



مدرستنا الثانوية الإنجليزية ، الشارقة - بنين
OUR OWN ENGLISH HIGH SCHOOL, SHARJAH - BOYS

THE BELL

Volume 7 Issue 2

ANTICIPATED BY STUDENTS

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Editor's Note

As we uninhibitedly ring in the new year of 2023, I recall many poems about the new year, but of them, I like to think of the words of a very esteemed writer, Edith Lovejoy Pierce, which read as follows, "Its pages are blank. We are going to put the words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity, and its first chapter is New Year's Day." They serve as a poignant reminder of the boundless possibilities and opportunities that lie ahead. With a fresh start and a blank canvas, we can sculpt our destiny and craft the future that we envision and aspire for.

Also, how an entire year gets over so quickly always seems incomprehensible to me. It's ineffable how 2022 made us shine brighter than ever, ushering in a wave of opportunities and freedom. But more than anything, we saw the world unite on many heartwarming occasions. The greatest of which was the FIFA 2022 World Cup. I distinctly remember the entire school coming together for the love of football, be it my classmates, teachers, or even our very own Principal. How we checked the scores after every period or watched the match during free periods will always be memories to adore. And while we are on the topic, let me immortalize the following line through this issue of The Bell. "The final match was an ephemeral masterpiece".

Furthermore, I commend the entire school community for producing brilliant events such as the CATS concert and the students achieving outstanding merits across many fields these past few months. These moments are a testament to the hard work and dedication of our community and the support of our coaches and mentors.

Just like the cyclohexane and cyclopentane figures on the football we all love, we have come closer together as OOBites to learn, grow, and thrive like always, and I am happy to say we continue to do the same in 2023 too. And please excuse my chemistry references; I am writing this after my exam, and that's all I can think about.

And now, to display the OOB narrative of perseverance and strength again, with the utmost honour, I present yet another edition of 'THE BELL' -Volume 7 ISSUE #2.

I express my profound appreciation to the team of designers, editors, and teachers who have made this edition possible. As always, my Team and I anticipate your feedback and suggestions. Happy reading!

-Tarun Rawat

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Events Extraordinaire

A Creative Twist!

The ACT Universal Inter-School Impromptu Speech Contest 2022

At the ACT Universal Inter-School Impromptu Speech Contest 2022, Ahamad Fayyad Anees of 7H and Sidharth Suraj Nambiar of 7A stole the show with their impressive speeches and walked away with the 2nd and 3rd prize, respectively in the Grade 7 category. Meanwhile Timothy Matthew Chummar of grade 8G mesmerized the judges with his compelling language, taking home the 1st place.



I CAN

At the 'I Can! Children's Summit' organized by GEMS Modern Academy, the Middle School team comprising 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.



Akshay Bolar Memorial

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

SEPTEMBER

29

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.'



A group of people, mostly men in white shirts and blue lanyards, are seated at a table covered with a red cloth. They are looking towards the camera. In the foreground, there are women in blue uniforms. The background is slightly blurred, showing more people and a bottle of water on the table.

SEWA Day

The Primary Department, in collaboration with the Sewa Club, celebrated Sewa Day to show appreciation for the ancillary staff's efforts and express gratitude for their kindness and care.

SEWA DAY

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'

SEWA CLUB

THUMBAY
Growth Through Innovation



'...and I rest my case'

A debating extravaganza

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, OOB won the trophy for the second-best team. Azhar Ahmed (12F) won the third prize for the best speaker for the motion and Juan Mathew (10B) 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.



