



حياتنا

Hayatona

Our Life

Volume 1 Issue 11

'Providing An Exceptional Quality Education'

15 March 2018

From Our Head of School



This week we celebrated Einstein's birthday, while reveling in some mathematical fun, given it was also 'Pi Day'. Certain areas of the school explored and celebrated 'Einstein Day', with Grade 3 dressing as young Einstein's and engaging in exciting Science lessons.

What came as somewhat of a shock that morning, was a sad passing of another great mind, another genius who impacted the world in incredible ways. Steven Hawking's passing, on Einstein's birthday, ensured that these two great Scientists would be linked and celebrated for their contributions throughout time.

Lord Rees, the Astronomer Royal, this week praised Hawking's half century of work as an "inspiring crescendo of achievement." Noting: "Few, if any, of Einstein's successors have done more to deepen our insights into gravity, space and time." While the accolades have poured in following his passing from notable celebrities, this accolade from one of our own Grade 3's I think sums things up perfectly; "He has taught me that no matter what happens you should never give up on your passion"- Matilda DeGrazia.

I encourage parents to use Stephen Hawking's incredible example, to talk to your children about the importance of being persistent and following your passion. It's perfectly coincidental, but somewhat fitting, that this month GEMS Education launched a new advertising campaign 'We see genius in every child'. At GIS, we certainly do see genius in every child and by working with parents, it is our hope that each child's potential is realized. That we can continue to motivate and encourage our students to be the best that they can be.



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

GIS UPDATES



WHOLE SCHOOL

Aladdin Musical

6:30 - 7:45pm
Multi-Purpose Hall
19 - 21 March

ConnectEd 'Subheiyeh'

8:30am - 9:30
DP Lounge
21 March

Spring Break

25 March - 7 April

Teacher of the Month

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

[Click here](#)
for quick access to school forms, canteen top up and school handbooks

[See our Facebook page here](#)

INSIDE



The Importance of Mother Tongue p2



Extra Curricular Activities - Term 2 p4



Grade 5B Blood Drive a great success p6

We would like your help in supporting our ability to volunteer with various charity and organizations here in Dubai. If you are aware of any that we maybe able to contact with regards to this, please contact us at j.lucero_gis@gemsedu.com

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

GEMS
EDUCATION



WE ARE A
CIS
MEMBER
SCHOOL

Cathy Hayes Deputy Head of School



[@cathyhayesedu](#)

"We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them." Albert Einstein

A key theme across school and Dubai this year has been innovation. In light of this, we are excited to announce that we have partnered with the Club of Innovation and Scientific Research (CISR) to participate in their inaugural school competition.

They aim to support a growing community around sustainability by addressing local challenges and solving them through innovative discoveries in technology, the creative arts, science and the environment. They want to inspire young developers, students, and creative people of all ages to build networks in the innovation community.

'A Journey of Innovation' will be held on **19 April** exploring the theme of innovation tools and techniques such as software, hardware, content and design methods, and how they can be applied to create and develop solutions to local challenges.

The competition rules are as follows;

1. The competition is open to students from Grades 5 – 11
2. Teams must consist of 3-5 students from the same or different grade levels
3. One of the four elements of fire, water, wind or earth must be selected as your theme

Competition Time at GIS

4. Identify a local issue based on your theme and develop an innovative and creative solution
5. Your team will be expected to present your product or prototype to conference attendees, key partners and leaders including DEWA, RTA and the Dubai Municipality
6. The competition is open to GIS students only

What are the next steps?

With your guidance and support, encourage your children to set up their teams, choose their theme, identify a local issue and brainstorm ideas for creative solutions. Spring Break is almost upon us, so teams will need to be resourceful in how they collaborate and communicate with each other. Each team is encouraged to have a mentor, this can be a parent, teacher or other adult who can support them. Teams, their grade level(s) and theme should be [submitted here](#). If you are unable to find a team, please contact me directly c.hayes_gis@gemsedu.com. All teams will be required to present to a select GIS panel to choose the 5 finalist teams. They will attend the overall event in April where amazing prizes will be awarded to the top 3.

1st place: Helicopter ride around Dubai followed by dinner

2nd place: Virgin Megastore Gift Card worth 250 AED for each participant

3rd place: Virgin Megastore Gift Card worth 100 AED for each participant

So get your thinking hats on as the competition starts now!!!

