



# THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School



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## FROM THE DIRECTOR

### NEW TEACHER

As you may be aware, one of our Portuguese teachers left the school in January for personal reasons. I am delighted that we have been able to find a very well-qualified and highly suitable replacement.

Teresa Araujo is from Portugal and has previously taught at Luanda International School in Angola. She is IB-experienced and is delighted to be returning to Africa. She starts teaching on Monday and will be working in the Secondary School. If you see her, please make her welcome.

### RECRUITMENT

As I mentioned some weeks ago, we are in the thick of the recruitment season. Beth Smith, Maggie Reiff, and I (and others) are busy conducting interviews. We have already made one appointment for the next school year and we hope we are close to a few more. At present, it looks like we will have at least six new faces in August.

With best wishes  
**Peter MacKenzie**

## PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Congratulations to the following students who were recognized at the last assembly for having perfect attendance for Term 3. A \* after a child's name indicates perfect attendance for more than one term.



## Dates to Remember

### April

- **6-8:** Science Fair: Year 7 - 9
- **16:** PTA Family Braai
- **18 - 22:** Book Week
- **29:** Science Fair Prize Giving



**Teacher Feature**

**Jaqueline Vieira Ferreira**  
**Kindergarten 2A**

I could go on for hours talking about the children in my class and how unique each one is, but ask me to write about myself and I will not know where to start. The beginning is probably the best place right?

My name is Jaqueline Ferreira and I was born in Namibia to Portuguese parents. My parents come from the beautiful, yet tiny island of Madeira. At the age of 9, my parents returned to Madeira. Six years later, we returned to Namibia, because let's face it, our heart stayed in Namibia.

I attended school at WIS and was part of the last graduating class to write the HIGCSE exams before IB started.

I have been married for almost 13 years and have 3 amazing children, Francisco 10, Sergio 8 and Ines who is 4.

**Continues on page 3**

*KG1 - Amauro Carew  
 Jessica Schlabit  
 Arwen Wolgast \**

*KG2 - Nour Ayoub  
 Leah Nefussy  
 Glenda Takayedza  
 Samurray Turay  
 Fiji Figueiredo*

*Year 1 - Leonor D'Hont  
 Uzuva Kanguuehi  
 Kyle Maramba \*  
 Tangeni Mwapopi  
 Candice Rey \*  
 Nelao Robiati \*  
 Semon Zegeye*

*Year 2 - Ndamona Kavetu \*  
 Guido Bidoli \*  
 Sophia Prybylski  
 Reuben Jackson-Read \**

*Year 3 - Daniella Prinsloo  
 Tapiwa Murwira \*  
 Oliwia Stephanus \*  
 Santiago Rios  
 Xavier de Castro  
 Mateo Maz Beltran \**

*Year 4 - Justice Agolory \*  
 Diana Hitula  
 Zuleika Hiwilepo \*  
 Ali Iyambo \*  
 Lee-Vayle Lusala \*  
 Salomé Rey \*  
 Isabel Rios \*  
 Victor Somosu*

*Year 5 - Peya Shimuafeni  
 Ben Timothy Visser \**

*Year 6 - Ricardo Sandão\*  
 Yilin Chen  
 Thomas Prybylski \**

As I have mentioned in a previous Oryx, perfect attendance is difficult to achieve and even more difficult to achieve for multiple terms.

Thank you again for your attendance at the Student-Led conferences. The feedback from the teachers and students has been very positive. You should have received a Google Form to complete concerning the conferences. Your feedback will help us to improve upon the process and the format.

Thank you also to all who supported the Diskonto Book sale. As a result of all of the books that WIS students, parents and staff purchased, the school received \$1400 worth of books for the library.

I look forward to a positive Term 4 and finish to this school year.

Kind regards,  
**Beth Smith**

**YEAR 2**

Thanks to all the families who attended the Student Led Conferences.



**Teacher Feature continued**

All of them attend WIS and “they are the beat of my heart, the pulse in my veins and the energy of my soul”. My family is the most important thing and we make it a priority to sit down daily for family dinners. We have 3 cats: Ronaldo, Skatey and Precious and 2 very busy dogs, Toffee and Prince.

Being a Portuguese in heart also means that we are soccer crazy and therefore most of my weekends are spent on the soccer field (at least until Ines’ ballet recitals start!). Oh and, yes, before there is even a question about it, Cristiano Ronaldo is the best soccer player in the World!

I like to think of myself as a team player, I have a friendly and approachable personality and working with children is one of my favourite things to do!

This is my seventh year teaching at WIS. I have taught Kindergarten 1, Kindergarten 2 and Year 1. Before working at WIS, I was teaching Portuguese at Duneside High in Walvis Bay. I graduated from the University of South Africa with a BA in Arts and majored in Languages and Literature with my specialisation in Language Learning in a Multicultural Society. Over the years I’ve done many hours of professional development, ranging from PYP to Mind Moves and Jolly Phonic courses all in order to be prepared for the children in my class.

