



# THE ORYX

*The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School*

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

**Is your child "gifted & talented"?**

**Maybe, maybe not.**

One thing we can do in The Oryx is share with parents interesting and provocative articles about teaching and learning. I think you'll find this one is both of the above.

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2017/jul/25/no-such-thing-as-a-gifted-child-einstein-ig>

Quote:

*"There is a canon of research on high performance, built over the last century, that suggests it goes way beyond tested intelligence. On top of that, research is clear that brains are malleable, new neural pathways can be forged, and IQ isn't fixed. Just because you can read Harry Potter at five doesn't mean you will still be ahead of your contemporaries in your teens."*

The good news is this:

*"While the jury is out on giftedness being innate and other factors potentially making the difference, what is certain is that the behaviours associated with high levels of performance are replicable and most can be taught – even traits such as curiosity."*

Remember Angela Duckworth and "grit"?

### Tuck Shop

Peter D'Alton, who has been running the Tuck Shop for a number of years, has recently informed the school that he is leaving to take up a career opportunity elsewhere. He has become a popular and well-liked member of the school community and we will miss him. But everyone will want to join me in wishing him and his family every success in their new venture.

This now raises the question of what we are going to do about the Tuck Shop but I see this as an opportunity rather than a problem. Peter has worked wonders with what he has but, in truth, the present facility was never designed to provide a variety of hot meals for several hundred people. Even before Peter announced his departure we were considering various options including scaling back what we can offer, enlarging and redeveloping the current facility, and building something new that will be bigger and better. These deliberations have now acquired an added degree of urgency.

In the short-term, however, we need to make arrangements to continue to provide drinks, snacks and light meals to students and staff. We have recently invited tenders from interested parties.

**Peter MacKenzie**

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## Dates to Remember

### September 2017

- **18:** Board Meeting
- **18 - 22:** Year 12 Field Trip
- **25:** Lower Primary School  
- Photo Day
- **26:** Secondary School  
- Photo Day
- **27:** Upper Primary School  
- Photo Day



## Teacher Feature

### Lyndsay Bain - Year 6B

Hello! My name is Lyndsay Bain and I'm the new Year 6 homeroom teacher.

I am a proud and lifelong Alaskan; it's as much a part of my identity as my family. Alaska has helped shape who I am just as much as living the life of an international educator. I am just as comfortable taking in the sights of a city as I am playing outside in the dark at sub-zero temperatures. I appreciate hearty Italian cuisine as much as I enjoy a caribou hotdog. I equally value the sophistication of metropolitan attitudes as I do indigenous lifestyles. Most importantly, I know that while I can hold Alaska as an idyllic home, I strongly embrace the importance of discovering and celebrating diversity.

I didn't always know I wanted to be in education, but just like tumblers clicking in a lock, as soon as I first experienced it, I knew it was a perfect fit.

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## PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

The following appeared in the 25 August 2016 issue of the Oryx. As this school year is well under way, I thought it worth repeating as a friendly reminder that there is so much happening in your child's daily school life. "Nothing" can mean many things.

*How many times have you asked your child, "What did you do in school today?" and your child's response was, "Nothing". The following poem describes what a Pre-School/ Kindergarten child's day might be like.*

### The Nothing Poem

When children come home  
At the end of the day,  
There's a question they're asked  
As they scurry to play.

*"Tell me, what did you do in school today?"  
"Nothing. I did nothing today!"*

Perhaps nothing means that I played with blocks.  
Tied my own shoes, or found beautiful rocks.  
Maybe the monarchs hatched today.  
Or maybe I found a new friend to play.

Maybe today was the very first time  
My scissors followed a very straight line.  
Perhaps I learned a new song, and sang all the words,  
Or I touched a feather from the strangest of birds.

When you're in preschool and your heart has wings,  
*"Nothing"* can mean some wonderful things!  
– Author Unknown

*Children in Years 1-6 also have new discoveries and experiences in a day. I've adapted the "Nothing" Poem for this age range.*

### The Nothing Poem for Years 1-6

Nothing can mean that I read a new book,  
Wrote a story on my own, or in After School Activities learned to cook.  
Maybe I made a new friend today.  
Or maybe I learned a song on my recorder to play.

Maybe I understood a Math concept finally at last  
Or in PE I ran really, really fast.  
In Language class I learned to speak a new sentence or two,  
Or perhaps I used an app on my iPad in a way that was new.

During Art I used wax and dye to make batik  
Maybe in Drama I acted out a character in a way that was unique.  
Today during Break I played soccer and scored!  
My day was full and I was never bored.

When you're in Primary School and your heart has wings,

### Teacher Feature continued

As a teacher I look for what inspires me to inspire them.

I began my career in education working in a self-contained autism program. And I was good. I was passionate and I wanted to be the best teacher I could be for my students. I learned all I could about autism and educational methodologies that would allow me to successfully reach my students. I was a natural in the autism program and I loved my job. But, I needed "more". I went back to university and gained my diploma in Elementary Education.