Angelika Kuster Curriculum Coordinator K-12



GIS is a truly international school with over 80 different nationalities from all parts of the globe. Being part of an international community means that we need a common

language to communicate. For GIS, that is English. However, many of our students do not have English as their mother tongue or home language. They speak Arabic, Hindi, Italian and many other languages at home, with their families and when they go back to their home countries.

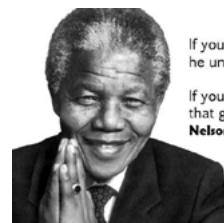
So, the question arises is it important to ensure that children maintain and develop their mother tongue? And if the answer is yes, what can parents do to help?

The answer to the first question is unequivocally 'yes'. According to studies a child's ability to learn an additional language greatly improves if their first language skills are well developed because children's literacy knowledge and abilities transfer across languages from mother tongue to the language the child is learning at school. Research also shows that children who have a strong foundation in their home language are more suc-

cessful at school and enjoy a greater feeling of self-worth and identity. (UNESCO). Children's sense of identity and belonging are also firmly rooted in their ability to communicate in their mother tongue.

Parents can support their children's language development in variety of ways. Starting with reading, whether it is reading stories to or with younger children or encouraging your child to read on their own, reading is a powerful way of connecting with language and developing it further. Living in a multi-media age, the use of different media can be highly effective. Whether it is watching the latest Disney movie in your home language, listening to a podcast or your local radio station or watching the news. The internet has made it possible for us to access information and entertainment in a range of languages which brings them into our homes even though we may be far away from our home countries.

A very obvious strategy is using your home language at home. Speaking Dutch or Spanish over dinner, during outings and during all other family occasions increases exposure and fosters continued engagement with that language. Celebrate and highlight the benefits of multilingualism with older children. Last but not least, visits to your home country are helpful as they further help to connect the language with the culture and



If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head.

If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart.
Nelson Mandela

with family members.

Speaking multiple languages is a genuine gift and we hope that you will continue to develop your children's gifts. At GIS, we recently celebrated the fact that many of our students speak multiple languages, when our MYP students visited PYP classes and taught them some basic phrases of their mother tongues. This truly collaborative effort was organized by the Language Acquisition department and a huge success on the morning of International Day.



Raquel Nahas

Assistant Head of Primary and Head of Arabic

Akhbarouna



@raquelnahas

Poetry, is an outlet, that throughout history has communicated the values of different cultures and on 21st March, is celebrated through World Poetry Day.

Arabic poetry has been found to be the earliest form of Arabic literature. As early as the pre-Islamic period (pre-7th century CE), Arabic poetry, was an avenue for individuals to reflect their deepest sense of Arab self-identity, of shared history, and of aspirations for the future. As a result, poetry has held a significant role within the Arabic literary tradition. Across historical periods, Arabic poetry has served as verbal defense during battle, a verse used to praise heroes, outline pride and achievements, and a voice to lead change.

Rhymed poetry is one of the earliest methods used to categorize poems through its pattern of rhyme and syllabic pulse. This type of poem is found throughout history and has been classified by researchers as classical or traditional poetry. Modern poetry, however, is different in its content, style, structure, rhyme and topics. It allows the poet to experiment with language and imagery offering a deep literary outlet for Arabs during a time of change and turmoil.

Arabic Poetry, in the 21st century has struggled to maintain its significance within the public domain and interest for young students. It has, however, continued to be the voice that uplifts its people during crises as it expresses the conscience, the struggles, and the aspirations of the people.

Let's celebrate poetry and its significance on 21st March.

من انواع الادب العربي.

على مر العصور التاريخية أدى الشعر دوراً هاماً في الأدب العربي حيث كان الشعر العربي بمثابة دافعاً لفظياً خلال المعارك، والوسيلة المستخدمة للاشادة بالأبطال، والتعبير عن الفخر والإنجازات، والأسلوب الأمثل لمدح الأبطال.

قافية الشعر هي واحدة من أقدم الطرق المستخدمة لتصنيف قصائده. وهذا النوع من القصائد موجود على مر التاريخ. وقد تم تصنيفها من قبل الباحثين كشعر تقليدي أو كلاسيكي. لكن الشعر الحديث يختلف في محتواه وأسلوبه وبنيته وموضوعاته. إنه يسمح للشاعر بتجربة اللغة والتصوير الذي يقدم منفذاً أدبياً عميقاً للعرب أثناء فترة التغيير.

