



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 move into November, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the exciting learning experiences our students have enjoyed over the past month. October was filled with curiosity, exploration, and hands-on learning as all grades embarked on their field trips. Our students connected their Units of Work to the world around them — from Grade Ones' walking across the Jubilee Bridge to explore significant tourist sights, to Grade Twos' theatre experience that brought storytelling and performance to life. Other highlights included visits to the Science Center by our Grade 3s where they participated in demonstrations and experiments related to electricity. Our Grade 4s deepened their understanding of animal adaptations by studying marine life at the Oceanarium, and Grade 5s explored the Chinese Heritage Museum, learning about the migration of people into Singapore. We believe that these field trips enrich classroom learning and allow our students to experience ideas and inquiries in authentic, real-world settings.

As we head into the latter part of November, we are excited to host our Sports Morning, where students will showcase their teamwork and school spirit. Our Elementary students will also be showcasing their creative and artistic talents in two annual events. The Art Exhibition will feature beautiful student artwork that celebrates creativity across the school and as the semester draws to a close, we look forward to our festive Holiday Concerts, where students will share songs and dances from different countries and cultures that are representative of their holiday traditions.

Finally, OFS is again teaming up with Food from the Heart, which is a local non profit organization that helps provide consistent and sustainable food support to the less fortunate through their food distribution programs here in Singapore. The collection period starts from Friday, 14 November through to 28 November 2025. All the food items collected will be donated and distributed to families in need in the local Singapore community. More information will be shared with parents closer to the collection date.



Penny

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

From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

As we celebrate the vibrant festival of Deepavali, we extend our warmest wishes to all who are observing this joyous occasion. Deepavali, also known as the Festival of Lights, symbolizes the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil. We are delighted to invite you to our Deepavali Coffee Morning — a joyful gathering featuring performances by students and parents, traditional Indian cultural activities, and the rich flavors of Indian cuisine for everyone to enjoy. This event is a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community and embrace the spirit of Deepavali. We look forward to celebrating with you!

Event: Deepavali Coffee Morning

Date: Thursday, 6 November 2025

Time: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Venue: Parent Lounge
(Level 4 of Administration Building)**

Please register your attendance by signing up on the OFS webpage.

<https://www.ofs.edu.sg/events/2025/deepavali-themed-coffee-morning/>

Art News

In the Art rooms, we are wrapping up our second Units of Work and children have been busily printmaking, using mannequins to draw humans in proportion, drawing changes in architecture, painting self-portraits and sculpting clay representations of peace. We would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone to attend our Grade 1-5 Art Exhibition too. It runs from November 17 to November 25 and you can view your child's splendid creations in the Elementary School Level 4 Activity room. We look forward to seeing you there!

(Jennifer Freeman)



Important Dates:			
6 November	PA Deepavali Coffee Morning	21 November	Grade 2 and 4 Holiday Concert
6 November	Last day of OFS Tigers Season 1 Competitive Sports	25 November	Grade 5 Holiday Concert
11 November	Last day of ECAs	27 November	Grade 4 Sports Morning
12 November	Grade 2 Sports Morning	28 November	Grade 1 Sports Morning
17 November	OFS Tigers Season 2 Competitive Sports begins	4-5 December	Grade 5 MUN Conference Opening and Closing Ceremonies
17-25	November Grade 1-5 Art Exhibition	8 December	Grade 5 Sports Morning
18 November	Grade 1 and 3 Holiday Concert	9 December	Grade 3 Sports Morning



Grade 1 News

Welcome back to all Grade 1 parents. We hope you had a wonderfully restful October break! We successfully wrapped up our second IPC unit, "Hooray Let's Go on Holiday". During this unit, we had a great time learning about our home and host countries, highlighted by an enjoyable field trip to Marina Bay to see some of Singapore's famous attractions. We have now moved on to our next unit, "Green Fingers", where students will be busy investigating the difference between living and non-living things, taking nature walks to observe the plants surrounding our school, and conducting experiments to determine what plants require to survive. Meanwhile, in Language Arts, the students have begun exploring the procedural writing genre.

(Emma Phelps)



Grade 2 News



October has been a busy and exciting month for our Grade 2 students! We culminated our IPC Unit of Work "Material World" with a hands-on and engaging Exit Point. Students applied their understanding of the engineering design process to build boats using different materials – planning, testing, and improving their creations. We kick started our IPC unit "Different Places Similar Lives" with a beautiful Entry Point. The Grade 2 teachers took the children on a tour around the world through presentations on different countries and cultures. Through this unit, students are discovering that even though we may come from different places, we share many similarities with people everywhere. Adding to the excitement, our field trip to the theatre to watch the musical "The Three Billy Goats Gruff" beautifully complemented our Language Arts module on narrative writing.

