

THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Development

Now that the new Board of Directors has been elected/appointed (see last week's Oryx), we can focus on the work that needs to be done over the coming year. In particular, the Development Committee is going to be busy.

Towards the end of last term parents, students and staff were invited to complete an online survey giving their views on the school's current facilities and what our priorities for development should be. Thank you to the many people who took the time to respond.

But that survey was only the start of a conversation that will continue as we refine our plans for the future. If you did not contribute to the survey – or even if you did but have more to say – please share your thoughts with us.

The address development@wis.edu.na has been created specifically to receive your thoughts, ideas, suggestions and recommendations. For our part, we will keep you informed as the development plan takes shape.

Peter MacKenzie

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Near the end of the last academic year, the teachers and I agreed that a change was needed in our semester reports. The reports didn't give the information that teachers wanted to be able to convey to parents about a student's progress. They were text heavy and for the teachers writing them it often felt like an exercise in creative writing. For parents reading the report it was a lot of reading to figure out how the child was doing in school.

In August, a committee of interested teachers representing different sections of the Primary School was formed to develop a semester report that would be informative for parents, students, other schools, and would be a clear record of a child's progress during the semester. We reviewed what was good about our previous reports and what change was needed. In addition, we looked at reports from other schools and pulled what we found to be the best of each and important to include in our new reports.

Our previous reports had overall evaluations for the various subjects. However, since each subject has several strands the new report includes descriptors or baselines for each subject. These don't cover all aspects of the subject but do include the key skills and concepts for the Year level. We've added Strengths and Goals in bullet form for each subject. These should provide parents and students with some key areas where the child is doing well in the particular subject and some target areas for improvement.



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Dates to Remember

February 2018

- **6:** CATS Presentation (18:00)
- **9:** Mock reports sent to families
- **12 - 16:** Book Week
- **20:** IBDP/IGCSE - Info session (7:30 - 9:00)
- **20:** UBC Representative visiting (18:00)
- **28 - 1 March:** SPTC details TBC

March 2018

- **2:** Secondary Sports Day

WEEKLY PUZZLER

The puzzler was solved by Sarah (7B) once again.

Well done! A solution can be found [here](#).

Here is the new one. The average of three numbers is 29. The average of two of these numbers is 38.

What is the third number? (Hint: if algebra is used it is quite an easy problem).

Please send your answer or any good puzzlers to pfarrell@wis.edu.na



The new reports include Semester 1 and Semester 2, making it easier to see the child's progress for the full year. We've revised the progress indicators and the descriptions for these. The new reports now comprise the following: E-Emerging, D-Developing, P-Proficient, EX-Extending, EXB-Extending Beyond, N/A-Not Assessed. (Many skills haven't been covered in the first semester so they've been marked as N/A; these will be covered in the second semester.) The letters themselves shouldn't be the focus but the descriptions that go with the letters. It is important to look at the progress indicators combined with the strengths and goals.

I hope you find that the new report is easier to read and provides a clear understanding of your child's progress - what your child is doing well and the areas where your child can improve. Your feedback will be welcome and appreciated.

*Regards,
Beth Smith*

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

I don't have time ...

How often do we say or more so think we don't have time for something - no time for ourselves, no time for our families, no time for our passions. Often we seem to be rushed to do something, to accomplish something. Why would I write about this in our newsletter?

Often, when we interact with our children in school, we wonder, how much time is spent at home with the family "taking time" for each other. It is great to see parents taking the time to attend Student Parent Teacher Conferences to get to know their child's teachers. It is good to know that some parents are active on Edmodo to know what their child's homework is. Some parents comment on our Oryx articles. Some parents react on posts on our Facebook page. But how many of us feel that there is no time - to go on D6 regularly, to read the newsletter, to visit teachers at SPTC, to sit down for a meal together and talk about the day.

We let our kids be on Facebook, Snapchat and Instagram. But do we take the time to find out what happens on these media? Do we take the time to familiarise ourselves with the latest developments in technology? We often excuse our innocence by our age, too old - this is for the young generation. But we could make time to share some of these experiences with our children to know what their life and interests are about. It is sometimes sad to witness how little parents know about their child's life: who their child's friends are, who their child's teachers are, what their child does while alone on Social Media in their room. The result is often, that children are unable to focus, distracted easily, and not happy children.

