



Overseas Family School Elementary School

Master Policy:

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

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Students,

As we come to the end of this semester, we had the unique privilege of celebrating the World Chess Championship, held right here in Singapore, with our very own OFS Chess Festival! Our campus buzzed with excitement as students, parents, and staff joined together to celebrate the world of chess. Here's a glimpse into some of the highlights:

Art Competition: Students showcased their creative talents by designing chess-themed artworks. Winners were announced on 9 December 2024.

Family Tournament: Parents and children from Elementary School, Middle School and High School teamed up and faced off in friendly competition.

Student & Teacher Matches: These engaging games brought out the best in both strategy and sportsmanship, as students and staff competed in thrilling matches.

Special Guests: We were honoured to host Kyla Zhao, renowned author and chess enthusiast, as well as esteemed Chess Players Tijana Mandura, Tatiana Ratcu Siufi, and Mike Klein, who inspired our community with their expertise and passion for the game.

A special thank-you goes out to our extraordinary Chess teachers, Ms. Dijana Dengler and Mr. Philipp Ziegler, for organizing this fantastic festival and for their dedication to building a thriving Chess program at OFS.

Beyond the Chess Festival, this semester has been filled with hard work, creativity, and collaboration across all grades and programs. To our amazing students, your energy and determination in academics, sports, arts, and other activities continue to make us proud. To our dedicated teachers, thank you for providing these opportunities for our students.

Lastly, to our parents, thank you for your ongoing support and involvement. Whether cheering on your children at events, volunteering your time, or encouraging their learning at home, your partnership is invaluable.

As we head towards our December break, our Enrichment Program Team will be offering a December Winter Holiday Camp for our Elementary School students. Students will have the opportunity to get fit and active in the multi-sports program along with other fun extra-curricular activities during the holidays. Please return your child's registration form to the Elementary School office as soon as possible to secure a place.

Finally, a fond farewell to our students who are moving on from OFS. We wish you all the very best with your future endeavours and hope you take wonderful memories of our school with you. We look forward to welcoming our new and returning students for Semester Two on Monday, 6 January 2025. I wish all of our students, families, and teachers a restful and enjoyable holiday break.



Penny

Penny Liew
Elementary School Principal
penny_liew@ofs.edu.sg



From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

As Semester 1 comes to a close, we want to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for all your support. Happy holidays to everyone! May your new year be filled with happiness and success.

We look forward to seeing all of you again in January 2025. If you are travelling, enjoy your trip! Stay safe and healthy.

Art News



What a productive end to the first semester! We are very proud of our Elementary School artists whose eye-catching artworks were displayed in the first Art Exhibition of the academic year. Thank you to our parents who helped hang artworks so expertly. Students received positive feedback from their peers, family members and teachers and were keen to share their creations too. We wish everyone a happy and creative break.

(Jennifer Freeman)

Physical Education (PE)

As we wrap up a successful swimming program, we now turn our focus to Gymnastics and Athletics, concentrating on beam, vault, floor, running, jumping, and throwing activities. These activities are helping us prepare for the much-anticipated Sports Morning across the Elementary School. We have been fortunate with great weather and are grateful to parents for their support. It has been fantastic to see students showcase the skills they have developed this semester. The Lunchtime Sports Table Tennis competition has been a highlight, with Grades 4 and 5 battling for the top spot, certainly a welcomed sport across our upper primary classes. We look forward to welcoming students back in January for Semester 2, where we will focus on Striking & Fielding and Invasion Games! Enjoy your break, we look forward to welcoming everyone back for Semester 2.

(Mark Sherwin)



Grade 1 News

We have thoroughly enjoyed our third Unit of Work, "Green Fingers". We took a wonderful nature walk around our school garden, marvelling at the diverse plants we have around the school. Our students delved into plant science, conducting experiments to uncover the secrets of plant growth and survival. They were overjoyed to watch their tiny seeds sprout into plants with roots, leaves, and stems. Our field trip to the Jacob Ballas Children's Garden was a highlight. Students connected their classroom learning to real-world experiences. Our Language Arts unit on procedure writing is in progress. We will explore the elements of clear instructions and create our own step-by-step guides. We hope you enjoyed our Holiday Concert! The students worked hard during music lessons and were thrilled to perform for you. Thank you for your support in helping them look their best in their performance outfits. From the Grade 1 team, we wish you a joyous, safe and restful holiday!

