



حياتنا Hayatona Our Life

Volume 2 Issue 8

Providing An Exceptional Quality Education'

1 November 2018

From Our Head of School



Last weekend a number of our staff returned from Kerala, having worked with 10 schools in need, providing resources, teaching classes and getting to know the wonderful people there. We also spent one day observing teachers in GEMS Modern Academy Kochin, providing our colleagues with feedback on how they might improve their PYP programme.

As most of the schools we traveled to were in the backwaters of Alleppey and reachable by long boats only, it was an interesting time, overwhelmingly rewarding. The memories for each of us that went and the interactions with amazing children and teachers there, were both heart warming and humbling.

We were overwhelmed and surprised, in the final evening when the team was invited to Rotary meeting and all of us were presented with a huge honor, being recognized with the "Friends of Kerala Award" (Rotary had applied to Government for us to receive the "Builder of Nations award" but that can only be presented to Indian citizens). We will be developing a short video of the trip and will share that with you upon completion. Until then I've attached a few pictures for your interest.



Today we had opportunity to celebrate UAE Flag Day. Respecting our host nation and celebrating unity and indolence of the United Arab Emirates.

Our school gathered outside to form the UAE flag and followed that with a national anthem and flag raising ceremony for our Emirati students.

It is such an honor to work in and lead such a caring community.



Yours in Education,
Glen Radojkovich
Head of School/CEO
[@GRadojkovich](https://twitter.com/GRadojkovich)



At a Glance

The Daily Mile
Every morning
7:45 - 8:00 am
Main Field

GIS Active Day
2 November
8:30 - 12:30

Goal Setting conference
MYP - 6 November
Primary - 8 November

Week Without Wall
11 - 15 November

[Click here to view the
KHDA Approved
2018 - 2019
School Calendar](#)

Cathy Hayes Deputy Head of School



[@cathyhayesedu](#)

Having visited Kerala, specifically Kochi and Alleppey, seeing whole communities that have been devastated by the recent floods, it reminds me how fortunate we are, each and every single day. In the run up to Christmas, and shortly thereafter, there are many great opportunities to celebrate our host country, the great diversity within our community and to reflect on how truly blessed we are. Mo-vember, Diwali, UAE National Day, Winterfest and the Christmas concerts are just some of the events happening over the coming weeks. Please ensure you add these dates to your calendars so you don't miss out.

Another key event celebrated in school is of course International Day. Please note that this date has been moved forward to January 17. We have 86 nationalities represented across our student body, so we are calling upon you to represent your nation proudly. Information for signing up will be provided to you by GISPA.

Health Forms: Please note that there are still over 400 health forms to be submitted. Should anything happen while students are under our care, this information is vital to ensure your child gets the best medical attention.

Outstanding Fees: Fees for Term 1 are now overdue. You will have received reminders sent from the accounts team, and in the coming week, the school will attempt to contact you via phone to follow up accordingly. The final date for payments or payment plans to be activated is Thursday, November 8th. Understanding the current financial climate, we are more than happy to support a payment plan should you require one. Should you wish to avail of this option, please contact Glen Radojkovich or Cathy Hayes at g.radojkovice_gis@gemsedu.com or c.hayes_gis@gemsedu.com respectively.

Quick Notes

Parking Opposite School: Emaar have started cordoning off the open area opposite the school, which is often used by our parents and staff. Parents are requested to come on time to secure parking during drop and pick up times. The School Support Center is in looking into this and are pursuing it further with the Dubai Police Traffic Department to find a solution. We will keep you posted on the updates.

Parking Cards: Parents can collect parking stickers from the school security to have access to bring their vehicle inside the school campus for pick up and drop time.

Incorrect Parking: There has been instances lately, when the exits were blocked due to a vehicle being parked incorrectly causing inconvenience to other parents. Parents are request-

ed to park appropriately.

Parent ID Cards: Parents who have not received the parent ID cards should contact the Parent Relationship Executive at pre_gis@gemsedu.com or in person. Parents will need to share the student ID along with a recent passport size photographs of the parent/s. The picture will need to be sent as a jpg attachment.

