



# 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,

What a busy month September has proven to be! We have had many events at school, namely the musical auditions, Lunchtime Concert and Grades 4 to 5 Lunchtime Sports, Languages Week, International Celebrations and most recently, our Parent Student Teacher Conferences. We also had the privilege of hosting the Ambassador of the State of Israel to Singapore, His Excellency, Mr. Eliyahu Vered Hazan, who visited OFS to find out more about our school, especially the Mother Tongue Program, OFS Tigers and our Chess Program.

In the last week of September, Elementary School students proudly celebrated Languages Week in recognition of the 15 Foreign and Mother Tongue languages we teach at OFS. To coincide with this week-long event, we also hosted Internationalism Celebrations on the final day. In both events, our students had the opportunity to gain awareness and appreciation about our world and its diverse languages and cultures.

After the October holidays, we will begin our Wednesday rehearsals with our Grade 4 and Grade 5 students for our new musical, "Winnie the Pooh". This year, we look forward to our live evening performances, planned for 12 and 13 March 2024. It was wonderful to see an increase of students at our musical auditions this year. Every role, large or small that the students are selected for, are vital for the musical to become a success and I hope through their teamwork and dedication, it will be an experience our students will never forget.

### Meet the Faculty

Our dedicated team of teachers is ready to inspire, guide, and challenge our students. We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new staff members and express our gratitude to those who have been with us for years, ensuring the continuity of excellence in education. We will be featuring our new teachers each month in our newsletters as well!

### Get Involved

We encourage our parents to get involved in our school community. Join our Parent Association (PA), attend school events, and volunteer your time if you can. Your support is invaluable to our students' success.

### Stay Connected

Stay informed about school news and events by reading our newsletters and following us on social media. Our school's online portal via the website, [www.ofs.edu.sg](http://www.ofs.edu.sg), is also a valuable resource for updates, curriculum information, calendars, and more. Our teachers will continue to send their "weekly wrap" emails to parents as well.

### Important Dates

- 9-13 October – School Holiday
- 13 November – Deepavali Public Holiday
- 14 November – Last day of ECAs
- 16 November – PA Deepavali Coffee Morning
- 16 November – Last day of Tigers Season 1 Competitive Sports
- 20-24 November – Grades 1-5 Art Exhibition
- 21 November – Grades 1 and 2 Holiday Concert
- 24 November – Grades 3 and 4 Holiday Concert
- 28 November – Grade 5 Holiday Concert

Wishing everyone a safe and relaxing October holiday.

As we embark on this school year together, let us embrace the challenges and triumphs that lie ahead. With determination, perseverance, and a commitment to learning, we can achieve great things together.

Penny Liew  
Elementary School Principal  
[penny\\_liew@ofs.edu.sg](mailto:penny_liew@ofs.edu.sg)



## From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

The Parent Association (PA) cordially invites all parents to join us for a Talk on Crime and Drug Prevention. The talk is jointly organised by OFS PA and Singapore Police Force.

**Date: Friday, 20 October 2023**  
**Time: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**  
**Venue: Parent Lounge (Level 4 of Administration Building)**

If you would like more information about this or other PA events, please feel free to contact our Chairperson by email at: [parent\\_association@ofs.edu.sg](mailto:parent_association@ofs.edu.sg).





## Grade 1 News

It was great to see you all at our Internationalism Celebrations. What a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the cultural diversity of our Grade 1 families. The Grade 1 children looked beautiful in their national costumes and they enjoyed the various activities that were planned for the week.

In our IPC Unit of Work, "Hooray ... Let's Go On Holiday!", we have been exploring Singapore, our home countries and holiday destinations. Thank you parents for sending in your holiday photographs and souvenirs and helping your children record facts about their home countries for the homework task. Students enjoyed presenting them and sharing their knowledge

with their classmates. In our unit lessons, students have been developing their mapping skills. They learned the names of the continents and located them on the world map. Students showed great interest and enthusiasm in locating their home countries and Singapore on a map and the globe. They were excellent communicators and collaborators when they worked together to identify landmarks on a Singapore map.

(Jaya Ward)



## Grade 2 News

In Grade 2, we have been learning all about materials in our IPC Unit of Work, "Material World". We explored material properties through a range of hands-on activities. Students visited the science laboratory to perform fair tests to get a better understanding of material properties. The classrooms were buzzing with enthusiastic learners making real-world connections to knowledge they have gained. In Language Arts, we are exploring narrative writing. Students learnt to identify the elements of a narrative. Our field trip to Victoria Theatre for the "The Smeds and The Smoos" theatre production tied in well with our writing unit. Internationalism Celebrations was another highlight of the month. Students looked amazing in their colourful home country costumes celebrating the cultural diversity in our school. They loved presenting the artifacts representing their home country with their friends sharing its cultural importance.

