



# Hayatona

حياتنا

Our Life

Volume 2 Issue 11

Providing An Exceptional Quality Education'

17 January 2019

## From Our Head of School



The year 2018 marks 100 years since the birth of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the Founding Father of the UAE, who passed away in 2004.

To commemorate this historic national occasion, His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates declared 2018 as the Year of Zayed.

The Year of Zayed features a series of events and initiatives in the UAE and internationally, designed to commemorate the memory of the late Sheikh Zayed, and showcase his impact and legacy, and promote the values that he displayed throughout his life in creative and interactive ways.

Consistent with the values of the late Sheikh Zayed, it is intended that the Year of Zayed involved people of all ages, nationalities, faiths and backgrounds in the UAE and internationally.

One of the Year of Zayed projects was The Sheikh Zayed awards, set to honor the late great Sheikh Zayed. These awards were hosted by GEMS Education and had 46 participating schools.

Our Schools project was run by Jana Al Ballany, a Grade 8 student at GIS and Grade 7 at the time of the projects Inception. Jana, came up with the concept #Smiles4Zayed to reflect Sheikh Zayed's incredible values and heart for others.

The concept was a relatively simple one, capture and spread smiles throughout the UAE and the rest of the world. Essentially pay it forward! Jana began the campaign and due to her leadership and infectious spirit was able to bring a large group of followers on board. Soon the project grew and impacted hundreds of thousands of people not only in the UAE but around the globe.

This week we were delighted to learn the students were finalists, and placed 3rd of the 46 projects that entered. The team walked away with 5000AED to continue their great work. I could not be prouder of Jana and her #Smiles4Zayed team, for all they achieved and for living the values of GIS and the IB Learner Profile so well.

As I write this we have also concluded a wonderful international day, there will be more on this in the next Hayatona but for now I offer my most sincere appreciation to all families and faculty for their participation and contribution to a wonderful event.

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

[Click here to view the video highlights from the Year Of Zayed finalists showcase held at GIS](#)



## At a Glance



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

[Click here to view the GIS Term 2 Ph7 Menu](#)

 @GIS\_Gems

  
GEMS  
EDUCATION



WE ARE A  
  
CIS  
ACCREDITED  
SCHOOL

**Cathy Hayes**  
Deputy Head of School



Twitter @cathyhayesedu

A warm welcome back and happy new year! I hope you all had a restful break and are refreshed and eager for the year ahead. As I'm sure you have noticed, we've got off to a fast and furious start, hosting Connected sessions for both primary and secondary and an Achievement Center parent meeting.

We are so proud of our students who have successfully participated in tennis, go-karting and cross country having podium finishes in all. The primary school sports day also occurred this week with each of the houses trying their best to win points for their respective teams. The secondary students will have their chance to shine in the coming week. Please come along and show them your support.

Yet again, what an amazing International Day!!! This year we had 40 countries represented at the various cultural stalls and I'm sure you'll all agree, the standard of each and every one was exceptional. The time and effort you put into the preparations for this day is greatly appreciated by the community so, thank you! To GISPA, thank you again for your support in helping us to put this day together.

Congratulations to each and every country who participated, I can now announce that the winning country, as voted by the other country stands, was Italy. As an added bonus, they have provided vouchers for 'Eataly' a family restaurant with outlets in both Dubai Mall and Festival City. They also offer cooking classes, all vouchers and details are available at the school reception if interested.

Have a great week ahead.



## Teacher of the Month

Dear parents, students and teachers, thank you for all the teacher of the month nominations! Below are all of the winners for the GIS Teacher of the Month from September to December. As a committee, we have really enjoyed reading the reasons why you think this teacher deserves Teacher of the Month. Please keep nominating and writing why this teacher deserves your honor! Every nomination counts!

September



**Shonagh Enright**  
Primary Teacher

October



**Adam Rooney**  
Secondary Teacher

November



**Cristina Bento**  
Primary PE Teacher

December



**Emer Dolan**  
Secondary Teacher

## Raquel Nahas

Assistant Head of Primary and Head of Arabic



@raquelnahas

We are excited to share that eight students across the Primary and Secondary school have entered the Arabic Chevron Reader's Cup as part of the esteemed Emirates Airline Festival of Literature.

The Emirates Airline Festival of Literature is the largest literary event within this region that celebrates the written and spoken word. The festival which is held in March 2019, will host more than 180 authors (both English and Arabic) from across 50 different countries.

Prior to the festival, schools can enter competitions to enhance reading, writing and presentation skills.

The following students have joined as the GIS Primary and Secondary team. They each read an assigned book over the winter

break.

