



Newsletter

Issue #12

25, February 2015

This Week's Newsletter:

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From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents,

The enthusiasm and enjoyment of our children in the week's series of sports days has been infectious. In the weeks building up to the event the children have been practicing their various skills. When the big day came everyone had the opportunity to compete and I have been very impressed by the spirit with which our children have taken part, balancing competitiveness with the fun of participating. Our athletes have participated keenly whilst many have enjoyed taking part and learning new skills.

A good education is a complex process of which sport is an important element. It teaches many important life lessons, ones that children need and will never come across in the classroom. Here are a few.

It is in losing that we learn more than when we win. When children win a race they leave the field feeling elated. It is only when they lose that they have cause to reflect on what went wrong and why they lost. There may be many reasons: the opposition was too strong, they were not fit enough or skilled enough. Similarly, when a child fails an examination the fault may lie on the part of the teacher, but it is also possible that the student did not prepare well enough. But there will always be another race, another sports match next week and the opportunity to try and try again. Losing at sport teaches children that they can reflect on what went well and why they performed poorly, to train harder and come back stronger. They learn to be mentally and physically tough, to be resilient and to develop a fighting spirit. When they grow up and find themselves in the business world and their enterprise crashes, we hope that they will have learnt to pick themselves up, dust themselves off and to try again.

Sport teaches children that there are rules and codes of conduct by which we abide and the respect of these is a measure of our character. We don't cheat, we do play fair and respect those competitors who play hard, but share the same respect for the rules. At the end of the game we shake hands with the opposition and thank them, irrespective of whether we won or lost.

Few people succeed in sport on natural talent alone. They have to have a base level of talent, but the most successful sportsmen or sportswomen, train regularly and are extremely self-disciplined. It teaches children that success in life does not come easy, that we are not born successful, but that it requires sweat and determination. Our modern world is much concerned with luxury, ease and convenience. In sport there are no shortcuts to fitness and mastery of skills.



tāaleem
inspiring young minds



Greenfield
Community
School



Secondary School

Like many of us, I was never the fastest sprinter at sports day. I enjoyed taking part and learnt that at the end of the race there were always faster and slower people than me. Afterwards my dad took me aside and said that so long as I did my best that was good enough. Sage advice and words of comfort, but there was an important life lesson there, too. If we measure our success by comparing ourselves to others we are doomed: there will always be someone who is faster, richer, more successful. If we can be the best we can be, if we can always look for ways in which we can do better than our previous personal best and raise the bar, we will have the satisfaction of self-mastery.

Finally, each athlete learns that they are responsible for their performance. You cannot run any faster by hiring a consultant and no-one does the running for you. How well you do is directly proportional to the effort that you make. If you jog along you will come last, but if you give it your best you stand a fair chance of winning. If our children can learn that lesson and try as hard in classroom as they do on the sports field, the sky is the limit.

Andrew Wood
Greenfield Community School Principal



COUNCIL OF
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOLS



Secondary School



Secondary School Head of Secondary: Mr. Neil Bunting

Student Leadership

Student voice and student leadership are powerful tools for school improvement and it is very important students ideas are represented and listened to in schools.

In university applications, students' contributions to school life can be the deciding factor and certainly universities are placing a lot of importance on contributions beyond academic study nowadays.

We are currently focusing our efforts in developing a new streamlined plan of student leadership as follows:

The student leadership structure has eight student leaders: Head boy, head girl, two academic prefects, two pastoral prefects and two activities prefects. The leaders are for members of Grade 11 and the post runs from January to December, on the basis that when students reach December of Grade 12, they are very busy with the demands of the final year and it is time to hand it over to a new Grade 11.

These new leaders are currently going through an application and selection process and we trust that when selected, this smaller group will have a more prominent position known throughout the whole school community. The aim is that everyone will know all of the eight leaders.

There will always be the opportunity to replace leaders who do not play an active and support role. We intend the group of eight to be a mixture of girls and boys from Grade 11 DP and CP students.