Lost and Found: The unclaimed items are handed over to Charity at the end of the month. Parents are requested to collect the items from School at the earliest. The Lost and Found items are located at the Head Guard's Office, ground floor in the Secondary building, accross from the reception.

CONGRATULATIONS VICTORIA HAMLIN!

We are so proud of our Grade 9 student Victoria Hamlin and our Math teacher Mr. Mike Kraher who were invited LIVE on the air on the Kris Fade Show at Virgin Radio 104.4 Dubai to perform "Skinny Love".

Catch moments of this fantastic opportunity on our YouTube Channel here: https://youtu.be/U_4FH1Q-OJA#weRGIS



BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Congratulations to all students who succeeded in the audition process and are now members of this year's cast. It was not an easy task for the judging teachers, considering the outstanding talent we have here at GIS!

The finalized cast list has been posted outside the Black Box Theater (first floor). You can also view the list [here](#).

We have an exciting few months ahead as we begin preparing and rehearsing. The first rehearsal for all cast members will take place on Sunday 4 November at 3:30pm – 4:15pm, in the Black Box Theater (first floor). Dancers are not required to attend this rehearsal, as they will follow Ms. Niamh's dancing schedule (this will be distributed to all dancers by Ms. Niamh).

Backstage crew are also not required to attend. Rehearsals will continue every Sunday after school, until the Winter Break (excluding Sunday 11 November). A full schedule will be distributed to all cast members at the first rehearsal.

We look forward to seeing you as we embark on this musical adventure, which will be an enjoyable and memorable experience for all involved!

If you have any questions, please contact Emma Taaffe
e.taaffe_gis@gemsedu.com

Cast List: [Beauty and the Beast Cast List](#)

Website: <https://sites.google.com/gemsisak.com/beautyandthebeastjr>

Akhbarouna

يعمل قسم اللغة العربية في المرحلة الثانوية هذا العام على تطوير العملية التعليمية من خلال رؤية واضحة وآلية عمل منظّمة يسعى المعلمون من خلالها إلى تذليل الصّعاب وخلق جوٍّ من المتعة والحماسة، فيقبل الطلبة على تعلّم اللغة العربيّة بكلّ شغف، وتحقّق الفائدة المرجوة والهدف الذي نسعى إلى تحقيقه.

ولعلّ دور الأسرة في هذا الجانب لا يقلّ أهميّة عن دور المعلمين في رفق العملية التعليمية التعلّميّة، لذا نتوّع من أولياء الأمور مساندتنا من خلال متابعة أداء الطلبة للواجبات المدرسيّة والأنشطة اللامنهجيّة.

ونودّ هنا أن نطلّعكم على آليّة عملنا:

- الأنشطة المنهجية: تتمثّل في حلّ الواجبات والمهمّات المتعلّقة بشكل مباشر بمحتوى الدّرس، ويستطيع وليّ الأمر متابعة هذه المهمّات من خلال (ManageBac) أو حساب الطالب في (Google classes).
- الأنشطة اللامنهجية: حيث أعدّنا برامج متنوّعة ترفد العملية التعليمية للتهوؤ بمستوى الطلبة، ومنها:

✓ مشروع القراءة : لتشجيع الطلبة على القراءة بالعربيّة نقدّم هذا المشروع ضمن مراحل، حيث يقوم الطالب في المرحلة الأولى بقراءة كتاب مناسب لمستواه، ومن ثمّ كتابة استجابة أدبيّة حول ما قرأ ، ثمّ يعرضه على معلّمه للمراجعة. ونودّ أن ننوّه إلى أنّنا بدأنا بتوزيع الكتب والقصص، ونأمل من أولياء الأمور العمل معنا على تشجيع ومتابعة أبنائنا الطلبة لضمان الاستفادة القصوى من القراءة.

✓ مشروع الكتابة الإبداعية : وهي مسابقة في الإبداع الأدبي، ونهدف من خلالها إلى اكتشاف المواهب الكامنة عند طلابنا وتطوير مهاراتهم في الكتابة باللغة العربيّة، ولمزيد من التفاصيل تابعونا في النّشرات القادمة.

