



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 2026! We hope you had a restful and enjoyable break. A warm welcome to our new students and families who have joined us in the Elementary School, as well as a welcome back to our returning parents and students as we continue another great semester of learning. We recently welcomed approximately 60 new students, and while starting a new school can be both exciting and a little nerve-wracking, please be assured that our school community is here to support you. January was a particularly busy month for our administrators and teachers as we guided new families through events such as the New Parent Orientation, PA Coffee Morning, and New Parent Homebase information sessions. We hope our new students are settling into their routines and, with time, will become more familiar with our curriculum and form new friendships within our community.

Stay informed about school news and events by reading our newsletters and following us on social media. Our school's online portal via the website, www.ofs.edu.sg, is also a valuable resource. This is one of our most important methods of communication with parents, so please make use of the OFS website to help stay in touch with your child's school life.

We will kickstart the month of February 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).

Events in February:

- 2-6 February Book Week
- 6 February Book Character Dress Up Day
- 9 February Tigers Competitive Sports Season 3 trials begin
- 12 February Tigers Competitive Sports Season 2 ends
- 16-24 February School Holiday
- 27 February Chinese New Year Lion and Dragon Dance
- 27 February Parent Association Chinese New Year Coffee Morning
- 27 February Chinese New Year Free Dress Day for students

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 Horse ahead.



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

From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

In February, we celebrate the Chinese New Year and sincerely wish all families celebrating this occasion happiness and joy. On February 27th, we will hold a Chinese New Year coffee morning and organize dragon and lion dance activities. We invite everyone to come and experience the festivities. Following this, we will continue preparing for the Global Picnic event and look forward to the participation of all parents, students, and teachers in this annual celebration.

Art News



A warm welcome to our new Art students and welcome back to our returning students. Students are already busy with their third IPC Units of Work in Art. Grade 1 learners are using a range of media to create still life drawings; soft pastels are messy but fun! We are using recycled materials to create bird sculptures in Grade 2 and fabulous body adornments in Grade 4. Who knew 'junk' could look so good? Grade 3 learners are studying influential artists and our Grade 5 artists are creating persuasive posters of a potential tourist destination. Do keep an eye out for these displayed as part of Expo too.

(Jennifer Freeman)

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 two new notes. Grade 4 students are learning the ukulele, while Grade 5 students are learning about the components of song writing. Finally, our Musical students are working extremely hard in preparation for 'Moana JR' which will take place on 4th and 5th of March. We cannot wait for you to see the show!



(Maya Mitsuyasu)

Grade 1 News

Happy New Year to all our families! We would like to extend a special welcome to the new students joining our Grade 1 classes this semester. We have officially kicked off our new IPC unit, "How Are You?", where the children will explore how to keep their bodies healthy and strong. To launch the unit, students enjoyed a series of "Entry Point" activities, including food sorting, building skeletons, and a hands-on glitter experiment to see how germs spread. During our Science tasks, students have been enquiring about the five food groups and identifying examples for each group through hands-on activities. While in Language Arts, we are focusing on procedural writing by creating our own recipes. We are excited about our upcoming Book Week and a fantastic semester ahead!

(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 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. In Language Arts, we will be focussing on writing information reports. We are eagerly looking forward to Book Week and a wonderful semester of learning and exploring!

(Sameerata Prakash)

SPP

It was a special all school assembly at the end of semester one when 23 of our SPP students received their completion certificates to show that they have exited the Study Preparation Program. Congratulations on their hard work to move through the levels and fully join the mainstream classes. Those students are now able to join a Foreign Language program, or can continue with their Mother Tongue. It's also exciting to welcome 19 new students into our SPP classes from this semester, and we wish them all the best in their English language journey.

(Roger Calais)



Grade 3 News



Happy New Year and a friendly welcome to the new students joining our Grade 3 classes this semester. Grade 3 students have started an exciting new IPC unit, "They Made a Difference", focusing on people from the past and present who shaped the world. The unit began with an interactive Entry Point experience exploring important historical figures. During our History tasks, students have been researching how Lee Kuan Yew, Malala and Martin Luther King Jr. made a difference in the world. In Language Arts, students will be developing their narrative writing skills. We are looking forward to an engaging Book Week and a wonderful semester ahead!

(Amber Foley)

Library News

A big "thank you and well done" to all students who participated in the Extreme Reading challenge over the December break. You are all welcome to come and see the amazingly creative reading places found by our students on display just outside the library. Thank you also to our Semester 2 library monitors who are helping during lunchtimes; their effort and dedication to this role is appreciated. Through our regular library lessons, students are continuing to expand and develop their reading interests and research skills, as well as learn about keeping safe online.

(Catherine Kmet)



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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, motivated and with lovely stories to tell about what they have been up to. 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 interdependence around the world and globalisation which will lead to the students to understand how important the UN Sustainable Development Goals are. 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 Math, 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)

Languages News

The Foreign Languages and Mother Tongue Departments are delighted to welcome our students back for a vibrant start to Semester 2! Our classrooms have hit the ground running, with students engaging in thoughtful goal-setting and New Year resolutions to channel their focus for the months ahead. Our German Mother-Tongue students kicked off the term by exploring traditional Glückssymbole (luck symbols), learning about their cultural origins and meanings. We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm our learners have shown and look forward to a semester filled with linguistic and cultural growth.