The student reps will continue in their roles and we now meet on the first Monday of the month with reps from all the classes across the Secondary School with the Head and Deputy Head of Secondary.

New Uniform

We are still taking feedback on the new uniform designs from students and parents. Final decisions will be made by the end of the month so that we can finalise and prepare the new designs in time for the new academic year in August. Once finished, the intention is for the designs to be available to order before the summer break, if required, or purchased when families return in August.

Kind regards,

Neil Bunting

Head of Secondary



Secondary School



CHALLENGING OUR STUDENTS TO ACHIEVE THEIR PERSONAL BEST

The Mathematics Department is working on many fronts this year to ensure MYP students are challenged. We would like to share a few of these with you.

A Spotlight on Criteria D- Real Life Contexts

'I believe in real life. Ask yourself, what problem have you solved, ever, that was worth solving where you knew all of the given information in advance; where you didn't have a surplus of information and you had to filter it out, or you didn't have sufficient information and you had to go find some. I'm sure we all agree that no problem worth solving is like that.' (Dan Meyer, 2010)

At the highest level, Criterion D requires students to explain the **accuracy** and **sense** of solutions in real life. Here is a fun way to raise these issues on your next family trip to Abu Dhabi.

'A car magazine suggests that an average sized car consumes 7 litres of petrol when travelling from Dubai to Abu Dhabi.' Can you brainstorm a list of reasons why this may not be the case when you and your family make your next trip there? Creativity is a key feature of doing well in this exercise. Let us start you off with a few ideas.

1. You may be in a large SUV not an average sized car.
2. You may be towing a quad bike.
3. The pressure in your tyres is low because of a recent 4x4 adventure in the sand.

How many can you come up with?

Dan Meyer's quote (above) and work on real life questioning can be viewed in the following irresistible videos.

Secondary School

https://www.ted.com/talks/dan_meyer_math_curriculum_makeover?language=en

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jRMVjHjYB6w>

Patient Problem Solving

The Challenge Zone is an initiative we would like to see become part of the culture of Mathematics at GCS. We entice our students to engage in questions with a goal to promote patient problem solving in a low stakes environment. The questions are designed to attract students of all abilities to wonder. Our current question is 'what distance could a ball point pen write for before it runs out of ink?'

As parents, you are welcomed to engage in these questions with your children to support them in becoming patient, thoughtful and resourceful. Please send in explanations of answers to mguttormson@gcschool.ae with the subject title: **Challenge Zone**. Look out for future questions on you children's mathematics Managebac page.

KenKen

On April 17th, approximately 60 of our students will be competing in the first round of the global KenKen competition. It is a competition that promotes logical thinking, a key concept in MYP mathematics. The top 25% from each grade will represent GCS at the Dubai competition, with a select few then vying for the right to compete in New York at the world championship in December. Whether your children are part of this competition or not, completing a KenKen puzzle is a great way to develop logic and problem solving skills.

Thank you for your continuing support of Mathematics at home.

Michael Guttormson
Head of Mathematics

Secondary School

World Challenge Fun Run

Come one, come all!! Circle **March the 19th 2016** on your calendar for this year's annual **GCS World Challenge Fun Run**. Whether you want first place on the podium or a leisurely stroll with good company and the kids in tow, everyone is invited to come out and support Greenfield's upcoming service trips to two underdeveloped communities in **Tanzania** and **Ethiopia**. Times, dates, and locations will be posted on Managebac, the Communicator and the Daily Bulletin, so stay tuned.

Kind regards,
Andrew Ritter

Science Department

As a Science department that is passionate about Science and its real life applications we are aiming to provide as many opportunities for our students to experience Science in a variety of different contexts.

Carnival of Science - Children's City

On the 17th of February 2016 three of our students participated in the Carnival of Science at Children's City hosted and organized by Dubai Municipality. Avaani Singh (9C) presented her project on 'Alternate means of energy production'. The project consisted of a generator attached to a bike to produce electricity by transforming mechanical energy into electrical energy.

