



'Providing An Exceptional Quality Education'

# حياتنا *Hayatona* Our Life

## From Our Head of School



"Physical fitness is not only one of the most important keys to a healthy body, it is the basis of dynamic and creative intellectual activity." John F. Kennedy

We've long been aware of the benefits of physical activity on intellectual and character development. This is well supported with research globally and generally accepted as an unchallengeable truth.

Being aware of this Dubai continues to impress with forward-thinking initiatives to engage its residents and citizens in ways that improve their lives. The Dubai Fitness challenge is the latest such initiative.

All of us have been personally invited to take part by none other than His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Executive Council. In addition to that our own GEMS Chairman, Mr Sunny Varkey, has laid down the challenge and encouraged us all to get involved.

Far from a gimmick, we know when we take part in an activity for an extended period of time it becomes habit forming and as such, this initiative is bound to ensure more of us remain active, well past the 30 days required.

I'd encourage all GIS parents to support their children, and partner with them in physical activity each day, strengthening relationships and supporting healthy bodies and minds. Some suggestions in ways you may like to do this:

- Make physical activity part of your family's daily routine by taking family walks or playing active games together.
- Provide your children with equipment that encourages physical activity.
- Take young people to places where they can be active, such as public parks, community baseball fields, beaches or basketball courts.
- Be positive about the physical activities in which your child participates and encourage them to be interested in new activities at school or in the community.
- Make physical activity fun. Activities can range from team sports or individual sports to recreational activities such as walking, running, skating, bicycling, swimming, playground activities or free-time play.
- Instead of watching television after dinner, encourage your child to find fun activities to do on their own or with friends and family, such as walking, playing chase or riding bikes. Take a walk together or a dip in the pool. (Source: CDC Division of Nutrition, USA)

Irrespective of the ways in which you choose to get engaged in physical activity as a family, make sure you do. Have a great weekend and get moving!!

[GIS Fitness challenge video](#)

Yours in Education,  
Glen Radojkovich  
Head of School/CEO  
@GRadojkovich

### GIS UPDATES

#### WHOLE SCHOOL

NOV  
NOVEMBER  
1 - 30 November

Mid-Term Break  
1 - 4 November

UAE Flag Day  
2 November

Secondary  
Week Without Walls  
5 - 9 November

Primary Residential Trips  
5 - 9 November

ConnectED Conference  
Parenting in a digital world  
8 November  
2:00pm

Lockdown Drill  
13 November

GIS Review  
14 - 15 November

World Diabetes Day  
15 November



GEMS Rewards  
Read more (Click here)



## Cathy Hayes Deputy Head of School



Madonna sang "We are living in a material world", we are however now living in a digital world. Technology has infiltrated all aspects of our lives, personally, socially, financially in our work places and of course in schools. Evidently through technology, progress has been exponential across numerous industries but it has also brought about potential dangers, particularly for our young people.

Growing up in this age with access to such a vast network, both educators and parents often find this a challenge to support and navigate. It seems that technology literally moves at the speed of light, therefore we ask "how can we monitor and keep our children safe online?"

We would like to invite you to our next ConnectED on 8 November to discuss 'Parenting in a digital world'. During this session we aim to provide you with resources on how to support your child at home and create a culture of safety and accountability when engaging with social media.

We look forward to seeing you all there!

## 'Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow'

Student attendance should be a priority for students and parents. Evidence shows that poor attendance has a adverse effect on a student's educational attainment and life chances. When students are absent for fewer days their grades and especially their reading levels are significantly better than that of their peers who miss school. High levels of attendance also encourages and develops social skills and friendships along with setting good habits for university and life.

As a school, we are also judged on attendance by external agencies such as the KHDA and CIS. The KHDA as a regulating body, allows a maximum number of days per year that a student can be absent, after which it is at the discretion of the school to promote the student to the next grade level. Factors that must be taken into consideration will be their social relationships and grades.

In exceptional circumstances, we are able to approve leave but these are the exception rather than the rule. Acceptable reasons include illness (with medical certificate for 2 days or more), bereavement or visa requirements. Unfortunately, leave will not be given for, circumstances that include family events, holidays, sporting fixtures or unavailable transportation.

We appreciate your support in this matter.

## Raquel Nahas Assistant Head of Primary and Head of Arabic

### Akhbarouna



We are excited to announce that we have partnered with TELLAL Institute (Teaching Learning and Leadership for All) to provide focused Arabic Professional Development sessions for all of our Arabic educators across the school. This unique professional development programme has been established by expert Arabic teacher trainers to offer strategies specific to increasing student progress and attainment. This development opportunity is one of the building blocks we have put in place to enhance the delivery of our Arabic programme.

Our Arabic educators have eagerly engaged and collaborated during the first session and identified strategies they can immediately use within their practice.

We look forward to this ongoing professional development, and tracking its impact on learning and teaching in Arabic across grade levels.

