



# THE ORYX

*The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School*

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

### Middle School

A major project this school year will be a thorough review of our Middle School (Grades 6 to 8). In the Primary School we have the PYP and in the High School IGCSEs and the IB Diploma. But there is no such overarching framework for the first three years of Secondary. It is time we had one.

We are setting ambitious goals for ourselves and the result should be a comprehensive document outlining what we teach in Middle School, why, how, how it is assessed and much more.

A working party has been established to conduct this review and we held our first meeting during the staff working day on Monday.



Over the coming months I will report back as our work progresses.

### Being a Board Member...

...won't make you rich and famous (or sometimes popular!) but you will have the reward of understanding why decisions are made and, of course, being part of the body that makes those decisions. Why are our fees so much higher than other schools in Windhoek? When is the new cafeteria coming? Are there plans to instal solar power?

If you would like to understand more about what it means to be a board member, please feel free to attend a training session on **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September** here in

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### Dates to Remember

#### September 2018

- **17 - 21:** Secondary Week B
- **25 - 27:** Photo Days - See d6 for details

#### October 2018

- **02 - 03:** Secondary SPTC - Details TBC
- **05:** End of Term 1



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## Teacher Feature

### Isabeau Bezuidenhout Secondary EAL Teacher

I was born in Cape Town, South Africa, and I grew up in Muldersdrift, near Johannesburg.

I completed my school career at Noordheuwel High in Krugersdorp and studied at the University of Pretoria and the University of Johannesburg.

In 1994 I moved to Windhoek with my family and started teaching English at Delta Secondary School. Since then I have taught various subjects and grades at both primary and secondary school.

I also spent a few years lecturing English at NUST.

I would describe myself as dedicated, friendly, and patient, especially when dealing with students.

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school. The day will be led by a highly experienced consultant and will run from 9am to 4pm.

Please just let me know in advance if you are planning to attend so we know how many to prepare for.

**Peter MacKenzie**

## PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

This week I am writing from Estonia, where I am serving as a Team Leader for a PYP school authorisation visit.

The purpose of an IB authorisation visit is to verify the information that the school has provided in its application for authorisation. The visit also confirms that the school has taken all the necessary actions and is ready to be an IB World School offering the specific programme, in this case the PYP.

For a school to become authorised as an IB World School, it goes through a process of:

- deciding to become an IB World School
- understanding the nature and requirements of the IB programme
- defining their readiness to implement the programme
- planning to sustain the programme in the long term.

The PYP Authorisation concerns the standards and practices of the PYP, which include:

- Philosophy
- Organisation (Leadership and Structure, Resources and Support),
- Curriculum (Collaborative Planning, Written Curriculum, Teaching and Learning, Assessment).

It should be noted that WIS was one of the early adopters of the PYP, having gone through the authorisation process during the 1997-1998 school year and officially becoming an IB World School in June 1998.

As I have written in the past, participating in these visits is a form of professional learning. In preparing for such a visit, I review the standards and practices in light of the school being visited. In so doing it's also a refresher for me, as I keep WIS in mind. These visits keep me current and up to date with what's happening in the AEM region (Africa, Europe and Middle East), as well as with the PYP. It's an opportunity to visit other schools, connect with other IB educators and to reflect on my own school's programme implementation.

I will return to Windhoek this weekend and will be back in school on Monday.

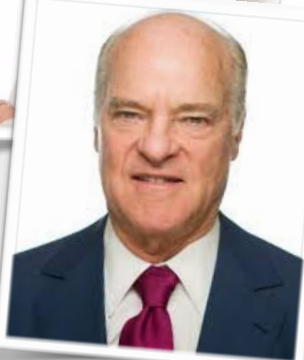
**Regards,  
Beth Smith**

## Teacher Feature continued

Two of my favourite quotes, and I guess which define what I feel most strongly about, are "If you don't have integrity, you have nothing. You can't buy it. You can have all the money in the world, but if you are not a moral and ethical person, you really have nothing."- Henry Kravis and "Just imagine how different the world could be if we all spoke to everyone with respect and kindness."- Holly Branson

I love working with young people, because I believe as teachers we have an extraordinary opportunity to make a significant difference in the lives of those we deal with. What better reason to be enthusiastic and passionate about my job? Lastly, career wise, starting at WIS has been a tremendous highlight in my life. I know I'm precisely where I am meant to be!

