



حياتنا Hayatona Our Life

Volume 2 Issue 9

Providing An Exceptional Quality Education'

22 November 2018

From Our Head of School



While it is our usual practice not to share staffing changes that fall at the end of a academic year, in certain circumstances the person leaving and their impact on our community necessitates it.

Therefore, with mixed emotions, I must share that Miss Cathy Hayes will be concluding her time with GIS at the end of this academic year. I say "mixed emotions" as I am sad to say farewell, grateful for her time, thankful for her contributions and happy she is moving on to new challenges.

It is difficult to determine the "right" time to leave a school, in many respects that time never comes. That said, Cathy determined some time ago that she would see out the the first group of Seniors and that year is now upon us.

Cathy has been instrumental in setting the stage for GIS, having been in the school from its inception, working alongside four different Heads, she has helped shape the amazing community we have. She has certainly served this community well, having been here from the beginning, in many respects she has grown with our school community and I know from my experience in founding schools she will see GIS as her baby and always remain connected.

I have enjoyed immensely the opportunity to work alongside Cathy, she is a friend and colleague whose heart for others and great sense of humor I both enjoy and admire.

Having spent 11 years here in the UAE, Cathy is currently exploring additional leadership positions outside of the Middle East.

It goes without saying that we wish Cathy well, I would add, like so many GIS staff, parents and students while we know she will move on to great things, she will remain connected and always be part of this community.



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



At a Glance

Beat Diabetes Walk
23 November
Zabeel Park

UAE National Day
Celebration
26 November

UAE National
Day Holiday
2 - 3 December

Bookworm Book Fair
Conference room
4 - 6 December
7:45am - 3:45pm

ECAs End of Term 1
6 December

[Click here to view the
KHDA Approved
2018 - 2019
School Calendar](#)

Cathy Hayes

Deputy Head of School



 @cathyhayesedu

As an IB World School, it is our responsibility to actively develop, foster and promote a growing sense of international mindedness, not just in

our students but in our whole community. The IB mission statement asks us to develop "caring young people" who through "intercultural understanding and respect" create "a better and more peaceful world." But what does this mean and what does this look like?

At GIS we have defined international mindedness as, "recognizing and being open-minded to our similarities and differences while understanding how our experiences and exposure to different cultures impact our personal perceptions of the world."

We foster international mindedness and global citizenship by:

- Embedding relevant learning experiences within the curriculum, cre-

ating an understanding of histories, cultures and different perspectives.

- Creating authentic opportunities for critical thinking, examining beliefs and perspectives while respecting others.
- Using the UAE moral education and social studies curricula to develop an understanding of the local culture and environment.
- Nurturing students growing embodiment of the IB learner profile attributes
- Providing and encouraging authentic service learning experiences.
- Learning more than one language with a strong focus on the local language, Arabic

Internationally-minded people are globally engaged and value intercultural understanding. This message is echoed throughout Dubai and the UAE by its leaders. It's demonstrated through the appointment of Sheikh Nahyan Bin Mubarak, Minister of Tolerance and chairman of the board of trustees of

the International Institute of Tolerance, and the recent World Tolerance Summit hosted here last week. We at GIS, are eager to continue to build and nurture our own community, bringing us together to share our different perspectives and understandings.

For those of you who have been at GIS for more than one year, while it is a small shift, you may have noticed that we are making a concerted effort to celebrate and educate ourselves about different celebrations and festivals, both local and international celebrated by our diverse population. Some so far have been Diwali and The Prophet's Birthday (PBUH), with UAE National Day and Christmas fast approaching.

While this is only one very small piece of what international mindedness consists of, we know it will go a long way in valuing you, our community and help us be more knowledgeable and respectful of each other.

We hope to see you all here on Monday to celebrate our Host Nation together.

From the Clinic

As you may be aware ,the peak of flu season is upon us.

Flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat and lungs. People who are sick with the flu often feel some or all of these symptoms:

- Fever or feeling feverish/chills
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose(lots of nasal congestion)
- Muscle or body aches
- Headaches
- Fatigue (feeling tired)
- Sometimes vomiting and diarrhea.

HOW FLU SPREADS ?

- Flu viruses spread mainly by tiny droplets made when people with flu cough, sneeze or talk. When an infected person coughs or sneezes, droplets containing viruses are dispersed into the air and can spread

up to one meter, and infect persons in close proximity who breathe these droplets in. The virus can also be spread by hands contaminated with influenza viruses.

