



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 the second semester and we hope you had a restful and enjoyable break. To our returning parents and students, welcome back as we continue another great semester of learning. To our new students who have joined us in the Elementary School, we are thrilled to welcome you to our school community! January was a busy month indeed for our administrators and teachers as we helped guide our new parents through events such as our New Parent Orientation, PA Coffee Morning, as well as the New Parent Homebase information sessions. I hope our new students feel settled in their new school routines, and with time, will become more familiar with our curriculum, as well as form new friendships.

We will kickstart this new semester with upcoming exciting events and activities. Our students will have many opportunities to be involved in our various after school programs such as our Extra Curricular Activities (ECAs), the Enrichment Program and Tigers Competitive Sports (Season 3).

There are also a number of other special events coming up in February:

11 February	ECAs begin
17-21 February	Book Week
21 February	Book Character Dress Up Day

We look forward to seeing all students get involved in these wonderful opportunities to learn, grow, and have fun, as well as seeing our parents at school events throughout this semester. Your presence and support is greatly appreciated.

Finally, I wish all our students and families the very best for Semester 2. To families celebrating Chinese New Year, have a happy, healthy, and prosperous Year of the Snake ahead.



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

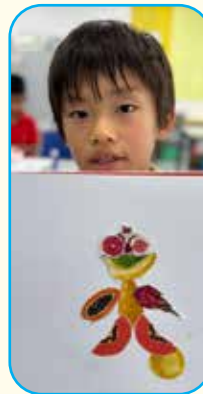


From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

Exciting News! The OFS Parent Association is now on Instagram! Follow us at [ofsedu.pa](https://www.instagram.com/ofsedu.pa) for updates on our events and ways to get involved. Stay connected and be part of our school community online.



Art News



We have started the year and second Semester by welcoming our new students who have settled into the routines of their Art classes quickly. All grades are now busy with our current IPC Units of Work with students learning about different artists, how to persuade others through poster making, using different drawing media and sculpting from recycled materials. Finally, in the library we are displaying some fantastic Grade 5 clay relief sculptures interpreting the theme of peace; please come and check out their creations when you are on campus!

(Jennifer Freeman)

Educational Intervention Services

Building Resilience in Children: Tips for Parents

Resilience is the ability to bounce back from challenges, setbacks, and failures. It helps children: handle stress, develop effective problem solving strategies, build strong relationships and grow into confident and capable individuals.

Tips for Parents to help your child build resilience:

1. Praise Effort, Not Just Success: Focus on praising your child's hard work and effort, rather than just their achievements.
2. Encourage Learning from Mistakes: Help your child see mistakes as opportunities for growth and learning.
3. Model Healthy Coping Mechanisms: Show your child how to manage stress and anxiety in healthy ways, such as exercise, deep breathing, or talking about their feelings.
4. Provide Opportunities for Independence: Give your child chances to make choices and take risks in a safe and supportive environment.

(Kayleigh Wood)

The Academic Calendar for the 2025-2026 school year is now available on our website. Stay informed about key dates, holidays, and important events. Please visit <https://www.ofs.edu.sg/calendar/> to view or download the calendar.

Grade 1 News

Happy New Year to all our families and a special welcome to the new families who have joined our Grade 1 classes this semester. We have embarked on our current IPC unit, "How Are You?". During this unit the children will learn about how we can take care of our bodies so they grow healthy and strong. For our Entry Point, students participated in three fun activities; sorting food items, building a skeleton, and an interesting glitter experiment demonstrating how germs can spread. During our Science tasks, students have been enquiring about the five food groups and identifying examples for each group through hands-on activities. In Language Arts, we are writing procedures with a focus on recipes. We look forward to another great semester in Grade 1!

(Emma Phelps)



Grade 2 News



Happy New Year and a warm welcome to all our new OFS families! We kick started the new year with an exciting IPC unit "Land, Sea And Sky". In this unit we will explore how water plants, fish and birds have adapted to their habitats. Students were excited to visit the science lab to observe and sketch a variety of water plants. We compared land and water plants to understand how their parts are well adapted to help them survive in their natural environment. Our experiment looked at what happens to plants when their habitats are changed by submerging a land plant in water and planting a water plant in soil. Students built beautiful terrariums to create self-sustainable habitats.

(Sameerata Prakash)

Grade 3 News



Happy New Year and welcome back to OFS! We warmly welcome all our new families. Grade 3 started 2025 with an empowering new unit, "They Made A Difference". For the Entry Point, teachers dressed up as eight notable figures, highlighting their significant contributions. Students have been reading biographies, conducting research, and collaborating to understand what made these individuals significant and influential. In Mathematics, we have begun exploring fractions, focusing on understanding equivalent fractions and simplifying them to their lowest terms. Students have been using visual models and hands-on activities to deepen their understanding.

(Hayley Kinnaird)

Physical Education (PE)

We are excited for a big semester ahead, starting with Striking and Fielding and Invasion Games. Quarter three, students will develop skills essential to softball, rounders, handball, and netball, focusing on teamwork, strategy, and spatial awareness. Looking ahead, Semester 2 will build on these foundations, transitioning into Team Games. Additionally, Grade 4 and 5 lunchtime sports kick off with 'Captains Ball.' Here's to an energetic, fun-filled semester! Please be reminded to bring hats and water bottles to lessons.

