



# THE ORYX

*The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School*

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## Dates to Remember

### November

- **03** - Early Close
- **10** - Board Meeting
- **14** - International Day
- **18** - PTA Meeting



## FOUNDATIONS OF FUTURE SWIMMING GREATNESS: TEAM WIS

For many members of our school community the Friday afternoon bell indicated an opportunity to relax, complete home learning tasks and spend time at home with families - this was not the case for our elite cohort of swimmers that make up the school swim team.

We traveled to Olympia for the annual Pupkewitz Interschool Gala on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Nine competing schools battled for supremacy during 2 days of competition in a total of 126 races. The 50-meter pool presented a formidable challenge for some of our U8 competitors; however, each swimmer acquitted themselves gloriously as Team WIS fought and battled throughout every race.

*For me, as a parent, the Pupkewitz Swimming Gala 2015 was a great two-day event full of positive energy and determination. Our [20] swimmers did extremely well this year. I'm not a swimmer at all; however, my daughter swims and is my inspiration. When she swims, I get stomach cramps from nerves. I'm proud to see how she has grown. She told me before the gala, "Mommy, WIS kids never give up."*

**-Beata Stephanus (WIS Parent)**





## Teacher Feature

### Jan le Roux - Year 2B

If you've ever seen me walking around school with a dragon hat on my head and carrying a large inflatable daffodil, then you probably figured out that I'm originally from Wales. I came to Namibia on holiday in 1981, fresh out of college with the ink still drying on my B.Ed Hons certificate - I never went back!

I wouldn't class myself "exceptionally well travelled", but I have lived in some interesting parts of Namibia: Swakopmund, Ganab (Namib Naukluft National Park), Sesfontein, Namutoni and Okaukuejo (Etosha National Park), mostly because of my husband's work in Nature Conservation. I have always wanted to be a teacher and have taught 4 year olds in preschool to adult literacy classes. Basically, if you'd like to learn, I'd like to have a go at teaching you!

I joined WIS 10 years ago and immediately became enamoured with the PYP. I remain grateful that our move to Windhoek enabled our two sons to experience the IB.

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A huge thanks to all our parents who came to enjoy the spectacle and to encourage all the swimmers.

### Participating Swimmers

- Leo Jackson-Read
- Olwen Black
- Oliwia Stephanus
- Mateo Maz Beltran
- Jiaren Li
- Nanyu Akwenye
- Zuleika Hiwilepo
- Maedot Abeje
- Sean Wang
- Evan Black
- Thomas Prybylski
- Melvina Nicol-Wilson
- Emilio Leto
- Ndemi Mayumbelo
- Viktoria Ellmies
- Varun Srivastava
- Jackson Saunders
- Alicia Reiff
- Abhinab Sarma
- Nirab Sarma



Next year we hope to have swimmers in all events in this exceptional sports outing.

### Mr. Jackson-Read

## PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

One of the aspects of the Primary Years Programme (PYP) that I find valuable, and the reason I have only sought to work in schools offering the PYP, is the focus it puts on the development of the whole child. The Learner Profile plays an important role in this.



**Teacher Feature continued**

I was concerned when I started at WIS that I wouldn't get the same sense of job satisfaction as my previous post - can you imagine a class of 52 six year olds bursting into spontaneous applause because you've shown them how to make paper snowflake patterns from old telephone directory pages? (This was one of the joys of teaching at Okaukuejo Primary School for ten years.)

WIS, on the whole, is proving to be a great experience for me as a teacher and as a learner. I enjoy the fact that the teacher is not the old style all-knowing being, standing in front of a classroom and holding forth, but rather a facilitator to enable the children to inquire, make connections, share ideas and examine different perspectives. As an example, for the topic of "position in space", I took the children on a campus walk and when we returned to class, we worked together to make a campus map. During the process, there was a suggestion of making a 3D model. My reaction was, "Great, what do we need? Let's do it!"

Believing that I'm able to contribute to making learning a joyful, worthwhile and collaborative experience gives me great satisfaction.

In the last week, several of our students have exemplified the Learner Profile attribute of Risk Taker. The IB definition of risk takers is: they approach unfamiliar situations and uncertainty with courage and forethought, and have the independence of spirit to explore new roles, ideas and strategies. They are brave and articulate in defending their beliefs.

