



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,

The two months of school have proven to be a busy period for all our students and teachers. Students have settled into their daily routines and lessons and it was wonderful to see our students undertake our first quarter with such drive and enthusiasm.

We are delighted to celebrate the achievements of our students who recently participated in the 67th National Inter-Schools Teams Chess Championships on the 12 and 13 September 2026. Our Elementary School students performed exceptionally well, with a number of our teams achieving first, second and third-place finishes. We congratulate all of our participating students and thank our Chess teachers, Ms. Dijana and Mr. Ziegler, who has supported them in their preparation. We are very proud of their achievements!

This year is particularly special as we celebrate our 35th anniversary on 30th September! It has been wonderful to see the excitement and enthusiasm of our students as they participated in some of our anniversary celebrations. From special activities throughout the school to lunchtime entertainment provided by our very own teacher band, there has been a wonderful sense of community and celebration across the school. Students and staff have also received a special commemorative 35th anniversary keyring as a small keepsake of this important milestone.

As we head into October, a reminder that our Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences will take place on Thursday, 15 October and Friday, 16 October 2026. These conferences are an important opportunity for parents, students and teachers to come together to discuss learning progress, celebrate successes and identify goals for the months ahead. We look forward to welcoming you and continuing our strong partnership in supporting your child's learning and development.

We would also like to remind families of our guidelines regarding mobile phones and smartwatches during the school day. These guidelines help us maintain a focused learning environment and ensure that technology does not become a distraction. Students wearing smartwatches should have them set to silent or class/school mode during school hours, including lunch and break times. This ensures that notifications and messages do not interrupt learning or classroom activities. Mobile phones should be kept in students' lockers throughout the school day and should not be accessed during lessons, break times or transitions. If a student needs to contact home during the school day, they can do so through the Elementary Office.

Finally, as we move into Quarter 2, we are pleased to introduce Google Classroom for our Grade 4 and Grade 5 students. This will provide students with opportunities to develop their digital learning skills and become increasingly familiar with tools that support collaboration, organisation and learning. The introduction of Google Classroom will be carefully guided by teachers, with students learning how to use the platform appropriately and responsibly. Google Classroom is being introduced as a complementary tool to enhance learning, rather than replace the valuable learning that takes place through writing, reading, discussion, practical activities and work in students' books.

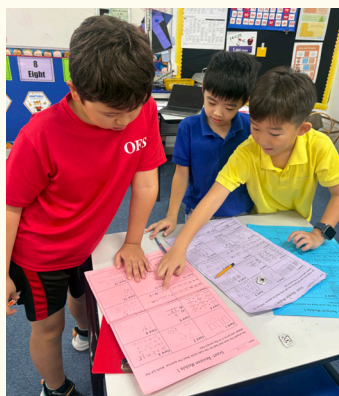
We wish everyone a happy and productive October!



Important Dates:
5-9 October – School Holidays
12 October – Start of Second Quarter
15-16 October – Parent Student Teacher Conferences
17 October – Open House
19-23 October – Languages Week

Penny

Penny Liew
Elementary School Principal
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Mathematics

As our conferences approach, here are a range of pointers for a higher value mathematics conference.

Instead of: "How is my child doing in mathematics?"

Ask:

- What concepts do they understand well?**
Start with strengths.
- What topics or tasks do they avoid?**
Avoidance reveals where confidence needs to grow.
- What is the single biggest priority to work on next?**
One focus area is better than a long list.
- What 5/10-minute daily routine could we do at home?**
Ask for one simple activity (e.g., times tables, mental math).
- Are any core misconceptions holding them back?**
Target fundamental gaps (e.g., place value, fractions).
- How do they handle challenges?**
Look at mindset—do they persevere or give up easily?
- What does success look like by the end of this term?**
Agree on 2–3 clear, measurable goals.

Grade 1 News

Our Internationalism Celebrations Day aligned wonderfully with our current IPC unit, "Hooray...Let's Go On Holiday!". It was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the vibrant cultural diversity of our Grade 1 families. The children looked marvelous in their national costumes, and we truly appreciate your support in helping them prepare. Building on our flight simulation experience, we have been busy exploring Singapore, our home countries, and a variety of holiday destinations. Our Grade Ones learned the names of the continents and how to locate them on a world map. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm as they located both Singapore and their home countries on maps and globes. They also proved to be exceptional collaborators and communicators, teaming up to identify key manmade and natural landmarks across a map of Singapore.

