



## Keeping in Touch

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On behalf of the Principal and CEO, Srivalsan Murugan

16 October 23

“The real asset of any advanced nation is its people, especially the educated ones, and the prosperity and success of the people are measured by the standard of their education.”

**the Late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan (may Allah have mercy upon him)**

Dear Parents,

At the outset of this newsletter, let's take a moment to reflect on the remarkable 6<sup>th</sup> edition of SparkX2023, hosted with pride by the boys of OOB on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. Themed ‘Sustainability and Innovation Village – SparkX the Change’, the event was inaugurated by our School Improvement Advisor (from SPEA), Mr Johannes Bodenstein, with our Principal and CEO, Mr Srivalsan Murugan, and the Senior Leadership and Management teams. This bi-annual extravaganza showcased 550 projects by 1,600 students, celebrating cutting-edge innovation in various fields, including robotics, art, science, technology, mathematics, culture, and literature. Over 1,500 visitors were welcomed by students from Kindergarten to grade XII, who presented a wide variety of digital exhibits, models, displays and cultural programs. With preparation starting way before summer vacations and guidance from their teachers, our boys sure made us proud. The Heads of Departments and subject coordinators worked together to ensure high-quality exhibits that challenged students' intellectual and creative abilities.

Mr. Bodenstein commended the school for offering students excellent learning opportunities, highlighting their talents, and emphasizing the importance of seizing every chance to learn. Parents and visitors also praised the students for their innovative and sustainable prototypes, in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, echoing the sentiments of others at the event.

Confucius once said, ‘The will to win, the desire to succeed, the urge to reach your full potential... these are the keys that will unlock the door to personal excellence.’ Amidst all the activities that keep our corridors abuzz, the boys constantly have us beaming with pride with their wins and achievements at various interschool events.

The Diana Award honours young people who work to improve the lives of others. Amarnath Sreevalsan (8E), Sree Padmanabhan Vimal Kumar (10F) and Adithya Anush (9E) are the proud recipients of the 2023 Diana Award.

Philip Chummar (7D) and Samford Sebin (10F) clinched Third and Second place in the Junior and Sub Senior categories, respectively, in the Finals of Waxing Eloquent 2023, held at The Millennium School, Dubai, on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June.

Being the hat-trick champions of the SDG INNOTECH 23 Competition, conducted by Our Own English High School, Sharjah – Girls, our boys were registered in all ten categories, ranging from clean energy to healthcare to education and other SDG-related areas. Each category represented a unique and pressing challenge. With their innovative solutions, Our Own Boys spread the seeds of hope and possibility, offering a glimpse of a better future for all. The table below highlights our outstanding achievements in this competition!

1	Balatharun Kiruba Shankar	Sub Junior	Poster Designing	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place
2	Advay Sumith	Sub Junior	Digital Animation	1 <sup>st</sup> Place
3	Ammar Ali Khan	Senior	Programming	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place
4	Emmanuel Mathew	Senior	Photo Magic	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place
5	Bilal Biju & Kailash Sudheesh	Junior Team	Innovation Challenge	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place
6	Maharshi Pandya, Ammar Ali Khan & Adam Khan	Senior Team	Innovation Challenge	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place

Furthermore, our boys showcased excellence at the 'IMMUTO' competition hosted by India International School in Sharjah. Adhib Zayan from (5C), Ritvik Gupta (5C) and Vaibhav Sureshan (5H) participated in the Grade 4 & 5 category with their project titled "Competing Demands For Clean Water and Sanitation." The team from Grades 6-8 (Brahmadath Binu Raj, Nahul Raja, and Sharan Sathvik Mogilipuri- all from 8A) secured 1<sup>st</sup> place. The team from Grades 11 & 12 secured an impressive 2<sup>nd</sup> place. The school was honoured with the Overall 1st Runners Up Trophy as a testament to our overall performance.

Mohammed Rayan (6G) secured First place in the Islamic Calligraphy competition held at OOS.

At the Math challenge organised by GEMS Cambridge School, Sharjah, Team 1, comprising Ayan Suresh (6E), Prayag Bejoy(6F), Hainz Niren Abraham (6F), and Ayaan Muhammad Raseel (6H) secured an impressive 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Team 2, made up of Nivedit Santhosh Jayaram (6A), Mohammed Umair Iftekhar(6B), Hridaan Amitkumar Gandhi (6D) and Rafael Jacob Rojas Gilbert (6I), secured a remarkable 4<sup>th</sup> place. Anish Jena(8C) and Lloyd Jerry Philip (10C) received a certificate of participation in the Aryabhata National Maths Competition 2023. Aditya Rajesh (9G) participated in the Crest EduFund Mental Math Olympiad and got an International Zonal Rank of 22 and a certificate of honour. He also participated in the Mental Math World Cup 2023, organised by Live Math and Competitions and League, securing the 7<sup>th</sup> Rank in UAE and a World Rank of 55.

