



# THE ORYX

*The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School*

## Content

- From the Director p1
- Primary News p2
- Primary Students P3
- Secondary News p5
- Secondary Students p6
- Other News p8

## Dates to Remember

### October

- 20 - Board Meeting
- 21 - PTA Meeting
- 22 - UN Day Assembly
- 22 - PTA AGM



## FROM THE DIRECTOR

The focus of The Oryx this week is definitely on our students and the amazing things they are getting up to inside and outside of school.

It is important that schools recognise and celebrate their students' achievements. We encourage them daily to set goals for themselves, to develop skills, to take chances, to collaborate, to create, and to enjoy it all. There is abundant evidence in this issue that our students are doing just that.

And, of course, the success stories in these pages will inspire others to stretch themselves too and to give us further cause for celebration.

Congratulations to all the WISkids profiled this week. We are proud of you!

With best wishes  
**Peter MacKenzie**

## CAR PARK

It seems it is necessary to repeat the instructions that were published in The Oryx last month. Unfortunately, some parents are still parking where no parking is permitted. This simply slows down the flow of traffic for everyone.





## Teacher of the week

### Urte Dorgeloh - Middle School

I would like to thank WIS for the warm welcome I have received. I am grateful to be a part of this exceptional learning community.

I am very passionate about the teaching profession, which started through my education degree at the University of Stellenbosch.

Thereafter I had the opportunity to gather teaching experience at different institutions including Delta High School, Polytechnic of Namibia, SI Gobs High School and Omaruru Primary School. As part of the highlight in my teaching career I contributed to the founding of the German Private School in Omaruru, which was a great investment into the German community of Omaruru.

The German Private School of Omaruru directly impacted my family life, as this was the first school my twins attended. Nikolai is now a mechanical engineer with mining experience and Ise is a chartered accountant at one of the big four accounting firms.

*Continued on page 3>*

Compared to many schools, we have quite generous parking space but in the mornings and at pick-up time(s) the traffic flow can be close to capacity. It is therefore important that everyone observes the rules and is familiar with the geography of the school campus. Please see the map below. Please note where you may park (in green) and where no parking is permitted (in red). See map and rules [here!](#)

## PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

The start of a new term is somewhat like the start of a new year. It's an opportunity for students to think about the goals set during their Three Way Conferences and to plan how they will achieve these goals during this second term.

This week has been an exciting week with returning to school after the holidays and many happenings. We welcomed Ms Jacky (KG2A teacher) back, the Primary School enthusiastically participated in World Maths Day, Year 1B started their swimming lessons, Year 2 explored the parts of the plant that we eat and the Year 6 classes went on a field trip to the Independence Museum. We said goodbye to Lentina Xoagus (KG2A TA). Ms Lentina has been one of our long serving staff members having worked at WIS for nearly two decades. She is wished well in her new job. We are currently recruiting to fill the vacant position.

With the hotter weather upon us, it is important that the children remain hydrated, drinking plenty of water. Please encourage your child to bring water to school each day and to drink the water they bring.

Here's to a positive Term 2.

Kind regards,  
**Beth Smith**

## PRIMARY STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



Eden has been taking swimming lessons from Dolphins Swim Club since 2014. She participated in the 2015 Learn to Swim Gala. She passed a deep water test when she was only 3 including a full 25 meter lap and can swim all 4 strokes now.

**Teacher of the week continued**

Furthermore I taught some of the learners that were of the "Buschschule Namibia". This is a youth development program for the integration of European teenagers with social and or emotional difficulties into a positive social community.

My strengths as a teacher lie in the ability to meet each student's unique needs by understanding their abilities. My experiences include offering individualised support and applying different learning methods through tutoring.

I am currently teaching Mathematics Extension for Year 8 and Foundation level for Year 9. My Science classes are Year 7, 8A, 9A and 9B.

Apart from the teaching profession I also compiled a recipe book (Kochen in Namibia), as part of a fundraiser for the Otjiwarongo senior citizens.

I used my Home Economics skills to start up a handmade chocolate business "Dorgeloh Chocolates". I created liqueur and soft-centered chocolates as gifts for special occasions and various events.