### Primary Team:

Zaina Al Mubidheen (3A),  
Lilya El Sayed (3D),  
Karma Eloraby (5A)  
Reda Kherraf (5E)

### Secondary Team:

Amar Gharib (9A)  
Taleen Alnaser (9C)  
Mohammad Alqaqaa (9B)  
Nourhan Ibrahim (8A)

On Tuesday 15 January, both teams joined other schools to compete in the first round of the competition. Each student completed a written quiz on the books that they read.

The top 20 teams from each age group who achieve the highest score on the quiz will move forward to the final round in March.

We are very proud of our students' determination, dedication and commitment to the Arabic Language and Literature. We wish them luck in the competition.



مهرجان طيران الإمارات للآداب هو أكبر حدث أدبي في دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة، حيث يستضيف المهرجان والذي سيعقد في مارس 2019 أكثر من 180 مؤلفاً - باللغتين الإنجليزية والعربية - من 50 دولة مختلفة إلى جانب فعاليات عدة سوف تُعقد في الفترة ما بين 1-9 مارس، وقد أُعلن في وقت لاحق عن فتح باب الترشح للمشاركة في مسابقات عدة لتعزيز مهارات القراءة والكتابة والعرض التقديمي.

شاركت مدرسة جيمس الدولية ممثلةً بثمانية طلاب من المرحلتين الابتدائية والثانوية في مسابقة "كأس قارئ شيفرون" للقراءة باللغة العربية، وقد عُقدت الجولة الأولى من هذه المسابقة يوم الثلاثاء الماضي 15 يناير، وحال صدور النتائج سوف يتأهل أفضل 20 فريقاً من كل فئة عمرية إلى الجولة النهائية في مارس.

وتاليا أسماء الطلاب المشاركين من مدرسة جيمس الدولية:

### فريق المرحلة الثانوية:

قمر غريب - (9A)  
تالين الناصر - (9C)  
محمد القعقاع - (9B)  
نورهان إبراهيم - (8A)

### فريق المرحلة الابتدائية:

زينة المبيضين - (3A)  
ليلى السيد - (3D)  
كرمة العراي - (5A)  
رضا خراف - (5E)

كلنا فخر بعزم وتفاني طلبتنا في إظهار مدى اعتزازهم بلغتنا العربية الجميلة الأصيلة، ونتمنى لهم التوفيق في المسابقة.

## MyHealth Kids Program

The MyHealth Kids program has started straight away with one more round of Fitness Testing. Students will get their next Fitnessgram reports along with their Semester One reports. Congratulations to all our last MyHealth Leaders and good luck for this next round (league tables of the first Fitnessgram reports can be found in the Sports Hall).

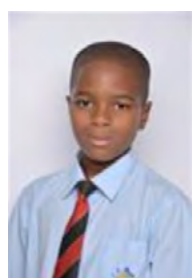
This coming semester, The Daily Mile will be replaced by W.O.W. (Workout of the Week), a 15 minute workout (circuit based) occurring daily from 7:45am to 8:00am in the Sports Hall. WOW training sessions begin on Sunday, 19 January. All families are invited to join!

Keep training and stay active!  
GIS MyHealth Team



## GIS Jaguars

Congratulations to the following students for being selected for their respective sports at regional level.



Jibril Musa –  
Under 11 DAPSA  
Select Rugby



Phillip Larsen –  
Under 12 DASSA  
Select Football



Mateo Benita –  
Under 12 DASSA  
Select Football



Jack Lindsay –  
Under 14 DASSA  
Select Football

### Primary Cross Country:

Congratulations to Robyn Lindsay for finishing an impressive 6th position out of 200 students in the Premier Sports Cross Country Under 9 race. We are delighted to see the progress Robyn and the rest of the team have made in the cross country events over the last few months.



Aiden Erasmus keeping up the pace!



Anna Benson over taking!

### Secondary Cross Country Squad:

This week, the Cross Country team went to their second DASSA race at Rashid School for Boys. After the first race, we knew it would be an exciting meet. Sixteen students competed in a 2.4km race enduring a number of different terrains including grass, woodland and sand. Saurav Nakhwa has been working hard since the last race and moved up the rankings by 26 places. Our top finishers included, Anna Benson finishing 26th out of 110 and Aiden Erasmus finishing 41st out of 135. Well done to all participants.

## Opening Round ESKC Junior Victory for GIS Team 1



row victory over Nord Anglia School Dubai to claim the opening Junior division round of the 2018-2019 Emirates Schools Karting Championship (ESKC) on Monday night (13 January) at Dubai Kartdrome.

