



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,

What a wonderful year we have had so far. The students have been busy with their after-school activities. They have sports, club activities, chess clubs, choir, enrichment activities and soon, the musical rehearsals will begin on Thursday afternoons. Many of our Grade 4 and 5 students have performed at the "Honk! JR." auditions over the last few weeks and we have many stars in the making. Every role, large or small that the students are selected for, are vital for the musical to become a success. The teamwork, dedication and camaraderie of the musical students, teachers and parents are the ingredients which make this an experience our students will never forget.

The recent Parent-Student-Teacher conferences were a wonderful success, with students having an opportunity to discuss with their parents about what they have learnt, areas of strength and areas with room for growth. We trust that you found the conferences helpful in understanding more about your child's education and where they are on their learning journey. You are welcome at any time in the year, to make contact with our teachers if you have questions or concerns.

We have many new students who began their OFS journey with us this year. It is comforting to see them make new friends, settle into new routines and build positive relationships with their classmates and teachers. We have had amazing feedback from many of our new parents about how their children are loving coming to school. Thank you to all of our students who have played a part in helping our new students feel like and become part of our family.

Our mid-semester break approaches, so I wish all of our Elementary School families a wonderful holiday, full of adventure, fun and learning. Stay safe and we look forward to an action-packed second quarter.

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

Sport News

First up was the UWC East Cross Country Invitational for 11U and 9U at Bedok Reservoir on 19 September 2018 where Saisha Mohan (3 Fiddymont) ran very well for a top 10 position in the 9U girls race.

On 27 September 2018, we hosted 14 teams from International and local schools for a 11U Basketball Invitational. Our girls narrowly missed out on Bronze to GISS Punggol while our boys were 6th in their division. GESS won the boy's competition while Bedok Green won the girl's.

(Jason Lawrence)



From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

Workshop on Cyber Security: Children Cyber Behaviour and Cyber Parenting

The Parent Association (PA) would also like to invite all parents to a workshop on Cyber Security: Children Cyber Behaviour and Cyber Parenting.

Event: Workshop on Cyber Security: Children Cyber Behaviour and Cyber Parenting
Date: Thursday, 18 October 2018
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Venue: PA Lounge (Level 4 of Administration Block)

This generation of parents is raising children in a rapidly evolving cyber landscape. The internet can be of great benefit to your child, it can be a good source for their homework, projects and connecting with their friends and relatives overseas. However, there are risks for children and parents need to know how to keep their children safe while using the internet. Please join us for this workshop and register your attendance by signing up on the OFS webpage: <https://www.ofs.edu.sg/info/parents/sign-up-2/>

For more information on these events, please visit www.ofs.edu.sg.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our Chairperson by email at: parent_association@ofs.edu.sg.

5-Day OCTO-FIESTA CAMP 8 to 12 October 2018

- **Whizz, Pop, Bang!** for K1 to G2 children (9:00am to 12:00noon) @ S\$570
- **Junior CSI** for G3 to G6 children (1:00pm to 4:00pm) @ S\$570
- **MakerLab: 3D** for G4 to G6 children (9:00am to 12:00noon) @ S\$570
- **Lego Animation Adventures** for G3 to G6 children (1:00pm to 4:00pm) @ S\$570

Through early exposure to hands-on experiments and learning activities, children will better understand Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) concepts. The application form, and more information, can be obtained from the Enrichment office, school offices; and also on our website (<https://www.ofs.edu.sg/course-info/enrichment-program/>).





Grade 1 News

It was wonderful to see our Grade 1 parents at our Parent-Student-Teacher conferences. It is a great opportunity for parents, students and teachers to celebrate the learning that is taking place in our classes.

We have begun our second unit, "Green Fingers!" and the students have been busy enquiring into living and nonliving things, going on nature walks to observe the plants in our local school environment and carrying out investigations into what plants need to survive. Thank you for sending in things made from plants, for our Plant Uses table.

In Mathematics, we have completed our unit on Data Handling where students learnt how to tally responses, graph results and make conclusions from their findings. We are now moving onto Pattern and Function where students will explore patterns and create, describe, extend and record repeating patterns using objects and numbers.

In Language Arts, we continue to work on writing skills, in particular the structure of recounts.

(Joanne McLinden)



Grade 2 News

In Grade 2, we have started our new IPC Unit of Work, "Bright Sparks!". We had a successful entry point, where students played with different electrical equipment, independently building an electric circuit. There was great excitement when many of them managed to get their light bulbs glowing. Follow-up sessions in the science laboratory saw the students making a variety of circuits, adding in buzzers, fans and extra bulbs.

Our Parent-Student-Teacher conferences were an exciting opportunity for students to show parents their classrooms, share their hard work and for parents to meet their teachers. Setting goals for the semester and celebrating student achievements, has been a wonderful way to focus our attention on their learning journey.

(Jenny Riffel)



Grade 3 News



The Grade 3 students have recently taken on a creative, expressive and appreciative mindset as they embarked on their second IPC Unit of Work, "Paintings, Pictures and Photographs". As they begin to recognise the various elements and types of art that exist all around us, students are developing the personal goal of thoughtfulness, so that they can better understand and communicate the purpose of different styles of artwork and the artist's intent. At the same time, students have been setting goals for themselves that have made for good conversations and a celebration of student learning during our Parent-Student-Teacher conferences. The students continue to strive to work toward their best potential as the semester progresses.

