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Hayatona

Our Life

Volume 1 Issue 6

'Providing An Exceptional Quality Education'

23 November 2017

From Our Head of School



Community is everything at GIS. How we connect and who we connect to helps shapes who we are.

As such we've worked hard on building a community culture that celebrates international-

ism and provides a learning environment where students and parents from all countries and cultures feel at home and thrive.

In addition to supporting our students we work hard on forging partnerships with families. This was evident in our first Business Breakfast this week, at the JW Marriott, where our parents and business partners were able to connect and network, while hearing from an inspirational speaker.

Another wonderful community event this week was the "brain child" of our Student Council. Al Khail's first GEMS Mini-Marathon, "The Khail Mile" kicked off in style. The event was a huge success in pulling together our three GEMS schools in Al Khail (WEK, GIS and NMS) for a wonderful fun run, concluding the 'Dubai 30x30 Challenge'.

Keep your eyes open for our next parent event, the 'Friends of GIS Lunch'. Where we will provide another opportunity for our parents to get to know us and each other better as we continue to build this wonderful community.

Wishing you a safe and relaxing weekend, be it enjoying the F1, Ed Sheeran or any of the other wonderful community events that Dubai has on offer for you.

Yours in Education,
[Glen Radojkovich](#)
Head of School/CEO
[@GRadojkovich](#)



GIS UPDATES

WHOLE SCHOOL

NOV

MOVEMBER
1 - 30 November

UAE National Day Celebration
29 November
9am - 2:30pm

Commemoration Day
30 November
NO SCHOOL

UAE National Day
3 December
NO SCHOOL

Quick Links

[See our Facebook page here](#)
[GIS PH 7 Autumn Menu click here](#)

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[@GIS_Gems](#)



Cathy Hayes

Deputy Head of School



[@cathyhayesedu](#)

"Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much." Helen Keller

When it comes to building community, our philosophy is summed up perfectly by Helen Keller. The relationship between parents and school is symbiotic. A key aim for us this year is to continue to grow and nourish the solid foundations that have been established between school and home.

Our ConnectED program for parents is certainly gaining traction, measured by the positive feedback we've received from you. Yesterday, Ms. Isabel, one of our secondary student counselors supported parents in developing their understanding of 'growth mindset' and how this can impact our level of success in what we set out to do. Next month, Sara Bidawi will lead a similar session for primary parents on building resilience in your children.

Support for GIS celebrations, events and sport fixtures continues to grow yet in discussions with our students, they are adamant that they would like to see this increase even further. The student leadership team are eager and excited to support this objective and are busy making plans to encourage further participation and attendance from students, teachers and parents.

Today we also hosted our first Homeroom Parent meeting of the year. A huge 'thank you' first of all to each and every one of them for stepping forward and supporting the school in this volunteer role. They are the glue that keeps the class and/or grade together as a community, helping to promote and encourage participation in school wide activities. Their main roles are as facilitators of parental involvement and general support for the teachers and as a channel of communication between GISPA, the school and the wider parent community. If you do not know who your HR parent is, please ask the HR teacher. There are however some grades in secondary without HR parents, so if you are interested in taking this on, please contact Mr. Lee Hole l.hole_gis@gemsedu.com

If there are community events that you think we could develop and support, we are eager to hear your feedback and ideas. Please contact me c.hayes_gis@gemsedu.com

Finally, let me take this opportunity to thank our UAE National Day group of Emirati moms, along with Ms. Noor who have been busy planning what sounds like an amazing community event for us next Wednesday in recognition of our host country. Details of our celebration can be found later in the newsletter.

Your partner in education,
 Cathy Hayes



Being an IB World School means that we want to foster a growing sense of international mindedness in our students, a recognition of our own perception of the world and how our background and experiences have shaped our views. This endeavor is echoed in the UAE's Moral Education curriculum that has been introduced to schools across the UAE this academic year. Moral Education aims to create a generation of citizens who:

- Tolerate and accept cultures different than our own
- Understand their own and local heritage
- Are armed with knowledge, resources and skills that allow them to make good, well-informed and responsible judgments about challenging matters of moral importance
- Understand their own civic system, rights and responsibilities and are aware of the role to play to support and sustain the nation's developmental efforts



GIS has embraced these concepts and has embedded the Moral Education curriculum into our IB curricula as can be seen in the examples mentioned below.