Two teams represented GIS for the ESKC – GIS Jaguars 1 consisting of Nathan Pope, Saeed Al Zarooni and Sultan Kurdali, and

Dubai, UAE, 14 January 2019: Nathan Pope, Saeed Al Zarooni and Sultan Kurdali of GEMS International School (GIS) Team 1 seized a narrow

GIS Jaguars 2 consisting of Umar Kashif Noor, Nikolas Hansen and Alex Hansen. While GIS 1 walked away with the overall win for the night, GIS 2 showed remarkable fortitude finishing 7th overall for the night out of the 18 competing teams.

A bit of luck and consistent finishes by racers Nathan Pope, Saeed Al Zarooni and Sultan Kurdali of GIS Team 1 would prove decisive when the final points of the heats were tallied. GIS Team 1 finished with 109 points, pipping Nord Anglia School Dubai by a single point to take the ESKC Junior Round One winner's trophy. DESS Team 1 was very close as well, taking third-place overall and in the ESKC category, with 106 points in total.



## Leigh Girven Head of Primary



[@LeighGirven](#)

Congratulations to all our primary students who participated in Sports Day this week. We saw some fantastic individual performances and positive participation by all. Special thanks to 'Flash' who made a guest appearance at the KG Sports Day to encourage our littlest athletes.

We are very proud of our Grade 5 student Jibril Musa who after attending trials with nominated students from other Dubai schools has been selected in the Dubai DAP-SA Select Rugby Squad for 2019. This is a fantastic achievement and we wish Jibril the very best for the coming season.

A reminder to parents that students should be wearing the correct winter uniform which includes black leather school shoes and GIS ties.



A link to the upcoming Parent Teacher Conference (31 January) will be sent out in this week's Primary Weekly Update. Please make sure you book a time so that you have the opportunity to discuss your child's Semester One progress with his/her teacher.

## Hiking to Wadi Showka

The Grade Two students went on a hiking trip to Wadi Showka this week as a cumulative task for our unit of inquiry, 'Where We Are in Time and Place'. We have been exploring the central idea 'Physical Geography Influences Lives and Communities' and learning all about landforms, mapping, and different types of communities. We put our knowledge of landforms into practice as we identified mountains, canyons and wadis. At the Wadi Showka Dam Park, we learned about the uses of dams and how important water is for survival of both plants and humans in the U.A.E. As we hiked through the paths, our hiking guides took us on a journey to discover how Bedouins used to live, including an old house built out of rocks! As responsible citizens in this global world, our Grade Twos are becoming more environmentally aware and are learning to understand the impact they have in preserving these natural habitats.



## Grade5 Visit to Al Aan TV studio; Media City News from now, for now

This week, Grade 5 was lucky to have a trip to Al Aan TV studio. Our class along with 5C were the first group to go and explore. After first period the two classes gathered together and walked to the bus. As soon as we got onto the bus, we clambered to sit with our friends and find the seats we desired. After a short bus ride to Media City, we arrived and saw a dazzling fountain in a man-made lake. We then met Ms. Meriam (one of our hosts) and stepped into the building. We took everything in with curiosity and stepped into the lift. We travelled to the 4th floor and found ourselves in the Al Aan TV studio office. We met another host Mr. Muhammed and he took us on a tour around their office. After we went upstairs and was guided through the 'Main Control' rooms. He was very informative answering all our questions. We learned how the presenters read off of Auto-Script which was placed in front of the camera, and how they use expressions when reading different types of news. Next we came back down, and witnessed someone reading the news on the live radio, and looked into the studio she worked in. We walked back into the office to observe a live T.V. news broadcast! In the broadcast, which was the entertainment sector, a doctor was interviewed, and they talked about chronic cancer. It was all spoken in Arabic and we had to remain very quiet! Another guest informed the viewers that Dubai was the first Arab smart city. In between interviews, Abeer (the presenter) gave miscellaneous news about NASA and interviewed another presenter. At the end we were able to talk to the presenter about her job. This was an amazing field trip because it has great connections to our Unit of Inquiry and we thank Alaan TV studio for letting us come to visit.



Written by: Esha and Divyanshi 5A



## Primary upcoming events

**ConnectEd - Reading for Pleasure**  
23 January  
Primary Conference Room  
2:00pm

**ConnectEd - UAE Moral Education**  
30 January  
Primary Conference Room  
8:30am

**Semester Reports**  
30 January  
iSAMS Parent Portal

Primary Parent Teacher Conferences will take place on Thursday, January 31st. To make an appointment with your child's Homeroom Teacher, please complete the [link](#) here by Thursday 24th January.

