



# THE ORYX

*The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School*

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**WIS 2016 - 2017  
INTERNATIONAL DAY**

**5 November  
10:00 - 14:00**

**WINDHOEK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL**

[CLICK HERE](#) for more details & the map

## PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

The Primary School has been abuzz this week with year levels practicing their performances and making decorations for their stalls for International Day. International Day is a time for us to come together to celebrate our international community. Our "internationalness" is what makes Windhoek International School special and unique. Not all international schools have the diverse student population that WIS is fortunate to have.

But why do we celebrate International Day? Is it a celebration of what's referred to as the five Fs (food, festivals, flags, fashion and famous people)? These certainly are the fun and interesting aspects of such a celebration, and tap into our senses, though they only scratch the surface of what it means to be international.

"The term international is made up of both inter and national. International understanding does not replace a sense of nationhood with something "bigger" and "better," but rather uses and builds on a sense of one's own national identity to understand and work with the national identities experienced and felt by others. We can, at the same time, be Californian and American, British and European, Nigerian and African, citizens of a country and of the world. These are complementary, not opposing, concepts." (*Education Leadership, October 2002 | Volume 60 | Number 2 The World in the Classroom Pages 52-55*)

In the image shown to the right-bottom, the five Fs would be the tip of the iceberg, or what is seen. Below the iceberg are the deeper aspects of internationalism that are generally not seen. In my opinion the items below the



## Dates to Remember

### November

- **5:** International Day
- **7 - 11:** Secondary Week A
- **18:** Staff Work Day
- **22:** Primary Photo Day
- **23:** Secondary Photo Day



### Teacher Feature

#### Ekaterina Shino - Toddlers

My name is Ekaterina, but I prefer to be called Katya. I joined the Windhoek International School in 2013 and am currently teaching Toddlers. I really enjoy the multi-cultural diversity at WIS, and the high level of professionalism of my colleagues.

I came to Namibia in 2006, from my home country Russia. There are many things I love about Namibia, but year-long sunshine is on top of my list! The one quote that has always stuck with me is, "Africa is not just a place, it's a feeling".

When I left school my initial plan was to become a paediatrician, but the university where I could study this was far from my hometown. So instead I choose to follow my other dream - that of teaching children - and studied at the Faculty of Early Years at the Pedagogical University in Russia, where I obtained a Masters Degree.

**Continues on page 3**

iceberg require one to draw on the IB Learner Profile attributes, specifically open-minded, reflective, thinker and communicator. The IB defines open-minded people as: *They understand and appreciate their own cultures and personal histories, and are open to the perspectives, values and traditions of other individuals and communities. They are accustomed to seeking and evaluating a range of points of view, and are willing to grow from the experience.*"



"The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world." (*Making the PYP Happen: A curriculum framework for Primary Education.*)

So why do we celebrate International Day? It builds community spirit, celebrates who we are, helps us to learn about others in a fun way, encourages us to be open to new or different ways of doing things, to celebrate our similarities and to recognize our differences.

Thank you to all who have contributed to this year's International Day. While the day is centred on many aspects of food, festivals, flags, fashion and famous people, I know such an event is just the beginning of furthering one's understanding of what it means to be international and internationally-minded.

Regards,  
**Beth Smith**

### Swim Gala

A huge, thank you to all the swimmers, parents and teachers who helped make Fridays swim gala a great success. Primary and secondary students united in house teams to compete in the friendly gala.

It was great to see our elite swimmers performing at a very high standard and also to see our swimmers developing their stroke technique and confidence in the water. The PE committee would also like to thank the PTA for their continued support towards the development of sport at WIS.



