Newsletter November 2026

Overseas Family School
Middle School

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

Principal's Message



With our new one to one device policy, we have been speaking to students about the role of technology in their lives both at school and at home. Devices and social media play a significant role in communication and entertainment. While there are many very positive ways that these impact students' lives in facilitating connection, communication and learning, technology can also add negative and stressful elements too. It is essential that we work together with parents to limit the potential of this negativity and help our students to become responsible digital citizens.

In the Middle School, our policy is clear: phone use is prohibited between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. during instructional hours. Phones should be locked in students' lockers before they go to Homebase in the morning and stay there until the final bell rings. Additionally, we encourage strict supervision of laptop use during school-related tasks. Students may only use their laptops/tablets in supervised situations. These measures are in place to keep students focused on their learning without unnecessary distractions as well as to help keep them safe. At home we encourage parents to monitor devices and set clear expectations. While we know that students now often need computers to complete homework tasks, limiting screen time—especially for social media purposes—can help your child maintain focus on schoolwork. Removing devices from rooms at night can help students to get the rest they need. Being involved and aware of what your children are doing online and what groups they are a part of is essential at this age. While I know it can be a struggle for parents to balance these rules with their child's emerging independence, most are not yet mature enough to navigate this tricky landscape without help.

I encourage you to talk to your children about their online presence, as well as discuss the importance of being kind online. The perceived anonymity online can lead to unkindness. I often ask students to imagine looking at the person in the eye and reading a post or comment. If they cannot see themselves doing that, they should not write it. We are aware of several class and grade level private whatsapp groups. Please note that these are not supervised nor set up by the school and are not needed for any classwork purposes. As you can imagine, a lot of negativity can go on in these groups without proper supervision. I would encourage you to know what groups your child is in and what is being said.

In November, students are beginning to prepare for upcoming end of semester assessments. While exams are important, I want to remind everyone that they are just one measure of student learning. There is no need for excessive stress. The best way to feel confident going into exams is through regular upkeep of schoolwork. Encourage your child to stay on top of assignments, ask for help when needed, and approach these assessments with a balanced mindset. Consistent effort, rather than cramming, will help students succeed and avoid unnecessary anxiety. We want students to see exams as simply a part of their learning journey, not the final destination.

Arin Mares
Middle School Principal
arin_mares@ofs.edu.sg

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!

Science Club

In Science Club, we are studying Non-Newtonian liquids which are special fluids that do not follow the usual rules of how liquids flow. Instead of staying the same thickness, they change depending on how hard or fast you push on them. If you squeeze or punch them, they instantly act like a solid, but if you let them rest, they flow like a regular liquid—just like a mix of cornstarch and water (oobleck)!

(Carolyn Tay – SAL Sciences)







Deputy Principal's Message



Quarter 2 has been humming with energy, activity, and vibrant learning across campus! Our students have shown wonderful resilience and high spirits over the past few weeks, taking every schedule tweak in stride. While the haze has kept us indoors a bit more than usual, it certainly has not dampened our fun! We have transformed our indoor break times with a fantastic lineup of cozy lunchtime clubs—from Movie Club screenings and relaxing Mindfulness sessions to friendly rivalry in Board Games Club. We are also eagerly looking forward to rescheduling any outdoor events that were postponed so our students get the full experience they have been excited for.

A major highlight of this quarter was our recent Parent-Teacher Conferences. It was a joy to see our halls buzzing with families! These conversations are so valuable for celebrating student growth, sharing milestones, and deepening the strong partnership between home and school. Please remember that our doors are always open, and we encourage open, ongoing dialogue throughout the entire year.

In sports, our Season 1 Tigers deserve a massive round of applause! Their dedication, teamwork, and school spirit were inspiring to watch from start to finish. As we gear up for Season 2 Tigers Sports, we wish all our student-athletes the absolute best in their upcoming competitions—go Tigers!

As Semester 1 draws to a close, our students are enjoying the final weeks of their current Extra-Curricular Activities (ECAs). Looking ahead to Semester 2, we have a fresh lineup of exciting new clubs on the horizon. Keep an eye out for sign-up details and activity options coming your way soon.

Finally, our students are beginning to prepare for Semester 1 Examination Week, running from Wednesday, 18 November to Tuesday, 24 November. Designed as a supportive learning opportunity, these internal assessments help students practise effective study habits and build confidence in exam settings. Teachers will be guiding students through revision strategies every step of the way. Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. Wishing all our families a wonderful month ahead!

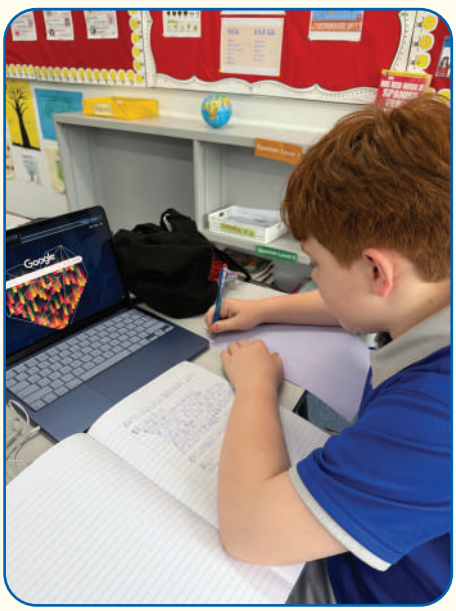
(Hayley Brian – Middle School Deputy Principal)
hayley_brian@ofs.edu.sg

