

THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we approach the end of the school year, it is perhaps time to deal with a number of issues that annually cause frustration between school and home – in both directions.

Annually, we schedule around 185 days of teaching a year. (It can vary somewhat because of national holidays, where Easter falls, and so on. Next year it is 186.) That leaves around 180 days where there is no teaching. That includes weekends but also public holidays and four scheduled holiday periods including about a month and a half in June/July/August.

So, your child is expected to be in school for about half the days in the year and is not in school for about half. Teachers plan accordingly. We design the school year on this basis.

Please therefore understand that when parents take their children out of school to start their holiday early or bring them back a few days after we have resumed, it interrupts things for everyone. The child in question has missed instruction. The teacher now has some children who have done 'x' and one or two who have not. And for those taking internal exams, leaving early means they are missing an important final assessment.

Sometimes parents ask if it is "all right" if they take their children out early. I don't know what answer they are expecting. How can we say it is "all right"? It's not. Nevertheless, parents will take their children out early and we acknowledge that. But please don't ask us to approve it or give our blessing.

And please don't ask us to set work for children to do because they will miss a number of days school by starting a break early or coming back late. Firstly, it can only be a poor substitute for the work in class they will miss and secondly, it generates additional and essentially unnecessary work for the teacher.

Lastly, please don't request your child's report early because you are leaving early. We will be happy to retain the report until you return or forward it to an address of your choice but preparing and issuing reports early causes problems, stresses, and, frankly, mistakes and it is not our policy to do so.

I hope this doesn't sound unsympathetic or disrespectful but every year we have the same requests and parents don't always understand when our answer is 'no'. I hope this helps you to see the school's point of view.

WIS – The Only IB School In Namibia

Our Year 13 students are now well into their IB Diploma exams and are looking forward to receiving their results in July.

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Dates to Remember

May

- **25:** Africa Day - Public Holiday
- **27:** IBDP Dinner
- **31:** Year 6 Exhibition Evening

June

- **6 - 15:** Sec Internal Exams
- **16 - 17:** Secondary reports
- **17:** End of term 4 - Last day



Teacher Feature

Debisa Cooper: Kindergarten 1

Hi! My name is Debisa Cooper I was born in Windhoek Namibia. I completed my Secondary Education in 2008.

In 2009 I enrolled at the Namibia University of Science and Technology and obtained a degree in Bachelors of English in 2012, in 2014 I graduated with Honours in English where I majored in Linguistics and Literature. After graduating I joined a local weekly Namibian Newspaper working as a journalist.

My love for teaching and working with children was ignited during my third year in University when I was at a local school for my practical as an English teachers. I realised that teaching provides an opportunity to be creative and autonomous each day and not every job provides that.

I believe that every day, teachers mould the future through impacting students' views and understandings.

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The IB Diploma is a rewarding and challenging educational experience in its own right but it is also a passport to further study at excellent universities around the world. Many universities actively look for IBDP graduates because they recognise how well prepared these students are.

You can see [here](#) what Stanford University thinks of the IB Diploma.

With best wishes
Peter MacKenzie

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.

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

With five weeks remaining until the end of this academic year, each year level has been and will continue to be engaged in a variety of activities.

The children in Toddlers are learning about the different people in the community, the variety of ways they work together to help keep our environment safe and clean.

The KG1 classes are inquiring into the various places they learn at school, school as their learning place and learning areas in the their classroom. KG1A finished their swimming sessions, while KG1B began their swimming sessions this week. It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm, for going to their first swimming lessons, on the KG1B faces.

The learners in the KG2 classes are exploring various ways of expressing themselves. One of the activities involved collaborating with the Year 8 English class to write a story. The KG2 children provided the imagination, while the Year 8 students provided the language to write the stories.

Year 1 learners are exploring their own personal histories. They are inquiring into their own personal change between birth and the present, and how they compare to their families.

Year 2 have been learning about bridges and how they help build connections to other people and places. This week the learners have been presenting their models of a chosen bridge and sharing the information learned.

