



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,



February proved to be another busy month, with our Lunar New Year and Book Week celebrations being the main highlights, along with field trips to the Victoria Theatre for our Grades 1 and 2, as well as visiting an eco-friendly, sustainable resort for our Grade 5 students' inquiry into tourism and sustainability.

As we head into March, our Grade 4 and 5 students have been particularly busy with Model United Nations and the EXPO. In the past few weeks, Grade 4 students have been learning about and preparing for the Grade 4 Model United Nations (MUN) Conference, whilst our Grade 5 students are busy working in their teams preparing for the EXPO for their IPC Unit of Work on "The Holiday Show". Thrown amongst these two big events are also the final rehearsals and evening live performances of our Elementary School musical, "The Jungle Book Kids".

On a separate note, our Grade 5 parents now have access to Middle School information on their OFS dashboard. You will be able to find useful links to the Middle School Transition Talk, Middle School/High School Languages Pathways, as well as Middle School Parent Information that highlights the eight IB MYP subject areas. This feature has been made available to support your child's transition to Middle School in the next academic year.

Finally in the month of March, our Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences (PSTCs) will be held on Thursday and Friday, 16 and 17 March 2023. Thank you to all parents who have made their online bookings for the upcoming conferences. PSTC schedules for parents will be sent home on Wednesday, 8 March 2023 with each child. Please do contact the Elementary School school secretaries (es-secretaries@ofs.edu.sg) if you need assistance with changing your scheduled appointments.

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

Upcoming events	
14 March	K2 to Grade 1 Transition Talk for parents
16-17 March	Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences
31 March	Grade 4 MUN General Assembly
3-7 April	School Holidays
12 April	Grade 5 Expo

From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

Global Picnic 2023: Second Meeting for Country Coordinators

The annual Global Picnic, an international fair where all the families in the School get together to celebrate as one international community, will take place on Saturday, 29 April 2023. This is a great opportunity for you to represent your country by bringing popular traditional food to your country table, performing a musical or dance number which represents your country, or sharing an activity from your culture. We invite you to come join us and represent your country. If you have any family recipe item or activity from your culture to share, please come along and help. The second and final meeting for the Country Coordinators will be on:

Date: Thursday, 16 March 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Venue: Parent Lounge (Level 4 of Administration Block)

If you would like to volunteer to represent your country, please email the Parent Association at (parent_association@ofs.edu.sg). More information regarding the Global Picnic is available on the school website (<https://www.ofs.edu.sg/about/pa/events/global-picnic/>).

Physical Education (PE)

In PE the students have been learning how to play games such as T-ball and cricket in the Striking and Fielding Games unit, and a range of enjoyable team games in the Invasion Games unit. It has been fantastic to see the students working together in a team to achieve a common goal; this is an area of PE that students missed out on over the last few years during the pandemic restrictions, therefore the PE Teachers have been putting extra effort into facilitating team games and activities which develop socio-emotional skills such as resilience, collaboration and communication. In the next newsletter we will be providing details of the Semester 2 Sports Mornings, so keep your eyes out for important information soon!

(Rory Hawkins)

Music News



In Music class, students have started composing their own songs and melodies. Grade 1 pupils are creating a 2-bar rhythmic pattern while Grade 2 and 3 students are learning about musical form and how to compose within a set structure. Grade 4 students are working in groups to create a short song using four ostinato patterns and Grade 5 pupils are collaborating to create a song on the ukulele to go with their EXPO unit of work, 'The Holiday Show'. Finally, our ES Musical 'The Jungle Book KIDS' was performed. All cast members did an amazing job and gave a performance to remember!

(Kevin McCabe)



Grade 1 News

Grade 1 students have had a busy month exploring the Science and Health and Wellbeing subject areas in our IPC Unit of Work, "How Are You?". Students enquired into the importance of diet, exercise, sleep, hydration and hygiene which are the five elements that contribute to a healthy lifestyle. We reviewed the five senses and discussed how our senses help us to be safe. In Mathematics, the children had fun exploring 2D shapes and making pictures using shapes. In Language Arts, we have continued with our procedural writing focus. Students enjoyed following a recipe to make bread and jam sandwiches and fruit kebabs. We celebrated our 100 days of school with fun activities. Students shared their wonderful projects with much enthusiasm. Book Week was an exciting time celebrating the joy of books and stories. Thank you parents for your support in getting the children dressed in their favourite book character costume. They looked fabulous!

(Jaya Ward)



Grade 2 News



The Grade 2 students have had a busy time over the last month enquiring into fish and birds as part of our "Land, Sea And Sky" unit. The children were excited to visit the science lab where they observed and sketched a variety of water plants. Our experiment looked at what happens to plants when their habitats are changed. We observed a land plant submerged in water and planted a water plant in soil to test our predictions. There was great excitement to build our terrariums. Students have been enquiring into how birds have adapted to living in their habitats. We matched a bird to the tool that most resembled its beak and diet. Book Week brought in lots of excitement. Students participated in a wide range of activities including live online reading sessions by Middle School and High School students, parent mystery readers, book quizzes and Book Character Dress Up Day parade where students walked down the aisle in their creative costumes. Another highlight this month was our field trip to Victoria Theatre. Grade 2 students thoroughly enjoyed the experience of watching 'Stickman' come alive on stage.

