



Overseas Family School Middle School

Master Policy:

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

Principal's Message

During the last month, we have had our Grade 8 Camp and Book Week Celebrations.

The Grade 8 Camp was held at Changi Civil Service Club and Pulau Ubin, with a variety of experiential learning opportunities for our students. Through these experiences, our students found out more about themselves and their classmates, in a more robust and challenging environment than the classroom. More importantly, this has been the first camp opportunity that this cohort have had, since our return to near normality from the pandemic. Thank you to Mr. Aidan Spencer, Mrs. Hanna Ucko Neill and all our camp teachers.

Book Week was also celebrated, as we emphasised the importance and power of reading. The week was capped off with a book character dress-up. Look inside this newsletter and see how many characters you can recognise. A big thank you to Ms. Clare Gilpin, our teacher-librarian for helping to coordinate the events for the week.

We hosted our 13th edition of the Middle Years Model United Nations Conference at Overseas Family School (MY-MUNOFS XIII) from 24 to 26 February 2023. Many thanks to Mrs. Hanna Ucko Neill, Ms. Neisha Pratt and our Student MUN Executive Team for coordinating the whole event and hosting numerous schools onsite and online.

Information for students and parents has been shared for two very important transitions between our schools at OFS. For our Grade 5 to Grade 6 students and for our Grade 8 to Grade 9 students. The information has been added to the OFS Dashboard.

The Middle School Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences will be conducted face-to-face from Monday to Thursday, 13 to 16 March 2023.

Michael Lee
Middle School Principal
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Staff Professional Development Days



International Youth Math Challenge

Congratulations to **Srikoustubh Karanam** (8Salwana) on successfully participating in the final round of the International Youth Math Challenge 2023. The International Youth Math Challenge is an independent international mathematics competition for talented high school and university students. Srikoustubh achieved outstanding results throughout the tournament despite very fierce competition and achieved a Silver Honour (top 10% of all participants).



From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

Global Picnic 2023: Second Meeting for Country Coordinators

The annual Global Picnic, an international fair where all the families in the School get together to celebrate as one international community, will take place on Saturday, 29 April 2023. This is a great opportunity for you to represent your country by bringing popular traditional food to your country table, performing a musical or dance number which represents your country, or sharing an activity from your culture. We invite you to come join us and represent your country. If you have any family recipe item or activity from your culture to share, please come along and help. The second and final meeting for the Country Coordinators will be on:

Date: Thursday, 16 March 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Venue: Parent Lounge (Level 4 of Administration Block)

If you would like to volunteer to represent your country, please email the Parent Association at (parent_association@ofs.edu.sg). More information regarding the Global Picnic is available on the school website (<https://www.ofs.edu.sg/about/pa/events/global-picnic/>).



Deputy Principal's Message



Quarter 3 continues to be a time of looking ahead for our parents and students. Our Grade 8 students are currently selecting the courses they will study in Grades 9 and 10. All selections must be made by Friday, 17 March. These are important decisions which will pave the way for students' future studies and careers. Like Steve Jobs once said, "have the courage to follow your heart and intuition".

It was also lovely to meet so many of our Grade 5 families during our recent Grade 5 Orientation Evening. We hope that you are all looking forward to joining the Middle School in August. Please see the OFS Dashboard for more information about the Middle School curriculum. The Middle School Principal, Mr. Michael Lee, will also be visiting Grade 5 students later in the year to answer any questions they may have.

In addition to our MY-MUNOFS XIII conference, we continue to explore the Model United Nations through our curriculum. Our Grade 8 students are currently preparing for their conference where they will discuss and debate issues related to the 'UN Sustainable Development Goals' and our Grade 7 students will be focussing on 'Equitable Access to Resources'. These are important topics that help our students to understand the world in which we live and their role in preserving the environment and protecting the rights of others. We wish them the best of luck.

