



حياتنا

# Hayatona

Our Life

Volume 1 Issue 10

'Providing An Exceptional Quality Education'

1 March 2018

## From Our Head of School



Now that the dust has settled, post our KHDA inspection, I wanted to take this opportunity to provide you with some of the highlights. A full update will be provided at our KHDA Feedback session on Sunday morning at 9:00 in the DP Lounge, 3rd floor of the Secondary building.

While still yet to be confirmed officially, we celebrate that we have retained a 'Good' status, this is extremely positive progress as we have shifted to the far end of the 'Good'; band and are now firmly positioned to move to Very Good.

With regards to specific progress we managed to move up 13 indicators and to have 3 of the 5 Leadership and Management indicators increase. It was equally satisfying, in the first year of our Diploma Programme to have all 16 DP indicators rated 'Good' or 'Very Good' (as it took four years to achieve that in our other two programs). This should give all our parents confidence regarding our young Secondary school, as the provisions there are very strong.

Equally worthy of celebration was a positive movement in our Arabic Progress ratings, moving up two indicators. This is reflective of the hard work of the teaching team to improve practice. There is much work to be done here but we are seeing some initial progress worthy of celebrating.

However, most importantly for me, our parent surveys stood us in a much better light this year than in any previous years. With 100% of parents stating 'Students are happy at school', 'Students learn well most of the time because of effective teaching', and 'Overall I am satisfied with the quality of education at my school' and that 'Students are developing good awareness of the UAE and other culture'. To name but a few areas to celebrate.

Our sincere appreciation to our parents who made the time to meet with KHDA reviewing team and the to fill out the survey.

Official label aside, while we know there are many areas to improve I am confident we are functioning as a 'Very Good' to 'Outstanding' school. Our accreditation in time will reflect that. For now, we celebrate we are a school that continues to make excellent progress, in a community that values all stakeholders.

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

### GIS UPDATES



### WHOLE SCHOOL

#### Coffe Morning with Head of School

DP Lounge  
Sunday, 4 March  
9:00am - 10:00am

#### Aladdin Musical Tickets On Sale

4 March  
Reception

#### Aladdin Musical Performances

Monday 19 - Wednesday 22  
Every evening from  
6:30pm - 8:00pm  
Multi-purpose Hall

#### Teacher of the Month

[Click here](#) and choose your teacher of the month

#### Quick Links

[See our Facebook page here](#)

## INSIDE



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[@GIS\\_Gems](https://twitter.com/GIS_Gems)

GEMS  
EDUCATION



WE ARE A  
CIS  
MEMBER  
SCHOOL



**KHDA UPDATE  
Coffee Morning**

Come and join us for a coffee chat, where Mr. Radojkovich will share some school-wide news and updates with you. All are welcome.

**Sunday, 4th March at 9am**  
with Mr. Glen Radojkovich - Head of School.

DP Lounge, 3rd Floor, Secondary Building (Phase 2)

Dear GIS Parents,

As you are aware re-enrollments are in process. We encourage you to complete this process, at the earliest.

We are pleased to share that there will be a 15% discount in fees for a third child, 25% discount for a fourth child and 50% for a fifth child for the academic year 2018/19.

All parents are required to pay a deposit of 10% of the annual school fee per child (please see the fee schedule below) in order to secure your child's place at GEMS International School for the academic year 2018 – 2019. This re-enrolment fee will be due by 22nd March.

Important points to note about the re-enrolment fee:

- The re-enrolment process applies to all parents wishing their child/children to return to GEMS International School in September 2018. This process applies to all students including company paid accounts. Parents who normally have their school fees covered directly by their employer will need to make this payment themselves, and then seek reimbursement from their employer.
- This deposit is fully deductible against the first term fees.

• This deposit is fully refundable should your circumstances change, and

1. Your family relocates outside Dubai
2. Grade 10 students who have paid to secure their place for Sept 2018 and do not acquire the predicted grades to proceed with the full IB Diploma are also able to request a refund of the re-enrolment fee. A letter from the DP Coordinator will be required for the refund.

• If you do not complete the re-enrolment process before 22nd March, the system will automatically generate a Transfer Certificate request and places will be offered to incoming students.

• If you are not re-enrolling for September 2018, this process still needs to be completed. The re-enrolment process will prompt a Transfer Certificate to be generated as part of your leaving documents.

• GEMS Staff will require their employee number in order to complete the re-enrolment process

You will be able to re-enroll your child by logging into Oasis (<https://oasis.gemse-ducation.com/General/Home.aspx>) and completing the re-enrolment process. This will provide you the opportunity to pay online with a credit card or you are welcome to pay at the school accounts office. For instructions, please see attached. The de-

posit can only be accepted by the Accounts Department once your re-enrolment process is complete on Oasis.