OOB's

SPORTS DAY



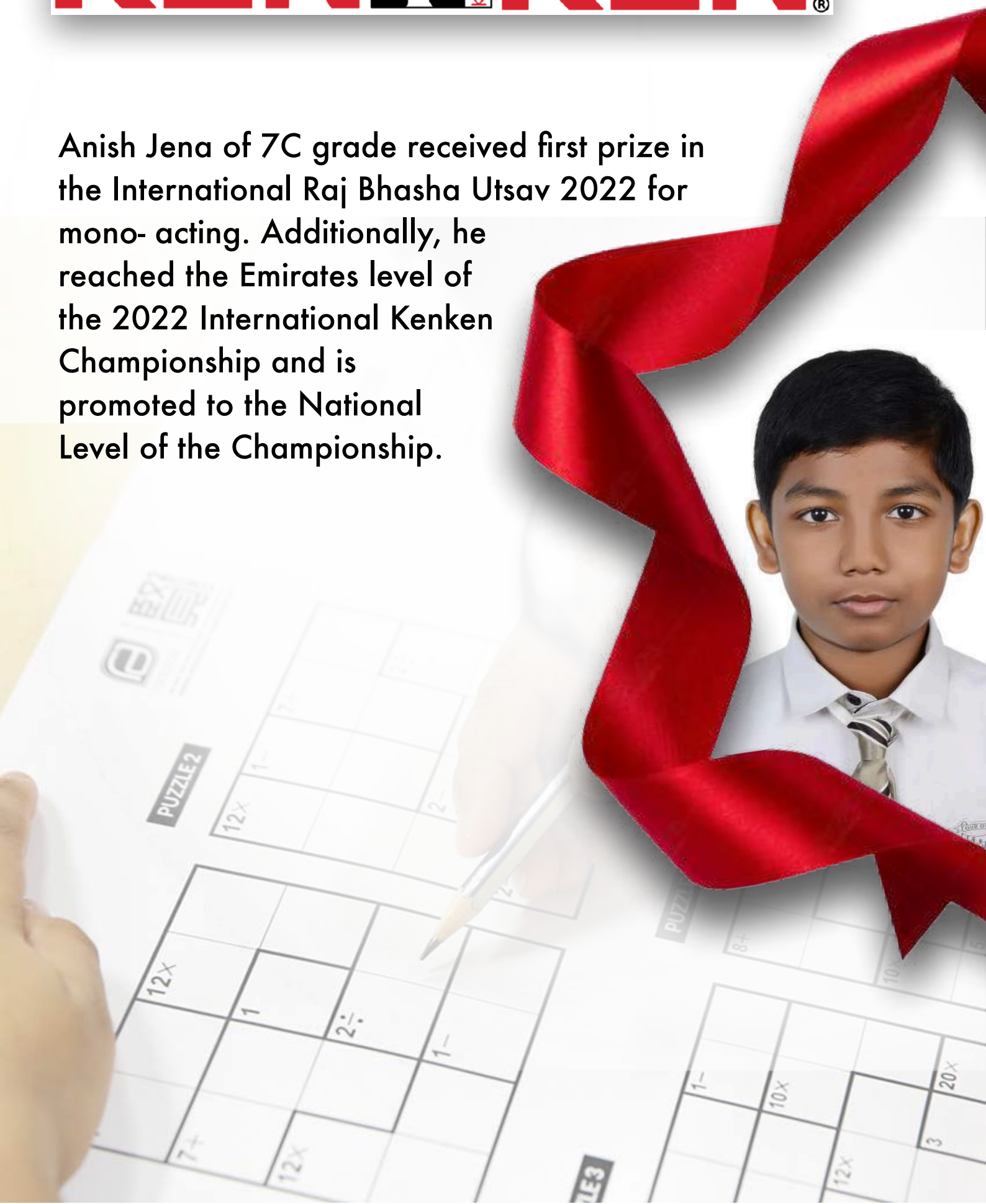
Congratulations to Neptune House for winning the overall champions trophy at the Senior School Annual Sports Meet held on October 27, 2022.

"Truth will triumph"





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.



CHESS TOURNAMENTS

Chakresh Ganesan of Grade 3G
clinched **1st** place in the GEMS
Millennium inter-school chess
championship U-9 category.



Aditya Rajesh of grade 8D
secured **2nd** place in the FIDE
online Arena Chess Tournament
hosted by Premier Chess Academy.



The show must go on!

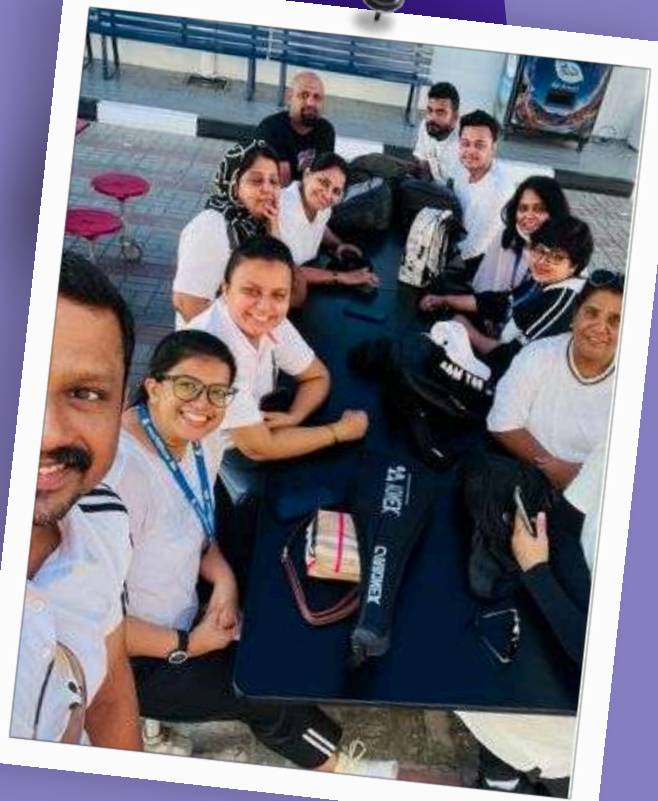


In the Modern Hindi Mahotsav competition hosted by GEMS Modern Academy, Dubai, Vivek Saklani (7D) showcased his impressive acting skills and won third place in the mono-acting competition. In addition, our young poets from grades 3 and 4 participated in the poem recitation competition and secured first place. OOBites from grades 7 and 8 also participated in the mono-acting competition and finished in a commendable second place.

महोत्सव

A meeting to remember!

