



حياتنا Hayatona

Volume 3 Issue 13

Providing An Exceptional Quality Education'

Our Life

28 February 2019

From Our Head of School



Every school is only as good as the people within it's community and we are fortunate to have excellent people in ours! This week we were visited by one whom we hold dearly, Leigh Griven, our Head of Primary, popped in to see us with her beautiful wee boy, Sebastian.

It was great to see them both in school (Leigh can't keep away) just a week after his delivery, looking so happy and healthy.

While we miss Leigh already I know this special time for her and Sebastian will be a treasured one and therefore wish them both the very best during it.

Please join me in congratulating her and Brett on the new addition to their family.



KHDA review feedback session

I will be holding a session for parents on Wednesday, 13 of March, at 8:30am unpacking the recent KHDA review. I will be sharing our progress and detailing the areas of strength and development from the inspectors perspective. We were delighted to have made such massive gains this year. Increasing with 21 of our indicators. We are now rated from Good to Outstanding, in all phases for the core subjects, teaching and learning, curriculum implementation, health and safety, personal development and many other areas.

While we have work to do, I am indebted to the team for all their hard work and preparation to ensure we showcased our schools progress well to the KHDA.

Wishing you all a great weekend ahead.

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



At a Glance

Lock Down Drill
5 March
9:30am

We would like to inform you, we have confirmed our yearly student photoshoot for 10 – 14 March. You can find the schedule for all grade groups [here](#). Please ensure your children come to school in full uniform including ties, black shoes and are nicely groomed for the photoshoot. We will have a selection of head shot, full length and class photos available following on from the photoshoot completion.

Re-Enrolment for the Academic Year 2019/2020

Cathy Hayes

Deputy Head of School



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

I am writing to firstly thank you for your ongoing support of GIS. The feedback received is overwhelmingly positive and I am delighted to be able to work with you to ensure our school community continues to thrive.

With this in mind, I am requesting your help for next year. As you know, we must plan far in advance in order to offer the best IB programme we can for our students. Considerations are made

for facilities, should new classrooms be required, for example. These need to be properly equipped with teaching manipulatives and resources, not least the qualified teachers who must be recruited. Therefore, while it may seem early, I would like to ask you about your intentions for the year ahead as we move forward with our planning.

Of course, I fully understand how there can sometimes be uncertainty about the year ahead, particularly in the current economic climate, so we have pushed out the date to March 31, which we believe will be most helpful to both you and us. The process is quick and simple:

1. Log into the Parent Portal using your parent username Parent Username by following this link: <https://oasis.gemseducation.com/>. If you have forgotten your password, you may reset it from this screen. Please complete the re-enrolment process for each child.
2. Once you have completed this, an invoice for the deposit will be generated automatically which you will receive shortly thereafter.
3. This amount will be deducted from your child's tuition fees for the academic year 2019/20.
4. Should you unexpectedly need to relocate outside of Dubai for any reason, this amount is fully refundable.

Please note it is non-refundable if you remain in Dubai.

Full details of the fees for next year will follow in due course as soon as they are confirmed by the KHDA.

Unfortunately, if you are unable to confirm the re-enrolment we will assume that you will not be with us next year and will therefore offer the place to incoming families.

Equally, if you are certain your child will not be returning, we kindly request you to complete the transfer certificate process or email registrar_gis@gemsedu.com to arrange the transfer certificate and ensure a smooth transition process.

| Current Grade (2018-2019) | Re-enrolment fee (AED) |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Pre- KG | 4900 |
| KG1 | 4900 |
| KG2 | 5300 |
| Grade 1 | 5300 |
| Grade 2 | 5300 |
| Grade 3 | 5300 |
| Grade 4 | 6400 |
| Grade 5 | 6400 |
| Grade 6 | 6400 |
| Grade 7 | 6400 |
| Grade 8 | 6800 |
| Grade 9 | 6800 |
| Grade 10 | 7200 |
| Grade 11 | 7200 |
| Grade 12 | - |

We look forward to hearing from you and as always, if you have any particular questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us.