(Sameerata Prakash)

Grade 3 News



The fourth Unit of Work, "They Made A Difference," has the Grade 3 students researching a wide range of notable individuals as they continue to expand their knowledge, polish their research abilities using the 'Super 3' research model, and develop new understanding. A number of significant historical and modern personalities have been identified for their achievements as climate change activists, artists, athletes, musicians, writers, world leaders, and freedom fighters. In order to identify similarities between themselves and the people in focus, students use their own qualities and personal goals. It was the ideal opportunity for the children to show their admiration for both fictitious and non-fictional book characters that they connected with during Book Week's Book Character Dress Up Day. They showcased their favorite book characters to all the Grade Three parents during the exciting red carpet parade. Book Week offered students many other opportunities to engage in activities such as Drop Everything and Read, Library scavenger hunt, identifying book characters from silhouettes, creating a Grade Wide narrative, author studies and viewing a brilliant local book author presentation. Grade Three students are looking forward to sharing their learning journey with their parents during the upcoming Parent Student Teacher Conferences.

(Camelia Gergely)

SPP

Over the course of this academic year the SPP department has progressed from Maculaitis Assessment of Competencies (MAC) to World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) framework and assessment. As a result, educators across Elementary, Middle and High School attended a large regional WIDA Consortium conference. With rigorous and high-quality standards, tests, research, and professional learning for educators, WIDA helps promote academic language development and academic achievement for students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. This will help the SPP teachers build on their existing platform and continue to enhance the SPP students' knowledge, skills and understanding of the English language.

(Camelia Gergely)



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Grade 4 News



February has been another busy month for the students in Grade 4. It was great to see the students dress up as their favourite book character. You could see how much time and effort had gone into the costumes. Book week is always a fun time in school and the students had an opportunity to take part in many activities on the dress up day. In Going Global the students have been able to create a trade flow chart for their chosen product using pages to show their understanding of the trade flow and also their ICT skills. This also led to the students discussing how Covid-19 has impacted 'their global village' and we all realised what a major impact Covid-19 has had on us all but throughout the students have shown the IPC Personal Goals of "resilience" and being "adaptable". We have begun our Model United Nations unit and the students have been collaborating and communicating very well with each other as they discuss their given issues and how their MUN country feels about those issues. Newspaper report writing is in full swing and students have begun writing their own reports and understanding the structure of a newspaper report.

(Guy Watts)

Art News



We all had a creative time in Art this month! Grade 1 children are learning about textures and how to represent overlapping, Grade 2 students are using their colour mixing skills to paint their bird sculptures with secondary colours; Grade 3 children are being inspired by Frida Kahlo, Grade 4 sculptors are adding decorations to their body adornments and Grade 5 artists are painting persuasive posters. We are also looking forward to students sharing their processes of learning in Art with their families in our upcoming Parent Student Teacher conferences. See you there!

(Jennifer Freeman)

Library News

ES students and teachers had a wonderful Book Week. Middle and High School students read stories on a live stream each morning, teachers read stories during lunch, classes took part in a book quiz, homebase teachers planned special activities and everyone looked amazing in their character costumes. Congratulations to these students for the most creative costumes: 1st Prize - Veer Koltey as Jack and his Beanstalk. Joint 2nd Prizes - Ram Mankodi as Asterix and Phoenix Jelonek as a Tom Gates book. Joint 3rd Prizes - Cameron Forbes as R2D2 AND Daniel Choi as Dog Man. Click on the link below to see the costumes:

https://drive.google.com/filed/18SAwmmf6HRR1HuY40bdf7hsj66i_spxE/view?usp=sharing

(Olivia Burford-Taylor)



Grade 5 News



The Grade 5 students are in full swing preparing for Expo. Collaborative groups have been formed where students have chosen a tourist destination, have been formulating questions and researching and recording to find out about the sustainability factors of their location. We are looking forward to presenting to parents on Wednesday, 12 April 2023. To connect with our unit, classes ventured on a field trip to Siloso Beach Resort where they were given an eco tour showcasing the ways in which the resort is incorporating sustainability best practices. In Language Arts, students have been learning about persuasive writing and have been incorporating different persuasive techniques to help convince their audience about a topic of their choosing. The students enjoyed celebrating their love of reading during Book Week. The students were engrossed in a variety of activities such as creating book spines for their favourite books, buddy reading to Grade 2 and 3 students, flashlight reading and the highlight of the week, Hall of Holograms. Students dressed up as their favourite book character and wrote a speech to persuade their peers to read their book. Students were exposed to new authors, characters and genres to add to their reading lists. Thank you to all the parents who came to support this.

