

## Newsletter

Issue #13  
14, March 2016

This Week's Newsletter:

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### From the Principal's Desk

There can be few places in which routine plays such an important part as a school. The rhythm of the day and the week is set by the timetable and every teacher, parent and child knows where they will be every minute of the week. Wednesday started off like any ordinary day. We held a lockdown drill that went very smoothly and within minutes everyone was back at work in their classes. At about 9.30 am I remember noticing how dark the sky had become.



The rain started with a few drops and the first indication I had that it had become serious was when a delegation of Grade 11 boys arrived in my office to inform me that I had to close the school. I was, naturally, a little sceptical, but looked outside to see that a new swimming pool had started to form between the Primary and Secondary schools. Then the large sports pitch became soaked and the water chose my office as the lowest point (can't stop gravity) and proceeded to flood all the ground floor offices.

The pump room is probably the least visited place in the school. It is a room filled with large swimming pool filters and a matrix of water pipes. Crucially, it houses the pump that provides the water supply and pressure for the school. It filled with water, knocking it out of action and with it our water supply. It was at this stage that we decided to close the school. Knowing that many of the conduits and piping in the walls were filling up with water, we decided to switch off the server, disabling our email and internet connectivity and systems with which we communicate to parents.

As the waters rose within the building, the cleaners arrived with mops and brooms. Without being asked, many of the staff took off their shoes, rolled up their trousers and got to work, sweeping the water out of the classrooms and corridors. The rains continued and for quite a while it was a losing battle, but folk worked tirelessly and with a great sense of humour. The children, of course, loved the excitement and were very patient – some waited until 5.00 pm for their parents to arrive. The maintenance team was soaked to the skin as they worked to clear blockages in the drains and to create drainage channels. Everyone was calm and the children loved splashing in the new pools of water. In England people talk of the 'Dunkirk spirit', referring to those days when something major happens and everyone mucks in and does what has to be done. We certainly showed spirit.

Thank you to everyone for keeping so calm and a sense of humour during a very eventful and memorable day. I was so grateful for the servant leadership that so many of our staff and children showed on the day. Our maintenance, IT and cleaning staff worked very hard over the weekend to repair the damage and get our water supply and IT systems operational again.



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## From the Principal's Desk

### IBT

The IBT is a programme developed by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) and designed specifically for students in international schools, which assesses students in the three learning areas of Mathematics, English and Science. The questions at each testing level were designed to measure understanding of key concepts and skills appropriate to the expected level of understanding of students at each age / grade level.

More than 530 international schools participated from 11 countries around the world. This week you will receive a detailed report outlining how your child or children performed in the recent IBT benchmarking exams. Together with it, you will receive a covering letter with an analysis of the school's overall results and how we compare to the international expectations and averages. The IBT has provided us with some very detailed information on the performance of the students, grades, subjects and down to individual questions that we are using to analyse our areas of strength and focusses for development.

### DSIB

Our annual DSIB (Dubai Schools Inspection Bureau) quality assurance inspection will take place during the last week of term from 21-24 March 2016. As part of the process you have been asked to complete a survey. The inspection team will meet with a focus group of parents during the week to receive your feedback.

Andrew Wood  
Greenfield Community School Principal



## Secondary School



### Secondary School Head of Secondary: Mr. Neil Bunting

#### Risk Takers

We enjoyed an excellent assembly in the secondary school last week.

Firstly there was a celebration of the recent sports day – the excellent spirit of competition and adventure shared by the athletes across the MYP from Grades 6-10.

After that we had a presentation regarding GCSnow – the first skiing trip to France for students from GCS planned for March 2017.

Interested Students and parents for this inaugural event attended a presentation on Sunday, the 13 of March 2016 in the PD Room at 6pm.

The assembly also showcased the performers for this week's musical production which performs at GCS on Wednesday and Thursday evening.

In addition, there was a promotion for this month's Tanzania trip. The students will set off very soon and we are holding a Fun Run on Saturday 19 March.

The assembly finished with a fantastic performance from Desert Dance.

All of the performances highlighted the importance of students stepping outside of their comfort zone and the joys of risk-taking, courage and bravery.

Kind regards,

Neil Bunting

Head of Secondary

#### Attendance and Punctuality for February

	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Attendance	96%	95.5%	93.7	94.52	90.03	93.3	90.7
Tardiness	1.7%	2.5	1.77	2.5	1.86	.57%	5.03%
KHDA Rat-	Very Good	Good	Acceptable	Good	Weak	Acceptable	Weak
Improvement since last month?	Yes for attendance. No for tardiness.	Yes for attendance. No for tardiness.	Yes for attendance. No for tardiness.	Yes. Big improvement. Thank you!	Yes but still need more parent support.	Yes for attendance. No for tardiness.	Very regressive. Need more parent support.

