



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,

It is with great joy that I extend my warmest greetings to all our students, parents and staff as we begin Semester 2 and 2024!

A warm welcome to our new students and families that have joined us in the Elementary School at OFS. We recently welcomed approximately 70 new students into the Elementary School and opened a new Homebase class. Starting in a new school can both be exciting and a little nerve wracking but rest assured, our school community is here to help. I hope our new students feel settled in their new school routines, and with time become more familiar with our curriculum, as well as form new friendships.

Stay informed about school news and events by reading our newsletters and following us on social media. Our school's online portal via the website, www.ofs.edu.sg, is also a valuable resource. As parents, you can find out information about our school, ranging from upcoming events, newsletters, Parent Association announcements to course and curriculum information. If you log in to our online OFS Learning Portal, you can track student assessments, view student timetables, check assigned homework, sign up for after school activities and much more. This is one of our most important methods of communication with parents, so please make use of the OFS website to help stay in touch with your child's school life.

On the 19 and 20 February, all teachers across schools will be undertaking Professional Development to allow them to renew and further enhance their existing knowledge, skills and understanding about education. Please note that there will be no school for students on those days.

Finally, I wish all our students and families the very best for Semester 2. To families celebrating Chinese New Year, have a happy, healthy, and prosperous year ahead.



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

From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

Chinese New Year Coffee Morning

The Parent Association (PA) invites all parents to a special Chinese New Year themed Coffee Morning, right after the auspicious Lion and Dragon Dance. The Lion and Dragon Dance will take place at OFS Basketball Court, from 10:30am to 11:00am.

Date: Thursday, 22 February 2024

Time: 11:00am – 1:00pm

Venue: Parent Lounge (Level 4 of the Administration Building)

Let us celebrate the Chinese New Year together and get to know its various traditions, and rituals. Watch out for more details to be shared on the PA webpage soon.

Languages News



Happy New Year and a warm welcome to all of our new and returning students. As the new year unfolds, so does another exciting semester in our diverse language community. The Foreign Language and Mother Tongue students collaborated with their classmates and set up goals for the new year. Embracing multicultural perspectives is a key element of Bookweek's exploration of friendship. Students will delve into stories of camaraderie and connection in their mother tongue and foreign languages. Our Mandarin teachers are getting ready to bring the magic of Chinese New Year to life in their classrooms. Students will embark on a vibrant journey through cultural activities, exploring the customs and legends associated with this ancient festival. Grade 4 French explorers journeyed through the seasons of France and then designed colorful t-shirts with slogans for their favorite leisure activity.

(Monica Makkar and Roger Calais)

Important Dates in 2024

2 Feb	Book Week Character Dress Up Day
6 Feb	ECAs begins
8–20 Feb	School Holiday
22 Feb	Lion and Dragon Dance, Chinese New Year Free Dress Day, Parent Association Chinese New Year Coffee Morning
22 Feb	Season 2 Tigers Competitive Sports ends



Grade 1 News

Happy New Year to all our families and a special welcome to the new families who have joined our Grade 1 classes this semester. The students have settled in well and have made a smooth start to the second semester. We have begun our current IPC Unit of Work, "How Are You?". In this unit, students will be exploring ways they can stay healthy. It is great to see the children bringing in healthy lunches and snacks and taking responsibility to ensure they are eating a healthy diet. For our Entry Point, students participated in various activities. They had fun sorting 3D food items into healthy food and treats, arranging bone cut-outs to make a skeleton and experimenting with glitter to understand how germs on our palms get passed on to others. During our Science tasks, students have been enquiring about the five food groups and identifying examples for each group through hands-on activities. In Language Arts, we are writing procedures with a focus on recipes. We look forward to another great semester.

