

THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School



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FROM THE DIRECTOR

In late 1965 when I was nine my parents sat me down one evening to tell me that we were moving to another country. I cried my eyes out. I was leaving my friends and a life that I knew and liked. From my parents' point of view, they had managed to get me into a well-respected local school and they were now going to move me to an unknown school in a foreign country.

Sound familiar?

What emotions do parents go through in these circumstances? Guilt? Anxiety? Regret?

Four years later in 1969 my parents informed me that we were moving on again and I'm sure I cried again.

In all honesty, I cannot look back and say that my school in either country was better or worse than the other. I have fond memories of both. The schools were similar in some regards but very different in others. One was all boys, for example, whereas the other was co-ed. They followed different curriculums. One was much bigger than the other.

Did I miss out on some things by leaving my first school? Probably. Did I gain in other ways from attending the second school? I'm sure I did. Did I ultimately lose out by switching schools and countries not once but twice before my fourteenth birthday? How would I know? But I doubt it.

Many of you reading these words will have asked yourselves similar questions about your own children's education. That's natural. And it is probably natural to focus on what they (and you) have left behind; what they will now miss because you are here and not there. But do remember that your children are having other experiences and learning things here that they would have missed had they stayed in their last school.



Dates to Remember

May

- **25:** Africa Day - Public Holiday
- **27:** IBDP Dinner
- **31:** Year 6 Exhibition Evening

June

- **6 - 15:** Sec Internal Exams
- **16 - 17:** Secondary reports
- **17:** End of term 4 - Last day



Teacher Feature

Laetitia Borroni:
Primary French

Describe yourself with one word.

One word only? I need two: White wine (Laughing loudly)
More seriously, generous I think will be the best one.

Why Namibia?

I was born in Paris area, not such a long time ago! (Laughing loudly again) I met my French husband in Paris and we had 2 beautiful daughters there.

In my former life, I used to be a business woman. I graduated in business administration in Florida. My passion for travelling and discovering new places started from there.

In 2007, we came to visit a family friend in Namibia. It was love at the first sight. After many years discussing and prospecting, we sold out all our belongings in France and finally settled in Windhoek in July 2010.

When did you start at WIS?

I started at WIS as a parent when Lola came to Year 4 and Prune to Year 7. Both of them had no English background so it was a huge challenge!!

Continues on page 3

Personally, I'm grateful to my parents for giving me the opportunity to experience more than one educational culture and context.

I believe I gained more than I lost. And I hope that when you and your children are looking back you will feel the same way.

With best wishes

Peter MacKenzie

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

I am writing this week from The Hague in the Netherlands where Avril Van Zyl and I are participating in a two-day PYP School Visit Team Leader Training. Avril and I both are trained to go on PYP school visits representing the IB as team members. Between the two of us we have participated in about 8 school visits over the last few years.

During a verification or evaluation visit the role of the team member is to read all of the documentation submitted by the school, follow the lead of the Team Leader, and contribute possible commendations and recommendations the school will need to work on, to the final report which is then submitted to the IB regional office.

As Team Leaders Avril and I will be responsible for liaising with the regional office, as well as with the school being visited, prior to the visit and afterwards. During the school visit we will be leading the visiting team and with input from the team members, be responsible for preparing and submitting the visit report to the regional office.

Why is this important?

Whether participating in school visits as team members or team leaders, these visits are a form of professional learning for us. It keeps us current and up to date with what's happening in the IB region (our region is AEM - Africa, Europe and Middle East), as well as with the PYP.

It's an opportunity to visit other schools and connect with other IB educators. During the visits we gain new ideas and perspectives that will ultimately benefit our own Primary Years Programme at WIS.

The knowledge and understanding we develop on these visits continues to confirm our belief in the IB PYP values. Last but not least, participating in school visits helps us to prepare for our own school visit, which will be taking place in March 2017.

Kind regards,

Beth Smith

From our PAD

Story telling is a wonderful medium of passing on stories from generation to generation.

Teacher Feature continued

They are now respectively in Year 9 and Year 12 and are completely bilingual thanks to our amazing WIS programme.

One year later, in August 2011, the school was in need of a French teacher (the one appointed never arrived!). I started then as a substitute teacher and five years later I am still here!

What is your role at WIS?

I have 2 roles at WIS. I enjoy both of them equally. I am teaching French in Primary but I am also the resource coordinator. Four years ago, I was asked to create a Resource Centre for the school. It was a big challenge with lots of work, time, effort and energy involved. With the help from all my very professional colleagues, we inventorized all the assets and resources present on campus (more than 18 000 items have been barcoded thus far!!).