✓ اللغة والفنون الأدائية : ولأنّنا نؤمن بتكاملية العملية التعليمية، نسعى إلى ربط اللغة بالفنّ من خلال استقطاب المواهب لإنتاج عروض مسرحية وغنائية باللغة العربيّة، وكذلك إنتاج لوحات فنيّة لعرض جماليّات الخطّ العربيّ. وسنوافيكم تباعاً خلال نشرتنا الأسبوعيّة بالمواعيد المقرّرة للبدء في هذه الفعاليّات.

نتمنّى منكم المساندة والتّعاون معنا لإنجاح هذه التّوجّهات الجادّة في التّهوؤ بمستوى الطلبة وتشجيعهم على الإقبال وكذلك متابعتهم أثناء المشاركة في هذه الفعاليّات، شاكرين لكم جهودكم في هذا الإطار.

وتقبّلوا منّا كلّ المحبّة والتّقدير ،

قسم اللغة العربيّة/ المرحلة الثانوية

Raquel Nahas

Assistant Head of Primary and Head of Arabic

Akhbarouna



[@raquelnahas](https://twitter.com/raquelnahas)

This year, the Secondary Arabic department is working to employ a learning process that allows for creative, fun and engaging activities. We feel that this will allow us to accomplish our goal of students loving the Arabic language and subsequently achieving their Arabic targets.

We acknowledge that the parental role and support is vital in accomplishing this objective. Therefore, we ask for your support in ensuring that your child engages with Arabic outside of the classroom. We will be launching the below projects in order to provide unique opportunities where this can happen:

- Curriculum activities: Encourage your children to complete home learning tasks found on ManageBac or Google Classes. You too can keep up to date with what is happening in the class by viewing these platforms.
- Extra-curricular activities: Encourage your child to participate in one (or more) projects which will be offered:
 - Reading comprehension project: To promote reading, all secondary students have received books to take home and read. Please encourage your child to participate at home. Your child is encouraged to take more books once they have finished.
 - Creative writing project: This is an opportunity for students to express themselves through creative writing. Teachers will support the students through feedback and coaching in order to further develop their skills and passion for writing. Further details will be shared in coming newsletters.
 - Language and the Arts: We believe in the integration of the Arabic language and the various mediums in art. Therefore, we aim to provide opportunities for students to engage with Arabic plays, allowing them to show their talents on stage. We will also offer opportunities for students to explore the beauty of Arabic handwriting and calligraphy. Further details will be shared in coming newsletter.

We do hope to have your support in encouraging your children to join these activities and projects.

Dubai 30X30 Challenge

Get involved in the 30x30 Dubai Fitness Challenge with GEMS International School and participate in the activities we have for you. Download the Dubai Fitness App, join the GIS group and start recording your minutes of activity. For more info use see the [link](#).

30x30 Dubai Fitness Challenge

Activity	Date / Time	Location
The Daily Mile (drop-in session)	Daily at 7.45am	Football field GIS
GIS Active Day	2nd Nov (8.30am to 12.30pm)	Football field, MPH and ISH
Mina Mile	10th Nov (starting at 8 am)	Barasti Beach
Beat Diabetes Walk	23rd Nov (time tbc)	Zabeel Park



For more info contact c.bento_gis@gemsedu.com



30x30 Dubai Fitness Challenge

How can you get involved?

1. Download the Dubai Fitness App
2. Join the GIS group
3. Monitor your progress
4. Share your journey
#Dubai30x30
@DubaiFitnessChallenge
#WeRGIS #MyHealth



For more info contact c.bento_gis@gemsedu.com



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For more info contact c.bento_gis@gemsedu.com



GIS Active Day - 2nd Nov

Masterclass Schedule

TIME	ACTIVITY
8.45 - 9.15	Crossfit
9.20 - 9.50	Martial Arts
9.55 - 10.25	Circuit Training
10.30 - 11.00	Kung Fu
11.05 - 11.35	Gymnastics
11.40 - 12.10	Zumba

Join us on 2nd November.
Sign-ups are not needed.

First come first serve basis!



