



# THE ORYX

*The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School*

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

### Here We Go Again!

This morning we welcomed to the school many new families. Some have come from other countries and continents. Others have come from just across town. All are very welcome to the most diverse community of learners in Namibia.

We are also saying hello to four new members of staff.

**Rose Githinji** is Kenyan but has most recently been teaching in Rwanda. She is an experienced teacher of IB Diploma Biology and we are delighted to welcome her to the Science Department.

Also from Kenya is **Karen Amolo**. She has worked for the past eight years in a three-programme IB school and at WIS she will be joining the Learning Support Department.

**Johan Meyer** will be joining the Middle School where he will teach Social Studies. He is South African but his teaching career has taken him to Oman, Zambia, and South Korea (twice!).

Another addition to the Middle School is **Jeff Bonazzo**. Jeff is Canadian but has also taught in New Zealand and, most recently, Vietnam. He has substantial experience of the IB Middle Years Programme and at WIS he will be teaching Maths and Science.

A crucial element of what makes us a good international school is having a diverse body of teachers with previous experience of teaching the programmes we offer. We are therefore very happy to be welcoming our four new teachers.

### The School Day...

...is changing somewhat. We announced the changes towards the end of the last school year but allow me to offer a reminder.

There will be fewer but longer teaching periods in the Secondary School and this means that we will be extending the school day by **ten minutes**. For obvious reasons, we want Primary and Secondary to remain aligned. In any case, an extra ten minutes at the end of the day will be useful for Primary Class Teachers, especially when their children are with a specialist for the last lesson.

## Contents

- *From the Director p. 1 - 2*

## Dates to Remember

### August 2019

- **12:** Start of Term 1
- **14 - 16:** IBDP Induction
- **26:** Heroes Day
- **27:** AA Start



VISIT US ON:



Facebook



Instagram

We also want to address the pressing need for collaborative planning. This is already an integral part of the PYP but it is ever more important throughout the rest of the school too. So we will be using Wednesday afternoons for this.

So, what do you need to know? This...

- For all Grades up to and including Grade 8, the school day will finish at **13:40 Monday to Thursday**.
- In Grades 9 to 12, the school day will finish at **14:30 on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday** but at **13:40 on Wednesday**.
- For all Grades, the school will finish at **13:30 on Friday**.

### The Oryx

Every Friday we publish our weekly newsletter – the Oryx. All previous issues are available on the school website.

The Oryx contains important information but also serves as a magazine of record and you will find in it reports and accounts of events that are happening within the school community.

### Monday

All teachers have been back at work for a week preparing for the new school year but the 2019-2020 year starts for real on **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> August**.

We are looking forward to another successful and enjoyable year. Thank you for being part of the WIS community.

**Peter MacKenzie**

