



# Overseas Family School

## Middle School

### Master Policy:

To maintain a happy, safe and effective school for overseas families living in Singapore

## Principal's Message

It has been a busy and exciting start to Semester Two in the Middle School. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of our new families to OFS Middle School. Please know we are working hard to make sure your child has a good experience and settles in quickly. Our new Peer Mentor program is making sure all new students have a buddy and feel welcome and can integrate quickly into school life.



One of the Middle School Administration goals is to be approachable and accessible to both parents and students. You will often find us out in the hallways and visiting classes and engaging with students during lunch. Building relationships is key, and I want students to feel a sense of connection and support.

Middle School is a time of exploration and discovery, and I believe in helping our students find their interests and passions. We are committed to providing a well-rounded international education that goes beyond the classroom. From extracurricular activities to creative MYP Action projects, field trips and camps we want to inspire a love of learning that extends beyond the textbooks. Our after school and lunch time clubs have all started and I encourage all students to get involved if they have not already.

We have celebrated both Languages Week and Book Week this semester so far. During our Languages Week, students had the opportunity to reflect on the importance of learning a second or third language. Many are also growing up bilingually and are continuing on with our unique mother tongue program. In our very multicultural environment, Languages Week can be a very interesting week! Book Week saw students explore their love of reading and its importance in their education. As an avid reader myself, I can not express enough the importance and power of reading in education. Reading opens up new worlds, challenges our creativity, and supports English language learning. I hope that students will continue to visit our library and find the joy of reading.

I am excited about the semester ahead and look forward to working collaboratively with all of our students and families. Please know my door is always open and I value our partnership.

*Arin Mares*

Arin Mares  
Middle School Principal  
[arin\\_mares@ofs.edu.sg](mailto:arin_mares@ofs.edu.sg)



Alecia Kapoor (8.03 Ucko Neill) -  
Grand Palais Exhibition, Paris

## 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, inviting 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.

## MYP Action







## Deputy Principal's Message



Welcome back! It has been wonderful to see our hallways buzzing with energy as we kick off a new semester. A special welcome to the new families who have joined our community; it was a pleasure meeting so many of you at our Orientation. We hope you are finding your feet, and please remember—our door is always open if you need support.

We hit the ground running this semester! It was inspiring to see our students celebrate diversity during Languages Week and ignite their imaginations during Book Week. Meanwhile, our Grade 8 Camp and recent excursions took learning out of the classroom and into the real world, creating lasting memories for our students. It is an exciting time for our Grade 8 students as they look toward High School. As they begin selecting their courses, please know that the Middle School team is working closely with the High School to support you and your child through these important decisions.

To our Grade 5 families preparing for the leap to Middle School: we are excited to have you! Please join us for the 'Grade 5 Parent Orientation' on Thursday, 5 February. If parents have any further questions, please reach out to the Middle School office anytime ([ms-admin@ofs.edu.sg](mailto:ms-admin@ofs.edu.sg)). *Gong Xi Fa Cai* to all our OFS families celebrating!

*(Hayley Brian – Middle School Deputy Principal)*

[hayley\\_brian@ofs.edu.sg](mailto:hayley_brian@ofs.edu.sg)

## Languages Week

From 19 to 23 January, our Middle School community came together to celebrate Languages Week, a joyful and engaging week dedicated to the many foreign and mother tongue languages spoken and learned across our school. Guided by this year's theme, "Languages Connect Us," students explored how languages help us communicate, understand different cultures, and build meaningful connections with others. Throughout the week, students participated enthusiastically in a range of activities during their language classes, including Languages Class Swap, Culture Show and Tell, Language Hunt, and the Mini Language Quiz. These activities encouraged curiosity, collaboration, and a deeper appreciation of linguistic diversity. One highlight of the week was the Language Hunt, where students explored the campus during break times, discovering short phrases displayed in different languages and recording them in their Language Passports. It was wonderful to see students actively engaging with languages beyond the classroom. Languages Week concluded with a shared celebration in the auditorium, where each language hosted a stall. Students moved freely between activities, taking part in hands-on language and cultural experiences such as completing a quiz about Sweden, learning Italian hand gestures, and kicking a football at the Brazilian stall. A big thank you to our students for their enthusiasm, and to our teachers and language ambassadors for their dedication and support in making Languages Week such a meaningful experience for everyone. We look forward to continuing to celebrate languages and connections throughout the year!

*(Ivan Zhou – SAL Language Acquisition/Tonje O'Connor – SAL Mother Tongue)*





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## Science Spotlight: Strange Happenings and Scientific Inquiry!

If you heard “singing spoons” or saw “haunted mist” drifting from the Middle School laboratories last week, don’t worry—it was simply our Grade 6 scientists diving deep into their Inquiry into Matter unit! During Week 2, students moved beyond the textbook to observe the fascinating properties of Dry Ice (solid carbon dioxide). This hands-on experience allowed them to witness sublimation—a rare change of state where a solid turns directly into a gas.

### How Students Solved Complex Problems Through Experimentation:

By investigating “strange happenings,” students applied systematic inquiry to explain the behavior of matter. Key experiments included:

- The “Hovercraft Effect”: Students explored low-friction motion, observing how gas cushions affect movement.
- Self-Inflating & Heavy Balloons: These tasks required students to analyze how gas expansion and density differ from common air.
- Singing Spoons & Frothy Beakers: Students used these sensory observations to hypothesize how energy transfers between different states of matter.



