



حياتنا *Hayatona*

Our Life

Volume 2 Issue 7

Providing An Exceptional Quality Education'

27 September 2018

From Our Head of School



It is with mixed emotions that I share Mrs. Leigh Girven is expecting, and will therefore be leaving us for maternity leave in March.

There is a roller coaster of emotions that flood me in writing those words. There is an obvious sense of joy and excitement for Leigh and her husband Brett as their wonderful family expands, but a huge sense of loss to say farewell to such a valued and influential member of our GIS community. Leigh has served GIS for 3 years and has positively impacted the community significantly during that time.



We are delighted that Leigh has opted to return later this year, to close out the year, however, she has decided to take next year to spend that time being a full-time mum. I know you will all join me in celebrating with Leigh but at the same time feeling a sense of sadness when we farewell her at the end of this academic year. Fortunately, while she will be leaving her position, she is remaining in Dubai and therefore we hope to see her smiling face around the school from time to time next year.

I am hugely appreciative to Leigh, for giving us early notice, which will provide ample time to seek a suitably qualified leader to step in to her role. We will keep the community apprised of the search and if possible we hope to have opportunity for some of you to meet shortlisted candidates.

We won't be saying farewell yet, we have the balance of the year to enjoy Leigh's leadership and contributions to the community.

I would like to use this opportunity to confirm that Mr. Lee Hole and I will both be returning next year and look forward to working with you in the years ahead.

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



At a Glance

The Daily Mile
Sunday 23 Sept - Thursday 18 October
Every morning
7:45 - 8:00 AM

Cricket for Kerala
11 October
4:00 - 5:00 PM

Beauty and the Beast Jr.
Auditions Begin
7 October - 11 October
Black Box

Ph7 Menu
Click here to view

@GIS_Gems



Cathy Hayes Deputy Head of School



Health and Safety continues to be at the forefront of school life. There are many factors to consider as part of this process, from overall health and safety training for all staff, including child protection, to procedures we must follow in the event of an emergency.

@cathyhayesedu This week, we carried out our first planned fire drill. Every member of the community on site was evacuated and accounted for in under seven minutes. There will be at least three more fire drills scheduled, as well as two lockdown drills, throughout the year. After each drill, there is a feedback and review process so we can continuously reflect on such procedures. As parents, should you be on campus when these drills occur, please ensure you follow staff guidance in relation to your muster point. All planned fire and lockdown drills will be noted ahead of time on the iSAMS calendar.

Another area of Health and Safety is sun and heat safety, especially during recess and lunch times. This year, all primary school students are required to wear their 'Hats to Play'. They should be plain navy blue, their house caps from last year or the GIS caps available from

Threads. We will have a small amount of small and regular GIS hats available to purchase at school reception next week (cash only service).

Student health forms must be completed annually for all students and submitted to the clinic. Two forms require your attention found [here](#) and [here](#). Both are compulsory for every child. Hard copies are also available from the clinic. As well as this, should anything arise during the course of the year, please inform the clinic immediately so we can ensure that all students are receiving the necessary care and their files are updated accordingly. To date only 50% of these have been completed and returned.

As is expected, children will get sick from time to time throughout the school year. These can include illnesses such as the flu, chicken pox and head lice. In order to prevent the illness or infection from spreading, please ensure that all medical advice is followed and if required, students are kept at home until cleared by a medical professional.

For any questions, concerns or feedback related to all aspects of health and safety, please email healthandsafety_gis@gemsedu.com

We need your help!

We are creating a 'Welcome' poster for GIS to represent the mother tongue languages of our community. We would appreciate your feedback regarding any exclusions or spelling errors you identify, please email them to t.kumar_gis@gemsedu.com



Raquel Nahas

Assistant Head of Primary and Head of Arabic



 @raquelnahas

As the fifth most spoken language in the world, Arabic is a very important and useful language to learn. Learning Arabic not only allows you to gain a deeper appreciation of the rich Arab history and culture, but also gives you a competitive edge within your career.