(Emma Phelps)



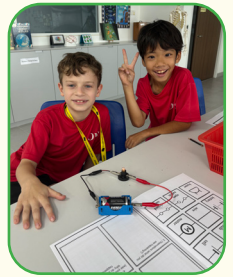
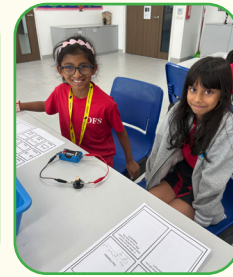
Grade 2 News



In Grade 2, we have been learning all about materials in our new IPC Unit of Work, 'Material World!'. We had a successful Entry Point, where students had to transport water from one bucket to another, using different materials - paper, aluminium foil, felt and fabric to name a few. It required cooperation, teamwork and resilience as well as an opportunity to work on their problem-solving skills. Following on from this, we explored different materials that are used to make a bicycle. We visited the science lab to conduct fair tests and investigate the properties of different materials. It's great to see the Grade Twos thinking about the variety of materials that go into making everyday objects. In Language Arts, we are learning about the elements of narratives through a variety of stories.

(Sameerata Prakash)

Grade 3 News



The Grade 3 students started a new and exciting IPC Unit of Work, "Bright Sparks," where they plunged into the world of electricity! Students explored how electricity travels to our homes, key safety rules around power and the differences between renewable and non-renewable energy sources. Hands-on learning was a major focus: students built simple electrical circuits, tested various materials to identify conductors and insulators and constructed more complex circuits using buzzers and motors. Students also had a fantastic time celebrating Internationalism Celebrations Day! They looked fantastic dressed in outfits representing their home countries and enjoyed a variety of fun cultural activities including Irish dancing, crafting traditional necklaces and playing traditional games from around the world. It was a wonderful celebration of our diverse school community.

(Amber Foley)

Art News

The Art Rooms have been full of colour, creativity and exciting ideas! Grade 1 is discovering their place in the world through art by sketching and colouring landmarks from different countries and transforming them into 3D collages. Grade 2 is bringing sea creatures to life through imaginative mobiles, experimenting with an exciting mix of materials and textures. Grade 3 is stepping into the world of product design as they create eye-catching, oversized snack packaging, while Grade 4 is exploring pattern, repetition and printmaking through intricate arthropod-inspired designs. Grade 5 are celebrating identity and connection through mixed-media self-portraits, incorporating visual elements inspired by their home countries.

(Wendy Tan)



International Primary Curriculum

Assessment in the International Primary Curriculum blends the use of rubrics, self reflection, and teacher notes based on observations, to gather evidence and determine the next steps of teaching and learning. Each unit has clear learning goals that are assessed and reported on. The three types of goals in the IPC are, Subject Learning Goals which track knowledge and skills in subject areas like Science, History, or Geography. Personal Goals that develop qualities and learning dispositions such as Resilience, Respectful and Empathetic. The International Goals nurture awareness of the students' own identity while building respect for others.

(Shalini Maira)

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Grade 4 News



Our new unit, Existing, Endangered, Extinct, is now well underway, and the students are already deeply engaged in their learning. 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 Zoo. 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)

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 give students the opportunity 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. Grades 4 and 5 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)

Grade 5 News

The Grade 5 students wrapped up their “Moving People” unit by researching and presenting on historical groups and individuals who migrated. They explored push and pull factors and the impacts of migration. A highlight was our visit to the Chinese Heritage Centre, where students learned about the experiences of early Chinese immigrants in Singapore. In Language Arts, students completed their narrative writing unit by writing their own stories, focusing on clear structure, descriptive language, and purposeful dialogue. In Mathematics, we have begun a new module where students will explore number patterns and functions, classify shapes, and measure angles. Students also enjoyed celebrating Internationalism Celebrations Day by participating in cultural activities and wearing traditional outfits. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the diversity of our school community.

(Karla Kleist)



Languages News

September was an exceptionally vibrant and eventful month for our Foreign Language and Mother Tongue students, filled with rich cultural celebrations, hands-on activities, and inspiring student showcases. Hebrew students joyfully welcomed the Jewish New Year with traditional classroom festivities, Mandarin students crafted colorful lanterns while exploring the legends of the Mid-Autumn Festival, and Hindi students proudly marked Hindi Diwas to honor the heritage and significance of India’s official language. In the Dutch classroom, King’s Day was celebrated with orange-glazed donuts for all. Adding to this wonderful momentum, our Grade 5 students took center stage to host an unforgettable languages assembly. Their diverse presentations truly captured the spirit of global citizenship, ranging from insights into their ongoing IPC unit, Moving People, and a fascinating look at xolo dogs in Mexico, to celebrating autumn traditions across different countries and showcasing how the French language connects communities worldwide.

