

# THE ORYX

*The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School*



## Contents

- From the Director p. 1
- Primary News p. 2 - 5
- Secondary News p. 5 - 9
- Other News p. 10 - 14

## Dates to Remember

### March 2019

- **04 - 08:** Sec Week A
- **08:** Sec Musical
- **09:** Chris Aiff Soccer Tournament
- **12:** SPTC - TBC
- **13:** Sec Interhouse
- **15:** End of Term 3



VISIT US ON:



[Facebook](#)



[Instagram](#)



## FROM THE DIRECTOR

### Rules

When I was a schoolboy in England in the 1960s and early '70s my school had rules. Lots of rules. Some made sense; many didn't. Rules about how long your hair could be and what colour socks you were allowed to wear. Rules about when you may remove your blazer and even how large the knot of your tie may be.

I and my friends really couldn't see the point of them and, of course, we found ingenious (all right, naughty) ways to break them.

And, after almost four decades of teaching children, I have long ago concluded that the fewer "rules" a school has, the better. You need some, of course, in the interests of safety, hygiene, decorum, and so on. But much beyond that, rules don't work.

I believe it is forbidden (a rule!) in Namibia to use your mobile phone while driving. But many people reading this will do so every day. Obeying the speed limit? Drinking and driving? I could go on.

You do not change people's behaviour by writing more rules. You change people's behaviour through rational argument and leading by example. By explaining, persuading, demonstrating. Why, I might even use the word "educating".

Oh, wait. We are a school.

*Peter MacKenzie*

## WEEKLY PUZZLER

Last week's puzzler was solved by Tiancheng (Gr 6) and Ilja (Gr 11). Well done! If you're still working on it, perhaps one of these WIS kids could give you clue.

This week let's look at a magic square:

Whole numbers from 7 to 14 are used for each square. Each number is used exactly once. All row, columns, and two main diagonals add up to the same number.

Question: what is  $n$ ?

$n$		
		7
		15

Please send solutions, or any fun and interesting puzzlers to [pfarrell@wis.edu.na](mailto:pfarrell@wis.edu.na)



## PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

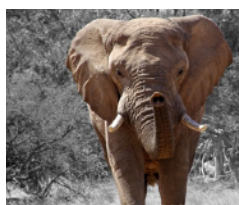
If you were to choose a mascot for our school, what would it be and why? The Primary students have spent some time over the last few weeks discussing and debating what they'd choose and the reasons for that choice. These were then narrowed down to one in each class or Grade level.

During today's assembly, each class or Grade level had the opportunity to propose their suggestion for the WIS mascot. Their presentations and reasoning were very thoughtful, creative and convincing. Following are the choices along with the various reasons:



Porcupine:

- It's Namibian.
- We might have one living at WIS
- They are clever, powerful, strong and smart.
- We can colour the quills in school or Namibian colours



Elephant:

- It's strong.
- It's clever.
- It's cute.



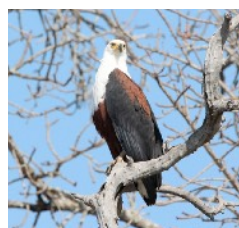
Rhino:

- It has a strong, physical presence.
- It represents power, substance, solidity and stamina.
- Just the rhino, WIS is filled with greatness from within.



Oryx:

- It's brave, strong, determined, courageous, shows pride and has grace.
- We call our newsletter *The Oryx*.
- It's the national animal of Namibia; it's on the Namibian passport and the Coat of Arms.
- It can live up to 50 years, knows if it is going to rain by using his sense of smell and is unique.



African Fish Eagle:

- It has strength, power, is fast, can see from far, and is majestic with beautiful colours.
- It is brave, intelligent, confident, determined, courageous, quick, and has grace.
- The Fish Eagle does not give up and nor will WIS kids.
- It's indigenous to Namibia and is on the Coat of Arms.
- It's the voice of Africa because it is loud.

As you can see, when it comes to voting the choice will be difficult. Being part of the process has inspired school spirit among the classes. More information about the voting for the school mascot will be forthcoming. In the meantime, based on the reasons above, which animal would be your choice?