Is it not our responsibility as parents and educators to make time for our children? To listen to them, to interact with them - to spend quality time rather than satisfy their needs with things money can buy. Time is money - if we take the time with each other it can be more valuable than what money can buy.



REMINDERS:

- CATS presentation - WIS Auditorium, 18:00 - Tuesday, 6 February 2018
 - IGCSE/IBDP Information sessions - 7:30 - Tuesday, 20 February 2018
 - University of British Columbia presentation - 18:00 - Tuesday, 20 February 2018 - WIS Media Room
 - Student Parent Teacher Conferences - Wednesday 28 February and Thursday 1 March 2018.
- Take the time to be informed about your child's education and to inform yourself about your child's future!

*Regards,
Maggie Reiff*

Junior City Council

Taking charge of their responsibility

Due to the recent Hepatitis-E outbreak in the Katutura informal settlements, Windhoek's mayor decided to launch a cleaning campaign where the Junior City Council along with other volunteers joined forces to help pick up and remove unhygienic waste that contributed to the latest epidemic.

So at 6:00 in the morning on Saturday 27th January, Gabie and I along with 30 other elected council members met at the Community Development Office in Katutura, eager to get to work!

We were then transported to the informal settlements where we were given gloves and masks and then divided into multiple groups which consisted of a mixture of JCC members, volunteers from other organisations and locals from the area. Each group was assigned a group leader and an area of land which we were required to clean.

Right from the get go our efforts were acknowledged by the many radiant smiles of curious heads peering from the gleaming tin shacks, as we weaved our way through the hundreds of structures picking up bottles, wrappers and other rubbish along the way. I was taken aback by the sheer number of homes and people who inhabited the area, often wondering how they managed to find their way amongst the sea of corrugated iron. After the



clean-up all volunteers walked along the road escorted by a police car to the nearest soccer field where there was water to wash hands and our Mayor stood waiting. He and some other members of the Council gave speeches addressing the current Hepatitis-e epidemic and the need to keep the place clean. We were encouraged to take note of the way he addressed the audience as we would later be expected to give speeches of our own.

The overall experience was hot and dirty but incredibly rewarding as we, being relatively privileged students of Windhoek International School, were able to undergo a change in perspective, by seeing the conditions in which others are forced to live. This campaign was a definite eye-opener and helped us become so much more grateful for what we have. It encourages us to make more positive changes in our community, being more selfless and motivated to helping others.



Thyra Eysselinck & Gabie de Freitas Bacalhau

CAS Project

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme is a two-year educational programme primarily aimed at 16 to 18 year olds. The programme provides an internationally accepted qualification for entry into higher education and is recognised by many universities worldwide. The IBDP is taught in schools in over 140 countries and the first students graduated with the International Baccalaureate Diploma in 2002.



In addition to six subjects students must complete three core requirements: The Theory of Knowledge, Extended Essay and CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service). CAS aims to provide students with opportunities for personal growth, self-reflection, intellectual, physical and creative challenges, and awareness of themselves as responsible members of their communities through participation in social or community work (service), athletics or other physical activities (activity), and creative activities (creativity).

A CAS project is a collaborative, well-considered series of sequential CAS experiences, engaging students in one or more of the CAS strands of creativity, activity, and service. The primary purpose of the CAS project is to ensure participation in sustained collaboration. Through this level of engagement students may discover the benefits of teamwork, planning and the importance of social skills when working with people they have never met before. A CAS project challenges students to show initiative, demonstrate perseverance, and develop skills such as those of cooperation, problem-solving and decision-making.



To read more about the IBDP programme please go to: <http://www.ibo.org/>

For our CAS Project, Gabie, Kyle, Leart and I decided on doing something linked to the environment. As we all know, water is a scarce resource in Namibia and it is vital for the survival of all living organisms. We live in an arid country that is regularly afflicted by droughts. Large rivers flow only along its Northern and Southern borders, but they are far from the population centres. They are also far from the country's mines, which are large water users.

Last year due to water conservation legislation, our school fishpond, which is located at the PLC, was removed. It now leaves a rectangular boundary filled with soil and a few local Namibian plants. Not only did we find this an opportunity to redesign the space, but we also found it an opportunity to work with the younger students of the school and educating them on why water conservation is important in Namibia. Therefore, we have decided on calling our CAS project the Indigenous Garden+Water Conservation Project at the PLC. Our project began in September 2017 and our aim is to have it completed by the end of February 2018.

