



Overseas Family School High School

Master Policy:

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

Principal's Message

This semester the High School has been a very busy place. While our academic programs have been our priority, we have provided many opportunities for our students to be involved in the wider school community. These include sports, drama, dance, art, music, Student Voice, Community Service, Model United Nations, photography, journalism, and field trips around Singapore. This has happened because of the commitment of the teaching faculty and the enthusiasm of our students. It is especially rewarding to see many students initiating and taking leadership roles in these activities, and new initiatives such as TEDx Youth at OFS and a code-off competition.



We have continued to focus not only on the knowledge and skills of each subject, but on developing Approaches to Learning. These include critical and creative thinking, information and media literacy and the all important ability to transfer knowledge to new situations. These ways of learning and knowing have been balanced by our daily Homebase program, providing guidance in social, emotional and mental well-being.

The student body will experience some changes in January, with SPP students moving up a level or into the mainstream, while a number of other students will be moving to other locations around the world. We wish every one of these students well and thank them for their contribution to Overseas Family School.

Finally, I hope all of you will enjoy the company of family and friends over the festive season. I wish everyone a safe and happy semester break and we look forward to working in partnership with you again from Monday, 7 January 2019.

Suzanne Bentin
High School Principal

Going Green

This will be our last hardcopy newsletter sent by surface mail as we 'go-green'. From February 2019, each edition will be available via a link emailed to you. Please ensure that your email address is up-to-date. If any of your contact details have changed, please inform the registrar (**Mrs Soma Mathews**) so that we can update your particulars.



FOR YOUR 2019 CALENDAR:

- 10 January : New Parents' Orientation
- 11 January : Semester reports posted home
- 29 January : Grade 8 Parents' Curriculum Night
- 13 February : Grade 10 Parents' Curriculum Night

Visit To IB Global Centre

As part of the IB's 50th Anniversary, OFS students were involved in an opportunity to share "social responsibility" across the IB community. There were schools from all over Singapore and Malaysia sharing CAS activities they have initiated.

For Ms. Trapti Trivedi and me, it was a pleasure to bring a handful of our student ambassadors to the IB Global Centre to share the MYP Action and Community Service efforts that came from their MYP Personal Projects. Thank you and congratulations, you are exemplary IB Learners!

(Nathalie Buckland-Brough – High School Deputy Principal and IB MYP/IGCSE Coordinator)



Left to Right: Ms. Nathalie Buckland-Brough, Marilee Aldrich (Grade 10), Yubil Das (Grade 11), Digvijay Singh (Grade 10), Thulsa Moosa (Grade 10) and Ms. Trapti Trivedi.

Prestigious Korean University Visits OFS



The representatives from Yonsei University Wonju Campus, associate Professor Joo Hyun-ho, Mr. Kim Sejin and Mr. Jang Daihan visited OFS on 25 October 2018. Yonsei University is one of the most prestigious universities in South Korea. Yonsei University has three campuses in Seoul, Wonju and Songdo in Korea. The visitors introduced the EastAsia International College (EIC) that was founded in 2008 as a special program to develop professionals who will play leading roles in the 21st century. The college has become a leading centre for teaching and research on East Asia. Offering undergraduate courses exclusively in English, EIC has two major areas of study: the East Asian Politics and Culture track, and the East Asian Economy and Business. Many Korean students and parents attended this informative session. Thanks to our Academic Advisors, the representatives, students and parents!

(Dr. Kimberly Kwon – Korean teacher)



IB Diploma News – Education For Life

IB LEARNER PROFILE

The IB Learner Profile (*IB Learner Profile, 2013*) unifies the principles across the various IB programs, including MYP and DP. There are 10 attributes listed within the Learner Profile; three are described in more detail below:

Communicators: *“We express ourselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways. We collaborate effectively, listening carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups.”*

This attribute is strongly addressed in the Acquisition Languages, Studies in Language and Literature, Individuals and Societies, the Group 4 Sciences project, Theory of Knowledge (TOK) and the Extended Essay.

