



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

AISA

As I informed you last week, Maggie Reiff and I are currently in Cape Town at the annual Leadership Conference organised by the Association of International Schools in Africa (AISA). It is wonderful to be with other school leaders from across the continent and to share ideas, problems, solutions and stories. It is also rather pleasing to be reminded of the excellent reputation WIS has within the educational community.



Of more practical value is the opportunity to talk to numerous service providers and organisations with which we are associated such as the IB, CIS, NEASC and Search Associates. Senior representatives of all of these (and many others) are here and it is refreshing to be able to talk face-to-face instead of via e-mail.

We will be back in Windhoek on Monday morning – inspired and re-invigorated after a very full and rewarding programme over three days.

PLEASE VOTE

All parents should have received a very important message from the Chair of the Board of Directors on 12th February. It concerned the need to approve new Articles of Association. You will also have read about this in recent issues of The Oryx.

The Articles need to be approved at a special meeting that will be held on Wednesday 16th March but if you cannot attend this meeting you can vote in the School Office at any time between 7am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Please do. We are still many votes short of the necessary total.

With best wishes
Peter MacKenzie

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Dates to Remember

March

- **1 - 10:** Year 8 Field Trip
- **11:** CAS Assembly
- **18:** Independence Day Assembly
- **18:** End of Term 3
- **29:** Term 4 Starts

Teacher Feature

Viviana Beltran:
Year 4A Homeroom Teacher



Hola!

I come from Bogota, Colombia, located in South America. I came to Namibia in 2011 and so far I am enjoying it. I have been a homeroom teacher at WIS in years 3, 4 and 6.

I received my degree from a reputable university in Colombia, after this I took part in different teaching and methodology courses as well as PYP workshops.

I started teaching 8 years ago in my home country. I was first a lecturer for 2 years and then I decided to work in an International school. From there I moved to Namibia in 2011, and have been teaching at Windhoek International School since then. Teaching in the PYP has given me the opportunity to develop my teaching skills as the learning experiences are hands-on and creative. **Continues on page 3**

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Congratulations and well done to the Year 1, Year 2 and Year 4 classes for their excellent end of unit presentations this week.

The Year 1 students have been inquiring into the theme of How We Organize Ourselves. Their displays and explanations of what a home is showed the importance of creating a space where people feel comfortable to be themselves.

Through the display of various experiments, visitors to the Year 2 class presentations for How the World Works learned many interesting things about light.

Where We Are in Place and Time has been the theme for the Year 4 classes. In addition to learning about the connections that ancient civilizations have with our lives today, students applied their artistic talents to making artefacts representing something from a past civilization and that same item is today.

Thank you to all the parents who visited the presentations. Your presence is appreciated and is important to your children.

Student-Led Conferences

Parents should receive student-led conference time confirmations today. Please plan to include time visiting the specialists classes either before or after the scheduled conference. The children have many things to show their parents/caregivers in these lessons. As a friendly reminder, children MUST attend the conference. Thursday, 17 March is not a regular school day. Children only come to school for their respective conferences.

Kind regards,

Beth Smith

Primary Sports Day

Primary Sports Day was held over two days with great team work and spirit demonstrated by the different houses.



Teacher Feature continued

I love teaching in primary because the kids are curious and I believe that we, as teachers can make a difference in a student's life which will be reflected on our society.

I found in the PYP a great opportunity to act as facilitator/mentor in my classroom to guide the students' actions and learning. I consider action as the manifestation in practice of the students' knowledge, so it is a fundamental part of the learning process. This learning best takes place when it is connected to the world around the student, through personal experiences.

I enjoy travelling, dancing, eating sushi and spending time with my family and friends, as they appreciate my sense of humour.

Interesting facts:

- *I once acted in a Colombian soap opera*
- *My youngest brother is 14 years old*
- *A dream I had was to be part of the Army*
- *I speak English, Spanish, Portuguese, understand a bit of German and battle with Afrikaans*
- *I do salsa dancing - go check the youtube video on WIS's 20th birthday...*
- *I am very superstitious, for example on New Years' Eve I put lentils in my wallet due to the fact that it would bring you money throughout the year. Another example is I take a suitcase and run around the house/ neighbourhood with it, which means that one will travel often.*

I am a hard working and organized person and I truly enjoy teaching and working with kids. I am very happy here in Namibia and at WIS.



