



OBEROI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

OIS NEWSLETTER

December 5, 2011

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Message from the Head of School

Greetings everyone!

Time really flies here at OIS. It seems only just recently we were starting this school year and now we are only a short few weeks away from the Winter break. Prior to the break we will have our Parent Teacher Meetings (PTM's). The date has been on the calendar for a while now as December 16, but instead of a half day we will take a full day. So please mark your calendar to come and see your children's teachers. There will be no school on that day for students. We will follow the same format we used before. More information will be coming your way regarding this event.

Many thanks go to Ms. Jill for organizing Habitat for Humanity trips last weekend. Of course thank you to all students who took part in this work, which is much needed in this day and age in India. A special thanks to Ms. Seema Dholakia, Ms Anne Murray, Ms. Anurakti Prubhu, Ms. Kinneri Bavishi and Ms. Medha Joshi who gave up part of their weekend to go along with the students.

My weekend was not as exciting as those who went on the Habitat trip, but still interesting, as I keep discovering Mumbai. Have you been on the Marine Drive at 6 AM on a Saturday morning? Well, it is a trip worth taking! A great study in human anthropology: you see Anil Ambani running with his trainer/bodyguard, right next to crowds of young people just walking and enjoying a bit of fresh air they can get before the day gets on its way. A little further a skating competition is about to start with lots of kids aged from 5 to 17 and their parents cheering them on. What was I doing there so early in the morning you may ask? Well, carelessly I signed up to run for charity in the Mumbai marathon. That was before I realized that there aren't so many places one can run outside! Marine Drive being one of them gets me out of bed early on the weekends. By the way, I heard that there are some other people running the same race (half or full marathon), so perhaps we can join forces and support each other in training and maybe we can even run as an OIS group. If you are interested please e-

mail me and I will coordinate something in the last month leading up to the race.

Another activity I was part of last weekend is sailing! I never thought of Mumbai as being a place to sail, but it was a fantastic experience as we took turns at the helm of a 25 foot sailing boat cruising before the sunset around the historic Bombay harbor. With the upcoming holidays, or if you have a weekend with no plans I would highly recommend this activity, here is the website. www.aquasailindia.com



Meanwhile, I will think how we can organize something for our students to enrich their experiences and be in touch with great outdoors.

As I was walking around Taj Palace Hotel on November 26, I could not help thinking about what took place there three years ago. It is a dangerous world we live in, which highlights the need for a good well-rounded education. In this respect, I am glad that we are dedicated to the IB Learner Profile.

<http://www.ibo.org/programmes/profile/> in our quest to prepare thinkers, not robots, people who are inquisitive, who are always thirsty for knowledge and who will carry high moral values in life. If we do our work right, there will not be another November 26 and the future of our children and grandchildren will be brighter.

On a lighter note, with the approach of the holidays and the week of Joy of Giving, we are planning to have a party to help raise funds for charity while enjoying each other's company and coming together as the OIS community at large. Save the date December 22, 2011. More information will follow.

Many thanks to all of you who have taken me up on my offer to keep the lines of communication open and brought forward to me your comments, positive encouragements and concerns.

Be Well!



Dr. Vladimir Kuskovski

Head of School



Message from the Head of Primary

Greetings from the Primary Department

Again many interesting and important things have happened since the last newsletter.

I think the most significant has been the IBO regional workshops, which were hosted by OIS on the weekend of the 18th, 19th and 20th November. 50 of our Primary staff attended 'PYP: Making it happen', which is one of the first official training workshops to do when first teaching PYP. We also had 7 other members of staff attend the regional workshops on a variety of areas linked to the PYP.

We have had many school trips since the last newsletter: SKG are visiting all sorts of community helpers on their short excursions out of school, Nursery are going to visit different types of homes, Grade 5 visited the Prince of Wales Museum, linked to their unit on topology. Grade 1 have visited Mahim Creek, linked with their unit on reduce, reuse and recycle. Grade 4 are preparing for their 2 night camping trip near Lonavala in December, and Grade 5 for their Thailand trip in February.

As we approach the end of Semester 1, staff are busy writing reports. These will be issued to you on Monday 12th December and PTM (Parent Teacher Meetings) will take place on Friday 16th December. You will receive a letter in the reports explaining the PTMs.

Staff are also busy completing portfolios; these will be given to parents at the PTMs. However, this portfolio will be added to as the school year progresses, therefore you will be requested to return it to school by 19th December.

On the last day of school, Wednesday 21st December, the EY and Primary Department are planning on having a carol assembly on the 7th floor. This

will start at approximately 8:15. Parents will be more than welcome – there will be more details to come!

It has come to my attention some birthday celebrations are becoming quite 'big' in the school. Please follow the guidelines below when deciding on how to celebrate your child's birthday:

- A small cake or (preferably) a muffin, doughnut **OR** cupcake per child
- Please do not give return gifts in school
- Invitations should not be given to a select group of individual students (as this causes upset amongst students), they may only be given out in school when the whole class is being invited
- Your child may wear party clothes on his/her birthday, but please ensure that PE kits are brought to school should your child have PE on that day

Although we want to share your child's birthday with him/her, the celebration should not be a distraction from learning or cause any upset to other students in the class.

Finally, on December 8th and 9th we have a couple of important visitors to the school. We have our PYP authorization visit. Staff have worked really hard to ensure documentation is ready for the visit. This visit will be the culmination of a couple of years of hard work developing the philosophy of the Primary School to be in line with the PYP Framework.

Georgina Gray

Head of Primary

A Message from Secondary...