Please note that the re-enrolment fee mentioned above is based on the fee structure for the current academic year. Full details of the fees for next year will follow in due course as soon as they are confirmed by the KHDA.

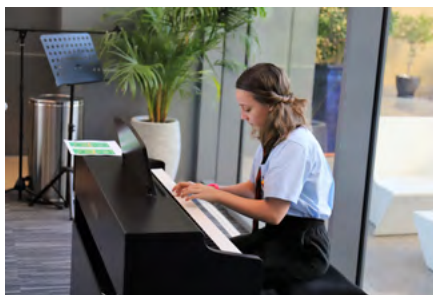
Sibling Discounts

We are pleased to confirm the following Sibling Discounts will be applicable for the 2019-2020

academic year:

- 3rd Child: 15%
- 4th Child: 25%
- 5th Child: 50%

Music Morning



What a way to wake up on Valentine's Day, to walk into GIS to the embrace of music! Thanks to PYP and MYP talented stars, children and parents alike were welcomed with violin, piano and vocal pieces on February 14th. For anyone wishing to take part in a future Music Morning showcase you are invited to send a video of themselves playing an instrument to www.morningmusic.info

Development Underway

As part of the Dubai Hills development, we have been notified that there is work on the DEWA corridor which is being scheduled for start on 29th March 2019 with an estimated completion date of 12th April 2019.

This has been timed to coincide with the Spring Break at the two International Schools in Al Khail. Work would be carried out on one carriage way at a time with the other left open for access.

Parents are requested to navigate carefully during this period since one carriage way would be the point of entry as well as exit.

At present the contractor is seeking the various authority approvals and should there be any change, further notification will be sent.

Raquel Nahas

Assistant Head of Primary and Head of Arabic



[@raquelnahas](#)

It has been a wonderful week back following the half term break.

We are very proud of our Grade 1-2 Harmony Choir and Grade 3-5 Treble choir for their participation in the ChoirFestME Festival that began Tuesday 26th February. Both choirs sang beautifully and represented GIS well.

Congratulations to our Grade 5 students for their informative TED talks focusing on contemporary issues. Students demonstrated their research skills and synthesized information to write and present a persuasive speech to the rest of their peers.

As swimming classes have resumed for primary students, we remind you to please send the GIS swim kit with your child during their scheduled swimming lessons. Swimming is part of the curriculum and, therefore, participation is compulsory.



Journey Around Dubai



As part of their new unit of inquiry, 'people travel from place to place', Pre-K took a journey around Dubai. They explored some of the different types of transport Dubai has to offer, first taking the school bus to Dubai knowledge park tram station. Ms. Natalie bought the teachers' tickets and the students rode the tram all the way to Marina mall, counting the stops along the way. They enjoyed observing all the different types of transport on the roads, guessing where each might be travelling to. It was a great opportunity to look for words in our environment, also. The second leg of the journey was a boat ride on a water taxi around Dubai marina. The children found out about safety jackets and saw the different tools the driver used to control the boat. This journey has inspired lots of reflection, opportunities for students to build on their knowledge and apply it in real-life contexts.



Primary Important Dates

ConnectEd - Helping your child build friendships
6 March
Primary Conference Room
8:30am

Primary Student Photoshoot
10 - 12 March
Students must come dressed in full school uniform

Grade 2 & 3 Jungle Book Performance (students only)
14 March

ChoirFest Middle East 2019



Harmony Choir (Gr.1-2) and Treble Choir (Gr.3-5) sang their hearts out this Tuesday, February 26th, 2019 at the Annual ChoirFest Competition. Both choirs received feedback from special vocal judges, who flew in all the way from London! The Harmony Choir was the youngest choir participating, yet they proved to be rather courageous and responsible on this special day. The Treble Choir impressed the crowd with their moves and harmonies, what a show!

ChoirFestME is a choral festival that welcomes choirs from diverse backgrounds and traditions from across the MENASA region. Set in the vibrant and cosmopolitan city of Dubai, the festival encourages choirs to learn, develop and flourish through exchange with world class choral professionals. The annual 2-week festival program also includes public concerts, the Choir of the Year competition and the Gala Concert at Dubai Opera. The festival is exciting, collaborative and fun.

