



# Hayatuna

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Our Life

Volume 3 Issue 14

Providing An Exceptional Quality Education'

14 March 2019

## From Our Head of School



WeRGIS, WeR National Champions

This week I am zeroing in on two groups of students who are pulling ahead of the bunch, quite literally. Our Secondary Motorsports Karting teams have excelled this year. Creating history with numerous victories in the different age brackets.

Racing is a competitive and challenging sport, it requires a lot of discipline, training and support from families. This year our teams, also supported by Mr. Pope and Mr. Pacios, have excelled beyond expectation. Our Junior team winning the national championship and Senior team placing consistently in the top of the field.

I couldn't be prouder of these teams for approaching the sport with the commitment they have. They and their parents should be extremely proud of them, we certainly are. The team will continue training and preparing for next season and I am sure will continue to excel.



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



## At a Glance

Spring Carnival  
21 March  
2:00 - 6:00 pm

Musical : Beauty and the Beast Jr.  
March 25  
MPH  
6:30 pm - 7:45 pm

Musical : Beauty and the Beast Jr.  
March 26  
MPH  
2:30 pm - 3:45 pm

Musical : Beauty and the Beast Jr.  
March 27  
MPH  
6:30 pm - 7:45 pm

TIMSS Testing  
19 March

# GIS Spring Carnival 2019

**Cathy Hayes**

Deputy Head of School



 @cathyhayesedu

As you are aware, on March 21st GISPA and the Student Executive Leadership Team (StuELT) are organizing our very first Spring Carnival from 2 - 6 pm. This is a GIS community event for students, teachers, staff and parents where students are given the opportunity to develop their entrepreneurial skills and we have the opportunity to come together. It will be held on the large football field and both groups have been working tirelessly to really make this event one to remember for all of us. With now over 90 booths, there will be a selection of goodies and treats, games and gifts, a bouncy castle, ice-cream, a burger stand our very own GIS talent show and some amazing prizes to be won in the raffle including a large TV and laptop to giveaway. To ensure you don't miss out on the fun but at the same time keeping everyone safe, please read the points below carefully.

## Visiting the Spring Carnival

- School pick-up is unchanged for this day, 3:20 PM as usual.
- Parents are welcome from 2PM onwards to visit the booths.
- Children can be signed out also from 2PM but they must be supervised by parents. All sign-out protocols must be followed but don't worry, homeroom teachers will also have their sign-out books with them to assist you in this and avoid congestion at reception.
- Children should not be left after school to attend the carnival without a parent to supervise them. Should you be unable to attend but don't want your child to miss out, you must inform the homeroom teacher in writing (as you would do normally) who is responsible for your child at this time.
- If your child normally travels home by bus and will be collected by you on Thursday, please ensure you notify your homeroom teacher of this.
- Once the buses have left to take students home, this parking will also become available for parents.

## Parent/Student Booths

- All students running booths are permitted to leave class up to 2 hours in advance (12PM) to set up. If you are running a booth with your child, please note this time carefully.
- Grades 10 - 12 student volunteers will be on hand to support parents and students at this time and throughout the day.
- The sign-up for booths has now closed.
- Booths will be open from 2-6PM
- Items for sale will range from 1AED and up, games will be for approximately 5AED. Burgers and drinks will be comparable to what you pay externally. It is advisable not to send money to school with your child, especially the younger students however if you are, please take note of the prices if you're looking for guidance.

## GIS' Got Talent

The StuELT received over 20 nominations with video auditions for the talent competition. They have a tough task ahead as they have to narrow this to twelve acts. We wish everyone the best of luck!

- Performances will begin at 3:40 after school
- They must be no more than 15 minutes in length
- Students will be notified of the performance schedule by Monday next week.
- Sign-up is now closed.

## Dunk the teacher

This is as you can imagine, a student initiated event but one that promises to be great fun. The StuELT are reaching out to teachers (and leaders) across both primary and secondary to 'volunteer' for this activity. And remember, students and parents can get involved.

## Sponsors

We have had a tremendous response from sponsors around Dubai to help us develop this event. Thank you to each and every one of them, many of who are you yourselves, your bosses or friends. Without your support we cannot do this.

