



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

Annual General Meeting



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Dates to Remember

October

- 3 - 7: Secondary Week A
- 3 - 4: Secondary SPTC
- 5 - 6: Primary Three-way Conf
- 7: Interhouse Matches
- 7: End of Term 1

FROM THE DIRECTOR

GERMAN

I am pleased to announce that Carola Beyer will be joining the teaching staff from the start of November. She will be teaching German in the Secondary School.

Carola is Namibian and a highly qualified and experienced teacher of languages and in addition to German she will be taking a class of English. She will liaise with the outgoing teacher over the next month and the hand-over should be quite smooth.

AFTER-SCHOOL CARE PROGRAMME

Parents who take advantage of the after-school programme operated by Ms. Sonandré will be receiving an important letter next week. If you do not receive one please let the school know.

AGM

And all parents will shortly receive notification of the forthcoming Annual General Meeting. This is an important event and I hope parents will make every effort to attend. Further, it is likely that there will be some vacant positions on the Board of Directors. If parents think they may be interested in serving on the Board please speak to a current [Board Member](#) or me to learn a bit about what is involved.

With best wishes
Peter MacKenzie



Teacher Feature

Kaye Van Rooi - Year 6B

I was born and raised in Johannesburg, South Africa and come from a family that is very dear and close to my heart. We are three sisters of which I am the middle child of the family. I hold a bachelors degree in teaching from the University of South Africa and had the opportunity to teach at government, private and a special needs schools.

Those opportunities laid a solid foundation for my teaching career. I love adventure and needed an out of the box experience in my life. I then took a year off teaching to go and travel the world.

I joined well known airline, Qatar Airways. During this time, I was fortunate enough to stay in Doha which was one of the best experiences of my life. This allowed me to see different countries and experience a diversity of cultures.

This opportunity really made me appreciate life and family. It has taught me to embrace life, no matter where I found myself in the world.

Continues on page 3

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Thank you to all parents who completed the Google form for the Three Way Conferences. If you didn't sign up for a conference time, one has been assigned to you. Today your child should bring home an invitation of the day/time of your child's conference(s) next week.



There were several considerations that went into the scheduling of the conferences including siblings, the specialists requested, location of the conference and minimising the movement from one conference to the next.

Here are some suggestions that you can do before, during and after the conferences:

BEFORE	AFTER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Discuss the conference with your child: What is going well in school? What would make school better? <input type="checkbox"/> Make notes of questions about your child's progress. <input type="checkbox"/> Make notes of concerns that may need to be discussed at a separate conference. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Discuss goals set with your child and monitor progress towards achieving goals. <input type="checkbox"/> Continue to encourage your child.
DURING	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Turn your cell phone off so that you can devote your full attention to your child. <input type="checkbox"/> Siblings should not be part of the conference. They may wait outside the classroom or in another area of the room. <input type="checkbox"/> Be relaxed. <input type="checkbox"/> Enjoy this time with your child. <input type="checkbox"/> Allow your child to speak. <input type="checkbox"/> Direct questions to your child and your child's work. <input type="checkbox"/> Contribute your goals for your child. <input type="checkbox"/> At the end of the conference, if needed, make another appointment with the teacher. 	

I look forward to seeing you next week during the conference days. I hope you find the conferences to be a positive and informative experience.

**Regards,
Beth Smith**

Teacher Feature continued

This was a thrilling time in my life, everyday getting onto a plane and going to a different country, shopping, eating and experiencing life in different places.

A few years later I met a wonderful gentleman from Namibia, got married and that is how I ended up in Namibia. My husband, Reginald, is a great blessing to my life. We share our life journey with each other and I share everything with him.

As the saying goes, all roads lead to Rome. I have been given a great opportunity to teach at Windhoek International School. What I appreciate at WIS is the people. We embrace all cultures and generally everyone is open minded. As an individual in the WIS community of people, I have learned that personal growth and development can take place daily.

It is what each individual makes of the opportunities made available to them. This I found to be the case for both teachers and learners. The people at WIS really grow on you.

Personally I strongly believe that we were all put on this planet for a purpose that goes beyond ourselves. This purpose is to identify the need in others and to be of service to others no matter how big or small that need might seem.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” - Nelson Mandela.

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

How do we - parents and the school - prepare our children for life after school?

- When is a good time to start planning for what happens once our children leave school?
- Should they do the IB Diploma or is IGCSE sufficient?
- What will they be doing once they leave school?
- How will they know what is out there?

There are many questions that all our children are starting to ask once they start the IGCSE course. Now is the time to start thinking about tertiary education and life after school. The dilemma here is that kids are still quite young to be able to make these big choices and there is so much out there that it is hardly possible to pinpoint one specific field.



