



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

WIS is very proud to be a member of the worldwide community of international schools. It is a community of schools that are quite independent but that share certain values, practices and concerns. It is therefore important that we talk to each other and support each other and, over the coming weeks, a number of us will be doing just that.

Avril van Zyl, our PYP Coordinator, will be visiting a school in Uganda in November on behalf of the IB. All schools offering one or more of its programmes must periodically be inspected by the IB and such visits often include an experienced practitioner from another IB school. It is in that role that Avril will be going. It speaks well of the regard in which WIS is held by the IB that they request our staff to work on their behalf and, as anyone here will tell you, there's no better professional development than rooting around in someone else's school!

Beth Smith, Primary Principal, will also be rooting around in other schools in November when she visits Tanzania on behalf of the IB and Qatar as a member of a CIS/NEASC accreditation team. (A footnote here is that Beth and I first met when we were both on a CIS/NEASC accreditation visit to a school in Istanbul in 2011.)

And I will be travelling too when I attend the biennial IB Heads' Conference. This year it is being held in The Hague. I leave on Tuesday.

Being out of school takes us away from our day jobs and these events should (and do) only happen irregularly. But the benefits in terms of experience and networking with other schools are considerable.

Strategic Plan

In The Oryx on 18th September I announced that a final draft of the Strategic Plan would be decided at the Board Meeting on 20th October. It turns out that was a bit optimistic but I am confident that we will complete this task at the November Board Meeting and will share it with all members of the community immediately thereafter. Since this will be our roadmap for the next five years, we need to be sure we get it right. Thank you for your understanding.

With best wishes
Peter MacKenzie

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Dates to Remember

November

- **03** - Early Close
- **10** - Board Meeting
- **14** - International Day
- **18** - PTA Meeting



ROYAL HOLLOWAY

Another endorsement of the IB Diploma

For a decade and a half Windhoek International School has been offering the IB Diploma. It is one of 3,000+ schools worldwide to do so but remains the only such school in Namibia.

The IB Diploma has long been recognised as one of the best (probably *the* best) preparation for entry to university and survey after survey confirms that university admissions officers look for and give priority to students who are IB graduates.

Another such endorsement has just been published by Royal Holloway, part of the University of London. You can read their press release [here](#).

Note that Royal Holloway (which is one of the top twenty universities in the UK) considers a 6 at IB to be the equivalent of an A at A Level. In other words, the highest grade at A level corresponds to only the second highest at IB (a 7).

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Congratulations to the following students who were recognized at last week's assembly for having perfect attendance for Term 1:

- KG1
- Jo-Rell Beukes
- Arwen Wolgast
- Victor Agolory
- Mateo Beltran
- Tapiwa Murwira
- Pandu Nandjiwa
- KG2
- Amelia Damon
- Kaylie Guibeb
- Edan Nefussy
- Adiah Neumbo
- Ronald Zion Nicol-Wilson
- Jody van Rooyen
- Year 1
- Ticiane Alves
- Luiz Augustinus
- Jessica Damon
- Tristan Guyon
- Saurabh Kumar
- Kyle Maramba
- Candice Ray
- Nelao Robiati
- Faustina Senga
- Gizelle Slinger
- Iku Tjiuoro
- Year 2
- Naod Abraham
- Hala Ayoub
- Nathan George
- Tinahse Musavengana
- Year 3
- Year 4
- Justice Agolory
- Zuleika Hiwilepo
- Sergio Ferreira
- Jairen Li
- Ali Iyambo
- TjiTji Mbetjiha
- Salomé Rey
- Isabel Rios
- Zandile Thamage
- Year 5
- Raey Abraham
- Mussa Andrade
- Zahra Ayoub
- Evan Black
- Franz Hangula
- Tangi Nghipondoka
- Ben-Timothy Visser



Teacher Feature

Marc Deragon - Year 5A

A line from the great Louis C.K. connects to my teaching philosophy:

Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime; leave the dude alone and he'll figure it out.

There are moments when we need to give explicit direction for a task. But most of the time, we need to create an environment where students want to find their own way through questioning, research, experimentation and feedback. Finally, we have to know when to let go, sit on the sideline, cheer and observe students take charge of their path.

For the students I've work with on my teaching journey--which went from the big city lights of NYC, into the lush Buddhist lands of Myanmar, over the majestic green sea and rolling hills of Hong Kong, through the biting cold kilometre's walk to school in the Himalayas, and stopping over in this beautiful, calm and vast adventure land--my vision is that they develop an insatiable enthusiasm for learning, a strong sense of independence as learners, and a passion to make a positive contribution in the world.

