



# THE ORYX

*The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School*

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY WIS!

Twenty-five years ago tomorrow (16th January 1991) the school opened its doors and an impressive 120+ students passed through them for the first time. It was located then in shared premises in Windhoek West but it moved to Pioneers Park in 1994 and we have not looked back since.

Except, of course, we are looking back because we are celebrating all that has been achieved in the past 25 years. Celebrations began last month on Founders' Day (see page 4) and tomorrow I hope you are going to be able to join us at school for a celebratory Family Day from 4pm.

And if you have not yet secured your place at the Gala Dinner at the Hilton on Saturday 23rd, please hurry. There are a few tables and places left but we will need to close the list early next week.

We have returned to school after a long break and I was delighted to note the cheerful and optimistic mood about the place. It is impossible not to look forward to 2016 with a great deal of excitement and confidence. In fact, it may not be too soon to start planning for the school's fiftieth anniversary in 2041! Or maybe we should just get this week out of the way first...

With best wishes  
**Peter MacKenzie**



## Dates to Remember

### January

- 16 - Family day / WIS 25th
- 23 - WIS 25th Gala Dinner

### February

- 12 - PTA Coffee Morning
- 16 - Early Close



## Teacher Feature

### Jacob Oluwasanmi: Secondary Math and Science

I have been in this noble profession for close to three decades. I started as early as in my high school days due to scarcity of science teachers, especially in Physics and Mathematics.

I never really wanted to be a teacher in the first place, but my interest in these two subjects propelled me to study for a Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree in Physics in 1985 - 1989.

While I was an undergraduate student, I engaged in coaching and preparing pupils for university entrance examination in Nigeria. A Professor of Molecular Biology on the same campus, contacted me to give extra classes after school, to his two children attending Lagos International School.

This was a good experience and my interest in teaching grew.

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## PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Happy New Year! A special and warm welcome to all of our new families who have joined the WIS community. I hope that 2016 is off to a great start with promises of a positive and successful year. As always it was good to welcome the children back to school; to see them looking refreshed, healthy and enthusiastic for the start of the second semester.

In addition to new students we also have some new staff members who have joined WIS this term. The following people have been hired as teaching assistants:

Hannah Gorelick for the Learning Support Department.

Qaanita Lombaart is working with Ms Beata and KG2B.

Mariane Arase is working with Ms Charne and Year 4B.

Welcome back to Ms Tanya-May who has returned from maternity leave. On Monday the Year 6B class officially welcomed Ms Kaye as their new teacher.

Congratulations to the following students who achieved perfect attendance (present every day without being late) for Term 2. An \* indicates perfect attendance in Term 1 as well. With all of the illnesses going around during the term, this is especially an achievement to be recognized.

#### KG1

Alexander Collair  
Gilberta Senga

#### KG2

Glenda Takayedza  
Jéan Du Preez  
Kaylie Guibeb\*  
Nour Ayoub  
Reuben Smit

#### Year 1

Baraka Gichanga  
Candice Rey\*  
Faustina Senga\*  
Gizelle Slinger\*  
Ikumbirua Tjiuoro\*  
Jackson Dukes  
Jane Amaambo  
Marco Lusala  
Suhaimi Jantjies  
Tyler Visser

#### Year 2

Fatiha Abubakar  
Guido Bidoli  
Hala Ayoub\*  
Ndamona Kavetu  
Reuben Jackson-Read

#### Roelf Steytler

Smeidy Chinguenhane  
Tinashe Musavengana\*

#### Year 3

Fadel Ayoub  
Jerry Muadinohamb  
Jisele Du Preez  
Klaudia Shino  
Leo Jackson-Read  
Oliwia Stephanus  
Tapiwa Murwira\*  
Victor Agolory\*

#### Year 4

Haoyang Deng  
Isabel Rios\*  
Justice Agolory\*  
Lee Ntelamo  
Lee-Vayle Lusala  
Mia Sorensen  
Roger Nghinamundova  
Salomé Rey\*  
Sergio Ferreira\*  
Teresa Marina Senga  
Tjipekapora Ndjavera  
Zandile Thamage\*  
Zahria Archie  
Zuleika Hiwilepo\*

Besides, the money I made on the campus and outside, was enough to pay for my tuitions and miscellaneous expenses during my program. My parents would not have to worry about me any more, but rather pay for my two other brothers at another University.

After completing, I identified the need to start a coaching school, where pupils would come to receive intensive lessons in preparation for the GCE and entrance examinations into the universities. However, I wanted to further my education and do something more challenging, therefore I decided to pursue my Masters degree in Physics with option in Geophysics.

Upon completion of my MSc program in 1995, I was among the few Nigerians selected by the Government of Nigeria to provide technical assistance to needy countries. This program is called Technical Aid Corps (TAC), something similar to VSO of UK. I was deployed to serve in Zambia as a Teacher-cum-Lecturer in Kalulusihi Secondary School and Copperbelt University Kitwe respectively.

After the voluntary work in 1997, I was given a contract by the Zambian Government to teach in a secondary school between 1997-2000. During this period, I visited Namibia in search of greener pastures. I submitted my resume and applications to various schools and colleges, and I was offered a job at Rundu College of Education.