We have seen several success stories within the region of non-Arab individuals becoming fluent in the language and building their success around it.

Wonho Chung, born to a South Korean father and Vietnamese mother was raised in Jordan where he learned to speak native Arabic. He is a comedian and television personality, currently residing in the UAE, that launched and built his career on the fact that he is a fluent Arabic speaker. [Click here](#) to be inspired by Wonho Chung's story.

Max Stanton, AKA- Max of Arabia, born to an American father and English mother, moved to the UAE in 2007 to study marketing and instead fell in love with the country, culture and Arabic language. He did not receive any formal education to learn Arabic, but instead did so by spending time with his Arab friends and immersing himself in the language and culture. As a result, Max became an entrepreneur, a social influencer and blogger with 609,000 followers that promotes the Arabic Language and the Emirati culture. [Click here](#) to be inspired by Max of Arabia's story.

Become another success story by embracing Arabic and learning the language, or supporting your child to become fluent. To support you with this, we are re-opening our Arabic Extra Curricular offerings to parents, teacher and students. [Click here](#) and sign up now.

Arabic ECA Offerings			
ECA Title	Description	Audiences	Date and Time
World Speaks Arabic	Learn Arabic through a yearlong program designed to support non-native Arabic speakers.	Grade 6- 12 Parents and Students, Teachers	Mondays from 7:15-8:00am
Arabic Karaoke	Learn Arabic through song.	Grade 1 -2	Wednesdays after school
Arabic fun	Learn Arabic through art, cooking, and dance.	Grade 3 - 5	Wednesdays after school



مدرسة جيمس الدولية - شارع الخليل
GEMS International School
 AL KHAIL

Cricket for Kerala

Parents, Students & Teachers

Come and show your support

When : Thursday, 11 October 2018 at 4:00pm
Where: GIS Main Field
 For more information contact Abid at a.samee_gis@GEMSedu.com or Emma at e.stjohn_gis@gemsedu.com




PRE - LOVED UNIFORM SALE

Up to **80 %** off all uniform items. Uniform donations are welcomed.
 (Donation can be given to Reception)

Thursday, 4th October
 Morning - 8:15am - 9:00am
 Afternoon-3:00pm-3:45pm
 Location: GISPA Room.
 (Ground floor, Secondary building)

Items available
 Skorts - Shorts - Shirts - Trousers
 P.E Kit - Ties - Jumpers - Jackets
 (Wide range of sizes)




شهدت السنوات الأخيرة اهتماما متزايدا بتعلم اللغة العربية، ولا غرو في ذلك حيث تحتل اللغة العربية المرتبة الخامسة في قائمة اللغات الأكثر تحدّثا في العالم وفقا لأشهر الإحصائيات العالمية ومنها " حقائق العالم " الصادرة من الاستخبارات الأمريكية ، و "إنكارتا" وأيضا " إنثولوج ". ومما لا شكّ فيه أنّ تعلم العربية يتيح لك تنسّم عبق الحضارة واطّلاعا أعمق على التاريخ والتعرّف عن قرب على الثقافة العربية الغنيّة، كما أنّه يمنحك ميزة تنافسيّة في مسارك المهنيّ.

تناقلت وسائل الإعلام العديد من قصص عاشقي اللغة العربية على امتداد رقعة العالم، وقد دفعهم الشغف بها لتعلّمها، فأصبحوا يجيدون التحدّث بالعربيّة بطلاقة، ممّا ساهم في بناء شهرتهم عالميّا.

ولعلّ من أبرز قصص النّجاح تلك، "وانهو تشانغ"، والده كوريّ جنوبيّ وأمّه فيتناميّة، وقد عاش وترعرع في الأردنّ، حيث تعلّم اللغة العربية ممّا أتاح له إلى جانب حسّه الفكاهيّ أن يصبح مقدّم برامج كوميدية، ونال بها شهرة منقطعة النّظير على مستوى المنطقة العربيّة والعالم. وهو يعيش حاليّا في دولة الإمارات العربيّة المتحدّة. ومن الرّائع أن ندرك أنّه بدأ وبني مسيرته المهنيّة على حقيقة أنّه عربيّ اللسان. [اضغط هنا](#) لتنبهر بقصّة " وانهو تشانغ " المثيرة.

