



حياتنا *Hayatona* Our Life

Volume 2 Issue 8

Providing An Exceptional Quality Education'

11 October 2018

From Our Head of School



"Never stop learning, the second you stop you'll be outdated" - AJ Kumar .

As educators we recognize the importance of life long learning and continually strive to better ourselves. Staying up to speed with new developments in pedagogy and seeking ways to improve learning for our students is our primary focus.

Recently, Ms Cathy, Mr Hole, Ms Girven and I, were fortunate to attend the IB Global Conference, celebrating the 50th year of the International Baccalaureate Organization. The conference allowed us to stay up to speed with best practices in IB education and ensured we were apprised of the latest developments for our teachers and students. Speakers such as Heidi Hayes-Jacobs and Will Richardson enabled us to continue

to reflect and learn, while other speakers ensured we considered changes to practice to enhance the quality of education for our students at GIS.

As parents, you are all familiar with the importance of life long learning. This is evident in your selection of GIS, as you certainly did your homework on International Schools. In demonstrating your zeal for life long learning I would encourage each of you this month to read to your children or with your children. We are running Read Aloud campaign that encourages all our community members to "Read Aloud" for 15 mins every day. "Every child. Every parent. Every day." Your modeling of this practice and encouragement of your child, will certainly support them in their enthusiasm and ensure greater progress.



As always we thank you for being the wonderfully supportive community you are and wish you the very best for the week ahead.

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

At a Glance

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

Beauty and the Beasty Jr.
Last day of Auditions
18 October

Pink Punk
18 October

Term Break
21 - 25 October
Back to School
28 October

GISPA Social Morning
1 November

[Ph7 Menu
Click here to view](#)



Cathy Hayes Deputy Head of School



[@cathyhayesedu](#)

As such, the 'Schools Compared' awards have recently been announced in over 16 different categories. "Schools Compared" offers school communities, including students, parents and staff, the opportunity to share all the great things that happen in their schools and nominate themselves into the different categories. These awards are open to schools right across the UAE, so competition will be tough. I may be biased but I truly believe that we do in fact, have the 'Best School in the UAE'.

As a GIS family and community, one consistent message we receive, is how happy your children are to be here, how great your child's teacher is, or countless stories of individual successes your child has had because of an experience had at school. While we cannot always get things right, we continue to work together to make our school the exceptional place it is today.

Each nomination made, requires firstly the support of the school and secondly support from you, our parents and students, in way of providing quotes related to each of the categories. In this, I ask for your help. Some categories identified are 'International Baccalaureate School of the Year', 'Award for Outstanding Use of Technology' and 'Best School in the UAE'.



For more information on the awards themselves, you can find it here <https://topschoolsuae.schoolscompared.com/>

We would greatly appreciate your support to show Dubai and the rest of the UAE that GIS really is the place to be. #WeRGIS

2019/2020 Registration is Open

We are pleased to announce that registrations for the 2019/2020 academic year are now open. Our wonderful community of students at GIS is continuing to grow. Over the past weeks, it has been a pleasure to see many new families touring the school and experiencing the learning that takes place at GIS. As such, we have limited open seats across both our Primary and Secondary divisions.

If you would like to register a sibling, please contact our registrar, Nikita Kaikobad at registrar_gis@gemsedu.com or visit the admissions office. To begin the application process, please [click here](#).

GIS parents are advised to register siblings no later than 31st October 2018. Following this date, we will begin to offer places to other applicants on the waiting list.

The Mariamma Varkey Award

Javier Lucero, was the GIS Teacher of the Year 2017/2018 and the school finalist for The Mariamma Varkey Award. This award recognizes inspirational and outstanding teaching within GEMS schools. He was selected from the numerous teachers that were awarded the teacher of the month throughout the year last year.

Each month teachers in our school can be nominated for outstanding practice by other faculty, parents and students. Each nomination is carefully considered and the GIS Teacher of the Month is awarded for the many justifications for being nominated. The panel making the decisions consists of the Head of School, a GIS teacher and a GISPA representative. Please nominate the GIS teacher that you feel has greatly impacted your child and the school community. Each nomination matters! Nominations can be completed by clicking [on this link](#).



