



حياتنا Hayatona Our Life

Volume 2 Issue 10

Providing An Exceptional Quality Education'

6 December 2018

From Our Head of School



As mentioned in previous newsletters we move in to a new season in GIS' development in 2019. While we have some leadership changes and farewell some people who have been instrumental in their roles, I am pleased to confirm continuity in other Executive Leadership positions. Ms. Raquel Nahas (Assistant Head of Primary) and Mr. Lee Hole (Head of Secondary) will be returning next year. I have also committed to remain with GIS for the next three years.

In reframing the leadership team, to replace Ms. Leigh Girven (Head of Primary), we conducted a global search. It was essential for us to find someone who would be able to build effectively on the excellent work Leigh has completed in her time with us and be capable of continuing to develop the Primary School to best support our students in their social, emotional and academic needs.

After an extensive search and process which included traveling to GIS, meeting student groups, parent groups, staff groups, classroom observations and assessments, it is with great enthusiasm I can now announce the successful candidate; Ms. Kimberley Conlin.

Kim comes to us with extensive experience as an IB educational leader, as a Head of School, Principal, Teacher Coach and IB Educator. Familiar in conducting accreditations as a reviewer for CIS (Council of International Schools), WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) and the IB, Kim is experienced in supporting schools to reflect and develop as learning organizations. As a teacher coach she has a track record of helping teachers develop their pedagogy and refine their practice.

Kim carries a Masters in Educational Leadership from Bath University and a second Masters in Curriculum Development, from Monash University. She is currently working at the Canadian Academy, in Kobe Japan, and will join us with her husband Shunsuke and two children, Tysei (11) and Kianah (15) from August, 2019.



I have every confidence that Kim and her family will make significant contributions to our wonderful community at GIS and know each of you will make her and her family feel welcome when they join us.

I am unlikely to have another opportunity to extend well wishes for the break, therefore, have a wonderful winter vacation and happy new year! To those of you traveling, travel safe, I look forward to seeing you back here in 2019.

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



At a Glance

MAPs Assessments cont.
9 - 13 December

Staff vs Students football match
13 December

Last day of Term
School ends at 12:30pm
13 December

Return to School
6 January

GIS International Day
17 January

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

Cathy Hayes Deputy Head of School



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

In the last issue, I wrote to you about the importance of fostering international mindedness and global citizenship. This is achieved in numerous ways, with one being the diverse celebrations and festivities held in school. Next week there will be a Christmas tree in reception and we would like to invite you to bring a Christmas decoration to represent you and your family and/or your home country. In the same way that you are not required to be from the UAE to celebrate National Day, Muslim to honor and participate in Ramadan, or Hindu to celebrate Diwali, you do not need to be Christian to bring in a tree decoration. We look forward to seeing the GIS community diversity being represented.

Another key celebration in school to recognize the unique make-up of GIS is International Day. This year, it will take place on January 17, a little earlier than previous years. More information will come from GISPA but with many of you travelling over the holiday, you may wish to take this opportunity to stock up on items that represent your home country to be able to share with the community on this day.

Finally, as you are now aware, I will not be returning next year to GIS. While I will not say too much now, I would like to thank you all sincerely for the lovely words of gratitude and well wishes I have received. You are truly an incredible bunch of families that I will miss tremendously.

And being the last issue published before the break, if you are travelling or remaining in the UAE over the holiday, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mr. Yousaf Raza Gillani visits GIS



It has been an honour to welcome former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Yousaf Raza Gillani into our school. Students in MYP and DP have had the privilege to attend an assembly in which Mr. Gillani spoke about his experiences as a politician, more specifically as Prime Minister. In the IB, we value

open-mindedness and communication, and Mr. Gillani was an excellent example of these two values. Mr. Gillani spoke about his efforts to keep good relations between Pakistan and its neighbouring countries, how terrorism is not a localized issue but a global phenomenon, and how the world can help Pakistan combat terrorism in order to assure progression as a state. Terrorism has two main causes - lack of education and poverty of which close-mindedness is a result. Mr. Gillani also highlighted the importance of education to ensure a better and brighter future and students were given the opportunity to reflect on how privileged we are in our world today.

Extra Curricular Activities

All information regarding ECAs can be found on the School website on the [Extra Curricular Activities](#) page. Information regarding the Second term ECAs will be found on the website before the winter break.

