



# 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,**

As we come to a close of Semester One, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey we have shared with your children. From our amazing little Grade Ones, who have confidently completed their first semester of Elementary School to our Grade Fives, who are now left with one final semester before graduating and completing their journey in the Elementary School. It has truly been a semester filled with growth, achievement, and memorable experiences.

Our teachers have been very proud of our students' academic accomplishments. From mastering new concepts to showcasing their creativity and learning through their Units of Work exit points and projects, art exhibition, sports days, concerts, chess and sports competitions and so much more. I extend my gratitude to our teachers and coaches for providing these opportunities for our students.

One of the strengths of our school community is its diversity and community involvement. This semester, we celebrated various cultural events and engaged in several community service projects, from food drives to fundraisers. We appreciate our parents' support in many of these events and initiatives.

As we head towards our December break, our Enrichment Program Team will be offering a December Winter Camp 2023 for our Elementary School students. Please return your child's registration form to the Elementary School office as soon as possible to secure a place.

I, along with the Elementary teaching staff would also like to take this opportunity to bid farewell to two teachers finishing in December; Mrs. Olivia Burford-Taylor, our Library Teacher, and Ms. Irene Tan. We thank them for their dedication and years of service and wish them all the best.

Finally, a fond farewell to our students who are moving on from OFS. We wish you all the very best with your future endeavours and hope you take wonderful memories of our school with you. We look forward to welcoming our new and returning students for Semester Two on Monday, 8 January 2024. I wish all of our students, families, and teachers a restful and enjoyable holiday break.



**Penny Liew**  
Elementary School Principal  
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## From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

As Semester 1 draws to a close, we would like to take this opportunity to express how grateful we are for all your support. Happy holidays to all of you, and may your new year be filled with happiness and success.

We look forward to seeing all of you again in January 2024. If you are travelling, have a fun trip! Stay safe and stay healthy.

## Languages News



In a vibrant and enriching showcase of cultural diversity, the Grade 4 Foreign Language and Mother Tongue students held remarkable Languages Assemblies. Through various performances, the students captivated the audience with their presentations on Beijing Opera, French tongue twisters, Japanese pop culture, Korean dance, Spanish similarities in Latin languages, German role play on St Martin's Day, and many more. In classes, students also celebrated the joyous festival of Diwali by creating vibrant rangoli patterns and decorating diyas. They learned about the significance of this festival through stories and songs. The Jewish festival of Hanukkah and Finnish National Day were also celebrated, bringing a close to a busy and fun semester of language learning.

*(Monica Makkar and Roger Calais)*



## Grade 1 News

We are coming to the end of our third Unit of Work, "Green Fingers!", which we have thoroughly enjoyed. We had fun going on a nature walk around our school garden and observing the plants of Singapore. The students carried out a variety of investigations into what plants need to grow and survive. They were excited to observe and record the growth of their own plant from a tiny seed to a plant with roots, leaves, and a stem. Students also explored the many uses of plants. We were delighted to go on our field trip to the Jacob Ballas Children's Garden. Through this experience, students were able to make connections to their learning beyond the classroom. In Language Arts, we have started procedure writing whereby students follow procedures to carry out investigations. We hope you enjoyed our Holiday Concert. The students practised very hard during their music lessons and were thrilled to perform for you. Thank you for your support in having the children dressed in their costumes. Best wishes for a happy, safe, and relaxing holiday.

*(Jaya Ward)*



## Grade 2 News



The Grade 2 students have had some wonderful experiences during the last month. They have been really excited about our Unit of Work, "Different Places, Similar Lives". They are learning that even though we may be from different places, we have many similarities with the people around us. They enquired into the history of Singapore and discovered facts that they have been able to connect with living in Singapore today. We enjoyed our field trip to the Images of Singapore "Live" Museum. It was a fun, interactive, and theatrical journey. Through a mix of live actors and special effects, the field trip portrayed Singapore's transformation from a humble Malay fishing village to the 21st century city it is today. Students applied their research skills to learn about festivals and celebrations. The Holiday Concert tied in well with our IPC unit. Students performed to songs celebrating holidays from around the world. The children looked fantastic on stage and put on a great show. We wish you all a joyful and safe holiday.

