



Keeping in Touch

Ref. No. KIT 002 – 01Oct24

On behalf of the Principal and CEO, Srivalsan Murugan

01 October 2024

Dear Parents,

The celebrations that follow a GOAL in a game of soccer is nothing short of ecstatic, with all the team members, players on the bench, team managers and fans breaking into a rapturous delight and euphoria. Before the goal, the ball has had an arduous journey. The player who scored the goal had to navigate difficult passes, impregnable defence of opponents and with the might of his skills, scores a goal. When the journey is difficult, accomplishment is a cherished one. However, these celebrations are momentary and very soon, the players are back to the business of realizing the unfinished task of leading their team to further glory. Our School's journey resonates with the above exemplar. As we marvel at the achievements of students and staff, please take a pause and glance through this edition to celebrate them. Our belief is that the road to excellence is unfinished business and hence every accomplishment makes us work harder with renewed commitment to our boys.

OOB was honoured at the Elite Excellence Ceremony as one of the **High Performing Schools in PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) - 2022**, for excelling the global average on all Five PISA domains. The Principal & CEO, Mr. Srivalsan Murugan, accepted the award on behalf of the School. This is a testament to the institution's commitment to scholastic achievement, critical thinking, global citizenship, transforming our boys into citizens of tomorrow and capable of meeting the challenges of the 21st century.

The School is also the proud recipient of the **Health Promoting Schools (HPS)- Gold Award**. This is an initiative by the Health Promotion Department of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs, Sharjah. The HPS Gold Status is the highest recognition level within the Healthy and Positive Schools programme awarded to schools that demonstrate outstanding commitment and success in embedding health and well-being into their core values, operations and educational practices. The Principal & CEO, Mr. Srivalsan Murugan, along with the School Doctor, Dr. Summiya Qazi, accepted the award on behalf of the team.

When we speak about our students being future ready, our endeavour is to equip them with skills and dispositions that will be 'certain in an uncertain future'. 'Our Own In-House Internship Programme' was launched on 24th September. The tagline for this programme, 'Be Who You Want To Be', resonated well with the Senior School boys. The official logo for this unique programme was designed by Munadir Ahammed Sabu from Grade 10. Internship domains include Teaching and Learning, IT, Front Office, Sports, Industrial Internship, Library, and Operations. We place on record our appreciation for the guest speakers of the day, Mr. Suneer Hakeem, Parent Governor, Dr. Zakiya Abdul Samad, Assistant Professor, distinguished member of our parent community and Dr. Bejay Jayan, Director at SIFS and a proud alumnus, who shared their valuable insights on the importance of internships. A Career Fair was held on 14th September for students of Grades 9 to 12 and their parents. 25 stalls were set up, showcasing universities and educational consultancies. Students and parents engaged with university representatives, gaining valuable insights into entrance exams, application procedures, academic qualifications, course offerings, scholarship opportunities and career options. Students from our twinning school, the Sharjah Indian School, Boys, were also provided the

opportunity to visit the Fair. Interactions with experts were facilitated through a seminar on 'Artificial Intelligence and its Impact on the Future' at GEMS Our Own English High School, Dubai, and the 'CollARTborative Meet 2024,' organized by the Visual Arts Council hosted by The Millennium School, Dubai. At our in - house TECH FEST 2024, students from Grades 5 to 12, proudly presented 42 innovative projects, each designed to tackle real-world challenges. From eco-friendly solutions to technological advancements, students showcased their creativity and problem-solving skills, addressing issues like climate change, renewable energy and community development.

Now, I wish to put the spotlight on some of our gifted and talented students, who deserve every bit of our appreciation and kudos. We are proud of their accomplishments.

