



# THE ORYX

*The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School*

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## Dates to Remember

### October 2017

- **24:** UN Day Assembly
- **24:** Board Meeting

### November 2017

- **11:** International day
- **14:** World Diabetes Day
- **17:** Staff Work Day - No school for students
- **28:** Board meeting

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

### Odds and Ends

As you may know, the Tuck Shop is now under new management. **Marilize Labuschagne** has been in charge since Monday and we look forward to working with her and her team. Please let us know if you have any observations (good or bad) regarding the current service.

In fact, now might be a good time to inform parents that we are seriously looking at a new facility (bigger, better, and most probably in a different location) to replace the current Tuck Shop. Essentially, the current facility was never intended or expected to provide a variety of hot meals for several hundred people a day. But that is what we do and so we want to do it properly. I'll let you know more when I know.

You have probably noticed that the Portuguese Language and Cultural Centre has received a long-overdue new coat of paint and it looks great. I have written before about how these things are far more than cosmetic. The physical environment in which we teach has a very real impact on student performance and behaviour.

In the same spirit, let me tell you that new blinds have been ordered for about 30% of our classrooms. The current blinds were never of good quality and many are damaged beyond repair. New ones should be installed before the end of the Term. (And further classrooms will have their blinds replaced next year.)

Lastly, if you are in school during either of our Breaks, you will see that the teachers on duty now sport bright orange reflective jackets. This is so everyone (but especially the learners) can see immediately who is on duty.

All small steps but all in the right direction.

Have a good weekend.

**Peter MacKenzie**  
Director



## WEEKLY PUZZLER

Not surprisingly, it seems that no one found time during the holiday for weighing of imaginary golf balls, so that puzzler will go back into the vault to be released again at some future date.

Our puzzler about water jugs was solved by Francisco Ferreira in year 8. Great job Franciso! His solution can be found here: [Water Jug Solution](#).

This week's puzzler 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).

## PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Welcome back from the October Break. I hope the week was fun and relaxing for all. Term 2 is filled with many events and happenings and the following are just some of the highlights.

The Pupkewitz Swimming Gala is taking place this afternoon and tomorrow. We have about thirty of our students participating. Many of these students participated in our own WIS Swimming Gala held a few weeks ago. They've also attended a few afternoon practices.

International Day is fast approaching and November 11th will be here before we know it. The classes have been busy preparing their stands for the big event and many parents have given time and donations. If you haven't been able to support or get involved as yet with the International Day preparations, it's not too late. The teachers would greatly appreciate your involvement.

The Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Testing will be taking place in Years 2-6 in mid-November. This assessment tool is new this year and we are looking forward to seeing how this can help us improve teaching and learning. More information about MAP will be provided nearer to the time the testing sessions begin.

We have been revising our Semester Reports so that they are more reader friendly and communicate more clearly your child's progress in school. The reports will be issued through iSams (our information management system) which will hopefully eliminate the human error of issuing the reports by email. An information session about the new report is tentatively scheduled for the end of November. The report templates have been sent to iSams to be created and uploaded to our system. Details and explanation about the new Semester Report will be forthcoming.

The Primary Production, Once Upon A Time, is well underway and the children are busy with learning their lines and actions. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, December 6 so that you don't miss the show! It promises to be very entertaining.

Regards,  
Beth Smith

## U9 WIS vs NPS

The U9 Boys Football team continued to improve on their previous performances in the Hopsol Football league. This time we took on Namutoni Primary School in Saturday's fixture.

Alijah's impressive performance in goal and some great outfield play between Till, Ali, Dante and Reuben ensured the game was a closely contested match. Final score however 6 - 3 to NPS





## What's up in the PYP at WIS?

**Welcome back to another busy term in the Primary Years Programme. What's going on in your child's learning?**

Our students are currently closing their first (KG1 & 2, Yr 6) and second (YR1-5) unit of inquiry over this week and next week. This is a time for students to be sharing their ideas, understanding and using a variety of skills to communicate this across to their teachers, others peers and to parents. This is part of the process of inquiry where students get an opportunity to have input, initiate their ideas, ask questions and be part of guiding their own learning.

