



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,

A very warm welcome to the start of a new school year! We are delighted to see our returning families back on campus and equally excited to welcome our new students and staff members into our community. It has been wonderful seeing our campus come alive again with our students' excitement and energy.

The school year has started off smoothly and students have settled into their homebase routines and expectations that set the foundation for a positive year ahead. Many new friendships continue to form in and out of classrooms and it is heartwarming to see our students welcoming and including one another.

As we begin the month of September, it is wonderful to see so many students signing up to join in a number of after school programs, from Competitive Sports and ECAs to Enrichment activities. As quarter one progresses, there will also be exciting opportunities such as the Grade 4 and 5 school musical Moana Jr, lunchtime music ensembles, grade level assemblies, field trips and cultural celebrations.

Over the holidays, a vibrant new installation, displaying the 8 Personal Goals of the International Primary Curriculum has been set up on Level 3 of the Junior Block. Through our Personal Goals, we consistently remind our students that our school is a community where we can all feel safe and happy. These goals guide us in showing empathy, kindness, and respect towards one another. Thank you for partnering with us in nurturing and achieving these goals daily.

Please let us know if we can be of assistance with any queries, comments or concerns you may have at any time.

I wish all our families the very best for Academic Year 2025-2026.



Penny Liew

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

Art News

How fabulous to see all of our returning students and to welcome our new learners to Art. As Picasso famously noted; 'Every child is an artist', and we are very pleased to help students express their creativity through new skills and activities linked to their current Units of Work. Our young artists are creating self-portraits, experimenting with different materials and designing their own giant Pop Art inspired snack packets. Students are also learning about bilateral symmetry, the links between art and science and analysing artistic styles. We are all looking forward to an exciting year of creating together!

(Jennifer Freeman)



From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

This September, the Parent Association (PA) is delighted to organise a series of meaningful events for our parent community:

- **Singapore Law Talk for Parents** – Gain valuable insights into Singapore's legal landscape and how it affects families.
- **Half-Day Tour of Singapore** – Discover the city's hidden gems and enjoy quality time with fellow parents.
- **Happy Teachers' Day Celebration** – Join us in expressing our heartfelt appreciation to all the dedicated educators who inspire and guide our children every day.

We warmly invite all parents to take part in these enriching and enjoyable activities. More information will be shared closer to each event, so please stay tuned!

For any questions or to learn more about upcoming PA events, feel free to contact our PA Chairperson at: parent_association@ofs.edu.sg.

Important Dates:

8 September	Grade 1 to 3 Curriculum Talk
10 September	Grade 4 and 5 Curriculum Talk
26 September	Internationalism Celebrations

Library News

It has been fantastic to welcome students back to the library, and a special welcome to our new students. All students are now settling into their library lessons and are eagerly borrowing books to take home and read. Well done and thank you to students for remembering to bring library folders with them, and for taking good care of our books. Students have also been enjoying spending their allocated lunchtimes in the library, devouring all our new, inspiring books and reading quietly.

(Catherine Kmet)





Grade 1 News

The new school year is off to a great start! We want to extend a warm welcome to all our new Grade 1 students and their families. The students have settled in wonderfully and are already on their way to a successful year. We kicked off the year with our first IPC Unit of Work, "Brainwave", where students explored how their brains work and learned how to prepare themselves for learning. They took part in fun and engaging activities and reflected on how these activities help them learn. Thank you for your incredible support in getting the year started, from sending in supplies and labeling belongings to answering questionnaires and volunteering. We are looking forward to a fantastic year ahead with all of you!

(Emma Phelps)



Grade 2 News



Grade 2 students have had an exciting start, settling well into their new routine. Our first unit "Brainwave" has been a wonderful opportunity to look at the different ways people learn and how we can look after our brain to get the most from it. Our learning journey took us on an exploration of the IPC personal goals and the importance of having a positive mindset. Students participated in a teacher led skill rotation activity to understand what helps and hinders learning. In mathematics, we carried out classroom surveys to gather data and practised representing and interpreting it with tallies and bar graphs. The students are showing great independence as they get used to the responsibilities of Grade 2. We look forward to a great year together.

