



Overseas Family School Middle School

Master Policy:

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

Principal's Message

This has been another eventful month, with our Sports Day, face-to-face parent conferences, Grade 7 and Grade 8 MUN IDU (Interdisciplinary Unit) days taking place.

The MUN IDU culminating activities, under the guidance of Mrs. Hanna Ucko Neill, Student Advisor/MUN Coordinator, with the supervision of many of our Middle School teachers were a very enriching experience for our students in Grade 7 and 8.

The Middle School Student Council also organised an OFS hoodie-varsity jacket competition, hoping that the designs could be adopted by our school shop. Well done to all the participants for the 50 or so entries submitted.

We have had our face-to-face Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences (PSTCs), but remember that this is a formal forum to discuss your child's progress. Parents are always welcome to communicate with us throughout the academic year.

Quarter 4 brings us closer to the Middle School Exam Week from 17 to 23 May. However, please remember that Middle School examinations are only used to prepare students for High School. They count towards one of the four criterion in every subject area. However, students must do their best at all times.

Music, Art, Drama and Dance (MADD) Week at Middle School is also back, for our talented students to showcase their artistry and performances.

Michael Lee
Middle School Principal
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Grade 5 Transition to Middle School



Grade 5 students from the Elementary School had an opportunity to experience MYP Sciences when they visited the Middle School Science department.

The students visited Grade 6 students who demonstrated and described a range of experiments and activities they had experienced in their first year of the IB MYP Sciences course.

Activities included using a Bunsen burner, heating water, separating salt and water, distillation, crushing can, measuring mass and investigating flight (paper helicopter and plane).

Grade 6 students stepped up to the task and gave great descriptions of some of the many experiences they have had in Grade 6 IB MYP Sciences this year.



From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

The 31st OFS Global Picnic

The Global Picnic is an international fair where all the families in the school get together to celebrate being part of an international community. This year's Global Picnic is very special as it will be a full scale event after three years of absence. It will take place on **Saturday, 29 April 2023**, in our campus. Come along with your family and enjoy a day of free entertainment, music, dances, demonstrations, bouncy castles and lots of food and refreshments. We have food from around the world for you to sample and plenty of things to see and do.

Your active participation and pride in your culture is what makes this jamboree a unique experience for the OFS family. So do bring along your camera, sunhat, best smile and not forgetting your OFS Security Pass. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you on that day!

French Short Story Competition

Our French students in Middle School entered the French Short Story Competition, "Dis-moi dix mots" held annually by the Alliance Francaise in Singapore. Five of our students have been chosen as winners for their French short stories. The theme this year was based on sports as there are many sporting events taking place in France such as the Tour de France, Rugby World Cup and the Olympic games in France next year. Congratulations to our students for displaying creativity and great French language skills!

(Eileen Coupin – SAL Language Acquisition)





Deputy Principal's Message



The end of Quarter 3 saw our Grade 8 students finalise their course selections for Grade 9 and they are all now looking excitedly ahead to the challenges of High School. It has been a pleasure to watch them grow and learn over the past 3 years and we hope they enjoy their final months at Middle School. At the same time we are preparing to welcome our Grade 5 students to Middle School and hope they are excited about the upcoming move!

The recent Middle School Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences were a great opportunity to reflect and celebrate our students' progress and many successes. We are proud of everything our students have achieved and hope they keep up the good work for the remainder of the school year.

The start of Quarter 4 sees Middle School students enjoying the Music, Art, Drama and Dance (MADD) Week, where they can showcase their many and varied performing arts skills. We wish all our families, who are venturing abroad over the mid-semester break, safe travels and hope all those staying in Singapore manage to have some quality family time together.

(Hayley Brian – Middle School Deputy Principal)

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OFS takes it all: 74th National School Individual Chess Championship 2023

A record-breaking number of 1364 students successfully competed in the recent 74th National School Individual Chess Championship. After gruelling nine rounds of rapid chess, the winners in the various age-groups were determined: Heamish Sakhivel was OFS' most successful player winning the overall championship in the U14-Open category with an outstanding score of 8.5 points out of 9 games.

OFS's other top athletes in the U12 category were Riddhi Das, Avisha Murty, Arshaan Prakash and Kartik Goel. In the U14 category, Saki Suzuki, Srishti Sethi and Hamreet Kaur were strongest.

OFS was the most successful International School throughout all 12 categories, earning 22 medals and trophies against the best chess players in Singapore. Congratulations to all 146 OFS players for giving their very best and taking this important milestone.

(Philipp Ziegler and Dijana Dengler – Chess Coaches)



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Cyber Safety and Awareness



The third quarter Health and Social Education (HSE) Program focused on the theme of Cyber Safety and Awareness. Many discussions were held during Homebase time about what responsible online citizenship looks like. The students also had the opportunity to create 'cyberbullying' and 'responsible online use' posters in a Homebase competition and to share their own 'Cyber Stories'. The winning Homebase for the competition was

7.02 (Keegan). The winning poster and cyber stories have been displayed on the HSE wall outside the Middle School Activity Room.

The HSE Program for Quarter 4 will introduce the theme of 'Growing Up' which will zoom into the topics of puberty, self-awareness and social awareness. We are trusting that this will be an informative experience for all the Middle School students.