Students were able to apply the skills learned in their physical education lessons and everyone willingly participated in all the challenges.

Primary Sports Day was organised around three themes; athletics, team sports and games. Athletics included running, throwing and jumping events in which students displayed their individual ability and sportsmanship. In team sports, students demonstrated cooperation and applying the basic skills used in tag rugby and Ultimate Frisbee/ or Bench ball.



They finished the day with "Tug of War" between teams and a water based game, 'Fireman's Relay', that surely cooled them down after a long day outside.

Everyone seemed to have enjoyed the day, but as always we will try and make sports days much better and enjoyable than the year before.

Primary Swim Gala

Entries for the Primary Swim Gala are now closed. In next week, the programme will be shared with everyone that signed up for this gala. The venue will be at the UNAM School of Medicine in Khomasdal and starting promptly at 14:30.

Parking will be on their campus, but please follow the signs to our allocated parking space. I will also share within early next week, a map with the location of the campus.

To our young swimmers, keep practising over the next week and good luck to everyone.

Fernando Beukes

Creative Cross Curricular Competitive Collaborations

The very welcome rain gave the PE department some exciting opportunity for creative teaching on Thursday, 3 March. Mr B and Mr J joined forces and worked with KG1, KG2 Y1 and Y7 in the sports-hall on gymnastics, coordination games and even parachute activities.



Thomas Jackson-Read

What's happening in the PYP?

Our school offers regular opportunities for parents to find out more about the IB Primary Years Programme. This term we held three short workshops offering a new and exciting 'Introduction to the PYP for Parents Workshop', which was interactive and fun. Thank you to all the parents who attended and took part in these information sessions. We hope to offer more learning opportunities for parents next term too. Thanks to Mr. Danai who offered his technical knowledge and support for our inquiring parents attending the workshop. Please visit his [blog](#) to find out more about technology in our classrooms and things you could do at home.



During the workshop parents explored the [WIS PYP blog](#) and [IBO](#) to find out and inquire into questions like:

1. *What are the IB Learner Profile attributes?*
2. *What are the Essential Elements of PYP?*
3. *What are the Transdisciplinary themes?*

They used the iPads to present their findings to the group using creative applications like Chatterkid, Tellagami, Comic Head lite and the camera!

You can visit [WIS PYP blog](#) to subscribe and find out more about the PYP programme or [IBO](#) to get further information.

Some burning questions from our parents:

How does the PYP compare to other curriculums?



- IB teaching methods and curriculums are re-search based and draw from the best educational practices from systems around the world.
- IB programmes are recognised internationally and ease the educational transitions of mobile students so that their education is not adversely affected if their families relocate.
- IB World schools (the only schools authorised to offer IB programmes) are subject to a strict accreditation process monitored by the IB, ensuring the schools go through a regular accreditation process.

What are the training requirements for the IB PYP?

- All PYP teachers receive professional development in IB PYP. This includes in-

school training/support and IB certified workshops. This will include approaches to teaching and learning, understanding and incorporating our holistic philosophy and fostering the attributes of the IB Learner Profile. Certified IB courses are a requirement of IB World Schools implementing the PYP. This can come in the form of face to face workshops, online workshops or various in school professional sharing and learning. We place a strong emphasis on creating a professional sharing and learning community where teachers can regularly access training and support.



Stay posted for more interesting workshops in the PYP.

Kind regards

Avril van Zyl - PYP Coordinator

Year 5A interviews Annie Kuch

Hi, I am Tomi. And I am Omer. And we are in Year 5A. Here is some of our interview with Mr. Tom's cousin, Annie Kuch, who is visiting Namibia and visited our class.

Hello! First question, what do think of Namibia?

Well I just arrived ... I only arrived yesterday in the morning at 6 o'clock on a bus from Zambia ... I like it very much so far.

How was it in Zambia?

It was nice, very hot and very green. It's also very beautiful with lots of activities that you can do on land or in the Zambezi River.

You've been in a lot of countries. Which one was your favorite?

I really enjoyed every country but recently I've been in Malawi and it's a smaller country, very beautiful. It has really nice mountains, a lot of green, lots of hiking activities and you can also dive in the lake and the people are very friendly.

Obviously you have been to a lot of countries, so, approximately how many have you been to?