Sharan Mogilipuri and Brahmadath Binu Raj, both of 8A, received a certificate of participation at the final stage of the CBSE Science Challenge 2023-24.

Sreepadmanabhan Vimal Kumar (10F) and Rudra Kumar (9G), who had performed live at The Hive Open Mic Poetry Slam, now have their poems published in the Hive's anthology - Bee Write 2023. The book is available for purchase at Barnes and Noble.

It delights us to inform our readers that Aashman Bhanu Bali & Darshan Manikandan Latha, both of grade 7C, have been chosen as part of the squad to represent Team India in the junior boys under-13 category at the Junior World Series Indoor Cricket World Cup 2023 tournament, being organised by the UAE Indoor Cricket Federation under the auspices of the World Indoor Cricket Federation being held at the U Pro Indoor Sports Arena Dubai. Karthik Pillai Kumar (8E) has been chosen as part of the squad to represent the Emirates Indoor UAE Cricket Team in the junior boys under-13 category at the same event. He was presented with the Most Valuable- as well. Player Devam Parth Desai of 6F was selected to represent team UAE in the junior boys under-13 category at the Junior World Series Indoor Cricket World Cup 2023 tournament, which concluded on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October.

Our students' accomplishments are indeed the reason behind our smiles, but exceptional students imply exceptional teaching, too! Our Principal & CEO, Mr. Srivalsan Murugan, was honoured with the Teacher Excellence Award 2023 by the Indian Association in Ajman. Ms. Bindu Sunilkumar and Ms. Shereen Joji were acknowledged at the same function for their exemplary work in education.

The weeks back at school after a well-deserved summer break included a myriad of themed assemblies from all the departments, be it the Aspiring Amigos from the Kindergarten or the appreciation for the Hindi language courtesy of the Primary and celebrating our teachers in the Junior Middle assembly.

The OOBMUN'23 (Mock United Nations Conference), held on 31<sup>st</sup> August, was an excellent avenue for our students to develop and showcase their public speaking and negotiating skills whilst addressing global matters. This collaborative venture of the Debating Society and Student Council was indeed a tryst with diplomacy!

OOB's Generation Global Club presented a Global Citizenship Conference on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October conducted by Ms Aishwariya Chauhan, who served as the South Asia Partnerships Coordinator at Generation Global. Students from GMS also participated in this conference.

As part of our efforts to enhance environmental sustainability, OOB participated in a GEMS-wide campaign to collect E-waste in collaboration with Sharaf DG, in line with UAE's sustainability vision 2023. We collected over 400kgs of E-waste.

SEWA Day was observed on 4<sup>th</sup> October by hosting a free medical camp for the entire OOB community, particularly our ancillary staff. The OOB SEWA Club organised this in collaboration with the Thumbay Hospital, Ajman.

Speaking of the little kinder tots, they had an eventful month gone by with celebrations like Teddy Day, Shape Day, International Day of Peace, and Grandparents Day, as well as the 'Health is Wealth' Week dedicated to understanding the significance of healthy living through some truly engaging activities. The Primary Department had an eventful month, starting with the #Storyathon2023 Remix Challenge, celebrating International Literacy Day on the 7<sup>th</sup> of September. The Junior Middle Department organised an English Week from 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> September with activities that included an intraclass story writing competition and fun learning activities to improve speaking skills like 'The Last One Standing' and 'Just a Minute' speeches modelled after the BBC game show Just-a-Minute.

A positive attitude is what gives you power over your circumstances and not the other way around. Our collective achievements as a fraternity are a testament to the affinity we have towards our school and the resilience we showcase in the face of adversity. Our children are proof of this resilience, be it the little wonders of the Kindergarten or the experienced minds of Grade 12.

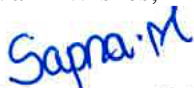
Before I close, I'm reminded of a quote by Matthew Jacobson, 'Behind every young child who believes in himself is a parent who believed first'. From my very own son, I have learned this resilience. I am learning to be open to all the changes I face and stay positive through it all. This affirms my belief in children being great teachers. Each day, we learn from our students.

Sending good vibes your way and a promise to 'Keep in touch'. For streamlined updates on the vibrant life of the OOB campus, please feel free to check out our Twitter account @OOB\_GEMS, Our Instagram @gems\_oob and our Facebook account <https://www.facebook.com/GEMSOwnOwnBoys/>.

We thank you for your unstinted support and collaboration.

  
Carpe diem  
Seize the Day

Warm Wishes,



Supervisor – Primary & PLD Coordinator