



Keeping in Touch

Ref. No. KIT 001 – 03May23

On behalf of the Principal and CEO, Srivalsan Murugan

03 May 2023

Dear Parent,

“A fresh start. A new chapter in life waiting to be written. New questions to be asked, embraced, and loved. Answers to be discovered and then lived in this transformative year of delight and self-discovery.”- Sarah Ban Breathnach

As a school that strives for excellence in the all-around development of our students, the academic year 2023-24 kicked off to a great start, cradled in the arms of the blessed month of Ramadan which has provided us with an exceptional and auspicious beginning that we could not have wished for anything better.

Firstly, we would like to welcome our new parents into the OOB family, where we are committed to transforming all our students into outstanding scholars and successful graduates – good human beings who act as role models for the wider community. Your participation, feedback, and involvement encourage the growth and development of our students in particular and the school at large. This academic year too, like always, we welcomed our parent body with virtual as well as on-campus orientation across all sections in the month of April.

At OOB, a culture of generosity has always been firmly established. Our students observed the Holy month of Ramadan with great reverence and solemnity. This month is an embodiment of kindness and giving, and our students took it upon themselves to understand and honor its significance. We had our students volunteering at Iftar distribution campaigns to donation drives in and around the beautiful city of Sharjah. Each day of the holy month began with a recitation from the Holy Quran followed by a short speech on the values and virtues of Ramadan and fasting. Our social media pages shared knowledge on the 99 Names of Allah and their meanings along with parental engagement videos about various aspects of Ramadan. We organized Majlis sessions with Ms. Samira Al Balushi, the Supervisor of the Arabic and Islamic department, for students across different grades, to allow students to learn more about Ramadan and clarify their doubts. A special session was organized for the boys of grade 5 on the importance of a well-balanced suhoor and iftar to gain maximum health benefits along with the spiritual benefits of fasting. Our tiny tots of the Kindergarten explicitly demonstrated various good deeds during the holy month of Ramadan followed by creating Eid greeting cards for the bus drivers and conductors. As the holy month drew to a close, a majestic Iftar party was organized on campus on the 17th of April. It was a joyous occasion where our school community and Dr. Mohammed Al Wasimi, the Vice Principal of Al Shola Private School, Sharjah, our twinning school with whom we collaborate, joined together to break the fast.

Before I dive into the long list of student accolades, I would like to take a moment to share with you a matter of great pride. After the recent SPEA Review towards the close of the previous academic year, it gives me immense pleasure to share with you the news that our school has been rated as **'Very Good'**. Our areas of excellence include students' performance in external exams, personal and social development, innovation skills, health and safety compliance, inspirational school leadership, and professional partnerships with the community. Our school received this rating that only a limited number of schools in Sharjah were able to achieve. This accomplishment highlights the exceptional performance of our school and the dedication of our faculty and staff toward providing high-quality education. It is a testament to our school's commitment to excellence and continuous improvement. We take great pride in this achievement and will continue to strive for even greater success in the future. The comprehensive report of the SPEA Review has been uploaded on our school website if you wish to have a detailed look.

Our staff and students make us proud. Our faculty member and Head of English, Ms. Radhika Misra, is the proud recipient of the Generation Global Educator Award in the Gold Category for her commitment to incorporating dialogue skills into the learning community and supporting young people in becoming global citizens. Additionally, the Best Teacher Award for Promoting Diversity, Inclusion, and Well-Being was bagged by Ms. Radhika Misra and Ms. Nisha Ramesh won The Best Teacher Award for Excellence in Instructional Leadership both awarded by the BITS Pilani Dubai Campus in collaboration with the UAE Chapter of the Science India Forum.

Sastra Prathibha Contest (SPC) is a nationwide science talent search competition organized by Science India Forum announced the names of 16 winners from across the UAE. Out of these 16 winners, 4 were students from OOB. Gokul Prasanth from 6B, Adithya Anush from 8G, and Om Arun and Aaron Stanislaus from 12A were the esteemed winners of the Sashtia Prathibha Contest 2022. They were honored with their awards on March 19th, 2023, by Padma Bhushan Shri Nambi Narayanan, the Former Director of Advanced Technology and Planning at ISRO. In total, 1210 students from our school participated in the prestigious SPC contest across grades 5-12. Out of these 1210 students, 350 students qualified for the Intermediate level, while twelve meritorious students qualified for the Advanced level and were awarded the Certificate of Merit and a medal. The names of the students who qualified for the advanced level were Mohammed Ayan Ashraf (6D), Govardhan Vimal Kumar (6A), Gokul Prasad (6B), Adithya Anush (8G), Adithya Rajesh (8D), Sreehari Deepu Nair (9F), Sreepadmanabhan (9F), Ashwel Rodrigues (10D), Shreyas Goud (10A), Johan Joji Joshua (10F), Om Arun (12A), Aaron Stanislaus (12A). The primary department also acknowledges the impressive feat achieved by Roshin Rajesh of Grade 3C for his outstanding performance in the International Science Olympiad.