Holly Branson



Henry Kravis

## PORTRAIT POP-UP EXHIBITION

### Whole Primary School in the Art Room

Dear Parents - This is our first of several **Pop-Up 2018-2019 @ Drop-off Time Art Exhibition** in the Primary Art room.

All students have created a portrait of themselves at this point in their school life. It is interesting to see the development of art at this stage from EY1 through to Grade 5 with the unit Who We Are.



Please pop-in at drop off time on Friday 14th September from 7.00am - 7.45am followed by Assembly, if you wish to attend. The Portrait Exhibition will run til Friday 21st September. You are welcome to come each morning, except Wednesday 5th September (as we have a class first period), to view this.

**VENUE: PRIMARY ART ROOM (Room 41)**

**DATES: 14th - 21st September 2018**

**TIME: 7.00am - 8.00am (except Wednesday 19th September)**

An interesting read: [The Hidden Meaning of Kids' Shapes and Scribbles](#) By **ISABEL FATTAL** OCT 25, 2017



## SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

### International Day is coming - we need you!

As you will know, International Day is around the corner - Saturday, 10 November 2018. International Day is our biggest annual community event and we need to count on all students and parents to be involved in the run up to the day.



How can you as a parent be involved in this?

- Each class has chosen a country that they will represent
  - Ask your children which country they are representing and how you can assist in the planning for the day.
  - Most classes plan to make some traditional food for their stall or organise games that are typical for that country.
    - You can help preparing the food.
    - You can help at the stall on the day.



## WEEKLY PUZZLER

The thousand locker puzzle proved to be a stumper. We won't spoil the fun and reveal the answer. Instead we'll save it for another day.

Here is one from the archives. It will require a few items. You will need a piece of paper, a ruler, a pen and a pair of scissors. Now draw a scalene triangle on the paper (scalene means all three sides are of different lengths). Your task is to cut that triangle out of the paper with one, and only one, straight line cut with the scissors. Good luck, and consider this: you might just be embarking on a future career in the lucrative field of origami design.

If you are able to do this please demonstrate to your Mathematics teacher.

New puzzles can also be submitted to [pfarrell@wis.edu.na](mailto:pfarrell@wis.edu.na)



- You can also help the PTA in the run up to the event
  - You could join the PTA and the school's Events Committee to organise the logistical side of the day (renting of equipment, organising of gazebos, liaising with partners like the Breweries etc.)
  - You could join the PTA and give suggestion on activities that can be included in the event.
- If you are from an Embassy, your Embassy will have been invited to join us on the day. You could be part of arranging a stall for your Embassy.

**We look forward to everyone's participation in this great event to make it a success as every year!**

*Regards,  
Maggie Reiff*

## Student Council Logo Competition

**Did you know that the 2018 Student Council is hosting a drawing and design competition?**

The winner of the competition will have their drawing used as the new logo for the Student Council uniforms.

### **ANYONE CAN ENTER!**

The rules of the competition are as follows:

- The logo must be the size of an A4 paper (it does not need to cover the whole page).
- The drawing must be appropriate for the use as a logo.

The winner will receive a cash prize.

You can design and draw the logo whenever you like, and hand it in to Ms. Heike (Art Room).

**All entries must be handed in by the 28th of September.**

**SEE THE POSTER ON THE NEXT PAGE FOR MORE DETAILS!**

DESIGN A LOGO AND WIN N\$300!

# STUDENT COUNCIL

## LOGO

# *competition*

• **RULES:**

- ANY GRADE CAN ENTER!
- MUST BE A DIGITAL DESIGN
- LOGO CAN BE ANY COLOUR/DESIGN
- WRITE YOUR NAME AND GRADE ON YOUR DESIGN



HAND IN/EMAIL YOUR DESIGN TO MS.  
HEIKE BY 28TH SEPTEMBER 2018

## U19 Basketball Success

David Bezuidenhout School U19 Senior Boys Basketball Team. Season 2018 Inter School League. Undefeated. Until they played WIS!

We played at CMZ school in Otjimuise on Tuesday evening. In an epic match, in which the lead changed hand multiple times in each quarter. It was WIS that finished on top. Our squad has been boosted with the arrival of some new talent in the form of Malik, Ransom, Christopher and Massimo, all Gr. 9, and Cedric in Gr. 12

The team was captained superbly by Robin Winschiers with all the boys involved making valuable contributions. We look forward to a busy fixture schedule over the next few weeks.



