



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,

A warm welcome to our new students and families that have joined us in the Elementary School at OFS and a "welcome back" to our returning students and parents. We recently welcomed approximately 90 new students and 5 teachers into the Elementary School and opened 4 new homebase classes. I hope our new students feel settled in their new school routines, and with time become more familiar with our curriculum, as well as form new friendships.

Earlier in the month of January, as part of our partnership with Sail GP we had the pleasure of welcoming some of the athletes that are participating in Sail GP to our school. Our wonderful Elementary students made good luck cards and presented them to team USA, team UK, team NZ and team Australia. Below are some photos of the presentation. Thank you to all our students for their well wishes for all Sail GP athletes!

The OFS website has a wealth of information for all members of the OFS community. As parents, you can find out information about our school, ranging from upcoming events, newsletters, Parent Association announcements to course and curriculum information. If you log in to our online OFS Learning Portal, you can track student assessments, view student timetables, check assigned homework, sign up for after school activities and much more. This is one of our most important methods of communication with parents, so please make use of the OFS website to help stay in touch with your child's school life.

Registrations for COVID-19 vaccinations for 5-11 year olds. Parents, please inform us of the dates of each vaccination dose for your child and we will ensure that strenuous activity is avoided at school for the two weeks afterwards. You can keep us informed via this link.

<https://www.ofs.edu.sg/my-ofs/SurveyUser.jsp?surveyId=34>

On the 23 and 24 February, all teachers across schools will be undertaking Professional Development to allow them to renew and further enhance their existing skills, knowledge and understanding about education. Please note that these two days are student free days (no school).

Finally, I wish all our students and families the very best for Semester 2. To families celebrating the Lunar New Year, have a happy, healthy and prosperous year ahead.

Penny Liew
Elementary School Principal
penny_liew@ofs.edu.sg



From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

Global Picnic 2023

The annual Global Picnic, an international fair where all the families in the school get together to celebrate being part of an international culture, will take place on Saturday, 29 April 2023.

We are in the process of contacting Country Coordinators of your nationality. A Country Coordinator works with the Parent Association and organises other parents of the same nationality to contribute to the food and activities tables. The first meeting for the Country Coordinators will be on Thursday, **16 February 2023**, from **10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** in PA Lounge, on Level 4 of the Administration Block. Please join us if you would like to volunteer to represent your country.

If you have any queries, please do write to us at parent_association@ofs.edu.sg. Stay safe and stay healthy.



Important dates in 2023

6–10 February	Book Week
10 February	Book Week Character Dress Up Day
21 February	Season 3 Competitive Sports training and ECAs begins
23–24 February	Professional Development for teachers (student free days, no school)



Grade 1 News

Happy New Year to all our families and a special welcome to the new families who have joined our Grade 1 classes this semester. We would like to welcome two new Grade 1 classes, 1 Phelps and 1 Johnson, to our team. The students have settled in well and have made a smooth start to the second semester. We have begun our current IPC Unit of Work "How Are You?" In this unit, students will be exploring ways we can stay healthy. It is great to see the children bringing in healthy lunches and snacks and taking responsibility to ensure they are eating a healthy diet. For our Entry Point, students participated in Zumba and Yoga activities. They had fun learning dance steps and yoga poses to keep their body and mind healthy. During our Science tasks, students have been enquiring into the five food groups and identifying examples for each group through hands-on activities. We look forward to another great semester.

(Jaya Ward)



Grade 2 News



Happy New Year and a warm welcome to all our new OFS families! We kick started the new year with an exciting IPC unit "Land, Sea And Sky". In this unit we will explore how water plants, fish and birds have adapted to their habitats. Students looked at the meaning of the term habitat and discussed what an ideal habitat needs to provide for a plant or animal to thrive. The debate on whether animals can survive without plants led to interesting discussions in the classrooms. In Language Arts, we will be focussing on writing information reports. Students explored features of nonfiction text. They are learning to take notes from different sources. In Mathematics, students explored three digit addition and subtraction. They applied their understanding to work with money. We look forward to a wonderful semester.

(Sameerata Prakash)

Library News

Book Week, our annual celebration of books and reading, is from Monday to Friday, 6 to 10 February. High School and Middle School students read stories on a live stream from the High School library every morning, teachers read stories in our library during lunch and the "Do You Know This Book?" quiz challenged our students' reading knowledge. Homebase teachers planned fun activities for the week, to make sure it was memorable.

