictured below.



Thank you to everyone who stood for election and also to those who voted.

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## Dates to Remember

### January 2017

- 6: Staff Work day
- 9: Start of term 3
- 9: Mock Exams Starts
- 9: Secondary - Week B



## Teacher Feature

### Chris Pretorius Business Manager

I have been very fortunate and blessed to have been part of the WIS Community and family since January 2014. I have certainly learnt a lot about the school, its community, the proud Namibian people and the country's economy. I am very proud to be associated with the school and positive there are still great things to come!

In 1999 before joining the American International School in Johannesburg, I managed a team of some 20 auditors where we conducted forensic accounting, fraud investigations and risk assessments for major clients of Ernst Young.

To be completely honest, this was an extremely stressful and challenging career but the rewards were great. The work-life balance suffered a bit and I left the profession eventually.

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The Board of Directors has a crucial role to play in the continuing success and well-being of the school. Who is on the Board and what they do matters. The new Board will formally meet for the first time in January. I am very much looking forward to working with them.

Lastly, I want to recognise and thank publicly five Members who stood down on Tuesday night after serving on the Board for between two and four years. They are Amit Babluki, Nancy Baker-Monteforte, Marcus Betts, Nillian Mulemi, and Magda Nel. They each made valuable contributions to the work of the Board and we all owe them a debt of gratitude.

### School Holidays

We are all about to go into a well-earned holiday. Wherever you go and whatever you do, I hope it is relaxing and enjoyable. (My wife and I are staying in Namibia again and we'll be exploring more of this fascinating country.)

Please note that the school will be closed from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December until and including Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January. The school office will reopen on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January.

Next week (12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>) the school will be open 8am to 3pm Monday to Thursday and 8am to 1pm on Friday. From 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> January the school will be open from 8am. Normal school hours will resume from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January.

### We are 50!

As you may have noticed, this is the fiftieth issue of The Oryx. We launched it in September 2015 and every issue is on the website. It is beginning to add up to a fascinating and valuable archive of school life. Here's to the next fifty!

With best wishes

**Peter MacKenzie**

## PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

The end of the semester has finally arrived and I think we are all ready for a break. The children, not to mention the teachers and teaching assistants, have worked hard this semester. Now it's time for some rest, relaxation, rejuvenation and having some quality family time.

The Primary reports are being sent via email. You should receive your child's report today. A lot of time, thought and energy have gone into the written comments on the reports. As you read through the report, please think about the information given and what you understand about your child's progress. In January you will be receiving a survey about the progress report, giving you the opportunity to provide us with feedback about how we currently report on your child's progress.

We have a few children who are leaving and not returning to WIS for the new semester. To these children and their families, thank you for being a part of our



**Teacher Feature continued**

I was offered the Business Manager's position at the American International School of Johannesburg (a smaller client of Ernst Young at the time) because both my sons were admitted and offered an IB education. This was one of my best decisions as they received an exceptional education and a world class qualification.

I have now been employed by three different International schools over the last 19 years, of which all offer the IB programme. These schools are also all non-profit organisations, meaning there is no shareholding, no dividends are declared and the students are the only beneficiaries.

My position mainly focuses on the non-teaching side of the operations. I am a member of the Senior Leadership Team and oversee the business management of the school - all the administrative and logistical aspects of running a school so that these are done in the most effective and efficient way possible. Through this, I try and free up the School Director to focus on leading teaching and learning.

My role includes financial management and reporting, implementing financial procedures and systems with effective internal control measures, safeguarding of school assets and risk management.

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school community. Best wishes to you in your new school.

May your holidays include safe travels, laughter, relaxation and fun times with your children. I look forward to seeing you all when we return to school on the 9th of January.

Regards,  
**Beth Smith**

## **SECONDARY PRINCIPAL**

### **Holiday time and Human Rights Day**

We have successfully completed our first semester of 2016-2017 and on Saturday, Namibia celebrates Human Rights Day. Where is the connection?

Why do we celebrate Human Rights day? "**Human Rights Day** is **celebrated** every year on **10th December**. This **day** is **celebrated** internationally to honor **10th Dec** 1948, when the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of **Human Rights** at Palais de Chailoit, Paris, after the experience of the Second World War."

