



Keeping in Touch

Ref. No. KIT 006 – 7Nov22

On behalf of the Principal and CEO, Srivalsan Murugan

7 November 2022

“Cultivate an optimistic mind, use your imagination, always consider alternatives, and dare to believe that you can make possible what others think is impossible.”

Rodolfo Costa

Dear Parents,

Student well-being underpins every aspect of a student’s schooling, including their learning, engagement, and social relationships. At OOB, we fully comprehend that well-being is an integral aspect of the school experience, thereby leaving no stone unturned to ensure that learning happens in an environment laden with rich experiences that will hone the holistic development of the child entrusted to our care and tutelage. From activities such as Dress Down Thursdays, Radio OOB, Podcasts, the vibrant interactions with luminaries, sessions organized by the counselor on career prospects or the nineteen clubs that nurture the latent potential of its members, every activity resonates with the child being at the center of the educational scheme of things, equipping him with the wherewithal to take on the vagaries of life and molding him to be future ready.

The month of October witnessed our students' resounding success stories even as Team OOB prepares itself for the upcoming School Performance Review. Do take some time off to read the latest updates from our buzzing campus.

In the 23rd Annual Inter School Debate Competition, held at Our Own Indian School, Al Quoz, Dubai, in association with the Consulate General of India, on 14 October 2022, our school won the trophy for the second-best team. Azhar Ahmed (12 F) won the third prize for the best speaker for the motion and Juan Mathew (10 B) was awarded the second-best speaker against the motion. The motion was, ‘Consumerism is the new avatar of colonialism’. Congratulations to Juan, Azhar, and their teacher mentor, Ms. Sujatha Nair.

The Drama and Literary Club's popular interview series, ‘In Conversation With,’ added a new and exciting episode on October 25, 2022. This edition of the series was graced by the esteemed presence of two inspiring aviators—Wing Commander Biroja Shankar Deo and Captain Siddhartha Singh Deo. Bolstered by their extensive list of laurels, the father-son duo imparted pearls of wisdom from the aviation field.

In honor of Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee, which commemorated the 70th anniversary of her accession to the throne in 1952, GEMS Education introduced a new scholarship program. A total of 70 scholarships were awarded to students from across 43 GEMS schools. Gaurav

Jayaprakash of 8F and Juan Mathew of 10B from our school received the Gems Education Platinum Jubilee Scholarship on November 3rd. Congratulations, Gaurav and Juan!

On October 12, OOB hosted one of the leading educationists, Mr. Sridhar Rajagopalan from Educational Initiatives. Sridhar Rajagopalan, an educational entrepreneur who has helped to change the perception of student learning outcomes in India, spent two and a half years at IBM India before co-founding and running Eklavya School in Ahmedabad. Mr. Sridhar Rajagopalan is known for his insightful and forward-thinking perspective on evolving educational trends.

After a two-year hiatus, the OOB family witnessed some scintillating displays of athletic prowess at the Senior School Annual Sports Meet on October 27. It was a day for accomplishments and praise, for successes and upcoming success tales. Mr. Ajay Thomas served as the event's honorary host. He represented the Kerala state team in the sub-junior category in 1998 and the Youth Kerala state Team, at the National level. Neptune House won the Junior Interdivisional Trophy, followed by Saturn House for the Intermediate Interdivisional Trophy, Jupiter House for the Senior Interdivisional Trophy, and Saturn House for the Super Senior Interdivisional Trophy. The Neptune House raised the overall champion's trophy. The following students were declared Individual champions in their respective categories.

Junior- Mohammed Farhan of 7H
Intermediate -John Antony of 8H
Senior-Rayhan Syed of 11D
Super Senior-Joshua Eby of 12E

On October 19, 2022, GEMS Modern Academy in Dubai hosted an interschool workshop and poetry writing competition called "POETICA." Shiva Srinivasan of 10D won first place in Spoken Word Poetry, and our school team, which included Joshua Koshy 12C, Maaz Ur Rehman 12C, Nazeef Ahsan 12C, and Khaleed Mohammed 12F, won second place in the Treasure Hunt. Congratulations, boys!

Anish Jena of 7C grade received first prize in the International Raj Bhasha Utsav 2022 for mono-acting. Additionally, he reached the Emirates level of the 2022 International Kenken Championship and is promoted to the National Level of the Championship.

Aditya Anush of 8G, Amarnath Sreevalsan of 7E, and Mohammad Ayan Ashraf of 6D have advanced to the final round of the Bhavans International Quiz. They are one of the two teams representing the UAE at the event on November 5. Best wishes, team!