Sinead Kehoe  
Deputy Head of Secondary



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## Secondary School

### Grade 12 Exams and Study Leave

Grade 12 will sit their final examinations in May, starting on Monday the 2nd. In order to prepare for their exams, the students will have highly focused revision lessons and final taught lessons in the two weeks from April 10-21 April 2016.

Grade 12 will then be on study leave from April the 24th until the examinations start. The Grade 12 teachers will continue to be available if students wish to attend school in normal lesson time from April the 24th.

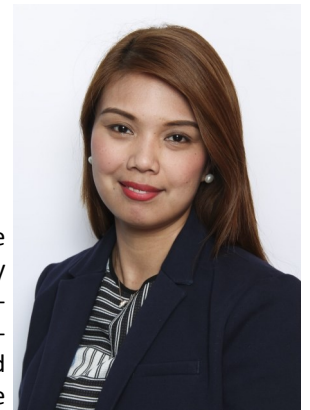
### End of Year Examinations 2016

Grades 6-11 will have their end of year examinations from June 5-16. The examinations will be in class examinations apart from Grade 11. A timetable and detailed study program will be sent out in due course. All departments will issue a study pack and complete small mock examination exercises to best prepare students. Examination questions will be in multiple forms and expectations will be conveyed to all students.

### **Individuals and Societies Group Humanities Department for AY 2015-2016**

### MONTH OF BUSINESS INNOVATIONS

GCS Humanities Department is dedicated to providing effective and relevant learning opportunities for students to critically think, to effectively communicate ideas, to use relevant technology and to use a range of sources for generalizations, theories and claims for human existence and endeavors. It is bound by its commitment to develop competent learners who will be the difference makers in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century within a positive learning environment.



It is in this context that the first ever GCS Business Plan Competition was launched for our current Grade 10 students who would soon be part of IBDP or IBCP. This event was held last Monday, 29 February 2016 which was attended by the entire Grade 10 students, parents and teachers.

In line with the exponential growth of attention to the entrepreneurial activities in the UAE and around the world, the first Business Plan Competition provided a strong platform for the graduating students of MYP to apply all business related terms and concepts; to create new businesses; to produce business plans; to experience a real-life situation and to display their potentials and skills in entrepreneurship and business management which can be considered as their future undertakings. Our Grade 10 students spent

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## Secondary School

almost a month in class working and writing their Business Plans both as an assessment and as a competition based on 4 Humanities Criteria (Knowing and Understanding, Investigating, Communicating and Thinking Critically, Communicating and Thinking Critically).

Out of 15 entries, 5 entries were chosen based on the following criteria;

1. Assessing the need: Well defined opportunity/need/problem
2. Creativity: A demonstration that business plan displays a unique approach ☑Does the proposal address the need/problem in an innovative, exciting, and dynamic way?
3. Marketing Mix: Clearly outlines and describes the marketing mix and an effective overall marketing strategy for the new business venture
4. Profit and Ethics: Clearly explains why the business is going to make profit and is ethical?
5. Over-all effectiveness of the actual presentation.
  - Did the presenter(s) engage the audience and hold their attention?
  - Did the presenter(s) appear to speak with confidence authority?
  - Were visual aids (i.e. PowerPoint® slides) clear and valuable?
  - Was the pitch exciting and compelling?
  - How efficiently did the team manage the time?

### Over-all Winners

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – **SmartSuits**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – **Go OrganicVibes**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – **El Giardino**
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place – **Chloeros Salon**
- 5<sup>th</sup> Place – **Printbolt and Bannerbolt Energy**

The members of the panel of judges were Ms. Kelly Colleran, Ms. Sarah Hosking, Mr. Michael Guttormson and Mr. Neil Hooper.

This event highlighted our students' innovative ideas, creativity and critical thinking skills.

Congratulations to all Grade 10 students!!!





