



Keeping in Touch

Ref. No. KIT 004 – 16Nov21

16 November 2021

On behalf of the Principal and CEO, Srivalsan Murugan

Dear Parents,

Let us not be surprised when we have to face difficulties. When the wind blows on a tree, the roots stretch and grow stronger. Let it be so with us. Let us not be weaklings, yielding to every wind that blows but strong in spirit to resist. -Amy Carmichael

Greetings and welcome back!!

We hope you have enjoyed the festivities thoroughly and used this opportunity to spend quality time with your family and friends.

As we continue to prove resilience through this pandemic, we also look forward to better days for the coming school year! It was back to school in its truest sense at OOB as the students trooped in for face-to-face classes for the first time in 18 months after campuses were shut down because of the COVID-19 pandemic. There were no more silent hallways and students were getting back to the right normal. The first few days were to normalize school days, have students reacclimatize to the campus, and re-engage positive connections amongst students and staff, all of which are essential for successful learning and growth moving forward. We are balancing the educational, social, and emotional needs of our students along with their health and safety.

Students from grades 7 to 12 took their half-yearly examinations onsite where all the students wrote their examinations under the direct supervision of the teachers. The school is now fully geared up for the safe implementation of the upcoming board exams.

Celebrating the UAE flag day fills us with pride. The UAE Flag, a symbol of pride, loyalty, and belonging was raised with ceremonial zeal and gusto at OOB coinciding with the Flag Day celebrations held across the country. At the stroke of 11 a.m., our Principal & CEO hoisted the National Flag in the presence of the Senior management team, administration staff, and student leaders followed by the rendition of the UAE National Anthem. The celebration truly resonated with the words 'Raise it high, Raise it proud' and now the school gears up for the 50th national day celebrations.

OOB was a participant in the PIRLS (Progress in International Reading Literacy Study) Assessment by MOE, an international reading comprehension assessment which was conducted on 2nd November 2021. Selected students from grade 5 joined this digital assessment supplementing the nation's efforts to realize the UAE National Agenda and Vision 2021 for education indices.

We have always taken immense pride in setting yardsticks, which have for long been an inspiration to others. Once again, our own boys showcased their merit by winning 2nd & 3rd positions at the 1st Sundeep Batavia Memorial Chess Tournament. **Sreevalsan Gopal (8H)**, **Aadil Abeesh (8G)** won the 3rd position in the under-14 category and **Abhiram Manoj (9H)**, **Karthepan murali Kannan (9C)** won the 2nd position in the under-16 category. Our U-13 boy's relay team also won the bronze medal in the 4x50 meters shuttle relay at the 1st Sundeep Batavia Inter-School Athletics Meet hosted by DPS, Sharjah.

Post pandemic our prowess in the sporting arena was further enhanced when our own basketball team came back with the runner-up trophy in the 15th Sundeep Batavia memorial inter-school basketball tournament 2021-22 organized by DPS Sharjah. Coach Mr. Joe Paul and assistant coach Ayaan, a former head boy and currently an Intern with us, deserve full credit for training our boys.

Our biggest achievement is our students; they are unique, have purpose, and are optimistic. We congratulate our quiz team members **Benson Binoy (12 C) and Pranav Rajesh Chilamban (11B)** who clinched the First Runners Up position in the Qrious Inter School Quiz Competition organized by Abu Dhabi Indian School Branch 1– Al Wathba on 30th October, 2021. The ebullient quiz team comprising **Adithya Anush (7 G), Amarnath Sreevalsan (6 E), Mohammad Ayan Ashraf (5 D)** won the First Runners up title in the Bhavans International Quiz Competition on 30th October,2021. Their efforts earned them USD 750. The euphoria following their result is indescribable.

25th October gave the Kindergarteners a chance to observe 'International Artists' Day', a day to acknowledge and celebrate the artist in each one of them. They expressed their emotions through dance, song, drawing, and painting, showcasing how each one of them has an artist hidden within them.

2,700,000 students, 146 countries, 1 mission – Climate Action! Facilitated by the SDG Ambassador, Ms. Anjana Menon, participated in #THECLIMATEACTIONPROJECT where the classrooms in the Primary dept explored the causes and effects of climate change to develop the solutions and act upon the same. Congratulations to **Advay Sumit (1B)** for being titled as ‘Grand Master’ in India and Asia book of records; the fastest to identify 100 species of dinosaurs. Muhammad **Ahyaan (3C)** made us all proud for being featured in the India Book of Records, titled ‘Appreciation’ in the upcoming edition, for doing roller skating and making a 149 cm tall tower!

Amarnath Sreevalsan of Gr 6E carried out a breast cancer awareness campaign that urged his peers to utilize their pester power to raise awareness about self-examination and professional (medical) examination among their moms. We also congratulate **Anish Jena (6C)** for receiving a certificate of achievement for competing in the Grand finale of Mental Math Asia Cup 2021.

Pink October, a Breast Cancer Awareness Month is an annual international health campaign organized every October to increase awareness of the disease. To commemorate this month an awareness program was arranged at our campus for all female staff. Dr. Julide Sagirolu and her team- from NMC Royal Hospital Sharjah gave a presentation on the significance of regular screening followed by a general health check-up.