(Jaya Ward)



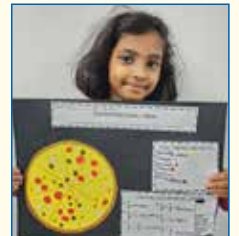
Grade 2 News



Happy New Year and a warm welcome to all our new OFS families! We've kicked off our exciting journey into the "Land, Sea and Sky" IPC unit, delving into the fascinating world of water plants, fish, and birds and discovering how each adapts to its unique habitat. The debate on whether animals can survive without plants sparked interesting discussions in the classrooms fostering a deeper understanding of interdependence. For the Entry Point, students went on a nature walk around the school; keenly observing and sketching the plants and animals they spotted. Students closely examined an array of water plants at the science lab to understand their adaptations. We further investigated what happens to plants when their habitats are changed. We swapped the habitats of land and water plants to test our hypothesis. In Language Arts, students are exploring non-fiction text and are applying their thinking and planning skills to take notes. In Mathematics, we are focussing on the practical skills of handling money. Students learnt to make different amounts using Singapore coins through a range of hands-on activities. We look forward to a fun filled semester of learning and exploring.

(Sameerata Prakash)

Grade 3 News



Happy New Year and welcome back to OFS. We would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new families. Grade 3 students had an empowering start to the semester with the onset of our new unit, "They Made a Difference". During the Entry Point, teachers dressed up and posed as eight notable people, revealing their significant contributions. Students have been researching, reading biographies, and participating in collaborative research tasks to gain an understanding of what made some people not only famous but significant and influential to society. In our narrative writing unit, students have been developing their ability to describe settings, characters, and story plots. They are also sharpening their storytelling skills, as they work through the writing process to draft narratives. In Mathematics, the students have started a Fraction unit. Students are developing their ability to compare and order fractions as well as add and subtract fractions.

(Emma Gregg)

Library News

Book Week, our annual celebration of books and reading was celebrated in the week of 29 January to 2 February 2024. Students had much to look forward to: High School and Middle School students reading stories on a live stream from the High School library every morning, teachers reading stories in our library during lunch and the "Do You Know This Book?" quiz which challenged our students' reading knowledge. Homebase teachers planned fun activities for the week, to engage and promote the love of reading to our students. Congratulations to all our students and staff for their amazing effort in planning their book character costumes for the grand finale character dress-up day held on the Friday of that week!

(Roger Calais)

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Grade 4 News



It has been great to see all the students returning after the holidays. They have come back excited, motivated, and with lovely stories to tell about what they have been up to. The Grade 4 team welcomes all our new Grade 4 students and their families. The students have had a fun start to their new IPC unit, "Going Global". They have been taking part in trade games in the classroom which has given them an understanding of how International trade works and how not every country gets a fair chance. Throughout this unit, there will be an emphasis on interdependence around the world and globalisation which will lead the students to understand how important the UN Sustainable Development Goals are. Each student will choose a goal and create a persuasive piece of writing to explain why that goal is important. This task will tie in to our current text type which is persuasive writing. In Mathematics, students have been learning all about fractions and connecting the use of fractions to our everyday lives. In this unit, there will also be a focus on decimals.

(Guy Watts)

Physical Education (PE)



Warm welcome back to our OFS Athletes. This term we will dive into the exciting world of Striking and Fielding and Invasion Games, exploring the fun and skill-building aspects that make these sports an absolute home run. In Striking and Fielding, we will learn to encompass a wide range of skills that require a combination of agility, hand-eye coordination, teamwork, and most importantly strategic thinking skills. In this unit, we will introduce Kickball, T-Ball, and Cricket. In Invasion Games, we will thrive on the synergy between teammates, creating a successful cohesive unit, communicating effectively and adapting to ever-changing game scenarios, specifically in Capture the Flag, Handball, and Netball. For both units, we have a huge emphasis on fostering teamwork, whilst creating a respectful and positive environment.

We continue our Lunchtime Sports this term and kick off with 'Captains Ball' for our Grades 4 and 5 inter-class games. Following on from the success of semester one, we are sure to enjoy the friendly-competitive games across upper Elementary in semester two.

(Mark Sherwin)

Grade 5 News

Happy New Year and a warm welcome to all of our new Grade 5 families. Semester 2 is a very engaging and rewarding time for our Grade 5 students. The students will be participating in a range of diverse learning experiences. These include presenting about responsible tourism during Expo, character dress up for Book Week, and the Elementary School Musical. There is of course Grade 5 Camp as well – so much to look forward to! Our current IPC Unit of Work is "The Holiday Show (Expo)". During our Entry Point, students worked cooperatively trying to persuade the other Grade 5 students that their chosen destination was the best place to visit. The students will spend this unit learning about our responsibilities as tourists and the impact we can have on the environment. This will lead us to the Expo, where students will work collaboratively to share their research findings with the greater school audience. Lastly, congratulations to the students who have been elected by their peers to be our new JSC members for this semester. This is a great honour, well done! These student leaders will be working hard to support the OFS programs and make a positive impact throughout the school community.