I graduated university and obtained a classroom teaching position in Bucharest, Romania. After six years there I evolved into a highly trained IB PYP teacher. I have found my "more". Teaching and learning through inquiry, guiding students as they develop a conceptual understanding and making meaningful global connections to the world is as natural to me now as breathing!

When I'm not teaching, I enjoy spending time with my rescue dogs, friends and family, knitting, reading, adventuring and traveling. I'm very excited to be here in Namibia and consider it to be my biggest adventure yet!

"Nothing" can mean just about anything!

The next time you ask "What did you do in school today?" and the answer is, "Nothing", consider the above and that "nothing" is really saying much more.

Regards,  
Beth Smith

## SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

### Spring is in the air - do we take notice?

How many of us notice the change of nature? The flowers on the bushes and trees, the birds changing colour, the haziness in the air, the wind etc. I have often heard that people from Europe and the USA can't feel spring here in Namibia.

For me, spring is the best time of the year. Nature awakes and one can feel how everything starts growing and "living" after the dry winter season.

It is so important, that we notice what happens around us, not only in nature, but also in our community. Especially in schools, we are so dependent on each other - as students in a class, as colleagues in staff and as a community. We should take notice of the happenings around us and be part of the changes that happen all over. WIS has just started a new school year and already lots of things have happened. We have had a presentation by the Namibian Police which was very thought provoking. We had our Back To School Nights which delivered some interesting conversations and we will be preparing for several school trips in the next months.

Do you notice what is happening in school and take part in our school life in some way? Do you chat in your family about exciting things that concern our daily lives? Simple almost unnoticeable things that are part of our everyday routine. Very much like spring here in Namibia - it is almost not noticeable, but so worth appreciating and enjoying.



With this new academic year and the new season in full swing, take the time to chat with each other and share what makes life beautiful or difficult with each other. Are you planning to participate in your child's stand at International Day? Will you be attending Student Parent Teacher Conferences in October? Are you encouraging your child to participate in school activities?

## **HAPPY SPRING AND DON'T FORGET TO CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS ON SATURDAY NIGHT.**

Regards,  
Maggie Reiff

## **Turn Left!**

When you drive onto the school campus through the main gate you have two options. You can either turn left or turn right.

Go left!

After an exhaustive survey conducted by the leading professionals in their field (actually, in the car park), it has been determined that if you turn right you have only a 9.3% chance of finding an empty parking place.

But if you turn left you have a 127.9% chance of finding a place to park.

The conclusion is clear: Turn Left!

## **Cyberbullying**

Social media tools open up a variety of opportunities for us. Everyone uses social media tools differently. Some don't use social media at all. Others say it's bad. Is it? I use certain tools for Professional Learning, some to interact with friends and family. I only use a few. How do you use social media tools? Social media is not bad; like anything else, it's how we use it.

Children are signing up for lots of social media tools regardless of whether they are old enough to do so or not. Most tools require users to be 13 years of age. Parents need to be aware of that and have conversations with students to ensure they are accessing these tools when it is appropriate.



**ROAST ME**

Our students need to know how to deal with trends in technology. In some cases they get hurt emotionally and that leads to all kinds of problems. [ABC News](#) published this story [What parents should know about roasting, a new cyberbullying trend](#). While parents can't be aware of all of the trends, it's important to be aware of some of them and to talk to your children about these trends. Subscribing to the mailing list for a website like the [Family Online Safety Institute](#) could be a way to keep up with trends and to know what you should be looking out for. There are lots of disturbing trends like cutting, roasting, the blue whale challenge to mention a few.

**Danai Maramba**





# Early Years in the PYP parent workshop

**Come find out about what the PYP is all about: Toddlers, KG 1, KG 2 & Year 1 parents.**

For those parents who have not had a chance but would like to know more about the PYP programme.

Date: Tuesday, September 5th, 2017

Time: 07:30-08:30 am or 12:25-13:25 (you will only need to attend one session)

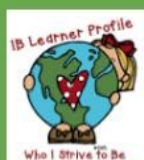
Venue: PLC Auditorium

R.S.V.P [avanzyl@wis.edu.na](mailto:avanzyl@wis.edu.na)

via google form [link here](#)



Thanks! PTA will be providing Coffee for parents.



# PYP parent workshop

**Come find out about what the PYP is all about: Year 2 through to Year 6 parents.**

For those parents who have not had a chance but would like to know more about the PYP programme.

Date: Thursday, September 7th, 2017

Time: 07:30-08:30 am or 12:25-13:25 (you will only need to attend one session)

Venue: PLC Auditorium

R.S.V.P [avanzyl@wis.edu.na](mailto:avanzyl@wis.edu.na)

via google form [link here](#)



Thanks! PTA will be providing Coffee for parents.



## PTA Election Committee Report

### WIS PTA Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The PTA Election Committee was identified on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July 2017 and consisted of three PTA members. This committee, as per the PTA constitution, is responsible for coordination of the PTA nominations and elections, if needed.

A call for nominations was sent out via the D6 and The Oryx newsletter in a letter to the community on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August 2017. The goal was to solicit nominations for the twelve PTA executive committee positions.

