



# THE ORYX

*The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School*

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

### IMPORTANT – Annual General Meeting

Last reminder of the AGM:

**Tuesday 6th December at 6pm in the Auditorium.**

I hope parents will make every attempt to attend.

Seven (7) parents are standing for election to the Board of Directors. Make sure your vote counts!

### 2017-2018 School Calendar

The calendar for the next academic year has been published on the website and the d6.

With best wishes

**Peter MacKenzie**

## PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

### Difficulty finding a parking space?

The afternoon dismissal can present some frustrations with finding a parking space. The most popular places are nearest to the classrooms and get filled up first. The temptation is then to double park or park in areas that are “no parking” areas. Next week, with no After School Activities taking place, the car park will be a little fuller. There are generally 20-25 parking spaces available in the section near the PLC. Please consider parking in this area. It won't hurt the children to walk a little farther and it may just end up being quicker to park there and collect your children than to wait for a space closer to the buildings.

### Semester Reports

The end of the semester brings the Semester 1 Progress Reports. These will be sent next Thursday or Friday to the email addresses we have on file. Please be sure to take time to read the comments that the teachers have written. A lot of time and thought have gone into the written comments, describing your child's progress. Celebrate your child's successes and encourage your child to reflect on the areas that can be developed further.

Regards,

**Beth Smith**

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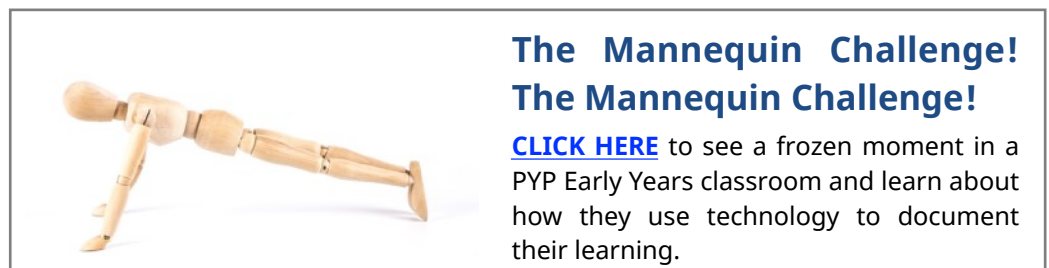
## Dates to Remember

### December

- **5 - 9:** Secondary Week A
- **6:** Annual General Meeting
- **7:** Interhouse Matches
- **9:** End of Term 2

### January 2017

- **6:** Staff Work day
- **9:** Start of term 3



## The Mannequin Challenge! The Mannequin Challenge!

[CLICK HERE](#) to see a frozen moment in a PYP Early Years classroom and learn about how they use technology to document their learning.



### Teacher Feature

#### Beth Smith - Primary Principal

What do you want to be when you grow up? From the age of 6 my answer to this question was always the same and never wavered - a teacher.

My original interest to become a teacher was because I liked writing on the chalkboard, helping to clean the board erasers and correcting papers. Over time the reasons for wanting to become a teacher evolved to my love of working with children, helping them to discover their own potential as individuals and to understand new concepts. As a teacher there is no greater joy than to see the "aha" moment when a child understands or discovers something for the first time.

Though I always wanted to teach Grade 1, my teaching career began with Grade 6. As it worked out (with the exception of Grade 2) I moved sequentially from Grade 6 to finally reaching my dream of teaching 6 year olds. I was a Primary classroom teacher for 25 years before venturing into the world of administration.

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## Afternoon Activity Art

Papier mache in the art room for afternoon activities. "A PROUD RAINBOW OF LIONS".



*Ms Genie and Ms Sigrid*

## Year 2 Oryx Jackson Pollock

Learning about using different tools in ART to paint with! Year 2 explored painting in the style of American artist, Jackson Pollock!!! What mighty fun we had!!



**Teacher Feature continued**

I do miss the classroom and having a connection with one group of students for an entire school year, however as it was suggested on my last day as a classroom teacher, I haven't really left teaching, I've just moved to a bigger classroom.

I was born in Kodiak, Alaska (dare I mention that it was before Alaska became a state?).

Since my father was in the Coast Guard we moved from the west coast to the east coast and back a few times, finally "settling" in New Hampshire, which is the state I identify with as home, though I haven't lived there since leaving 33 years ago to start my life of living and working overseas.

I attribute moving every 2-4 years as a child, to instilling an interest in travel, meeting people and visiting new places. While I don't remember anything about living in Alaska, perhaps in some way, living there inspired my interest in traveling to places that are a bit off the beaten path.