(Monica Makkar and Roger Calais)



Chess News



67th National School Team Chess Championship 2026

Congratulations to all 119 OFS students from Kindergarten, Elementary, Middle and High School for competing in the 67th National Inter-School Team Chess Championship, held on 12 and 13 September at Overseas Family School. In total, 69 OFS Elementary School students scored a fantastic 11 Gold medals, 6 Silver and 8 Bronze Medals, becoming the most successful International School. Special mention to Aashi Diwan (6 Points), Atharv Kaushik (6P), Shresta Gururaja (5P), Myra Kaushik (5P), Niam Sharma (5P) and Kabir Tejuja (5.5P) for being top-scorers for their respective teams. Another round of praise goes out to our youngest students from the Under-8 years category who competed against Singapore's Best during this full-day, six-game rapid chess championship. Regardless of trophies and medals, OFS is particularly proud of all its students who displayed fantastic sportsmanship, resilience, patience, team work and a passion for the game.

(Dijana Dengler and Philipp Ziegler)

Sports News

Tigers Off and Running!

The sports season is officially underway, and our Tigers teams are already making their mark on the courts and fields! It is fantastic to see our campus filled with smiles and high energy as our coaches motivate our student-athletes to hone their skills and compete in the sports they love. Our new custom New Balance uniforms are making a fantastic impression on match days, giving our teams a sharp, unified, and professional look that truly reflects the standards of Tigers Athletics. Along with these new kits, we are continually upgrading our infrastructure, from brand-new volleyball poles and nets to brand new equipment, to ensure our athletes have top-tier tools for training and safety. To top it all off, we are thrilled to share that a new turf field is scheduled for installation this summer! With modern gear, elevated facilities, and committed coaching now in place, our program is fully set up for success. To make this season truly special, we count on the drive and commitment of our athletes on the field, as well as the vibrant support of our parent community in the stands. Go Tigers!

(Bruce Shang – Head of Athletics)

From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

Here, we sincerely wish all children a happy Children's Day! May every child grow up healthy and happy, stay curious, enjoy learning and life, and bravely pursue their dreams!

In October, the Parents' Association (PA) will organize practical workshops for parents of different grade levels, along with exciting learning and experiential trips to explore Singapore's local culture.

More details and registration information will be sent by email. Please check your inbox regularly. We look forward to your participation as we continue supporting our children's growth!

New Staff

ALICE MAHER

My name is Alice Maher and I am from Dublin, Ireland. This is my tenth year of teaching, I taught in Ireland for six years and after Covid I had itchy feet to start travelling. Since then I have been lucky enough to teach in Spain, Italy and now Singapore. I'm really settling into life here in Singapore, spending weekends exploring all the popular spots and sampling the wonderful local food. I enjoy staying active, spending time with family and friends, and discovering new places around the world.



LAURENCE MILEY

My name is Larry (Laurence) Miley. After graduating in Ireland, I embarked on a teaching career that has spanned Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, and now Singapore. I am in my ninth year of teaching and this is my third year here in Singapore. Outside of the classroom, I love traveling to new places, hiking, running, and engaging in most outdoor sports. I enjoy collaborating with diverse colleagues and bringing a positive, supportive atmosphere to every classroom I teach in. My start to life at OFS has been thoroughly enjoyable so far!



Library News

In September we welcomed our Semester 1 library monitors who dedicate one break time a week to help ensure the library runs smoothly. They assist students with using the catalog and locating books, as well as contributing to library displays. Students have continued to practise their browsing skills by looking at book displays, scanning the shelves, reading the blurb and the first few lines or pages of a book, and giving and receiving recommendations from classmates and teachers. Classes have participated in lessons where fiction and non-fiction books connected to the IPC Units Of Work have been shared. Grade 5 have shared Moving People stories, Grade 4 have continued to hone their research skills, Grade 2 heard how animals have inspired human inventions during Material World.

(Catherine Kmet)



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 "Troll's JR" will begin in Quarter 2. We are excited for more musical activities and events in the coming months.

(Maya Mitsuyasu)