At SCOPE-2021 – School Conference of Parties Expo, hosted by GEMS Legacy school, held virtually between 26th – 28th October 2021, Samford **Sebin (8A), Sarang Verma (6H), and Sreehari Nair (8A)** won the 1st Runner-Up position. **Abhiram Sunitha Binu (7G)** participated in the mangrove beach clean-up organized by Ahlanwasahlan. **Ashwin Krishna (8F)** has been shortlisted for the 2nd round of the Read India Conference. The short story written by **Abel Reji (7B)** has been shortlisted for Cycle 3 of Voice of Future Generation, Emirates Literature Festival. As much we are proud of our students, our teachers also don’t fall short of amazing us.

Ms. Annamma Lucy won a Certificate of Participation from the Special Olympics Team, UAE for having participated in the Special Olympics Third Basketball 3x3 Tournament.

An Inter-school Poetry Writing and Performance competition “SPOKEN- WORD POETRY” was organized on 14th October 2021 at Gems Modern Academy, Dubai. Twelve schools from the different Emirates participated in this expression of thoughts and feelings. **Tarun Rawat** of class 10 won 1st place in the Junior Level and **Mayur Jhamnani** of class 12 won 2nd place in Senior Level. Science India Forum UAE (SIF-UAE) team organized an event to recognize and encourage the Sastra Pratibhas and Merit students of the contest from various schools across the UAE at the Indian Pavilion at the Expo 2020 site on Saturday 30th October 2021. **Shubhankar Ghosh (12B) and Sreepadmanabhan Vimalkumar (8F)** were felicitated with a certificate and memento by Science India Forum UAE (SIF-UAE). They have been honored by the Vibha Science India Forum for attaining the second highest position for the Sastra Pratibha Contest. They received this honour at the Indian Pavilion at Expo 2020. The Medal of Honor is the highest accolade that these boys have brought for OOB.

Reviving Our Own ‘In Conversation with....’ series, Ms. Kathleen Antrim, an award-winning novelist, writer, columnist, and radio personality, visited the school campus and interacted with our boys on Tuesday, 9th November, to enthuse students with the knowledge of the different aspects of literature and promote a love for reading.

Adverse times truly bring forth the best. It is against the backdrop of the pandemic, the premise of presenting theatre with a difference – an adaptation with merely four characters metamorphosed and attained fruition. Confronting challenges without an iota of trepidation set us on a quest unique. A tryst with experimental theatre - a production unlike any other in the annals of the school’s history. The adaptation of Mitch Albom’s ‘**Tuesdays with Morrie**’ performed on 11th November by our boys was a runaway success. The audience from children to adults witnessed the journey of imbibing the most valuable lessons on life's intriguing questions.

The school played a proud host to the inaugural edition of **Madam Mariamma Varkey Commemorative Debate For Teachers** on 13 November, 2021. The event truly proved to be an invigorating platform of divergence of views and wherein the power of persistence and persuasion of views reigned supreme. Eleven schools with twenty-two participants deliberated and debated for and against the motion “There are no weak students”. The Moderator for the day was Mr. Michael Guzder (Vice President- Education). The judges Dr. Sangeeth Ibrahim, Deborah Hennigan and Steve Lobo did have an onerous responsibility of evaluating such a high-quality debate. The Best Speaker for the motion was Ms. Samudrika Armstead from Our Own Indian School, Dubai. The Best speaker against the motion was Ms. Sheeba Vasanthkumar from Our Own High School, Al Warqa.

Our Own Indian School, Dubai comprising of Ms. Samudrika Armstead and Mr. Robin John were adjudged the Best Team and emerged worthy recipients of the coveted Rolling Trophy. This debate reiterated the essence of the maxim Cogito, Ergo Sum! (I think therefore I am!)

Dhairya Bhavsar of 8C has won the “Small Voice, Big Difference” campaign, organized by Lacnor and Oasis, the leading brands of National Food Products Company (NFPC), UAE. His winning idea was an eco-plastic brick (D Eco-Plastic Brick) made out of plastic bottles. Along with a trophy, he has also won a scholarship, the monetary details of which translates into any one of the following - school tuition fees, annual subscriptions for sports, science, and music lessons.

Winter break will commence on 12th December, 2021, and the school will reopen on 2nd January, 2022. Happy vacation in advance!

We have surpassed a year of transition and change. The resilience, perseverance, and optimism that we all have shown in the past year will ensure that we are equipped and ready for whatever the future may hold. We thank you for your unstinted support and collaboration

We are active on Twitter @OOB_GEMS, Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GEMSOurOwnBoys/> and Instagram account gems_oob. Do follow us for the latest photos and regular updates.

It's always great to hear from you, let's keep in touch. We are always happy to connect. The next edition of 'Keeping in Touch' will be by Mr. Shane J. Alliew, Middle School Supervisor, Grades 7 and 8.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sofi Mathews', with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.

Sofi Mathews
Supervisor- Middle School-Grades 5 & 6