



# 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 we rounded off the end of August, we were delighted to host a professional exchange with the Japanese School Singapore (Changi Campus). A total of 31 visiting educators, including their Principal, Deputy Principal, and Head of Curriculum, joined us for this special event.



During the visit, our team shared insights into our inquiry-based approach to learning and how the International Primary Curriculum (IPC) is applied in our school context. The Japanese School teachers also had the opportunity to observe learning in action during classroom visits, followed by a guided tour of our campus facilities. The visitors expressed how impressed they were with the way we integrate IPC across a wide range of subject areas. It was a wonderful opportunity for professional exchange, allowing both schools to share practices and strengthen international collaboration in education.

We are excited to be hosting our next Open House on Saturday, 11 October, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. This is a wonderful opportunity for prospective families to explore our full-facility campus, join guided tours, and visit information booths across all divisions. They will also meet our teachers and our student ambassadors — and catch the OFS Tigers in action on the field, showing their school spirit. It will be a great chance to experience our learning environment and discover what makes our school community unique.

If you know friends, colleagues, or families who may be considering a school in Singapore, please invite them to join us. They can register here: [www.ofs.edu.sg/resources/promo/ofs-oct-2025-open-house](http://www.ofs.edu.sg/resources/promo/ofs-oct-2025-open-house)

Remember to stay informed about school news and events by reading our daily gazettes, newsletters, and following us on social media. Our school's online portal via the website, [www.ofs.edu.sg](http://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.

Finally, to all our families celebrating Deepavali, we wish you a bright and joyous Deepavali.

*Penny*

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

## From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

The Parent Association (PA) wishes everyone a joyful Children's Day filled with laughter and celebration! For those celebrating Deepavali, may this festival of lights bring happiness, prosperity, and treasured moments with your loved ones. Enjoy your well-deserved term break and create wonderful memories during this special time!



Curriculum Talk Grade 1-3



Curriculum Talk Grade 4-5



Japanese School Visits



## Sports News

A scintillating start to ACSIS Season 1 for the OFS Tigers ES Teams. Badminton, Basketball, Cross Country, Football, Gymnastics, Netball, and Swimming teams are all practising hard and preparing accordingly for the range of fixtures being contested against the other international schools that are members of ACSIS. At this halfway point in the season, the results look really good with many of the OFS Tigers teams ranked amongst the Top 3 in the ACSIS League tables. Let us continue to build on the momentum created in the early part of Season One and push forward to finish strong!

(Gil Levy)

### Important Dates:

6-7 October	Parent Student Teacher Conferences
11 October	Open House
13 October	Start of Second Quarter
20 October	Deepavali Public Holiday
21-24 October	School Holiday



## Grade 1 News

Our Internationalism Celebrations were a success, and we were so glad to see so many parents there. It was a fantastic chance to celebrate the vibrant cultural diversity of our Grade 1 families. The children looked splendid in their national costumes. In our IPC unit, "Hooray...Let's Go On Holiday!", we have been on a journey exploring Singapore, our home countries, and various holiday destinations. Our Grade Ones have learned the names of the continents and how to locate them on a world map. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm as they found their own home countries and Singapore on both maps and a globe. They were also excellent collaborators and communicators, working together to identify landmarks on a map of Singapore. In Language Arts, our students have been busy exploring the recount genre, honing their writing skills by describing past events.

(Emma Phelps)



## Grade 2 News



In Grade 2, we have been exploring different materials in our IPC Unit of Work, "Material World". We began with a fun and hands-on Entry Point, where students worked together to transport water from one bucket to another using different materials such as paper, aluminium foil, felt, and fabric. This activity encouraged them to display Personal Goals like collaboration, communication, and resilience. Students participated in an 'Upcycling Workshop', where they repurposed PVC banners into coin pouches and learned the importance of Upcycling. Another highlight of the month was the Internationalism Celebrations, during which the children proudly showcased their beautiful traditional costumes while walking down the ramp.

(Sameerata Prakash)



## Grade 3 News



Grade 3 students are nearing the end of our "Bright Sparks" Unit of Work, where they have explored how electricity flows through wires, how switches operate, and the contributions of inventor Thomas Edison. They are excited to showcase their learning at the exit point, including the circuits they have built. In Language Arts, the focus has been on following scientific procedures while learning the features of this text type. In Mathematics, students have begun a new module on patterns, functions, multiplication, and division. The Internationalism Celebrations were a highlight, with students proudly wearing cultural attire and taking part in the activities.

(Hayley Kinnaird)

## Physical Education (PE)

We are now progressing through our second PE unit of the year, with students either completing or currently engaged in the Swimming Unit. It has been wonderful to see their confidence in the water grow, alongside noticeable improvements in stroke technique, body coordination, and overall water safety awareness.

