



## KEEPING IN TOUCH

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“They say the sky is the limit for ambition. We say: the sky is only the beginning.” – His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and the Ruler of the Emirate of Dubai.

Dear Parent,

It has been an excellent start to the new academic year, filled with promises and fresh beginnings – we are onsite 100%. It goes without saying that, ‘It is so good to have our boys back on campus’.

We celebrated the most important event of the school calendar – the Prefects’ Investiture Ceremony, where we installed the Prefectorial Board and Student Council members – the backbone of our student community – leaders of the school who will become changemakers of tomorrow. It was an honour to have Dr. Bochra Kaddoura, our School Improvement Advisor from SPEA, grace the occasion.

Whilst the boys were on the end of the year break, our teachers were busy preparing for the year ahead as they immersed themselves in various professional development programmes, in school.

The previous year drew curtains with ‘Invictus’, the farewell given to the Class of 2022 by the class of 2023. The Class of 2022, amongst many other things, will be remembered as an unconquered one – a resilient set of students who witnessed a merciless pandemic and yet with their hallmark of fearlessness, surged ahead. The event paid apt tribute to a ‘Band of Brothers’, in an awesome and amazing fashion, exclusive to brand OOB.

The Kindergarten graduation ceremony was a celebration of the Class of 2034. The theme of the graduation ceremony was, ‘To Infinity and Beyond’.

We concluded yet another amazing edition of the Look Who’s Answering (LWA), the in-house quiz programme. Our team has always championed that knowledge and learning indisputably has no barriers, and the LWA, which aims at igniting the spark of curiosity amongst the student community affirms this. The champs of the various groups for the academic year, 2021-2022 are -

Group I (Grades 1 & 2) – Balatharun Kiruba Shankar - IE

Group II (Grades 3 & 4)- Mohammed Reez Vellilam Kunnil - 4F

Group III (Grades 5 & 6)- Amarnath Sreevalsan - 6E

Group IV (Grades 7 & 8)- Adithya Anush – 7G

Group V (Grades 9 & 10) – Amil Abdulmanaf - 10E

Group VI (Grades 11 & 12) – Shubhankar Ghosh -12B

Joining hands with the ‘World’s Greatest Show’, Team OOB embarked on field trips to explore the three pavilion districts of Expo 2020. Astounded students strolled through a futuristic environment with installations powered by augmented reality and explored the realms of innovation and creativity. Over a period of a month, 1800 students and 120 staff members made these visits, which has left an indelible imprint on them enabling them to partake and witness history in the making! Our students also performed at Al Wasl Plaza, the heart of Expo 2020 Dubai, under the banner of the Expo Young Stars - indeed a most enriching experience for our boys!

**In yet another amazing feat, I am delighted to inform you that Team OOB emerged the worthy recipient of the prestigious Sharjah Excellence Award under the ‘Green Award’ category - Cycle 2020-21. This award launched by the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry rewards organizations from the public and private sectors in the emirate applying the best environmental practices. Our school was comprehensively assessed by experts from the esteemed organization.**

At OOB, it's our constant endeavour to make environmental awareness and action an intrinsic part of the life and ethos of our school. Our students, teachers, non-teaching staff and you, our dear parents, are active partners in this enterprise. We also bagged a Certificate of Appreciation – at the BEEAH Education Awards, for outstanding efforts in collecting 2600 kilograms of recyclable materials.

Equally proud are we of our champions, Shubhankar Ghosh of 12B and Anish Jena of 6C who bagged the Gold Awards at the prestigious Global Innovation Challenge conducted on behalf of GEMS Education. Both of them have been invited to attend a boot-camp with several industry leaders to further develop their ideas. This year, the contest witnessed 1600+ students participate from across the GEMS Network. On the other hand, another team comprising of Mayank Khandelwal, Tanishq Lende, Kunal Bijoy, Mayank Upadhyay (all from grade 11A) and Harsh Upadhyay of grade 12B bagged the Silver Award for which they will be presented with medals at the school level.

Our own 'Team Realm' comprising of Alston Samuel Peter, Prakhar Patni, Parth Kamlesh Kumar, Ishaan (all from grade 11B) with Syed Adan Nayeem Akhtar of 11E and Mohammed Sadeem of 11A won the second runner-up prize in the inter-school Hackathon, 2022 conducted by Murdoch University.

We also celebrated the achievements of 96 students, awarding them the Ace Scholar Badge, an exclusive initiative undertaken by the Student Council. At an informal yet an educative tête-à-tête, the Leadership and Management Teams met with our School Prefects and Student Council members.

Our kindergarteners have been driving the campaign of 'Ramadan Good Deeds' and the department has been buzzing with acts of kindness. A plethora of engaging activities centering around Ramadan held pan-school was organized by the Department of Arabic Language and Islamic Studies, spearheaded by our Arabic Supervisor Ms. Samira. We also hosted a special Iftar party for staff, students, parents and teachers on campus.

Our kindergarten champs were equally excited to participate in planting trees and taking pledges in line with the Earth Day celebrations. We also had the opportunity to celebrate our curious and creative minds on the occasion of Kindergarten Day.

At the Primary school an environmental campaign, 'Swap A Sapling' was organized to celebrate Earth Day'22. In the annual Environmental Drawing Competition organized by Emirates Environmental Group, Armaan Choudhary of Grade 4F has been selected amongst the top 10 finalists (Category 1: Marine Life in the Arabian Gulf). Rohit S. Ishwarya of Grade 3G won the 3<sup>rd</sup> prize in the Chess Competition organized by Ittihad Sports Club and Sharjah Chess Club.

