

Keeping in Touch

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On behalf of the Principal and CEO, Srivalsan Murugan

07 June 2023

At OOB, we believe that education opens doors for opportunity and empowers our students to shape their own destiny. As Maya Angelou once beautifully said, "Success is liking yourself, liking what you do, and liking how you do it." Our students embody this sentiment as they engage wholeheartedly in their academic pursuits, embrace their unique talents, and truly find joy in their learning journey. They inspire us all to be fearless in the pursuit of our dreams and to find fulfillment in every endeavour. It's been a busy few weeks for our 'Happy Happening School', which has hosted, participated, and won accolades in numerous events.

We pride ourselves in having won the prestigious Khalifa Award for Distinguished Educational Institution in the 16th cycle of the Khalifa Educational Award 2023. Our Principal and CEO, Mr. Srivalsan Murugan, received the award from H.E Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence at a glittering award ceremony held on the 6th of June at the Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi.

On the 21st of May, 2023, OOB was felicitated for achieving a 'Very Good' rating in the Itqaan review organized by SPEA. The Vice Principal, Ms. Sindhu P Nair and HOS Senior School, Mr. Faizal Kandy, received the trophy from the Deputy Ruler of Sharjah, H.H Sheikh Sultan bin Ahmad Al Qassimi, at the award ceremony held at Sharjah University City Hall.

We are proud to announce that our students have shown exceptional academic performance in recent CBSE board examinations. Several students received awards and recognition for their outstanding achievements in various subjects. Our dedicated teaching staff continues to provide quality education, ensuring the growth and success of our students.

We have had a 100% pass percentage for the CBSE Grade 10 board exam, 2022-23. The school average was 80.06%. Mirav Padmesh Prajapat is our school topper with 97.4%. 9 students earned an A1 in all subjects while 22% of our students scored 90% and above. 95 % of our students scored A1 and A2 for Artificial Intelligence, and 63% of students got A1 and A2 for Math Standard.

In the Senior School Certificate Examination for the academic year 2022-2023 too our boys achieved the outstanding feat of a 100% pass percentage. The overall average score for the school stood at 79.83%, with the Science stream averaging 82.2% and the Commerce stream averaging 73.7%. Aditya Sunil Menon emerged as the top scorer in the Science stream, securing an exceptional 97.2%. In the Commerce stream, Hamza Mustafa Ratlami achieved the highest score

of 94.4%. An exceptional group of 12 students demonstrated remarkable consistency and excellence by scoring A1 grades in all five subjects. Firdaus Ansari showcased phenomenal proficiency by achieving a perfect score of 100% in Chemistry. Similarly, Allen Benny attained a flawless score of 100% in Informatics Practices. 23.2% of our students scored 90% and above. Additionally, 96.4% of students achieved scores of 60% and above, indicating strong academic performance across the school. Heartiest congratulations to our boys!

Being up to date with the latest happenings and being well aware of the past is mandatory for everyone at OOB. While we encourage our students to put their knowledge to test through the LWA every month, we inaugurated the first-ever inter-school teacher's quiz too this year. The Founder's Quiz - Questions Matter, is an initiative celebrating the unwavering passion and dedication of our Founder and Group Chairman, Mr. Sunny Varkey towards the cause of education.

In the Kindergarten, we explored a myriad of colours during Colour Week. The Kindergarten and the Primary department celebrated their 'Super-Sheroes' on International Mother's Day by making wonderful handmade crowns and flower bouquets for their mommies. To make this occasion more special, OOB Kindergarten hosted a Mother and Son Talent Show- 'MOM' ents of Love where mommies and their little champs were invited to showcase their unique talents. The department hosted its first 'Parent Coffee Morning' which was a great event with insightful discussions and healthy interactions.

At OOB, we constantly provide opportunities for our students to learn beyond the classroom. Field trips are an integral part of that journey. Our young ones of KG1 visited the Sharjah Aquarium, KG2 had a taste of history at the Sharjah Classic Cars Museum and the Primary department put on their thinking caps at the Sharjah Science Museum.