كافح الشعراء العرب في القرن الواحد والعشرين للحفاظ على أهمية الشعر في الثقافة الأدبية والاهتمام بالشعراء الجدد ولذلك، وقد استمر الشعر كوسيلة لدعم الشعوب أثناء الأزمات حيث يُعبر عن الضمير والنضال وتطلعات الناس.

Teacher of the Month

Thank you for all the teacher of the month nominations! Below are all winners for the GIS Teacher of the Month so far. Nominations are not chosen only by volume but also on the personal comments written by all stakeholders. Please keep nominating and writing why this teacher has been outstanding! For future voting [click here](#).

September



Toni Michell
Grade 4 Teacher

October



Isabel Pacios)
(MYP) Counselor

November



Rebecca Perry
Grade 1 Teacher

December



Neus Crespo
Spanish Teacher/
Head of Spanish MYP

January



Grade 2 Teacher

February



English Teacher
Head of English Secondary

Extra Curricular Activities Term 2



Term 2 ECAs have now finished. It has been another successful term with students engaged in wonderful activities. We are lucky to have so many teachers preparing exciting ECAs before school, during lunchtime and after school. We had budding chefs in the Masterchef ECA, actors and actresses performing Aladdin, the next Lebron James in our Basketball squad, innovators in our coding ECA and our athletes have performed admirably in athletic events throughout the term!

Here are some key dates:

Sunday, 18 March - ECA information shared with parents/students.

Monday, 19 March - Registration opens at 4pm

Thursday, 22 March - Registration closes at 4pm

Sunday, 8 April - Internal (school) and External ECAs commence

Thursday, 10 May - Internal (school) ECAs finish

Thursday, 31 May - External ECAs finish

GIS Sport Squad Trials:

Cricket Boys and Girls (Grades 3-5) Tuesday 20th March

@ lunchtime [Sign up here](#)

Rounders Boys and Girls (Grades 3-5) Wednesday, 21 March

@ lunch time [Sign up here](#)

Basketball Boys (Grades 6-8) Tuesday, 20 March 3:30 – 4:15pm

[Sign up here](#)

Basketball Girls (Grades 6-8) Wednesday, 21 March 3:30 – 4:15pm

[Sign up here](#)

Registration: (opens Monday at 4pm)

KG 2 Registration – [Click here](#) (KG2 students are permitted to participate in one activity).

Grades 1-2 Registration – [Click here](#)

Grades 3-5 Registration – [Click here](#)

Secondary Registration – [Click here](#)

External Activities:

If you'd like to register your child for an external activity, perhaps coding, reading, football, karate, ballet or hip hop, please find more information [on this presentation](#). These activities run on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. However, there isn't an after activity bus on these days.

(When registering for an external activity, please make sure your child's teacher is aware, especially if your child usually takes the bus home). The external providers will be present before the Aladdin performances and during the 'Primary Parent/Teacher Conferences'.

ECA Bus Program

STS provide buses that run after ECAs every Monday and Wednesday to specific central drop off points. If you'd like to register with this service, or find out more about the service, you must visit or contact STS directly.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email

g.passmore_gis@gemsedu.com

Congratulations



For those in the GIS community that aren't aware, we have our own international gymnast within our student body. Arav Dhingra in Grade 6 is currently competing at a number of different events within the sport of gymnastics, with the rings, floor and vault to name but a few. Arav has been working at a number of different frameworks, and has been achieving a huge amount of success. Arav competed in a level 6 competition in Dubai recently and achieved Gold overall, picking up 5 medals in the process. He also competed in Singapore last year, achieving a bronze medal and picking up 3 medals overall. Arav has been put forward for the upcoming UAE teen sports awards 2018. Lets all show our appreciation and support for Arav. We are all very proud of you!

#WeRGIS #Jaguars



Tanvi won the first prize at the prestigious Emirates Literature poetry writing competition! While we already knew she had secured one of the top 3 spots, the actual podium position was a suspense until this Saturday.

Over 1000 submissions were received across 4 categories for the competition. She was congratulated by celebrated poets Roger McGough and Mahyoh Marayam and her poem was published along with the judges comments.



Week Without Walls



If your child will be in Grade 6 -11 next year, please join this information session to learn more about our international and overnight trips.

All day trips will be presented in September 2018.
This meeting is for international and overnight trips only.