قصة أخرى مبهرة، إنّّه "ماكس ستانتون" أو الملقّب بـ "ماكس العرب" والذي ولد لوالدٍ أمريكيّ ووالدةٍ إنجليزيّة. انتقل ماكس للإمارات العربيّة المتّحدة عام 2007 ليدرس التّسويق، وقد وقع في حبّ هذا البلد وثقافته، وأعجب باللّغة العربيّة أيضا. لم يتلقّ ماكس تعليما رسميا للغة العربيّة، ولكنّ الوقت الذي قضاه مع أصدقائه العرب كان كفيلا لينخرط في المجتمع العربيّ فينهل من ثقافته ولغته، وبذلك أصبح ماكس رائدا وملهما في التأثير المجتمعيّ، ومدوّنا يحظى بأكثر من 609,000 متابعا، كلّ ذلك كان بفضل اللّغة العربيّة والثّقافة الإماراتيّة. [اضغط هنا](#) لتتعرّف أكثر على قصّة "ماكس العرب".

ولتصبح أنت قصة نجاح أخرى، تفخر بنفسك حين تتحدّث اللغة العربيّة وتفهم ما تسمع، وحتّى تستطيع تقديم الدّعم لطفلك ليصبح متحدّثا بطلاقة، فإنّنا - في مدرسة جيمس الدوليّة - من واجبنا تقديم هذا الدّعم لك، ونتيح لك الانضمام لدورات مجانيّة لتعلّم اللغة العربيّة والتي سوف تُقدّم لأولياء الأمور والمعلّمين والطلّاب على حدّ سواء. [اضغط هنا](#) للتسجيل الآن.

Leigh Girven
 Head of Primary



[@LeighGirven](#)

Congratulations to all our Grade 1 to Grade 5 students who successfully completed MAP testing this week. Reports will be shared with parents next week as a hard copy and available to download from iSAMS by the end of October. If you are new to the school and MAP testing or a returning parent who would like to know more about what the report means and how we use the information to inform individualized student planning, then please come to our ConnectED session: Primary G1-5: Making sense of my child's MAP report - to be held on the 10th October at 8.30am.

This year in our weekly assemblies we would

like to reinforce and celebrate the IB Learner Profile attributes with our students. Each month we will focus on a different attribute to remind our students how they can be not only amazing academics but also balanced IB learners. This month we are focusing on the Learner Profile: Caring. Welcome back assemblies have focused on how we can be caring friends and caring members of the GIS community. We would love your help! If you have seen or heard about a student who has been particularly caring then please share this with your child's teacher or a member of the leadership team. We hope to be able to celebrate all our amazingly caring students at a special assembly at the end of the month.

Grade 3 to 5 residential trip parent meetings have been held this month. These trips are an amazing opportunity for our students to participate in learning experiences outside of their regular routine. In the UAE outdoor

opportunities are limited so we are lucky that our students can experience the great outdoors in a safe, fun and educational setting. Because we are an IB school and believe in developing the whole child, these residential trips play an important role in our curriculum. Learning prior to the camp and following, relates to the experiences students have had while away. Because of this it is compulsory that all students attend residential trips so that they can access the same opportunities as their peers. We know that for some students and families a night or three away from home is a new and very challenging experience and we do our very best to ensure that all students receive the support they need. If you have concerns or questions please do not hesitate to speak to your child's homeroom teacher, grade leader or Ms. Sara Bidawi the school counselor.

Have a great weekend.

Narnia at GIS

On Sunday, the Grade 4 and 5 students were very fortunate to have a wonderful experience of watching the amazing performance of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe. The seven performers dazzled us with their stunning props, costumes, acting and singing abilities. Our students reflected on the musical and will begin to incorporate their new understandings of performing techniques in their drama classes.



