



# Overseas Family School Middle School

**Master Policy:**

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

## Principal's Message

In Quarter 4, we are continuing our focus on fostering good self management skills in three particular areas: uniforms, punctuality, and phone usage. It is important that students plan ahead and come to school with their correct uniform for the day. It is also very important to remember to bring their PE uniform on the days they have Physical Education (PE). When students forget their PE uniform, they often can not participate in the class for the day, missing out on important lesson time. I encourage students to start organizing themselves to plan for this by packing their backpack the night before to ensure they have all that they need for the next day at school. Punctuality is a valuable life skill and as such we are also working on self management when it comes to getting to class on time. Students in the Middle School are expected to manage their own time before school, at break and lunch. It is important that they learn to plan ahead and get to class on time. Whether this means a bit of better planning to get to school on time, or stopping the football at lunch in time to rehydrate and pack up and get to class, we have been encouraging students to begin to organize themselves to manage their time successfully. Phone use is another area where we expect students to employ good self management skills. While technology undoubtedly enhances our lives and learning in many ways, it can also be a significant distraction. Phones are not allowed to be used between the hours of 9:00 am and 3:30 pm at school. This takes particularly strong self management on the part of students as we all know what a draw phones have. I encourage students to follow the phone use rules allowing time for focused learning and face to face interactions. The Grade 8 students experienced three full days without a phone at camp and many of them said it was a good experience!



We have had several exciting events happen in Quarter 3 and are looking forward to more in Quarter 4. Our Tigers sports teams have seen some great successes in season 2 and are gearing up now for the matches to come in season 3.

Special congratulations to our Middle School ACSIS Champions:

- 12U Boys Basketball
- 12U Boys Cricket
- 14U Bous Table Tennis
- 14U Girls Volleyball

Grade 8 camp was a great success and students shared good memories participating in all of the valuable outdoor activities. Our budding diplomats have enjoyed the Model United Nations units in school and the out of school conferences as well. We are looking forward to our upcoming Music, Art, Drama and Dance (MADD) week April 22-26, with an evening show on the 25th.



As a relatively new acting principal, I am enjoying getting to know the Middle School students and families. Please know that my door is always open and I am here to help parents and students have an enjoyable and successful time in Middle School.

**Arin Mares**  
Acting Middle School Principal  
[arin\\_mares@ofs.edu.sg](mailto:arin_mares@ofs.edu.sg)

## OFS Tigers



The OFS Tigers Gymnastics and Swimming Teams both competed in the nation's annual blue ribbon event – The Singapore Nationals.

"The Nationals" each year is a fiercely contested event amongst the qualifiers from Singapore's local, club, school, and international students vying to be the very best athletes and achieve national ranking positions.

The OFS Tigers Junior Swim Team ranked as the top international school at these Nationals coupled with the National Champion and Gold Medalist in the 200m Breaststroke as well as the Bronze medalist in the 100m Breaststroke.

The Senior Swim Team ranked third amongst the international school teams with another National Champion in the 1500m Freestyle event, three Silver Medals in the 800m Freestyle, 200m Backstroke, and 100m Backstroke, and a Bronze medal in the 400m Freestyle.

The OFS Tigers Gymnastics Team was the top international school team with the National Champion on the uneven bars and the silver medalist on the floor. The team as a whole brought home a staggering 11 Gold Medals and 5 Silver Medals.

It is an extraordinary achievement in Overseas Family School where National champions are being developed right here on our campus!

*(Gil Levy – Head of Competitive Sport)*

## From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

### Global Picnic (Saturday, 20 April 2024)

The Global Picnic is an international fair that brings together all the families in the school for a day of fun and celebration, as part of an international community. The event will take place on Saturday, 20 April 2024, on our campus.

We invite you and your family to join us and enjoy a wide range of free entertainment, including music, dances, demonstrations, bouncy castles, and plenty of food and refreshments from around the world. This is an opportunity to sample different cultures and have fun with your loved ones. Your active participation and pride in your cultural heritage are what makes this event so special for the OFS family. Do not forget to bring your camera, sunhat, and OFS Security Pass, along with your best smile. We look forward to seeing you on the day!



## Deputy Principal's Message



The end of Quarter 3 saw our Grade 8 students finalise their course selection for Grade 9 and they are all now looking excitedly ahead to the challenges of High School. It has been a pleasure to watch them grow and learn over the past 3 years and we hope they enjoy their final months in Middle School. At the same time we are preparing to welcome our Grade 5 students to Middle School and hope they are excited about the upcoming move!

The recent Middle School Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences were a great opportunity to reflect and celebrate our students' progress and many successes. We are proud of everything our students have achieved and hope they keep up the good work for the remainder of the school year.