Second Term ECA Sign ups will be open on 6th January for a duration of one week through the school website. Second Term ECAs will begin the week of 13th January. If you have any queries please email [Geraint Passmore](mailto:Geraint.Passmore@GIS.edu.ae).

Important Information	Dates
Swimming, Football and Running club finish	December 13
2nd Term ECA sign ups (via the website)	Sunday, 6 January @ 4:00 pm - 10 January @12:00 pm
2nd Term External ECA sign ups (GIS Reception) also via the External Providers Web page	Tuesday 8th January 1-3pm
2nd Term ECAs Start	Week beginning : 13 January
2nd Term ECAs finish	28 March

Raquel Nahas
 Assistant Head of Primary and Head of Arabic

Akhbarouna

Our News



 @raquelnahas

We live in a remarkable country, and last week, the GIS community had the opportunity to celebrate and honor the UAE through National Day celebrations and the observation of Commemoration Day.

On 26 November, students and parents entered the school dressed in UAE traditional clothing or colors to represent the UAE flag. They were greeted with dates, coffee, tea, and chocolate, all signifying the hospitality of the country and its people. Students explored the traditional ways of the Emirati people, and learned how they used to fish, make clothing, make rope for homes and hunting, and about the traditional burqa (traditional face mask). Folklore dancing along with a singing band echoed the musical history of the nation encouraging students to join along. Students also sampled delicious Emirati traditional food, and witnessed how Luqaimat (sweet dumplings) and Regag (bread) are made through live cooking stations. A camel, a horse and a falcon were available to pet; all animals that were and still are pivotal to the Emirati life. The celebration concluded with a performance by many of our students. Students showcased their talent through local poetry, famous speeches by the late H.H. Sheikh Zayed Al Nahyan, and traditional female and male dances. The day was very enjoyable and allowed all students to understand the developments of this wonderful country in such a short 47 years. Highlights for the day can be found [here](#).

On 29 November, students and staff recognized the sacrifices and dedication of Emirati martyrs who have given their life in the UAE and abroad in the field of civil, military and humanitarian service with a moment of silence follow by the raising of the flag and playing of the national anthem. May their memory be eternal.



Akhbarouna

تزامنا مع احتفالات دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة باليوم الوطني السابع والأربعين، نظّمت مدرسة جيمس الدوليّة احتفالا بهذه المناسبة السّعيدة، وكذلك فعاليّة الاحتفاء بيوم الشّهيد.

في السّادس والعشرين من شهر نوفمبر، وبينما كانت أمطار الخير تنهمر من السّماء مبتهجةً تشارك مدرستنا احتفالها بهذا اليوم العظيم؛ شرفنا الزّائرون وأولياء الأمور والطلّاب بالحضور إلى مدرستنا وقد ازدانوا بملابس دولة الإمارات التّقليديّة وألوان علمها، وللتعبير عن تقاليد الصّيفاء العربيّة الأصيلة في هذا البلد المضيف فقد استقبلنا ضيوفنا بالتمرّ والقهوة.

ابتدأت الفعاليات بجولة تعرّف فيها الحضور على الطّابع الحضاريّ والثّقافيّ لدولة الإمارات العربيّة، حيث شمل المعرض زوايا عرضت طرق صيد الأسماك القديمة، وحياكة الملابس والبرقع وصناعة البسط بالطّرق التّقليديّة، وكذلك صنع حبال الخيام والصّيد. وأكمل الحضور جولتهم لمشاهدة الصّقر عن قرب وتجربة حمله على الذّراع وكذلك ركوب الجمل والحصان العربيّ الأصيل، وشهدت زاوية النّقش بالحثاء إقبالا شديدا من قبل الفتيات، كما استمتع الحضور بعروض الفرق الشّعبيّة الّتي صدحت بالأغاني التّراثيّة والوطنيّة وأمتعنا بعروض اليولا والرّقصات الفلوكلوريّة. هذا، وقد شملت الفعاليّات إعداد بعض أصناف الطّعام الإماراتيّ الشّهيّ مثل اللّقيمات والجباب والرّقاق والهريس والبلاليط وشرب شاي كرك والقهوة العربيّة، ثمّ اختتمت فعاليات الاحتفال بعروض من أداء طلّابنا، حيث عرض الطّلاب مواهبهم في الخطابة وإلقاء الشّعر العربيّ والشّعر النّبطيّ إلى جانب عروض عن الإمارات السّبع والرّقصات التّقليديّة.