# Primary Sports Day

What a wonderful series of Sports Days at GIS. On Sunday 13th January, our Grade 3, Grade 4 and Grade 5 students took to the field to participate in the Javelin and Shot Putt throws, the Long and High Jumps and the Mini Marathon and Sprints races. On Monday 14th January our Grade 1 and Grade 2 participated in the beanbag throw and the obstacle course stations as well as the races. On Tuesday 15th January our Pre KG and KG students were treated to special guest appearance from the superhero - The Flash! The boys and girls were absolutely delighted to beat The Flash in the sprint races!

Overall, it meant that our students collected a number of points for their Houses. The Yellow Pythons came in 4th Place with 1,750 points. The Red Raptors finished 3rd with 1,775 points. The Blue Dragons came second with 2,425 points and the Green Mambas were the PYP Sports Day Champions with 2,530 points!





مدرسة جيمس الدولية - شارع الخيل  
**GEMS International School**  
AL KHAIL

## ConnectEd

Encouraging Reading for Pleasure at Home  
with Joanne Cleland

Wednesday, 16 January  
8:30-9:30am  
Conference Room



**Angelika Kuster**  
Assistant Head of Secondary



The new year is well underway with the strong focus on health continuing. Everyone in the community is engaged in MyHealth and other initiatives that support and foster a healthy lifestyle and healthy choices.

In the last newsletter, I mentioned the fact that we are still missing medical forms for a significant number of our students. This is a big concern for us as it means that we are not aware of the potential issues or concerns for some of our students. We want to ensure that your child is safe with us at all times but that can be more difficult, when we do not know of allergies or other medical issues. If you have not done so already, please make sure that you submit the medical forms at your earliest convenience or collect a new set of forms from the clinic.

## Health and Safety

Over the past few months, we have done a number of things to ensure the safety of everyone on the school campus. We have trained an additional nine primary staff members in First Aid and will be training six secondary teacher before the February break. Additionally, a number of staff trained in the use of the evac chair, a device used to carry people who are unable to walk down the stairs in case of an emergency evacuation. We already had one fire drill and will be having our annual Civil Defence drill before the end of the month.



As always, if you have any suggestions or comments regarding health and safety at GIS, please let me know and we will investigate it.

## Lee Hole

Head of Secondary



Twitter @LHole81

Happy New Year and welcome back! I hope that all of our families had a wonderful break and students were able to recharge their batteries, revitalise their motivation stores and rest their minds and bodies; I know that I did!

As much as I enjoyed my break, it's great to be back at school and reconnecting with the staff and students. Hearing the stories of family gatherings, festive celebrations and global travel have been wonderful but one such story has stood out amongst the rest. Abdullah Abou Zaid, along with his brother (Abdulrahman) and his Father traveled to Tanzania during the break with the intention to summit Mount

Kilimanjaro. This trip was part of Abdullah's personal project and he had been working on the planning, training and general preparation for months in the lead up to December. The pride and passion that he exuded as he recalled the trip was heartwarming and inspiring in equal measure. Abdullah and his family have exemplified so much of what it is to be an IB student as well as what we aspire to be at GIS; well done to the Abu Zaid family, an inspiration to us all. I have included a couple of images from Abdullah but he and his brother will be including some reflections in the Secondary School newsletter next week.

You will also have read in the Hayatona this week of Jana Al Ballany and the #Smiles4Zayed team being recognized in the Year of Zayed award ceremony; which was held at the school this week. It is without doubt that we are all very proud of what Jana and her team have achieved



but I have to add that I most proud of Jana's ambition and determination. She has already met with me to share her vision for the Year of Tolerance and the events that she and her team will be looking to launch this year.

2018 was an amazing year for me and that was largely due to this school and the community that we serve. I am delighted to be spending 2019 with you and your children; I wish you all a wonderful year ahead.



مدرسة جيمس الدولية - شارع الخيل  
GEMS International School  
AL KHAIL

# ConnectEd

**Wise Words - A group for families to come together and share their challenges and successes raising children in the digital age.**



**Wednesday, 23 & 30 January**  
**8:20-9:20am**  
**Secondary Building**  
**Third floor Room 14**

## Secondary Parent Teacher Conference

Parent Teacher Conference will be held on Monday, 11 February from 8:00 - 16:00 and Wednesday, 13 February from 16:00 to 20:00, the link for parents to sign up will be shared soon.



## Secondary upcoming events

**Sports Day**  
22 January  
Dubai Sports City  
9:00am - 1:30pm

**GIS ConnectEd - Wise Words - Family Group**  
23 & 30 January  
8:20am - 9:20am



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# Secondary SPORTS DAY 2019

Tuesday 22 January  
at Dubai Sports City

Student must wear suitable house color sports clothes  
Departing GIS 8:30am, returning at 1:30pm