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#### Year 5

Aisha Abubakar  
Franz Hangula\*  
Zhiang Sean Wang

#### Year 6

Francisco (Kiko) Ferreira  
Kayle Jacobs  
Marcelo Cardoso

I have always found that one of the beauties of working in a school is that I have two new year opportunities with a chance to start anew - August with the start of the academic year and January with the start of the calendar year. As we are still early into 2016, this might be a good opportunity to review and discuss with your children the goals set during the three way conferences and possibly set new goals or targets for Semester 2.

I hope to see you tomorrow at the potjie kos!

Kind regards,  
**Beth Smith**

## SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Welcome back from the holidays into a second very busy semester for Secondary School. Hopefully all of you had a peaceful and relaxing break. The second semester is a semester that is dominated by revision and last preparations for our international examinations (CIE Secondary 1 Checkpoint for Year 9, IGCSE for Year 11 and IBDP for Year 13) and preparations for the end of the year and internal examinations for the other grades.

Currently, the Year 11 and 13 classes are busy with mock examinations. We view these examinations as an important benchmark to determine the progress of students on their way to the final examinations. The mock examinations are as close to the final examinations as possible with regard to content, length of papers and number of papers per subject. But our exam students are also conducting their internal assessments that are sent to Cambridge and the IB for marking. Internal Assessments are components of the examination that are either of a practical or oral nature. Almost every subject has such a component. These Internal Assessments are done before the start of the written examination.





When my contract was over at Rundu College, I was offered a teaching job at the S. I. Gobs Secondary School Omaruru, preparing learners for IGCSE/ NSSC Physical Science and Mathematics examinations. I was also an examiner with Cambridge International Examination, marking Physical Science at both junior and secondary levels. I spent quite a number of years in Omaruru, between 2004 to July to 2011.

I had always wanted to work in Windhoek, either as a teacher or Lecturer, so I applied to several schools, colleges and the university. While waiting for responses, I visited the Windhoek International School on an invitation from Judy Judge (our EAL teacher), who happens to be my friend while from the Rundu days. I was impressed with the school.

My opportunity came when I saw an advert in the Newspaper in 2012, requesting for Middle School and IGCSE Mathematics Teacher. I quickly grabbed it and the rest they say is History...

The school's leadership also supported me to be better in the IB programme. I was given the opportunity to attend IB Diploma Physics workshop in Madrid, Spain - October 2014.

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Although many of us have been through this phase a long time ago, I would like to appeal to all parents/guardians to ensure that the learning environment at home is conducive to your child's studying. It is crucial that children have a place to study quietly, that they have enough rest, that they ensure they have a balanced diet and that they also take some time off to relax.

WIS wishes all our students success in their mock examinations and we wish students energy and perseverance in the next few months. This is a demanding time for these young adults.

**Dates to diarise:**

- Mock examination reports sent to parents - 8 February
- Early Close - 16 February
- IB/IGCSE Information Session for Years 9 & 11 - 18 February
- Secondary Sports Day - 25 February

*Maggie Reiff*

## Founder's Day - 4 December 2015

On 4th December 1990, WIS was officially founded. On Friday 4th December 2015, we celebrated this day 25 years later, with 600 cupcakes, the school song, a fabulous movie and dressing up in yellow and blue. What a fantastic day we had!





I must confess that my approach to teaching never remained the same after my return. Thanks to Maggie and Padmini for recommending me for this educative and eye-opening workshop.

I am very passionate about my subject that I could do anything in class just to ensure learning takes place. If it warrants me to jump, sing or even dance for student to comprehend and understand a concept, with all pleasure. It is very hard or almost impossible for students to sleep in my class, because I always try to make my class as lively as possible.

However, I set a high standard for students to follow so as to move with the same frequency with me.

I love my IGCSE Mathematics (core) students, the "Year 11s", they are wonderful and amazing class to teach. Although it is a smaller class but we are like a family.

I always challenged them to do well in their final examination so as to prove to their colleagues in Extended class that they can also obtain a better grades in Mathematics.

Of course, I also love all my other Year groups especially my Year 13 Physics students, Some of them were the students I taught when I first came to WIS.

Without a doubt, it has been a wonderful and powerful experience in working with students at different level (Year 7-13) at WIS. I am loving it!





Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Family Day

Start 4pm

We look forward to seeing many members of the school community on Saturday as we celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the school opening its doors for the very first time.

Highlights...

- Hitradio Namibia (99.5FM) will be broadcasting live from the school from 4pm till 6pm.
- Enter the Potjie kos competition(\*)! Entry forms available on D6.
- Enter the Fun Olympics competition! Teams of 8-12 may enter on the day.
- Drinks available for purchase from the PTA.

But remember...

- (\*) The Potjie kos completion is themed – who or what is your team?!
- This is an event for members of the WIS community – students, parents, staff, board members, and alumni. It is not open to the general public.
- WIS staff are there to celebrate and enjoy themselves too. Supervision of children is the responsibility of parents.
- Parking is always difficult so please car pool where possible.
- It is a "Bring & Braai" event. You provide the eats and the meat; we provide the heat!
- ...or, if you prefer, bring a picnic. Bring a gazebo. Bring an umbrella!
- It will wind up at around 7pm but feel free to stay on and enjoy the sundown with your friends.



But be there and join in the fun!

**ATTENTION STUDENTS & STAFF!**

COLLECT YOUR FREE BIRTHDAY T-SHIRT TOMORROW WHEN YOU COME TO THE FAMILY FUNDAY!!

SEE YOU THERE...