I also thoroughly enjoy designing and sewing dresses for formal events and matric farewells.



Ethan wins a 2nd place medal for Shotokan Karate Club at the National Karate Competition in Swakopmund on October 5, 2015



Ethan wins a medal at a gymnastics competition with Crete Gymnastics Club in Windhoek, Namibia on November 8, 2014



Candice has been doing ballet with the National Ballet School of Namibia since the beginning of the year. She is really enthusiastic about it and proud to be a ballerina!

Phalana takes ballet classes at The School of Arts. She is working hard to be a great ballerina. She is committed and yet to win an award. She always asserts that "her destiny is made".



Jaenena is playing soccer at SKW. They got medals for participating in the tournament of DTS.

## WIS Saturday Ball Club

Fun ball games involving throwing, catching and dodging to develop hand-eye coordination, teamwork, sportsmanship and enthusiasm for sports

**Who:** WIS Year 2 to Year 6 Students, led by Marc Deragon

**Dates:** Saturdays, October 17, 24, 31; November 7, 21, 28

**Time:** 10 am - 12 pm (just show up; no registration needed)



**Location:** WIS PE Hall

**Fee:** N\$100 per child, per day (due Saturdays upon arrival)

**Contact:** Please direct all questions to Marc [mderagon@wis.edu.na](mailto:mderagon@wis.edu.na)



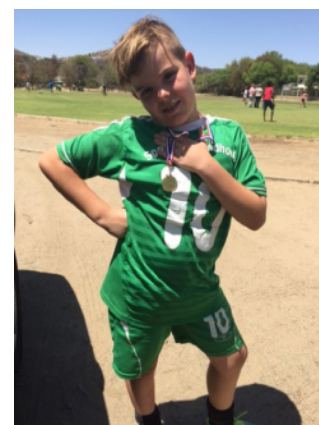
At Swimming she just got an award for being able to swim a whole length and dive. She has been going to swimming class for one year now.

Julia has been doing horseback riding since she is 2.5 years old. She has her own pony now.

## SOCCER RUNS IN THEIR BLOOD

During the short October break, a few of our Year 6 students participated in two soccer tournaments and made our community proud!

On Friday, 2nd October and Saturday, 3rd October the SKW Under 11 A and B team participated in the Kingz Empire Fundraising Tournament. The two teams ended up facing each other in the finals when SKW Under 11 A brought home the cup and won the tournament.



Pedro Ferreira, who is a WIS student in Year 6B, is pictured here, showing off his gold medal. Pedro is a member of the SKW Under 11 A Team.

Jaylen Temple (Year 6B), Mark Lintuange (6A) and Amani Enkara (6A) are members of the SKW Under 11 B Team. They are seen pictured below.



The A Team is sitting with their cup and the B Team is looking on.

During the weekend of 9 - 11 October 2015, the two SKW Under 11 teams participated in the DTS Tournament. The teams were not able to reach the Top 3, but managed a solid 10th place for the B Team and a simmering 7th place for the A Team.

Well done boys, we are proud of you!

**Yolandé Stander**

## **A visit to the Namibian Independence Museum**

On Tuesday, 13th October, 19 very excited Year 6 students got on the bus and headed for the Namibian Independence Museum. It was to be the first field trip of the year!

They arrived at the big golden building, very keen to deepen their understanding of human migration - their current unit of inquiry and of course learning more about the host country, Namibia.

After going up a few floors in the glass elevator, a knowledgeable museum guide took charge of the group. She told them about the fight for freedom, the painful struggle to independence, the people who spent their lives fighting for a democratic Namibia and some of the history of Namibia before it was colonised. The students were great Inquirers and all questions were patiently answered.



The Year 6's were true ambassadors of WIS and conducted themselves so well that even the museum guides commented on the group's good manners, attentive listening skills and the thoughtful questions they asked. Back at school the next task was to reflect on the morning's outing and apply some of the knowledge regarding human migration they have already learned in a question and response essay.

As one of the student's rightfully commented: "It is so exciting to learn new things!"

