



Keeping in Touch

Ref. No. KIT 005 – 10Oct22

On behalf of the Principal and CEO, Srivalsan Murugan

10 October 2022

A great accomplishment shouldn't be the end of the road, just the starting point for the next leap forward - Harvey Mackay

The Annual Prize Day, aptly named Al Injazat, meaning 'Accomplishments' in Arabic, was just that. The occasion not only celebrated the accomplishments of our students but also, and most importantly, commemorated the transformation of each one of these winners, from boys into men who matter.

Held on 22nd September, the event was graced by the presence of Professor Adrian Kennedy, Director -Arabian Wellness & Lifestyle Management LLC Dubai, who was the keynote speaker. Other important attendees included Mr. Michael Guzder, Vice President - GEMS Education, and Dr. Suleiman Hamdan, School Improvement Advisor for SPEA. A choir of over three hundred students from kindergarten to grade 12 sang the national anthem on this day, making it a truly remarkable event. Apart from the respective cohort subject toppers and CBSE Board toppers, the evening also celebrated six faculty members who won the GEMS Teacher Award and two members of the staff who were felicitated with the Core Values Award.

In his message to the boys, our Principal and CEO, Mr. Srivalsan Murugan mentioned about the three simple words popularized by GEMS which resonated with him, **Learn, Aspire, Be**. He exhorted all boys to be creative, be dynamic, be productive, be inspired, be who you want to be and be 'you'.

And as the event drew to a close, it was a privilege to hear Professor Adrian Kennedy's inspiring and informative keynote address to the pupils and parents drawing examples from his illustrious career as an academic scholar, an athlete and a distinguished author.

Continuing with the string of accomplishments...

The ASSET Talent Search is an advanced test that challenges students to apply their learning and thinking through stimulating, non-standard test questions. The test helps identify gifted students with the potential to undertake topics beyond their grade level and includes questions that require a level of thinking that is two grades above the participating student's current grade.

The medal winners, who did us proud, are as below:

GRADE /SEC	Name of the student	Medal
7B	Ashwin Sathish Kumar	Scholar
7E	1. Arnab Meenesh Hodarkar 2. Amarnath Sreevalsan	Silver Silver
7G	Shivad Sasi	Silver
7H	Sarang Varma	Silver
8B	Abel Reji	Gold
8H	Jonadhan Zachariah	Scholar

Everything you need to succeed is already inside you – you just have to access your inner-power and make it happen.

On 29th September, students of Grade 12 had an opportunity to participate in a Career Guidance Programme. Mr. Prikshit Dhanda, a highly sought-after Career, Leadership, and Life Coach delivered the keynote address. He serves as the Director and Chief Strategy Officer of Mindler. Mr. Prikshit discussed the importance of planning strategically before making a career decision. Additionally, he identified a number of courses that the majority of the students were unaware of.

At the 'I Can! Children's Summit' organized by GEMS Modern Academy, the Middle School team comprising of Joash Varghese Joseph of 7G, Indhraneil Saju Sivas of 8G, Basil Keeramkuzhiyil Gejoy of 8E, Kasinadh Anurag of 8E, Anish Jena of 7C and Vysakh Chellatton of 7A won the 'Most Collaborative Team' award. They presented their idea of a hybrid, multi-use vehicle powered by solar energy, running on land, water and air.

At the ACT Universal Inter-School Impromptu Speech Contest 2022, Ahamad Fayyad Anees of 7H won the 2nd prize while Sidharth Suraj Nambiar of 7A won the 3rd prize (grade 7 category); 1st Position (grade 8 category) - Timothy Matthew Chummar of grade 8G.

Aditya Rajesh of 8D participated in BrightCHAMPS Code, an App Fiesta and won an App Development certificate for creating a Space Time App in Thunkable. The app is published in the Amazon Appstore. He also participated in the Wiz Kids Carnival's Singing Star August Challenge 2022 and secured the 1st position and participated in the International Metafin Financial Olympiad conducted by Smart Kid and he secured the 4th rank. Great going, Aditya!

