



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

YEAR 13

Saying farewell isn't often much fun but this morning's assembly to send off Year 13 was enjoyable and memorable. Moreover, it was an occasion orchestrated entirely by our Year 12 students and they did a fantastic job. Our graduating students now have two weeks to catch their breath before their IB Diploma exams start in May. We wish each and every one of them every success.

END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

Last year some Secondary end-of-year transcripts were incomplete and others contained errors. The errors were quickly corrected but we want to avoid the same thing happening this year.

Secondary classes have end-of-year exams that must be marked before transcripts can be finalised and this is where the problem lies. So this year the last day of school for Secondary students will be Wednesday 15th June. This leaves two working days for the final marking of exams and the completion of transcripts. There will be a farewell assembly for Secondary students on Wednesday after the final exam.

The last day for Primary students will remain Friday 17th June. We will close with an assembly that will finish at 11.40.

RE-ENROLMENT

Parents will shortly be asked to declare their intentions for the next school



Teacher Feature

Teresa Araujo - Secondary Portuguese

Hi! I am Teresa and I am from Portugal, where people are very caring and open minded.

I have a bachelor's degree in Teaching History and Portuguese and my interest for pedagogy grew across the years.

The passion for teaching drives me to constantly seek information and education that helps me become a better teacher.

In the past fourteen years I have been working in different schools and organizations. Teaching different age groups and working with different methods and teachers made me become a more open minded and flexible person. I also have worked as an archaeology technician in my home country IX century castle and I was the training center coordinator in a food company.

My peers consider me a team player, an easy person to work with, and because of that in my last school, Luanda International School, I have been asked to join the professional learning team.

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year. I hope and anticipate that most children will be returning for another year at WIS.

However, please note that the school's policy regarding families in arrears will be strictly applied.

Children whose fees have not been settled in full for the 2015-2016 school year will not be permitted to re-enrol until all outstanding amounts have been cleared.

With best wishes
Peter MacKenzie

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

One of the wonderful aspects about an international school such as WIS is the diversity and the variety of nationalities represented in the school. The flip side of this is that many students are only part of the school for a short time.

With the end of the school year just a few months away, many Primary students are aware that they or their friends will be leaving WIS to either go to another school in Windhoek (or elsewhere in Namibia), or to move to a new school in a new country. This is a time of transition that is important to acknowledge, not only for those who are leaving, but also for those who are staying. The following are just a few ways that might help children with this transition.

Have your child make a special book of photos of friends and the things they like to do together. Plan some special play dates or get-togethers and be sure to take photos to be added to the book. If you are moving to a new country, include in the book special places in Namibia that your child has enjoyed.

Encourage your child that with email, Skype, FaceTime, Facebook, etc. it will be possible to keep in touch with his/her friends. The various address and can be added to the special book.

Discuss the upcoming transition with your child by asking questions such as, "What are you going to miss about your friend(s)? What have you enjoyed about your friendship? Who are your other friends who will be staying at WIS? What are you looking forward to about your next school?"

It is important to acknowledge your child's feelings of concern, fear, anxiety and sadness, as well as for your child to understand that these feelings are normal.

It is also important to be positive and encourage your child that new friendships will be made and new schools bring new opportunities.

While these are just a few of the many ideas to help children cope with transition, I think these are some of the key ones which I hope you find

Teacher Feature continued

This has helped me to understand what could be done to support other teachers' learning and the schools' vision.

My curiosity and passion for learning more about attitude and positioning, forwarded me to do a post graduation in Marketing. Teachers sell products. If your image, language, attitude is not appropriate to your audience, you cannot make a difference in students' lives.

And because I am a teacher from heart and I love my job, after finishing my specialization in history and social sciences teacher supervision, I am following my studies doing a master in curriculum development and teaching models.

I believe analysing and questioning are powerful tools in making sense of the world. As a teacher I want to facilitate the use of skills such critical thinking, problem solving and intellectual curiosity.