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## Secondary School



**By: Gemelyn Rodriguez-Palo**  
Head of Humanities Department





## Primary School

### Primary School

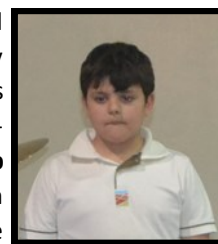
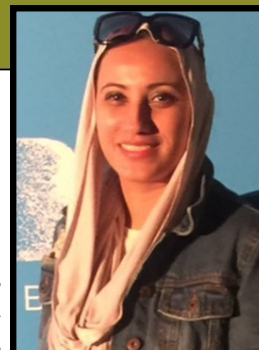
#### By Amun Qureshi: Head of Technology Integration

Technology integration is at the heart of the PYP Curriculum; it's being used in all sorts of ways to embed knowledge and understanding creatively, which I would refer to as "Camouflage Learning". This year I have looked at developing the skills students need in order to be 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learners. I have therefore put in place a Digital Literacy Skills Matrix which focuses on three main areas of competency; **Information Literacy** which includes research and reasoning skills, **Technology Literacy** which includes hardware and software application skills and **Digital Citizenship** which includes appropriate use of technology. These skills will then be benchmarked against the ISTE (International Standards of Technology in Education) standards. Specific skills required in each competency are currently being developed in collaboration with the GCS ITSC (Information Technology Steering Committee) members.

As a parent I am conscious of my child's use of technology in and out of school, therefore it is important to share with you that we only encourage the use of mobile devices at school for educational purposes and for the younger grades we have specific iPad days to ensure that our students have the opportunity to experience and learn other important functional skills. I introduced Mobile technology to GCS nearly 4 years ago and as a consequence our students have acquired skills that have enabled them to be independent learners, creative thinkers and enter competitions such as the Dubai Film Festival where our very own student, Maxwell Makdisi from 4TG won an Award for his animation. As a school we are also aware of the dangers of cyberspace and this year I introduced an Interactive **Digital Citizenship Curriculum** alongside the Cyber Safety assemblies I deliver each year to all the grades. This was received well and led to positive attitudes and responses from the students.

Technology is firmly embedded into the curriculum and there are many examples where pedagogy is leading its uses, I am unable to list every example as there are too many to mention, but I will begin with mentioning Grade 4 and 5 who use numerous apps but in particular, "Edmodo" to communicate, upload resources and lead discussions with students, by using the "flipped classroom" approach, and the "See Saw" app as a means of collecting evidence to compile digital portfolios of students, they seem to be moving towards a paperless classroom environment which deserves merit.

I am informed that "Coding is the language of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" and this year I ensured that GCS took part in a Global event called the "Hour of Code", where all students, even KG took part in this whole school initiative. Since then due to its popularity, coding has become firmly embedded into the PYP curriculum, especially in the SEN



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department where teacher Ceanlia watched excited students solving complex puzzles using code. GCS actively encourages students to take an interest in computer sciences, as not only is coding becoming an essential skill, it also precipitates inquiry, logical thinking and problem solving skills that our students will require in the future.

To support our teachers with technology integration I have been running an IT clinic every Monday and Wednesday morning, the focus of these sessions has recently changed with a move towards strategies to raise standards in literacy and numeracy skills of our students through the use of technology by demonstrating practical application of apps such as “Book Creator”, “Thinglink” “Word Salad”, “iMovie” and “Green Screen”, as well as ways to stimulate creative writing through the use of augmented reality and 360 degree images that allow students to experience and immerse themselves into the environment they are studying and write first-hand recounts of, for example landing on the moon. Grade 3 have recently introduced the “Padlet” app as a means to facilitate real-time learning with students, through an interactive wall which each class can later save and share. Grade 1 have used “ChatterPix” to explain experiments conducted in class and the observations they made. The “Show Me” app is also used to help sort data into groups.

The specialist subjects are not falling behind either, as the Islamic team are using QR Codes for peer assessment and evaluation work and the Arabic team have used “Puppet Pals” to encourage students to create dialogue through role-play in order to assess oral skills.



A great use of technology is when our teachers use it to monitor and assess their students understanding of a given topic, this is where the “Plickers” app has been invaluable. Students answer questions in anonymity using their individual plicker cards, their responses to questions are automatically generated, informing the teacher in real-time of students who perhaps need further support or the need to be challenged, thereby inform teacher planning and help to differentiate, this was observed taking place in our early years programme.

Technology and iPad use in the PYP has truly enabled our students to study in a, ‘Classroom without borders’, as wherever I look, be it the corridors, playing fields and even inside the classrooms themselves, students are busy importing pictures, recording, creating content, working, engaging and most importantly enjoying their learning experience and that’s what truly matters. For further information and examples of how we are integrating technology into the curriculum please go to my blog <http://techgcs.blogspot.ae>

Amun Qureshi

Head of Technology Integration



## Primary School

### Modern Foreign Language Department

On Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016, the Modern Foreign Language Department held their very first whole school assembly. Students from Grades 1 to 5, who are currently studying either French or German, performed songs to entertain the crowd.