Trips

We have now finalized our Secondary School residential trips. Grade 7 will be travelling to Thane district, Grade 9s to the Tirthan Valley in Himachal Pradesh and Grade 11 to Chiang Mai, Thailand. Each of the trips is based on sound educational objectives that are closely linked to our academic and pastoral curriculum. The trip leaders are Mr. Damian (Grade 7), Mr. Sandeep (Grade 9) and Mr. Alexander Best (Grade 11). Students will be doing a range of study based and adventure activities. Our aim for these trips as a school is to offer high quality and safe educational activities in a variety of exciting environments.

The Merit Award System

A merit award system was launched this week in Secondary School. All Secondary students have been issued with a card for teachers to fill in at any time and anywhere in school (or even outside school on trips!). Students can be awarded merits for achievement and effort in academics, sport, creative arts and for contributions to school and the wider community. Many students have already been awarded points and it's only Wednesday! These points lead to awards (bronze, silver and gold), which students can add to their personal portfolios for the future. I now look forward to the first group awards issued to students that have accumulated enough points!

Philip MacDonald-Milner

Deputy-Head (Pastoral)



Sajan Nature Camps



Tirthan Valley



**OBEROI
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SCHOOL**

MERIT CARD

Student's Name :

Grade :

Merit Card



Ms Anne giving out Merit Points

Message from the Head of PE

Most of our PE classes are now taking place outside due to the 'cooler' weather.

PE Teachers are mindful that it is still warm and water breaks are being taken more frequently than usual. We are arranging extra shade on the field too.

Please encourage your children to bring their water bottles to school every day, especially on a PE day.

We recently presented our inaugural PE 'Student of the Month' Awards (for October).

These awards are in recognition of students who have gone the 'extra mile' in PE and Sports during the previous month.

We presented one certificate to each grade from Nursery to G8. For November and onwards we will be presenting one certificate each to a boy and a girl from all grades - Nursery to G12.

Any student can win the awards as nominations can be given by the PE staff and CCA coaches. These awards are to recognise effort, consistency, application, and improvement, and not just excellence.

Last month some of our senior students represented OIS in the DSO Tennis Championships. Arshan Merchant performed very well but narrowly lost. Shubhi Bakliwal was able to progress further after comfortable victories and went on to represent us at the State Championships in Solapur where she progressed to the quarter-finals. We are very proud of all our students when they represent us so well.

This weekend some of our Swimmers will be competing in the Mumbai YMCA Swim Meet. We wish them all good luck!

We will be hosting our 3rd annual OIS Swim Gala next semester – details to follow.

The new OIS Sports Programme, which will be unveiled soon, will give all our students more opportunity to be involved in more sports and activities and they will also have more practice time too.

Staff v Parents – I have been approached by a few parents about the possibility of some OIS Staff v Parents ‘friendly’ games. We are very open to bringing staff and parents closer and if this is something that you would be interested in supporting – as a player, coach, official, or supporter – then please feel free to let me know.

We are also planning to develop more ‘community’ events that students and families can get involved in here at OIS.

“Don’t let your fears stand in the way of your dreams!”

Michael Hurn

PE Head

Recent Music Performance

When the school hosted the recent international IB conference for six hundred delegates we needed to demonstrate the wealth of musical talent at OIS. For a student it must have seemed a daunting task to perform in front of so many teachers from so many countries. I’m delighted to say that they all performed magnificently, drawing universal praise from everyone who attended. They were a credit to the school and to the Music department.

First up was Priyanka who sang the Christine Aguilera song “Beautiful”, with Drishti providing backing vocals. It was a stunning performance which drew loud applause from the crowd. She was followed by Drishti who sang and played guitar on “Butterfly fly away” with Priyanka providing the

backing vocals this time for another amazing performance. To finish the musical interlude the school band (Srishti – vocals, Nikhil – lead guitar, Akshay – rhythm guitar, Anurag – bass guitar, and Mohitosh – drums) turned in a blistering performance of The Cranberries classic “Zombie”.

I would just like to add my thanks and praise to the many congratulations these performers received for their outstanding efforts that day – they were excellent ambassadors for the school and they all performed wonderfully.

Stephen Curran

Head of Visual and Performing Arts



Drishti & Priyanka performing



School Band enthralls the audience

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity is a social organisation which works together with the poor families of local village communities to build permanent homes and break the cycle of poverty. During the weekend of November 26th & 27th, students of grade 9 and 11 went to Malegaon, near Karjat, to attend a volunteer build in the village. The journey took around 3 hours by bus and brought us to a rural area very different from the city life we are so familiar with.

We were warmly welcomed by the villagers whose houses we were about to assist in building. The leaders from Habitat for Humanity briefed us about the safety and the nature of our work before allocating us to our work groups.

A long challenging but satisfying morning saw us digging trenches, leveling foundation walls, carrying cement, painting walls and moving stones. We were contributing to four separate houses on that day and the homeowners guided us through the various tasks. They helped mix the paint, break the mud, mix cement, lay stones and various other tedious tasks and worked as unskilled laborers for the day. Our assistance helped the work get done much faster, so the home owners can carry out the agricultural work which sustains them.

After a full day’s physical work, we were exhausted, but our spirits were high as we could see what we had achieved and now the four families were a step closer to having a safe and secure future for their families. As Habitat for Humanity’s mission statement says “We were not building houses, we were building hope”.

Written by 11th graders: Shruti S., Arshan M., Vaishali H., Ritika S. and Aarushi V



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

With best wishes,

OIS Team