(Sameerata Prakash)



## Grade 3 News

We have moved on to our second unit, "How Humans Work." The students were challenged to put their scientist's, nutritionist's and sports instructor's hats on and to enquire into how our human body systems work and what they can do to keep themselves healthy. Through research and investigations, and with healthy habits in mind, the students learnt that they can function and move in incredible ways. Each student has been able to learn about the location and functions of many bones and muscles. The students are developing their note taking skills and the ability to paraphrase information when researching. In Language Arts, students are learning to write explanations and this is linked to explaining how the body systems work. It has been a fabulous unit so far!

(Emma Gregg)



## Grade 4 News

Our new unit, "Existing, Endangered, Extinct" is well underway. The students took part in a gallery walk using the words, think, wonder, see as they looked at many pictures of different animals. We had a great day out at the zoo where students were able to use their knowledge learned as they walked around the zoo. In this unit, students will be focusing on the IPC Personal Goal of being a good collaborator when they research a biome and endangered animals in their class groups. They have learned how animals are classified and how interdependent they are on each other in a food web. Students are well on the way in their information report learning and are now busy writing reports on an endangered animal with a focus on the classification, characteristics, diet, habitat and threats to that animal.

(Guy Watts)



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## Grade 5 News

Thank you to all the parents who came to celebrate Internationalism Celebrations with us. The students looked spectacular in their home country attire and were engaged in a variety of cultural experiences including dancing and puppet making from the USA, beadwork from South Africa, Irish football, Mongolian throat singing and Ger making, Kwepena, a game from Uganda and traditional Ti Rākau Māori Stick Games from New Zealand. What a great way to celebrate the diverse cultures within our school



community! We ended our Moving People unit with students presenting either a personal or alternate migration story about an individual or group they have learned about that either chose or were forced to migrate. This was a great opportunity for students to enhance their research and presentation skills. In Language Arts, the students concluded their narrative unit by choosing a topic and writing their own story about it. They worked on proper structure and sequence, descriptive word choice, using dialogue appropriately and a variety of other writing skills. Well done to all of our creative writers!

(Karla Kleist)

## Art News

It was great to see so many students bringing their families to the Art rooms to show off their Unit 1 creations during our recent Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences. Children confidently spoke about their process of learning and were also inspired



by their peers' artworks. We are all now busy with learning exciting new skills ranging from printmaking to clay relief sculpture. Please keep in mind our upcoming Semester 1 Elementary Art Exhibition, running from 20 to 28 November in the Level 4 activity room for a chance to see all of our completed works from Grades 1 to 5 on display.



(Jennifer Freeman)

## Library News

This year's Red Dot Award books are now on display in the library and waiting to be borrowed. There are two categories, Early Years (picture books) and Younger Readers (chapter books). Students are encouraged to read as many books as they can from each category so that they can vote for their favourite books in March. We are pleased to see many students visiting the library during lunchtimes. Our library puzzle enthusiasts were delighted to finish their first puzzle of the year.

(Olivia Burford-Taylor)



## New Staff

### CASEY HODGE

My name is Casey Hodge, and I am part of the Grade 5 Homebase teaching team at OFS. From the East Coast on the North Island of New Zealand, my wife and I have brought our young family here to both continue our international teaching careers, and also to introduce our children to the wide and diverse world away from home. I have previously worked in Singapore as a Middle School Mathematics and PE teacher before returning home during the Covid-19 pandemic. During this time, I worked as a syndicate leader and Homebase teacher in one of the largest Middle Schools in the southern hemisphere. I am a big fan of Rugby League and the UFC, and I love the challenge of developing a passionate and competitive drive in my students to be the best they can. It is a privilege to be a part of the OFS team, and I am looking forward to a great year ahead.



### REBECCA PETERSEN

Hi everyone, I am Rebecca Petersen, from the USA. While I was born in Texas and grew up in Utah, we have also lived in Oregon, Wyoming, New York and Oklahoma. We moved to Singapore in 2005 with four kids ages 1-11. We then adopted a teenage girl, giving us 3 boys and 2 girls. All five of our kids have migrated back to the US, leaving my husband and I empty nesters. In fact, we just had our first grandbaby last week. I cannot wait to meet her!



