



# حياتنا Hayatona Our Life

## From Our Head of School



**Alvin Tofler, the American writer and futurist was known for his works exploring modern technologies.** He promoted and examined areas such as the 'digital revolution' and 'communication revolution', with an emphasis on their effects on cultures worldwide.

Firmly immersed in these eras now, our students are working towards what Tofler accurately referred to as new literacies. His position being; "The illiterate of the future will not be the person who cannot read. It will be the person who does not know how to learn." — Alvin Tofler.

While traditional literacy remains an essential requirement, and reading certainly continues to be an important focus of today's schooling, it is no surprise there has been a significant shift of focus to new literacies. "What matters is not the absorption and regurgitation either of fact or predigested interpretations of facts, but the development of powers of the mind or ways of thinking which can be applied to new situations and new presentations of facts as they arise." — Alec Peterson

I would like to commend our GIS parents for recognizing this when selecting us as a school that addresses these essential skills for your children. As you will be aware, within the IB Curriculum we refer to these areas as the Approaches to Learning (ATLs: Communication skills, Self-management skills, Social skills, Research skills and Thinking skills). Essentially, these are the skills our students require to be effective learners and literate in the 21st Century. As such they are embedded in all we do.

I am always pleased with the demonstration of the ALTs in the classes I visit. Recently I was invited to Grade 4E to see some amazing spaceship prototypes. It was not only pleasing to see some great thinking skills evident in the designs, but equally to see the confirmation of other ALTs displayed, as the students presented the learning that had taken place. It is in moments of celebrating learning, like this, that I am reminded of why we select the IB as the preferred curriculum to support our students learning literacy.

Yours in Education,  
**Glen Radojkovich**  
Head of School/CEO



## Cathy Hayes Deputy Head of School



During the Grade 5 assembly, our students said it best when they said doctors, philosophers, psychologists, politicians and scientists have all asked that inevitable question 'who are we?' Exploring our own personal identity and how it influences us is one key factor in order to be successful. Similarity, we as educators ask, "who are we as teachers, as leaders and what does our school represent? Who are we

as a community?"

We strongly believe that we are a community of learners, a place where families can come together, where long lasting relationships are formed and where children understand what it means to be inwardly strong and outwardly looking. We believe we are a school that nurtures and cares for our students and families, where they can be challenged and supported, being the best versions of themselves they can be. We appreciate and value each other's diversity while at the same time

'Providing An Exceptional Quality Education'

**QUICK  
UPDATES  
WHOLE SCHOOL**



**WHOLE SCHOOL**

**Global Handwashing Day**  
15th October

**Aladdin Auditions**  
15 - 26 October

**The Box Appeal  
Extended till**  
15 October

**Swim Squad Personal Best  
Challenge Whole School**  
at 7:00 am  
18 October

**GIS ConnectED -**  
Parent Information Session  
Understanding my child's  
MAP & CAT4 report  
18th Oct at 8:30am  
DP Lounge

Read our Consitution of  
the GEMS International  
School Parent Association,  
Dubai [here](#).

celebrating our commonalities.

We believe this to be true as it is evident daily through our conversations with parents, students and teachers alike.

## Angelika Kuster

Curriculum Coordinator K-12



### French Taster Session

Are you a French speaking family who wants to support their child or children in maintaining their French mother tongue? We will be offering French mother tongue classes starting on 31 October at GEMS International School. Before classes start, we are running taster sessions on Tuesday, 24 October from 2.00 to 2.30PM

The classes will be run by Language One, a leading international organization in mother tongue education. The taster session will give your child a sampling of what will take place during class, the level of the class and of the general expectations. A representative from Language One will be present to answer any questions parents may have during that time. Sign up will start that afternoon.

Please enrol your child/children for the right age group to help us plan. To enrol [click here](#).

Further information about French classes can be found [HERE](#) and on their [WEBSITE](#).

## ConnectED: Understanding Your Child's MAP & CAT4 Results

We would like to invite you to our ConnectED session on external assessments tools and understanding your child's reports. The session will focus on external assessment tools that the school uses to give us with information regarding our students' attainment, progress and learning preferences. These will be explored in relation to the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) tests and the Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT4) tests.