كان حقّا يوما رائعا جمع بين المتعة والفائدة؛ فقد أتاح المجال ليتعرّف الحضور على مسيرة هذا البلد العصاميّ نحو المجد والعلا خلال سبعة وأربعين عاما من العمل الدّؤوب.

وفي التّاسع والعشرين من شهر نوفمبر، وقف الطّلاب والموظّفون دقيقة صمتٍ على روح شهداء الإمارات؛ تقديرا وعرفانا بالتّضحيات الّتي قدّمها هؤلاء الأبطال الّذين جادوا بأرواحهم في سبيل أمن وأمان وسلام الإنسانية جمعاء داخل دولة الإمارات وخارجها، وقد تلا ذلك رفع العلم وعزف النّشيد الوطنيّ.

ندعو الله أن يتغمّد شهداء الوطن بواسع رحمته وأن يدخلهم جنّات الخلد.

يمكنك مشاهدة أهمّ لحظات هذا اليوم الاحتفاليّ من [هنا](#).

MyHealth

The MyHealth program has been a success so far, having promoted 25 activities in just two months and included more than five hundred participants. Last week a group of determined students, parents and staff got together to overcome their personal goals during the Super Sports Series Run.

Family's wellbeing is a constant concern at GIS and we would like to encourage parents to participate in the activities we are offering on campus, such as badminton on Mondays or the several Enhance lessons before pick-up or after drop-off. For more information contact c.bento_gis@gemsedu.com



WANT TO BE MORE ACTIVE?

PARENT FIT

with ENHANCE FITNESS



Drop off and Pick up workout schedule for Parents

Time	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
8:30am		Voga & Meditation (Dance Studio)		Zumba & Dance (Dance Studio)	
12:30pm			Orbit & Cardio (Fitness Hall)		
2:00pm	Combat & Boxing (Fitness Hall)				HIIT (high intensity workout) or Body attack (Fitness Hall)

* Session duration: 60min
 ** Sessions commence the 2nd week of November 2018
 Monthly cost: AED500 (excluding VAT) - unlimited classes
 To RSVP please call 058 999 7945 or email us on info@enhancedxb.com

MyHealth News

Badminton

FREE

GIS is promoting one more opportunity for parents to develop their fitness skills. Join our badminton group every **Monday from 7.15am to 8.00am** in the **Multi-Purpose Hall**, and get to know other families from the GIS community.



Hope to see you there.




KHDA Registration for Families new to GIS

Please note that KHDA registration is a legal requirement for all students enrolled at GIS. Should you not have completed this, please do so as a matter of urgency. Should you have any questions or concerns, please email n.ibrahim_gis@gemsedu.com

Leigh Girven Head of Primary



 @LeighGirven

look forward to seeing you all again in January.

Teachers have set optional homework for students to complete over the winter break – most tasks are accessible online so they can be completed wherever you may be spending your vacation. As always our best advice is that if nothing else, your children spend as much time reading as possible.

We look forward to welcoming parents to our Primary Winter Concert next Wednesday. Students and teachers have been very busy preparing over the last few months and it is always a highlight to share this penultimate day with the GIS community. Parents please feel free to come dressed in your favorite Christmas earrings or reindeer headbands and get into the holiday spirit! Unfortunately due to seating restrictions, GIS sibling are not able to attend their brother's and sister's concerts.

As this is the last issue of Hayatona for 2018/19, on behalf of the primary leadership team and teaching faculty we would like to wish the primary GIS community a very happy winter vacation and festive period. Travel safely and we

A Perfect Example of what the IB embodies

In an IB school we strive for our students to be global thinkers, to show an understanding of the differences we all have in this multicultural environment. Lara Cariappa in Grade 3E gave a perfect example of what this looks like and how we can take action to make the world a better place.

Recognizing and embodying the IB philosophy of celebrating our difference and what makes us unique, she wrote the following paragraph to voice her opinion.

Barry McHugh
Grade Three Homeroom Teacher

Hi, I am going to talk to you about something that upset me a few weeks ago. It is about us all being unique in different ways. I felt at the time that we do not all appreciate that we have weaknesses and strengths.

I believe that we should be caring and kind to our friends even if they make a mistake. For example I have a cousin who can't speak or move, but when I meet him and talk to him he still smiles at me to say 'yes' or 'no' and I appreciate that even though he can't move or talk he still tries. I hope in our school we help each other when we need support.

So I hope you all do this in your real life. We can all get better if we help each other. I also think our world would be so so boring if we were all the same. All of us being different makes the world a more colorful place to live in.

