



# THE ORYX

*The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School*

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

### Save the Date(s)!

We are five weeks into the school year and things seem to have settled into a familiar and productive routine. So let me turn your thoughts to a number of important events coming up in the next few weeks and months.

### **PTA AGM** Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September @ 12 noon

All WIS parents are automatically members of the PTA. That means that you have a say (and a stake) in what the PTA does, how it spends its money, and so on. This year we are fortunate to have an unusually large and active PTA Executive (see last week's Oryx) and they are likely to be busy between now and June. Please get involved! Please come to the AGM this Thursday in the Auditorium and see what the PTA does and how you can help.

### **International Day** Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November

One thing the PTA is already working hard on is our annual International Day. This is the biggest community event on the school calendar and it sees children, parents, teachers, and friends of the school come together to celebrate the amazing diversity that makes this school unique. Please save the date.

### **Board of Directors AGM** Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December

The Board of Directors numbers not fewer than seven members and not more than twelve. The majority of members are parents of children currently enrolled at WIS. It is the Board that has the ultimate responsibility for the direction the school is taking, its financial health, and the performance of the Educational Director. The AGM this year will be on 5<sup>th</sup> December and parents will hear reports from the Chair, the Treasurer, and the Educational Director. It is also an opportunity for parents to engage with the Board, ask questions, make suggestions, raise concerns, and so on. All parents are welcome. I hope to see you there.

**Peter MacKenzie**

## PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Do you give your child the opportunity to make choices? Did you know that by doing so you are helping your child learn to make good decisions later on? When children make choices they are building their confidence and sense of responsibility and they feel in control of the choice that they have made. When they make a choice, they then have to accept the choice that they've made. When parents make all the choices for their children, they are taking away a learning opportunity. The authors of Parenting with Love and Logic say, "We must understand that making good choices is like any other activity: It has to be learned." (*Foster Cline, MD and Jim Fay*).

Making choices



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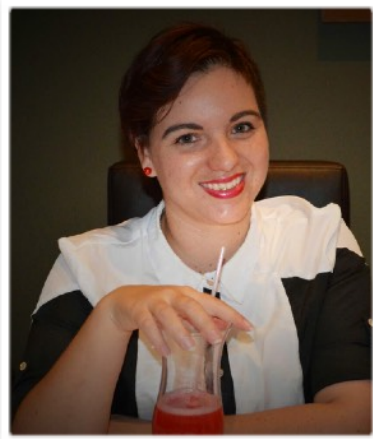
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## Dates to Remember

### September 2017

- **11:** Staff Work Day - No School for students
- **18:** Board Meeting
- **18 - 22:** Year 12 Field Trip
- **25:** Lower Primary School - Photo Day
- **26:** Secondary School - Photo Day
- **27:** Upper Primary School - Photo Day



## Teacher Feature

### Debbie Carew - Year 3B

My name is Debbie Carew and I am proudly Namibian! When you live in a country of only 2 million, you get to know your neighbours. In my culture, neighbours are known to be a backbone, the first you call to celebrate a birthday, or to grieve with. Your neighbour's friends and family members automatically become part of your life. What I love most about Namibia is the sense of promise that is found here. Namibia is a country where individuals can - and do - make a difference.

I am excited to be a part of WIS Community. This is my first time teaching in a IB PYP School. Prior to coming here, I was teaching for over 8 years in the Government System, throughout the years I taught different grades and subjects. My last station was being a register classroom teacher (HRT) for a Learning Support class.

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Some of the many ways children have the opportunity to make choices during the school day include:

- what to play and who to play with during break time;
- which activity to do first for centres or rotations;
- which manipulatives to use for a mathematics activity;
- what to buy at Bake Sale or at the Tuck Shop.

Here are some ways that you can help your child develop the skill of making choices:

- Allow your child to choose what clothes to wear to school.
- Have your child pack his/her snack and lunchbox, or give input as to what goes into the snack/lunchbox.
- Discuss with your child how he/she will spend money that's been received as gifts and the pros and cons of that decision.
- If your child receives an allowance, have your child set goals for what he/she will do with the money. Your child could even be involved in the decision of what jobs need to be done to earn the money and the consequences for not meeting the goals.
- Discuss the various options for After School Activities and which ones your child would enjoy, as opposed to which ones you want your child to participate in.
- If your child takes a music lesson, let your child come up with a plan for practising during the week.
- Discuss with your child what the homework is and what plan there is for completing it.

I'm sure you can think of many more ways to provide your child with opportunities to make choices.