(Mark Sherwin)

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Grade 4 News



It has been great to see all the students returning after the holidays. They have come back excited and motivated, with lovely stories to tell about what they have been up to during the holidays. The students have had a fun start to their new IPC unit, "Going Global". They have been taking part in trade games in the classroom which has given them an understanding of how international trade works and how not every country gets a fair chance. Throughout this unit, there will be an emphasis on global interdependence and globalization, helping students understand the importance of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Each student will choose a goal and create a persuasive piece of writing to explain why that goal is important. This task will tie in to our current text type which is persuasive writing. In Mathematics, students have been learning all about fractions and connecting the use of fractions to our everyday lives. In this unit there will also be a focus on decimals.

(Guy Watts)

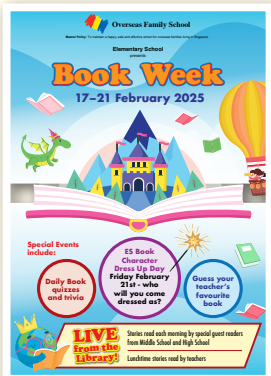
Library News

Book Week, arguably the most exciting week in the school library calendar, is coming this month. There will be many fun activities every day during the week. But perhaps the most eagerly anticipated event is Book Character Costume Day, which will be on Friday, 21 February 2025. Please start thinking about and planning your costumes. We cannot wait to see them!

'Give a book, take a book.' Have you seen the newly installed bookshelves in the Atrium? There is a range of pre-loved books which you can choose from, and in turn, contribute to.

Welcome and thank you to our Semester 2 Library Monitors; your enthusiasm and dedication are much appreciated.

(Catherine Kmet)



Grade 5 News



Happy New Year and a warm welcome to our new Grade 5 students and parents! Our current IPC Unit is "The Holiday Show (Expo)." During the Entry Point, students worked in teams to convince their peers that their chosen destination was the best place to visit using a variety of persuasive techniques. This unit focuses on our responsibilities as tourists and the impact we have on the environment. It will culminate in the Expo, where students will share their research with the wider school community. Lastly, congratulations to the students elected by their peers as our new Junior Student Council (JSC) members for this semester!

(Karla Kleist)

Chess News

We are proud to announce that Overseas Family School has been awarded the prestigious FIDE Gold School Award. This title represents global recognition of our commitment and success in introducing students to the benefits of chess as an educational tool. This achievement highlights not only the importance of chess as a tool for intellectual and personal development but also the passion and enthusiasm of our students, teachers, and the wider school community. The award was presented to us by Dana Reizniece, Managing Director of the World Chess Federation and a former Finance Minister of Latvia on behalf of the FIDE Chess in Education Commission.

(Dijana Dengler and Philipp Ziegler)



Languages News



The Foreign Languages and Mother Tongue Department warmly welcomes all students, both new and returning, to an exciting year of language learning! As the second semester begins, students are setting personal goals and making resolutions to improve their language skills. We look forward to sharing these exciting cultural experiences with our students soon.

Lots of fun things have been happening on the Mother Tongue floor, highlighted this month with some Finnish students designing and making a snowman, or 'lumiukko' as you would say in Finland. The Grade 2 Norwegian class has been working on descriptive language and feelings, using Norwegian artist Edvard Munch's painting as a source of discussion.

(Monica Makkar and Roger Calais)

Music News

Creativity and expression is flowing through the Music classrooms as the students of OFS return to playing instruments. Grade 1 classes are learning about the elements of music and playing rhythmic patterns on percussion instruments. Grade 2 students are learning songs on the xylophone using the pentatonic scale while Grade 3 students are developing their recorder skills with 2 new notes. Grade 4 students are learning the ukulele, while Grade 5 students are learning about the components of songwriting. Finally, our Musical students are working extremely hard in preparation for 'Frozen JR' which will take place on 5 and 6 March. We cannot wait for you to see the show!

(Kevin McCabe)

SPP

At the last assembly in semester one a number of our SPP students received special recognition for all their English language learning. Forty-six students from Grades 1 to 5 exited the Study Preparation Program. Congratulations to all of them! From semester two they can now choose to study a Foreign Language or continue with their Mother Tongue class. All the best as you continue your language studies.

(Roger Calais)



New Staff

DAMIAN GROUFSKY

My name is Damian Groufsky, and I am thrilled to return to OFS as an ICT Specialist! Technology has always been a major area of interest for me, but I am equally passionate about sports, the outdoors, and exploring opportunities to connect these interests with education. I first came to Singapore and joined OFS way back in 2004, where I worked across the school in various teaching roles for over a decade. After spending several years back home in New Zealand, it feels fantastic to return to OFS and once again be part of this vibrant, richly diverse international community.



CATHERINE KMET

My name is Catherine Kmet, and I am happy to have joined OFS as the Teacher Librarian. Originally from Adelaide, Australia, I recently moved to Singapore from the UK where I lived and taught for many years. I have worked as a primary school Homebase teacher, ESL teacher, but am passionate about my work in school libraries. In my spare time I love reading, cycling, cooking and travelling. I am excited to be working with such a diverse range of students and families at OFS.



Sports News

The OFS Tigers continue to impress in Badminton, Basketball, Cricket, Football, Gymnastics, Netball, Swimming and Table Tennis. With a strong finish in the remaining few weeks – all of the Elementary School Tigers teams look set to capitalize on the significant success achieved in Season 1 and finish in podium positions for Season 2!

(Gil Levy)