### Some examples of learning and inquiry happening recently:

**KG 1** have just finished exploring and finding out about themselves and their class peers and teachers throughout the unit of inquiry, *Who We Are*. This was a fantastic unit for getting to know your child, helping them cope with the transition from home to school, as our little ones settle into what it's like to be at school. Throughout this unit children are trying to come to terms with who we are, getting to know their friends, sharing and taking turns, and getting to know their classmates.

**KG 2** have also just finished a unit, *Who We Are*. They were exploring different families and getting a sense of where we all come from, differences and similarities of families and their friends at our school.

**Year 1** have been exploring a sense of who they are throughout the unit of inquiry, *Where We Are in Place and Time*. Year 1 students explored and identified their own personal growth and change over time and were able to connect this to where they are now. Students have been reflecting on their strengths and setting goals for themselves as to where they would like to develop and grow further. They will have an open house for parents and the school community next week to reflect and share their understandings.



**Year 2** are in the midst of exploring the world around them through the *Sharing the Planet* unit of inquiry. They are getting a sense of life around them, particularly plant life, and how they can be responsible and take part in caring for plants and their planet. Currently they have had a personal project to care for a tomato plant with varying results!



**Year 3** have been very investigative and explorative throughout the: *How We Organise Ourselves* unit of inquiry. The students have been exploring the process of food and how it gets to our table. This has provoked a lot of testing, experiment, and in some lucky cases, tasting to find out how this process works. Students presented their findings from research and put together a personal project about their understanding of the process of a food source. An open house was offered today for parents and other classes to come and share in their learning.

**Year 4** have been very curious researchers throughout the How the World Works unit of inquiry. This unit was geared towards the discovery of how I am connected to the universe. What is the universe? And how does this work? The students asked a lot of questions, and got very hands on as they explored and researched planets, stars, galaxies and solar systems in connection to earth itself. They have been sharing their information with classmates this week and creating models and posters to show their understanding.



**Year 5** have been investigating how machinery and innovations can help us, during the unit of inquiry, Where We Are in Place and Time. They had the opportunity to go to the local Namibian Breweries to see how machinery is used to help us create a product. They experimented and designed their own machine and creation as inventors and they reflected on what is an effective tool to help humans.

**Year 6** have been getting to know each other through the unit of inquiry, Who We Are. This was a great opportunity for students to understand the changes that are happening as they face puberty. The students were very open and keen to find out more so they can get a sense and understanding of who they are. This unit also built up a rapport within the group and encouraged them to consider others and understand each other better.

This is just a small snapshot into what is happening in the classrooms. Please visit [classroom blogs](#) and attend open house events like we have just had today to find out more about your child's learning.



*Avril van Zyl - PYP Coordinator*

# WIS DONATION PROJECT

## for Omaandi Combined School

**Whole School Council Project:**  
This year Windhoek International School will be supporting a school in the North of Namibia. They have not got the kind of facilities and resources like we here have. All donations will be collected until the end of November and donated to this school in the North. Please bring donations to your child's class.

Thank you  
Primary Student Council



### Primary Donations can include:

- Good quality reading books
- Art supplies - paint/glue/paper
- Stationery:  
pencils/kokies/crayons
- Exercise books and paper
- Sports equipment - soccer balls/hoops/beanbags

**BE SUN-SAFE!****MESSAGE REGARDING AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES**

Please pack an extra hat and apply sunblock to your child's skin on the days that they have an Afternoon Activity in the sun.

**Once upon a time in a land not so****“FARAWAY...”**

**Date: 6th December 2017 Time: 19:00**

**Venue: Windhoek International School Auditorium**

***SECONDARY PRINCIPAL***

How best can our students prepare themselves for their future?

This is a topic of discussion that crosses our paths almost every single day. Be it as parents, teachers or students. Is there a right way to prepare for life after school? Is there a way to prepare for your future career? Surely, the answer to these questions must be NO from all involved. There is not only one way and there definitely is not A RIGHT WAY.

For this purpose, we here at WIS try to involve our students in different activities to make them aware of what is out there, to sensitise them to life after school. I try to advise students on university applications - courses, entry requirements, financial aid and other matters. However, the most difficult choice lies with the student: What am I going to do when I am done with school?