Team OOB participated in a total of 4 events in the first-ever Cluster Staff Sports Meet, "Sports Synergasia" organised by Our Own Sharjah-Girls. Our teachers displayed a scintillating performance at the meet. The precise aim, speed and accuracy of Ms. Hajira and Ms. Livia won them gold at the Carrom. Masterminds, Mr. Gilbert and Ms. Sithra won silver and bronze in the Men's and Women's Chess categories respectively. OOB cricket team consisting of Mr. Sanoj, Mr. Ajish, Mr. Sunil, Mr. Ehtishamuddin, Mr. Gilbert, Ms. Nazia, Ms. Lucy and Ms. Sandhya trailblazed their way to the bronze medal. Congratulations to all our winners, you've made us proud!



The White Cane March



The OOB community members participated in the White Cane March, an event organized by the Sharjah Private Education Authority (SPEA) to celebrate the achievements of visually impaired individuals.



UAE Flag Day

November 3rd, 2022

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.



AND THAT'S A GOAL!

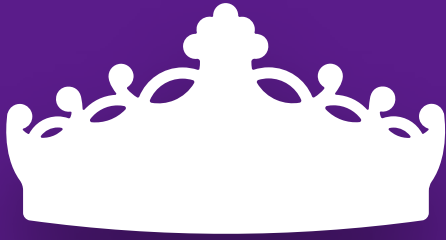
The exciting final of the 36th Piyush-Ebin Sam Memorial Soccer tournament 2022-23 hosted by OOB witnessed the dauntless boys of The Winchester School, Jebel Ali strategically dismantle the boys of Delhi Private School, Dubai leading their team to a glorious victory of 4-0. This distinguished tournament, which is the oldest of its kind in the UAE, also celebrated its 36th anniversary with great pride.



Plant for Peace

On 2nd October, the entire OOB community, including parents, students, teachers, administrators and a local partner (Unique Friends of Kerala), got together to plant an organic vegetable garden. It was aptly named 'Plant for Peace' in memory of Mahatma Gandhi.





The GEMS

Platinum Jubilee Scholarship



In honour 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. Our OOBites, Gaurav Jayaprakash (8F) and Juan Mathew (10B) were the proud recipients of the GEMS Education Platinum Jubilee Scholarship on November 3rd, 2022. Congratulations Gaurav and Juan!

SPECTACULAR — SYMPOSIUM

The 17th edition of United Nations Simulation conference was conducted on 26 November 2022 at Our Own Indian School, Dubai. Around 13 schools participated in the competitive conference that entailed diplomacy and wisdom in international affairs as seen in the United Nations conferences. OOB returned home triumphant, with the trophy for the 2nd Best Overall School Delegation, and eight individual awards!



Yet another,

'In Conversation With'



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.

Link: https://twitter.com/OOB_GEMS/status/1584979323286876161

RISING STARS



**Two of
our grade 12
OOBites, Harsh
Parth Desai and
Deepak Raj,
represented the
UAE under-19
cricket team and
played against
England on
December 4th
and 6th,
respectively.**



Sky's the Limit

U-19 cricket team of OOB bagged the trophy at the 12th Skyline University Inter School Sports Festival. Karan Dhiman of Grade 12 was declared the Man of the Match for his crucial 70 runs off 46 balls. He was also declared the Man of the Series for his swashbuckling performance in the tournament.



University College



To The Max!

The U-17 cricket team of our school emerged as champions of the Max TalentVision Cup in 2022. Deepak Raj of grade 12F was named 'Best Bowler and Best Player of the Tournament,' while Madhav Manoj of grade 10C was declared the 'Best Batsman' of the tournament.



Swimming Masters at work

The CBSE UAE Cluster

Geon Jibi (8D) has made us proud with his remarkable achievements at the CBSE UAE Cluster swimming competition held at GEMS New Millennium School, Al Khail. Geon won four gold medals, showcasing his exceptional talent and determination, and also qualified for the CBSE National Levels.

At the CBSE National Swimming Championship held in Rajkot, Gujarat, Geon secured the 4th position in the 100 mts backstroke, finishing the race in an impressive 1 minute 15 seconds and 07 milliseconds.





Rayhan Sayed (11D) participated in the Unity Run, showcasing his exceptional athletic abilities. He competed in the 5km run under the 15-19 category and achieved an impressive feat, securing the 2nd position.

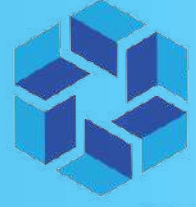


Quizzing Afficionados

The ebullient trio of Iraj Nair (11E), Manav Pandey (10A) and Mohammed Ayaan (9H) retained the Rolling Trophy of the Inter-School NRI Friends Quiz Competition organised under the aegis of the Sharjah Indian Association on 5 November 2022!



SPEA Review



حكومة الشارقة GOVERNMENT OF SHARJAH

هيئة الشارقة للتعليم الخاص
SHARJAH PRIVATE EDUCATION AUTHORITY

After a rigorous and scrupulous evaluation of the school by the Sharjah Private Education Authority, OOB is proud to be the recipient of the **'Very Good'** rank in the list of private Sharjah schools, an echelon very few schools can take pride in being a part of.



