



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,

Welcome to the start of a wonderful new school year at Elementary School! We hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable summer break, filled with wonderful memories! A special welcome to all our new families as well as our youngest students starting in Grade 1. We are excited to embark on another year of learning, growth, and discovery together.



Our students have settled into their homebase classes and new routines quickly and have been busy building positive relationships with their classmates and teachers. Thank you to our returning students, teachers and Parent Association for the support and care given in helping our new students and parents feel a sense of belonging here at OFS.

As the year progresses, we will also be implementing our new Health Social Education Program, that is designed to support our students well-being and social development. This program will focus on teaching essential life skills, promoting mental and emotional health, and encouraging positive social interactions.

We value our partnership with parents and want to ensure our parents are fully informed about what is happening at our school. To this end, a number of Parent Information Sessions were offered throughout the month of August. We kickstarted the year with our New Parent Coffee Morning, New Parent Orientation Session and Curriculum Talks. Our upcoming Back to School Nights will be held on Monday, 9 September (Grades 1 to 3) and Wednesday, 11 September (Grades 4 and 5). These evening sessions will provide parents with an opportunity to meet with their child's teachers and to get a sense of the classroom environment in which their child spends much of the day. I trust that these sessions will provide parents with important information about our school, curriculum and your child's class.

Finally, I hope our Elementary School is a place where all our students feel happy, valued and enthused, where learning is fun and exciting. Please let us know if we can be of assistance with any queries, comments or concerns you may have at any time. I wish all our families the very best for Academic Year 2024-2025.

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

From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

The Parent Association (PA) invites all parents to join us for a Hari Raya (Eid) themed Coffee Morning. Come along and enjoy the food and activities prepared for you.

Date: Thursday, 12 September 2024
Time: 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Venue: Parent Lounge
(Level 4 of Administration Building)

Please sign up via the link below:

<https://www.ofs.edu.sg/events/2024/hari-raya-themed-coffee-morning/>

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.

Languages News

The Foreign Languages and Mother Tongue Department warmly welcomed students back to school with a host of exciting activities to kickstart the new academic year. The year started with fantastic news from the Mandarin department as the Grade 5 students from 2023/24 achieved a 100% pass rate in the Youth Chinese Test (YCT). The YCT is a standardized test specifically designed for primary and middle school students learning Chinese as a foreign language. Students from all language classes got to know each other better through engaging icebreakers like "Find a Friend" and "Roll the Dice to Find a Friend", sharing stories about their adventures during the holidays. Our German class embarked on a traditional German back-to-school tradition by creating personalized "Back-to-School Bags". This creative activity fostered a sense of excitement and anticipation for the year ahead. Meanwhile, Hindi classes celebrated India's Independence Day with enthusiasm. Students discovered fascinating facts about India, brought its iconic monuments to life through colorful drawings, and expressed their love for their country. They also delved into the cultural significance of Rakshshabandhan, a festival that beautifully symbolizes the unbreakable bond between brothers and sisters. These fun-filled activities not only helped students reconnect after the break but also ignited their passion for language learning and cultural exploration. We look forward to another fantastic year of language learning and cultural discovery! Finally, our wonderful Mother Tongue program has expanded, with Portuguese being added as our 15th Mother Tongue language. We welcome Ms Luciana Frasson, who is teaching Portuguese, to the team.

(Monica Makkar and Roger Calais)



Grade 1 News

Welcome to the new academic year and a special welcome to all our new Grade 1 students and families. The students have settled in very well and have made a smooth and successful start to the academic year. This year, the students received a Grade One picture book titled "Grade One Here We Come", where they were introduced to the routines and procedures of Grade 1 in a captivating story format. Our first IPC Unit of Work, "Brainwave", has been an exciting way to start the academic year, where children have been exploring how our brain works and how we can prepare ourselves for learning. They participated in fun and engaging activities and reflected on how the activities help them in their learning. We would like to thank you all for the wonderful way you have supported your child; sending in supplies, labeling belongings, answering questionnaires and volunteering to help. We look forward to a fabulous year in Grade 1.