Akhbarouna

انطلاقاً رائعةً شهدتها المرحلة الابتدائية منذ بداية هذا العام الدراسي، حيث انشغل الطلاب باستخدام اللغة معظم الأحيان، وبما أننا نكمل رحلتنا نحو التقدم في اللغة العربية، لاحظنا اعتماداً أكثر للطلاب على أنفسهم، وتطوير ذاتهم من خلال محاولة الحصول على المفاهيم والمهارات اللازمة لتعلم اللغة العربية.

نبدأ مع طلاب الروضة حيث أنهم يتعلمون أصوات الحروف، وتكوين كلمات قصيرة من تلك الأحرف، وأيضاً تنمية مفرداتهم من خلال الأغاني التي تقدمها المعلمة داخل الصف.

في صفوف اللغة العربية للناطقين بها، يتعرف طلاب الصف الأول أصوات الحروف بعمق أكثر، ومفاهيم نحوية من خلال القصص. وهذا ينطبق على باقي الصفوف، ففي الصف الثاني يتعرض الطلاب للقصّة، ومنها يتم التركيز على دراسة الكلمات وتحليل الكلمة إلى مقاطعها الصوتية. وفي الصف الثالث نستكشف استخدام الاسم والفعل لبناء جمل، والتعرف على الجملة الاسمية والفعليّة، بينما في الصف الرابع يتعرف الطلاب الفرق بين الجملة والتركيب، ومن بعدها أركان الجملة الاسمية وأنواع الخبر، والتطبيق على ذلك من خلال القصص المعطاة. وأخيراً الصف الخامس يتعرف أنواع الخبر، وذلك من خلال قصص الطلاب الموجودة في كتاب الوزارة.

في صفوف غير الناطقين بالعربية يستكشف الطلاب في الصف الأول أصوات الحروف، مع تعلم الأرقام وأيام الأسبوع والألوان، وكل ذلك من خلال الأغاني. وطلاب الصف الثاني يطورون مهارات القراءة والكتابة والاستماع والتحدث من خلال استكشاف أجزاء المنزل. بينما الصف الثالث يستكشفون أنواعاً مختلفة من الأطعمة، والاشتراك في محادثات صعبة لتدريبهم على طلب الطعام في المطعم مستقبلاً. والصف الرابع يتعلمون عن الجنسية والبلدان التي قدموا منها وطريقة السفر من مكان لآخر، بينما في الصف الخامس يستكشفون كيفية وصف عاداتهم اليومية من خلال مهارتي الكتابة والتحدث.



يختبر الطلاب معلوماتهم عن الألوان



يستخدم الطلاب البيئة الصفية للبحث عن مفردات جديدة ومعانيها



يساعد الطلاب بعضهم البعض للتدرب على قراءة الكلمات الجديدة



يكتب الطلاب عن عاداتهم اليومية

نحن نقدر مشاركة أولياء الأمور، ونهدف إلى تحسين عملية التواصل بين أولياء الأمور وقسم اللغة العربية. ونؤكد تماماً دور المشاركة الأسرية الفعالة لتحسين الطالب دراسياً، وأيضاً خلق مجتمع مدرسي قوي. نحن نتمنى فعلياً مشاركتكم وتفاعلكم معنا داخل الصف من خلال بعض الأنشطة التي يمكنكم تقديمها في صفوف اللغة العربية مثل: قراءة كتاب، أو طبخ أكلات بسيطة وشرح مكوناتها أو أي خبرات أخرى تشعرون أنها ستساعد في تطوير مستوى الطلاب في اللغة العربية. إذا كانت عندكم الرغبة في ذلك الرجاء التواصل مع معلم اللغة العربية لطفلكم.