There are so many opportunities, but at the same time there are many challenges - thousands of fields of study, ever new jobs that come into existence, BUT how long will certain jobs still be in demand? Can we afford to send our child to the US or the UK? How competitive is our child academically - or maybe our child should pursue a more practical career? All these questions are not easy to answer and mostly don't have a straightforward answer.

It is therefore of great importance that we talk about the future - kids among themselves, kids and their parents, students and their teachers and advisors. WIS also tries to open the avenues available to our students to make them more aware. For example, this year, we have subscribed to 100 Mentors, a virtual platform that gives our students the opportunity to research and get in touch with different mentors and institutions. On Monday, we had a talk with Max Mohammadi, a mentor on 100 Mentors. He is regarded by Forbes as one of the 30 most

influential people in the world. He spoke a little about his path to success. One question that he answered was: What habits do you have that make you successful? His answer: I plan before I start doing something - the 20/80 rule ("By the numbers it means that 80 percent of your outcomes come from 20 percent of your inputs".)

On Wednesday, we were speaking with Mehdi Ordikhani-Seyedlar who is a computational neuroscientist - a research scientist interested in brain-wave patterns generated by neural activities in the brain. (Feel free to look at this information about his research: [https://www.ted.com/speakers/mehdi\\_ordikhani\\_seyedlar](https://www.ted.com/speakers/mehdi_ordikhani_seyedlar)).

In November, a professor from the University of Michigan will visit WIS and talk about studies in the USA and what students and parents should know when embarking on studying in the USA. From 13th November to 17th November I will attend the CIS Forum on International Admission and Guidance. At this forum, I have the opportunity to present our school to over 350 university admissions representatives from the US, the UK, the Netherlands, Canada, and different European and Asian countries are present. This is an excellent opportunity to meet university staff personally and form relationships with these universities.

Why am I sharing all this information? Because one of the topics around the family table from Year 9 onwards should be what the journey after school should look like. In Year 10 students do a Work Experience - specifically with the purpose to have the experience of the world of work. Discussions and talks about this are so important to guide and give clarity to our young people.

**Regards,**

**Maggie Reiff**

## Sprachwettbewerb

### National German Language Competition in Namibia



The Goethe-Institut Namibia on Saturday welcomed more than 100 learners from 26 schools across Namibia to compete in the 30th National German as a Foreign Language Competition 2017 (Nationaler Sprachwettbewerb 2017).

Learners from Grade 7 to 11 were chosen at their schools and entered into the competition. "Being entered and participating was already an award because you are the best at your school," said German Ambassador to Namibia Christian Schlaga.

Learners completed a 30-minute oral examination that gave them the opportunity to showcase their language skills in German. If not in an exam, learners played the "Autobahnspiel" that consists of stations named after 16 German cities. At each station, a team of players completes a challenge in ways ranging from conversing with a mother-tongue German speaker and identifying horoscopes in German to naming melodies written by German composers and re-enact famous photos of German football players.

The game was designed to expose learners to the German language and encourage beginner learners. Sending winners to Germany, the Goethe Institute provides the students with first-hand exposure to the German language, country and culture.

Four students from WIS were selected to participate in the competition. We are proud of our students' achievements! From Year 9: Olivia Shino (5th place); Year 10: Lene Liebenberg (3rd place); Year 11: Alexander McNab (5th place) and Year 13: Albe Jacobs (2nd place).



*I thoroughly enjoyed the German language competition at the Goethe institute this year because it allowed me to develop new friendships as well as give me the needed confidence boost in speaking the language. - Albe Jacobs*

**Carola Beyer and Christina Krappmann**

## Môreson Concert

**Saturday, 21 October 2017**

I have been a volunteer worker at the Môreson Special School, which is a school designed to educate and accommodate cognitively impaired children. Due to a lack of time, I stopped working there after school. However, the hours that I did spend at the school made me realize something. When I was with the children, I didn't feel like I was working or helping the community, I felt myself enjoying my time with the kids and making new friends. I enjoyed being with them, playing with them, seeing the joy in their faces when I came to visit them.