GIS uses MAP tests in English, Mathematics and Science from KG2 to Grade 11 to obtain an overview of students' attainment and later on progress in these subject groups. In addition to MAP, Grades 3 to 9 sit the Cognitive Ability Test (CAT4) tests. The CAT4 is a diagnostic assessment that is designed to help students and their teachers understand how they learn and what their academic potential might be. It assesses how students think in areas that are known to make a difference to learning. The latter part of the session will be an opportunity for question and answer and identifying some practical strategies how parents can support their children.

We are looking forward to welcoming you on Wednesday, 18 October at 8.30 in the – 3rd floor, secondary building.



## LIVE PASTA DAY

Hosted by PH7  
PH7 Chefs will be cooking up pasta dishes on their "live cooking stations"

We would like to invite students to our one-day 'live' pasta cooking event on: Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October in Canteen

Fresh sauces and toppings will be available for students to create their favourite pasta dishes.

AED 15

As our community continues to grow, and our identity as a school emerges and develops, it is imperative that we hold on to our values and beliefs to ensure that we remain true to our mission of providing an exceptional quality education for our students.

## Raquel Nahas

Assistant Head of Primary and Head of Arabic

## Akhbarouna



Nharkom Saeed. My name is Raquel Nahas and I have joined GEMS International School as the Assistant Head of Primary and Head of Arabic. I am Lebanese and was born, and lived the majority of my life, in Canada. I am greatly passionate about the Arabic language and culture and excited to now have an avenue to share this passion with the GIS community.

I joined GEMS Education over 9 years ago and have had the privilege to work in a number of different capacities including IB educator, leader and teacher trainer. My recent experience was leading the Teacher Training programmes at the TELLAL Institute, where I was able to support aspiring and existing teachers with understanding and applying best teaching practices in their classrooms. Through supportive conversations, focused professional development, and instructive demonstrations, teachers felt confident to attempt new strategies and enhance their practice. The result lead to impacting change in schools and supporting student's growth and development.

I am very fortunate to now be able to merge my passion of the Arabic language and culture with my passion and skills of teacher training. This year, my focus is to enable the Arabic educators across the school to promote the love for the Arabic Language amongst students through more interactive and hands-on activities grounded on research-based practice. As well as to enhance assessments to inform differentiation, and to ensure that Arabic is prominent within our school community. The Arabic department has already made great steps towards these goals and with the collaborative efforts of the community we hope to become an Arabic Center of Excellence within the organization and region.

I look forward to sharing our news (Akhbarouna) with you as we progress throughout the year.

## أخبارنا

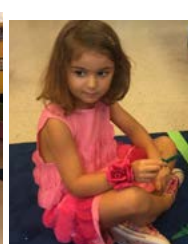
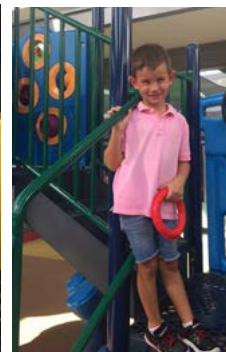
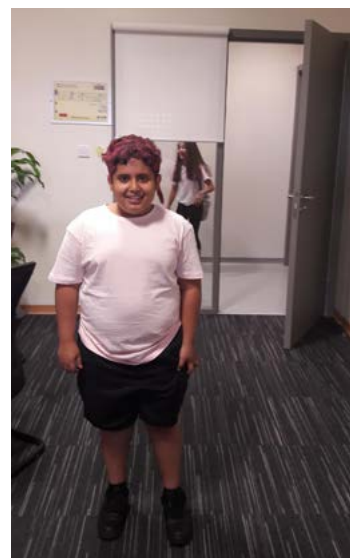
نهاركم سعيد . يسعدني أن أقدم نفسي إليكم: اسمي راكيل نحاس انضمت إلى مدرسة جيمس الدولية كمساعداة رئيس قسم الابتدائية ورئيس قسم اللغة العربية. أنا من لبنان وولدت وعشت معظم حياتي في كندا. متحمسة جدا للغة والثقافة العربية ، وأنا متحمسة لتبادل هذا الشغف مع مجتمع جيمس.