For more info contact c.bento_gis@gemsedu.com



Leigh Girven Head of Primary



[@LeighGirven](#)

Following on from last week's introduction of our 2018/19 House Leaders, this week I am proud to introduce you to our Student Council representatives. These students have been chosen by their teachers and peers as having the characteristics we look for in GIS students and we know they will do a wonderful job representing their peers at various activities this year.

It was so exciting to see all our students come to school dressed in the amazing costumes for yesterday's Creepy Crawly Costume Day and Dance Party. This year at GIS we are trying to be more inclusive of different customs and celebrations and will be celebrating a number of special events such as Diwali, Christmas and Ramadan/Eid. As an international school it is important that we embrace and celebrate our special and unique differences so that we can be tolerant and open-minded IB world citizens. And we know that our students always enjoy any opportunity for a celebration, the chance to dress up, share amazing food and have to fun with their friends.

Student Council



Our annual student elections took place on 4 October this year. It was a very difficult decision as students presented their very persuasive speeches to the other candidates. A representative was elected for each class in grades

3, 4 and 5. We have already had weekly meetings where the students have come up with exciting ideas for the year ahead. They also helped with fundraising for Kerala and the cricket match.

Our first main event as organized with the help of the Student Council was our 'Creepy Crawly Costume Dance'. They brainstormed some great ideas of how we could make it more fun for the students and organized duties at the event. We are eager to get planning some more events and activities with a particular focus on taking action within the school and community.

Grade 5 visit the Expo 2020



On Monday, 29 October, Grade Five students had the opportunity to visit the Expo 2020 site to observe the process behind setting up a large scale industry. At the Expo, they explored how businesses are connected through the Expo events, which provides individuals and companies with the opportunity to be innovative. This trip was a great success because students were shown real-life examples of how creativity can be transformed into products that may lead to business success! Some of the student questions that were answered were how the Expo is organized and how the buildings are being designed. Students explored how the Expo site has been planned to be sustainable in the future, becoming its own living district when the Expo has finished. There are further opportunities for students to revisit the site which may provide opportunities to compare progress and allow students to get involved!

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KG2's visit to Al Manara Fire Station

KG2 ignited a fire for learning this past week when they visited the Al Manara Fire Station. The students are currently learning about how a community functions as they inquire into Who We Are. KG2 students learn best through 'hands-on, minds-on' experiences and our fire station visit offered an authentic experience to connect student learning to 'real life'. Students met firemen, saw their bedrooms, gym, explored the inside of their fire truck and even had a chance to try the water hose!



Primary upcoming events

Grade 1 - 5 Swim Classes Term 1 start
4 November

Goal Setting Conference
8 November

Grade 3 Ecoventure
Ras Al Khaima
11 - 12 November

Grade 4 North Star
Dibba
11 - 13 November

Grade 5 Absolute Adventure
Klaba
12 - 15 November

Goal Setting Conference Link

https://ptcfast.com/schools/GEMS_International_School_PYP



مدرسة جيمس الدولية – شارع الخيل
GEMS International School
DUBAI KHAIL

**DEC
12**

PYP WINTER CONCERT

Pre K – 8:30 / KG1 – 9:00 /
KG2 – 9:45 / Grade 1 – 10:30 /
Grade 2 – 11:15 / Grade 3 – 12:00 /
Grade 4 – 1:30 / Grade 5 – 2:15

Location: Amphitheater , Feel free to wear festive attire!

Lee Hole Head of Secondary



[@LHole81](#)

We've had such an eventful and busy week in the Secondary School this week with celebrity visitors; students performing on the radio; projects in The Dubai Mall; parent workshops; Theory of Knowledge presentations and Student Executive Leadership Team interviews. We wouldn't have it any other way!!

Virgin Radio's Kris Fade show joined us on Tuesday this week and our students were perfect ambassadors of what GIS is all about. Tycho and Gleb from Grade 11 delivered a fitness session for students and Kris Fade and this was a perfect reflection of the sports leadership academy in Grade 10. Arav from Grade 7 blew the team away with his gymnastics performance before Victoria in Grade 9 had many of us wiping the tears off our faces with her wonderful singing. Kris and the team were so impressed with Victoria that she was invited to perform live on air the next day and was magnificent once again. The engagement from our teachers was also a joy to see and the students loved watching them take part in a planking competition and the Yes/No game - not to forget the multi talented Mr. Mike who accompanied Victoria on the piano exquisitely.

