



OBEROI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

OIS NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2nd, 2012

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Message from the Head of School

Greetings OIS Community:

It is good to be back at the school. It feels like I have been on the road a lot lately. Some of it was rather busy; some of it was fun. In the fun category for sure was my trip with Grade 5 students to Thailand. I am very thankful that Grade 5 teachers and students allowed me to join them on this trip. It was a great experience for all involved and I must say, we had a lot more fun and learned a lot more than Grade 11 students who were at the same centre as us -☺. Well, I may be just a little biased!

Overall, we had a number of great trips going all over the place in many grades and all of the trips, while very different in nature, were a great learning experience for our students. It is a shame that not all of the students were able to experience the same trips. We are now analyzing these trips and we will see how we can improve things for the next school year. It goes without saying that learning goes far beyond the walls of the school. Some trips

came at a cost, but definitely worth the money spent, in terms of experience and education gained. I would like to take this chance to thank all of the teachers who went on these trips to facilitate and empower the educational experience of our students. Their dedication and time spent is much appreciated.

As I mentioned in my last letter, we had a preliminary visit from CIS/NEASC, it went well and while we are still awaiting the official report, during our exit interview the visitors commented on many things we do right and also pointed out some areas in need of improvement. I am glad to report that there was almost no discrepancy between our own assessment and what the visitors noted. Their report will serve as a guide for us in the next 18 months as we roll up our sleeves and go to work to make our school an even better place for our students and parents. I will keep updating you on our progress

in that regard. We will spend a lot more time and effort on professional development. Our 2012 – 2013 school year calendar is almost ready to be published and there you will see ample time allocated to further training of our teachers and working on the curriculum. We are also committed to educating our families in many ways.

The core of any school is its' teachers. That was another reason for my recent absence, as I attended one of the job fairs in our efforts to hire more teachers with international experience. I am happy to report that we were successful and we have only a few positions left to fill. Just as soon as all of the positions are filled I will provide you with names and designations of all of our new hires.

Well, it is time to wrap up this letter, wish you all well and, as always, remind you, that I am open to any and all communications from you.

Until next time,



Dr. Vladimir Kuskovski
Head of School



Message from the Head of Primary

Dear Parents,

This week I am starting this newsletter article by sharing some of the experiences of 10 primary staff. We have set up a link with Teach for India (www.teachforindia.org). Teach For India is a nationwide movement of college graduates and young professionals who teach full time in low income schools for two years. They complete some training at the start of their 2 year placement and learn a lot on the job. We are currently working with 23 fellows who have been into school to work with some of our OIS staff, and then our OIS staff also visit the schools in which the fellows teach. Although there are huge differences in the resources, infrastructure and student roll between OIS and the TFI schools, both the fellows and OIS staff share the same passion: providing the best quality and experiences for their students. We are hoping that this link between OIS and TFI will benefit the learning of students but also of all staff involved.

Please do not send your children to school sick. We have had a number of children coming to school having been dosed up at home and are really not well. Children do not learn effectively if they are not well, please keep them at home until they are well enough to be an active participant in class.

As I walk around in the morning, I also notice quite a number of students

coming to school well into the first period. School starts at 7:50 for registration and the first lesson starts at 8:00am. The introduction to a lesson is often the most important aspect as that is the time when the teacher assesses students' prior knowledge and starts introducing the objective which is to be taught. Students can miss out on vital information if they are late at the beginning of the day. It is also really important for young children to go through the set up of the day, as this helps them settle.

We have Student lead conferences coming up. You should now have received more information about this. We look forward to welcoming you on the 7th.

The Early Years staff has some wonderful and wet activities planned to celebrate Holi. You will receive additional information in the run up to this festival. However I can say that it involves lots of water, water guns and getting wet!!

As always, thank you to parents who volunteered as guest speakers, have attended assemblies or been to the phonic sessions. It's always great to see parents actively involved in school life.'



We would like to introduce "reading relatives" in the Primary school at OIS. We are asking relatives (mums, dads, older siblings, grandparents) of our students who can dedicate 1 hour each week, to come into school and listen to students read. We would ask that the volunteers have a short workshop with Ms Clare, our literacy coordinator, prior to working with our students. If you are interested in supporting this venture, please sign up on the google doc link below and Ms Dhyanvi (primary school co-ordinator) will get in touch with you shortly.

REGISTRATION LINK: READING RELATIVES.

<https://docs.google.com/a/oberoi-is.org/spreadsheet/viewform?pli=1&formkey=dGdRcDFVcWpoM1BBMUzVDdCdINPMnc6MQ#gid=0>

Georgina Gray

Head of Primary

Messages from the Secondary School

Project Week Trips

Over the last two weeks, nearly half of students in OIS Secondary have been continuing their education outside the classroom on residential trips. They have all safely returned to school and are full of stories of their experiences. Stevie in Grade 7 who went to Sajan Nature Camp and Dabhosa Waterfall Resort talked about 'an extraordinary experience' and how she 'learnt so many new things but at the same time had fun!' Vibha of Grade 9 said of her

trip to Tirthan Valley in Himachal Pradesh the following: 'It was a combination of learning life skills, working as a better team and strengthening friendships'. Sumeet of Grade 11 talked about the many adventure activities on his trip to Thailand and how this was a 'good learning experience'.