As our champs embarked on the educational journey with curiosity and learning, they were excited to celebrate 'Kindergarten Day'. Our little ones were excited to celebrate 'World Book Day' where the students brought in their favourite books and exchanged them with their peers which helped in inculcating a sense of sharing, and a love for reading and have also allowed our students to discover new books. Overall, it has been a fun-filled month characterized by excitement, exploration, and engagement.

Speaking of exploration and creativity, the Primary section left no stone unturned when it came to celebrating Earth Day on the 25th of April, 2023. The Grade 1 students prepared upcycled suncatchers by using recyclable materials, Grade 2 students made homemade toothpaste using natural ingredients, Grade 3 students created bird feeders while the Grade 4 students made seed balls using soil, compost, and seeds. Good habits and routines not only help save the environment but also help us regulate our daily lives to achieve maximum efficiency. The 5 AM Club- the topic for grade 3's assembly, spoke about the 20/20/20 formula to boost productivity and happiness. Our young learners demonstrated their remarkable abilities and talent in various categories, including singing, beatboxing, acting, playing

various instruments, and poetry recitation, among others on our school's Talent Day for primary students on 27 April 2023, which was a resounding success.

Speaking of success, our Middle school students have been making us proud both locally and internationally. **Kenan Austin Pinto** of Gr 5G received the silver medal & certificate in the Mathematics Olympiad organized by the International Mathematics Foundation while **Ayaan Ayoosh** of grade 5B, **Adhib Zayaan Subeesh** of grade 5C, **Govardhan Vimal Kumar** of grade 6A (2022-23) received the Gold Scholar certificate for their outstanding performance in the Ei ASSET Talent Search in March 2023. **Kevin Ciju** of grade 6E (2022-23) received the Bronze Scholar certificate for his phenomenal performance at the same.

We are delighted to announce that 699 students from our school have qualified for the Ei ASSET Talent Search (Ei ATS) 2023 assessment after scoring in the top 15% in the ASSET 2022-23 assessment. This represents a significant achievement for our school, as 54.06% of the student population (1293 students from grades 4 to 8) have qualified for the Ei ATS.

The students of **Junior Middle** joined forces with their parents to celebrate Earth Day with activities that called for making the best out of waste by upcycling things that would instead end up in landfills. Additionally, just days before the start of the new academic year, **Amarnath Sreevalsan** of grade 7E secured the 1st prize in the BYJU'S quiz competition and won a free ticket to the Museum of Illusions, Dubai. **Aditya Rajesh** of 8G participated in the Crest Mathematics and Science Olympiads and received Honorable Mention Certificates by obtaining the International Zonal Rank of 130 and 104 respectively in the second round.

On the occasion of World Art Day, students of grades 7 & 8 set out to enhance their artistic talents with the assistance of Mr. Srijesh, their mentor who is always guiding them in their endeavours, bringing to life exceptional pieces of artwork. **Aditya Rajesh** of 8G, **Prasandhip Jawahar** of 8F, **Amarnath Sreevalsan** of 7E, **Sreepadmanabhan Vimal Kumar** of 9F, **Abhiram Sunitha Binu** of 8E, **Govardhan Vimal Kumar**, **Nihar Raj Rajith**, **Hussain Reza**, **Kabeer Prakash Gidwani** & **Abel Sunil** all of 6A, **Neeraj Rishi** of 6B, **Mohamed Nasirudeen** of 6F and **Samford Sebin** of 9F participated in the Recyclathon Run by Indian Association, Sharjah where **Govardhan Vimal Kumar** won the first place.

Govardhan Vimal Kumar of 7D, **Amarnath Sreevalsan** of 8E, **Aditya Rajesh** of 9G, and **Sreepadmanabhan Vimal Kumar** of 10F attended a live session with Emirati astronaut, Sultan Al Neyadi, 'A Call with Space' at the Dubai Opera. **Adithya Anush** of 9G, was the Champion in the senior category of the quiz at the Shining Stars event, organized by Better Media to commemorate International Women's Day, whereas **Adithya Rajesh** of 9G was the 1st runner-up & **Amarnath Sreevalsan** of 8E was the 2nd runner-up. Additionally, **Amarnath Sreevalsan** of 8E, **Aditya Rajesh** of 9G & **Aayush Sajukumar** of 10 clinched 1st, 2nd & 3rd place respectively, in the public speaking competition on the same day. **Shaan Pinto** of 8F received the Champion Trophy in the 9th International BRAINOBRAIN Competition.

