



Hayatona

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Our Life

Volume 2 Issue 12

Providing An Exceptional Quality Education'

31 January 2019

From Our Head of School

Celebrating Our Community's Successes



In recent weeks our school has had much to celebrate, with a number of milestones and awards that are an excellent reflection of the exceptional community we have. These awards celebrate every facet of our community; our exceptional school, students, curriculum leaders and teachers, all excelling in numerous ways.

The first recognition that I'd like to highlight is the 'Top Ten School Award' awarded by The Knowledge Review. While there are a number of very good schools in Dubai, that work to meet the needs of their communities, this award recognizes GIS as being one of the top ten international schools. Certainly something for us all to celebrate. It is worth noting there are 654 International Schools in the UAE, the majority of which are in Dubai.

The second area I would like to highlight places us as a finalist for the Dubai Top IB School of the Year award, a competition being run by School Compared. While the final award is yet to be determined we are delighted that in just our first year as a full PK-G12 school, we have been recognized as one of the best IB Schools in Dubai.

Our students also continue to be hugely successful, in a myriad of areas. One to truly celebrate was that of our 'Smiles for Zayed' campaigners. A number of students from our Secondary placed 3rd in 'The Year of Zayed

Awards'. This national award, had our students go up against 46 other schools. Their initiative, led by Jana Al Ballany, was celebrated as a living reflection of the values of the late, great, Sheikh Zayed.

Additionally our very own Primary Librarian, Ms. Louise Macleod, has been selected as a finalist in the Emirates Literature Foundation 'Librarian of The Year', in partnership with The Executive Council.



While a number of these awards have been presented already and a number are yet to be finalized, all of them I believe reflect what we already know. GIS is school community full of amazing students, parents and teachers, who collectively have created a wonderful place of learning. A community that will continue to strive for the exceptional in all areas and celebrate each success as we grow.



TOP SCHOOLS IN THE UAE - THE SCHOOLS COMPARED.COM AWARDS OFFICIAL SHORTLIST 2019

Best International Baccalaureate School - The Shortlist 2019



The following schools have achieved shortlisting for the 2019 Schools Compared.com Best International Baccalaureate School Award for their excellence and whole child education of children in the UAE.

All the schools listed in different ways, promote outstanding features of academic, leadership and ICA practices for students to ensure that every child can reach his or her individual potential, personal, and ability.

Each of them encourages to parents, school staff to each child's journey to ensure that every student leaves school meeting or exceeding baseline academic and other child expectations, where we have focused on children, we have achieved that through each individual step: facilities, teacher support, resources and school improvement year-to-year to improve education for all.

All of the schools shortlisted endeavor to deliver a benchmark for the best education for children, available in the UAE.

Finally, we have listed details on each of the schools, background, and vision and achievement that supports each to have been shortlisted.

The results and winner of the 2019 International Baccalaureate School in the UAE will be announced on 7 March 2019 at a gala ceremony, ceremony, spring festival in association with Dubai Parks and Resorts, an all night show and bring together schools, their teachers and leadership to celebrate and recognize all that they achieve for our children each year.

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



At a Glance

GISPA Social Morning
7 February
DP Lounge
8:30am - 9:30am

Mid Term Break
17 - 21 February
Back to School
24 February

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

[Click here to view the
GIS Term 2 Ph7 Menu](#)

KHDA Parent Survey

Cathy Hayes
Deputy Head of School



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

As you are now aware, we have our official inspection notification from the Knowledge, Human and Development Authority (KHDA). The inspectors will arrive on the afternoon of Sunday, February 10th and will be here throughout the week until Thursday February 14th.

As a community, we always plan to build on our successes and strive for excellence and this will be our approach for the inspection. We are confident as a school, in partnership with you, that we continue to move in the right direction and are certain the inspectors will recognize our collective efforts also.

A part of the preparatory process involves engaging all community members, staff, students and parents in the KHDA developed survey. Many of you are familiar with the types of questions and information requested, with the intended goal to help the inspectors form an overall picture of the school before they arrive. In order to make this first impression as accurate and truly reflective of our school as possible, it is imperative that a large sample of responses are collected. Also as quoted by the KHDA, "Schools have responsibility for sharing the online survey links with parents. All respondents should complete the surveys prior to the inspection. A low rate of return suggests a lack of engagement by your school community."



Last year we celebrated a 96% satisfaction rating and were hugely appreciative of your support. This year we have just over 900 families in our community so please help and remind each other to complete this task before the link closes.

