



OBEROI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

OIS NEWSLETTER

October 15, 2011

IN THIS ISSUE:

- ◆ Message from the Head of School
- ◆ Message from the Vice Principal
- ◆ Terry Small's Visit to OIS
- ◆ Message from the Head of PE
- ◆ Message from Secondary School
- ◆ Message from the Head of Primary
- ◆ Important dates

Message from the Head of School

Greetings from OIS!

Time really flies here! Especially if you are having fun, like our 5 Grade class presenting a number of skits during last Friday's assembly! Congratulations to all of the 5th grade students, their teachers and our Primary School Drama teacher Ms. Poonam for the work. Well done!

I am happy to announce that we are starting our own guest speaker series. The plan is to bring in two well-known speakers per school year. We are starting off with Terry Small a Canadian brain researcher and trainer. <http://www.terrysmall.com/>

He will be here at OIS on November 8th and 9th to speak to parents, students and teachers. Details about the registration and timings of the sessions are provided below.

As I am finding my way around how the school works, I am looking at a few minor (or major) changes, all for the benefit of our students. I am taking a closer look at our language policy and would like to have a meeting with a

parent focus group to discuss immediate and long term plans for our languages in both the Primary and Secondary sections of the school. We have set up a committee, which has met once already and will continue to meet in order to come up with the best plan that works for our students and maximizes their learning potential. Your input as parents is always valued and much appreciated.

There are also a lot of other issues to discuss of course, but that can come at a later time. The next topic for a parent focus group will be homework and do we really need it, especially in Primary school? Mr. Ritchie has some comments later in the newsletter about homework in the Secondary School. We may even run an experiment to have a day (or a week) without homework for some grades, so don't be shocked if your child comes home without any homework. More information will follow on this.

As always, please feel free to write, call or just stop by with any comments, concerns and/or suggestions.

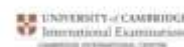
Be Well!

Dr. Vladimir Kuskovski

Head of School



IB WORLD SCHOOL



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
International Examinations

Message from the Vice Principal

Uniforms

As you will see at the end of the newsletter, we have been advised that all required items of uniform are now available in the school shop. All teachers will be asking students to meet with our uniform expectations starting from next week, so if your son or daughter is missing a certain garment, please do make sure they are properly attired for after the Diwali break.

CIS membership

On a much more positive note, I am delighted to inform you that we have this week gained membership with the Council of International Schools! This is a very important step in the development of Oberoi International School and makes us part of a worldwide community of other like-minded schools. This is also a stepping stone to achieving full accreditation with CIS, which means the school going through a rigorous self study of both academic and administrative concerns that will help us improve and hopefully deliver an even better service to the school community. Please go to www.cois.org to read more. I have also added the comments from our membership letter for your interest/information.

“On behalf of all of us in the Council of International Schools community, welcome! I am pleased to advise you that, following the membership visit carried out by Ms. Margaret Alvarez in

September 2011, Oberoi International School has been granted membership.

We congratulate everyone at the school on your commitment to the shared vision held by CIS school members around the world - a desire to provide students with the knowledge, skills and abilities to pursue their lives as global citizens and a commitment to high quality education.”

- ◆ Some of the benefits of CIS membership are:
- ◆ the pursuit of the award of International Accreditation; a school improvement process achieved through peer review and evaluation,
- ◆ recruitment and selection of educational staff around the world via our Teacher Placement and Leadership Search Services,
- ◆ University Admission and Guidance counseling support through our Higher Education division, and
- ◆ collaboration and networking opportunities with international educators around the world.



Wishing you all a great Diwali break.

Alexander Simester

Vice Principal

TERRY SMALL'S VISIT TO OIS



Terry Small is a master teacher and trainer. He has presented his ideas to over 200,000 people. These ideas were recently featured on CTV, Global, BCTV, CKNW TED Talk and in Student Success. His sessions are described as practical, fun, and provoking. Terry believes success is a skill anyone can learn.

Terry Small's student success system shows your kids how to take charge of their time and succeed!

Terry's seminars are suitable for students of all ages.

You will learn how to:

- ◆ Study more efficiently, in less time.
- ◆ Ace exams!
- ◆ Take the best notes in your school.
- ◆ Improve your memory.
- ◆ Tackle your textbooks with confidence.
- ◆ Use the #1 study technique in the world and much more...

What makes this program different?

