



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Staffing

I am happy to announce that we are fully staffed for the next school year. As I've said again and again (and will continue to say), the most important factor in any school is the quality of teaching. Getting the right people, empowering them, supporting them and helping them to grow is therefore a critical part of my job and it's one I take very seriously.

So, I am delighted to welcome five new faces to the school. In fact, strictly speaking, it's three new faces and two familiar faces assuming new roles.

Debbie Carew, an existing WIS parent and experienced Primary teacher, is joining us as a full-time PYP class teacher in Year 3.

Patrick Farrell, another WIS parent, will be teaching Mathematics (part-time) in the Secondary School.

Lyndsay Bain is from the USA (Alaska) but has taught in a very good PYP school in Romania for the past six years. At WIS she will teach Year 6.

Veena Nambiar is Indian and has been teaching in my former school in Bangalore. She also joins us with substantial experience of the PYP and at WIS she will teach Year 2. Veena will be accompanied to Windhoek by her husband and two children.

And **Kelsey Daignault** will be teaching English and Humanities in the Middle School. She is originally from Canada but has most recently been teaching in Macau.

I very much look forward to welcoming our new colleagues to WIS!

With best wishes

Peter MacKenzie

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Dates to Remember

June 2017

- **05 - 09:** Secondary week A
- **01:** Yr. 6 Exhibition Open to Community
- **02:** Secondary - Last day for afternoon activities
- **09:** Primary - Last day for afternoon activities
- **12:** Secondary - Internal Exams start

IMPORTANT REMINDER

If you pay monthly, please bear in mind that the final invoice for the 2016-2017 school year must be settled before we can release reports, the yearbook, and so on. You are respectfully asked to ensure that all outstanding amounts are in the school account by Monday 19th June. Thank you.

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

About eight weeks ago the Year 6 students embarked on their journey with the PYP Exhibition. The Exhibition is the culmination of a student's years in the Primary Years Programme. It is a collaborative inquiry project that requires students to identify, explore and investigate a real-life issue or problem. During these eight weeks the students have been synthesizing the essential elements (Knowledge, Concepts, Skills, Attitudes, Action) of the PYP, exhibiting the attributes of the Learner Profile and preparing to share their learning with the whole school community.

This year's Exhibition falls under the transdisciplinary theme of *How We Express Ourselves*. Students have chosen to work individually or in small groups on such issues as: how board games and video games can help people; how fashion influences the way the world looks at people; people use technology creativity to express thoughts, feelings and to better understand each other; elderly people's lives can be impacted when supported by others who help them feel appreciated; the differences of culture, traditions, religions and celebrations of the group representing Christian, Hindu and Muslim religions and traditions; and many more topics.

The Exhibition process provides the students an opportunity to:

- demonstrate independence and responsibility for their own learning
- explore multiple perspectives
- take action as a result of their learning
- celebrate the transition from primary to middle/secondary education.

The Exhibition would not be possible without the support of various members of the school community. It certainly does take a village:

The **Homeroom Teachers** have guided and facilitated the process of the Exhibition. This is the time that the teachers have to let go and let the students take on the responsibility, while encouraging them along the way and supporting the students as they experience the need to manage their time, meet deadlines and be organized. Ms Avril (PYP Coordinator) and Mr D (IT integrationist) have worked alongside Ms Kaye, Ms Yolandé and Mr. Gerson (Year 6 TA) supporting the students in the process.

The **Parents** have supported the students with organizing resources, helping with making contacts for interviews and providing transportation to the interviews. They have encouraged the children to meet deadlines, to remain calm and not give up.

The **Mentors** have met with the assigned student or group a minimum of once a week. The mentors assisted the students with setting goals. They facilitated interviews, asked questions of the students about their inquiry and encouraged time management and organization. The following staff members volunteered their time to be mentors:

Primary staff: Ms Anna, Ms Barbara, Ms Beata, Mr B, Ms Charné, Ms Genie, Ms Gisela, Ms Jan, Ms Kathleen, Ms Kirstin, Ms Laetitia, Mr. Naftal, Ms Pamela, Ms Ronel, Ms Tanya-May, Ms Viviana.

Secondary staff: Ms Carin, Ms Lian, Ms Melissa, Mr. Tom, Ms Urte.

