



OBEROI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

OIS NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 17, 2012

IN THIS ISSUE:

- ◆ Message from the Head of School
- ◆ Sports Day invitation from the PE Head.
- ◆ CAS Service Activity: Showcase
- ◆ Message from the Head of Primary and Secondary.
- ◆ OIS Factor 2011.

Message from the Head of School

Happy New Year from OIS!

I think it is still ok to wish Happy New Year, as this is the first newsletter coming out in 2012! This year started out on a rather busy note for all of us at OIS. We had parents' workshops two weekends in a row. The first was on cyber safety conducted by the ILEAP organization and the second one on the LOL method led by Anand Chulani. Both seem to have had a good response from those who attended. We will keep working on bringing you various speakers and presenters in our efforts to deliver new ideas and knowledge, not only to our students but also to our families.

Last Sunday marked a big event in Mumbai – Standard Chartered Marathon and the Dream Run. We had a number of parents and staff participating in this event, so congratulations to everyone for your efforts in this race! I enjoyed this event immensely, especially the cheers of many more OIS parents and students who came out on the streets of

Mumbai to applaud the runners. It was great to hear: "Go OIS!"

More importantly, a big thank you and congratulations to about 50 of our Secondary School students who took part in the Dream Run for Habitat for Humanity. Our students, as always, were accompanied by our dedicated teachers. Many thanks to Mr. Balaji, Mr. Damian, Mrs. Puja, Mr. Thomas and our parent volunteer Mr. Atul Dighe for participating in this event and helping our students make it a success

I think it is so very important to give our children not only a good education, but also a sense of social responsibility as Albert Einstein said: "Concern for man and his fate must always form the chief interest of all technical endeavors ... Never forget this in the midst of your diagrams and equations."

Just to go back to the end of 2011, we had a number of events and activities led by our students geared towards charitable giving and sharing.

Everything culminated with the parent evening at the Westin on the last day of school, where we were able to raise over 80,000 INR for Habitat for Humanity. Thank you to all who took part in all of these events, students and parents alike!

The New Year brought some new things to OIS, such as a new playground on the field, which is due to go into use at the end of the month. This is exciting for both our primary school students and their teachers. Our new Sports and CCA program is also being introduced this week. While it is not perfect it is our hope that you will see some improvements there also. Speaking of sports, please stay tuned for the news on the upcoming Sports day. I hope you can make it here to see your children participating in a variety of activities. Our PE department is working very hard as we speak to make this day a memorable one for the students of all ages.

Also, as part of our school self improvement process we will be sending out a number of important policies during the next few weeks. These include Primary and Secondary behavior policies as well as a school communication procedure, which is attached to this newsletter. Please read these carefully as we are raising expectations for students over the coming months and hopefully the communication procedure will ensure more efficient and effective communication between school and home.

On a more trivial note, I must address all of you, who are dropping off their children by car in our drop zone. We

seem to be again getting congested, if we all work hard on speeding up the process and not taking a very long time at drop off it will help the flow of traffic and will assure that all of the students are here on time. Many thanks in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

As always, I am happy to see any of you here at the school or hear from you via e-mail or phone with any comments and/or concerns, as we keep working on making our school better and better each day.

Until next time,



Dr. Vladimir Kuskovski
Head of School



OIS Annual Sports Day 2011 - 2012

Parent Invitation

Dear All,

You are cordially invited to the OIS Annual Sports Days for 2011-2012 which are being held on **Thursday 19th January** for **Secondary** students, and, **Friday 20th 2012** for **Primary** students. The Sports days will take place on the OIS playing field between **12.30pm -14.50pm**.

The **Early Years Sports Day** (Playschool, Nursery, JKG, and SKG) will be held on the **morning** of **Friday 20th January** between **08.00-10.30**. A separate timetable for each group will be sent to you from the respective Homeroom Teachers.

The Sports Day will be based on an **Olympic** theme as this is an Olympic year (London 2012).

The concept of the Sports day is to have maximum participation and lots of FUN.

Each Homeroom will work collectively to achieve the highest average points score they can over a series of different events.

Each Homeroom will also be representing a country (of their choice) for the day.