- ◆ It is based on the latest research on the brain and learning, not opinion.
- ◆ It's the real stuff from national study skills expert Terry Small!
- ◆ It is proven to work! Clear easy to use ideas.



Terry's Schedule



NOVEMBER 8TH

8:15 AM SESSION WITH PARENTS

DURATION: 2 hours

TOPIC: How to Help Your Child Get Better Grades in School

10:20 AM SESSION WITH THE STUDENTS (Grades IX - XI)

DURATION: 55 minutes.

6:00 PM SESSION WITH PARENTS AND STUDENTS

NOVEMBER 9TH

8:15 AM SESSION WITH PARENTS

DURATION: 2 hours

TOPIC: How to Help Your Child Get Better Grades in School

10:20 AM SESSION WITH THE STUDENTS (Grades VII & VIII)

DURATION: 55 minutes.

3:15 PM SESSION WITH THE TEACHERS

DURATION: 2 hours

TOPIC: Engaging The Brain

REGISTRATION LINK:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dDNPeG9YVkiXSHN5U3Q3NUR3c3Fkdmc6MQ>

CCA ACTIVITIES



Primary School swimming pool



Above: Music & recording room

Below: Early Year students enjoying water sports



Indoor Rock Climbing & Traverse Wall

Message from the PE Head

The PE Department continues to grow and develop on many fronts as we aim to deliver the best activities and sporting programme we can to all of our students.

As mentioned in the previous OIS newsletter, we are currently developing an extensive sports programme that will allow our students to participate, recreationally and competitively, in a wide variety of sports and activities throughout the academic year. Thanks to all of you who have been in contact recently with your suggestions and positive comments. Much appreciated!

This week we competed in our first cricket fixture of the academic year when our U14 (Boys) team played against Oxford International School in the District Sports Organisation (DSO) limited-overs competition. Unfortunately, the team did not win the game, losing by 5 wickets, but there were many positives to take from it. Farhan Merchant was our highest scoring batsman with 18 runs while Aryan Irani and Parin Sheth both took 2 wickets each and Sahil Dhanak took 1 wicket. We believe that all exposure to competition, regardless of the result, is an important element in our students' development, both sporting and social. The loss should now give the team the motivation and determination to work hard and improve under the guidance of their Coach (Dr Dinesh). Well done to all the team for their efforts.

The Autumn break brings an end to Block 3 of the PE Curriculum. All students, Nursery to Grade 8, will have now participated (and improved) in three different sports/activities. Each student is assessed in four areas – skills, knowledge, application, and social - at the end of each block. These assessments will be accumulated and will appear on their Academic Report Card. Homeroom teachers will be informed of Block 4 activities next week so please ensure your child knows what they are doing after the Autumn break.

In November some of our sports teams will be entering a number of tournaments and we hope to see the development and implementation of some internal school activities and competitions. Watch this space!

Wishing You
All a Happy
and Healthy
Holiday!!

OIS PE
Department.

Mike Hurn
Head of PE



ACHIEVEMENT

ANIRUDH NAMBIAR :

Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards, India – Foreign Language French.

Anirudh is blessed with an extraordinary level of maturity and I believe that this quality has helped him in adopting a focused approach towards his studies and his other responsibilities. His ability to comprehend concepts, create logical links and think out of box have all contributed to making him a fantastic learner.

It is indeed a delight to teach Anirudh, a student who responds positively to instruction and who makes rich contributions to the learning process. I am very proud of his achievement and I hope that he continues to make great progress in both his academic and personal life.

*Un petit mot pour Anirudh :
Merci de ta volonté et de ta gentillesse. Je suis vraiment fier de toi et je te souhaite tout le bonheur du monde.*

Abirami V

IGCSE Coordinator & Head of MFL

ACHIEVEMENT

RISHABH GOENKA :

Inline Skating winner - District Level Championship Won a Gold and a Bronze medal.

Rishabh Goenka of grade VIII, has won the District Level Inline Skating Competition. He won one Gold and one Bronze medal and has been selected for the State Level Championship. He has made both his parents and the school proud.

Message from the Deputy Head, Secondary

Homework: Its place in the OIS Secondary curriculum.

Following on from what Dr Vladimir has mentioned in his forward to the newsletter, I would like to outline some guidelines for all our school community to be aware of- teachers, students and parents. These have been discussed and agreed on with our heads of departments as a reasonable framework for us to deliver a quality curriculum and get the best out of student learning.