Consider this week the various ways you can continue to help your child with making choices so that he/she can further develop this life skill which will ultimately help with confidence and responsibility.

Regards,  
Beth Smith

## What's going on the in the PYP?

**"Who We Are!"**

***An inquiry into the nature of the self; beliefs and values; personal, physical, mental, social and spiritual health; human relationships including families, friends, communities and cultures; rights and responsibilities; what it means to be human.***

### A little history of our school?

We have been implementing the IB PYP since 1994.

The Primary Years programme is a child centred approach that is committed to scaffolded but purposeful inquiry. This programme strives to engage students as active learners, whilst they explore



## Teacher Feature continued

I love being an educator, it reminds me of gardening. We work hard, plant seeds, love and nurture growth and observe students unravel their uniqueness by the fruit they bear that contribute towards making a better world.

My family consists out of four, my husband, son Amauro who is in year 1B, my daughter Ayana that is one year old and myself. Apart from teaching my hobbies include traveling, camping, fishing, watching T.V and cooking as long as my husband does the dishes.

I graduated with a BETD from Windhoek College of Education and a fourth year ACE in Learning Support. I believe in being a lifelong learner, and I continually make room for continuous professional growth. Hence the reason why I'm a Teacher at Windhoek International School, it's an opportunity to gain more knowledge, broaden my horizons, and learn a new set of skills. I was looking forward to a new challenge.

I already believe that I am at the right place surrounded by great people.

In closing I'll leave you with this quote:

***I teach because there is an excitement, joy and suspense in the journey. Rebecca Alber***

concepts and construct meaning of the world around them.

In this visual you can see the concepts they explore are based around six transdisciplinary themes. Within these themes and over the course of the year students explore the world around them through various subject bases that lend themselves to the topics explored. It is a holistic and inclusive approach that encourages students to be leading agents in their own learning.

Within the development of knowledge and content, they also develop concepts, skills, attitudes and they explore various ways to learn in a more collaborative learning community.

The Primary Years Programme (PYP) is designed as a curriculum framework for students age 3-12 that:

- Is responsive to young children's ways of knowing Is a not-for-profit organisation supporting the education of more than 1 million students every year in over 3,900 schools in 147 countries.
- encourages children's learning through experiencing, interacting and making connections with the real world around them.
- Is relevant, significant and engaging.

Thank you, to all parents that attended the PYP Workshop sessions this week: Don't forget to visit [wispyp.blogspot.com](http://wispyp.blogspot.com) to find out more about the PYP.

A special thanks to all the efforts of the PTA for providing coffee and their support.

**Kind regards**

**Avril van Zyl - PYP Coordinator ([avanzyl@wis.edu.na](mailto:avanzyl@wis.edu.na))**

## SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

### What is Edmodo? Why Edmodo?

Education is evolving almost too fast to keep up with and especially our generation (parents) is sometimes overwhelmed with the speed in which things change. Can we keep up with our child's progress in school, if everything these days is conducted over the internet and through technology? Who of you have given up trying to understand and keeping up with your child's online behaviour and progress?



Today I would like to write a bit about WIS' approach to using technology as a learning tool in school. We expect our students to come to school with a working device. Parents have at times said that this is not a good idea, because children use technology for the wrong reasons. Yes, they are. But how will they learn to use it correctly, if they are not educated in the use of technology? WIS believes that we need to take an approach in educating young people, rather than forbidding them to do things. This is certainly much more challenging than just telling kids they are not allowed to use devices in school. Teachers have to be much more alert and proactive. Teachers have to try to keep up to date with developments. And this is not always an easy task.

In the Secondary School we use Edmodo as a "communication, coaching and collaboration" (Edmodo.com) tool. Sometimes it is called a "facebook for schools",

because it is a safe way to connect online. It is a closed private network and includes a number of privacy protections to ensure participant's safety. Here are just a few:

- *Students cannot create their own account. The teacher creates an account for a group (a subject for example) and students sign up for that group. The only personal information students need is their first and last name.*
- *There is no geo-location tracking information.*
- *No student information is passed on from Edmodo to third parties.*
- *Students cannot privately communicate with each other via Edmodo.*

<https://www.edmodo.com/privacy>

At WIS, homework is posted on Edmodo. Assignments and due dates are also posted on Edmodo and students can interact with their teachers via Edmodo. In our time, communication is often instant, which means that students can also communicate with their teachers out of school hours. A certain etiquette is, however, required to ensure that communication is not disturbing private lives. That is another matter that needs to be learnt.