**Yolandé Stander**

## **SECONDARY PRINCIPAL**

A warm welcome back from the holidays. I hope all of you had a enjoyable break. The second term is quite short, but the heat and upcoming Mock exams are often making it more challenging than we want to. Please be reminded that kids are outside quite a lot during the day. They should put on sunscreen and wear a cap/hat outside. Students should also ensure to drink a lot of water during the day.

We would like to welcome Mrs. Urte Dörgeloh on our team. She is teaching Science and Mathematics in Middle School.

We had a fantastic rock concert on the last day of school. You can read more about it elsewhere in this edition of The Oryx. Thank you to all participants on and behind the stage for making this such an enjoyable event.

Your children will hopefully have shared with you the excitement of the World Maths Day. Thank you to Ms. Cohen for her enthusiasm and the energy she puts in arranging this each year.

This afternoon, early evening, our Senior Student Council is hosting their first big event for this year - the Spring Fling. We hope that this will be a fun event for all involved.

On Saturday, some of our CAS students have organised a soccer tournament. Everybody is welcome to attend. Proceeds of this tournament will be donated to the Cancer Association.

Kind regards,  
**Maggie Reiff**

## SECONDARY STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

### SWIMMING **Viktoría Ellmies**

I love swimming. I started training at Dolphins Swimming Club while I was still in kindergarten. I swim everyday for two hours in the afternoon and sometimes in the morning before school for an hour. Currently, my best stroke is breaststroke, although it has also been butterfly. The times I enjoy my hobby the most is when I go to international competitions in South Africa: No parents & lots of fun with the Namibian team!!



I have won fifty-five medals in total: 14 gold, 24 silver and 17 bronze. This year I have received a trophy from my club for the best female freestyle swimmer in the age group 11/12. From NASU (Namibia Swimming Union) I received five certificates for swimming many races and gaining lots of points with the international swimming association FINA. You get FINA points if you achieve places between 1st to 8th in officially recognised competitions. But as I said before it's mainly about the fun with the teammates!

### ARCHERY **Wendy Swart**

I started archery a few years ago when the school offered it as an afternoon activity. I did it for three terms with a compound bow. I appreciated the sport so much that I wanted to progress further and joined the SKW school of archery. I soon changed to a recurve bow the main reason being to give myself a good challenge. Recurve is the more complex bow to shoot with. For two weeks at the end of the year, a few members from the SKW archery club are going to Germany for training and will also participate in an archery competition in Berlin. I am so excited as I am going to be a part of this team from Namibia.



### **GYMNASTICS** Ndina Simon

I had the privilege of representing Namibia, for the second time, at the SA Rhythmic Gymnastics Games in Johannesburg, last week, where I was awarded fourth prize for my level eight free dance routine (see photo). This was the culmination of a year of training hard for ten hours per week, and sacrificing all school holidays. I was selected as a result of the silver and gold medals I received, respectively, in the two selection competitions held in Namibia earlier in the year.



### **RHYTHM GYMNASTICS** Zandrea Strauss

On the 5th of October I had to fly to Johannesburg for the SA games. It was a very nice experience to be there. It was my first year going to SA games and it was also the first time that I have flown. When we got there it was very busy I thought that I might get lost but I learned if u stay with the group nothing will happen to you.

We had stayed at Stay City. Stay City was a very nice place I have made friends there and I had fun. The staff were very kind. Every time you walked past them they would greet you and ask you how are you, where most places don't do that anymore. I have seen places of Johannesburg that I would have never thought of.

The competition was very high between the children. I had to compete against 25 girls but that didn't scare me I really didn't mind what place I came, as long as I knew that it was fun and all. I had come in 2nd place for my clubs my score was 13.20 which is very high and overall I got 6th place its in the top 10 , I didn't mind because I mean it's my first year going and I did well. My parents, friends and family were very proud.

I meet a girl called Grace Legote. Grace has gone to the Commonwealth Games, and now she wants to achieve her dream of going to the Olympics. It was amazing meeting her because I want to be just like her.

It was an amazing experience and I would love to go again next year but not as a level 6 gymnast but a level 7 or maybe a level 8 gymnast.

