



'Providing An Exceptional Quality Education'

حياتنا *Hayatona* Our Life

From Our Head of School



"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." Dr. Seuss

Gifted in simplifying and highlighting essential truths, Dr. Seuss points out what we are all aware of and what you as GIS parents value; a great education and its correlation to success in life.

Our efforts to support our children with their education, through literacy development, can be greatly assisted by successful role modelling, coupled with positive learning conversations.

"There is a strong correlation between parental actions and the frequency with which children read" (scholastic, 2013). Statistics also provide evidence of greater literacy and fluency rates in students who are encouraged to read at home or are read to by parents.

We are all aware of the important role parents play as caregivers and additionally as educators in your children's lives. While teachers will change over the years you will remain the constant role model and as such are instrumental in nurturing your child's success in learning.

To assist your child in developing a love of reading we would suggest you consider the following;

- Read aloud to your child, talking about the words and pictures, and sharing ideas about the books they bring home.
- Read yourself, children who see adults reading, and enjoying it, are much more likely to want to read themselves.
- Surround your child with books, providing access to literacy materials, sharing what you are reading or books you used to love as a child or teen.
- Learning Conversations, discuss the books they are reading at home or at school, what they like about the story
- Continue with teens, older children can be more...economical in their responses...so you may need to lead them. Persist but at a time that suits them. Some sample questions to begin these conversations:
 - Why did you choose that book?
 - Do you agree with the character's choices? "What would you do?"
 - What did you think of the ending?
 - What do you think is going to happen next?
 - Why do you think that?
 - Have you read other books by the same author?
 - How do they compare? Can you tell the books are by the same author? If so how?
 - Tell me about the genre? What do you like about that genre? What do you notice is similar across books in the same genre?
- For reluctant readers, you may wish to begin the conversation by asking them to share an article, comic or meme that they thought was clever and why they thought so.

Whatever the strategy, reading is essential in ensuring our students development, vocabulary, fluency and literacy. Should you struggle to gain momentum in this area don't hesitate to speak to your child's teacher. We are here to support and want to see our students develop a love of reading, resulting in confidence in the classroom and greater success.



Mr Radojkovich reads to Grade 3 students

Yours in Education,
Glen Radojkovich
Head of School/CEO

QUICK UPDATES GIS

WHOLE SCHOOL

Extra Curricular Activities External Commences 1st October

GIS Aladdin Musical
Sign-up before 5th October

CIS Community Survey
Complete by 5th October
Read more, [click here.](#)

Pinktober
12 October

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

Fall Festival
26 October

GEMS Rewards
[Read more \(Click here\)](#)

External ECA online sign up closes on Saturday 30 September, if you haven't signed up yet, register here. For activity information [click here.](#)



Cathy Hayes
 Deputy Head of School



We all understand that there are many essential elements in order for schools to be successful. One such critical element is parent engagement. Research proves that students perform better in school and have greater overall achievement when they receive consistent positive support from home. Following feedback from the GISPA Board members and from various parents throughout the wider GIS community, I am delighted to announce the launch of 'ConnectED'. 'ConnectEDs' are ongoing opportunities that seek to inform and include parents in their child's learning journey. With some guidance, all parents can support learning. 'ConnectEDs' will be held every two weeks on a rolling basis targeting key subjects and areas across the Primary and Secondary schools. These will include such topics as 'The Importance of Mother Tongue Language Development', 'Assessment in the IB' and 'Teaching and Learning' in different curricular areas. The first 'ConnectED' will be held on Wednesday, October 4th to support Primary parents gain a better understanding of 'Inquiry based learning and what it looks like in the classroom'. Lea Pedlow, Primary

Year Programe Coordinator and Sarah McLean, Early Years Coordinator will lead the sessions. We hope to see you all there.

