



# 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,

Thank you to all our parents who attended the Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences (PSTCs), which was conducted on 16 and 17 March 2023. This was a great opportunity to celebrate our students' learning as well as to set goals to foster improvements for the remaining semester. These exchanges between teachers and parents are invaluable to our students' academic success and I hope our parents found the conferences beneficial.

The month of March is traditionally a busy month for all our grades, but more so for our Grade 4 and 5 students. In the first week of March, our Kindergarten and Elementary School students and parents were entertained by a cast of 80 talented Grade 4 and 5 students who performed in the school production, *The Jungle Book Kids*. From the amazing costumes, colourful set designs and lighting and stellar performances from our students, it was a musical not to be forgotten. Thank you to all our teachers and parent volunteers for their time and effort in making this a successful event! OFS also had the privilege of hosting the 74th National School Individual Chess Championship 2023 with 146 OFS students participating in the tournament with over 1300 players. Congratulations to all our players for their diligence and dedication to the game. To round off the end of March, our Grade 4 students also successfully participated in the Model United Nations (MUN) Conference on 31 March 2023, whilst our Grade 5 students are busy working in their teams preparing for their upcoming EXPO presentations for their IPC Unit of Work on "The Holiday Show". We hope to see our parents at this exciting Grade 5 exhibition on 12 April.

As we head into the last quarter of this academic year, there are still so many great things planned for our students such as our first Grade 5 Camp, Global Picnic, concerts, sports days and art exhibitions to name a few! We look forward to an action-packed final quarter.



Penny Liew  
Elementary School Principal  
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Important Dates:	
18-20 April	Grade 5 Camp
21 April	School Holiday (Hari Raya)
29 April	Global Picnic
1 May	Public Holiday (Labour Day)
3 May	K2 to G1 Transition Coffee Morning (K2 parents)

## From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

### The 31st OFS Global Picnic

The Global Picnic is an international fair where all the families in the school get together to celebrate being part of an international community. This year's Global Picnic is very special as it will be a full scale event after three years of absence. It will take place on **Saturday, 29 April 2023**, in our campus.

Come along with your family and enjoy a day of free entertainment, music, dances, demonstrations, bouncy castles and lots of food and refreshments. We have food from around the world for you to sample and plenty of things to see and do.

Your active participation and pride in your culture is what makes this jamboree a unique experience for the OFS family. So do bring along your camera, sunhat, best smile and not forgetting your OFS Security Pass. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you on that day!

## Music News



The Music Department would like to congratulate all the students that took part in the musical 'The Jungle Book KIDS' last month. What an amazing show it was! All our performers showed resilience, adaptability and immense collaboration and teamwork skills over the past few months. We are extremely proud of them all. Thank you to all the parents that helped make the show a seamless and enjoyable experience. We appreciate all your efforts behind the scenes and your support at the shows. Our next school events are the Global Concert, Performing Arts Concert and our final Lunchtime Concert. Details for these events will be posted in the Gazette over the next few weeks.

(Kevin McCabe)



## Grade 1 News

It was lovely to see you all at our Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences and celebrate the wonderful progress your children have made over the year. We are sure you are very proud of their achievements. We have completed our enquiry into the History and International subject areas and concluded our current IPC Unit of Work, "How Are You?", with a fun Exit Point to the Bedok Reservoir Park. Students were able to demonstrate their understanding of the five main elements of healthy living through playing games and exercising, hydrating themselves, washing their hands before eating a healthy lunch, and then having rest time. We are excited about our next unit, "The Stories People Tell", where we will be exploring stories that have been passed down through the ages from a historical and geographical perspective. In Language Arts, students enjoyed following a recipe to make Chocolate Balls and then used their knowledge of the procedural structure to write the steps involved. In Mathematics, we have concluded our unit on Fractions. Students enjoyed making pictures using a range of fraction parts.