(Sameerata Prakash)

Grade 3 News



Welcome back to all Grade 3 parents. We hope everyone had an enjoyable October break. Our students have now completed their unit on "Bright Sparks", with a highlight being their field trip to the Science Centre, where they engaged in hands-on activities and built their own wind turbines. Our final Unit of Work for this semester is "How Humans Work". Throughout this unit, students will explore how their senses and body systems function. In Language Arts, they will be writing detailed explanations about the digestive system and its major organs. The students are looking forward to sharing their performances with you at the upcoming Holiday Concert.

(Hayley Kinnaird)

SPP

Our unique Study Preparation Program (SPP) provides a supportive learning environment in which students feel safe and comfortable as they develop their English skills. The goal is to help students reach a level of proficiency that enables them to transition successfully into mainstream classes. Collaboration between the two SPP levels, as well as interaction with mainstream classes, plays an important role in achieving this goal. Throughout the year, classes come together for a wide range of activities to communicate and learn from each other. Most recently SPP students joined their mainstream peers to celebrate Languages Week. Other collaborative experiences include shared reading sessions, field trips, combined assembly performances, lunchtime sports, and shared Entry and Exit Points. Earlier in the semester, classes also participated together in a Growth Mindset workshop. Our SPP2 students have always joined a mainstream class for Mathematics. It is all part of the planning to guide students through the SPP levels and into mainstream learning.

(Roger Calais)



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Grade 4 News



It has been another busy month, and the weeks are flying by. Grade 4 students have been learning about the history of their home and host country in our new IPC unit, "Here and Now, There and Then". As part of this unit, students have been learning mapping skills and how to use an atlas, understanding how lines of longitude and latitude help us locate places. They have also focused on events from their home and host countries and how those events had an impact then and now. In Mathematics, our Module 2 has ended, and the students have now been focusing on measurement, including mass and capacity. Our narrative unit is well underway and the students have been planning and writing their own stories ensuring they follow the story mountain adding the key elements needed to make an interesting story. All the students are looking forward to our much anticipated Holiday Concert.

(Guy Watts)

Chess News

Ashwath Kaushik the Youngest Current FIDE Master in the World!

OFS student, Ashwath Kaushik, recently achieved outstanding success in two tournaments in Hungary, highlighted by a memorable win against Grandmaster Eduardas Rosentalis, a former Lithuanian national player. Gaining 85.6 Elo points and reaching a 2350 live rating, Ashwath has now officially received the FIDE Master (FM) title, making him the youngest current FIDE Master in the world. An incredible milestone at his age—we are all very proud of him!

(Dijana Dengler and Philipp Ziegler)



Physical Education (PE)

We have just wrapped up our Swimming Program, and what an amazing five weeks it has been! Our students showed so much courage, enthusiasm, and progress in the water—we are super proud of them all! Now, we are jumping into our Athletics unit, where students will be practicing running, jumping, and throwing. Some classes will also begin exploring gymnastics skills—get ready for lots of movement and fun! Lunchtime Sports have been full of energy, especially with our Grade 4 and 5 students enjoying some friendly competition in 'Capture the Flag'. And coming up in Quarter 2, we are excited to bring back a student favorite—Table Tennis! As we play, we will be focusing on two important IPC Personal Goals: being Ethical and Empathetic. Students will learn to play fairly, respect their opponents, and show kindness whether they win or lose. It is a great chance to build character while having fun! Here's to another awesome term filled with fun, fitness, and fantastic teamwork in PE!

(Christopher Eng)



Grade 5 News

The Grade 5 students have been participating in the OFS MUN Unit — a simulation that helps them explore diplomacy, international relations, and global issues related to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In Language Arts, they have been developing their oral debating skills, learning how to present persuasive arguments for and against various topics while using clear reasoning and confident speaking techniques. In Mathematics, the focus has been on identifying the properties of 2D and 3D shapes, understanding different types of angles and accurately measuring them. The students are excitedly preparing for their Holiday Concert performances, where they will showcase their musical talents and teamwork.

(Karla Kleist)



Languages News

Our Foreign Language and Mother Tongue departments recently celebrated a vibrant Languages Week under the theme 'Markets of the World,' giving Elementary School students a unique chance to explore global cultures. Students embarked on a lively educational journey, engaging with related activities across 16 languages, including the aromatic wonders of Indian spices, the savory delights of Chinese food, the sweet artistry of French pastry shops, the festive spirit of a German Christmas market, the colorful bloom of a Dutch flower market, the fresh flavors of Korean and Italian fruit and vegetable stalls, the seasonal charm of a Russian autumn market, the energetic atmosphere of a Brazilian market, and the beautiful creations of Spanish handicrafts and many more. It was truly a week of fun and phenomenal learning that celebrated global traditions and the power of language to connect us all.

(Monica Makkar and Roger Calais)





OFS Tigers



The OFS Tigers Elementary School teams have excelled in the first season of the ACSIS League.

