



# THE ORYX

*The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School*



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## Dates to Remember

### September

- **12** - Staff work Day:  
No school for students
- **23** - Secondary: Last day AA
- **26** - Year 10 & 12 Trips
- **30** - Primary: Last day AA

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am delighted to welcome to the school our newest member of staff. Madelein Ockhuizen joins the admin staff wearing a number of hats but parents will most often meet her in the context of the Nurse's Room where she is now assisting Sharon Gorelick. Madelein is a qualified First Aid giver and is herself a mother of two. It hardly needs saying that our students' health, welfare and safety are always our primary concern.

And on that note, I might mention that we have so far this year had two full fire drills (one observed by representatives of the City of Windhoek) and we will have more throughout the year. Let's hope we never have to evacuate the buildings for real but, if we do, we are prepared.

The school is closed on Monday and all staff will be attending a day-long professional learning workshop. We recognise that closing the school can be inconvenient for some parents and we do it sparingly but it is important – indeed, it is essential – to provide opportunities for your children's teachers to reflect on good practice, share experiences, and learn about the latest thinking. In no area is this more important than in differentiation – teaching children with different needs within the same class – and we are excited that on Monday we will be welcoming Dr. Charles Rowins from Johns Hopkins University in the USA.

Dr. Rowins is an expert on differentiation and he will be working with our staff to help them improve and refine their classroom practice. Moreover, he will be in school and in classes on Tuesday and Wednesday to observe and work with teachers in class. His visit is sure to be stimulating and rewarding.

I am happy to acknowledge the financial support of the US State Department to make this visit possible.

With best wishes  
**Peter MacKenzie**



## Teacher Feature

### Kate Matzopoulos - Secondary Drama

Growing up watching my parents teach (they are both very respected and loved teachers in Namibia) I swore I would never become a teacher and tried my hand at numerous things from selling cigars to fashion designing to running a gallery just to end up teaching!

Now that I am here, teaching, I am really happy to be doing it. My classroom is my stage where I get to try out a range of ideas with the help of the beautiful people in my class and the theories of practitioners who have practised theatre before us.

Teaching drama so far has enabled me to explore things I love: rhythm, costume, movement and mostly just connecting with others – this is what make theatre such a powerful medium, more so than film or television, it's the connection shared between people during a live performance.

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## PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Thank you to all who attended Monday's rescheduling of the Primary Back to School Night. I hope the information presented by the homeroom teachers both this past Monday and the previous Monday, as well as the session in the auditorium, helped you to have a better understanding of your child's day and the expectations for the year level.

The next date to diarise is the Three-Way Conferences which will be held Wednesday afternoon, 5 October and during the day of Thursday, 6 October. Please note that on the 6th children will only come to school for their conferences. More information about the conferences will be coming soon.

This week we have welcomed two new staff members: Justina Andreas is the new teaching assistant for Year 3B, working alongside Ms Barbara.

Justina has replaced Ms Sonia who resigned at the beginning of the school year to return to Italy with her family. Rolien Schaaf is filling in teaching the Years 1-6 music classes while Ms Michelle is on maternity leave. Ms Avril will continue to teach music for the KG1 and KG2 classes.

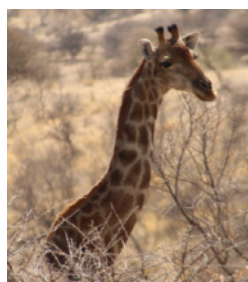
Regards,  
**Beth Smith**

## Educational Field Trip

### Go Wild!- with Knowledge

Kindergarten 2 classes went on a Safari Adventure to **Daan Viljoen/Sun Karros** last Friday. This field trip was part of our Unit of Inquiry for **Where We Are in Place and Time** and the students are inquiring into different places and different experiences.

The students, teachers and parents traveled with Karibu Safari, which is a mobile safari company offering scheduled and tailor made tours and safaris throughout Namibia and Botswana and to Zambia's Victoria Falls. They are a dedicated and experienced team and mostly, one of our parents. A field trips always enriches students learning. Some lessons are learned more effectively when they are experienced up close and personal.



That is why each year Kindergarten classes go on field trips to personally experience the wonders of nature. All field trips emphasise conservation, biology, and ecological sciences through exposure to the wonderful world of animals and exotic wildlife. Interacting with the animals, be it looking eye to eye

**Teacher Feature continued**

It requires quick and sharp thinking, discipline and creating a network of ideas that can be put forward in a single action.

