



# THE ORYX

*The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School*



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## Dates to Remember

### October

- **17 - 21:** Secondary Week B
- **22:** Car Boot Sale
- **24:** UN Day Assembly
- **28:** Interhouse Swim Gala

### November

- **5:** International Day

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

### Revised Dates for School Fees 2017-2018

Yesterday all parents should have received a message from me regarding next year's tuition fees. If you didn't, please contact the School Office and we'll send you the details.

This is not notification of the *amount* to be paid (that will follow once the Board has decided on this) but the *dates* by when fees must be received by the school. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about the new schedule.

And let me reiterate that this is simply advance notice of *what is going to happen next* school year. Nothing changes for the current school year that ends in July.

### Celebrating the United Nations

UN Day all over the world is 24th October. The school annually celebrates this event but this year we are privileged to have been invited by the Namibia Office of the UN to host their own national celebration. The occasion will be attended by some 200 invited guests including many dignitaries from the Namibian government and the diplomatic community. It is quite an honour for the school and we are proud to have the opportunity to work closely with the United Nations.

The Assembly will run from 10am to noon on Monday and should not cause congestion in the car park. An accompanying exhibition of the work of the UN will be mounted in the school gym until Wednesday and you are very welcome to visit it.

Other in-school ceremonies to acknowledge the work of the UN are being held today (Primary) and on Tuesday (Secondary).



## Teacher Feature

### Lian Cohen - Secondary Mathematics

A British Import!

So...where do I begin? My life in Namibia was only supposed to be for one year and that was in 2007! I had a wonderful job teaching Mathematics in London with a range of responsibilities including being in charge of Middle School Mathematics, Deputy Subject Leader and Visits Coordinator.

But...I had been at the school for 13 years and, although I loved my job dearly, I had a desire for a new experience. I was lucky to be offered a one year sabbatical to follow my dream and then return to my wonderful London life.

I contacted a volunteering NGO called VSO (Volunteer Services Overseas) and got offered a one year placement as a Mathematics teacher-trainer in the Kavango region of Namibia.

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## Missing in Action

As some of you may know, I contrived over the recent short holiday to break my ankle. I am now walking on crutches and awaiting the date of an operation. I can continue to work by e-mail from home but I'm afraid you won't be seeing me in the car park for a few weeks.

With best wishes

**Peter MacKenzie**

## PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

### Welcome back to school and to Term 2

After the week's holiday students are back into the daily school routine and are already working on the goals they set during the Three Way Conferences.

Congratulations to the following students who achieved perfect attendance during Term 1. To achieve perfect attendance a student has not been late or absent during the term.

#### KG2

*Antoinette Amoding  
Jo-Rel Beukes  
Levi De Wilde  
Johan Janse van Rensburg  
David Mettler  
Lee Neels*

#### Year 1

*Nini Ren  
Jane Amaambo*

#### Year 2

*Brian Dan Kay  
Tristan Guyon  
Kyle Maramba  
Tangeni Mwapopi  
Candice Rey  
Stefano Thamage  
Eden Walker*

#### Year 3

*Isabella Martin Prina*

#### Year 4

*Adia Brendell  
Tia Guyon  
Leonardo Hangula*

#### Panduleni Kapolo

*Mateo Maz Beltran  
Ali Mohammed  
Abigail Segamwenge  
Oliwia Stephanus*

#### Year 5

*Maedot Abeje  
Justice Agolory  
Alicia Alako  
Tawana Dhanah  
Diana Hitula  
Alweendo Iyambo  
Evie Mraz  
Lee Ntelamo  
Salome Rey  
David Schipper  
Hannah Yokotani*

#### Year 6

*Zahra Ayoub  
Sylvain Dia  
Franz Hangula  
Martha Kali  
Tangi Nghipondoka  
Anoushka Pillai  
Jamal Sawadogo  
Ben-Timothy Visser*

## Today's Assembly

Since UN Day is Monday, October 24, the focus of today's Primary assembly was about the United Nations. Ask your child what he/she can tell you about the United Nations.

Regards,

**Beth Smith**

**Teacher Feature continued**

Travelling from the bustling metropolis of London and a school of 2000 secondary students, I landed in the middle of the bush in Kavango. Yes, quite a culture shock!

A very pleasant culture shock! Work was busy there - running weekly workshops for teachers, teaching classes myself, doing one on one training and planning sessions with teachers from the local senior secondary schools and even running afternoon sessions for female students in empowerment, sexual awareness, HIV/AIDS prevention, etc.

When my year was over I returned to London but Namibia had grabbed my heart by then. I had fallen in love with the country (and a particular Namibian man!).