Anaam Rehan Khan and Smrithi Ramnarayan (Gr-10 A) presented their project on 'Homopolar Motor'. This machine is simple in configuration and has no armature reaction. Students also demonstrated the concept by a working model of electromagnet train through non-laminated coiled tunnel and anticipated it as our Future Trains.

Both the projects had been the center of attraction for students, judges and general visitors in the Children City and had earned it due appreciations.

"The Carnival of Science in Children's City was greatly anticipated and was a great experience for everyone who participated. Presenting our research to other people was challenging but helped all of us become confident in our speaking skills and our ability to communicate. Watching other students who had worked hard on their projects was also very informative. I will definitely participate in Science Fairs in the near future."

Grade-10A student Anaam Rehan Khan



Secondary School

Physics Trip to iFly – City Center Mirdif

On Feb 22nd, 2016 GCS Science department arranged a study trip to iFly at Mirdif City Centre for Grade 10 and Grade 11 Physics students. iFly activity is classified under the **STEM** group, which encourages students to learn about Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics THROUGH PLAY!

Together through a theoretical session and a unique flying experience students learnt various science and engineering concepts including fluid dynamics, free-fall, terminal speed etc.

The school arranged free transportation for the trip.

"We were fortunate to have Mr. Raja take us on a unique and rare academic field trip that was definitely a memorable one. Going to iFly was very beneficial considering students were able to develop a better understanding of the lessons we have had on forces and how they act. This experience gave the perfect example of real life applications of physics. The experts at iFly gave us an educational tutorial that taught us how the surface area affects the altitude of the diver. This also taught us multiple ways of changing our surface area to maintain balance during skydiving. Overall this experience has been the most enjoyable educational field trip I have been on."

Grade 10A student Michael Moussa



Secondary School

University Placements

This year I have been working with the Grade 12 students to support them in the university application process. Now that the majority of Grade 12's have completed their applications, it has been very exciting to see the offers of university placements come in. Our students will be going to some of the best universities in Europe, USA and Canada and they thoroughly deserve all the success in the world. I have no doubt, that one day a student from GCS will become a world leader.



My role now will expand to work with students in the lower grades, starting with Grade 11. Last week I met with all Grade 11 students to discuss how I can help with their university applications and future careers. Already we have a range of events happening in March including a number of university fairs. I have also set up an Edmodo group to share information. All Grade 11's will also be offered a one to one session to discuss their future after GCS. This process has already started but please feel free to contact me if you have any specific requests or questions.

Kind regards,

Mark Bishop

University Counselor/ PE Teacher

Art

Some of the mural painting progress with Grade 8D, and the Gifted and Talented students in the Art ECA.



Secondary School



A sneak peek at what the Art ECA students are creating with the thousands of bottle tops we have collected across Primary and Secondary School. (we are still accepting plastic bottle tops in all colors!)



Secondary School



Musical Production: Best of Broadway

Dear Parents,

One of the highlights of our school calendar is fast approaching with the secondary musical production, *Best of Broadway* happening on Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th March.

Our Secondary Musical Production ECA students have been working hard since Term 1 rehearsing the many dances, songs and scenes that will be showcased in the performance. This year we decided to include some of the most loved numbers from a variety of well-known Broadway musicals including *Grease*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Wicked*, *Les Misérables*, *Rent*, *Chess*, *Spamalot*, *A Chorus Line* and *Hairspray*. In addition to our talented singers, dancers and actors, the production will also feature our Secondary School Orchestra students who have also been working extremely hard this term on the impressive number of songs included in this year's performance.

There will be two performances taking place; on Wednesday 9th March at 7pm and on Thursday 10th March at 5.30pm. Tickets are available at the secondary reception from Sunday 28th March, 50 dirhams for adults and 30 dirhams for children. There will not be allocated seating so please make sure you arrive on time to choose your seats. Doors will open at 6.40 pm on Wednesday and 5.10 pm on Thursday. Last year was a sell out so be sure to purchase your tickets early to avoid missing out!