International Dot Day

The Dot tells the story of a caring teacher who reaches a reluctant student in a remarkably creative way. In Peter Reynolds's book, the teacher dares a very resistant Vashti to "make her mark." Vashti's breakthrough begins with a simple dot on a piece of paper. Encouraged by her teacher she sets off on a journey of self-discovery, letting her creativity bloom and, ultimately, inspire others to believe in themselves.

International Dot Day was celebrated in the library over the week of 15th September, when all students heard the story, and were encouraged to 'make their mark', not only on our dot sheet, but in their daily lives.

Much fun was had and the colorful dot display was the culmination of the creative input of all our PYP students (And Ms Panayota who painted the Dot mural)!



Primary upcoming events

Grade 5
Absolute Adventure Parent Meeting
 1 October
 8:30 - 9:25 am
 Conference Room

Grade 3 - 5
Student Council Elections (in class)
 1 October

ConnectED
Making Sense of my Child's MAPs
 10 October
 8:30 am
 Conference Room

Grade 3 - 5
Student Council Elections Winners announced
 4 October

Lee Hole
 Head of Secondary



Twitter @LHole81

“This is why I/we love GIS” is a term that I have heard so many times over the last few weeks and I find it so hard to suppress the smile every time it is said; whether it is from students, parents or teachers. I have spoken to so many teachers since the start of the year that have commented on our students and explained how caring they are, what great questions they ask or how amazed they are by what is achieved in class every day. Numerous parents have told me how happy they are with the teachers that their child has and how much they hear about the lesson content and activities that are taking place from their child each evening.

My favorite conversation over the past few weeks was with a student that had moved to another country but had returned to the school for a visit. He explained that he missed the school so much and his new school was “missing something” in comparison, but he couldn’t identify it. He told me that he felt like he was part of something at GIS and that the students were not just being taught in the school but they contributed to it each day. This speaks volumes for me and is the reason that I love working at GIS.

You will see from notifications and updates that we have a number of information events coming up in our calendar for various aspects of school life. It would be great to welcome you all into the school for these.

Cricket for Kerala



Thursday, 11 October GIS will have an ‘Active Wear Day’ in aid of Kerala.

This year massive floods across Kerala killed more than 350 people and dis-

placed more than 800,000. We have many families and staff in GIS who are from Kerala or who have family and friends living there so it seems only right for us to come together and do what we can to support and raise awareness in whatever way we can.

Students will donate 5 AED to the Kerala fund and also wear their active wear to participate in cricket activities at lunch time.

GIS will also be hosting a staff and parents cricket match on the main field at 4:00 PM on the same day.

Everyone including parents, students and teachers alike are welcome to come and cheer the teams on!

There will be a donations stand in the main reception also throughout the day where all donations will be welcome.

If any parents want to get involved in playing in the cricket match please contact one of the below teachers; Ms. Emma at e.stjohn_gis@gemse-du.com or Mr. Abid at a.samee_gis@gemsedu.com

Daily Mile



The Daily Mile started this Sunday, and we have had more than one hundred students, parents and members of staff engaged in this activity. This is a drop-in session that will run every morning from 7:45am to 8:00am on the Football Field. We would like to invite everyone to join us and enjoy the benefits of this 15 minute workout. No special gear is needed, although trainers are recommended.



We have more activities coming up as part of the MyHealth program, so please stay tuned. We would love to hear from any of you who know of activities that could be part of this program. Any questions, please email MyHealth_gis@gemse-du.com. Thank you all for being a part of our MyHealth community!



Secondary upcoming events

UCAS University Application
 2 October
 2:00 - 5:00 pm
 Third floor Room no 10

Connected
Understanding Your Child’s Test Results
 3 October at 8:30 - 10:00 am
 DP Lounge

Week Without Walls Parent Evening
 3 October
 6:00 - 7:00pm
 DP Lounge

UAE IBDP Conference
 (Grade 11 CAS students)
 11 October
 1:00 - 3:30pm
 DP Lounge

Week Without Wall
Last Day for Payments
 11 October