انضمت لأسرة جيمس التعليمية منذ تسع سنوات وكان لي شرف العمل في عدد من المناصب المختلفة بما في ذلك معلم في منهج البكالوريا الدولية ، ومدرّب و مشرف للمعلمين. كان منصبى الأخير كمسؤولة عن برامج تدريب المعلمين في معهد تلال، حيث تمكنت من دعم المعلمين الطامحين عن طريق فهم وتطبيق أفضل الممارسات التعليمية في فصولهم الدراسية، ومن خلال المحادثات الداعمة، والتنمية المهنية المركزة، و حصص المشاهدة، حتى يشعر المعلمون بالثقة في تفعيل استراتيجيات جديدة وتعزيز ممارساتهم. و أدت النتيجة إلى التغيير المنشود في المدارس ودعم نمو الطلاب وتمييزهم.

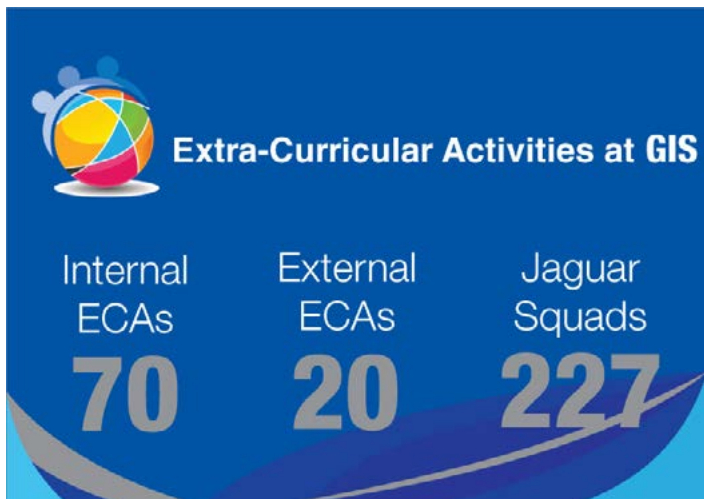
أنا محظوظة جدا لأنى تمكنت من دمج شغفي باللغة والثقافة العربية مع مهاراتي في تدريب المعلمين. سوف يكون هدفي هذا العام هو تمكين المعلمين العرب في المدرسة من رفع محبة اللغة العربية بين الطلاب من خلال المزيد من الأنشطة التفاعلية والعملية على أساس الممارسة القائمة على البحوث. فضلا عن تعزيز التقييمات لمعرفة الاختلافات، وضمان أن اللغة العربية بارزة داخل مجتمعنا المدرسي. وقد اتخذ قسم اللغة العربية بالفعل خطوات كبيرة نحو تحقيق هذه الأهداف، وبدعم أسرة المدرسة نأمل أن نصبح مركزا عربيا للتميز في مجموعة جيمس.

أنتعل إلى مشاركة أخبارنا وما قمنا بتحقيقه معكم طوال العام.

# GIS Community Getting Their Pink On



## Jaguars to the Win



The U14 boys have won their first game of the season 5-2 against JESS! Well done GIS Jaguars

## Ready, Set, Cook!

The Master Chef Junior extra-curricular activity (ECA) has started this year with much anticipation and excitement. The ECA's inspiration was



the international television show, Master Chef Junior.

In week one, we developed a safety and kitchen agreement and explored what it means to present food. For some students, this was their first time in a kitchen with real ingredients and tools.



In week two, we learned how to make chocolate dipped fruit.

Each week, the students have learned a new skill in cooking and how to use a kitchen tool. It is clearly seen that they are developing a love for cooking and are becoming more creative with their presentation skills. It

will be amazing to see how they grow in seven more weeks!

In two weeks, we are really excited to have a chef come from Emirates airlines to do a cooking demonstration for us. There are more great things to come. This is such a great ECA with passionate GIS students!