Champs in the Primary School have also been busy gathering laurels: Niranjan Rajkumar Priya of 3B successfully cleared the Emirates Level of the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Kenken International Championship, 2021, whilst Kayden D'Souza of 4E won the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize in inter-school Impromptu Speech Contest, 2022 organized by ACT Universal. Samarth Srijesh of grade 1F and Nathan Mariano Dsilva of grade 3E won the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes, respectively, in the inter-junior School Fest organized by OIS.

GEMS Global Ambassadors Samford Sebin of grade 9F and staff member Ms. Annamma Lucy, participated in the 'Plant A Legacy' campaign organized by GEMS Legacy school and held at National Charity School, Dubai. The event was graced by dignitaries from Dubai Police and Dubai Municipality. Ms. Lucy also received a certificate of appreciation for her volunteering services at the Dubai World Cup.

Continuing with our green trend, Team Unique Friends of Kerala presented a token of appreciation to our school for the green initiatives and sustainable practices implemented.

There has been plenty of action in the Middle School as well, even as champions (from the academic year 2021-22) have been making us proud in various competitions and contests. Anish Nagasai of grade 8I was awarded a Certificate of Recognition by the International Book of Records for the World Record of Maximum Number of Rubik's Cubes Solved While Spinning on Smartwheel. He solved 21 unique rubik's cubes. Aditya Anush of grade 7G was awarded a certificate of recognition by the International Book of Records for the World Record of Most Flags of Countries identified in one minute. He identified 121 flags in one minute. Sreepadmanabhan Vimalkumar of grade 8F was honored by Vibha Science India Forum for attaining the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest position at the Sastra Pratibha Contest. He was felicitated at the Indian Pavilion of Expo 2020, in the presence of Dr. N. Sudheer Kumar, Director ISRO. He also won

a Certificate of Recognition from the Emirates Environmental Group for collecting the largest number of mobile phones for recycling as part of their Green December Project.

The coveted title of 'Sastra Pratibha' was bestowed upon Shubhankar Ghosh of grade 12B, as he was declared as the 'National Level Winner' of the 'Sastra Pratibha Contest 2021'. A proud moment for all of us at OOB!

Dhairya Bhavsar of grade 8C won the grand prize of a scholarship at the Small Voice, Big Difference contest organized by Lacnor and Oasis, Dubai. Samford Sebin of Grade 8A, Sarang Varma Pariankad of Grade 6H and Sreehari Deepu Nair of Grade 8A won the 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up prize at Mark Up - Group 1A, Scope 2020, organized by GEMS Legacy School. Abdul Jawad Mohammed of grade 7C secured the 3<sup>rd</sup> position at the ACT Universal Republic Day of India, International inter-school Hindi Poetry Recitation Contest. Sixty-four schools participated in the international event. Nine students from Middle School, participated in the Loyalty to Sultan Marathon, to give thanks to the efforts of HH Sheikha Jawaher Bint Muhammed Al Qasimi. Our athletes completed the 4 kilometers race winning a certificate of participation and a shield for the school.

Congratulations to Aditya Rajesh of grade 7D who participated in the Kenken International Championship and secured a national Rank of 12. Sreehari Deepu Nair of grade 8A also bagged the 3<sup>rd</sup> prize at the 1<sup>st</sup> Madam Mariamma Varkey Memorial Pitch Perfect Competition, organised by and held at GEMS Our Own English High School, Dubai, whilst Nabhya Sharma, the Primary School Head Boy bagged the 1<sup>st</sup> prize at the same competition. We emerged overall champions and we returned home with the handsome trophy.

At the MASE Poetry Contest, Mayur Jhamnani of grade 12D, won the 3<sup>rd</sup> prize. Congratulations to Saad Mustafa of grade 10G and Adnan Muhammad of grade 2D on securing the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> prizes respectively, in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> category of the Holy Quran Recitation and Memorization competition organized by GEMS Westminster School, Sharjah.

Two teams comprising of Nithin Santhosh of grade 11A, Allen Benny of grade 11E and Harshit Saini of grade 12A and another team comprising of Syed Adan of grade 12E, Anuj Manjarekar of grade 12A, Rohendar of grade 12B, Aashay Rane of grade 12G and Taha Shabbir Hussain of grade 12F have won the first round of the Dubai Institute of Design and Innovation Project Design Space Season 6 Boot Camp. They now move into the finals.

The CBSE grade 10 and 12 board examinations commenced from 26<sup>th</sup> April.

Our parental engagement programme was a huge success where meaningful, engaging, educative and most entertaining sessions were taken by you, our dear parents. From making healthy sandwiches to art in Mathematics and health and oral hygiene talks, you were the most enthusiastic to engage with our students. Thank you, parents!

Here's a quick reminder on our Social Media presence: we are active on Twitter @OOB\_GEMS, Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GEMSOurOwnBoys> and Instagram, with the account gems\_oob. Do follow us for the latest photos and regular updates.

Before I conclude this issue of the KIT, I take this opportunity on behalf of Team OOB, to wish you and your family a Happy and Peace-filled Eid Al Fitr. May the season bring each one of us Hope, Joy, Love, Kindness, Generosity, Faithfulness...Kindly Light, Lead!

Please note that classes will resume on 9<sup>th</sup> May for all students. Protocols regarding return to campus (PCR tests/Green pass) will be updated by the respective Supervisors. The School Admission, Accounts office and Front of House will remain open on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> May for transactions.

Wishing you and your family Eid Mubarak!

Warm Wishes,

  
**Srivalsan Murugan**  
Principal & CEO