**Regards,  
Beth Smith**

## I don't feel pressured !!!

The sports department has created an opportunity for many of our students to improve their athletics skills. Students come to school at **6:45 every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday** and they are ready to run and train to improve their physical strength.



We also provide an **afternoon activity** which is taking place on **Tuesday at 13:45- 14:45**. **During these forty-five minutes, students are learning about different disciplines which involve running, throwing and jumping.**



I'm not a P.E teacher. However, I know that training is extremely important and should be part of our young athletes' daily routines. We can see their enthusiasm, determination, and commitment every morning. Creating opportunities and helping young athletes to reach their performance goals is crucial. We know that we can make an impact even in that relatively small group of athletes.

We often ask students a question . "Why are you involved in sports?" Surprisingly or not, a few students respond that they want to be like Ronaldo or Messi. We also hear responses like, "I love baseball or football," or "I love playing with my friends." Some students just think it's cool to be "on the team." For these kids, it's about having fun and being part of something bigger than themselves.

We are proud to see sport at WIS beginning to take shape and to hear people talking about it.

Our next sports event in Primary school will be an **Inter House athletics**, which will take a place on **Friday 8 March from 7:45- 9:15**. Parents are welcome to cheer and support our athletes. Students should wear sports clothes and house t-shirt. There will be some ice lollies for sale provided by Early Years 3, who are hosting a Bake Sale that day.

*We also have a special guest visiting WIS on the 12th of March. He is a Gold medalist in Paralympics and a talented sportsman- Ananias Shikongo. We would like him to give our students a sign of courage and advice for the future. We would like to invite students from Grade 3, 4 and 5 to join us that afternoon at the big field.*

**Beata Stephanus**

## Curiosity

**The fuel for discovery, inquiry, & learning.**

Welcome to Grade 1B inquiry process, where students are carefully learning to construct thoughtful questions, investigate, apply knowledge and evaluate and reflect on their findings.



**Our classroom** is a place where our students have a choice, voice, and ownership.

What do we do in that space?

- We ask questions
- We analyse problems
- We make our own decisions
- We write notes and answer problems
- We compare and make a connection
- We reflect and share what we have learned

Here are some examples of students inquiry into:

**Group inquiry**

- We ask questions to find out more
- And we are open for suggestions
- I investigate all by myself

We often collaborate with Middle School students. This week we had Grade 8 (English) with us. Grade 8 students asked the first Graders questions to find out more about them. They will create a poem using this information and read it to them when they are finished. This collaboration helps students to make connection with English language and our current unit of inquiry. We could see students applying communication skills.



During last week, I had an opportunity to go to Qatar and take part in workshop about **Investigating Inquiry**. It was an eye opening for me as a teacher and a parent. *Inquiry* is a process and its happening all the time. Sometimes we rush our kids to do things because is convenient for us but... are we giving them enough time to learn?



*"Inquiry is an interaction, active learning, exploring by asking questions, inquiry allows us to make mistakes and reflect. Is student driven teacher guided process which lead to new information or a solution."*

We would like our students to become lifelong learners and we should prepare them for it. Their learning is not stopping at school, it should continue at home, on the playground and during holidays.

Grade 1 students are inquiring into **How we Express Ourselves** by understanding that **"Stories can be created, communicated and expressed in different ways"**. Through the concept of form, we will be exploring the different ways stories can be told and how the same story can be told through different art forms. Through the concept of prospective students will learn about techniques that people use to evoke emotions from an audience. They will get an opportunity to try these techniques and get feedback from their peers. Here are some pictures from unpacking the inquiry.

We are the facilitators in the classroom and our job is to guide, support and extend student's learning. My students said today: *"By asking questions we are learning more!"*

**Beata Stephanus**

## Second Time Christmas

Last week we finally could take all the presents and gift donations that we had received for our Second Time Christmas activity to the children's cancer ward at the Central Hospital. Two Grade 5 students, Felcina and Anant accompanied me on this trip and they were privileged to experience the joys of the children that received all our presents. Below they share their experiences.

