Newsletter November 2026

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 recent Parent-Student-Teacher conferences were a wonderful success with students having the opportunity to discuss with their parents about what they have learnt, their areas of strength and reflecting on areas with room for growth. We trust that you found the conferences helpful in understanding more about your child's education and where they are in their learning journey. Please remember that communication with our teachers is welcome throughout the year, so should you have any questions, concerns or wish to discuss your child's progress further, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Our Kindergarten and Elementary School students enjoyed an exciting and memorable experience on Friday, 23 October, when the Dino-A-Live show came to OFS! The highlight of the event was the appearance of a life-sized Tyrannosaurus rex, which roamed among the students, bringing the prehistoric world to life right before their eyes. There was plenty of excitement, curiosity and wonder as the children watched this incredible dinosaur come to life.

It was a fantastic experience for our students, giving them the chance to engage with the wonders of the natural world in a fun and memorable way. We hope they enjoyed sharing their dinosaur adventures and discoveries with you at home!

Finally, we are pleased to share that OFS will once again be partnering with Food from the Heart, a local non-profit organisation dedicated to providing consistent and sustainable food support to those in need through its food distribution programmes across Singapore. Our school food collection drive will run from 20 November to 4 December 2026. During this period, we invite our OFS families to join us in supporting this meaningful initiative by contributing food items for donation. 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. Thank you, as always, for your generosity and continued support of our school community and the wider Singapore community.

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



Important Dates:
8 November - Deepavali
9 November - Public Holiday
10 November - Last day of ECAs
12 November - PA Deepavali Coffee Morning
16 November - OFS Tigers Season 2 Competitive Sports begins
16-24 November - Grade 1-5 Art Exhibition
17 November - Grade 1 and 3 Holiday Concert
20 November - Grade 2 and 4 Holiday Concert
20 November - 4 December - Food from the Heart
24 November - Grade 5 Holiday Concert

OFS 35th Anniversary













Grade 1 News

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, and what it means to be responsible and safe on holiday. 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. Alongside our IPC units, the children have had a blast diving into procedural writing! They turned into master chefs as they followed, created, and wrote out step-by-step instructions for delicious recipes.The students are looking forward to sharing their performances with you at the upcoming Holiday Concert.

(Emma Phelps)





Grade 2 News



The Grade 2 students have been really excited about our IPC unit, "Different Places, Similar Lives". They are learning that although we may be from different countries, we share many similarities with people around us. For the Entry Point, children went on a tour around the world through a teacher-led activity in which the Grade 2 teachers presented information about different countries. Students have been exploring what a typical school day looks like in different countries, discovering how children around the world learn, play and experience school life. The Dino Odyssey show was an exciting and memorable experience for our students, who had the incredible opportunity to see a life-sized T-Rex come to life and walk onto our school campus. The thrilling encounter sparked wonder and excitement as students watched the dinosaur up close, bringing their imagination to life.

(Sameerata Prakash)

International Primary Curriculum

Writing With Purpose for Multilingual Learners - Writing becomes meaningful when children see its purpose, communication - connecting, remembering and sharing. You can build an interest and love of writing at home by letting your children write in the language your family uses or in English. Make writing meaningful, join your children in writing thank you notes, postcards to family members overseas, weekly menus, grocery lists, birthday party invites, these shared interactive writing opportunities help build confidence. Encourage them to write about things they love, jokes, a guide on 'how to' play a game or make a tasty snack. Keep the sessions short and simple, praise ideas and effort before spelling!

(Shalini Maira)

Grade 3 News





The Grade 3 students completed their IPC Unit of Work on "Bright Sparks". They did a brilliant job presenting what they learnt at their Exit Point, working collaboratively in groups on their boards, presentations and recycled renewable energy houses. Our final unit for this semester is "How Humans Work". Throughout this unit, Grade 3 students will explore how their senses and body systems function. In Language Arts, they will write 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.

(Amber Foley)

Physical Education (PE)

Some classes have wrapped up their Swimming Program. Our students showed so much courage, enthusiasm, and progress in the water—we're super proud of them all! Now, we're jumping into our Athletics unit, where students will be practising 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. As we play, we'll 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's a great chance to build character while having fun! We're also mindful of the current haze situation and prioritising our students' health and well-being. If outdoor PE activities are not suitable due to the haze, we have alternative plans in place to ensure students can continue to stay active and enjoy their PE lessons safely. Here's to another awesome term filled with fun, fitness, and fantastic teamwork in PE!

(Christopher Eng)

Grade 4 News



October seems to have flown by. The students were very excited about presenting to their parents and other grades their 'Shared Learning Experience'. The IPC Personal Goals of collaborator, communicator, thinker and adaptable were all on show during the learning process. The Grade 4 floor was buzzing with activity and it was great to see so many parents come along and support us. We are now well into our Math Module 2 and the focus has been on function machines, 2D and 3D shapes and coordinates. The students have been able to show their understanding of the different concepts taught through math games. Grade 4 have started their narrative unit and will be creating some fun stories to share with their classmates focusing on character and setting development along with dialogue to bring the characters to life.

(Guy Watts)

Art News



Our young artists have been busy exploring, experimenting and bringing their creative ideas to life as they wrap up their second Units of Work! From colourful printmaking and drawing the human figure in proportion to discovering how architecture changes over time. The Art rooms have been buzzing with imagination. Students have also been painting expressive self-portraits and sculpting clay artworks. Every project reflects their growing artistic skills, unique perspectives and wonderful creativity! We warmly invite all families to visit the Art Exhibition, taking place from **16–24 November** in the **Elementary School Level 4 Activity Room**. Come and admire the fantastic creations your children have worked so hard on and celebrate their artistic journeys with us. We look forward to welcoming you and sharing the joy of art together!