I'm hoping that all of you have heard of the #Smiles4Zayed project by now. If you haven't, search for the hashtag on twitter or instagram and you will see the work that has been done by the team of students behind the project, led by Jana in Grade 8. This week the team welcomed the Kris Fade show to the school with gifts and were also invited on the show to promote their work and their message of happiness. On Tuesday, the team spent the afternoon at The Dubai Mall and gave out roses, chocolates, stuffed toys and tokens to the public in the hope that a small gesture would go a long way. Please support the project by completing a small act of kindness and sharing your efforts on instagram or twitter with the hashtag #Smiles4Zayed.

I was honoured to join some of our DP2 (Grade 12) students in their Theory of Knowledge (TOK) presentations this week. TOK is a core element of the DP; it takes students deeper with their thoughts and has them think critically about how we know what we know. The quality of the presentations was excellent and really thought provoking so thank you to all of our DP teachers for developing such strong students and thank you to the students that I saw for delivering such high quality presentations. TOK really is an aspect of the DP that sets IB students apart from those studying in other curriculum areas and really does bring out the best in young minds. For more information about TOK and the IBDP core, keep an eye out for upcoming GIS ConnectEd sessions with Mr. Cunningham in the future.



Secondary upcoming events

Beauty & the Beast Jr.
Musical rehearsals being
4 November
3:30 - 4:15 pm
Black Box

Week Without Walls
11 - 15 November

Parent Teacher Conference
6 November
8:00 - 7:30pm
Multi-purpose Hall

Global Education Fair
7 November
2:00 - 3:30pm
Multi-purpose Hall

**DP Internal Assessment -
IBDP Exam Registration**
10 November

Parent Teacher Conference - 6 November

Parents are encouraged to us this [link](#) to sign up for the upcoming conference. If you are unable to sign up for any reason please contact the Secondary Reception or email Ms. Mary Ann Dimatera at m.dimatera_gis@gemsedu.com



مدرسة جيمس الدولية – شارع الخيل
GEMS International School
AL KHAIL



MUSIC MORNING AUDITIONS

Would you like to perform and welcome GIS in the morning? Register and send a video of yourself playing a song on any instrument!

www.morningmusic.info

Please e-mail Ms. Anastasia if you have any questions! a.filippova_gis@gemsedu.com

GISPA Presents

A big thank you to parents who made it to our Social Morning on 1st November. The ones who couldn't make it, **next one is on 6th December.**
"Be Involved!"

A glimpse of major events in the next few months. More details would follow closer to the dates. Please email GISPA_gis@gemsedu.com for details on participation, contribution, volunteering and sponsorship, suggestions etc.
We need your support! "Be Involved!"

November, 2018

Diwali The festival of light

- ❖ From 4th November – 8th November
- ❖ At the School Reception
- ❖ Traditional Rangoli Decorations everyday
- ❖ Traditional Flower Decoration on 7th Nov
- ❖ Diwali Festive Wear Dress-up day on 7th Nov

Post Photos with
#GISGISPADIWALI #GISGISA #WeRGIS

शुभ दीपावली

November, 2018



Entire November
Photo props for all
Pin photos on GISPA Board
SURPRISE at month end!!

Pictures #GISGISPAMovember

December, 2018

WINTER FEST

9 Am to 12 PM
Get ready for Christmas &
the Holiday season!

Students, Parents Staff & Teachers can book tables
Table holder's choice of activity
Earnings to be kept by the table holders
GISPA Pre-Loved Uniform Sale

Please email at GISPA email : GISPA_gis@gemsedu.com for all details

January, 2019

International Day 17th January, 2019

Student
Design
d Logo
comes
here !!

Submit your artwork to GISPA_gis@gemsedu.com by
1st of December 2018



GISPA
GEMS International School
PARENT ASSOCIATION



Scan & Join the GISPA Facebook page



مدرسة جيمس الدولية – شارع الخيل
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