My vision as a teacher is participating not only in the academic, but also in social growth of a child. I believe one of my strengths as a teacher is the ability to get to know each one of my students deeply.

I am able to establish a supportive relationship with not only students, but also their parents and fellow teachers all with the aim of reinforcing a student's independence and self-esteem.

I came to Namibia with my husband and my little girl Maria Rita because we believe that different experiences make us better human beings.

Continues on page 4

useful.

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.

YEAR 2 - WATER SAVING!



Teacher Feature continued

My leisure time is occupied by making handicrafts, reading about history, architecture, art and playing with my young daughter.

In Luanda I have created a club "stitch a dream" where students had the chance to learn how to stitch and embroider like people used to do in the old days.

I love to travel to get to know new places and new people...

What's going on in the PYP?



The Primary School is about to undergo their journey of review through [The IB PYP Self-Study Evaluation](#).

What is the self-study? This is an opportunity to assess, reflect on and rate our implementation of the IB PYP Standards and Practices within the programme. These Standards and Practices are set by the International Baccalaureate Organisation (IB) and contain a philosophy, mission and guide as to how to implement the PYP programme in our school.

The self-study is a process of formal reflection in which the school community (teachers, students, parents, board members and administrators) have an opportunity to participate, reflect on our practices, and evaluate how these standards are implemented and set targets to further develop our understanding of the PYP philosophy and programme and to ensure this is maintained and sustained.

The self-study evaluation is a common practice in all IB schools. It usually begins a year prior to the actual IB visit. Our **self-study** begins now and ends in March 2017 with the Team Visit.

For those of you who are new to the IB and to our school, I will take a moment to explain some background information in order to familiarise you with the procedure.

Our previous **visit** was held in May 2012. Two IB representatives visited for three days, meeting with all stakeholders (teachers, students, parents, board members and administrators) to verify the school's self-assessment process and to gather evidence in regards to the implementation of the programme.

After the visit, a **report from the IB** was provided with commendations, identifying practices that were in place or went beyond the expectations of the programme. It also included recommendations to help the school to focus on highlighted areas that need to be developed within the programme. This process supports, acknowledges and verifies what the school is doing and gives measurable guidance as to what action steps they can take next in sustaining and maintaining the integrity of the programme.

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

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.

An **action plan** was then created with objectives and monitoring systems to ensure that the school is working towards achieving our aims.

As with the previous evaluation, this same process will take place for our upcoming evaluation visit. You can look forward to reading more information about the PYP Evaluation in future issues of the Oryx.

Kind regards

Avril van Zyl - PYP Coordinator

Year 3 NARREC visit

The Year 3 students went on a field trip last week to NARREC - Namibia Animal Rehabilitation Research & Education Centre to learn more about birds of prey in Namibia and the work NARREC does to rescue and rehabilitate injured, orphaned or misplaced birds. They learned about the foods that various birds eat and collected grasses for the field mice who would become food for some of the birds. They sketched the birds looking closely at features of the birds. Year 3 students are studying life cycles, food webs and food chains and learning about the importance of biodiversity. Seeing the birds of prey up close was a fascinating and exciting opportunity.

[NARREC](#) is not far from Windhoek and would be a great place to take a family field trip.



Barbara Wilson

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Almost every day we hear about special achievements of our students in and outside of school. I want to



dedicate my contribution today to our students achievements and celebrate our students. In this issue, you will read about some of the achievements of our students in their free time as well as us celebrating some of our students' achievements in school.

"*Outliers: The Story of Success*" written by Malcolm Gladwell, outlines the factors that lead to a high level of success. Gladwell claims that the key to being highly successful in anything lies with practice and his "10 000 - Hour Rule" is the underlying principle that makes people successful.

Our students that are successful in any field, be it in Inline Hockey, Soccer, Dancing, Academics or any other activity, will normally spend many hours practising their activity and their dedication and commitment to the activity will make them successful.

If students work hard in school they will experience success if the conditions they work in are conducive to their studies - home environment, school environment, parents, peers and the community at large need to be supportive and positive to assist in anyone being successful.