As the Grade 4s will be learning about indigenous plants of Namibia, we have teamed up with Ms Kirstin Hildebrandt and her class to make their learning experience more memorable. Our idea is to educate them on the importance of water conservation, as well as the techniques and reasons why one should limit the amount of water we use. We would also like to teach them about the indigenous plants of Namibia and how important plants are to the world. Assisting us in this project will be Mr Fabian von Hase, the founder of Eco Living Namibia which aims to educate society on sustainable food gardening and the techniques of farming in Namibia's harsh climate. Together we must work as a team and use the strengths of each member.

Each member is like a piece to a larger puzzle that will come together in the end.

To read more about Eco-Living Namibia please go to: <http://www.ecolivingnam.com/>

Our plan for this project is shown below

- September 20th 2017- Find a class that will be learning about the indigenous plants of Namibia.
- September 26th 2017- Contact Mr Fabian and request if he would be interested in being our mentor for this project.
- January 17th 2018 - Meet with the Grade 4 homeroom teacher Ms Kirstin Hildebrandt and discuss about the day we will give an introductory presentation to her students and plant seedlings.
- January 29th 2018 - Give our presentation to the Grade 4s and begin to plant seedlings.
- February 1st - 20th 2018 - Start to find sponsors for plants and soil.
- February 15th 2018 - Have a meeting and go through the design of the garden and the drip irrigation system.
- February 27th 2018 - PLANTING DAY WITH GRADE 4s AND SPECIAL GUEST MR FABIAN.

To further experience our journey, keep an eye out for next week's article!

Ashraf, Gabie, Kyle and Leart

Christmas Break Stateside

Mr. Jackson-Read interviews Lola Borrioni.



TJR: So Lola, you spent some time in the US over the Christmas holiday?

LB: I successfully auditioned for a 30 day dance programme with Millennium Dance Complex in Los Angeles. The selection process was done in RSA last year with dancers from all over Southern Africa.

TJR: What was the daily routine like for the time you were there?

LB: Basically hectic dance workshops from dawn till dusk. We were at the studio at 0600 most days and finished around 2300. It was physically very tiring but as dance is something I'm passionate about I guess the adrenaline kept me going. The highlight was being the principal performer in a music video. I had 15 minutes to choreograph a piece that was used for on a song called 'The Vibe is Right'.

TJR: How did you finance the trip?

LB: Over the last 6 months I've been giving hip-hop and contemporary lessons at Nucleus Gym on Saturday mornings and some savings from birthdays and gifts, that covered the airfare!

TJR: Did you meet any interesting people while you were there?

LB: A few famous dancers and music artists and lots of really good dancers from all over the world. It was quite intimidating as everyone was so focused but being in that environment makes me want to be successful in the world of expressive dancing even more. Oh yeah - I met Mark Wahlberg as well!

TJR: Do you find it hard to balance academic studies with the demands of dancing?

LB: To be honest, yes. It's quite a challenge in terms of time but hopefully I will be able to get through the next 4 months of school and do well in my finals.

EARLY CLOSING on WEDNESDAY 21st FEBRUARY

Something we have done – and will only ever do – very infrequently is close the school early for staff training. But we have run out of scheduled professional development days for the current school year and we do need to have a couple of hours with all teaching staff before the end of February.

Please be advised, therefore, that on **Wednesday 21st February** all classes will end at 13:30. All classes up to and including Year 9 would in any case finish at 13:30 but on this day Years 10 to 13 will also be dismissed at 13:30.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Peter MacKenzie, Director

2B celebrating 100 days of school



Hepatitis E and Cholera Outbreaks in Windhoek

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Centre for Disease Control has prepared some information for us on the recent Hepatitis E outbreak and Cholera diagnosis. Please read the article below. My latest information is that the little boy who was diagnosed with cholera has recovered.

At school, our teachers have been raising awareness in their classrooms about the importance of efficient hand-washing, especially after using the bathroom and before eating. Please contact me if you have any questions.

~ Sharon Gorelick, School Nurse ~

HEPATITIS E AND CHOLERA OUTBREAKS IN WINDHOEK

As you may have read in the newspaper or seen on the news, the city of Windhoek has a Hepatitis E and a Cholera outbreak.

