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# Hayatona

Our Life

Volume 1 Issue 7

'Providing An Exceptional Quality Education'

7 December 2017

## From Our Head of School



As we move rapidly towards the end of the first term we have the opportunity to pause, look back and reflect on our successes to date.

In doing so my heart is warmed. I am so proud of our students' progress and all of the initiatives they have developed or excelled in this year. Supported by both their teachers and parents, our students are growing and developing as exemplarily learners, who demonstrate the 'Learner Profile' attributes in their daily lives. Their achievements to date have been wonderful to witness.

That said, we are far from concluding the academic year. While we have opportunity to reflect, part of that reflection needs to be on reshaping our goals and refocusing for the new year ahead. As you head into 2018 celebrations I would ask you to have conversations with your children/students, to ask them to set SMART (Specific Measureable Achievable Realistic Timely) goals for the new year. They should have these for academics, activities and social interaction.

We all understand the concept of stagnation; if we continue to do, what we have always done, we continue to get, what we always gotten. In short we will not fulfill our potential. Our students need to continually be reminded they are full of potential and we are here as parents and teachers to help them be aspirational in order to realize it.

We have achieved a great deal so far, this year, and none of it would have been achievable without the partnership we value so highly at GIS. Without our parents, teachers and students working collaboratively we would get nowhere, but together though we've achieved so much. I am extremely grateful to all of you for your continued efforts to support our children/students and for making GIS a school we can all be proud of. To our entire GIS community Shukran!

Wishing you a wonderful winter vacation.

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

### GIS UPDATES



#### WHOLE SCHOOL

**Magrudy's Book Fair**  
10 - 14 December  
Indoor Sports Hall

**Winter Break**  
17 December - 4 January

**Back To School**  
7 January



**Let's Do Lunch**  
29 January

### Quick Links

[See our Facebook page here](#)

[GIS PH 7 Catering  
Satisfaction Survey link](#)

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## Cathy Hayes

Deputy Head of School



 @cathyhayesedu

Here we are almost at the end of our first term. And while it feels like only a short time since we started, the students have already achieved so much, both through their learning in class and extra-curricular activities. As always, our students continue to be a credit to us whether they are representing us through sport, art or music, if they are initiating and developing new service learning opportunities such as the social awareness club in Grade 5 or even just going about their daily lessons. They are and continue to be the greatest part of my day and the best thing about GIS. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff for their hard work and care for the students and each other. People say, "you can't choose your family" but in many ways I feel that GIS is the family that we have all chosen. Thank you also to each and every one of you for your continued support throughout the term, the school community continues to be a real strength here and one I am greatly proud of.

As we look forward to next year, there are some exciting events taking place and also some matters for your attention. Health and safety is of paramount importance for all of us. Please note the safety announcement introducing the use of our new access control system coming into effect when we return.

**Attendance and punctuality** will be visibly highlighted throughout the school, so if this has been an issue for you or your family, you might want to add this to your list of new year's resolutions. All students should be in class by 8:15 AM before the national anthem is played. Any time after this, they are required to sign in at reception.

**International Week** is scheduled on February 4th – 8th. We aim to make this year the most successful year yet with as many countries being represented throughout the week as there are in school. Thursday 8th will culminate in a fantastic food, flag and cultural fair as we proudly step forward and share with the community all the great and wonderful things about our home countries.

**School improvement** will continue over the winter break as we look to develop the external first floor area connecting both the primary and secondary schools. It will primarily serve our secondary students as an outdoor facility during lunch time. Watch this space, literally!

Although this is the last Hayatona before the end of term, there is still a lot taking place next week including the Winterfest on Sunday, primary music concerts, field trips, assemblies and even some parties. However, should I not see you for some reason, let me take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful and enjoyable holiday.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

## "Bring Your Own Mug – Help the Planet".

Brought to you by The GIS Environment Club & PH7 Catering.

