



Overseas Family School Elementary School

Master Policy:

To maintain a happy, safe and effective school for overseas families living in Singapore

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome back to school and I hope you enjoyed a relaxing mid-semester break. We have an action-packed quarter ahead with many exciting events, such as: Grade 5 MUN, field trips, sports mornings, Holiday Concerts, musical rehearsals, Grade 1, 2 and 3 Art Exhibition and a Lunchtime Concert. Thank you in advance for your support of these upcoming events.



One of our goals in the Elementary School is to provide a balanced educational experience for our students. We have an engaging and rigorous academic program with interesting Units of Work through the International Primary Curriculum (IPC). The students can also spend time pursuing other interests such as performing arts through concerts, musicals, instrumental programs, musical soiree and lunchtime concerts. Sports and Physical Education are important to our students. They have two hours a week built into their timetable as well as opportunities at lunchtime tournaments, sports days and general play. Our After School Sports Program is very popular and allows students to play for fun and building friendships, as well as playing competitively against other local and international schools.

Our Intellectual Development Program with Coding and Chess provides the students opportunities to think, strategise and problem solve in an environment outside of the usual avenues of numeracy and literacy. With the addition of all students learning an extra language or gaining fluency in their mother tongue, through our extensive and unique Foreign and Mother Tongue language programs, they truly have a balance of educational experiences which will prepare them well for Middle School, then High School and beyond. They are currently immersed in an international and well balanced educational environment every time they come to school.

We are proud of how our students not only know the 8 IPC Personal Goals (**Adaptability, Communication, Cooperation, Enquiry, Morality, Resilience, Respect and Thoughtfulness**) but they put them into practice every day. Some students are still learning how to consistently display these traits, but we are there to support them, guide them and help them to learn and grow from their mistakes.

Happy Deepavali ("Diwali") to all our families celebrating the Festival of Lights on 6 November 2018.

Ian Horchner
Elementary School Principal
ian_horchner@ofs.edu.sg



From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

Deepavali Theme Coffee Morning

The Parent Association (PA) invites all parents to join us for a special Deepavali theme Coffee Morning. Deepavali (or 'Diwali') is the Indian festival of light celebrated to mark the triumph of 'good over evil' and 'light over darkness'.

Event: Deepavali Theme Coffee Morning

Date: Thursday, 15 November 2018

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Venue: PA Lounge (Level 4 of Administration Block)

You will have the opportunity to design your own pieces of jewellery using clay, make glitzy and beautiful tea light holders with paper and etc. For more details, please refer to our website: <https://www.ofs.edu.sg/>. In order to provide adequate craft supplies for this event please register your attendance by signing up on the OFS webpage: <https://www.ofs.edu.sg/info/parents/sign-up-1/>. If you would like more information about this or other PA events, please contact our Chairperson by email: parent_association@ofs.edu.sg.

Languages Week

This month we celebrated Languages' Week. Students and teachers enjoyed sharing different cultural aspects of the 15 languages taught here. All the students were invited to activities taking place on Level 3 which was set up like a big marketplace. There were display boards, culture cubes to explore, games, dances and puzzles to figure out. Every morning students did a quiz in their homebase classes and during lunch they could watch short movies or read books in the three languages of the day. Languages' Week finished with a big quiz based on what they had learnt during the week and there were various prizes to be won.





Grade 1 News

We are coming to the end of our second IPC Unit of Work, "Green Fingers!", which we have really enjoyed. The students have carried out a variety of investigations into what plants need to survive. They were very excited to observe and record the growth of their own plant from a tiny seed to a plant with a stem and leaves. We are looking forward to our field trip to Jacob Ballas Children's Garden, which will be a wonderful opportunity for students to observe the native plants of Singapore and apply their knowledge of what plants need for survival.

Our United Nations (UN) Day celebrations gave our students a great appreciation of the diversity of cultures within Grade 1. Thank you so much for supporting our day. The students looked beautiful parading in their national costumes and they really enjoyed sampling the different foods in our UN shared snack. A special thanks too to those parents who gave presentations and helped set up and pack up the shared snack. You can see a display of our celebration in the Grade 1 corridor.

(Joanne McLinden)



Grade 2 News

We continued with our IPC Unit of Work, "Bright Sparks!". The students extended their learning by investigating which materials are conductors and insulators. They applied their new knowledge and skills during a Technology task to make a torch. Our Exit Point gave the Grade 2 students an opportunity to present their new knowledge, skills and understanding to the Grade 3 students. We also had a fantastic UN parade with the Grade 3 students. It was wonderful to see all the students dressed up in their national dress. The Grade 2 classes made international-mindedness a focus for the day and worked together to write about what international-mindedness meant to us. These definitions as well as all of our flags are displayed in the Grade 2 corridor.

(Jenny Riffel)



Grade 3 News

For the past one month, we have focussed our enquiry on international and local artists, as well as recognising the purpose and significance of their paintings, pictures and photographs in our daily lives. The students have been inspired to create artwork of their own based on their appreciation for the techniques and styles used by a variety of historical and contemporary painters. There is a growing display of class galleries throughout the Level 7 corridors that will be showcased during our Exit Point. Our recent visit to the National Gallery likewise informed students of South East Asian artists and their influence. At the same time, students are using picture prompts to practise crafting narratives in writing lessons while they hone their storytelling abilities and express their creativity through words.

(Ryan Lecours)



Music News

Thursday after school rehearsals for this year's ES musical production "Honk! JR." started with full of excitement. Since 26 October 2018, our ES rock stars have started rehearsing songs with their rock band members every Friday during lunchtime. While our lunchtime and after school music activities continue at full force, music classes in Grades 1 through 5 have begun preparations for their grade-level Holiday Concerts coming in late November and early December. As students learn the various songs in class, practice material is being uploaded regularly to the ES Student page to assist in their preparation from home. The concerts will show the diversity of festivals and holidays that are celebrated across our school community. We look forward to sharing them with you.