Another avenue to pursue in terms of engaging with the school is through the GISPA Board. As you are all aware, the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) work closely with the board members in order to build on our successes and support and develop the GIS community. Last week GISPA held their first official monthly meeting, and after some wonderful collaborative conversations, we are excited for the upcoming initiatives, projects and events we will celebrate in the year ahead. The 'Box Appeal' is currently underway and thank you for all your support to date. Next month we will recognize 'Breast Cancer Awareness' and host 'The Fall Festival'. Other events on the calendar include 'Movember', 'The Winter Bazaar' with 'International Week' being celebrated in the new year. For suggestions or further information about these or other GISPA events, please see the GISPA notices, speak to your GISPA team members, easily identified through their red lanyards or email gispa_gis@gemsedu.com

Angelika Kuster
 Curriculum Coordinator K-12



CIS Community Survey for Parents

Thank you to all the parents who have already taken the time to give us valuable feedback on the CIS community survey. If you have not yet had a chance to take the survey we hope that you will find the time to complete it by 5 October. You can always use one of the school iPads and take the survey in the morning after during drop off or during the day until pick-up

time. A link to the survey can be found [HERE](#).

MAP testing

As you know GIS uses MAP testing as one method of data collection alongside internal assessments and classwork to measure student attainment and progress. The data is used to help teachers understand and create a picture of student's learning requirements to inform instruction.

With the fall session complete the results are ready for sharing. The number of data points for your child are related to the length of their enrolment at GIS. Your child's report will display their current and past RIT scores.

If you would like to know more about MAP, go to this link <https://www.nwea.org/parent-toolkit/> or contact the homeroom teacher.

"A Whole New World"

We are very excited to offer your child a chance to participate in our school musical, Aladdin Junior that will take place on March 19th, 20th & 21st, 2018.

Our first step will be to hold auditions which will begin the week of October 15th. However, participants must sign up with Ms. Emma Taaffe before October 5th. Each auditionee will be provided with a date and time for their audition. The musical is open to students of Primary Grade 4 to Secondary Grade 9.



For all necessary information please go to the following website:
<https://sites.google.com/gemsinternationalschool-alkhail.com/Aladdin/>

Please be mindful that practice and commitment will escalate in January and students will be expected to be at all scheduled practices this could include 3-5 practices a week.

It is such a worthwhile experience for your child to be a part of and we, here at GIS, are anticipating an exciting year of preparations ahead!



Leigh Girven
Head of Primary



We have seen our first 'full week' of ECA's, homework and students beginning their Unit of Inquiry study. Teachers, students and parents have been busy with early sports practice drop-offs and extra curricular activities pick-ups. It is great to see so many

children participating in activities and taking advantage of learning opportunities outside of the classroom.



The new schedule this year allows students to participate in activities in their lunch times as well as after school. Lunch times activities include swim squad practice, choir, book club, instrumental band and Girls Only Active day.



This year our Grades three - five Primary Residential Trip is scheduled for November 5th -8th. Parents are welcome to join us to learn more about their child's grade level trip and to ask the provider any questions they may have. This will have been communicated by your child's home-room teacher. The Grade five Parent Information session will be held on Monday, 2nd October at 8:15 am.



Our first assembly this year started with a bang.....well actually it was a tug of war! Miss Shonagh's Grade Four class did an amazing job of sharing their learning about Migrations. Justin

Bieber and Taylor Swift even made an appearance.

Grade 3 students participated in three special presentations to enhance their learning within our current unit of inquiry 'Who We Are'. A yoga instructor, Ms. Kelsey Schaefer, gave the students a special introductory yoga session. Ms. Sandy Poulis, a nutritionist from PH7 catering, held an interactive presentation about the importance of a balanced diet and included details about the food color palate. Finally, the students listened to the special life-changing story



of the athlete Ms. Omaima Mohammed, and her journey through sport and living a balanced and healthy lifestyle. From this experience, the Grade 3 students have begun their own personal inquiry project narrowing in on our central idea; 'People evaluate their health and well-being and make informed choices.'

Students have been highly immersed in music this year! Between writing their own songs and transforming into conductors, students across all grade levels are inquiring into the different roles of musicians.



QUICK
UPDATES
PRIMARY



PRIMARY

PINKTOBER



Extra Curricular Activities
External

Commences 1st October

Grade 4 Parent Information
- North Star

2nd October at 2:00 pm

Grade 5 Parent Information
- Absolute Adventure

2nd October at 8:15 am

GIS ConnectED

Inquiry based learning and what it looks in the classroom?