The GIS Environment Club (ECA) inquired into how and why it's important to protect the environment, what happens to plastic after it is thrown away and why it's important to save electricity. They wanted to take action, so they brainstormed ways to help us make better choices for the environment. This resulted in researching into how many plastic coffee cups were being used and thrown away from our own PH7 Cafe in the reception area. With the support from Mr. Glen Radojkovich our Head of School/ CEO and Mr. Ranjit Menon our Manager School Operations, the GIS Environment Club contacted PH7 founders with a proposal to decrease their hot drinks by 1 AED if customers brought their own reusable cup (with lid) and it worked! PH7 will now sell hot drinks for 1 AED less if you bring your own reusable cup, plus they have agreed to do this across all of their PH7 cafes across Dubai!



With thanks from The GIS Environment Club:

Sofia Cojocar (Grade 3E), Dario Moya (Grade 3F) Noa Berbari (Grade 5B) and Kareem Abusaitan (Grade 5B).

## Safety Always Comes First

In an effort to continue to improve our safety procedures, we have installed an access control system leading into the main school building. During morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up there will be set times at which these doors will open and close. At all other times, the doors will remain locked and can only be opened by a staff access card. Please click [here](#) to see the locations of all access control entrances. The opening times are as follows:

Morning:	7:30 AM – 8:45 AM
Afternoon:	3:15 PM – 4:00 PM on all days except Tuesday
Tuesday:	1:15 PM – 2:15 PM

In the event of a fire or similar emergency, all doors will release automatically. For any reason should this not occur, there is also a manual switch which can be used to release them. We appreciate your cooperation.





# GIS Community Celebrates 46th UAE National Day

Thank you to our teachers, staff, students and parents for all their efforts to make this event a memorable one. It was truly wonderful to see everyone come together and enjoy this special day. The community had the opportunity to experience authentic Emirati cultural artifacts, henna, traditional food, camels, falcons, arts and crafts and performances from our students and guests.





## Leigh Girven Head of Primary



[@LeighGirven](#)

To conclude the year to date, the Primary Leadership team would like to share some of our highlights from each section.

## Obstacle Course



Obstacle course is a series of challenging physical obstacles which helps develop children's gross motor skills. The children can go in, through, over and under obstacles, throw balls at a target and jump over a rope. Obstacle course is also amazing for developing team work skills as the children work together to create their course and they encourage each other along the way.

## Little Learners



The KG Department has had a busy and fun filled term! We have worked hard at developing our outdoor learning spaces, which have become extensions of our classrooms and offer valuable learning opportunities for our KG children. It has afforded our students the opportunity to develop more independence and take ownership over the development and use of these spaces. It has also provided more time for collaborative learning between classes and across the grade level. Our Pre-K program, brand new to GIS this year, has developed beautifully this term as well. The students have been a wonderful addition to our GIS family, and have added even more fun and enthusiasm to our KG department.

## Curious about Food

In Grade Two, we have been learning about different food processes. In order to fully grasp our Unit of Inquiry, we have done many experiments to understand the journey of different foods. We did a preservation experiment where we placed apples in different states to see which one would preserve our apples best. To learn more about the chemicals that go into our foods, we did an experiment with a McDonalds burger. We made our own fresh home-made burgers and we compared and observed the rotting process of both burgers. We also integrated Math and Language into our Unit of Inquiry. We learned about volume and mass by measuring out different foods.



## Learning Opportunities for everyone

This term has seen some significant developments for Teaching and Learning in primary. All staff from Pre-K to Grade Five and every single subject teacher spent two days, professional development, with Kath Murdoch, a world renowned expert on inquiry in education. Her vision and approaches were inspirational and resulted in every staff member immersing themselves in collaborative teacher inquiries into "Pedagogical Approaches". This involved teachers working across grades and departments to share, and increase their knowledge of teaching practices and consider the impact on them as educators and their students as learners. Teachers have developed confidence and flair when incorporating inquiry approaches in their daily lessons and recent learning walks and lesson observations demonstrate a high level of very good and outstanding teaching and learning across the PYP. The positive ethos and community culture was again commented on by the team who conducted a recent GEMS review. Relationships have always been a strength of our school and the dedicated staff who work diligently to provide challenging, meaningful learning opportunities are constantly rewarded by the engagement and love of learning that so many of our students show every day.