The Primary department has been busy forming bonds and making deeper and more valuable connections with their peers through activities such as Breakfast with Friends and have fallen in love with books over several sessions of Read to Me, especially hosted by the students of grade 1

The Junior Middle School has witnessed Adhib Zayaan from Gr 5C, delivering a soulful & enthusiastic singing performance at the Sharjah Children's Reading Festival along with Niranjan Priya who captivated the audience with his passionate storytelling skills. Niranjan is also the 2nd Runner up in the Sustainable Styles contest at Ecophilia'23, hosted by Our Own Dubai.

As proud winners of the Shastra Pratibha Contest 2022, Gokul Prasath of 7B and Adithya Anush of 9E visited the esteemed scientific and technological domains of Mumbai- Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education, Institute of Chemical Technology, Nehru Science Centre and Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai, through the Science India Forum.

The International Day of Families 2023 was celebrated by our Middle School and their family and staff by coming together to plant trees at the 'Tadweer Waste Management Centre'.

Our students from the Literary Club were delighted, to meet Ms. Sudha Murty, Indian educator, author and Padma Shri award winner, along with Dr.Wale Okediran a Nigerian author, at an interactive session held at the Sharjah Children's Reading Festival 2023 organized by the Sharjah Book Authority.

The Islamic department added another feather on their cap. Abdullah Nasir of 8G secured the 1st position in the Quran recitation category at the inter-school Quran and Hadith competition 2023 at GWA, Dubai, as well as at the Hifz-ul-Qur'an Competition, organized by Gulf Asian English School, Sharjah.

Our students understand the technological realms of the world well and are constantly pushing the bar higher in excelling at both. A testament to this is Suraj Kumar Singh of grade 12A who emerged as a 2nd runner-up in the Curtin University Coding Hackathon 2023 and Philip Chummar, of grade 7D who won the best delegate award in GA4 category at the MUN in GEMS Modern Academy.

We strongly believe in the holistic development of our students, and extracurricular activities play a vital role in achieving this goal. It is a pleasure to congratulate six athletes from OOB who qualified from Sharjah & Northern Emirates for the UAE School Sports Games Athletic Meet Finals – 2023 with Syed Kabeer(12G) emerging as a Bronze Medal winner in High Jump.

The Prefects' Meeting with the Principal was hosted to create a platform for the newly elected Prefectorial board members to collaborate, share ideas, and plan for the current academic year. The event fostered a sense of unity, responsibility, and commitment among the prefects, setting a positive tone for their term.

Reflecting on our journey so far, I am overwhelmed with pride for our remarkable students. They have dazzled us with their boundless creativity, insatiable curiosity, and their unwavering determination, they have proven time and again that their potential knows no limits. It is an honour to witness their growth and their bright spirits shine.

Before I conclude this edition of Keeping in Touch, let me apprise you of some of our enthralling events that are just around the corner. Do save the date for our Annual Prize Day Ceremony on 15 June 2023 where we will acknowledge and celebrate the accomplishments of our students across grades 5 to 12 and recognize their hard work and commitment throughout the year. It is our privilege to welcome and honour Mr. George Abraham an Inspirational Speaker, Social Entrepreneur, and a Disability Activist as our Chief Guest and Keynote Speaker for the event. Do take a moment to click on the link https://www.georgeabraham.in/?page_id=9 and glance through his incredibly impressive profile. Next up, be ready to witness the excitement and splendour of our young performers' impressive musical and theatrical talents to be featured in the much-awaited Primary School concert, 'Sinbad, a Modern Saga'- on 22 June 2023, to be held along with the Primary Department Annual Prize Day.

In closing, I leave you with this heartfelt quote from Dr. Seuss: "You're off to great places! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting, so get on your way!" May the summer days be filled with joy, adventure, and the warmth of cherished family moments.

Let us continue to nurture this spirit of partnership and teamwork. Together, let us strive to create an even brighter future for our students, empowering them to reach their full potential and become the leaders and change-makers of tomorrow. Once again, thank you dear parents for your unwavering support, dedication, and commitment to fostering success and teamwork.

With this thought, we look forward to 'Keeping in Touch' through our next edition by Ms. Jessy Paulose-Supervisor National Agenda, UAE Social Studies and MEP.

We post regular updates on the day-to-day happenings of our school on our Twitter account @OOB_GEMS, Our Instagram @gems_oob, and our Facebook account https://www.facebook.com/GEMSOurOwnBoys/.

Do follow them, to never miss any of the many happenings in our school.

Warm Regards,

Ms. Raisa Khan

Supervisor-Kindergarten