Principled: *“We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences.”*

Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) strongly targets this attribute, along with insistence of proper academic citation and referencing of sources for all IB coursework and adherence to examination regulations.

Open-minded: *“We critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others. We seek and evaluate a range of points of view, and we are willing to grow from the experience.”*

Coursework content for all subjects, TOK and CAS target this attribute. The OFS United Nations evening of international foods and entertainment on Friday, 7 December 2018 is also a celebration and recognition of each of the cultural groups in our school.

SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS (26 November - 4 December 2018)

- Students are examined on topics covering the entire semester – all semester examinations are worth 30% of the semester grade.
- These assessments are set at the same level of difficulty as the final IB DP examinations, thus they provide good examination practice.
- Returned examinations can be used to help identify strengths and weaknesses in each subject.
- Parent assistance is requested to help your child to implement effective time-management strategies and effective study techniques, as the IB DP progresses.

GRADE 12

- Students will be finishing their CAS program this semester, allowing more time to focus on examination preparation.
- Many final deadlines are still to come in the third quarter: Group 2 Written Assignments, IA coursework and the TOK essay amongst them.
- Mock examination week: 1-12 March 2019.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the IB Diploma Program, please feel free to contact me (phillip_riordan@ofs.edu.sg) or the IB DP Assistant Coordinator, Mr. Simon Dench (simon_dench@ofs.edu.sg).

(Phillip Riordan – IB DP Coordinator)

Medical Scholars Club

Every Friday, a group of 25 highly enthusiastic students convene at the Medical Scholars Club to discuss medical related topics and situations. Established in 2014 by Science teacher, Ms. Seema Rehan, the club is among one of the most popular offered at OFS. It features a variety of entertaining activities with a focus on developing skills that a doctor would need to possess. One of the most captivating sessions was the sewing and knitting activity. This was aimed at replicating the dexterity required by surgeons to suture effectively. The activity was to sew intricate patterns on cloth using needles and thread. Some of the more advanced students were able to learn and practise using knitting needles provided by our Knitting for Charity club. Himanshu Bhagat, a Grade 11 student said “Even



though the knitting and sewing techniques were challenging, I found the activity to be enjoyable as I had to focus on where the needle went and had to be careful not to prick myself. It was also very calming and helped me de-stress after a long week.”

The club also looks into the application process for medicine and provides training sessions for the more popular medical admission tests like the UKCAT and BMAT. Medical debates on topics like euthanasia and the impact of artificial intelligence in medicine, along with presentations on recent medical breakthroughs, keep members informed of the latest news in the medical field. The overall goal of the club is to ensure that students interested in pursuing medicine or medicine related fields in the future can meet other like-minded students. Furthermore, the club also encourages some of the younger members to possibly pursue medicine as a career, by providing a platform where they can explore the subject area.

(Aditya Anil, Grade 12 – Club Leader)

Junior High School News

Reflective: *“We thoughtfully consider the world and our own ideas and experience. We work to understand our strengths and weaknesses in order to support our learning and personal development.”* (*IB Learner Profile, 2013*)

As the first semester comes to an end, it is an opportune time for students to be “reflective”. We ask that they look back at the goals they set in August and hope they’ve achieved some, if not all, of them. For Grade 10 students, in particular, they should reflect on their examination experiences to identify key areas for additional revision prior to their IGCSE Mock Examinations in March 2019.

Semester 2 will commence with the IGCSE registration process for Grade 10 students:

- Families will receive the IGCSE Sample registration form through the post.
- Students will discuss their examination choices with teachers and will need to get a recommendation from each subject teacher on the form. The teacher recommendation should be used as a strong indicator for appropriate examination selections.
- The forms will then be taken home, for parents and child to make final examination choices. These will be due back to Ms. Maureen Goh before Wednesday, 16 January 2019.