A big thank you to all the teachers who organised these trips and accompanied our students to these exciting destinations. They are: Mr. Damian, Ms.

Shilpi, Ms. Meredith and Mr. Bhavesh (Grade 7); Mr. Sandeep, Ms Abirami, Mr. Mahesh and Ms Richa (Grade 9); Mr. Alexander, Ms Jagruti & Ms Linda (Grade 11).

Philip MacDonald-Milner

Deputy-Head Pastoral (Secondary)



On the academic side of the Secondary school programme things are moving on

pace. Our exam years have just finished their mock exams and will now be involved mostly in revision of all their subjects in the run up to the final exams in May.

Teachers are making comments on all students' mid-semester progress and these will be issued to parents the day before the Secondary School PTM on 7th March. Grades 9 and 11 will have their first taste of a full exam after the Spring break which will help inform our final reports of the year. Lower Secondary will also have short subject tests in their normal lesson time during April and May; these will be put toward the continuous assessment that

has gone on over the year but not be weighted more than 20%.

I am also very pleased to be able to announce that Aashay Sukhthankar of Grade 12 has won an annual academic merit scholarship to Florida Institute of Technology. Aashay, as well as his school support team of IB Coordinator, Guidance counselor, and all his subject teachers should take pride in this achievement. We wish Aashay well in the next step in to Higher Education.

Final confirmations are being made regarding the NASA Space School trip in June. I have been kept informed of the planning which has been led by Ms Shilpi Rayakar and I can say that the fifty or so students and 5 staff are in for a very full and educational trip run by "Frontiers Edutainment" (final dates will be announced shortly) The programme of tasks test teamwork, problem solving, fiscal responsibility,

good communication in English, adaptation to Unexpected Problems and the drive to be successful, has been organized so that all students will have a chance to contribute in a competitive and stimulating environment; they will no doubt have much to tell us after the summer break. More information about the type of activity can be found at

<http://www.frontiersedu.com/>

Ian Ritchie,

Deputy Head Secondary, Academics

Message from the Head of PE

The weather in Mumbai is an experience in itself. We've gone from some of the coldest days on record during January to the hottest day on record for 66 years in February!! How am I supposed to plan a PE programme?!

With the weather getting warmer I would ask you to please ensure all students bring water bottles to school every day and those who have PE outdoors (mostly our Secondary students) bring a cap. This would also apply to sports ASA's.

PE Uniform must be worn to all CCA/ASA sporting activities!

A few Parent volunteers have begun to get involved in ASA's already this semester and it is great to see them actively involved in what we are trying to achieve. More volunteers are welcome!

We have a few events on the horizon

Saturday 3rd March is our 2nd Annual Swim Gala. Some 30 International Schools have been invited to compete so it should be a great event. Selection for this will be through our Advanced Swimmers only but we do plan to have an OIS Swim Meet in May for all other students. Thank You to all the parents who have offered their valuable services and volunteered to help in all sorts of ways. If you'd like to join them then please feel free to contact me. You are all invited to come and watch and cheer at any point during the day (09.00-14.00).

We have several Cricket, Football, Basketball, Tennis, and Athletics fixtures/events planned for all our age groups, including Staff v Students, in the coming months too. Again, your support is most welcome.

As part of our aim to make OIS a School with a real community spirit we are exploring options as to how we can all get together and have some fun. Social sports leagues, festivals, and regular

events are all being investigated. Please do let me know if you have any suggestions.

Finally, congratulations to Ilaria Sarup (Grade 6) for winning the trophy for "In Pursuit of Excellence in Swimming 2012. As always, we are proud to acknowledge and celebrate all our student successes whether through the school or otherwise. Well done!

Aryan's Kudva (SKG) participated in the 5th Interschool Taekwondo Competition held at ASB. Aryan was the youngest participant and was awarded a silver medal and a certificate in the Poomse Category for his age. Aryan is currently a Green Belt. Well done!

Michael Hurn

PE Head

INTERNATIONAL AWARD

OBEROI International School introduced THE INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR YOUNG PEOPLE programme in the year 2010.

The Award Programme was first introduced in the United Kingdom in 1956 as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The aim was to motivate young people aged between 14 and 25 years to become involved in a

balanced programme of voluntary self-development activities to take them through the potentially difficult period between adolescence and adulthood.

The Award's concept is one of individual challenge, giving young people a balanced, non-competitive programme of voluntary activities which encourage personal discovery and growth, self-reliance, perseverance, responsibility to

themselves and service to their community. Those who participate in the Award are expected to follow its requirements in a non-competitive manner with a determination to succeed, either individually or as part of a team. The Award therefore is challenging, and can be undertaken at your own pace.

The school will undertake new enrollment for the program in AUGUST 2012.



Important Dates

03rd March: Annual Swim Gala

07th March: Parent Teacher Meet

07th March: Book Exhibition

08th March: Holi Holidays

12th March: School re-opens

We hope you enjoyed reading the tenth edition of the OIS Newsletter for the Academic Year 2011-12.

With best wishes,

OIS Team

