 **ORANJEMUND PRIVATE SCHOOL**

 **PRIVAATSKOOL ORANJEMUND**

 **OSKOLA YUUMWENE ORANJEMUND**

 **POBOX 11**

 **ORANJEMUND**

 **NAMIBIA**

 **FAX No: +264 63 238188**

 **TEL No: +264 63 238181**

 **e-mail: reyno.nieuwoudt@namdeb.com**

**ORANJEMUND PRIVATE SCHOOL’S PREFECTS VISIT THE THE AI-AIS RICHTERSVELD TRANSFRONTIERPARK**

Oranjemund Private School’s prefects (from the Primary School’s section) had the privilege to visit the Ai-Ais Richtersveld Transfrontier Park from Friday 16 - Sunday 18 January 2015.

The main aim of this camp was to allow the prefects an opportunity to get to know themselves and their friends a little better to be able to select the Head Boy and Girl, as well as the two Deputies.

The prefects were exposed to situations outside their normal everyday experiences. These would include:

* They were put under pressure to see how they and their friends would react
* To test their endurance
* To discover their own strengths and that of their friends
* To experience nature ant to ‘discover ‘ many new things

We were met on the Alexander Bay side of the border by Pieter van Wyk from Sanparks. Along the way we were informed about the ecology, animal and plant life, as well as the geomorphology of the Richtersveld. The visits to the ’Wondergat’ and the ‘baster’ quiver trees were very interesting. We soon realized that Pieter is a ‘walking encyclopedia’ and the ‘Guru’ of the Richtersveld.

We were surprised to arrive at Potjiespram to find that the camp was ready for us. The tents were already pitched and firewood was collected! We were met by our friendly host, Aletta Joseph from Sanparks. The clean ablution blocks really impressed us..

Saturday morning we were shown how to fold the tents up and then we set off for the Orange River. An unforgettable experience was waiting for us. Before setting a foot in the river, we were giving a thorough lesson on safety on the water. For the sake of the prefects, we adopted the ‘TV remote and snacks’ position to assume, for in case someone might fall into the water. We really enjoyed that, except that some of us went backwards down the rapids and soon confused left with right. Luckily we were also warned in advance to prepare us for protection against the sun. Sun burn was kept to the minimum.

We were spoilt with excellent accommodation on Saturday evening at Sanparks’ beautiful and well equipped camp site at Sendelingsdrift. Late that afternoon, we visited the ‘Hand of God’ travelling through the ‘halfmens’-pass. The barbecue back at Sendelingsdrift and the stories around the campfire will be remembered for a long time.

After breakfast on Sunday morning, we visited Pieter van Wyk’s nursery and herbarium to see the small plants. It was really a ‘jaw-dropping’ experience to see the standard and the excellence of the research he is conducting in the Richtersveld.

We said our ‘good- byes’ at the ferry. It was difficult to thank Pieter and Aletta for everything they have done for us over the weekend. There were so many people who assisted behind the scenes to make sure that this was an unforgettable experience for us. Other people assisted with the transport and Godfrey and Marshall were excellent guides on the river. Thank you for your patience with us.

We conveyed our thanks to Mr. Hendrik Prins, who also came to say good-bye at the ferry. We were humbled by the hospitality and we are very thankful for what we could experience. Our sincere gratitude and appreciation goes to the people of Sanparks in general, but specifically to Pieter en Aletta who went out of their way to organized everything for us and also to make it a wonderful learning experience.

Below are some of the comments from the prefects:

*“I found it very interesting and fun. I also appreciate all the effort that is put into the camp.” -* **Anouck Conry (Head Girl)**

*It was very interesting and I learned a lot. Thank you for all what you have done for us.”* - **Nangula Emvulo**

*“I thought the camp was very interesting because we learned a lot about nature and saw interesting things, like the Hand of God, Lady legs, etc.”* - **Manga Simbwae**

*“I enjoyed it a lot. It was a lot of fun and interesting. Thank you for the fun weekend.” -* **Chanél Lamprecht**

*“I loved it. It was so interesting and full of adventure. Thank you for an intense, scary and frightening experience. Think uncle Pieter was an all-in-one combo. I enjoyed it and I think I speak for all of us when I say; I LOVED IT!!” -* **Pietro Tripodi**

*I”I really liked the prefect camp. I especially enjoyed the canoeing and going down the rapids. I appreciate all the efforts that were put into it. Thank you!” -* **Marnus Koekemoer**

*“It was AWESOME. I enjoyed it especially the plants. Thank you. -* **Michael Witbooi (Deputy Head Boy)**

*“It was extremely nice. I learned a lot and had a lot of fun. I loved the canoeing. It was one of the best things we did.” -* **Jannes Wasserfall (Head Boy)**

*“Thank you for everything that you have done for us. The accommodation was also the best, especially the TV, but the canoeing was just the best. I just want to say thank you uncle Pieter for my name (Skottel-oor) Thaibees.” -* **Gerald Fisch**

*“I think that this camp was very awesome. I just want to say thank you to uncle Pieter for teaching me many things about plants and animals. I also want to say thank you uncle Pieter for my name (T’jie) -* **MacDonald Jansen**

*“Thank you very much for this prefect camp. I loved it. This was something I will never forget. I loved everything that was prepared for us. Of course, I will say canoeing was the best. Thank you uncle Pieter and aunty Aletta. That felt like home.” -* **Magano Nampola (Deputy Head Girl)**

*“I really enjoyed the camp. We had difficulties, especially the canoeing. It was fun and it was the first time ever. I enjoyed it. The food was great and the Guest House. Thank you Pieter (#Nuburub) and Aletta. Hope you come and visit us again.” -* **Kauna Lazarus**

*“I really enjoyed the camp and learned many different things. I was even shocked that Pieter knew lots of plants and the beautiful animals. I enjoyed the food and where we slept. I loved canoeing on the Orange River. Thank you for making this camp so much fun and memorable. I totally appreciate it.” -* **Charmaine Ganes**

This camp, your hospitality, patience and efforts will always be remembered. We are looking forward to the next visit!

Warm regards from Oranjemund, Namibia

**Reyno Nieuwoudt** (Principal) and **Ursula Nieuwoudt**

**Abé de Klerk** (Gr 7 teacher and Eco-school Coordinator)

**Ellen Goosen** (Prefect Coordinator)