## Raffle draw

There are some great prizes to win so make sure you get your tickets. These include a laptop, TV, virgin vouchers, dinner vouchers and more. One ticket costs 5 AED, with 6 for 25 AED. They are on sale in the main entrance at drop off and pick up time and at the Secondary reception and KG entrance at drop off time.

The raffle will take place in two stages, and remember **YOU MUST BE THERE TO CLAIM YOUR PRIZE** otherwise another ticket will be pulled.

Below is an approximate schedule for the day. We really do hope to see you all there.

2:00 Spring Carnival Begins  
 3:20 Student dismissal  
 3:30 Talent Show  
 4:10 Raffle number 1  
 4:15 Talent Show continues  
 5:00 Talent show winner announced  
 5:30 Final Raffle



## Raquel Nahas

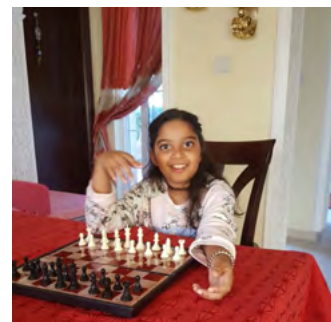
Assistant Head of Primary and Head of Arabic



 @raquelnahas

What an exciting past couple of weeks in the primary. Students participated in a number of unique experiences, from observing bees, singing at the Emirates Literature Festival, being invited to the Dubai Opera for an unforgettable experience, and participating in the GEMS determination games to name a few.

I would like to make a special mention of Maryam Ibrahim in Grade 3 who has recently won second place in a chess tournament against other grade 3 students across Dubai. We are very proud of Maryam and congratulate her on this great achievement.



## The wonder of nature...



The KG1 students welcomed a local UAE beekeeper and her beautiful bees into our community to learn more about how bees help our world. During the bee experience, the students viewed the bees in a closed observation hive to identify the queen bee, worker bees, baby bees and the drones. They explored the tools of a beekeeper, including the protective clothing and they made candles from local beeswax.

This authentic experience allowed the students time to question and consolidate their knowledge and understanding about pollination and the role of bees in our world. We also learned about the benefits of using honey as a natural sweetener. Our young scientists are keen to protect the bees and realize... if all the bees die, humans will live in a world without fruit, flowers, vegetables, honey, beeswax and a wonderful buzzing sound.



Help Save the Bees from KG1



## Primary Important Dates

**Saint Patrick's Day**  
 17 March  
 Dress in Green

**ConnectEd Cyber Safety & Digital Wellbeing**  
 20 March  
 8:30 am  
 Conference Room

**Mother's Day Celebration**  
 Homeroom  
 21 March  
 1:30 - 2:00

**PTC**  
 18 March  
 No school for Students

**Musical : Beauty and the Beast Jr.**  
 March 25  
 MPH  
 6:30 pm - 7:45 pm

**Musical : Beauty and the Beast Jr.**  
 March 26  
 MPH  
 2:30 pm - 3:45 pm

**Musical : Beauty and the Beast Jr.**  
 March 27  
 MPH  
 6:30 pm - 7:45 pm

## Opera Magic Workshop

Some students from the Treble Choir (Gr.3-5) when to a workshop given by the Welsh National Opera at the Dubai Opera House studio on 4th March 2019. It was an amazing experience for all. The students were making 3-part harmony music, found out about the musical landscape of 'The Magic Flute', the opera's story and themes. We learned how some of the instruments featured in Mozart's 'The Magic Flute' work and were able to experience this first hand. The team of orchestra musicians, singers of the Welsh National Opera and teaching experts of the WNO Youth & Community program commended us on the voices, engagement and enthusiasm of our GIS students.



## VIP Opening of The Emirates Literature Festival

Treble Choir (Gr.3-5) was honored to be invited to sing at the VIP opening of the Emirates Literature Festival 2019. We performed in front of famous authors, dignitaries of the Dubai Culture & Arts Authority and Noura Al Kaabi, Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development. The performance was well liked and the GIS Treble Choir was asked to consider singing a set of songs at the main outside stage at the literature festival 2020.



## Harmony Choir at ChoirFest



After taking part in the annual ChoirFest Middle East competition on 26 February, the Harmony Choir was invited back to receive an Honorary Mention for the Youngest Primary School Choir trophy on the Dubai Opera stage. On 9 March, the Harmony Choir sang alongside the Abu Dhabi and Dubai winning choirs from a multitude of schools at the Dubai Opera Gala Concert, performing "Fly Away Home". In the afternoon, children worked with an award winning Choir Director, and in the evening, performed the Finale piece together. We are so proud of their achievement! Go #WeRGISHarmonyChoir!