By exploring the key concept of Change, they are building scientific models to explain phenomena that aren’t often seen in everyday life. Throughout this unit, students aren’t just memorizing facts; they are seeking answers to complex Inquiry Questions:

- How does the arrangement of particles account for the properties of matter?
- Can the particulate model account for all behaviors of matter?

By connecting these experiments to Scientific Models, our Grade 6 students are developing the critical thinking skills needed to apply classroom knowledge to real-world contexts.

*(Stephen Foster – SAL Sciences)*

## Middle School Service Club

The MS Service Club was active again in the month of December. In our visit to the NTUC Nursing Home, the students performed traditional seasonal sung carols, provided craft activities such as making a simple snow globe using paper plates and played a highly entertaining game of bingo linked to the theme of Christmas. As a finishing touch, a morning tea was provided and some warm jackets and coats, donated by the OFS Middle School teaching staff, were handed over alongside some small gifts such as mini portable radios for resident use. Also in the month, the club paid a visit to ‘Willing Hearts’ in Joo Chiat. Willing Hearts is a local NGO that provides over 10,000 meals a day to marginalised people in Singapore. During the visit, the students involved were able to see up close the daily hard work that the small but dedicated groups of employed staff working alongside a myriad of volunteer cooks, meal preparation staff and the fruit, meat and vegetable sorting workers in action. The students were given a dedicated tour of the facility to see how each element contributes to the daily meal delivery service and then got involved in some food preparation work of their own through the supervised chopping up of large amounts of vegetables that would be used in the meals being sent out that day.

*(James Chapman – Teacher-in-Charge of Service Club)*





## Athletics Department: Season 2 Mid-Season Overview

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.

### U14 Programs

- **U14 Boys Football:** Holding a 2–1 record, the team has adopted a sophisticated, possession-based style under Captain Oren Hood. Their defining characteristic this season has been their ability to win matches after trailing early on.
- **U14 Girls Football:** Currently 4th in Division 3, the team is led by Captain Maria Fajardo Martin and Vice-Captain Aya-Marie Vestvik. We celebrate the skill progression of Angelina Ida, Ashwathi Menon, and Tamily Liesenberg De Jesus, alongside the defensive efforts of Manuela Pereira Maeda, Milena Dos Reis Santos, and Alice Oishi. We wish Aarika Srivastava and Orya Shitrit a speedy recovery from their injuries.
- **U14 Boys Volleyball:** Holding a 3–1 record in Division 2. Captains Lucca Charret Machado De Barros and Aditya Surana have led the team to significant growth, supported by the hitting of Caleb Wangsamulya and Jo Seunggi, the passing of Noah Yih, and consistent serving from Darius Jahja, Alessandro Leo, Caden Parker, and Arnav Shah.
- **U14 Girls Volleyball:** Led by Arianna Arora and Riana Singh, the team has shown steady improvement. Notable defensive contributions have come from Luana Azevedo Verly, Manuela Pereira Maeda, Tanya Shah, and Ashwathi Menon, while Zeenia Aga, Tamily Liesenberg De Jesus, Alexa Belardo, and Prachi Aravind Kumar continue to show a strong fighting spirit.
- **U14 Mixed Netball:** Under Captain Su Yayan Sally, the team has focused on defensive structures and shooting strategies. Standout contributors Tehanin Cawidrone Thomine, Nikita Dubier, and Abigail Kent are eagerly anticipating the start of their match schedule next week.
- **U14 Boys & Girls Table Tennis:** The boys secured strong wins against GESS, while the girls (Ava Chin, Aya ITABASHI, Neorah Nair, Annika SINGHVI, and Muyun Wang) bounced back from a tough opener with a victory in their second match. Fair play has been exemplary across both groups.

### U12 / U11 / U10 Programs

- **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.
- **12U Girls Basketball:** Off to a dominant 4–0 start in Division 1. Led by Irene Fajardo and Azumi Schwarz, the team's success is built on a "team-first" attitude and a powerful offensive presence.
- **12U Mixed Cricket:** The season began with a thrilling last-ball victory over NPSI. Captain Meydhansh Bahl continues to lead with dominant pace bowling, supported by strong contributions from Shaney Patel, Rohan SRIVASTAV, Kaneesha BHAGAT, and Aarna AGARWAL.
- **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.
- **U11 Badminton:** Both the Boys and Girls teams remain undefeated in Division 1. Notable mentions include the boys' 3–2 comeback win against GIS and Aaria Sabharwal's undefeated streak in Singles 1.
- **U11 Girls Football:** The team is performing exceptionally with 11 wins. Led by Captain Hansini THRUPTHI ASHOK, the "Tigers Spirit" is evident in the defensive reliability of Prisha JAIN, Siddhika AGGARWAL, and Shayna GUPTA, and the goalkeeping of Shambhavi BHARADWAJ.
- **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 Lyford, Rei Watanabe, Jonas Hutcheon, and Aryan Shankar for their work ethic. The team looks forward to the Finals on 7 February.



We look forward to seeing our athletes continue to excel as the season progresses. Thank you for your continued support of our sporting community.

*(Bruce Shang – Head of Athletics)*