Amarnath Sreevalsan of grade 7E won a Certificate of Achievement for winning the dance competition organized by 'Mom, I Love You' Breast Cancer Awareness.

Madhav Suresh of grade 8I for won the 1st prize at the inter-school Malayalam Poem Recitation contest, conducted by the Indian Association, Sharjah. He competed with 24 students from schools across the UAE in the High School category (Grades 8-10).

Ms. Annamma Lucy, our faculty member, received a Certificate of Appreciation for volunteering at 'We Stand Together', an event organized by Dubai Cares. The event marked the International Day of Charity and brought 300 volunteers from across the UAE to pack thousands of emergency relief kits for children and women affected by the recent flood disaster in Pakistan.

Gallery 58 – the Middle School interdisciplinary exhibition was held amidst great enthusiasm. Students presented their creative innovations in the fields of Science, Social Studies, Art, Mathematics, Robotics and English and other Languages. The event marked the presentation of the students' work of their 58 days of learning in school in the form of project-based learning, experiments and self-designed researched apps.

Plato summed up the power of music up perfectly when he said, "Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything." Commemorating the mystical music of the '80s, the Student Council staged a resounding and befitting return to retro at the 'Akshay Bolar Memorial Battle of the Bands' in its fourteenth edition on 29 September 2022. Joshua Varghese (12-E), Avin Alva (12-B) were adjudged the 'Best Performer' and 'Best Guitarist' respectively whilst the band 'Aeros' bagged the award for the 'Best Band.'

Emboldening the theme of the Interdisciplinary Week 'Cosmos – Beyond Boundaries,' the students of the Junior-Middle Department engaged in a myriad of activities as part of the Social Studies Week. Spurring the movement for sustainability, the students explored sustainable trends in fashion, refurbishing discarded items to create 'Best out of Waste,' designing and presenting their own sustainable city – 'Sustainville' as part of a special assembly themed 'Zeitgeist of the Present: Sustainability Trends.'

The Social Studies Department as part of the Inter- Disciplinary Week, showcased the UN Sustainable Development Goals - a blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. The event -**Think Tank** was organized where students applied their knowledge and proposed an innovative idea through a model.

The Science Department showcased 'Cascading Expertise' from the Senior School, an exhibition that emphasized the practical aspects of inorganic and organic chemistry.

On 21st of September the young polemics of OOB etched yet another testimony to their sheer finesse in parlance at the 'Senior School Debate' (Science Vs Commerce). The topic for the debate was 'Metaverse is the New Normal'. The fiery exchange of crossfire riveted the audience as they sunk into their seats spellbound by the unrelenting barrage of novel ideas. Joshua Joseph (12C) was adjudged the 'Best Speaker' from side Proposition whilst Khaled Sarwar (12-F) was declared the 'Best Speaker' from side Opposition.

Grade 1D conducted a morning assembly to celebrate World Gratitude Day and to remind us of the importance of expressing gestures of thanks and appreciation, something that makes the world a better place. After all, it's our world, and we have to live in it!

Hindi week commenced on Monday, 26th of September. Students across the school were part of various activities like special assemblies, short skit, street plays, poem recitation and tongue twister competition. The Hindi Assembly of the Secondary Department showcased the extraordinary contribution of the Late Madam Mariamma Varkey to the domain of education and the phenomenal rise of GEMS Education. In the Junior Middle department, parents recited poems from their collection. All these activities were conducted by Hindi department in partnership with the Abyudhy Club of our school.

On 1st October, our students took part in the Modern Hindi Mahotsav conducted by GEMS Modern Academy. Students from grades 3-12 participated in various competitions such as poem recitation, street play, mono acting and Vaad Vivaad. Students from grades 3&4 took part in the poem recitation and bagged the first place. Students from grades 7&8 competed in the Mono acting and finished second. Fantastic indeed!