*(Sameerata Prakash)*

## Grade 3 News



Our last Unit of Work for this Semester is "Bright Sparks!". Grade 3 students have been investigating how electricity flows through wires and how switches work. They have been following scientific procedures, as scientists would, and learning the features of this text type. Students are focused on making predictions, observing changes in variables, and drawing conclusions. They are learning through a house design investigation about the scientific enquiry process. Students will be busily designing and constructing their houses and then applying their knowledge of making electric circuits by including a buzzer and or lighting. This will be shared with parents at the Exit point in the last week of Semester One. The Grade 3 Holiday Concert was a wonderful success! The students were colourful and festive in their costumes. They performed amazingly! Thank you for supporting this event. We look forward to seeing everyone back in our second semester and wish everyone an enjoyable, safe, and fun-filled holiday.

*(Emma Gregg)*

## Art News

As our calendar year comes to an end, we can reflect on and celebrate the achievements of our students in Art. Ms. Wendy Tan and I would like to thank all of our young artists for their hard work and our parents who came to visit our vibrant Grade 1-5 Art Exhibition. We wish everyone a happy and creative break!

*(Jennifer Freeman)*



## Library News

Exciting news! Elementary School students now have 24/7 access to 40,000+ e-books through the Epic School Plus digital library. The collection spans fiction, graphic novels, audiobooks, read-to-me books, and non-fiction across various subjects, including language learning in Spanish, Chinese, and French. Students can download books to devices, ideal for weekends and school holidays. Accessing Epic School Plus is simple – students enter their Homebase teacher-assigned 'class code' on <https://kids.getepic.com/in/students>. With Epic School Plus all students can keep reading this holiday. Lastly, as the semester draws to a close I must say a big THANK YOU to our dedicated library monitors for their hard work and positivity this semester! You have been amazing!



*(Olivia Burford-Taylor)*

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## Grade 4 News

It was a very busy last couple of weeks in December for Grade 4. Our third Unit of Work, "Here and Now, There and Then" came to an end and the students had the opportunity to share their knowledge of key events in their home countries' history. Across the grade, we all learned many new historical facts about many countries around the world. Next semester, we will be starting with our Unit of Work, "Going Global". In Language Arts the students have been using their imagination and creativity when writing their narrative piece of writing. There was a focus on story structure, character and setting description, and the use of figurative language within their story to bring it all to life. We will be beginning the next semester with persuasive writing as our text type. In Mathematics the students have been looking at time, weight and mass completing some investigations with this unit. We hope you enjoyed the Holiday Concert. It is always great to see the students on stage celebrating holidays from around the world. We wish you a happy, safe, and enjoyable holiday from all the teachers in Grade 4.

*(Guy Watts)*



## Chess News



### OFs Chess Tigers shine at the 1st International Schools Chess Team Championship

For the very first time ACSIS included chess in their competitive sports program and organized a three-day chess championship from 14-16 November 2023. OFS eagerly joined and fielded 26 teams across the different age groups proving once more its love for chess and reputation as a chess powerhouse. The most impressive performance was achieved by our Elementary students winning both their Under-9-year and Under-11-year-old categories thereby becoming ACSIS Chess Champions. Additionally, OFS teams achieved multiple Top-10 rankings making it a truly successful event. Well done to all OFS students, especially those who played their first Team Championship.

*(Dijana Dengler and Philipp Ziegler)*

## Grade 5 News

The Grade 5 students finished off their OFS MUN Unit by dressing up in formal attire and participating in the (MUNOFS) General Assembly. Led by our Secretary-General, Pranaaya Jayaram (5 Hodge) and Deputy Secretary-General, Maria (Elle) Garcia (5 Kleist), the delegates from nine countries spent the two days finalising their Issue Statements. Ambassadors read country speeches and Chairs of the committee rooms shared final resolutions, which all the countries voted for or against. It was a rewarding unit and all the students have done an excellent job demonstrating respect for other viewpoints, actively listening, and displaying the Personal Goals. Congratulations to our wonderful Semester 1 JSC members. They have done an outstanding job in assemblies and at lunchtimes. Also, for organising and sorting all the food for our Food from the Heart food-drive. They have been excellent role models and have shown enthusiasm in fulfilling their roles this semester. The Grade 5 Team would like to wish our students and families a safe, and relaxing and well-deserved holiday.

*(Karla Kleist)*



## Physical Education (PE)



The PE Department has been super busy planning fun-filled sports morning activities across the grade levels. Students have been excited as we head towards these mornings. In our Swimming unit, students have been refining their knowledge of pool safety, swimming skills, and understanding of the concepts of resistance and movement in water. Gymnastics has certainly been another area of excitement as students worked on developing their body control and coordination when performing a variety of leaps jumps and rolls. When we return next semester, some classes will start with our Striking and Fielding unit. The rest will kickstart our Invasion Games unit. As we edge closer to the end of semester one, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all our parents for their support and we wish you a happy and safe holiday.