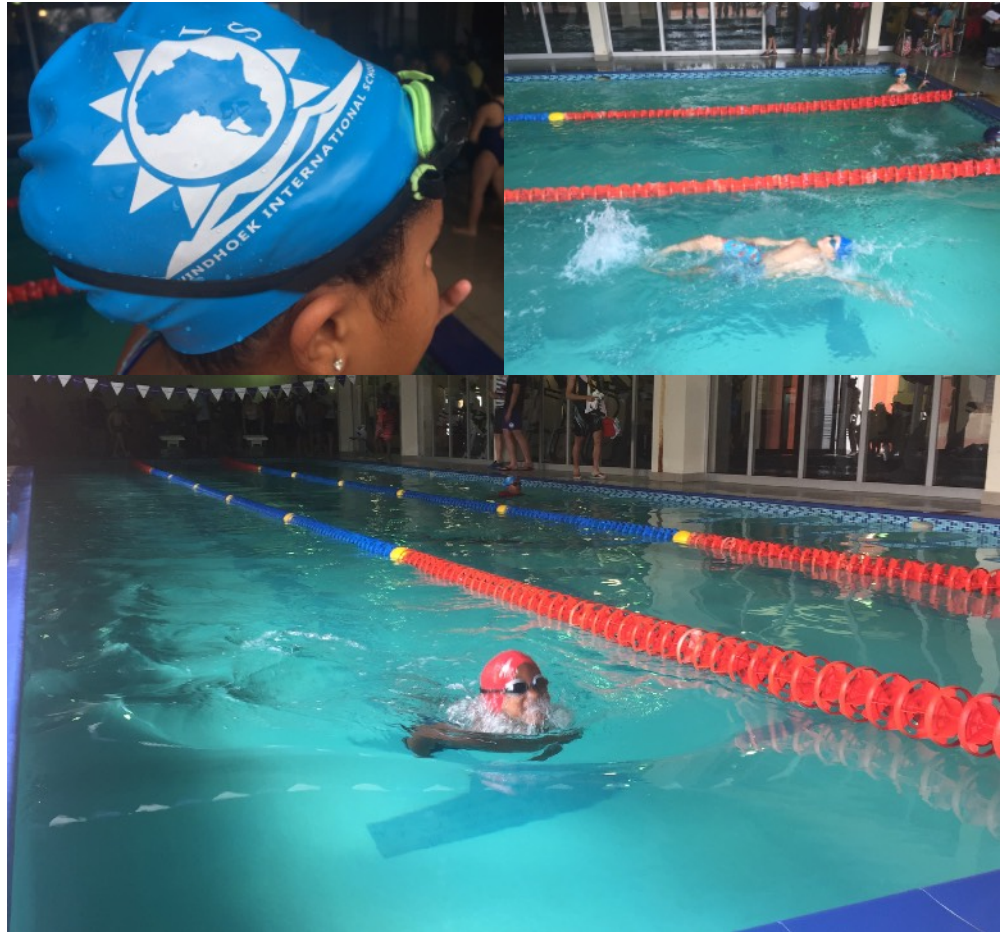
**Teacher Feature continued**

I now have more than 10 years' experience with early years in both Namibia and Russian, during which I have taught, written curriculums and trained teachers.

I am often asked why I chose to study the early years, and the answer is that I really enjoy working with children of that age. They are good company, and are honest and kind to those around them. Teaching them is an interesting profession, with lots of possibilities to be creative and opportunities to multi-task.

I am a firm believer in encouraging childhood development from as early as possible in a child's life, which gives children bigger opportunities both in primary and secondary schooling, and even later on in their lives.

When I am not working, I enjoy spending time with my family, learning new things, being creative and travelling.



*Thomas Jackson-Read*

## Bonjour à tous!



# Storybird

**A literacy tool for a new generation.**

*Storybirds are short, art inspired stories you can make to share, read, and print.*

[CLICK HERE](#) to find out how Storybird inspired writing in Year 6 and [READ](#) a couple of stories.

On Tuesday morning the Year 5 French students enjoyed a breakfast at “La Bonne Table” Restaurant situated next to the Franco Namibian Cultural Centre. The field trip was part of our unit “How to order a breakfast in a café”.

The students had the opportunity to put into practice their knowledge about what French people are having for breakfast (un petit déjeuner typique: un croissant, un pain au chocolat, de la baguette et un café au lait!), to use the greetings that they know as well as the vocabulary learned previously in class and also to demonstrate their social skills.

I would like to thank the teachers who accompanied us and to acknowledge all my students for being respectful and showing appreciation and enthusiasm while on the field trip.

Bravo les enfants!

*Madame Laetitia*

## **SECONDARY PRINCIPAL**

We welcome Mrs. Carola Beyer to our WIS family. Mrs. Beyer is Namibian and will be teaching German in Secondary School. She will be the homeroom teacher for Year 8B and will also teach one English class in Year 9. We wish for Mrs. Beyer that she will be happy here at WIS.

At the same time, we have to say goodbye to Mrs. Krafft. She will still be part of our WIS family as a parent and also close by when we need some support in the German department or in school.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank our staff who go more than the extra mile very often, to ensure that our students have more than just an academic learning experience. In the past months, we had Ms. Lian, Mr. and Mrs. Smit, Mr. Cuthbert, Mr. Jackson-Read and Ms. Rubbert taking classes on field trips.