FELCINA

Our afternoon activity is, Make The World a Better Place. Since last year we have thought of ways to take action. We were working on an SDG (Sustainable Development Goal), and we choose SDG 1 which is, No Poverty. Someone suggested an idea which was Second-time Christmas. Everybody liked that idea so we started working on doing it. We announced it at the Primary and Secondary assembly and we started collecting the gifts from the students and finally we donated them to the children who had cancer.



ANANT

Second time Christmas is an activity we did. So we asked the school (during one of the secondary and primary school assemblies) if they could contribute by giving us some gifts and money to donate to the cancer ward at the Central Hospital. Our result was quite fascinating because we received more than 50 presents. We got the idea of second time Christmas when two interns came from the UN and they gave us a couple of ideas that we could do. Once we got the presents, a few weeks later, we went to the cancer hospital and gave the kids a surprise that actually surprised them. There was this one kid named Olivia, and she started grabbing all of the presents. Our guess was that it would be really emotional but no it wasn't. It was quite nice to see their thankful and smiling faces to receive all those presents and I hope and I am looking forward to having more of these field trips.

**Veena Nambiar - Activity Leader - Make The World A Better Place**

## SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

### Conferences

We are at the end of the third term of the academic year. At this time of the year a conversation between the parent/guardian, **student/learner**, and the teacher about the learner's progress can be helpful for all parties to set goals and look at the way forward.

**The Student Parent Teacher Conferences are an opportunity for parents, together with their child, to meet their child(ren)'s respective subject teachers.**

As the student is the key stakeholder in the process and it is about their education, we expect students to join their parents for the **STUDENT/LEARNER-PARENT-TEACHER** conferences. We believe that it is imperative to discuss student progress with the student present.

**Venue: Portuguese Language Centre (all subjects) & Secondary Art room**

- **Signing up:** You will sign up electronically with your child's teacher.
  - **The link for the sign up feature will be shared with families on Monday, 4th March and will be open until Thursday, 7th March at 13:30**
  - You can sign up with your child's/children's teachers in 10-minute slots.
  - If a teacher teaches your child in more than one subject, a one 10-minute slot is sufficient to get feedback on both subjects.
  - If you have two or three children in Secondary School, please sign up for separate slots for each child so that there is sufficient time to discuss each child's progress with the teacher.
  - When signing up, please write the name of the student and the grade level (e.g. Marise Grade 7HM).
  - **Reminder: Invitations to attend Student/Learner Parent Teacher Conferences will be sent to parents/guardians when the school feels that it is important to share some information with the parents/guardians to assist students to improve certain areas of their approach to school. It is expected that invited parents sign up with the teachers - learners should know which subjects are of concern.**
  - Should you want to see one of the Coordinators or the Homeroom teacher, please make a separate appointment with them via email either before or after the March break.
  - **Learning Support/English as an Additional Language (EAL):** If your child is supported by our LS Department or by the EAL teacher and you would like to discuss her/his progress with the teachers, please arrange a meeting with them individually via email.
- **Please note:**
  - Teacher availability:**
- **Ms. Urte Dörgeloh** will not be available during the SPTC. Please email her individually ([udorgeloh@wis.edu.na](mailto:udorgeloh@wis.edu.na)) should you wish to speak to her about your child's progress. Ms. Dörgeloh will also get in touch with parents if she feels she wants to speak to parents/guardians about the child's progress.

**Part-time teachers will be available on one of the two days:**

- **Ms. Vieira** will be available on **Monday, the 11th** for Portuguese Language students.
  - **Mrs. Krappmann** will be available on **Monday, the 11th** for German Foreign Language students.
  - **Mr. Farrell** will be available on **Tuesday, the 12th** for Grade 9 & 10 Mathematics.
  - **Mr. Edwin Chinyemba** will be available on **Monday, the 11th** for Grade 6 PE.
  - **Mrs. Laetitia Borroni** will be available on **Monday, 11th March** for Grade 6 French.
  - **Mr. Naftal Chivure** will be available on **Tuesday, 12th** for Grade 6 Portuguese.
- E-mail addresses of all teachers are posted on the D6 – Contacts.

The next opportunity to receive feedback on your child's performance will be at the end of the semester in May when parents will receive a written report on their child's progress and performance.