(Jaya Ward)



Grade 2 News



What an exciting and busy few weeks the Grade 2 students have had! They have settled well into their new classes and are getting to know their teachers and new friends. Our first IPC unit "Brainwave" has been a wonderful opportunity to look at the different ways people learn and how we can improve our learning. Our learning journey has taken us on an exploration of the IPC personal goals, Knowledge Skills and Understanding (KSUs) and the importance of having a positive mindset. Students participated in a teacher led skill rotation activity to understand what helps and hinders learning. They learnt ways to grow their brain through the "Body, Mind and Heart" Workshop. In Mathematics, we explored data handling by conducting surveys in our classrooms. We learnt how to represent and analyze data using tallies and bar graphs. The students are showing great independence as they get used to the responsibilities of Grade 2. We look forward to a great year together.

(Sameerata Prakash)

Grade 3 News



We are thrilled to welcome all our Grade 3 families back for another exciting year of learning and growth. Our students have already hit the ground running, starting with the Brainwave unit. This unit is all about understanding how our brains work, fostering a growth mindset, and encouraging students to take ownership of their learning. In Language Arts, our students have been exploring rhythms, themes, and creative expressions through poetry. For the first few weeks in Mathematics, we have been diving into place value, helping students build a strong foundation for more complex concepts ahead. The students have had a great start to the year, and we are excited to share our learning experiences with you as we continue this journey together.

(Hayley Kinnaird)

Physical Education (PE)

Welcome back to the Academic Year 2024-2025! We are thrilled to welcome Mr. Christopher Eng as the newest member of our PE team. Chris brings a wealth of experience in Elementary Education, adding tremendous energy and expertise to our program. This term, we will start with Net-Games and Gymnastics, focusing on hand-eye coordination through mini-tennis, badminton, and table tennis. We will also work on fine motor control and body awareness in gymnastics over the next few weeks. With our swimming unit just around the corner, keep your eyes peeled for the start dates. Looking forward to an engaging and productive term with you all.

(Mark Sherwin)

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Grade 4 News



It has been a busy first few weeks in Grade 4. Students have shown resilience and adaptability while getting used to life in a new grade level and the differences from Grade 3. Our first IPC unit, "Brainwave", has had the students understand the importance of having a growth mindset when it comes to their studies and all aspects of their lives. This should help them throughout their time in Grade 4 when they will be faced with many new challenges. In Language Arts, Information Report writing is the text type we begin with and students are beginning to understand the structure and different language features used when writing an information report. All their hard work should lead to some interesting reports! For the first few weeks of Mathematics, students have been looking at place value, rounding, standard and expanded and will now move onto working with the four operations.

(Guy Watts)

Music News

We are thrilled to welcome our students back to Level 10 as they begin their musical journey this year. Our goal is to ignite your child's love for music while ensuring they have some fun along the way. Grade 1 students have been working on rhythm and beat through unpitched percussion instruments. In Grade 2, students are developing their skills on the xylophone, while our Grade 3 students are learning a new instrument, the recorder. Grade 4 students are continuing their recorder skills with the C major scale, while in Grade 5, students are learning all about the djembe drum from West Africa. We have also started the auditions for this year's musical, "Frozen JR". We are very excited about the year ahead, filled with musical adventures and celebrations!

(Kevin McCabe)



Grade 5 News

Our Grade 5 students are very excited and enthusiastic about the new academic year with many leadership opportunities awaiting them. They have been embracing many of the IPC Personal Goals as they adapt to new teachers, procedures and expectations. Our first IPC Unit, "Moving People," started with an engaging Entry Point that required students to see themselves as individuals who had to leave their homes immediately due to a natural disaster, war, or political unrest. A memorable highlight was the students "trekking through the forest" to make their way to an awaiting boat. In Mathematics, students have been extending their learning of place value, rounding, expanded form and adding and subtracting larger digits. For Language Arts, the focus has been on narrative writing, where students are learning to describe their characters and settings using interesting details and planning their stories using a story mountain. Junior Student Council Members have been elected for each class for the semester. Congratulations to all those who were chosen. We are looking forward to a fantastic year of learning and experiences in Grade 5.