(Olivia Burford-Taylor)



Grade 3 News



Happy New Year and welcome back to OFS. We would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new families. We are excited to announce that in Grade 3 we have added another homebase class and we would like to welcome Ms. Wong back. She returned to OFS after being away on maternity leave. Grade 3 had an empowering start to 2023 with the onset of our new unit, "They Made A Difference". During the Entry Point, teachers dressed up and posed as seven notable people, revealing their significant contributions. Students have been researching, reading biographies and participating in collaborative research tasks, gaining understanding of what made each person not only famous, but significant and influential to society, too. Students are also sharpening their storytelling skills, as they work their way through the writing process to draft narratives. Their appreciation for the talented authors who write books is highlighted through this creative exercise, as it draws on the student's love of reading. This was the focus of our Book Week. In Mathematics, the students have started the fraction unit. For detailed information, please have a look at the overview which is located on the Learning Portal under "resources".

(Camelia Gergely)

Sports News

OFS Tigers ES Teams have been busy in Season 2 with: 10U Football, 11U Football, 12U Boys and Girls Basketball, 12U Cricket, Gymnastics, Swimming and Pre-Season Track.

The competing teams have enjoyed traveling to away fixtures as well as hosting visiting teams to our school. Many of the matches have gone down to the wire. So many emphatic wins and a few narrow losses but we "either win or we lose." Our OFS Tigers represent our school and their sports teams with passion and with pride and are becoming well known across ACSIS as formidable competitive teams.

Looking forward to the fast approaching Season 3 of sports! Go Tigers!!!

(Gil Levy)

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Grade 4 News



It has been great to see all the students returning after the holidays. They have come back excited, motivated and with lovely stories to tell about what they have been up to. The students have had a fun start to their new IPC unit, "Going Global". They have been taking part in trade games in the classroom which has given them an understanding of how International trade works and how not every country gets a fair chance. Throughout this unit there will be an emphasis on interdependence around the world and globalisation which will lead to the students getting their first taste of Model United Nations (MUN). Each class will represent a different country and take on issues that are impacting the world today. To start with each class has researched and written a country report for the MUN which will be read out in their committee rooms. In Mathematics we have begun our unit on fractions. Students have been learning all about fractions and connecting the use of fractions to our everyday lives. This semester in Language Arts we will be focusing on newspaper writing and producing our own newspaper reports about events around the school or in the news.

(Guy Watts)

SPP

Happy New Year and a warm welcome back to our returning SPP students. We would like to acknowledge and extend a special welcome to our new students who have joined our school in January. Our department has noticeably increased in numbers and, as a result, we have opened up a couple more SPP Homebase classes. The children are starting to settle in slowly, making friends and beginning to learn English. The SPP teachers, along with all the other teaching staff look forward to teaching your children, developing English skills as well as progress in all other subjects. We are looking forward to an amazing semester ahead!

Should you have any questions regarding the SPP program, do not hesitate to contact me at: camelia_gergely@ofs.edu.sg. The SPP department would like to wish a Happy Lunar New Year – Xin Nián Hao" 新年好 – to all the families who are celebrating this event. Thank you for choosing OFS as your educational partner.

(Camelia Gergely)



Grade 5 News



Happy New Year to everyone and a warm welcome to all of our new families. We are excited to welcome our new class, 5 Kinnaird to our Grade 5 team this semester. Semester 2 is a very exciting and rewarding time for our Grade 5 students. The students will be participating in a range of diverse learning experiences. These include presenting their EXPO show piece, dressing up for Book Week and our final unit, Fairgrounds. There is of course the Elementary School Musical as well – so much to look forward to! Our current IPC Unit of Work is "The Holiday Show (Expo)". During our Entry Point, students worked cooperatively trying to persuade the other Grade 5 students that their chosen destination was the best to travel to. The students will spend this unit learning about our responsibilities as tourists and the impact our choice of holiday and travel destination can have on the environment. This will lead us to the Expo, where students are provoked to think about sustainable tourism, working collaboratively to share their research findings with the greater school audience.