(Wendy Tan)

From The Parent Association (PA) Desk

Warm wishes for November! Happy Deepavali to all our families celebrating the Festival of Lights! May this special occasion bring joy, peace and happiness to your homes.

To all students preparing for their exams, we wish you confidence, focus and success. May your hard work lead to wonderful results. Remember to rest well, stay positive and do your best!

Grade 5 News

The Grade 5 students have been exploring diplomacy, global issues, and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals through the OFS Model United Nations Unit, developing their understanding of collaboration and global citizenship. In Language Arts, students are working towards strengthening their persuasive writing and debating skills by considering different perspectives, using precise language, and justifying arguments with clear reasoning and evidence. In Mathematics, students have been learning about the properties of 2D and 3D shapes, classifying angles, and practising accurate angle measurement. Excitement continues to build as students prepare to showcase their musical talents and teamwork at the upcoming Holiday Concert.

(Karla Kleist)





Languages News

This month, the Languages Department celebrated **Languages Week** with the exciting theme **"The Global Playground."** Students from Foreign Language and Mother Tongue classes embarked on a fun-filled cultural journey as they rotated through different language classrooms, exploring traditional games from around the world. From Indian games like Ludo, Kabaddi and Raja Mantri Chor Sipahi to Korean Tuho and Yut Nori, French Pétanque and Jeu de l'Oie, German Mensch ärgere dich nicht, Dutch Zakdoek Leggen, Finnish Mölkky, Japanese Sugoroku, Chinese Jump Rope and Shuttlecock Kicking, Swedish Fia med Knuff, Israeli TAKI and Dreidel, Norwegian Bro Bro Brille, Italian Morra and traditional Brazilian games such as Hopscotch and Marbles, students enjoyed a wonderful variety of cultural experiences. They also explored Danish LEGO activities, traditional playground games and interactive challenges that encouraged creativity, collaboration and friendly competition. Through these engaging activities, students discovered new vocabulary, developed teamwork and gained a deeper appreciation of the diverse cultures and traditions represented in our school community. Languages Week was a joyful celebration of language, culture, friendship and the universal joy of learning through play!

(Monica Makkar and Roger Calais)

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, Trolls JR. will continue every week. We can't wait to share these exciting musical performances with you soon!

(Maya Mitsuyasu)

Sports News





Little Tigers Lead the Way!

What a sensational start to the sports season! Our youngest athletes are bringing incredible energy to the fields and courts, and their hard work is paying off in a big way. Our U12 Boys, U12 Girls, and U14 Girls Badminton teams are holding top positions in ACSIS Division 1, while our U12 Netball team is soaring high with an unstoppable 3–0 record at the top of the table. While seeing our teams at the top of the standings is exciting, what makes us proudest is the heart, sportsmanship, and support our student-athletes show at every single practice. For us, it is always about the journey of growth over wins and losses. Through sports, our Tigers are learning invaluable life skills like competing with respect, solving problems under pressure, and taking pride in their personal accountability and team effort. A massive shout-out as well to our resilient students and dedicated coaches for their fantastic attitude during recent haze disruptions. Instead of letting weather challenges slow them down, they adapted quickly, stayed positive, and made the absolute most of every training opportunity. Thank you to our amazing parents and school community for your endless encouragement and support! Let's keep this wonderful energy going and cheer on our Tigers as the season continues.

(Bruce Shang – Head of Athletics)

New Staff

NIAMH MCNELIS



My name is Niamh McNelis and I'm from Galway, the rainiest city in Ireland! After graduating from Dublin City University in 2017 with a Bachelor's Degree in Education, I spent time teaching in Ireland, Australia, and New Zealand. I moved to Singapore in 2024 and joined the Grade 1 team at Overseas Family School in 2026. I am deeply passionate about creating a safe, supportive classroom where every student is inspired to reach their full potential. Outside of school, I enjoy hiking, yoga, painting, and exploring Singapore. I'm proud to be part of the Overseas Family School community!

CAROLE MEPHAM



Hello everyone! My name is Carole Mepham, and I'm originally from Geneva, Switzerland. I began my teaching career in Lausanne after completing a Bachelor's degree in Preschool and Primary Education and a Master's degree in Educational Sciences. With a passion for travelling and discovering new cultures, I decided to combine my love of teaching with a new adventure abroad. This brought me to Singapore, where I had the wonderful opportunity to help establish the French Stream at an international school, initially opening the combined Grade 3–4 class, later incorporating Grade 5, before taking on a new challenge with the combined Grade 1–2 class. After becoming a mum and taking some time to care for my son, I returned to teaching, taking on a new challenge at OFS as a French language teacher. What I love most about my current role is the opportunity to work with students across different grade levels, making learning French engaging, meaningful and enjoyable. I particularly enjoy helping French-speaking students maintain a strong connection with their mother tongue while introducing others to the richness of a new language and culture.

Library News

Our ES library aims to facilitate our students to develop a lifelong love of reading through a range of library activities. Parents can help with this at home by sharing read-alouds, discovering book series and classic favourites, and exploring books connected to personal interests. Funny books, graphic novels and ebooks (such as Epic!) offer different ways to engage with reading. Through browsing library displays, exploring the shelves, sharing recommendations and visiting the library regularly, students can discover new authors, genres and formats, helping them develop their reading interests and confidence.

(Catherine Kmet)

Chess News

OFS Chess Race for the Golden Pawn!

The OFS Chess Race for the Golden Pawn has begun! All Elementary School classes are collecting points while building teamwork, strengthening friendships and practising fair play through chess. The class that collects the most points will win the Golden Pawn, a shared achievement for the whole class! Let's work together, support our classmates and make every move count!

(Dijana Dengler and Philipp Ziegler)