Grade 10 are currently studying causes of World War II. Within that unit, the students conduct an ethical inquiry between totalitarian and democratic states and the questions that arise when the state controls everything.

Grade 8 students are studying the French Revolution and are exploring the question whether the structural inequalities in 18th century French society were one of the main causes for the French Revolution. This links into exploring the meaning of social cohesion and why it might be an important value for the communities and groups that the students belong to.

At the other of the school, Grade 1 students have inquired into the concept of fairness, developing an understanding that fairness does not mean equal but that all needs are met. Students explored different scenarios as can be evidenced using the links below.

Grade 1 also inquired into the concept of affection and the many ways we show affection. Students have sorted through photos to show which is affection and which is not.

[Click here to see Video 1](#)

[Click here to see Video 2](#)

Raquel Nahas

Assistant Head of Primary and Head of Arabic



@raquelnahas

Each week in Primary, students celebrate their learning in Arabic by presenting during their class assembly. This builds confidence and strengthens spoken Language.

In line with the upcoming UAE National Day, Grade Five, non-native Arabic students, showcased their knowledge of the seven Emirates, the country capital and UAE currency.

Akhbarouna



أخبارنا

في المرحلة الابتدائية يشارك طلابنا في العروض الأسبوعية لربط ما تعلموه بالواقع من خلال تقديم فقرة صغيرة باستخدام اللغة العربية وذلك لتشجيعهم على التحدث بها. ومع اقتراب اليوم الوطني لدولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة، قدم طلاب الصف الخامس (غير الناطقين باللغة العربية) عرضاً عن الإمارات السبعة وعاصمة الدولة والعملة الإماراتية.



Dubai 30x30 at GIS

The Dubai 30x30 Fitness Challenge at GIS has been a resounding success! Our students have been increasing their fitness levels by participating in our special lunchtime clubs such as Dancercise, Cardio Crushers, Yalla Yoga, Super Circuits and Demolition Dodgeball! Take a look at our fitness superstars [here](#).

Well done from Mr. Abid and the PE Team!



Aladdin Cast Unveiled



Congratulations! You had the courage to take a risk and audition for the cast of Aladdin. This alone is an incredible achievement and you should be proud of yourself. We are proud of our many talented students and the competition was tough. Please remember that every participant in this production is important and crucial to the success of the show. The main characters have been doubled, with each character participating in the main lead for 2 out of the 4 shows. However, each cast member will be involved in all performances. All performance details are to be finalized as soon as possible.

WE WILL HAVE A **FULL CAST MEETING ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27th at 12:25 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. in the BLACK BOX. DO NOT BE LATE and ALL CAST MUST BE PRESENT.**

There will be 2 casts - Cast A and Cast B

Performance Dates: 19th, 20th, 21st March 2018

Full cast will be posted on the website Thursday evening, please visit to see what part do you play. You can also [click here](#) to see the list.

Leigh Girven
 Head of Primary



This month a number of special events have been held to celebrate the Dubai Fitness Challenge. GIS primary students love being active normally, but this month has seen even greater student participation in special activities aimed to promote healthy lifestyles and this fantastic UAE initiative. To conclude the 30 Day Challenge, our GIS Student Council have worked with student leaders from the two other Al Khail schools: GEMS New Millennium School and GEMS Wellington Academy, to hold a Mini-Marathon where primary school students participated from all three schools. Thanks to the three Student Councils and supporting teachers for introducing and running this fantastic event – we hope it will become an annual event.

IT Making Waves in PYP

GIS students have an ever-growing array of IT resources available to help them progress with their studies. Their IT lessons, this year, started with students exploring the meaning of being positive digital citizens. Students learned about a variety of topics including digital footprints, cyber bullying, communication etiquette and sharing guidelines. This has placed students in good stead to move forward with their technology learning in other curricular studies. Currently, Grades One to Five are inquiring and making connections to the past, present and future of technology. They're all excited and curious to move into Computer Science where they can explore Makerspaces, coding, electronics, robotics, 3D Printing and more.



