

From the Principal's Desk



Newsletter

16th October 2016

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Dates to diarise

19th October 9am "Meet the Principal" Coffee Morning for AY prospective parents 2017

20th October PYP Coffee Morning @ 8-9am

23rd October PD Day school closed to students all day.

23rd October G10-12 compulsory Taaleem Education/ University Fair—details to follow.

Dear Parents,

No two children are the same and one of the great challenges and joys as parents and teachers is to identify, encourage and nurture the talents of our children. We want to inspire individuals and individuality. Each young person will define and measure success differently. I would like to share with you the story of one of the students who graduated from our school with the class of 2016.

Rhea did not find Maths tests and long English essays easy, but loved to cook. She joined our Career Programme and took two Diploma Programme courses (Art and Business and Management) in addition to the International Centre for the Culinary Arts modules. She started a small business making birthday cakes and began to sell them to restaurants. Her work shadow was spent with a catering company which led to her taking specialist cooking classes. With these skills she expanded her pastries and cakes menu and the scope of her business. She mastered some important Mathematics skills as she mixed ingredients and calculated costs and profit margins. Her literacy skills are fundamental to her reading and writing recipes. She graduated from our school with an IB Career Programme certificate which has set her up for a successful and fulfilling career in catering. She has graduated from a culinary college and holds a diploma in commercial patisserie. I suspect that in any other educational system she would have struggled and would quite possibly have completed her school career feeling demoralized. The IB is truly education for the future.

On another topic altogether, I have been delighted to see our Italian language programme growing. A small group of dedicated parents working in conjunction with our Modern Foreign Languages teachers at GCS and the Italian Consulate have expanded the programme. It now takes place both as a club in the afternoons and as a language school on a Saturday morning, drawing students from within and outside GCS. As an international school it is exciting to partner with parents and the broader community to support mother tongue tuition. We already run a rich mother tongue programme and I want to thank Ms. Natalie Pageau for her fundamental role in establishing and building this dimension of the life of our school.

On the sporting front I have been very proud to watch how well one of our students, Panos Chatzigeorgiou has done in his swimming. He is a rising star and recently competed in the FINA World Championships held here in Dubai. He took part in the 100m butterfly and 100m freestyle and 100m individual medley. His training regime is a tough and time consuming one and balancing his studies and sporting commitments calls for a great deal of self-discipline and time management. We are in the middle of the football and basketball season and I have been delighted to hear of the successes of a number of our teams, particularly against some of the sporting powerhouses in town. Our U19 boys' basketball team has had some superb games and wins against tough opposition who have beaten them in the past.

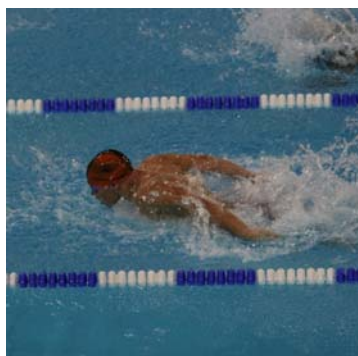
From The Principals Desk

Newsletter



taaleem
inspiring young minds

On the sporting front I have been very proud to watch how well one of our students, Panos Chatzigeorgiou has done in his swimming. He is a rising star and recently competed in the FINA World Championships held here in Dubai. He took part in the 100m butterfly and 100m freestyle and 100m individual medley. His training regime is a tough and time consuming one and balancing his studies and sporting commitments calls for a great deal of self-discipline and time management. We are in the middle of the football and basketball season and I have been delighted to hear of the successes of a number of our teams, particularly against some of the sporting powerhouses in town. Our U19 boys' basketball team has had some superb games and wins against tough opposition who have beaten them in the past.



Thank you to those parents in Primary and Secondary who attended to focus group discussions that examined the results of the Endicott Survey which we conducted last term. We were able to dig deeper into the data, seek clarity and ask searching questions. Feedback from these groups has been very useful and given us insight into the needs and perspective of parents and we came out with some very practical suggestions as to how we can do things better.