(Sameerata Prakash)

Grade 3 News



We are delighted to welcome all our Grade 3 families back for another exciting year and extend a warm welcome to those joining our school community for the first time. This year began with our first IPC Unit of Work, "Brainwave," where students learned how the brain works, developed a growth mindset and took ownership of their learning. In Language Arts, they explored poetry through rhythm, themes and creative expression. In Mathematics, we focused on place value, building a strong foundation for the year ahead. The students have had a fantastic start and we look forward to sharing their learning journey with you.

(Hayley Kinnaird)

Physical Education (PE)

Welcome back to a new school year at OFS! We hope your summer was filled with rest, fun, and plenty of opportunities to stay active. We are excited to see our students back in the gym and on the courts, ready to move, learn, and grow together. In Physical Education, our goal is to help every child discover the joy of being active while building skills that last a lifetime. This year, students will take part in a wide range of activities designed to improve fitness, coordination, teamwork, and confidence. We have already begun the year with our Gymnastics and Net Games units, where students are practicing balance, body control, cooperation, and striking and rallying skills. These activities also build creativity, focus, and teamwork.

Physical Education is about more than just playing games—it is about building character, perseverance, and healthy habits. Throughout the year, we will touch on all of the IPC personal goals, with special emphasis on:

- Resilient – showing determination and bouncing back from challenges.
- Collaborator – working as part of a team and supporting others.
- Communicator – listening carefully and expressing ideas clearly.

We are looking forward to an exciting year of movement, learning, and fun in PE!

(Christopher Eng)



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Grade 4 News



It has been a busy first few weeks in Grade 4. Students have shown resilience and adaptability while getting used to life in a new grade level and the differences from Grade 3. Our first IPC unit, "Brainwave" has had the students understand the importance of having a growth mindset when it comes to their studies and all aspects of their lives. This should help them throughout their time in Grade 4 when they will be faced with many new challenges. In Language Arts, Information Report writing is the text type we begin with and students are beginning to understand the structure and different language features used when writing an information report. All their hard work should lead to some interesting reports! For the first few weeks of Mathematics, students have been looking at place value, rounding, standard and expanded and will now move onto working with the four operations.

(Guy Watts)

Languages News

Our language classrooms have had a fantastic start to the new school year, with our Foreign Language and Mother Tongue teachers warmly welcoming back both familiar faces and new students. Through a series of engaging icebreaker games, students had the chance to get to know their classmates and build new friendships. There was great excitement as everyone shared stories and adventures from their recent holidays. To make our classrooms feel like a real community, students also created "All About Me" pages with fun facts and drawings. This spirit of community continued with our first cultural celebrations. The Hindi Foreign Language students marked Indian Independence Day by creating vibrant posters, flags, and badges, and learned about the important history behind this celebration. Similarly, our French students practiced their greetings, enthusiastically welcoming new and old friends alike with a cheerful "Bonjour!" This collaborative and joyful beginning has set a great tone, and we are excited for all the language-learning journeys ahead!

(Monica Makkar and Roger Calais)



Grade 5 News

Welcome back to all our families, and a special warm welcome to our new ones. The Grade 5 students have had a fantastic start to the year and are already demonstrating strong Personal Goals in their learning. We launched our first IPC unit, "Moving People," with a powerful simulation of a refugee journey. Students "trekked" through challenging landscapes, facing obstacles along the way as they worked to reach safety. These immersive, hands-on activities gave them a deeper understanding of the hardships faced by displaced people around the world. Each class has also elected its Junior Student Council representatives, who have proudly received their badges and begun weekly meetings. We are looking forward to a year filled with growth, learning and meaningful experiences.

(Karla Kleist)



Music News

We are thrilled to welcome our students back to Level 10 as they begin their musical journey this year. Our goal is to ignite your child's love for music while ensuring they have some fun along the way. Grade 1 students have been working on rhythm and beat through unpitched percussion instruments. In Grade 2, students are developing their skills on the xylophone, while our Grade 3 students are learning a new instrument, the recorder. Grade 4 students are continuing their recorder skills with the C major scale, while in Grade 5, students are learning all about the djembe drum from West Africa. We have also started the auditions for this year's musical, 'Moana Jr.'. We are very excited about the year ahead, filled with musical adventures and celebrations!

(Maya Menon Mitsuyasu)

OFS Tigers



We are so excited to welcome the OFS Tigers teams back to school in preparation for our fourth year competing in ACSIS, national and international level sports.

Over the past three years – the OFS Tigers have established themselves as one of the most formidable sporting outfits in Singapore across 15 sports and fielding over 100 teams across six main age groups throughout each year.