Grade 1 & 2 Visit Fitness



As part of their Individual Pursuits unit in PE, Grade One and Grade Two visited Fitness Village at Kite Beach. The students learned about improving their individual skills and being courageous when trying a new activity. The trip linked with the school's MyHealth program and the 30x30 Dubai Fitness Challenge that was taking place around Dubai. The students took part in dance activities, yoga, and then completed an obstacle course which helped them to develop their team work and collaboration skills.

Balanced Literacy

One of our key focuses in Grade Two this term has been procedural writing features. We have used the Balanced Literacy approach to inquire into the key features of procedural writing, such as time words and correct sequencing. As part of our inquiry into this writing feature, students prepared and presented ways to make different items, using the procedural writing features, which they had studied. These presentations included how to make different foods, how to play games and even how to make a volcano explode.

A huge thank you to all the parents for your continued support in helping make these amazing presentations possible.



Primary upcoming events

PYP Clothing Drive
4 - 10 December

Winter Music Mornings
9 - 13 December


PYP Winter Concert
12 December

End of Term Parties
13 December

Swimming Classes End
13 December

Last day of Term
School ends at 12:30pm
13 December

Return to School
6 January


 مدرسة جيمس الدولية - شارع الخيل
GEMS International School
 AL 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.


'Tis the season of giving

You can donate anything, all accepted

SUSTENANCE	CLOTHING	SHELTER	OTHERS
Canned foods Rice Baby milk Cooking oil Tomato sauce Flour Lentils Dates Beans	Shoes/Trainers (in good condition) Socks, Hoodies Waterproof Jackets Trousers, Jeans, Shirts T-shirts, underwear, Hats, Gloves & Scarves	Sleeping bags Tents Blankets Carpets and moquette	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


MILAN ACADEMY
 SCUOLA CALCIO DUBAI

AC MILAN GIS TEAM

SIGN UP DAY: Wednesday 12th of December 2018
 from 2 PM to 5 PM at GEMS International School

DAYS OF TRAINING SESSIONS	U14 - U16/18	U9/U10 - U11/U12	U7/U8
	Sunday 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM	Monday 7:15 AM - 8:00 AM	Tuesday 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

From Sunday 13th of January 2019 to Thursday 16th of May 2019

PRICE: 1000 AED VAT inclusive. Uniform included (T-shirt+short+socks).

GEMS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, AL KHAIL

Al Khail Road, Al Marabea East, Dubai

056 2469 100
 CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION
 info@acmilansoccerschool-dubai.ae
 acmilanacademydubai
 Milan Soccer School Dubai
 @ACMilan_DubaiSC
 www.acmilansoccerschool-dubai.ae

#WeAreACMilan


 مدرسة جيمس الدولية - شارع الخيل
GEMS International School
 AL KHAIL




TRACK & FIELD ATHLETICS
 GEMS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



ATHLETES IN SCHOOLS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETICS MORNING ECA

ELITE LEVEL TRACK & FIELD ATHLETICS COACHING AT GIS
 DELIVERED BY BRITISH OLYMPIC & TEAM GB ATHLETES

Athletics Academy at GEMS International School
 For more information
<https://athletesinschools.ae/school-provision/>

ACADEMY FEE:
 1 SESSION PER WEEK - 700 AED
 2 SESSIONS PER WEEK - 1200 AED

Tuesday & Thursday
 GRADE 1 - GRADE 12 :- 7:00am - 8:00am

ATHLETES ARE DBS CHECKED AND HAVE COACHING QUALIFICATIONS

PRICE INCLUDES FREE TEAM GB ATHLETICS KIT







Lee Hole

Head of Secondary



Twitter @LHole81

TMy favourite aspect of an IB education is the mission to educate a child beyond the subject areas; to change the world via the young people that we teach. An important aspect of this is developing empathy, a desire to give back and improve the lives of others through the actions that we take. Caring is one of our IB Learner Profile traits and Service learning (MYP, Service as Action and DP, Creativity, Activity and Service) is a core requirement of all of our programs; they epitomize the points that I make above.

Over the winter break, I would hope that students will be spending time with their loved ones, recharging their batteries and enjoying a well deserved break but I also ask that they consider how they could give back via Service Learning. There should be no assessed work taken home over the winter break but students are encouraged to "stay tuned" by reading, accessing maths problems, watching the news etc. so that the return to school in January is not such a shock to the system. Our DP students may have a little more than this as they are likely to

have pre-reading for upcoming units or revision of material that has been covered.

