



Overseas Family School High School

Master Policy:

To maintain a happy, safe and effective school for overseas families living in Singapore

Principal's Message

The second quarter of the High School calendar is always one of the busiest periods of the academic year. Not only are the CultureFest rehearsals and preparations in full swing, but our students have started to meet significant academic milestones. Our Grade 10 and 12 students were able to complete their Personal Project (PP) and Extended Essay (EE), which represents an accumulation of work covering over a year and a half. It was truly inspiring to see their accomplishments by visiting both our PP and EE exhibitions in the OFS Auditorium.

Students also had the opportunity to participate in the first digital PSAT. This was a great opportunity for our students to practice writing the SAT in order to identify areas of strength as well as areas that require further development. Our Grade 11 and 12 students participated in the annual Senior UKMT Mathematics Competition winning several gold, silver, and bronze awards. In addition, our MUN students were busy with two conferences including the massive MUNOFS held on our campus.

As global citizens, our students are encouraged to take leadership roles for projects that positively impact their community, which include MINDS, RDA, NTUC Health Nursing Home, Red Cross, Beach Clean Up, and the UN Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Connected to this final project, this year's Peace Week centred on the SDGs and OFS welcomed Chris Jones to speak about Zero Hunger at our annual Peace Week assembly.

With so much going on, it is important that our students and staff take time to practice mindfulness and self-care. Therefore, we marked World Mental Health Day this October by hosting a number of student-led activities showcasing different strategies for staff and students to relax and unwind.

The OFS semester examinations begin on Thursday, 23 November 2023. Each course has an examination that is worth 30% of the semester grade, while the remaining 70% derives from assessments completed during quarters 1 and 2. High School students are permitted to take study leave, with parent/guardian written permission, during the examination period. A letter to this effect has been posted home.

Please note that after the examination period, classes will continue, as normal, to the end of semester one on Friday, 15 December 2023.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to email me (adam_ashton@ofs.edu.sg).

Adam Ashton
High School Principal

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.



IB Diploma News – Education For Life

EXTENDED ESSAY

Grade 12 students submitted their final Extended Essay on Sunday, 22 October. This core component challenges students' time management and reflection skills, as well as developing their understanding of the necessary steps for a long-term research project. Congratulations to the students for their dedication, and many thanks to all the EE supervisors for their support and guidance.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Many final Internal Assessment deadlines are still to come in this and the third quarter:
Group 1 HL Essays, some Group 3, 4 and 5 IA coursework, and the TOK essay amongst them. Students are encouraged to check their calendar to be aware of these dates and ensure their submissions are made before the relevant deadlines.
- Students will be finishing their CAS program this semester, allowing more time to focus on examination preparation.
- Mock examination week: 26 February to 6 March 2024.
- Language Acquisition: Individual Orals will be recorded after the Mock exam period.
- Arts: The IA and early EA uploads will be done in quarter 3.

GRADE 12

Grade Level Assemblies

DP Corner, a club run by Grade 12 students, has undertaken the initiative to transform Grade 12 assemblies into engaging and interactive sessions rather than for mere information dissemination. So far, they have led two successful assemblies with lots of participation from the audience. It is rewarding to see Grade 12 students having fun and engaging with each other during their grade level assemblies.



If you have any question regarding the IB Diploma and courses, please feel free to contact me at the school or at my email address (trapti_trivedi@ofs.edu.sg) and/or Lee Woollard, IB DP Assistant Coordinator & Extended Essay Coordinator (lee_woollard@ofs.edu.sg).

(Trapti Trivedi – IB DP Coordinator)





Junior High School News

GRADE 10 PERSONAL PROJECT EXHIBITION

On Thursday, 19 October, the Grade 10 students showcased their Personal Projects at the MYP Personal Project Exhibition. The event was filled with enthusiasm and creativity and it offered a diverse range of projects, spanning fitness and sustainability initiatives to meaningful fundraisers. The exhibition welcomed not only teachers, but also their fellow students, ranging from Grade 5 to Grade 9, in addition to proud parents. The day was truly delightful, and the students' performance was nothing short of impressive. Congratulations to the Grade 10 students for a job well done!

Should you have any questions about IB MYP or IGCSE, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at (ab_palacios@ofs.edu.sg) or (c_fuentestorruella@ofs.edu.sg).

(Clara Fuentes Torruella – Grade 9 Coordinator, Personal Project Coordinator and IB MYP/IGCSE Assistant Coordinator and Aida Blat Palacios – Grade 10 Coordinator and IB MYP/IGCSE Coordinator)



PSAT (Preliminary SAT)

In total, 57 students (14 students from Grade 9, 27 students from Grade 10, and 16 students from Grade 11) completed the PSAT (Preliminary SAT) in October. It is a 2 ½ hour aptitude test that contains evidence-based reading, writing and mathematics sections. It is intended to be useful practice for the SAT, which assesses students' readiness for college and is part of the admissions requirements of many universities in the United States, Singapore and Hong Kong.