GIS welcomes author, Rachel Hamilton



On Monday 11th February the Primary Department excitedly welcomed the published author, Rachel Hamilton, to GEMS International School. The Primary students and staff won a bid for Rachel to

come and share her experience and her writing processes with Grade 3 and 4 students and their teachers. The successful bid was through 'The Emirates Festival of Literature' which will take place from the 1st to the 9th of March and has a whole program of events that families can attend. Check out the display board in the school reception area.

Rachel thoroughly entertained a full auditorium with her humorous anecdotes and gave great advice to all budding authors in the audience. The children were on the edge of their seats and a little star struck by meeting their favorite author in the flesh. Some of our students showed great courage by reading and acting out sections of the story "Louie Lets Loose". The students from Grade 2 and 5 who helped us to create the winning video bid were invited to the library during their break for a personal meet and greet with Rachel and they asked some interesting questions.

Our goal this year is to further engage students and parents in reading for enjoyment and this event certainly inspired many children not only to try one of Rachel's six published books but also to see themselves as authors of the future and to put Rachel's writing advice into practice. She will return on Monday 11th March for a book signing day and we cannot wait to welcome her back to GEMS International School.

Grade 5 Transition day

Written by Vidushi 5E

This week was our first week of exhibition, however, on Monday we had our first experience of transition day from Gr5 to Gr6. We started the morning by all meeting in the MPH, sitting on the chairs with the nerves building up inside us.

We were welcomed by Mr. Lee Hole and Mr. Nic. The teachers and students from MYP told us a little bit about what MYP was going to be like. They told us about what were the changes to expect and gave us some advice about moving to Grade 6. The next thing we knew we lining up to begin our transition day. I was really nervous.

My group began our first lesson in French. There we met Ms. Tania. We worked in groups and learned a lot about Europe. Next, we went to Spanish where we created a music video on a Spanish song. We learned the meaning to the lyrics and



worked in pairs to create the actions to the songs.

Our third and final lesson before lunch was digital design. Because we were on the third floor and digital design was all the way on the ground floor, it took us a while to navigate ourselves for the first time in MYP building. Once we got to the class we met Ms. Sarah who told us about the MYP design process. We created a game from scratch that got us moving around.

After the lesson we had lunch in the MYP canteen. It was nice to sit in different can-



teen and enjoy my lunch and catch up with my friends.

Our final lesson was product design. There we got to see the workshop. We saw all the tools and materials and learned how to draw perfectly parallel lines using a special right angle ruler. Before we knew it, it was time to leave.

The last part of the transition was a quick reflection timeback at the MPH again. When we were finished our transition day I wasn't as nervous about MYP anymore. As I left the MYP building I could almost feel the building stare at me. I can't wait to find what the future holds for us.



Cigna Park Run

FREE

Through the MyHealth program, GIS is inviting all the families to join us for a free 2.5K or 5K run in the Al Itthiad Park (Palm Jumeirah) on the **2nd of March**. All you have to do is visit the website: www.cignaparkrun.com and register. This race happens every first Saturday of the month.

Hope to see you there.



مدرسة جيمس الدولية - شارع الخيل
GEMS International School
AL KHAIL



Raquel Nahas

Assistant Head of Primary and Head of Arabic



@raquelnahas

Our News Akhbarouna

During the month of March, to promote literacy and increase the love for reading, we will be holding a GIS Arabic reading competition "GIS Taqra' bil Arabia". The reading competition is open to all students and will be organized and monitored through your child's Arabic teachers. The competition will start on 3rd March and winners will be announced in the 28 March Hayatona issue.

How the competition will work:

- Students must register through the [link here](#).
- On Sunday 3 March, those who have signed up will receive a sheet to record the books that they read. Books must be on level according to the reading ability of the student. Students must list the book title, author, and level, which then must be verified with a parent signature.
- Arabic teachers will make Arabic books available for students to sign out should they require. Students

with Kutubee accounts can read books from the app directly.

- The top three students who read the most books per grade level for Arabic A and Arabic B will be identified at the end of the competition and asked to summarize a book that is randomly selected from their list.
- House points will be awarded to the winners.