- Aayush Supal (4E) won the title of 'Champion Topper' in the International Maths Challenge Competition.
- Shaurya Menghani (2E) was honoured by India's World Records, Wonder Kids of the World, and the National Award of India's World Record for setting a world record by identifying 56 country flags and their capitals in 56 seconds, earning him a spot in the International Book of Records for being the youngest to do so. He has also earned a spot in the India Book of Records and earned the title of 'Grand Master' in the Asia Book of Records.
- Rathan Ramakrishna (8B) won the second place in the National Critical Writing competition, hosted by the Youngest Magazine (TMG Children)
- Amin Ahmed (9F) clinched the first place in the 8th Inter-School Quran and Adhan Competition, held on 22nd September at Al Amana Private School, Sharjah. This prestigious event saw a participation from 20 schools and our student's remarkable performance stood out, earning admiration from all attendees.
- Aditya Rajesh (10G) was awarded the prestigious 'STAR ACHIEVER' title at the International Star Kids Awards 2024. His remarkable achievements span singing, public speaking, academics, chess, environmental work and community service.
- Ehan Jaleel (10 E) was placed 2nd in the Dubai Kartdrome National Fast Track Race.

August and September were filled with exciting activities for our students. Kindergarten observed 'Health is Wealth' Week from 16th September to 19th September. A plethora of activities were organized for the students such as Zumba, salad making and Doctor's Talk by our dentist parent, Dr Swetha Veeravalli. The little champs also joined hands with their parents in cooking without fire. International Day of Peace was observed on 23rd September to instill the value of practising small actions that make a huge impact on making the world a peaceful place. Students of grades 1 to 4 embarked on an educational field trip to the Sharjah Desert Park, discovering the wonders of the desert ecosystem. International Literacy Day and Library Week brought the love of reading to life through a Story Circle, where Primary students shared their favourite stories. Grade 2 students read to KG 2 pupils, while Grade 1 students had the special opportunity to read to members of the leadership team. Engaging reading sessions led by the Vice Principal, Ms. Sindhu P. Nair, and Academic Supervisors, Ms. Raisa Khan and Ms. Mili Thomas further enriched the students' literary experience. The inter- class Choral Elocution competition for students of grades 5 and 6, 'Voices in Harmony', was held on 11th September with cent percent participation. In the Grade 5 category, 5G secured first place, followed by 5A in second and 5C in third position. 6G took first place, with 6E and 6D claiming second and third positions, respectively in Grade 6 category. The Senior Middle Department conducted an engaging Read-Aloud event on the 17th September, titled 'La Synchronic Rhetorica'. Each section of Grades 7 and 8 actively participated, presenting their poems on the theme, 'Nature', with a blend of rhythm and rhetoric that captivated the audience.

Math Week, across the School was a vibrant celebration of numbers and logic, with students participating in fun and educational activities like Math Bingo, Tangrams, and more. The highlight of the week was the 'Bizinnovate' event, where students of Grade 3 and 4 showcased entrepreneurial skills by pitching creative business ideas. Grades 5 and 6 collaborated to present a dynamic special assembly, where they explored the fascinating intersections between the two subjects, Hindi and Math. The Math Exhibition, held on 19th September, witnessed the students from grades 7 and 8 presenting a variety of mathematical puzzles, games, and activities, turning the avenue into a hub of intellectual exploration.

As we revel in our accomplishments, we seldom forget the sheer passion demonstrated by our educators in transforming boys into men who matter. In recognition of the vital role teachers play and to commemorate Teacher's Day, our students hosted a special event, 'Eduphoria-Celebrating Our Inspiring Heroes'. Our Principal and CEO, Mr. Srivalsan Murugan and our veteran faculty members, Ms. Lizy Franco and Ms. Najla Idriss were felicitated at the Teachers' Excellence Award, 2024, by the Indian Association, Ajman and Consulate General of India, for their inspiring contributions and honouring the roles teachers play in moulding young minds.

We are active on twitter @OOB_GEMS, Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GEMSOurOwnBoys/> and on Instagram account gems_oob. Do follow us for regular updates and the latest photos.

It is almost impossible to stay away from the digital world and it's equally important for us to keep that space safe for our children. Digital footprints that will serve as brilliant legacy and responsible digital citizenship are the fundamentals of a safe and responsible online behavior. Please find a link , that will serve as a guide for parents to raise positive digital citizens and help navigate the associated digital challenges.

https://www.digitalwellbeing.ae/en/parent_guides

With the ongoing examination, we urge you to create a conducive environment at home for your ward to remain focused on his goals and ensure his well- being. It is important to do well in examinations; but there's more to life than examinations. This is the time we could give our children the best life-lessons; make them believe in themselves and much more.

Lead kindly light.....have a splendid week ahead!

Warm Regards,



Sindhu Padmanabhan
Vice Principal