### What did the performers think?

'We were very excited, happy and we had fun. It was amazing! We were proud of ourselves!' – Ms Darra's G1 French students

'C'était un défi de participer en français.' – Rose from Ms Ouali's G2 French class

'Nous étions audacieux et nous avons gagné de la confiance.' – Thomas from Ms Ouali's G2 French class

'Nous étions communicateurs.' – Taha from Ms Ouali's G2 French class

'Nous avons fait un grand effort pour apprendre la chanson, mais je l'ai adorée.' – Kim from Ms Ouali's G2 French class

## Primary School

La chanson était dure, mais très belle.' – Annie from Ms Ouali's G2 French class

'It was a great assembly, because we were singing in front of everyone.' – Aarav from Ms Naciri's G3 French class

'I liked it because I knew my words by heart.' – Jesse from Ms Naciri's G3 French class  
'It was good!' – Aleen from Ms Naciri's G3 French class

„Es machte Spass, vor der ganzen PYP ein Lied auf Deutsch zu singen.“ – Nelja from Ms Sobhi's G4 German class

**„Zum ersten Mal singe ich auf der Bühne . Ich war natürlich ganz begeistert.“** – Jessica from Ms Sobhi's G4 German class

**„Es war ganz interessant , dass alle Schüler und Schülerinnen Lieder auf Deutsch und Französisch singen.“** – Nicolas from Ms Sobhi's G4 German class

„Ich war aufgeregt, vor der ganzen PYP ein deutsches Lied zu singen!“ – Franziska from Ms Suhail's G5 German class

„Es war schön so viele leute zu sehen, die andere Sprachen sprechen!“ – Elinor from Ms Suhail's G5 German class

„Es war toll, so viele andere Lieder in anderen Sprachen zu hören.“ – Lara from Ms Suhail's G5 German class

„It was fun singing with friends from our classes and I felt really proud of singing a German song.“ – Shreya from Ms Suhail's G5 German class

„I was very surprised how good the other PYP kids did.“ – Carolina from Ms Suhail's G5 German class

„Als ich die Lieder gehört hab', hat es viele Erinnerungen zurück gebracht von früher.“ – Gabriel from Ms Suhail's G5 German class

„Ich war sehr nervös, aber es war trotzdem schön, so viele fröhliche Gesichter zu sehen.“ – Lara-Sophie from Ms Suhail's G5 German class

Nathalie Pageau  
PYP Modern Foreign Language Co-ordinator

## Primary School

### Primary Sports Day

The PYP students have completed their summative assessment for their Athletics unit. This involved all the grades having their sports day with a heavy emphasis on fun, being active and demonstrating what the students have learnt. In KG, Grade 1, and 2 all the students participated in a range of activities from throwing into hula hoops as a target throw as well as the obstacle course to demonstrate their agility. The Grade 3,4 and 5 students were separated into elite and mainstream athletes as a progression from last year's sports day. This allowed the students to compete with others of a similar ability range. This year the Grade 5 students participated on the MYP pitch at the same time as the Grade 6 students for a fantastic 'integrated' sports day with some very athletic performances from our grade 5 boys and girls. Everyone had a great day and managed to score points for their homeroom this year but there could only be one winner from each homeroom at each grade level and the results were:

Grade 1 FR were the winners

Grade 2 HB were the winners

Grade 3 AM were the winners

Grade 4 SDL were the winners

Grade 5 JR were the winners

Congratulations to everyone who participated, helped (parents and teachers) on the day to make it a great and special day for everyone.

The PE team





## Whole School News



**Saturday March 19, 2016**  
**From 9 AM until 11 AM**  
**Registration opens at 8 AM**  
 The FUN RUN will start and finish at the Marriott Courtyard.  
 Party and prizes to follow at the DIP Community Park.  
 It will be a 3 km route for all genders and ages !!!

**Fancy dress is encouraged.**  
**Lots of fun prizes to be won.**

**Prize Categories:**  
**First Man/ Woman/ Boy/ Girl past the finish line**  
**Best Fancy Dressed**  
**Best Dressed Pet**  
**Best Decorated Stroller**

**Entry Fee: 20 AED per Individual**  
**10 AED per Child**

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## Whole School News

### GCSnow 2017

In 2017 GCS will be running it's first Snow-Sports Trip to Les Menuires, France. We are offering this trip as part of our commitment to providing our students with experiences beyond the classroom. There will be many opportunities prior, during and after the experience for students to develop many attributes of the IB Learner Profile. Please be aware that even non skiers can take part in the trip. We have partnered with Skibound to deliver this program. Skibound were chosen for their experience in delivering snow based experiences, providing a quality product and their outstanding safety systems. They are already well known to GCS through their sister brand, World Challenge.