Collect extra house points by sending photos of your child reading outside of school to their Arabic teachers and/or posting on twitter using the following hashtags #WeRGISArabic #GISTaqraBilArabia

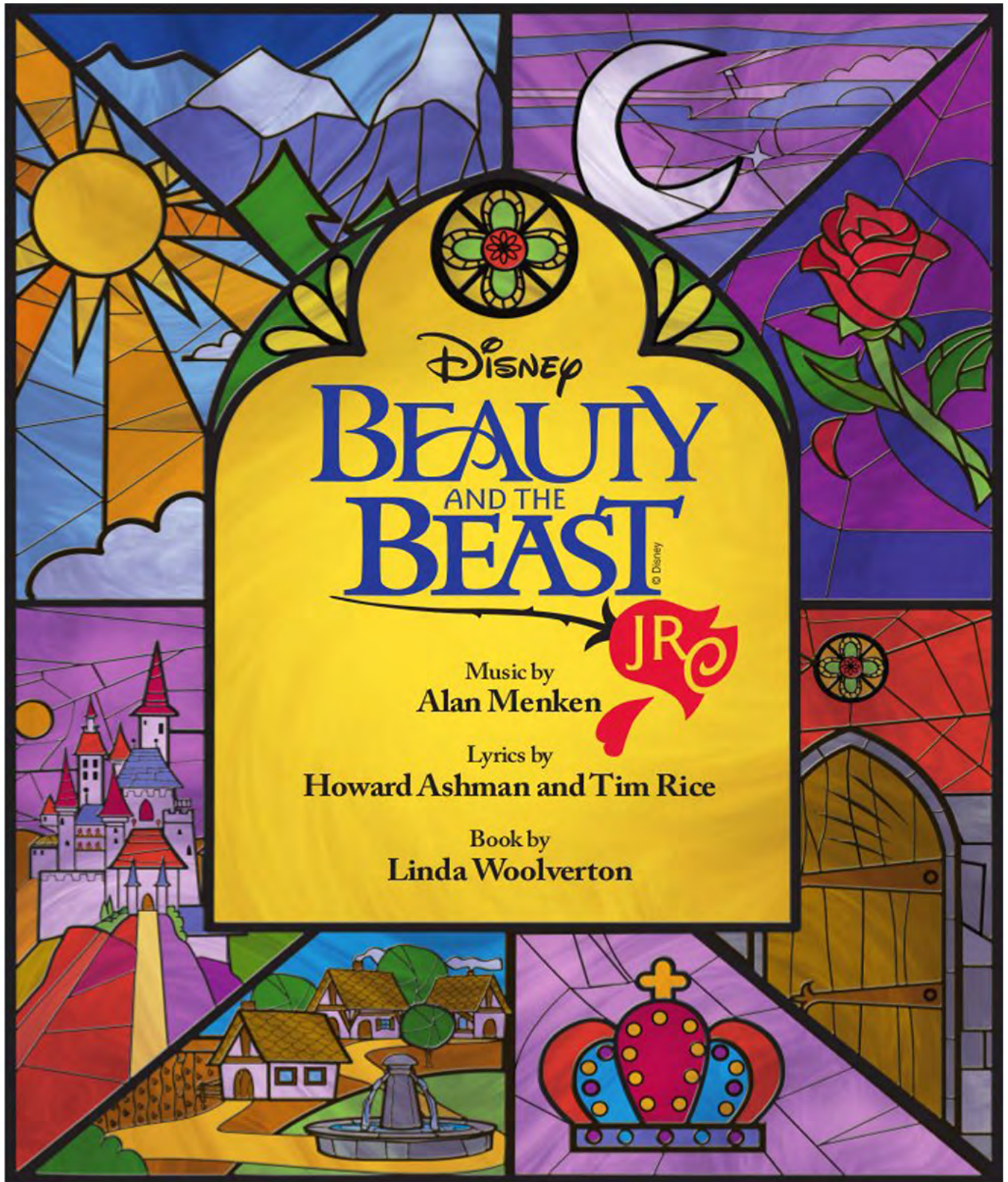
يسر قسم اللغة العربية أن يعلن عن عقد مسابقة "جيمس الدولية تقرأ بالعربية"، وهذه المسابقة متاحة لأبنائنا الطلبة العرب وغير العرب في المرحلتين الابتدائية والثانوية بإشراف معلمي اللغة العربية. تبدأ المسابقة يوم 3 مارس، وسوف يتم الإعلان عن الفائزين في 28 مارس في نشرة حياتنا.