Looking forward to seeing you there!

The Production Team

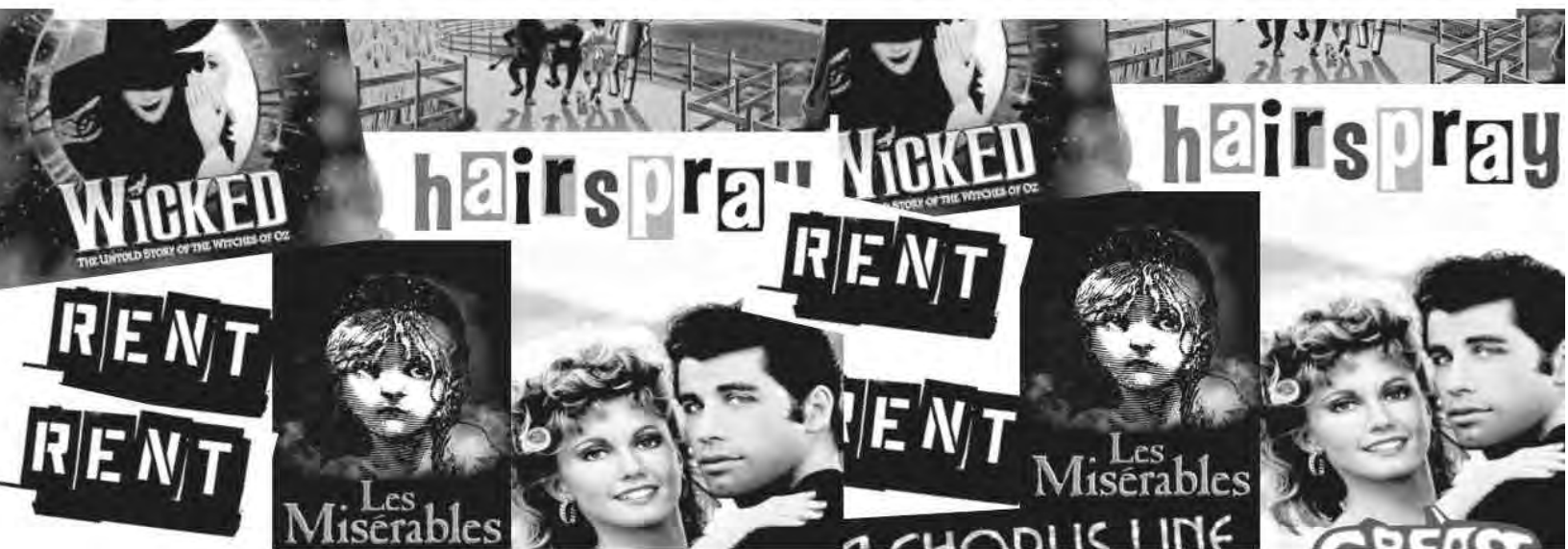


BROADWAY

PRESENTED BY GCS MUSICAL PRODUCTION STUDENTS



WEDNESDAY 9TH MARCH, 7PM
THURSDAY 10TH MARCH, 5.30PM



ADULTS 50AED – CHILDREN 30AED

TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE SECONDARY RECEPTION FROM SUNDAY 28TH FEBRUARY

Primary School



Primary School

Reading with your children

Studies show the importance of reading to your children and listening to them read will gain significance gain in their reading fluency, reading comprehension, increase in vocabulary, decoding words and writing.