(Karla Kleist)



Art News

A warm welcome to our new Art students and welcome back to our returning students. We have kicked off our new semester with a vibrant display of sculptures in the library from our Grade 3 and Grade 5 children; there are Pop Art inspired ice creams and also clay relief sculptures showing the theme of 'Peace'. Grade 1 printmaking and Grade 4 architectural drawings are also on display at level 10 of the Junior block. We are looking forward to making many more artworks this Semester too!

(Jennifer Freeman)





Sports News



The OFS Tigers continue dominating the Elementary School side of the ACSIS Season Two. The 9U Netball, 10U Football, 11U Football, and 11U Badminton teams have built on the momentum from 2023. With everything going well, we anticipate these teams to finish among the medalists by the end of the season in February. ACSIS Season 3 offers a much wider range of sports and opportunities for the Elementary School and with the many new students who have joined us in January, we are excited about the potential of all our teams. Let's go, Tigers !

(Gil Levy)

Chess News



Ashwath Kaushik ended the year 2023 as the second highest rated player in the world in the Under 9 age group. He played a successful chess tournament at Sunway Sitges in Barcelona in December 2023, winning two trophies, one in Junior blitz and one for coming first in Under 10 within the Open Classic event. Also congratulations to Isaac Ziegler and Myra Kaushik who gained valuable experience having competed in the Singapore National Age Group Championship from 14-17 December 2023. Final congratulations to Class 1.05 Roh for winning our Semester One OFS Chess Grand Prix Race, for being super motivated during class, showing great listening skills, and of course fantastic teamwork when solving chess puzzles!

(Dijana Dengler and Philipp Ziegler)

New Staff

CORMAC FOLEY

Hi, my name is Cormac Foley and I am from Ireland. I am thrilled to be part of this school community! I am 32 years old and have been teaching for 11 years, starting in Dublin, then Vietnam for the last 4 years and currently in Singapore. Outside of school, I love staying active and participating in sports such as GAA, golf, and triathlons. You will often find me enjoying a good cup of coffee or planning my next travel adventure. The transition to OFS has been fantastic. I have settled in really well, and the staff here are not just friendly but also super helpful. Looking forward to a great time here at OFS!



ALYS METSON

Hello, my name is Alys Metson and I am from a little fishing village in Wales. I have been working in education for several years, starting out as a Homebase teacher before specialising in Physical Education. I have taught in international schools across Brunei, Bangkok, and Singapore. I spent the last year travelling across South America, where I was able to pursue one of my passions – studying yoga. I have now returned to Singapore and joined OFS. I am looking forward to being part of the wider OFS community!



CAROLA DONIKIAN

My name is Carola Donikian and I have been living in Asia for almost half my life (Hong Kong, Malaysia, and since 2010 in Singapore). Growing up in Germany in the countryside I enjoy outdoor activities like jogging, hiking, swimming, and tennis which I still do in Singapore. For more than 8 years, I shared my love for the German language with students of all ages at the Goethe Institute in Singapore. Now, at OFS, I continue to extend my teaching journey, guiding young minds from Grade 1 to Grade 4. The curiosity and enthusiasm of my students are a constant source of inspiration, reminding me of the importance of nurturing young minds.



Music News

The music rooms at OFS are full of creativity as our students eagerly dive back into playing instruments. In Grade 1, children are exploring musical elements and practicing rhythmic patterns on percussion instruments. Meanwhile, Grade 2 students are learning songs on the xylophone using the pentatonic scale. The excitement is palpable among Grade 3 students as they begin their journey with a new instrument, the recorder. Grade 4 students are busy with the charming sounds of the ukulele, and Grade 5 students are immersed in a songwriting unit, using the ukulele and various other instruments for their compositions. Adding to the excitement, our talented musical students are preparing for the upcoming production of 'Winnie the Pooh KIDS,' which will take place on 12 and 13 March. We cannot wait to share this spectacular show with you!



(Kevin McCabe)