



Overseas Family School Middle School

Master Policy:

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

Principal's Message

It has been a busy and excellent month the Middle School. We have had the pleasure and honour of hosting the Israeli Ambassador Eliyahu Vered Hazan at OFS on 12 September 2023. Conducting the Grade 8 Speech Competition with ample public and persuasive speaking talents on show in the Atrium. A Hari Raya themed Coffee Morning organised by the OFS Parent Association and we have also increased our parent engagement this year by offering a workshop on IB MYP assessments on 27 September 2023, held in the Parent Lounge. It was a successful joint collaboration between our Middle and High Schools.

As a reminder, the parent-student-teacher conferences will soon follow after the mid-semester break from 24 to 27 October 2023. This is a formal opportunity for parents to discuss the progress made with the subject specialist teachers we have. Remember that all parents are also welcome to communicate with us throughout the academic year.

We have also just had our Grade 6 Camp in Sentosa. I hope all the students have gained confidence in themselves and their classmates through this experiential learning opportunity. Thank you to Mr Aidan Spencer, Mrs Hanna Ucko Neill, all the Grade 6 Homebase teachers and additional volunteers for looking after the students.

Michael Lee
Middle School Principal
michael_lee@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.

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, Middle School students were a great contributor to OFS' overall success by winning one golden, two silver and two bronze medals in the international school category. Individual top scorers from Middle School were Jamie Ziegler (5.5P), Shamyak Biswas (5P), Riddhi Das (4P) and Harshil Bhojwani (4P). Once again congratulations to all OFS players for giving their very best. We are proud of you.

(Dijana Dengler and Philipp Ziegler – Chess Coaches)

Israeli Ambassador Visit

A special guest, Israeli Ambassador in Singapore, Mr. Eliyahu Vered Hazan, visited the school to participate in the Jewish New Year celebration being hosted. Students from Kindergarten, Elementary, Middle and High School, along with their parents, teaching staff and the Ambassador, celebrated together. The students performed songs and dances in Hebrew and welcomed the new year with sweet treats such as pomegranates, honey and apples.

Special thanks to Middle School Music teachers, Ms. Nora Patterson and Mr. Jason Currie, who performed their own version of the song 'Let it be' by The Beatles. Talia Kirshberg and Hili Tomer from Grade 6 performed together with the



teachers and sang the song in English and Hebrew. The performance was powerful and exciting for everyone involved. The Ambassador of Israel in Singapore was very impressed with the school campus, the Mother Tongue program, the sports teams and especially the Chess room and program. Thanks to everyone involved in the event.

(Maayan Borger Lev – Hebrew Mother Tongue Teacher)



Deputy Principal's Message



It has been an excellent start to the academic year with well-established routines; with all new families, students and staff comfortably settling into OFS Middle School. We enjoyed seeing so many parents attending our new parent orientation morning and Middle School Curriculum talks last month, to gain a better understanding of IB MYP Framework. We have shared more information with parents in our Grades 6 to 10 parent workshop on 27 September 2023, focussing on IB MYP assessment and reporting and during the upcoming parent-student-teacher conferences, taking place from 24 to 27 October 2023.

The first quarter is a great time for students to set new academic goals and continue their development from the previous year. Grade 7 and 8 students are familiar with the Middle School and the IB MYP framework. Grade 6 students are rapidly adapting to the special learning environment within IB MYP, creating a positive impact on the school. Establishing good organisation and self-management skills will enable students to establish good routines and manage their time well.

It has been a busy first quarter for students with many exciting activities taking place. These included preparations for the Middle School Global Concert on 5 October, the Grade 8 Speech competition, the Homebase Locker competition and the recent Grade 6 Camp. Students have also been busy attending the wide range of lunchtime clubs, after school ECA clubs, Tigers sports and the Enrichment Program activities. We look forward to an action packed Quarter 2.

(Hayley Brian – Middle School Deputy Principal)
hayley_brian@ofs.edu.sg

New Staff

WILKINSON JONATHAN

Language and Literature

My name is Jonathan Wilkinson, and I am an educator from Melbourne, Australia. I have had the wonderful experience of teaching English and History in various international settings. Before becoming a teacher, I studied journalism and worked as a radio producer and freelance writer. After deciding on a career change, I enrolled in the Master of Teaching course at Melbourne University and embarked on my journey towards becoming a teacher. I moved to Singapore at the beginning of 2019, where I have lived ever since with my partner and our daughter. Outside of my professional life, I love diving into a good book, watching movies, and supporting my favourite sports teams. I am passionate about all things education and am very excited to join the OFS community!



GREENFIELD JONATHAN

Sciences

Hello, I am Jonathan Greenfield, a new Science Teacher to OFS. I am originally from the United Kingdom and worked at a school in Malaysia before coming to Singapore. I have a PGCE International from the University of Nottingham and a Masters in Education from the University of Sunderland. I have interests beyond the classroom like motocross, paragliding, and exploring virtual reality environments. I also enjoy a game of chess and the occasional snorkeling trip. In addition to my academic journey, I have been developing environmental programs and leading action-oriented clubs. My educational background pairs with a penchant for seeking out different experiences and I look forward to sharing these aspects with the OFS community.