آلية الاشتراك:

1. يجب على الطلاب التسجيل من خلال الرابط هنا [here](#)
2. يستلم كل طالب مشارك سجل القراءة لكتابة عنوان الكتاب، والمؤلف، والمستوى، ومن ثم إعادة السجل للمعلم بعد توقيعه من ولي الأمر.
3. يتولى المعلمون العرب تسليم الكتب للطلاب، أما الطلاب الذين لديهم حساب (كتبي) فيستطيعون قراءة الكتب من التطبيق مباشرة.
4. بناءً على عدد الكتب المقروءة والمثبتة في سجل القراءة سوف يتم تحديد الطلاب الثلاثة الأوائل من كل مستوى، يعقب ذلك إجراء التصفيات النهائية بأن يطلب من كل طالب تلخيص أحد الكتب التي قرأها شفهيًا، ويعقب ذلك الإعلان عن اسم الفائز في كل مستوى.
5. سيتم منح (House points) للفائزين.

اجمع نقاطًا إضافية عن طريق إرسال صور لطفلك وهو يقرأ خارج المدرسة و / أو التشر على تويتر باستخدام هاشتاغ #WeRGISArabic #GISTaqraBilArabia

GEMS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AL KHAIL PRESENTS



MONDAY, MARCH 25TH AT 6:30PM

LOCATION: MULTI-PURPOSE HALL, SECOND FLOOR

TUESDAY, MARCH 26TH AT 2:30PM

DOORS OPEN 30 MINUTES BEFORE THE SHOW

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27TH AT 6:30PM

DURATION OF THE SHOW: 1h15min

TICKETS 30AED: AVAILABLE AT CASHIER DESK MARCH 3RD

Lee Hole

Head of Secondary



@LHole81

This time of year is so exciting as we begin to look at transitions across the school. We recently welcomed our "class of 2026" into the Secondary School for their transition day as Grade 5 students; they were such great ambassadors of our Primary Years Programme (PYP). Our Head of the Student Academic Committee, Tima Al Madanat, presented to the group about some of the changes that they will experience in their learning and our MYP Counsellor (Mrs. Pacios) and Head of Pastoral Care & Wellbeing (Mr. Walters) chaperoned the students throughout the day. My challenge for them was around making connections and new relationships as they would be meeting new teachers and spending time around older students across the Secondary School. It was such a proud moment for me when two boys stopped me at the end of the day to tell me what an "awesome" day they had experienced and how much they loved spending time with the teachers that they met. The nerves had gone and were replaced with excitement and that is the reason that we run these days.

Other transitions in the Secondary School are also taking place over the coming weeks and months. Our Grade 8 students will need to consider their elective choices for next year; as will our Grade 9s and this is their chance to focus on their areas of strength, try out new subjects or develop the areas that they feel need to be honed before they begin DP the following year.

Grade 10 students have a major transition to manage as they move from the MYP to the DP and this process will really ramp up as the Personal Project comes to a close. The process has already begun with students and did so some time ago as they received information about the structure of their DP, the expectations that they will face as DP students and how their subject choice process might look. Parents will be invited in for various workshops, presentations and subject briefs to follow on from the ones that have been delivered earlier in the year. If you are a Grade 10 parent, please keep an eye on the Hayatona and the Secondary School newsletter for more details of these sessions and activities.

Grade 11 students will be going through their one to one meetings with our guidance counsellor (Ms. Sidey) and our DP Coordinator (Mr. Cunningham) to reflect on their year so far; their outcomes; goals and the actions required in the remaining months of this year.