(Karla Kleist)



Chess News

Welcome to an exciting chess year at OFS and in Singapore! We look forward to many thrilling games in our lessons, the National Inter-School Team Chess Championship, and the World Championship match between Ding and Gukesh.

During the school holidays, our students competed in tournaments around the globe. One of them, Ashwath Kaushik, participated in the World Cup Under 10 in Batumi, Georgia, finishing in the top 10. Additionally, he earned the title of U10 World Cup Chess (Puzzle) Solving Champion! Ashwath also played two simultaneous exhibitions during the Qixi Arts and Cultural Festival in Singapore, winning nearly all his games without a single loss.

(Dijana Dengler and Philipp Ziegler)



International Primary Curriculum

The International Primary Curriculum (IPC) is a comprehensive, thematic curriculum designed for students aged 5-11. It emphasizes a holistic approach, blending academic, personal, and international learning.

Subject Learning covers the knowledge, skills and understanding within the thematic units. Goals are written to help children see how subjects are both independent and interdependent. Learning is improved by making connections to their own lives and inquiring into units from different subject viewpoints.

The Personal Learning Goals underpin the qualities and learning dispositions that students will develop through their academic journey and enable them to view themselves as responsible global citizens. These goals apply to all school activities.

International Learning aims to develop in our students a sense of international mindedness and global competency, encouraging them to take action in both the local and global community.

The philosophy, pedagogy and process of our curriculum are all aimed at 'Improving Learning' for all students. This is reflected in our Definition of Learning: "At Overseas Family School, learning is a process of discovery in which we expand our knowledge, develop our skills and deepen our understanding of the world".

We deeply appreciate your continued trust in our school. We are committed to providing a supportive and enriching learning environment for our students and look forward to working in partnership with you to achieve common goals.

(Shalini Maira)

Art News

It has been great to see all of our returning students again and to welcome our new students to Art. Ms. Wendy and I are pleased to see so much creativity in action with children now working on projects linked to their current Units of Work. Grade 1 students are creating a multi-layered artwork showing themselves and their place in the world, Grade 2 children are exploring the effects of new and unusual materials, Grade 3 learners are using mannequins to draw accurate human forms, Grade 4 students are learning all about bilateral symmetry and Grade 5 artists are depicting themselves in a folk-art style inspired by American artist April Harrison. We look forward to a year of artistic expression and growth!

(Jennifer Freeman)



SPP

We welcome all existing and new families who are part of our Study Preparation Program (SPP). This unique program is for students who are beginning or continuing their English Language journey. Our goal is to provide intensive English language acquisition to equip students with the language and study skills required to succeed in mainstream classes. Students follow the same curriculum, with materials and delivery adapted for their needs. With three levels; SPP1, 2 and 3, we aim to provide differentiated instruction to all students in Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, with the aim to promote students through the levels in a timely manner when ready to progress. This year again we have dedicated level 1 and 2 Homebase SPP classes in all grades. We welcome four new SPP teachers – Ms Samantha Ang (Grade 1), Ms Katie Egan and Mr Kyle Wood (Grade 3) and Mr Thomas Chambers (Grade 4) to our line-up of experienced EAL teachers to guide our SPP students. We wish all our SPP students all the best as they continue their English Language journey.

(Roger Calais)

Sports News

The theme for our OFS Tigers Sports teams this year is "Greatness Starts Somewhere". With over 1200 students trying out for 13 ACSIS Season 1 Sports, the OFS Tigers look set to build on the momentum from last year's success with many teams being promoted up to higher and higher divisions.

Greatness Starts Somewhere

Greatness starts with a dream, with motivation,
with taking a risk

Greatness starts with early alarms, with sacrifice, with setbacks,
Greatness starts with passion, unwavering support,
with a dedicated tribe,

Greatness is earned, it's contagious and it starts with you,
Everyday, Every minute, Every moment,

Greatness starts somewhere - Greatness starts here
(Swimming SA Campaign 2020)

Wishing all involved with our competitive programs a happy and successful ACSIS Season 1!

(Gil Levy)

