



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

IMPORTANT - Annual General Meeting

Please let me remind you of the AGM:

Tuesday 6th December at 6pm in the Auditorium.

I hope parents will make every attempt to attend. And I hope a number of you are considering standing for election to the Board.

TCKs

Third Culture Kids. Have you heard the expression? Even if you haven't, you – or your children – certainly know some TCKs. They are the children who change school, location, climate and culture every few years, often switching from one international school to another.

Much has been written about what they gain and lose in the process and just today this item was published on the BBC website. You may find it interesting.

[CLICK HERE](#)

With best wishes
Peter MacKenzie

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

While students have a day off today, making for a 3-day weekend, the Primary teachers and teaching assistants are spending Friday, as well as Saturday participating in two different PYP workshops. The Toddlers-Year 1 teachers, teaching assistants and Learning Support teachers are taking part in PYP in the Early Years; while the Year 2-Year 6 teachers, teaching assistants and Specialists are participating in a workshop centring on inquiry.

The workshops are being facilitated by two IBPYP workshop leaders. Based on the outlines of the workshop modules, the sessions promise to be significant, relevant and engaging.

These workshops are providing the Primary staff with the opportunity to be learners and exhibit many of the attributes of the Learner Profile:

- **Inquirer** - inquiring further about the PYP in a fun and engaging way and enjoying learning in the process.
- **Communicator** - working and collaborating with others; expressing ideas and information.
- **Open-Minded** - being open to new ideas and being willing to grow from

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Dates to Remember

November

- **21 - 25:** *Secondary Week B*
- **22:** *Primary School Photos*
- **23:** *Secondary School Photos*

December

- **2:** *Last Day for AA*
- **6:** *Annual General Meeting*



Teacher Feature

Peter Mackenzie - Director

Have I any business appearing in our weekly "Teacher Feature"? I like to think I have. I spent seventeen years as a classroom teacher before becoming a Principal and "teacher" is still what I write when I'm asked for my occupation.

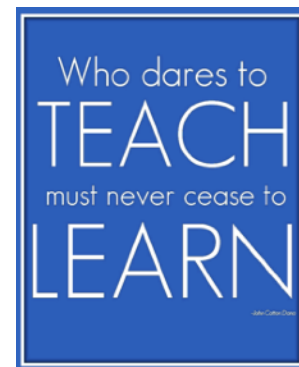
I trained to teach History but later found myself also teaching French (badly!), Geography, Politics, Personal & Social Education, and Theory of Knowledge. I'm still in touch with a pleasing number of those young people I taught between 1981 and 1998 and I have followed their careers and lives with great interest and pride.

My career started in London in the UK but then took me to international schools in Switzerland, Germany, Tanzania, Japan, India, and now Namibia. I wish I had discovered the wonderful world of international schools sooner.

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the experience.

- **Knowledgeable** - developing new understandings which leads to more in-depth knowledge.
- **Thinker** - applying thinking skills critically and creatively.
- **Reflective** - time to reflect on current practice and the learning taking place during the workshop. (Reflection is something we ask and expect students to do often, yet something that educators find difficult to make the time to do.)



Having this opportunity for professional learning, will not only help us to grow in our profession and deepen our understanding of the PYP, but ultimately improve student learning.

Regards,
Beth Smith

IB PYP REFLECTION

In Education, taking that time to reflect is important. Why? Because it is an opportunity to think about and consider how things are going. A Primary classroom is a busy one. You usually think of this and see teachers and students "doing". All are active and busy and on the go. But there is also a place to take time to stop and reflect.

Reflective
Principled
Risk-takers
Thinkers
Knowledgeable
Balanced Communicators
Caring
Open-minded
Inquirers

For the past **10 months** the Primary Years Staff have been doing exactly that. We are currently undergoing an IB PYP self-evaluation study to explore the IB standards and practices that are the foundation of the Primary Years Programme. All staff have been involved in this process of exploring the standards and practices and evaluating on where we are in the implementation of them. This has been a transparent and inclusive effort. At the end of the day, the teachers are the ones who are interpreting and implementing the programme.

The other stakeholders that should be involved are you, the parents. As much as possible we try to inform parents about what we do and give opportunities for you to be involved and gain understanding of our philosophy and programme. This may be in the form of *Back to school night*, *PYP workshops*, *accessing classroom blogs*, *reading articles in the Oryx*, *coming to Open days to celebrate learning*, and *attending conferences and assemblies*.

