



OBEROI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

OIS NEWSLETTER

APRIL 19th, 2012

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Message from the Head of School

Greetings OIS Community:

Greetings and Salutations to all of you, from the comfort of my air-conditioned office!

It makes me think how small our world is and how quickly a drastic change can come into one's life. Only a week ago, I was just above the Arctic Circle in a city called Kogalym. Don't worry if you have never heard of it, I hadn't either until a few weeks ago, when I was asked to come and help a school there to get IBO authorization and introduce international education. So in the matter of one day I went from +30 C to - 20 C. What a change! However, when I walked into the school and started talking to students, teachers and parents I realized that it is not all that different from OIS, or a school in Europe I used to work at in the past. Yes, people speak a different language and the temperature of course is a tad bit different, but the thirst for knowledge is the same. The concepts are also the same- kids in classes are using different books, but discussing the same world wide important things, such as war and corruption. The reason I mentioned

those two issues is that this is what my mind has been on as I have been talking about it with some Grade 5 students in preparation for their exhibition. It really brought home the idea that we all are united in education. The power of international education is incredible and I am so very proud to be part of it and help students here in India to understand global issues and work towards resolving them. All the while knowing that there is another school above the Arctic Circle which is doing the same thing, and another thousand schools across the globe are also doing the same is a powerful notion. Indeed knowledge is power that will change this world and make it a better place if that knowledge comes by way of international education.

Ok, now down to earth to our locality of OIS, where lots of changes are in the air, some good, some sad. As this year comes to an end, we will be saying goodbye to some of our teachers and administrators who have been with us -- some from the start from the school

some for a shorter period of time. However, the end of the school is still a few months away, so I will be sure to do a proper thank you in the final newsletter. At this stage I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Major Nitesh Kala, as our Head of HR is moving on at the end of this month. He has been with the company for over 3 years, but at the school for only 7 months, but it feels like a lot longer due to all of the positive changes he brought in sorting out a myriad of logistics, vendor negotiations, recruitment and about another 100 things he has been doing daily. I personally will miss him dearly, but I know he is going to assume much bigger responsibilities and wish him the best of luck in his new job.

As parents from the Secondary school already know Ms. Shanna Mitchell has joined the school as Head of Secondary. Ms. Puja Srivastava has been appointed as the Director of IT to streamline our effort for further IT integration into our educational process and to oversee overall development of IT at the school. She brings years of experience from the corporate world in the area of IT and management as well as some years of teaching experience.

Mr. Mike Hurn, our Head of PE will assume the responsibility of CCA coordinator and will be working on the continuous improvement of our after schools activities program.

Mr. Philip Milner, in addition to his current responsibilities, will assume the whole school coordination of extended field trips, as we truly believe that education neither starts nor ends in the classroom alone. Ms Jill Majeski will become a whole school community service coordinator, as we are placing a lot of emphasis on bringing up a socially responsive group of young people.

There will be more staff changes coming, I will be sure to keep you all informed.

Over the next few weeks Mr. Alex Simester, Ms. Georgina Gray and myself will be participating in visiting teams as part of the CIS accreditation process. This is not only a very good experience for all of us, especially as we ourselves embark to the road of seeking such accreditation, but also a good PR for our school, as we all go as part of OIS. This also means that our school is recognized in the international school community. This is what we do as we become part of the larger community of international schools. Just like being part of the IBO we gain experience and knowledge from teachers and administrators from other schools as well as some of our own teachers are IB examiners and/or workshop leaders, who provide these services for other schools. It goes without saying that none of this work is compensated beyond the expenses of travel and accommodation. I also have another very interesting trip coming up prior to the accreditation visit. I will write about it in the next newsletter, as

this one is getting too long already and I hope you will read more interesting news from all of our school divisions!

Now, please read on about the 4th grade sleep over at the school, the last day of school for Grade 12 and grade 10 students, our glorious victory over the Soccer School of Excellence, meeting with concerned families on IGCSE and IB, the IB Art Show and much more in this issue.

Be well,

Stay in touch,



Dr. Vladimir Kuskovski
Head of School



Message from the Head of Primary

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after the holiday. We are now preparing for the final run up until the long summer holiday. All classes have now started their final Unit of Inquiry for the year and preparations are well under way for the end of year concerts, transition day, final assembly for grade 5 and many other things which will mark the end of our school year.

Quite a lot has happened in the school since our last Newsletter.

Your support and help is very much appreciated.

First, I would like to extend a huge 'thank you' to our reading relatives who have volunteered an hour of their time each week to come into school and listen to students read. Reading is such an important skill for our students to develop and having that home school partnership can only reinforce its importance. Thank you too to all parents who listen to their children read at home and comment in the reading record – please feel free to do so. It really shows your children that you are interested in their

These last few weeks have seen a number of interesting learning engagements happening in school.

progress when you write a positive comment about their reading. If you didn't volunteer first time round and would be interested in volunteering, please contact Dhyarvi, my Secretary on dhyarvi.kumar@oberoi-is.org. Dads- we would love to see you in school too!