How many countries? Big question. *When I started the trip in Africa, I went to Morocco then Mauritania then the Sahara, Senegal, Kenya, Gambia, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia and Namibia. So you've been to a few!*

Every place that you go to, where do you live? In a hotel?

When I started my trip I was with my bicycle. I went to many places where there was no place to stay, so I had to cycle in the desert where there were no taps. When that happened, I slept in my tent. And when I was not sleeping in a tent, I would sleep in a bed and breakfast.

Where was the first place you lived?

When I was your age I was brought up in the UK.

If there was one place that you would live in, what place would it be?

That's a good question. I'm not too sure. I love staying in Africa. I like the weather, I like the people, and I love the experience you can have. I lived on an island, Zanzibar, and I lived there for five months. It's the most time I stayed in one place, and I very much enjoyed that. But I would also want to live in a place like Namibia ... desert and national parks. It's the only place I know of where desert meets sea.

It was fun to meet Annie, and she was very nice and she was funny. We hope she'll keep having good experiences around Africa.

Interview by Omer Babluki and Tomi Femi-Kayode - Photos by Jordan Bester and Jade Yan (Year 5A)

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL



During the past two weeks we had the opportunity to host a student from Mayana. Mayana is a village close to Rundu. I'd like to ponder on our opportunities as belonging to the more affluent part of society. Having been able to give Gerhard the opportunity to experience a different school life has made me think of the great opportunities our children have to be able to enjoy an education of international standards. Being able to offer such an education here in Namibia does open doors for our children and helps them to be on par with young people around the world.

However, it also shows that we should not take anything for granted. Being responsible for advising our graduates in their university applications, I see each year how fortunate they are being able to do the IB Diploma with its different components. More and more countries and universities see the strength of the diploma in its different facets. Through CAS and the Extended Essay, they are competitive and prepared for further studies. Often, their CAS activities show their all roundedness and when given assignments at university, they find it much easier to manage than their peers, because they have learnt to think, to research and to wonder.

Still, the IB Diploma is a very rigorous programme and forces our young adults to take responsibilities that are sometimes taking them to their limits. We are proud to be able to guide them in their journey.

Gerhard had the experience of a totally different environment and hopefully will be able to make use of this in his further education. But he hopefully also brought across the idea that things cannot be taken for granted and that we should appreciate what we are able to give our children - an education that opens doors for them if they invest in it. We, the school, parents and families need to assist and support our

young adults in their quest to become global citizens and help shape their societies and environment. There are so many challenges around us. We need to educate our children to be able to take on these challenges and work for a safer and better world.

Please see information with regards to Student Parent Teacher Conferences on the D6. Conferences will be held on the 15th March (14:00 - 16:00) 16th March (14:00 - 16:00) and the 17th March (16:00 - 20:00).

Kind regards,
Maggie Reiff

Visiting student from Mayana

During the past two week, WIS hosted a student from Mayana. Mayana is a village near Rundu. During the winter break, MCP (Make Change Possible), comes to Mayana for three weeks. Some of our students have already participated in some of the projects MCP has done in Namibia in the past 4 years. One of MCP's projects is to work in Mayana to better the lives of people in living in Mayana. They have so far built a community centre, supplied the village with running water and planted a vegetable garden. These are all projects to try to make the village self sustainable.



In the past two weeks, one of the boys from Mayana visited WIS as a student to get an idea of how things are done in our school. Gerhard attended Year 10 and was quite outspoken about the friendliness of our students and he enjoyed his stay here at WIS. Here is what he had to say about his time spent at WIS:
Gerhard's impression of the two weeks he visited WIS



"I really enjoyed to be at this school. I expected that maybe people will be strange to me, but arriving here was awesome. The first day at the school was cool, people were nice to me. The way learning goes here makes me to enjoy, learning here is a bit easier than at my school. It is really wonderful and an enjoyment to be at this school."

LC Championship photos

National Long Course Swimming Championships held at the Olympia pool, held last weekend. The individual gold winners are Abhinab (year 12) and Victoria (Year 8). Abhinab is also seen as a relay team winner of bronze.



U13 Football

The U13's footballers welcomed a strong team from SKW on Friday afternoon. In the friendly fixture it was SKW who struck first, a great strike from outside the box completed a thrilling passage of play. WIS immediately fought back not once but twice and took the lead going into half time. Very soon into the second half the effects of fatigue kicked in and SKW made several substitutes and quickly scored 3 more goals to take the match away from WIS.