My international school career has spanned 28 years, living and working on 3 continents in 6 countries (Japan, Indonesia, Vietnam, Germany, Republic of Georgia and now Namibia). I have been so blessed with these opportunities which have also afforded me the chance to travel and pursue one of my many hobbies - photography.

This is my third year at WIS and from the day I landed in Windhoek, I have felt that Namibia and WIS are the right place for me. I hope to make Windhoek my home for several more years to come.

**SECONDARY PRINCIPAL****It's that time of the year again - Reports**

In the past weeks, teachers have been busy writing the end of semester reports for all their students. A lot of energy and thought goes into the effort to write clear and informative reports. Sometimes teachers wonder: Who is this for? Who reads these reports? Do parents and students appreciate the energy and time that goes into writing these comments?



As a parent myself, I have always found it very helpful to keep on track with my child's performance by attending Student Parent Teacher Conferences and sitting down with my daughter to talk about the different subjects, her effort and her achievement in the different subjects.

There are four feedback opportunities in an academic year - two Student Parent Teacher Conferences and two detailed written reports. These are times, when we as parents can sit down with our children and reflect on the term that is coming to an end and discuss the positive feedback, but also think about the aspects that need some more attention in the future.

School is a crucial part of every child's life. Often, children only realise the importance once they get into the senior years of school. And then a lot of the fundamental skills and academic behaviours need to have been established to ensure a child can perform to the best of their ability in their final years of school. It is our responsibility - as a school and as parents - to guide our children through this process. Reports and Student Parent Teacher Conferences are a great way to take the time to reflect and look at possible ways to address matters of concern. Teachers' comments give feedback on a child's routines and homework and working attitude and this can be addressed at home when the child sits down for homework.

Many students find it difficult to develop a workable study routine and work ethic. If we assist them in working out a homework routine and study habits that work for them, life can be so much less frustrating and stressful for everyone involved.

Our appeal to parents and students is to utilise the opportunity this thorough feedback gives to sit down and discuss school with your child.

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

## (un)Sung Herstories

### Home of Good Hope

What do you do when you think you have nothing in common with those around you? Dance, of course! After the (un)Sung Herstories young ladies talked with some of the students finishing their afternoon meal at the Home of Good Hope soup kitchen, they began to dance and shared the language of music and movement. Giggles, clapping, breakdancing, boogie and joy rang out amongst the kids.

The (un)Sung Herstories members visited Monica Imanga at the Home of Good Hope on Tuesday 30 November. Davan Pokolo and Genevieve Hinda (Year 7B) interviewed Monica for their afterschool activity and shared her story with the group. One question they asked was "What has stopped you from achieving your dreams?" to which Monica replied, "Nothing. Not anything."



During a group discussion, the students unanimously decided it would be a good idea to visit Monica together and bring her birthday presents as well. We unloaded from the school combie singing "Happy Birthday" and bearing gifts. Monica was clearly touched by the girls' thoughtfulness. Christine Shali (year 7A) said that it was so nice to be part of making someone's day brighter.



What would you expect if you were visiting a place called the Home of Good Hope? Smiles, yes. (Loads of them.) Hugs, too. For smiles and hugs are a universal language of hope. What you don't see behind the smiles and the hugs is the courage to persevere through the tough times. Monica lost her daughter to HIV and decided after that to quit her job and start a soup kitchen in 2007 so that learners had breakfast and lunch to help them better focus on school. Davan expressed, "Yesterday, I learnt that the small things matter in life. No matter what is happening in your life, no matter how much you are suffering, you can turn it into a good thing. These small things matter the most."



From her small zinc shed, she feeds approximately 600 students from all around the Goreangab area on a daily basis. There is a small play area and some supplies for the younger children who do not yet attend

preschool to play and learn. The Home of Good Hope includes other outreach projects including sports, school supplies and fees.

Genevieve reflected on the day and said, "Having everything you want isn't true happiness, it is just a luxurious dream in disguise." She further expressed that Monica clearly lives with no regrets, lives life to the fullest and is an inspiration for all of us.

We met Moses, Queen, Claudia, Theopolina, Armando and many other children. While we spoke with Monica, she informed us that they have applied for a plot of land nearby where a permanent building is to be constructed thanks to funding from Canada, volunteer architects from Hong Kong and many other foreign investments to help this project thrive and grow.

The (un)Sung Herstories members decided they would like to return and further help with serving after the December Holiday. Quote that Davan thought applied to Monica and the Home of Good Hope include "Difficult roads often lead to beautiful destinations" and "When life gives you a hundred reasons to cry, show life that you have a thousand reasons to smile."