Finally, the Grade 12 class have been sitting their mock exams this week as their preparation for the World Exams later in the year moves through the gears and picks up momentum. This is such a critical time for our eldest students and our entire school is in support as they strive for the best outcomes possible, when the time comes to complete the exam papers. We then have an opportunity, as a school to recognize, congratulate and celebrate with our seniors as we host their graduation and join them at the Graduation Ball before we send them off to universities around the world.

Grade 5 visiting Secondary Design Department



On Monday the 25th the GIS Secondary School Design Department received five classes of excited Grade Five students who will be transitioning to Secondary School next academic year. They were able to explore, inquire and

learn about both Product Design and Digital Design. In their Digital Design lesson, they discussed, shared and learned about the MYP Design Cycle, how design is everywhere and which professions have design as part of their job. They then had the opportunity to explore the 'creating' part of the design cycle. Students were given a scenario asking them to develop a computer game that promotes activity and movement. The students

then learned how to use block coding in <https://scratch.mit.edu/> to create an online game that they could interact with by moving their hands to manipulate the Sprite (character) in their game.

Each Grade 5 class also spent 40 minutes in the workshop and were given an introduction to Product Design. The first thing they were made aware of is that health and safety is paramount when in the workshop and how to enter the room and take their seats safely. They were shown around the room, learning about the different machines and understanding how they work. They experienced the chance to examine some projects completed by MYP students. Students then performed a simple marking out task to get them working with the marking out tools and some wood. This task was educational, within the health and safety knowledge of the students and will be one of the first tasks they do in product design when they enter Grade 6. The feedback from the students was very positive and are excited for the future after their experience in the workshop.



Secondary upcoming events

Visiting Author - Ty Tashiro
6 March
Multi-purpose Hall
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Secondary Student Photoshoot
12 - 14 March
Students must come dressed in
full school uniform

PYP to MYP Transition Taster

On Monday of this week, our Grade 5 students had their first taste of life as an MYP student at GIS. And what a fantastic experience it was, for them and for us! With each new cohort that joins the Secondary School, the dynamics of our growing community is changed. And, with such an eclectic, vibrant and enthusiastic group of students, we are thrilled at the prospects that lay ahead.

Upon gathering in the MPH, the excitement was palpable, as students deliberated over the prospects and new opportunities that lay ahead of them, as they embark on the next chapter of their academic journey. Following a welcome address, by Mr. Lee Hole, and introductions to some key staff members, Tima Al Madanat (Secondary School Student Head of Academics), provided an informative talk that served to highlight key expectations and dispel some misconceptions. Students actively engaged in open discussions, enabling them to gain valuable insights, while reducing some of the associated nerves and anxieties.

As the day unfolded, the feelings of excitement and confidence continued to grow. Students thoroughly enjoyed their taster lessons in French and Spanish, as well as opportunities to explore Digital and Product Design. In addition, by spending their lunch period in the MYP Canteen, Grade 5 students enjoyed opportunities to observe and interact with their senior counterparts.

The day was followed by an informative presentation to the

families of Grade 5 students, where we began to share some of the key differences between the PYP and MYP programs.

Further sessions (information to follow), will provide transitioning families with specific information about communication portals, assessment, timetabling and recommended practices; ensuring that parents are fully prepared to support from home.

The feedback received from Grade 5 students has been extremely positive. And this is credit to the wonderful, ongoing endeavors of the whole GIS community. Together, we look forward to welcoming the current Grade 5 students into the Secondary School and continuing to support them to be the very best versions of themselves!

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to review some highlights from the day.



Angelika Kuster Assistant Head of Secondary

Health and Safety update – February 2019



Health and safety is an important part of the KHDA inspection process. I am proud to say that GEMS International School received very positive feedback about all of our health and safety procedures as well as the building maintenance. I will be sharing more concrete feedback with you, once we receive a copy of our inspection report.

One of said safety procedures is a 'lockdown drill'. A lock down drill is slightly different to a fire drill in that the staff and students are kept inside the school and classrooms when circumstances make it safer to stay in the classroom rather than evacuate. During a lockdown drill, classroom doors are secured and the students and staff remain inside the room until instructed by the teacher to resume their activities. All exterior doors are locked and no one is permitted to enter or leave the building.