As ever our students performed with the commitment, intensity and effort our high standards demand. All players acquitted themselves very well.

Thomas Jackson-Read

WIS MERCHANDISE

The PTA will be selling hats, shirts etc on Thursdays from 13:00 - 13:45 @ the PTA HUT!

Primary school will have a number of sporting events coming up for our students during the last semester of the school year. Please take note of the following dates:

- March - April Small Schools 7 a side Soccer League u/9, u/11, u/13 (Schedule still to be decided between participating schools)
- u/12: Boys Field Hockey (Awaiting schedule from league administrators)

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - WORD PROBLEMS

FOR THE EYES OF **WIS** Upper Primary Students **ONLY**

Good morning IMF (Impossible Mission Force) Agents,

The meerkat you are looking at is Vapor. He is a traitor. He has stolen one half of a WIS NOWP-LIST (Non Official Word Problem List), a record of word problems and answers for Upper Primary School Math.



For security reasons, the NOWP-LIST is divided in two. The portion that Vapor stole contains word problems (we still have a copy), but this half is useless without the answers to the problems. It is the Answer Key that Vapor is currently creating in his secret lab.

Your mission--should you choose to accept it--is to figure out the answers before Vapor. You need to solve these word problems to prevent a "Blue Strike" from Vapor.

We've already dispatched a team selected from your usual group.

NAME	ALIAS	AGE	NEAREST RELATIVE	CLEARANCE
Year 4A	Ms. Viviana's Class	8-10	Year 4B	Level 4
Year 4B	Ms. Charne's Class	8-10	Year 4A	Level 4
Year 5A	Mr. Marc's Class	9-11	Year 5B	Level 5
Year 5B	Ms. Natasha's Class	9-11	Year 5A	Level 5
Year 6A	Ms. Yolandé's Class	10-12	Year 6B	Level 6
Year 6B	Ms. Kaye's Class	10-12	Year 6A	Level 6

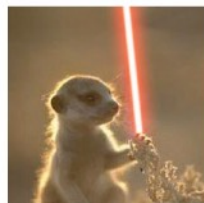
They are now in class and will rendezvous at a safe-house of your choosing. As always, should you or any member of your IM Force not show your work, the school will disavow all knowledge of your answers. **This message will self-destruct in 5 seconds.**

Good luck,
WIS Upper Primary School Teachers

File, Vapor: Info and Photos



Vacationing with mastermind girlfriend, Blemish, after embezzling from the "Classroom Couch Fund"



Vapor is considered Dangerously Adorable



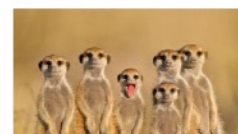
Hiding out in his lair



Vapor with sidekick, Just Rude, during a getaway



Busy trying to create the NOWP-LIST answers in his lab with WIS Secret Agent, P. MacKenzie
Alias: The Director



Pictured middle in this family photo from his childhood ... there were early signs of trouble

Sources: *Mission Impossible* screenplay by David Koepp and Robert Towne. TV series created by Bruce Geller. Pictures (left to right, top to bottom): www.worth1000.com; www.twitter.com/darthmeerkat; www.dailymail.co.uk; www.theinspirationroom.com; www.comparemeerkats.co.uk; www.netro.co.uk



WIS Primary School

SNAP & WIN

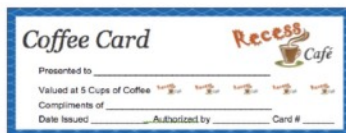
A GIFT VOUCHER TO
Recess
Café

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



WINNER!
EVAN
YEAR 5A

WIS STAFF
WINNER!
MS. BEATA
PICTURE OF
OLIVIA & LOGAN



Theme for the pictures above: **Reading Spot**

Photo credit: nellalorraine.11@icloud.com, azsalle.com, Peter Dalton

dePARTSment Corner

Zula hard at work.
Y9 'Social Criticism' Sculptures will be exhibited in the Foyer during WIS Independence Day Celebrations.
Don't miss it!!!



Visit the Windhoek SPCA's [Facebook page](#) for more information

Kool-Katz Adoption Day

Date: 5 March 2016

Time: 10:00 - 16:00

Place: SPCA Premises - Robert Mugabe Av.

Find that special **Kool-Kat**
to complete your life!