*(Jaya Ward)*



## Grade 2 News



It was wonderful sharing your child's learning journey with you at the Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences. The Grade 2 students continued to have a busy time over the last month. As a part of the "Land Sea And Sky" unit, we explored fish adaptations and understood how fish can live successfully in their habitats. The field trip to the S.E.A Aquarium broadened their understanding of marine adaptations. Students enquired into food chains and animal classification. They used their understanding about animal adaptations to classify animals according to their characteristics. As we came to the end of our unit, the classes transformed into hives of creativity. The children applied their new knowledge, skills and understanding of habitats and adaptations to research and create a diorama for the Exit Point. The unit culminated with a diorama gallery walk. We are excited about our new unit, "Footprints From The Past", which takes us back in time to when Dinosaurs were alive.

*(Sameerata Prakash)*

## Grade 3 News



The Grade 3 teachers wish to express their gratitude to all the parents for their unwavering support and effective communication between the school and the home which was evident during the Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences. This valuable collaboration aids in better comprehending how to provide support to the students and maximizes their potential. The Grade 3 students have acquired confidence in their research skills by investigating our Unit of Work, "They Made A Difference". They showcased their knowledge, skills and understanding during their Exit Point presentations through passionate speeches, posters, and slideshows. The students are currently advancing their learning as they embark on their new unit, "Saving The World". They will explore the rainforest, its inhabitants, and the issues surrounding conservation. Initially, the students engaged in a walk-through of the school's "rainforest" garden to investigate its natural surroundings and resources. Subsequently, they returned to class to consider the implications of living off the land while maintaining sustainability. Classes are also commencing an investigation into biodiversity and the significance of rainforest ecosystems to the global community. The big question of this unit is: "Why should we protect the rainforest?"

*(Camelia Gergely)*

## Library News

It has been an exciting month in the library with the arrival of 158 new fiction titles for all levels of readers and two beautiful new chaise lounge bean bags, which are very comfortable to sit on. The Red Dot Voting opened and students have been excited to vote for their favourite Red Dot books.

*(Olivia Burford-Taylor)*





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## Grade 4 News



March has been another busy month with many activities going on in Grade 4. It was great to meet all the parents at the Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences. Students worked very hard on the Model United Nations unit and this culminated into a very successful General Assembly. All students have had the chance to develop the IPC Personal Goals of communicator and collaborator during this process. The committee rooms became a hive of negotiations towards the end of the unit as each country wanted to ensure that they were able to put their stamp of opinion on the final resolutions. In Language Arts students have written their final newspaper report of the unit and published them. They were able to show what they have learned in the unit about the structure of a newspaper report. Students have been busy in Math learning about perimeter and area leading towards angles.

*(Guy Watts)*

## Chess News

### OFS takes it all:

#### 74th National School Individual Chess Championship 2023

A record-breaking number of 1364 students successfully competed in the recent 74th National School Individual Chess Championship. After a gruelling nine rounds of rapid chess, the winners in the various age-groups were determined: From Elementary School, seven-year old Ashwath Kaushik was most successful scoring 8 points in the Under-12 Open category, staying undefeated, and winning 3rdPlace. Other ES players with special achievements were Veer Sethi, Marissa Tosin, Xie Muting, Shefali Patnaik and Isaac Ziegler in the U8 category and Aanya Jaiswal and Lakshita Singhi in the U10 category. OFS was the most successful International School throughout all 12 categories, earning 22 medals and trophies against the best chess players in Singapore. Congratulations to all 146 (ES,MS and HS) OFS players for giving their very best and taking this important milestone.

*(Dijana Dengler and Philipp Ziegler)*



## Grade 5 News



Thank you parents for the wonderful conversations that took place during Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences. The past few weeks the hallways have been a buzz of excitement as the students prepared their boards and practiced their presentations for Expo. They have applied their knowledge, skills and understanding into sustainable tourism to showcase the pros and cons of tourism, how tourism impacts people and the environment and how we can be sustainable tourists when we travel. Congratulations must be passed on to all the Grade 5 students for their in-depth research and recording and their positive cooperation and resilience. They can all be very proud of their achievements. In Mathematics, students have been engaged in data handling, where they have been learning how to draw different types of graphs and how to analyse them. They have also been finding out about the mean, median, mode and range and how the mean can be affected by outliers. The big news in Grade 5 is our return to camp which will take place from 18 to 20 April. Both staff and students are thrilled about this opportunity for team building, cooperation and independence.

