



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 an extremely busy place. Despite the challenges posed by the current pandemic, our students have managed to maintain their academic excellence and participate in a wide range of opportunities throughout the school.

These include representing Overseas Family School in chess competitions, Computer Science and Mathematical challenges, debates (in English and French!), Student Voice events, High School Musical rehearsals, MUN conferences, OFS Tigers training, not to mention a whole host of activities and performances recorded for CultureFest as part of our Internationalism Celebrations. The list of experiences is extensive, and this issue will only provide a small snapshot of the incredible work going on within the classrooms. These events can only happen because of the commitment of the teaching faculty and the tireless dedication and enthusiasm of our students.

As I write, our High School students have successfully completed their first semester examinations and have shown both exemplary behaviour and attitude towards their learning. It is, therefore, extremely important that our students can use the coming break to take time away from their screens and find positive ways to relax and unwind. Educational research shows that proper breaks can help boost memory, reduce stress and increase learning productivity. I know I, for one, will be looking forward to some uninterrupted reading time with my favourite detective novels!

Our student body will experience some changes in January 2022. Many SPP students will be moving up a level or into the mainstream, and a few of our 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.

I wish everyone a safe and happy semester break and we look forward to welcoming many new families to the school and working in partnership with you again from Monday, 10 January 2022.

Vanessa McConville
High School Principal



IB Diploma News – Education For Life

GRADE 12

Below are some important dates coming up for students in Quarter 3:

- The final deadline for the Theory of Knowledge Essay is Monday, 14 February 2022.
- Completed Theory of Knowledge Essays and the Extended Essays shall be submitted to IB online. Students will upload these essays directly to the IB for grading in February 2022.
- IB Mock Examinations will be held from **28 February to 9 March 2022**. The schedule will be available on the school website and students will receive an individual timetable. Language B Orals will also be timetabled after this time.

GRADE 11

- Extended Essay (EE): This process was started in December 2021 with Ms. Trapti Trivedi presenting an introductory session with students. Subject seminars were scheduled for students to attend on 7 December 2021. Students will need to have selected their subject and topic early in January 2022 to be assigned their EE supervisor.
- Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS): By the end of Grade 11, students should have completed 2/3 of their CAS requirements. It is essential that students plan and select sufficient activities in Semester 2 to meet this target.
- The final deadline for the Theory of Knowledge Exhibition is Monday, 24 January 2022.

Extended Essay

This essay is a major piece of research (4000 words), written in a formal academic manner, as a preparation for post-secondary work and an extension of personal interest. This task is an independent endeavor, completed outside of regular class time, with the majority of the actual writing to take place over the June/July 2022 break. We encourage parents to discuss their children's choice of topic and available resources for research.

(Phillip Riordan – IB DP Coordinator)

UPCOMING EVENTS IN JANUARY 2022:

10 January 2022: High School New Parent Orientation Morning

24-28 January 2022: Grade 8 Curriculum Sessions

From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

As Semester 1 draws to a close, the PA wishes all of you a very happy and safe Christmas holiday. And an early Happy New Year greetings to everyone!

Looking forward to seeing all of you again in January 2022. If you are travelling, have a fun trip! Stay safe and stay healthy.



Junior High School News

IB Learners are Reflective: *“We work to understand our strengths and weaknesses in order to support our learning and personal development.”* (IB Learner Profile, 2017)

As this first semester comes to an end, it is an opportune time for students to reflect. We ask that they look back at the goals they set in August 2021 and hope they’ve achieved some, if not all, of them. For Grade 10 students, in particular, reflecting on their examination experiences and identifying specific areas for additional revision prior to their IGCSE Mock Examinations in March 2022 will be key.

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.
- This form will then be taken home for parent/guardian signature confirming final IGCSE examination choices.
- The form is due back to Ms. Maureen Goh before Wednesday, 19 January 2022.

The Cambridge IGCSE examinations, for OFS, are scheduled from 27 April 2022 through to 9 June 2021 and the schedule is available on your OFS Dashboard. Families should review these carefully.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me (nathalie_bbrough@ofs.edu.sg). Wishing you and your families a peaceful and restful holiday season.

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

University Applications

We are now processing applications that are going out to universities all over the world. Our students will get the results of their applications during the months from December 2021 to April 2022.

Some of our students have already received offers from: Queen Mary University for Law and Pharmaceutical Chemistry, the University of Warwick for Psychology & Biomedical, Durham University for Physics, the University of St Andrews for Economics & History, the University of Leicester for Aerospace Engineering, Durham University for Mathematics, the University of Manchester for Geography, and Loughborough University for IT.