Student Council Representatives (SCR)

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the students who recently stood up to represent the Middle School in the SCR Club elections. Your willingness to step forward and take on this responsibility is commendable. We look forward to an exciting year ahead as you bring your ideas, energy, and passion to the table.

To our Middle School students: Your voice matters! We encourage each and every one of you to share your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions for Academic Year 2023-2024. Whether it is about improving campus life, proposing new activities, your input is valuable. Stay tuned for more information on how you can contribute to making our fantastic school even better.

As we forge ahead, we are gearing up for an array of exciting events during this school year. Our mission is to make sure that we listen and act in the best interests of the Middle School community and we are counting on the participation of students (and teacher's too!).

We are looking forward to a fantastic year filled with learning, growth, and fun!

(James Chapman and Teresa Rodriguez Alvarado – Teachers-in-Charge)

Master Policy:

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

Grade 6 Camp

From 18 to 20 September 2023, the Grade 6s underwent the Grade 6 Camp at Sentosa. As expected, the students were full of enthusiasm as they participated in a range of activities such as kayaking, low elements, recycling projects, scavenger hunts, Hydrodash, campfire performances and multiple team building activities. The students had to overcome their homesickness and show resilience, which they did extremely well. They all developed their collaboration skills as they pooled their talents to solve problems and encourage each other to succeed in the myriad of activities. The highlight was the Homebase performances on the final night where students showed their peers their special dance moves and celebrated their time together on camp. Overall, the Grade 6s showed great courage and camaraderie during their time together which made for an excellent camp.

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



'I loved Hydrodash. My friends helped me overcome some fears of mine. They encouraged me through it all. We also worked super well together in the team building activities'
– Cho Gayul (6.03 Tan)

'The low element activities were really interesting. The Mohawk Walk was challenging but some of us managed to get to the end. My class and I collaborated to make sure that we could balance everyone on the wooden see-saw table for ten seconds. It was an amazing experience'
– Lim Ruoxian (6.02 Wilkinson)



'Kayaking was super fun. I learnt new skills that I didn't know before. I feel much more confident in kayaking now'
– Charles Forbes (6.06 Atherton)

'It was certainly a very interesting experience. While there were moments when we were challenged, we managed to get through camp as a team with some valuable learning along the way. Plus, we had an amazing time!'
– Arjun Srikrishnan (6.02 Wilkinson)





Individuals and Societies – 7SPP3

As part of the Middle Ages and Power System Unit, SPP1 students decided to explore the topic of Medieval castles in Britain. They conducted research about the function of a castle as a symbol of power and also culture and defence in the feudal society. The students dedicated a few lessons practising their artistry and technical skills in reproducing a 3D model of one of the most important and popular castles in the UK, the Royal Castle of Windsor. The students had the opportunity to reflect on the functions of the different buildings of the castle which functioned as a small self-contained town. They were also exposed to the understanding of the complex history behind it which runs from a simple Norman fortification to a symbol of royalty and splendour of British Heritage. The choice of studying Windsor Castle was not causal as this September recurs the first-year anniversary of HM Queen Elizabeth’s death. Windsor Castle was the late queen’s favourite residence near London.

(Diego Musitelli and 7SPP Level 3 Students)



The Grade 8 Persuasive Speech Competition

This quarter, the Grade 8 students presented persuasive speeches in their Language and Literature classes as part of their “Power of Persuasion” unit. The finalists from each Homebase went on to compete to a wider audience of the OFS Middle School Community in the atrium. The speakers challenged their audience to consider perspectives from a range of topics. Showcasing their exceptional oration skills, it was wonderful to see how confident, engaging and persuasive our Grade 8 finalists were! With so many incredible speeches, the judging was a challenge. We wish to congratulate once again, Ridhima Sandilya of 8.06 for winning first place, Tanvi Ghai of 8.05 who came in second, and Ved Jaggi of 8.04 who took third place. Finally, well done to all the Homebase finalists, Chaitrali Ambardekar, Nitika Padmaraja, Yash Thakur, Angad Soota and Raghav Unni.



(Philippa Spendelow – SAL of Language and Literature)



Sports News



Congratulations to these Middle School Student-Athletes who have been recognized by their peers, teammates and coaches to lead their respective OFS Tigers Competitive Teams in ACSIS Season 1.

We are all so motivated by their passion for the sport, desire to lead by example – through their actions and words – and the level of responsibility, care and support of their teammates that they have been afforded in undertaking this role. Their resilience in facing challenges and their ability to boost morale, inspire and communicate effectively with their teammates and coaches reflect the qualities and values of being an OFS Tiger and a leading example to all. Congratulations Captains!

We wish them and their OFS Tigers teams every success in all that lies ahead for this season and the future seasons.

OFS Tigers Sport	OFS Tigers Team/Age Group	OFS Tigers Captains
Badminton	12U Boys	BHAGAT Manan (6Atherton)
Badminton	12U Girls	SINGH Riana (6Nocete)
Badminton	14U Girls	KANNAN Anuvadhandani (8Jacobs)
Cricket	14U Mixed	DEB BURMAN Advay J (8Brieta)
Netball	12U Girls	CHO Gayul (6Tan)
Cross Country	Grades 6 to 8	Girls Captain – THUAN Annika (6Chen) Boys Captain – NAIR Vedant (7Esnault)

(Gil Levy – Head of Competitive Sport)