Week Without Walls - November 2018

Wednesday, 21 March

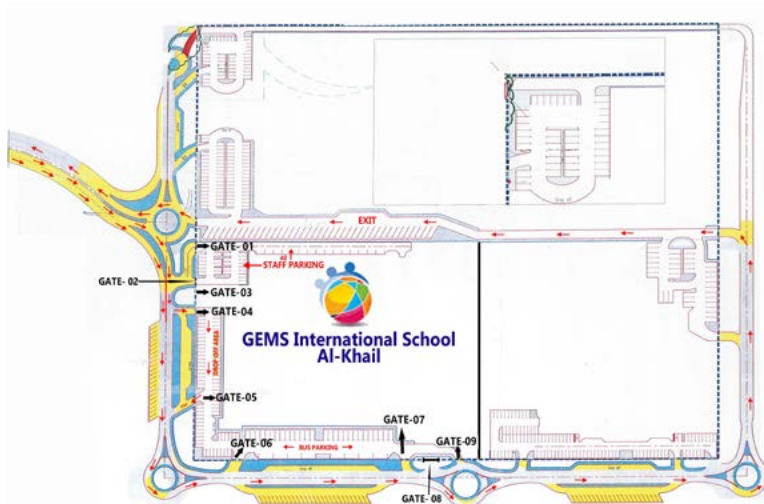
4:00pm - 6:15pm

Venue: Secondary DP Lounge (3rd floor)



مدرسة جيمس الدولية - شارع الخيل
GEMS International School
AL KHAIL

Traffic route update



After taking into consideration the feedback received from our parents on certain risk involved when vehicles use the outer lane for turning into gate 3, our security team would like to request parents who are entering the school through gate 3 to take the inner lane at the roundabout to access gate 3. The outer lane is to be used only for people moving towards secondary parking area near the bus yard and to exit from the Al Khail Campus.

There will be cones placed to help direct the traffic flow effective Sunday, 18 March.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Disney's **Aladdin Jr.**

Music by Alan Menken
Lyrics by Howard Ashman and Tim Rice
Book Adapted and Additional Lyrics by Bryan Louiselle
Based on the Screenplay by Ron Clements and John Musker, Ted Elliot and Terry Rossio


GEMS International School
Multi-Purpose Hall

Monday 19th March
Tuesday 20th March
Wednesday 21st March

6:30pm

Tickets go on sale 4th March. 30 AED.
Purchase early, avoid disappointment!
At reception, 7.45am and 3.25pm each day.

DISNEY'S ALADDIN JR
is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
www.MTIShows.com



Leigh Girven Head of Primary



[@LeighGirven](#)

Next week is our final week before Spring Break and it sure is looking action packed! We look forward to welcoming our wonderful mums to share an afternoon tea with their son or daughter on Wednesday afternoon. We have our grade three Science Fair and our upcoming Student Led Conferences, which will be held on Thursday. In addition to that we also have the Arabic ConnectEd meeting on Wednesday and last but not least GIS's own musical production of Aladdin on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings!!! We look forward to seeing you all throughout the week and sharing these exciting events with you.

Innovation

Our culture of innovation at the school has continued to develop with students taking part in a vast array of activities to help promote their innovative thinking skills.

Innovation in PYP is alive and flourishing, design thinking maturing as children apply themselves within a variety of class projects. Let's take a look. KG students problem-solve their way through building and designing bridges that hold various weights. Grade One students have thought of innovation in the context of determining whether existing technology should be enhanced or completely recreated. They even got to build their own multi functioning robots! All Grade Two students are in the midst of designing original musical instruments to help preserve the landfills and make a positive impact on our planet by recycling.



they designed their own innovative city designs. Grade Four is currently in the first stages of integrating CAD design and 3D printing into their innovative thinking exercises. In order to help the Grade Five students transition into design thinking and innovation, teachers have integrated the use of 3D printers into their study of geometry. Students are able to apply the principles of geometric measurement to design their own scaled model homes.

Teachers in Grade Three have helped students to think in real and innovative ways by using Google Earth to get a real idea of the geographic situations on planet earth. Students were guided through the process of spatial thinking, as

As we look forward to the next 12 months we will continue to nurture innovative skills with a particular focus on 'leading innovation' which includes sharing our ideas and initiatives to neighboring schools, and across the wider community.

The PYP Muslim students are enjoying making Islamic art and craft activities. They made pop up cards, wall hangings with stars and cards for their parents to express their love and respect



Learning to remember Allah with Thikr: Students learned different statements of Thikr and made a hanging star.