It is with great sadness that we have received the news of the passing of Sharon Hooper after a long battle with ill health. Sharon was our Librarian from 2012-2016, and a much loved member of our school community. Our thoughts are with Neil and her daughter Francesca



Secondary School News

Mr Neil Bunting Head of Secondary



We are delighted with the new staff that have joined us this year. The library launch and the recent Parent Teacher Conference (PTC) for grades 6 and 11 gave parents an opportunity to meet our teachers and get some sense of how children are settling in at the start of the year. This PTC was just a brief introduction and will soon be followed by parent meetings for all grades following the release of the November interim reports. On October 23rd the first Taaleem Fair is taking place at Jumeirah Bacculaureate School. All students from grades 10-12 must attend and will be joined by their fellow students across all the Taaleem schools. The fair is being attended by a number of universities and will be a wonderful opportunity for GCS students, and parents in the evening, to attend presentations and find out about university possibilities. Ms Addison and Mr Bishop are organising the GCS students' participation and the communication of expectations and schedules to parents.

Congratulations to one of our grade 12 students Panagiotis Chatzigeorgiou competing in the FNA swimming world cup in Dubai. It is fantastic to see our students living their dreams and dealing with both the challenges of being an IB learner and an athlete. We wish him all the best with succeeding in both aspects of his busy life.

Similarly Jade Cunningham, Grade 9 GLC and PE teacher, is participating in a 3 day Crossfit competition in Cairo called ELFIT. It is one of the biggest competitions in the Middle East with over 800 athletes participating in qualifiers to try get one of the spots at the finals.

There will be information about the Week Without Walls in January sent home soon and subsequent communication with parents from Matt Christensen, our CAS coordinator. It is not a complete week off timetable but more of a coordinated plan of MYP camps over 2 to 4 days including experimental learning in and out of the classroom. These activities will contribute to our Service as Action programme. Although we encourage all students to go, those not attending the trip will be doing in-school challenges and usual "academic" lessons will not happen during those days. This Week Without Walls is an attempt to deliver a holistic learning opportunity for your child and should be considered as important as their academic lessons. Similarly CP students will be doing their work experience during this time and there are also January Grade 12 mock examinations. Mr Christensen will talk to all parents about CAS and service learning in the next Secondary Parents coffee morning on Thursday 3rd November. Thank you parents for a tremendous turn out for the library opening.

Lastly, in November we have an earlier Fork in the Road meeting to discuss pathways for students beyond Grade 10. It will provide a detailed explanation of our Careers Programme and Diploma Programme. We would strongly encourage and recommend that all grade 10 students and parents attend but we also invite parents from all year groups. The decision your child makes for their academic path is an important one and one best made well-informed.



Secondary School News

ACADEMIC HONESTY DAY

The individuals and Societies Department is bound by its commitment to develop competent learners who will make a difference in the 21st Century, all within a positive learning environment. This commitment is encompassed in subject-specific requirements and expectations as well skills needed outside the four corners of their classrooms. In line with this, the new academic year was welcomed with one goal to create a "Culture of Success" through *Academic Honesty*.

All I and S classes from Grades 6-12 showed synergy and cohesiveness in understanding the importance of Academic Honesty personally and professionally. Each grade/level was given specific activities in which they comprehensively discussed and examined why academic honesty matters. Students' knowledge about referencing and following the conventional method known as MLA (Modern Language Association) was likewise reinforced.

Another important highlight of this week was the distribution of Academic Honesty Contract that the students and their parents had to sign. Understandably, Academic Honesty does not only happen for a day or week, we envision all students to practice academic honesty and integrity at all times in and out the premises of Greenfield Community School.

Gemelyn R. Palo
Head of Individuals and Societies Department

Well what an amazing day we had at GCS when Virgin Radio's Breakfast Show Team of Kris Fade, Big Rossi & Priti Malik visited on Wednesday as part of the '20 schools ion 20 days' promotion. 8C did a fantastic performance with Mr Brooker, which was recorded and played on Thursday's show.

Kris Fade said they had a great time at GCS, playing games with the teachers and thanked the whole school community. The whole event was stage managed by the Grade 11 IBCP students as an assignment to 'manage an event'.

Mr Worth (IBCP Coordinator)





Primary School News



Mrs Jill Shadbolt
Primary Coordinator

Three Way Conferences

Dear Parents,

This year at GCS we continue to strive to move learning and teaching forward in a way that is both meaningful and purposeful. One of the ways that this will happen is a change in the way in which we report to parents. Taking on board parent feedback and best practise, we have included an extra reporting period this year and a new conference format at the beginning of the year to include student voice.

This year we have increased the written student reports from two per year to three a year. In addition to this increase in reports, we will also be changing the format of the report to align with the three other IB (PYP) schools in Taaleem. Parent / teacher conferences will see another progression this year with the first conference being a three-way conference.