So, I applied for a job at various Namibian private schools and chose to accept a position at the Windhoek International School. As soon as I stepped onto this campus I loved the warm and friendly feel of the place. I still do all these years later!

I eventually married my Namibian boyfriend and we have a beautiful son, Alexander, who is now in KG2 and loving learning at WIS! So....that is how I ended up at WIS, but....in teaching? That's a whole different story!

**Continues on page 4**

## CLASS TIME

Kindergarten 2 students and teachers would like to express their gratitude to the PTA for donating money for the grass and Mr. Sylvester and Mr. Antonio for laying the grass and shading for us.

We would like to acknowledge one of our WIS parent (Mr. N.Robiati) for supplying us with good quality grass once again.

The students are very thankful and happy:



## SECONDARY PRICIPAL

### 100 Mentors - university advice and assistance

We are currently trialing an online platform that provides advice to students regarding university matters. 100 Mentors, is an online platform that has mentors from different fields of study and some well known universities and businesses.

Elina is our contact at 100 Mentors. Elina and Ms. Reiff from WIS facilitate the communication between the students and their mentors. This platform intends to empower students to become the architects of their own future. Students should be thinking critically about their future, have an open mind and look around internationally and have an intellectual humility that allows them to approach these very important but difficult decisions in their lives and make decisions about their future that are realistic and sustainable.

### Teacher Feature continued

I started my professional career working as a Contracts Manager for a Tour Operator.

This was a glamorous job that involved lots of overseas travel and being wined and dined. But, after a few years I realised that the ruthlessness of big corporate business was not for me.

I went back to university and completed my PGCE course in Secondary Mathematics teaching.

As soon as I started the course I knew I'd found my passion! I love how relevant, essential and exciting Mathematics is and I love spending my days in a school environment - an environment I was lucky enough to enjoy as a child myself! I thrive on being in the company of young minds who I am learning from every day - I find it quite a privilege!

***"Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young." Henry Ford.***

The difficulty many young adults face when they are at the end of their school career is that they do not know how to approach the next step. There is so much opportunity, there are so many choices and still not everything is open to everybody.

In order for our students to make realistic decisions about their future, they have to consider different matters:

1. What are my interests? - Are these interests compatible with my academic profile?
2. What are the financial means that will allow me to study at a certain institution? - Relying on scholarships and financial aid is not sustainable and might jeopardise your opportunities to make the right choices.
3. How does my academic profile look like? Not everybody can do everything, it is therefore important that students look at their academic strengths and make decisions accordingly.
4. What will the institution I want to apply for benefit from admitting me? - The competition for university places, especially at prestigious institutions, is fierce. Merely satisfying the minimum admissions requirements might often not be sufficient since there will be many more applicants than places available. Having specific interests (sport, creative, service) will make you more compatible in the admissions process.
5. More and more institutions are looking at the whole person - your grades, your interests, your own motivational letter and your referees' comments about you. Already in Years 10 & 11 it is important to be aware of this and build a positive picture so that you can show your proactive nature and show that you can take initiative in your society.

Here is the approach 100 Mentors is taking to assist students in making the right choices:

We built what we wanted to have when we were called to find our answers to the universal questions:

"What do I want to be when I grow up?"

"What am I going to be 5 years ahead from now? In 10 years?"

"What is the plan to pursue and how am I going to achieve its milestones?"

"Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself." - John Dewey <http://www.100mentors.com/about-us>

Students are paired up with mentors to advise them. This is the brief mentors are given before they start advising students: <http://www.100mentors.com/guides/mentor>

WIS is currently trialling this platform and if students feel that it is a useful tool to support and advise them with the choices they make for the future, WIS might subscribe to this service in the future. Feedback from students and parents about this service is highly appreciated.

On Thursday next week there will be an event arranged by 100 Mentors. Students and parents are welcome to attend - the presentations will be held in the PLC. 27 October @ 14:30 - 16:30, Academic Fair

- University of Essex with Katerina Kanlis , International Student Recruitment Officer@14.30
- Case Western Reserve University with Drew Crawford, Senior Assistant Director@15.00
- McGill University with Melanie Element, Recruitment Officer @15.30

Regards,  
Maggie Reiff

I trust everyone had a 👍 holiday and that all the 🎓 have settled in well.

😂😂😂 LOL - isn't this how some of us write these days? Could we incorporate various new ways of modern writing, a.k.a. messaging tools in the classroom? 😱 some of you might say. Melissa Kandido said 👍 [Click](#) to find out [how emojis were integrated into the Year 7 History classes.](#)

## Congratulations!

We would like to congratulate Karim El-Kallawi who won 2 Silver and 1 Gold medal. And Nour El-Kallawi who won a Gold Medal. They both participated at the Dolphins Swimming Gala held on 6 October. Well done to both!