I am sure all of us want to ensure the students have enough time to relax with their families, to follow their hobbies and be creative, or to play and compete in their chosen sports. Given that the school day is a long one and we have many children travelling by bus, the amount of additional work we expect to be completed in their time should be considered.

For our Secondary School, we suggest that the weekly subject amounts do not exceed these guidelines:

Lower Secondary (Grades 6, 7 & 8) per subject per week 30minutes
(approx 5hrs per week)

IGCSE (Grades 9 & 10) per subject per week 60 minutes
(approx 8hrs per week)
IBDP (Grades 11 & 12) per subject including TOK, EE and CAS 90 minutes (approx 12hrs per week)

Additionally, we have timetabled several private study periods in the Grade 11 and 12 timetables so that a good deal of the 12 hour requirement can be completed in school hours if they manage their time effectively, otherwise 12 hours would be unmanageable.

In exam years there will of course be a period of serious work and revision in the second semester. At that time I think other more joyful pastimes may need to be reduced (but not omitted as they are essential to good learning). At these times the "homework" needs to be replaced by guided study, but the emphasis must then be on time management and organization. I will have more to suggest on this next semester.

For those parents who feel that this is too little to expect, I am confident that every subject teacher will be able to suggest many resources and extension



materials that could benefit the students, and they are always welcome to ask for more! However, my suggestion for all parents who feel their children have too little homework is get them to read! This pastime alone will hugely benefit all aspects of their learning and it can be pleasurable and relaxing too!

For those of you interested in following some of the arguments for and against homework I suggest you visit these sites.

<http://www.divinecaroline.com/22121/64611-homework-debate>

http://www.idebate.org/debatabase/topic_details.php?topicID=793

<http://www.oxfordlearning.com/letstalk/2006/10/02/the-homework-debate-is-it-time-to-get-rid-of-homew/>

Ian Ritchie

Deputy Head (Academic), Secondary

Message from the Head of Primary

The last couple of weeks have been very busy so here is a brief outline of some of the highlights.

School Trips.

On Tuesday I went to visit an outward bound activity centre near Ali Baug. The site was proposed for a residential trip for Grade 3. The place was lovely with very clean, but basic accommodation and lots of great activities for the students to do there. As a matter of procedure all places which the Primary Students visit, whether for residential trips or day visits are being visited by the teaching staff or the school administration to check for suitability prior to the trip itself. In this way we are confident that our students will be safe and secure whilst off the school site.

Assembly

We have started a weekly assembly. These take the form of a 15 minute presentation by a grade / class / subject. This week we are introducing certificates of recognition for 1 student in each class who has done something which stands them apart slightly from the rest of the class. The award will not necessarily be given for academics, although this is a possibility, but could also be given to a student who has tried really hard, has been very friendly and kind, has been polite etc. Students will be given the certificates during assembly time on Fridays. During the Early Years assembly we will also celebrate student's birthdays by singing a collective 'happy birthday' to them.

Diwali

We are planning on celebrating Diwali next week with a number of different events.

You will have more information from your children throughout the week.

School Cafeteria

We have been trying to address the issue of the food which is served in the cafeteria. I hope you have noticed more 'child friendly' items available which our younger students are starting to eat. I am personally visiting the cafeterias daily to ensure students are eating and are trying the new menu items. We are still working with the cafeteria providers to ensure more of the same are provided.

Georgina Gray

Head of Primary

PRIMARY SCHOOL PICTURES



Garba Celebrations

Early Years students' participating in the Garba Celebrations.



Primary School Skit



Assembly

Head of Primary Georgina Gray, during Early Years weekly assembly.

School Uniform Shop Update

All uniform sizes are now available at the school uniform shop located on the ground level.

The shop is open Monday to Friday during the following hours:

12 pm to 1pm | 3pm to 4.30pm

Important Dates

15th Oct: PYP Orientation on Language Arts

21st Oct: Diwali Assembly / Hindi Day

24th Oct – 31st Oct: Autumn Break

1st Nov: School re-opens

7th Nov: Bakri id

8th Nov: Exam week – Secondary School

10th Nov: Guru Nanak Jayanti

18th Nov – 20th Nov: IB Workshops and Professional Development Day (Non – Student Day)

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

With best wishes,

OIS Team