(Tamana Chanrai-Hills, Academic Advisor)

So You Think You Can Debate 2021

Four Junior High School students competed in the novice section of **So You Think You Can Debate** tournament hosted by JSII on 27 and 28 November 2021. The debates were run on the British Parliamentary format and motions included THB (This House Believes) that histories that are divisive should not be taught in schools, and This House will nationalise Medicine and the Pharmaceutical Industry. In the preliminary rounds, OFS A (Keertana and Adithi) achieved 4 points, while Siye and Varun, who were paired in composite teams with students from other schools in Singapore, achieved 6 points respectively. After the out rounds, Siye and Varun were placed third overall in the novice section and qualified for the breaking rounds on Sunday. All the debaters involved benefitted from an opportunity that was challenging at times, since no electronic-assisted research was permitted, but also extremely worthwhile in terms of critical thinking, collaboration and communication. Well done to all the participants!

(Marion Vlok – Teacher in-charge)



VEMURI Hema Keertana
Grade 10



RAJESH Adithi
Grade 10



DUBEY Varun
Grade 10



LI Siye
Grade 9

Food Collection 2021



The OFS Food Collection was a great success! Thank you to the OFS staff and teachers who gave generously, the many student volunteers who spent hours packing donations, and especially the OFS families who donated so generously. This event is a good reminder of the change we can make in service when we work together. The generous donations really showcased the giving spirit of the OFS community. Overall, a total of 3,637 items were collected by the entire school. This included over

350 kgs of rice, 225 bottles of oil, and 1,000 canned items. Thank you again to all who contributed.

(Arin Mares-Manton – CAS & Community Service Coordinator)

Beaver Computing Challenge (BCC)

On 10 November 2021, 15 Grade 9 and 10 students took part in the BCC organised by the Centre for Education in Mathematics and Computing, University of Waterloo, for the first time in OFS history.

Four students earned a certificate of distinction for being in the top 25% in the world, with **Chegwin Yeung** achieving a perfect score, **Armaan Fernandez** reaching 97.8%, and both **Tanish Bengani** and **Samik Garg** scoring between 95.6%. Congratulations and well done to all of them!

(Marcos Drien Vargas – Technology teacher)



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My ESS Internal Assessment Journey To South Korea

I come from South Korea where I had done part of my schooling. One of the differences in the curriculum in both countries was the lack of different subjects like Environmental Systems and Societies (ESS). So, when the opportunity for independent internal assessment came by, I wanted to know the impact subjects like ESS have on how people make decisions regarding the protection of the environment.

After a discussion with my teacher, I did an investigation to study the effect of compulsory environmental education on how people in South Korea valued the environment. The project was survey based. The process took me a good four months before I got any credible results. I was not able to travel to South Korea and I had to take the help of friends, family and my former teachers to conduct the survey.

Through the answers, I found out that citizens who have received a compulsory environmental education are more likely to have an ecocentric, nature-centred viewpoint. My former teachers in Korea were quite keen to know the results of my findings and soon I was presented with an exciting opportunity to present my findings to students, teachers, officers from the Ministry of Education in South Korea and a member of parliament on 16 October 2021. I gave a

brief introduction to the ESS subject and gave a presentation of my findings. After the presentation, Ji-won Ha, the founder of Ecomom Korea, said that my investigation suggested the need for compulsory environmental education. It was also my honour when Mr. Deukgu Kang, a member of the parliament in South Korea, suggested that they would use my presentation to create a framework for new legislation in this regard.

I am honored and excited that my investigation will be used in a very meaningful way. I had to have permission from the IB with the help of my IB DP Coordinator and had to make early submission of my work, however, this was a small price to pay! I am extremely thankful to my ESS teacher Mrs. Grace Das for her huge support and guidance.

(Lee Soo – Grade 12, High School Student President)



Inaugural High School Studio Day for the Arts

On 3 December 2021, the High School Arts Department hosted the inaugural High School Studio Day for the Arts for a selection of Dance, Music, Theatre Arts and Visual Arts classes. The focus of the day was to provide an opportunity for students to work on the practical components of their IGCSE or IB Diploma Program courses for an uninterrupted and extended period of time.

We were able to focus the day's activities in the specialist rooms on the OFS campus - the Black Box Theatre, Dance Studio, Music

rooms and practice studios, as well as the Visual Arts rooms on Level 11 of the Senior Block.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Arts students have had limited opportunities to perform or exhibit to audiences available to them in the past, however, it is always uplifting to bear witness to the creative and positive energy that our OFS High School Arts students possess and continually bring to their work.