## Inter House Basketball & Hockey

We concluded term 1 with an inter-house tournament.

Class allegiances and friendship groups were temporarily sidelined and house groups united as each group challenged for sporting supremacy. Our Yr. 8's and Yr. 9's competed in a series of Hockey matches while our seniors students, from Yr. 10-13, played basketball.

	Middle Boys Hockey	Middle Girls Hockey	Senior Boys Basketball	Senior Girls Basketball
1st	Lion	Leopard	Cheetah	Caracal
2nd	Caracal	Cheetah	Lion	Leopard
3rd	Leopard	Lion	Caracal	Lion
4th	Cheetah	Caracal	Leopard	Cheetah

House	Middle School Points	Seniours School Points	Total Points	Goal Difference	Final Place
Lion	20	18	38	(+) 7	1
Caracal	16	22	38	(+) 4	2
Cheetah	22	14	36	(+) 2	3
Leopard	18	10	28	(-) 2	4

Thank you to all students for their huge contributions and to the staff who assisted with refereeing and collating scores.

There were 4 separate competitions throughout the afternoon and the points from each competition were combined to indicate an overall winner.

Those members of the school community who have very good memories will remember that it has been quite some time since we hear the Lions Victory roar.

Congratulation to Lions for a historic win.

*It was a really great experience to play matches in our house groups everyone had lots of fun. It was a bit challenging to compete against our friends at times, however everyone showed really good sportsmanship and contributed well. ~Lene Leibenberg Y9~*

**Thomas Jackson-Read**

## Hard work and dedication pays off!

“Work so hard that one day your signature will be called an autograph!” - unknown

It is with much pride and joy that I present to you the under 11 SKW team!



### Silver Medal - 2016 Khomas League

Back: Coach Manny, Amani(WIS student), Mark (WIS student), Nico, Dan, Opomanga, Coach Hafeni, Coach Flavio  
Front: Tjjandjeua, Fabian, Uno, Francisco (WIS student), Opomanga, Pedro (WIS student)

These boys have dedicated Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons to soccer training, they have dedicated Saturday and Sunday mornings to league matches, they have persevered through cold and hot weather; there were tears, there were frustrating moments, but there was never the thought to quit! There was never the thought to give up after a tough loss; and there was never a time where they were not a team!

These boys have dedicated a lot, some would say more that we can ever ask for from 10 and 11 year old boys, and their hard work has paid off! They have shown great improvement and there isn't a single opposing team who can say that they do not play with all their hearts, but most importantly - like a TEAM! They have some soccer skills that many great soccer players would be amazed at!



2016 Ramblers Tournament - Bronze Medal

Congratulations to Amani Enkara, Mark Lintuange, Pedro Ferreira and Francisco Ferreira - our WIS year 7 boys who have shown determination, dedication, and commitment.

To all the fantastic soccer players at WIS who represent our school so diligently in their clubs and in other year groups - congratulations on your hard work!



2016 Otjiwarongo Tournament - Silver

*"Attitude - Is a little thing that makes a big difference between soccer success and soccer failure!"* - **Felicity Luckey**

**Jaqueline Ferreira**

## Year 7 Field-trip to Arnhem Caves

**"I hear, I forget, I see I remember. I do I learn."** Chinese proverb.



As we all know, direct experience is the best teacher! The Year 7's just like the Year 12's before them set off on a field-trip to Arnhem caves in Dordabis on a sunny October morning (the heat was on although it was only 7:30am). A lot has been written about these caves and I hope I will not just end up repeating myself! The departure was delayed for about an hour and a half as Mr. Sylvester and other members of staff and enthusiastic students tried to figure out how best to load the different shapes and sizes of bags, suitcases, tents, sleeping bags, pots, pans, cooler boxes, you name it onto the big bus

plus trailer and the Quantum. I mean you are looking at plus, minus forty people here who are traveling and are bound to bring all sorts of stuff when going on a trip. As is always the case in this situation, one has to "make a plan"! To cut a long story short, everything and everyone managed to find some space on the vehicles and we were off. The short trip up to and just after the Hosea Kutako Airport is all tar with all its twists and turns and the usual ups and downs. At the turnoff after the airport we got onto the long and lonely dusty road with a few turns right up to the camp. I should point out that the singing and laughing on the big bus made the journey more enjoyable and shorter than usual!

We got to the camp at just after midday in the scorching, October African heat. The air was so heavy you could lean on it. We quickly looked for the nearest shade under trees where to off load our luggage and tents and some even started to pitch their tents. I was greatly impressed about the energy and transformation of the students from city people to cave people. It seemed everyone was very well prepared for this, like second nature!



