



OIS NEWSLETTER

June 1st, 2012

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Message from the Head of School

Dear OIS Community:

Where did the school year go?! It seems as we were just starting the year and here we are on the very last day of the 2011/2012 school year. This year has been very educational for me personally, as I have learned a lot about India and the school, its short past and its ambitious plans for the future. I was fortunate to meet many of you in person and spend some time talking to you about everything: some of the concerns you have with the school, as well as some of the very positive experiences you have had here over the course of this year. I now will have this summer to digest everything and start the new school year with new ideas and new energy.

With the new school year we will have a few changes, I will keep you updated with the changes closer to the start of the next school year. Our new Mission and Vision is already appearing in many public places around the school, but I plan to start our very first meeting in August by talking about it and making

sure we are on the same page as we strive to be a mission driven school.

As we are saying good-bye to this school year, we are saying good-bye to some families, who are moving on to their new posts, would like to wish them all of the best with their transition to new places and new schools and hope that everyone leaving our community will keep good memories of our school and Mumbai.

Just a week ago we bid good-bye to our second graduating class, the Class of 2012! We wish them well and know they will continue to make us proud as they go into the big wide world in pursuit of their dreams.

This is probably the shortest letter I have written this year, it is short, because I have so much to say that it is difficult to decide what to focus on. I will keep all of my thoughts and ideas until August and then will start sharing them with you, soliciting your input and comments in a systemic way.

In conclusion I would like to wish everyone a relaxing summer vacation. Rest and re-energize, enjoy everything you are setting off to do this summer. I am looking forward to welcoming everyone back in just two months for the next 2012/2013 school year!

Happy summer!

Dr. Vladimir Kuskovski
Head of School



Message from the Head of Primary

Dear Parents,

Where has the time gone? The year has passed so quickly. Thank you to all who came and enjoyed the musical performances by our Early Years and Primary children last week. There have been a number of other events happening, ranging from a dance performance for the culmination of our Grade 3 UOI on Dance, to the final Grade 5 moving on ceremony on Friday.

Reports were issued on Friday via renweb. Parents do not need to have a password to be able to view their child's report. You will receive a link and will be able to click this link to the report.

You should also receive your child's portfolio on Friday, enjoy sharing this precious document with him/her.

As we have come to the end of the school year, we are saying farewell to a number of staff who will be leaving us. The destinations of our leavers, really does indicate what a diverse population we are here at OIS. From the staff who are leaving, some are travelling overseas to start new jobs. Ms Nayab is leaving to become a mother, whilst others are starting on new ventures here in Mumbai. I would particularly like to thank Ms Sacha for her hard work and dedication to the school; she will be missed. I would like to thank them all for their hard work and dedication to OIS whilst they have been here.

We also have a number of families who are leaving us. Good luck to you all,

particularly those who are moving to new countries. Please stay in touch with us.

Moving on to the beginning of next year, we have a lot of new staff joining us in Primary and many, many new families. I look forward to introducing them to you at the beginning of the year at the parents' orientation session on Saturday 4th August.

I thank you all for your support of OIS Primary. I wish you a restful and safe holiday from school and look forward to seeing you again in August.

Georgina Gray

Head of Primary School



Message from the Head of Secondary

Greetings,

The academic year has come to an end and soon the halls will be eerily quiet until students return in August. The last day of school for students is Friday, June 1st. Just a reminder that an awards ceremony will be held on Friday afternoon for students in grades 6 to 11 on the 7th floor in the MPH. The ceremony will begin at 12:55pm and all parents are invited to attend. Final reports will be available on Renweb by the end of the day on Friday. Only students not returning to the school next year will receive a paper copy. All other parents can log onto Renweb to download their children's grades. Please remember to download the report and save it as a PDF. A password is not required to access your child's report, you will receive a link that will connect you directly to the information.



The year has been filled with academic adventures, student initiatives, after school activities and class trips. Before we say good bye for the summer I would like to share a few of the more recent events that have been enjoyed by OIS secondary students. The IB Diploma students finished their exams last week and graduated from high school on

Friday evening. It was an evening of mixed emotions. Everyone was overjoyed by the success of the students and excited to wish them well with their future, but we were equally sad to say good bye to such a dynamic group of students.

