



Keeping in Touch - FROM A DISTANCE

On behalf of the Principal and CEO, Srivalsan Murugan

Ref. No. KIT 010-2Mar21

2 March 2021

Dear Parent,

February 9 has gone down in the pages of history, not only for the Arab world but also for humanity, whose faith is and will ever be pinioned, on Hope - **Impossible Is Possible**.

Our home away from home, burst into celebrations when an Emirati-made spacecraft entered into the global space exploration league. The success of the Hope mission reflects the bold vision of the UAE's leadership for humankind as the nation marches towards its 50th anniversary, setting the tone, for the commencement of the next 50!

We at OOB salute this gigantic step, even as we take small strides in our voyage, looking forward with Hope, towards the next academic year.

Back home, our results in TIMSS (Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study), a key international benchmarking test has been phenomenal even as we have scored far above the national level. We progress in achieving the National Agenda Vision of the UAE - being amongst the top fifteen performing nations.

This winning streak continues and it's my privilege to chat you up on the International Olympiad exams, which are the means for students to compete with other students globally on a similar educational level. Based on the UAE rankings, our own Aditya Radha Krishnan Nair of 12D, has secured the 1st position in English and the 5th in Economics. Well, that's not all – Shafeeq Ahamed of 11D secured the 3rd position in Chemistry whilst Shubhankar Ghosh of 11B secured the 2nd position in Cyber Olympiad, 3rd in Physics and 6th in Chemistry. From the primary school, Kanishk Thawrani of 4B secured the 7th position in Cyber Olympiad. Take a bow! Boys you have done us proud! We will continue to celebrate and acknowledge our other toppers, as the information keeps pouring in.

Even as we applaud these laurels, let me reiterate that the safety of our pupils is our topmost priority - onsite or online and regularly we hold wellbeing-centric activities pan-school. Observing the Safer Internet Day is a big one on our agenda. Through a range of events, we reiterated the theme: 'Together for a Better Internet'. Each day, our purpose on the virtual platform, is to raise awareness of the importance of both, a safer and a better internet, where everyone is empowered to use technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively.

To augment this vision of a safer internet, 453 students from grades 10-12 actively participated in the Cyber Safety Awareness webinar hosted by the University of Stirling, UK, further boosting their online safety precaution learning. On the same lines, the participation of our boys, Mayur Jhamnani of 11D, Akhilesh Patil of 11B, Benson Binoy of 11C and Subrahmanya V S Pendekatla of 11B, in the Al Khaleej National School virtual Majlis themed, 'How

Technology Remakes Humanity’ was applauded and highly appreciated by the event organisers.

It is our fervent aspiration that our pupils of Islamic Studies enrich their love, desire and habit of reading the Holy Qur’an in the manner taught by the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). The Arabic and Islamic Studies Department conducted an exalting annual Tarteel Al Quran Al Kareem competition for the primary and middle school. Alhamdulillah, this par-excellence event brought out the best among our scholars!

What’s it like to have your dad or mum back in the classroom? Awesome, isn’t it? But this time the parent would be giving your peers, tips on how to solve complicated multiplication sums within 10 seconds, or exhibiting how to make a healthy fruit salad for a mid-day snack. Well, that’s exactly what our Parental Engagement Week was all about - a forum to bring our parents to share their expertise with our boys. The week was an absolute success – right from the comfort of our homes! During the week, we also had the likes of Dr. Manda Venkatramanan, our parent, and Dean of Gulf Medical University, Ajman, gave a talk to our senior boys on the changes generated and the pros and cons of the pandemic’s effects. Could it get better?

Now, let me ask you a question? Which is the 5th nation in the world to reach Mars? Of course, it’s UAE. Intriguing facts like these and hundreds of others have been tickling the ‘little grey cells’ of our pupils and parents alike, through the year-long quiz programme, Look Who’s Answering (LWA) and Look Who’s Answering Now. The event drew curtains, as the best of the best competed for the coveted Champion Title.

Our titleholders for the year are: Look Who’s Answering Now (Parents’ Quiz) - Mr. Rajesh Chilamban; LWA - Group VI (grades 11 & 12) Anirudha Bhat Nekkare-12B; Group V (grades 9 & 10) Pranav Rajesh Chilamban- 10E; Group IV (grades 7 & 8) Sreerag Sreejith- 7E; Group III (grades 5 & 6) Amarnath Sreevalsan- 5E; Group II (grades 3 & 4) Shaurya Sanup Krishna-4C; Group 1 (grades 1 & 2) Roshin Rajesh Chilamban-1C.

