



# THE ORYX

*The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School*

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

### Security

Every day I am happy to reflect that I (we) live in a beautiful country where people can go about their business without fear. Sadly, as we all know, there are many places where that is not the case.

I have visited schools that were protected by armed guards. I have worked in one where every vehicle entering the campus was checked to see if a bomb had been attached underneath. In another I visited, all visitors (and every student every day) needed to pass through a razor wire cage as they entered the school. It will be a very sad day if WIS ever needs to adopt such measures.

That said, we must never be complacent about the safety and security of those who work at the school.

So we are making it a requirement that all vehicles that regularly come onto school premises have a sticker clearly visible. Vehicles without a sticker will be stopped by the guards to explain their business at school. The stickers will be dated and colour-coded and new ones will be issued every school year.

The 2016-2017 stickers are available. Please collect one from the School Office. You may have as many stickers as you have vehicles. You may even choose your preferred number if it is still available!

Please just ensure that you know your vehicle's registration number at the time of collection.

Thank you.

**With best wishes**  
**Peter MacKenzie**

## PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

### Oryx - March 31, 2017 Primary Principal

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week we have been hosting two visitors from the IB for our PYP Evaluation. This evaluation takes place every five years. The purpose of the visit is for the two-member team to see the school and compare what they have observed in relation to the IB Standards and Practices to the self-study, which was completed during the last academic year and the first semester of this year.

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## Dates to Remember

### April 2017

- **03 - 07:** Secondary Week A
- **03 - 04:** Diskonto Book Sale
- **05 - 06:** Science Fair
- **12:** Year 13 Farewell Assembly
- **13:** Year 13 Last Day



## Staff Feature

### Gerson Kastoor - Year 6 Teaching Assistant

I was born in Okahandja, Namibia. Yet most of my life, I have lived in Windhoek. My parents are Johanna Noabes, and my late dad Gerson Hukununa.

I call myself Nama-Herero because I am a mixture of the Nama and the Herero tribe. I attended the Olof Palme primary school in Katutura and later continued my high school career at Hage G.Geingob High school.

I loved my high school life more than primary. I had the best teachers ever, and my passion for music started there. I have been in the school choir for the entire time at school. The seasons when school choir competition was on, was the best times ever, because we had to get creative, get involved with other schools and got a lot of exposure.

I love being around people, communicating and exchanging ideas.

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In addition, the visiting team will make suggestions to the IB of recommendations, commendations and matters to be addressed, all of which will help us move forward with the Primary Years Programme.

During their three days at WIS, the Team has spent time visiting classrooms, meeting with students, parents, Board members, teachers and teaching assistants, as well as with Ms Avril, Mr MacKenzie and me.

They will submit their findings to the IB. By the end of June the IB will send the school the final report, which will guide our action plan for the next several years.

This process of evaluation is an important one and will ultimately support the improvement of teaching and learning in the Primary School. Thank you to all the staff, students, parents and Board members who participated in this process, with special appreciation to our PYP Coordinator, Avril van Zyl.

Regards,  
Beth Smith

## Year 3 Debate

*By Nora Schlabitz, Ngunondukua Ndjavera, Hala Ayoub*

Year 3A and 3B students had a debate about whether or not there should be zoos. Before the debate we were researching about if zoos are a good thing. We were researching with the internet and also with books.

When we had the debate, Year 3A came to Year 3B. First Ms. Barbara flipped a dollar and the top was heads and the bottom was tails. It landed on tails and that meant that 3B went first. Then 3A sat down and listened to us. Shamiso gave the introduction. We all waited for each other to speak. When we were finished, 3A started to speak. Sophia gave the introduction for 3A. We all had a part to speak and we spoke in order. When Year 3A presented, Ms. Beth came in to listen. After the debate, each team asked a lot of questions of the other team. We took turns asking and answering questions to learn more about if we thought zoos were a good thing or if animals should be left in the wild. The judges said 3A won the debate, but Ms. Pamela said it was a tie.



This was our first debate. We learned one team takes a side and the other team takes another side of an issue. Teams come up with ideas to support their viewpoint. In a debate, you need to prepare, be confident, and stay on topic. You have to speak like you really mean it and be principled.

**Staff Feature continued**

That's how wisdom and knowledge are obtained. I grew up with my mom's parents, I actually still stay with them. I have a really close relationship with my grandparents, they take good care of me and now it's my turn to return the good deed.

I am very fortunate to still have them in my life. For my first job, I was a gardener. Then I got a job as a sales person at CNA (Maerua Mall). I enjoyed being a salesperson, because I saw new faces everyday and learned good life skills while working there. Working with adults is not always something I enjoy, but what did not kill me, made me stronger. However, I was still searching for a place in life to settle and be proud of.

I applied and succeeded getting a teaching assistant position at Windhoek International school. My first day was at WIS was on the 19th of October 2015. I felt a little uncomfortable in my new environment but the students made me feel at home. The teachers at WIS are amazing, they help shape the future by educating students to become independent people and I am glad to be part of this process.

I love working with children! I have a passion for music and consequently I am leading the Primary choir with students between the ages of 8 and 11 as an after school activity.

It's lovely to see the students enjoy themselves and also learn. "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world" as Nelson Mandela said. I am staying in education for that reason.

## SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

**How do we teach kids to learn the values we want them to follow?**

In the past week, we had some incidents of theft on our campus. It is always difficult to find the culprits in an institution where so many people come and go. What do we do to try to prevent these incidents from happening?



In our Mission and Vision, we strive to "prepare independent, inquiring and self-motivated citizens of the world". We also aim "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."

How do we educate our children to become *citizens of the world* and to *take social responsibility and become independent thinkers*?

First and foremost, they have to live in an environment that mirrors these values. At home, in school and even in their society, they should see that these values are adhered to and followed. Too often, in today's life with Social Media, advertising and public appearances (singers, celebrities etc.), our youth sees actions and behaviour that does not model these values. The more important for us as educators (parents and the school), to emphasise these values and live by them.

At WIS, when we deal with incidents of dishonesty, disrespect, injustice or unfairness, we try to do that constructively. In other words, we try to use these incidents as learning experiences for our children to move forward understanding and appreciating these values.

What effect has a punishment on us? If it is not related to the misconduct, it will most likely not have a lasting effect. If, however, through reflection and constructive action, we can make our young people understand the value of these attributes, they might learn to be pro-active as well and they might become role models in their society. This is what we strive for in our education here at school and this is what we hope to achieve apart from the academic excellence we strive for.



**Regards,  
Maggie Reiff**



## Congratulations!

A huge Congratulation to Viktoria Ellmies who performed at the Level 3 International Swim Gala in Durban during the holidays. These are the best swimmers from central and southern Africa!

Viktoria performance in the 100 meter back stroke was so exception she has now qualified for the Junior Worlds to be help in the US later this year!

**Thomas Jackson-Read**



### - TIME CHANGE -

(Winter time starts)

2 April 2017 - Daylight Saving Time

When local daylight time is about to reach Sunday, 2 April 2017, 02:00:00 clocks are turned backward 1 hour to Sunday, 2 April 2017, 01:00:00 local standard time instead.

Sunrise and sunset will be about 1 hour earlier on 2 Apr 2017 than the day before. There will be more light in the morning. Also called Fall Back.



If you haven't yet bought your tickets for The Trial of Goldilocks, get one while you still can! They are being sold at reception for \$30. The show starts tonight (31.3.2017) at 7pm, and lasts for about 40 minutes. There will be no interval, but drinks will be available after the show.

#### Guilty or innocent?

Was the young girl a selfish spoiled brat intruding where she didn't belong? Or, was she the victim of three conniving bears and their animal "band of hoods" in the woods?

In rhyme, mime and mirth, this exciting new comedy brings Goldilocks to court on charges of breaking and entering, and examines the familiar fairy tale from three points of view: the traditional, the Bears' and then Goldilocks'.

## **GIANT BOOK DISPLAY**

### **WHEN?**

3 & 4 APRIL 2017

**IT'S A BOOKWORM'S DREAM!!!**



WINDHOEK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

***"EVERY CHILD DESERVES A GOOD BOOK"***

WE OFFER A LARGE VARIETY FICTION &  
NON-FICTION BOOKS DIRECT TO THE  
PUBLIC AT AFFORDABLE PRICES.

### **FOR EXAMPLE:**

ENID BLYTON VARIOUS TITLES..R35

GERONIMO STILTON...R65

**DON'T MISS THIS OPPRTUNITY!!!**

**o-O-o**

# OMBA GALLERY EXHIBITION

## Y(OUR) RE-AXSHUN

IBDP VISUAL ARTS  
EXHIBITION

OPENING NIGHT: APRIL 4TH  
2017

DURATION: APRIL 4-11 2017

TIME: 18:00-20:00

*Daniela Gordas*  
and *Rantira Abner*



OMBA GALLERY AT THE OLD BREWERIES, 40 TAL ST. WINDHOEK

MON-FRI 9AM-5.30PM SAT 9AM-4PM PUBLIC HOLIDAYS-SUN 9AM-130PM

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NAMIBIA  
CRAFT  
CENTRE

# WHOSE SHOE IS IT ANYWAY?

## WHEN

April 5<sup>th</sup>  
6pm – 7pm

## WHERE

WINDHOEK  
INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL  
AUDITORIUM

Scheppmann Street, Pioneerspark

FEATURING · Remember (Re) · Dale · Monika · Verii ·  
Tulii · Lahja

IMPROV  
THEATER FOR  
CHARITY

ALL AGES  
EVENT

## AT THE DOOR

Any old pair of shoes  
for donation.

College of the Arts Presents



**Baroque**  
Soloists with Orchestra

**7 & 8 April 2017**  
19:30

**Autumn & Spring**  
from Vivaldi's Four Seasons

Performed by Jürgen Kriess and Enrico Palascino  
Conductor: Alexander Fokkens  
Dutch Reformed Church Windhoek  
Corner of Luderitz and Munamava Street  
Opposite Old State House



Ticket Sales with Hermien Vries at  
College of the Arts (374 102) or at the doors.  
Enquiries: Johanita de Waal 081 272 9922

Adult NS100  
Pensioners & Scholars NS50







**Come and Join us for  
Family Fun Walk  
22 April, Saturday @ 8:00**

WIS Sports Committee emphasis on a healthy lifestyle by encouraging people that "walking is fun, and best of all it's free". This event will help to create a friendly atmosphere among all the community members and will form part of the Earth Day Celebration.