It was our pleasure to welcome the former head of state for Pakistan Mr Yousaf Raza Gillani to GIS this week. He spoke to our students about his life, leadership and global politics as well as answering questions from our students. It was an honour to meet him and have our students engage with someone with such a wealth of experience. You will find further details of the visit in this addition of Hayatona in the write up that has been provided by Selina Al Madanat; our own Student Body President for 2018-19.

I close by wishing you all a restful break; Happy Christmas to those that will be celebrating!

Angelika Kuster

Assistant Head of Secondary



At GIS, we are very conscious of the importance of Health and Safety for everyone on campus at all times. To safeguard everyone's safety and well-being do everything in our power. This includes the expectation that all adults on site wear their GIS lanyards at all times, clearly identifying them as members or guests of our community. This also helps us in the event of an emergency as we know how many guests are still on site and who we will need to evacuate.

We have already had one complete fire drill, evacuating everyone from Pre-K to Grade 12, to our new safety location on the football field. More fire drills as well as a lockdown drill are planned for the new calendar year to make sure that everyone knows how to react in the event of an emergency. These drills include the potential use of evacuation chairs for students or staff members, who have mobility issues that prevent them from being able to move down the stairs unaided. We have staff members who are trained in the use and handling of said chairs.

How can you help? We are still missing a significant number of medical forms that provide us with vital information. This is an important part of the information that we gather about our students, especially if they had an accident and needed help fast. We realize that some of this information is asked for every year, however, this is to ensure that any changes are captured.

How can you help? We encourage you to inform us immediately so that we can update our system. If you have not yet completed and/or submitted the information for your child or children, please visit the clinic to collect the forms and do so before the winter break. Your help is much appreciated by us and most importantly by your children. Thank you.



Secondary upcoming events

MAPs Assessments
9 - 13 December

Field Trip Grade 6
Green Planet
10 December
8:25 - 12:00

Grade 7 Math Dream Holiday
12 December
Multi-Purpose Hall
7:45am - 3:45pm

Staff vs Students Match
13 December
Field
2:00 - 4:00pm

Last day of Term
School ends at 12:30pm
13 December

Return to School
6 January

Student Executive Leadership Summit
12 December

GISPA News

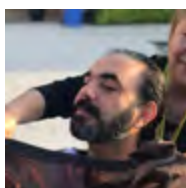
The last week of school will see some Christmas celebrations and holiday activities from 9 to 13 December along with the PYP Winter Concert.



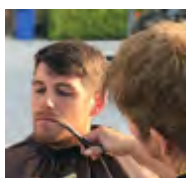
We need your support on Wednesday December 12. **Please bring in some Nuts-free cookies, cupcakes etcetera to share with parents and students during the PYP Winter concerts.** You can bring in your donation on Tuesday (Dec 11) between 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm in the main reception or bring them to the concert table near the amphitheater on Wednesday morning. It would be helpful if you confirm your donation upfront with Ms. Ivonne at 0552900653 or ivonneapm@hotmail.com.

Every student is asked to bring an ornament related to their home country to decorate the Christmas trees in the main reception and the secondary reception. Please bring them and hang them in the trees in the coming week.

Please come and join and sing along with the **Parents Choir on Wednesday** morning from 7:45-8:15 in the reception area.



On Sunday November 25 we ended the **MOVEMBER** awareness month with the shaving and trimming of some of the beards and moustaches grown by parents and members of staff. Thanks to all for supporting this cause. A huge thank you to **Teresa Perez** for doing the shaving and trimming job.



Thanks to all the parents who joined our social morning last Thursday. Thanks for showing your support, sharing your ideas and your offer to help.

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

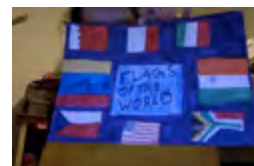
To know more about GISPA and its plans, please make time to attend the upcoming **SOCIAL MORNING on the 10th of January at 8.15AM.**

"Be Involved!"



A big thank you to Nada Ibrahim (6B, left logo) and Marcela Landeaux (5B, right logo) for submitting their artwork for the **International Day** logo.

International Day will be on January 17. Watch your inbox this week for the email with more information and how you can participate!



Preloved Uniform Sale, starting January every Sunday Morning after drop off. Donations are welcome and can be made at the reception.

