



# THE ORYX

*The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School*

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

### Oryx No. 100!

We launched The Oryx in the first week of September 2015. It seems almost unbelievable that there are now a hundred issues to be enjoyed on the school website.

They describe the journey that the school has made over the past 2½ years and, week by week, they will continue to report and record all the small things (and a few big ones) that go to make up the life of a busy and successful school.

### Meet the New Teachers

Barring any unforeseen hiccups, we should be welcoming (or, in one case, welcoming back) five new faces to the school in August.

**Isabeau BEZUIDENHOUT** is Namibian and has been teaching in a number of institutions across Windhoek for more than twenty years. We are delighted that she will be joining WIS as a full-time teachers of English as an Additional Language (EAL) working principally in the Secondary School.

Originally from Kenya but now working in a school in Beijing, **Liz CHEGE** will be responsible for Media Resources and based in the old Library. She comes to us with more than twenty years' experience of working in good schools and has worked with both the IB PYP and IBDP.

Also with very substantial IB experience, **Rick FITZPATRICK** is currently working in the International School of Moshi in Tanzania. He is a citizen of both the USA and Ireland and his long career in education has taken him to Belize, the USA, Egypt, Germany and Tanzania. He joins us to teach Social Studies and History in the Secondary School.

**Lizi OPPERMAN** will need no introduction to many of our parents and staff. She taught at WIS for seven years, leaving in 2015 to spend time with her young family. We are very happy to be welcoming her back to the Learning Support Department.

Finally, **Mike PARSONS** is from Canada. He has twenty years' experience, seventeen of which have been in excellent (IB) schools in China and Vietnam. He is a Middle School (Grades 6 to 8) specialist and at WIS he will teach mostly Mathematics.

Every few months I remind the readership of The Oryx that the most important thing in any school is the quality of teaching and instruction. I am very confident that all five of the above will be excellent additions to our teaching faculty.

*Peter MacKenzie*

## Contents

- From the Director p. 1
- Primary News p. 2
- Secondary News p. 3 - 5
- Other News p. 6 - 10

## Dates to Remember

### April 2018

- **12-13:** Last day for Year 13 & farewell assembly
- **17:** Board Meeting
- **20:** Last day for Year 11 & farewell assembly
- **21:** PTA Family Braai
- **25-26:** Primary Sport Days



VISIT US ON:



Facebook



Instagram

## WEEKLY PUZZLER

Congrats to Sarah in 7B,  
she solved last week's  
puzzler!

You have two small,  
plain, unmarked  
hourglasses.

One measures four  
minutes, the other  
measures seven.

Using only these, how  
can you measure a time  
of nine minutes?

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



## PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

This week the homeroom teachers looked at class blogs from a few different schools to see how learning is shared and what evidence there is of student learning. It was an interesting exercise which was a springboard for a discussion about our own blogs.

Why do we have blogs? They are a means of communication between school and home. They provide a window into what your child is learning, how your child is spending his/her day at school and most importantly an opportunity to celebrate student learning. Another purpose the blogs serve is as a marketing tool. People who are moving to Windhoek and looking for a school can see what kind of school we are by viewing the blogs. This is also true for teachers who might be interested in working at WIS.

We are always reflecting on what we can improve and our discussion this week about the blogs is an example. I would like to have your feedback on the class blogs and would appreciate your taking the time to complete this short survey: <https://goo.gl/6cc9V6>. Thank you in advance for your time and thoughts.

Regards,  
Beth Smith

## Year 2 A & B French Students

At the Franco Namibian Cultural Centre  
Bonjour!



Last week Friday, in connection with their Unit of Inquiry How We Express Ourselves, the students went to the FNCC to visit the French Library, to experience a storytelling in the Cinema of the Centre and enjoy a "yummy" French snack, some crêpes and a Galette des Rois.

In this unit the students have been exploring a story called Roule Galette which is about La Galette des Rois (The King Cake), a cultural and traditional French recipe. It is made with a puff pastry, filled with one of several fillings (e.g. almond, apple, chocolate/pear, etc.) and has a small figurine hidden inside. The figurine changes from bakery to bakery and often represents a hit movie or other cultural icon.

Laith and Aussie were the lucky ones: the kings! The children demonstrated enthusiasm, curiosity and had a lot of fun. **Madame Laetitia**

## SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

### **The beauty of working with children! The beauty of WIS!**

When on break duty, I always enjoy watching the kids and the way they spend their breaks. And during these times, I witness the interactions between the children and what they do, be it playing basketball on the court or volleyball or soccer on the field or just sitting somewhere chatting.

Mostly, these interactions are positive and a real “away from thinking” opportunity for the children. What I witness here at WIS is often, that it does not really matter whether you are a boy or a girl, whether you are in Year 7 or 10. If someone feels they want to join an activity, they join and are mostly accepted by the ones that are already playing. Today, I saw the Year 10s join the Year 7s for volleyball. And even a Year 10 student join the Year 7 side to help out there.

This does not imply that all is well all the time, but the atmosphere during break times, for me, is always refreshing and an indication of the overall atmosphere in the school. Students do care for each other, they do look out for each other and they are aware of each other when interacting. Students do normally not hesitate to speak when they feel strongly about something and they are mostly listened to and their voice is considered by others.

A group of Year 12 students recently did a project with Year 4s on their “Indigenous Garden and Water Conservation Project”.



If we are able to raise compassionate, caring young people in our school, we might contribute a little to a better society in future and to people who lead our future society with compassion and an open mind.