On Saturday evening OIS hosted a prom for students in grade 10, 11 and 12. This student initiated event was organized entirely by grade 11 students. The theme of the evening was "Midnight in Paris". The grade 11 class did a great job with the decorations and put on a wonderful dance in honor of the graduating class of 2012. We hope to make Prom an OIS tradition as it was such a great success.

This past Monday OIS held a swimming gala for primary and secondary students, which was organized by the physical education department. Over one third of the student body participated in the gala and they were supported by a large number of student and staff cheerleaders. It was great to see so many students taking part in the event and having fun.

Recently the student council put together a survey for students to solicit feedback on the school trips that have taken place this year. Prior to the start of the next academic year we plan to review the feedback given by students as well as that provided by parents to help us with the development of trip

locations, policies and procedures. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this process.

As the academic year draws to a close it is important to reflect on the year that has passed. Secondary students have worked hard inside and outside of the classroom and have achieved a great deal in the year that has gone by. We wish all students and families a restful and enjoyable summer vacation. For those of you who are moving on to another location, we wish you well with wherever the road takes you. For the majority of you who will return to OIS in August - we look forward to the start of a new school year!



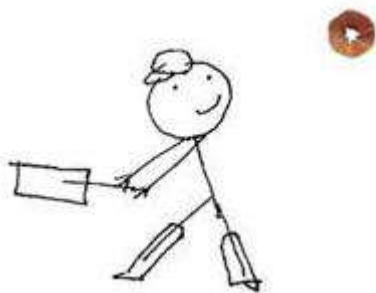
Shanna Mitchell

Head of Secondary School

Message from the PE Head

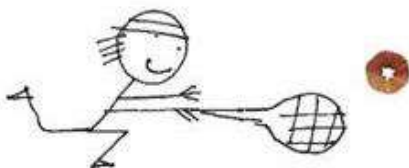
Wow! What a year of transition and success this has been for PE and sport at OIS. We started way back in August with the number of teachers in the PE department multiplying by three over the summer while the student numbers increased by even more. Therefore, the PE programme had to change accordingly to accommodate the needs of our increasingly expanding school. To meet these needs we were able to offer the students a wider variety of sports and activities in their PE programme.

This in turn allowed us to develop a PE vision and philosophy which focused on participation for all, exposing our younger students to the wealth of sports and activities available to them, with an emphasis on the physical and skill development of our middle years' students, while our senior students specialised in their chosen sports. We supported this with the changes we made to the CCA (sports) programme for semester 2 and the results and achievements of our students are way above and beyond anything we anticipated.



In addition, we introduced a block by block assessment and electronic database whereby we could monitor the students' levels of performance and track their levels of achievement. This helped us with our daily lesson planning, in gaining a better knowledge of our students, and to develop our vision for the future.

As the academic year comes to an end we have seen a definite change in the attitude and approach to PE and Sports within our students and the wider school community - which is great. The management of OIS places great emphasis on the value of PE and Sport, which is one of the main reasons I came here, and the students are now learning and understanding the value of leading an active and healthy lifestyle. Long may this continue!



Some of our activities - swimming, football, cricket, tennis, basketball, gymnastics - have become increasingly popular and the demand for these is very high. However, it is important that the students have the opportunity to experience other sports and activities and develop their overall physical and motor skills.

Swimming is a very popular option amongst the vast majority of our students and as I have stated many times, is not only one of the best forms of exercise but is also an essential life-skill too. Our beginners and intermediate swimmers have progressed very well this year and our OIS swim team is now competing with the best in Mumbai. Credit to the swim teachers/coaches, Mr Bhavesh and Mr Balaji. Some of our swimmers are now competing at both Mumbai and State



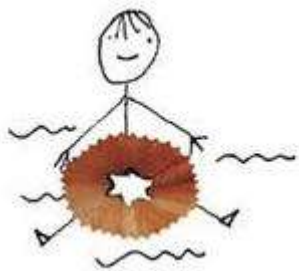
level and others will continue to train over the summer break in preparation for competition next year.

Football has grown in popularity throughout the school and with the support of Soccer School of Excellence (SSE) during CCA, the students have had the opportunity to practice and compete at a very high level. The world game is taking over.

Cricket, has grown from strength to strength this academic year. Our students have enjoyed learning the game in PE, and our CCA and team players have had the maximum amount of exposure to practice and competition. Cricket has progressed at a fantastic rate and the students are fortunate to have such great guidance and leadership from Dr Dinesh and his assistant Mr Rohit. Two of our students have been selected for the prestigious MCA Cricket Camp!

