



# THE ORYX

*The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School*

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## Dates to Remember

### September

- **26 - 30** - Secondary: Week B
- **23** - Secondary: Last day AA
- **26** - Year 10 & 12 Trips
- **30** - Primary: Last day AA

## PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

The 3-Way Conferences are fast approaching. As you will have seen on the school calendar this semester's conferences are being held the afternoon of 5 October and during the day of 6 October. The 3-way conference includes the child, teacher and parent, so it is very important that your child attend the conference with you.

The conferences are held in the child's homeroom classroom and are scheduled for 20 minutes. This time frame ensures that all students and their parents/guardians have the opportunity to meet with the Homeroom teacher. In addition to the conference with the Homeroom teacher, you will have the opportunity to have a conference with the Specialist teachers. In some cases the Specialist teachers may have requested a conference. You are encouraged to meet with the Specialist teachers as their subjects are an important part of your child's learning.

You should have already received an email with the Google form to sign up for the conference. Thank you to those who have already completed the form. In case you didn't receive the email, here's the link to the form: [Find Form Here](#)

Next week you will receive confirmation of the scheduled conference. Please note that children are expected to be in school on Friday, 7 October. They will be reflecting on the conference experience and making plans for achieving the goals that were set during the conference.

Regards,  
Beth Smith

## SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

**Student Parent Teacher Conferences (SPTC) in Secondary  
Monday, 3rd of October and Tuesday, 4th of October**

On Monday the 3rd of October and Tuesday the 4th of October, parents have the opportunity to get the first feedback of the year from their children's subject teachers. Being a term into the new school year, teachers will be able to comment on your child's progress in these past two months - more regarding



### Teacher Feature

#### Kirstin Hildebrandt - Year 4A

Hi, my name is Kirstin Hildebrandt and I am the 4A Homeroom teacher. This is my first year at WIS and I am so excited to be here.

I have loved the way I have experienced how this community welcomes and supports each other and I look forward to getting to know more people.

I was born near Sydney in Australia, and throughout my childhood moved with my family across to Victoria and then to South Australia.

South Australia is a beautiful state, known for its wine regions, churches, national parks and the phrase 'heaps good'.

I completed my Bachelor of Education and Bachelor of Arts at Flinders University in South Australia in 2011 and then taught at an IB PYP Primary School. In 2014 I came to Namibia as a volunteer teacher where I taught at Omalunga Primary School in Grootfontein.

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his/her effort and conduct than their academic performance. The academic performance will be outlined in the written report your child receives in December when we break for the December holiday.



We urge parents to make use of this opportunity to get information about your child's progress. It will be in line with our approach to involve all parties in the education of our children.

Here is a reminder of the process:

- > **Wednesday 28th September to Friday 30th September - sign up** lists are posted outside the PTA hut. List will be taken down on Friday at 14:00.
- > Parents sign up for 10 minute slots with their child's respective subject teacher.
- > **Conferences take place on Monday from 14:30 - 17:30 and on Tuesday from 17:00 to 20:00.**
- > Children should accompany their parents to the conferences. We want to share our information with parents and their children to ensure that we are all on the same page with regard to the progress of students.

Here are a few ideas about the purpose of these conferences:

- "BE HEARD"
- Best intentions, assumed
- Emphasis on learning
- Home-school collaboration
- Examples and evidence
- Active listening
- Respect for all
- Dedication to follow-up

[Click Here](#)

Regards,  
Maggie Reiff



## Thank you PTA

A big thank you to the PTA for funding the paving and shade outside Learning Support for the benefit of all our students.

**Teacher Feature continued**

It was here I fell in love with this beautiful country and the people I met. By the time I had to leave, Namibia felt like my second home. I am so thankful to be back and now teaching at WIS.

My passion for teaching began when I was still a child and would make my younger brothers complete work just so that I could mark it and cover it in stickers. Thankfully, my understanding of teaching and learning has grown and transformed in a million ways since then, and I look forward to continuing to grow and learn here at WIS.

One of the most poignant experiences in my growth as a teacher occurred when I traveled to a small village in Indonesia.