## Challenge Week

This term, the Grade 3 to 5 students attended their residential trips consolidated into one week aptly named 'Challenge week'. The trips were organized so that students could explore the local environment while participating in teambuilding activities. The feedback from students and teachers regarding their trips was overwhelmingly positive, and demonstrated the resilience we aim to develop within our students.



Another eventful activity that students participated in, was the DXB 30x30 challenge which involved various physical activities during lunchtime recess. The dedication and principled participation demonstrated by our students, truly confirmed how we successfully provide students with the opportunity to become involved in our local community, and take action to be healthy. The concluding Mini-Marathon was a very successful event where all the Al Khail schools collaborated and participated enthusiastically.

## PRIMARY EVENTS



## PRIMARY

### Magrudy Book Fair

10 - 14 December  
Indoor Sports Hall

### GIS Winterfest

10 December

### Primary Winter Concert

11 December

### DAPSA Cross Country At Rashid School for Boys Gr2-5

11 December

### DAPSA Swim Gala Gr2-5

12 December  
Kent College  
At 1:45pm



**Lee Hole**  
Head of Secondary

@LHole81

The emotional rollercoaster of school life can be palpable at times for all members of a school community and GIS is no different. The disappointment of giving your all on the sportsfield but missing out on the win; the joy of attaining the summative grade that you worked so hard for or the determination needed on the long days, where balancing all of the elements of your life seems like an impossible task, are all part and parcel of growing, learning and developing as a person.

I approach the winter break happy with what has been achieved so far. The way in which our young people have approached their studies; their efforts in sports fixtures; the dedication to their extra-curricular commitments and the exceptional way in which they have represented the school when we have visitors and when they travel into the local and international community is something that we should all celebrate.

I wish you all a restful break, safe travels if you are taking a trip and happy holidays if you will be celebrating.

## Leadership Training Day for Our Senior Students

Our senior student leaders completed a leadership training day recently with TELLAL institute and members of the GIS Senior Leadership team. The training was designed specifically for our students and our school and was completed to allow our senior student leaders to work more effectively in their own roles but to help them to support student leadership at all levels.

The students spent the morning investigating the theory behind leadership; the concepts of change management; how their own leadership style can be developed and improved to increase their effectiveness and how their leadership can affect others. In the afternoon, the students were asked to reflect on the way in which they can bring about a positive change at GIS before developing working in smaller committees to plan their ongoing actions and ways of working.



Our student leaders will continue their leadership training via one to one mentoring, group support and further workshops. The students leadership mission is to work as part of the Executive Leadership Team, within

their established committees and as ambassadors of their peers to lead change in the school that represents the greater student voice.



## GIS Jaguars Under 16 Football



The GIS boys U16 football have had a great season so far and are currently in 3rd position in the league. They have won 5 out of 7 games scoring an incredible 31 goals. We started with only a small squad and currently have 22 players training weekly ranging from grade 9 up to grade 11. This means there is huge competition for places and this is what makes our players so driven. With only a couple of fixtures remaining it's going to be a nail biting finish to the season.

### SECONDARY EVENTS



### SECONDARY

#### Magrudy's Book Fair

10 - 14 December  
Indoor Sports Hall

#### GIS Winter Fest

10 December

#### Winter Holiday

17 December - 4 January

#### Back to School

7 January



# GIS Jaguars

## Primary & Secondary Swim Squad



We have had a fantastic term with our swim squads. We hosted our first gala which was an extremely successful event for the school and especially for the students. GIS finished an excellent second out of six schools! Enthusiasm and dedication from all swimmers has been remarkable. During our PB challenges we have seen a dramatic improvement in students' progress in all events. Keep up the good work Jaguars!

## Under 16 Boys Basketball



The U16 boys basketball squad have had a remarkable season this year, one of success and a sign that commitment, hard work and teamwork prevails.

