



KEEPING IN TOUCH

Ref. No. KIT 004 – 30Oct25

On behalf of the Principal and CEO, Srivalsan Murugan

30 October 2025

Dear parent,

“Together, we celebrate. Together, we learn. Together, we thrive- as one OOB family.”

October at OOB unfolded like a mesmerizing kaleidoscope, each turn revealing new patterns of brilliance, a seamless fusion of colours and forms, distinct yet united in a breathtaking tapestry. The golden hues of autumn were mirrored by the vibrant energy, achievements and togetherness of our students and staff, transforming the campus into a living canvas of inspiration. If October had a voice, it would sing as a symphony composed by our OOB family, each day a unique movement, from the joyous crescendo of our first-ever Family First Carnival to the steady rhythm of academic and sporting triumphs, and the gentle, nurturing melodies emanating from our youngest classrooms.

This month also marked a rare and distinguished milestone, 25 years of dedicated service by our esteemed faculty, whose unwavering commitment has been a guiding light, shaping young minds with wisdom, care, and passion. October at OOB was a vibrant celebration of energy, perseverance, and harmony, a living testament to the power of unity, reminding us that we shine brightest when together in purpose and spirit.

We proudly honour and celebrate, Ms. Sindhu P. Nair (Vice Principal), Ms. Samira Al Balushi (Arabic and Islamic Studies Supervisor), and Ms. Mary Lizy Franco (Faculty- Chemistry), who have each completed 25 remarkable years with GEMS Education. Their journey is a radiant tapestry woven with dedication, passion, and the timeless art of teaching, a legacy measured not in years, but in the countless hearts and minds they have nurtured.

Our first OOB Family First Carnival, held under the GEMS Family First initiative, transformed our campus into a radiant celebration of joy, unity, and togetherness. With over 2,400 parents in attendance, the day came alive with music, sports, storytelling, and laughter. Heartwarming tales led by Mr. Srivalsan Murugan captivated young minds, while performances by parents filled the campus with the true spirit of family and shared happiness.

We were privileged to welcome the GEMS dignitaries, whose presence added immense prestige and warmth to the occasion. A highlight of the day, In Conversation with RJ Arfaz, offered students an inspiring glimpse into the worlds of creativity, authenticity and dedication. The celebrations were further enriched by a series of Expert Talk Sessions, featuring distinguished speakers who sparked reflection and inspired growth across our OOB community.

On 6th October 2025, the corridors of Our Own English High School, Boys' Branch, echoed with laughter, applause, and heartfelt gratitude as we celebrated International Teachers' Day. Students took center stage, expressing appreciation through captivating performances that sparkled with creativity and warmth. Adding to the joy, our teachers stepped into whimsical roles for a delightful fancy-dress presentation, a moment of shared laughter and celebration that beautifully captured the spirit of togetherness and joy that defines OOB.

As we continued to nurture a culture of care and gratitude, wellbeing and service shone at the heart of October. The SEWA Club led with compassion through Health Awareness Day and SEWA Day, honouring our dedicated ancillary staff and recognizing their invaluable contributions to school life. Extending this spirit of responsibility, the Sustainable Recycling Drive (15-30 October 2025) inspired students to champion eco-conscious living, reducing e-waste, paper, and plastic in pursuit of a greener tomorrow.

OOB students continued to shine across academics, sports, and creative pursuits. At the Sundeep Batavia Inter-School Athletic Meet held on 23rd October 2025, our young athletes displayed outstanding dedication, teamwork, and sportsmanship, earning several medals: Venkata Sai Likhith (8B) -Bronze, Under-14 80m Race, Zayan Ahmed Mohammed (8H) – Silver, Under-14 300m Race, Dario Seban Jinoob (6A) -Bronze, Under-12 Shot Put and Avaneesh Sai Sanish (8C)- Bronze, Under-14 Javelin Throw.

Their achievements reflect OOB's enduring spirit of excellence and perseverance.

At the INNOTECH Inter-School Digi Fest, held on 16th October 2025 and hosted by Our Own Sharjah Girls, OOB secured the first runner-up overall trophy, with students winning accolades across multiple categories. Shaurya Menghani (3D) earned third place in Poster Designing, while the Sub-Junior team of Advay Sumith (5B), Aarav Prasad Hande (5B), and Abyan Ahmed (5A) claimed second place in the Innovation Challenge. The Junior team comprising of Mohammed Ahyan Hassan (8C), Ayan Suresh (8H), and Vasurmithraan Ranjith (8C) also clinched second in their category. Individual achievements further highlighted the students' talent and creativity: Abaan Mohammed Mathilakath (8A) secured third place in AR/VR Video Making, Aarav Ajay Singh (11E) took first in Photo Talk, and Suhas Reddy Shashidhara (9A) and Yashwant Kumar Bavanala Balaji (11B) earned top spots in AI Prototype Design. Excellence in Programming and Movie Making Documentary was demonstrated by Abhinav Vijay (12G), third in Programming, and Krishaanth Renga Rajan (9G), second in Movie Making -Documentary.

Our students' remarkable stewardship of the environment was commendable. Shaurya Menghani (3D) collected 2,000 kg of paper, earning the opportunity to plant six trees. Aayush Supal (5E) collected 1,065 kg, gaining the chance to plant two trees. Ethan George (3G) contributed 525 kg, enabling him to plant one tree. All three will participate in tree-planting events this December, proving that small steps can lead to a greener tomorrow. Additionally, Shaurya Menghani (3G), Kayden D Suza(8H), and Aayush Supal (5E) received Certificates of Appreciation from GEMS Family First for their creative audiobook "Two Great Leaders."