I was working with orphaned children in a children's home and it was here that the power and significance of providing children with an education and an understanding of their personal value and their ability to impact the world became real.

I love the quote which says 'Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire' (William Yeats).

And I want to be a part of helping spark those flames in children that grow into passionate fires of understanding, skills and action, so that they each know they can make an impact on the world in many different ways, and that their lives matter.

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## Outdoor Education kicks off!

Outdoor Education's first activity of the year started this week, when 12 students started doing the one-star Scuba Diving course. They will be spending the next 6 - 8 weeks preparing, both inside the pool and the classroom, for their final practical and theoretical examinations.



Coming Sunday, 25 September, the Year 10s embark on their annual Orange River trip. We wish them and the accompanying teachers the best of luck and look forward to hearing their stories upon their return.

Preparations are in full swing for the two International trips happening in July next year, namely the Peru trip (Amazon Forest and hiking Machu Picchu), and the Cultural/ Scuba Diving trip to Malaysia. I need to start finalizing numbers, so if anyone would still like to be added to the list please email me ASAP! Although it is still many months away, the arrangements take time and the sooner we start the more we are likely to save on flights etc.

Anyone who needs more information for these trips can find out more at <https://sites.google.com/a/wis.edu.na/wis-field-trips/home>

*"Keep close to Nature's heart... and break clear away, once in a while, and climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirit clean." -John Muir*

**Riegardt Smit**

## Unsung Herstories

Students in the After-school Activity (un)Sung Herstories took a trip to Sister Namibia on Tuesday 20 September to learn more about journalism and to discuss how, where and when stories of women are told in Namibia. WIS students met with Vida de Voss, the director and






**Teacher Feature continued**

**Favourite things:**

Chocolate, painting and drawing, playing volleyball, pancakes, watching the sunset and looking at the stars, baking, watching movies, traveling and exploring, the beach, mangoes and watermelon, camping, time with family and friends, learning languages.

<b>GIANT BOOK DISPLAY</b>
<b>WHEN?</b> 27 & 28 SEPTEMBER 2016
IT'S A BOOKWORM'S DREAM!!!

<b>WHERE?</b> WINDHOEK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
<b>"EVERY CHILD DESERVES A GOOD BOOK"</b> WE OFFER A LARGE VARIETY FICTION & NON-FICTION BOOKS DIRECT TO THE PUBLIC AT AFFORDABLE PRICES.
<b>FOR EXAMPLE:</b> THE DIARY OF ROBIN'S TOYS...R35 GERONIMO STILTON...R65
<b>DON'T MISS THIS OPPRTUNITY!!!</b> o-o-o

shared their goals for the activity.

Genevieve Hinda shared that, "We are trying to create wider awareness for the stories of Namibian women and their lives, whether they are famous or well-known or not." Melvina Nicol-Wilson added that "There are lots of stories about men but not as many about women and we want to change that.

The students explained what they thought about gender and how divisive it can be if we use it to limit interests and capabilities. They questioned why they have been told that soccer at break is only for boys even if they are interested in playing. The students shared their ideas for future interviews and Ms. de Voss explained that perhaps some of the students' writing could be part of the Sister Namibia Magazine in future.



WIS students will be launching a blog entitled (un)Sung Herstories in 2017 to honour and celebrate stories of Namibian women who inspire them because of their perseverance, talents, skills, humanity and willingness to be a part of bettering the world.



The group worked collaboratively to design a logo for their letterhead and blog, written letters to ask for interviews, written interview questions and created word clouds that express the diverse experiences of being a girl. These young WIS students are examining what the world tells them and then challenging themselves to test truths for themselves.

These students are real-world learners inquiring and communicating how and what it means to be a girl in 2016.

**Melissa Kandido**

## Peace Day Celebrations at WIS

On September 21st the world celebrated World Peace Day. Our Student Councils had the idea of celebrating this with Peace Balloons, a drone and a massive human peace symbol.