Please note it will take approximately 20 minutes to complete, with some of the questions being phrased in such a way, that at first glance, it may be unclear what is actually being asked. With this in mind, I ask that you take the time to carefully evaluate each one before responding.

We highly value and appreciate you taking the time to complete the survey. You can click the link here or copy and paste the link into your browser <https://khda.gov.ae/Parents/Survey/Index>

There will be iPads set up all next week in reception for your use to complete the process if this is preferable.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

السادة / أولياء الأمور الكرام

يرجى العلم بأن هيئة المعرفة والتنمية البشرية أرسلت إخطاراً رسمياً بموعد زيارة المفتشين السنوي، ابتداءً من يوم الأحد الموافق 2019/2/10 بعد الظهر وحتى يوم الخميس 2019/2/14.

وكفريق واحد فإننا دائماً نخطط لبناء سلم النجاح والسعي للتميز بدأ بيد معكم لنواصل التحرك في الإتجاه الصحيح، ليكون هذا هو هدفنا خلال الزيارة وعلى يقين تام بأن المفتشين سيعترفون بجهودنا الجماعية أيضاً.

ينطوي جزء من العملية التحضيرية على إشراك أولياء الأمور في الاستبيان الذي أنشأته هيئة المعرفة والتنمية البشرية. الكثير منكم على دراية بنوعية الأسئلة والمعلومات المطلوبة مع الهدف المنشود لمساعدة المفتشين على تشكيل صورة شاملة للمدرسة قبل وصولهم من أجل جعل هذا الانطباع الأول دقيقاً ومدرسوناً لمدرستنا قدر الإمكان ، لا بد من جمع عينة كبيرة من الردود.

تتحمل المدارس مسؤولية مشاركة رابط الاستبيان مع أولياء الأمور، نرجو منكم إكمال الاستبيان قبل موعد الزيارة حيث أن انخفاض في معدل العائد دليل على عدم مشاركتكم.

إحتفلنا العام الماضي بنسبة رضاء تصل إلى 96% بفضل دعمكم الكبير للمدرسة. وفي هذا العام لدينا أكثر من 900 عائلة ، يرجى حث بعضكم البعض لإستكمال هذه المهمة قبل إغلاق الرابط.

يرجى العلم بأن عملية ملء الاستبيان لن تستغرق أكثر من 20 دقيقة، حيث أن بعض الأسئلة قد تكون غير واضحة للوهلة الأولى ، لذا يرجى تخصيص الوقت اللازم للرد على كل جزء بعناية.

نقدر لكم دعمكم وتعاونكم معنا في تخصيص وقتكم لإستكمال الاستبيان.

يمكنك النقر على الرابط هنا [here](https://khda.gov.ae/Parents/Survey/Index) أو نسخ الرابط ولصقه في المتصفح <https://khda.gov.ae/Parents/Survey/Index>

سيتم إعداد أجهزة iPad في الأسبوع المقبل في الإستقبال لمساعدتكم لملء الاستبيان بشكل أسرع.

لمزيد من الإستفسار يرجى التواصل معي / كاثي هايس – نائب المدير .

وتفضلوا بقبول فائق الاحترام ،،،

Leigh Girven Head of Primary



@LeighGirven

Last weeks ConnectEd parent workshop titled 'Encouraging Your Child to Read at Home' was very successful with parents expressing how valuable the information shared was. Thanks to our Language Leader, Mrs. Joanne Cleland and Librarian, Louise MacLeod, for delivering this interactive and fun presentation. I thought I would take this opportunity to share one of the most pertinent slides from the workshop with parents who were unable to attend.

How many of you ... ?

- have a large supply of books in your home?
- have children who carry books around with them?
- take your children to a library?
- read to your child every day?
- set an example by reading yourself?
- have a cosy place at home to read (book nook/pile of cushions)?

Student Council Taking Action!

Prior to the winter break our Primary Student Council organized a clothing drive campaign, in association with the 'ForSyria' organization. 'ForSyria' is an organization, here in Dubai that distributes all of their donations to displaced refugees, in refugee camps in Northern Syria.

The drive was a huge success thanks to the GIS community surpassing themselves with amazing generosity. The volume we collected was above and beyond our expectations. 'ForSyria' representatives collected the donations in a large truck that was packed to capacity.

To follow up on this event The Student Council decided it would be a good idea to finish what we started and take action to help sort and pack the donations so they could be transported to Syria as soon as possible.

On Saturday, 26 January, we arranged to visit the 'ForSyria' warehouse and spend the morning sorting and organizing the donations under the guidance of the 'ForSyria' leaders. Once again, we were thrilled with the positive response from our community, when we reached out. Many students from the Student Council and our 'InnAct' groups were quick to volunteer and brought their friends and parents to get involved.