Allah is the Creator of wonderful creations: Students chose one creation of Allah (Hedgehog) and designed a colorful pop up card.

Loving and respecting Parents: Students made a pop up card for parents to show their love and respect.

PRIMARY EVENTS



PRIMARY

Aladdin Musical
6:30 - 7:45pm
Multi-Purpose Hall
19 - 21 March

ConnectEd 'Subheiyeh'
8:30am - 9:30
DP Lounge
Wednesday, 21 March

ECAs Registrations Open
4:00pm
Monday, 19 March

ECAs Registrations Closes
4:00pm
Thursday, 22 March

Spring Break
25 March - 7 April

**ECAs Commence
Internal & External**
Sunday, 8 April

**Primary Student Led
Conferences**
Thursday, 22 March

Ph7 2018 Catering Satisfaction Survey

Please complete this short [survey](#) to share your opinion on Ph7 Catering services. The feedback of our community is highly valued. This information is sent directly to GEMS School Support Center for them to evaluate the over all performance of externally provided services.

Primary Student Led Conferences (SLC)

With our upcoming Student Led Conferences (SLC's) on Thursday, 22 March 2018, below is some information that we would like to share with you to ensure that you understand the form and function of SCL's at GIS. If you would like to see how SLCs were completed last year please [follow this link](#):

Philosophy

Student led conferences reflect the belief that students should be actively involved in their learning and assume responsibility for their learning process. Through student led conferences, students become more motivated, reflective and evaluative. Students are empowered to demonstrate an ownership of their learning journey for the year and guide and communicate this journey to their parents.

The Purpose of Student Led Conferences

A student led conference is between the student and their parents. It enables the students to reflect and report on their own learning to their significant adults. Unlike three way conferences, when the teacher is also a participant, during student led conferences the teacher is present as an observer, and offers support only if needed. Portfolios are an important part of the student led conference, allowing the students to show their conceptual understandings, work process and work that they are proud of.

Separate parent-teacher conferences can be arranged in addition to the student led conference, at the discretion of the teacher or parent if required.

What Does a Student Led Conference Look Like?

- In the Classroom there is visual evidence of the units of inquiry and student work that has been done during the year (Posters, photos, student-made books, etc).
- Representative activities are set up around the classroom, where students can demonstrate their learning, explain a process, in

struct their parent, or play a game with their parent. Activities should be determined by the students and teachers working Collaboratively, if possible, and co-constructed, so students have knowledge and ownership. Different levels of related activities allow all students to be successful.

- All subjects are represented throughout the school. Students are encouraged to take their parents to specialist classes to demonstrate their understandings and areas of interest.
- Digital Portfolios are easily accessible, and there is quiet seating where students and parents can sit comfortably and share
- 1-4 students and their parents might be present at the same time in the classroom in different work areas.
- Teachers and teaching assistants are present in the classroom as observers.
- Parents and teachers may wish to arrange a meeting arising out of the SLC however this is time for celebrating student achievement and progress, not parent/teacher conferences.
- Each session should last approx. 45 minutes including time in the homeroom class and with specialist teachers

Preparation for Student Led Conferences

PARENT PREPARATION is essential for successful conferences, SO WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY?

- Express positive interest and anticipation about the upcoming conference and make every effort to be present
- Listen and respond to the student (not the teacher)
- Express pride in growth and progress
- Ask questions (see below for samples)
- Be positive, offering to help in areas where improvement is needed
- Recognize that students need to develop independence in communicating progress – the teacher will be present but will not take charge of the conference

Grade 5B Social Awareness Club - Blood Drive



Grade 5B Social Awareness club would like to thank you for donating your blood at the blood drive. For the people who tried to donate but couldn't, we appreciate the intention you had. Parents, teachers and guests, thank you for giving up your time by trying to save people's lives!!

There are a few people we would like to give thank-yous to, like Nesha Senen, from Dar Al Ber, our parents who donated food for the donors, as well as those who encouraged others to donate, especially the teachers.

Thanks to the success of this blood drive, we are planning to do a second blood drive in the near future, we will keep you posted once we have more details.

In the mean time get yourself on a good diet to make sure that your blood is healthy enough for donating.