Please find some preventive measures you and your family can take to prevent getting the flu

- Flu Vaccine: The first and most important step in flu preventions is to get a flu vaccine each year,which has been shown to reduce flu related illnesses and the risk of serious flu complications that can result in hospitalization.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, then discard the tissue.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth (germs spread easily this

way).

- Avoid close contact with sick people.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Not to send the child to the school if he/she develops any of the flu symptoms. Keep sick children at home for at least 24 hours after they no longer have fever without using fever reducing medicines. This is to minimize the spread of illnesses in the school.
- To seek immediate medical attention & treatment with the onset of symptoms: This will help to prevent complications of flu such as bacterial pneumonia, ear infections, sinus infections and worsening of chronic medical conditions, such as congestive heart failure, asthma & for the early recovery.

Raquel Nahas

Assistant Head of Primary and Head of Arabic



 @raquelnahas

UAE National Day "Al Yawm Al Watani" represents and celebrates the union of the seven Emirates which occurred in 1972. On 2nd December 1971, six rulers from Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, Fujairah, and Umm al-Quwain joined and agreed to unite, followed by Ras Al Khaimah on 10th February 1972, to form what we know today as the United Arab Emirates. The founding leaders discussed their vision and goals for their people and country, and regulated the state. This year marks the 47th UAE National Day.

The founding Leaders

Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Former Ruler of Abu Dhabi and Founding President of the UAE (1918–2004)

Sheikh Zayed was known for many inspirational qualities. He was a good listener and an unbiased dispute mediator. He was also recognized for his patience, vision and wisdom; some of the qualities that earned him The title of 'the wise man of the Arabs'.

Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Former Ruler of Dubai, (1912–1990)

The late H. H. Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum could be seen as the first visionary of the modern UAE as under his ruling, Dubai grew from a small trading town into a major cosmopolitan city.

Sheikh Khalid bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Former Ruler of Sharjah, (1931-1972)

The late H. H. Sheikh Khalid was one of the early participants in the initial talks to create the federation. He established the General Security and Police Force and was known for his compassion and wisdom.

Sheikh Rashid bin Humaid Al Nuaimi, Former Ruler of Ajman, (1902 - 1981)

Under the late H.H. Sheikh Rashid's leadership, Ajman became the first emirate to issue its own passports. In 1958, the late H.H. Sheikh Rashid formalized an education system, which until that time relied only on volunteering teachers and traditional methods.

Sheikh Ahmed Bin Rashid Al Mualla, Former Ruler of Umm Al Quwain, (1902 - 1981)

The late H.H. Sheikh Ahmed was known as a great figure who worked for his citizens. He established the first school and hospital, had The Emirate's first roads paved and built a police and public security department.

Sheikh Saqr bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Former Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah, (1918- 2010)

The late H.H. Sheikh Saqr established security and peace in the Emirate and established many schools including the Emirate's first girls' school in 1956.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad Al Sharqi, Former Ruler of Fujairah, (1908- 1974)

The late H.H. Sheikh Mohammed formalized the Sharia court system and started the Emirate's first books' library. He was looked up to as a ray of hope and inspiration.

The GIS community will celebrate the unity of the UAE on Monday, 26 November and invite you to join along for our National Day opening ceremony from 8:30-9:00am. We welcome you and your children to come to school dressed in UAE traditional clothing or colors that represent the UAE Flag as we celebrate the country's success and its future.

This is a regular school day and after school activities will continue as scheduled.



Akhbarouna

يصادف هذا العام اليوم الوطني السابع والأربعين لدولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة. إن الاحتفال باليوم الوطني هو تجسيد لوحدة الإمارات السبع، وقد تولدت الفكرة عندما التقى حكام ست إمارات وهي: أبوظبي، دبي، الشارقة، عجمان، الفجيرة، وأم القيوين، ثم تلا ذلك انضمام إمارة رأس الخيمة ليكتمل بها العقد. وقد اتفق القادة على قيام الاتحاد في الثاني من ديسمبر عام 1971 لتكوّن مجتمعةً دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة. وقد ناقش القادة المؤسسون رؤيتهم وأهدافهم المستقبلية لوضع خطط بناء وإعمار الدولة لتواكب التطور والحضارة.

القادة المؤسسون:

1- الشيخ زايد بن سلطان آل نهيان (1918 – 2004): حاكم أبوظبي السابق والرئيس المؤسس لدولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة. اشتهر الشيخ زايد بالعديد من الصفات الملهمة. كان مستمعا جيّداً، ووسيط نزاع غير متحيز. كان معروفاً أيضاً بصبره وبصيرته وحكمته، وهذه الصفات هي التي أكسبته لقب "حكيم العرب".