After lunch we all set off on the trail from the camp to the caves. It is a narrow winding path through pieces of broken rocks and thorny bushes and up the hill and presto, you are at the cave entrance (many thanks to Mrs Gorelick for encouraging the strugglers)! The leading tour-guide (a very nice fellow who seems to know the caves inside out) gave a pep talk on safety and the do's and don'ts and a short history of the caves. Without realising it, we all just found ourselves in a meandering queue into the belly of the earth. We were met with a strong unique smell of Guano, and as they say, "...you can like it or hate it but you can surely not ignore it!" There was no going back now. The caves are deep, dark, dusty but cool and you have this urge of wanting to see the bats. Before you can say "WIS", you see bats flapping their nylon-like wings, flying past you and not smashing into your face (bats are sophisticated as they are armed with echo-location.) It is also fortunate that all the six species of bats at Arnhem caves are insect eaters. I am sure that is what made most of us feel at ease! We however went on to explore as much of the cave as we could and when we thought we were running out of time we decided to call it a day. Wait, there was a surprise on our way out. A mummified porcupine which has been sitting in the same place since the caves were discovered (the porcupine has lost most of its quills though but it is still well preserved) in 1930.

After the visit to the caves we just could not wait to get back to camp and dive into the welcoming pool. Apart from the caves, the pool was the highlight of the day! I am sure the juicy fresh oranges which Mrs Cohen distributed by the pool will remain fresh in lots of peoples' minds. It was just what one needed in the blinding heat. More was to come, the cooking team surprised us with a braai of mutton, wors and chicken cutlets with garlic bread. There was even some fruit and dessert. I must have been very exhausted after climbing up and down the ladders in the caves because I don't remember going to sleep, all I remember is waking up to the sweet sounds of birds and the noisy guinea fowls!

The breakfast cooking team woke up early and we were treated to tea/coffee, bacon and eggs, baked beans, mushroom and toasted bread! Time seemed to be running out as we were having lots of fun. Some students could not resist the temptation of going back into the pool for a swim and games. We soon realised that our time was up when Mr. Sylvester appeared in a cloud of dust with the big bus. We packed and loaded our stuff onto the vehicles and felt sad that we had to leave paradise to go back to school and the city. I am sure a lot of Year 7's will remember this trip for a very long time to come and I am sure we all learned something new, first hand be it about bats, caves, the games, teamwork and looking after oneself and each other. Thank you to all who made this possible!



**Cuthbert George-Banda**



**MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WIS CAR BOOT SALE SATURDAY 22 OCTOBER**

Time: 10am to 3pm  
Open to all  
Come and buy or sell

**What can you sell? BRAND NEW OR USED GOODS!**

Anything you no longer love or want  
Arts and crafts, jewelry, pottery, hand-made cards, paintings, furniture and fittings etc.  
Anything goes!

N\$100 fee per car boot

Children welcome and entrance free  
Games, food, drinks, ice cream and more on sale

*Further queries to Sandra @ 081 446 5625 and [kbritz@wis.edu.na](mailto:kbritz@wis.edu.na)*



[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO](#)

# 5km WALK FOR DIABETES WINDHOEK



FUND RAISER FOR THE DIABETES FOUNDATION NAMIBIA



## Saturday, 12 November 2016

Windhoek | Swakopmund | Walvis Bay | Otjiwarongo

**Walk starts at 7:30**

**FREE Blood Sugar testing starts at 7:00**

**Lucky Draw before the walk!**

**Adults N\$75.00, Children <12y N\$30.00**

**Register with your nearest office:**

7:00 @ Farm Windhoek  
IJG Trails, Otjivero Street  
Kleine Kuppe

CONTACT

Susan Grobler 081 357 4441  
susan@dsa-africa.com

Lore Wormsbächer 081 847 4587  
lorewormsbacher@gmail.com



**WIS**  
**INTER HOUSE SWIM GALA**  
**2016**

**Year groups: Year 2-13**

**Events**

- 25m Freestyle
- 25m Backstroke
- 25m Butterfly
- 25m Breaststroke

**Dates: Friday, 28 October 2016**

**Venue: UNAM School of Medicine**

**Time: 14:30 - 17:00 (TBC)**



These animals are available at the [Windhoek SPCA](#)

50% OFF

  
 GINGY

  
 ARREBUSH

  
 REBECCA

  
 BRANDY

  
 SPAMMER

  
 TASHA

# BENCHWARMERS

CAN YOU GIVE US A FOREVER HOME?

  
 DARVEY

  
 DIANA

  
 WEBSTER