## Raquel Nahas

Assistant Head of Primary and Head of Arabic



@raquelnahas

For the past 8 weeks, our wonderful parents have been engaged in Arabic lessons every Monday morning, held by our Arabic teachers. They have explored various topics and have focused more specifically on common greetings, countries and cities, different occupations, the rooms within a house, and basic conversation skills.

Participants have shown great progress and are now more confident speaking with colleagues and each other. Many of the participants attempt to read signs in their environment and are highly motivated to continue advancing their skills. In addition, they have conversational sessions during the week led by Arabic speaking parents, to further practice this newly acquired language.

We are very proud of their progress and commitment to learning Arabic and subsequently supporting Arabic language in our community.



على مدار الأسابيع الثمانية الماضية ، شارك عدد من أولياء أمور الطلبة غير العرب في دورة تعلم اللغة العربية صباح الاثنين من كل أسبوع ، والتي نظمها مدرسو اللغة العربية. هذه الدورة تناولت أساليب التحية والتعارف ، والبلدان والمدن ، والمهن المختلفة ، والغرف داخل المنزل ، ومهارات المحادثة بالإضافة إلى قواعد النحو الأساسية، وقد أظهر المشاركون تقدماً ملموساً مما أثار حماسهم لمواصلة تطوير مهاراتهم.

إلى جانب هذه الدورة ، ولتعزيز مهارات المحادثة انضم المشاركون لحضور جلسات محادثة خلال الأسبوع بإشراف متطوعين من أهالي الطلبة الناطقين بالعربية.

نحن فخورون جداً بالتقدم الذي أحرزوه لغاية الآن ، وبمدى التزامهم بتعلم العربية لدعم التواصل باللغة العربية في مجتمعنا.

# GIS Junior Jaguars Team 1 Take Overall Win in ESKC Series 2019.



**D**ubai, UAE, 11 March: Going into the final Junior division round of the Emirates Schools Karting Championship (ESKC) on Monday night at Dubai Kartdrome, GEMS Wellington Academy Silicon Oasis (GEMS WSO) controlled the championship, but the team was to fall prey to the runner-up team of GEMS International School (GIS) Team in the final decisive round.

Nathan Pope, Saeed Al Zarooni and Sultan Kurdali of

GIS Team 1 needed to make up a deficit of two championship points in the ESKC category going into the last round, and the team delivered by winning Round Four, racking up 159 championship points and walking away with the 2018-2019 ESKC Junior Challenge title, topping GEMS WSO (155 points) by four points.



The team consistently delivered podium finishes through all four rounds starting in January, and through their determination, motivation and healthy team-spirit were able to walk away with the overall series trophy.

GIS Team 2, consisting of Umar Noor, Nikolas Hansen and Alex Hansen also pulled off a remarkable 7th place out of the 17 competing teams with first-time competing drivers.