### ... More Basketball

The WIS senior boys basketball team stepped up and delivered against Khomasdal High School on Wednesday evening, 12 September. WIS controlled the game from the start and kept the score desk busy throughout the four quarters. Massimo, Peyo and Edwin performed robustly in defence and hit the counter attack with ruthless precision. Final score KHS -19 and WIS - 58

***Thomas Jackson-Read***



## CAS Corner

This serves as a request for parent and/or WIS teacher help with a great service learning opportunity that will imminently start...if two adults among us agree then we can go forward!... **Who amongst you can give two hours (2:30-4:30pm) and support/participate a fantastic initiative?**

It involves helping as a chaperone once a week or once every two weeks (*driver's license + willingness to look after about 8 WIS students*). It involves chaperoning for a wonderful after-school service learning opportunity (likely on Wednesdays) to bring WIS students to volunteer as 'after-school English tutoring/Life Skills idea-sharing/'soccer/ BMX bike coaching at (**PAY-Namibia**)' - a highly reputable and well-structured programme (see photo) which serves 120 disadvantaged youngsters (see '<http://paynamibia.org/>').



This week Ursula Matzopolos and Thuba Sibanda from PAY-Namibia did an inspiring presentation to the Grade 11s and many of whom now are now keen to make a difference there. Without parent or teacher support this initiative cannot take off. Email [rfitzpatrick@wis.edu.na](mailto:rfitzpatrick@wis.edu.na) by Monday Sept 17th if you can help!

## Grade 9 Treaty of Versailles Simulation

The eager and well-prepared Grade 9 History learners (see photo) grappled with the complexities of the controversial Treaty of Versailles this week. Each prepared policy statements and debated in impressive fashion in line with what took place during the Paris Peace Treaties conference 99 years ago.



**Rick Fitzpatrick**

# WIS - International Day 2018

September 2018



Dear WIS community

As you know, International Day will be held on the **10th November 2018** this year. This event will be held between **10:00 until 15:00**.

## **Vision:**

International Day, a WIS tradition for over 20 years, is our biggest event of the year! A whole-school event which celebrates, recognises and appreciates the international countries and cultures, which make up the community, we are all a part of. This event is organised, as a collaboration, by the Parent Teacher Association Executive Committee, staff, Events Committee, parents and students, and is an open event to the public and to our wider community to enjoy.

The goal and vision of International Day at WIS is to bring our community and families together. This is an opportunity to celebrate and bring awareness of the many diverse cultures that make up Windhoek International School. The focus is on the students and how they make up and learn from our diverse learning community.

This event will be student-oriented and, as much as possible, a student-driven event. This promises to be a wonderful day where you will enjoy cultural, educational and culinary experiences from all the countries being showcased between our students and the participating Embassies.

A successful International Day requires a major effort on the part of learners, parents, teachers, administration, support staff, the PTA and of course our external participants.

More information will be coming out to the community soon.

[International day Grade Level choices 2018](#)



## Introduction to the PYP Workshop for WIS families

Dear Primary Parents & Guardians

You are invited to an Upcoming event:  
Primary Years Programme Workshop for families.  
Please come along to the relevant session and learn more about your child's learning

When: Thursday September 20th 2018

Venue: PLC Auditorium

Two sessions:

- Session 1: 7:30-8:30 Grade 1 through to Grade 5
- Session 2: 12:15-1:15 Early Years

Please [Sign up here](#) to show which session you will be attending  
Looking forward to seeing you there.

Avril van Zyl (PYP Coordinator)



## NEEDING SOME HELP WITH EDMODO?

Getting too many emails? Not sure how to check on your child's progress? I'm a student and not sure how to find my backpack? Hopefully, these quick tutorial images will help. If you are a Parent or a Student, follow the links and hopefully you'll get the help you need. If you have other questions send Michael Parsons a message through Edmodo and hopefully, you'll get the help you need.

Students ([Link to Tutorial](#)) | Parents ([Link to Tutorial](#))

## CYCLE CLASSIC 2018 Kiddies Classic Entry Form

WIS PTA (Parents Teachers Association) needs you!

Please click [THE LINK](#) to register your interest or email Ekaterina at [eshino@wis.edu.na](mailto:eshino@wis.edu.na) for further information or to have your questions answered.