(Mikiko Lawrence)

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Grade 4 News

The exciting world of living things has been blown wide open by our new science unit, "Existing... Endangered... Extinct?". The students arrived at school to follow animal footprints to a display of interesting animal features and adaptations.

Sorting and classifying are basic human skills as we sort items and events on a daily basis. But how would we even begin to start sorting the millions of animals on our planets into groups? For scientists to take this skill to the next level, classifying animals into various groups, it requires a healthy dose of knowledge. Students have gained an understanding as to what would happen to life on earth if the many intricate food webs that exist started to lose links. Their learning was further developed by the choosing of an endangered animal to research and complete an information report on.

We are looking forward to our trip to Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve where we will have the opportunity to spot and identify a myriad of living things, classifying them into their kingdoms, using field guides to further identify them.

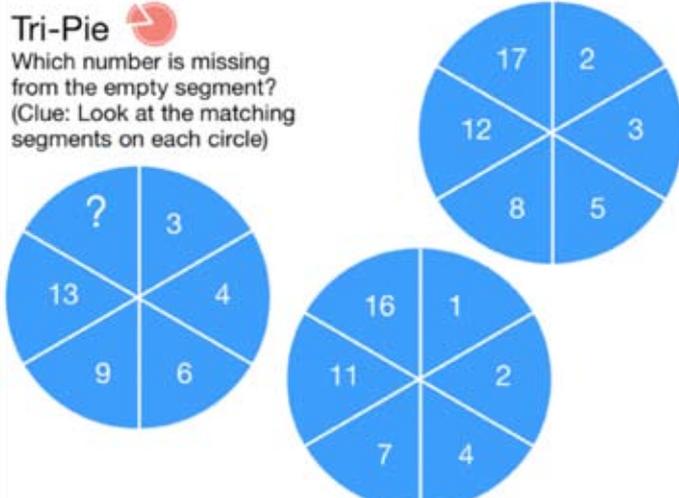
(Peter Williams)



Math-a-Funics

Tri-Pie 

Which number is missing from the empty segment?
(Clue: Look at the matching segments on each circle)



Grade 5 News



The Grade 5 students are currently participating in the Model United Nations (MUN) unit. The students are acting as delegates from countries around the world and are discussing and debating a range of issues that are connected to the UN Global Goals. The MUN at OFS is integrated into our core curriculum and is a wonderful learning environment for the students to develop a range of personal skills. Many students have the opportunities to be Ambassadors, Flag-bearers or the Chairperson of their committee room.



Congratulations must go to Kaelyn De Villiers who has been selected as our MUN Secretary-General and also to Kabeer Hans who was chosen as our Deputy Secretary-General.

The Grade 5 MUN Conference will take place over two days, on Wednesday, 14 November 2018 (Opening Ceremony and Committee Rooms) through to Thursday, 15 November 2018 (Closing Ceremony and shared lunch). Parents are welcomed and encouraged to attend the opening and closing ceremonies.

(Matthew Young)

Library News

Over the last month, students have shown a great interest in reading books from our library displays. New titles are always on display at the front of the library. In addition to this area, we now have a STEM display (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics), a short-term Halloween display, with books for all ages, and a display promoting book series. There are a number of benefits of book series for readers. If a student enjoys the first book in a series they will want to read more, which increases their time spent reading. Reading book series reduce the amount of time spent browsing for a new book and offer familiarity and security to readers through a better understanding of characters and patterns in plots. Please ask your child if they have taken the opportunity to discover new books through our displays.

(Olivia Burford-Taylor)





Art News

Our Grade 1, 2 and 3 Art Exhibition is moved back one week. It will be happening from the week beginning 26 November 2018 (coinciding with the same week as the Grade 1, 2 and 3 Holiday Concert).

The art rooms continue to be hives of activity. Grade 1 students are preparing printing plates for a winter landscape for their "Freeze It!" unit. Grade 2 students have had thoughtful discussions about things that everyone loves in the "Different Places, Similar Lives" unit, and have expressed their ideas through mixed media artwork. Grade 3 students have applied their knowledge about some of the concepts explored by Cubist artists such as Picasso and Braque to their own exploration of form and space. Grade 4 students have practised drawing skills in their insect observation works. Grade 5 students are enjoying the challenge of using light and shadow in an artwork for their "Look Hear!" unit.

(Anna Gilliam)



Sport News

Badminton and Football are very popular sports at OFS and internal tournaments are a great way to get many students involved in competition. Close to 200 students took part in the Grade 4-5 badminton carnival and Grade 2-3 football tournament. The badminton players were put into small groups for round robin matches while the footballers were given team lists and the task of working well together. A lot of fun and smiles all round.

On 22 October 2018, we welcomed Sir Manasseh Meyer International School for a dual swim meet. Swim coach Mrs Sobol was very pleased with our students' performances and how they represented OFS as gracious hosts.

(Jason Lawrence)



Physical Education (PE)

Students are now well into the swimming unit with the Grade 1 students enjoying learning water safety and basic strokes in the small pool. Grades 2 to 5 students are developing their swimming skills in front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke in the big pool. Swimming will run until the end of the Semester 1. Later in this quarter, we will have our Sports Mornings on the following mornings from 9.20am to 11:20am:

- Monday, 26 November - Grade 4
- Tuesday, 27 November - Grade 5
- Tuesday, 11 December - Grade 1 and 2 (combined)
- Wednesday, 12 December - Grade 3

We encourage our parents who are available on those mornings to come and watch their children compete or join in the sports mornings.

(Steven Kennedy)