(Monica Makkar and Roger Calais)



Grade 5 News

Happy New Year and a warm welcome to our new Grade 5 families! Our current IPC Unit, "The Holiday Show (Expo)," explores our responsibilities as global tourists and our environmental impact. The unit concludes with the Grade 5 Expo, where students will showcase their research and understanding with the wider school community. In Language Arts, we are focusing on persuasive writing and the specific techniques used to convince an audience. In Mathematics, students are learning about the connections between fractions, decimals, and percentages. Lastly, congratulations to our new JSC members for this semester! We look forward to a fantastic term of meaningful learning together.

(Karla Kleist)



Physical Education (PE)

We're excited for a big semester ahead, starting with Striking and Fielding and Invasion Games! We'll focus on teamwork, strategy, and knowing where to be on the field. In Semester 2, we'll build on these skills and move into Team Games, getting ready for even more fun and challenges. Also, Grades 4 and 5 will kick off their lunchtime sports with a fun game called 'Captain's Ball.' During this game, students will show the IPC Personal Goals of being a Communicator, Collaborator and Thinker. Here's to an energetic and fun-filled semester! Don't forget to bring your hats and water bottles to all lessons to stay safe and hydrated.

(Christopher Eng)



Chess News

Our young OFS Chess Knights from Grade 1 to Grade 5 have taken their chess to the next level by playing their first tournaments in class. They familiarized themselves with essential tournament rules, chess timers, the importance of fair play, and how to independently read a pairing list. Motivated students can also register for the upcoming 77th National School Individual Chess Championship held on 16 and 17 March 2026 at OCBC Arena.

(Dijana Dengler and Philipp Ziegler)



Sport News

As we move further into the second season of our athletic calendar, we are incredibly proud of the dedication, growth, and sportsmanship displayed by our student-athletes. From the courts to the fields, our teams are representing the school with distinction. Please find the mid-season highlights for our current programs below, organized by age group.

U12 / U11 / U10 Programs

<p>12U Boys Basketball: This team has been a model of sportsmanship. Their commitment to skill development and mutual support during practice is translating into significant growth on the court.</p>
<p>12U Girls Basketball: Off to a dominant 4-0 start in Division 1. Led by Irene and Azumi, the team's success is built on a "team-first" attitude and a powerful offensive presence.</p>
<p>12U Mixed Cricket: The season began with a thrilling last-ball victory over NPSI. Captain Meydhansh continues to lead with dominant pace bowling, supported by strong contributions from Shaney, Rohan, Kaneesha and Aarna.</p>
<p>12U Table Tennis (Mixed): The A Team holds a 2-1 record with a sharp competitive focus. While the B Team continues to seek its first win, their determination in close matches has been a highlight of the season.</p>
<p>U11 Badminton: Both the boys and girls teams remain undefeated in Division 1. Notable mentions include the boys' 3-2 comeback win against GIIIS and Aaria's undefeated streak in Singles 1.</p>
<p>U11 Girls Football: The team is performing exceptionally with 11 wins. Led by Captain Hansini, the "Tigers Spirit" is evident in the defensive reliability of Prisha, Siddhika, Shayna and the goalkeeping of Shambhavi.</p>
<p>U11 Boys Football: With a record of 6 wins, 1 draw, and 1 loss, the team continues to improve their ball movement. Special mentions to Oscar, Rei, Jonas and Aryan for their work ethic. The team looks forward to the Finals on 7 February.</p>
<p>U10 Boys Football: The boys have recorded several convincing 3-0 wins. Their development in organization has led to multiple clean sheets and a higher level of match awareness.</p>
<p>U10 Girls Football: Competing across Divisions 2 and 3, the girls have shown great growth. A highlight was the 2-0 win for OFS 1 against TTS and the wonderful team spirit displayed by all players.</p>
<p>U9 Mixed Netball: Our youngest competitors remain undefeated! Highlighted by a victory against SJII, the team has benefited from scoring streaks by Emmie and Harshvardhan and fearless defense from Chloe and Ria.</p>

(Bruce Shang – Head of Athletics)

New Staff

BEVERLY MALLACH

My name is Beverley Mallach and I am originally from Port Elizabeth, South Africa. I began my teaching career as a home-base teacher in Cape Town, moving to London at the end of 2001 with my husband. It was there that I began my love of working with students who have barriers to learning. I moved from a classroom teacher to SENCO. I have been working in Early Intervention for 18 years across South Africa, UK and Singapore. I am a mom of 3 who loves to travel. I moved to OFS in August last year and love the warmth and supportive environment.



CHARMAINE LIM

My name is Charmaine Lim, and I am from Singapore. I spent a period of time living in the United States, where my musical journey deepened and my passion for inspiring others through teaching and composing grew. I returned to Singapore during the Covid period and have been teaching music ever since. I believe in making music learning both fun and meaningful, focusing not only on mastering instruments, but also on nurturing a genuine love for music that lasts a lifetime. I hope to help each student discover their own musical voice and joy in making music.



LAURINE MONNARD

My name is Laurine Monnard and I have been teaching elementary for 18 years. My teaching journey has brought me to Muscat, Ho Chi Minh City and most recently Dubai. I have experience teaching the American curriculum, EYFS and IB curriculum. My favorite thing to do in class is read aloud to my students and play math games. I believe that students should take ownership of their learning and do enjoy coaching my students to build a growth mindset.