The Exhibition opened on Tuesday evening with the students having the opportunity to show their parents, teachers and other members of the community the efforts of their hard work. I think many people were surprised and amazed by how well and enthusiastically the Year 6 students displayed and shared their learning. Congratulations to the Year 6 students and to all who have supported the process.

Regards,
Beth Smith

FROM OUR PAD

We are demonstrating PYP Action in ART

"We thought that if we have two different types of dyed cloths, why don't we go home and make something out of them. The names of the two different dyed cloths are Bandhani and Batik.

- Abigail made a pillow (and a bear out of off-cuts)
- Adiah made a carry bag
- Ali, Ndahafa and Talaki each made a pillow".



Written by: Abigail, Talaki, Ali, Ndahafa and Adiah Year 4A ART

THANK YOU

We would like to thank all the students and teachers that have positively participated in our Exhibition's action, WIS Ramadan Day. As some might know Ramadan is a well-known occasion in our Muslim Arab culture. Ramadan is when you fast from the Sunrise to Sunset without eating nor drinking. We fast once a year for as long as a month to show our empathy to people in need. We did this action related to our Exhibition topic: An inquiry into the perspectives on the values and nature of the Arabic culture and how it is expressed and celebrated differently to other cultures.



The 21 students and teachers have fasted from 7.25 to 11.50, we would like to thank them all for their great effort and we all enjoy sharing our traditional dishes while breaking the fast.
Zahra and Nour - Year 6B

Year 6 PYP Exhibition

How we express ourselves

A component of the Year 6 students exhibition process is to create an artistic synthesis. Students Jamal, Anushka and Arbaz were exploring the "big idea" of religious celebrations, culture and human tolerance and understanding. Part of creatively expressing their understanding was through this poem they wrote:

Our Poem

Anushka:

*People have various values and beliefs
If we could respect them,
It makes them free relief
From war, pain and more problems
We must stand together to blossom
The cities, the countries and wherever we go
We must all stick together so that you know*

Arbaz:

*But sadly the problem has started long ago,
And now there is places that people are scared to go*



*Because of a problem that is very unfair
Nowadays People don't even care.*

Jamal:

*So who you are today
Can do your best part straight away
And do what you can and speak out loud
And change this behavior and make yourself proud
This could change once and for all
All over the world starting right in this hall.*

Everyone:

*People can make big changes
And we hope this will arrange
In our world and our planet
We can stop all religious intolerance ever planted.
By Jamal, Anushka & Arbaz (Year 6B)*

WIS Field Hockey 2017

The Namibian winter school sports leagues have kicked off, and WIS entered two field hockey teams for the 2017 season. We are happy that the sport of Field Hockey is steadily growing at WIS. The organizers of the league made accommodations for WIS to play most of their games before the school holidays with the remaining games played in the first week of August.

The **under ten boys** will play in the B section, and games will be played on grass at the Doc Jubber Hockey Fields in Olympia.

The **under twelve boys** will play in the A section of their category, and their games played on astroturf, which is the ideal pitch for field hockey. All but one of their matches will be played at Windhoek Gymnasium in Kleine Kuppe and one match to be played at Affies Park versus Windhoek Afrikaans Private School.

****The schedule for games will be shared with the players and posted weekly in the Oryx and D6.***

Fernando Beukes

Canned Food Drive

for Nelson Mandela Day

WIS has been invited by the United Nations Information Centre in Windhoek to participate in a community service event being held to commemorate Nelson Mandela Day (18th July).

Naturally, we are very willing to help but 18th July is right in the middle of our long break. Nevertheless, we can and will collect canned food now and work out who can represent the school next month.

Details will follow next week but please put aside a can or two to help support this worthwhile initiative.



Year 2 Building Bridges

Let the bridge challenge begin!



SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Why we send reports to parents on a regular basis

If you want to comment on the current format of reports in Secondary School, please complete and submit this [FORM](#)

Twice a year, progress reports are sent to parents - in December and in May each academic year.

A lot of time and energy is invested by teachers to comment on students' performance, but how is it received by those who the reports are written for, students and parents?



There are sometimes comments made by students: “I have not seen my report”, “My parents never show me my report”.