How is your life outside of school?

I love nature. That is why we live in the bush, 25 km outside Windhoek. It's a small paradise that helps me to recharge my batteries over the weekend.

During the week, I am also a taxi driver. (Laughing loudly again). I drive to school in the mornings, and to the dance studio at nights. My daughters are both fond of dancing and are very committed to it.

Living outside town presents many advantages but also dangers sometimes. Who else can say that they bumped into a leopard on their way to school? (Laughing loudly again).

Continues on page 4

In order to convey a really poignant story, one needs a good story teller who can articulate themselves clearly and and keep the audience captivated.

The Year 2 students have been exploring facial expressions of story tellers: particularly mouth movements and eyes.

Here are some delightful examples of our clay story tellers.



Ms Genie and Ms Sigrid

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

It's this time of the year - the end, exams, stress and anticipation

As we are nearing the end of the academic year, our students are preparing for the end of year internal examinations. This preparation has different facets and happens both in school as well as at home.

Here in school, revision is done and in the different subjects, teachers give an outline of what is expected in the examination. Study techniques are addressed throughout the year in different ways - in specific subjects, during Pastoral Care lessons, in collaboration with Learning Support.

At the end of May, parents/guardians



Teacher Feature continued

My car did not survive the adventure but fortunately my daughters and I were only shocked.

How do you see the future?

After six years in Namibia, I do not regret our life change.

I do miss my family and friends in France a lot but I have met wonderful new friends here and discovered so many wonderful places.

Growing and living for a long time in France, I strongly believe that Namibia is the perfect place to raise children. I am grateful to witness every day my daughters blossom.

Interviewed by:

Catherine Mousseau

will receive reports where each subject teacher comments on the progress each student is making. This should assist in planning the study schedule and the focus of studying. Mention is made about strengths and areas that need more work in the different subjects.

However, it is crucial for kids to successfully handle the examination situation that there is a strong support system at home. The care and support children get at home, especially in times when they are worried and concerned about how to cope with a situation, is a decisive factor in the way children learn how to cope with stressful situations.

What can parents/guardians do to support their child(ren) to manage these stressful situations?

- ✦ *During the year, engage your child's teachers, get to know them, attend SPTC, communicate your questions and ideas to them.*
- ✦ *Encourage your child to do regular revision throughout the year so that the pressure is not so high just before the examination. Taking notes through the year is a great strategy to revise and then reduce the stress of the volume of what has to be learnt at the end of the year.*
- ✦ *Make it clear to your child that - no matter what - you will support your child. Too much pressure on your child to study and get on with their work, can potentially have the opposite result from what is intended. Encourage your child to study, but don't be on their case all the time, especially not with negative threats to "force" your child to study.*
- ✦ *Discuss a study schedule or plan with your son/daughter - this also shows that you want to know what they are doing and that you care about their progress.*
- ✦ *Reward your child if you feel they have really done well and worked hard with something that is special.*
- ✦ *Minimise distractions - noise, mobile phone, iPad and other devices. Sometimes it might be necessary to restrict the use of electronic devices for certain times of the day. Many children are not able to control themselves with their devices and this can potentially jeopardise their progress when studying.*
- ✦ *Ensure that your child has a space to study that is - theirs, quiet, organised (they might not be able to organise their space themselves). Make the study space a space they like (e.g. giving them additional stationery like markers or highlighters to work with).*
- ✦ *Make sure that your child eats well and regularly and drinks a lot of water. And let them have a treat every now and then to acknowledge their hard work.*
- ✦ *Study periods should not exceed 45 minutes before at least a 15 minute break should be planned. Let your child study in shorter time chunks so that there is time to relax in between.*
- ✦ *To make studying more interesting, utilise the vast amount of resources available online for them to study. There are worksheets, games and exercises available online that can make studying more fun and can also vary the exercises and ensure that learning happens more sustainably.*
- ✦ *The following websites have great resources for different subjects: BBC Bytesize: www.bbc.co.uk/education, this is a British site, but in most subjects the topics are*

!

Children whose fees have not been settled in full for the 2015-2016 school year will not be permitted to re-enrol until all outstanding amounts have been cleared.

!

overlapping and covering the same areas; <https://www.khanacademy.org/> - a resource that engages parents in their child's learning and gives great advice on how to support your child(ren).

<http://educationequals.com/helping-your-child-prepare-for-end-of-year-exams/>

Kind regards,
Maggie Reiff

Plastic Awareness Week at WIS!