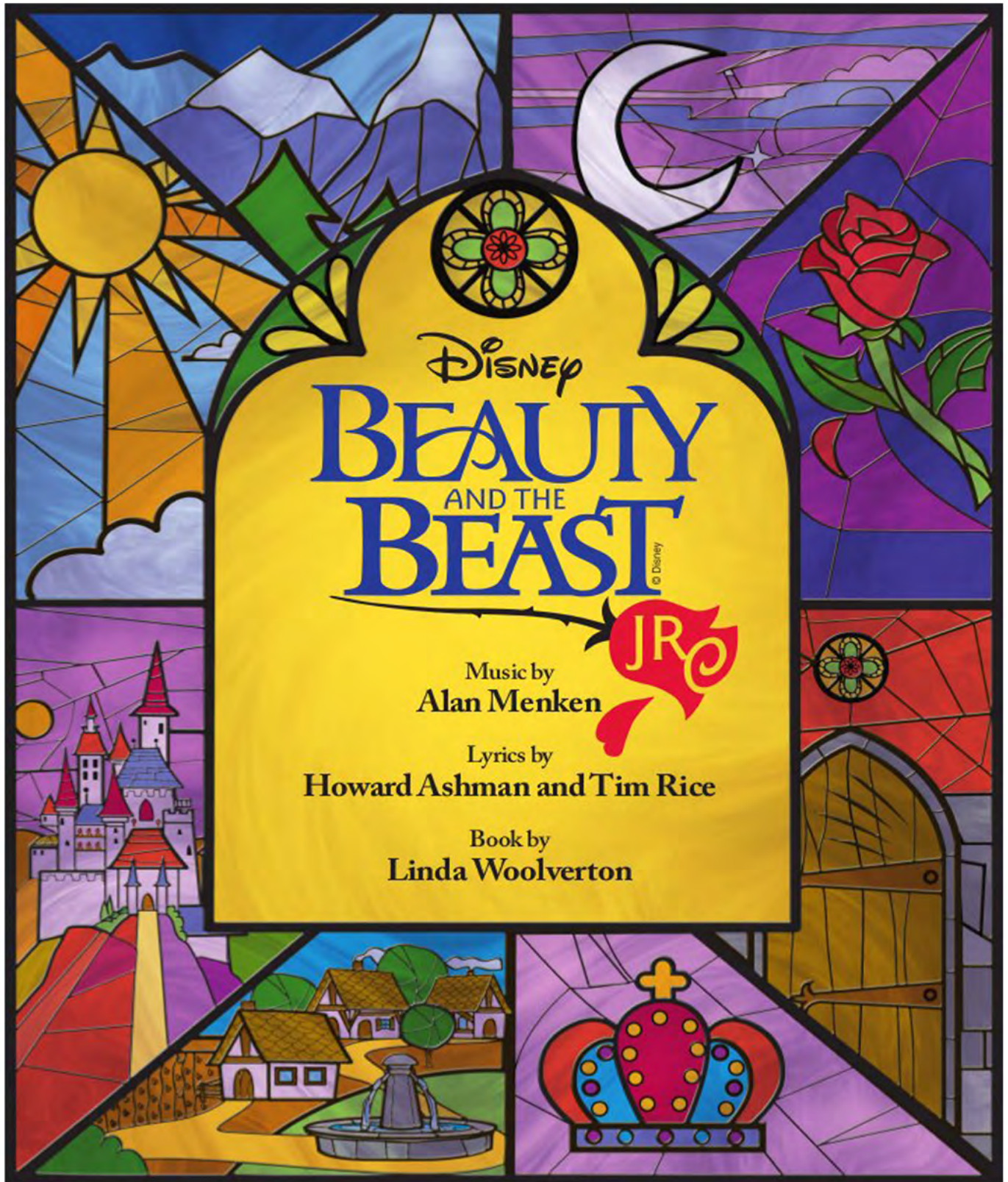
## GIS Senior Jaguars in ESKC Series 2019



**T**he Karting Club is proud to be a student-led ECA that started in November of 2017 and provides excellent opportunities for GIS students to grow as thinkers, communicators, knowledgeable and principled people, as well as being risk-takers. We participated in the 2018-2019 Emirates Schools Karting Championship held by the Dubai Kartdrome for the second time, a four-race long competition that came to an end this past Sunday, March the 14th. In total, 12 students competed as drivers, divided into three teams, assisted by six students working as crew members. GIS students on the senior teams showed remarkable effort and dedication which was reflected on their meteoric rise from 19th place in the first race to 6th place on the last and final race this past Sunday. We have a lot to celebrate such as joining the ranks of the Athletic teams of the school and having school approved external sponsors through which we have acquired gear such as suits, gloves, and racing shoes.



# 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

School is our community, and we're not in charge, but our voices should be heard; [Grade 11 student]" (Quaglia & Corso, 2014).

Once again, our students have amazed me this week with their maturity, passion and ownership of their school as they navigate the organization of events and work to drive positive change. Many of our young people have engaged with our wonderful GISPA organization to plan and contribute to the upcoming Spring Carnival (hope to see you all there). The Service Committee of our Student Executive Leadership team have collaborated with their PYP counterparts and different staff across the school to plan a week of appreciation for our amazing support staff. In our weekly middle leadership meeting, students joined us for the first time ever to propose and discuss ways in which teachers can garner feedback from students about their learning experiences to inform and improve practices in the class - The MLT listened, fed back, debated and

consolidated some next steps; a true example of collaboration. The way in which our students are taking ownership of their school and having their voices heard is something that we should all be very proud of.