Reports are written to inform students about their progress, give some advice on what to work on in future and commend students for good progress. All these are important for a student to know in order to be well informed about their current status with regard to their academic performance and the effort they put into their work. If a student performs satisfactorily and has effort grades that are very good or good, it shows that the student performs to their potential. Parents should acknowledge that. Not every person can achieve very well in all their subjects. If, however, a student performs satisfactorily and has effort grades that are merely satisfactory or even worse, then that means that the student is currently not performing to their potential. These are messages home, that should create a platform for parents and their children to talk about school and the performance of their children. Praise is important or if the performance is not satisfactory, a review and reflection on what can be improved upon - work ethic, studying environment, study methods, balanced work - leisure opportunities etc.

In any case, the discussion about the report should take place and should be constructive as much as possible. Extrinsic rewards or punishments are not likely to change the child's academic efforts and behaviour in the long haul. Discussions that are encouraging and constructive certainly are.

Then there are two opportunities each year where parents and students can have individual conversations with teachers - Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences. This is an opportunity to discuss performance and progress in person with all parties concerned. This is another chance to talk about a student's work and progress in a positive way - even if there are concerns, these should be addressed and ways should be discussed on how to move forward, rather than focussing on “punishment” or reprimands.

With reports sent out this week, it would be great if conversations can take place at home about your child's report and his/her progress in the different subjects. It is a chance for family time and for parents to show their interest and commitment to their child's education.

Here is some interesting information to continue reading:

- Tips for parents: www.schoolcommunitynetwork.org/.../DiscussingYourChildsReportCard_Eng.pdf
- How to talk to your kid about report cards:

<https://www.todaysparent.com/family/how-to-talk-to-your-kid-about-report-cards/>

- How to react on your child's report card:

<https://www.understood.org/...childs...your-child/tips-for-reacting-to-childs-report-car...>

Regards,
Maggie Reiff

Fidget toy

A new craze called: Fidget spinner/toy

Although this toy has been around for some months, it seems to have reached Namibia only recently: a new toy - the fidget.



There are many articles written about the advantages and disadvantages of having this toy in school. It is marketed as a tool to let kids with attention problems focus, as a tool for kinesthetic learners, and something to calm kids down.

However, it is fashionable at the moment. Kids compare their fidgets, look at who's got the latest one, who's got the most expensive one etc. etc. So in reality, the toy is more a distraction in class than it is calming down or helping focus.

Please see these two articles on these toys for further information:

- <http://www.livescience.com/58916-fidget-spinner-faq.html>
- <https://yourot.com/parenting-club/2017/5/1/the-dangers-of-the-fidget-epidemic>

In school, we do not allow fidgets in lessons. In Secondary School fidgets should be treated like cell phones, they should be in students' bags during lessons. Please enforce this with your children when taking them to school. The best would be if children leave the fidgets at home.

Margarete Reiff - Secondary Principal

Ms. Raji

by Natangwe Nghipondoka

So today's focus on the tittle tattle is Ms. Raji Pillai, who teaches the enthusiastic, yet gorgeous kids of Windhoek International School. Ms. Raji claims to have started to work since the age of twelve, tutoring and helping kids who struggled in math. I guess that is when she noticed that she was a good teacher and wanted to continue doing it for her day job.

Ms. Raji's first phone she ever had was a Nokia 3700. In those days the hype of that phone was about how much a person would want a Ferrari for - I think she was pretty updated! Ms. Raji has not named any of the cars she has owned because she only uses local transport.

If Ms. Raji were to win the Lottery, she would retire and get away from us as soon as possible - don't worry guys, there is no Lottery in Namibia, so I guess she is stuck with us!

If she could go anywhere, she would go to a clean beach in Miami, but she left out the part about us being there with her...

The first school she taught at was Yoshodaham High in India. Her most disruptive students seems to be Natangwe Nghipondoka, no surprise there. Ms. Raji apparently became a math teacher because a lot of people told her she was good at it.

Do you know that Ms. Raji has thrown parties without her parents knowing - no wonder we have so many things in common!

Ms. Raji gets tattoos every time she leaves a school, I hope that when she leaves WIS one day, she will tattoo a portrait of me but that won't happen because she is not going to leave.



!SECONDARY SCHOOL - REMINDERS!