When we arrived at the warehouse we were surprised to see how many bags of donated clothing needed to be sorted and how important and necessary our help really was. 'ForSyria' were greatly appreciative and it was an excellent opportunity for students to see what goes on behind the scenes with charity organizations, to help others in need.

Although it was hard work we still enjoyed ourselves and a great team spirit was evident throughout the morning. A huge 'thank you' again, to all the students and parents, for all their donations, support and help and of course to 'ForSyria' for all their hard work and dedication to making a difference.

GIS Library



Reminder to parents that if you would like to access books using your own GIS library card you are welcome to do so as Mrs. Chami is doing in the photo above.

Learner Profile Awards for January



Ammar Hussain
G3F



Katie Benson
G3B



Aadit Warty
G4A



Zaina Hewedi
G4D



Elisa Colombo
G5D



Gabriele Faedda
G 5B



Primary Important Dates

ConnectEd - UAE Moral Education
6 February
Primary Conference Room
8:30am

MyHealth

Students and parents have been trying their best to beat their own high-scores during WOW sessions this week, while developing the different fitness components. Have a look at everyone's enthusiasm and great effort here.
Next week, new workout! Hope to see you there!

| MyHealth News | | |
|------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Activity | Date / Time | Location |
| W.O.W. (drop-in session) | Daily at 7.45am | Sports Hall GIS |
| Badminton (parents only) | Wednesday (7.15 - 8.00 am) | MPH |
| Desert Warrior | 22 nd February (starting at 6.30 am) | Al Marmoon (Dubai) |
| Super Sports Run 4 | 1 st March (starting at 6.30 am) | Meydan |
| Cigna Park Run | 2 nd March (starting at 7.00 am) | Al Ittihad Park (Palm Jumeirah) |
| La Mer Open Water Swim | 16 th March (starting at 7.00 am) | La Mer |

For more info contact
c.bento_gis@gemsedu.com

MyHealth News

W.O.W.

Workout Of the Week

GIS is promoting one more opportunity for students and parents to develop their fitness skills. Join our **Workout Of the Week**, everyday from **7.45am to 8.00am** in the **Indoor Sports Hall**, and get to know other students and families from the GIS community.

Hope to see you there.

Raquel Nahas

Assistant Head of Primary and Head of Arabic



@RaquelNahas

Reading, reading everywhere! Some of our youngest students have started to read in Arabic and we could not be prouder of them. Students are excited to show off their skills to each other or enjoy simply sitting back and reading a book in class. Take a look [here](#) at a KG2 student reading to her classmates.