(Emma Phelps)



Grade 2 News



The Grade 2 students have had some wonderful experiences exploring the unit "Different Places, Similar Lives". Students enquired into the history of Singapore and discovered facts that they have been able to connect with living in Singapore today. We enjoyed our field trip to the Images of Singapore "Live" Museum. It was a fun, interactive and theatrical journey. Through a mix of live actors and special effects the field trip portrayed Singapore's transformation from a humble Malay fishing village to the 21st century city. The Holiday Concert tied in well with our IPC unit. Students performed to songs celebrating holidays from around the world. We wish you all a joyful and safe holiday..

(Sameerata Prakash)

Grade 3 News



As we approach the end of our first semester, Grade 3 students are excited to share their learning from our "Bright Sparks" unit. For their exit point, they will be showcasing their scientific discoveries with you, including the circuits they have built. They also explored the life and contributions of inventor Thomas Edison. In Mathematics, our students started a new unit on measurement, where students investigated concepts capacity and mass. Our Grade 3 Holiday Concert was a huge success! The students looked vibrant and festive in their costumes, bringing holiday cheer to all. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for our second semester. Wishing you a joyful, safe and fun-filled holiday season!

(Hayley Kinnaird)

Library News

The Red Dot Book Award shortlists are now on display in the library, and the students have been enthusiastically reading them during their library lessons and at home. Students will be able to vote for their favourite books in the Early Reader and Young Reader categories. As with any book award competition, it is also always interesting to discuss which books are our favourites and give reasons why. Grades 4 and 5 enjoyed the author talk by Kyla Zhao, and her book 'May the best player win' has been well received in the library. She is certainly an inspirational and motivational speaker; perhaps some new stories will be written over the break by our students. The holiday book displays are popular with the students, and I hope everyone enjoys some festive reading over the break.

(Catherine Kmet)



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Grade 4 News



It has been another busy month and the weeks are flying by. Grade 4 students have been learning about the history of their home and host country in our new IPC unit, "Here and Now, There and Then". As part of this unit, students have been learning mapping skills and how to use an atlas, understanding how lines of longitude and latitude help us locate places. They have also focused on events from their home and host countries and how those events had an impact then and now. In Mathematics, our Module 2 has ended and the students have now been focusing on measurement, including temperature, mass and capacity. Our narrative unit is well underway and the students have been planning and writing their own stories ensuring they follow the story mountain adding the key elements needed to make an interesting story. All the students enjoyed the Holiday Concert and it was lovely to see them singing and dancing on the stage with an audience. The Grade 4 teachers would like to wish all our students and their families a safe and happy holiday.

(Guy Watts)

Grade 5 News



The Grade 5 students will conclude their OFS MUN unit by participating in the (MUNOFS) General Assembly. Led by Secretary-General Roy HANS and Deputy Secretary-General Ira Kaur PRASANNA, delegates from nine countries will spend two days finalising and voting on the Issue Statements. Ambassadors will deliver country speeches, while committee Chairs will share resolutions. This unit has been a great success, with students excelling in their personal goals. Congratulations to our outstanding Semester 1 JSC members, who served as excellent role models. The Grade 5 Team wishes all students and families a safe and relaxing holiday.

(Karla Kleist)

Music News

We are very proud of our amazing students who participated in the Holiday Concerts. Each grade performed songs and dances celebrating a variety of holidays and festivals from around the world. This global mosaic showcased how each culture shares unique stories, customs, and celebrations. It instilled a sense of respect, curiosity, and unity amongst our students and school community. We would like to extend our thanks to all the parents for your help with costumes and for your support and encouragement during these events!

(Kevin McCabe)

Languages News

Our school recently celebrated the diversity of languages and cultures. A vibrant Diwali celebration, organized by our Hindi language teachers, filled the atrium with joy and color. While Grade 5 students helped organize the festivities, the entire Elementary School community participated in various activities like puzzle-solving, diya decoration, card making, and photo booth experiences. Additionally, Grade 4 French students enjoyed a culinary experience, tasting delicious crepes baked by their teacher. Our Grade 4 Languages Assembly showcased the talents of young linguists, with performances ranging from exploring global destinations like Israel to introducing the Korean alphabet and reciting Mandarin poetry.

(Monica Makkar and Roger Calais)



Sports News

OFS Tigers Dominate in ACSIS Season 1!