"Without mathematics, there's nothing you can do. Everything around you is mathematics. Everything around you is numbers." – Shakuntala Devi

Math Week was observed from 12th September to 15th September and the objective was to teach complex mathematics to students in a simple and engaging manner. Over the course of the Week, the entire school participated in an array of activities designed to challenge thinking and develop problem solving skills of the students. Students of the Primary department performed simple banking procedures and services utilizing Bank and Currency Exchange simulations, the focus being promoting financial literacy amongst the learners. The Junior Middle school presented an assembly on the theme- 'Math is in me' and the 'Math market stall' provided students with the opportunity to engage in brain teasers and math tricks. Boys from grades 7&8 took center-stage and presented their work with pride at the market stall and through various presentations. Rubik's cube live challenge, the Monty Hall problem show etc were highlights of the Secondary and Senior department.

'Drop Everything and Read' a call made by the students of Sewa Club and the special assembly by the students of Grade 2 on 8th September, the 'International Literacy Day', was a great way to create fun and excitement around reading for pleasure. Students were encouraged to make reading a priority and make it a regular part of their routine.

The Kindergarten celebrated International Day of Peace on 21st September to imbibe the value of practicing small actions that make a huge impact on our community in making it a more peaceful place to live in.

"Health is a priceless wealth. Invest while you can." – Bryant McGill.

Health is Wealth Week organized by the KG and Primary department was aimed to guide children to make healthy living choices. The students from the Primary department partnered with their parents during the parental engagement task to make a creative food pyramid. The Kindergarten department was abuzz with creative dress-up and exciting activities as the little champs joined hands with their parents in cooking without fire.

Many of today's health problems can be traced to poor diet, so it stands to reason that people who grow their own food should be happier and healthier. A school garden is a great way to get kids involved from an early age, so they develop an understanding of where fresh food comes from and an appreciation of just how delicious it can be. On 2nd October, the entire community – parents, students, teachers, administrators, parent of ex-OOBite and a local partner (Unique Friends of Kerala) got together, to plant an organic vegetable garden for this season. It was aptly named 'Plant for Peace' in memory of Mahatma Gandhi.

It's truly said that "A person's most useful asset is not a head full of knowledge, but a heart full of love, an ear ready to listen and a hand willing to help others."

The Primary department, in association with the Sewa Club, organized Sewa Day to celebrate all the efforts of the ancillary staff and to express their gratitude for all the love and care shown to them. The highlights of the event included performances by the students of KG and Primary, a musical medley by the nightingales of the Primary Department and songs sung by a couple of attendees. They staff left the venue with a sense of delight and a much happier heart as they received customized gift bags as a token of appreciation.

The Sewa Club of the school, in association with Thumbay University Hospital, Ajman, organized a medical camp for the Staff on 4th October, to observe International Sewa day. The initiative was held under the slogan 'Your Health Matters'. The tests conducted at the camp included Blood Pressure, Blood Sugar, dental and a general check-up, in addition to guiding the employees on ways to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, an annual campaign to raise awareness about the impact of breast cancer. We partnered with Medcare Hospital, Sharjah to learn more about breast cancer, the risk factors for us and those we love, how to minimize the risks and the importance of being screened for the disease. We are indebted to Dr. Geetha Pai, Specialist General Surgeon, for sharing her expertise in educating our teachers about breast cancer.

In preparation for the School Performance Review, we have sent a circular on behalf of our regulators, the Sharjah Private Education Authority. May I gently remind you to complete the Parents Survey before 14 October 2022. We shall keep you posted about the details of the School Performance Review.

You may already have noticed it as you dash to your car in the morning, head out to school, or on your evening walk that the weather is starting to cool down. As significant as the Suhail star is in determining the change of seasons, it also plays a vital role in the Emirati culture as it is believed to be a "harbinger of abundance and everything good." We at OOB, thank the Almighty even as we continue to enjoy the blessings of present and look forward to a brighter tomorrow!

We are active on twitter @OOB_GEMS, Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GEMSOwnBoys/> and on Instagram account gems_oob. Do follow us for latest photos and regular updates. With a promise to keep in touch, we look forward to yet another fulfilling term ahead.

Warm Regards,



Priya Sajit

Head of Primary and Kindergarten