Please confirm your attendance, no later than Wednesday 18th January, by confirming through the link below:

https://docs.google.com/a/oberoi-is.org/spreadsheet/viewform?hl=en_GB&formkey=dFp0MWQ1X2dzdU13YUdmUGpicmpzRmc6MQ#gid=0

We look forward to seeing you for our Olympic Fun Days.

Best Wishes,

Mike Hurn
Head of PE



11th Grade CAS Service Activity: Showcase

The 5th graders from Divine Child High School came to OIS on Tuesday, December 20th for the 1st ever showcase event, entitled 'Celebrating our Success'. It was time to demonstrate to their friends what they had learned in their after-school activity groups over the 1st 3 months of the program.



The event started with all the children indulging in chocolate cake as a special treat and afterwards assembling in the 4th floor library for an introductory video to the song "Hum Honge Kaamyab / Ek Din", "We Shall Overcome", which was put together by Samridhi Shoor of 12th grade. The student showcase started with each group, like the book club, the art group, the dance group and the computer group presenting.



The book club groups each enacted a part of the book they were working on. Even though there was nervousness, in the atmosphere of friends, we did our best to ease the situation and help break the ice. It was delightful to recollect the stories from childhood like 'Heidi', 'Little Red Ridding Hood' etc... It was well planned and a few groups had props and costumes, which made it engaging and interesting to watch.

The dance group performed the song 'Rain Over Me'. As kids are encouraged to only speak in English, the Didis and Bhaiyas, of the 11th grade, had decided on an English song. It was energetic and lively!



Next in line was the art group. They presented the children's art works that they had done throughout the semester. It was colorful and appealing. We could perceive that they had done various kinds of activities like origami, posters and pencil

holders. The students were expressing themselves through art and colour.

The computer group did a wonderful job in making and presenting their powerpoint presentations. The use of colors, fonts, custom animation etc was brilliant and depicted how much their didis and bhaiyas taught them.



The later half of the showcase was more enthusiastic and energetic as it was time for some action (P.E.). The kids were divided into two groups all the guys went to the ground and enjoyed a game of cricket, whereas the girls along with some guys went to the tennis court. On the tennis court the girls P.E. group did an excellent job in teaching others what they had learnt in their lessons. A few girls taught the rules and throwing technique in throwball, while the others taught the different passes and shooting techniques in basketball.

The showcase was a great success and the kids were really happy. They enjoyed every bit of it and even the OIS students had a really good time. All the dedication and hardwork that we had put in was rewarded when we saw smiles on children's faces. Some of the girls expressed their happiness by kissing their didis.

Written by Shruti Shoor, 11th grade, Girl's PE Didi

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF PRIMARY

Dear Parents

Happy New year to you all! Thank you to those parents who attended the carol concert in December, it was great to see so many of you. I am very excited about the new year and what we have in store to continuously develop and improve the quality of education we are offering your children.

Reading program

Even in our current age of technology, one of the most important skills our children can acquire is that of reading. It is for this reason that we have implemented a new reading program from Nursery to Grade 5. The reading program includes each child being heard read by the homeroom teacher or the teacher assistant at least twice a week. Students will be asked questions regarding the book they are reading to ensure a clear comprehension prior to moving onto the next level. Within the program, there will be a reading record book. This will come home with your child indicating what book your child is reading and any comments the teachers have made regarding your child's reading. As parents, you are also permitted to record when you listen to your child read. In the reading record book, there is also information as to how you can help your child read and other activities you can do at home to encourage reading.

Phonics During my Language arts workshop at the beginning of the year, I expressed how important phonics were to the development of children's skills in reading, sounding out and writing. As part of our parents' education program, we would like to invite parents into school from JKG – Grade 2 to see how a phonics lesson is taught. You will be invited into the

classroom of Ms Clare Ranns, our literacy coordinator to see how she conducts a phonics session with her SKG students. You will receive some more information regarding these sessions within the next week or so, and how you can sign up for them. Clare will not be available to talk to you after the session as she will have to continue to teach the students for the rest of the lesson.

Play equipment

The school has recently purchased some play equipment for our Grade 1 – 5 students to play with during lunchtime. The equipment includes, bouncers, skipping ropes, bowling alleys, hopscotch mats and an array of board games for those students who do not want to be active during the lunchtime but would prefer to sit quietly. The students are enjoying the new play items and we have noticed the students being a lot more interactive with each other and engaged in more appropriate activities.