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**SECONDARY PRINCIPAL**

**Celebrating our students - current graduates and alumni**

Some weeks before the March break, we had a surprise visit of two of our former students, Floor and Tjin van Gorkom.

Both girls were at WIS from 2002 until 2005 and then started studying in the Netherlands. Floor has graduated as a medical doctor at the Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam and is currently working as a doctor for tropical medicine in the HagaZiekenhuis hospital in Rotterdam. Her sister, Tjin, has also studied medicine at the Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam and is currently working at the Sint Franciscus Gasthuis in Rotterdam as a Pediatrician.



Thirteen students from WIS are about to graduate. They have applied to different institutions around the world and some have already received admission offers from universities they applied at. Eli Eagles has

### Teacher Feature continued

It is often said "It is a beautiful thing when a career and a passion come together" and I couldn't be happier working as a teacher! I try to instill in my learners a love for learning so that they may be lifelong learners. In this fast-paced world we need to teach our children to be independent and to think for themselves as well as provide them with skills for jobs which have probably not been invented yet. It is very important to build the self-esteem of a child and to allow them to always believe in their own ability. There really are no limits to what they can achieve! "Every child deserves a champion; an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists they become the best they can possibly be" - I hope I can be that person for each and every child in my class!

My hobbies are pretty simple: reading, watching soccer and spending as much quality time with my family as possible! I love to travel, yet coming home is always the best. There are very few places in the World which rejoice as much as we Namibians do when it rains, who can enjoy beautiful clear blue skies during winter, or who can boast about having the desert meet the ocean in their backyard!

I have been privileged to meet so many children and adults from so many backgrounds and cultures and to have learnt with them.

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received a firm offer from Newcastle University, and will start studying medicine in the UK in September. Pandeni Idhenga has been offered a place at Simon Fraser University in Canada to study Business Management or Economics. He has also received an offer from the University of Massachusetts Amherst to do a Bachelor of Economics. Alynna Temple will be studying Mass Communication in the US (Louisiana State University) or Canada (Simon Fraser University). Jolene Ekuam is planning to either go to South Africa (UCT) or Canada (SFU) to study Economics. Oliver Frohlich will be moving to Australia to study Computational Design or Design Computing.



Goldie Swart is planning to study B.Com in South Africa (Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University or Rhodes University). Felipe Cardoso will be attending the Cape Town International Flight School to do his PPL and CPL.

We are proud to send these young adults into the world and wish them well in their future endeavours.

**Please note: The IBDP Farewell Assembly will take place on the 15 April 2016 at 7:30. Parents and community members are welcome to attend this special event.**

Kind regards,  
**Maggie Reiff**

### Lynn Holler - Intern

For everyone who doesn't know me by now, I'm Lynn. During the last four weeks I was an intern at WIS. This internship was part of my study programme in Germany but it became so much more.



**Teacher Feature continued**

I hope that when they look back on their experience in my class, they relive the experience with joy and happiness. I leave you now with one last quote, one of my favourites, which explains my dedication and love for all those little bodies I have met and hoping that I have instilled in them empathy, responsibility, independence and love to help heal our World:

***"THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD IS IN MY CLASSROOM TODAY!"***

As I am studying Chemistry and English, I was assigned to Ms Dorgeloh, Ms Mariamma and Ms Angie. The time here at WIS has really changed my way of seeing the world in many ways.

On my first day I was waiting outside the office for Maggie, being quite nervous about what might happen, when a little girl came up to me and said: "You are new! Don't worry everyone here is very nice."

Even though she had never seen me before she felt the need to comfort me. That girl made my day and was proven right, every day for the last four weeks. Everyone here welcomed me so nicely and gave me the opportunity to grow.

During the first two weeks I was able to observe lessons in Chemistry, Math and English. Every subject is so different and it was very interesting to see how different teachers and students react, behave and work according to the material that is studied.

I want to thank the 9A, 9B, 8A, 8B and 7 classes for the warm welcome and for the great time we had. I hope you all do well on your Science Fair.

The two lab-sessions with the year 9's were lots of fun and I will take a lot of experiences home to Germany.

The two lessons about characterization with year 8's were also great. You guys really impressed me with your cool ideas.

The biggest thank you goes to Ms Angie, Ms Dorgeloh and Ms Mariamma. You all didn't only teach me how teaching can be done, I was also able to learn about the kind of teacher I want to become.

I will miss everybody at the school and hope I will be able to come back one day.

Thank you for the wonderful time and I wish you all the best for the future. I will take all my experiences and memories back to Hamburg and will keep them in my heart.

Good Bye and Farewell!!!