Drama



The students in the Drama ECA have been busy participating in communication activities whilst having immense fun! We have been working on scripts and performing them for our group. In particular we have focused on our miming skills, imagining all sorts of objects of various shapes and sizes! There is no object that cannot be found in the Black Box Theatre – we have had pies, bowling balls, bow and arrows, puppies and much more! We are currently collaborating in groups to create pantomime scenes. As we are not using vocals in our miming pieces, it is important that we communicate the message to the audience through our body movements and facial expressions. We also have the opportunity of building on our social skills through group collaboration. We really enjoy our interactive drama class every Monday and the teachers enjoy watching the wonderful talent and creativity that we possess!

Grade 5 Challenge Week at Camp Kalba

Written by Julie, Quinn and Tuleen

The Grade 5 students had such an amazing week of exploration at Absolute Adventure! We participated in a variety of activities which taught us a lot of new skills which included: survival skills, archery and fencing, stand up paddle boarding, geocaching, high ropes course and team building. We were very lucky to be staying in such a beautiful environment. The food there was delicious and was very healthy! All Grade 5 students tried to drink as much water as possible to stay hydrated because it was really hot and we were super active! During our stay at Absolute Adventure GIS students developed in areas like being more open-minded and caring towards each other. We become more independent and courageous. The staff who worked there were absolutely divine. They made us feel at home, answered our inquiries and they were very funny. On our first night some of us didn't sleep very well because it was hard to adjust to our new environment. Everybody was a bit grumpy the next day, but we all slept VERY well on the next two nights. We were exhausted when we arrived back home but overall we all thought this was an awesome experience!



**PRIMARY
EVENTS**



PRIMARY

Field Trip - Bounce
 Grade 1A/1G
 26 November

Girls U11 Football
 Nord Anglia School V GIS
 Away
 27 November

Field Trip - Bounce
 Grade 1D/1E
 27 November

Field Trip - Bounce
 Grade 1B/1C/1F
 28 November

National Day Celebration
 29 November
 9:00am - 2:30pm

Commemoration Day
 30 November
NO SCHOOL

UAE National Day
 3 December
NO SCHOOL

Sports Day
 PKG to KG2
 5 December

Sports Day
 Grade 1 to 2
 6 December

**ConnectED
 Fostering Resilience in
 Your Child**
 Sara Bidawi
 6 December

Sports Day
 Grade 3 to 5
 7 December

GIS Winterfest
 10 December



I have to start by saying thank you to the parents that attended the recent GIS ConnectED session on growth mindset with Ms. Isabel. It great to see so many of you in attendance and I know that you all found it both interesting and informative. From a personal point of view, I enjoyed the conversations and enjoyed the opportunity to relate to you all as a fellow parent regarding the difficulties of instilling and nurturing a growth mindset amongst our children.

The Secondary School has also been fortunate enough to welcome Mr. Sam Yang to the school for his second visit in two years. Sam is a Harvard graduate that went on to success within the financial industry; so much so that he was able to retire from that career early on in life. He now travels the world promoting well being amongst young people as well as guiding teenagers as they move toward Higher Education. Sam was inspirational in his presentation to our Grade 10 and 11 students as he spoke about the habits of successful teenagers and how small changes in their lives can help them be more successful, happier and healthier teenagers.

Finally, it was my absolute please this week to work with our newly elected Student Executive Leadership Team as they completed their leadership training and set out their goals for the year. Their training took place at the TELLAL institute and the team discussed leadership styles and theories related to managing change before developing their strategic plan of action. The students were outstanding ambassadors of their peers and they will now establish their working committees within the students body and continue to enhance the school for the young people that they represent.