Adithya Anush of Class 8G participated in a quiz held by the India Social and Cultural Centre in Abu Dhabi, where he earned first place and was awarded AED 1,000 for his efforts. Well done, Adithya!

Aditya Rajesh of 8D placed second in the FIDE online Arena Chess Tournament hosted by Premier Chess Academy. The Gems Millennium interschool chess championship (under -9) was held online on October 16th and Chakresh Ganesan of 3G took first place.

Vivan Saklani of 7D grade won third place in the Modern Hindi Mahotsav mono-acting competition hosted by GEMS Modern Academy, Dubai.

In total, we were awarded three gold, eleven silver, and one bronze medal for the Asset Talent Search exam. Other than the names mentioned in the previous KIT, the following are our medal winners: The Gold medal - Adwaith Mukesh and Sharan Sathvik Mogilipuri of 7A; Silver medal- Atharva Mahesh Kokate of 8E.

Members of the OOB community participated in the White Cane March, which was organized by the Sharjah Private Education Authority (SPEA) to celebrate the accomplishments of the visually impaired.

On Thursday, 20th October 2022, grade 12 students visited the Expo Centre Sharjah to attend the 18th edition of the International Education Show. Our students were able to meet admission Counselors and Directors from some of the world's finest institutions of higher learning, making it the ideal setting from which to seek further education.

The first-ever Cluster Staff Sports Meet was held on October 29 as part of "Sports Synergasia," which was organized by Our Own Sharjah-Girls to mark the 40th anniversary of the school. Our teachers clinched third place in Cricket and Mr. Gilbert and Ms. Sithra won second and third place respectively in Chess. Our Team comprising Ms. Hajira and Ms. Livia won first place in Carrom Board. Congratulations, Team OOB!

According to the proverb "Readers are the Leaders of Tomorrow," the Junior Middle Department organized the Read Aloud session to commemorate International Library Month. It was a wonderful literary experience for the students and introduced them to the joy of reading. On October 20th, they were captivated and thrilled by an engaging and interactive session titled 'READ WITH THE PRINCIPAL'. Following the reading of Ruskin Bond's short story 'Masterji', the key lesson from the session was that visualization kills the imagination. The reading session with Vice Principal, Ms. Sindhu P. Nair took place on October 26. With her reading of the story 'Amma, what is your duty?' from Sudha Murthy's book, Ms. Sindhu was able to emphasize that inspiration and wisdom are not only imparted by elders but even young children can get us thinking and reveal a completely different perspective of the life.

The Arabic and Islamic Studies Supervisor, Ms. Samira's session on 25 October was incredibly interesting wherein she introduced vocabulary in Arabic, demonstrated fluent, expressive reading, and helped children recognize the value of reading. They were occupied for hours by the varied questions Ms. Nosheen Naeem, the coordinator of Islamic Studies, posed during her read-aloud session on the 26th of October.

On November 3rd, OOB held an outdoor flag-raising ceremony at 11 a.m. to honor the UAE Flag Day in great peace and respect. The raising of the UAE flag this year was witnessed by student representatives from kindergarten through grade 12.

The Piyush-Ebin Sam Memorial Inter-School Soccer Tournament 2022–2023 began with its opening ceremony on November 3, 2022. The school has adopted the title to pay reverence to and cherish the fond memories of two of our erstwhile staff – Dr. Piyush Tripathi and Mr. Ebin Sam. Dr. Piyush Tripathi was the Supervisor of Middle School – Grades 7&8 who later went on to be the Vice-principal of GEMS Our Own English High School – Al Ain in January 2012. Mr. Ebin Sam was an endearing Physics teacher in the Secondary department and also the ebullient House Master of Mars House for more than a decade. He retired from his service at OOB in 2017. In

addition to being the oldest inter-school tournament in the entire United Arab Emirates, this prestigious competition celebrated its 36th anniversary with great pride.

DPS, Dubai defeated Our Own High School Al Warqaa, Dubai, 6-5 in the first game after a penalty shootout.

Dubai Fitness Challenge is an annual celebration of fitness and wellness. It puts forward a simple goal: complete 30 minutes of activity each day for 30 days. It aims **to inspire everyone to create a fitness-focused mindset and seek healthy, active lifestyles**. True to the ideals of OOB, we urge you to partake in this quest to good health. Onward and upward toward a better, more physically fit YOU!

We post regular updates on the day-to-day happenings of our school on our Twitter account @OOB_GEMS, Instagram @gems_oob, and our Facebook account. <https://www.facebook.com/GEMSOurOwnBoys/>. Do follow us on social media so that you never miss the happenings in the school.

We thank you for your unstinted support and cooperation.

Stay in touch!

Warm Wishes,



Vipin Madathil
Supervisor-Senior School.