



Overseas Family School Middle School

Master Policy:

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

Principal's Message

It has been an incredible start to this action-packed first quarter at the Middle School. We are already fast approaching the end of it, culminating with our United Nations Concert and straight after the mid-semester break, our parent-student-teacher conferences.

Under the stewardship of the Middle School faculty, we have set-up an excellent foundation with our theme of 'Organisation', guiding you to be ready for Quarter 2 and beyond. Students have been involved with a school-wide Locker Competition and learned the importance of being prepared. Planning ahead is a big part of being prepared. These are important life skills that will hold you in good stead for the future as you develop and make progress through the school.

The Middle School After School Sports Program (ASSP) is in full swing for Semester 1, under the watchful eye of Mr Jason Lawrence, Dean of Physical Advancement. The activities on offer include badminton, cricket, netball, table tennis, touch football, cross-country, rugby, fitness and swimming. It is never too late to join in and it is also a great way to make new friends in the process.

There are also opportunities to play sports against your classmates and the teachers. Mrs Hayley Brian, Subject Area Leader – Physical and Health Education has been coordinating these lunchtime events.

Always keep an eye on the Daily Gazette for notices on 'what, where and when' activities and events take place. This and much more information can be found via your OFS Dashboard. Parents also have access to this when you login.

"Failing to plan is planning to fail."

- Motto of the Police Tactical Unit (PTU), Hong Kong Police Force

Michael Lee
Middle School Principal
michael_lee@ofs.edu.sg

Sports News

Our Middle School cricket team opened the season in fine style with a significant victory over Singapore United Cricket Club Juniors. 92 runs were required for victory and OFS got there without losing a single wicket. The season bodes well for the team taking part in the Last Man Standing (LMS) cricket league held at the Ceylon Sports Club.



(Jason Lawrence – Dean of Physical Advancement)



From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

Hari Raya Theme Coffee Morning

The Parent Association (PA) invites all parents to join us for a special Hari Raya theme Coffee Morning. Cultural diversity is an integral part of Overseas Family School (OFS). The PA celebrates the school's cultural diversity by regularly organising Coffee mornings where we share each country's unique customs, traditions, culture and cuisine in a happy and fun atmosphere. This represents the true spirit of OFS.

Event: Hari Raya Theme Coffee Morning

Date: Thursday, 4 October 2018

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Venue: PA Lounge (Level 4 of Administration Block)

Taste the various vegetarian & non-vegetarian traditional cuisine cooked during this festival, get your hands decorated with traditional designs of Mehndi/Henna and try on different traditional Muslim attires. Please join in the fun and register your attendance by signing up on the OFS webpage:

<https://www.ofs.edu.sg/info/parents/sign-up-1/>

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.



Middle School Locker Competition

During the week of 27 to 31 August 2018, the Locker Competition was in full swing. This was for the purpose of inculcating self-management skills that provide the focus for the Health and Social Education program in the first quarter. The students were given a few organisational strategies to apply at school, particularly with regard to the management of their lockers and time. In the first three weeks of the quarter, students began to personalise their lockers in preparation for the Locker Competition. The best lockers were then selected by the Homebase teachers based on both the decorative and functional aspects. The names of the winners and images of some of the winning lockers are shown below. A special congratulations to all the winners who put in the time and effort to organise exemplary lockers.

(Aidan Spencer – Student Advisor)



GRADE 6 Winners:

Sana Advani 6.01
Soumya Bhagavatula 6.02
Ella Walker 6.03
Aninditha Ranganathan 6.04
Aadi Dhawan 6.04
Maria Mille 6.05
Kiara Tavares 6.06
Sophia Gutierrez 6.07
Sayen Anguita Godot 678SPP1
Seo-eun Choi 675SPP2
Kirse Ottesen 675SPP3

GRADE 7 Winners:

Siya Saraf 7.02
Kashish Das 7.02
Amna Nauman 7.04
Archit Sharma 7.04
Nora Varghese 7.05
Anushka Desai 7.06
Mihika Yadav 7.07