Here are ten activities which we as parents can initiate at home with our children –

1. Set aside a regular time to read – just like we all have dinner time, we should incorporate reading time – **DEAR – Drop Everything And Read!** This does not mean read on your devices, but to actually pick up a book and read!
2. Surround your children with reading material – have books on their levels where they are tempted to read and at their eye levels.
3. Encourage a wide variety of reading activities – have them read menus, road signs, brochures, magazines, subtitles while playing a movie, playing I Spy while driving, reading at the park and more.
4. Look for reading problems – listen to them to see if they can sound out words, know their sight words, use context to identify unknown words and check for their understanding.
5. Important to get help for reading problems! It is encouraged for parents to speak to the teachers if they are identifying that their child is not able to decode words! Ongoing communication is the key for success!
6. Ask "what if" questions. "What would happen if we didn't shovel the snow?" "What if that butterfly lands on your nose?" This will give a discussion point ... even if it nonsense, they are engaging in a conversation.
7. When reading different genres, speak about what is fiction, non-fiction, poetry, etc. This will give the children the knowledge as to what types of books they are about to read.
8. Parents can use the PEER method to help them



Primary School

P: Prompt your child with a question about the story.

Prompting your child focuses attention, engages the child in the story, and helps the child understand the book.

Point to something in the picture, for example, a cat. "What is that?"

E: Evaluate your child's response.

"That's right! That's a cat. What else do you see?"

E: Expand on what your child said.

"That's a big, black cat! We saw one of them yesterday outside our house!"

R: Repeat or revisit the prompt you started with, encouraging your child to use the new information you've provided.

"Can you say big, black cat?" Each time the book is reread, the expanded vocabulary words are verbalized again.

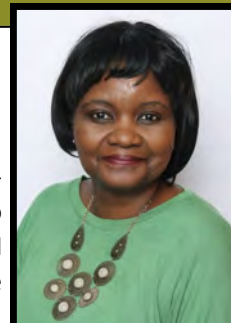
Reading is the key to success! I hope you've enjoyed this article and found some good tips to read with your children.



Primary School

Author Visit

Meeting an author in real life and hearing them talk about their passion for their work can alter a child or young person's relationship to books and ignite a life-long love of reading. Our students at GCS will have this wonderful opportunity to have that experience when the author David Webb visits the school on the 8th of March 2016.



About David Webb



David Webb has written more than thirty children's books and produced valuable teacher resources. He was born in Liverpool but lives in Bury, where he worked as a Primary School Head teacher before becoming a full time writer.

Story Writing Workshops

His visit to the school will involve running Story Writing Workshops with students. The sessions will last for forty five minutes. He will explain how he goes about writing a book. The visit will be packed with practical ideas. He covers topics such as: collecting ideas, building a plot, drafting a plot and editing.

Children will discuss ideas and then a quick and effective model plan will be produced. The children will produce their own plans and begin to draft their own stories. Students are encouraged to share their work by reading extracts aloud. Learn more about David Webb by visiting <http://www.david-webb.info>

You will receive more information about his visit later.

Books by David Webb



Primary School

Grade 3 Water Assembly

Grade 3 has been inquiring into how human activity affects water sources and distribution. We have been researching both in class and at home and finding out that we can take action to conserve water. To showcase and share this knowledge, we decided to prepare an educational assembly with the hope that we could encourage other students and indeed parents to think about the choices they make and the impact these can have on our water supply. It included things the children had learned about water sources, the water cycle and our responsibility to conserve water. Remember only 3% of the earth's water is fresh water and 2% is locked in the polar ice leaving us with a very tiny 1% of fresh water for our many, many uses!

Together with Ms. Doyle we wrote a song with a catchy chorus and even a rap to raise awareness of the water situation. We showed our commitment to learning by rehearsing a play showing the difference between two families' water consumption. In class we have all been learning to write Haikus (Japanese poems with a set number of syllables in each line) and some students shared their poems with the audience. We ended the assembly with the whole of Grade 3 singing our song enthusiastically. It was a wonderful moment to see all our hard work come together; our teachers and parents were very proud of us! Please follow the link to watch the video of the performance:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zLFCGT7AuJY&feature=youtu.be>





Primary School

Grade 1 News

Excursions are an integral part of student life at GCS. They form part of the various units of inquiry. Grade 1 students went on a very exciting and informative trip to Party Centre in Garhoud as part of our unit "How We Express Ourselves". Hearts were beating fast as we slowly approached the colourful and decorative store. With our clipboards and pencils in our hands, we set off on our adventure. We practiced our research skills and integrated Maths into our unit by tallying the different decorations we saw in the store. We also compared two celebrations using a Venn diagram to record the similarities and differences. The students commented that they will never forget this experience.

