



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,

With Quarter 1 almost completed, our students have been actively engaged with their learning in class. Beyond our classrooms, it has been fantastic to see so many students taking advantage of the various After School activities we offer. OFS Tigers Competitive Sports teams have been training hard and participating in friendly matches, demonstrating teamwork and perseverance. Our enrichment activities and ECAs (Extracurricular Activities) are also flourishing, with students exploring everything from book clubs and STEM activities to art and dance. Our Grades 4 and 5 lunchtime sports have been a huge hit, providing a fun and active way for students to engage with their classmates during lunch. Looking ahead, I am also excited to share that our music groups such as the ES Choir, Strings and Ukulele ensembles, and Rock Band will be starting soon. Our musical rehearsals for Frozen JR will also begin taking place on Wednesday afternoons.



On a separate note, I would like to inform you that your child's workbooks will be coming home every quarter for you to review. Teachers will be communicating the specific schedule for sending these workbooks on the school's online portal. I encourage you to take time to look through your child's work, celebrate their efforts, and discuss any areas of growth or improvement. After reviewing, please sign the workbooks and ensure they are returned promptly so that teachers can continue their regular use in class.

I am also excited to introduce a new section in our newsletter, featuring valuable insights from members of our Educational Intervention Services, who will be contributing articles to share helpful tips and information to support you and your child's well-being and academic growth. This month's contribution, from our Nurture Specialist, Mrs. Kayleigh Wood, is all about the importance and power of routines and structure for children.

Remember to 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 for updates, curriculum information, calendars, and more. Our teachers will also continue to send their "weekly wrap" emails to parents.

As we enter the second quarter, our teaching team remains committed to supporting every student in their academic growth and extracurricular involvement.

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

Important Dates:	
14-18 October	Languages Week
28 October -1 Nov	School Holidays
31 October	Deepavali

From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

Every OFS student received a present from the PA on Children's Day, 4 October 2024, along with a special note from our school founder, Ms. Irene Wong. We hope all the children had a great celebration.

If you have any questions or suggestions about the PA events, please write to us at parent_association@ofs.edu.sg. Stay safe and stay healthy.

Educational Intervention Services

The Power of Routines and Structure for Children

Routines and structure provide children with a sense of security, predictability, and control. When children know what to expect, they feel more confident and prepared to handle challenges. This, in turn, can lead to improved behaviour, increased independence, and enhanced academic performance.

Benefits of Routines and Structure:

- Reduces anxiety and stress
- Encourages responsibility and self-regulation
- Improves time management and organization
- Enhances self-esteem and confidence
- Supports social and emotional development

Tips for Establishing Routines at Home:

- Establish consistent morning and bedtime routines
- Create a daily schedule for homework, chores, and activities
- Set clear expectations and boundaries
- Use visual reminders and charts to support transitions
- Encourage children to take ownership of their routines
- Be flexible and adapt routines as needed

By establishing routines and structure at home, you can help your child develop essential life skills, reduce stress, and create a sense of stability and security.

(Kayleigh Wood)

Music News

In Music, students have continued developing their instrumental skills and have also begun composing short melodies and songs. It has been a delight to watch the blossoming talent and creativity of our young OFS musicians. Grades 1, 2, and 3 sang some inspiring songs during our day of Internationalism Celebrations which was a great success. We also held our first Lunchtime Concert, where selected performers showcased their musical talents with confidence and style. The atmosphere at both events was filled with joy and support. We are incredibly proud of all our performers and deeply appreciate the ongoing support from parents. Looking ahead, lunchtime clubs and rehearsals for "Disney's Frozen JR" will begin in Quarter 2. We are excited for more musical activities and events in the coming months.



(Kevin McCabe)

Grade 1 News

It was great to see our parents at our Internationalism Celebrations. What a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the cultural diversity of our Grade 1 families. The Grade 1 children looked beautiful in their national costumes and they enjoyed the various activities that were planned for the week. In our IPC Unit of Work, "Hooray ... Let's Go On Holiday!", we have been exploring Singapore, our home countries and holiday destinations. Thank you parents for sending in your holiday photographs and souvenirs and helping your children record facts about their home countries for the homework task. Students enjoyed presenting them and sharing their knowledge with their classmates. In our unit lessons, students have been developing their mapping skills. They learned the names of the continents and located them on the world map. Students showed great interest and enthusiasm in locating their home countries and Singapore on a map and the globe. They were excellent communicators and collaborators when they worked together to identify landmarks on a Singapore map. In Language Arts, the students have been exploring the recount genre.

