



Keeping in Touch

Ref. No. KIT 002 – 13Jun22

On behalf of the Principal and CEO, Srivalsan Murugan

13 June, 2022

Dear Parents,

'It takes a village to raise a child' is an African proverb that conveys the message that it takes an entire community to provide an environment to help a child to realize his hopes and dreams. The people in this community must demonstrate empathy, support and care for the child. Our partnership with the parents is fundamental to this and builds a solid foundation for boys under our care. OOB family comprising of parents, educators, non – teaching staff apply principles of the 'Village Approach' and come together to provide a safety net to our pupils and become the wind beneath their wings.

We believe that education starts at home and it is through family that a child imbibes societal values of love, kindness and respect. We observed the International Day of Families to celebrate our families and their values that go a long way in shaping our students. We sincerely thank all parents who contributed to this event by sharing with us the memorable moments of quality time spent with their children. We have created a collage of these perfect family moments!

Enjoy... <https://sway.office.com/6i5X6ct4ptK2yteM?ref=Link>

I am extremely delighted to share the news that OOB is ranked amongst the top 20 performing schools in Assessment of Scholastic Skills through Educational Testing (ASSET) 2021-22. Jeon Johnson of Grade 9 and Jerishom Renjith of Grade 5 made us proud as they emerged UAE toppers in English and Science respectively. They were felicitated in a glittering ceremony at the Educational Initiatives ASSET Awards 2022. With a total of 660 students ranked among the top performers, 53 students emerged with an 'Outstanding' performance, 211 students at 'Distinguished' level, and 396 students were rated at the 'Creditable' level. 462 students from grades 5 to 8 qualified for the ASSET Talent Search assessment. These students competed against all ASSET-taking students across UAE and scored in the top 15%. Kudos to the teachers and pupils of OOB family on this stupendous achievement!

The Earth is all that we have in common and it is in unison as one big family that we could restore order. The recipient of the 'Sharjah Green Award', OOB is committed to a pioneering model of environment and sustainability practices. OOB and its family of teachers led by the Principal and CEO, Mr. Srivalsan Murugan and the President of the Eco Club, Vishnu Vijayakumar planted fruit saplings with the fervent hope that the OObites will be able to experience the joy of picking and devouring their own produce. Members of the Eco Club have embarked on a mission to discourage the use of single-use plastic products like the Styrofoam cups and the water bottles. Staff is encouraged to carry their own water bottles and coffee mugs. Amongst the myriad activities organized by the Eco Club were the used batteries collection drive for Bee'ah and the Nature Walk through Our Own Organic Garden.

GEMS Global Ambassador, Ms. Annamma Lucy and her dedicated team of boys, Vysakh Chellaton , Anish Jena , Joash Vargese Joseph, Basil K Gejoy, Kasinadh Anurag, Inndhraneil Saju and Mohammed Ahsan from Senior Middle School participated in STREAMability carousel at GEMS Legacy School and exhibited their prototype vehicle that can travel through air, land and water. Adithya Anush of Grade 8 won the 1st prize for Can Collection campaign conducted as a part of Earth Hour 2022 organized by Sharjah

Indian Association. Gaurav Jayaprakash of Grade 8 won the 1st prize at the GEMS Modern Academy Annual Sustainability EduFest - category - 'Sustainability Video Appeal. Gaurinath Sujith, Balatharun Kiruba Shankar, Roshin Rajesh and Jishnu.S from Primary School were declared as the Sustainability Ambassadors on winning the innovation challenge – Project PlanEt '22. In connection with the World Environment Day, here's presenting our Junior Middle Eco Champions in action, reciting the poem 'Amazon Burning', trained by Ms. Shaza Akhtar.

[AMAZON BURNING-JM ENVIRONMENT DAY SKIT AND POEM \(JUNE 2022\)](#)

Our Own Eco Warriors, Samford Sebin of Grade 9 and Adithya Anush of Grade 8 presented their project on Sustainable Garden at the Sharjah Education Forum held under the aegis of SPEA. The event was graced by H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah. Kudos to the Green team led by Ms. Priya Sajit assisted by Ms. Poonam Kewlani and Ms. Shemitha Saleeth for championing the cause with gusto.

Rice worth 430 kg and pulses worth 565 kg were collected in a charity drive organized in the month of May and donated to Emirates Red Crescent. We extend our deep appreciation to our parents, staff and students for exhibiting philanthropy whole- heartedly. A family that believes in the 'Joy of Giving', thrives and OOB family is no exception!