Raquel Nahas

Assistant Head of Primary and Head of Arabic



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

Akhbarouna

We have had a wonderful start in Primary Arabic classes this year. The students have been busy settling back into using the language more frequently, and as we continue on our journey towards improvement, we see our students taking more ownership and pushing themselves by attempting new concepts and skills.

Our KG students have been learning letter sounds, blending short words, and developing vocabulary through song.

In Arabic A, our Grade 1 students have been revisiting letter sounds and exploring grammatical concepts through stories, Grade 2 through sentence formation. Grade 4 have been extending themselves by writing more complex words and sentences and Grade 5 has been exploring different types of sentences and their structure.

In Arabic B, our Grade 1 students have been exploring letter sounds along with learning numbers, days of the week and colors through song. Grade 2 students have been strengthening their reading, writing, listening and speaking skills through investigating the areas around the house. Grade 3 have been exploring different types of food and engaging in conversations to support ordering at a restaurant. Grade 4 students have been exploring their nationalities and the countries where they come from as well as mode of travel, and Grade 5 students have been exploring how to write and speak about their daily routines.



Students test their knowledge of colors in Arabic.



Students using the classroom environment to explore new words and their meaning.



Students write about their daily routines.



Students support one another as they attempt to read new words.

We strongly value parent-partnerships and aim to continue to enhance the communication between parents and the Arabic department. We recognize that parental engagement benefits students academic standing as well as builds a stronger community. We therefore welcome you into our classes should you like to engage with the students through reading a book, cooking, or any other experience you feel would support the students' Arabic development. If you are interested, please speak to your child's Arabic teacher.

Leigh Girven
 Head of Primary



@LeighGirven

Thank you all for your kind words regarding my recent pregnancy announcement. Brett, Poppy, Jasper and I are very excited about the new addition to our family arriving in the new year. I am looking forward to my final year at GIS and making the most of the amazing teachers, students and community we have here. We still have many ambitious plans for the year ahead and I will very much be a part of achieving these goals and working to continually improving the primary school.

Congratulations to all our students leaders who have been elected as House Leaders and Student Council Representatives. I am proud to introduce these exceptional young people in both this week's Hayatona (House Leaders) and next fortnight (Student Council Representatives)

PYP House Captains and Deputies

Since the introduction of the four-house system at GIS, students and families have become increasingly involved and excited about their house colors and the prospects of victory every year. It's akin to the commitment shown by families and pupils at Hogwarts. We know Albus Dumbledore would certainly be proud. With such enthusiasm and commitment to house teams, there has been a buzz of anticipation echoing through the hallways as students in the PYP postulate through potential house captains and deputies. This has been the case as two sperate elections have been held over the last month to select the 2018/2019 house captains and deputies. It was certainly no small task for potential candidates as speeches were written, edited, re-edited, practiced and delivered. This commitment to one's house team and the GIS community is evidence of the courage and reflection it took for all of those involved. Although all the students that participated in the elections should be commended and are truly appreciated, the students' vote yielded our final results. Congratulations to our PYP house captains and deputies! It's going to be an exciting year of competition and community building as we work our way towards the 2018/2019 GIS House Cup Awards.

Four houses, one home



RED
 Hey GIS! My name is Arista and I am your new RED Raptor house captain! I hope that this year we will win! I know that with all of your ideas, a little bit of help, lots of confidence, and a lot of fun, we will make this the best year for the Raptors! **FOUR HOUSES, ONE HOME!**

Hey GIS, My name is Elisa Colombo and I am the Red Raptors deputy house captain. I am super excited for this year, as I will work with lots of great people! I will be there to support you and will be there when you need me. I will give 100% effort as your deputy house captain and we will have the best year EVER! **Go RAPTORS!!**

YELLOW
 Hey GIS, I am Tia Sarrouh the new Yellow Pythons house captain. I am honored to be your house captain this year! I will make sure that everyone has fun and fully participates in all events at GIS! **GO YELLOW PYTHONS!!**