### أخبارنا

يسرنا أن نعلمكم بأننا نظمنا مع معهد تلال (تعليم وقيادة للجميع) دورات تدريبية متخصصة لمعلمي اللغة العربية في المدرسة ، من خلال برنامج أعد خصيصاً من قبل مدربين متخصصين في تدريس اللغة العربية من أجل دعم وتطوير الطلاب. ويعد هذا البرنامج من أهم الأسس التي وُضعت من متخصصين لتطوير منهج اللغة العربية الذي يتم تدريسه في الصفوف. وقد شارك جميع المعلمين في الدورة بحماس وإقبال خلال أول حصة تدريبية لهم، وقد قاموا بالتعرف على الاستراتيجيات الجديدة التي يمكنهم استخدامها في صفوفهم. نتطلع إلى المزيد من الدورات المتخصصة للمعلمين وملاحظة تأثيرها على تعليم و تعلم اللغة العربية في كل المراحل التعليمية في مدرستنا.

## Parent ID cards

You are requested to submit your recent passport size color photographs to the reception along with your child's pictures noting the student ID and Grade level on the envelope. The front of house team will ensure they are uploaded on to the system and you will be issued with an ID and yellow lanyard. To date there are 200 parent IDs outstanding. We appreciate your support in continuing to make GIS a safe school.

## Cashless Canteen

Please note from 5 November GIS will become a cashless system. Cash must be topped-up onto student ID cards to purchase meals at the canteen. For any replacement of student ID cards, please contact the STS office, across from the cashier. You will need your child's photograph in order to get the ID card re-printed. The procedure to load money on to the student card is [here](#) and meal subscription [here](#).

## Leigh Girven

Head of Primary



As you read this I, along with Ms. Lea and other senior leaders, are attending the IB World Conference in The Hague. We are looking forward to connecting with other IB schools, hearing about new developments within the IB community and following the conference, sharing our new knowledge with the GIS Primary team.

Last week we named our Grade Three to Five Student Council representatives for the year – congratulations to all the elected students and best of luck to you in these important roles! This year the election process was slightly different to previous years as we followed a peer nomination then selection panel interview process. The selection panel were very impressed with the high caliber of leadership displayed from all the students interviewed – choosing a final representative was tough!

Auditions for Aladdin continued this week. Over 75 Grade 4 & 5 students signed up and were courageous enough to put themselves forward for selection which is amazing! There may not be places for all our students as the auditions were open to MYP students also. However, students should be proud whether they are offered a role or not, the audition process itself will have been great experience for everyone who took part and set students up well for future auditions.

## Physical Education

The PE Department would like to showcase some of the wonderful learning experiences that have been taking place in PE lessons by our lovely students. KG1 have been exploring 'spatial awareness' as part of their Skill Development unit. Grade 2 have had to find creative ways of working together to solve problems in Adventure Challenges. Grade 4 have been planning and making effective strategies and game plans to help their teams to succeed. Finally, students from grades 2, 3, 4 and 5 have been participating in lunchtime clubs, such as Dancercise, for the Dubai 30x30 Fitness Challenge. Follow @GISJaguars on Twitter for more highlights.



## Student Council

We are happy to announce that, following a rigorous process where students were nominated and then interviewed, representatives from grade 3 to 5 have been selected to be a part of the PYP Student Council. The aim of the PYP Student Council is to provide students with the agency, to take action within our school and provide a voice for their class. I was impressed with the students' insightful responses to the following questions, clearly demonstrating the service-orientated and reflective students that we have at GIS

- What is the purpose of the Student Council?
- Why do you want to be a part of the Student Council?
- Which qualities do you have that would make you a good Student Council leader?
- Which initiatives do you think the Student Council should lead this year?
- How does the Student Council support the local community?



Congratulations to the following students:

### Grade 5

A – Maya Mardini  
 B – Poppy Girven  
 C – Ahmed Wail  
 D – Rania Abdulhussein

### Grade 4

A – Jessica Kleimert Knibbs  
 B – Conor Lindsay  
 C – Ibrahim Elhrari  
 D – Christian Salides  
 E – Pavle Mladenovic

### Grade 3

A – Leah Sugano  
 B – Ved Nakhwa  
 C – Elisavet Tsoumane  
 D – Isabella Vitali  
 E – Fredrika Klintell  
 F – Joely Naidoo

## PRIMARY UPDATES



## PRIMARY

**Grade 3 Trip - Ecoventure**  
 5 - 6 November

**Grade 4 Dibba Camp**  
 5 - 7 November

**Grade 5 Kalba Camp**  
 6 - 9 November

**GIS V HIS**  
 (Girls U11 team) at HIS  
 6 November

**KG1 Trip - Gruffalo Show**  
 7 November

**ConnectED Conference**  
 Parenting in a digital world  
 8 November  
 2:00pm

**Grade 4 & 5 Trip to  
 DUCTAC**  
 (George's Marvelous Medicine)  
 15 November

## Lee Hole

Head of Secondary



I am delighted to be able to share our student leadership teams with the community this week and you will see more about these students in this edition of the newsletter. It has been an exciting time around the school over recent weeks as students

have campaigned, delivered speeches and produced videos to demonstrate their passion for student voice and representation.

Even now, the newly appointed house captains are leading activities for the PYP students during their first spirit day and they have done themselves, the Secondary School and their families proud; they really have helped make

memories for the Primary School students.