Following swimming, we will transition into our Athletics Unit, which will take us through to the end of Semester 1. This next phase will allow students to build endurance, develop key movement skills, and set personal improvement goals.

Throughout our PE program, we continue to place a strong emphasis on the IPC Personal Goals—such as resilience, cooperation, adaptability, and respect. These are actively reinforced in every lesson, both in the pool and on the court, as students challenge themselves, support their peers, and reflect on their progress.

Outside of class time, our lunchtime sports program remains a popular and meaningful part of the school day. Grade 4 and 5 students have been enthusiastically participating in Capture the Flag, where friendly competition is balanced with a focus on teamwork, sportsmanship, and relationship-building. The tournament has been highly engaging, and we look forward to the finals taking place later this month.

Thank you for your continued support. We are proud of the way students are growing—not just in their physical abilities, but in their character as well.

(Christopher Eng)



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## Grade 4 News

Our new unit, "Existing, Endangered, Extinct", is now well underway. We began with a gallery walk, where the children used the thinking routines See, Think, Wonder to explore pictures of a wide range of animals. This helped spark curiosity and thoughtful questions about the natural world. A highlight of the unit was our trip to the Singapore Oceanarium. The students were able to connect what they had already learned in class. In this unit, we are focusing on the personal goal of being a good collaborator. Students are working together in groups to research a biome and the endangered animals that live there. They have also been learning how animals are classified and how they depend on one another within a food web. Alongside this, the students are developing their writing skills. They are well on their way in their information report learning and are now busy writing reports on an endangered animal, with a focus on its classification, characteristics, diet, habitat, and the threats it faces.

(Guy Watts)



## Languages News

Our school recently celebrated a vibrant week of language and culture, beginning with our Indian Hindi foreign language students marking Hindi Diwas. They created colorful posters and powerful slogans, and through song and creative role-play, they brought the importance of the language to life. Simultaneously, our Hebrew students celebrated Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year), sharing their traditions with their peers. Our Dutch students received treats from Ambassador Anneke Adema to celebrate Prinsjesdag (Prince's Day), the official opening of the parliamentary year. This cultural energy continued at the Grade 5 Language Assembly, where our German students gave a fascinating presentation on the differences between Germany and Singapore. The Japanese Mother Tongue students captivated the audience with the energetic Yosakoi dance, our Mandarin students presented a beautiful fan dance, and our Spanish students performed a lively rendition of the song "Yo Contigo, Tu Conmigo". The assembly concluded with French students who confidently introduced themselves and sang a song. These wonderful events highlighted our students' dedication and the rich, multicultural spirit that makes our school community so special.

(Monica Makkar and Roger Calais)



## Art News

Children are busy in the Art rooms putting finishing touches to their first artworks of the year and reflecting on their learning so far. Students are excited to see these sculptures, paintings, and mixed media creations come to fruition. We warmly invite you to our upcoming Grade 1-3 Art Exhibition, showcasing the wonderful creativity of our young artists! The exhibition will run from 17 to 25 November in the Level 4 Activity Room.

(Jennifer Freeman)



## Grade 5 News

The Grade 5 students wrapped up their "Moving People" unit by researching historical groups and figures who migrated, with a highlight being the visit to the Chinese Heritage Centre to learn about early Chinese immigrants in Singapore. In Language Arts, students completed their Narrative unit by writing their own stories, focusing on organisation, description, and dialogue. In Mathematics, we began a new module on number patterns, functions, classifying shapes, and measuring angles. The students also enjoyed the different cultural activities during our Internationalism Celebration, looking wonderful in their traditional outfits and celebrating the rich diversity of our school community.

(Karla Kleist)



## Chess News

### 66th National Inter-School Team Chess Championship

Congratulations to all 104 OFS students from Elementary, Middle and High School for competing in the 66th National Inter-School Team Chess Championship, held on 13 and 14 September 2025 at Overseas Family School.

In total, the OFS Elementary teams scored a fantastic 2 Gold, 1 Silver and 3 Bronze team medals, becoming the most successful International School. The OFS U10 Girls Team won Gold in the International Category and even climbed the winner's podium in the most prestigious overall national category, winning 3rd Place overall in Singapore.

For U10 Girls: Myra Kaushik, Aashi Diwan, Marissa Tosin and Xie Muting showed great teamwork, encouraging one another throughout. Best individual scorer from OFS was Atharv Kaushik from Grade 1 who won all his six games. Together with his teammates Ridaan Gupta, Vihaan Shah and Advait Eshwar Raj they scored another Gold medal in the International Category.