This made me decide to want to show the children in any way possible, that I am still caring for them and want to help them have a better life, since I have stopped coming to visit them personally. Combining my passion for playing the piano with my desire to help the school, I decided to organize a fundraising concert of which the proceeds will go to the school.

My goal is to raise awareness for the children attending the school, to get more people aware of where the school's location is, what it does, and how they can help. In the years I have lived in Namibia, I have noticed that interest and demand of classical music is lacking in this country; therefore I have decided to make the concert a classical one. I will be performing, as well as a classmate of mine, and three well-known classical musicians. Tickets are available in the School Office.

**Selina Kinne - Year 13**

## Year 10 Orange River

The Year 10 Orange River trip of 2017 was nothing short of an adventure. Filled with energy, excitement and adrenaline, it was truly a memorable experience for everyone.



The class was faced with challenges the moment we left base camp in our canoes, as it was the first time rowing for most of us. From jumping off towering boulders into the cold waters below us, to the mighty, unforgiving rapids and the strong winds that pushed us back, things were tough. Despite our struggles, we persevered and made it to the end (with a few slip ups along the way). The journey required each student to give it their all.



By the time we set up camp by the side of the river, we had plenty to keep us entertained. We all remember spending those late nights by the campfire, talking, playing games and (you guessed it) telling ghost stories. Everything was perfect, the food, the canoes and the guides. Not one complaint.

This trip was absolutely unforgettable, by the end we had all become closer, bonded as a class and learnt more about others and ourselves. I already find myself missing those days of rowing down the river. It was a fantastic excursion and I hope that next year’s students will enjoy it as much as we did.

**Joshua Thomas**

## PTA NEWS

### THANK YOU!

The entire PTA would like to extend its deepest gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Wonder Mushonga of LEX Technologies (Pty) Ltd for his generous donation of a laptop in order to assist with the day-to-day operations of the PTA. The laptop will be used in the PTA Community Centre. The Centre is fast becoming the “one-stop shop” for WIS parents. The PTA will continue to grow the Centre so that it can assist with all parental needs. The PTA Community Centre provides parents with the information, the support and the platform to share their views and contribute to the success of our school!

**By Nangula Geingos , PTA Member**



*Mr. Mushonga hands-over the donation to our PTA Chair Sandra Giroud*



### Have you seen it? Have you experienced it?

The Parents & Teachers Association Community Centre is the meeting point for Volunteering, for sharing ideas to connect with the community to find out about the PTA various social initiatives.



***“Creativity is the practical process of putting our Imagination to work” - Sir Ken Robinson.***



Most people have good ideas occasionally but to put them into practice, it takes commitment and goodwill, and this is called creativity.

The primary art department & the Year 6 students did the paintings in the PTA centre. The Papier Mache afternoon activity club, years 3-5 did the Vases, which they have kindly donated to the PTA Community Centre, to be admired by the Parents & Teachers that frequently use the centre.

We could not be more grateful for such a delightful gesture from the students, therefore we want to say a Big fat:

***Thank you, Obrigada, Merci, Dankie, Gracias to the: Primary students & The primary art department.***

Please handle with Care.

***PTA Chairperson***

## Calling All Net-ballers!

**Time:** 5.30 - 7.00

**Place:** WIS Courts

**Date:** 25 October 2017, Wednesday



Please come and join our senior girls development team on Wednesday Evening

## 14 November is World Diabetes Day

**Celebrating the birthday of Dr Banting – the man who discovered insulin and made it available to all!**

**If not for him, my 8 year old son, Louis, would have died...and the next diabetic been diagnosed might be either yourself, your wife, your son, your father, your domestic worker or the colleague next to you...**

It is November again, the month we try to raise awareness towards diabetes but also to raise much needed funds for the kids that are supported by the Namibia Diabetes Lifestyle Foundation...and we need your help with both of these initiatives!

Diabetes is a condition that is on the increase globally – approximately 1 in 11 adults have diabetes – 50% of whom do not know it! Diabetes left untreated could lead to complications like blindness, kidney problems, heart attacks, strokes or amputations.

The more people we can make aware of diabetes the better! Type 2 diabetes can in some cases be prevented or otherwise be successfully managed.