*(Ashley Riffel)*



## International Mindedness

As a group of educators, we sat down to think about what International Mindedness meant for us. This is our definition – ‘At Overseas Family School, we seek to develop in our students knowledge and understanding of their nationality and the independence and interdependence of peoples, countries, and cultures. Through a balanced focus on the host and home country, we hope to enable our students to become aware of different perspectives and to develop international-mindedness’. Here are some ideas that you may use to foster International Mindedness over the holiday season.

### Explore Family Traditions

Look into your family history. Talk about celebrations and traditions, and explain the unique aspects that make your family special.

### Value Similarities and Differences

Encourage your child to appreciate diversity through identifying similarities and valuing differences. As you travel, celebrate the uniqueness that makes places and people interesting, promoting respect and understanding. Explore the customs, traditions, and celebrations.

### Encourage Empathy

Foster empathy, encouraging them to see the world from others’ perspectives in everyday life. Discuss the importance of giving back. Encourage children to participate in activities that support global causes.

### Discussion and Reflection

Visit museums or cultural centres that showcase international art, history, and artefacts. Encourage open conversations about cultural diversity, tolerance, and empathy.

### Engage with Current Affairs

Find an age-appropriate news source you can look at together with your child. Try to identify bias or fake news and check for facts and accuracy.

### Appreciate People Who Help Us

Talk about the people working in the local community and help children to appreciate the contribution each person makes to helping society function.

### Discover Language, The Arts, and Global Cuisine

Learning simple greetings or common words can be a fun and interactive way for children to engage with people. Listen to music, learn dances from different parts of the world you visit. Cook and taste local dishes, explore international recipes, involve children in the kitchen.

### Promote Economic Awareness

Talk to your child about the things that you pay for such as goods and services. Discuss decisions with them that have a financial aspect, such as prioritising one thing over another to meet needs and/or wants.

The four aspects of International Mindedness and Global Competence in the IPC are ‘investigate the world’, ‘recognise perspectives’, ‘communicate ideas’ and ‘take action’ these are woven into the taught curriculum at OFS.

*(Shalini Maira)*

## Music News

Well done to all our amazing students from Grade 1 to Grade 5 who participated in our Holiday Concerts. Not only did these shows bring entertainment to us all, but they also brought the diverse cultures within our school community together in a harmonious celebration of joy. The concerts featured a delightful array of performances, from heart-warming seasonal classics to culturally rich presentations that reflected the diversity of our school. We would like to thank everyone that was involved and we look forward to many more exciting musical events in the new year.

*(Kevin McCabe)*

## SPP



As the first semester ends, we celebrate our SPP students’ fantastic progress in English. They have grown in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. We thank parents for their continuous and valuable support. Our students are gaining language proficiency, strengthening friendships, and engaging in activities with increased confidence. SPP Level 3 students will be celebrated during a school assembly on December 15, 2023, as they complete and exit SPP. Over the break, we encourage reading, watching English content, visiting local libraries, and making new friends. Your child should continue using resources like Reading Eggs/Eggspress, Storyline Online, Epic, BrainPop, BrainPop Jr, BBC Learning English, and keeping a holiday journal. On behalf of the SPP team, we wish you a Happy New Year and we look forward to welcoming you back on 8th January!

*(Camelia Gergely)*

## Sports News

OFS Tigers Elementary School Teams have been sensational in Season 1 of the ACSIS League and ACSIS Championships.

The 9U Boys Football Team has been crowned ACSIS Champions taking the Gold Medal in the ACSIS Championships. The 9U girls were dominant in most of their matches too.

The 10U mixed Netball Team finished in a formidable 2nd place as Season 1, runners up with the ACSIS Silver Medals.

A number of the Elementary School students played in the 11U Basketball Teams where the OFS Tigers Girls team was second and the 11U Boys finished third.

The OFS Tigers have also been crowned ACSIS Champions in Chess with its inaugural addition to the ACSIS Sports on offer to our students.

Victoria Zoloeva in Grade 3 was outstanding in winning the Silver Medal position at the ACSIS Cross Country Championships.

With Season 2 ACSIS sports underway – the bar has been set high for our Elementary School Teams competing in Badminton, Football, Basketball, and Netball, as well as Swimming and Gymnastics. Let’s go Tigers!

*(Gil Levy)*