The student voice and student leadership will look a little different at the school this year as we want to foster self-reliance amongst the student body and ownership over the school. The "school council" as it was previously known will now expand into committees, all of which will be chaired and organised by older students in the school. The committees will be guided by the work of our Student Executive Leadership team, which will be made up of our Student Body President, the Vice President's, Head Boy & Girl and their deputies. I could not be happier with the team that we have but also with the students that were courageous enough to come forward for election and have an open mind to the possibilities and potential that they hold as a students at GEMS International School.

## Student Leadership

The student campaign process came to a close last Thursday and was followed by Sunday's inauguration assembly, in which we announced the GIS Student Leadership Team for the academic year 2017-18. Firstly, we would like to acknowledge and congratulate all of those students who volunteered to run for a student leadership position. The courage, creativity, diplomacy and resilience demonstrated by each and every one of our candidates has been commendable. Regardless of whether or not you have been appointed as a representative of the GIS School Leadership Team, your endeavors and achievements throughout this process should not be overlooked. Continue to be proud leaders of our community, ever mindful of the fact that your impact is profound. Thoroughly excited by the prospects of our student body, we look forward to your continued support and representation, as we seek to continually enhance the school experience for everyone within the GIS community. Thank you and congratulations!

Now, a special congratulations to the newly elected GIS Student Leadership Team:

<b>Student Body President</b> Raamiz Ali				
<b>Vice Presidents</b>				
Academics - Joao Ponce	Operations - Bernadetta Sugano	Social - Habiba Hewedi	Service - Naseera Suliman	
Head of Academics Aisha Musa	Head of Operations Kevin Naidoo	Head of Social Dima Rahal	Head of Services Nicholas Malanga	Head of House Events - Gaurav Wahi & Mauricio Yanes
	Head Boy Tim Oude Kotte		Head Girl Selina Al Madanat	
	Deputy Head Boy Alexander Nakad		Deputy Head Girl Hania Ibrahim	
<b>GIS Student Council Representatives</b>				
Grade 8	Grade 7		Grade 6	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Taleen Al Naser</li> <li>Tara Krikhaar</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Abdulrahman Abouzaid</li> <li>Jana Albally</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Haley Toutounji</li> <li>Rohan Panicker</li> </ul>	

**House Captains - Grades 6, 7 & 8**  
**Yellow Pythons** Francisco Ferreira, Kavya Khanna, Anna Benson  
**Green Mambas** Riad Nassri, Yasmin Gad, James Chami  
**Blue Dragons** Victoria Spens, Jack Lindsay, Neil Benamane  
**Red Raptors** Sophia Ouchari, Abdyyrahman Muhammetmyradov, Cameron McLeod

**House Captains - Grades 9 & 10**  
**Yellow Pythons** Omar Elfayoumy, Chloe Gassoub, Tima Al Madanat  
**Green Mambas** Daniella Nakad, Sahr Bari, Gabriel Ortiz  
**Blue Dragons** Adham Abbas, Muneer Eljoabeh, Gleb Sitikov  
**Red Raptors** Shauna McGuinness, Abdullah Abouzaid, Thalia Matthey

"A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. He does not set out to be a leader, but becomes one by the equality of his actions and the integrity of his intent."  
 (Douglas McArthur)

## SECONDARY UPDATES

### SECONDARY

**Three Way Conference**  
 30 October Evening  
 4:00 - 8:00pm  
 31 October 8:00am - 5:00pm  
 Multi-purpose Hall

**No ECAs**  
 30 October  
 31 October

**No ECAs**  
 5 -9 November

**Week Without Walls**  
 5 -9 November

**ConnectED Conference**  
 Parenting in a digital world  
 8 November  
 2:00pm



# Business Breakfast

Connecting with Purpose

Join us for our first Business Breakfast networking meeting, exclusive to GIS families. Come together to promote and share your business with others, get the chance to network and enjoy a delicious breakfast while listening to our guest speaker.

There are a limited number of seats, therefore, if you are interested in attending, please contact Yelena at [pre\\_gis@gemsedu.com](mailto:pre_gis@gemsedu.com) or inquire at the school reception.



**Sunday, 19 November, 7:00am – 8:30am At Marriott Marquis, Business Bay**



## The Box Appeal Campaign 2017

271 boxes will make a difference! A big thank you to everyone who supported this year with this campaign- especially the students!



## Second Hand Uniform Sale

If you need a particular item, send us an email and we will check availability. [gispa\\_gis@gemsedu.com](mailto:gispa_gis@gemsedu.com) and we'll try to help.

### Sunday, 10 December

Great weather, shopping, music, fun and friends.  
You will want to keep your afternoon free.

### Tuesday Business Post

Tuesday Business Post: An opportunity to promote your business to the GIS community. Send us the information, and we will post on your behalf on the GISPA Facebook.

## House Color T-Shirt Sale



Sale is ongoing. Order forms available at reception. Kindly note that there has been an unfortunate error with the yellow T-shirts. As soon as we receive them, we will let you know.

Just a reminder, caps are for AED35, and shirts are AED50 for Primary and AED60 for Secondary.