### **CAS** Karolina Jagiello

Creativity, Action, Service (CAS) is one of the three essential elements that every student must complete as part of the IB Diploma Programme. Studied throughout the programme CAS is about students getting involved in a range of activities along with our academic studies. We, the IB students, have to put in 150 hours over 18 months to complete this programme. In my opinion CAS helps build up a person's character.

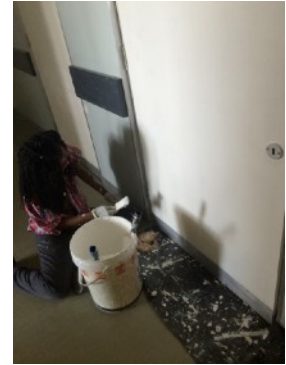
Recently, during our school's October break, my classmates and I took to my idea of helping out at the Central Hospital in Windhoek. Nancy, Melissa, Yanika and I were going to paint, while the twins, Abhinab and Nirab, took to aiding the maintenance staff. Together, we painted three wards, as well as sanded down some doors. We worked from 8am to 5pm with an hour's lunch break at 1.00pm.

The boys worked with the plumbers. They were involved in replacing rusty old galvanised pipes with PVC pipes in various parts of the building. The purpose was to reduce water consumption and save on future maintenance costs at the hospital. I understand that it was quite a drill for them to carry pipes up and down the stairs.



Working at the hospital was an enjoyable and learning experience. Working in a government facility is extremely difficult, because of sometimes poor organisation. However, it is a wonderful feeling to be useful to the community. Overall, we were supervised Mr. Blunden.

At the end we did meet some of the CAS goals. This experience taught us communication skills, how to work in a team, as well as some plumbing and painting skills. In the process we made quite a few acquaintances, such as patients, doctors and nurses.



This is just the beginning of our 18-month programme. I would like to thank Mr. Joe Blunden, for this wonderful and fun experience. I think we will all treasure the time we spent in the hospital.

## “... I WANNA KNOW...”

Were you there on October 2nd with thirty-nine WIS performers at The WIS Rock Concert?

The day before break, WIS students, staff and parents packed the Assembly Auditorium to celebrate music, performance, rock 'n' roll and pop, songs of tragedy, joy, heartbreak and love ... and most of all the indomitable human spirit.

From the first drum battle beat and the Primary School Band's rip-roaring rendition of "I Love Rock 'n' Roll" through the stark emotion of Kate's original song, "Tragedy", to Lame, Anna and Co.'s angelic ballad of redemption "Say Something", the concert had something for everyone, including the satiated souls who found a golden ticket beneath their seat to win (and devour) the prize prepared by Chef Alicia (Yr 11): a piece of Peppermint Crisp Tart.

And who can forget the frenzied reaction of the crowd to Augustinus's joyful and generous final performance with the staff band as they rocked the house with "Have You Ever Seen the Rain?" For anyone who wasn't flying high by that point, Emmanuel, Eli and Nancy knocked them out with a powerful performance of "Shut Up and Dance."

Towards the end of the show, Vitore and Celine led the audience in a fun two-part version of Jason Mraz's "I'm Yours", singing what was in everyone's heart that day:

*Listen to the music of the moment; people dance & sing.  
We're just one big family,  
and it's our godforsaken right  
to be loved, loved, loved, loved, loved.*

If you weren't there on October 2nd, students are planning an evening concert so more parents can celebrate with us. We'll keep you posted.

In addition to the Primary School students Miss Beth congratulated in the previous issue of "The Oryx", we'd like to congratulate and thank the following Secondary School students for their contribution to the show: Emilio (Yr 7); Kate, Lame, Anna, Emilia, Alicia and Princess (Yr 11); Nancy (Yr 12); Eli, Vitore, Celine, Emilia, Jolene and Annerita (Yr 13); Emmanuel (Gap Year); Tania Ott (The Warehouse) and staff: Melissa, Junelle, Michelle, Beth, Augustinus, Sharon, Avril, Audrey, Marc, Angie and Peter (from the Tuck Shop).