SECONDARY EVENTS



SECONDARY

Boys U12 Football
 SAFA V GIS
 Away
 26 November

Aladdin Cast meeting
 27 November
 Black Box
 12:25pm - 1:00pm

Girls U16 B/ball
 Finals 2
 28 November

Boys U14 Football
 Jebel Ali School V GIS
 Away
 28 November

National Day Celebration
 29 November
 9:00am - 2:30pm

Commemoration Day
 30 November
NO SCHOOL

UAE National Day
 3 December
NO SCHOOL

GIS Winterfest
 10 December

The Mariamma Varkey Teacher's Award



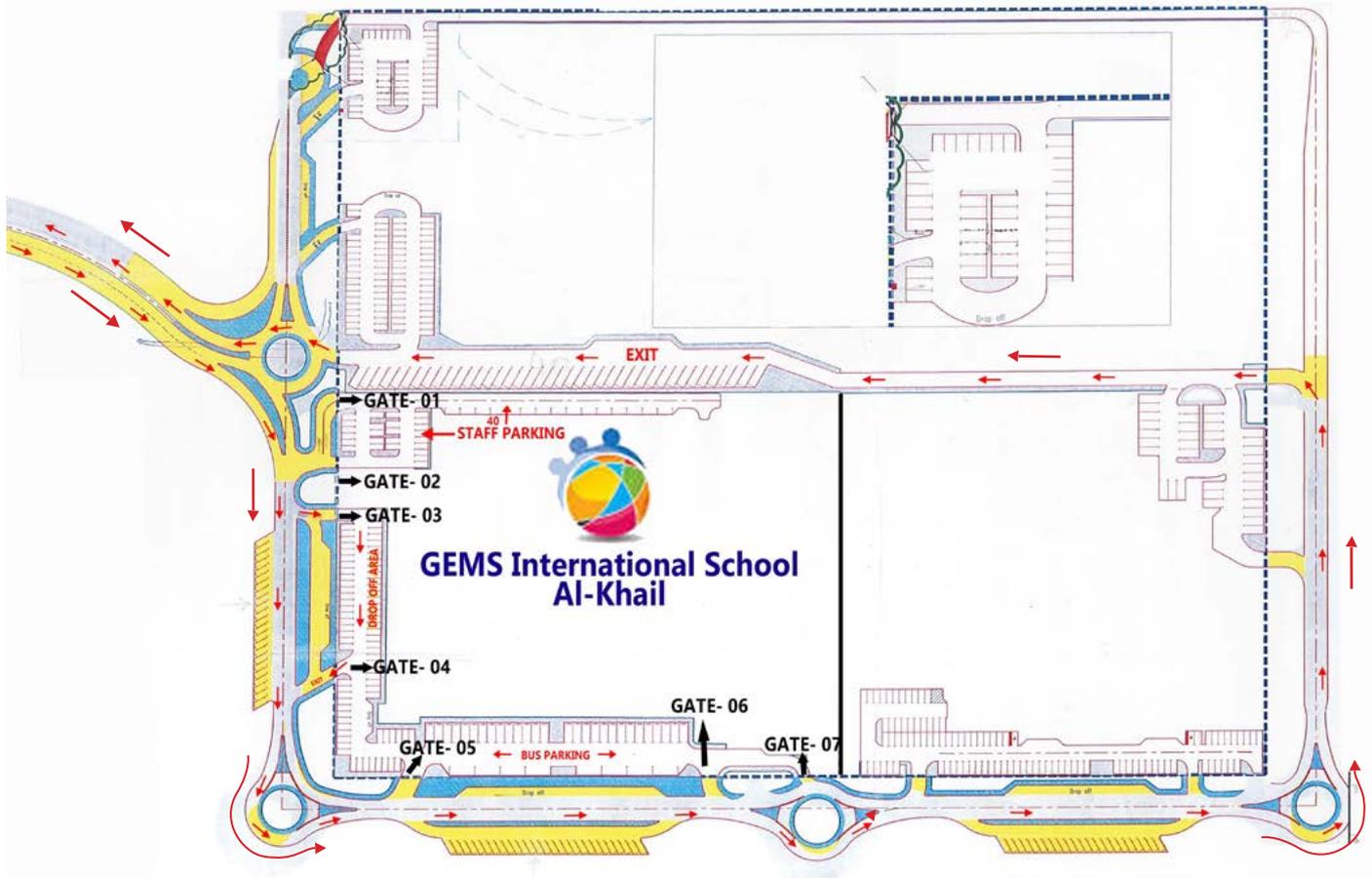
Each month GEMS teachers can be nominated by other faculty, parents and students. Nominations can be completed with this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/PjrtVEJ4JOYEn7FE2>

The criteria for nominating a GEMS teacher is:

1. Inspires and motivates their students to have a love for learning as demonstrated by their engagement and progress.
2. Designs and implements inclusive teaching and learning strategies that are responsive to the learning strengths and needs of students across the full range of abilities and from diverse backgrounds.
3. Uses contemporary knowledge and understanding of curriculum, assessment and reporting requirements; and exhibits innovative pedagogical practices and effective use of resources to engage and support students in their learning.
4. Demonstrates a continuous improvement mindset as a reflective practitioner to enhance their professional knowledge and

5. practice.
5. Maintains high ethical standards and exercises sound judgement in all school and community contexts.
6. Identifies, initiates and builds on opportunities to engage parents/carers in the progress of their children's learning.
7. Participates in, and contributes to, professional networks and associations and builds productive links with the wider community to improve teaching and learning.
8. Provides collegial support and leadership for others in the school.

Each nomination is carefully considered and the GEMS Teacher of the Month is decided by the quantity and quality of nominations. The panel making the decisions consists of the Head of School, a GEMS teacher and a GISPA representative. Please nominate the GEMS teacher that you feel meets the criteria. Each nomination matters! #TeachersMatter



Flow of traffic during School hours

As a growing community we always want to stay a step ahead to ensure the safety of our students and our families. To that extent we would like to share a map which helps indicating the correct and safe flow of traffic during school drop-off and pick-up times. It is in the best interests of all our community members to use this map as a guideline to ensure they are helping ease traffic concerns and keeping members of the GIS family safe to the best of their abilities. At all expense, please try to avoid driving in a contrary direction to this flow of traffic indicated as one may inadvertently cause additional traffic woes and put others at risk. As the school grows we hope to model a safe and smooth flowing traffic environment that will form a structure for years to come. We thank the GIS community for their consideration and aid in this matter.

In keeping with the theme safe and smooth flowing traffic please also see our gate access timings to ensure safe ease of access.

Access gates to the bus yard will be closed and opened as per the below mentioned times:

Sunday to Thursday (except Tuesday)

All Gates Close at 15:29

All Gates Open at 15:32 or when the buses have left.

Tuesday

All Gates Close at 13:59

All Gates Open at 14:02 or when the buses have left.

Please note that there might be days when the gates would remain closed for longer than the 3 minutes proposed because, if there are missing children, disciplinary issues etc. the buses wait for the issue to be resolved by the member of the educational team who is on the Bus yard.

Parents can continue to use the Main Entrance to the school building during all times. This change has been made as a health and safety precaution to prevent students from entering the yard when they are moving. We appreciate your support in this matter.



UAE National Day Celebration Program

GIS will be celebrating UAE National Day on Wednesday 29th November 2017. This celebration is an opportunity for our students to become familiar with the UAE's history, heritage and culture.

To make this day as enjoyable as possible we would like children to come to school dressed in the UAE national dress (Abaya or Kandura) or dressed in UAE flag colours. Students can also bring some Emirati or UAE themed food to share with their classmates.

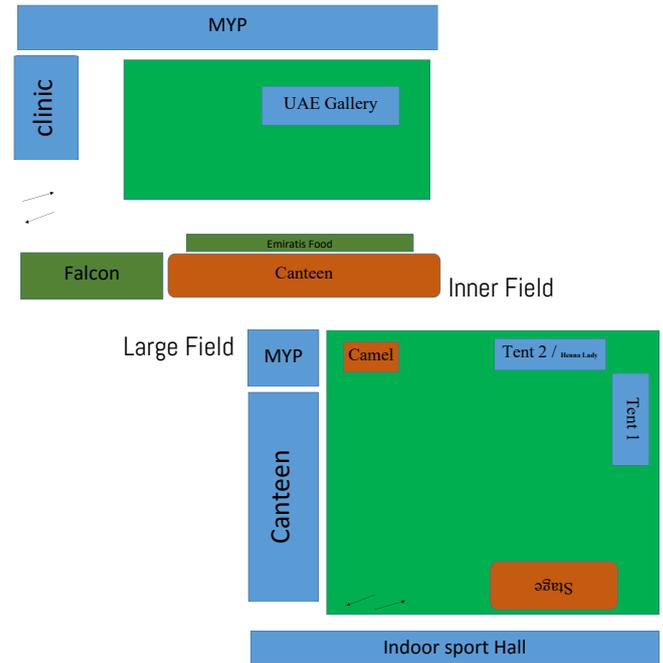
We have arranged a number of special events for students to participate in to mark this special day including:

- A UAE Lounge (I am Emirati) where students can experience Emirati cultural artifacts, henna, traditional food, camels/falcons, arts and crafts.
- UAE Gallery
- Camels / Falcons
- Emirati food
- A whole school Spirit of Union Performance celebrating Emirati culture, dance, history.