The Middle School 'In Conversation With' series was hosted by the boys of grades 7 & 8 of the Senior Middle department. A most insightful and meaningful conversation took place, in the school library, between our boys and our Principal & CEO, Mr. Srivalsan Murugan. The session was an insightful and meaningful experience for all attendees as the discussion focused on Ruskin Bond's work, including his writing process, books, and characters. During the conversation, the Principal shared valuable insights into the author's writing process, highlighting the significance of observation and personal experience.

He also emphasized the importance of reading and its impact on one's life, stating that it improves language and communication skills and broadens one's perspective. Members of the SLT and SMT also had an opportunity to articulate their thoughts along with the boys, which saw an immensely fruitful exchange of views.

Keeping the ball rolling, in the Secondary department, **Sreehari Deepu Nair** of grade 10F has won the 'Most Impactful Project' award for the most outstanding and innovative idea as a part of the Trusity Interschool STEAM competition, for his innovative pitch of a project called 'Project Iris' which uses plastic bioremediation by a certain species of fungi and bacteria along with mealworms, to degrade waste plastic into simple organic material. **Shreyaas Krishnamurthy** of 12D participated in the 'Sharjah Charity Run' organized by the Sharjah Council on 1st April 2023. The registration fees collected from this race will be donated to the 'Big Heart Foundation' initiative. **Madhav Manoj** of 11B was a proud player in the ACC Men's U16 West Zone Cup, representing OOB on the cricket field.

As part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, The Central Board of Secondary Education organized a Storytelling Competition for all CBSE affiliated schools on the theme, 'The Story of India'. Three students from OOB have been recognized by the Board for their exceptional storytelling skills in the CBSE Story Telling Competition 2021-22. Designed to promote the art of storytelling, enhance public speaking skills, and encourage students to express themselves creatively, our own **Hamad Aamir Baig**, **Samford Sebin**, and **Amogh Arun** from the Primary, Middle, and Senior Categories respectively, have received this ultimate recognition for their outstanding performance in the competition for the academic year 2022-23.

OOB is a leader of change when it comes to inspiring leaders of tomorrow and raising strong, confident, and empathetic individuals in society. We are thrilled to present to you our new Vice Captains and Senior Prefects of the Prefectorial Board from 2023 to 2024.

Sl.No.	STUDENT NAME	DESIGNATION	CLASS / SECTION
1.	Smaran Srikanth Nair	Head Boy	12 G
2.	Mohammed Zafar	President Student Council	12 D
3.	Basil Sunil	Advisor Student Council	12 B
4.	Afsar Veliyil Nisar	Sports Captain	12 B
5.	Mirav Padmesh Prajapat	Assistant Head Boy	11 B
6.	Juan Mathew	Secretary Student Council	11 D
7.	Madhav Manoj Nair	Assistant Sports Captain	11 B

Sl.No.	STUDENT NAME	HOUSE	CLASS / SECTION
1.	Amil Abdulmanaf	Jupiter House	12 D

2.	Henish Patel	Mars House	12 D
3.	Alfaz Anzar	Neptune house	12 C
4.	Adarsh Sudheer	Saturn house	12 B

The Investiture Ceremony was a momentous occasion that took place on the 2nd of May, 2023, in the school auditorium. The ceremony marked the official investiture of the elected members with the mantle of responsibility for the upcoming Academic Year 2023-24. The event was attended by students, teachers, and parents, who witnessed the newly appointed office-bearers don their badges and pledge to uphold the school's values and ideals.

Adding to the list of exhilarating events coming up, we invite you to join us at the school auditorium on May 6th for the 7th Edition of the TEDxOOBSchool. This event will feature 15 speakers from 7 different schools who will share thought-provoking ideas and insights based on this year's theme, 'Alternate Reality.' It promises to be an enlightening experience that you won't want to miss.

We are thrilled to inform you about two upcoming events that we are eagerly anticipating. Firstly, our Annual Prize Day ceremony where we will have the opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the accomplishments of our students across all grades and recognize their hard work and commitment throughout the year. Secondly, our much-awaited Primary concert, '**Sindbad, a modern saga**' will feature the impressive musical and theatrical talents of our young performers. We are confident that you will be delighted to witness their skills and enthusiasm on stage. Kindly keep a lookout for further information and updates as the events draw near.

One feather after the other in our cap and this is just the beginning! We are barely a month into the new academic year yet we have so much to celebrate, cheer and cherish, I can only imagine what laurels we have in store for us to achieve in the coming days. I conclude this edition of Keeping in Touch by wishing holistic success for our boys at OOB, their families, and the greater community at large.

Find us on Twitter@OOB GEMS or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GEMSOurOwnBoys/> or on Instagram at (gems_oob) to catch all the happenings at OOB in real-time.

Thank you for ever being supportive of OOB!

Ms. Sofi Mathews
Middle School Supervisor- Grades 5 & 6