2- الشيخ راشد بن سعيد آل مكتوم (1912 – 1990): حاكم دبي السابق، من المنصف اعتبار الراحل الشيخ راشد بن سعيد آل مكتوم هو أول من وضع رؤيا للإمارات العربية المتحدة الحديثة. في ظلّ حكمه نمت دبي وتحولت من مدينة تجارية صغيرة إلى مدينة عالمية كبرى.

3- الشيخ خالد بن محمد القاسمي (1931 – 1972): حاكم الشارقة السابق، كان الراحل الشيخ خالد من أوائل المشاركين في المحادثات الأولية لإنشاء الاتحاد، فقد أنشأ قوة الأمن العام والشرطة، وكان اشتهر بسمو أخلاقه وحنو قلبه وحكمته.

4- الشيخ راشد بن حميد النعيمي (1902 - 1981): حاكم عجمان السابق. تحت قيادة الراحل الشيخ راشد، أصبحت عجمان أول إمارة تصدر جوازات سفر خاصة بها. وفي عام 1958 قام الراحل الشيخ راشد بإضفاء الطابع الرسمي على نظام التعليم، والذي اعتمد حتى ذلك الوقت على المعلمين المتطوعين والأساليب التقليدية.

5- الشيخ أحمد بن راشد المعلا (1902 - 1981): حاكم أم القيوين السابق ، كان الراحل الشيخ أحمد يُعرف بالشخصية العظيمة والذي كان لا يألو جهدا في رعاية مواطنيه. أنشأ أول مدرسة ومستشفى ، وكانت الطرّق الأولى في الإمارة مُمهّدة ، وبني قسماً للشرطة والأمن العام.

6- الشيخ صقر بن محمد القاسمي (1918- 2010): حاكم رأس الخيمة السابق ، أرسى الراحل الشيخ صقر قواعد الأمن والسلام في الإمارة، وأسّس العديد من المدارس بما في ذلك أول مدرسة للبنات في الإمارة عام 1956.

7- الشيخ محمد بن حمد الشرقي (1908 - 1974): حاكم الفجيرة السابق ، قام المرحوم الشيخ محمد بإضفاء الطابع الرسمي على نظام المحاكم الشرعية، وبدأ في إنشاء أول مكتبة للكتب في الإمارة. كان يُنظر له أنّه شعاع من الأمل والإلهام.



Happy 47th National Day

Please join us in celebrating the UAE National Day
Ceremony on 26 November from 8:30-9:00am
Stall visits for students between 9:00am-2:00pm



مدرسة جيمس الدولية – شارع الخيل
GEMS International School
AL KHAIL

Leigh Girven

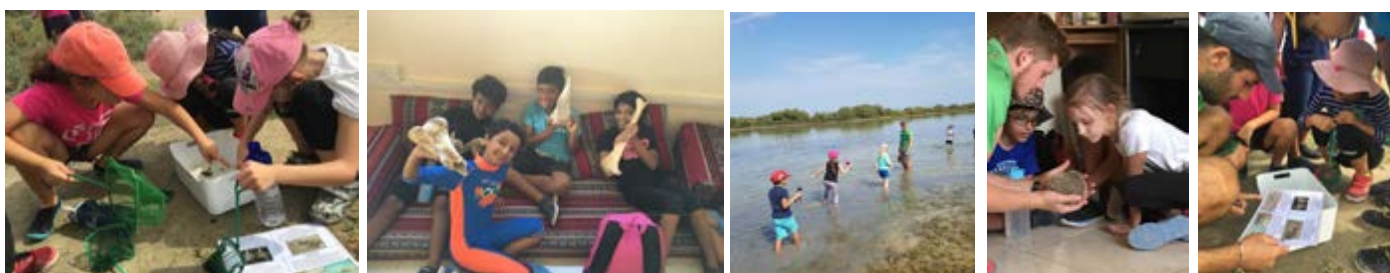
Head of Primary



 @LeighGirven

Congratulations to our Grade Three, Four and Five students for your participation in a hugely successful Challenge Week last week. Not only were you all courageous and challenged yourselves to go outside of your comfort zones but you also impressed your teachers and instructors with your teamwork, positivity and can do attitudes! At GIS we really value developing the whole child and are so pleased to be able to offer our students the opportunity to experience learning in an outdoor setting away from their regular Dubai comforts. This would not be possible without the support of our fabulous primary teachers who accompanied the students on their residential trips. Thank you so much teachers!