The same applies to students who are successful in sport, music or any other form of creative activity. The CAS part is therefore an excellent component of the IB Diploma to allow students to dedicate time and commit themselves to activities other than the academic requirements they have to meet.

Whilst saying goodbye to another class of IBDP Year 13 students, we would like to celebrate their time here at WIS and hope that they have taken on board the skills learnt in the IB Diploma Programme; that also in future, they dedicate their time and energy to activities (academic, creative and/or sporty) that let them grow and excel in life.

Congratulations to Tamara Winschiers on being awarded the Alexander Award of Excellence in recognition of outstanding academic achievement and community engagement. You have demonstrated through the years your interest and empathy for the society you live in as well as dedicated your time and energy to your academic studies. Each year IBDP teachers discuss the contribution the IBDP students made during their two year IBDP time at WIS and how they embody the IB Learner Profile in their engagement in academics and their contribution to the community. Teachers then decide on a student who is a role model and example to their peers and the community at large in the way they dedicate their time and energy.

Congratulations also to Emilia Koch for being awarded the Certificate of Extraordinary Achievement as a result of excellent academic achievement in the IB Diploma. We wish all of you success in your future endeavours.



Dear Class of 2016 - we wish you all the best with the upcoming examinations. May your future hold what you dream it to be.

Kind regards,
Maggie Reiff

WIS BOOK WEEK 18 - 22 APRIL 2016



Opportunity to donate a book to an underprivileged school. **'Book Donation Box' in the library.**

Primary Book Week Parade!

Join us in the PE Hall on Friday the 22nd April @ 07:40 to see characters from fairy tales COME ALIVE!

Look out for updates on the D6 and Primary Home Room blogs throughout the week.

Scuba Divers Qualify!



As the new weeks starts, most of us carry a sense of pride and accomplishment! Last weekend a group of divers drove out to Oanob Dam for our Final Qualification. Having already completed our written exams and our confined water dives, the final dive included 5 dives in total each 15 minutes long and to at least 10 meters depth. While under water we had to complete a number of tasks, some being buddy breathing, mask clearing, DV retrieval and more.

At around 4 on Friday afternoon we left the school, arriving at the campsite in Oanob.

We started off our Saturday with Mr. Smit's Bacon and Eggs (without the eggs), cereal and sandwiches for breakfast, taking in the stunning view and an accidental swim courtesy of Ashraf's phone taking a dip in the lake. The morning was more than eventful. At around 7:45 in the morning with the 12-15kg cylinders

on our backs, wetsuits on and weights strapped, we did our buddy checks and headed into the water. We swam out to the buoys, and a few moments later, down we went. As you descended, the water was a mix of murky green browns, and at around 6-8 meters it became a clear yellow not warm and not cold but bearable. Slowly continuing to 9 meters and



eventually to 18 meters it became dark and ice cold. The thermocline was unbelievable. It was hard to tell, whether your eyes were closed or not but at the same time it was a moment of wonder.

After our first 3 dives, we got out. Cold, out of air and ready for a hot chocolate and warm clothes. We were in no rush to start the last 2 dives of the day. After warm showers and a delicious lunch courtesy of Mr. Smit we were ready for the next round. Cylinders filled, flippers on and sunscreen everywhere - down we went!

The last few dives consisted of Dive Navigation with a compass only, diving down to a depth of about 16 meters and in general enjoying the dives.

With all 5 dives done, we got out and enjoyed the last few hours of the day. Slowly gathering our equipment, packing bags and taking down tents. As the sun started to set the bus arrived at our campsite to take us home. With memories made that won't be forgotten a group of tired students set for home.

In the end this was truly a fun, amazing trip. To all those wanting to join in September if you have questions don't hesitate to ask and all we can say; is you'll love it! We as a group are truly hooked on the sport. And can't wait to start our 2 star dive course next season.