Our Own English High School, Sharjah – Boys'
مدرستنا الثانوية الإنجليزية، الشارقة - بنين

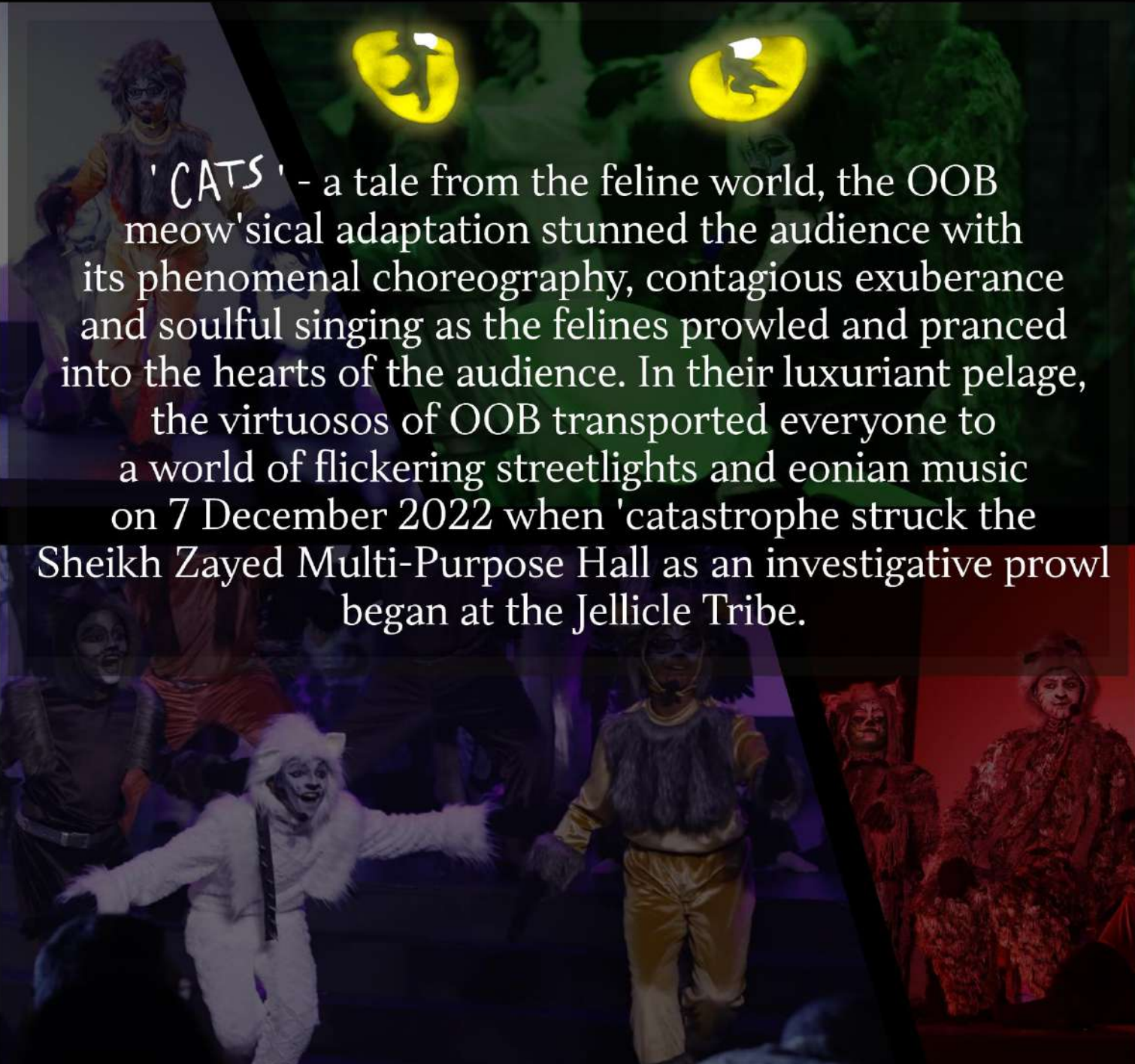
SPEA Review



CATS



A 'MEOW' sical Extravaganza



'CATS' - a tale from the feline world, the OOB meow'sical adaptation stunned the audience with its phenomenal choreography, contagious exuberance and soulful singing as the felines prowled and pranced into the hearts of the audience. In their luxuriant pelage, the virtuosos of OOB transported everyone to a world of flickering streetlights and eonian music on 7 December 2022 when 'catastrophe struck the Sheikh Zayed Multi-Purpose Hall as an investigative prowling began at the Jellicle Tribe.

The Winners of Millennium Melodies

OOB Rhapsodians mesmerized the audience at The Millennium Melodies Inter-School Music Festival for Middle School hosted by The Millennium School, Dubai. They brought home the much-coveted trophy, edging past seven other schools.



YouTube Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NH1pwqjwrhA>



Quiz your way out of this!

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!



Madam Mariamma Varkey

Commemorative Debate for Teachers



In the second edition of the Madam Mariamma Varkey Memorial Debate for Teachers, our ace debaters wowed the jury and the audience with their persuasive arguments and brought home the prestigious trophy. Ms. Juanita was adjudged the best speaker for the motion while Ms. Hajira's speech in general and her rebuttal in particular will not be forgotten in a hurry.

The 17th

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2023



Team OOB, comprising fifteen students, accompanied by Mr. Joepaul and Mr. Shane, attended the 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention held in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. The event, called 'Diaspora: Reliable Partners for India's Progress in Amrit Kaal', was an international gathering of residential and non-residential Indians.