Grade 3 Ecoventure



The Grade Three Challenge Week excursion to Ecoventure in Ras Al Khaimah, was jam packed with water activities, animal encounters and educational adventures. The students experienced snorkeling in the sea while learning about sea cucumbers and sea urchins. While in the mangrove ecosystem, students sunk their feet into the mud, whilst learning about different species of crabs and plant adaptations in the mangroves. Other groups inquired into the study of paleontology and the differences seen in animal skeletons. The most exciting experience was meeting and learning about the different animals that Ecoventure had on site: a hedgehog, python, gerbil, and a tortoise. After the delicious dinner, everyone had a great time at the campfire watching some GIS talent and enjoying some gooey marshmallows. Both the teachers and students were courageous to try new and exciting experiences, all while expanding their knowledge about our world's biomes and ecosystems.



Grade 4 North Star

On Sunday, 11 November, the Grade Four students went on a trip to North Star Camp in Dibba, Fujairah for our challenge week. Some of the activities at North Star were rock climbing, zip lining, abseiling, snorkeling, beach games, kayaking, raft building, low ropes, and archery. The night time activities were singing and dancing to campfire songs, roasting marshmallows and a talent show. Some of the performances were folding origami, dancing to music and singing. Abseiling and zip lining were new for some students and helped them conquer their fear of heights. Kayaking and snorkeling helped others work as a team and dive in water with ease. Archery was an experience that showed students how archery was helpful, how it was invented and how to shoot an arrow precisely. The most valuable part of this experience was the opportunity to become more independent, to overcome our fears and to have fun and collaborate with our friends and teachers.

Written by: Grade 4 Student Lucjan Zieliński and Ms. Alison

Grade 5 Absolute Adventure Challenge



The Grade five students were fortunate enough to spend 4 days learning outside the classroom during their Challenge Week at Camp Kalba. When 102 students and teachers arrived at the site everyone was amazed by the stunning surrounds and were very grateful to be spending their next few days learning in this fascinating environment. Students were asked to challenge themselves in many different ways, rotating around different activities, including high ropes, mangrove exploration, SUP, kayaking, bush craft, hiking, and raft building. In the evenings students went on a star exploration, competed in balloon drop and sang songs, toasting marshmallows around the campfire. On reflection students said they were really challenged and very much loved the outdoor learning experience.

Harmony Choir



PYP Grade 1-2 choir were rehearsing "Once Upon a December" for the GIS Winter Concert on December 12th! They are preparing songs to sooth and inspire! The Harmony Choir will also perform Monday, December 10th at 7:45 AM at GIS Reception to welcome all children and parents with cheer and music! Don't miss them!

Creepy Crawly Day



Primary upcoming events

ConnectED Fostering Resilience in Your Child
DP Lounge
8:30am
28 November

Bookworm Book Fair
Conference room
4 - 6 December
7:45am - 3:45pm

ECAs End of Term 1
6 December

End of Swimming Classes KG1 & KG2
29 November

PYP Winter Concert
12 December

School Holiday
2 & 3 December

MAP Assessments
4 - 13 December



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!



مدرسة جيمس الدولية – شارع الخيل
GEMS International School
AL KHAIL

Primary Clothing DRIVE in aid of Syrian Refugees.



You can donate anything, all accepted

SUSTENANCE

Canned foods
Rice
Baby milk
Cooking oil
Tomato sauce
Flour
Lentils
Dates
Beans

CLOTHING

Shoes/Trainers
(in good condition)
Socks, Hoodies
Waterproof jackets
Trousers, Jeans, Shirts
T-shirts, underwear,
Hats, Gloves & Scarves

SHELTER

Sleeping bags
Tents
Blankets
Carpets and moquette

OTHERS

Medical Supplies
Toys (new & soft toys)
School Bags
Women Bags
Stationery

Clothing drop off point : Outside Sports Hall
Dates: 1 – 10 December

Organized by: Primary Student Council

Lee Hole

Head of Secondary



 @LHole81

It was my absolute honour to witness the metaphoric passing of the baton between our senior students of the Student Executive Leadership Team and the newly appointed leaders of that group. I spoke to them about how proud I am of the student agency at the school in all grade levels and the expectation for them to push the envelope this year using the foundations that have been set. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to our wonderful Stu-

The energy in the school this week is amazing as students have returned following their Week Without Walls experiences. I loved keeping up with the stories from the groups through the week and the passion shines through the students when they recall their learning and memories from their trips. Thank you to the teachers that led and supervised trips during Week Without Walls, I know from experience that they are as intense and exhausting as they are rewarding and fulfilling.

dent Executive Leadership team from last year and well done to our outgoing Student Body President, Raamiz Ali.