- *Secondary Afternoon Activities finish on Friday 2 June. Parents must ensure that their children are picked up at 13:30 (7 - 9) or 14:20 (10 & 12).*
- *Last day of normal lessons: Year 12: 7 June, Year 10: 8 June, Years 7 - 9: 12 June. Exams start on the following day of each respective class' last day of normal lessons.*
- *Please refer to the examination timetable on the D6 for information with regards to exams.*
- *Students can be picked up after their last exam for the day - for Year 7 - 9 the end of the day will be at 11:50 each day of the exam week. Year 10 and Year 12 have to be here for their exams only and can be picked up after the end of the last exam for the day.*
- **School finishes on 21st June at 11:40 for students.**

The Africa Cup

Inline Hockey Goes To The Next Level

The recently constructed DOME in Swakopmund was the hosting venue for the first Inline Hockey Africa Cup. Teams from Canada, Switzerland, Germany, RSA and Namibia laced up their skates to compete for the coveted accolade to be the champions of the first ever International Tournament held on the African continent.

Eighteen matches across five days of completion displayed to the world what talent, ability, and passion there is for the sport here, in abundance!

Several of our students were involved in the action representing different teams in the competition.

Spectator Interview with Ilja Krafft.

What are your impression of the completion so far?

To be honest this is the first Hockey tournament I've ever seen. I know people who play and my cousin is even the National first team goal keeper but this is the first occasion I've watch it live, its actually amazing. The game is so fast and skillful and exciting to watch. I'm really impressed with the standard.

Any highlights so far?

The DOME is amazing, there are facilities for so many sports all in one place. Also Namibia are doing really well against the other teams, I think the senior team are probably the best I've seen so far and there is a team of coaches playing, they look amazing also.

Player Interview BY Thomas Jackson-Read - Warren Smit Y12

As a player you must have been looking forward to this for some time. How did you prepare for the competition?

WS There have been quite a few training camps over recent months but most of the players have been playing for several years. The sport has grown a lot recently and people are realizing how fantastic the sport actually is. I've been playing for while now but have had to sacrifice some training time to keep on top of my IB diploma studies.

The sport looks very aggressive, is it?

WS When you get on the rink everyone wants to win so yes, it is a contact sport and channeling your aggression is an integral part of the game. However the people who play are all actually aren't generally aggressive. We all get on socially but when we are playing we all give 100%.

What would you say to youngster considering playing the game?

WS Its fast, skillful and great to be part of a team. There are lots of clubs in the city and we're lucky to have some excellent coaches and improving facilities so try it out, you might just love it.

Namibia Senior went on to play the Coaches representative team in the final. Dave Hammond, Ex Canadian Mens Team Captain, was for once on the losing team as the Namibian nationals proved worthy winners.



Football League @ WIS
On Saturday, 3 June, the following ages groups will play; U9, U11, U13.
First game start at 08:00



Ms Laetitia, Ms J and Mr Naftal

YEAR 6 PYP EXHIBITION CLASS OF 2016-2017 A night of Expression!



Ms Carin and Kendra



Ms Michelle leading the recorder players



Investigating Stop Motion



The Comedians: Natalie, Ms Jan and Raey



Ms Beth



The Illusionists: Evan and Ignacio



Cultural Dancing:
Taboka
and
Tendai



Peter Pan as performed by the Portuguese Students



Ms Avril addressing the Year 6 students



The Year 6 Team: Mr Gerson, Ms Kaye and Ms Yolande



Ms Genie and Ms Michelle

YEAR 6 PYP EXHIBITION CLASS OF 2016-2017

A night of Expression



Mr Gerson



Ben and Vellisen



Sylvain found out about volunteering



Kamogelo, Mia and Letlhogonolo: The Social Gamers



Sean B and Matthew W: The Gaming Experts



Leo and his proud family



Ezra explaining 3D printing



The Chefs: Jovahn and Tangi



Kirikou Performance by the French students



Zahra and Nour representing the Arab Culture

Congratulations to the Year 6 students on completing this important milestone. A big thank you to everyone who supported the 2016-2017 Exhibition!



BEANEAST

BEANEAST in partnership with the WIS PTA will have coffee on sale from **Mondays - Wednesdays and Fridays**. For more information visit their [site!](#)



ZEBRA CROSSING REMINDER - For your child's safety, as well as your own, please use the zebra crossings for navigating across the car park.





You are Cordially Invited to the
PTA End-of-Year Gathering

Please join us in celebrating the collaboration and hard work of the PTA, SLT, Faculty & parents over the 2016-2017 school year!

Who: PTA, SLT, Faculty & Parents are welcome

What: Drinks & snacks provided

When: Wednesday, 7 June, 11:40 - 13:20

Where: New Teachers Lounge on WIS Campus

Why: Because another year is almost done!

*We hope
to see you there!*