



# Overseas Family School High School

## Master Policy:

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

## Principal's Message

Both new and returning students should, by now, have settled into a routine of active engagement in their classes and steady application to homework assignments.

This issue will review some of the highlights of the semester so far through the ninety clubs, sports, arts and service activities your child/ward has been able to enjoy.

TEDx was a rollicking success that proved to be both informative and inspiring, with speakers sharing insightful and spirited monologues. The Red Cross Blood Drive gave our staff and parent community the opportunity to donate to this wonderful cause. The Lion City University Fair saw over 130 universities from around the world descend on OFS for an information-packed afternoon filled with enthusiastic questions and thoughtful discussions. In addition, Grade 11 parents enjoyed an IB DP hands-on workshop where they learned a lot about the IB Diploma Program, the Core, as well as some useful tips about using the OFS Dashboard. The Grade 9 students were lucky enough to experience a variety of activities during the annual Grade 9 camp. Finally, we were also delighted to host Parent Teacher Conferences, I hope you found it useful in supporting your child/ward's educational development.

This quarter, our Homebase program, has been helping students consider and respond to issues such as time management, goal setting, character strengths, relationships, responding well to their successes – and failures – and planning for their assessments. This will be something for students to reflect upon throughout this academic year as a way to support and monitor their academic progress.

Friday, 6 October 2023 marked the end of our first quarter. Teachers will be completing the marking of summative assessments up until that date and after the holiday. Once completed Quarter One reports will be issued.

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school or by email: ([adam\\_ashton@ofs.edu.sg](mailto:adam_ashton@ofs.edu.sg)).

Adam Ashton  
High School Principal



## IB Diploma News – Education For Life

### GRADE 12

#### IB REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS

The deadline for IB registration for the May 2024 session is on Wednesday, 15 November 2023. The IB registration forms have already been sent home. Could the Parent/Guardian sign these and return to Ms. Maureen Goh, in the High School office, for final registration. Please check these forms carefully as any change to a student's registration after 15 November 2023 will incur late fees. There is no refund of fees for registration withdrawals after this date. The signed forms should be returned to the school by Tuesday, 31 October 2023. Please contact Ms. Trivedi if you have questions regarding your child/ward's IB Diploma or Course Certificate registration.

#### CREATIVITY, ACTIVITY, SERVICE (CAS)

Students should be finishing their CAS program this semester. Please check with Ms. Arin Mares-Manton if you have any concern about completing this component of the IB Diploma.

### EXTENDED ESSAY (EE)

#### The Extended Essay (EE) Exhibition



The High School EE Exhibition took place on 30 August 2023. The EE is an extremely challenging and mandatory core component of the IB Diploma Program, culminating in a 4,000 word research paper. The EE Exhibition allows students the unique opportunity to showcase and share their hard work, research and critical thinking skills with the entire OFS community. The students were grouped according to the subject they selected for their EE. The exhibition also introduced our Grade 11 students and their parents to various EE topics, so that they could learn and understand more about this component of the IB Diploma.

## 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).



## The Final EE Submission

The final submission deadline for the EE is **10:00pm on Sunday, 22 October 2023**. Students are encouraged to upload their EE early to avoid missing the deadline due to technical issues. Students will then need to meet with their EE supervisor early November 2023 to complete their final reflection. Students are expected to follow the OFS academic integrity policy and demonstrate the IB Learner Profile of being principled for all their assessment and assignments including their EE. All the Grade 12 students had signed the 'OFS Academic Honesty and Integrity form' this year in August to confirm their understanding of the school's expectations related to academic integrity. Students are also encouraged to refer to our academic integrity policy if they need any further clarification. This can be found on the OFS website.

## GRADE 11

### Grade 11 Parent Sessions

We recognise that parent partnership in High School education is crucial for student success. This synergy definitely improves students' motivation, engagement as well as their overall educational experience, leading to better outcomes and well-rounded individuals.

During August and September, we conducted two sessions for our Grade 11 parents to unpack some of the key attributes of the IB Diploma Program:

### The Core Zoom Session

Given the importance of the IB Core, which is comprised of Theory of Knowledge (TOK), the Extended Essay (EE) and Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS), we conducted an online video conference meeting (via Zoom) for the parents and guardians of Grade 11 IB Diploma students on Monday, 28 August. They got an opportunity to meet the key educators involved with the Core process at OFS and learn more about it.