Ms. Rimmington accompanied the MUN students to Johannesburg and we had a successful swimming gala arranged by Mr. B and Mr. Jackson-Read and Ms. Beata and Ms. Jan helped out to have it run smoothly last Friday.

Last Friday night, Ms. Angatha organised a Halloween Party for the Middle School and was assisted during the party by Ms. Viviana and Ms. Kandido. Our students had a wonderful time and it was visible how much

School was more than academics; an education prepared you for the humdrum of real life: working with others, tempering one's personality to assimilate with the group but without losing your individual identity, understanding the factors of logic, reasoning, and debate. For a person - vampire or human - to succeed in the world, unlocking the mysteries of the universe was insufficient. One would also need to grasp the mysteries of human nature.

Melissa De La Cruz

they enjoyed the opportunity to meet up and dance together. And there are many more activities that teachers do beyond their duty and that help us create the school we want to be.

All these events require additional effort and input from staff, and teachers have to invest time and energy in these events. However, it also gives teachers the opportunity to get to know students in a different environment. And meeting students outside of school has a great impact on teacher/student relationships.

There are many more examples of teachers taking students for an extra experience, be it the art

teachers taking their students to art exhibitions in town, Ms. Kandido taking her Afternoon Activity girls, "Unsung Herstories" to visit Sister Namibia or all the other activities where students learn about life outside of their normal routine.

As our Mission Statement says, WIS strives to "develop the full potential of each student in a stimulating environment of academic excellence, cultural diversity and active social responsibility to become internationally minded independent thinkers."

The academic side of a school is important, but there is so much more to a school than knowledge and subjects. Here at WIS we aim to "teach" our children more than just Biology, Mathematics or English. We aim to look at the whole child in its environment and with his/her individual strengths and challenges.

Education today is more than the sum of what we learn in the different subjects. It is a collection of skills and abilities that we acquire and strengthen in our journey to adulthood. And once released into adulthood, our success is dependent on our basic education in school as well as at home.

As a school and as parents, we do therefore have a noble duty to be responsible for our youth and I commend everybody, parents and teachers alike, for the many additional hours and the effort and energy they put into educating the next generation.

Here is an interesting article about the relationship between character and academic performance: <https://www.scholarly.com/2015/05/04/character-awards-education-just-academic-attainment/>

Regards,

Maggie Reiff

## Halloween Dance

The Halloween dance was amazing! The music was good and so was the food. Despite its cheesiness and slightly childish vibe, we as kids had loads of fun.



The music was powerful and chosen really well. The chicken burger and lasagna were mouth watering tasty - thanks to Mr. Peter at the tuck-shop. I personally had a really good time. Most people from Middle School came, but the people who didn't, boy did they miss out!

Almost everyone dressed up or got painted. I got my face painted to look like it got horribly bludgeoned - thanks to Emilio's mom. The dance lasted from 18:00 - 21:00, the perfect time for a spooky vibe.



Overall, the Halloween dance was tons of fun. Between the music, food and the general feeling amongst the kids, everyone had fun. I hope we do it again next year!

By Thomas Prybylski - Yr. 7B

# Mexico

Flautas ~ Crispy corn tortillas ~ Tacos - Marinated pork  
Guacamole ~ Agua Fresca ~ Mechanical bull ~ Nachos  
Cocktails (Rumchata, Horchata) ~ Non alcoholic refreshments  
Dining area ~ Traditional dance ~ Hard shell corn tortillas

- See you there -



# ANIMAL EMERGENCY NUMBERS



**SMS Report Poaching number:**  
**55555**

**S.P.C.A.**  
**Otjiwarongo:**  
081 673 9392  
**Tsumeb:**  
081 146 7722  
**Lüderitz:**  
081 791 6432

**S.P.C.A.**  
**Windhoek:**  
061 - 238 654  
**Swakopmund:**  
064 - 40 4419  
**Walvis Bay:**  
064 - 20 4041

**SNAKES**  
**Windhoek:**  
081 2900343 (F.Theart)  
081 129 7304 (M.Böttger)  
081 280 9839 (J.Arangies)  
**Otjiwarongo:**  
081 628 4527  
(B.Hollander)

**CATS**  
**Windhoek:**  
081 127 9501  
081 127 4740  
081 340 3450  
(Cat Protection Society)

**BEEES**  
**Windhoek:**  
081 1247668  
(I.Oosthuizen)  
081 6357323  
(R. zu Bentheim)  
**Swakopmund:**  
081 2757146 (E.Ritter)

**BIRDS**  
**Windhoek:**  
081 129 0565  
(NARREC)  
081 149 2313  
(Wild Bird Rescue)



September 2016

