



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,

Welcome to Quarter Two in this first semester and I hope all our families had an enjoyable school break back in early October. Since our last newsletter, we have had many activities starting in this quarter, namely our music lunchtime ensembles and the Grades 4-5 Musical rehearsals for Winnie the Pooh. We also had a number of events that took place such as Children's Day celebrations and most recently the National Danish Performance Team, which visited OFS and Singapore as part of their world tour. The 28 member strong team enthralled our students with their amazing gymnastics skills and routines for the day.

On another exciting note, as we continue to promote sustainability and environmental awareness at OFS, we are pleased to share our latest initiative: the transition from disposable lunch boxes for Grades 1 and 2 pre-ordered lunch to reusable lunch trays. By going green, we hope to teach our students about reducing waste and costs as well as instilling a valuable lesson on sustainability.

OFS is again teaming up with Food from the Heart, which is an organization that helps provide consistent and sustainable food support to the less fortunate through their food distribution programs here in Singapore. The collection period will begin on Tuesday 14 November 2023. A parent letter has been shared with all families.

As we continue in the month of November, we have outlined a number of important dates below, with our Holiday Concerts taking precedence in our events calendar. Our students are looking forward to presenting songs and dances from different countries and cultures that are representative of their holiday traditions. We hope to see our parents at our concerts!

Finally to all our families celebrating Deepavali, we wish you a bright and joyous Deepavali.



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

Important Dates	
12 November	Deepavali Public Holiday
13 November	Public Holiday
14 November	Last day of ECAs
16 November	Last day of OFS Tigers Season 1 Competitive Sports
20-24 November	Grades 1-5 Art Exhibition
21 November	Grades 1 and 2 Holiday Concert
23 November	Grades 3 and 4 Holiday Concert
28 November	Grade 5 Holiday Concert
28 November	OFS Tigers Season 2 Competitive Sports begins

From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

November is the time to celebrate Deepavali (or 'Diwali'). The PA along with parent volunteers have come together to organise a Deepavali themed Coffee Morning where all OFS parents can join in and have fun. Looking forward to seeing all of you.

Event: Deepavali Themed Coffee Morning

Date: Thursday, 16 November 2023

Time: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Venue: Parent Lounge (Level 4 of Administration Building)

Please register your attendance by signing up on the OFS webpage.

<https://www.ofs.edu.sg/events/2023/deepavali-themed-coffee-morning/>

Languages News



We are excited to share with you some highlights from the recent Grade 5 Languages Assembly, where our Foreign Language and Mother Tongue students showcased their linguistic talents and cultural appreciation. The assembly was a delightful celebration of diversity. They engaged in a captivating role play on the famous Hindi stories of Akbar and Birbal, shared information about the Chinese dragon and musical instruments of India. The students showed their eloquence and command over the language by sharing the beautiful Autumn poem in Mandarin. Our French students sang and danced to songs promoting world peace and shared information about the Famous French people. Other highlights included a Spanish dance Un Poco Loco and an informative presentation on recycling in Germany. Well done to all presenters and also our SPP3 students who hosted the event with confidence and competence.

(Monica Makkar and Roger Calais)



Grade 1 News

It was wonderful to see our Grade 1 Parents at our Parent Student Teacher Conferences. It is a great opportunity for parents, students and teachers to celebrate the learning that is taking place in our classes. We are coming to the end of our second IPC Unit of Work, "Hooray Let's Go On Holiday". We have enjoyed learning about our home and host countries and we had an exciting time exploring Singapore and all the attractions it has to offer. We are looking forward to our next IPC Unit of Work "Green Fingers" where the students will be enquiring into living and non living things, going on nature walks to observe the plants in our local school environment and carrying out investigations into what plants need to survive. In Mathematics, the students inquired into patterns around the environment and explored repeated and growing patterns.