(Jaya Ward)



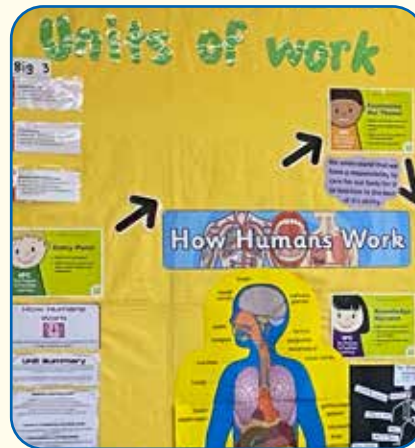
Grade 2 News



In Grade 2, we have been learning all about materials in our new IPC Unit of Work, "Material World". We had a successful Entry Point, where students had to transport water from one bucket to another, using different materials – paper, aluminium foil, felt and fabric to name a few. It required cooperation, teamwork, and resilience as well as an opportunity to work on their problem-solving skills. Following on from this, we explored different materials that are used to make a bicycle. We visited the science lab to learn about the three states of matter by observing a teacher led demonstration. It is great to see the Grade 2 students thinking about the variety of materials that go into making objects they use everyday. In Language Arts, we are learning about the elements of narratives through a variety of stories. Internationalism Celebrations was another highlight of the month. Students looked amazing in their colourful home country costumes as they walked down the ramp. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the cultural diversity in our school. Students enjoyed presenting artifacts representing their home country and sharing their cultural significance with their friends.

(Sameerata Prakash)

Grade 3 News



Our Grade 3 students are nearing the end of their second International Primary Curriculum (IPC) Unit of Work, "How Humans Work". Throughout this unit, students have been exploring how their senses and body systems function. A highlight of their learning journey was a field trip to the Science Centre, where they enjoyed hands-on experiences with the interactive exhibitions on display. During this unit, students have shown a deep understanding of how the body works, particularly through their detailed explanation writing about the digestive system and its major organs. In Mathematics, we have begun our new module focusing on exploring patterns and functions, as well as multiplication and division.

(Hayley Kinnaird)

Languages News

Our students have been exploring the wonders of different languages! Mandarin students celebrated the Mid-Autumn Festival with lantern making. They discovered that the Mid-Autumn Festival is celebrated to honour the moon goddess Chang'e and to appreciate the harvest. Hindi students marked Hindi Diwas with creative posters and bookmarks. They learned that Hindi Diwas is celebrated to promote and celebrate the Hindi language, which is one of the official languages of India. Our young French learners enjoyed a delightful journey with the hungry caterpillar, learning new vocabulary and exploring the French language. These experiences have not only helped our students develop their language skills but also provided them with valuable cultural insights. Our Dutch students were thrilled to receive a special visit from the Dutch Ambassador, Mrs. Adema, to celebrate Prinsjesdag, or Prince's Day! The Ambassador met with our Dutch students to discuss the language and culture, inspiring them to further explore their linguistic journey.

(Monica Makkar and Roger Calais)



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Grade 4 News



Our new unit "Existing, Endangered, Extinct" is well underway. The students took part in a gallery walk using the words, think, wonder, see as they looked at many pictures of different animals. We had a great day out at S.E.A Aquarium, at Resorts World Sentosa, where students were able to use their knowledge learned as they walked around. In this unit, students will be focusing on the personal goal of being a good collaborator when they research a biome and endangered animals in their class groups. They have learned how animals are classified and how interdependent they are on each other in a food web. Students are well on the way in their information report learning and are now busy writing reports on an endangered animal with a focus on the classification, characteristics, diet, habitat, and threats to that animal.

(Guy Watts)

Physical Education (PE)



We are currently advancing through our second PE unit, with students either excelling in or completing the Swimming Unit. In the pool, we have been refining our stroke techniques and enhancing our water confidence skills. Following the Swimming Unit, we will shift our focus to the Athletics Unit, which will conclude Semester 1. Lunchtime sports of 'Capture the Flag' for Grades 4 and 5 continue to thrive, with a pronounced emphasis on personal goals, fostering healthy competition, and promoting sportsmanship and relationship-building. The competition remains highly competitive, with the finals due to take place in late October.

(Mark Sherwin)

Sports News

An exciting start for the OFS Tigers' first season of ACSIS Sports. We have our biggest number of students involved to date. Over 1200 students have registered for our competitive sports teams this year so far. Our teams are representing OFS well with many of the OFS Tigers currently sitting amongst the Top 3 schools in their age groups and sports across the international schools. Our theme for this year is "Greatness Starts Somewhere - Greatness Starts Here" and it could not be more appropriate with our young Elementary School students setting the foundation for what is to come. Looking forward to reporting some thrilling results at the end of Season 1. Let's go Tigers!

(Gil Levy)

Grade 5 News

Thank you to all the parents who joined us for Internationalism Day. The students looked fantastic in their traditional outfits and had a wonderful time exploring different cultures through activities like dancing, puppet making, and basket weaving from the USA, beadwork from South Africa, Irish football, British playground games, and the Haka and Waiata from New Zealand. It was a wonderful way to showcase the rich diversity within our school community! A highlight of our "Moving People" unit was visiting the Singapore National Museum where students learned how Singapore developed from a small and growing settlement to a vibrant modern city. In Language Arts, the students finished their Narrative unit by selecting a topic and crafting their own stories. They focused on organising their writing, using descriptive language, incorporating dialogue, and applying other writing skills. Great job to all our young authors!

(Karla Kleist)



Library News

The library has been buzzing with activity this year. All students are now settling into their library lessons and are enjoying borrowing new books to take home and read. The library is open every lunchtime and all grades have allocated days they can come to the library to relax and read.

