**News from Grade 4**

Wednesday 26 September 2012

Dear Parents,

Thank you to those who attended the Meet the Teachers afternoon. We hope that it provided you with some insight into what happens in a school day in Grade 4. A very warm welcome to our three new students – Harshit, Abhimanyu and Jatin, who have settled in well and are enjoying school.

C:\Users\cquinn\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\QXRMVE5I\MCj04346010000[1].wmfAs you know, at OSC, we like to have ‘Support Parents’ for each class. Priyanka (Karven’s mum) and Chinthi (Mathisha’s mum) have both very kindly volunteered to work with Grade 4D this year; while Dulanjali (Anargi’s mum) and Hana (Andrew’s mum) will be working with Grade 4J.

We are getting ready to launch our Grade 4 Wiki site. Please go to the OSC web site, click on ‘hotlinks’ and then on ‘Grade 4’. Click on Games for trouble shooting advice and links to Gizmo and other educational games sites.

We will attach letters we send home in ‘News and Information’. Homework tasks, photographs and information about our current UOI can also be found on the site.

We hope it is useful to you and we will continue to upgrade and post information to ensure smoother communication between us all.

**Primary School Government Association**

Congratulations to our four PSGA representatives – Talia, Nic, Ned and Divyanshi. They are actively involved in issues that affect our lives at OSC.

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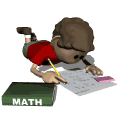
**U.N. DAY**

Friday 12th October is our annual UN day celebrations. Students are encouraged to come to school dressed in their own national costumes or clothing. Please encourage your child to practice the song our support parents are organising.

C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\MEDIA\CAGCAT10\j0301480.wmf**SPORTS DAY**

We all had a fun filled yet tiring day on September 12th. Congratulations to Blue House for being the overall winners. Thanks to all parents who have donated very generously towards the Blue Gecko café, and came to watch, cheer and support the Grade 4 students.

**Homework**

Thank you to the students who are doing an outstanding job of completing all their homework, including making their sentences “Super Duper”. We wish to encourage everyone to appreciate that Friday is Homework hand-in day, to organize their time wisely, and to always give of their best. Please remind your child to make good use of the plastic folders and zip bags they have been given to help keep themselves organized and their belongings protected.

**Primary Production**

C:\Users\cquinn\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\X4G8YHGO\MCj04381930000[1].wmfPlease encourage your child to continue to practice for the Primary Production Ye Ha! which will be held in the Auditorium on Thursday 8th November and Friday 9th November.

**Unit of Inquiry (UOI)**

We have completed our first Unit of Inquiry and the students shared their work with peers and completed a reflection. We are sure many of you have succumbed to your child’s persuasive pieces of writing and are planning your next holiday! We are so impressed with the professional quality of the brochures and the way the students passionately shared information at the Travel Expo!

Our second Unit of Inquiry theme is ***Where we are in time and place***

The **Central Idea** for this unit is;

***Civilizations from the past influence the present.***

The concepts we will be exploring include **change,** **reflection and connection.**

We will be inquiring into;

* How we know about the past
* The impact of the civilization on the present.
* Preserving what is important for future generations

Ask your child to begin to think about other civilizations and how we know about them. Encourage them to visit the following websites:

<http://www.ancientcivilizations.co.uk/home_set.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/forkids/>

<http://www.historyforkids.org/>

<http://www.kathimitchell.com/ancivil.html>

<http://cybersleuth-kids.com/sleuth/History/Ancient_Civilizations/index.htm>

As always, if any of you have information to share, books or dvds to lend us, or have a connection to our unit and would like to be a guest speaker, please contact us. A field trip to the National Museum and Kotte Kingdom is being organized too.

**Attitude focus**

For our new unit, we are now going to focus on ‘respect’ and ‘tolerance’, using them as a link with our UOI of understanding and appreciating different civilizations and times.

**Math**

Linked to our last UOI the students measured distances, used co-ordinates, interpreted scale and described positions.C:\Documents and Settings\cquinn\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\01BC4WOY\MCj04099590000[1].wmf Over the next few weeks we will be focusing on multiplication and the connection with division, time, timelines, types of angles and triangles and developing an understanding of the Roman Number system whilst analyzing other civilizations’ number systems. Please remind your child to continue to review and revise all number facts as they are integral to all other math work.

**Language**

Linking language with our unit, the students will be constructing a historical newspaper. We will be looking at the different elements that compose a newspaper article and the students will then write articles towards a class newspaper.

**Reading**: The children will continue to work in their reading groups until the October break. A hearty thank you to our three Reading mums – Divyanshi’s mum, Talia’s mum and Anargi’s mum. Literature Circles will be introduced soon after. Strategies that will be a focus over the next few weeks include skimming, scanning and determining importance. These strategies will help students to summarize and paraphrase information into their own words which is vital when note taking.

**Spelling** strategies we will be focusing on include – constructing own mnemonics, using syllables and discovering the origin of particular words.

**Handwriting:** We encourage all students to attempt writing in cursive joined handwriting now.

**News from other curriculum areas:**

**Visual Arts**

**[](http://www.google.lk/imgres?imgurl=http://www.hawktravels.com/citygiude/Polonaruwa/King%20Parakramabahu1.jpg&imgrefurl=http://www.hawktravels.com/citygiude/Polonaruwa.htm&h=439&w=779&sz=104&tbnid=PZUAzKLr6jN0gM:&tbnh=80&tbnw=142&prev=/images?q=parakramabahu&hl=en&usg=__eKdwCFTs_JgdpSQPj2lyDduMMOM=&ei=YPfwSqLhHY76kAWjx7mKBw&sa=X&oi=image_result&resnum=4&ct=image&ved=0CA0Q9QEwAw)**

**Through Visual Arts the students will plan, create and make an artifact from their chosen civilization. They will choose a suitable medium for their task. They will also explore art from different civilizations.**

**Mrs. Devika Ilayperuma**

[](http://www.google.lk/imgres?imgurl=http://www.buddhanet.net/e-learning/buddhistworld/images/ruwanweliseya.jpg&imgrefurl=http://www.buddhanet.net/e-learning/buddhistworld/lanka-txt.htm&h=350&w=352&sz=22&tbnid=ljJHn-L-uo2I3M:&tbnh=119&tbnw=120&prev=/images?q=ruwanweliseya&hl=en&usg=__HnTnuF9fHDu8Pl3g79fvhh8x__w=&ei=WvjwSpSgLZCpkAWVrLSHBw&sa=X&oi=image_result&resnum=1&ct=image&ved=0CAcQ9QEwAA)For the next Unit of Inquiry on **“Where we are in time and place”**, Host Nation will support the learning in class by investigating the rich cultural heritage of Sri Lanka, by inquiring into the artifacts found in the ancient cultural cities of Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Sigiriya, Kandy and Dambulla. If you are to visit these cities in the near future or during your stay in Sri Lanka, remember you will have a family expert!

Ms. Sandamini

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Oct 1st -2nd - ISA Tests

Oct 9th -3Way Conferences

Oct 12th - UN Day

Oct 13th – 21st - Mid-term break

Nov 8th -9th - Ye Ha!

***C:\Documents and Settings\cquinn\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IJ2PC78D\MCj04238280000[1].wmf*Please Remind your child to…**

* Bring a water bottle that can be re-filled every day.
* Label all clothing so it can be easily returned in case of loss at school.
* To bring their hat every day and not to share hats with others.
* Sneakers/trainers are required for use in the gym, so please remind your child to bring them.

Kind Regards

Tassy Dahlan and Kate Joicey

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