Year 3 learners are inquiring into how people express themselves through their beliefs, values and cultures. Several parents and staff members have visited the Year 3 classes to share stories from their own cultures.

The learners in Year 4 have begun their unit inquiring into poverty: its causes, what it is like and and how children are affected by poverty.

The focus of the last unit of the year for Year 5 is how personal styles and

Teacher Feature continued

Teachers foster creativity, develop character, give students lenses with which to view the world and we provide students with the skills they need to reach their potential and lead productive lives.

I joined the WIS community in 2013 where I started off as a Teaching Assistant in Year 3 and Year 6.

I worked alongside three amazing teachers: Ms Natasha, Ms Yolande and Ms Christi. Hence, I would like to make use of this platform to thank these three phenomenal women who helped contribute to my teaching career. Your passion for what you do is evident, and indeed rubbed off on me as well.

I have been involved in the Primary Years Programme for 4 years and I am enjoying every minute of it. I chose to be part of the WIS community. Here one feels connected to the world in one place because of the various people from different countries.

The Primary Years Programme focuses on the development of the whole child as an inquirer, both within and beyond the classroom.

I am currently a Kindergarten teacher and I think this is a very important learning phase in a child's life.

Early Years teachers play a very important role in supporting children in various developmental areas which will ensure the students are prepared and ready for accelerated learning environments and facilitate an enhanced educational experience.

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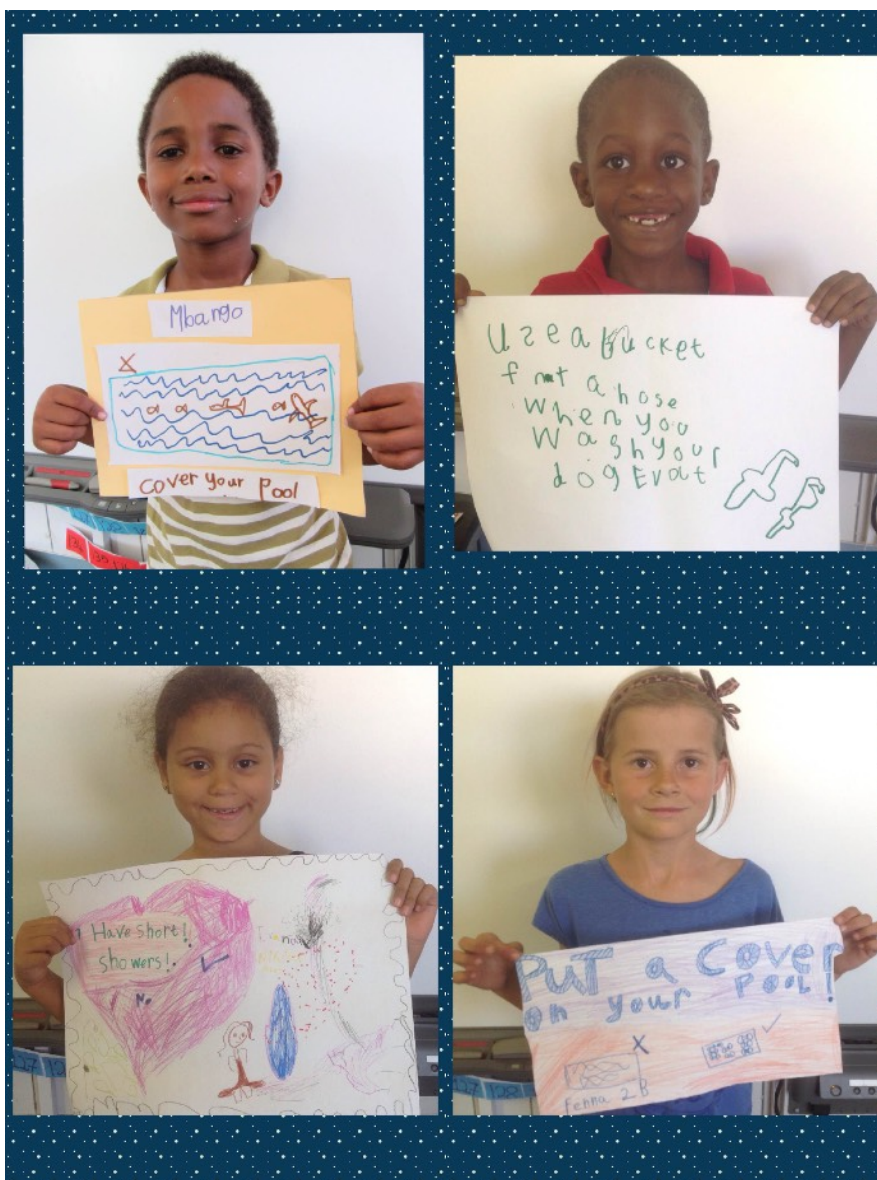
choices create patterns of interactions within communities.