I have always loved helping to instill a sense of dignity and confidence in people while encouraging them to become their best. This passion led me to teach. My teaching career started at the age of 14, when I began teaching piano to my neighbours. Since then, I have been enjoying teaching in various positions throughout the years. I am really enjoying my time at OFS and am proud to be part of the grade 4 SPP team. In our leisure time, my husband and I love to go bike riding, conduct and accompany choirs, and volunteer to help migrant workers improve their English and academic skills.

### SIM WEI EVERS-SWINDELL

Selamat, My name is Sim Wei Evers-Swindell, and I am from Malaysia. Currently, I am a dedicated member of the Physical Education team, contributing to the Elementary School. My journey in the field of teaching began at the tender age of 18, and it has since become my lifelong passion.



In my personal life, I am married and the proud parent of two boys. Prior to returning to Singapore, my family and I had the unique opportunity to live and work in Japan for the past four years, a period during the global challenges posed by the pandemic. Singapore has been our cherished home for over two decades, but we are truly a global family with connections spanning from New Zealand to America. Our shared love for adventure leads us to spend a considerable amount of time exploring various parts of the world, seeking out new experiences.

I am genuinely excited and filled with gratitude as I embark on this new chapter at Overseas Family School in Singapore.



## Languages News



Hindi language classes celebrated the Hindi Diwas through various engaging games and activities. The students also shared stories, poems and riddles in Hindi. These initiatives allowed the students to showcase their vocabulary skills, creativity and linguistic prowess in an enjoyable manner. Hindi Diwas is celebrated annually on 14 September to commemorate the adoption of Hindi as the official language of India. The highlight of this month was our Languages Week celebrations. Our theme this year, Language Olympics, truly showcased the remarkable



diversity and beauty of the 15 languages taught at OFS. Throughout the week, our students embarked on a journey of linguistic exploration. From learning about traditional food and clothing to exploring famous monuments, games, dances, vocabulary and indulging in art and craft, the students were truly immersed in the rich cultural experience. The atmosphere on Level 3 was filled with laughter and excitement. Our very own mascot, Polly the Parrot, was an instant hit with the students, adding an element of fun and excitement to the festivities.



(Monica Makkar and Roger Calais)

## Music News

Our music program has been in full swing, and it has been a joy to witness the incredible talent and creativity of our young OFS musicians. In Grades 1, 2 and 3 we had some amazing song performances for Internationalism Celebrations as well as a parade. We also had our first Lunchtime Concert where students from all grades show-cased their musical performances with confidence and flair. There was a vibrant atmosphere of joy and encouragement during these two events. We are very proud of all our performers and grateful to all the parents for your support. Lunchtime clubs and musical rehearsals for "Winnie the Pooh KIDS" will begin in quarter 2. We look forward to more exciting musical activities and events planned for the rest of the school year.

(Kevin McCabe)



## Chess News

### 64th National School Team Chess Championship



Congratulations to all 17 OFS Chess Teams from Elementary, Middle and High School for competing in the prestigious 64th National School Team Chess Championship held at Rulang Primary School. This year's biggest team event was played from 6-8 September 2023 and featured 260 teams from local and international schools and included students aged 7 to 20 years old. With an impressive display of focus and perseverance, Elementary School students were a great contributor to OFS' overall success by winning two gold, two silver and one bronze medal in the international school category. Individual top scorers from Elementary School were Ashwath Kaushik (6 Points), Aditi Mahana (5 Points), Isaac Ziegler (5 Points), and Arnav Sharma (4.5 Points). Once again congratulations to all OFS players for giving their very best. We are proud of you.

(Dijana Dengler and Philipp Ziegler)



## Physical Education (PE)

The new school year is well underway and in Physical Education lessons, students are inquiring into how good technique can improve performance in individual pursuits such as swimming and gymnastics. During our swimming unit, the focus has been on developing their understanding with regards to water safety around the pool, improving their confidence in the water and refining their fundamental movement in freestyle, backstroke and breaststroke. Please remind your child to bring their goggles, swimming cap, towel and costumes for their swimming lessons.



Our gymnastics lessons have generated heaps of excitement in our gymnastics room. Students have been focusing on how to perform a variety of floor movements, with the introduction of the vault and basic movements on the balance beam. They have been developing their understanding of the necessary flexibility, strength and control needed to perform the movements successfully.



(Ashley Riffel)

## Sports News

ACSIS Season 1 sports are in full swing and our Elementary School OFS Tigers are performing magnificently with many dominant performances from our 9U Football, 10U Netball, 11U Basketball and Cross Country teams. The swimming and gymnastics teams have their first meets coming up and are preparing hard in order to perform well and be the best versions of themselves.

(Gil Levy)