On Sunday 17th March, we recognize St. Patrick's Day in school and students are invited to wear green ; if they do not wish to participate in this then they should be in full school uniform as normal. On Thursday 21st our Spring Carnival will be taking place in the afternoon so please consider coming along to support our students and families that have made the day possible. All next week, the support staff will be thanked and appreciation will be shown by our students; part of which, the students are hoping to raise enough funds to purchase movie ticket vouchers for the support staff and they are asking each student to consider contributing 5 AED on Sunday to support this. Finally, March 28th is our final day of school before spring break and we will finish school early on that day at 12:30pm.

## KHDA Wellbeing Census

The KHDA Wellbeing Census launched in 2017. The five-year project aims to improve student wellbeing and supports Dubai's vision to be among the five happiest cities in the world by 2021.

The census data provides schools with a deeper understanding of how students feel about their school life, home life, themselves and their relationships with others. It also provides insight into student attitudes towards their experiences in and out of school. Crucially, the results gained from the census act as a catalyst to drive dialogue between students, parents and school faculty about areas of wellbeing that we value as a community, as well as focusing our attention on initiatives that promote heightened wellbeing for the whole community.

Please refer to the [supporting documents](#) for the results of the most recent census and [follow this link](#) to let us know if you would like to attend a follow-up session.



## Secondary upcoming events

**ConnectEd Grade 11 Parent Evening**  
**Unifrog & Extended Essay**  
 March 19  
 DP Lounge  
 6:30 – 7:30 pm

**Weekend Musical Rehearsals**  
 March 22  
 MPH  
 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

**Musical : Beauty and the Beast Jr.**  
 March 25  
 MPH  
 6:30 pm – 7:45 pm

**Musical : Beauty and the Beast Jr.**  
 March 26  
 MPH  
 2:30 pm – 3:45 pm

**Musical : Beauty and the Beast Jr.**  
 March 27  
 MPH  
 6:30 pm – 7:45 pm

**Sustainable Homes (Grade 6)**  
 March 18, 2019  
 G6 Homerooms  
 8:40 – 9:40 am



**Angelika Kuster**  
Assistant Head of Secondary

## Lockdown Drill Feedback



Last week, we practiced our lockdown drill as a whole school. As this was a drill, there was a small team of people who were charged with checking whether we were being as safe as we possibly can be during a real threat. It was strange walking down the eerily quiet corridors, knowing that behind those closed doors were groups of students, teachers and teaching assistants. We are proud to say that the drill was very successful and that everyone was safe. As with everything, we reflected upon the drill and have already started making some minor changes to it. At some stage, over the course of the next few months, there will be a follow up drill but we will keep you informed with regards to that.



### Use of Parent ID Cards

We would like to remind parents of the need to wear the ID cards while accessing school premises or sign in with Security and get a Visitor Badge. New Parents or those who do not have an ID card can approach the Admissions Office and complete the procedure, that includes handing over photographs, getting them uploaded to our system to generate and print the ID card.

### Road Crossing

Please make sure that you use the Zebra Crossing while coming into and/or leaving school. If you could remind your children of the need for this to keep them safe, we would be grateful.

### Traffic Situation from Al Khail onto Marabea Street

With increased activity on the Dubai Hills area, we have witnessed a higher number of vehicles in the morning. We request parents to drive carefully.

## Determination Games

// That was a lovely day!", "I've had a great day!" and "Today was a happy day for me" are all comments made by our students who attended the GEMS first ever Determination Games hosted by WSO. Over 200 students from GEMS schools from around the UAE, enjoyed a multitude of activities, which was led by the WSO Sports Development Academy and supported by ESM.



We were welcomed into GEMS WSO with drums and music, which was very interactive and had everyone dancing and clapping along. Nick Watson, an ambassador for the Special Olympics World Games Abu Dhabi 2019, was an inspiring and motivating speaker who encourages inclusion of people of determination through the power of sport. Moving outside to release white and blue balloons had our students laughing and displaying faces of wonder. We moved onto the many physical activities run by the PE team as well as the many competent Student Sports Leaders. The challenges of obstacle courses, soccer strike, basketball, running, kerf ball throwing, to name a few, had the students giving of their best and behaving like true 'GIS gems'.