(Jaya Ward)



Grade 2 News



Our Parent, Student, Teacher conferences were an exciting opportunity for students to share their hard work and for parents to meet the teachers. Setting goals for the semester and celebrating student achievements, has been an incredible way to focus our attention on their learning journey. We culminated the IPC Unit of Work "Material World" with an interesting exit point. Students were challenged to apply their understanding of material properties to build bridges for "The Three Billy Goats Gruff". They came up with amazing designs to showcase their understanding. We kick started our new IPC unit "Different Places Similar Lives" with a beautiful entry point. The Grade 2 teachers took the children on a tour around the world through presentations on different countries and cultures. Students are learning that even though we may be from different places, we have many similarities with people around us.

(Sameerata Prakash)

Grade 3 News



After the October holiday, the students have had a strong and productive start to Quarter 2. They are near the end of the second IPC Unit of Work, "How Humans Work". Students learnt about how their senses and body systems work during their field trip to the Science Centre. Many students enjoyed exploring the exhibitions on display there. The students' explanation writing demonstrated their thorough understanding of the digestive system and its major organs. We have discussed how we can keep our bodies healthy. Students have learnt about nutrition, personal hygiene, disease, and medical support which can be barriers to children maintaining healthy bodies and lifestyles.

(Emma Gregg)

Chess News

Ashwath's Chess Success in Italy

Ashwath's performance in the Italy Open chess tournament was truly impressive. He achieved a score of 5.5/9 and defeated titled and higher-ranked players. His games lasted 4-5 hours on average. As a result, he is now provisionally the #1 player in the world in the Under-8 age category with a live rating of 1884. We are very proud of Ashwath and excited for his chess journey ahead.

(Dijana Dengler and Philipp Ziegler)



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Grade 4 News

October seems to have flown by. The students were very excited about presenting to their parents and other grades for our "Shared Learning Experience". The IPC Personal Goals of Collaborator, Communicator, Thinker and Adaptable were all on show during the learning process. The Grade 4 floor was buzzing with activity and it was great to see so many parents come along and support us. We are now well into our Mathematics Module 2 and the focus has been on function machines, 2D and 3D shapes and coordinates. The students have been able to show their understanding of the different concepts taught through Mathematics games. Our Grade 4 students have started their narrative unit and will be creating some fun stories to share with their classmates focusing on character and setting development along with dialogue to bring the characters to life.

(Guy Watts)



Grade 5 News

Our Grade 5 students have been fully engaged in our OFS MUN Unit. The OFS MUN is a simulation in which students learn about diplomacy, international relations, and the issues around the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Each class has been tasked with representing a country and have put their research skills to use to learn more about it. Students have had the opportunity to display their leadership skills by acting as the Chair and Deputy Chair of their Committee Rooms, Flag-bearers and Ambassadors for their country. This unit allows students to develop the Personal Goals and important 21st Century Skills such as Communication, Thinking, Social, Self-management and Research. Our Language Arts unit makes a wonderful connection to MUN, as students are learning the art of debating. By the end of the unit, students will know how to construct arguments and counterarguments and will participate in a class debate showcasing their skills.

(Karla Kleist)



Art News

We are very proud of our students' accomplishments so far this year as we prepare to showcase the talents of all Elementary School students in our first ever Semester 1 Grades 1-5 Art Exhibition. We are also wrapping up our second Units of Work and children have created a range of artworks from observational leaf etchings, to realistic self-portraits to representing the concept of peace in sculpture form. Students have learnt how to observe architecture and also to construct their own Pop Art inspired ice creams.

(Jennifer Freeman)





Physical Education (PE)

As we edge closer to the December holidays, students have been developing their knowledge, skills and understanding in various aspects of the Physical Education curriculum namely: swimming, gymnastics, net games and athletics which includes sprinting, long jump, high jump, javelin and shot-put.



Lunchtime Sports activities for Grades 4 and 5 continue to be popular, with each class enthusiastically participating and cheering their teams along with gusto.

Sports mornings will be our next major event so please do look out for the dates that will be shared by the Homebase teachers.