Saad Khan of Grade 10 and Saad Mustafa of Grade 12 secured the first and third position in Holy Quran Category 4 and Hadeeth Category 4 at the GEMS Inter-School Quran and Hadeeth Shareef Recitation and Memorization Competition hosted by GEMS World Academy, Dubai. Congratulations to the winners and the consistent effort of our Islamic department is much appreciated.

The World is One Family and our pupils demonstrate world citizenship through their innovation and entrepreneurship. Eleventh graders Nithin Santosh, Harshit Saini, Allen Benny secured the silver medal at the Dubai Institute of Design and Innovation Mubadala Health competition. Another team comprising Taha Hussain, Syed Adan, Anuj Manjerekar, Rohendar, Aashey Rane won the Most Innovative Project award at the same competition and earned a half day tour at Schneider Electric. Congratulations to the winners and their teacher mentor, Ms. Sunitha Sudhakaran. We stand committed to preparing our boys for life and the paths they could take in their lives. A webinar on 'Discover Law - Scope & Opportunities' was held on 31st May to give our Senior School students an opportunity to understand how Law can help students achieve their goals and how to seek admission into one of the finest law colleges in India. Students gained valuable insights on career opportunities in law, skills required for legal study and profession, scholarships offered by LSAC Global and its Alliance Colleges and how to prepare for the law entrance tests including LSAT—India. Aumkar Misra (11E) won the title and trophy of the 'Best Delegate' in the PsychED- Psychology Conference (School Edition) at Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Dubai.

The Prefectorial Board of Primary School took charge of their office during the investiture ceremony on 25th May. Meet our Junior Office bearers right here!

<https://sway.office.com/06L7UqYcjT6afImn?ref=Link>

The Club Investiture ceremony was held on 26 May to kickstart the Club activities of the academic session under the able guidance of School Clubs' Coordinator, Ms. Prema Joseph. This year saw the number of clubs increasing to 19 because of the introduction of two new clubs, the Culinary Club and the Instyle Fashion Club. These two clubs are in fact the brainchild of our 12th graders, Hamza Ratlami and Nathan Mathew respectively.

An online Parent Webinar was organized on 22 May by the Inclusion team. It was an interactive session with parents of The Determined Ones to brief them about inclusion practices at school. Members of the Parent Advisory Council convened on 8 June and were updated about the School Self Evaluation, School Development Plan and the latest happenings in the school. We would like to place on record our

appreciation to Ms. Rizwana Sultan and Ms. Revathy Ramgopal, members of our parent community for their contributions at these meetings.

Our boys have made it to the finals of all the four categories of the Waxing Eloquent, inter – school elocution competition held at The Millennium School, Dubai. Our best wishes as the finalists take to the stage on 16 June.

OOB will play host to the much anticipated sixth edition of TedxOOBSchool on 18 June and the theme for this edition is Paradigm Shift. Save the date to listen to 15 speakers with 15 ideas worth spreading! Follow TEDxOOBSchool on Instagram to get the latest updates.

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.

May I take this opportunity to welcome our school counsellor, Ms. Sandhya Nair. to the OOB family. Ms. Sandhya is vastly experienced and has completed her Masters in Psychological Counselling from Montfort College, Bangalore. She specializes in academic counselling and early intervention. She can be reached at the email id - counsellor_oob@gemsedu.com

The last working day for this term is 30th June and the school will reopen on 29th August after the summer break. Please be informed that we will be conducting Onsite extra classes for Grade 10, 11 & 12 during the Summer holidays from 22nd August to 25th August.

Please visit our website to read the latest edition of the School Newsletter, 'The Bell', conceptualized by our students. This edition features our avid philatelist, Faadhil Mohaideen of Grade 10 and his radio interview on Hit 96.7 FM, talking about his collection of 200 stamps at the EXPO 2020.

As we embrace Joyful June, the well-being theme for this month, kindergarteners explored a myriad of colours during the Colour Week and colours indicate the onset of summer. Yet another season and reason to celebrate with your loved ones all that is colourful and bright about our lives, and the goodness in each one of us!

A big shout-out to the OOB family for the generosity and compassion shown each day.

Warm Regards,

Sindhu Padmanabhan
Vice Principal