**Melissa Kandido**

## Inline Hockey Championships

From the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> of November, Warren Smit (U16, U18), Erik Rubbert (U16, U18, Open), Arno Diekmann (U14, U16), Henrik Diekmann(U14), Liam Strydom (U16, U18, Open) and Olof Diekmann(U18, Open) competed in the NIIHA Championships where only the best four teams in each division are allowed to play.

Warren, Erik and Liam (captain) play for the Badgers team. Badgers managed to get the first place U16 and got the third place both U18 and Open. Arno and Henrik play for Kamikaze and got second place U14 and third place U16. Olof is the captain of the U18 Kamikaze team which won U18 and lost Open in a penalty shootout against Badgers.



Erik on an effort to score a goal



Liam trying to score and Arno trying to defend the shot



Olof playing in the Open division



Warren goaltending

## Third Culture Kids

As part of our Portuguese HL course , we look into social relationships. One of these relationships which we studied was the concept of "Third Culture Kids" , or "Crianças da Terceira Cultura" in Portuguese. Seeing that Mr. MacKenzie had also refereed to TCKs in a link he recently posted in the Oryx, we decided to write a short summary of how we felt about being TCK's .

Como crianças da Terceira Cultura, eu e a minha colega entedemos muito bem o que está escrito na reportagem da BBC. Consideramos ser un CTC tem mais vantagens do que desvantagens. É verdade que nós temos uma vida um pouco confusa, mas também falamos duas ou mais línguas e já moramos em mais do que um país, fizemos muitos amigos e conhecemos pessoas de culturas e nacionalidades diferentes. aprendemos muito com essas diferentes pessoas . Podemos esperienciar escolas e profersors diferentes. Estamos mais abertos a outras religiões e opiniões. Estas características fefletem varios aspectos do Perfil do Aluno do IB. CTCs são carinhosos, abertos e curiosos. As desvantagens são muitas, como por exemplo não nos identificamos uma nacionalidade ou cultura. As nossas Amizades são voláteis e vão-se perdendo. Mas mesmo assim , é muito bom ser uma Criança da Terceira Cultura.

As children of the Third Culture, my colleagues and I are very well aware of what is written in the BBC report. We consider being TCK's has more advantages than disadvantages. It is true that we have a rather confusing life, but we also speak two or more languages and we have already lived in more than one country. We have made many friends and we know people of different cultures and nationalities. We have learned a lot from these different people. We have experienced different schools and teachers. We are more open to other religions and opinions. These characteristics reflect several aspects of the IB Learner Profile. TCK's are affectionate, open and curious. The disadvantages are many, such as we do not identify to a specific nationality or culture. Our friendships are volatile and they are easily lost. But even so, it's great to be a Child of the Third Culture.

*Kiami Rodrigues, Samuel Jarvis, Luis Fernando Defensor-Moreira, Miguel Gomes (Year 12, Language B Portuguese)*

### School Photos: Deadline and delivery

Deadline for orders to be placed is 5 December 2016.

Delivery of photos will be done during the week of 9 January 2017.

# #InstaWin

WINDHOEK INTERNATIONAL

Order your 2016 School Photos to stand a chance to WIN a Fuji Instax Polaroid Camera & Film!

Get your School Package for only N\$95, which includes:

- 2x A5 Photos
- 1x A5 Class Photo
- Passport Squares
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- 1x A4 Photo of Choice



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#NAMIBIAPORTRAITS



### Week: 5 - 9 December 2016 - Primary and Secondary School

To bring the school closer together, Middle School Student Council, Senior Student Council and Primary Student Council got together and organised a Spirit week for the whole school. The dress up is not compulsory and is just for fun. This will be taking place on Monday, 5 December 2016 to 9 December 2016.

- **Monday** : Dress up as your favourite sports team / person
- **Tuesday** : Twin Tuesday
- **Wednesday** : \*Only primary\* Pyjama day/ \*Only Secondary\* Sports / Inter-house day  
( wear blue, green, red or yellow depending on what team you are in)
- **Thursday** : Cartoon Character Day
- **Friday** : December Celebrations \*Primary Picnic\*



*Thank you for your cooperation. By: Olivia and Li Year 8b*





*You are invited to a Studio Exhibition of*

# *Bowled Over Ceramics 2016*

*By Genie and Rolf Albrecht*

Sunday 4th December from 10.00am onwards | 47 Hintrager Street, Pioneerspark, Windhoek.  
Welcome viewing thereafter by appointment @ Phone: 243213 or 08112.88963 or 08112.44634



Come and join the us, **The Cat Protection Society of Namibia (CPSN)** on our kitten day, the 3rd and 10th of December from 8:00 - 13:00 @ Superspar Maerua Lifestyle 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**