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Teacher Feature continued

You now know a bit about my teaching and travels, but can you guess what doesn't fit in my "Nine Truths and a Lie" below?

- Before becoming a teacher, I was a commercial fisherman in Alaska.
- I think most babies are strange looking.
- One of my favorite books is *The Hotel New Hampshire*.
- I earned a producer credit on a published film.
- I'm a decade older than the number of my classroom.
- If I had the money, I would live in Amsterdam.
- I managed rock bands in NYC.
- When I was a child, I wanted to be a doctor.
- I found the best armchair ever at IKEA in Hong Kong.
- Years after college in Boston, I still consider pizza my staple food.

Answer: "When was I ever a doctor?"

I teach because I love working with people when they're curious. I teach because I am especially fascinated by one of the arts of the profession: the balance between giving students guidance and independence. I teach because I enjoy being around other adults who feel it's an exciting privilege to make a difference in children's lives.

Teaching at WIS is a privilege.

Student Achievement

Ava Anne Izaks in year 4A won second place (silver medal) in her age group for Kumite (Fighting) at the NAKU All Style National Championships. The event was held in Ongwediva on 26 September 2015.

- Year 6
- Kevin Amaambo
- Vaibhav Bhushan
- Benjamin Biwa
- Mark Lintuange
- Thomas Prybylski
- Ricardo Sandao
- Anushka Singh
- Pedro Vieira

To earn a perfect attendance certificate a student needs to have attended school every day of the term and not be late. Why do we recognize perfect attendance? Attendance is important for student learning and for the social, emotional development.

Perfect attendance is difficult to achieve in one term or semester, let alone all year. Illness, family events and other unpreventable circumstances may all be reasons for children to be absent from school. When your child is absent, he/she is missing more than the academics. There are many things that cannot be made up or recreated, such as classroom discussions, student interaction on a project, a visit from a guest speaker, or giving a final presentation. The day before a school holiday often provides fun, memorable activities or events such as the rock concert or school picnic where the year levels come together as a community. Children who are absent don't have the opportunity to have that connection. The day following a holiday is a time when everyone is excited about what they've done, what they've experienced or where they've been; classmates are excited to see one another and hear each other's stories. A child who returns to school a day or more later misses out on all the sharing of the holiday and making that social, emotional connection.

A timely arrival at school is equally important. When your child is late to school, he/she is in a rush; has had no time to settle in a calm manner, such as putting away a book bag, putting homework in the right place, having a chat or engaging with classmates, telling the teacher/teaching assistant something important, or getting materials ready for the day. Your child has to be focused and ready to work. I know how I feel when I am late to a meeting or event - I don't feel as prepared or ready to focus as I might feel having arrived a few minutes early. I think children feel the same.

There are events and circumstances that do prevent perfect attendance. However, for the times that an absence or lateness are avoidable, I encourage you to consider the impact that absence or late arrival or will ultimately have on your child's learning, whether your child is in Toddlers or Year 6. Every day counts.

Kind regards,

Beth Smith

MOTORICS PROGRAMME

From this term onwards Mr. Thomas Jackson-Read will be taking a Motorics Programme with Kindergarten 1 and 2. He will be taking KG1 for P.E. lessons and running a Motorics Programme. The Physical Education programme incorporates a broad spectrum of skills including balance,

coordination, spatial awareness in addition to fine and gross motor skills.

Motor Development

Motor skill development is very important and highly impactful to child development. Children develop in two major areas: gross motor skills and fine motor skills.

Gross motor skills are responsible for movement and include activities that involve moving major areas of the body. For instance, running, jumping, climbing, throwing, standing, and sitting are examples of gross motor skills. Children use their large muscle groups and move most or all of their bodies when utilizing their gross motor skills.

Fine motor skills require more precision and coordination. When we think about eye and hand coordination, fine motor skills are required. Each time a child picks up a pencil, plays with small toys, touches their nose, or eats, they are using their fine motor skills. These skills seem simple to adults, but require concentration for children to develop them.

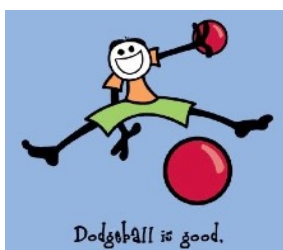


In the Kindergarten section the students do Motorics movements every morning as well.