The Year 6 classes are nearing the end of their research for the Exhibition. The students have been putting their interviewing skills to practice and some have been showing action through doing volunteer work.

Each year level has interesting and engaging units. A further thought to Mr. MacKenzie's Oryx article this week, is that when students are absent, they miss the discussions, the visitors and guest speakers, presentations by their peers, and opportunities to collaborate with other year levels. None of these valuable experiences can be made up or replicated.

Kind regards,
Beth Smith

YEAR 2 - WATER SAVING!



Teacher Feature continued

In my spare time I enjoy singing and reading. I was in the NUST choral choir for 4 years.

I find African Literature with the likes of Chinua Achebe to Wole Soyinka fascinating.

I appreciate feminist writers such as Charlotte Bronte to Neshani Andreas who paved the way for female writers internationally and in Namibia.

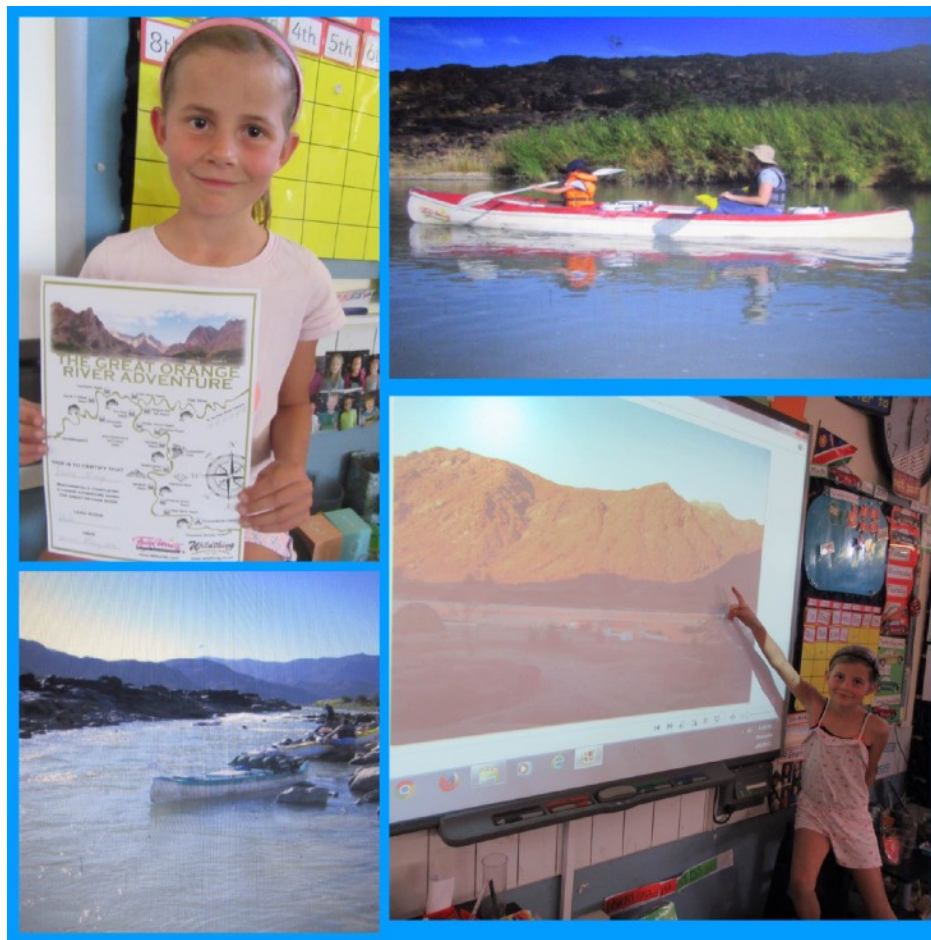
I love spending time with my friends and family and my one year old daughter Nevaeh Cooper. Her name is actually Heaven written backwards I chose that name because she is my heaven on earth.