By re-enrolling your child, you agree that the terms and conditions communicated in your Parent School Contract shall continue to apply.

#### Grade Level

KG1	4,900	Grade 6	6400
KG 2	4,900	Grade 7	6400
Grade 1	5,300	Grade 8	6400
Grade 2	5,300	Grade 9	6,800
Grade 3	5,300	Grade 10	6,800
Grade 4	5,300	Grade 11	7,200
Grade 5	6400	Grade 12	7,200

If you require any further details regarding the re-enrolment or have any questions regarding the process, please contact our Registration Office or PRE.

Many thanks for your assistance in completing the above process.

Yours sincerely,

*G. Radzjovich*

Glen Radzjovich  
Principal / CEO

## Cathy Hayes

Deputy Head of School



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

As you will have already heard and read, we are extremely proud of the positive direction the school is moving. This was most recently reflected in the oral feedback we received from KHDA and from you as a parent community. While we take time to celebrate all of the wonderful things taking place, we recognize that the journey is ongoing and we can reflect on some feedback and clarifications that are required. I would like to specifically address the area of 'Health and Safety'.

1. Fire drills and evacuation: In line with the civil defense requirements, three planned drills take place annually. Drills are announced and communicated to the community in advance via the newsletter. Unplanned evacuations have and will occur, most recently during our International Day. When this happens, it is imperative that all procedures are followed and the building is evacuated as per the instructions from the appointed fire marshals in school. Vehicles are not permitted to move while students, staff and school visitors are being evacuated and all people on site are expected to assemble at the nominated assembly points.

2. ID badges and contact details: Please ensure that you wear your ID badge at all times when on school campus and contact details are updated in OASIS.

3. Attendance and punctuality: Students should be in class and ready to learn before the UAE national anthem is played. Any time after this, they are considered late and are required to sign in at reception. If your child is going to be absent, you must complete a leave application form. This form must have enough details in order for

the school to either authorize or decline the application. Acceptable reasons for approved absences include illness, visa renewal or family bereavement. Unacceptable reasons include going to a concert, shopping, missing the bus or going on family vacation. Absences will be reflected on students' report cards and excessive unauthorized absences will be considered when graduating students to the next grade level. If the absence is unplanned, please contact the school reception and the child's homeroom teacher immediately to inform them accordingly. This must be followed up with an absence form.

4. After school supervision: Regular classes finish at 3:20 except for Tuesdays, when they finish at 1:45. ECAs generally finish at 4:15. Parents should be prompt when picking up children and they should remain in their presence and care when on school grounds. If you are late, students will be directed to the canteen where you are expected to come and sign them out.

5. Counselors: The school has three full time counselors who are here to work with and support our students and you as families. They can assist and provide parenting tips, career guidance, how to support teenagers, social media awareness and protection, and other personal, social and emotional issues. Should you wish to speak with them, please reach out to them directly.

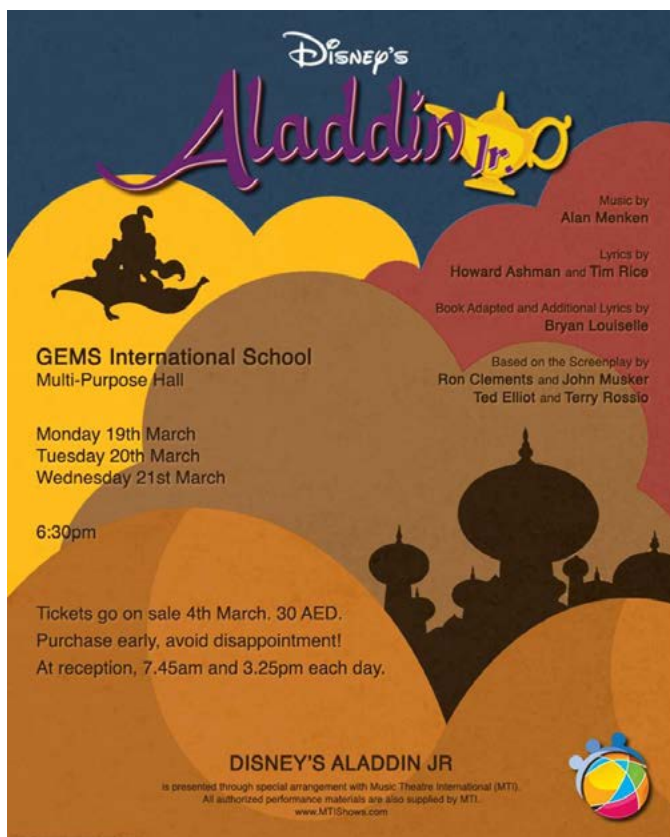
Again I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support especially during our KHDA inspection. The feedback from both the online survey and face to face conversations that many of you had with the team were overwhelmingly positive, so sincerely, thank you!