Part of this period for reflection involves you. In the next week a [google survey](#) will be sent out for our Primary parents to share their reflections on the Primary Years Programme. I would appreciate your input on what you think we do well and ideas on how we could do things better. This study is supposed to help us

Teacher Feature continued

I feel very much at home among people and peoples from all over the world who may not share cultures, faiths, or first languages but who recognise that human similarities are far more powerful and important than our differences.

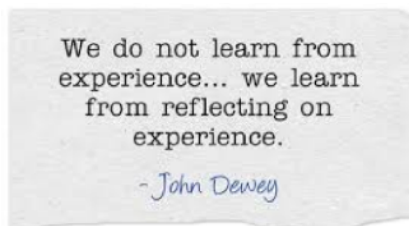
My wife and I married in 1990 in Vienna (a city neither of us had ever been to before) and, in no small part courtesy of the major airline she then worked for, we travelled as often and as far as we could. Argentina, Jordan, New Zealand, South Africa, Brunei, Puerto Rico, Hungary, Canada, Thailand... in fact, to more than fifty countries on every continent. Exploring, meeting new people, seeing new sights, discovering and learning are joys we will never tire of.

Which, of course, brought us to Namibia. We had been to South Africa numerous times and we had previously lived in East Africa but Namibia was a new destination for us. We came to see the school and the city in May 2015 and immediately knew that we would be happy here. We moved here to work in July 2015 and I am now well into my second year at WIS.

My passport says I'm British (unless I'm using the Swiss one) but, to be honest, I'm not sure how much nationality means to me these days. I have spent exactly half of my life not living in Britain and when people ask me where "home" is, I have no terribly good answer to give them.

So "home" right now - and, I hope, for a few more years - is Windhoek. And that makes me happy.

set measurable goals of focus to maintain, improve and sustain and further move the programme and our school forward.



Within this study, I will be collating a report to send off to the IB. This will also include evidence and samples to show what we do. A visiting team, from the IB, will be coming out in March to verify and confirm our study and offer support and advice for us to incorporate in our next five year action

plan for improving the PYP programme in our school. Your thoughtful input would be appreciated.

Regards

Avril van Zyl

FROM OUR PAD (Positive Art Day)

"I love seeing how happy my kids, Eden and Elias, are to show me their art. When they brought these particular pieces home I loved them too much to collect dust. Framing them gives them a proper place on the wall. Art is what makes you happy and there would never be any piece of art I could ever buy that would make me happier than these!" Christa Fischer Walker



Thank you Christa for this lovely comment. It's super to see art appreciation at home to be seen by all who visit.

Genie Albrecht

Exhibition in our PAD

Thank you to all the parents who visited our year 2 and 3 Exhibitions. It is always lovely to see you with your child explaining their art.

Ms Genie and Ms Sigrid





Emojis in the Classroom - Year 3 Edition

As a follow up to an activity in the classroom read aloud "Charlotte's Web," some students applied their knowledge of Emojis by writing a summary of their understanding using the popular 'emojis.' [CLICK HERE for more information.](#)

Diabetes Day

The Year 7's are focusing on the 6+ Writing Traits and the Year 7A class was asked to write an article about the Diabetes day. This is what Sahara, Amani and Melvina wrote.



Last Friday, 11 November, 2016 was a special day for WIS. The whole school chose to support the Diabetes Association of Namibia and raised more than N\$6000.00. The whole school dressed in blue to raise awareness. WIS definitely cares about this matter.

Diabetes is a problem all over the world, but 12 kids in Namibia cannot pay for their necessary insulin, test strips and needles. Raising awareness is really important. Without insulin and regularly testing one's blood glucose could lead to people dying because of this disease. There are two types of Diabetes: Type 1 and Type 2. Type 1 is often referred to as juvenile diabetes and happens when the pancreas is not working anymore. Those who are affected by this needs daily insulin injections to help control the glucose in their blood after eating something. It is not because of too much sugar and unfortunately there is no cure for it either. Type 2 is the lifestyle diabetes and one could get it due to living unhealthily. It is when the pancreas is still working but the cells don't use it as well as it should. The following signs could be an indication of you having diabetes, so look out for these:



The main symptoms of diabetes are:

- feeling very thirsty.
- urinating more frequently than usual, particularly at night.

- feeling very tired.
- weight loss and loss of muscle bulk.
- itchiness around the genital area, or regular bouts of thrush (a yeast infection)
- blurred vision caused by the lens of your eye changing shape.