(Hayley Brian – Middle School Deputy Principal)

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Grade 8 Camp



The Grade 8 Camp took place from Wednesday, 8 February to Friday, 10 February. This was the first camp for most, if not all, of the students. Fortunately, the weather was excellent and allowed for all the activities to run as planned. The students were excited from the very beginning and showed their enthusiasm in all the activities they tried. Those who were hesitant to try the high elements activities managed to overcome their fears and prove to themselves that they were more courageous than they previously thought. The kayaking adventure was a wonderful opportunity to learn about the mangrove ecosystems on Pulau Ubin. As part of the MYP Action Program, the students were also involved in removing plastic and fishing nets that had been collected on the mangrove branches. On the last night, the students barbecued together and ended the night with a disco arranged by 8.01. The students were positive throughout and made significant strides in deepening relationships across their peer group. Overall, the Grade 8s had a challenging yet rewarding camp and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

(Aidan Spencer – Middle School Camp Organiser)

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Book Week 2023





Sports News

OFS Tigers have enjoyed a hugely successful Season 2 of ACSIS Sports with many of our teams across the sports placing amongst the Top 5 in the ACSIS League.

Congratulations to all our teams and coaches and chaperones for your work this season. Thank you for representing the OFS Tigers teams and Overseas Family School with such pride and passion.



Badminton

- 11u Girls Badminton Team A - ACSIS CHAMPIONS - Trophy Winners & Gold Medalists
- 11u Girls Badminton Team B - ACSIS CHAMPIONS - Trophy Winners & Gold Medalists
- 11u Boys Badminton Team - 4th

Basketball

- 19u Boys Basketball Team - ACSIS CHAMPIONS -Trophy Winners & Gold Medalists
- 16u Boys Basketball Team - ACSIS Runners up - Silver Medalists
- 12u Girls Basketball Team - 5th
- 19u Boys Basketball Team - 6th

Cricket

- 12u Boys Cricket Team - ACSIS Runners up - Silver Medalists

Football

- 14u Boys Football Team - 4th
- 11u Boys Football Team - 5th
- 11u Girls Football Team - 5th
- 10u Boys Football Team - 5th

Gymnastics - Dragons Invitational

- Vaishnavi Rachapudi - Bronze Medalist on Beam - UWC Invitational
- Bar Tenenbaum Katan - 4th place on Beam and Floor and 6th in the All Round Points

Netball

- 14u Girls Netball - 4th

Rugby

- 16u Boys Rugby Team - 3rd & Bronze Medalists
- 19u Boys Rugby Team - 4th

Swimming - ACSIS MS Championships

- Casharell Kraan - 3 Silver Medals - Runner Up Top Point Scorer 11u-12u Girls
- Hanchen Qiang - 3 Silver Medals - Runner Up Top Point 11u-12u Boys
- Naya Verma - 3 Bronze Medals - Runner Up Top Point Scorer 13u-14u Girls

Tennis

- 19u Boys Tennis Team - 3rd & Bronze Medalists
- 19u Girls Tennis Team - 5th

Touch Football

- 19u Girls Touch Football Team - 5th

ACsis Season 3 competitions are underway and we're really excited about the potential of all our OFS Tigers students.

(Gil Levy)

MY-MUNOFS XIII

MY-MUNOFS XIII took place in late February, with more than 400 students involved in discussions on topics linked to solving territorial disputes, combating drug-trafficking networks, mitigating climate change, upholding human rights and addressing the legacy of colonialism. It was a pleasure to welcome more than 20 schools, including five from India, Cambodia and Malaysia. In addition, two online committees ensured that students from Thailand and Saudi Arabia could join the debate. Middle School students spent the weekend making new friends with shared interests, learning about different perspectives and coming away with stronger communication, collaboration and negotiation skills. During the Opening Ceremony, students heard from our guest speaker Raffaello Pantucci, Senior Fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, author and career think-tank professional, who addressed the most pressing security threats facing our world. Some food for thought for all the delegates before they went into their committees to devise practical and sustainable solutions to a host of issues.



(Hanna Ucko Neill – Middle School MUN Coordinator)