The first case of Hepatitis E infection was detected in October 2017, and an outbreak was declared in December 2017. Most cases have been found in the Havana and Goreangab neighbourhoods of Katutura in Windhoek. To date, over 500 people have been diagnosed with confirmed and presumptive Hepatitis E. There have been 4 deaths, 3 among pregnant women and one infant born to an infected mother.

Hepatitis E is caused by the Hepatitis E virus and causes fever, fatigue, vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhoea, and jaundice. Jaundice is a common symptom and easy to recognise as it makes the whites of the eyes turn yellow. The Cholera outbreak was just confirmed this week. There has been 1 laboratory-confirmed case among a 10-year-old boy and 2 suspect cases associated with this case.

Cholera is caused by *Vibrio cholera*; it causes severe acute diarrhoea disease. A patient with cholera will lose a lot of fluids very quickly and is at risk for severe dehydration if care is not sought quickly.

Hepatitis E and cholera infections commonly are due to exposure to contaminated water and food sources. Poor hygiene (not washing hands, lack of basic sanitation, etc.) helps both infections spread more easily.

What can you do to keep your children and your family safe?

Avoid unsafe water sources

Avoid undercooked food and food from unsafe sources

Hand wash - - hand wash - - hand wash! And always with soap or hand sanitiser!

Give oral rehydration salts for all vomiting and diarrhoea

Seek medical care for severe vomiting and diarrhoea, or if you note jaundice.

Pregnant women with any symptoms consistent with Hepatitis E should seek medical advice immediately as this infection can cause severe complications during pregnancy and after delivery

More information about Hepatitis E and Cholera can be found at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hev/index.htm>

<https://www.cdc.gov/cholera/index.html>



The First Piper...

...is – or will be when he’s finished – Ross Jennings. Ross (who is himself the product of an international school education) intends to become the first person to play the bagpipes in every country of the world – hence “the First Piper”.

He played for us on Tuesday but, even more enjoyably, he talked about the metaphorical journey that brought him to have this unique ambition and, of course, the literal journey that he is now on. Namibia, it turns out, is the 72nd country in which he has played and it is hard to think that he has ever enjoyed a more enthusiastic welcome.

WIS kids from three to eighteen laughed at his stories, were inspired by his message, and gasped when he demonstrated how one person with a shapeless bag could produce such a variety of sounds. His presentation was informative, witty, entertaining, and motivating. (Don’t be surprised if your children ask for a set of bagpipes for Christmas.)



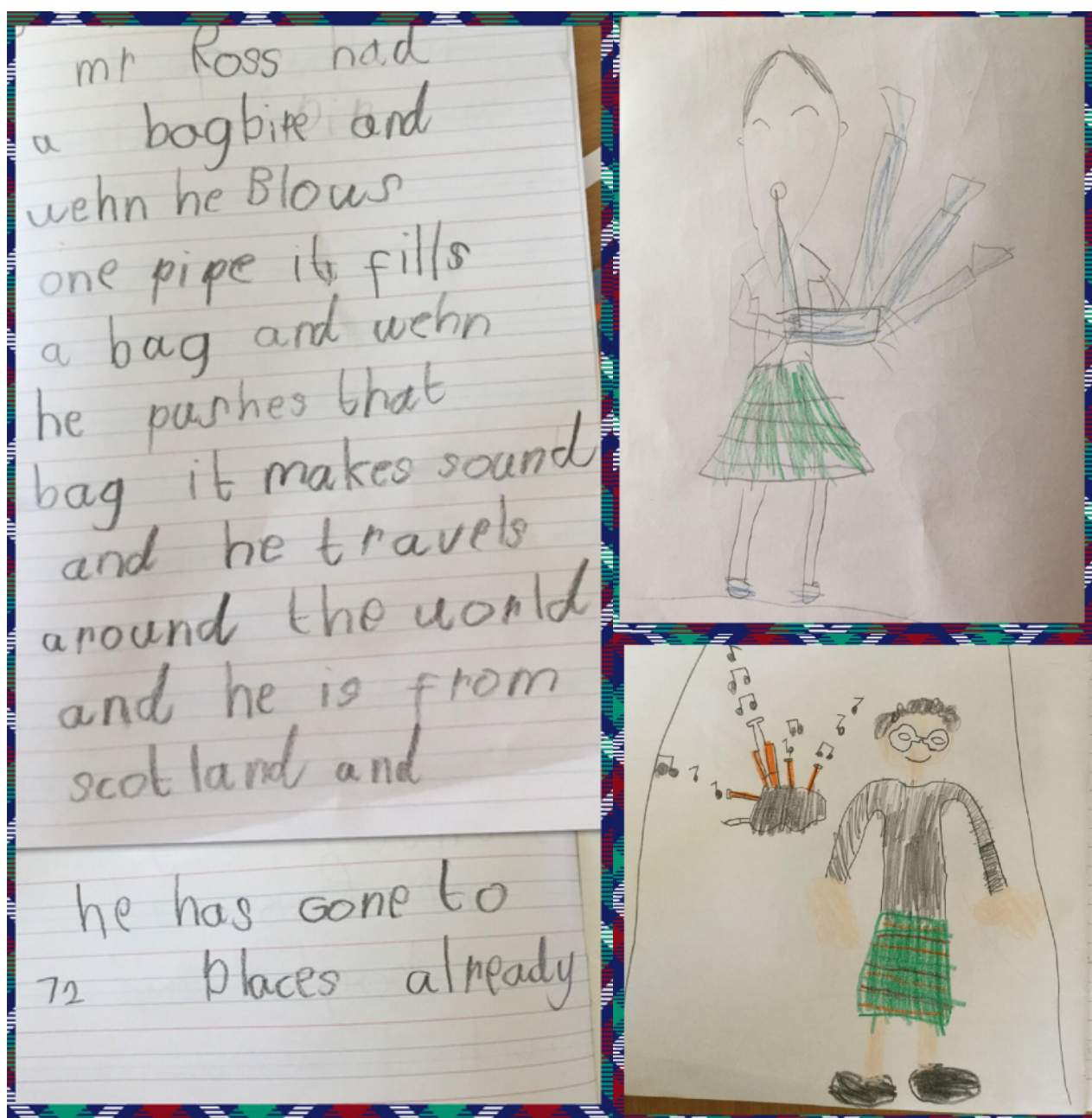
Wish you'd seen him too?