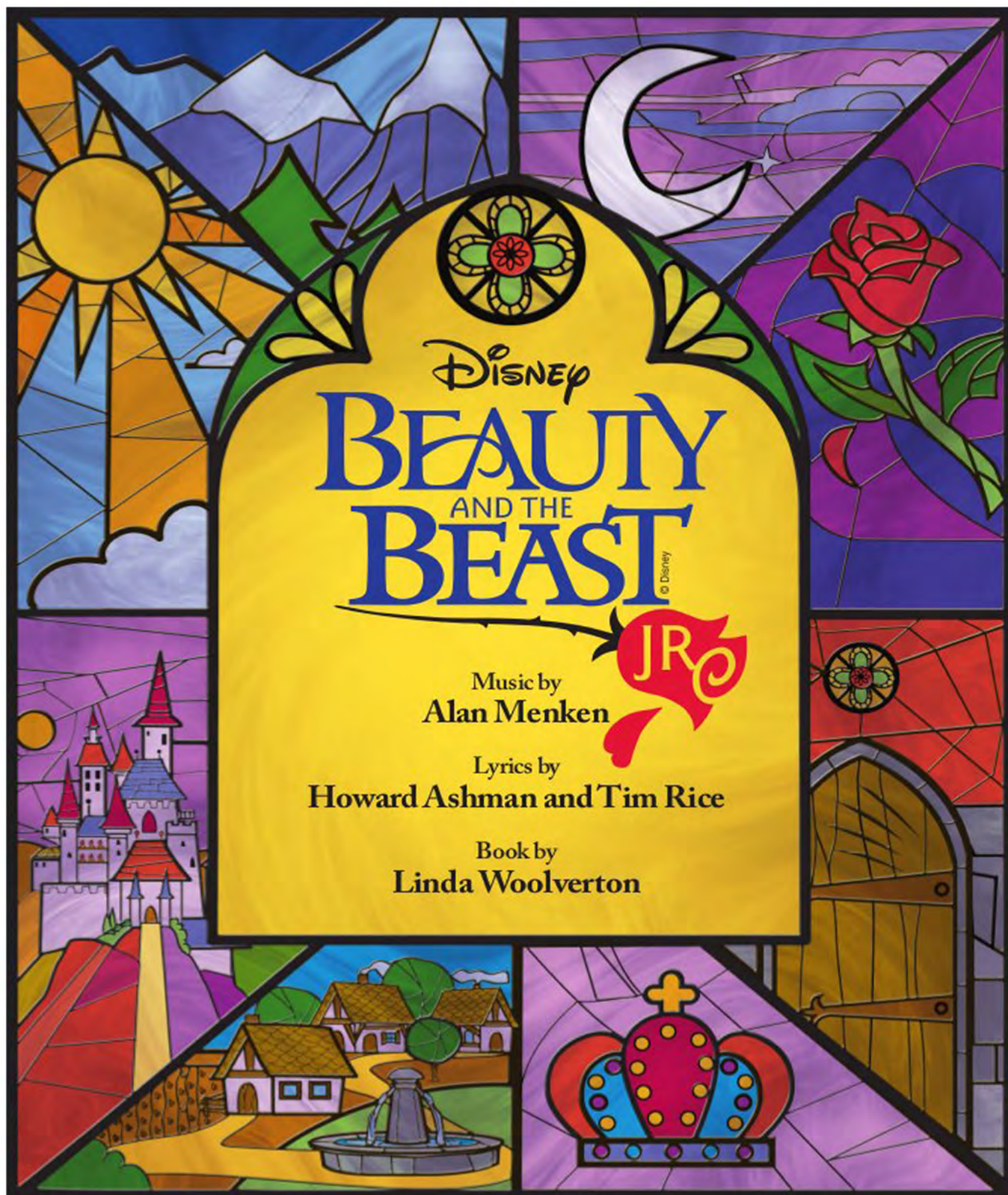
القراءة غذاء الروح، تأخذك إلى عوالم وآفاق لا حدود لها ... لذا أخذنا بأيدي صغارنا لنمضي بهم في رحلة شائقة في عالم القراءة .

وها نحن اليوم يملؤنا الفخر بهم، ويحق لنا الفخر بتلاميذنا الصغار الذين قد بدؤوا بالفعل بقراءة قصص باللغة العربية.

كيف لنا ألا نشعر بالزهو ونحن نرى حماس التلاميذ لإظهار مهاراتهم وهم يجلسون بثقة لقراءة كتاب. ندعوك للاستمتاع بمشاهدة أبنائنا الصغار من صفّ الروضة الثانية وهم يقرؤون لأقرانهم في الصفّ عبر الرابط [هنا](#) .

GEMS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AL KHAIL

PRESENTS



MONDAY, MARCH 25TH AT 6:30PM

LOCATION: MULTI-PURPOSE HALL, SECOND FLOOR

TUESDAY, MARCH 26TH AT 2:30PM

DOORS OPEN 30 MINUTES BEFORE THE SHOW

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27TH AT 6:30PM

DURATION OF THE SHOW: 1h15min

TICKETS 30AED: AVAILABLE AT CASHIER DESK MARCH 3RD

Lee Hole

Head of Secondary



@LHole81

With Parent Teacher Conferences (PTCs) taking place next week and the Semester one report distributed this week, I thought it would be pertinent to reflect on what these two things mean to me as a parent, a teacher and as the Head of the Secondary School.

I received the report for my own child this week and it was nice to sit with her and celebrate the areas that she had

done well etc. However, we were already aware of her progress as we had been connecting with her learning via Kalebr (the tool used in PreK) so the report became a conversation prompt rather than a discovery of her learning. This process is very similar for MYP and DP students in that you should be able to access your child's grades within ManageBac as soon as they are updated and, provided you have not deactivated the alerts, an email will be generated as a new grade is entered. I encourage you to connect with our MYP coordinator and Assistant Principal, Ms Angelika Kuster if you are having difficulties with this.

When you receive your child's Semester one report please remember that an MYP student must collect numerous assessment

scores before a final grade can be generated and this report should be seen as a progress indicator. Obviously, when you reflect upon the performance of your child there will always be areas for development and improvement and I would encourage you to have a conversation with your child about these as you talk through the report (or any grades that come through on ManageBac). Your child should be aware of what they need to do to take the next steps in their learning and if they do not, then the Parent Teacher Conferences (PTCs) are the perfect opportunity for you to speak to individual teachers for guidance, clarification and support.