### Grade 11 Parent Workshop



All the Grade 11 parents and guardians were invited to attend a hands-on workshop to learn more about OFS curriculum (OFS Diploma) and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IB DP). Our Deputy Principal (Curriculum), Neisha Pratt, kickstarted this new initiative, and it truly

delighted us to witness the enthusiastic response from the parents who attended this session.

If you have any questions regarding the IB Diploma or IB DP courses, please feel free to contact me at the school or at my email address ([trapti\\_trivedi@ofs.edu.sg](mailto:trapti_trivedi@ofs.edu.sg)) and/or Lee Woollard, IB DP Assistant Coordinator & Extended Essay Coordinator ([lee\\_woollard@ofs.edu.sg](mailto:lee_woollard@ofs.edu.sg)).

(Trapti Trivedi – IB DP Coordinator)



The slides used for both of these sessions are available on the OFS High School Dashboard.

## Junior High School News



### GRADE 9 CAMP

From 13 to 15 September, our Grade 9 students had a blast at Camp Christine in Singapore! They enjoyed a 3-day, 2-night adventure filled with awesome activities like water challenges, archery tag, dragon boating, and an epic campfire night. Laughter, teamwork, and unforgettable memories made this camp a hit!

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



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## University Application News

September has been a busy month. Our Lion City University Fair was an overwhelming success, with over 130 universities in attendance from around the world. Students and parents from Grades 9 to 12 had the chance to speak to university representatives to ask questions about the application process, entry requirements, and more!

During Parent-Student-Teacher-Conferences (PSTCs), our Grade 10 students and parents were introduced to how to choose courses for Grade 11, while our Grade 11 students were

introduced to the university application process. Thank you to all those who joined!

Grade 12 students completed their individual meetings with their Academic Advisors to prepare their post-graduation plans. There were also a number of special Academic Advisor sessions organised for Grade 12 students during the PSTCs. Students participated in workshops on how to write Personal Statements for UK university applications and Common Application essays for US university applications.

Our early university application process has started with some students preparing to complete their Oxbridge and Medical/Dental/Veterinary applications.

### PSAT testing – Tuesday, 24 October

By registering and completing the PSAT, students will get the opportunity to prepare for SAT tests required for many US universities.

Students should regularly check their University Application Timeline, Homepage Learning Portal, the Gazette, and the Academic Advisors' website for important information on resources, workshops, meetings and updates.

*(Tamana Chanrai-Hills – Academic Advisor)*



## Peer Tutoring

This semester sees over 90 peer tutors committed to serving the OFS High School community. Tutors from Grade 10 to Grade 12, with good recommendations from their subject teachers, have signed up to help their peers to better understand subjects that they are excelled in. Besides a deeper conceptual understanding, friendships are made in these learning sessions. Peer Tutoring welcomes drop-ins, just come and visit us in one of our daily sessions!

*(K McLoughlin – Math Teacher)*



## TEDxYouth@OFS

A live audience of parents, students and staff were treated to some very thought-provoking and entertaining speeches in the OFS Black Box. In keeping with the 2023 TEDx theme of INTENTIONS, seven student speakers shared their views from very diverse perspectives. Smita Menon (How Music in Movies Changes You), Yan Yilang (Why You Should Learn Your Ethnolect), Jaanya Garg (The Impact of Robotics in Everyday Life), Siya Saraf (Is it All True in Altruism?) Tanisha Prabhu (In-tension), Charvi Pitambare (Intentions vs. Actions: Dictator of Morality) and Adithi Rajesh (The Intention of

Movement) all challenged us to revisit our own intentions. Our guest speaker, Ann Ang Su Lee, Assistant Professor in English Literature at NTU shared her story as a writer and her realised intention to give unique elements which are so familiar to all in Singapore, a voice of their own, such as the character of "Uncle" in her short stories Bang my Car, and the HDB apartment in her anthology of poetry Burning Walls for Paper Spirits. The annual student-run event was the culmination of many hours of preparation and creativity over the summer and credit goes to the director, Jessica Lakdawalla; Arshi Das leader of communications and the designer of the inspirational logo; Adya Sharma, speaker leader; Vedant Gawde for his efforts in leading the events and Myra Singh who together with Mr. Sachin Das and the OFS technical staff and crew managed the live-stream to audiences at home.