*(Karla Kleist)*

## Languages News



Celebrating a language means paying respect and raising awareness about the culture and history which is linked to that language. This month both the Foreign Languages and Mother Tongue classes have shared that through our Languages' Assemblies. Our Grade 2 and 3 students were treated to presentations on topics such as the importance of the Panda in China, spelling patterns in Dutch and a Phonetic-Rap in German. These presentations were all complemented by lots of role-plays and songs such as the Hindi 'Elephant's Hiccups' that link to the Grade 2 IPC unit Land, Sea & Sky, along with the Russian story of Seven Heroes and the Princess.

*(Monica Makkar and Roger Calais)*



## Physical Education (PE)

In PE the students have recently switched to/from the Striking and Fielding Games unit, where they learn how to play cricket and modified baseball-like games such as kickball, three-ball and tee-ball while developing their teamwork and collaborative skills. Other classes have switched to/from the Invasion Games unit, where they learn various invasion games such as capture the flag and student favourite 'yuki-ball', which is a game modified from the popular snowball fighting sport in Japan – but with it being too warm for snow in Singapore we use soft rubber balls! The students have immense fun while learning attacking and defending skills and how to work effectively as a team.

Mark your calendar for the semester 2 Sports Mornings:

- Grade 1: Friday 19th May
- Grade 4: Monday 22nd May
- Grade 2: Tuesday 23rd May
- Grade 5: Thursday 25th May
- Grade 3: Wednesday 31st May

We look forward to seeing you supporting our students.

*(Rory Hawkins)*

## Art News

Ms. Wendy Tan and I would like to thank all the families who came to visit the Art department during our Parent/Student/Teacher conferences and to our students who spoke so well about how they made their creations. We are now starting our new Units of Work; Grade 1 students will be choosing their favourite story to represent, Grade 2 are exploring the world of dinosaurs, Grade 3 students will be camouflaging animals, Grade 4 learners are creating collagraphs and Grade 5 artists will be constructing rides and games based on fairgrounds. Fantastic!

*(Jennifer Freeman)*



## Sports News

### OFS Tigers Swim Team – Singapore National Age Groups

The OFS Tigers Swim Team recently competed at the Singapore National Age Groups. The team competed across 9 grueling days across a breathtaking 137 events. There were significant improvements in personal best times achieved and school records being broken whilst competing amongst the very best of the best swimmers in Singapore. The Elementary School swimmers were outstanding competing in their first ever Junior Nationals.

Tia Steere (4 Barton) finished in the Top 10 best swimmers in Singapore, on the 50m Breaststroke Final
Haoren Wang (4 Watts) finished among the Top 20 with 13th in the 50m Breaststroke
Samarth Datar (5 Sparrow) finished among the Top 20 with 18th on the 200m Backstroke
Blaze Dunton (5 Kleist) placed in the Top 40 on 200m Freestyle
Charles Forbes (5 Tee) placed in the Top 40 on 50m Backstroke
Aryav Hans (5 Caffrey) placed in the Top 40 on 50m Breaststroke
Oskar Jurkun (5 Burger) placed in the Top 30 on 50m Backstroke and Top 40 on 50m Freestyle

OFS Tigers Swim Team now have multiple swimmers who are nationally ranked amongst the top swimmers in the country! We are so proud of you all!

*(Gil Levy)*

## New Staff

### HAYLEY KINNAIRD

Hello everyone. My name is Hayley and I am a new Grade 5 teacher. I was born in New Zealand and have taught across Grades 1 to 6. Netball is my favourite sport and I currently coach the U19 Tigers Netball team. I have been fortunate enough to see the world and have worked as a teacher in New Zealand, London, Dubai, China and now Singapore. In my spare time you will find me exploring outside, traveling or reading a book. Thank you to all the families, students and staff who have been so welcoming. I am looking forward to getting to know the OFS community better and exploring all that Singapore has to offer.



### EMIKO ITAKO

Hello, I'm Emiko. A new Japanese Mother Tongue teacher! I was born in Tokyo, Japan but now I live in Singapore with my family. Before I came here, I had lived in New Zealand and China and enjoyed traveling to many places. I like reading books, especially Haruki Murakami. When I was a student, my favorite subject was English but I was not very skilled at PE. However I have always wanted to be a teacher! Please feel free to talk to me!

