



# 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,

We hope this newsletter finds you well and our families enjoyed the February school holidays. March at OFS will be another busy and eventful month filled with exciting preparations for several events.

We value open communication and collaboration between our parents, students, and teachers. Our upcoming Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences (PSTCs) will be held on Thursday and Friday, 21 and 22 March 2024. The conferences will provide a wonderful opportunity to discuss your child's academic and personal growth. Thank you to all parents who have made their online bookings for the upcoming conferences. PSTC schedules for parents will be sent home on Thursday 14 March 2024 with each child. Please do contact the Elementary School secretaries ([es-secretaries@ofs.edu.sg](mailto:es-secretaries@ofs.edu.sg)) if you need assistance with changing your scheduled appointments.

We are excited to share that preparations for our annual school musical, "Winnie the Pooh Kids" are going well. Our talented Grades 4 and 5 cast have been rehearsing tirelessly under the guidance of our dedicated teachers and director Mr. Oliver Ramos. Please mark your calendar for our two evening performance dates on 12 and 13 March. We cannot wait to showcase the talent of our young performers.

Our Grade 5 students are also gearing up for the EXPO as part of their current unit of work, "The Holiday Show". The EXPO will provide a platform for students to present their projects and share their insights on sustainable tourism. We encourage you to attend the Grade 5 EXPO on 27 March and show your support.

Lastly, transition periods are significant milestones in every student's academic journey. In Quarters 3 and 4, we will be preparing our Kindergarten 2 and Grade 5 students for their transitions into Elementary School and Middle School respectively.

For our Grade 5 students and parents, please note that you now have access to Middle School information on the OFS dashboard. You will be able to find useful links to the Middle School Transition Talk, Middle School/High School Languages Pathways, and the eight IB MYP subject areas. Information about each event will be sent home closer to the date.



Penny Liew  
Elementary School Principal  
[penny\\_liew@ofs.edu.sg](mailto:penny_liew@ofs.edu.sg)

Upcoming events:	
12-13 March	Elementary Musical - "Winnie the Pooh Kids"
21-22 March	Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences
27 March	Grade 5 Expo
29 March	School Holiday

## From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

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, 20 April 2024**. 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.

Come and represent your homeland, and together, let us make this fair a success! Email the Parent Association at [parent\\_association@ofs.edu.sg](mailto:parent_association@ofs.edu.sg) to find out more.

Further information regarding the Global Picnic is also available on the school website: <https://www.ofs.edu.sg/about/pa/events/global-picnic/>

## Languages News



This February, the halls of OFS resonated with the vibrant sounds and exciting cultures of diverse languages! Our talented language teachers and enthusiastic students made International Mother Language Day a resounding success, fostering appreciation for both mother tongues and new languages alike. The Year of the Dragon roared to life with the Mandarin team's captivating Chinese New Year festivities. Students delighted in recording their wishes on vibrant dragon scales, crafting beautiful fortune bags, capturing fun memories in the photo booth, and celebrating the spirit of the Dragon through an energetic dance. Grade 3 students took center stage at the Languages Assembly, showcasing their impressive language skills and cultural understanding. Their ongoing IPC unit "They Made a Difference" on famous figures inspired heartfelt poems and songs about friendship in German, while their playful role-plays transported the audience through time.

(Monica Makkar and Roger Calais)



## Grade 1 News

Grade 1 students have had a busy month exploring the Science and Health and Wellbeing subject areas in our IPC Unit of Work, "How Are You?". Students enquired about the importance of diet, exercise, sleep, hydration, and hygiene which are the five elements that contribute to a healthy lifestyle. We reviewed the five senses and discussed how our senses help us to be safe. In Mathematics, the children had fun exploring 2D shapes and making pictures using shapes. In Language Arts, we continued with our procedural writing focus. Students enjoyed following a recipe to make a chocolate drink and fairy bread. We celebrated our 100 days of school with fun activities. Students shared their wonderful projects with much enthusiasm. Book Week was an exciting time celebrating the joy of books and stories. Thank you to parents for your support in getting the children dressed in their favourite book character costume. They looked fabulous!