The U12's displayed great endeavor & sportmanship in their 1st DASSA game at King Dubai UAE 2-1



A great start for the Jaguar girls winning 38-22 againsts GEMS FPS

## Leigh Girven

Head of Primary



Over the past two weeks students in the upper primary have been involved in electing their student leaders for the roles of House Captains and Student Council representatives. Students have gone to a lot of effort to prepare their speeches and for their panel interviews. We are very proud of everyone who was courageous enough to put themselves forward for either of these roles and very impressed with how confident and articulate our GIS students were when speaking to their peers! Congratulations to our four elected House Captains Quin, Luna, Devsubhash and Catarina - I will let them introduce themselves below. We look forward to selecting Student Council representatives from each Grade Three, Four and Five class and introducing them to you in two weeks time.

Our first Parent Teacher Conference will be held next Thursday, with links to the appointment booking emailed home today. This conference is a three way Goal Setting Conference where parents, students and teachers will have an opportunity to set learning goals for the year ahead. Specialist teachers will also be available for drop in appointments in the first floor Conference room.

I hope you are all enjoying Seesaw and having a 'birds eye glimpse' into your child's classroom. The students love to read your parent comments on their posts so we encourage you to please give praise and feedback whenever you see a new post.

### House Captain Introduction

#### Red Raptors:

Hi GIS, my name is Devsubhash and I am the Red Raptors house captain. I will put all my effort into making this year the best for all houses. I will be there not only to win but to have fun and listen to all your ideas. Let's give 100% to make this year amazing!

#### Yellow Pythons:

Hi GIS, I'm Luna! I am the new house captain for the Yellow Pythons. I'm really looking forward to helping make this year awesome for the Yellow Pythons! Together we are united as a team and I welcome any new ideas you have. Last but not least, GO YELLOW PYTHON!

#### Blue Dragons:

What's up GIS, my name is Quinn Kaplan and I am the new house captain for the Blue Dragons. I will always be there to help us, not only to win but also to have fun! I am looking forward to leading the Blue Dragons this year!

#### Green Mambas:

Hi, I am Catarina the new Green Mambas house captain. You can always count on me because I will always be here to support you. Together we will make decisions because as a team we can achieve more! I'm really excited for this year because I know this is going to be the best year ever!

**Little Helpers.** As part of their inquiry into how communities function, KG2 has been learning about different community helpers. This week they participated in a whole-grade mock community where they had the opportunity to make connections between different members of a community and how they work together.



In KG2 art we have been exploring in the Unit of Inquiry of "How We Organize Ourselves". To express this concept, students created a "Community Puzzle" made up of four pieces, home/school community, their home, buildings in their community, and a road map of their community. Students worked hard on the four pieces which included a variety of different elements such as crayons, colored pencils, markers, tempera paint, and watercolors. I am very proud of our KG2 students' efforts. Their beautiful artwork will be available to view on Seesaw by the end of next week.



### Congratulation House Captains



Devsubhash



Luna



Quinn



Catarina

QUICK  
UPDATES  
PRIMARY



PRIMARY

#### Aladdin Auditions

15 - 26 October

#### The Box Appeal Extended till

15 October

#### GIS V EIS Jumeirah

(Girls U11 team) at GIS  
Starting at 3:30  
16 October

#### GIS V Sunmarke

(Boys U11 team) at GIS  
Starting at 3:15  
17 October

#### Primary Three Way Goal Setting Conference

19 October

#### DAC Swim Gala

24 October -2:00 pm at MTS

#### PYP Spirit Day

25 October

## Lee Hole

Head of Secondary



I've really enjoyed visiting classrooms this week to see the students and teachers working together on projects, presentations and discussions. The Grade 6 "Identity" presentations in Individuals and Societies were a pleasure to observe; the maturity that the students demonstrated as they explained their family trees and gave

flection of IB learning in action.

I'm really excited about the student campaigns for our student council and student leadership positions for the year. I can't wait to conduct the interviews for our Student Body President, Head Boy and Head Girl, as the list of candidates is exceptional and I'm certain that any one of them will do the school and their peers proud.