The run in to the winter break is packed with class assessments, events and activities but there are two that I would like to bring to your attention.

The first is our National Day celebrations in school, which will take place on the 26th November, students can wear UAE National Dress on this day or very clear UAE flag based clothing. The 26th is not a dress down day and students that do not wish to dress in the way outlined above should be in full school uniform.

The second day to bring to your attention is the last day before the winter break, 13th December. On this day, school will finish at 12:30pm. We will be celebrating the festive period on the day with a festive themed dress down (Christmas jumpers etc.) as well as students engaging in a team quiz, there will be homeroom shared lunches or breakfasts and the annual seniors versus staff football match will take place.

Week Without Walls Trip to Nepal



41 students, 4 teachers and 2 Camps International leaders set out for Nepal in what proved to be a life changing experience for all. From the hustle and bustle of Kathmandu to the relative seclusion of the Himalayas, this trip had it all.

The highlight of the trip was the school visit. We visited a small village school which normally caters for 150 students, but only 20 had shown up on the day we visited as their families needed the children to stay at the farm and work. There were 12 classrooms in total all with bare walls and maybe a desk or two - not much else. It quickly hit home that we were no longer in the relative comfort of GIS and this was where our students decided we needed to take action. The students decided to alter our original itinerary and complete some service work in the community. We painted the classrooms, cleared a pathway for students to enter classrooms safely and even built steps for the younger students to walk on to reach their classroom. It culminated in a game of football with the students at the end of the school day. Students also suggested we should make a charitable donation. As a result, we were able to purchase two brand new computers for the school, new notebooks and stationary for the school. We even donated footballs so that the students could play during recess.

Other activities students took part in were: Mountain Biking, Rock Climbing, Hiking, White Water Rafting and team building games. We even had to go souvenir shopping. I was particularly impressed with the negotiation skills of our students as they sought to get the best possible price for their items as well as ensuring the vendors were still able to make a profit.

To see more pictures follow #gisnepal2018.

Week Without Walls Trip to England



After leaving the warm weather of Dubai, we landed in the cold capital of England, London. There was no time to rest however, as we moved swiftly to visit our first football stadium, The Emirates, the home of Arsenal Football club. Day 2 was our first match experience, taking a journey down the coast to watch the premier league fixture between Southampton and Watford. Day 3 was the chance to look around the incredible Wembley stadium, the national stadium of England. After playing a friendly football match near the famous arch of Wembley stadium, Day 4 meant we we hit the sites of London, both the shopping and monument variety! Our trip finished on Day 5 with a corporate package deal at the (mighty) Peterborough United, with us meeting the players, manager and walking out onto the pitch before KO. After congratulating our nominated man of the match award, it was back to

the hotel for some rest before the long flight home.

A huge thanks to Mr. Adam and all the parents for all their support throughout the trip. With a number of games, laughs and jokes, as well as long lasting memories created...this truly was a successful trip!!

Week Without Walls Trip to Switzerland

What an amazing week we all had in Switzerland! Beautiful weather, stunning views, amazing activities and obviously the most perfect company!

We did a range of activities, from husky dog sledding to climbing and going to the water park, without forgetting our memorable visit to the UN or our stop at the Olympic Museum (just to cite a few activities).

Students were a credit to our GIS community and demonstrated they could be courageous but also principled, very caring and open minded.

Here are a couple of pictures that barely start to do justice to how wonderful this whole experience was!



Week Without Walls Photography Excursion

During the WWW photography excursion, our host for the week, NIKON, taught students in grades 6-10 the basics of digital photography. Daily lessons included techniques on how to hold and operate the camera; instruction on how to use light and shadows; proper ways to use zooming and lines; as well as editing effects. Students were able to put the practical skills they learned in the NIKON School to use with trips to Butterfly World and Dubai Marina where they shot beautiful pictures of natural landscapes and the Dubai skyline.



Secondary upcoming events

**External Study Skills
Workshop Grade 12**
4 -5 December

Bookworm Book Fair
4 - 6 December
Conference Room
7:45am - 3:45pm

MAP Assessments
4 - 13 December

UAE National Day Holiday
2 - 3 December

Week Without Walls Trip to China

Our WWW in China started off with us arriving in Chengdu Airport after being exhausted due to a 7 Hour flight at night. This was soon followed by an early wakeup call for a two-and-a-half-hour bus ride towards the first panda enclosure. We first began with cleaning the panda enclosures after which we fed the pandas carrots and panda cakes. Our volunteer visit to the panda enclosure ended by making panda cakes ourselves.