Emirates Literature Festival



The mellifluous renditions of our choir at the Emirates Literature Fest captivated the audience, earning them a standing ovation.





Our Own **CRICKETERS**



Our young cricketers - Devam Parth Desai (5F), Ronsher Raju (5A), Eyad Sadiq (5E), Mohamed Riffan (5C), Mohamed Mustafa (5E), Aryan Ramachandran (5E), Saad Baif (6B), Syed Suhaib (6B), Ishaan Roshan (6B), Charon Guha (6C), Kabeer Prakash Gidwani (6A), and Darren Jimmy (6C) - put up a commendable performance at the GEMS Legacy Cup, emerging as the runners-up by defeating Delhi Private School, Dubai.

Devam was awarded the 'Man of the Series' for his outstanding performance, while Saad received the 'Best Batsman' award for the tournament. Congratulations Team OOB!

PRIDE OF INNOVATORS OOB

The team comprising of Anish Jena, Cherian Binoy, Lohitakshan Geethapriya and Chitesh Ramesh of 7C secured the second place with their entry about sustainable waste management and clinched the trophy and as well as a cash prize of AED 8000.

Well done sustainability champions!



PRESENT AND VOTING

The GWAMUN 2023 conference that took place on 27-29 January 2023 at GEMS World Academy, Dubai, held under the patronage of His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, the eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations, had ten students from OOB participating in the event.

OOB left its mark across four different committees, with Tarun Rawat and Gokul Krishnan winning 1st place Best Delegate, Timothy Chummar winning 2nd place Best Delegate and Smaran Nair winning 3rd place Best Delegate.



Hag Al Laila

OOB celebrated Hag Al Laila on 7th March 2023 to prepare for the arrival of Ramadan. The Arabic and Islamic Department brought in the spirit of Hag Al Laila with a procession around the classes and distribution of goodie bags to the students of the Primary Department.



Poetica

the art of poetry



Congratulations to Shiva Srinivasan (10D) for winning first place in Spoken Word Poetry and to the school team, consisting of Joshua Koshy (12C), Maaz Ur Rehman (12C), Nazeef Ahsan (12C), and Khaleed Mohammed (12F), for winning second place in the Treasure Hunt competition at the 'POETICA' Inter-School workshop and poetry writing competition hosted by GEMS Modern Academy in Dubai on October 19, 2022.

RHYME AND RHYTHM

Our Kindergarteners emerged as the proud champions of the 7th edition of the Inter-School Choral Rhyme and Recitation Competition hosted by NMS Al Khail.

KUDOS TO OUR CHAMPS!





معرض التعليم الدولي
**18TH INTERNATIONAL
EDUCATION
SHOW**



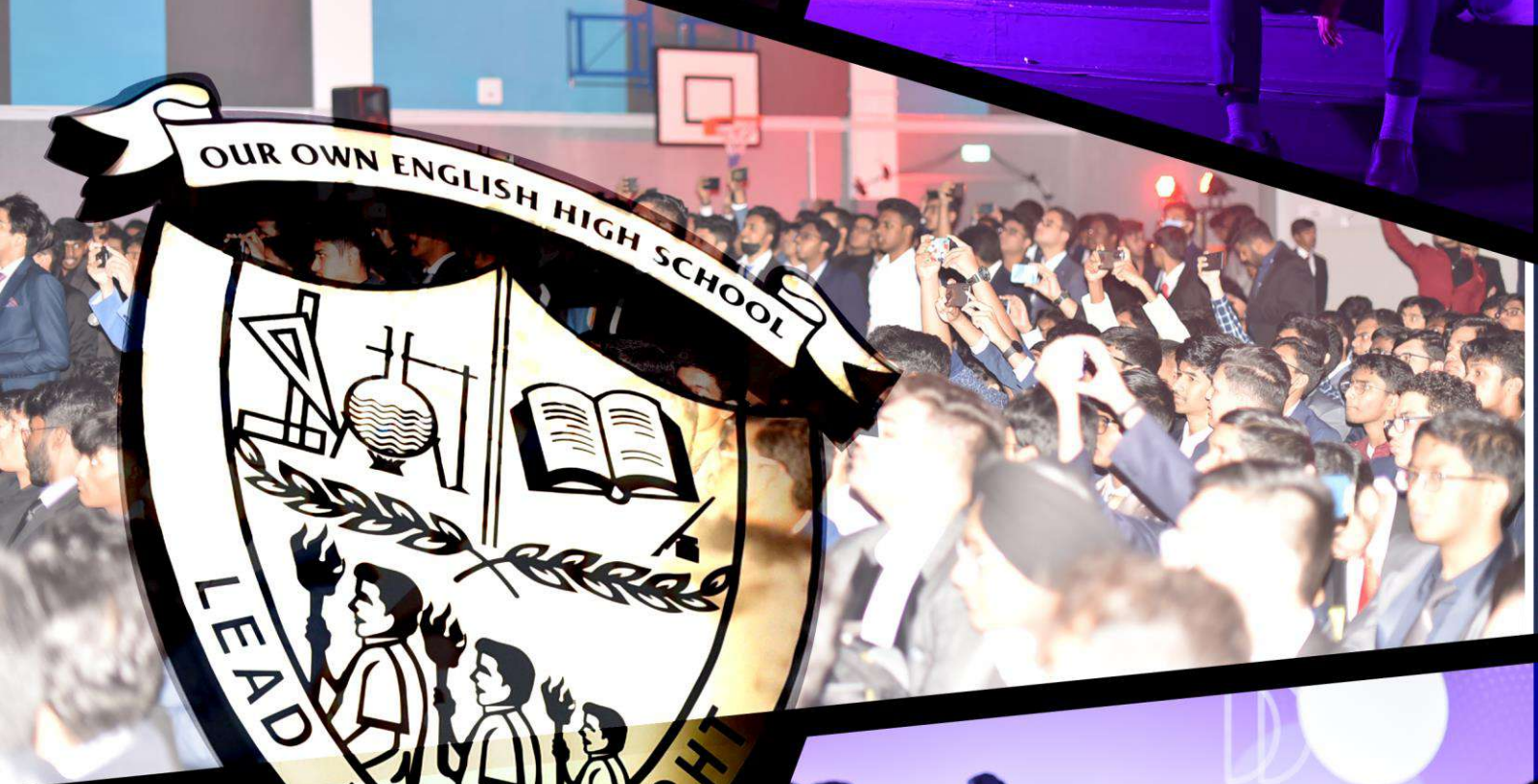
On Thursday, October 20th, 2022, grade 12 OOBites had the opportunity to attend the 18th edition of the International Education Show held at the Expo Centre Sharjah. The event provided a perfect platform for our students to interact with admission counsellors and directors from some of the world's most prestigious institutions of higher learning.