Our Grades 7 and 8 students have also been busy participating in their Model United Nations conferences. Grade 7 students explored equitable access to finite resources whilst Grade 8 students debated issues related to Globalisation and Sustainability.

The start of Quarter 4 sees Middle School students enjoying the Music, Art, Drama and Dance (MADD) week, where they can showcase their many and varied performing arts skills.

*(Hayley Brian – Middle School Deputy Principal)*

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## Middle School Sports Day

The annual Middle School sports day was a huge success! Students displayed impressive collaboration, sportsmanship, and strategic thinking in basketball, football, yoshi, and dodgeball. Congratulations to the Red House, who secured first place, followed by the Green, Blue, and Yellow. Thank you to all the staff who made this day memorable and fun for the students. Let us continue celebrating the spirit of sportsmanship and teamwork that makes our school community special.

*(Marisa Healy – SAL Physical & Health Education)*



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## 2024 UK Intermediate Mathematical Challenge RESULTS

Seventy-three of our Grade 8 students took part in this year's UK Intermediate Mathematical Challenge (UK-IMC) which was held online during their Mathematics class on 1 February. It was another very successful year for OFS Middle School with 12 Gold, 18 Silver, and 20 Bronze Certificates. Thousands of students from across the UK and worldwide took the UK-IMC, and the top 6% were awarded a Gold Certificate, the next 13% Silver, and the next 21% Bronze.

Yuki Takahashi (8Billimoria) achieved this year's highest score and received the Best in Year Certificate. Aside from their Gold Certificates, both Yuki and Paarth Verma (8Brieta) were invited to participate in the Cayley Mathematical Olympiad held on 22 March. This is a great achievement for Yuki and Paarth as only the top 600 very highest performers were invited to participate in this follow-up round. The other students who received a Gold Certificate include Taanya Chaudhuri (8Billimoria), Arin Jain (8Droze), Tasuku Ebitani (8Lam), Arham Mohanty (8Brieta), Rento Yamamoto (8Lam), Vivaan Dhyani (8Barnard), Prithwish Kundu (8Droze), Maira Sachdeva (8Billimoria), Yash Thakur (8Droze), and Kohei Hirooka (8Lam).

The UKMT Individual Mathematics Challenges are lively, intriguing papers that are designed to stimulate interest in Mathematics to large numbers of students from all over the world. It is run by the UK Mathematics Trust of the University of Leeds and supported by the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries. Students in Grades 8, 9 and 10 take the same paper.

Congratulations to all of our Grade 8 awardees and participants as well as their teachers and parents who helped them to get prepared for the event.

*(Roderick Abcede – SAL Mathematics)*



## Middle School MUN Club

The Middle School MUN Club students attended the 2nd annual Model United Nations conference at St. Joseph's Institution International in early March. Our students were well prepared for the conference, with several attending at least two other conferences this year. During the Opening Ceremony, students heard an address by Jane Walker MBE about her work for the Upskills+ Foundations which supports vulnerable communities in the Philippines. Our students were engaged and passionate and made quite an impression while looking for solutions to global problems. Four of our students received awards for their contributions, including Paven Raveender Singh, Kartik Goel, Aitreya Thakur and Arsaan Prakash. Well done!

*(Hanna Ucko Neill – Student Advisor and MUN Coordinator)*





## Grade 8 Camp – 28 February to 1 March 2024

The Grade 8 Camp took place from Wednesday, 28 February to Friday, 1 March. The students were full of excitement from the very beginning as they separated into groups for the various activities. These included the kayaking adventure, which was a wonderful opportunity to learn about the mangrove ecosystems on Pulau Ubin. Students also went to Willing Hearts, a soup kitchen responsible for distributing meals across Singapore. The students prepared meals, moved edibles, cleaned the kitchen area and did it all with great positivity. Visiting Forest Adventure and doing the high elements courses was an opportunity to overcome their fears and prove to themselves that they were more courageous than they previously thought. Lastly, bowling and Wild Wild Wet were wonderful activities for the students to enjoy each other's company and deepen relationships. This culminated with a barbecue and disco on the final night which saw the campers reveal their dancing skills. Overall, the Grade 8 students had a challenging yet rewarding camp and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

*(Aidan Spencer – Student Advisor and Camp Coordinator)*



## 75th National School Individual Chess Championship – 16 and 17 March 2024

Congratulations to all 19 OFS Middle School students who participated in the prestigious 75th National School Individual Chess Championship from 16 to 17 March 2024. Kartik Goel scored 6 points and achieved 5th place in the U14 Boys international category. Hamreet Kaur and Saki Suzuki were the best OFS female players winning 3rd place in the U14 and U16 Girls international section. Well done to all OFS students. You made us proud.

*(Philipp Ziegler and Dijana Dengler – Chess Coaches)*