**Regards,  
Maggie Reiff**

## Visit in the Middle School

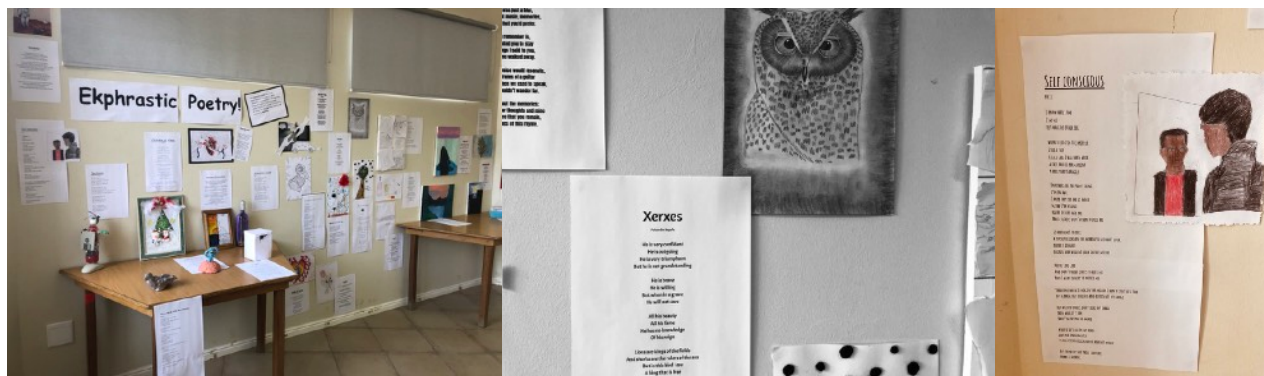
This coming week, **Ms. Mary Montgomery** will visit WIS and work with teachers in the Middle School, especially in Social Studies and English on Assessment and Planning. As you will be aware, there have been quite considerable developments in the Middle School since August 2018. Mary will have conversations and workshops with teachers to support this new path we have embarked on. Mary comes with a wealth of experience and will bring a fountain of ideas and advice to assist. We look forward to her visit and tapping into her expertise.

### Parent Information Session on Assessment

To utilise the opportunity to have such an experienced expert visit WIS, we will be hosting another Parent Information Evening on Wednesday, the 6th of March from 18:00 - 19:00 in the Portuguese Language Centre. All parents are cordially invited to join us for this evening.

**Maggie Reiff**

## What is ekphrastic poetry?



As part of the Grade 8 poetry unit, the students inquired into ekphrastic poetry. This is where a writer / poet explains and gives a deeper meaning to an art piece. The students were asked to create any art pieces in class, once done with that, they then had to use the knowledge and skills learned throughout the poetry unit to write a poem explaining the art piece in depth. The students were very creative and delivered amazing work. You are more than welcome to pop into room 72 to come and view their masterpieces.

**Angie Janse van Rensburg**

## Geography: Small group debates

This week in Geography lesson, in small groups, the Grade 10 debated the motion "Governments have the right to impose population planning policies."





The learners based their arguments on case studies covered in class. Some thoughtful and some lively conversations took place!

**Edwina Rimmington**

## FUN LEARNING AWAY FROM SCHOOL

### Grade 7 Field Trip to Africat Foundation's >Environmental Education Centre< at Okonjima

From 12th to 15th of February 2019 Grade 7's experienced a different type of classroom. We were nervous, because we didn't know what to expect, but wow, were we in for a treat - at our classrooms away from WIS' classrooms, we learned so much AND in such a fun environment. Not to say that WIS isn't fun, but it was good to be out of our 'natural habitat' for a while.





Amongst others, there were the 'lapa-classroom', the 'under-the-tree-classroom' and the 'game-viewing-vehicle-classroom', the 'bush-classroom' and even an 'early-morning-walk-classroom' and even the 'solitary-NIGHT-walk-classroom'!

The 'lapa classroom' was where we had our first lessons on conservation and an introduction to the work that the Africat Foundation does. Here we also ate every day, had tea and biscuits in the morning and waited to go for the Penguin Plunge - boy that pool must be cold this early in the morning, we thought, but it was warmer than the air and definitely worth trying something new! The lapa classroom was also where we did a lot of our activities and where we went to hang out during free time.