I enjoy putting into practice, in very real and practical ways, the aims of the IB programme through our drama classes.

We inquire about the lives we live to be able to portray these in the scenes we create, we have to be serious risk takers when presenting our scenes to each other.

We actually study the ways in which we communicate and how we can do so more effectively when on stage, we are continuously enriching our supplies of knowledge through the study of plays and practitioners.

We remain open minded at all times as we portray a range of different characters that come from all over the world and even from other worlds, and to be able to do this well, we have to have understanding and really care about the ideas we are depicting.

We are constantly thinking; there is never a moment when one does not think when performing. In fact performers are thinking on many levels all at the same time.

We practise balance and control consistently in order for our performances not to be over the top and unbelievable. Being honest, approaching characterisation with integrity and principle is the only way in which an actor can own the actions that are being played.

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with the tallest of the earth's creatures (giraffe) recognising female and male animals, inquiry into nature.

The experience opens doors to a life that benefits us all. The impact of these experiences on young minds, allow students to take away lifelong lessons that can't be replicated in books, on television, over the Internet, or even in the classroom.

Once again , we would like to say thank you to all parents who came along, as well **Cynthia , Jimmy and their Karibu Safari team** for giving us an interesting, educational and interactive experience that students will 'roar' about!



**Kindergarten 2 Team**

**For more information about please visit : Facebook: Karibu Namibia <http://www.karibunamibia.com/> or contact them Tel: +264 61 251661 Fax: +264 61 254245**

**YEAR 5 GOES TO UNITED NATIONS.**

The year 5 are inquiring about children's rights and responsibilities, they went to the United Nations House and attended an educational talk with the CEO of UN, Ms Kiki. She talked about the different agencies that work with the UN, specifically UNICEF, which is in charge of protecting the welfare of children in the world.



**Teacher Feature continued**

Finally, what is any show, without reflection at the end of or even during the performance, where everyone can participate and impact on the action that was created?

Drama is not just about being crazy.

Nothing done well is ever easy.

Ms Kiki gave us a valuable message about the roles of adults in empowering, educating and creating employment for our children, and the children understood the importance of knowing their rights and responsibilities to create a better world.

**Viviana Beltran**



**What does technology integration look like in the History class?**

When picked correctly, a technology tool allows us to hear the student speaking, not reading from a website. It provides an opportunity for authentic assessment. [Click here to read more](#)

[about this.](#)

**Danai Maramba**

**LOST AND FOUND!**

Please check the Lost and Found cupboard for lost items.

**REMINDER:**  
Monday, 12

September is a Professional Learning Day for staff. There is no school for students on Monday.

There will be FACE PAINTING and HAIR SPRAYING next week for N\$10.

Wednesday 14 Sept: Toddlers and Year 1

Thursday 15 Sept: Year 2

Friday 16 Sept: Years 3 - 6

Please give your child's name to the homeroom teacher.

**SECONDARY PRINCIPAL**

**Homework: To give or not to give - to do or not to do - That is the question**

There is an ongoing discussion about the validity and effectiveness of homework and the time kids should spend on doing homework each day. What is your opinion? A question I would like to ask to parents and to students.

Homework is given to consolidate learnt skills and content. It gives you an indication of whether you understand what you learnt AND it should give you an opportunity to apply what you have learnt in a different context to give you the assurance that you understand what you learnt. Homework gives students an opportunity to independently apply their knowledge and to learn to manage their time effectively.

**World Peace Day!**

**WIS STUDENT COUNCIL(S)**  
Will be organising a special Day where we will recognise "World Peace Day".  
This day will be on Wednesday, 21st September 2016.  
Stay posted for more information coming soon on the blogs.

**Support the Year 12s next week!!**  
Take part in the raffle, face painting and lots more!  
There are great prizes to be won!  
Bring lots of money

However, if homework is done with too much assistance from parents or tutors, it does not serve this purpose. If homework is rushed, because there is too much homework or because there are too many other activities in a child's schedule, it does not serve the purpose it should have. Homework might eat up your time and if you have too much homework, it might make you feel 'burnt out' or anxious.

### ***Which one is it really?***



Here are two interesting videos that ponder on the value of education and the purpose of homework: [Link](#), [Link](#)

I would be happy to receive your opinion on this - [mreiff@wis.edu.na](mailto:mreiff@wis.edu.na)

Regards,

**Maggie Reiff**

## **Physics in Action**



Often we forget about the point of the subjects that we learn. We learn theory, but rarely see concepts in action. It is important for Physics students to observe natural occurrences that can be explained using physics. After all, the word physics comes from the ancient Greek *physika*, meaning the science of natural things.