Your partner in education.



## Let's Do Lunch – Update

Due to insufficient signups for the upcoming social lunch event on March 6th, we will be postponing the 'Let's do Lunch' event until later on in the year. We appreciate the parents who have shown interest and will be sure to send updated information nearer the time. Thank you.



## A Whole New World

The cast have been working tremendously hard over the past month for our upcoming production of Aladdin! Their dedication and commitment has been outstanding and excitement is building as the big day approaches!

Tickets will go on sale on Sunday 4th March. They will be available to purchase at reception at 7:45a.m. and 3:25p.m. for 30AED. Tickets are limited, so please purchase early to avoid disappointment. Performances will take place in the Multi-Purpose Hall on the following dates.

### Performance Dates:

Monday 19th March	6.30p.m.
Tuesday 20th March	6.30p.m.
Wednesday 21st March	6.30p.m.

We anticipate an amazing musical experience for you and our cast members.

We hope to see you all there for what we anticipate to be 'A Whole New World' at GIS!!

## Raquel Nahas

Assistant Head of Primary and Head of Arabic



@raquelnahas

## Akhbarouna

Arabic improvement is a large focus for our school and as a result, we have developed mechanisms and involved relevant individuals in our governing bodies to support our drive towards excellence.

Deema Al-Alami, Vice President of Arabic Language & Islamic Studies for the GEMS Education group is a member of our Local Advisory Board, who supports and guides our improvement planning and implementation in Arabic and Islamic Studies. Having scope of Arabic and Islamic Studies across the country, Deema brings her knowledge of Arabic improvement to support and work with the school towards enhancing the current provision.

Deema and Senior Leaders, will be hosting a ConnectEd, "Subheiyeh", on 21st March at 8:30am-9:30am focusing on Arabic and Islamic Studies. Come and learn about our school's direction and have an opportunity to share ideas.

Please register for the session [here](#), should you wish to attend.

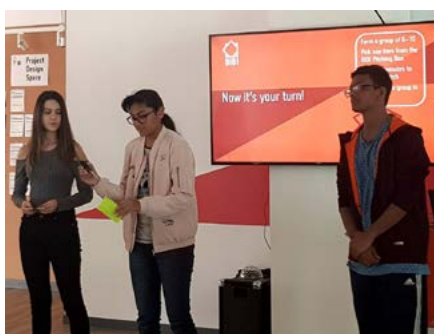
إن هدفنا في مدرستنا هو التركيز على اللغة العربية ودعمها، ولذلك قمنا بتطوير آليات التعلم بالاشتراك مع متخصصين في مكتبنا الإداري لدعم مسيرتنا نحو التميز.

ديما العلمي، نائب رئيس قسم اللغة العربية والتربية الإسلامية في مجموعة جيمس التعليمية وهي عضو في مجلسنا الاستشاري المحلي، الذي يدعم ويوجه التخطيط والتنفيذ للغة العربية والتربية الإسلامية. ولديها خبرة واسعة في مجال اللغة العربية والتربية الإسلامية في دولة الإمارات، وتعمل على مشاركة خبرتها في مجال تطوير وتحسين اللغة العربية لدعم مدرستنا.

يرغب مدراء المدرسة والسيدة ديما بدعوتكم لحضور الاجتماع الصباحي "صباحية"، للتواصل بيننا وبينكم ولإتاحة الفرصة لتبادل الأفكار، وذلك بتاريخ 21 مارس في الساعة 8:30 – 9:30 صباحاً.

إن كنت ترغب بالحضور فيرجى التسجيل من خلال الضغط هنا [.here](#).

## GIS Innovators at the Semi-Finals!



One of our two teams who entered the Dubai Institute of Design and Innovation's - Project Design Space competition reached the semi-finals!

The Star Team - consisting of Sahr Bari, Tanvi Dhirra, Ana Coelho and Rushil Raja (Grade 9A) created a distinct

and innovative campaign to bring attention to the current issue of waste plastic affecting ocean life. This was the main focus of the Adidas and Parley Challenge which they chose to undertake. Their impressive submission video is below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKClFe-RjVE>

Also, recognise the 'Go Team'; Hania Fouad, Thalia Matthey, Eden Sullivan and Cadhla McGuinness who unfortunately didn't make the semi-final selection but created a very impressive video and range of clothing and had them manufactured for the Splash Challenge.