Regardless of trophies and medals, OFS is particularly proud of all its students, many of whom have competed for the very first time. They displayed fantastic sportsmanship, showing resilience, patience and a passion for the game. Surely there will be many OFS Chess Champions in the future.

(Dijana Dengler and Philipp Ziegler)





## Educational Intervention Services

### Homework Management

Homework for students can be a big challenge, but with a few strategies, it can become much more manageable. Here are five tips to help young students in Grade 1-5 tackle their homework effectively.



#### 1. Create a Dedicated Homework Space

Establish a specific, distraction-free area for homework. This space should be tidy and organized, with all necessary supplies readily available. Avoid areas with a lot of foot traffic or noise, and consider facing the desk toward a blank wall to minimize visual distractions.

#### 2. Break Down Assignments

Large assignments can feel overwhelming. Help your child by breaking tasks into smaller, more manageable chunks. For example, instead of "do your math homework," try "do five math problems, then take a short break." Use a timer to structure these work sessions and breaks.

#### 3. Use a Visual Schedule

Visual aids are very effective for students (and even adults!). Create a simple checklist or chart that shows the order of tasks to be completed. Your child can check off each item as they finish it, providing a sense of accomplishment and clarity on what's next.

#### 4. Incorporate Movement and Breaks

Sitting still for long periods is difficult. Plan for frequent, short breaks during homework time. These breaks can include a quick stretch, a jump rope session, or a short walk. Movement helps to improve focus and reduce restlessness.

#### 5. Provide Positive Reinforcement

Celebrate successes, no matter how small. Praise your child for their effort and for completing tasks. Positive reinforcement can be a powerful motivator and helps build a positive association with homework. Consider a reward system, such as earning a sticker for each completed task, which can lead to a bigger reward.

*(Rizal Bin Baharom)*

## Library News

Thirty enthusiastic library monitors have been selected for lunchtime duty in Semester 1. They help keep the library running smoothly by assisting students in their search for books, making sure everyone is following library guidelines and procedures, and keeping the book shelves tidy. Thank you, monitors!



In recent library lessons, students in Grade 1 and 2 have enjoyed listening to stories connected to their IPC Units of Work. Grade 3, 4, and 5 students have enjoyed listening to a range of new stories to try out 'new' authors, titles, and series, and broaden their reading choices.

Students have been eagerly decorating the bulletin board just outside the library, which reads "Raise your hand if you love to read". Please come and take a look at our lovely displays.

*(Catherine Kmet)*

## New Staff

### JOANNA SKALKOYANNI

Hello, my name is Joanna Skalkoyanni, and I am excited to join the OFS community! With roots in Greece and the UK, I have made Singapore my home for the past seven years. In my free time, I enjoy reading, discovering new food spots, travelling, and practising languages. I am thrilled to be part of a school that celebrates cultural diversity and family. I believe learning should spark curiosity, bring joy, and help us see the world through many perspectives. I look forward to the year ahead and am eager to collaborate, grow, and create meaningful learning adventures together!



### EDREA CHONG

Hi, my name is Edrea Chong. Born and raised in Little Red Dot, Singapore. I graduated from the National Institute of Education and the Singapore University of Social Sciences, starting my career in local primary schools before moving into international education. Beyond teaching, I proudly represent Singapore in pickleball competitions and am a certified coach. While many assume it is a sport for the elderly, pickleball is fast, tactical and demanding. At OFS, I am excited to learn from a community so rich in culture and diversity, to grow alongside my students, and to bring energy both in and beyond the classroom.



### SARAH BRADSHAW

I started my teaching journey in the UK and have now been teaching for 15 years. For the past 12 years, I have had the privilege of living and working in Singapore, where I continue to grow as both an educator and a parent to my two children, Lily and Charlie. Outside of school, I love running in my spare time, finding the rhythm of the road both energising and reflective. I am equally at home in the snow and mountains as I am exploring the cultures, flavours, and hidden treasures that Asia has to offer. My ethos as a teacher is to create a learning environment where curiosity thrives, individuality is celebrated, and every child feels empowered to grow. I believe education should nurture not only academic success but also compassion, resilience, and a sense of global citizenship. At OFS I am excited to share this vision, helping students discover their strengths, challenge themselves, and become lifelong learners. I also value the strong sense of collaboration and support among teachers at OFS, which makes it a truly inspiring place to work and grow.



## Music News

In Music, students have continued developing their instrumental skills and also began composing short melodies and songs. It has been a delight to watch the blossoming talent and creativity of our young OFS musicians. Students in Grade 1, 2, and 3 sang some inspiring songs during our 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 Moana JR" will begin in Quarter 2. We are excited for more musical activities and events in the coming months.

*(Maya Mitsuyasu)*