We have a few other parents who volunteer on a regular basis in school – thank you very much to you as well!

Dads have been into Play school to make sandwiches with their children. It was lovely to welcome almost all of

the fathers into school – I hope you enjoyed the activity, I am sure your child loved having you in class! Our Grade 2's had a real life market place set up as a culmination of their unit – it was great to see the math happening as well as the enthusiasm for what the students were selling. Students were very enthusiastic about calculating their profit margin – we certainly have future businessmen and women in our midst! The Grade 2's donated the money they made as profit to 'Operation Smile'. Our Grade 4's had a sleepover in the school in Friday 13th. This was also a culmination of their unit on decision making whereby every decision about the event was made by the students, ranging from the food they ate to the number of mattresses needed. They had to deal with the consequences of their decisions, ie they mis-calculated the number of mattresses and had to find a way to overcome this on the night. Many support staff were involved in this sleepover – thanks to all involved and well done students.

Our Grade 5's are currently busy preparing their Exhibition Unit. This will be presented in the entrance hall

on the 27th April. The students have worked hard for the last 6 weeks on their independent study unit. Please feel free to view the fruits of the students' hard work when it is displayed.

Finally, I have a wonderful story of one of our youngest students. Zaara D'souza from Nursery Honey bees raised 325 rupees from selling lemonade which she made at home to the residents of Oberoi Woods. She sold it for 5 rupees a cup. Zaara has donated the proceeds to 'Operation Smile'. Well done Zaara on your student led action!

A few dates for you: **The EY concert** will take place on the morning of 23rd May. **The Grade 1 – 3 musical** will take place in the afternoon of 24th May and the **Grade 4 – 5 musical** will take place on the afternoon of the 25th May. Times will be confirmed at a later date. We look forward to welcoming you to these events.

Sadly, we have a number of our students leaving us to relocate to other areas in India or indeed the world. A

couple of parents have asked the school for support as they are finding their imminent upheaval stressful for their children. Hima, our counselor is going to run a series of workshops specifically aimed at these students. If you would be interested in finding out more about this program and enrolling your child, please email Hima directly on hima.anareddy@oberoi-is.org



Georgina Gray

Head of Primary

Message from the Head of Secondary

As students prepare for their final exams the Secondary School is buzzing with activity. For students in grades 6, 7, 8, 9 and 11 exams will be held from April 23–April 27. For students in grades 6, 7 and 8 tests will take place during their regularly scheduled class time and students in grades 9 and 11 have been provided with an amended timetable to allow for more time and longer assessments. Final student reports will be distributed during the final week of May.

Students in grade 10 and 12 finished regular classes last Friday and are now on study leave. They are welcome to study in the school library, but if they choose to come to do so please remind

your child they must fill out the attendance slip we provided. This must be signed by you and then given to Ms Leena on arrival and departure. This allows us to ensure the well being of your son or daughter in case of a fire or other unforeseen evacuation. Please remember that study leave only applies to grade 10 and 12 students.

Students are busy with their studies, but many are still actively involved in after school activities, the CAS program and student initiated events. We encourage students to continue to maintain a balanced lifestyle for the duration of the academic year and into the summer because this promotes a

healthy lifestyle. A couple of examples of student initiatives being pursued at present include the following: Student Council is working on a survey of the after school activity programme and an events committee has been arranged to help with the planning of an OIS prom for grades 10, 11 and 12 students.

We wish all Secondary students the best of luck on their final exams and just a reminder that the school year is far from over. There are still a number of OIS events on the horizon and it is important for all students to remain focused and involved in school life up until the last day of the academic year.

Shanna Mitchell

Head of Secondary School

Message from the PE Head

I hope this finds you all well and in good health.

It seems like a long time since the last Newsletter, probably because there has been plenty going on. At the start of March we held our 2nd Annual Swim Gala. In total 7 schools participated with over 120 swimmers taking part. It was a fantastic event and the OIS Swim Team, made up of our Advanced and Intermediate swimmers, represented us very well in both numbers and in performances. While there were a large number of successes for OIS, a special mention should go to Vaishali Harirajan, Vikram Singh, Rohan Rao, Stevie Sapiano, Ilaria Sarup, Azaan Khan, Aryan Sarup, Johan Pinto for outstanding results in their races. OIS won the Under 8, Under 10, Under 12, and Open categories, as well as the Overall Championship. Well done to all the swimmers - you all contributed to our success and you all did OIS proud. Also, a big Thank You must go to all the volunteers - teachers, support staff, admin, students, and parents - who gave up their time on a Saturday and helped to make it another memorable OIS occasion - without them it would not have been possible.

In recent weeks we have also had great success in both Cricket and Football! In Cricket, our U12's beat Euro School by 10 wickets, our U14's played an AvB fixture with the A Team winning by just 2 runs, and our U18 team - made up largely of U14's - beat SV Cricket Academy by 8 wickets. Fantastic results and reward for the dedication and persistence many of the boys show.