The 10U and 12U Netball teams have been extraordinary. Taking on the historically strong schools, these two teams have been referred to as the "sleeping giants" of Netball and have gone toe to toe against the best on the island. With a strong finish in the final week of the season, these fit fast and phenomenal teams look to be a lock for a Top two finish in ACSIS.

The 9U Boys and Girls Football teams have been sublime in ACSIS Season 1, competing in a range of friendly festivals around the city against multiple teams from a wide range of schools. The fundamentals are in place, and we are excited to watch these teams as they grow in stature and strength year on year.

The 11U Boys and Girls Basketball teams have enjoyed many thrilling matches and continue to fly the OFS flag high as one of the many outstanding sports our school competes in.

The Elementary School cross country runners, swimmers and gymnasts have been training hard and looking to compete in their first championship events in the coming weeks. There are expectations for some very exciting results as the teams are poised to perform and achieve some podium positions.

An outstanding first season for the OFS Tigers High School students and teams. Kudos to the coaches and support systems structured to set up the competitive sports program to reach higher levels of performance.

Let's go OFS Tigers - "Where the best get better"!

(Gil Levy – Head of Competitive Sport)

Library News

I hope you all had a lovely rest and enjoyed some extra time to read over the October break. Perhaps your child borrowed a 'Spooky Story' or learnt about Diwali from the range of books on display recently? Many new books are arriving each month in the library; please enjoy the display on our 'Newbies' wall in the library.



Students in all grade levels have been learning about research skills – The Super 3 for younger students, and The Big6 Research Model for our older students. They have been locating and using non-fiction books to find facts and other important information for their research tasks.

Just a gentle reminder to please return library books by their due date. Students' library status can be checked on their OFS portal. Books can be returned on any day, not just 'library day'. Thank you for keeping our library books safe and dry in your plastic library folders.

(Catherine Kmet)

Music News

Our students have been putting tremendous effort into preparing for the upcoming Holiday Concerts. Each Grade will showcase festive songs and dances celebrating holidays from various cultures around the world. Through these celebrations, we aim to nurture cultural appreciation, respect, and unity among our students. Additionally, rehearsals for our lunchtime clubs as well as the school musical, Moana JR. will continue every week. We cannot wait to share these exciting musical performances with you soon!

(Maya Mitsuyasu)

New Staff

PADRAIG GAFFNEY

Hi everyone, my name is Padraig (pronounced Paw-drig!) and I am from Ireland. I taught in a range of elementary schools in Ireland for seven years before taking a break from teaching to travel around South America for six months. After this trip, I moved to Vietnam to give working and living abroad a try for the first time, and stayed there for three brilliant years. In July of this year, I made the move to Singapore to try out a new country and culture in Asia. I love to run, listen to music, watch movies, and play Gaelic Football. I recently joined (my former rivals!) Singapore Lions Gaelic Club, which has been great for meeting new people. I have loved living and working in Singapore to date, and some highlights include my class 5 Gaffney winning the Lunchtime Sports Cup (go Godzillas!), seeing the Foo Fighters at the F1 Weekend, and getting to know my wonderful students. It has been a great experience so far!



THOMAS HUGHES

Hi there! I am from Stoke-on-Trent, UK, and have been teaching for 17 years, specialising in Key Stage Two (Grade 4 and 5). Before moving to Singapore 6 years ago, I worked as a senior leader, responsible for school-wide development and curriculum improvement. I am passionate about concept-based education and love helping students connect ideas in creative, meaningful ways. Outside the classroom, I enjoy spending time outdoors — especially exploring the Lake District, one of my favourite places in the world. Since joining OFS, I have found the community incredibly supportive and genuinely value the diversity and curiosity of the students I teach. My standout moment in education was a few weeks spent in The Gambia, where I learned about The Methodist Preparatory School in Banjul. Although the vultures were quite literally circling as I landed, it was the most rewarding experience of my life — and my goodness, those children could sing!



BERYL FOLIO

Hi there! My name is Beryl Folio. I am originally from the beautiful islands of Seychelles. I joined OFS three months ago after moving to Singapore with my family. I instantly fell in love with the country's sunny, tropical climate that reminds me so much of home! Throughout my teaching career, I have taught Grade 2 to 4 in the UAE and Uzbekistan. I am currently a Grade 2 Homebase teacher at OFS. As an educator, I am passionate about concept-based inquiry learning. This powerful framework enables my students to make meaningful connections in their learning as they become more active and reflective drivers of their own learning journey. I enjoy working with OFS' culturally diverse and enthusiastic learners, who bring energy and curiosity to the classroom every day. Outside of school, I embrace my adventurous spirit through travels and explorations with my family. We like to ramble through markets and museums. I am a foodie who also loves experimenting in the kitchen, creating new dishes inspired by the many places I have visited. A highlight of my exploration of Singapore so far has been my trip to Joo Chiat! The vibrant streets and stunning architecture are an absolute delight!