FARE-THEE-WELL!



A monumental event in our history, OOB bid adieu to our illustrious batch of 2023-24 with great pride. An unforgettable part of our school, grade 12 students graduated in the formal farewell ceremony hosted by their juniors.





END OF AN ERA

The Grade 12 farewell event 'ARCANUM' held on February 6th and 7th, 2023 was a resounding success, paying tribute to the academic achievements and contributions of the graduating students to the school community. The two-day celebration was filled with excitement and engaging activities, including a delightful dinner and a photo booth where students could capture their memories of the event.

Overall, the two-day grade 12 farewell event was a fitting way to honour the graduating students. It marked the end of their high school journey and wished them success in all their future endeavours.



Outstanding Outing

A day full of excitement and fun, our students had a fantastic day at Motiongate Dubai on their annual field trip. With adrenaline at an all time high, both the students and the staff enjoyed a wonderful and action-packed time at the amusement park.





KINDERGARTEN

GRADUATION



'The Kindergarten Graduation Ceremony' marked the end of a significant chapter in the students' lives and the beginning of a new journey as they move forward to primary school. This heartwarming celebration brought together the entire school community to honour the young graduates and wish them well as they move forward to the next phase of their educational journey.



heartwarming celebration brought together the entire school community to honour the young graduates and wish them well as they move forward to the next phase of their educational journey.



HAPPY WOMEN'S
DAY



THOSE WHO MATTER

On March 8, 2023, International Women's Day was celebrated at OOB. The celebration was an opportunity to honour the teaching assistants' achievements and to thank them for their valuable contributions to the education system. The event also emphasised the importance of empowering and supporting women in all areas of society. It was an important reminder of the ongoing need to promote gender equality and to support women in all aspects of life.

Standard for Global Citizenship!

The Generation Global Educator Award



GOLD WINNER



Radhika Misra
Our Own English High School, Sharjah Boys
United Arab Emirates



Our faculty member and Head of English, Ms. Radhika Misra, is the proud recipient of the Generation Global Educator Award in the Gold Category for her commitment to incorporating dialogue skills into the learning community and supporting young people in becoming global citizens.

Link: https://twitter.com/OOB_GEMS/status/1636738228446195714?cxt=HHwWhMCzjeev7rYt

Nurturing Global Citizens

Strengthening Bonds

On March 18, 2023, the OOB staff enjoyed a spectacular picnic at the Coral Beach Resort in Sharjah. The event was organised to create a relaxed and social atmosphere for staff members to build relationships outside the work environment. It was a wonderful occasion to recognise the hard work and dedication of the OOB School staff and an excellent opportunity for them to network with one another.