*(Jaya Ward)*



## Grade 2 News



The Grade 2 students have had a busy time over the last month. We have been enquiring into fish and birds as part of our Land, Sea and Sky unit. Students have been enquiring about how fish have adapted to living in the ocean habitat. Children explored the features that make a fish a fish. Additionally, they have explored the diverse body shapes of fish, gaining valuable insights into the ways adaptation shapes their survival. In Language Arts, students have been diligently learning to use their notes to write information reports. In Mathematics, we have been applying a range of strategies to deepen our understanding. Book Week was another major highlight. We had many activities over the week including mystery readers, book quizzes, buddy reading with Grade 4 classes, and live online reading sessions by Middle School and High School students. To wrap up our week of celebrating reading and books, students came dressed up as their favourite book characters. They loved listening to Julia Donaldson's stories narrated by the Grade 2 teachers. Overall, it has been a month filled with exploration, creativity, and fun.

*(Sameerata Prakash)*

## Grade 3 News



The fourth Unit of Work, "They Made A Difference," had the Grade 3 students researching a wide range of notable individuals as they continue to expand their knowledge, refine their research abilities, and to develop their understanding. Several significant historical and modern personalities have been identified for their achievements as climate change activists, athletes, musicians, writers, world leaders, and freedom fighters. In order to identify similarities between themselves and the people in focus, students reflect on their qualities and the IPC Personal Goals. It was the ideal opportunity for the children to show their admiration for both fictitious and non-fictional book characters that they connected with during Book Week's Character Dress Up Day. Book Week offered students many opportunities to engage in activities such as identifying book characters from silhouettes, the teacher's favourite book quiz, and author studies. Grade 3 students are looking forward to sharing their learning journey with their parents during the upcoming Parent Student Teacher Conferences.

*(Emma Gregg)*

## Music News

In Music, students have been engaged in creative composition activities. Grade 1 pupils have delved into composing by crafting their 2-bar rhythmic patterns. Meanwhile, Grades 2 and 3 students have been exploring musical form and honing their composition skills within a set structure or pattern. In Grade 4, students are collaborating in groups to fashion short songs using ostinato patterns, while Grade 5 learners are joining forces to compose ukulele-accompanied songs aligned with their EXPO unit of work, "The Holiday Show". Additionally, our ES Musical production of "Winnie the Pooh KIDS" is rapidly approaching. Cast members have demonstrated exceptional dedication during Saturday rehearsals, and we eagerly anticipate the performances scheduled for March 12 and 13!

*(Kevin McCabe)*

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## Grade 4 News



February has been another busy month for the Grade 4 students. It was great to see the students dress up as their favourite book characters. You could see how much time and effort had gone into the costumes. Book Week is always a fun time in school and the students had an opportunity to take part in many activities on the dress up day. In 'Going Global', the students have created a trade flow chart for their chosen product using Pages to show their understanding of the trade flow and their ICT skills. This also led to the students discussing how the world is interconnected and how dependent we all are on one another. We have been studying the UN Sustainable Development Goals and students will focus on one of those goals and gain a deeper understanding on why it is important for the world. In Language Arts the students are developing a persuasive writing piece linked to the goal of their choice and they will have a chance to present their work during the Exit Point.

*(Guy Watts)*

## Physical Education (PE)

Exciting times are ahead in PE as we delve into Striking and Fielding and Invasion Games. These sports offer invaluable opportunities for skill development and personal growth. From agility to strategic thinking, our students will thrive in Kickball, T-Ball, Cricket, and more. In Invasion Games, teamwork and adaptability shine in games like Capture the Flag, Handball, and Netball. Our Lunchtime Sports program, featuring 'Captain's Ball', continues to foster camaraderie among our students. As we approach the final weeks, with semifinals and finals on the horizon, we wish good luck to those competing for top spots. Together, let us ensure a fantastic term of growth and triumph for all!

*(Mark Sherwin)*



## Grade 5 News

February has been filled with lots of excitement for the Grade 5 students. They enjoyed celebrating their love of reading throughout Book Week. The students were engrossed in various activities such as creating book spines for their favourite books, flashlight reading, and the highlight of the week, "Hall of Holograms". Students dressed up as their favourite book characters and presented a persuasive speech to encourage their peers to read their book. They were exposed to new authors, characters, and genres to add to their reading lists. Thank you to all the parents who came to support this. In Language Arts, students have been learning about persuasive writing and have been incorporating different persuasive techniques into their writing pieces. The Grade 5 students also had the opportunity to make further connections with our "Holiday Show" unit by venturing on a field trip to Siloso Beach Resort where they were given an environmental tour that highlighted the resort's implementation of sustainable best practices. The students have been hard at work preparing for the EXPO. Collaborative groups have been formed and tourist destinations have been chosen. Groups have been formulating questions and researching and recording to find out about responsible tourism practices. We are looking forward to presenting on Wednesday, 27 March.