What does it take to be a ‘Good Role Model’ and a ‘Better Human Being’? While there could be various responses to the question, we have our own perspicacious boys who effortlessly undertook and completed their 100 days of good deeds under the banner of the **#UbuntuLoveChallenge**. We certainly need to take a leaf out of their books. These stars are: Niranjan Raj Kumar of 2B and Krithick Vinay Ramakrishnan of 2C, Govardhan Vimal Kumar of 4A, Niranjan Muraleedharan of 6I, Gaurav Jayaprakash of 6F, Prasandhip Jawahar of 6D, Nahul Kumar Raja of 5A, Huzaiifa Ahmad of 8F, Sreepadmanabhan Vimal Kumar of 7F, and Samford Sebin of 7A. Here’s a glimpse of their activities: feeding stray cats, helping with chores at home, donation drives, reaching out to peers... the list is endless! Each one of these boys is undergoing an unprecedented metamorphosis!

Does anyone ever feel that the virtual platform has taken away the joy of outdoor sports? Nay, think again – for we at OOB believe that the ‘impossible is possible’. And rightly so, keeping this in mind, our dedicated and brilliant teams from middle, primary and kindergarten sections, presented, on different days, their department’s virtual sports day. Each one was a roaring success! The pupils presented aerobics, karate, games of various skills among other age-appropriate activities.

Even as we continue to prepare our boys making them future-ready citizens, we hosted Mr. Shankar Ram, a pioneer in the field of accounting, finance, and audit, who conducted an exceptional and most-appreciated career guidance session for our commerce students.

There has been a lot of buzz in the middle school with our victors Fadil Firose of 8D and Rihan Mohamed Jaleel of 7B having won the 3rd position at the inter-school Spell Bee Competition organised by Shining Star International School, Abu Dhabi. At the same competition, our Primary School champs were Hitesh Mallesh Aradhya of 3G and Hamad Baig of 4G, both having bagged the 3rd position.

The French Language Department has yet again been creating waves, as our boys clinched the 1st position in Lingua Esplendida, in the French Le Viander category. This online competition hosted by GEMS New Millennium School also witnessed our team of 15 students from the middle school bag the 3rd position in the Science Acapella category. Toutes nos felicitations!

Narrating a story is an art in itself and this was proved at the Ryan International School Emirati Folktale Competition where Arjun Verma of 8A (senior category) clinched the 1st position, whilst Hamad Baig of 4G (junior category) received a Certificate of Merit (Special Mention). Adding to the bounty, we had Niranjan Raj Kumar of 2B clinching the 1st position, at the Twist the Tale competition, conducted by Genius. In the meanwhile, at the GEMS Our Own Indian School Dubai fest, Chrysalis (Inter-Junior School Fest) our boys won the 2nd position in the Creatif-Innover (Designing to Innovate) category. The winners are – Sarang Varma Pariankad of 5H, Jeril Sunil of 5E, Anish Jena of 5C, Shamoel Intiyaz Neemuchwala of 5B and Sreeram Praveen Vazhappully of 5B.

RewirEd Talks, offers meaningful conversations on education. A collaboration between Dubai Cares and Expo 2020 Dubai, it serves as the global platform for thought-provoking discussions on education. Our faculty member Ms. Annamma Lucy along with 8 boys from the Middle School successfully participated in the first rewired talk for students of our school, on the topic ‘Opportunities in Education during the Pandemic Situation.’ Way to go team – many more such ReWired Talks in the pipeline! You could watch the talk here: <https://www.rewired2021.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/own-english-high-school.mp4>

Our Kindergarten section has been as bright, colourful and vibrant as ever, even as our creative kids celebrated ‘National Hat Day’, showcasing their artistic skills. Our superheroes also observed ‘Winnie-the Pooh Day’ commemorating the birthday of the author A. A. Milne making a lovely bear sandwich using Nutella and vegetables. The celebration continued with observing ‘International Lego Day’, experimenting and building new ideas. ‘Make a Friend Day’ was a runaway success, as our kids made friendship bands and wrote wonderful notes for their old as well as new friends. What better way to tell a story than being geared up in colourful costumes along with fantastic props! The kindergarten intra-class competition, ‘Tell Me a Story’ brought forth nascent storytellers!

It’s been an absolute delight to keep you abreast of the happenings at Our Own and before I sign off, here’s the best for the last – 77% of our faculty members have taken the vaccine! We now await to welcome our boys on campus as we look forward to a ‘Hope’ filled, marvellous, new academic year, which is just around the corner, knocking on our doors!

Till the next communiqué - Ad astra per aspera.

Warm wishes,



Shane J Alliew
Supervisor, Middle School - Grades 7 & 8