



Keeping in Touch

Ref. No. KIT 003 – 28Jun22

On behalf of the Principal and CEO, Srivalsan Murugan

28 June, 2022

"Summer has a flavor like no other. Always fresh and simmered in sunshine." - Oprah Winfrey

Dear Parents,

"We're all going on a summer holiday" is the memorable refrain from the song "Summer Holiday" recorded by Cliff Richard in the year 1962. Summer brings with it a renewed sense of hope and the desire to try new things. We've all had to deal with uncertainty and challenges at some point in our lives. Instead of pushing ourselves too hard, let's take it easy this summer and enjoy the great outdoors by taking walks, having picnics, working outside, and relaxing with a book and a steaming cup of coffee while the sun rises and sets.

It's been a busy few weeks for our 'Happy Happening School', which has hosted and participated in numerous events.

Listening to the thoughts and ideas of some of the world's most brilliant and accomplished human beings is an incredible opportunity that we're all fortunate to have. It goes without saying, then, that TED talks hold some of the most powerful inspirations you can find anywhere in the world. On 19 May, 2022, Our Own Boys organized the prestigious event, TEDxOOBSchool 2022. Within the context of the theme Paradigm Shift, 14 amazing speakers presented 14 brilliant ideas that deserve our respect and appreciation. The speakers were Dhanvi Sayani (OOD), Gomathy Krishna Binu (OOD), Pranamy Belvai (OOD), Madhav Binu (OOIS), Bharath Sathiyajith (OOB), Chandan Madhusudana Kurup (OOB), Dewansh Agrawal (OOB), Henish Patel (OOB), Irfan Mohammed (OOB), Khush Seth (OOB), Syed Adan (OOB), Taha Shabbir (OOB), Tarun Manoj Rawat (OOB), and Vanshdeep Singh (OOB). We congratulate everyone and wish them a bright future. May this be a head start for their public speaking career on the international platform.

On the 21st of June, 2022, OOB added yet another edition to its acclaimed interview series- 'In Conversation With.' This edition was graced by the esteemed presence of Mr. Ashraf Thamarassery. Propelled by his belief, '**Serving the dead, to help the living**- Mr. Thamarassery has been a harbinger of hope into the grievous lives of bereaved families. Within minutes of his arrival, the Sheikh Zayed Multipurpose Hall reverberated with the 'Language of Humanity.' The interview struck innate chords of humanity in the fledgling social workers of OOB as they reveled in the riveting and inspiring dialogue with Mr. Thamarassery sharing several anecdotes from his life experiences.

“Winning isn’t everything, it’s the only thing” — Henry Russell

Winning has a long-lasting effect on the mind. In time, winning becomes the norm rather than an anomaly. ‘The Waxing Eloquent’, a competition organized by The Millennium School Dubai, pitted our students against the stalwart speakers of other GEMS schools in four categories. Our boys' elocution pieces, which were chosen with care and consideration, were expertly delivered, and they received high praise from all who heard them. Samford Sebin (9F) won first place in the Sub Senior category, whereas Mohommad Afraaz (2G) and Amogha Arun (12D) bagged the second-best speaker’s trophy in the Sub Junior and Senior categories respectively. Sarang Varma (7H) also made us proud by standing tall as the third best speaker in the Junior category.

“Everyone has the fire, but the champions know when to ignite the spark.” Amit Ray

We stand proud and celebrate the 14 winners of the TWS creative arts festival who unleashed their passion, demonstrated their artistic powers, pushed their creative arts to the brink and savored success for OOB. For the second consecutive year, we participated in the TWS Creative Arts Festival hosted by The Westminster School, Dubai, an interschool competition platform for students to explore their vast depths of creative arts. OOB proudly presented 23 finalists in 8 different events this year and brought home 14 awards with 3 winners, 6 first runners-up and 5 second runners-up trophies.

In Arabic calligraphy, Hamza Ratlami (gr12) was the winner & Theophin Biju (gr 9) was the 1st Runner up. In short story (English), Niranjana Raj (gr 4) was the winner & Sreehari Nair (gr 9) and Able Reji Pappachan (gr 8) were declared the 2nd runner up.

In art, Ashwin Sathish Kumar (Gr7) bagged the first place. In podcast, Muaadh bin Shabee (Gr7) & Khaled Mohammed (Gr12) were placed as the 1st runners up. In coding and animation, Gilchrist Candido (Gr12) and Nabhya Sharma (Gr5) lifted the 1st runner up trophy. In the Arabic Poetry competition, Saad Mustafa (Gr10) was the 1st runner up & Shawaiz Mohammed (Gr10) & Mujtaba Ali (Gr8) were the 2nd runners up . Timothy Chummar (Gr 8) bagged the 2nd runner up trophy in the English poetry competition.

Our boys Adithya Anush of grade 8G, Amarnath Sreevalsan of grade 7E, Hamd Aamir Baig of grade 6F, Prasandhip Jewahar of grade 8D, Sreepadmanabhan Vimal Kumar of grade 9F and Govardhan Vimal Kumar of grade 6A participated in Mission Abate, a plastic reduction initiative, organized by Team UFK

Lokakritii Shrunav Gourineni of grade 7F won an e-certificate from Jigsaw Edu Solutions Private Limited for having completed all levels of Ganit Gyan.