*(Marion Vlok – SA Leader: Language A – IB MYP/IGCSE)*





## Student Voice



Hello everyone! With the new school year well underway, we hosted our first Spirit Week of the new academic year! Our cowboy themed spirit week was a blast, with several Wild-West inspired activities taking place. The activities ranged from getting your photo taken at our "Wanted" old-west themed photo booth, racing for first place in the Sack Race, to enjoying the wide array of sweet and savory food we offered. The final day gave everyone a chance to dress up in fun cowboy-themed clothes!

We also recently conducted our Student Voice interviews and were delighted to see a sizeable number of applicants. We are so excited to welcome new members from all grades into Student Voice this year! With the additional members, Student Voice hopes to make High School an even more enjoyable experience for all students; and to do this, Student Voice has come up with a number of proposals that you could be seeing soon! Watch this space for more information this year!

Sanjita Verkot, G12 – Tigers Today Committee, Student Voice)

## 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 to 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, High School students were great contributors to OFS' overall success by winning one silver and two bronze medals in the International School category. Individual top scorers from High School were **Heamish Sakthivel** (6 Points), **Saachi Nishandar** (4.5P), and **Vahein Patnaik** (4P). Once again, congratulations to all OFS players for giving their very best, we are proud of you!



(Dijana Dengler and Philipp Ziegler)

## OFS Tigers



OFS Tigers Captains, we are so motivated by your passion for sport, your desire to lead by example, and your level of support for your teammates. Your resilience in facing challenges and your ability to boost morale, inspire and communicate effectively with your teammates reflects the qualities and values of being an OFS Tiger and a leading example to all. Congratulations to the Captains! We wish them and their OFS Tigers' teams every success in all that lies ahead for this season.

OFS TIGERS SPORT	OFS TIGERS TEAM/AGE GROUP	OFS TIGERS SEASON 1 SPORTS CAPTAINS	OFS TIGERS SPORT	OFS TIGERS TEAM/AGE GROUP	OFS TIGERS SEASON 1 SPORTS CAPTAINS
Badminton	14U Boys	PAHWA Himank Vikas (HB09 Sexton)	Volleyball	19U Boys	U19 Boys – SIM Sheryan Ren (HB11 Lai)
Basketball	16U/19U Boys Pre-Season	MIREL Semih (HB12 Schenkermayr)	Volleyball	16U/19U Girls	U16 Girls Captain – MESSIAS Giovanna (HB09 Hepburn)
Cricket	19U Cricket	Captain – Akaash Banerjee (HB 12 Banerjee) Vice Captain – Gyan Balaji (HB 12 Drien Vargas)			U19 Girls Captain – SENECHAL-BLOCK DE FRIBERG Lou Anne (HB12 Pitblado)
Football	16U Boys	PEREZ TOLEDO Matias Alonso (HB10 Vidanovikj)			U19 Girls V. Captain – MOTIAL Nihira (HB12 Vidanovic)
Football	19U Boys	Captain – TORCHETTI Leonardo (HB12 Camisullis Blin) V. Captain – PETRA Neven (HB12 Riddell)	X-Country	G9-12	U19 Boys Captain – BHANDARI Shashwat (HB12 Schenkermayr)
Football	19U Girls	Captain – Asia Amico (HB12 Riddell) V. Captain – Valentina Lupa (HB10 Traynor)			U16 Boys Captain – RAJA SETLUR Abeeir (HB09 Rivera)
Rugby	14U Boys	Captain – SAHA Siddhart (HB09 Underwood)			U16 Boys Vice Captain – CESBERT Martin (HB10 Pang)
Swimming	8U-19U	Boys Captain – LIM Jiunn Hern (HB11 Hubbard)			U16 Girls Captain – BHATTACHARYYA Ananya (HB10 Thomas)
		Boys V. Captain – DENYSENKO Mykhailo (HB11 Lai)	U16 Girls Vice Captain – GUPTA Shivi (HB09 Underwood)		
		Girls Captain – BHAGAVATULA Soumya (HB11 Zhu)			
		Girls V. Captain – LIANG Lening (HB11 Lai)			

(Gil Levy – Head of Competitive Sport)