We are two 11 year-old students from Windhoek International School, finishing Year 6 in a few weeks. Currently, we are in the process of doing the PYP Exhibition. This is the final project for Year 6 students before going to Year 7, hereby having the opportunity to demonstrate the skills, knowledge, attitudes and abilities to take action that we have acquired throughout our Primary career. Our group started investigating the topic of **What should we do with all the litter/trash?**

Our aim in this project is to ensure that all endangered species survive at least one more generation . . . hopefully more. This awareness week is developed to further educate students and the whole community about the impacts of plastic and plastic pollution on the environment.

"Everybody has trash no matter big or small. We never realise how much trash we produce as we only see a little at a time..."some people know there is a smelly truck that comes by their houses but they don't know where it comes from or where it goes, because they don't really care. Everybody thinks it will not affect them and those people have to start caring for our earth because without it we would not be able to live."

...We will have to find different ways to reduce the amount of trash.(Genuine)

Plastic and Recycling Awareness

Our Learning Objectives are :

- To relate learning about environmental topics to real-world issues
- To make use of the outdoors as a learning environment
- To motivate students and their parents to take responsible action
- To inspire students to think about their personal role in reducing plastic pollution and increasing recycling rates for a healthier environment
- To aid the school in developing students to become lifelong learners

Our Learning Outcomes are:

- Raising awareness and sensitivity to the environment and environmental challenges
- Changing attitudes towards the environment and motivating students to seek improvement opportunities that will affect environmental quality
- Encouraging participation in activities that lead to the resolution of local and global environmental challenges

Facts about Plastic Pollution:

- **We're addicted to plastic.** In the grocery store, most of us put our vegetables and fruits as well as bulk items into single-use plastic produce bags, and all those bags end up in a single-use plastic check-out bag.
- **Shoppers worldwide are using 500 billion to one trillion single-use plastic bags per year.** This translates to about a million bags

1. How long does it take for a plastic bottle or a plastic bag to decompose?

450 years to 1000 years!!!!
in a landfill or in the ocean

every minute across the globe, or 150 bags a year for every person on earth. And the number is rising.

- **Non-biodegradable.** Plastic is food for no one. The biggest problem with plastic bags is that they do not readily break down in the environment, with estimates for the time it takes them to decompose ranging from **20 to 1000 years**. One of the disquieting facts stemming from this is that plastic bags can become serial killers.
- **Litter.** We see bags hanging on trees, along the roadside, slipping down the storm drain, and floating in the ocean. Even when we do put them in the garbage, they don't always make it to the landfill. 47% of landfill blow-away trash is plastic.
- **Harm to Marine Life.** More than 100,000 marine mammals and turtles, one million seabirds, and countless fish worldwide are killed by plastic rubbish each year.



Photo: Yamamoto Biology/Creative Commons

Sea turtles around the world are eating plastic at an unprecedented pace, a new study reveals, with some species downing twice as much as they did 25 years ago. This indigestible, potentially fatal diet is especially popular among young turtles in the open ocean, deepening concerns about the ancient animals' long-term outlook.

Our visit at Rent -A-Drum the recycling company in Windhoek.



**We saw tons of plastic bottles.
...It can not be true! 30 tons of plastic ...every week!**

Plastic awareness week at WIS is part of our action. We would like to involve the whole community. Each class will receive a recycling bag to collect plastic. We would like to encourage all students to bring



plastic to school for the whole week. We will also collect the plastic waste generated at school.



On Monday, 30th May, the Primary and Middle school will gather together in the car park and string all the plastic together. We would like to raise awareness about how much plastic we use daily/ weekly. The next step is to figure out how to deal with it in a responsible way.

Westlane Spar will support our project by promoting a recycling bags. From next week **Monday, 23rd May until Sunday, 28th May** you will be able to get this shopping bag for free when you spend more than N\$200 in store. These sturdy reusable bags will be only N\$15.00 for the week of

the 30th of May until the 3rd of June 2016, instead of their usual retail price of N\$ 16.99. .

We would like to say thank you to Ms. Rimmington, (Social Studies, TOK & Geography Teacher) for her initiative about the plastic awareness project and Westlane Spar for supporting our action.

We are very interested in your point of view and your thoughts on future action for dealing with the trash. You are welcome to email your suggestions to us:

Genuine: ghoeseb@wis.edu.na

Shadé: sgontes@wis.edu.na

Reduce Plastic Today!



Do not let this happen to our beautiful country!