Avril van Zyl

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 mdragon@wis.edu.na

"Dodgeball is not just a sport. Dodgeball is a way of life."



SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Learning in the future

In the last issue of Cambridge Outlook, the official magazine from Cambridge International Examinations, the focus was on "Education fit for the future". We are all part of this process of ensuring that we guide our young learners to become "fit for the future". No longer can we rely on knowing only. In the age of globalisation and a global community connected via all kinds of electronic media, it is so much more important for our youth to grow up being more than just knowledgeable. They need skills to "survive" the ever increasing demands on performance and competition and that can only happen if they are educated and guided to be confident and self-disciplined individuals with knowledge AND skills, empathy, compassion, assertiveness and members of our global community.

As articulated in the Cambridge Outlook Magazine - "Despite all the technology, humans remain a social species, and empathy, communication, working collaboratively, wisdom in decision making and morality have never been more important. Schools, in harmony with their communities, must take the responsibility for these broader curriculum aims, recognising that what matters in schools is not just the grades students receive, but their own personal development."



We here at WIS have embraced technology and are still learning every day to use it to its capacity. We need the whole community to walk this road with us to ensure that our children can learn the best way possible for their needs and interest.

Once again, this is an appeal to all parents to ensure that they are aware of developments. Students in Secondary School are expected to be in the possession of an electronic device that is working and charged and registered here at school in order to ensure that learning can be happening at an optimal level. Parents are also strongly encouraged to be part of their child's Learning Platform (Edmodo, Managebac) to guide their kids and be informed about the developments and their child's progress.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of us administrators, if you have questions or queries with regards to our Bring Your Own Device Policy.

And on a different note, maybe this article can be inspiring to all of us parents as well: [Click Here](#)

Kind regards,
Maggie Reiff

Christopher Aiff Memorial 5-a-side Tournament

Alex, Filipe, Daniel and Tamara, students of Windhoek International School, decided to organise a football tournament as their self initiated CAS project, in the memory of a former student Christopher Aiff. They will donate all the money they made to the Cancer Association.

The tournament was held on the 17th of October, starting at 8 o'clock on a beautiful Saturday morning.

Eight teams took part in the tournament, which were divided into two groups. The first two teams from each group proceeded into the Cup, and the last two teams proceeded into the Shield. The winner of the Cup was *Gerara Here F.C.*, who beat Windhoek International School's own boys 3-2 in the final. *Gerara Here F.C.* received a trophy, N\$1 000, and gold medals. The winner of the shield was *Is Windhoek Hierso*, who received a trophy and gold medals.

The blazing hot weather on the day, did not stop the players. With great teams and supporters, as well as a witty commentator, the tournament turned out to be a great success in the end. *Above is a photo of Gerara Here F.C. and the organisers. To the left is a photo of Gerara Here F.C. celebrating their victory.*

Article by: Alex Kivimäki & Daniel Hassenpflug

Photography: Rautia Abner



Namibian talent Show

On Tuesday last week at The National Theatre of Namibia **Beat Revolution Hip Hop Dance Studio** advanced to the Finals of the Namibian Talent show competition. The crew is made of eight amazing dancers and four members come proudly from WIS: Stephan, Brandon, Prune and Lola.



We wish them luck in the final round taking place on the 18th of November!

YEAR 12 FUNDRAISING

See the poster on the d6.

!!!YEAR 12 FUNDRAISING!!!

1. TEACHERS/PARENTS VS STUDENTS ON FRIDAY THE 30TH IN LESSON 6. ALL HOMEROOM CLASSES. TEACHERS AND PARENTS ARE INVITED!
PARENTS WHO WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE TEAM CAN CONTACT RECEPTION.
2. FACE PAINTING FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY DURING THE WEEK OF THE 26-30 OCTOBER!!
3. 30 OCTOBER BAKE SALE! WE WILL DO A PRE-ORDER FOR BODYPWORS ROLLS! & WE HAVE HOMEMADE LEMONADE!
4. BIDDING (N\$5) TO WIN A RUGBY BALL AND A RUGBY JERSEY TO THE VALUE OF N\$ 300 AND N\$ 700 RESPECTIVELY!
5. BUYING TICKERS (N\$5) TO WIN A BIG CAKE WITH THE FLAGS OF THE TWO RUGBY TEAMS PLAYING THE THE FINAL ON 31 OCT!!!