(Ashley Riffel)

Music News

Students in Music class have been working hard on their Holiday Concert preparations. For the upcoming event, each grade will perform songs and dances celebrating a variety of holidays and festivals from around the world. In this global mosaic, we recognise that each culture brings its unique stories, customs, and celebrations. By commemorating different holidays, we not only foster cultural awareness but also instill a sense of respect, curiosity, and unity among our students. Finally, rehearsals for our school musical "Winnie The Pooh KIDS" will continue each Wednesday after school. We are very excited to share these amazing musical events with you in the future!



(Kevin McCabe)

Sports News

An unforgettable day at Overseas Family School with the National Danish Performance Team (NDPT)!

Friday, October 20th, marked a transformative day in the history of Overseas Family School. OFS had the distinct honor of hosting the globally acclaimed NDPT at OFS, creating a hybrid event that merged athletics, academics, mother tongue speakers and community engagement.



This event was a groundbreaking collaboration involving Singapore Gymnastics, the NDPT, and Overseas Family School, coordinated through our OFS Tigers.

This alliance not only heightened the impact of the event but also set a new precedent for what can be achieved through collective efforts. With the NDPT's motivation to "Move the World", a full day of impactful, meaningful and valuable events including workshops, gymnastic master classes, mini excerpts and displays from their full show; and cultural connections with the Danish Mother Tongue Students – was all orchestrated by the OFS Tigers Team in creating meaningful experiences for all involved.

The General Manager and Lead Gymnast together with the NDPT team as a whole expressed their overwhelming gratitude for OFS' impeccable organization, logistics, and delicious catering. The state-of-the-art OFS facilities, Auditorium, Gymnastics Hall, Swimming Pool and Weights Room received noteworthy commendations and our OFS Tigers drew particular attention for their skills and talents.

An incredible day was enjoyed by all.

(Gil Levy)

New Staff

SHEREE MUNDELL

Kia Ora! I am a dedicated educator with a decade of teaching experience, hailing from the stunning landscapes of New Zealand. Holding a Master's degree in Teaching and a TESOL certificate, I have had the privilege of imparting knowledge in diverse educational settings, both in China and my home country of New Zealand. My passion for teaching and my international experience have enriched my pedagogical approach and have allowed me to connect with students from various backgrounds. When I am not teaching, I am someone who thrives in the great outdoors and enjoys travel. As much as I love adventures, I also cherish spending quality time with my family, creating lasting memories and sharing in the simple joys of life together. I look forward to exploring everything OFS and Singapore have to offer.



MARK SHERWIN

My name is Mark Sherwin and I am from sunny London, England. I am an experienced, dedicated, and enthusiastic Physical Education teacher with a love for sport, especially football and cricket. I moved with my wife and two boys to Singapore in 2016 and haven't looked back. With a love for the outdoors, the weather, travelling and keeping my boys out of the house, Singapore fits us perfectly. I am a firm believer of creating a positive learning environment through sport and activity. I strongly encourage all of my students to develop a broader understanding of the importance of healthy living and an active lifestyle both in and outside of the classroom. I am very much looking forward to being part of OFS and the wider community.



LINDSAY STEWART

Hello! Hallo! Sawubona! ("Hello" 3 of the 11 languages in South Africa.) My name is Lindsay Stewart and I am delighted to be teaching Grade 3 at OFS. I relocated to Singapore this year with my husband and two children from South Africa. As a family, we are enjoying meeting new people from around the world and learning about new cultures in Singapore. In South Africa I taught children from many diverse backgrounds, who spoke different home languages. I am passionate about seeing children learn and develop in knowledge, understanding and skills. Since I was a child, I always wanted to be a teacher, so when I came back to South Africa after spending some time as an Exchange Student in New Zealand, I started working in schools. I was a teacher assistant, as well as a border mistress while I studied. I have since taught various grades in different Elementary Schools, spending 11 years of my teaching career in a private school. In my spare time, I enjoy baking, reading and exploring new places. OFS has been so welcoming and friendly! It is a privilege for me to be a part of this special school.