Hey GIS! My name is Zinzan Olsen and I am the new Yellow Pythons deputy captain. I am so fired up for this year! We are going to have a fun and great year ahead. I will support everyone throughout the year! **Peace out Pythons!**

GREEN
 Hey GIS, my name is Denny Candrlic and I am your Green Mambas house captain. I will be able to give you an exciting year! I am so fired up and ready to have fun with all of you. I am so happy to be your new house captain to lead us to victory this year! **GO MAMBAS!!**

What's up GIS! My name is Abdullah Shams Hasan and I am the deputy house captain for the Green Mambas. Now that I am the deputy, I am going to make this year the most fun EVER! Let's take the Green Mambas all the way to # 1! **Peace out MAMBAS!**

BLUE
 Hi, my name is Khalid Al mutlaq. I am so excited for this year because I am the Blue Dragons' house captain. This year will be the best and I hope the blue dragons win. I will make this year great and so much fun for everyone. **GO BLUE DRAGONS!**

Hello, I am Sara Sabater Simon, but you can call me Sara. I am the Blue Dragons house captain deputy. I am a creative and open-minded person and I promise to listen to new and exciting ideas. Let's work together to make sure we win this year! Remember we are a team and there is no "I" in team or in Blue Dragons! **Together we can collect those house points!**

Primary upcoming events

Grade 1 Field Trip
Arabian Wildlife Center & Natural History Museum
 15 October
 8:30 - 1:30pm

Al Khail Mile Grade 3 - 5
 17 October
 9:15 -10:30 am



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

It was a pleasure to see our under 16 boys football team take to the field for the first time this year on Monday. The win was great but to

It has been a pleasure to work with the student leaders at GIS over the past two years and I am so happy with the development of this aspect of the school. Last year, our Student Executive Leadership Team were active voices in the development of the school; they arranged events for both staff and students and were true advocates of their peers. The House Captains invigorated the school spirit and led their peers during multiple events throughout the year. The Student Body President and the coordinator of the house system in the Secondary School delivered an assembly last week for all students to launch the election process for student leadership this year; please speak to your child about their involvement in the process. Being involved in the school as a leader is a fantastic service learning opportunity as students have the chance to give back to the community and develop their leadership, time management, communication and collaborations skills.

see the boys play with smiles on their faces and a top attitude was even more important for me. Our swim squads also continued with their strong start to the year with a second place finish in the relay gala this week; keep up the good work team!

You may start to hear of summative and formative assessments taking place in lessons over the coming weeks (and some may have already been completed). You can track when assessments are taking place as well as the outcomes of those assessments in ManageBac. If you are having issues accessing ManageBac, please contact your child's homeroom teacher for support initially. If preparation, revision of materials or pre-assessment work is required, your child will be given notice of the assessment taking place. However, some assessments require little or no notice as the nature of the assessment means that preparation is not possible or required. In some cases, the deadline for an assessment may be set but the work will have been ongoing over a number of weeks and students are expected to manage their time accordingly to ensure that the assessed piece of work is completed by the deadline. If you have any questions related to specific assessments then please feel free to reach out to your child's subject teachers, the Head of Department for the subject in question or Ms. Angelika Kuster.

House Captain and Student Council

One of the most special aspects about being a student at GIS is the emphasis on student agency. This year, we have revamped and re-introduced the House Captain system, and the Student Council - now known as the Student Executive Leadership Team. Both have recently launched elections for this year's new student leaders. The House Captains and Heads of House have been leaders of school spirit and are looking for students passionate about engaging the school community.



The StuELT aims to create a positive and fun learning environment for students, parents, and staff. This is achieved through the six committees - Academics, Service, Student Life, Social, Digital Innovation and Sports, Activities and Health. Both systems aim to encourage students to be an active participant and continuously work on keeping the GIS Family active, engaged and motivated.