Young sports stars continued to shine brightly. Arsh Gururaj (2D) clinched double silver in the U-9 500 m and 300 m skating events at the CBSE UAE Cluster Championship, qualifying for the Nationals. Aarav Oliyil (9F) brought home double gold representing the UAE at international karate championships, while Darshan Manikandan (9E) was named top performer in the NCA U15 cricket tournament.

OOB's quiz enthusiasts excelled in intellectual arenas, showcasing sharp thinking and deep knowledge. Abel Sibi (6G) secured Third Place at the Media One Quiz Juniors, winning AED 1,000, while Roshin Rajesh (6C) reached the semi-finals, displaying impressive intellect and agility. In the Mabrook Media One Quiz – Senior Category, Adithya Anush (11A) and Gokul Prasanth (9C) emerged as Champions, earning a cash prize of AED 3,000 and a champion's trophy for their outstanding teamwork and performance.

Their achievements highlight OOB's spirit of curiosity, collaboration, and academic excellence. The spirit of innovation was further exemplified by our Gold-winning Senior team, 'ORGANUM', comprising Ayaan Ibrahim, Nahul Kumar Raja, Ashwin Sathish Kumar, and Zuhair Sarfaraj Parkar (Grade 10). They proudly represented OOB at the prestigious Global Innovation Challenge Finale held on 29th October 2025 at GEMS Wellington Academy, Silicon Oasis, celebrating entrepreneurship, creativity, and original thinking on an international stage.

Our students proudly represented the school at the DPS Inter-School Chess Tournament 2025, held on 27th October 2025 at Delhi Private School, Sharjah. The event saw enthusiastic participation from schools across Sharjah and Dubai under three categories Under 12, Under 14, and Under 16 with four players representing our school in each group. Our Under-16 team secured Second Prize, while the Under-12 and Under-14 teams delivered strong performances, finishing Fifth in their respective categories. The tournament was a testament to our students' focus, discipline, and strategic thinking throughout every round.

Amidst these celebrations of student talent and achievements, teacher excellence continued to shine at OOB, inspiring and guiding our learners every step of the way. Ms. Sharvari Jadhav and Ms. Sharon Dmello earned their professional Special Educator Licenses, while Ms. Shemitha Saleeth was appointed Green Champion Mentor with Tawazoun, leading sustainability and wellbeing initiatives with passion and purpose.

October was a month of joy and creativity in Kindergarten. Grandparents' Day and World Smile Day on 2nd October filled the halls with love and gratitude, while the Community Helpers Theme Party on 8th October taught KG2 students to appreciate everyday heroes. KG1 G celebrated World Food Day with vibrant costumes promoting healthy eating, and KG2 C honoured teachers on World Teachers' Day with a heartfelt tribute. Universal Music Day on 13th October, led by Ms. Samantha, inspired rhythm and creativity, and the month concluded with Universal Artist's Day on 27th October, where children expressed imagination through a collaborative mural.

From 20th to 24th October, students across all grades actively participated in **Digital Literacy and Digital Citizenship Week**, engaging in activities that promoted cyber safety, responsible online behaviour, and ethical technology use. In the Primary and Junior Middle sections, students explored AI-integrated lessons through poster-making, video creation, and activities like "Think Before You Click" and "Trace Your Trail," reinforcing safe and mindful digital practices. Grades 7 and 8 deepened their awareness through role-plays, quizzes, podcasts, debates, pledges, and digital poster-making, fostering responsible decision-making and online etiquette.

The Secondary Department continued this momentum with impactful sessions on cyber safety, digital well-being, and responsible online interactions. Throughout the week, students showcased enthusiasm, creativity, and a strong commitment to positive digital citizenship.

Senior School students continued to excel in academics, sports, and culture, showcasing leadership and innovation throughout October. The second cohort of the In-House Internship Program (2025–2026) was launched, offering students valuable real-world learning and skill-building experiences within the school community.

In sports, preparations are in full swing for the 39th Piyush-Ebin Sam Memorial Inter-School Soccer Tournament, scheduled from 6th to 13th November, preceded by an online Soccer Clinic on 23rd October to guide and coordinate participating teams.

Cultural excellence shone through the 17th Akshay Bolar Memorial Battle of the Bands, held on 23rd October at the Sheikh Zayed Multipurpose Hall. With the theme “The Y2K Encore: A Centennial Voyage,” four dynamic bands revived 2000s music with passion and creativity. Zephyr emerged as the Champion Band, while Aidan Philip (10C) and Swapneel Biswas (10B) won Best Performer and Best Guitarist respectively. Judged by Ms. Cezina Dsouza, Mr. Paul David, and Mr. Ashlin Thomas, the event celebrated OOB’s spirit of talent, teamwork, and artistic excellence, setting the stage for an even more exciting Season 18.

As we draw the curtains on a month filled with laughter, learning and remarkable milestones, we celebrate the spirit that defines our OOB family, where every achievement is cherished, every effort appreciated, and every child is nurtured to shine. From the smallest acts of creativity in our Kindergarten classrooms to the inspiring feats of our Senior School innovators, every moment reflects the power of collaboration, dedication and shared joy.

With the PT2 examinations on the horizon, we extend our warmest wishes to all our students. May our boys approach their studies with confidence, curiosity and resilience, carrying forward the Family First values of support, encouragement and teamwork. Together, let us continue to build a community where learning is a shared adventure, where support is a constant companion, and where the spirit of Family First inspires each of us to shine brighter, together.

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/GEMSOurOwnBoys/>.

We thank you for your unstinted support and collaboration.

Warm wishes



Sofi Mathews

Supervisor- Middle School (Grades 5 and 6)