GRADE 8 Winners:

Aadya Shrivastava 8.01
Anyia Garg 8.03
Maitreyi Namboodiri 8.04
Ashwin Rajesh 8.05
Tara Sheorey 8.05
Kanav Kadyan 8.06
Anastasia Tkacheva 8.08
Kamila Khalyksovet 8.08
Michael Zheng 85SPP3

Deputy Principal's Message

It has been an excellent start to the academic year with well-established routines; and new families, students and staff are comfortably settled in the OFS Middle School. This quarter, we have conducted a new parent orientation morning and a Middle School curriculum evening. During the course of the academic year, we will be using the OFS website and student homework pages to continue communication. Information on the Middle Years Program, curriculum and course descriptions can be found on the OFS website. We also look forward to meeting more parents at our parent-student-teacher conferences taking place from 16 to 19 October 2018.

The first quarter is a great time for students to set new academic goals and continue their development from the previous year. Grade 7 and 8 students are familiar with the Middle School and the IB MYP framework. Grade 6 students are rapidly adapting to the special learning environment within IB MYP, creating a positive impact on the school.

Students have been involved in a range of inquiry-based activities and are developing skills in all areas including collaboration, communication and organisation. The Global Contexts and MYP concepts enable students to develop competencies and personal values necessary for global engagement, and also make connections across subjects. Students are developing greater understanding and skills through exploration of concepts and issues of global, national and local significance.

(Karoline Hlawatsch – Middle School Deputy Principal)

k_hlawatsch@ofs.edu.sg

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New Staff

ESTHER LAM

Individuals and Societies

My name is Esther Lam-Mariani and I have recently joined the OFS Individuals and Societies Team. I graduated from the National Institute of Education in Singapore and I taught History, English and Art in Singapore schools for 12 years. I also taught Theory of Knowledge and monitored Extended Essays at the IBDP level. I have in recent years, taught English as a Second Language and trained IELTS students, in Guangzhou and Bangkok. In the past six years, I have stayed in India, South Korea, Italy, China, Malaysia and Thailand. Besides being a teacher, I have another passion for the culinary arts and went to study at the At-Sunrice Global Chef Academy. I look forward to making a positive contribution in OFS.



OPHELIE HUVET

Language Acquisition (French)

My name is Ophélie Huvet and I recently joined the Middle School Language team at OFS as a French teacher. I am originally from France, but I spent my teenage years in French Guiana in South America, just North of Brazil, where the Europe's Spaceport is. During those years I saw about 80 rocket launches. I went back to France to study at university, then I worked in the United States before arriving in Singapore seven years ago. Originally a French primary school teacher and PYP certified, I discovered the world of MYP last year and I am loving it. I am really excited to be a part of OFS, and as a lifelong learner, I am looking forward to share my experience and my passion for languages with my students, as well as to continue to learn with them and from them.



IRENE LAW

Arts – Music

My name is Irene Law and I recently joined the Middle School as a Music teacher. I found my love for music when I was three years old after playing the piano at my aunt's home for the first time. During the past 16 years, I have been teaching ensemble groups and individual instrumental lessons in Hong Kong, U.K. and Singapore. My teaching career started in 2009. I was drawn to classroom teaching because I love the curiosity young children demonstrate. I believe music opens the doors to creativity and helps students focus and concentrate better. Besides immersing my students in music all day, I spend my leisure time hiking, travelling, attending concerts and singing. I also enjoy performing in various amateur choirs and opera group's rehearsals. You can find me on the stage with the Singapore Symphony Chorus and Singapore Lyric Opera.



CHARLES KEEGAN

Arts – Drama/Language and Literature

Hello OFS Community! My name is Charles Keegan and I am hugely excited about being part of the Middle School as a Drama and English teacher. I hail from the beautiful country of South Africa. I completed my university studies in Cape Town, where I received my honours in Theatre and Performance, and have since been acting in theatre, television and the movie industry for over ten years. My passion and love for teaching Drama have given me the opportunity to teach at High School and University level in South Africa while still intermittently involving myself in the performing arts as an actor. Teaching is what I love to do most in the world, and my adventures have brought me to OFS where I look forward to making a contribution to this wonderful community.