And then there is Type 1 diabetes which usually (but not necessarily ) occurs in children. This happens when the pancreas stops functioning – thus they are totally insulin dependent. And this is where we need funds because the Namibia Diabetes Lifestyle Foundation take care of 13 underprivileged children in providing them with lifesaving insulin every month.

We need N\$10 000 per month for these 13 children.....

The Namibia Diabetes Lifestyle Foundation run different projects during November to create awareness and raise funds. Please find attached the Foundations' 2017 Letter for Support, explaining everything that is presented with all the necessary contact details should you wish to get involved.

*I am responsible for the **Denim-4-Diabetes stickers sold at N\$10 each** to wear on 17 November together with your denim. **Please** support me!*

Maybe you don't want to do any of the above – not everybody has the time for this – you can still get involved in sponsoring! Please consider sponsoring a child for one month, or for three, or the foundation for a month's costs. You can sponsor the printing of the stickers – there are many options. Any help will be appreciated!

Please contact me should you or your firm be interested to support us on any of the above mentioned initiatives – it will be appreciated very much!

Kind regards,  
Heloise Kotze  
[081 228 5563](tel:0812285563)



**13 CHILDREN**  
need monthly (Approx.)

N\$ 2,100 for test strips	N\$ 800 for needles
N\$ 6,300 for Insulin	N\$ 800 for Consultations

This costs close to N\$ 10,000

Help us support them.  
Make a donation  
NOW.

NAMIBIADIABETES  
LIFESTYLE FOUNDATION 

# Denim 4 Diabetes

NAMIBIA **DIABETES**  
LIFESTYLE FOUNDATION



FUNDRAISING FOR THE DIABETES FOUNDATION NAMIBIA



**Buy a sticker & wear it with your Denim/Jeans to  
show your support for diabetes in Namibia.**

Please contact Heloise at 0812285563 or [narogas@gmail.com](mailto:narogas@gmail.com)

**DATE: 17/11/2017**

**Stickers cost only N\$ 10.00**


**Get your school or company involved.**

Banking Details: Namibia Diabetes Lifestyle Foundation  
FNB Account: 62249942914 Branch: 280071



# MÔRESON SPECIAL SCHOOL

Môreson Special School is a school, located in Khomasdal, which is designed to educate and accommodate cognitively impaired children. It caters for 150 intellectually impaired learners from all over Namibia. Amongst these learners, there are some that come from very poor families, some are orphans, and others are abused and neglected children. The director of the school, Anita Krefft, envisions a successful future for her students; her school accommodates the children with physical and mental impairments. Her goals are to make her students independent and self-reliant. Therefore her priorities lie in constructing sheltered workshops, where her students who have the most difficulties finding an employment can work and receive a regular wage. The proceeds from this concert would contribute to this project.



# MÔRESON CLASSICAL

A charity fundraiser concert

## CONTACT US

wsmi@wis.edu.na  
skinne@wis.edu.na  
mkrafft@wis.edu.na

## VENUE

- DHPS AULA
- 21st OCTOBER 2017
- 18:00-20:00
- N\$100 per person




## FUNCTION OF THE CONCERT

## PERFORMING ARTISTS

Enrico Palascino  
Jurgen Kriess  
Abbie Bekker  
Gretel Coetzee  
Selina Kinne

## ABOUT THE CONCERT

- Duration: 2 hours
- Intermission: 20 minutes; snacks and drinks will be sold

## ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

Most notably, famous pieces by Bach, Chopin, Gershwin, Mozart and Schubert will be played.



This is a beneficiary concert for the Môreson School for the Cognitively Impaired with the aim of helping those that are less fortunate. We also aim to encourage a higher demand for classical music as well as generate awareness for the artists.



WINDHOEK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL  
STUDENTS PRESENT

# MÔRESON CLASSICAL FUNDRAISING

21ST OCTOBER  
18:00 - 20:00  
DHPS AULA  
N\$100 PER TICKET  
STARRING SELINA  
KINNE, ENRICO  
PALASCINO, GRETEL  
COETZEE, AND  
JÜRGEN KRIESS

CONTACT: SKINNE@WIS.EDU.NA  
MKRAFFT@WIS.EDU.NA  
WSMIT@WIS.EDU.NA