*(Karla Kleist)*



## Chess News

Ashwath Kaushik breaks the world record! We are incredibly proud of Ashwath for his outstanding achievement — breaking the world record to become the youngest player ever to defeat a grandmaster in a classical tournament game! His victory over Grandmaster Jacek Stopa at the Burgdorfer Stadthaus-Open in Switzerland is truly inspiring. His success is well-deserved. We are very proud to have him at OFS. Keep reaching for the stars, Ashwath!

*(Dijana Dengler and Philipp Ziegler)*





## Sports News

OFS Tigers Elementary School athletes have had an exciting Season 2 of ACSIS sports.

**Badminton** - 11U Boys have completed the ACSIS Season as Silver medalists with the Girls team as the Bronze medalists.

**Basketball** - 12U Boys are ACSIS Champions (together with the 16U and 19U Boys Teams) whilst the 12U Girls Basketball Team were very close runners up with the Silver medals.

**Football** - The 10U Boys AND 10U Girls Football teams have won their division of the ACSIS league and are ACSIS Champions with the 11U Team taking the Silver medal position.

**Gymnastics** - 24 Tigers gymnasts qualified for and will compete in their first-ever Singapore National Championships. This is also the school's debut in the competition.

**Netball** - The 9U Netballers are ACSIS Gold medalists taking 8 magnificent wins in their group.

**Swimming** - Nine ES swimmers have qualified for the Singapore National Swimming Championships, which also serves as the 2024 Olympic trials qualifying opportunity. They will compete in 30 events. The boys' swim team finished as Bronze medalists in the ACSIS Championships. This is a significant improvement from last season as they have moved up six positions in the rankings list.

A truly remarkable set of results for our Elementary School athletes and immense respect for the team coaches and supporting chaperones in elevating our competitive sports teams to be amongst the best international schools in the country.

*(Gil Levy)*

## Art News

Students have many ongoing and completed artworks to share in our upcoming Parent Student Teacher Conferences. Grade 1 students have been learning about overlapping and texture to create realistic still life drawings of fruit and vegetables; Grade 2 students have been making unique bird sculptures and learning about mixing secondary colours. Grade 3 students are being inspired by influential artists. Who knew junk could look so good! Grade 4 students are making body adornments from 'junk' and Grade 5 students are learning how to persuade viewers with posters of fabulous destinations. We look forward to sharing our process of learning with our visitors to the Art rooms.

*(Jennifer Freeman)*



## New Staff

### CHELSEA ASH

I grew up in South Africa and worked in educational publishing before moving into the classroom. I spent two years teaching in Singapore previously and then relocated to England for 10 years, where I taught multilingual learners in international schools near London. I also served as a school governor and completed my Master's degree in Psychology, conducting research into the experience of the recent pandemic for parents of primary school aged children. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to return to tropical Singapore with my family and join the Grade 4 team as a Homebase teacher. The students' enthusiasm for learning and the supportive teaching community make OFS truly unique!



### JOYCE CHAN

Hi everyone, I am Joyce Chan, a Singaporean. Before teaching, I started my career in the advertising industry as a graphic designer and graduated from La Salle College of the Arts. As I am passionate about education, I decided to retrain my career as an Early Childhood Teacher (graduated from Asian International College) and an AMIS (Art and Music Instructors Scheme) art instructor under the Ministry of Education. I have been teaching for about 16 years. I believe that design thinking can be applied to any area of education, from supporting assessment to curriculum development. Outside of work, I enjoy jogging, Zumba, photography, and travelling. Last but not least, I am excited to join OFS and I hope to know the school community better.



### PAUL SANCHEZ

Hello, I'm Paul Sanchez, a passionate PE teacher with a diverse international background. Originally from Spain, my career has taken me through the vibrant landscapes of the UK, the cultural richness of France, the familiarity of Spain, the dynamism of China, and now to the multicultural hub of Singapore. Fluent in five languages, my ability to communicate effectively ensures a seamless connection with students from diverse corners of the globe, enriching the educational experience for everyone involved. Join me on a journey where physical education transcends borders, fostering unity and well-being across cultures.