**Regards,  
Maggie Reiff**

## Creative Writing Workshop

Story teller and writing coach, Mr. Dorian Harhoff, ignited our young minds at the creative writing workshop which was organised by the secondary English department on April 9.



**Swapna Sharma**



## Thank You

A warm thank you to both WIS and the Embassy of Ireland, Lusaka for the team effort in showing the Irish films 'Sing Street' and 'Alia' on Tuesday evening. Everyone was received with a welcoming drink and had the chance to meet Brian McCrohan and ask questions with regard to all things Irish.



The short film and main feature were highly acclaimed and the evening left us feeling good by all accounts.

'It felt like we had a night out at the movies!'

'I was tapping my foot all the way through, as this is my kind of music!'

'We should do more of this!'

Additional thanks to the PTA for opening the bar and providing snacks and to Martin de Wasseige for a flawless screening.

We hope to celebrate our Irish connection with future cultural opportunities and getting to know each other.

To all the Irish in Namibia - please register online: <https://citizensregistration.dfa.ie/>

**Kathleen Britz**

## WIS participates in the Windhoek Karneval



This year, the Windhoek Karneval turned 66, and on this occasion schools were invited to participate in the Karneval in different ways.

Some WIS students have participated in the Windhoek Karneval for some years already. However, this year, WIS participated in different ways. On Saturday, we participated in the annual Umzug (street parade) of the Windhoek Karneval. This was a great success and everybody who was there had fun and enjoyed the walk down Independence Avenue. Thank you to all students, parents, teachers and other community members who joined.



On Monday morning, the Jugendprinzenpaar (Youth Royal Couple) visited the Primary School and shared some thoughts about the tradition of the German Karneval. Four of our senior girls are part of the "Prinzengarde" who dance during the different events in the 10 day period the Karneval lasts.

The princess of the Jugendkarneval is Alicia Reiff, one of our Year 13 students. All in all, this experience gives WIS exposure in the broader community and gives our students an opportunity to participate in activities in the broader community. Well done, congratulations and good job to those who participated in this event this year.

## PTA Volunteering Opportunities

*Volunteering is the Commitment of time and energy for the benefit of society and the community, the environment. It is undertaken freely and by choice, without concern for financial gain. "Volunteering benefits the Community and the Volunteer."*

- Do you like meeting new people?
- Do you like to be part of the change?
- Do you think that WIS will benefit from your skills?
- Do you want to develop new skills?

The PTA is recruiting new members, to be part of the 2018-2019 PTA Executive Committee.

Sign up [HERE!](#)



### PTA FAMILY BRAAI!

Date: 21 April 2018

Time: 07:30 - 17:00

Place: WIS Campus

### RE-REGISTRATION 2018/2019 SCHOOL YEAR

Please complete the Re-registration form (*available on the d6*) and return it to the School Office before 31 May 2018 for your child/ren to be re-enrolled for the 2018/2019 School Year.



## Trail Run

The Sports Committee will host a trail run as part of the activities for Family Day. The route will be in and around the school.

Runners can choose to run the 2 km (one lap) or 4 km (two laps) race. Anyone taking part in this event should wear good running shoes and comfortable clothes - you might encounter obstacles on the trail.

Please see the flyer for additional information.



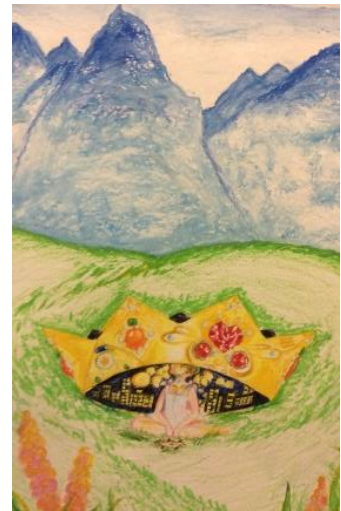


## A note to the Graduating Class of 2018 (with a little help from your fellow DP Visual Arts students)

Being a Year 13 student at this point in time is not easy. You are close to your final high school examinations and as your parents, guardians, families, friends and teachers probably can confirm, you often feel like this ▼



...or like this ▶



...and probably want to run away to hide somewhere here ▶

You tend to think in words with this character in them more often than usual ▼



...and certainly have no more patience for this ▼



We know that you need a lot of this ▼

...and even more of this ▼



**We are here to support you and we wish you  
ALL THE BEST FOR YOUR UPCOMING IBDP EXAMINATIONS!**

---

---

## We Need Your Recycled Goods!



Please bring clean recyclables to the PTA community center over the next 2 weeks. We have a collection box inside. These will be used for activities at the Earth Day Celebration/Family Braai on Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> of April.



Thank you! - WIS PTA

---

---

# BLANKETS FOR WINTER

The Windhoek SPCA is in urgent need of blankets for our animals before the winter comes.  
**PLEASE DONATE ANY BLANKETS, OLD OR NEW!**



Blankets can be dropped at our Office:  
**145 ROBERT MUGABE AVE. - WINDHOEK**







# LET'S EMPOWER WOMEN

*According to UNICEF, 1 out of 10 African schoolgirls skips school or drops out simply due to a lack of menstrual products and poor access to proper sanitation.*

## WHAT CAN WE DO?

This Hochland 154 Round Table initiative will provide DIY kits and skills development training to teach rural women to make their own reusable sanitary pads.

What we need from you is the material!

Bring as many second-hand cotton towels, t-shirts and bedding as you can! 100% cotton is preferable, but everything helps and will be donated to the community!

**Donation boxes can be found at reception and will be collected on 24th April. Contact Lucy - 0818792788 or Marizelle - 0814890326 for more information on how to help.**