# GIS Celebrates International Day





# Extra Curricular Activities

## Emirates School Karting Championship Round-up (ESKC)



As we line-up for the last race of the Juniors ESKC, to be held on the 12th of March 2018, it's a great moment to stop and reflect on all that the students have achieved in the run-up. Round 2 and 3 had some nail-biting moments for our teams - Round 2 saw only four students compete in the two teams as the Round was held during the mid-

term break. However, even with a man down from each team, both teams took a jump up in the leader-boards to put them on better rankings by the end of the race. Round 3 however really cemented our progress up the leader boards as Saeed Alzarouni put in a fantastic effort for Team 1, but the real show-stopper was a flawless drive by Qais Hijazeen (Grade 7) who completed his sessions in 3rd and then 2nd place, beating out many accomplished, nationally placed drivers. Round 3 wrapped up with the Teams being in 5th and 13th place out of the competing teams.

**Team Members:** Saeed Alzarouni, Alex Hansen, Nikolas Hansen, Jad Hijazeen, Qais Hijazeen and Nathan Pope

## Celebrating Dr. Seuss' Day



## Important Announcements

**Clinic-** GEMS International School in compliance with Dubai Health Authority (DHA) is planning to conduct the routine vaccinations.

Vaccination will be held in school premises and will be given by authorized doctors and nurses of DHA. The only vaccines the DHA will provide are Oral Polio (OPV), Diphtheria Pertussis Tetanus (DPT/ Td), and Measles Mumps Rubella (MMR) booster doses. This service is ONLY applicable to students from Grade 1 and above who are due for these boosters.

Please note that it is essential that the original updates colored vaccination card copy along with the signed consent form be submitted to the school clinic by 15 March in order for the student to receive immunization. The consent form can be downloaded [here](#)

If you have any questions please feel free to contact us at [clinic\\_gis@gemsedu.com](mailto:clinic_gis@gemsedu.com)

**Access Control Timings :** Kindly note that the access doors timing

are being revised from Sunday, 8 March 2018 as below:

**Morning:** 7:30 AM – 8:30 AM  
**Afternoon:** 3:15 PM – 4:00 PM except Tuesday  
**Tuesday:** 1:15 PM – 2:15 PM

Kindly ensure that you exit the premise before this time to avoid any disturbance to the teaching and learning process after this time.

**Canteen Cards-** Kindly ensure that the cards are topped up with credit regularly so that the students do not face any difficulty in purchasing meals at the school. There would not be any provision of negative credit possible due to VAT regulations.

**Lost and Found-** We have some water bottles, Books, snack boxes, swim wear, towels, uniforms etc. unclaimed for some time. We request parents to visit the Head Guard office and go through the items in case your child is missing any of the above. We would be passing them on to charity on Thursday, 8 March 2018 if unclaimed.

## Leigh Girven Head of Primary



[@LeighGirven](#)

over the next week – only three weeks to go till GIS puts on our first ever production. Tickets will go on sale this coming Sunday.

## Word Study

In response to feedback from parents, the below details our philosophy and how we teach word study at GIS. The purpose of word study is two-fold. Firstly, we believe that students need to develop a general knowledge of English spelling. Therefore at GIS, they learn how to examine words through active exploration using a hands-on, manipulative approach. Students also discover generalizations about spelling, instead of just spelling rules. Secondly, word study increases students' specific knowledge of words. Specific knowledge relates to the spelling and meaning of individual words. Using the Words Their Way inventories for pre-assessments, teachers can determine what stage of spelling development each student is.

These stages describe students' spelling behavior as they move from one level of word knowledge to the next. Knowing these will help teachers determine which word study activities are most appropriate for students.



Grade three students inquired into city systems and how efficient cities require strategic planning. They began the unit by comparing and contrasting the city of Dubai from the past to the present. Specifically, looking at major systems and how they developed and expanded throughout the growth of the city. In math, the students analyzed and identified attributes of two and three dimensional shapes, as well as exploring different angles in real-life situations. In language, the focus was on explanatory texts and writing to explain the purpose and importance of city systems. Mr. Binoy Panicker a Senior Urban Designer, came to visit the students to speak about the process of planning a new city, the key components and tools that are used to form an effective city plan. Students had a sneak peek into a new development in the Middle East, which is planned to be developed within the next few years. The students gained a greater understanding of the process behind the design, of the beautiful city that we all live in. As their summative task, the students designed their own three dimensional city model and identified their strategic planning process by following the given success criteria.