At the beginning of the day, all students, teachers, admin staff and other staff at WIS, received a balloon and was asked to write a message of peace on a

How does your family navigate the world world of media & tech? Common Sense Media - "For hip Moms, cool Dads, tech-savvy teachers and everyone else!" [Find out more HERE...](#)

Danai Maramba



piece of paper and put it in the balloon. Then, they blew up the balloon and tied it between the trees in the parking lot. This exercise send a buzz through the school. The car park was brightly decorated with our wonderful peace balloons. Children were able to get a balloon to take home and read a message that was written by someone else.



Students and staff gathered on the big field where Ms. Heike, our Secondary Art teacher and the Year 12 IBDP Visual Arts students had created a Peace Sign with string. We all lined up on the outline of the sign and Liam Strydom, a Year 11 student, had brought his drone to take pictures of the Peace Sign from the air. The drone was a big attraction for all.



We observed a moment of silence to think of all the people in the world who cannot live peacefully like we can here at WIS. In classes, students discussed ways in which peace can be promoted and how refugees face a lack of peace, using videos as catalysts for these inquiry skills, but also to remind ourselves how precious peace is when we look at all the suffering in the world.

The following month will be Peace Month here at WIS. We want to think of refugees and collect items that our refugees here in Namibia can use to make their lives a little easier. Many people think of refugees in Europe, but Namibia hosts more than 3000 refugees from different African countries and their lives are not as fortunate as most of ours.

Peace Month will end with our annual UN Day celebration on the 24th of October, we will host in collaboration with Windhoek's UN office. We invite our community to attend this assembly. Primary School will celebrate UN Day on the 28th of October with their items to celebrate Peace and in support of refugees.

Please join us in our endeavour to collect items for the refugees. If every student brings just one item (toiletries, clothes, canned food, writing utensils, anything that are basic needs for a human being) we will make a difference in some people's lives and hopefully put a smile on their faces.



Well done to the Student Councils and their teachers and to everybody who made this day special.

***Maggie Rieff***

# WIS

## INTER HOUSE SWIM GALA 2016

Year groups: Year 2-13

### Events

- 25m Freestyle
- 25m Backstroke
- 25m Butterfly
- 25m Breaststroke

Date: Friday, 28 October 2016

Venue: UNAM School of Medicine

Time: 14:30 - 17:00 (TBC)

Entry forms on D6 and class blogs



## PYP PARENT WORKSHOP

Dear Primary Parents

You are invited to an Upcoming event: Primary Years Programme Workshop for parents

**When:** Wednesday, 28th September for KG1 parents through to Year 2 parents  
**OR** Thursday, 29th September for Year 3 through to Year 6 parents

**Time:** 7:25-8:45 am (for both sessions)

**Venue:** The workshop will be held in Portuguese Language Centre, PLC Room 1.

Please fill out google form (see link below) to sign up for this fun, informative and interactive session to find out how your child learns in the PYP.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdUtKNWHZveXXhkiSjCrMpg5EndNW1UOEXVYHCMSkHLgJBYhw/viewform>

Looking forward to seeing you there.  
Avril van Zyl (PYP Coordinator)





**MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WIS CAR BOOT SALE SATURDAY 22 OCTOBER**

Time: 10am to 3pm  
Open to all  
Come and buy or sell

**What can you sell? BRAND NEW OR USED GOODS!**

Anything you no longer love or want  
Arts and crafts, jewelry, pottery, hand-made cards, paintings, furniture and fittings etc.  
Anything goes!

N\$100 fee per car boot

Children welcome and entrance free  
Games, food, drinks, ice cream and more on sale

***Further queries to Sandra @ 081 446 5625 and [kbritz@wis.edu.na](mailto:kbritz@wis.edu.na)***




# CATS

**COFFEE & CAKE OPEN DAY**


**JOIN US!**

**Date: 2 October | Time: 15:00 – 18:00 | Place: SPCA Windhoek Premises**

**PRIZES TO BE WON!**  
**50% OFF ON THE ADOPTION FEE! (ONLY ON SELECTED CATS)**



*What greater gift than the love of a cat?*



**COFFEE & CAKE WILL BE ON SALE!**