We hope you enjoy some images from our day!

(Leanne Stephen – Subject Area Leader for Arts)



IN 2021: A Combined Singapore International Schools' Visual Arts Exhibition



Ananyaa Prabhu Masked Desire, Acrylic on Canvas

Each year, at least 16 of the international schools in Singapore combine the talents of their graduating Grade 12 students to curate students' artworks for IN (International – INvolved – INspire), an International Schools Art Exhibition. In previous years, this has been hosted by the Australian High Commission, however, during pandemic times, the format has been changed to an online platform. Each school is represented by 10 student artists with each student's artwork providing a unique opportunity for us to gain insight into the themes and creative intentions of the student artists across Singapore. It is my pleasure to share with you the site address for this year's exhibition where you can browse the entire collection of works and view the pieces created by of the following students: Anoushka Fernandez, Hoi Hung, Vedanti Pawar, Kefan Lan, Yurika Tokuhisa, Shreya Vivek, Sugi Ryu, Mihika Palaparthi, Ananyaa Prabhu and Medha Nogaja.

This year's exhibition can be viewed at: <https://inexhibition.wixsite.com/2021/>

(Leanne Stephen & Maja Vidanovic – Visual Arts teachers)



Yurika Tokuhisa Travelling with My Friends, Acrylic on Canvas



Grade 10 Chess Club Tournament

The Grade 10 Chess Club held a tournament during the first semester. The finals took place on 12 November 2021 in Mr. Eugene Burger’s classroom during lunch break. Attendance for the Final was limited due to COVID-19 SMMs, but the chess was nevertheless exciting and the competition was of a high standard. Maksym Kulesza, playing white, eventually defeated Vignesh Narayanan, with the decisive moment taking place mid-game when Maksym trapped Vignesh’s Queen to effectively place Vignesh on the back foot for the rest of the game. However, Vignesh defended valiantly right to the end, which made for a very exciting final. Congratulations to both boys for making it to the final and for playing the game in good spirit.

(Eugene Burger – Teacher in-charge)



Vignesh about to make a move against eventual champion Maksym

Student Voice News: Spirit Week (25-29 October 2021)



(Keya Gulawani – Grade 10, Student Voice Chief Publicist)

Student Voice has been busy as usual. This Diwali, they encouraged all students to dress up in Indian cultural wear. And the turn-out was incredible! To see students and staff members dressed in colourful clothes, celebrating the Indian Festival of Lights was truly a beautiful sight! Internationalism is a privilege denied to many, and this was one of those moments I realised how lucky our students are, to have been given the opportunity to grow up in such a diverse community.

“Spirit Week” 2021 was a success! The Student Voice organised several activities such as a Haunted Maze, movie screenings and more which the student body participated in avidly. There was also a Spirit Dress-up Day in which most students enthusiastically took part!

All in all, October was a refreshing month, and a great way to de-stress our students before they started to prepare for examinations.



Physical Education News

The SPP classes have been progressing well this semester with a tailored program to include the integration of language skills for successful participation in sports and activities. The students have been involved in Futsal, Basketball and Floor Hockey this semester under the guidance of Ms. Anne Goh and Mr. Richard Petherick. Students have been immersed in learning with reading, writing, listening and speaking skills enhancing their overall sporting development.

(David Bullock – Physical Education teacher)



OFS Tigers: Singapore National Championship Youth Time Trials

29 OFS Tigers Swimmers recently competed in 70 events at the recent Singapore National Championship Youth Time Trials at the Singapore Sports School. The competition was scheduled on 27 and 28 November 2021 during the High School examinations period and the swimmers from Grade 9 to 12 managed their time in both their academic and swimming preparations. We are so proud of the courage displayed as for many of the OFS Tigers swimmers, this was to be their very first experience racing at a championship meet, in an unfamiliar environment with no spectators in the form of family to support them and in the midst

of their Semester 1 examinations. OFS was well represented both in size of the team and quality of performances.

Four Swimmers - all from Grade 9 - achieved Top 25 results. **Lening Liang** and **Ava Gilbert**, were placed 12th and 13th place respectively on the 200m Backstroke events. While **Yawen Yang** and **Elizabeth Young** finished 16th and 23rd respectively on the 100m Breaststroke event.

Congratulations swimmers!

(Gil Levy – Head of Competitive Sports)