fare-thee-well

Mr. Vijay Prakash

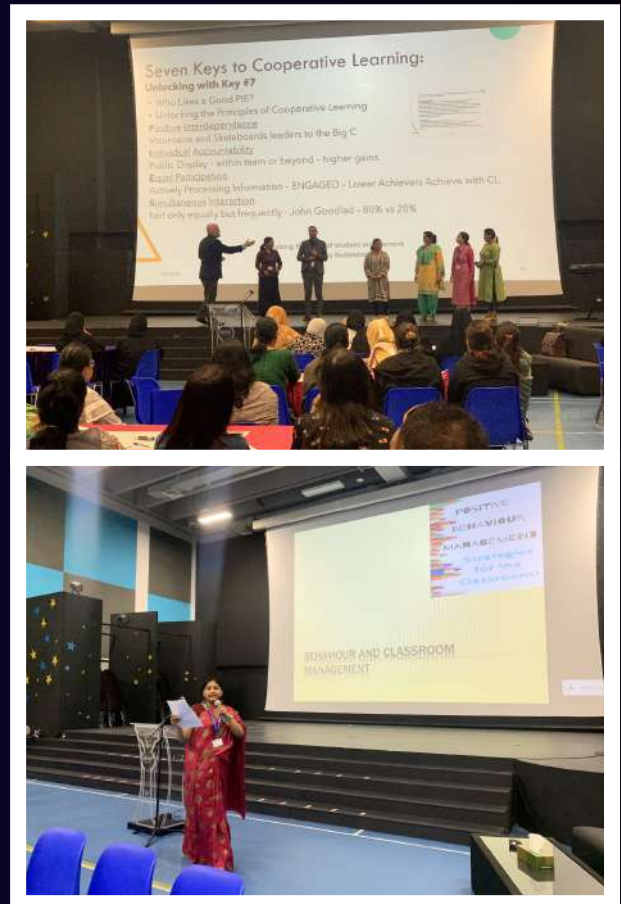
On March 20, 2023, OOB paid tribute to Mr. Vijay Prakash for his 25 years of service to GEMS by holding a farewell event to honour his outstanding contributions to the school community and wish him well in his retirement. The event- dubbed as 'Vijay Diwas' was attended by students and staff members who expressed their gratitude for Mr. Prakash's exceptional contributions to the school.



PLD WEEK AT OOB

The PLD Week for educators in OOB was a tremendous success. The purpose of the interdepartmental carousel was to promote lesson innovation and assist instructors in becoming better educators.

The keynote address by SPEA Improvement Advisor Johannes Bodenstein was one of the highlights of PLD Week. Mr. Bodenstein provided insightful and motivating commentary on the significance of professional development in the education industry.



Never Stop Learning



Congratulations to Ms. Sindhu.P. Nair, Vice Principal at OOB, on completing the Education Leaders' Programme (EdLEAP) offered by IIM Calcutta. The EdLEAP programme is a uniquely designed course that focuses on building leadership capacity and management essentials in the education sector. Ms. Nair's successful completion of the EdLEAP programme is a significant milestone for OOB as it demonstrates the school's commitment to providing its staff with professional growth and development opportunities.





Creative Corner

Revisiting. Reminiscing. Retrospecting.

By Niranjan Remesh – 12B

Picture this. Your alarm goes off at 5:30 am, and you wake up. You take a moment and sit on the edge of the bed, head facing down, drowning in the background noise. It almost feels like an unquestionable wake-up routine. It's quiet outside, and the only sounds you hear are birds from too far away. You go to the kitchen, brew an instant coffee, and take it out to the verandah with the blanket draped around your head.

You drink the coffee while the cold crisp wind blows at your face. The view is beautiful, and the world is calm. Inside you, you're at peace. There is nothing else you want to do at the moment. You zone out, taking in nature and introspecting about

how just a year ago, where you now seem like a lifetime away. You are still not where you want to be, but you no longer feel hopeless, and the void that was once inside your heart doesn't seem to be there anymore. You always saw your life as a giant puzzle that you're trying to piece together. You suddenly divert your eyes over to the ants trying to build their home made from the sand just below the ever-so-blooming magnolia. Yet again, a puzzle to piece together. Except the puzzle picture expands as I simultaneously put it together due to my growth. At times the pieces cease to fit within the frame, which you then eliminate with a frown. You throw a thought to yourself that, this year, I'm going to spend learning how to be more apathetic. You do this not to transition to a boring person but create a filter where you can upscale your living standards. You hope to attract people, opportunities, love, success, and stable momentum. You try to delve only into the things you've already done or something you cannot change.

All the thoughts seemed so natural and crushing, broke a tear which slithered down your cheek into the crevice of your lips. Salted sorrows pour once again. You stare hard into the distance, hoping to see something unexpected, but nothing has changed. You take another sip of the coffee. It warms you up from the inside. The trust you have in the process is stronger than ever. You set the cup down and fold your arms. You're eyes close slowly, the sunlight ebbing away. A quick shiver runs down your body, giving you goosebumps. You smile slightly at a distant version of yourself where you've achieved everything you have once dreamt of. You slip off into sleep before you know it whilst wrapped in the woollen blanket and, once again -drowning in the sound of nature.



Colours

By Aditya Kotawadekar - 11E

I sat in a liminal space
with no eagerness to learn
only an empty head,
which had no curiosity

the silence in my mind
had asked me to
shut down my eyes
and go to sleep
and let the finite darkness rule

The silence in my mind asked me to draw the curtains
as I see multitude of colours in me,
Whom should I be afraid of?
When there are millions of shapes
In various colours in my head

I want to leave
but I'm pulled back by
the fees which my superiors are paying
the moral values they have instilled in me

My curtains are open
however rays of sunlight hasn't reached my home yet.

Fading Lights to New Heights

By Iraj Nair

A setting sun on the horizon,
Lights fading away.
Before darkness seeps on,
I have to find my way.