### Sailing ECA

During Term 2 we have offered students in MYP & PYP the opportunity to try their hand at sailing. During their 8 week program with Watercooled (Jebel Ali Golf Resort & Spa) students have been developing their skills, challenging themselves and having a lot of fun. We hope to offer more alternative "Paid ECA" programs in future, which give students opportunities similar to push themselves and explore their capabilities.

Matt Christensen  
Athletics Director





# GCP Updates

Brought to you by the Greenfield Community Parents Committee  
International Women's Day Special Edition



## Live Your Dream

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY IS A WORLDWIDE EVENT THAT CELEBRATES WOMEN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ACHIEVEMENTS! OBSERVED SINCE THE 1900'S, IT IS NOW RECOGNIZED EACH YEAR ON MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup>.

Imagine, waking up at 4 in the morning to run two hours before work, then again two hours of swimming after work, every day for over 8 months, all to become the next Iron Woman. Well here at GCS, we have two such women and they're more than just Iron, they're an Inspiration to us all!

**Sophie Redding** is a GCS Secondary English teacher by day, but off-hours, she was fulfilling her dream to be an Iron Woman. She learned about the Iron Woman Triathlon from her father, an Iron Man participant in South Africa. She was absolutely inspired to transform herself from an average athletic woman into a dedicated trainee fit to participate in an international race consisting of a 42km marathon, 180 km of biking and 3.8 km of swimming in the ocean waters.

With her father's motivation, Ms. Redding changed her whole lifestyle to fulfill her dream, everything from her diet, to putting her social life on hold just to train. Ms. Redding's advice for us all, "Ignore the criticism. Nothing's wrong with failing."

Well Ms. Redding fulfilled her dream! She performed the entire race in 15 hours. She said, "I've never been prouder of myself!"

Would you believe that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders here at GCS also have an Iron Woman amongst them? Ms. Finola de Poar's class knows very well!

Before the Iron Woman triathlon, Ms. Finola had taken part in two smaller triathlons in memory of the triathlete Roy Nasr, who was tragically killed by a drunk driver while cycling in 2013.

One of Ms. Finola's greatest achievements, while training, was overcoming her fears and learning how to swim front crawl in the open waters. She also had great support from our very own GCS community! Our parents and staff were a great help in showing Ms. Finola how to use the complicated training equipment, as well as, how to set her training goals. One big advice Ms. Finola would give to our kids would be to, "Get outside! Be active!"

Thank you, Ms. Redding and Ms. Finola! You are proof that with hard work and spirit, you CAN achieve your dreams!



Ms. Sophie Redding, GCS Secondary English Teacher participating in the Iron Woman Triathlon



Ms. Finola de Poar, GCS 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher running the marathon

### Our "Iron Women" here at GCS!

Do you have a story to tell about any GCS Faculty, Student or Parent for our "Live Your Dream" column?

Email your story to [gcp4gcs@gmail.com](mailto:gcp4gcs@gmail.com)  
Your story can be featured in our next newsletter!

### Important Reminders!

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#### Lost and Found

The Lost and Found Cubbies are located in Primary School opposite the library AND in the MYP School corridor facing the large football pitch. In case your lost item is not there then kindly email [kerstingcp@gmail.com](mailto:kerstingcp@gmail.com) for additional help

#### DSIB SURVEY

To help make GCS work better for you, the KHDA requests for all parents to fill out this survey via online.

#### GCS World Challenge Fun Run

9:00 AM, Saturday  
Registration at 8:00 AM  
19<sup>th</sup> of March,  
20 AED/person on sale in the MYP Reception  
Fun Activities immediately following in DIP Park

#### A BIG GCP Thank You!

To our amazing GCS staff and parents! This past rain-storm brought our community together! From carpooling, to saving the school from further damage, to keeping the atmosphere calm and safe for our children, a HUGE Thank You!

To Mr. Taha Shaikh of Home Shield Technical Services for donating much needed shelving in our GCP LF Sales Room

To our Facilities Crew for making already 2 benches for Primary. Now 4 more to go!

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Visit us on Facebook by adding yourself to  
**The Greenfield Community Parents Group**  
Email us at [GCP4GCS@gmail.com](mailto:GCP4GCS@gmail.com) with any questions or suggestions.  
We're looking forward to hearing from you!

