



Keeping in Touch

Ref. No. KIT 003 – 17Oct21

17 October 2021

On behalf of the Principal and CEO, Srivalsan Murugan

Dear Parents,

'I think there is something more important than believing: Action! The world is full of dreamers, there aren't enough who will move ahead and begin to take concrete steps to actualize their vision.'
W. Clement Stone.

To dream is a good thing, believing in the dream is even better but the best- is turning that dream into reality. A dream that only comes alive when belief turns into action! The past year was filled with the impossible and left the world in utter disbelief about the new ways of living. But 'resilience' is what has allowed humankind to evolve and appeal to its inner self to become something more, something better, perhaps even the best!

'When the world comes together, we create a better tomorrow!' No country showcases this better than the UAE, which, despite the pandemic, has successfully welcomed visitors; locally and globally to the EXPO 2020- the first world expo in the MEASA region! 'Connecting the minds and creating the future' through sustainability, mobility and opportunity; the 192 magnificent pavilions stand testament to this thought that it is only through connected thinking and ways of working that we are going to create an impact that will turn our dreams into reality.

OOB had a special moment to cherish forever as Gaurav Jayaprakash (Grade 7), Joash Joseph (Grade 6), Kayden D'Souza & David D'Silva (Grade 4) etched their names into the pages of EXPO history with their mellifluous role in the rendering of the EXPO anthem during the inaugural ceremony. Indeed, another accolade to add to OOB's success stories.

To get the school community up-to- speed with the EXPO fervour, the Arabic department presented a thematic assembly on EXPO 2020.

To continue within the echoes of the EXPO 2020, and speaking about big dreams transforming into reality, OOB is beyond elated to have successfully presented the fifth edition of SparkX OOB 2021- 'The Virtual World of Infinite Possibilities' on 7th October 2021. Since its inception in 2008, SparkX- the biennial exhibition of OOB, has been an ardent contribution of the school's collective endeavours towards excellence. Through SparkX, OOB's bright minds are encouraged to express the diaspora of their inherent creativity using imagination and skill. For the first time in its history, our virtual festival of innovation featured exhibitors and projects from all the fields, right from the tiny tots of the Kindergarten to the mega-minds of the Senior School. Lieutenant General Zameer Uddin Shah was the Chief Guest and key note speaker at the inaugural ceremony. He last served as the Deputy Chief of Army Staff, Indian Army and was also the 38th Vice Chancellor of the Aligarh Muslim University.

Expert talks, games, music and projects; SparkX witnessed some truly innovative and pioneering ideas and solutions by our boys. The school hosted three inter-school competitions- 'SparkFlix', 'MindSpark', and 'A Complex Route' under the banner of SparkX 2021. OOB Primary celebrated the festival of innovation, SparkX- Primary, wherein the little explorers showcased their creativity- from exploring various cultures, traditions, language and literature to financial literacy, STEAM & robotics!

The Social Studies Department captured the zeitgeist of the times through an array of events under the theme Exploro- ushering into the limelight Sustainable Goals (Primary), Bygone Era- Unraveling the mysteries of the past (Grades 5&6) encompassing the confluence of ancient civilizations, the Kenya and the Egypt Pavilions (Grade 7&8), Scintillating Scandinavia (Grades 9&10) which was enhanced by the live event Entrevista- showcasing speakers from Norway and Sweden. The Commerce Department under the theme of 'Global Digital Transformation' captivated the audience through live events such as Expert talk, Panel Discussion- the Economics of Covid-19. The OOB- Shark Tank and the DIY- V Fair. It was indeed a virtual world of infinite possibilities. This momentous event will truly go down in the history of OOB's glorious legacy of excellence.

The Kindergarten department was abuzz with beautiful artwork, creative dress-ups and exciting activities as the little champs celebrated Teddy Day, Play Doh Day, International Peace Day and Grandparents' Day. The celebration of the 'Health is Wealth' week, had the students involved in an array of activities which helped them develop an understanding of being healthy and practicing healthy habits. The Kinderblasters made their mark in OOB SparkX history for the first time by showcasing their talents in art, literacy, numeracy and their understanding of the world.

Library week in the Middle School was marked by fascinating, gripping and thought-provoking reading sessions. Teachers and members of the Leadership Team alike read aloud stories reminding each student what a superpower reading can be. The Senior middle department organized a book café on the occasion of International Library Week, where the Principal and CEO, Head of Middle School and the Supervisor engaged in a discussion with a group of enthusiastic boys on Oscar Wilde's, 'The Happy Prince.'

'Hindi Divas' which is observed annually on 14th September to inculcate love for the Hindi Language, was celebrated with great fervour across the school where the boys recited poems in Hindi, made posters, presented special assemblies and spoke eloquently praising the Hindi language. The onsite students of the Junior Middle department interviewed their old Hindi teachers which were heartwarming conversations reminiscing their glorious days at OOB.

Kudos to Abhinav Sadhasivan Menon of 7B, who donated his hair for a noble cause- #HairForHope for cancer patients – and received a certificate of appreciation during a function held at the Indian Consulate.

The 13th edition of the 'Battle of the Bands' went live, reviving onsite events for the first time this year from the Sheikh Zayed Multi-Purpose Hall at OOB and all who witnessed the event, experienced some extraordinary mix of warmth, joy and nostalgia all wrapped up like pure magic! Congratulations are in order to the following: Best Performer- Omkar Ganesh 12 E, Best Guitarist-

Rahul Menon 12 D, Winning Band- Fallout (Band members: Kyle Glen Parker- 12D, Rahul Menon- 12 D, Ralph Samuel- 12 D, Noel Abraham Tiju- 12 D, Ravi Shankar Gopal- 12 B, Omkar Ganesh- 12 E, Ashish Abraham Renni- 12 F and Benjamin Joseph- 12 G)

We are also pleased to announce that Dr. Gregor Cameron, School Improvement Advisor from SPEA visited our campus; taking a tour of the facilities and interacting with members of the student and teaching community, as well as, meeting with the members of the leadership team.

Last, but definitely not the least, half yearly examination has commenced, I am sure that the students and staff have earnestly prepared to achieve excellent outcomes. It has been over a month that the new term has commenced bringing in immense positivity and success for OOB. It is indeed a joy and pleasure to have most of the kids back on campus. We trust that this will continue to have the same impact throughout the year as we invest in planning lifelong experiences for our young learners. We pray that our students strive to succeed as good role models, better human beings and the best among scholars.

Soaring towards greater heights, a quote on resilience by Ms. Juanita Gonsalves, class teacher of the Kindergarten:

*Mankind- mere mortals as we are, resilient is our soul,
To make the world a better place, that's our wish I'm told.
Each one strives through wit and grit,
Bringing forth marvels, and that's no myth!
Back down from a challenge? That's not our game,
To be Good, Better and Best, that's our ultimate aim!*

With this thought, we look forward to 'Keeping in Touch' through our next edition by Ms. Sofi Mathew - Supervisor Junior Middle Department.

We post regular updates on the day-to-day happenings of our school on our Twitter account @OOB_GEMS, Our Instagram @gems_oob, and our Facebook account <https://www.facebook.com/GEMSOurOwnBoys/> . Do follow them, to never miss any of the many happenings in our school.

Warm Regards,



Raisa Khan
Supervisor-Kindergarten