(Ryan Lecours)

Music News

Our first quarter is filled with music activities during lunchtimes and after school (Beginner/Intermediate Strings, Chamber Orchestra, Choir and Keyboard Ensemble). The rock band will begin their audition and practices in the second quarter. We have just finished the auditions for this year's school musical, "Honk! JR.". Students will soon find out their assigned character with after-school rehearsals commencing on Thursday, 18 October 2018. Our first Lunchtime Concert was held on 27 September 2018 with selected students from the audition who performed in the auditorium. In class, Grades 1, 2 and 3 students have been learning songs to perform at the United Nations Day parade on 2 October 2018.

(Mikiko Lawrence)



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Grade 4 News

In Grade 4, we continue learning with our current unit, "Here And Now, There And Then". Placing facts and information on a timeline in chronological order, and being able to justify their importance, has been a History focus for the students. This methodology allows us to appreciate the past, enjoy the present and contemplate the future. Our Parent-Student-Teacher conferences were a great opportunity for us to share our learning goals with each other; and for parents, students and teachers to work in partnership towards achieving success. Students have been enjoying PHE as part of our curriculum. In addition to physical activities like invasion games, we have also been learning about the importance of hydration and good hygiene, especially when faced with the hot weather we experience in Singapore. The musical audition for "Honk! JR." are nearing completion, with the exciting prospects of new roles awaiting many students. The participating students will be required to commit to practices and schedules to gain from the invaluable learning experience that this musical provides.

(Peter Williams)



Library News

We are pleased to see that students have developed a good habit of remembering their library lesson day, returning their books and borrowing new ones. It has also been positive to note that some students are borrowing books on other days, before school, during lunch or snack, or after school.

All students are encouraged to use the Online Subscriptions Page, on the ES Student Page. Once students log in using their name and password, they have access to the Britannica and Worldbook encyclopaedias, they can read books from Big Universe, an e-book library with over 13,000 fiction and non-fiction books, and they can extend their learning with Brainpop. The Online Subscriptions page also has links to websites which support second language lessons for Spanish, French, German, English and Mandarin. All links are also accessible from home.

(Olivia Burford-Taylor)



Grade 5 News

During our "Moving People" unit, Grade 5 students went on a fantastic field trip to the Chinatown Heritage Centre. The students learned about the impacts that migration had on Singapore. We also had a delicious lunch at a nearby hawker center. For the Exit Point, the Grade 5 students research, record, organize and present a personal migration story. This was a very powerful and motivating learning experience for the students.



Our new IPC Unit of Work is the "Model United Nations (MUN)". The MUN is a simulation in which students learn about diplomacy, international relations, and the issues around the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. Each class will represent a country and will use that country's perspective to examine selected Sustainable Development Goals put forth by the United Nations.

As delegates for their country, students will develop the IPC Personal Goals and important 21st Century Skills, such as – communication, thinking, social, self-management and research.

(Matthew Young)



Physical Education (PE)

Students are currently completing the jumping lessons of the Athletics unit. Our next unit is Swimming, starting from 15 October 2018 (first week back from holidays). Swimming will run for nine weeks all the way to 14 December 2018 to round out the semester. Sports mornings will be run in late November and early December.

(Steven Kennedy)



International Primary Curriculum (IPC)

You would have recently attended your child's Parent-Student-Teacher conferences. During the conferences your child (or the teacher) would have shared some of his/her goals that he/she is focusing on for this semester in the different subject areas. I would encourage you to help your child to keep a list of these goals at home so that you can continually review these with your child through learning dialogues, for example:

"What new **knowledge** (facts) did you learn?"

"What **subject skills** are your teachers helping you to develop?"

"What did you use to understand about ...; what do you now **understand** about ..."

For the list of relevant Knowledge , Skills  and Understanding  concepts that your child will be learning in the current IPC Unit of Work, please refer to the unit letter sent out by the curriculum leader of that grade.

(Eugene Low - Elementary School Deputy Principal and IEYCIIPC Coordinator)

Chess News

59th National Inter-School Team Chess Championships 2018

1,048 students participated in the Championships which took place between 4 to 6 September 2018 at Northland Primary School. Our OFS Teams achieved great results in all age groups among the local and international schools. Overall, we were placed first in the International School Category, cementing OFS's position as one of the top Singapore schools in chess.

International School category – Teams awarded with medals:

1. OFS: 9 medals (with 5 Gold)
2. UWC East: 6 medals (with 1 Gold)
3. NPS: 3 medals (with 1 Gold)
4. Global Indian: 2 medals (with 1 Gold)
5. UWC Dover: 1 medal

Congratulations to all our team members. More details and photos from this tournament: <https://www.ofs.edu.sg/resources/strategy-games/of-s-chess/news/>

(Vasileios Parginos)



Art News



The art rooms are being filled with creative works from our students. All grade levels are wrapping up their work on the first unit in Art. The art program aims to ensure that students have the opportunity to explore a variety of materials and techniques. Following their first unit, Grade 1 students will move on to printmaking. Grade 2 students will explore paint and drawing in the IPC Unit of Work, "Different Places, Similar Lives". Grade 3 students will combine drawing and collage in a work inspired by Pablo Picasso. Grade 4 students will learn techniques for drawing fabric designs in work reflecting their knowledge of patterns and insects. Grade 5 students will consider how light and shadow can be an integral part of an artwork in a 3D construction.

To see some of these wonderful artworks on display, please come along to the annual Grade 1, 2 and 3 Art Exhibition, a week-long event which runs from 19 to 23 November 2018. If you would like to help with this event, please let us know by filling out this form: <https://bit.ly/2MYfdC8>

(Anna Gilliam)