This was a great experience for everyone involved and something that we can add to our calendars as a regular GEM sports series activity to be a part of.

"This was such fun, can we do this again" – says it all!

## 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 will 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 will 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.

GISPA & S.E.L.T

presents

# GEMS International School Spring Carnival

March 21<sup>st</sup>

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**

فندق ذا كانفيس

THE  
**CANVAS**  
HOTEL

د. سليمان الحبيب  
DR SULAIMAN AL HABIB  
المجموعة الطبية



**MOUNTAINGATE**  
REALTY

**Maximo's**  
ITALIAN RESTAURANT

**COSTA**  
COFFEE

**THE MEAT  
AVENUE**

**PRIME**  
MEDICAL CENTER  
Personalized Care. Personally.

**Dextris**  
Educational Solutions





## Sponsor for the Spring Carnival

At Dr. Sulaiman Al Habib Hospital and clinic we care together with you for your children. Our wide range of services covers all health aspects for your family. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to keep updated with our promotions and new services. Our baby cafe will be launched for all mothers and babies of the UAE and because it is mother's day on the 21st march, we will make sure we take care of our mothers as well!

Kapoor's venue proves why he is the celebrity chef in town. With its strong, traditional influences, this stunning restaurant innovates with every dish for authentic Indian specialties with a twist. ESTRELLAS Rooftop Lounge, the perfect poolside retreat serving lip-smacking food whilst overlooking a panoramic view of the Dubai Skyline. A perfect craft menu for lunch and your dawn lounge favorites.

Dextris works with students to build a Personal Brand, navigate school workloads, university guidance and application processes and ultimately carving out a career path best suited with the student's identity, passion and purpose. Contact us today to meet with an advisor and explore how our solutions can benefit you and your students. We are located in Block 6 of Dubai Knowledge Park and we are KHDA regulated.



## GISPA NEWS



### SPRING CARNIVAL

Just a few more days to go before the SPRING CARNIVAL ! In the next couple of days, the StuELT and GISPA will be busy to put a floorplan for more than 60 booths and selecting performances for the GIS' Got Talent show.

Raffle tickets are still available for sale in the reception during the mornings and afterschool.

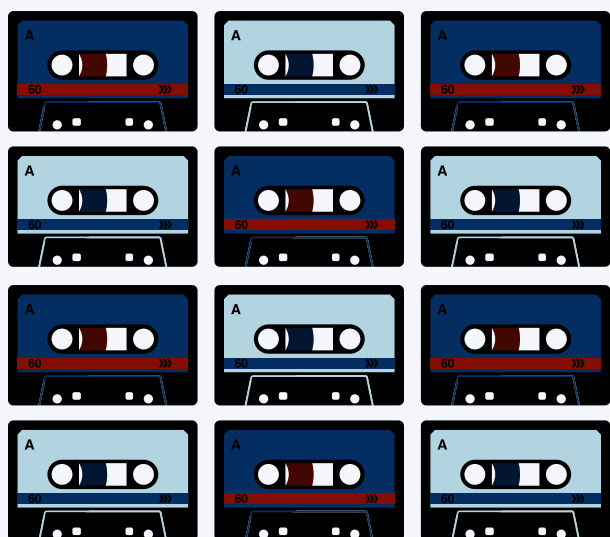
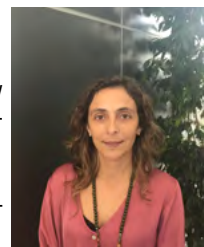
We ask every student to bring a small prize (not more than 10 AED) next week which can be dropped off in the reception. These prizes will be used for the game booths.

We hope to see you and your families there!

### New GISPA member

I'm happy to let you know we have a new GISPA member, her name is Sandra Martinho.

Sandra will introduce herself in the next Hiyatona.



BROUGHT TO YOU BY GISPA AND THE STUETT

## MYP CHILL ZONE

ONLY MYP

MUSIC

MARCH 21 | 2-6 PM | @GIS SPRING CARNIVAL

5 AED ENTRY

JOIN IN ON THE

# RAFFLE CONTEST

BY GISPA AND THE STUETT

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 primary and secondary reception  
Winners must be present to collect prizes

Hosted MyWall.com