Behaviour policy

You will soon be issued our Primary school behaviour policy. We have expectations of our students whilst they are in school regardless of what different families find acceptable at home. Our OIS students are expected to be respectful towards staff and each other. I would expect all of our students to listen and follow the instructions and direction of their teachers. I would never expect any of our OIS students to refuse to do something they have been asked to do.

It is important that we as a school community understand what acceptable and inappropriate behaviour is. Please do go through the Primary Behaviour Policy with your child, if you have any questions, do not hesitate to speak to me or your child's homeroom teacher for clarity. As you will see, there are some inappropriate behaviours which will directly result in

a discussion between me and parents. I am sure this will happen often as the students get used to the new higher expectations of them. Communication between home and school is an absolute must in ensuring a behaviour policy is successful in its implementation.

Units of Inquiry

Most of you have hopefully received your child's new letter regarding their next UOI. Most units are just starting and so the children have been 'tuning in' in the class week. We are busy preparing for field trips, visiting speakers and lots of other exciting events which are related to our UOIs.

You may have seen in the press prior to the winter break that our Grade 1 students took part in a student initiated action. This is when the students themselves want to do an event related to their UOI and the teachers help them in the action. Our Grade 1's went to Juhu beach to clean it up! Whilst there, they talked to locals about recycling, reducing and reusing, and the importance of not throwing litter. Let's hope that the lessons our young students have learned are remembered when they grow up to become influential adults in our community and have the power to cause change. Well done to the Grade 1s. There are a couple of wonderful displays of student work outside the Grade 1 classrooms, please feel free to drop by and take a look!

Lastly for this edition, I would like to welcome our new students and their families to the OIS community. We have had 15 new students join OIS Primary since January 4th.

We have sports day and international day coming up; I look forward to seeing you again at those events.

Georgina Gray

Head of Primary



ACADEMIC NEWS FROM THE SECONDARY SCHOOL:

The Mock Exam Period for Grades 10 and 12 will soon be upon us. The exams will run from the 7th February to the 17th Feb, inclusive. The purpose of the mock exams is to give the candidates an authentic feel for the exam room, the rules of their exam boards, and the experience of undertaking an exam in true exam conditions. The grades achieved will help students identify their weak areas, helping them to plan their revision programmes and make decisions about which level, core or extended, they should follow in any subject.

Curriculum letters for non-exam years are to be sent to parents next week outlining our current academic programmes in Grade 6 to 9 and Grade 11. The information includes topics studied and the methods of assessment of student progress and attainment. OIS will have an end of year exam for all grades not sitting final exams with CIE or IBO and the exam grades will be combined with the ongoing assessments to form the final report grade for the year. End of year exams will count for 25% of the overall score.

Project week for Grades 7 and 11 are also at the same time as the mock exam mentioned above. The remaining students in school, 6, 8 and 9 will not feel left out as we are planning a very special programme of activities and events that will be both educational and entertaining and a break from the normal timetable. More about that coming soon!

Ian Ritchie

**Deputy Head of Secondary,
Academic**

OIS FACTOR 2011

On the 19th of December we held our first "OIS Factor" – a talent show designed to give the students an opportunity to perform for other students, and also an enjoyable way to finish the first semester. There was an overwhelming response to the sign-up sheets, so auditions had to be held to whittle down the acts to twelve. The acts were wide and diverse ranging from traditional Indian songs to contemporary dance. On the day of the show our International panel of judges had an extremely hard job of picking a winner from a very strong field as the standard of performance was incredibly high.

But in the end, after a really difficult job and much deliberation, the judges finally announced the results.

Joint runners up were Swaraa Year 6 (who sang two Hindi songs), and Ankoor Year 9 (who played the piano).

And finally, the winner of our first ever OIS Factor, (with an amazing dance routine) - Devi Year 6.

Well done to all the competitors, and thanks again to the judges who had an extremely difficult task. I was delighted to see so much talent on display and I look forward to

next year.

Stephen Curran

**Head of Visual and
Performing Arts**

TOP: OIS FACTOR CONTESTANTS
BELOW: WINNER – DEVI, GRADE VI



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

**With best wishes,
OIS Team**