In the second Panda enclosure we had followed the same routine in that exact order but the great defining feature of the second enclosure was the pretty views. After we were done volunteering at the panda enclosures, we proceeded to head towards Tibet on a six-hour trip on the bus in which everyone had fun playing music, sleeping and talking to each other. We arrived in Tibet, had our lunch and went for a breathtaking hike at 3000 meters above sea level. The next day, we went to a local farm-

er's farm to help with harvesting the corn crops. On the same night, we danced with the local Tibetan women to their traditional Tibetan tunes. The following day we went back to Chengdu on a six-hour bus ride where everyone did the same things as they did on the first bus ride. Once we arrived in Chengdu, we went to a migrant school in which we taught English and other languages, having done that we had spent the rest of our stay at the migrant school playing with the children. The day ended with a shopping opportunity at Jin Li street, a traditional local shopping area and some delicious hotpot dinner.

On our last day in Chengdu we went to a calligraphy art school where we wrote in Chinese calligraphy and painted Chinese fans. It was a wonderful adventure, but we were happy to be going home.

By Samier Hattab, G11



SCAFA – School of Culinary and Finishing Arts



During the WWW at SCAFA, the structured weekly program was hands on, allowing our young GIS chefs the opportunity to learn a range of basic and advanced skills, alongside etiquette and hygiene in a fun and friendly environment; although this proved to be quite intense at times!

Students worked in teams as well as individually and even spent their last day teaching students from the Integreat Centre for special needs the skills they had learned during their week at SCAFA. This was a memorable experience for the students from both schools and truly showed our GIS students being open-minded, courageous and most of all caring!

I'm sure all student's would like to extend a big Thank You to Chef Eduardo for his patience, persistence and knowledge that he provided the students. A big congratulations to Salma Nawito 6C and Theres Bjanes 10 for being Chef Eduardo's most improved chefs of the Week!

Week Without Walls Ecoventure – Al Jeer

Week Without Walls presents a truly experiential educational opportunity. The Ecoventure trip exposed us to a variety of field studies and sustainable service techniques, supporting students to be more understanding and empathetic of other people and the environment, whilst developing the knowledge, understanding and skills to effect positive change. Throughout the week, students undertook a series of challenges, which inspired heightened levels of personal confidence, interaction and collaboration. They also participated in a range of physical activities, including climbing, kayaking, wind surfing and snorkeling. Not to mention dolphin spotting, star-gazing and witnessing bioluminescence during our overnight cruise of the khasab fjords.

You can get a taste of the week's activities in this [video](#).

Week Without Walls Dubai Parks

40 happy students spent five days traveling out to Dubai Parks during week without walls. In Motiongate they made pizzas, took part in team building games and went behind the scenes of a variety of rides learning the science behind theme parks. In Bollywood they got to create their own Bollywood movie using a green screen. On the last day they had fun trying out all that Legoland waterpark has to offer. All students took part enthusiastically and were risk takers and thrill seekers trying out all the rollercoasters at Motiongate.



Week Without Walls Atlantis



Fifty students from Grades 6, 7, 8 and 10, enjoyed educational interactive experiences at Atlantis. They went to Aquaventure, Lost Chambers, Dolphin Bay, Sea Lion Point and had behind the scene experiences such as the fish hospital and the dolphin medical lab. Students experienced feeding sting rays and baby sharks, interacting with sea lions and dolphins. They completed recycling arts & crafts, food making, races, team building activities, Waterpark fun and lifeguard lessons.

Week Without Walls Top Chef



The Top Chef WWW was an amazing experience where the GIS students were able to show off their superior cooking skills. Each day had a specific theme for the students to follow including French cuisine, bread and pastry, Italian pasta, Arabic fare, and healthy cooking. The students prepared traditional dishes following the guidance of expert chefs from each field. The food was amazing every day and the students earned the right to be called "chef" when they are in the kitchen.

Week Without Walls Diving

During Week Without Walls 2018, we explored the underwater world of the Indian Ocean. Seven of our students passed their open water diving license. Three students who had previously dived challenged themselves to successfully complete the advanced open water diving. One of the dives led us to deep-dive 22metres. We needed to rescue heavy objects from the ground and even solve Math problems to demonstrate our critical thinking skills. Congratulations to Sophie Vergeer and Matteo Possnien for being so reflective and caring when they showed great ENTHUSIASM towards the environment by removing plastic trash from the sea. Well done to all for being such great IB learners!