References:

[Article](#), [Article 2](#), [One More Generation Image](#)

Genuine, Shadé (Year 6 students) and Ms. Beata Stephanus (Mentor)

Cowboy Riding Camp

I have been doing horse riding since last year October and it has been a great experience for me so far. On Saturday, 14th of May 2016 it all changed. I had the experience of my life. My riding instructor organised a cowboy camp and we were riding our horses for hours and hours. There was a lot of joke telling and marshmallow eating. The only challenge was - there was work to be done before the fun!

When we got to the camp on day one, we had to build a kraal for the horses to stay in safely during the night. Next, we had to gather firewood. When we could hang out a bit, we would joke around with each other, scare each other and eat some more marshmallows.



I thought that it was going to be very cold during the night, but it was actually quite warm - I slept in a thick jacket though. Morning time, we would eat then explore the area for a little bit before we went out riding for the day. We rode deep into the veld and high on to the hills to the east of Windhoek. We cantered and galloped - it was great fun.

I experienced the scariest moment of my life during this camp though. I have

never fallen off a horse in all this time I've been riding and one moment we were galloping and all of a sudden my horse just stopped! That would have been the first time I fell off a horse but luckily I didn't.

When I was invited to attend this camp I really thought I couldn't do it but I survived (and enjoyed it) and can't wait till the next cowboy camp. This was a great experience and we all had fun.

Calvin Botha

WIS SCIENCE FAIR PRIZE GIVING 2016



The WIS Science Fair Awards Ceremony was held on Friday April 29th. It was a day during which we celebrated the achievements of our Middle School students for the Science Fair Competition held on April 6-7th. Students worked diligently on their projects and we congratulate them on their work. Students acquired time Management/ organization and scientific skills to complete this in-depth task.

Science Fair promotes student-led inquiry and encourages students to experience scientific investigation. This event catalyses' open-ended inquiry into Science education. Science Fair projects allow students to ask their own questions in a topic that they are interested, design their own method and

analyze data, thus giving them the experience of the scientific inquiry.

We had thirty judges all experts in their respective fields judging the projects. We thank them for volunteering their time to make it a educational experience for the students. We also thank Coca Cola for sponsoring the medals, benches, certificates and cool drinks. They have been a committed partner of WIS for this event many years and appreciate their support and commitment to Science.

This year we had many interesting varied projects from Aquaponics to Physics of Music to the Science of Dance. The overall winners for the Einstein trophy were Viktoria Ellmies on her topic of "Saving water with Mulch" and the Avagadro trophy was awarded to Emilio Leto for his project on "Mini Hydro dam". Viktoria was marked 100% by all her judges and is congratulated on this marvelous achievement.

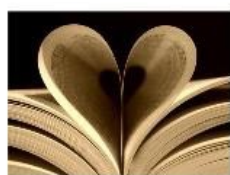
The Regional Science Fair will held in the first week of June. Fifteen students will represent our school for this event. We wish them all the very best.

Mrs Mariamma Mathew: WIS Science Coordinator

Afternoon Activities

Activity providers giving our students some expert tuition!





Books



Toys

WIS Winter Charity Drive!

The Primary and Secondary student councils have decided to organise a Winter Charity Drive! With the cold season around the corner, we have decided to donate to a Soup Kitchen in Katutura, who can distribute to people in need in the Katutura area. They feed nutritious meals to around 350 children, from ages 2-12, everyday.

WE are asking people from the WIS community to please help and donate quality or new:

When: Collections take place during the month of May

Where: Collections can be stored in Room 49

What will happen: Student Council reps will take these donations to the soup Kitchen to be distributed to families in need in the first week of June.

Blankets



Socks

Warm clothes



Thank You

The Circus is coming to Town!

ROLL UP! ROLL UP!

COME ONE! COME ALL!

Thursday, 16 June 2016
10:00
Windhoek International School

More details to follow soon!



Presents:

LIVE MUSIC OF WINDHOEK

@ THE SHOWGROUNDS*

Music Programme, 21 May

- 12:00 Opening Ceremonies
WIS Student Solos
RAT
Tania
- 13:00 WIS Year 7 Rock Band
Savannah Afros
Favoured Brothers
- 14:00 WIS Year 9 Rock Band
Lize Ehlers & Bradley Anthony
- 15:00 WIS High School Funk Band
The Fate of Miss H
Slickartie
Shalu



*Stage next to the Nedbank Village

In association with



Music & Milkshakes

FEATURING: KATE MARSDEN



28 May

La Brocante Café
Macadam St.
11:00 - 14:00

Free Live Band: WIS Musicians | Kids Jumping Castle