The Cambridge International’s IGCSE examinations, for OFS, are scheduled from 2 May through to 12 June 2019. Final examinations and their dates will be available on the school’s website soon. Families should review the schedule carefully.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I’d like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a peaceful holiday season.

(Nathalie Buckland-Brough – High School Deputy Principal and IB MYP/IGCSE Coordinator)

Master Policy:

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



Model United Nations at Overseas Family School

Model United Nations at Overseas Family School (MUNOFS) is regarded as a top quality conference, and this year MUNOFS XI will be remembered as superb, providing excellent experiences for all participants.

Leading off the MUNOFS weekend were the Youth Leadership Workshops (YLWs). Overseeing the organisation of the YLWs were our Under-Secretaries-General Anika Deshmukh and Sanjana Prabhakar. Over 100 workshops, led mostly by OFS students, were powerful experiential sessions on topics from university preparation to Python coding to public speaking and more. The YLWs provide a tremendous platform for presenters to develop their own leadership, communication and organizational skills.

The Student Executive Team, headed by Mehak Puntambekar as Conference Manager, and Ayushi Garg as Secretary-General, worked with great dedication and professionalism to manage training and logistics of putting together this experience for over 500 participants and over 100 supporting Admin Team students.

All committee Chairs were trained by the Secretary-General and her Deputies, Siddharth Srivastava and Digvijay Singh. A tally of nearly 2,000 formal speeches, and over 4,000 formally presented questions and amendments made across the weekend attest to the intensity of engagement by all participants. The Conference Manager, along with her Deputies and assistants, Anna Bini, Nihal John, and Sameer Malik managed all of the logistics from airport pickups to room setup, and the final cleanup, and did a fantastic job. Our Public Relations Manager, Dev Natarajan, rounded out the Student Executive Team, supporting in all aspects of the conference.

Now we turn our energies to preparing for our next MY-MUNOFS, our Middle Years MUN conference in February 2019. More photos of the event can be viewed in our OFS website.

(David Taylor – Dean of International Relations)



Spirit Week

Yet another successful array of events took place, here at OFS, delivering loads of enthusiasm and excitement to our student body. With Student Voice working more energetically than ever, it is safe to say that we have brought an array of successful events to the fore. Towards the end of first quarter, Student Voice members worked hard to execute a fabulous surprise event that encompassed delicious treats, booming music and much more. The entire High School population came together to eat and celebrate after working tirelessly for months on end.

Next up was Spirit Week. We led the 'Fall Fest' dance which helped further boost the morale of the Titans through the flashing lights, well-crafted carnival booths, lively music and great food and drinks. The Student Body enjoyed a relaxing atmosphere where everyone bonded with their friends and portrayed a sense of togetherness, while also enjoying the autumn theme of the dance.

Overall, it was great to see all the fun and laughter collectively shared by the student body during these fantastic events. And we can't wait to reveal more of our exciting upcoming events such as 'Beats Around The World', along with the release of the second edition of our very own school magazine 'Titan Times'! Through these events, we hope to bring more laughter, fun and excitement to our High School students.

(Sunaina Borkar, Grade 10 – Chief Publicist, Student Voice)



Fall Fest 2018 - A group of students enjoying the fantastic carnival booths



Surprise Event 2018 - The entire High School population gathers to eat and celebrate

From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

1 There were two events organised for this December - **Volunteering at Willing Hearts' Soup Kitchen** as well as **Christmas Coffee Morning**. Both events had received overwhelming response. If you were unable to participate in those events, please remember to stay tuned for similar ones in coming months.

2 Welcome New Parents Coffee Morning

Are you new to our OFS Family? This is a great opportunity to meet other new parents as well as to learn more about the School. Come along and meet the Principals, Deputy Principals and the Parent Association (PA) Executive Committee while enjoying light refreshments prepared for you.