Week Without Walls Kart Drome






The GEMS International School, Go Karting trip held at Outdoor Kartdrome at Motor City was one of the most extraordinary trips organized. Besides being a fun activity, it had several other benefits too. We improved concentration levels, truly pumped up the feel-good factor and also worked on strengthening reflexes, not to mention the integral concept of teamwork. Attending a go-karting track as part of a school visit teaches students to take control and embrace responsibility, making decisions quickly and efficiently for yourself and others; the adrenaline generated through this process helps to improve memory and endurance too. Summing-up, the whole trip has been an invaluable learning experience for juniors and seniors alike. Their level of knowledge about aspects such as the autodrome and speed was simply astounding. These are students who are an absolute credit to the school and their parents. Therefore, I would very much like to extend my humble thanks to the students, parents and colleagues who signed up to be a part of this awesome adventure.



PARENT WELL-BEING

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GISPA News



On Tuesday with support of parents, students and staff , GIS celebrated the birthday of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH).

Being part of this World IB school gives us the opportunity to appreciate our own culture and history as well as the values and traditions of others.

There are more celebrations and activities coming your way and making GIS an even happier place to be at but it can only happen with **your support!**

To know more about GISPA and its plans, please make time to attend the upcoming **SOCIAL MORNING on 6th December at 8.15AM**. The focus would be on Christmas Celebrations and International Day.

"Be Involved!"



This **MOVEMBER**, have you signed up for **GISPA Grow a MO?**

If you are a Parent at GIS you can do so at the GISPA facebook page. If you are a Student, a Teacher or member of Staff you can email at GISPA_gis@gemsedu.com.

Children & ladies can support the **GISPA Grow a MO** by emailing your photos and uploading with **#GISPAMovember** and **#WeRGISPA**. Look forward to a Grand Finale to GISPA Movember on 25th November!

"Be Involved!"



The last week of school will see some Christmas celebrations and holiday activities from **9th to 13th December** along with the PYP Winter Concert.

Support the celebrations by **Volunteering** and sending in some NUTS-FREE Festive cookies, cupcakes etc, and if you would like to be a part of a Parents Choir, please contact Ms. Ivonne at 0552900653 or ivonneapm@hotmail.com and get the details.

For details on the Christmas Celebrations and the **SPRING FAMILY FEST** please make time for the upcoming **SOCIAL MORNING on 6th December at 8.15AM**.

ARABIC for NON-ARABIC PARENTS is due to start post winter holidays.

This program is being brought forward by the Arabic Department at GIS and is supported by GISPA through collaborating volunteer support. Should you be interested in this program, please email at GISPA_gis@gemsedu.com. Details would be made available on 25th November at 8AM at the kick of meeting for the program.

العربية
لأبوين غير
عرب



The GIS **International Day** logo artwork entries are still open. All students can submit their artwork at GISPA_gis@gemsedu.com. The artworks can be hand made or electronic, but they must be an original creation.

More details on International Day would be discussed at the upcoming **GISPA SOCIAL MORNING on 6th December at 8.15AM**.



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Last summer, the 2018 census comprised over 100,000 Dubai Student Wellbeing Census. More than 9,000 students in Grades 6 to 10 made responses, demonstrating a strong educational engagement and desire to share their own voices and help educators to support and improve education.

This year, a surveyor from the Higher Education Ministry for Ras Al Khaima, Vice President and Chair Member of the UAE and former of Dubai will participate.

"We will have a surveyor from the Ministry of Education for Ras Al Khaima and a surveyor from the Ministry of Education for Dubai."

Once again, all students in Grades 6 to 9 (or Years 7 to 10) in Dubai private schools will be invited to participate in the second Dubai Student Wellbeing Census, during November/December 2018.

The Census asks students about their:

- Social relationships with teachers
- School relationships and engagement
- Physical health, sleep, and other concerns

This year, students in Grades 10 to 12 (Years 11 to 13) will also be invited to participate in the Census based on requests from the Dubai school community to expand the Census. Senior students will receive the same Census as junior grades but with some additional questions on hope, resilience, perfectionism, and distress.

The Census, which is a confidential survey, will be sent to schools. Schools will be responsible for ensuring that the survey is confidential and that the results will be used to improve the education system.

The participation of our students will assist the government and schools to develop strategies and policies that will improve student wellbeing. Once the results are sent to the schools, they will be able to see the results in early 2019, when the final report will be published. The results will be used to improve the education system for all students in Dubai.

If you do not want your child to take part in the census, please let your child's class teacher know.