We have selected 30 very keen library monitors to do lunchtime duty for Semester 1. They will help to keep the library running smoothly by assisting students in their search for books, making sure everyone is following library rules and procedures and keeping the bookshelves tidy. Thank you monitors!

I am enjoying meeting all the students and working with them; they have made me feel very welcome at Overseas Family School. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about our library.

(Catherine Kmet)



Art News



We were excited to showcase all of our students' creations during the October Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences and to meet with our students' families and see them share their art with others. We are also now busy learning exciting new skills ranging from printmaking in Grade 1 to observational drawings in Grades 2 and 4. Grade 3 students are being inspired to create large candy sculptures and learners in Grade 5 are making clay relief sculptures. Please keep in mind our upcoming Semester 1 Elementary Art Exhibition, running from 18 to 26 November in the Level 4 activity room for a chance to see all of our complete works from Grades 1 to 5 on display.

(Jennifer Freeman)

Chess News

We are NATIONAL CHESS CHAMPIONS!!

Congratulations to OFS' U10 chess team for winning Singapore's 65th National Inter-School Team Chess Championship, held on 3 September 2024 at Rulang Primary School. Well done Ashwath Kaushik, Abhigyan Jha, Dang Khoa Nguyen and Isaac Ziegler. OFS' other Elementary School chess teams also performed exceptionally well, winning 2 Gold, 3 Silver and 2 Bronze Medals in the International Schools category and further demonstrating OFS' strength in chess. Special mention to Myra Kaushik (6 Points) and Eito Ebitani (5.5/6P) for staying undefeated and being top-scorers in their teams. Once again congratulations to all OFS students for giving their very best during the full-day chess championship against Singapore's Best. They have displayed great sportsmanship and made us very proud.



(Dijana Dengler and Philipp Ziegler)

SPP

Just as we celebrated Internationalism Day last month, we also celebrate the wide range of nationalities and cultures in our SPP classrooms. We have 16 nationalities represented across our 10 homebases, all bringing their unique background to the classrooms. We have SPP students from Argentina, Brazil, China, Estonia, France, Israel, Japan, Korea, Norway, Oman, Russia, Spain, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey and Ukraine. While many of our students study their Mother Tongue language during the week, additional English instruction is also available. Either way, in the SPP classroom we will often hear students using their first language. Known as 'Translanguaging', it is the use of different languages together. There are many times when the focus is on English, but there are also times when students are exploring concepts, adding to their knowledge, researching or making connections between ideas. This is where using all language resources can be very beneficial for our students' learning.

(Roger Calais)

New Staff

NIKOLA LISEK

I am Nikki Lisek, and I am thrilled to be joining the Grade 4 team this year. I spent the first 8 years of my life in Poland and have experienced the excitement of adapting to new languages and cultures. This has allowed me to better support my students going through similar experiences in international school settings. This is my 10th year of teaching and my 6th in Singapore, which I now happily call my tropical home. My international journey began in Shanghai, where I spent 2 years specialising in English as an Additional Language before making the move to Singapore. I am passionate about helping students become curious, independent, and creative thinkers, with a strong emphasis on developing a love for reading. Personally, I am aiming to read 52 books this year, and I often bring my love of storytelling into the classroom! When I am not teaching, you will find me scuba diving, hiking (I recently completed a 290km hike named Camino de Santiago), or spending time with my puppy, Una.



MELISSA HUELS

My name is Melissa, and I am excited to be joining the Grade 1 teaching team at OFS. Originally from Singapore, I have spent the past 10 years working in international schools across Shanghai and the San Francisco Bay Area, immersing myself in diverse educational settings. I hold a Bachelor's degree in Education from Monash University and a Master's degree in Education from Purdue University. My teaching philosophy centres on creating a balanced classroom, where inquiry-based learning meets structure and academic rigour. I am passionate about helping students feel supported, engaged, and inspired to develop a lifelong love of learning. Outside of the classroom, I enjoy spending time outdoors and travelling. I'm am looking forward to a rewarding year ahead, both in teaching and learning with my first graders at OFS.



International Primary Curriculum

Assessment

The IPC approach to Assessment for Improving Learning is based on a simple assumption – "if we are passionate about improving children's learning, we have to be passionate about assessment". At OFS we ensure that our curriculum supports learning and promotes deep conceptual understanding of the topic taught. Students should be able to apply their knowledge and skills and make connections in their learning. In our Units of Work, we assess our students regularly using the learning goals in different subject areas to ensure they are given the opportunity to share their knowledge, use their skills, and demonstrate their understanding. Through regular formative assessments and some summative tasks, we are able to adapt instructional practices and help students achieve their goals by providing constructive feedback. Assessment covers the three main areas of learning – Knowledge, Skills, and Understanding.

We share assessment data via the OFS portal, the rubrics or criteria used to assess the students are clearly articulated on each template. We also share assessment information and set goals during the Parent/Student/Teacher conferences. The Student Portfolios and the end-semester Academic Reports reflect student achievement and progress.

(Shalini Maira)