Spanish Exchange Project

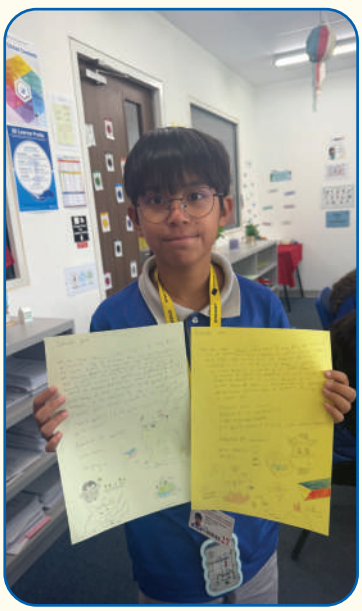
Our Spanish 1 learners have been taking part in a language exchange with a school in Spain. After working hard on letters introducing themselves, they were excited to receive letters from their pen pals this week! This has been a very enriching experience for all the students, giving them the opportunity to practise Spanish in a real-life context while connecting with native Spanish speakers on the other side of the world. They have exchanged information about their cultures, hobbies, and school lives, discovering similarities and differences along the way. We are looking forward to the next stage of the project! Congratulations to all our students on their hard work and enthusiasm!

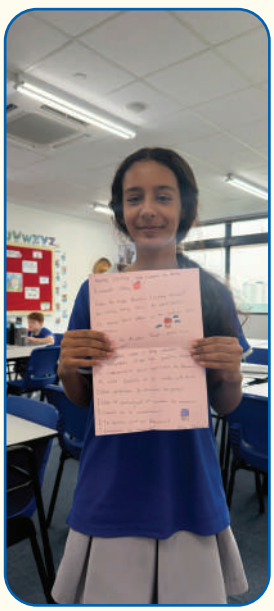
(Mireia Moncaya – Spanish Language Acquisition Teacher)











OFS Students Attend NLCS MUN II



On Saturday, 26 September 2026, a group of Grade 6 and 7 students took part in their very first Model United Nations conference at North London Collegiate School. The event, NLCS MUN II, brought together young delegates to explore global issues under the theme "Dialogue Despite Division." Throughout the day students had the opportunity to practise their public speaking, share ideas and work alongside delegates from other schools. It was great to see our students grow in confidence as they took part in debates and contributed to discussions. Well done to all our students for taking on a new challenge and representing OFS so well!

(Jonathan Wilkinson – Middle School Academic and MUN Coordinator)















Ashwath Represents Singapore at the World Chess Olympiad

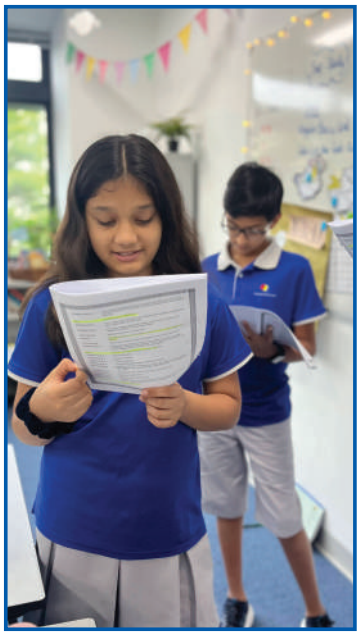
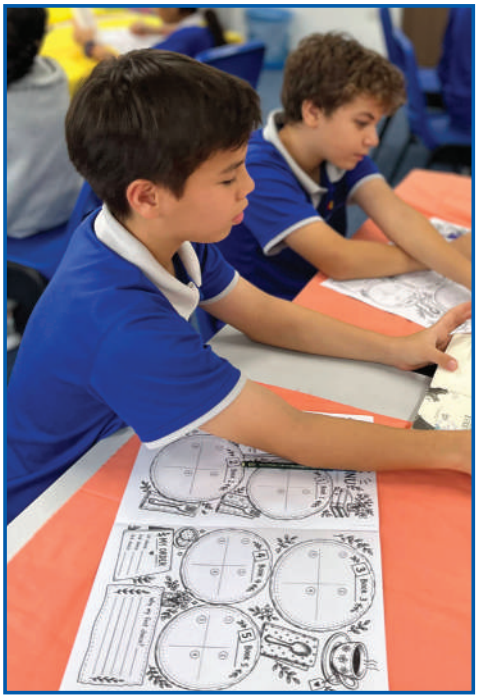
We are very proud of our Grade 6 student Ashwath Kaushik, who represented Singapore at the 46th FIDE World Chess Olympiad in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, this September. At just 11 years old, he competed as part of Singapore's adult team against players from around the world. An amazing achievement! Ashwath was also featured in The Straits Times: **https://www.straitstimes.com/sport/meet-the-kids-leading-singapores-rise-on-the-chess-board**
We are very excited to follow his chess journey and look forward to celebrating his future achievements!

(Dijana Dengler and Philipp Ziegler – Chess Teachers)





Grade 6 and 7 Language and Literature

Athletics Department

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 us keep this wonderful energy going and cheer on our Tigers as the season continues.

(Bruce Shang – Head of Athletics)