Further information from the Dubai Student Wellbeing Census is available at: <https://www.khda.gov.ae/en/education/assessment-and-evaluation/dubai-student-wellbeing-census>

For further information, please email: info@kshda.gov.ae or call 384 0000.

With regards,

Dubai Student Wellbeing Team

Supporting our future by listening to our students' voices

السادة / أولياء الأمور المحترمين،

أشعر الله أولادكم بالخير

أُكمل أكثر من 9,000 طالب/طالبة في العام الدراسي مسح جودة الحياة بـمسحته الأولى في دبي، حيث أدم أكثر من 750 من الطلبة في الصفوف الدراسية من السادس إلى الرابع (العام الدراسي السابع إلى العاشر) حول جودة حياتهم ورفاهيتهم ومدى تفاعلهم في مدارسهم وأساتذهم، وحرصهم على المسح الدراسي في دبي على دعم وتحسين جودة حياة طلبة.

يشارك في ذلك كافة من طواقم وزارة التعليم، السمو للشيخ محمد بن راشد آل مكتوم نائب رئيس الدولة رئيس مجلس الوزراء حاكم دبي، حفظه الله تعالى.

"ونظرة الحكومات على الحياة التي يستطيع الناس أن يحققوها فيها سعادتهم، نعم ونظرة الحكومات هو تحقيق السعادة."

والعام التالي على التوالي سيشارك جميع الطلبة في الصفوف من السادس إلى التاسع (العام الدراسي السابع إلى العاشر) في المسح الشامل لجودة حياة الطلبة، بدءاً من نوفمبر إلى ديسمبر 2018. ويشرح المسح الشامل على الطلبة أسئلة حول الجوانب التالية:

- مستوى السعادة / جودة الحياة في المدارس والمجتمع
- العلاقات داخل المدرسة والتفاعل مع المجتمع
- الصحة البدنية وأساتذهم، المدرسة والمشاركة بعد الدوام الدراسي

وبناءً على ملاحظات مدرسي دبي فقد اقترحوا توسيع المسح ليشمل هذا العام أيضاً الطلبة الكثير في الصفوف الدراسية من العاشر إلى الثاني عشر (العام الدراسي الحادي عشر إلى الثالث عشر) حيث سيشارك الطلبة الكثير نفس المسح ولكن مع بعض الأسئلة الإضافية عن الأمل والمرونة والتكيف والتكيف.

والجدير ذكره أن المسح لا يعد اختبراً ولا توجد إجابات صحيحة أو خاطئة وستأخذ من الملاحظات على سرية المعلومات الطلبة ولن يتمكن أي شخص في المعهد أو في مدرستهم من استخدام النتائج لتقرير الأمور.

ومن شأن مشاركة الطلبة في هذا المسح مساعدة الجهات الحكومية والمدرسة في تطوير برامج وأنشطة تهدف إلى الارتقاء بجودة حياة الطلبة ومستوى سعادتهم، وستحصل كل مدرسة من المدارس في درجات 2019 على تقرير خاص حول سعادة وجودة حياة طلبة، علوة على النتائج العامة لأكاديمية الطلبة في دبي.

وفي حال عدم رغبتكم بمشاركة أولادكم / أولادكم في المسح الشامل، يرجى إخطار معلم/معلمة الفصل بذلك.

المزيد من المعلومات حول المسح الشامل لجودة حياة الطلبة، يرجى زيارة الموقع الإلكتروني: <https://www.khda.gov.ae/en/education/assessment-and-evaluation/dubai-student-wellbeing-census> أو على هاتف 384 0000 أو إرسال بريد إلكتروني إلى: info@kshda.gov.ae أو الاتصال على الرقم 384 0000.

ونكم معاً أطيب التحيات،

فريق المسح الشامل لجودة حياة الطلبة، دبي

جودة الحياة والتعليم الشاملة



Stand a chance to win 100,000 points* to redeem against your child's tuition fee.

Earn an entry into the draw every time you use the GEMS Rewards app between Nov 1 to Nov 30, 2018.

[Click for more information](#)

*terms and conditions apply.

Offer:

Parents who redeem vouchers on the GEMS Rewards App will go into a draw to win 100,000 GEMS Points. These points can be used to pay school fees at a GEMS school in the UAE.

Mechanics:

Each redemption on the app earns the parent one entry into the draw. Redemptions per user can be tracked and will be tabulated at the end of the promotion period.

Prize Draw

GEMS will organise a draw on 16 December 2018, when one winner will be randomly selected. 100,000 GEMS Points will be credited to the winning parent's account through the app. The parent will be able to use these points to pay towards their child's school fees between 1 October 2018 and 31 August 2020.