The Link Student Magazine



The Link is a student-led magazine, started up by Naseera Suliman and Raamiz Ahmad, with the vision to create a platform of communication among the GIS community, to allow students to express their creative intelligence and to provide a voice to the students. MYP students are encouraged to sign-up for The Link. Students can sign-up for the following departments based upon their interests and skill levels: journalism, photography, videography, management, and advertising. Involvement in 'The Link' will be of beneficial value to the students for they will be able to express themselves through this project and gain CAS or service points.

To signup, please email naseera.s@gemsisak.com or thelink@gemsisak.com for further details.

View our last magazine: <http://pub.lucidpress.com/thelink4/>



Secondary upcoming events

US University Application
 16 October
 3:00 - 5:00 pm
 Global Politics Classroom

Week Without Walls Parent Evening
 International Trips
 17 October
 6:00 - 7:00pm
 DP Lounge

Term Break
 21 - 25 October
Back to School
 28 October

GIS Secondary School Parent Representatives

A Parent Representative is a volunteer parent who agrees to support the Secondary School by facilitating a link between GIS parents, teachers, GISPA and school administration. Parent Representatives will play an integral role in extending our reach within the community and increasing the impact of our the numerous academic and community initiatives as well as promoting wider parental awareness and engagement.

The following url will direct parents to a Google Form to register their interest - <https://goo.gl/forms/2EGQJch05H2qjm3E3>

Week Without Walls Local Trips

If you have not done so already, please sign-up for our Week Without Walls Local Trips. The options are: Atlantis (almost full), Go Karting based on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), Golf, Surfing, Dubai Parks and Resorts, PADI (Diving beginners and advanced), Top Chef, SCAFA and Photography.

WWW Local Trip Sign-Up Form [here](#). If you would like more information about our local trips, please click on the link [here](#) for the [WWW Local Trip Information Folder](#)

After signing up, please wait until you receive a confirmation e-mail regarding sign-up(s) prompting you to make a payment. If there are not enough students for certain trips, there is a possibility that the trips will be cancelled and students will be signed up for their second or third choices.

Extra Curricular Activities



@GISJaguars



Under 16 Boys Football

What a great start of the year for the Under 16 Jaguar football team. The team worked together with an amazing effort from each and every single person that

took part in the match on Monday, 8 October. The teams started the match slowly with a goal from their opponents, GEMS Founders School, but that was another reason for us to try harder. Joao defended a couple of shots that could have went in and he impressed all of us with his skills. Ryan scored an amazing goal from inside the box. We all cheered and thanked him for that. We had to try harder during the match to create some chances to score. Thankfully Youssef Gad scored 3 excellent goals, capped off with a penalty for his hat trick. The team had reflected at the end of the match and all went home happy. We would like to thank our opponents GEMS Founders School for an exciting and extremely competitive match. Written by Youssef Gad.



Under 14 Boys Football

On Sunday, 7 October, the team stood victorious over Swiss International School, beating them 5 - 0. Jack scored 2 goals and Shimari, Diogo and Affaan scored a goal each. The GIS Jaguars have shown excellent teamwork and sportsmanship during this football match. This was a very encouraging start to this years' football season. Good luck to the boys for future fixtures. Go Jaguars! Written by Rashaad Khan



18 OCTOBER

'PINK PUNK'

BREAST CANCER

AWARENESS MONTH

Students can dress in 'Pink' or 'Pink Punk'
to bring awareness to breast cancer



مدرسة جيمس الدولية – شارع الخيل

GEMS International School

AL KHAIL

GIS ACTIVE DAY



مدرسة جيمس الدولية – شارع الخيل

GEMS International School

AL KHAIL

2 November 2018 from 8:30am - 12:30pm

In line with the 30x30 Dubai Fitness Challenge, we are very excited to be launching our first GIS ACTIVE event, taking place on the 2 November from 8:30 am and 12:30pm. We would like to invite everyone in the GIS community to participate a fun and active morning, you will enjoy various masterclasses provided by outside companies. You will also have a chance to visit different stalls providing products and other health and wellbeing related services. We look forward to seeing you there!



Please email Cristina Bento to RSVP
c.bento_gis@gemsedu.com