There are, however, some pointers that might help in the process of deciding:

- ➔ The most deciding factor is probably finance. Can my parents pay for what I want to do and if not, what options do I have?
 - ◆ There are loans from banks, but they are expensive and it takes a long time to repay the money.
 - ◆ There are scholarships, but they are in high demand and you need to be super-competitive to be able to be awarded a scholarship.
 - ◆ In essence, there needs to be a conversation about the financial possibilities.
- ➔ Which country am I going to study in? Once again, there are many different factors, influencing this decision.
 - ◆ How far from home do I want to go?
 - ◆ Safety
 - ◆ Opportunities in different countries
 - ◆ What will my passport determine?
- ➔ What are my realistic expectations of the field of study I can pursue?
 - ◆ How competitive am I academically?
 - ◆ What can I offer that will make universities want me as a student (sport, leadership experience, community service)?
 - ◆ What can we afford financially as a family?

These are a few thoughts we have to have before we involve ourselves in specific plans for the future.

Here at WIS, we aim to start discussing and involving our students in career planning in Year 10. Students do a work experience in their field of interest to get an idea whether this is something they would want to work in for the rest of

Navigating the digital world (part 2)

Last week, I wrote about [Common Sense Media](#), a good resource to help parents navigate the digital world with their children. Another good resource is The Family Online Safety Institute. FOSI highlights the best tips and approaches to online safety for parents and caregivers looking out for their children. [CLICK HERE](#) to find out more about FOSI.

Danai Maramba



SECONDARY
SPTC
3 - 4 October:
See d6 for details!

PRIMARY
Three Way Conferences
5 - 6 October:
See d6 for details!

their lives.

In Year 11, students are part of presentations and university visits to get some information of what is expected and what is out there. In Year 11, students should already start researching institutions and areas that are of interest for them. When students choose subjects for the IB Diploma, they should know the basic requirements for their tertiary education to ensure they choose the correct fields of study.

In Year 12, students should spend most of their time researching universities, schools and colleges to find something that is a fit and to be aware of the requirements for chosen courses (SATs/ACTs, subjects, grades, other information that needs to be prepared). SATs/ACTs are required for studies in the US and can already be taken in Year 12. Certain fields of study have specific subject requirements and grade requirements for admission.

Finally, in Year 13, most students will start applying. Depending on the country they intend studying in and the course they would like to apply for, application deadlines vary from September to March the following year.

We here at WIS try to guide each individual student in this process to prepare for life after school. There are individual meetings to guide each individual student in the journey with the Career Guidance Counsellor on a regular basis and when requested.



We have now signed up for 100 Mentors [website](#), a service providing guidance for universities mostly in the UK and the US.

I will be attending the CIS Forum on Admissions and Guidance in Barcelona in November, where I will have the opportunity to meet with admissions officers of many different universities from around the world. I will also be attending the CIS - AISA Institute on International Admission and Guidance in Africa in South Africa in March 2017.



Regards,
Maggie Reiff

Q & A Car Boot Sale

Tips for the Car Boot Sale Saturday 22 Oct.10 to 3pm

•What is the idea behind it?

The idea is to stimulate entrepreneurship, create an opportunity to get rid of second hand goods and to socialise. It gives artists and collectors a chance to expose their talents and to sell to the public.

- **What happens to the money I make?**
It's all yours!
- **What is the N\$100 fee for?**
This fee will be collected from each vendor except WIS kids. The proceeds will fund small initiatives throughout the school.
- **What if I have nothing to sell?**
Come and browse and chat to sellers. You never know, something may catch your eye.
- **Can I tell my friends and family to come along and join in?**
Yes. And friends of friends too.

REMEMBER

- A comfortable chair(s)
- Carrier bags and wrapping material for your sold items
- An umbrella for sun protection (or rain)
- Small change
- A pen and paper if you need to give a receipt

TIPS

- Create a shop window at the car boot.
- If you feel that you are being made to feel uncomfortable by an over eager haggler, we'll help resolve any issues and call security.
- Keep your valuables safe.
- Use a snug fitting money belt for your takings.
- If you use a cash tin then keep it in your vehicle.
- Lock any vehicle doors that do not need to be open.
- Keep handbags and other valuable inside your vehicle well out of sight.
- Remember to check that everything you sell works and is in good condition.



MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WIS CAR BOOT SALE SATURDAY 22 OCTOBER
Time: 10am to 3pm
Open to all
Come and buy or sell

What can you sell? BRAND NEW OR USED GOODS!
Anything you no longer love or want
Arts and crafts, jewelry, pottery, hand-made cards, paintings, furniture and fittings etc.
Anything goes!

N\$100 fee per car boot

Children welcome and entrance free
Games, food, drinks, ice cream and more on sale

Further queries to Sandra @ 081 446 5625 and kbritz@wis.edu.na



HALLOWEEN DANCE!

Place: PE Hall

Cost: N\$ 30.00

Dress: Halloween dress up (but it's not compulsory)

Date: 28 October 2016

Time: 18:00-21:00

Only middle school students
Yr 7- Yr 9

PICCOLLAGE