( [https://www.google.com.na/?gws\\_rd=cr&ei=njjJWOvdCJL0gAb335rYAO#q=human+rights+day](https://www.google.com.na/?gws_rd=cr&ei=njjJWOvdCJL0gAb335rYAO#q=human+rights+day))



This time of the year is a time of celebration and reflection around the world. There are many different celebrations like:

- *Saint Nicholas Day (Christian)*
- *Fiesta of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Mexican)*
- *St. Lucia Day (Swedish)*
- *Hanukkah (Jewish)*
- *Christmas Day (Christian)*
- *Three Kings Day/Epiphany (Christian)*
- *Boxing Day (Australian, Canadian, English, Irish)*
- *Kwanzaa (African American)*
- *Omisoka (Japanese)*
- *Yule (Pagan)*
- *Saturnalia (Pagan)*

[http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_lesson/lesson/lesson246.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson/lesson246.shtml) and probably many, many more.

And why would we celebrate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in a spirit of celebration and reflection? All around the world there is conflict and war. People of different nations fight each other, people of different religions fight each other, people of different political convictions fight each other. This is reason enough for us to celebrate Human Rights. What is a human right? It is a right every human being is entitled to because they are human. In celebrating human rights, we celebrate diversity and international mindedness. Although

**Teacher Feature continued**

I work closely with our parent community on various issues regarding the billing of tuition and other fees, collection of all fees and assisting with payment plans, should these become necessary.

Lastly, being South African, I adore sport and of course the regular braai (as much as any other Namibian). I used to passionately support Springbok Rugby until the latest end of year tour to Europe, which, thank goodness, ended last weekend. I am now seriously contemplating to exchange that green and gold jersey for a Kiwi jersey!

**HAPPY TEACHER, HAPPY STUDENT, HAPPY PARENT!**

we are all different in what we believe in, what we are strong in and what we find difficult, we are all humans and should appreciate and respect each other in our humanness.

For this reason, it is a good time of the year to celebrate, but we should at the same time reflect on the year that was.

WIS wishes all of our families a peaceful and harmonious break and we hope that you all come back rested and with positive energy to start the second semester.

Year 11 and 13 students will be preparing for their mock examination. We wish them well in this endeavour and hope that they find time to work, but also time to recuperate and gain some energy to be ready for the exams in January.

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

## Thank You

Dear Parents, WIS staff, students and the entire school community.

I would like to thank each and every one for their continued support throughout the year! It has of course not been without its issues, but we endeavor to continue offering an ever improving service to all our patrons in the years to come.

I would like to invite anyone with comments, suggestions or feedback of any kind to feel free to come see me at the tuck-shop any time!

We, as the Recess café team, wish everyone a safe and revitalizing holiday season and we look forward to seeing you all next year.



Kindest regards,  
**Peter, Charlotte, Rebecca and Stefanie**



Come and join the us, **The Cat Protection Society of Namibia (CPSN)** on our kitten day, and 10th of December from 8:00 - 13:00 @ Superspar Maerua Lifestyle Centre and Kleine Kuppe, Mega Centre. We have so many kittens ready for their forever homes!

*Please come and support us, if you can't adopt, please donate or volunteer. We are always in need.*

ADOPTION FEE: N\$600.00 per kitten/ or take two kittens for N\$1000.00. The fee includes first injection, dewormer and sterilisation.



## Christmas for Critters Shoebox Drive

The Windhoek SPCA would like to invite Windhoek to take part in this inspiring community initiative.

Our aim is to collect Christmas gifts for abandoned animals and as a positive result this project ultimately helps parents to teach their own children the joy of giving!

**HOW TO MAKE A CHRISTMAS FOR CRITTERS SHOEBOX:**

1. **FIND AN EMPTY SHOE BOX**  
We all have empty shoeboxes around the house or know someone who can give us one. Shoe stores usually have empty boxes to give away.
2. **FILL IT WITH GOODIES**  
*The following items are required*  
\* put N\$100 in cash in the box PLUS  
\* For our Cats: pampers/ Friskies/ whiskers tin/ pouch food  
\* For our Dogs: tin or small bag of dog food  
\* Optional: toy/ collar lead/ brush, etc.
3. **DECORATE THE BOX:**  
Wrap/ decorate the shoebox (draw on it, paint on it, cut out pictures, put stickers on it) the sky is the limit here!
4. **LABEL YOUR BOX:**  
Clearly write cat or dog, depending on the gift of your choice
5. **WHERE TO TAKE YOUR BOX?**  
Windhoek SPCA, Robert Mugabe Avenue

**Closing date: 20 December**  
Email: [spcawhk@mweb.com.na](mailto:spcawhk@mweb.com.na)

Is N\$ 100 too much?  
Club together with friends and make a box OR put in whatever you can afford!

**Target: 250 boxes**

Merry Christmas!