



# 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,

As Semester 1 draws to a close, we are all looking forward to a well-deserved holiday break. It has been a full and engaging semester, with students and teachers immersed in a wide range of learning experiences. In these final weeks, our students are busy with the art exhibition, holiday concerts, sports mornings, grade level events, and the completion of their schoolwork and portfolios.

A heartfelt thank-you to all our parent volunteers who have supported us in countless ways this semester—from field trips and the school musical to PA events such as Deepavali and the Christmas coffee mornings, as well as helping with concert costumes, the art exhibition, and year-end class celebrations. The strong sense of community and family at OFS is truly enriched by the time, energy, and talents you so generously share with our students.

I would also like to acknowledge our Grade 5 students from the Junior Student Council. They have been working hard to ensure that our Positive Playground Award scheme runs smoothly and that many students are being recognised for demonstrating the IPC Personal Goals. Our JSC members also worked hard at being involved in a number of special events this semester such as the Food Drive, Sports Mornings and Grade-Level Assemblies. This semester, the JSC students were also responsible for managing the sports equipment borrowing system at lunchtimes. Thank you for being such great role models to the Elementary School students. I wish all our students, families, and teachers a restful, joyful, and inspiring holiday break. I look forward to welcoming our new and returning students for another exciting semester beginning on Monday, 5 January 2026. To the families who are leaving us, we send our very best wishes as you embark on a new chapter.



*Penny*

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

## From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

As Christmas draws near and the semester comes to a close, it is a perfect time to pause and appreciate the hard work, dedication, and growth we have all experienced this year—students and teachers alike.

We hope this festive season brings you moments of joy, peace, and relaxation with those you hold dear.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, filled with love, laughter, and all the success you deserve. Looking forward to seeing you in 2026!

## Art News



As our calendar year comes to an end, we can reflect on and celebrate the achievements of our students in Art. Ms. Wendy, Ms. Heidi and I are very proud of our artists for their hard work during the first semester. We would like to thank our parents and visitors who came to visit our vibrant Grade 1-5 Art Exhibition, and for all the positive feedback that you gave. Our students were delighted to share their creations. We wish everyone a well-deserved and creative break!

(Jennifer Freeman)



**Food From The Heart**



**Deepavali**





## Grade 1 News

We have thoroughly enjoyed our third Unit of Work, "Green Fingers". We kicked off the unit with a nature walk around the school garden, marvelling at the diverse plants we have right here on campus. In the classroom, the students turned into young scientists, diving into plant science experiments to uncover the secrets of how plants grow and survive. A major highlight was our field trip to the Jacob Ballas Children's Garden, where students successfully connected their classroom learning to real-world plant life. Our learning continues in Language Arts as we move forward with our unit on procedure writing. Students will be exploring the elements needed to write clear, step-by-step instructions and will soon be creating their own guides. We also hope you enjoyed our Holiday Concert. Thank you for your support in helping the students look their best in their performance outfits. From the Grade 1 team, we wish you a joyous, safe, and restful holiday!

(Emma Phelps)



## Grade 2 News



The Grade 2 students have had a month filled with exciting learning experiences. They inquired into the history of Singapore, uncovering interesting facts and making meaningful connections between their home and host countries. Our field trip to the "Images of Singapore Live" in Sentosa took students on a fun, interactive, and theatrical journey through Singapore's past. With a combination of live actors and special effects, the experience vividly showcased Singapore's transformation from a sleepy fishing village into the vibrant 21st-century city we know today. Our Holiday Concert beautifully complemented our IPC unit, as students performed songs celebrating festivals and traditions from around the world. The Grade 2 teachers wish all our families a joyful, restful, and safe holiday.

(Sameerata Prakash)

## Grade 3 News



As we approach the end of our first semester, Grade 3 students are wrapping up their learning from our "How Humans Work" unit. They have identified bones and muscles and explored various ways to keep their bodies healthy. In Mathematics, we have begun a new unit on measurement, where students will be investigating capacity and mass. Our Grade 3 Holiday Concert was a huge success! The students looked vibrant and festive in their costumes. It has been a wonderful semester of learning and growth, and we are very proud of all the students' achievements. We hope everyone enjoys a well-deserved break, and we wish you happy holidays from all the Grade 3 teachers.

(Hayley Kinnaird)

## Music News

We are very proud of our amazing students who participated in the Holiday Concerts. Students from every grade level performed songs and dances celebrating a variety of holidays and festivals from around the world. This global mosaic showcased how each culture shares unique stories, customs, and celebrations. It instilled a sense of respect, curiosity, and unity amongst our students and school community. We would like to extend our thanks to all the parents for your help with costumes and for your support and encouragement during these events!

(Maya Mitsuyasu)



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## Grade 4 News



It was a very busy last couple of weeks in December for Grade 4. Our third unit, "Here and Now, There and Then" came to an end, and the students had the opportunity to share their knowledge of key events in their home countries' history. Across the grade, we all learned many new historical facts about many countries around the world. Next semester, we will be starting with "Going Global" in UOW. In Language Arts, the students have been using their imagination and creativity when writing their narrative piece of writing. There was a focus on story structure, character, and setting description, and the use of figurative language within their story to bring it all to life. We will be beginning the next semester with persuasive writing as our text type. In Mathematics, the students have been looking at temperature, weight and mass. We hope you enjoyed the Holiday Concert. It is always great to see the students on stage celebrating holidays from around the world. We wish you a happy, safe, and enjoyable holiday from all the teachers in Grade 4.

(Guy Watts)

## Library News

It has been a busy month in the library for reading and research. All classes have been developing and practicing their library skills: selecting and locating books, searching on the library catalog, using an atlas, notetaking from non-fiction books, and learning ways to identify reliable online sources and keep ourselves safe online.