The students bought stickers for N\$10 and on the Friday morning some students helped Ms. Angie and Ms. Carol to shake a can in the carpark, where the parents who were dropping off their kids, donated their loose change. Management treated the staff to a cupcake which added to the contributions. The whole school community contributed so much and we feel proud to be part of WIS, especially in doing this for such a worthy cause.

Diabetes is a very serious disease and should not be played around with. So, let us all try and keep fit and healthy to have a longer and much more successful life. Thank you to everyone here at WIS for taking part in this noble cause and for helping to raise awareness!

REFUGEE DRIVE

Every minute eight people are forced to flee war, persecution or terror. If conflict threatened your family, what would you do?

If you are asked to leave the place you grew up in the place you call home how would you feel?

You're in a hurry to leave this disastrous place, what do you decide to pack? What would be important to you? Will I ever be able to see my family again? Will it be safe?

These are all thoughts running through every refugee's mind. We are lucky not to be faced with such troubling thoughts, but what about those that are.

As proud members of the WIS Community, Student Council has decided to take action! And take a large step towards peace and making the world a better place for everyone.

We have set up a refugee drive to gather essential living needs e.g. soap, baby pampers and the list goes on...

Each class has been given a list of what items to bring, the list is with every homeroom teacher, and students are welcome to ask their class representatives about this.

Student council and over 3000 Namibian refugees are asking politely for your help to save a few lives and make them just a bit brighter.

Any student, parent or community member that would like to donate more is welcome. Any donations will be humbly and gratefully accepted.

The deadline for all donations is on the 30th of November, we are planning to give these donations to the refugees as a Christmas present.

Donations can be handed in to homeroom teachers or to Mrs. Teresa in the PLC.

Senior Student Council

For more information please contact the Secondary Student council on:

secondarystudentcouncil@wis.edu.na



THE REFUGEES NEED YOUR HELP!

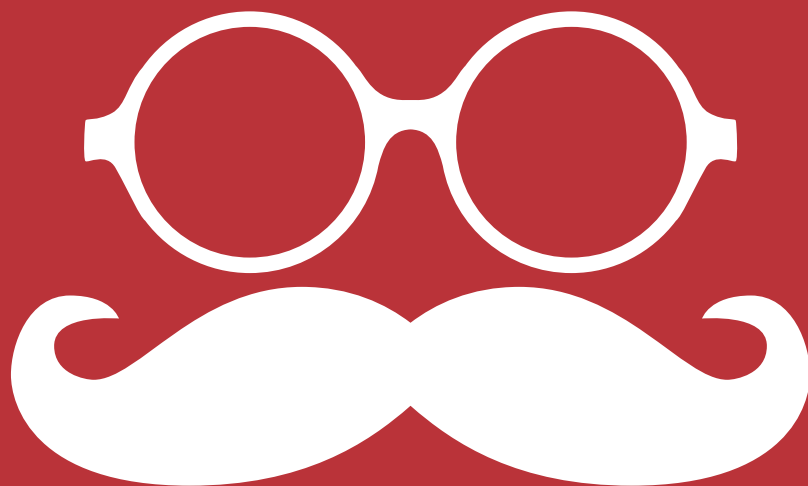
REMEMBER TO DONATE YOUR CLASSES
GIVEN GOOD AND GIVE IT TO YOUR
HOMEROOM TEACHER.
ADDITIONAL GOODS ARE WELCOME.
ALL GOODS ARE DUE ON THE 30TH OF
NOVEMBER

THE WIS SECONDARY STUDENT COUNCIL



JOIN US IN
MOVEMBER

HELP MEN LIVE LONGER,
MAKE A DONATION AT THE TUCKSHOP OR
OFFICE



GROW A MOUSTACHE TO RAISE
AWARENESS OF PROSTATE AND
TESTICULAR CANCER AS WELL AS
DEPRESSION

FOR MORE INFORMATION ASK THE SECONDARY
STUDENT COUNCIL

School Photos

Please place photo orders with your child’s homeroom teacher from **21 November 2016**. Deadline for orders to be placed is **5 December 2016**. Delivery of photos will be done during the week of **9 January 2017**. [CLICK HERE](#) for the Schedule.

#InstaWin



WINDHOEK INTERNATIONAL

Order your 2016 School Photos to stand a chance to **WIN a Fuji Instax Polaroid Camera & Film!**

Get your **School Package** for only **N\$95**, which includes:

- 2x A5 Photos
- 1x A5 Class Photo
- Passport Squares
- 2017 Photo Calendar
- 1x A4 Photo of Choice



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