A key feature of the Word Study at GIS is the use of 'WOW' and 'WONKY' words. 'WOW' words are new vocabulary words that students can inquire into. They may arise from independent inquiry, reading different texts in class or from units of inquiry. 'WONKY' words are personalized words that students are spelling incorrectly, they are typically high frequency (sight/tricky) words that a child should know at that developmental age. They can be found in the child's own writing and can be self, peer and teacher assessed until they are consistently spelled correctly. Word study is an ongoing, everyday program that is incorporated into all the elements of Balanced Literacy.

Many students find word study to be one of the most enjoyable components of balanced literacy instruction. Teachers find it to be one of the most powerful. That's because reading ability dramatically improves as students use meaningful games and activities to discover:

- Letters and the sounds they make
- How to pick out root words
- How suffixes and prefixes can change the meaning
- Spelling involves finding patterns
- How to get clues to word meaning and pronunciation
- It involves problem solving in the form of developing hypotheses, searching for patterns, predicting outcomes, and experimenting to find out if they're right.
- Using word study activities, students compare new words to words they already know and look for connections.

## PRIMARY EVENTS



### PRIMARY

**Pre-K Field Trip: Dubai Garden Center**  
5 March

**Aladdin Musical Tickets On Sale**  
4 March  
Reception

**G4 & G5 Boys and Girls The Rashid Cross Country Relays:**  
Begins at 3:30pm  
5 March

**G2 & G3 Boys and Girls The Rashid Cross Country Relays:**  
Begins at 3:30pm  
6 March

**U11 Boys & Girls**  
Basketball Triangular @ GIS  
7 March  
3:30 pm

**G2 to G5 DAC Swim GALA 2**  
@ Metropole School at 2pm  
13 March

**Term Two - ECAs End**  
15 March



Over February vacation, students from the PYP Treble Choir attended a special dress rehearsal of Aida at the Dubai Opera. They were amazed to see how much work goes in to staging a professional theater production, and left motivated for their own upcoming performances as part of the Aladdin Jr. ensemble. Aladdin Jr. runs each night from March 19th-21st at 6:30pm in the MPH. Tickets are AED 30 and will be available in reception starting March 4th before and after school.



## Lee Hole

Head of Secondary



@LHole81

An IB education brings about so many amazing things in a young person and the Personal Project really is the best example of this in the MYP. I am absolutely thrilled with the standard of work, effort and pride that our Grade 10 students have displayed this year. The Personal Project is so much more than the exhibition though! Hearing the accounts of students developing their communication skills as they had to speak to strangers and ask for permission to take photographs; developing their skills in electronics, woodwork, textiles and cooking; having to conduct market research or gap analysis to find their niche etc. are all steps in the right direction as they move towards their DP studies. What has added to my delight is the way in which the Grade 8 and Grade 9 students have shared their ambition to raise the bar further and make their projects "the best you've ever seen"; this really is an example of how our older students are developing a legacy of achievement and I could not be happier with what our young people are doing for this school.

## MYP Music Concert Nights



MYP Music Night was an exciting night with a mixture of styles, ensembles and soloists performing to a captivated audience. Thank you to all that supported the lovely evening.

## MYP Personal Project



Congratulations to Joao Ponce! Joao is a DP student and he has been selected to be one of 15 GEMS students to participate in the Gulf Medical University "Future Scientists of the UAE 2018 – 2020 Research Program and Mentorship." This program for grade 10 and 11 students will involve study twice a month, with an option for an intense summer program, at the Gulf Medical University in Ajman. The aim of the program is to inspire students to become leaders and innovators in the health science. Joao will be working in the health science labs on campus studying topics such as genetic sciences, biochemistry, physiology, tumors, immunology and other modern sciences. The end goal is for Joao to produce a research paper that will be published in the scientific community and will add to his portfolio and support his application to medical school. This a great opportunity – well done Joao!



## SECONDARY EVENTS



## SECONDARY

### Coffee with Head of School

4 March

9:00 am at DP Lounge

### ConnectED - Extending Experiences Beyond the Classroom<sup>1</sup>

7 March

2:15pm at the DP Lounge

### Aladdin Musical Tickets On Sale

4 March

Reception

## Communicator Award



This month's winners of the communicator award were from left to right: Rashaad Khan, Niccolo Consolini & Mustafa Eljoabeh



# Help your child **FIND A PASSION!**

Help your child find a passion and investigate opportunities. Join us for a special session on Extending Experiences Beyond the Classroom with our Secondary Counsellor Pat Sidey.

Wednesday March 7th, 2018  
at 2:15pm in the DP Lounge,  
Third floor, Secondary Building