GRADE 12 UNIVERSITY APPLICATIONS

The university application process enters full swing at OFS this month, with most of our Grade 12 learners preparing their applications to a range of universities worldwide. Academic Advisors have been working with students and their teachers to support this process. A busy time for all!

(Tamara Chanrai-Hills – Academic Advisor)

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Envirothon

The inaugural Envirothon competition, known for challenging environmental knowledge and sustainability, made a successful entry in Singapore at the beginning of this year. Five teams from OFS, comprising dedicated students, participated in this unique event, showcasing their environmental commitment.

Envirothon, an established competition in the United States and Canada, was introduced to Singapore for the first time this year. It tested participants on ecology, natural resource management, and environmental problem-solving.

Among the competing teams, one of our teams secured the national second position, capturing attention for their remarkable performance. The team consisted of Grade 12 students **Kashish Varma Das, Jaehyun Lim, Daiki Maruyama, Harley Mackinnon and Aashman Jain**.

Their profound knowledge and teamwork impressed the judges. Although they narrowly missed the top spot, the team's achievement was celebrated as a significant milestone in the inaugural Singaporean Envirothon competition.

One team member expressed their pride, saying, *"The competition was fierce, and the challenges were tough, but it was a fantastic learning experience, and we are thrilled to have been placed second."*

(Grace Das – Science Teacher)



From right to left: Jaehyun Lim, Harley Mackinnon, Daiki Maruyama, Aashman Jain and Kashish Varma Das



Celebrating Peace at OFS High School

Global Politics students and teachers organised the week-long celebration at Overseas Family School (OFS) High School that culminated in an inspiring and thought-provoking assembly on peace. This year's theme revolved around the imperative of achieving Sustainable Development Goals for the promotion of global peace. The highlight of the assembly was the presence of Mr. Chris Jones, the esteemed Ambassador for Free Food For All, who shed light on the criticality of addressing hunger in today's world. His insightful address resonated with the audience, emphasizing the need for collective action to combat this pressing issue.

At the assembly, the Grade 12 performers delivered a captivating dance embodying the spirit of peace and unity, while the winners of the 'Peace Begins with Me' poetry contest moved the audience with their heartfelt verses, emphasising individual responsibility in nurturing peaceful coexistence among diverse communities. The collective artistic expressions served as a poignant reminder of the power of creative initiatives in fostering positive change and building a more harmonious world. Bringing the assembly to a heart-warming conclusion, the High School choir delivered a captivating live performance of the iconic anthem 'We Are the World' accompanying a collaborative film featuring students across all levels of OFS. The performance was a powerful testament to the school's collective commitment to peace and unity. The event not only fostered a deeper understanding of the significance of Sustainable Development Goals but also served as a unifying platform for the entire school community, reinforcing the values of empathy, collaboration, and global citizenship.

(Sachin Das – Global Politics Teacher)





MINDS Club

Movement for the Intellectually Disabled (MINDS) is a service club conducted after school on Tuesdays. A group of 10 OFS students take a school bus to the MINDS school to help out with the Physical Education lessons for a class of Primary School students. We as a group help plan and participate in these lessons, and support the students socialise and develop their practical skills. Through each one of the sessions, we ourselves adapt and learn, gaining compassion and appreciation for staff, as well as having a deeper understanding of intellectual and physical disabilities and the underlying struggles one can face. The students we help, benefit from the one-on-one time we provide, working on their social and independence skills, and improving their physical activity in a fun and engaging way. As students, this club has opened our eyes to the challenges and learning difficulties that special needs children may face. We gain a sense of gratitude towards our privilege when given the opportunity to facilitate the children's learning.

(Natasha Bilsland and Sana Garg – Grade 11 students)



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

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

Date: Thursday, 16 November 2023

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/>

National Danish Performance Team visits OFS

An unforgettable day at Overseas Family School with the National Danish Performance Team (NDPT)! Friday, 20 October, marked a transformative day in the history of Overseas Family School. OFS had the distinct honour 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; career trajectories for our Sports Exercise and Health Sciences and IGCSE PE students, mini excerpts and displays from their full show and cultural connections with the Danish Mother Tongue Students – all orchestrated by the OFS Tigers Team. The General Manager and Lead Gymnast together with the NDPT team as a whole expressed their overwhelming gratitude for OFS' impeccable organisation, 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 – Head of Competitive Sport)