On 1st September, an opportunity arose for the year 13 physics students when Mr McLennan, our Economics teacher who is an avid lover of Physics, came to our Physics class and pointed out that there was a solar eclipse occurring. This coincided with our Option topics (imaging) being presently taught in class. An eclipse

occurs when the moon, an opaque object, comes between the sun and the earth.

We observed the eclipse in two different ways. The first way used a white piece of paper and card with a puncture in it. This is called a pinhole camera. A pinhole camera is one that lets light pass through a small aperture to project an image onto a surface with no use of a lens.

The puncture allows for a small amount of light to hit the paper through the hole, thus forming an image of the solar eclipse.



*Fun Physics Fact: The world's largest photograph was taken by a pinhole camera!*

In physics terms, we say that the image is real and inverted. This phenomenon is the fact that proves the rectilinear propagation of light. That is, light travels in a straight line. Mr. Oluwasanmi our Physics teacher further explained the principle of the pinhole camera to some of the Year 10 students that happened to be in Chemistry class at the time of viewing.

The first recorded use of a pin-hole camera system was by David Brewster, a Scottish inventor in 1550, well before lenses were made.

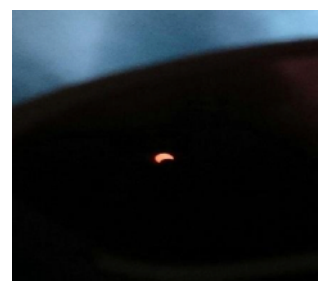
He described it as "a camera without lenses, and with only a pinhole." It can be used to project an image on a screen for safe viewing of Solar Eclipses, but can be used with photographic paper to produce images.

We also observed the eclipse through old x-rays from the biology lab. Using these formed a virtual and upright image. We were able to thus take a picture of the image produced by holding a camera close to the x-ray paper. The picture taken can be seen above. This technique also proved for something very exciting: the formation of chromatic aberrations.

Chromatic aberration is simply the distortion of an image due to the different wavelengths of light as it passes through a lens. In this case, the lens was the x-ray paper. Visible light includes a spectrum of different electromagnetic waves, each with different wavelengths. Light with different wavelengths pass through a medium at different speeds. When they pass through a lens, light with different wavelengths focus at different points. This results in the formation of colour fringes forming around the image. We were also able to take a photo of this, pictured right.



All in all, it was a fantastic day for Physics students. Not only was it a pretty sight to witness, but the idea that we could actually explain and understand why the eclipse happened and could be observed the way it was made it even better.



*By: (Powerful)Year 13 IB Physics Students*

## Team up! Join PTA

Take an active part in your child's school life

Nomination forms for PTA elections are available on the D6 under Resources/PTA.

Forms can be emailed or handed to Catherine at the Reception, until Friday 23rd of September at 12:00.

**The PTA election for 2016/2017 school year will take place at the PTA AGM on Wednesday 28th of September at 12:00, at the PLC. Hope to see you there!**



## Walk for Life

WIS staff and students participated in the Radiowave WALK FOR LIFE event last Saturday morning, in aid of raising funds in support of the work the Cancer Association of Namibia does.



We got off to an early start at 7h30 and had the option of doing the 5km or 10km walk. The event was very well supported. So many people have been touched in some way by this terrible illness.

*Sharon Gorelick*

## Inter house Swim Gala 2016

**WIS**  
**INTER HOUSE SWIM GALA**  
**2016**

**Year groups: Year 2-13**

**Events**

- 25m Freestyle
- 25m Backstroke
- 25m Butterfly
- 25m Breaststroke

**Dates: Friday, 28 October 2016**

**Venue: UNAM School of Medicine**

**Time: 14:30 - 17:00 (TBC)**



The WIS Sports Committee will be organising a number of whole school sports events during our academic year. Our aim is to promote participation in physical activity and sports. These events will not only be limited to our students, but we would like to organise a number of events for the whole WIS community.

Our first event will be our annual inter-house school swim gala on Friday, 28 October 2016 for all students that can swim 25m of any of the four strokes.

More information will be posted weekly on the D6, teacher's blogs and the Oryx.

WIS Sports Committee

*F.Beukes, T. Jackson-Read, B. Stephanus, J. Vieira*