On the 23rd of June, 2022, 45 students from the middle school took part in the online Intra School Act Universal Impromptu Speech Contest. The finals will take place on June 27th, with nine finalists vying for the top prize. Here’s wishing our own champs all the very best!

Nine OObites engaged in a Generation Global video conference on the topic ‘Good Health & Well-Being’ with students from schools in New Delhi. The students enthusiastically related health and well-being to societal issues, joys, obstacles and shared their personal experiences and stories.

At the third annual Global Social Leaders Fest (GSL), which took place online on 17 June 2022, our team 'Excelsior', comprising of Samford Sebin (9 F) Adithya Anush (8 G) and Amarnath Sreevalsan (7 E) received high commendation in the category of learning. The trio's project aimed to address the SDG Goals of # 3 Good Health and Well-Being and # 13 Climate change through initiatives like organic farming, awareness campaigns, beach and mangrove clean -ups, recycling campaigns, short films, art works, surveys and the school's sustainable garden. Through small actions, one can make a big impact, was the underlying message of the team at the GSL platform.

In Sashtra Prathibha contest 2021, conducted by Science India Forum- UAE, in association with National Science Movement (Vijnana Bharati), Shubhankar Gosh of Grade (12B) won the prestigious 'Sashtra Prathibha' title. Govardhan Vimal Kumar (5A), Ashwel Rodrigues (9D), Mayank Upadhyay (11A), Saidutt Anirudh (11A) & Harsh Upadhyay (12B) received Certificates of Merit.

From the 20th to the 23rd of June 2022, the Department of English hosted 'ARBORETUM-a walk in the woods,' a four-day literary festival. Students had the opportunity to discover their hidden talents and sharpen their critical thinking skills through a variety of school-wide competitions, such as elocution, show-and-tell, pantomime, and more. The participants put their best foot forward in front of the whole school to show how excited and interested they were to learn about the many different parts of the language.

Pride + Spirit + Commitment + Attitude is Success . At the 9th Interschool Badminton tournament, hosted by Gems Millennium School Sharjah, our under 13 badminton team of Zeeshan Backer (8A) & Ethan Benny (7E) won the silver medal in the doubles category. In the under-11 doubles division, Joel Shibu George (6E) & Nabhya Kunal Sharma (5D) won the bronze medal.

The 6th of June, 2022 marked the first onsite Literary Club session for this academic year. Our Principal & CEO, Mr. Srivalsan Murugan, discussed various techniques for overcoming stage fright and broached the necessity of posing specific questions before initiating a discussion with the audience.

On June 20th, in keeping with OOB's longstanding custom, our Principal addressed the newly admitted students of grades 10 and 11. He welcomed them to the OOB family and spoke about the institution's vision, mission, values, and ethos.

In preparation for the TIMSS (Trends in Mathematics and Scientific Study) assessment in 2023, students from selected classes of grades 4 and 8 took the TIMSS Field test on June 15 and 16. Students of grades 1, 3, 5, 8, and 10 are taking the CAT4 (Cognitive Ability Test) a standardized test, which provides a comprehensive profile of students reasoning and core abilities related to learning. The PASS survey (The Pupils Attitudes to Self and School) was conducted across school. PASS is an all -age attitudinal survey that helps us detect possible barriers to learning.

A week-long event of 'Waste to Wealth' in Kindergarten gave our little ones an opportunity to explore the 3R's in their daily lives. 'Show and Tell' was conducted to help our boys express their thoughts on the products they created with waste. Our boys were elated as they went on their first

field trip to the 'Sharjah Aquarium' and subsequently during the same week our little munchkins made a wonderful tie for their superheroes on the occasion of Father's Day. It was celebrated across departments with much fanfare.

When it comes to the education of our young men, we've always stated unequivocally that we will never be an exam factory. We will not deny that examinations are the measure of exceptional academic achievements and you have every right to expect this from the school. A virtual open house is scheduled for the 28th and 29th of this month to discuss your ward's academic progress.

We place a high value on the well-being of our students, staff, and parents. All safety protocols will be followed when the school reopens for staff and students on August 22nd and August 29th, respectively. We are confident that we are making every effort to ensure that our staff and students have the best possible learning environment.

Please visit our website to read the latest edition of the school newsletter, 'The Bell' Volume 6, Issue 3, conceptualized by our students who strongly believe that the next few years will see a paradigm shift in innovation that will necessitate constant adaptation.

We are active on twitter @OOB_GEMS,

Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GEMSOurOwnBoys/> and on

Instagram account gems_oob. Do follow us for the latest photos and regular updates.

On behalf of the entire OOB faculty, I hope you have a wonderful summer with your loved ones. Come September, we can't wait to hear about all of your summer adventures.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our PAC members who have been a pillar of support. Thank you to everyone on our team, from the office staff to the teaching faculty, who have worked so hard to make this quarter a success for our students. Finally, I would like to congratulate all our students for their success, accomplishments and contributions to the school because it is you, along with our teachers and parents, who make Our Own Boys a wonderful place to learn and grow.

Life is short and tomorrow is not promised, Be grateful for what you do have, and make the best out of today!

Warm Regards,



Bindu Gopalakrishnan

Head of Section – Middle School