Date: Thursday, 10 January 2019 Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Venue: Parent Lounge (Level 4 of Administration Block)

As Semester 1 draws to a close, the PA wishes everyone a very happy and safe Christmas holiday. Looking forward to seeing you again in January 2019. Happy New Year in advance.

Tennis Triumph

Congratulations to Akash Ajay Karekatte (Grade 9) for winning the Junior Team Tennis League (JTTL) and for being the quarter finalist for the Intermediate Tournament (Singapore Tennis Association).

(Jason Lawrence – Dean of Physical Advancement)





UN Women's Week Sports Event - Race to challenge gender myths and stereotypes

The race to challenge gender myths and stereotypes event was meant to promote team building skills while raising awareness about strength through unity. We hoped to reach the demographic of those who were passionate about sport as a lead into the conversation on gender biases within the community. Participants would be able to learn about the importance of defying gender roles, as sports are not restricted to a single gender. The sports event included three different races, a hurdle race, a baton relay race and sack race. Then, a viewing of a 3-minute video about pushing gender stereotypes, followed by a discussion reflecting on the content of the video, bringing in topics such as definitions of strength, gender stereotypes and pressures on physical appearance. We discussed what happens when we lose the confidence to push ourselves and to what extent pre-existing gender roles and stereotypes affect that confidence. This engaging non-competitive sports event allowed all to participate stress free and thereby inform participants that sports activities can ultimately be about pushing your own capabilities and not being constricted by what you are told.

(Sana Srivastava, Grade 11 – UN Women Club leader)



Sports News

Semester 1 sports ended on a high with fixtures galore both at home and away:

- 19U Boys Basketball were 2nd in the Lion's Cup won by a very strong Meridian JC.
- 16U Boys Basketball won the 6-team OFS Invitational beating ACS Barkers in the very final seconds of the gold medal match.
- 16U Girls were 2nd to St. Margaret Secondary School in the same Invitational by just two points, beating strong teams including Australian International School and Global Indian International School in earlier matches.
- The table tennis team convincingly beat Mayflower Secondary School winning 16 of the 18 matches.
- Our Girls Touch Rugby teams were involved in competition home and away, hosting Dunman High School and also sending a team to the very competitive Pan Pacific Touch Championships.

(Jason Lawrence – Dean of Physical Advancement)



BURFORD-TAYLOR, Ella (Grade 12) in full flight during the OFS-Dunman Touch exchange.



JIRARO, Apisit (Grade 9) with great speed bodes well for the 16U Rugby team going into a 8 team round robin tournament, with a warm-up fixture against ACS Barkers.



The final basket that won the title for the 16U Boys Basketball team – LAM, Chi Tek (Grade 11)

Basketball Wins

Congratulations to our Girls Basketball team for finishing the season with silver trophies in the recently concluded U16 Girls Basketball OFS Invitational Tournament. They had lots of fun, and with the help of their coach, Mr. John Brieta, the girls displayed amazing teamwork. Miho Hamada (Grade 10) was the team's top scorer with a tournament total of 24 points. Well done, girls!

Congratulations to our Girls Basketball team for finishing with bronze medals in the recently concluded U19 Lions Cup Invitational Tournament. The games have improved our girls' defensive and offensive strategies, with new friendships created along the way. Renee Patro (Grade 9) top-scored with 17 points and Trisha Brieta (Grade 10) anchored the defense in the final match, which helped the team clinch the 3rd place. Good job, girls!

(Regina Brieta – Grade 9 to 10 Girls Basketball coach)



16U Girls Touch Rugby

The 16U Girls Touch Rugby team participated in the Pan Pacific Schools Tournament held over a weekend in mid-November 2018 to round off their season and to gain some valuable competition exposure, with teams coming from Singapore, Indonesia, Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, Malaysia, Hong Kong. The team put up a consistent performance over that weekend and had a few close matches. With strong leadership from the team's Captain, Katie Traynor (Grade 10), the team had a great learning experience.

(Anne Goh – Touch Rugby coach)