(Karla Kleist)

Languages News



The Foreign Languages and Mother Tongue classes have had a busy and enjoyable month engaged in Book Week, Grade 3 Languages Assembly and acknowledging International Mother Language day. In the Hindi classes parents were invited to share stories with the children. The 'Mystery Reader' delighted the children with traditional folk tales. A wide range of performances were on display when the Grade 3 students presented in another language for the first time to a live audience. Heroes of India, Chinese Opera, a tour of the Forbidden City and Spanish tongue twisters were all part of the assembly. On 21st February the Mother Tongue team greeted students as they came to school and invited them to paste a message on a board to recognise International Mother Language day and celebrate the many cultures we have at OFS.

(Monica Makkar and Roger Calais)

Sports News

OFS Tigers have enjoyed a hugely successful Season 2 of ACSIS Sports with many of our teams across the sports placing amongst the Top 5 in the ACSIS League.

Congratulations to all our teams and coaches and chaperones for your work this season. Thank you for representing the OFS Tigers teams and Overseas Family School with such pride and passion.

Badminton
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11u Girls Badminton Team A - ACSIS CHAMPIONS - Trophy Winners & Gold Medalists !!! • 11u Girls Badminton Team B - ACSIS CHAMPIONS - Trophy Winners & Gold Medalists !!! • 11u Boys Badminton Team - 4th
Basketball
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19u Boys Basketball Team - ACSIS CHAMPIONS -Trophy Winners & Gold Medalists !!! • 16u Boys Basketball Team - ACSIS Runners up - Silver Medalists!! • 12u Girls Basketball Team - 5th • 19u Boys Basketball Team - 6th
Cricket
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12u Boys Cricket Team - ACSIS Runners up - Silver Medalists
Football
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14u Boys Football Team - 4th • 11u Boys Football Team - 5th • 11u Girls Football Team - 5th • 10u Boys Football Team - 5th
Gymnastics - Dragons Invitational
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaishnavi Rachapudi - Bronze Medalist on Beam - UWC Invitational • Bar Tenenbaum Katan - 4th place on Beam and Floor and 6th in the All Round Points
Netball
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14u Girls Netball - 4th
Rugby
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16u Boys Rugby Team - 3rd & Bronze Medalists ! • 19u Boys Rugby Team - 4th
Swimming - ACSIS MS Championships
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Casharell Kraan - 3 Silver Medals - Runner Up Top Point Scorer 11u-12u Girls • Hanchen Qiang - 3 Silver Medals - Runner Up Top Point 11u-12u Boys • Naya Verma - 3 Bronze Medals - Runner Up Top Point Scorer 13u-14u Girls
Tennis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19u Boys Tennis Team - 3rd & Bronze Medalists ! • 19u Girls Tennis Team - 5th
Touch Football
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19u Girls Touch Football Team - 5th

AC SIS Season 3 competitions are underway and we're really excited about the potential of all our OFS Tigers students.

(Gil Levy)

New Staff

EMMA PHELPS

Hello OFS community! My name is Emma Phelps. I was born and raised in a beautiful coastal town in New Zealand called Tauranga. After graduating from university I moved to Abu Dhabi. From there I then went on to teach in Brunei and have now been living and working in Singapore for 4+ years. I enjoy learning about other cultures and experiencing them firsthand through travel. Meeting and working with staff and students from diverse backgrounds is a great privilege. In addition to my love of learning about other cultures, I enjoy being outdoors, particularly in the sea. Whether it is cycling, swimming, scuba diving or yoga, I enjoy it all! When I am not under the sea, I can usually be found with my nose buried in a good book. Fostering a love of reading in my students is something I wish for. I look forward to meeting more of the Overseas Family School community in the coming months.



KRISTY JOHNSON

Hello! My name is Kristy Johnson. I was born in Oklahoma, USA. I graduated from the University of Oklahoma, and I taught in Oklahoma for five years. I decided to combine my two greatest passions, education and travel, and I moved to Myanmar where I taught for four years. My next stop on the globe was Kazakhstan where I taught for two years. I have traveled to over forty countries. I like to spend extended amounts of time in foreign lands so that I can fully immerse myself in the local culture. Recently, I spent two months backpacking through Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. I am happy to call Singapore my new home, and I am proud to be a part of the Overseas Family School team. Some of my other hobbies include yoga, photography, hiking, and I just joined a sailing club. Although I recently arrived, I already feel a strong sense of community, as everyone at OFS has been very welcoming. I look forward to further developing friendships, and I am excited to explore Singapore and the surrounding areas.



Chess News



In our chess room during the Book Week, we had the pleasure of hosting some special visitors - different book characters who came to play some interesting chess games. We hope to see these book characters return for another round of chess soon!

(Dijana Dengler and Philipp Ziegler)