***Lynn Holler***

## **INTERVIEWING ANNABEL**

It is not often that I get to meet awe-inspiring women, so naturally I felt honoured when I was offered to interview Annabel one Friday afternoon. Unprepared and excited to meet someone that I could delve into wanderlust with, I awaited the lady behind the astounding tale.



### **PLEASE NOTE: WINTER-TIME**

When local daylight time is about to reach Sunday, 3 April 2016, 02:00:00 clocks are turned backward 1 hour to Sunday, 3 April 2016, 01:00:00 local standard time.

Sunrise and sunset will be about 1 hour earlier on 3 April 2016 than the day before. There will be more light in the morning.

**AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES:**  
Term 4 Afternoon Activities will commence on 4 April - See the d6 > Resources for a detailed schedule of activities.

Annabel arrived with the brightest of grins, a habit I undoubtedly attribute to her experience with travel as well as her contagious positive energy. She sits opposite me and kindly ignores my lunch which is sprawled across the textbook filled table in the IB room. Annabel is a stunning British 30 something year old wanderer, who brave heartedly travelled from the UK to West Africa on her bicycle, and covered just over 8000 kilometres in total.

**T:** As for you previous occupation?

**A:** I worked for a public health charity which mainly dealt with drugs

*I apologised for the cliché and she understood the formality for my first question as to why she decided to embark on her travels. She answered with a genuine love for travel.*

**A:** I have been planning and saving for some time. I generally use any money I have to grab an opportunity to travel

**T:** Any difficulties?

**A:** Initially, yes. (She laughs). The first few days were tough. I cycled too many miles. I then took a ferry to France and it immediately relaxed me. I felt relieved. It was, and still is, the right thing for me to do. I have no regrets. Seeing as riding a bike renders me breathless within seconds I asked her as to why she chose it as her main means of travel

**A:** A bike is lovely because it provides a different level for interaction. If you fly, you miss it ( the view). If it's by train, you simply whizz past everything! The bike allows me to interact with people, animals and the environment that surrounds me.

**T:** Was the trip spiritual or preferential?

**A:** Actually for passion. I adore meeting new people and seeing what makes them tick. I believe it's good for the soul as well as for the mind. Cycling is hard but everything works out in the end

**T:** And the obvious cycling as a European woman in Africa dilemma?

**A:** I have never felt vulnerable. However, as a woman you have a different level of awareness. You get a lot of attention because it is unusual. It elicits the maternal as well as paternal instincts from the people I encounter. Everyone (in Africa) wants to take you in because they think what you're doing is crazy (she laughs)

**T:** What's your most enlightening experience?

**A:** As part of my journey I wanted to see if my faith in humanity could be restored. It was amazing to see that oftentimes people who had near to nothing wanted to give me something. I was having lunch in the Sahara one day when a fisherman from a hut offered me an entire gargantuan fish. I couldn't take it with me because it was impractical, however it is one of my most cherished memories. A simple fisherman offered to share with me the little he had with me. There are so many beautiful people here (in Africa) who will give you anything, it was nice to learn that not everyone is selfish.

**T:** Tying in with your answer, have you learnt any lessons?

**A:** Over time, I've learnt that there is no need to stress. Anything can be solved and people are always willing to help you. If the bike breaks, for example, there is nothing wrong with arriving late. If you're open with people, they will always help you.

**T:** Do you notice a significant change in your attitude?

**A:** I don't have stress anymore. I'm actually dreading going back to the old 9 to 5 (she laughs). I am considering a career change. I have discovered that I need to be more creative and pursue my passions. So when I go back home, I will probably retrain, maybe pursue a medical course that I can travel with, such as becoming a nurse, doctor, or health advocate. Ideally, I would love to own a travelling company which tailor makes bike tours for clients... Who knows, maybe I'll do both!

**T:** Before I forget! Which countries have you been to?

**A:** *Well I started in the UK, then went to France, Spain, Morocco... Then I went to the West Sahara, Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, and now Namibia. I'm here to spend time with my family, some of them are coming down to spend their holiday here.*

**T:** *Any validated clichés?*

**A:** *African Time! That very definitely exists! Hmm... West African culture and music is also as amazing as was promised and football! The entire continent is obsessed! To simply not like football is an unspeakable crime here! (She jokes)*

**T:** *Any cultural surprises?*

**A:** *I don't know if this counts, but I felt very comfortable in Muslim countries, especially coming from a Christian background. I found that they were more welcoming than Christian ones (countries)*

**T:** *Did you find that there was a change in mentality in Africa versus in Europe?*

**A:** *Not particularly... However I find that Africans tend to be all inclusive which is fantastic! On the downside though, everyone has an opinion on your politics. Women are also treated differently. An example is in Morocco, women are not visible. They are usually in their homes and the men are booted out. There was a time where I was the only woman in a café which was particularly strange. Women play a vital role in life because they work hard and then come back to look after the family and the home. I'm not sure how much would be done without women!*

