



# THE ORYX

*The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School*

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## Dates to Remember

### April

- **16:** PTA Family Braai
- **18 - 22:** Book Week
- **29:** Science Fair Prize Giving

### May

- **1-6:** School Closed

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

### THE SCHOOL DAY

I want to give you advanced notice that we are looking at revising the school day. At present all students from Toddlers to Year 13 follow the same daily pattern. We think we can do better than this.

The current arrangements provide for eight 40-minute periods split 2 – 4 – 2 with two breaks of 15 minutes and 30 minutes. What we are looking at is six (or for some Years seven) 50-minute periods for Secondary students and a longer second break also of 50 minutes. Moreover, Primary and Secondary classes would have different breaks.

The principal advantages are these.

1. Giving Primary and Secondary students different breaks greatly reduces the pressure on the Tuck Shop.
2. Having a longer second break allows the possibility of offering activities during this time. It also creates more opportunities for students to meet individually with teachers.
3. The intention is that Years 10 to 13 (i.e. those taking IGCSE and IB DP courses) will have a seventh 50-minute period from 1.30 to 2.20 Monday to Thursday. The benefits of this are an additional 120 minutes of teaching per week, the ability to timetable all classes within the school day (at present, some Science and Maths classes must take place after 1.30 during activity time), and greater flexibility to permit the introduction of further subjects.

Further, by introducing a ten-day cycle rather than five, we can build still greater flexibility into the timetable and better meet the needs and preferences of individual subjects and disciplines.

The biggest impact the above will have in terms of day-to-day routines is that whereas all classes up to and including Year 9 will start and finish at the same time as they do now, students in Years 10 to 13 will finish at 2.20.

Our planning for these changes is 90% complete and I will share more details shortly but it is not too soon to start letting the community know that next year will look a little different.

With best wishes  
**Peter MacKenzie**



**Teacher Feature**

**Jeanne Vieira  
Secondary Portuguese**

To interview Ms Jeanne Vieira, is to have a conversation filled with boisterous laughter and well intended sarcasm. Ms Jeanne is one of the Portuguese teachers at Windhoek International, and I have been fortunate enough to have Ms Jeanne as a Portuguese teacher for 2 years.

I do not, unfortunately have lessons with her anymore, but we still have conversations as Ms Jeanne is the rare teacher you talk about in 20 years time, my partner in crime, my cringeworthy "bra". Besides beauty, this slightly smaller than average height teacher, is also intelligent.

If her degrees in Psychology, Criminology and Portuguese do not impress you, then her patented wit will.

**T:** Ms Jeanne... I must ask the generic "Where are you originally from?"

**J:** Contrary to popular belief, I did not flee here from the war in Angola. (she laughs) I was born here, in a peaceful country, in the state hospital, but my parents are from the island of Madeira, in Portugal.

**Continues on page 3**

**PRIMARY PRINCIPAL**

As we are now into the last term of this academic year I think of it as a time to put forth that extra strive to reach the goals that have been set. This takes commitment, which is one of the attitudes of the PYP.

According to the International Baccalaureate, in PYP schools students should demonstrate the attitude of Commitment by being *committed to their own learning, persevering and showing self-discipline and responsibility.* (Making the PYP Happen 2009.)

Students have the opportunity to practice Commitment in a variety of ways including: school work; after school activities; music, ballet, gymnastics, swimming, etc. lessons; being on a sports team; or keeping playdates to name a few.

More specifically during the school day students are encouraged to practice commitment through completing activities or assignments that have been given; completing homework on time; arriving to class on time; improving on an area they have made a goal such as the presentation of work, listening, following directions, being nicer to friends.

Parents can support their children in further developing the attitude of Commitment by ensuring attendance at After School Activities, or any lessons for which the child has signed up, and talking about what it means to be committed to this activity.

Continue to encourage responsibility - have your child pack his/her bag the night before so that it's ready to go in the morning; let your child carry his/her own bag into school. Discuss with your child the goals that were set during the student-led conferences and what he/she can do to persevere to achieve these goals by the end of the term.

Working together we can support the students with being committed to their goals and to finishing the school year with a sense of accomplishment.

Kind regards,  
**Beth Smith**



**TAKE NOTE:**  
Parents are encouraged to please remind their children to behave responsibly in and around the WIS Carpark. The zebra crossings are to be used at all times. When crossing, students should be vigilant and not run in front of or behind vehicles.

**Teacher Feature continued**

**T:** Why are you working at WIS? What do you like about it?

**J:** I was invited to apply for a temporary position while the school was waiting for a teacher from Portugal, but the teacher never turned up, so I stayed. I definitely like the students keep my brain young, I'm surrounded by new information everyday.