*All in all, this relatively new tradition is a great way of encouraging the school spirit, as it provides a platform for students and teachers to come together and express themselves artistically. I love it :)  
-Jolene (Year 13 student and one of the concert's MCs)*



**Gathering**

**no moss,  
William Miller**

PS Kamo Elvis--Namibia's first Elvis impersonator--has left the building ... but is still in Year 5.

## ORANGE RIVER FIELD TRIP

Good trips often start off with tired participants. It all began on Sunday 27th September 2015, at 05:00AM. Everyone was weary-eyed and tired, yet very excited. You would think one has plenty of time to doze on the bus, letting the hum and bustle of the bus wash over you until you drift off to sleep. Sadly, in the buses (the main bus at least), the only hum one could hear was everyone belting various songs as you were nudged awake by what was probably a sitting down version of the rain dance.

It was a nine hour drive.

After singing, chatting, sleeping, doing anything to rid our minds of our anticipation, we were overjoyed when we reached our destination. It was finally time to relax. Some went swimming, others played games, and many took their last shower for what would be a while. We ate a tasty dinner and met the guides that would accompany us for the next few days. They were all great fun. That night we all camped under an explosion of stars, and talked into the early morning. The bonding process had already begun.

The next day we were to start rowing on the river. We packed away our all our stuff in buckets and our guides showed us how to row and gave us the last safety briefing.

And so we set off. The honeymoon period was wonderful, we were all full of energy, but after a while irritation could be detected in some. We soon forgot about this when we were faced with challenges. Challenges we never have to face in the city. We had to face our fears, mostly for things we now realise was never meant to be feared in the first place, like bugs, man-eating fishes, or jumping off a 25-meter rock into the river. I don't care what anyone says, that was 25 meters!



Being irrationally scared made our tempers quite short. Energy levels plummeted as the day went on. Many of us were beginning to tire out. Most partners bickered and squabbled, but in the end it brought us closer.

We did not only row. One day we all went up a mountain, another we inspected a long abandoned diamond mine. I don't think I will ever stop wondering why the people at the mine seemed to have disappeared in the middle of their tasks...

Everyone had been splashed by water, and some even pushed in (thanks a ton, teachers...), so by the end of the trip, everyone had been drenched at some point. Whether they capsized, got thrown in, or splashed mercilessly, everyone enjoyed the time in the water.



The only difference in this was when we were introduced to the rapids. We had to keep rowing and steer the canoe to avoid crashing into underwater rocks. It was increasingly entertaining listening to our partners scream in terror as we headed towards rocks, but most of the time we seemed to manage. The third day on the river was even more challenging. We faced our greatest rapid yet, Sjambok. You can probably guess why it is called that.



Currents carry you in the opposite direction of the safest route, so you really have to steer clear or you would capsize. Many did capsize, but later, after they were all dry, they admitted that they had fun.

The guides did their best to direct us down the rapids . "Go left!" "Stay in the middle!" It is amazing how your boat never seems to listen to their instructions. The canoe tossed and turned as we went through the turbulent waves. We had almost made it and we could practically taste the victory. And just when we

thought we were safe, that was when our boat capsized. We swam to shore, abandoning the boat, paddles and various items of clothing and personal belongings, snacks and limbs that floated idly down the river. They were carried away by the river current, some never to be seen again.

We all have many stories to tell, and these are probably not to even a quarter of the stories we have brought back.

After all the excitement, it seemed the dreaded homecoming was near. Everyone felt at loss when it was time to leave. We had all gotten much closer than before. We had all gained new incredible stories to tell. We will miss our midnight discussions and the delicious meals. Even though at times we felt like giving up, I don't think any of us would have missed this trip for the world.

*Afua Brantuo & Lucy Hopwood*

## WORLD MATHS DAY

**WORLD MATHS DAY**

**The Number Devil visited the Primary assembly a couple of weeks ago to introduce World MATHS Day to the students.**

World MATHS Day has been running since midday on 12th October and all students have had the opportunity to take part in school, as well as at home. The event ends on 16th October. School winners will be announced soon!

**World MATHS day fun**

*PhotoCollAGE*

(The Editor says: very many thanks to the WIS Maths Devil, Ms. Lian, for making this happen!)