You can get a taste of what your children enjoyed in this brief video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kd2vc6YG4So>

And perhaps you can do better than that. Ross is still in Namibia and will be back in Windhoek in two weeks. We are talking to the PTA and we hope to have Ross return to the school on **Friday 16th February** in the early evening. If you think you would enjoy a family braai to the accompaniment of the bagpipes, save the date!

Anyway, here is what 2B made of it:



WIS 2017/18 YEARBOOK COVER COMPETITION

**...because this
does not look
right....**



STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO DESIGN A COVER FOR THIS YEAR'S YEARBOOK. THE BEST ONE WILL BE PRINTED ON THE FRONT COVER OF EVERY 2017/ 2018 BOOK!

RULES

- ▶ THE DESIGN MUST BE A4 SIZED
- ▶ CLOSING DATE: 15 MARCH 2018
- ▶ ENTRIES CAN BE SUBMITTED DIGITALLY OR AS HARD COPIES
- ▶ MAXIMUM OF 3 ENTRIES PER STUDENT
- ▶ PRIMARY ENTRIES SUBMITTED TO MRS VEENA, VNAMBIAR@WIS.EDU.NA
- ▶ SECONDARY ENTRIES SUBMITTED TO MR. SMIT, RSMIT@WIS.EDU.NA
- ▶ THE FOLLOWING TEXT MUST BE ON THE COVER (ANYWHERE):
 - WINDHOEK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
 - YEARBOOK 2017/ 2018

It's about happiness, love, joy, kindness & pride

I LOVE MY PET

SPCA PHOTO COMPETITION

COMPETITION RUNS FROM:
15 January 2018 - 28 February 2018

HOW TO TAKE PART IN OUR COMPETITION!

Send your photo and proof of payment of the entry fee to :
spca.moniquer@gmail.com

Include the following information: name of person & name of pet, short description of why you love your pet, how he/she adds value to your life.

**CASH PRIZES
TO BE WON!**

- 1st Prize: N\$1000**
- 2nd Prize: N\$600**
- 3rd Prize: N\$400**



COMPETITION RULES:

- Any age individual with his/her pet (one entry per pet)
- Photos can be taken by camera or cell phone - quality not the main factor - it is more about happiness, love, joy, kindness & pride between owner & pet.
- **N\$100 per entry!**
- Winners to be announced: **10 March 2018**
- Judges decision final
- All photos will be posted on the SPCA Windhoek Facebook page.
- Press Release with photos of winners will be send to all media