(Aidan Spencer and Hanna Ucko Neill – Middle School Student Advisors)



MUN Conferences

In March, Grades 7 and 8 participated in grade-wide MUN conferences following their respective Interdisciplinary Units (IDU). In Grade 7, students prepared for the conference in Individuals and Societies and Mathematics. They



looked at the often inequitable access to resources between countries and ways to achieve fair development by ensuring access to education, health, jobs, technology and human rights. When identifying obstacles and solutions, the students focused on demographic trends, population statistics and human geography. In Grade 8, students focused on the impact of globalisation and the need for sustainability to protect people, the planet and profit. They prepared for the conference during their Individual and Societies and Science lessons by learning about the processes that threaten decent work and impact the environment. During the opening ceremony, students heard from Anna Moore, a sustainability consultant who shared some of her experiences in dealing with major global brands trying to implement sustainability standards. She stressed the importance of redefining business practices in order to ensure sustainable development for all. Equipped with their learning, knowledge and skills, the students embarked on two days of negotiation, discussion and debating to ensure global sustainability.

(Hanna Ucko Neill – Middle School MUN Coordinator)



2023 UK Intermediate Mathematical Challenge

Eighty-two of our Grade 8 students took part in this year's UK Intermediate Mathematical Challenge (UK-IMC) which was held online during their Mathematics class. It is a very successful year for OFS Middle School with 10 Gold, 20 Silver and 27 Bronze Certificates. Thousands of students from across the UK and worldwide took the UK-IMC, and the top 6% were awarded a Gold Certificate, the next 13% Silver, and the next 21% Bronze.



Seojoon Hahm (8Mayall) achieved the highest score which has earned him a place in the Cayley Mathematical Olympiad to be held on 16 March. This is a great achievement for Seojoon as only the top 600 very highest performers are invited to participate in this follow-up round. The other students who received a Gold Certificate include Joonhyeok Huh (8Salwana), Sumin Lee (8Shah), Anaya Sehgal (8Chapman), Chaeun Shin (8Mayall), Aarav Hooda (8Tan), Srikoustubh Karanam (8Salwana), Vimrsh Patnaik (8Brieta), Anna Shimada (8Mayall), and Aryan Verma (8Billimoria).

The UKMT Individual Mathematics Challenges are lively, intriguing papers which are designed to stimulate interest in Mathematics to large numbers of students from all over the world. It is run by the UK Mathematics Trust of the University of Leeds and supported by the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries. It is aimed at students in Grades 8, 9 and 10.

Congratulations to all Grade 8 participants and awardees as well as their teachers who helped them to get prepared for the event.

(Roderick Abcede – SAL Mathematics)





Sports News

OFS Tigers Swim Team – Singapore National Age Groups



The OFS Tigers Swim Team recently competed at the Singapore National Age Groups. The team competed for 9 grueling days, taking part in a total of 137 events! There were significant improvements in personal best times achieved and school records being broken whilst competing amongst the very best of the best swimmers in Singapore.

Casharell Kraan (Grade 6) was extraordinary competing on 15 events winning the National Bronze medal on the 1500m Freestyle and placed 4th in the 800m Freestyle event and finished amongst the Top 10 swimmers in the nation on another 7 events! Ahilya Awasthi (Grade 6), Spike Dunton (Grade 6), Shaili Behere (Grade 6) competing in their first National Championships flew the Red Yellow Blue OFS Flag finishing among the Top 20, Top 30 and Top 40 swimmers in Singapore!

Saki Suzuki (Grade 7) placed in the Top 5 girls on the 1500m Freestyle whilst Hanchen Qian (Grade 7) finished 6th in amongst the boys.

Naya Verma (Grade 8) is a multiple Singapore Nationals Bronze Medalist on the 200m Backstroke and the 1500m Freestyle and Top 5 ranking positions on 4 other events. She was sublime racing in the preliminary heats in the morning and finals at night.

OFS Tigers Captains – Season 3

Congratulations and good luck to the following Middle School students nominated as OFS Tigers Captains of their respective competitive sports for Season 3.

Basketball
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14U Boys: Arvir Randhawa (8Brieta) • 14U Girls: Captain Elyssa Thuan (8Brieta) o Vice Captain Tejaswini Prasad (8Tan)
Tennis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14U – Vedant Nogaja (8Gilpin)
Track and Field
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14U Boys – Abeer Raja Setlur (8Shah) • 14U Girls – Shivi Gupta (8Shah)

(Gil Levy – Head of Competitive Sport)

Spanish Level 4 Students

This quarter Spanish level 4 students have been working on an Interdisciplinary Unit (IDU) with Language and Literature. In both subjects students have studied poetry and famous literary work. Students have read poems and analyzed how authors use literary devices such as alliteration, metaphors, etc. At the end of the unit, students created their own poems which are displayed outside the Spanish classroom. Students are welcome to read, enjoy and appreciate them.

(Diana Nocete – Spanish Teacher)



Middle School Sports Day

Students demonstrated fantastic athleticism and skills playing sports such as football, basketball and water polo. It was great to see the displays of sportsmanship throughout the day as teams cheered for each other and shook hands after matches. At the end of the events, the points were tallied revealing the victorious grade winners: 6.07, 7.04 and 8.05. A huge thank you to the Middle School staff for making the day one students will treasure forever!

(Marisa Healy – SAL PHE)