After being ranked 20-25th in the bottom league, the

boys embarked on their first set of group matches. After picking up a victory in the first match, the team were then agonizingly beaten by 1 point away at DESC. This was however the turning point of our season. 3 further victories in the group followed, with some outstanding individual and team performances, led to the boys topping their group and making it through to the playoffs. This meant that out of 25 schools, we in the top 8 schools in the whole of Dubai.

Our opponents in the playoffs were Dubai College. Although we were defeated, the performance by the team was outstanding. To put this in context – Dubai College won group 2 out of 5 we won group 5 out of 5. Afterwards, their coach commented "that was the toughest game we've had all season." The boys, quite simply, were outstanding.

Our next game meant that we were in the 5-8th place playoff, with a home match, against Emirates International School. After a slow start, the boys improved as the match went on and picked up another victory. That leaves us with one final match to play to decide whether we finish 5-6th overall – which, after starting in the 5th league out of 25 schools, is an incredible achievement.

I am proud to have the pleasure of coaching these boys this year – they have done their parents, their school and themselves extremely proud.

## Under 14

Blood, sweat and tears! The boys learned a lot about teamwork and the importance of working hard. The two coaches enjoyed working with the boys and we are proud of their efforts. We have agreed on the following two awards:



Stand out performer: Jack Lindsay  
Most Improved: Thomas Skayem

## Under 12

It's been a rollercoaster season for the U12 Jaguars, who experienced several highlights, as well as some important lessons about teamwork, patience and resilience. The boys displayed excellent sportsmanship and teamwork, as well as good ability to maintain possession through effective passing and movement.



In order to ensure continued progress, we need everybody to commit to training and work hard to develop our fitness! Well done to all of the U12 GIS Jaguars!

## Under 11



Our first season in the DAPSA leagues was a great success. We won 3 of our 4 games and finished second in our league! We scored some spectacular goals including Phillip from 40 yards and Illyes with an overhead kick. We tackled fiercely, ran our socks off, improved

our passing and played some exciting football. Well done to all the Under 11 GIS Jaguars team!

## Under 11 Girls Football



There has been an incredible improvement and development in our performances throughout the season. We began with only a few faces at the trials and have finished the season with nearly 15 players! Our first game ended in defeat but through training, hard work and persistence under the guidance

of Ms. Lena, we won our final game of the season against Sunmarke. A fantastic free kick from Luna, another from Jessica, heroics from Malaka in goal and some stellar defending from the rest of the girls!



# WINTERFEST'17

Sunday December 10, 2017

2:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Free  
Entry

## Food & Beverages

Costa truck

Burgers & hot dogs from Meat Avenue

Pizza by Pinch Gourmet

Vendors for sweet & savory options

As well as popcorn & cotton candy

## Music & Dance

Choir performances

DJ segment

And a talent show by  
teachers, students &  
parents

**FREE** games & inflatables

**FREE** face painting & balloon  
bending

**30+ shopping vendors for:**  
gift items, toys, books, clothing,  
accessories, etc.

Cookie decorating by  
Spontiphoria Cafe

A special Santa  
appearance

Photobooth

GIS Friends & Family are invited. Exciting prizes to be won. Bring cash.



Careem



GISPA - GEMS International School Parent Association



gispa\_gis@gemsedu.com



### Traditional Festive Roast Turkey

With Cranberry Sauce, Roast Potato, Brussels Sprouts, Baby Carrots,  
Broccoli, Salad, Stuffing & loads of Happiness & Wishes



**@AED500**

(Generous serving for 10-12 guests)



To Place your orders & any queries please contact Rahees @ 00971527615982 or events@ph7catering.com



## Mark your calendar for International Week and International Day!



International Day has been expanded this year to International Week from Sunday, February 4 - Thursday, February 8.

We expect the competition to be fierce among all countries as they try and knock Egypt off the number 1 spot. In order to ensure your country is in with a chance if you're travelling home for the holidays you may want to pick up some national items. May the best country stand win!



@GIS\_Gems