It was a very busy Summer in the pool for OFS with two OFS Tigers swimmers competing internationally and OFS hosting three international teams on our campus, supporting them in their preparations for the World Aquatics Swimming World Championships.

Tia Steere was selected to represent Singapore on the Singapore National Team at the 47th Southeast Asian Age Group Aquatics Championships held in the World Aquatics World Championship pool. Having turned 12 only a few days prior and having to compete in the 13 year old category - Tia is now, not only the fastest 12 year old in Singapore - but also the fastest 12 year old in all of South East Asia in both the 50m and 100m Breaststroke. She was impressive with significant improvements in personal best times leading to #3 place finish in Southeast Asia amongst the 12 year olds on both the 200m Breaststroke and 800m Freestyle.

Jill Meines competed at the Dutch Nationals. Her third time competing in Amersfoort, Holland, saw her reach the podium twice. Taking the Silver medal in the Women's 4x200 Freestyle relay and a bronze medal in the Women's 1500m individual freestyle, Jill is now ranked amongst the Top 3 best swimmers in her age group in both Singapore and the Netherlands.

OFS was honoured to welcome and host the national swim teams of Chile, South Africa, and Israel— featuring Olympians and world-class swimmers—who trained in our pool and gym ahead of the World Aquatics 2025 Swimming World Championships. Amongst them were 6x Olympian Kristel Kobrich of Chile, double World Champion Anastasiya Gorbenco of Israel and World Champion and double silver medalist Pieter Coetzee together with bronze medalist Kaylene Corbett, who are both South African. OFS was also visited by the incredible Mr. Osamu Itoi of Japan who was crowned World Masters Champion in the 50m and 100m Backstroke.

This 2025-2026 year of competitive sport is all set and promises to be faster, bigger, stronger and even better! Wishing all the OFS Tigers a fun, safe and successful season!

(Gil Levy – Head of Competitive Sport)

SPP

We have started the year with a wonderful group of students in our dedicated SPP1 and SPP2 homebases, all excited and keen to develop their English language skills alongside their study skills. Across some of the mainstream classes we have SPP3 students who are also continuing their English language journey. We wish all our SPP students a fantastic year as they move through the levels.

(Roger Calais)



New Staff

ALISON MACDONALD

Hi, my name is Alison MacDonald and I am from Edinburgh, Scotland. Scotland is known for its beautiful landscapes and scenery along with its wet weather. I have lived in Singapore for 4 years now and love the friendliness of the people, the diversity, food and the climate that the Little Red Dot offers. Before relocating to Singapore, I taught in the Middle East for 5 years, enjoying the desert and sunshine in Dubai. In my free time I enjoy running, reading and trampoline classes. I am excited to join the Grade 4 Team at OFS this year and look forward to getting to know the wider community.



ANDREW WILLIAMS

Hi! My name is Andrew Williams and I am originally from England although I have not lived there for many years now. In my teaching career I have taught in the UK, Hong Kong, Kazakhstan, Malaysia and Singapore for the last thirteen years. I have also spent time backpacking around the world as well as working in Australia and New Zealand. I have taught children from Grade 2 to Grade 5 and I am very much enjoying my time teaching Grade 3 at OFS. It is great to be back living in Singapore after a few years away and when I am not teaching you may see me running or cycling in Pasir Ris!



TERRY MORAN

G'day! I am Mr. Terry from Australia, where I first tickled piano keys and rapped a bow around a double bass. Along the way I composed, acted, and played with the magic of theatre lights and sound. My fascination with Vietnamese instruments began before moving to Singapore in 2003, turned up the volume, and led to my 2020 book, available on Amazon. Now I'm striking a chord with the wonderful OFS staff, jamming with Grade 2–5 musicians, rocking with Band, tooting with Recorder Club, and helping "Moana Jr." hit the high notes. Ready to make treble together?



Chess News

Grade 5 student Ashwath Kaushik has reached another remarkable milestone in his young chess career, sensationally earning his first International Master (IM) norm at the prestigious 10th Marina Viva Porticcio Open in Corsica, France. At just 9 years, 10 months, and 27 days, Ashwath becomes only the second player in the world to achieve this feat before the age of 10. This latest success is certain to attract attention from the global chess community and marks a significant step forward for the young prodigy's already impressive career.

(Dijana Dengler and Philipp Ziegler)