A huge Thank You to Mr. Smit for organising the trip, Mr. B for driving the bus, Susan and our instructors for helping us every step of the way and our parents for supporting us. The Underwater Club for the accommodation and our dive buddies - without you it would not have been such an amazing experience.



Comments from the students:

Daniel: It felt like I was swimming in a freezer; Alicia : I can't wait till the next dive trip! Ashraf: I was scared when we went down! Sam: It felt like you were swimming 15 meters under a lake. Mr. Smit: I like traffic lights.

Alicia Reiff 11B

WIS students at the Performing Arts Competition



From the 1-4 April, Ndina in Year 8, Lola in Year 9, Prune and Brandon with their Crew Beat Revolution, our very talented students from WIS have attended the second round of the NATME competition that took place in Rustenburg South Africa last weekend.

The South African Championships of Performing Arts is an annual professional competition event for ages from 5 years to 30 years and above for amateurs and professional performing artists. They were 3000 contestants this year that had the opportunity to perform their act/s in public and to a panel of judges.

Our students very proudly represented Namibia by bringing back a large panel of wonderful Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals. Aaron Symonds-Mayes, former student of WIS received a gold medal in acting at the competition.

They have been selected and invited to compete and represent Namibia, this coming July, at the World Championships of Performing Arts in Los Angeles, and are looking for sponsorships!

Congratulations to our students and artists!

Laetitia Borroni

South African Championships Performing Arts



Exactly two weeks ago, three apprehensive, inquisitive, year eight girls, stepped from the streets of the quiet rural town of Rustenburg in South Africa into the Civic Centre, to a cacophony of sound from approximately two thousand bustling artists; looking for their names on notice boards, greeting old friends, warming their muscles up after long journeys, all in a state of excitement.

It was obvious that many of these people were well practised in the procedures, whilst Bruna, Diella and myself felt completely overwhelmed and lost. What were we doing here?

The journey to Rustenburg began last October when Ms Mari-Louise suggested that I should enter the NATME Competition as a hip hop dancer. My only knowledge of this competition was that it was for girls and boys who had professional training at dance, drama and music schools. As I had never had any dance lessons before I had to take time to think about the prospect of competing with trained dancers, many of whom spend every day in the studio, whilst I dance in front of the mirror at home, listening to instructions from YouTube.

Once I had decided to enter as a soloist, I persuaded Bruna and Diella to join me in a trio arrangement. We worked hard, without any supervision, choosing and mixing the music, choreographing our dances and then practising at weekends. All was worth it. At the Namibian Semi-Finals we were chosen to go through to the Namibian Championships for Performing Arts final. I was particularly excited when one of the judges from South Africa asked me who my dance teacher was, as she thought I was an exceptional dancer. When I told her I taught myself she offered to tutor me online for the final but I made the decision to stay with You Tube, with my "critical friends" being Bruna and Diella. Hip hop is the dance of the street, it's built from improvisation and it has to be in your heart.

Sadly, the head of the organisers decided that the finals should take place in South Africa, which immediately excluded the vast majority of Namibians from participating, even though they had won their place in the finals. Bruna, Diella and myself were lucky as our events were at the weekend and thanks to my Auntie Patricia who arranged the trip, and took us there, we were able to compete. However, we didn't forget those that were absent, especially the exceptional talent from WIS and this made us more determined to win and make WIS and Namibia proud of us.

We attended the Opening Ceremony as the only three Namibians, since the other ten Namibian competitors had not arrived by then, being held up in Johannesburg traffic or taking exams, and then suddenly the competition had begun. Due to some dis-organisation we didn't get to know when we were competing until Saturday evening and then we were told it would be on Sunday afternoon. The waiting was nerve-racking but it was an opportunity to view all the other genres of artists who were competing under the South African flag, and we realised just how much rich talent that Namibia has. We really hope that they hold the Namibian Championship in Namibia next year.

Suddenly it was Sunday afternoon, I'm competing with my solo first, followed an hour later with the trio; The Black Illusions. The huge professional stage was daunting, as was facing an famous American Hip Hop Star, who was a judge. If the girls and I were nervous to begin with we soon overcame it as we began dancing, with our hearts. We felt confident competitors and hopefully we did enough to make WIS and Namibia proud.