As you will read in other Oryx articles this week, several of our Primary students participated in the annual Pupkewitz Interschool Gala last weekend. For some students, this was the first time ever taking part in such an event; for others it was the first time to swim 50m (which can seem a very long distance when one is used to swimming 25m).

What impressed me most was the spirit that existed among the WIS kids - supporting each other and cheering each other on. The focus wasn't only on winning but also about taking part. Of course it's nice to win or to medal; however, I see all who participated as winners because they took part, they represented the school, and they had individual achievements, such as, finishing the race or improving their time from previous events.

Another event took place last weekend where one of our Primary students had the opportunity to be a risk taker. Eyana Kandido in Year 6 participated in the SPAR Junior Chef Competition. This was Eyana's first time competing in a cooking event, and she represented WIS well. I wonder how many adults would be willing to participate in a cooking competition where time and pressure can influence the outcome of the meal?

Congratulations to all of our students who exemplified the Learner Profile's Risk Taker attribute and to the parents who encouraged and supported these students in taking part.

Kind regards,

**Beth Smith**

## SPAR JUNIOR CHEF

The Spar Junior Chef Cooking Competition was lots of fun. The winner got a Samsung Galaxy S6! But nobody went there only for the sake of the nice phone. They went there mostly to have fun to start their kid cooking career and experience a cooking competition before they actually do it when they get older.

It was at a really fancy place, Polytechnic Hotel School. But it wasn't too big, and that is what made it welcoming. It felt like my own house.



Let's get to the action. When everyone got there, Arthur (one of the judges)



## Student Feature

### Salomé Rey

Sports - Art - Languages - Origami - Maths - English

These are some of the activities I love.

I love any kind of sports, as long as I can use up all my energy! But my favourite sport is ballet. I have been practising ballet since I was five. I have already been in a big production on stage at the National Theatre of Namibia and I just took part in my first ballet examination. I really love dancing and music in general. I practise on my recorder almost every day at home.

I am also a big fan of Art. I enjoy drawing, sketching, painting, sculpting, folding... anything that involves creativity. My favourite artists and inspirations are Henri Matisse, Edgar Degas and Vincent Van Gogh.

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explained what we were going to be doing and man, oh, man, did that give my stomach butterflies. I was so nervous and if you're the youngest one there, like myself, you ought to be a little scared.

At that very moment I thought I was going to lose, but I got everything I needed out of my "cooking box". A couple of minutes later, Rolf declared with his loud voice, "3, 2, 1, chefs start cooking!"

We only had two hours. I started cooking. And those butterflies were in my stomach the whole time. As soon as I finished, my feet were aching like crazy. Finally I put on the garnish and took my plate to the front of the room.

Then the judges told us there was going to be another task with ingredients chosen by them. Everyone had to make ... a pizza! So I said to myself, "I will make a calzone and certainly win this thing." I got to work. I was the first one to finish. Ding, ding, ding. Then we waited outside for about thirty minutes.

The ten of us all got called inside to hear them announce the winners. I was called ... for third place and the judge announced, "Eyana Kandido, and make sure you taste her food in the future."

I had a big smile on my face and walked to the front. I was awarded with a huge basket of sweets and goodies and a bag of cooking utensils.

I told my mom right after we left, "Next time I'm going to get 2<sup>nd</sup> place."

If you are one of those people who love to cook, make sure to join next time and maybe you'll win that phone.

### Eyana Kandido, Year 6

## WIS SATURDAY BALL CLUB

Fun ball games involving throwing, catching and dodging to develop hand-eye coordination, teamwork, sportsmanship and enthusiasm for sports

**Who:** WIS Year 2 to Year 6 Students, led by Thomas Jackson-Read

**Dates:** Saturdays, October 17, 24, 31; November 7, 21, 28

**Time:** 10 am - 12 pm (just show up; no registration needed)

**Location:** WIS PE Hall

**Fee:** N\$100 per child, per day (due Saturdays upon arrival)

**Contact:** Please direct all questions to Marc [mdragon@wis.edu.na](mailto:mdragon@wis.edu.na)

**"Dodgeball is not just a sport. Dodgeball is a way of life."**



**Student Feature continued**

I like speaking different languages. I speak French at home, English at school and with my friends and I also learn Portuguese at school.