4th October 8:30 am & 2:00 pm

Interim Report

Interim reports issued
5th October

Sign up Goal Setting
Conference

12th October

Three Way Goal Setting
Conference

19th October

DAC Swim Gala

24th October -2:00pm at MTS



Lee Hole

Head of Secondary



The school has certainly settled into a rhythm over the past couple of weeks and it's a joy to be a part of a school that has such a positive vibe every day.

My lunchtime walks this year are my favourite time of day and give me the perfect opportunity to connect with students. It's been a real pleasure to see Grade 11 students sitting with their Grade 10 peers, mentoring them with their personal projects; students playing games together like Jenga, Chess and Uno; students eating lunch with their teachers in their classrooms, reading or spending time with their friends.



It was my absolute pleasure this week to visit the Grade 7 assembly and award Tamara Aboushady with her official confirmation letter of her Sheikha Fatima Award. This is an annual award that is given to a female student that has demonstrated excellence in school and Tamara is a worthy recipient from GIS. She is a caring, principled and dedicated IB learner that is excelling in her academics, engages in school wholeheartedly and is a joy to be around; the reception that she received from her Grade 7 colleagues is testament to that.

This week was highlighted by each grade level having an assembly during homeroom. Students were informed about opportunities to



prepare their candidacy for House Captains and Student Council Representatives. Speeches and presentations will be occurring over then upcoming weeks before elections are held.



QUICK UPDATES SECONDARY



SECONDARY

PINKTOBER



Extra Curricular Activities External Commences 1st October

Kenya Trip Sign up and Payment deadline 1st October

Three Way Conference 30th October Evening 31st October All day

Local Week Without Walls Options

We are excited for this year's Week Without Walls (WWW) local trips and activities! WWW will be held during the week of November 5th – 9th.

WWW is part of the secondary curriculum. Sign-up for local events is via Google Forms. The following link will become live on Saturday, Sept. 30th at 18:00.

<https://goo.gl/forms/A0rzYYI7K5MvUt2Q2>

Allocation for these trips will be done on a first-come, first-served basis using the timestamp on the form. Please rank your trip selections in order of preference (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th choice).

Sign up will close on Thursday, October 5th at 22:00. The lists will be finalized over the weekend and you will receive a confirmation email on Sunday, October 8th from the trip lead teacher who will update you on payment, equipment requirements, etc.

While most payments can be made during the week of October 8th-12th, if you sign-up for scuba diving, you will be contacted earlier for payment by October 5th.

Log on to Managebac to see the full description and cost of the trips. Thank you for your support and we look forward to a wonderful week!



The Box Appeal

The Box Appeal has officially been launched this week. We were excited to see some boxes already going home in both the primary and secondary school. For more details, ask your child or the homeroom teacher.



This year, you also have the option of filling up a recycled shoebox rather than the actual box appeal box.

Thanking you ahead of your participation.

House Color T-shirt



In September, we had our main house color t-shirt sale. If you didn't get the chance to order the shirt or cap, then no worries. On any Tuesday, you will find the order forms and sample sizes at the reception. Make your payment, and then wait for it to be delivered to your child's class. It is that simple.

Just a reminder, caps are for 35, and shirts are 50 for Primary and 60 for Secondary.

Kindly check with the homeroom teacher, if your child does not know the house color.

QUICK UPDATES GISPA

GISPA
OCT

Mark your calendar



**The Box Appeal Deadline
8th October**

**Breast Cancer Awareness
Thursday, 12th October**

Second Hand Uniform Sale

A big thanks to all the families who donated and purchased at our recent second hand uniform sale. We will have another in January so are accepting donations at any time. If you have any clean unwanted uniforms, please drop

them off with the ladies at reception. Our stock, particularly of the larger sizes is limited but if you need something urgently, email us at gispa_gis@gemsedu.com and we'll try to help.

 **GISPA - GEMS International School Parent Association**

 **gispa_gis@gemsedu.com**

If you are a business owner, the **Tuesday** should interest you.

If you have a home business, then **Tuesday** is your day.

If you work in a company that is willing to present a special offer to the GIS community, then **Tuesday** is the day.

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**