**T:** What is the best part about being a teacher?

**J:** The Holidays (she laughs). On a serious note, not only teaching, but also learning everyday.

**T:** If students could take away one thing from your class, what would it be?

**J:** My old computer and replace it with a new one

**T:** What differentiates WIS from other schools?

**J:** The international community

**T:** The pros and cons of teaching international students?

**J:** Pro: Meeting different children from different countries... Uhh... Cons would be having students coming and going, as well as students coming in with different language levels.

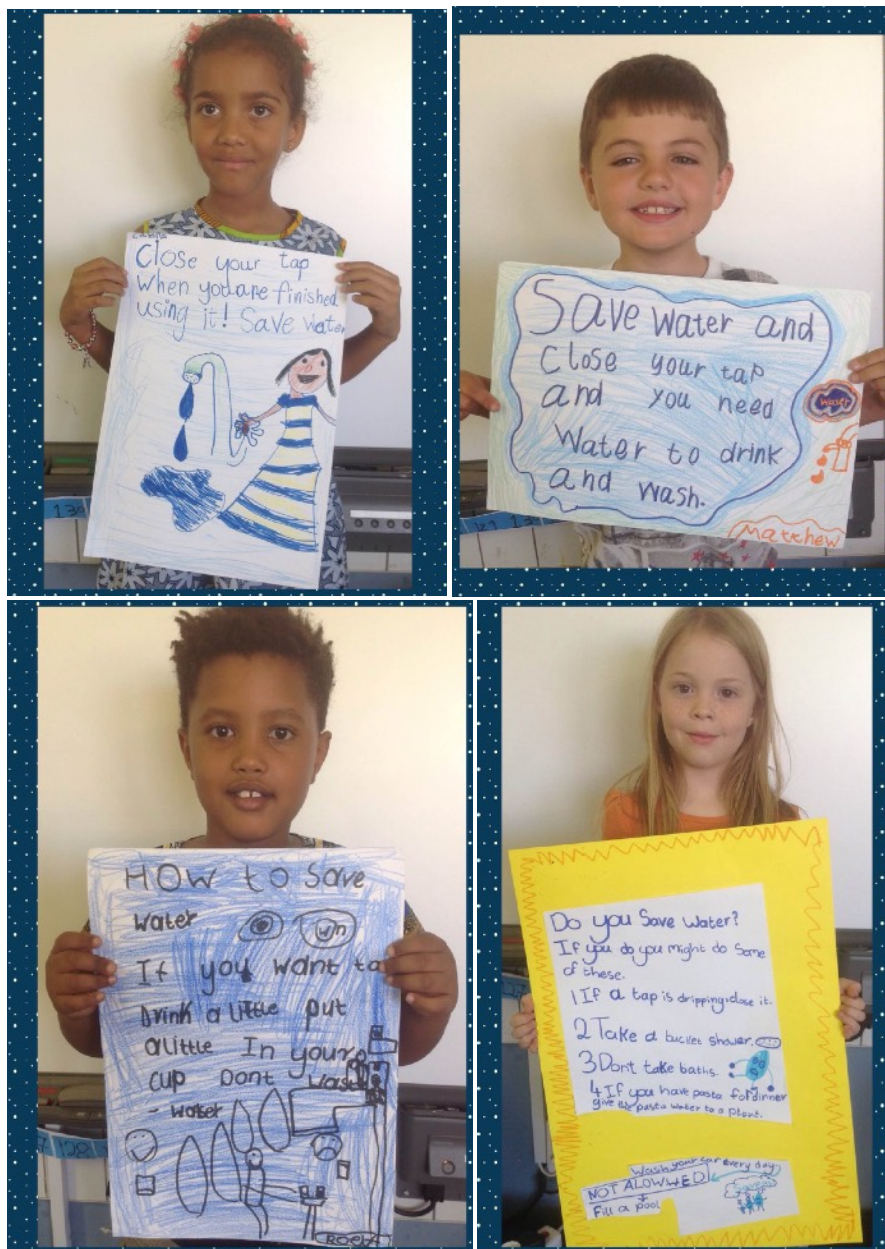
*Knowing that Ms Jeanne is FC Porto's biggest supporter, I had to ask her...*

**T:** If FC Porto had to lose to any team, which would you rather have them lose to?

**J:** Pfff... FC Porto would never lose to any team

**Continues on page 4**

## YEAR 2 - WATER SAVING!



## SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

### The Science Fair is upon us

In Middle School, this week was all in the spirit of the annual Science Fair. Students, teachers and surely many parents and guardians were actively preparing the last steps for the Science Fair. On Thursday afternoon, the time was ready for judges to speak to students about their different projects.