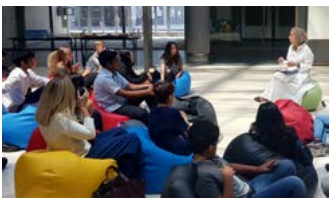
Finally, MAP reports were distributed recently and these reports contain a mass of information, which may seem daunting to some families. I encourage you to join us for the upcoming GIS Connect-ED on the 18 October as we have leaders from the school discussing the

standardized testing reports; how to break them down, decipher and understand the information that can be found in them. Parent Teacher Conferences are also on the horizon (30 and 31 October) and this will be a chance for you to meet with the subject teachers of your children and discuss the start that they have made at GIS this year.



their opinions on how our culture shapes us was outstanding. The heart-warming exchange that I witnessed between two Grade 8 students who were practicing their speeches reminded me of how lucky I am to be a teacher. The caring nature, patience and support that the two of them showed for each other coupled with the high quality coaching and questioning was a true re-

## Innovation at GIS



Innovation at GIS has come a long way in the last 12 months. Since launching our new 2021

innovation strategy our school has developed its understanding of innovation through; curriculum planning, projects and school events. GIS has also enjoyed success by winning 2 competitions, one of which was global.

This movement continues its momentum into our new academic year with a number of opportunities which highlight GIS as a pioneer for innovation in education. These include;

1. Being invited to host and lead the first GEMS Innovation Leaders meeting.
2. Our students enjoying an exclusive tour around the new Dubai Design District facilities and engaging with local and internationally renowned designers and architects (see picture).
3. Our students being featured in the Dubai Institute of Design and Innovation: Project Design Space launch video, highlighting student innovation.
4. A range of innovation talks showcasing creative careers hosted at the school.

Developing a futuristic space room to promote space tourism and future technologies.

We look forward to further developing the GIS innovative culture with your support over the academic year.

## Teachers Matter



In line with our Founder's mission to raise the status of the teaching profession within the country, and in recognition of the drive and passion that Mariamma Varkey has put towards education, GEMS Education launches The Mariamma Varkey Awards for Inspirational and Outstanding Teaching at GEMS. This award, partnered with the Emirates Innovative Teacher Award and the Global Teacher Prize continues to underline the importance of the teaching profession and symbolizes the fact that teachers throughout the world deserve to be recognized, respected, rewarded and celebrated.

[Click here to read more.](#)

QUICK  
UPDATES  
SECONDARY



SECONDARY

**The Box Appeal**  
**Extended till**  
15 October

**Aladdin Auditions**  
15 - 26 October

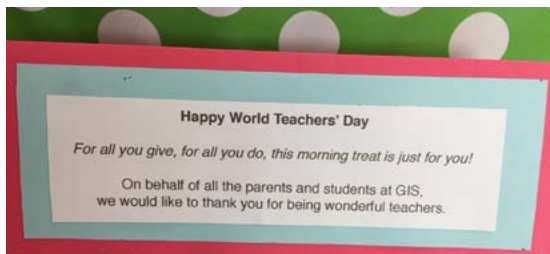
**Secondary Three Way**  
**Conference**  
30 October, 4:00 - 8:00 pm  
31 October, 8:00 - 4:00 pm





## UN World Teachers' Day

5 October- The United Nations World Teachers' Day to celebrate the role teachers play in providing quality education at all levels. And this is how we celebrated –



## The Box Appeal

Extended until Sunday October 15, 2017.

Unfortunately, to date, we received an average of 200 boxes while last year we were able to donate 520 boxes.



Filling one box costs around 80 dhs only but it's worth so much more to those receiving it. Please seize this week-end as an opportunity to participate. Empty boxes can be picked up at reception.

Thank you to all those that have already donated.

## House Color T-shirt

First orders will be delivered early next week to the class of your child.

Order forms and samples are available with reception if you would still like to make a purchase.

Caps are 35 dhs, and shirts are 50 dhs for Primary School and 60 dhs for Secondary School.

TUESDAY is the day that GISPA will support the GIS community by promoting your business on the GISPA Facebook page. If you are interested and require more information, email us on [gispa\\_gis@gemsedu.com](mailto:gispa_gis@gemsedu.com)




**GISPA - GEMS International School Parent Association**



[gispa\\_gis@gemsedu.com](mailto:gispa_gis@gemsedu.com)

# PINKTOBER with GISPA