I have a positive attitude towards teaching and a daily sense of humor, I find things to laugh about each day. Sometimes it will be silly jokes I will make up as I teach that might get a laugh from the students.

Sometimes it will be jokes that kids share with me. And most of the times students always come out with the funniest statements ever.

Teaching is the most rewarding job you will ever do, the incredible joy in seeing the difference a teacher makes as students gain new insights.

Fenna's family won the first prize in the WIS PTA raffle - a canoe trip on the Orange River. Fenna shared her experiences and photos from this amazing trip with her 2B classmates.



SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Who takes care of your child when normal school hours are over and he/she stays at school?

We experience it every day that some children are in school long after the end of the school day and even after the end of Afternoon Activities. Students even sometimes tell their parents to pick them up later.

The question is, who is liable for them, if they hang around campus? Is it a specific teacher (they all work in their classroom at that time or are busy with afternoon activities). Is it someone in admin? - They have their specific duties that do not include supervising children. There is therefore really no one who supervises your child.

What are children up to when they hang around campus? Rumour has it that some things happen here at school that are not necessarily condoned by either the school or would not be condoned by parents/guardians. Unfortunately, there is no one who has the time to walk around campus to check the toilets and the bushy corners to make sure all is in order.

Our plea to all our parents and guardians: Please make sure your

children are picked up when school ends or when the Afternoon Activity has ended.

Students who cannot be picked up at 13:30, can attend our homework club where they will be supervised until 14:45.

At 15:00 latest, all students should be picked up from school.

Before the holiday, we had three nights of great performances with our Drama Showcases. As with every event WIS organises, some children were picked up as late as an hour after the end of the performance. Our staff kindly stayed behind until all children were collected and even drove one child home, because the parents were not able to collect him.

Our plea to all our parents and guardians: Please collect your child(ren) at the time school, Afternoon Activities or events finish - these days with cell phones, it is very easy to make an arrangement. We would hate to see something happening that could have been prevented just by collecting your child on time.

Parents and guardians, please make sure you know your child's schedule - normally there are no activities after 15:00 offered by WIS.

Kind regards,
Maggie Reiff



**The Circus is coming
to Town!**

ROLL UP! ROLL UP!

COME ONE! COME ALL!

Thursday, 16 June 2016
10:00
Windhoek International School

More details to follow soon!



Books

Toys



WIS Winter Charity Drive!

The Primary and Secondary student councils have decided to organise a Winter Charity Drive! With the cold season around the corner, we have decided to donate to a Soup Kitchen in Katutura, who can distribute to people in need in the Katutura area. They feed nutritious meals to around 350 children, from ages 2-12, everyday.

WE are asking people from the WIS community to please help and donate quality or new:

When: Collections take place during the month of May

Where: Collections can be stored in Room 49

What will happen: Student Council reps will take these donations to the soup Kitchen to be distributed to families in need in the first week of June.

Blankets



Socks

Warm clothes



Thank You



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



City of many faces **City of Windhoek** 

Vision: To enhance the quality of life of all our people

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

- Watering of lawns, flowers, vegetables, etc. is strictly prohibited
- No washing of cars (at home) other than utilising certified car washes
- Pool covers are mandatory and no filling of private pools are allowed
- No water features, fountains, ponds, etc. are to be operated or filled

Residents are expected to familiarise themselves with the full extent of the CoW Drought Response Plan, in particular restrictions applicable to the current Water Crisis. Perpetrators risk suspension of supply and a penalty of N\$ 2000.00

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