



مدرستنا الثانوية الإنجليزية، الشارقة (فرع البنين)
OUR OWN ENGLISH HIGH SCHOOL
SHARJAH (BOYS' BRANCH)



Keeping in Touch - F R O M A D I S T A N C E

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07 June 2020

On behalf of the Principal and CEO, Srivalsan Murugan

“We’ll never know our full potential unless we push ourselves to find it.” —*Travis Rice*

On Sunday, 31st of May, the batch of 2020-2021 at OOB, set another precedent by organizing and conducting the Annual Investiture Ceremony completely on a virtual platform for the first time in the history of our school.

The Organizing committee was headed by Mr. Faizal Kandy, Head of Senior School and was composed of members of the student body, who proved their mettle in the technological arena through the successful implementation of such a program. The event was organized using two isolated online platforms, MS Teams and OBS Studio, which facilitated the livestreaming of the entire ceremony on YouTube (<https://linktr.ee/investitureoob>) which amassed in total around 5000 viewers.

The Keynote Speaker for the event was Major Mohammed Ali Shah, prominent actor, LOC Veteran of the Indian Army turned motivational speaker, who recounted events he had gone through during his deployment, underlining the importance of maintaining a confident attitude while taking on life’s adversities.

“Fear is the worst word in the dictionary”, reiterated Mr. Srivalsan Murugan, Principal and CEO, as he addressed the audience after the induction of the badge-holders. Mr. Srivalsan spoke on the importance of aiming beyond restrictions that seem to be laid down by the presence of fear, urging listeners to ensure that their growth transcends traditional norms.

What a splendid ceremony it was. You boys rock!

First Virtual - Anti-Bullying Committee meeting:

“**Take a stand, lend a hand**” is the motto of the Anti-bullying committee of our school. We follow a Zero Tolerance policy towards bullying and we ensure to provide a safe learning environment. An Anti-Bullying committee is formed, led by our student warriors (selected student representatives), with the teacher in charge to guide them.

The Anti-Bullying Committee had its first virtual meeting on 27th May 2020, which included 29 student members. Our Cyber warriors are prepared to lead the war against cyber bullying, should there be any cases during this remote learning phase. Our Principal – Mr. Srivalsan Murugan, in his opening address on TEAMS said, “Vigilance guarantees freedom”. Headmistress, Ms. Sindhu Padmanabhan, accentuated the role of cyber warriors, during the remote learning phase. The students were oriented about the roles and responsibilities, reporting procedures by Ms. Indhumathi Ranganathan (counselor) and Ms. Jessy Paulose (Designated Safeguarding Lead).

Parent Advisory Council meeting

Families, school and communities share the responsibility to work together to support students' learning. Parent Advisory Councils (PACs) are the official and collective voice of parents in school. The first PAC virtual meeting was held on 30th May on Teams with 86 parents in attendance. Mr. Srivalsan Murugan, the Principal and CEO chaired the meeting, welcoming the new PAC members and shared his thoughts on the pandemic and the current situation the school and the stakeholders are coping with. He expressed his gratitude to everyone on the school being awarded the Sharjah Award for Educational Excellence and winning in the Distinguished School Category. He also congratulated Gaurav Jayaprakash, the student from Grade 6 F who got recognition for Educational Excellence in the Distinguished Student Category. Head mistress Ms. Sindhu Padmanabhan presented to the parents the school Self Evaluation plan in the current context.

Parent Wellness Session – PAC meeting

“Parenting is a beautiful journey, with new experiences. In this journey, we forget about our own self”.

A parent wellness session was conducted by Ms. Indhumathi (School Counsellor) during the PAC meeting. Strategies to support the children during the remote learning phase were shared with parents. The importance of Self-care was also highlighted to encourage parents to focus on their own well-being too. The Mental and Emotional Wellbeing is imperative for supporting children during this phase. The PAC meeting proved to be a great opportunity to engage, inform and empower families and their partnership with the school

We do hope you all tried our Super Sunday Tip # 1 & 2 . Our Counseling team will soon be back with the Super Sunday Tip # 3 .

Relax, Refresh, Recharge. Don't forget to take care of yourself – Wellness session

“Breathe the present; inhale the moment “. This statement formed the crux of the Wellness session hosted for the staff on 28 May 2020. The concept of wellbeing embedded in the ethos of the alma mater, resonated across the virtual portal of MS Teams. An informative health talk by our health professionals Dr . Sumayya and Dr. Mohammed emphasizing on a healthy platter conveyed the message that apt food choices act as lifelong investments. With a surfeit of online activity, our ‘windows’ to the world have definitely taken a toll. Mr. Vijay Prakash (Head of P.E Department) demonstrated simple, effective exercises to soothe and relax the eyes. Soulful, mellifluous melodies by Ms. Shereen, took the audience down memory lane, while Mr. Michael and Mr. Sathish Benjamin had the onlookers hum to the tunes of the saxophone, ocarina and the lilting piano notes respectively. Channelizing the creativity within and sharpening the skills and hobbies of the OOB fraternity during the Stay at home period was commendably showcased in the segment ‘ OOB has got Talent’. Truly an afternoon enjoyed by all; strung together with precious memories intertwined with fun , laughter, music and most importantly , oodles of practical wisdom.

“A positive mind produces a positive reality”.

Having felt the need of boosting the confidence of students, whilst they were busy preparing for their upcoming test; our school counselor shared study tips with our students. An array of beneficial study tips, including learning tips and memory tips were shared, with the students of Grades 5 -12. Periodic test for Grades 1 to 12 has commenced today. Best of Luck Boys....

Learning never exhausts the mind – Leonardo da Vinci

We can't all be together in school for the assembly, so we have been streaming them to you so that you can watch it in the comfort of your home. We continue with our virtual assemblies from Kindergarten to Grade 12 . This week's theme ranged from topics like Artificial Intelligence to World Environment Day. The assemblies came alive with songs and role-play depicting the plight of the animals caused by pollution. It brought into focus pressing environmental issues and solutions to conserve the environment, pursue the path of sustainability and live in harmony with mother Earth.

The Kindergarten department celebrated World Environment day on 4 June, with great fervor and excitement. The day served as a reminder to these little ones of the beautiful planet that they live on and how it is their duty to protect the environment. They made art works depicting the various ways in which they could save the planet. KG 1 made a beautiful butterfly out of empty tissue rolls, KG 2 made bookmarks and wall hangings.

The Kindergarten department also conducted an 'Arabic Orientation programme' for the parents on Saturday, 6th June'2020. This session enlightened all parents with the curriculum expectations for Arabic in KG 2. The session instrumentally gave a taste of the truly rich and aesthetic Arab language.

Real education is a journey of converting human being into being human.

'Generation Global' prepares our students for the world that they must one day lead, by equipping them with the skills and experience they need to navigate their differences, in a peaceful way.

The picture of the 'Fatima Al Zahra' mosque clicked by Abhiram Smitha of 11B, fetched the First Runner- Up position in the Generation Global 'Picture of the Month- May' Contest.

It has been over two months since we have ventured onto the online platform. Our senior boys have created a video to give you a glimpse of our transition from the physical classroom to the virtual platform. <https://youtu.be/bfj2YPfleVY>

We are active on twitter @OOB_GEMS, Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GEMSOurOwnBoys/> and on Instagram account gems_oob. Do follow us for latest photos and regular updates on our exemplar distance learning stories. Some of these stories have been captured by SPEA'S official insta page @shjspea.

Regards,

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