Exactly twelve nominations were received by the 25<sup>th</sup> of August (the closing date for the nominations). As an election is needed only if there are *more* than twelve nominations, no election took place. All twelve nominees now make up the *PTA Executive Committee* for the 2017/2018 school year. The WIS community was notified of these members via the D6 & The Oryx newsletter.

This election committee has ensured that the WIS community has been fully informed throughout the nomination process and feels confident that this process has been carried out correctly and transparently.

As chairperson of the elections committee, I would like to thank this committee for their work in completing this process. Thanks are also due to our *2017/2018 PTA Executive Committee* for their willingness to serve on this important committee.

**Sandra Camilo-Grioud, Janet Roscoe, Kathleen Britz**

# PTA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2017-2018

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

First row: Sandra Camilo Giroud, Janet Roscoe, Ana Dias, Cintia Martin  
Second row: Millicent Kapitako, Atousa Fischer-Buder, Stella Ileka, Daisry Mathias  
Third row: Ekaterina Shino, Ajit Nambiar, Rui Afonso, Nangula Geingos

Faculty Reps: Kathleen Britz (primary), Lian Cohen (secondary)





## WINDHOEK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL TUCK SHOP - INVITATION TO TENDER

A Tuck Shop operates on school premises providing drinks, snacks and light meals for students, staff and visitors.

It is open every school day (from 8am to 3pm) throughout the year (~185 days) and on other occasions such as when sports events occur over a weekend.

The school owns the facility and equipment but outsources the operation and staffing of the Tuck Shop.

The school covers the cost of all utilities but charges the operator a monthly rent. Thereafter, the financial management of the Tuck Shop is entirely a matter for the operator.

Applications are invited from interested parties who would be willing and able to assume responsibility for the tuck Shop from late October 2017.

However, please note the following.

The current facilities are not suitable for the preparation of hot meals.

The school is investigating options to build a new Tuck Shop with much improved cooking and food preparation facilities.

The current invitation to tender should therefore be seen as an interim solution to the school's needs.

The school discourages the consumption of unhealthy foods and the Tuck Shop menu should reflect this.

**Interested parties should submit detailed proposals to Carol Heimstadt at [heimstadt@wis.edu.na](mailto:heimstadt@wis.edu.na) by Monday 25th September 2017.**



## Ambitions Sporting Plans Lay Ahead

Few people could argue that WIS students do not possess an abundance of talents in the sporting arena. However, we have students competing in various sporting codes across the city, throughout the country and, in many cases overseas at international events.

The schools sports committee will, throughout the year, provide a range of new sporting events and competitions for all our learners that will help utilize and develop the extensive talents that we collectively possess. There will be a specific focus on girls sports and the position of new and exciting opportunity to get more involved in competitive and recreational sporting activities.

In addition to termly inter house competitions we will be hosting, Football, Netball, Hockey, Volleyball and Swimming events. There will also be duathlon event events.

Watch this space for more details coming soon...

### **WIS Sports Committee**

## Black Box Theatre Space

Our Drama classroom this year has been transformed into a black box theatre space. It creates an alternative performance area for students when the auditorium is being used for other school activities.

It has lent itself especially well to the study of our practitioner of the month of August: Steven Berkoff, whose aesthetic is black and white and minimalistic. This week in middle school, students independently created and performed the poem: Saw it in the Papers by Adrian Mitchell with a Steven Berkoff interpretation, making use of exaggerated facial expressions, tableau, mime and choral speaking.

The students in this performance, reciting the first 4 stanzas of the poem are: Naomi Dukes, India Kay, Genevieve Hinda and JJ Arowolo from year 8B. [Click here to see the video clip](#)



*In the picture we see Ruvelo Soares, Natangwe Nghipondoka, Abraham Neumbo, Jethro Hiwilepo, Jaden Cloete, Aryaman Jai, Beatrice Cherici from year 9B depicting their take on the character Gregor Samsa (who is transformed into a giant insect overnight) from the play The Metamorphosis by Steven Berkoff.*

### **Kate Matzopoulos**





**3 Sep**

Forward 1 hour

### 3 Sep 2017 - Time Zone Change (WAT → CAT)

When local standard time is about to reach

Sunday, 3 September 2017, **02:00:00** clocks are turned **forward** 1 hour to Sunday, 3 September 2017, **03:00:00** local standard time instead.

Sunrise and sunset will be about 1 hour earlier on 3 Sep 2017 than the day before. There will be **more light in the evening**.

**More info:**

[Namibia Adopts New Time Zone](#)

## HAPPY SPRING DAY FROM THE PTA

Welcome to the new PTA committee members!



# SPCA Windhoek 68<sup>th</sup> Birthday SMS Campaign

**HELP US PAY OUR VET FEES!**

**LOTS OF  
DIFFERENT  
PRIZES TO BE WON!**

25 Aug 2017  
**UNTIL**  
30 Nov 2017

**SMS SPCA To 5005**

**N\$5.00**  
per SMS  
T&Cs apply

Send as many sms's as you like during the 3 months.



*Prizes to be handed over in the first week of December 2017.*