Sincerely,
The Social Awareness Club

Lee Hole

Head of Secondary



[@LHole81](#)

Time really does fly when you're having fun and the end of March is upon us and with it, spring break. We are in the homestretch of the school year and, as any long distance athlete will attest to, this is when the effort really counts and is needed. Your child will be going through a goal review process in the coming weeks and a conversation about this at home may help them to focus their thoughts.

I am excited about the multitude of events for parents to be in school over the coming weeks. The Aladdin musical has really tested my resolve, avoiding watching any of the rehearsals and prac-

tices so as not to ruin the magic of the performances on opening night. The Art Exhibition will be an amazing showcase of student produced work. The Week Without Walls Launch Night will be the first chance for parents to see what is on offer next year and there is another round of Parent Teacher Conferences on the horizon.

The last months of the year are important for students studying in an IB school as the assessments that they complete can help to validate their final grade or push them to the next grade boundary. Our student Executive Leadership Team (ELT) and a core group of Grade 11 students have relaunched study hall on Tuesday afternoon after school and they have made themselves available to support and mentor students on a weekly basis with their research, revision, completion of assessments or for additional help with tough topics. Please speak with your child about making use of this fabulous resource.

Secondary Canteen

We are delighted to announce the official launch of the new and improved Secondary Canteen, we have listened to both yours and your children's opinions and feedback and with that we are certain the additional services and menu selection will be to your satisfaction.

Salad Bar – the salad bar is available daily with optional vegetables and choice of protein.

Toasted Panini station – this will continue with 3 options available daily

Live cooking station – Check out what's on offer from our live cooking station, the option will change daily and will range from pastas, stir-fry noodles, rice dishes, Mexican, shawarma and much more.

Hot meal boxes – The daily main meals options will be offered in a pre-packed boxes available for secondary students during lunch.

For our DP Students

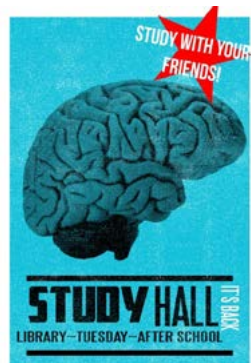
Food Nation Café, will cater exclusively for DP students. They can choose from a wide selection of products ranging from burritos, freshly toasted sandwiches and paninis, baked goods, salads, muesli, soups and yogurts. Available daily from 8am – 2pm.

Remember, all payments must be made through your student card with the cashless system.

These changes will be take effective from the Sunday, 8 April.

The Link

"The Link" is a perfect name for the magazine produced by our DP students, Naseera Suliman and Raamiz Ali. Taking on the responsibility of engaging students from right across the school (including K-12), the link is truly connecting students from all grade levels. We encourage you to [follow the link](#) to see what the students have published in this issue. Naseera and Raamiz would also like to thank all of the students who have written articles, taken photographs or supported with the editorial process; the team is always looking for more students to get involved so share the magazine with your child and encourage them to be a part of the next issue.



Study Hall

Hi everyone, as an initiative of the GIS Executive Leadership Team (ELT), the academic committee is starting up the Study Hall again from last year. The Study Hall is a quiet place for students to come and catch up on their homework. This year, ELT has started a peer study program where older students help younger students do their homework or learn something new. Please come to the library on Tuesday's anytime between 1:45-3:20 to improve your grades and learn something new!

Raamiz Ahmad

[@GISPresident](#) [instagram.com/gis_elt/](#)

[@GIS_Gems](#)

SECONDARY EVENTS



SECONDARY

Aladdin Musical

6:30 - 7:45pm
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Elections for 2018-2019 GISPA Board is Now Open



What is GISPA?

GISPA is the GIS Parent Association. Its existence relies on its interest in supporting the GIS community (which is made up of the students, parents and the school). The support comprises of organizing community-wide events, sharing parent feedback and providing the school with suggestions to support its growth.

Board Positions:

Chairperson
Vice-Chair
Treasurer
Secretary
Communications Coordinator
Events Coordinator
Primary Representatives
Secondary Representatives

The annual GISPA board elections take place in the Spring to allow a timely transition and have the new Board in place prior to the start of the new academic year.

If you are considering becoming a member or would like to be involved, please drop us an email at gispa_gis@gemsedu.com to express your interest. We will be hosting a meeting for all interested parents shortly after the Spring break.

If you haven't joined our Facebook page, this is a good chance to do so in order to get a glimpse of our initiatives. [GISPA-GEMS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL PARENT ASSOCIATION](#).