In Football (soccer), we have had a series of matches against teams from the Soccer School of Excellence (SSE) - the external coaches who support our football programme here at OIS - who brought teams from their camps down in South Mumbai. The U8's had two teams play simultaneously with one of them drawing and the other losing. Our U10's drew 1-1 while our U12's won convincingly (7-0). Our U14 team lost narrowly by 3-2. This was a great series of matches and it was emphasized to all the players that results were not important but performances were, in fact, most important was the manner in which the players took part and tried to play the game in its purest form. They all achieved this.

We have also had a couple of Staff v Student matches recently in both Cricket and Touch Rugby. The staff won the Cricket but the Students dominated the Touch Rugby! Touch Rugby is run by Mr. Damian (and Mrs Georgina) and is one of our most popular CCA's. As 'touch' is not widely known in India it has been great to see the players (girls and boys) have the chance to play against willing staff. They have also had a couple of friendly matches against a scratch team from Powai.

Next year we will be looking to expand the number of 'girls' sports - Basketball, Cricket, Football, Touch Rugby, Volleyball - with girl only coaching sessions.

Some of our parents attended the interactive Healthy Living workshop recently where they shopped, prepared, and cooked, healthy dishes and meals with their children. Healthy

Living is a CCA run by our Health partners Healthspring for our SKG-G4 students. The feedback from the parents was very positive. We are working closely with Healthspring to further develop ideas on how to make us a 'healthy school' with healthy students. Finally, our Table Tennis team have also been in action recently against a club from the local area. They have begun a series of matches which will run until the end of the semester.

It is just fantastic to see our students participating, regardless of the results, and having the opportunity and exposure to competition that many of them have never had before. Fostered in the positive environment we create here at OIS our students will develop both athletically and socially from these occasions. Many of them work hard in their CCA's so it is great to see them have the opportunity to put their practice into a real situation. We struggle to get other schools to agree to play against us at times but will continue to work hard to make sure our students have these opportunities. It was good to see so many of you at the last PTM and in particular the Primary students showing off the skills they have learnt in PE to their Parents as part of their Student-Led-Conference. Please continue to communicate with your feedback, suggestions, and comments - I particularly like the very positive ones!!

Michael Hurn

PE Head



Message from the IT Desk

Three specific changes stand out for the academic year 11-12. First, we piloted the use of iPads and Mac books. A number of us have been closely following the increasing use of these slate tablets across the world of education this year as we are taking the steps necessary to monitor their usage in OIS. Additionally, the introduction of Google docs and Gmail, which we want to extend to the student community, has been another change. Finally, Strengthening the internet backbone of the school has been another major achievement.

It has been an interesting few months in the school as we've started to trial integrating ICT into everyday

classroom lessons. Some of the projects we have been doing recently include: in grade 8, using exact length, width and area measurements to recreate to scale 3D models of famous buildings using Google Sketchup; in grade 7 French class, using Adobe's Flash tool to animate a day in the life of a student; in grade 6 using the interactive tool Timeglider.com to create detailed timelines of Indian art through the centuries; and in grade 4 using iPad apps to create and record digital stories based on their work in English. Grade 3 used publisher to write reports, We piloted the BYOD(Bring your own device) for the grade 5 exhibition unit and collaborated through Google docs and Evernotes

This is an early test with the aim being to build up the entire program for the next academic year. As education professionals continue to find value in social networking variations and proliferating online tools, we look at 2012-13 to use ICT as a tool to enhance learning through collaboration, creativity and critical thinking. The vision is to transform ICT from being a standalone pullout specialist subject, to a more meaningful system where the tools of 21st century learning are integrated in everyday learning.

Puja Srivastava

Director of IT

Volunteer Parent Coordinator Required!

Dear Parents,

This past year we have had plenty parent volunteers come forward and support us in organizing events in collaboration with the staff at OIS.

Education has always been a three way partnership between the teacher, student and parent and undoubtedly parent involvement at school can positively affect the entire student community.

At present, we have parents volunteering for various activities at the school at various grade levels. We would like to put a system in place whereby we use the most our parent community has to offer.

Therefore, we are looking for person who is ready to take on a role of volunteer **Parent Coordinator**.

The role of the Parent Coordinator would primarily be to collaborate with the school community i.e. the parents, teachers and school support staff.



He/she will act as a link between the Head of School, other Head of Departments and Parents and will be responsible for communicating with families about school programs & events and effectively assigning various parent volunteer roles based on the school's requirement, as well as soliciting feedback from the parents on their possible involvement at the school.

The position is part-time initially (approximately 20 hours per week) and will have a modest compensation.

If you are excited about this role and believe that you will be able to make a difference at the school, please feel free to email your 'Letter of Interest' to me at saroni.ghosh@oberoi-is.org by May 2, 2012.

Look forward to working with you!

Saroni Ghosh
Manager - Marketing, Admissions & Communications (MAC)

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

With best wishes,

OIS Team,