**Teacher Feature continued**

*After what felt like a millennium of convincing, she murmured,*

**J:** Barcelona or Inter Milan

**T:** Could you describe your sons? And what if you had daughters instead?

**J:** My sons are sporty, 2 hands full, that's why they're only two because I only have two hands (we laugh), busy, entertaining, especially Pedro. If I had a daughter, I would probably learn how to like pink.

**T:** If you had a student that were exactly like you, how would she be?

**J:** Hardworking, even though I might not look it, perfect (cough cough), entertaining, sporty, even though, again, I might not look it, busy and stubborn

**T:** If you could move to any other country and change your profession, what and where would it be?

**J:** I would move to Jamaica... And sell non-alcoholic cocktails on the beach

**T:** And finally, what slang have you picked up from your students?

**J:** "Bruh", my son is notorious for saying it. I always tell him, I did not send you to WIS so you can come back saying "Bruh". There's also "zali" (mother), but "Bruh" definitely stands out.



Many months of preparation preceded the final day when the boards are all set up in the PE hall and the students get to talk about their research and findings to judges who

come from different walks of life - some are lecturers at UNAM and NUST, some are parents, some are experts in scientific fields in other institutions.

For our students this is a great challenge each year. It is quite a demand on young people to research and put together a project that is presentable, justifiable, relevant and interesting.



Having support from home makes a huge difference in the way children prepare for and present their projects. We sometimes underestimate the power of positive encouragement and engagement, but in the projects displayed, it is clearly visible how children made use of the support they received from school and from home. We do encourage support from home but discourage that parents do the work for their children. It cannot be denied, however, that a solid support from home is a crucial element to ensure that the Science Fair project or any school assignment for that matter can be delivered with confidence and pride.

Here in school we have also increased support we give to our students to help them succeed in researching and preparing for the Science Fair. Students received a booklet with all necessary information, Science lessons were devoted to the Science Fair and a teacher from Learning Support was tasked to assist students in their preparation. There was an Afternoon Activity where students could sign up to get help and our Lab Technician, Mr. Cuthbert helped students with their experiments, if they required assistance.

*A big thank you goes to all staff in the Science Department, Ms. Tanya-May, Ms. Angatha and parents who supported their children in the process.*

**By: Wendy Swart**

*We worked really hard  
People said it would be fun  
Now science fair is done*

Kind regards,  
**Maggie Reiff**

The Prize Giving of the Science Fair will be on the 29 April at 10:20 in the Auditorium. Parents are cordially invited to attend this event.

**Saturday Morning  
Dodge-ball Club with**

**Mr Jackson-Read**

**NEW TIME:  
9 AM until 11 AM**

**Y3 - Y6 - All Welcome**

**Please bring a drink, sports  
cloths and lots of energy!**

**Session will be on on the  
following days**

- April  
9, 16, 23
- May  
7, 14, 21, 28
- June  
4, 11

## YEAR 9 SCULPTURE EXHIBITION

Did you ever wonder what goes on in a 14-year-old's mind regarding the world we live in? Well, there are certainly those questions of the 'Am I enough?'-kind. ...beautiful enough? ...likeable enough? ... rich enough? ...popular enough? - but then there is that corner of their brains and beings, which certainly is not small at all, that kicks into action when they are challenged to a different kind of question; the kind of question that they may not ask themselves or be asked in their everyday lives.



Anxun Hu - 'The last one'

The kind of questions their educators would and should ask. The kind of question that makes them look and think a little further than is comfortable and... WOW ...are you in for a treat!

Leading up to our 'Social Commentary' art exhibition we asked questions like:

- What do I think about the society I live in?
- What aspects of this society do I NOT agree with?

Topics like authenticity, legal slavery, gender equality, poverty, war, race and desertification, to name but a few, pop up seemingly out of nowhere. Deep thought and true concern for the world around these young people becomes audible.

We looked at works by Banksy, Claes Oldenburg, J Seward Johnson and Ai Weiwei and how these artists managed and still manage to get their message/s across clearly.

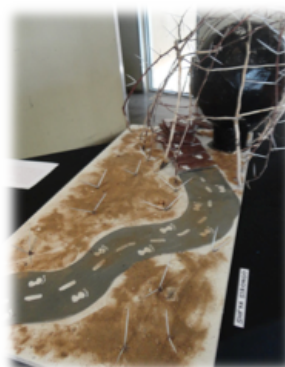
**Calling All Volleyballers  
During the PTA family braai  
we would like to invite  
parents and the wider WIS  
community to make  
Volleyball teams:**

**Ages 14 +  
Squads of 8 players  
Mixed teams 4 males and 4  
females**

**Please let Thomas  
tjacksonread@wis.edu.na  
know if you're interested.**



Nicolas  
Kivimäki -  
'Don't hide your  
true feelings'



Sheya Sirongo - 'Caged  
In'



Zula Ayoub - 'The  
slave being watched'

From this emerged the question that turned out to be the biggest struggle for the Year 9 students during the process:

- How do I express my idea effectively as well as efficiently through my sculpture?