The OFS Tigers showcased their athletic prowess during ACSIS Season 1, finishing the season with impressive results that highlight the talent and dedication of our young athletes. The roar of the Tigers echoed as our 12U Girls Badminton team, 11U Boys Basketball team, 11U Boys Tennis squad, 12U Girls Touch Football/Rugby crew, 16U Boys Volleyball team, 12U Girls X-Country runners, 9U Football and 10U Football Teams dominating the sports scene. The OFS Tigers Gymnasts were crowned queens at the coveted Singapore Gymnastics Carnival Level 2!

Not to be outdone, the 12U Boys Badminton, 11U Girls Basketball, and 14U Boys Cricket squads, together with the 19U Boys Basketball Team at the ALBA 3v3 Invitational showcased their competitive spirit and skill and as ACSIS runners up secured Silver Medals.

Bronze medal finishes were achieved by the 14U Girls Badminton, 16U Boys Football, and 14U Boys Rugby teams, as well as the Basketball 19U Boys 3v3 team as well as the Gymnasts at the Singapore Classic - adding to the Tigers' impressive treasure trove of twinkling medals.

Additional commendations go to our hard-fighting teams that claimed spots in the top eight, including the 12U Girls Netball and 14U Girls Touch Football/Rugby, who put forth commendable performances against tough competition.

With three swimmers competing on the Global Stage at The World Aquatics World Cup, Tigers Gymnasts competing at The Singapore Carnival and Singapore Classic, our 16U and 19U Boys Basketball Teams amongst the Top 3 at The 3x3 ALBA Invitational and our 19U Rugby players competing in the SCC 7s, it has been a busy first season for our OFS athletes.

Congratulations to all the athletes, coaches, and supporters for making this season one for the books. The OFS Tigers have set a high bar for the next season — let us keep the momentum going!

"Greatness Starts Somewhere - Greatness Starts Here"

(Gil Levy)

Chess News

OFS Chess Festival: A Grand Celebration!

What an incredible two weeks at OFS celebrating the World Chess Championship match between Ding Liren and Gukesh Dommaraju! The festival was filled with exciting activities: a family tournament brought families together over the board, while students and teachers faced off in a lively match. We were honored to host special guests like Kyla Zhao and FunMaster Mike, along with many other renowned chess players and journalists. Students from Kindergarten to High School showcased their creativity in a chess-themed art contest, and families enjoyed our popular Chess Ice Cream Challenge, a fun puzzle-solving competition. Thank you to everyone who made our Chess Festival a memorable celebration of learning, creativity, and community at OFS.

(Dijana Dengler and Philipp Ziegler)



New Staff

CHRISTOPHER SINGLETON

Hello everyone! I am Chris Singleton and I have been teaching internationally for seven years. I started in a Montessori Kindergarten in Ningbo, China, and then spent five years in Hanoi, Vietnam, helping young learners prepare for Grade 1. Before that, I taught children with disabilities in Anchorage, Alaska, which was a truly rewarding experience. In Ireland, I taught students from around the world, sparking my passion for international education. Outside the classroom, I am on the football pitch or playing Snooker, a sport I dedicated much of my life to. I am loving Singapore and feel lucky to work with an amazing class each day!



HELEN LANGLOIS

My name is Helen Langlois and I am teaching Homebase in Grade 1. I am from Jersey which is a small island in the English Channel. Jersey is about 6 times smaller than Singapore, it is full of history and you are never more than 20-minutes from a beach. I have spent the last three years teaching 5-7-year-olds in a Private Preparatory School. In July I moved to Singapore with my fiancé to work at OFS. In addition to teaching Homebase, I also help coach the Under 10s Mixed Netball team. Outside of work, you will always find me with my nose in a book, with 65 books under my belt this year... so far!



THOMAS CHAMBERS

Hello! My name is Tom Chambers (only my mother calls me Thomas!) and I am teaching in the SPP in Grade 4. I have been an Elementary School teacher for nearly 20 years in international schools in Egypt, Oman and now Singapore. I moved to Singapore in 2019 with my wife and 2 young sons and have joined OFS after five years teaching English at the Holland International School. I am a keen (though aging) football player and an inconsistent golfer and will be involved in Tigers' coaching here at OFS this year with our Elementary School soccer stars. Thank you to everyone for such a warm welcome!



Food From The Heart