MATTHEW SMITH

Arts – Drama/Language and Literature

My name is Matthew Smith and I have recently joined the Overseas Family School Language and Literature and Drama Teams. I have been teaching for over 15 years in the US, Taiwan, and Singapore. I am originally from Claremont, California, a beautiful suburb of Los Angeles. The city is known for its wonderful universities and many trees. When I am not enjoying the pursuits of teaching, I spend time learning to cook new dishes, cycling, surfing, walking my dog, and exploring Singapore's many interesting pockets of cultural experiences. I have traveled extensively throughout Asia and Europe and hope to visit many other countries around the world. I am thoroughly enjoying my experience so far at OFS and look forward to creating meaningful learning experiences for the students. I also coach swimming and enjoy interacting with the students outside the classroom to learn more about their well-rounded personalities. Looking forward to a productive and eventful school year.



JOHN BRIETA

Sciences/Physical and Health Education (PHE)

My name is John Brieta and I have recently joined the Middle School Science and Physical and Health Education (PHE) Teams. I am originally from the Philippines where I enjoy eating mangoes and our (in)famous exotic delicacy 'balut', but I have travelled and stayed in Singapore with my wife and our twins for about eight years now. I am looking forward to a pleasant interaction with the multi-cultural community here and making a positive contribution in OFS. I am excited to engage and collaborate with our students, both in class and during extra-curricular activities where I will be coaching basketball and other sports as well.



TERESA RODRIGUEZ ALVARADO

Arts – Drama

My name is Teresa Rodriguez Alvarado and I have recently joined the Middle School Arts Team as a Drama teacher. I have been a TV reporter in Spain and a college teacher for Film Studies in China. I have been trained in Lee Strasberg's Method Acting in Singapore where I was awarded as Best Writer at 48 Hours Film Project Festival in 2017 and nominated as Best Actress for the short film "#Hi Crissy". During the past two years, I directed the original play "Halloween Date" and a Walter Wykes play at the Haque Centre of Acting & Creativity (HCAC) acting studio in Singapore with a cast of professional and non-professional local actors. I am currently working in the production of my short film "The Death and Mrs. Tanvi". I am looking forward to working with everyone at OFS.





Physical & Health Education

The Middle School Physical and Health Education (PHE) team looks forward to another very successful year at the Pasir Ris Campus. Each grade has had the opportunity to experience an 'Invasion Game' style unit at the start of the academic year, with the concepts of "communication and development" (Fast Net for Grade 6, Netball for Grade 7 and Handball for Grade 8).

These units are performance-based but were also designed to develop student's collaboration and communication skills (information of this unit can be found on the OFS website for PHE). Following this unit, students will complete their first health week, where they will learn about motivation. The next Quarter 1 unit will be health related, with Grade 6 students exploring the concept of "How fit am I?", Grade 7 students learning about "nutrition" and Grade 8 students inquiring about "methods of training".

PHE Lunchtime Clubs

As part of the PHE Subject Area's "Health in Action" initiative, we offer three exciting lunchtime clubs, which have been well-received by the Middle School students. The main aim is to promote a more active and healthier lifestyle among students:

- **Monday Matches:** This is an opportunity for all football enthusiasts wishing to play friendly matches against their friends and teachers. It is a 'winner stays on' concept in a 6v6 game. Why not mix your teams up with other Homebase classes. All boys and girls are welcome.
- **Wednesday Workout:** The same format as the Monday matches, but for all basketball players.
- **Friday Friendlies:** This is an exciting opportunity for students wishing to play matches against their friends at lunchtimes. The activities for Quarter 1 have been Fast Net, Netball and Handball from 12:45pm to 1:15pm on basketball courts 1 and 2. Later in the academic year, we will look to offer Touch Football, Badminton, Pickleball and Cricket.

(Hayley Brian – SAL Physical and Health Education)