**REMINDER:**  
Monday 11 April is the last  
day to return raffle books!

...and then their answers turned from audible to visible... they sure did rise to the occasion!

If you missed this exhibition, please make sure never to miss an art exhibition, performance or concert at WIS again – they might just all be gems like this one.

**Heike Rubbert**

# dePARTSment Corner

**FROM THE PRIMARY ART ROOM:**  
It is so gratifying to see students fully focused, committed and independent during their creativity!  
Well done, Year 6 B  
Xuwei Hang!



Join us at the  
**PTA Family  
BRAAI**

**16 April**  
3pm - 6pm

Where: Windhoek International School  
Enjoy many activities such as:

**WIS Raffle Draw 2016**  
Jumping castle  
Ball Sports  
Candy floss  
Snow cones  
Pet an SPCA Dog

**\*Cash Bar Available**  
Bring Your Own Food and Picnic supplies

**MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - WORD PROBLEMS LIST - April 4, 2016**



Dear IMF Agent,

Welcome to the safe-house.

Each week, there will be a new word problem from the WIS NOWP-LIST (Non Official Word Problem List). If you submit an attempt to solve the word problem, you will receive an IMF Badge in recognition of your service to WIS for attempting to stop Vapor. The Wall of Agents, a record of all IMF Agents, is displayed on the bulletin board on the side of Headquarters (The Office).

Your mission--should you choose to accept it--is to figure out the answer before Vapor. You need to solve the word problem and submit it to your teacher **by noon each Friday** to prevent a "Blue Strike" from Vapor.

As always, should you or any member of your IM Force not show your work, the school will disavow all knowledge of your answers. You may receive guidance from any other IMF Agents, including siblings, adults, internet, etc., but you must give them credit on the sheet you submit. This message will self-destruct in 5 seconds.

-WIS Upper Primary School Teachers

**This week's problem:**

*Raffle Tickets Here!*



The WIS PTA Raffle fundraising goal is N\$200,000. Each raffle book contains 10 raffle tickets priced at N\$40 each. How many books must we sell in order to raise N\$200,000?

As of 3 pm on March 31, we sold 111 books. How many more books do we have to sell in order to meet our goal? And how many of those unsold books do we need to sell per day to meet our goal if the deadline is 3 pm on April 11?

The PTA will use the funds to help WIS. What do you think the PTA should do with the money to help the school (e.g., what should they buy, build, support, etc.)?

**Math Word Problem Challenge CHECKLIST**

Success Criteria	Yes ←	→ No
Name and Class		
Date and Title		
Show Work: your process		
Show Work: math notation		
Label and Circle answer		
Clearly form numbers		
Clearly form letters		
Neat paper (e.g., no rips, no pizza stains... mmh)		

**Previous week's problem and solution:**



**Cha-Ching**

Mia took over Kenneth's paper route. Every month, she collects N\$6,120.00 from her customers. Out of that she has to pay N\$3,670.20 to the newspaper company for the papers; the rest is hers to keep (profit). Every month, she deposits N\$1,500.00 of her profit into a college savings account, and she keeps N\$500.00 for necessities. The rest is her "spending money." If she does all this, how many months will it take Mia to save N\$1,860.75 of "spending money" for the new bicycle she wants to buy?

by Mark, Year 6A

answer →

It will take her 5 months to save up enough money to buy the new bicycle she wants. She will also have \$388.25 left.

What would you do with the N\$388.25?

We also would have agreed with 4 months and 6 days or more ("4.2 months") ... with the understanding that the question doesn't say when during the month she collects the money.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \text{\$ } 6,120.00 \\
 - 3,670.20 \\
 \hline
 2,449.80 \\
 - 1,500.00 \\
 \hline
 949.80 \\
 - 500.00 \\
 \hline
 449.80 \text{ 1 month} \\
 + 449.80 \\
 \hline
 899.60 \text{ 1 month} \\
 + 449.80 \\
 \hline
 1,349.40 \text{ 1 month} \\
 + 449.80 \\
 \hline
 1,799.20 \text{ 1 month} \\
 + 449.80 \\
 \hline
 2,249.00 \text{ 1 month} \\
 - 1,860.75 \\
 \hline
 388.25 \text{ 5 months}
 \end{array}$$