We were divided into four learning groups - the Pack, the Pride, the Clan and the Coalition - can you guess where these names come from? Throughout the trip we were given group points for all activities, for washing dishes, being on time and showing what we at WIS call the Learner Profile attributes, remember those?

'Under-the-tree' classroom was where we talked about the walks, game drives and the animals and plants we were about to see. This was also where one of us fell backwards with their chair and pulled another learner along with them - way too funny to forget!

'Game-viewing-vehicle' classroom was full of adventures and we saw a lot of animals in the wild. We enjoyed watching them in near silence, taking pictures of these beautiful creatures and appreciating to see them in their natural surroundings. Between sightings we had a lot of time for bonding and joking. Well, some of us fell asleep, but you can't blame them, 'game-viewing-vehicle-classroom' had very comfortable seats and luckily no one fell off while sleeping.

In the 'game-viewing-vehicle-classroom' we also went leopard tracking. We learnt how the tracking equipment works and how the guides track the leopard through their radio collars using an antenna. The sound of the beep when you know the leopard is close makes you sit straight up with your eyes on the bushveld. We were lucky enough to find Terra, a young male, and observe him for a long time, that didn't feel long at all.

On one of our outings we visited some 'real' classrooms at the Perivoli Okonjima Country School. Here 66 learners up to Grade 2 receive their education. Their parents work at Okonjima and the Africat Foundation, so they can stay at home up to Grade 2 before moving to a boarding school. They have teachers from around the world, and they are loved dearly. The school's motto is 'Conservation through Education'. The learners have great facilities, they do many different activities and have lots of fun, much like us and they just love learning! We saw that although their classrooms are 'in the bush', their learning is not so different to our learning in the city.

The 'bush-classroom' was very exciting. We had an on-foot guided bush experience. We saw animal prints on the dry river bed, dug for water in seemingly dry sand and noticed plants that we weren't very familiar with. We had to be completely quiet at times: we were listening to the sounds of nature around us. It all made for a wonderful adventure in this environment that the wild animals call their home.

Too many classrooms to mention all of them, but we enjoyed every minute and thanks to Mr. Johan and his staff, his wife Ms. Maryke, Maluda, Rosa, Arne and the drivers from the lodge we had an awesome experience. The Africat Environmental Education Centre provided us with many things that we are very grateful for. The tents were big and spacious and there were mattresses and pillows as well. At the lapa there was always water, juice coffee and tea on a table and Mrs. Maryke would make delicious food for us, breakfast, lunch and dinner. Mr. Johan and Ms. Maryke would always make sure that we were looked after.

Click [LINK](#) to view photos.

**Jade & Jordan - Photos: Ms. Heike**

## OF MODELS, SNAKES AND PHOTOGRAPHY



For the creativity section of my CAS profile I have decided to take on photography. Photography has always been one of my many interests since I was 15 years old. A year ago for my 17th birthday I was gifted with my first camera. To me photography is not just about taking photos. It is about creating a storyline in a single capture. A photograph captures a moment in time in its actuality, whereas something like a painting or drawing, however accurate, is essentially a rendering of whatever the artist chooses to see. People often say, “photography is easy, all you do is just click a button”, but I think otherwise. I believe photographers are more than just people with good equipment. They are people who are able to capture a moment using the right lighting and composition. Many people do not know how much work photographers do behind the scenes. How much editing and pre-research has gone into the makeup, wardrobe, theme and location of the photoshoot.

Earlier this month I decided that I would like to have my first studio photoshoot with a theme one could say, isn’t usual. I decided that I would like to have a photoshoot with snakes. To begin this process, I assembled my own team. I contacted Mr. Tich Mupeti, owner of Tich Mupeti Photography, and asked whether he would be able to mentor me in my first studio photoshoot, as he is an expert. I contacted a makeup artist, Nelly, who is originally from Russia and two models, Yana Haenisch and Traceylee Julius. Finally I contacted Sheriff Marshal Sean Naude a professional wildlife wrangler and conservationist known for his affinity for snakes.