Grade 1 Team



Primary School

Grade 5 Formative Assessment

As part of their 'How the world works' unit, students have been exploring the properties of materials and collecting materials from home for a secret assignment. They have learned to build a boat which will be able to float in the GCS pool and withstand dangerous sharks and a violent storm (students from 5JR). Their boats set sail in the GCS pool where Mr. Mallon chose the winner.



GCP Updates

Brought to you by the Greenfield Community Parents Committee



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Live Your Dream

A COLUMN DEDICATED TO HONOR THOSE SILENT ACHIEVERS AND TO INSPIRE OTHERS!

How one student's determination created a GCS six -year tradition of the student led dance elective!

Yanniek Heijkoop was a student at GCS with a passion for the Arts! However, when electives first began at GCS in 2010, she was rather disappointed that there were none that covered her love for dance! Yanniek asked the dean of students, at that time, if she could start her own elective. "Looking back now, it was amazing that a Grade 8 student (me) was heard, listened to, and that they were very open to the idea!"

The elective proved to be one of the most popular and overbooked ECA's for that year and so forth. No one was turned away and many different dance styles were performed at school events.

"In 2013, I heard about Desert Dance and was desperate to make sure that we had an opportunity to participate!" The Desert Dance Event is held annually, comprising multiple school dance groups. GCS is the only 100% student led, devised and administered performance group at this event. The Spirit Award was also created and given to the GCS team for their display of the best qualities of harmonious collaboration!

Thank you, Yanniek! Your determination, hard work, artistry and talent resulted in a fine example of the true GCS spirit and vision!



Slices Luncheon

Hosted by the MYP Parent Coordinators

A delicious lunch, with the help of Slices, was held in an effort for more Secondary Parents to meet one another. What a fabulous concept to have the Secondary parents connect their ideas and build new friendships!

GREAT JOB TO ALL OUR STUDENTS FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE GCS SPORTS DAY 2016!

And a big thank you to all the parents who volunteered their time, as well as, to those who came to cheer our kids along! This year's Sports Day was very well organized and lots of fun for everyone!

Congratulations to all the classes who won the overall grade competitions! Because everyone performed so well, you are all winners!



INTERNATIONAL DAY 2016 A HUGE SUCCESS!

A whopping 41,000 AED was raised from this year's International Day 2016!

The GCP Committee has decided to allocate 6,500 AED each to both the Tanzania and Ethiopia Projects.

Also, 1,500 AED will be given to both the PYP and MYP Student Councils.

The remainder will be saved for next year's International Day 2017 and projects within Greenfield Community School.

Important Reminders!

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**Last Day of School
30th of June 2016**

**First Day of
2016-2017 Term**

New Students:

28th of August 2016

Current Students:

29th of August 2016

*Dates are still subject for
KHDA approval.*

**"Best of Broadway"
Musical Production**

9th and 10th of March

Tickets available from the

28th of February in the

Secondary Reception

Check out the GCP Facebook page for more info.

**The Diploma Program
(Grade 11 and 12)**

Art Exhibition

6:00 PM 9th of March

4:30 PM 10th of March

In the MYP Cafeteria

With refreshments available for sale

Raffle Prizes

If you are a winner, collect your prizes before the 3rd of March from Jenny in the PYP Reception.

Hurry, many prizes will expire by the end of March and April!

Do you have a story to tell for our "Live Your Dream" column?

**Email your story to
gcp4gcs@gmail.com**

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Visit us on Facebook by adding yourself to

The Greenfield Community Parents Group

Email us at GCP4GCS@gmail.com with any questions or suggestions.

We're looking forward to hearing from you!