Please note the following date in your calendars: Book Week will be held from 2-6 February 2026.

And finally, we will be holding an Extreme Reading Challenge over the December break. Students, please submit a photo of yourself participating in 'extreme' reading over the holidays. You may be as creative with this challenge as you wish. Please submit your photos to Mrs. Kmet via email <[catherine\\_kmet@ofs.edu.sg](mailto:catherine_kmet@ofs.edu.sg)>.

(Catherine Kmet)



## Grade 5 News



The Grade 5 students concluded a very busy MUN unit by participating in the (MUNOFS) General Assembly. Guided by Secretary-General Kim Chaewon and Deputy Secretary-General Arjun Sharma, delegates from ten nations spent two days refining and voting on their Issue Statements. This experience has been highly rewarding, with students showing remarkable growth and dedication. Our Grade 5 students also put on a fantastic Holiday Concert, looking bright and festive in their costumes. We hope you enjoyed it. We also want to celebrate our exceptional Semester 1 JSC members, whose leadership and commitment have been inspiring to their peers. The Grade 5 Team sends warm wishes to all students and families for a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable holiday break.

(Karla Kleist)

## Chess News

This semester, our students have explored a world of tactics, strategy, and exciting checkmates during their weekly chess lessons. They have shown wonderful progress and growing confidence in their understanding of the game.



As many enjoy the December holidays, Ashwath Kaushik is getting ready for a full month of competitions ahead. He will be playing three back-to-back international tournaments, starting in Wroclaw, Poland, followed by the World Rapid and Blitz Championship in Doha, and finally competing in Stockholm, Sweden. The highlight of his journey is, of course, the World Rapid and Blitz Championship, where the very best players in the world will come together, including Magnus Carlsen, and World Champion Gukesh, and many other top grandmasters. We wish Ashwath success and unforgettable moments on his incredible journey. You will be able to follow his games live online on Chess.com.

(Dijana Dengler and Philipp Ziegler)





## Languages News



The first semester has been quite successful and eventful for our language students! This past month, our Foreign Language and Mother Tongue students transformed the Elementary School into a vibrant hub of global celebration! Our Grade 5 Hindi students, along with their teachers, organized special Diwali activities for the younger students. This festive event included fun stations where participants learned about traditional Indian cuisine, the cultural significance of items used during Diwali, and the beautiful art of Rangoli making.

The Grade 4 Foreign Language and Mother Tongue students also took center stage for their language assembly, demonstrating their learning through a variety of engaging presentations. The Spanish students taught the audience how to make colourful piñatas. The French students showcased their pronunciation skills through challenging tongue twisters, while German students shared fascinating facts about their home country. Rounding out the cultural tour, our Korean students introduced the discipline of Taekwondo, and the Japanese students delighted everyone with engaging songs and many more items from our other languages. This collaborative effort wonderfully highlighted the rich diversity and active language acquisition happening in our classrooms.

From all of us in the Foreign Language and Mother Tongue programs, we wish you a relaxing and happy holiday!

*(Monica Makkar and Roger Calais)*

## Physical Education (PE)

We just finished a fun swimming program, and now we are excited to move on to Gymnastics and Athletics! This means practicing skills like balancing on the beam, jumping over the vault, tumbling on the floor, and running, jumping, and throwing. All these activities helped us get ready for the big Sports Morning for the whole Elementary School.

The Sports Morning days went really well, with lots of student engagement and enthusiasm. It was wonderful to see students showing the IPC Personal Goals, like Teamwork, Resilience, and Respect, throughout the activities.

We want to thank all the parents and supporting faculty for their support. It has been amazing to watch our students show off the skills they have developed.

One of the most exciting events has been the Lunchtime Sports Table Tennis competition! Students in Grade 4 and 5 have been having a great time competing for the top spot. Table tennis has definitely become a favorite sport in the upper grade levels.

Next term, we will be focusing on Striking & Fielding and Invasion Games.

*(Christopher Eng)*

## New Staff

### JACK REID

Hi, my name is Jack Reid and I am from Meath, Ireland. I have been in Singapore for three years and joined OFS this year after teaching at EtonHouse International School. Before moving abroad, I spent five years teaching in a public school in Ireland, mainly with Grade 4 students. I really value the diversity and cultural exchange that comes with teaching in international schools. Outside the classroom, I enjoy playing Gaelic Football, having represented Singapore at the Asian Gaelic Games, as well as travelling and playing golf whenever I can.



### MARK GALA

I am from the beautiful archipelago of the Philippines. As an inclusive and special education teacher, I have taught from early to senior years in public and private schools, working in Singapore since 2012. I advocate holistic learner development, teacher well-being, and 21st-century skills. At OFS, I have found a strong sense of belonging in a welcoming, globally minded community that, like me, believes in the potential of every student to succeed and thrive in a compassionate, inclusive society, and I look forward to growing alongside our students and celebrating their achievements.



### SASHA GROUFSKY

Kia ora! I am Sasha Groufsky, and I am thrilled to be part of the OFS community. I bring many years of teaching experience, having taught extensively both in the general classroom setting and as a dedicated Art Specialist. I am very excited to be teaching Grade Two this year! My family and I are proud to be part of the Overseas Family School, and I am delighted to say I have enjoyed many wonderful years of experience right here at OFS. I originally hail from the stunning Bay of Plenty, New Zealand. When I am not in the classroom, I enjoy walks on the beach, spending quality time with my family and friends, and pursuing my passion for painting. I am genuinely looking forward to another wonderful year at OFS and meeting so many friendly faces from all around the globe!