Parents can sign up for Edmodo and will be able to see their child(ren)'s profile, the homework set, assignments due etc. This is a great way to participate in your child's education and have an overview of their progress.

You will have received your child's parent code from your child's homeroom teacher. We appeal to all parents to sign up on Edmodo and through having access participate in your child's learning and progress (and maybe even learn a thing or two about technology and online behaviour with and from your child).

If you are not yet on Edmodo, maybe this video can give you the necessary information to be convinced that this is a good way to participate in your child's school life: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cCFyLUkupY>

Respectfully

**Regards,**

**Maggie Reiff**

## Thank you to our sponsors

The Hopsol League restarts this weekend after a four week break. WIS will, once again, host the competition of all the best clubs in the city. The action starts at 8 am on Saturday with the U9's WIS boys taking on the mighty SKW. There will be a total of 14 matches played in U9, U11 and U13 age groups. The U11 team play at 9 am and the U13's play at 13.15.

Good luck to all players involved and thanks you very much to our Sponsors for the new kits. OK FOOD and Westlane SPAR, a big THANK YOU from the Sports Department.





## INTER HOUSE SWIM GALA 2017

Swimming is a great activity, and it's easy to join if you like water. We have so many talented and committed swimmers at WIS. We refer to our previous swimming gala. In February 2017, we had 50 Primary students participating in the Inter House swimming event. Swimmers have shown courage, skill, determination, and teamwork in the relays.



Once again, the Sports Committee would like to encourage all swimmers (**Primary and Secondary**) to take part in this year's Inter House Swimming Gala which will take place on September 29, in the Western Suburbs swimming pool.



We would like to see many students entering our competition this year. *Entry forms will be available on the Primary class blogs, on the D6 and this week's Oryx.*

Swimming is one of the most popular Olympic sports, with events in butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke, freestyle, and individual medley and team relays.

Many other schools in Windhoek have competitive swim teams, and the Sports Committee feel we should build our team as well.

Our students will be able to choose which style they want to swim and the length of the event.

This year we will be introducing the 50m race and the opportunity for students to become part of the team. The best swimmers will be representing our school during the Pupkewitz Gala in October.

**Are you one of them?**

**By B. Stephanus**

**WIS**  
**INTER HOUSE SWIM GALA**  
**2017**

**Year groups: 2-13**  
**Events**

- 25m Freestyle
- 25m Backstroke
- 25m Butterfly
- 25m Breaststroke
- 50m Freestyle
- 50m Backstroke
- 50m Breaststroke
- 50m Butterfly

**Date:** Friday, 29 September 2017  
**Venue:** Western Suburb swimming pool  
**Time:** 12:00 - 15:00



**WIS PRIMARY & SECONDARY SCHOOL**

INTER HOUSE SWIM GALA  
29 September 2017

**Entry Form** : Please return to HRT before Wednesday, 20 September 2017

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Year (class): \_\_\_\_\_

House (✓): **Lion**  **Leopard**  **Cheetah**  **Caracal**

Events : (✓)

- 25m Freestyle
- 25m Backstroke
- 25m Butterfly
- 25m Breaststroke
- 50m Freestyle
- 50m Backstroke
- 50m Breaststroke
- 50m Butterfly

Parents Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## The first 30 years ....

On the 7th of September, our Geography teacher, Edwina Rimmington, celebrated 30 years of teaching the IB Diploma. She is also our TOK teacher and the CAS Coordinator. IBDP teachers got together to celebrate this memorable occasion with a delicious cake.

Congratulations, Edwina. WIS is proud to be part of your IB career and we hope you will be part of WIS for another .....? years.



## WIS Baby News...

WIS would like to introduce...

### Landan Evan van Rooi

Born to Ms Kaye and Reggie van Rooi, weighing 3.54kg.



We would like to wish both families well as they settle into life together and get to know the newest members to their families.

WIS would also like to introduce...

### Annika Merveille

(French for "to marvel/marvelous")  
born to Ester M.  
Annika weighed 2.3kg at birth.



# SPCA Windhoek 68<sup>th</sup> Birthday SMS Campaign

**HELP US PAY OUR VET FEES!**

**LOTS OF  
DIFFERENT  
PRIZES TO BE WON!**

25 Aug 2017  
**UNTIL**  
30 Nov 2017

**SMS SPCA To 5005**

**N\$5.00**  
per SMS  
T&Cs apply

Send as many sms's as you like during the 3 months.



*Prizes to be handed over in the first week of December 2017.*