Our staff have started to prepare our students for the proper response during a lockdown drill, discussing the importance of this procedure with students prior to running a drill. We will also take time after the drill to remind them that it was only a practice and there was no danger. Please be assured that this is nothing to worry about and just part of our standard safety procedures.

The 'lockdown drill' will take place on Tuesday, 5 March at 9.30AM. Please note that the school will be closed for a short time during this drill, including the main office, so that staff, children and any visitors can practice these safety procedures. Phones will not be answered during this time; this will take no more than 30 minutes of the school's time.

Do try to make the time to speak with your child about this procedure and reinforce its importance. Please encourage your child to stay calm and follow the procedures during any lockdown event, much like during a practice fire drill. We practice these drills to ensure our school remains a safe place for teaching and learning.

Please contact me at a.kuster_gis@gemsedu.com if you have any further questions about lockdown drills.

GISPA News



GISPA & S.E.L.T
presents
GEMS International School
Spring Carnival
March 21st
2:00pm – 6:00pm

★ ICE CREAM TRUCK ★ RAFFLES & GAMES
★ FOOD ★ BOUNCY CASTLE ★ LIVE MUSIC

STAR ATTRACTION:
GIS GOT TALENT!
Dunk the Head of School / Teacher

BOOK YOUR TABLES NOW
Should you be interested in
being a sponsors, please
contact GISPA

Fun for the whole family

GISPA
GEMS International School
PARENT ASSOCIATION

QR Code

GEMS International School
AL KHAIL

Dear members of our GIS community, I think you might have heard about our upcoming event.

SPRING CARNIVAL.

We, GISPA (GIS Parent Association) and S.E.L.T. (Student Executive Leadership Team) are excited to invite you to be a part of the first GIS Spring Carnival on March 21st (2-6pm). Please come and visit the GIS Spring Carnival to support our Kidspreneurs and our community. There will be lots of activities, music and food to enjoy and there will be big prizes to win.

We would love your involvement or support. How can you become involved you ask?

Become a booth/stall operator

Become a sponsor

Donate something for the GISPA Auction

Bring your talent @ "GIS got Talent"

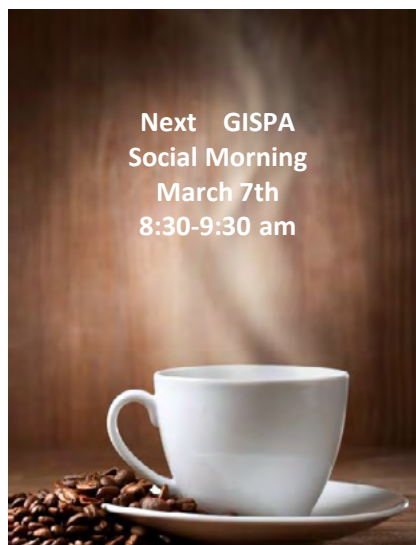
Volunteer

Buy a LOT of Raffle tickets

We would love you all to be involved in some way and enjoy this wonderful day with us.

Earlier in the month you received an email with the sign up and sponsor information. Please join us at the next coffee morning so we can tell you all about it!

For any further inquiries please contact Denice at GISPA_gis@gemsedu.com.



JOIN IN ON THE
**RAFFLE
CONTEST**
BY GISPA AND THE STELT
21st March
2pm - 6pm

Drawing
@GIS SPRING
CARNIVAL

1 TICKET: 5
AED
6 TICKETS:
25 AED

WIN A
LAPTOP,
TV AND
MORE!

Tickets Go on Sale March 4th at the MYP and PYP
reception
Winners must be present to collect prizes



GISPA AND THE STELT PRESENT
**GIS GOT
TALENT**
SHOWCASE YOUR
TALENT!
Singing, Dancing,
Gymnastics... you name it!
@ GIS SPRING
CARNIVAL
2PM - 6PM SATURDAY MARCH
21ST
GRADE 3 - 12
AUDITIONS MAY BE
REQUESTED