Gusts of wind are tickling me,
Traveling to the land beyond I see.
As the light is fading even more,
I am anxiously waiting for the door.

I am so lost here,
I just see walls and not doors.
Ever wondering when will the hard work bore,
As I feel even more lost, now coupled with fear.

My thoughts keep asking on what I am going to do,
And I say,
Today may be my day.
I hope I find the way,
Through the Fading Lights,
I hope I reach new heights,
I hope I reach new heights.

I see progress,
But not till I expected it to be.
I need to find more doors,
So high I can still soar.

And now I feel lost again,
Light has pretty much gone away.
Ever wondering will I escape this pain,
And will I ever find a way.

My thoughts keep asking me what I am going to do,
But this time I say,
Today will be my day.
I will find the way,
Through The Fading Lights, Through the Fading
Lights,
I will reach New Heights,
I will reach New Heights.

Now I have reached where I wanted to,
But the challenges will keep coming.
But with the right frame of mind,
THE WAY - I will always find.
And with all my might,
I will Always convert,
The Fading Lights to New Heights.

The Way Through the Desert

They shut the road through the desert
Seventy years ago
Weather and sandstorms have undone it again,
And now you would never know
There was once a road through the desert
Before they planted the trees.
It is underneath the Ghaf trees and cactuses,
And the thin Beloperones.
Only the Nomads see
That where the Peregrine Falcon broods,
And the Meerkats roll at ease,
There was once a road through the desert.
Yet, if you enter the desert
Of a summer evening
late,
When the night air cools on
the Desert Pup-fish ringed pools
Where the Fennec foxes whistles his mate,
(They fear not Arabs in the desert,
Because they see so few)
You will hear the beat of a camel's feet,
And the swish of an Abaya in the humidity,
Steadily cantering through
The misty solitudes,
As though they perfectly knew
The old lost road through the desert...
But there is no road through the desert.

-Asil Abdul Manaf (8B)

Story of a Seed

A dear little seed lay fast asleep,
Buried so far, so very deep.
Dawn slowly crept on him tender,
For together with the rain,
They called upon his splendour.
But the little one still lay asleep,
And paid no heed to the world outside.

Soon came the summertime, bright,
And the little seed brought up a fight.
He poked his head up to see
What a beautiful world outside it can be!
But "No! Too Hot!", the little seed said,
And brought his head down under again.

Soon came the winter, cool,
And the little seed went on with the fight.
He poked his head up to see once more,
What a beautiful world outside it can be!
But "No! Too Cold!", the little seed said,
And brought his head down under again.

At last came the springtide, leafy,
The soil grew moist and the little seed happy.
Poked his head up to see at last,
What a beautiful world outside can be!

But now he had his head up forever,
Enjoying the cool rain and bright sunshine,
And took the world outside as divine.

Sreehari Deepu Nair (9F)

CULINARY CREATIONS

If you know me, you must be aware of my enthusiasm about anything Emirati. From learning the dialect, visiting, and mapping every fort and museum the country has to offer, to preparing traditional Emirati meals. The food landscape of the region is usually divided into,

(برّي/Barri) the desert cuisine, a hardy diet resulting from limited resources and vegetation the desert

offered. And (بحري/BaHari) the coastal cuisine that came about due to the bounteous gifts of the Arabian Sea along with the trade with neighbouring nations, Emirati dishes are generously seasoned with saffron,

(لومي يابس) cardamom, dried lemon, rose water along with an array of spices garnished with herbs and an ample amount of ghee.

- Arin Shakil





Directions

1. Heat oil and sear the fish on either side. Remove.
2. In heated oil add the spices along with ginger, garlic and thinly sliced onions. Sauté and caramelise the onions. Add salt.
3. Add dried lemons along with diced tomatoes and let stew.
4. Pour scalding water and add large chunks of potatoes. Later reintroduced the fish.
5. Let it stew for 15 mins or till the potatoes are halfway done.
6. Later remove the fish. Measure the stock, to 2.5~3 cups and add 2-3 hours soaked rice to the stock and cook till the rice is done.
7. Finally, add the fish on top of the rice (فوقه) known as Fōgah and let it steam for 15 mins. Garnish with coriander, lemon and Emirati ghee.

Machboos (مجبوس)

The dish originates from periods of bounty, when fish is plenty and homes are stocked with rice. Symbolising celebration, it was prepared joyously at the appearance of dhows along the coastline carrying pearls and their famished pearl divers, who had been diving to great depths to harvest them for 4 months on end. A great testament to the strength and resilience of the people in the face of adversity and struggle.

Ingredients:

- Fish (kingfish, Modha, Hāmoor etc.) or prawns - 500g
- Rice (Sella) - 500g
- Oil/Ghee - 1/2 cup
- Onions - 250g
- Potatoes - 3
- Tomatoes - 250g
- Ginger - 1tbsp
- Garlic - 1 tbsp
- (البزار) Lebzār (Emirati spice blend) - 2 tbsp
- Dried lemon - 2
- Bayleaf - 2
- Cardamom - 8-10
- Cloves - 3-4
- Coriander powder - ½ tbsp
- Cumin powder - ½ tbsp
- Turmeric powder - 1 tsp
- Coriander and lemon to garnish
- Salt to taste





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