I cannot fall asleep without reading. I read sometimes in French and sometimes in English. The best book I ever read in French was a manga called *Une Sacrée Mamie*. My favourite books in English are the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* collection. I read the nine books in one week!

My family is also a very important part in my life. I stay in Namibia only with my parents and my small sister, Candice. The rest of my family is in France. I visit them every year. What I like in France is spending time with my cousins, going to the beach but also visiting castles, museums and attraction parks. In Namibia, I love climbing "Big Daddy" in Sossusvlei, hiking in the Waterberg, swimming in the Naukluft natural pools, visiting the Himbas in Epupa Falls, taking pictures of the wild horses near Aus and visiting the aquarium in Swakopmund.

I have been at WIS since year 1 and I love my school. I like International Day, Sports Day, Book Week and everyday classes. I enjoy learning new things every day and I hope I will learn new things every day for the rest of my life!

**SECONDARY PRINCIPAL**

Like each year, WIS participated in the Pupkewitz Interschool Gala again this year. The gala is a tradition in the annual swimming calendar in Namibia and has been held since the 1980s. It was great to see our students participate and give their best in the 50m races. The gala is held over 50m in the different strokes (butterfly, backstroke, freestyle and breaststroke) and is concluded with a relay.



Although WIS had a small team (14 students from Primary and 5 students from Secondary School), they made WIS proud by putting all their effort into improving their times. WIS students were easily recognisable by their blue shirts and caps. Once again, we would like to thank our sponsors, the Ellmies and Sharma families, for this great gesture.

Events like this gala are exciting opportunities for our students to participate for their school, and we hope that next year we will have at least double the number of entries for the gala.

**Why would you want to participate for your school?**

There are many good arguments for engaging yourself in activities your school offers and participates in. First, you have an opportunity to actively involve yourself in your community. This, in itself, already is important. Only if you are part of a community and involve yourself in its activities, can you be sure to belong and feel proud. This creates strong bonds and results in people feeling confident about themselves and the environment they live in.

Physical and creative activities are important as a balance to the mostly academic lives a lot of our students are engaged in, especially in the last few years of their school career. The CAS (Creativity, Action, Service) component in the IB Diploma Programme is described as follows:

*CAS enables students to enhance their personal and interpersonal development*

*by learning through experience. It provides opportunities for self-determination and collaboration with others, fostering a sense of accomplishment and enjoyment from their work. At the same time, CAS is an important counterbalance to the academic pressures of the DP.*

For these reasons we encourage students to be part of WIS activities. Be it afternoon activities, school activities with other schools or activities in the community.

Wouldn't it be great to see more WIS students participate in the gala? See you there next year!

Kind regards,  
**Maggie Reiff**

## **WALK FOR WATER: Save a drop. Save tomorrow!\***



Please join us on **Monday, 30 November 2015** for the “Walk for Water” fun walk. This event is organised to raise awareness about Global Climate Change and water conservation, specifically in Namibia. Click on the [link](#) and type “Windhoek International School” to view the event.

### **Why are we doing this?**

This event is part of the Global Climate March. On November 30th, world leaders meet in Paris to start negotiating the next global climate deal. (Since this is not a school day, WIS will be participating on the Monday.) People around the world will take to the streets and push leaders at every level of government to commit to 100% clean energy. Together, we can push the world towards a climate deal that gets us off dirty energy and unleashes clean energy for all.

**Date:** Monday, 30 November 2015

**Time:** 9:00 am

**Entry fee:** N\$100

*For the Entry Fee you will receive a t-shirt and a water bottle, and a donation will be made to a charity. (Charity to be confirmed)*

*Entry Fees are payable to your child's homeroom teacher.*

### **Sponsors: Baines Fountain OK Foods and Sovereign Trust**

We will be following a route of 3.4 km through Pioneer's Park EXT 1.

*\*Congratulations to Jurg Nel (parent of Jovahn Nel) for submitting the winning slogan!*

# Blanket Drive

**!WE ARE IN SERIOUS NEED OF BLANKETS!**

We know the weather is nice and warm, but our animals need blankets to keep dry and be comfortable with!

**Please help us by sponsoring a few blankets if you can!**



**Any blanket will do, new or old, they should be in a good condition!**  
Blankets can be dropped at the SPCA directly or in Ms. Jolene's Office!