The news that I won a gold medal for the solo arrived only yesterday so I hope I can go on to LA and make WIS and Namibia even more proud. But first I need a sponsor.

Ndina Simon, 8B

Congratulations to all WIS participants for their successes in the South African Performing Arts Championships. WIS is proud of your achievements.

-Maggie Reiff-

The WIS Annual Science Fair

The annual science fair for the middle school learners is certainly one of the most educational events of the year. The students had to find a topic, research it, do an experiment and present their findings. Not

only is the science fair so crucial to our education, but it is also one of the most fun events of the year. It is an event where we can share our ideas and findings and learn important skills for our future. The science fair would also not have been possible if it was not for the positive encouragement from our science teachers. We sometimes forget that a little kindness can go a long way.



Last Thursday all of the middle school students proceeded to set up their boards in the PE hall and prepared to present their findings. We had graduate students from UNAM, parents and some teachers to judge our presentations. I interviewed one of the judges, Mrs. Nerine Petrick, and was delighted to hear that, " This years science fair was certainly better that last years science fair. I was better organized and there was generally a higher standard of display boards and presentations. The students also behaved much better."

Victor Liebender - 8A



This year's Science fair, like any other year was challenging but fun. It all started with ideas, then the planning then the implementation. With the investigation came hard work, organization and time management. We had to keep organized by keeping our results, research and investigation together, along with the fact that we needed to keep our time managed by meeting deadlines and not getting distracted. When it all came together each student needed to present their project and we received positive

and negative feedback from fellow peers and teachers. The day had finally come!



After setting up the boards and rehearsing over and over, we gave it our all and presented it to our highest ability. It was a fun, eventful and fulfilling experience. We are sure the new organization and time management skills will come useful in further year to come.

Fiona Farrell - 8B

dePARTSment Corner

Primary DRAMA:

In the Drama class we don't just use the chairs to sit on. With the help from the students they become airplanes, elevators, bridges, see-saws, binoculars ... **anything imaginable.** Year 3 students are creating 'objects' using their bodies and chairs in pairs. Then they are writing their own stories around that object involving different characters.



SPCA BLANKET DRIVE

WINTER IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER AND WE ARE IN SERIOUS NEED OF BLANKETS!

We really appreciate every blanket or towel we get; they get used to keep our furry orphans warm and comfortable!

PLEASE HELP US BY SPONSORING ANY BLANKETS OR TOWELS YOU CAN, OLD OR NEW!

They should just be in a good condition!



We invite all schools & business to see who can sponsor us the most! #gameon

You are welcome to bring donations of blankets, food, toys etc to the PTA BBQ tomorrow, 16 April!

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - WORD PROBLEMS LIST - April 11, 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:

Symmetrical Candy Strike

- a) What letter in the word "math" has more than one line of symmetry?
- b) How much faster does the minute hand move compared with the hour hand?
- c) Three boxes of chocolate candies are equivalent to 150 candies. The number of candies is the same for all boxes. How many candies are in one box?
- d) I saw lightning strike the ground near the far side of the lake and heard a thunderclap 12 seconds later. Estimate the width of the lake if the sound speed was about a kilometer in three seconds.



Previous week's problem and solution:

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.)?

Handwritten calculations and a division problem:

$$200,000 \div 400 = 500 \text{ Books}$$

111 Books sold
Need to sell 500
- 111

389

389 ÷ 11 days = 35 Remainder 4

by Evan

$$\begin{array}{r} 35 \text{ R}4 \\ 11 \overline{) 389} \\ \underline{33} \\ 59 \\ \underline{- 55} \\ 4 \end{array}$$

We need to sell an average of 35 books per day plus 4 more books during the 11 days.

Music & Milkshakes



23 April

La Brocante Café
Macadam St.
10:00 - 13:00

Free Live Band: WIS Musicians | Kids Jumping Castle