Gymnastics has been extremely popular with our primary school students. During their PYP reflections the students always remember their gymnastics lessons. This is testament to the quality of teaching and learning they have received. In Mr. Thomas the school has had an excellent practitioner and he will be a huge loss to the school when he returns to France at the end of the academic year. His contribution to the PE Department and school has been significant. We all wish him good luck for his future and are very grateful for

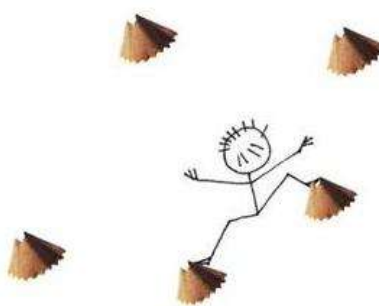
all he has done at OIS. It is a shame he will not be here to use the planned new facilities. The school has recruited an expat with gymnastics specialisation so there is an expectation that gymnastics will continue to flourish at OIS.



Tennis was introduced to the PE programme for the first time this school year and was a huge success. The climate in Mumbai and the location of the tennis courts on the roof restricted the amount of tennis we could teach to our classes so we are trying to be as imaginative as we can to ensure we can deliver more tennis next academic year.

The PE Department has held many fantastic events throughout both semesters and there is a hope that these become annual events and a regular feature on the school calendars. The sports days were a huge success and will live long in the memory. The effort and commitment to making these days such a success from all involved brought the whole school community together. The Olympic theme was fun and the students fully embraced it. Simply unforgettable! We also held our 2nd annual swim gala where over 120 students from 7 schools competed in a variety of events. This was also a huge success and will continue to grow in the future. Well done to all of our swimmers and a big thank you to all of the teacher and parent volunteers. Earlier this week we held our inaugural OIS gymnastics exhibition which was an opportunity for our CCA gymnasts to demonstrate their skills and talents in a performance setting. The exhibition was also attended by

over 100 spectators and even featured a display from the PE staff too. On Monday 28th May we held a swim carnival for the students to participate in. This was another 'fun' event based on a similar theme to the sports day ... but in water! Participation for this was optional so those students who do not wish to participate could still come along and support their classmates and friends. As the school year progressed we were able to increase the number of fixtures and competitions in which we participated in and would hope to increase this further in the future.



The PE Department also introduced 'student of the month' awards. These were not for the best students but for those who tried their best, applied themselves fully, and interacted well at all times. This concept also helped to raise the level of performance of many students in PE as they began to realise that there are many other benefits to sports than just skills and winning - teamwork, communication, decision making, leadership, and so on.

We also realise that it is important to recognise the students who have achieved highly in PE and Sports during this school year, both at school and outside of school. Many of our students have excelled in their respective disciplines and this deserves to be celebrated too. On Wednesday 30th May we will hold a Sports Lunch for these students.

While much of the success this year has laid the foundations for the future of PE and Sport at OIS it is important to identify the areas that need continual

development. OIS is committed to providing the best PE and Sport and I hope that the whole of the OIS community will embrace this too.

I began this by saying how the dynamics of the school and the PE Department changed during the last summer break. Again there will be changes to the PE Department this summer with four of the team remaining and three departing. Along with Mr Thomas, Mr Sandeep and myself will also be leaving OIS. Mr Sandeep was the founding PE teacher at OIS and made a significant contribution to establishing PE and Sport at OIS and to promoting OIS amongst all Mumbai schools. This year he took on the unenviable task of CCA coordinator in a school that, as I mentioned before, had expanded rapidly and therefore had greater needs. He worked tirelessly on this as well as acting as my second in department. Sandeep will be missed greatly by students and staff alike and leaves with a heavy heart. We wish him all the best in his future and thank him for his significant contribution to OIS.

I will be returning, with my family, to the UK in the next few weeks. I leave for a combination of personal and professional reasons. OIS has provided me with a wonderful opportunity and many unforgettable experiences. I am proud of what I have achieved in my short time here and know that OIS, in particular PE and Sport at OIS, will achieve its goals and ambitions of being the best. I would like to thank my wonderful PE team for all their commitment and support - I will miss them, the students for being just great, and all the parents who supported me/us in so many ways.

A healthy body equals a healthy mind!
Thank you, good luck, and goodbye. I wish you all a happy and healthy future.

Michael Hurn

PE Head

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

**With best wishes,
OIS Team,**

