



Keeping in Touch

Ref. No. KIT 001 - 10 May 2020

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On behalf of the Principal and CEO, Srivalsan Murugan

Dear Parents,

So much has been spoken and written about the unprecedented times we are in and the disruption associated with the Covid-19 crisis. Hope and optimism prevails kindling positivity amongst us. OOB is one such resilient community which has shown its Character in Crisis. It has been a month since the school has launched its distance learning programme and we find that our team of Educators with excellent support from the IT team are working day in and day out to send out one clear message, DISTANCE DOESN'T MATTER.....

Parents' Orientation links were sent to convey the above message. You are one of our important stakeholders whose voices matter. Your feedback and valuable thoughts vis-a-vis our distance learning will be much appreciated to further enhance this virtual learning experience. Kindly spare some time to give your feedback using the following link-

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=3Kez0n7Vf0GQrRSbhy6aoWu2QIsFk-FEIKPbLhitgwVUQzRWTzM5STQxVINRMjk5WFRaU00zUUZITi4u>

Please note that the above survey is only for parents of students studying in Grades 1 to 12. Kindergarten parents will receive a separate link from the Head of Kindergarten, Priya Sajit.

The well-being of our student community is uppermost in our minds as we help them navigate through this isolation and disruption caused by the challenging circumstances. Online learning requires a different type of dedication towards studies but is best approached in the same way as face to face sessions. This means asking questions, sharing ideas, preparing well and creating a good work zone. Whilst doing so, you may want to consider few aspects of a good seating arrangement for your child. Creating a schedule for workdays will help your child manage time effectively and keep him on track. During breaks, it is important to stretch and walk away from the computer! Finally ask for help if you need it. There is lot of support available at OOB ranging from the Counsellor to the Education Team. Our School Counsellor is Indhumathi Renganathan and she could be contacted at her e-mail id indhumathi.r_oob@gemsedu.com

Parent and Student Community would be glad to receive Super Sunday Tips from our Counselling team commencing today.

'Super Sunday' tip# 1

Feeling stressed! Not sure of what to be done! Here's an easy remedy

Distractions do help us! Distract yourself by counting all letters of the alphabet A-Z backwards or by counting numbers 1 -100 backwards! This will help you to destress and relax your brain!!

Distance learning also means continuity in academic and non- academic programmes of the school. As such, the Look Who's Answering Quiz Programme (2020-2021) commences from this month, incorporating the KG 2 segment as well. We are also looking at the revival of the Club Activities and a

Virtual Prefect Investiture Ceremony post Eid. More details shall follow soon. Teachers from the Kindergarten attended a session on Early Years Meet- Assessment along with 13 other GEMS Schools on 6th May. The session was organized to initiate a discussion on online assessment and tools for the same; the authenticity of assessment in Remote Learning. Some online tools suggested were Kahoot, Nearpod, Microsoft Forms, Quizziz. From celebrating Earth Day to Mother's Day, eye exercises for our student well-being to 30 good deeds in the month of Ramadan, we have done it all and met with an overwhelming response from the students and parents of our Primary School.

SPEA, our regulator has been magnanimous to conduct a series of online professional learning and development workshops over the course of the month to help our teachers adapt to the distance learning platform.

Please join us to congratulate our Grade 12 student, Joel Jiji, who was placed second in the Tatawwar Innovation Programme thereby receiving a cash incentive of 2000 USD; further investment and support from HSBC. The competition started live, but as with Covid times, went online, culminating in a final pitch live on Facebook yesterday. His project, AccelAgro, a sustainable and eco –friendly alternative to chemical fertilizers was well –received by the panel of judges and catapulted his project to the top five innovations working towards UN Sustainable Development Goals. Joel, more power to you! May the innovator in you never die and may you continue to contribute to the well- being of the society.

We are active on twitter @OOB_GEMS, Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GEMSOurOwnBoys/> and on Instagram account gems_oob. Do follow us for latest photos and regular updates on our exemplar distance learning stories. Some of these stories have been captured by SPEA'S official insta page @shjspea.

As Burj Khalifa lit up last month to thank all frontline teams combating Covid-19 in the UAE, #ThankYouHeroes, one of them was 'Teachers'. This tribute is well-captured in the following link, do watch it and you will not miss feeling this immense sense of gratitude to the Covid Warriors of our society.

<https://www.facebook.com/123617551040958/posts/2867804309955588/?vh=e&d=n>

We wear our hats with a lot of pride!

Warm Regards

Sindhu Padmanabhan
Headmistress