Junior Student Council (JSC)

Congratulations to the students who have been elected by their peers to be our new JSC members for this semester. This is a great honour, well done! These student leaders will be working hard to support the OFS programs and make a positive impact throughout the school community.

(Karla Kleist)



Physical Education (PE)

Since returning to school students have been participating in a short Health Related Fitness unit, where they have enjoyed learning about the different components of fitness and how to improve them. Students were able to compare their results from a range of activities such as the 300m run to the results they achieved in semester 1 and previous years. They were very interested to see their growth and development while identifying areas of their health related fitness to improve. After the Lunar New Year break the students will be participating in the Striking and Fielding and Invasion Games units, so please ensure all students have a hat and water bottle for Physical Education lessons.

(Rory Hawkins)

Art News



A warm welcome to our new students who have settled into the routines of their Art classes quickly. We are all now busy with our current IPC Units of Work, where Grade 1 students have been creating collages using fruit and vegetables; we are using recycled materials to create bird sculptures in Grade 2 and bold body adornments in Grade 4. 'Junk' never looked so good! Grade 3 children are learning about Yayoi Kusama and our Grade 5 artists are making persuasive posters. The Art Department is also hard at work painting set pieces for our upcoming Musical – banana trees abound!

(Jennifer Freeman)

Languages News



Welcome to another semester of language learning in the Elementary School. The Foreign Languages and Mother Tongue teams send warm greetings to all students, new and returning, and wish everyone an enjoyable semester. We also welcome Ms Emiko Itako to our teaching team. She is teaching Japanese Mother Tongue. In a busy start to the year our Mandarin students have prepared for Lunar New Year by making decorations and calligraphy. All classes have participated in special activities to celebrate this event. Have a great semester in Languages' class everybody!

(Monica Makkar and Roger Calais)

Chess News



Welcome back for Semester Two and a very special welcome to all new students and families at OFS. We are excited to take you on a unique learning journey to find out all about the ancient game of Kings and Queens. More experienced students can look forward to the Singapore National School Individual Chess Championship, held in the OFS auditorium on 11 and 12 March and the Online Tournament "Checkmate to Racism" on 25 March.

(Dijana Dengler and Philipp Ziegler)

New Staff

LENA XIA

My name is Lena Xia and I am teaching Grade 3 SPP2. I am from Sydney, Australia. I initially studied Accounting and Finance at the University of New South Wales and proceeded to work as an investment banker in Sydney. However, I had always known that my true calling was to be an educator and in 2018 I decided to make a career change to teaching (and have never looked back!) I completed a Masters of Teaching at the University of Sydney and have since taught in both public and private schools in Australia and the UK. I moved to Singapore last August and have absolutely loved my time here, a huge part of it due to the welcoming community here at OFS. I hope that I can help my students to become mindful, adaptable and kind thinkers and people. In my free time I enjoy walking my puppy, running, swimming and yoga.



COLM SUPPLE

My name is Colm Supple and I am from Kerry, Ireland. I have worked in a variety of educational settings throughout my career. I earned my Bachelor in Education at the University of Limerick and was then awarded a scholarship to do my Masters of Education in Houston, Texas. I simultaneously studied and taught at under-resourced schools in the greater Houston area. My passion for education and social justice led me to Chile. My initial work in Chile was a part of an outreach program through the University of Notre Dame, but I eventually stayed to teach at an International School. My hope for my students is to see the world through an internationally minded perspective so that they can become 21st century citizens who are caring, balanced, and compassionate. I look forward to being the reading support teacher here at OFS and inspire my students to become lifelong readers! In my free time, I enjoy going to the gym, reading, traveling, and learning new languages.



Music News

Creativity and expression is flowing through the Music classrooms as the students of OFS return to playing instruments. Grade 1 classes are learning about the elements of music and playing rhythmic patterns on percussion instruments, while Grade 2 students are learning songs on the xylophone using the pentatonic scale. Grade 3 classes are developing their sight reading skills and playing classical and pop songs on the keyboard. Grade 4 students are advancing their recorder skills as well as learning the ukulele, while Grade 5 students are learning the components of songwriting and putting it into practice with the ukulele. Finally, our Musical students are working extremely hard in preparation for 'The Jungle Book KIDS' which will take place on 7 and 8 March. We cannot wait for you to see the show!

(Kevin McCabe)