Working with the snakes was an incredible experience. We were privileged to have 3 animal models. Bella , a columbian red tail boa, and two different mole snakes. I think it is important to know that snakes, like most animals, only attack if they are feeling threatened. They are not the viscous scary creatures media portrays them to be. Having the snakes was like having an additional model, just that they do not listen. This language difference created an interesting learning curve for the whole team, but especially me as the photographer. I

learned to anticipate their next move, learning where it would take them after observing for a while and then take my shot at the opportune moment.

Undertaking photography as a CAS experience has led to the opening of my own photography business : Captured Moments Photography Namibia. Through this I have had the privilege of taking photos at events such as Windhoek Fashion Week, The Simply You Magazine Lifestyle and Fashion Awards, Miss Teen Namibia as well as work with many professionals in the fashion photography business. Further I have developed my action photography skills at outdoor sports events attending various local and national equestrian and swimming championships as well as national dog shows.

I would like to say a huge thank you to my CAS supervisor Ms Heike Rubbert and CAS coordinator Mr Fitzpatrick for encouraging and supporting me throughout this whole CAS experience.

**Hazim Ashraf Hishamuddin, Grade 12**

## Let's celebrate!

Once again we hear about the great achievements of our WIS swimmers.

The Sports Department would like to congratulate two of our students **Kgosana Hekandjo (Namibia)** and **Christopher Fitzpatrick (Tanzania)** for representing own country on the biggest-ever **Confederation of African Amature Nations Zone 4 Junior championships (CANA)** last week , as well would like to acknowledge 10 swimmers who participated in the **BKW National LC Championship** which took place in Windhoek last weekend. **Viktoria Ellmies , Oliwia Stephanus, Salomé Rey, Gizele Slinger, Martha Kali, Kabelo Hekandjo, Kgosana Hekandjo , Christopher Fitzpatrick, Dominic Fitzpatrick and Sarah Tibazarwa.** Unfortunately, **Mark Tibazarwa** couldn't take part in this event due to his injury.



Swimmers competed against each other in many events, showed excellent communication and self-management skills, determination and commitment.

Many of them had PB, individual medals, team achievements. Victoria received a special trophy for the best time in 50m freestyle and 100m freestyle women at the LC Nationals.

It was a first LC Championship for Salomé and this what she said:

*"Last weekend was thrilling and exciting! I participated in my first swimming nationals. From Thursday to Sunday, I swam all the strokes, giving my best for each event. I managed to improve all my times and I even got a medal for the relay with my teammates. This was an amazing experience. Even if I am exhausted, it was worth all the effort!"*

We wish our swimmers all the best. In another few months they will be competing in Level 2 and Level 3 swimming competitions outside Namibia.



Beata Stephanus (O.B.O Sports committee)

## Spray-a-thon 2019

On the 22nd of February, WIS again participated in the annual Spray-a-thon the Cancer Association of Namibia holds to raise funds to support people suffering from cancer.



Thank you to Keri and Michelle from the PTA who helped with the spraying in the Primary School.

And thank you to the Senior Student Council for helping to spray in the Secondary School.

**Maggie Reiff**

# Primary Inter-House Competition



**Come and Join our Inter House Athletics Competition**  
**When: Friday 8th March at 7:45**  
**Where: Big Field**  
**Why: We are celebrating teamwork**  
**What : You need your house T Shirt and sport shoes**



# WIS PTA MERCHANDISE

## HOUSE T-SHIRTS & NAVY-BLUE T-SHIRTS

N\$ 130

Sizes from 3 to XL



## GOLF SHIRTS

N\$ 170

Sizes S to XL



## WIDE BRIM HATS

N\$150



## CAPS

N\$ 110



## SWIMMING CAPS

N\$ 100



## SWIMMING TOWELS

N\$ 250 (special offer)



## WATER BOTTLES

N\$ 100



## COFFE MUGS

N\$ 100 (special offer)



## HOODIES

N\$ 100 (special offer)



## LIBRARY BAG

N\$ 150



## CHAIR BAGS

N\$ 90

## ART APRON

N\$ 90

**SPEND 600 N\$ OR MORE AND GET A FREE LIBRARY BAG!**