I must highlight the fact that the PTCs are not the only way in which you can connect with teachers and I encourage any parents to reach out to teachers as soon as they have a question, query or concern. In many cases, a quick email will help to gain some clarity; for some things our teachers may need to pick up the phone to give further clarification; and if necessary, our staff will find time before school or afterschool to sit with you and collaborate for the good of your child and their learning. I can be confident of this as it happens every day.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the PTCs next week.

Secondary Parent Teacher Conference

Secondary Parent Teacher Conference will be held on Monday, 4 February from 8:00am - 4:00pm and Wednesday, 6 February from 4:00pm to 8:00pm, parents can sign up using [this link](#).

Parents are encouraged to come sign up for the Parent Teacher Conferences as it is the perfect opportunity for you to meet individual teachers and learn about the progress of your child.

The conference will be held in the multi-purpose hall, phase 2, second floor.



Secondary upcoming events

Parent Teacher Conference
4 February
Multi-purpose Hall
8:00am - 4:00pm

Parent Teacher Conference
6 February
Multi-purpose Hall
4:00pm - 8:00pm

GIS ConnectEd - Academic Honesty
6 February
DP Lounge
8:30am - 9:30am

GIS ConnectEd - Wise Words
13 February
TF14
8:20am - 9:20am

University of Groningen Visit
Grade 11 Students and Parents
7 February
Secondary Library
10:30am - 11:30am

Angelika Kuster Assistant Head of Secondary



Last week, GIS had their annual Civil Defence Fire Drill. This is an important event for our school as it allows us to obtain feedback from an official outside agency regarding our procedures and how we execute them.

One of our goals is to evacuate the building in a short amount of time and overall, we managed to have everyone out of the building in under 5 minutes though it took our youngest students a little while longer to reach the assembly point. Registers were taken and everyone was accounted for except Our facilities and security team had deliberately left someone behind to be rescued on a stretcher by the emergency services, who duly arrived and make sure everyone was safe and sound.

For some of our younger students, the biggest excitement was not the actual fire drill but the demonstration by the firemen and being allowed to explore the fire truck a little more. There were plenty of smiles as students were invited to stand closely to

the truck and to ask the firemen some questions.

This fitted perfectly into the current unit of inquiry for Grade 1 and was enjoyed by everyone. Next month, there will be a Lockdown

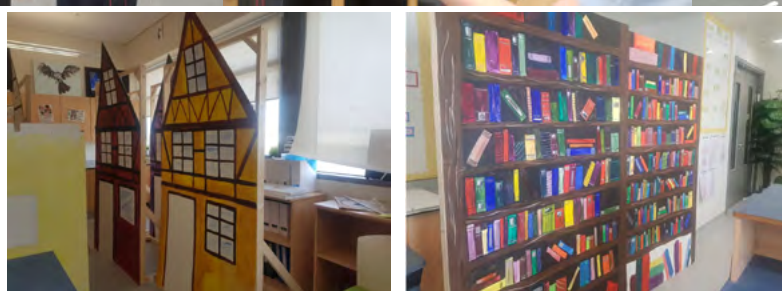
Drill. This will be well prepared by our faculty, both in terms of preparation as well as practice.

As always, if you have suggestions that will help us to improve the safety on campus then please let us know by emailing a.kuster_gis@gemsedu.com



Beauty and The Beast

Our dedicated cast and crew have been working tremendously hard these past few months and excitement is building for our upcoming production of Beauty and the Beast Jr! Students have been extremely busy scene blocking, learning musical numbers, dance routines, working behind the scenes and doing everything it takes to create a successful production. Our talented Art teachers have also been busy creating and painting the set. We cannot wait to share the final product with our GIS community.





GISPA Social Morning

Join us on Thursday 7th February, meet the GISPA member and get to know other parents in our school. We will be discussing the following:
GIS Spring Market
Other cultural celebrations
Updates from the school

GISPA Social Morning

7th February 2019

8:30am - 9:30am

DP Lounge, 3rd Floor,
Secondary Building



مدرسة جيمس الدولية - شارع الخيل
GEMS International School
AL KHAIL

Scan & Join the GISPA Facebook page



THE ASSEMBLY
RAISE YOUR HANDS FOR OUR TEACHERS

DUBAI MEDIA CITY AMPHITHEATRE
SAT 23 MARCH 2019

THE GLOBAL TEACHER PRIZE IS PROUD TO PRESENT A CONCERT CELEBRATING TEACHERS.
#TeachersMatter

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