**T:** *Tourist attractions or rural non emphasised areas?*

**A:** *A mixture actually... Because when I cycle it's generally the latter. The more touristic areas were pretty vacant as a result of Ebola which slowed down tourism. I generally visit the more touristy areas to have a meal, a hot shower and new conversations.*

**T:** *Any general advice to prospective globe trotters?*

**A:** *Just do it! Don't be scarred, be open, positive and sensible!*

**\*You can find Annabel on Facebook at Annie's African Cycle Adventure for photos of her adventure as well as some blurbs!**

**Tia Abner - Year 12**

## The Okonjima Experience: Yr12 CAS Trip

It is tradition that every Year 12 IB class goes on a CAS trip. In recent years, the CAS trip was converted into a "CIAs" trip. This meant that as a class, we were given the opportunity to struggle through the hard work usually associated with these trips, as well as bond and unify as a class. Our adventure took place at Okonjima.

Okonjima is a nature reserve located North of Windhoek. From the 14-18<sup>th</sup> of March, we worked with AfriCat, an organization working hard to conserve Namibia's beautiful wildlife, particularly its big cats. I distinctly remember the lady in charge, Helen, showing us a painting on the side of AfriCat's information Centre. The picture depicted a spider web, and signified how all organisms in an environmental system are interdependent. Throughout the week we came to understand what this meant, along with many more things. To learn more about the incredible AfriCat and its work, visit: [Africat](#)



At the campsite, we were split into teams, each named after wild animals that could be spotted within the Okonjima Nature Reserve. We had the Pack of Wild Dogs, the Pride of Lions, the Coalition of Cheetahs, and the Clan of Hyenas. Each team could win points



throughout the week for completing various tasks. At the end, we also had a quiz based on the knowledge that we learnt throughout the trip where we could win extra points for our team. Regardless of who won, the trip provided us with tons of fascinating information about the wildlife of Namibia. We all came back smarter, wiser, and much more appreciative of the beautiful country and the wildlife that it boasts.

Some of the best memories of the trip come from the time that we spent together, whether it was on a game drive, in our tents, or at meals. A lot of the time it was cloudy and/or raining, so unfortunately some of our activities, like star gazing and sleeping in the riverbed, had to be cancelled. Nevertheless, we used the free time to bond and spend time with each other. In IB, there is little time to get to really know those in your class, particularly those that you have few shared lessons with. I found the trip to be a great way to get to know the class properly. Now, I believe that we've developed a strong group within which we can rely on.

***Nancy Eagles - Year 12***

## PTA RAFFLE

**You are one or two raffles books away from a great vacation.**

Sell your raffle tickets and you & your family could be the lucky ones spending an amazing time @ Amazing Grace luxurious holiday getaway. The PTA Amazing Prizes are waiting for you.

View of unit from the front - with deck: water-pool & sea/beach side.



Situated between the breathtaking long sandy beaches right at your doorstep and the natural beauty of the windswept dunes at your back, makes this the ideal luxurious, self-catering family holiday getaway suite.



# Haiku's 10B

Marielle - "Today is lovely,  
The butterflies are dancing  
The sun is shining"

Haki - "Live today  
Learn from yesterday  
Plan tomorrow"

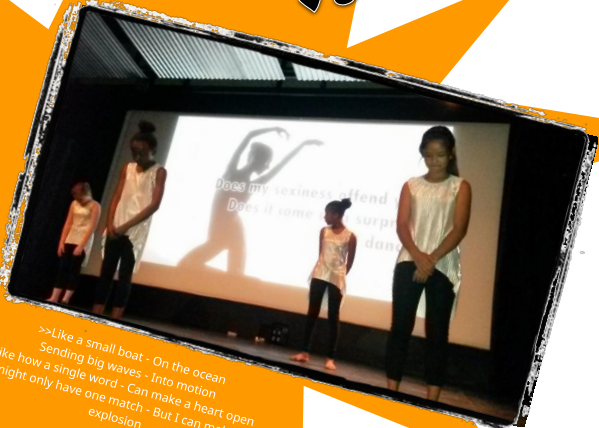
David - "Haikus are easy  
but sometimes they don't  
make sense  
refrigerator".

Lucy - "Clouds cover the sky  
and the sky is filled with  
tears and so it pours rain".

Brittany - "How do you fix it  
you broke it in the first place  
the cause is unknown"

**dePARTSment Corner**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL DRAMA:**  
Congratulations on an all-round excellent performance at the Independence Assembly to the whole Year 7 class and their drama teacher!



>> Like a small boat - On the ocean  
Sending big waves - Into motion  
Like how a single word - Can make a heart open  
I might only have one match - But I can make an explosion  
...  
RACHEL PLATTEN  
"Right-Song"