



Keeping in Touch - FROM A DISTANCE

On behalf of the Principal and CEO, Srivalsan Murugan

Ref. No. KIT 007-17Nov20

17 November 2020

Dear Parent,

“Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection, we can catch excellence.” – Vince Lombardi. Perfection pulls us, guides us, inspires us and shows us the way and while we pursue it, we cover a lot of ground, improving ourselves along the way.

At OOB, our commitment towards the pursuit of excellence is the result of strong intrinsic efforts taken up by our passionate and persistent staff who hone the skills of our students so that they face the world with creative tenacity, intellectual brilliance, and an uncommon spirit of service to others.

“A flag is not a mere cloth, it represents the country and hence represents us”. The underlying ethos of this statement was brought forth through the Flag Day celebrations which was observed with much pomp and gaiety, bearing in mind the Covid 19 protocols. At the stroke of 11 a.m., our Principal & CEO Mr. Srivalsan Murugan hoisted the National Flag in the presence of the Senior Leadership and Management team, administration staff and student representatives. Presentations highlighting the significance of the occasion and the symbolism of the flag echoed across the entire school. The celebrations truly resounded with the words, ‘Raise it high, Raise it proud!’

The month of October is dedicated to the awareness of ADHD (**Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder**). As part of the same, the first week of November was dedicated to the sensitization of this neurodevelopmental disorder affecting both children and adults around the globe from grades 9-12 while students from Grades 1-8 shared and celebrated the value of empathy.

November 5 is dedicated to the International Day against Violence and Bullying at School as declared by UNESCO, which states that school-related violence such as bullying is an infringement of children and adolescents’ rights to education and impairs health and well-being. Through posters and discussions, the necessity of being a buddy, not a bully, was reiterated as well as driving home the message that the strongest stand not only for themselves but for others too.

The kindergarten department celebrated the ‘World Science Day’ to appreciate the role of science in our daily lives on Nov10, 2020. The little scientists experimented with various principles to nurture their natural curiosity of learning to find out something new and exciting.

Fifteen students from our school participated in the Virtual Tolerance Summit organized under the aegis of the National Tolerance Festival on November 12, to reinforce the values of tolerance, coexistence and human brotherhood, and to encourage integration for the purpose of pushing the cultural movement in the UAE.

“Wherever there is a human in need, there is an opportunity for kindness and to make a difference” - Kevin Heath. To commemorate the World Kindness Day observed on November 13, the Kindergarten segment held a special Assembly to propagate this humane virtue.

Two students from the Senior Middle school, Mithil Pramod of 7H and Shiva Srinivasan of 8D took part in the virtual 'Emirates NBD Poetry for All' competition. We wish them the very best as they await their results, which will be declared at the end of the month.

Reading-A super power, KG2D presented their class assembly on the theme 'Reading-A Superpower', to highlight the importance of reading. The theme nurtured in us the belief that reading is such a skill which can be enhanced only with practice.

The special assembly by grade 2E on the theme 'Ikigai' the Japanese art of happiness was a reminder to all that if hygge is the art of doing nothing, ikigai is the art of doing something—and doing it with supreme focus and joy.”

It gives me immense pleasure to inform you that Gaurav Jayaprakash of Grade 6 F had been a part of the Largest Rock band on Earth - "**Rockin'1000 GLOBAL GIG**" putting together 1000 plus Rock 'n' Rollers, Guitarists, Singers, Bassists, drummers and more from across the world. It was live streamed on 30th Oct 2020 in honour of the Silver Jubilee anniversary of Dubai's Global Village and broke the Guinness World Records title for the 'most videos in a music medley video'.

“The earth reveals its innocence through the smiles of children”. Children’s Day which marks the birthday of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, India’s first Prime Minister was celebrated virtually in the new normal. Special assemblies, programmes dedicated to children by their teachers enhanced the day dedicated to tomorrow’s citizens. We miss you, children! This refrain resounded across the various segments.

To allay anxiety amongst the student community of grades 10 and 12 writing the first Model examination onsite, stress buster tips and strategies along with a healthy regimen to follow during the examinations were shared.

We are in the midst of the Dubai Fitness Challenge, an initiative of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Executive Council, which commenced on October 30th. It is indeed a great opportunity for us to be more active while we work, and build in little habits that will pay off in the long run.

Our winter vacation dates are in!!! The last working day for students before we break for winter is Thursday, 10 December. The school will reopen for students on 03 January, 2021.

For streamlined updates on the vibrant life of the OOB campus, please feel free to check out our Twitter account @OOB_GEMS, Our Instagram @gems_oob, and our Facebook account.

<https://www.facebook.com/GEMSOurOwnBoys/>.

In the process of pursuing excellence, one of our GEMS Core values, we automatically develop the habit in little matters – a prevailing attitude. Now is the time to keep ploughing ahead to ensure that the road ahead is clear. Now is the time to understand more and fear less. So, let’s hang in there, for better times are hot on the heels.

Warm Regards,



Faizal Kandy

Head of Section – Senior School