At GIS we lay great stress upon the involvement of our students, in the heritage and culture of UAE, hence this celebration will be among the many events we have in line for creating awareness across our whole school community. Parents are warmly invited to attend the Spirit of Unity Performance which will be held at 2pm on the main school field. You are also welcome to join your children at the times mentioned below. This is sure to be a great event and we hope you can join us.

Tours of the UAE Lounge and UAE Gallery Plan

9.00 – 9.30am	KG
9.30 – 10.00am	Grade One
10.30 – 11.00am	Grade Two
11.00 – 11.30am	Grade Three
11.30 – 1.00pm	Secondary School students
1.00 – 1.30pm	Grade Four & Five



UAE National Day Celebration

We would like to invite you to our
UAE National Day Celebration
on the 29th November 2017
from 9am - 2:30pm

يسرنا دعوتكم لمشاركتنا احتفال اليوم الوطني
لدولة الامارات العربية المتحدة وذلك يوم
الاربعاء الموافق 2017/11/29
في تمام الساعة التاسعة صباحا وحتى الثانية
والنصف بعد الظهر

مدرسة جيمس الدولية - شارع الخيل
GEMS International School
AL KHAIL



PH7 National Day Lunch Menu

28 November

Chicken Biryani with Raita
Emirati spiced fish Fillet
Penne Arrabbiata
UAE flag Vegetables
(Sautéed Green Peas,
Cauliflower, Baby Carrots)
Roasted Potato Wedges

15 AED



GEMS International School
cordially invites you to
SPORTS DAY 2017



Tuesday 5 DEC
PreKG & KG 1 : 8.45 - 11.00
KG 2 : 10.15 - 12.30

Wednesday 6 DEC
Grade 1 : 8.30-11.00
Grade 2 : 12.00- 14.30

Thursday 7 DEC
Grade 3 : 8.30-11.00
Grade 4 & 5 : 12.00- 14.30

Families are encouraged to join us for an active day of fun, athletic competition.

All students will take part in activities to earn points for their houses.
Wear your house colors!!!!



WINTERFEST'17

Sunday December 10, 2017

2:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.



Are you ready to show your talent at the GIS Music Talent Show?

Do you sing? dance? Or play an instrument?

If so, contact:

Mr. Alfred Ocana - a.ocananisa.gis@gmail.com (Secondary)

Mr. Tony Palumbo- a.palumbo_gis@gemsedu.com (Primary)



Did you take part in the parent fitness challenge on November 14? Did you know that November 14 was also the World Diabetes Day?



GISPA held a free outdoor fitness session with Tiv as part of the 30x30 challenge. This was followed by refreshments, primarily sponsored by NAB Middle East. Dr. Sulaiman Al Habib Hospital supported GISPA once again by offering free blood sugar tests to all those interested. Stay fit and healthy!

GIS BOOK DRIVE for the House Color Fund

We are collecting new and gently used children's books, fiction and non-fiction for a second hand book sale in aid of the House Color Fund. If you have any books you would like to donate, please drop them off in the box provided in reception.

The school library has been given the option to purchase any books in advance of the WINTERFEST'17 with all proceeds going to the House Color teams.

WINTERFEST'17
 Mark your calendar for Sunday December 10, 2017
 2:00 to 7:00- 5 hours of:
 Fun with family and friends
 Music talent show
 Entertainment
 Shopping

*Booking for tables to sell/promote businesses is open for all.
 If you are interested, kindly approach reception or email us on
 Gispa_gis@gemsedu.com*

GISPA
 GEMS International School
 PARENT ASSOCIATION