Three-way conferences involve parents, teachers and students. They are an opportunity for students to discuss their learning and understanding with their parents, who are responsible for supporting the student through the process. It is also an opportunity for all stakeholders to have a voice in the progression and development of learning.

Parents are encouraged to bring their children with them to the three-way conference, to discuss how their children are settling in to their new year group and where the learning will focus on next. The teacher, parent and student will have an opportunity to discuss their opinions which will be recorded for reference and future planning.

If, due to the timing of a late appointment, students are unable to accompany their parents to the three-way conference, every effort will be made to discuss the student's next steps for learning with them in the classroom in order to have the complete feedback. Sign up information was sent out in via the Communicator last week .

We look forward to seeing you and your children at the three-way conferences next week and will welcome constructive feedback.



Primary School News



In Grade 2 we have been learning about how our choices affect all those around us. We read the book 'Have You Filled a Bucket Today' by Carol McCloud, and discussed how we could be bucket 'fillers,' not bucket 'dippers' by making thoughtful, reflective choices. We then made our very own buckets to be filled with notes of kind words and actions we have done throughout the day.

The focus is not on receiving notes, rather giving, as it feels better to give than receive, and positive actions are contagious. We connected our learning to the concept of the kindness boomerang, explaining that what goes around comes back around! The goal is for these actions to transcend past the confinements of school and into our daily lives. Stay tuned for next few weeks as Grade 2 will be taking ACTION and sharing their learning in a school led kindness campaign! Be ready to be inspired by the Kindness Boomerang!

Mrs Cherine El Khatib
Grade 2 Coordinator

Sports Desk

GCS Sport Season starts with a bang!

The first weeks of the sporting calendar have gotten off to an amazing start at GCS this year. In our first 15 outings we have registered 10 wins. Well done to all the boys and girls involved in Sport so far and keep up the hardwork. Keep an eye out for the new Sport Journalists around school, they will be conducting interviews and game reports for the new sports blog and sports board in the cafeteria (details to follow).



GCP UPDATES

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE GREENFIELD COMMUNITY PARENTS COMMITTEE



Important Reminders!

Fire Drill Parent's Assembly Point

In case of a fire drill, it is important that all parents on campus assemble near the **wall opposite the small football pitch**. Shaded areas and trees should be avoided.



The Communicator

In case you may not be able to find particular information on **The Communicator**, please email

community@gcschool.ae

And if you are experiencing difficulties with **the D6**

Communicator App on your device, please contact either the website supportd6technology.com or email wayne@six-delta.com

Secondary Coffee Morning
Thursday, 3rd of November
8:00AM – 9:00AM
in the Secondary Library
Discussing AS and CAS,
Week Without Walls,
External Trips,
The Duke of Edinburgh, DP,
followed by Q/A Session

GCP Lost and Found Sales
Tuesday, 8th of November
2:00PM – 3:00PM

Enjoy the satisfaction of not paying too much for your child's uniform. Sales are held every **Second Tuesday** of every month. Located above the Secondary Library in Room C23

Live Your Dream!

WHILE GOING THROUGH LIFE'S EVERYDAY CHALLENGES, OUR GCS COMMUNITY HAS MANAGED TO LIVE THEIR DREAMS

Each and every one of us is capable of doing great things. We all have individual talents and aspirations. But many of us put our dreams on the back burner. Some may think it would be silly or too challenging, or we're waiting for someone to motivate us. However, fulfilling your dream may be worth the try.

Would you believe that our GCS Community is full of dreamers and have been successful at achieving those dreams? From students to teachers, to parents and grandparents, we are a community of winners, such as two of our student, gold-medalist swimmers, **Abdullah Zeljo** and **Jan Springer**. Encouraged by his coach, Abdullah could never imagine how far he's come! Jan looked up to swimmers like **Michael Phelps** who had to persevere past his childhood hardships to become one of the best swimmers this world has ever seen! Or our gold-medalist fencing star, **Philip Silva**. Philip's advice to GCS is, "**When you have a vision for yourself, go ahead and follow it. No matter what other peoples' beliefs are, set your own expectations and work to meet them.**" We wish Philip the best as he is pursuing yet another dream of going to the 2020 Olympics!

Ms. Sophie Redding and **Ms. Finola de Poar** are our very own "Iron Women" competitors! Ms. Redding said, "**I've never been prouder of myself!**" Ms. Finola was inspired by the triathlete, **Roy Nasr**, who was tragically killed while cycling in 2013. She had to overcome her fears while training and was able to compete successfully!

Living your dream is a challenge. Overcoming your fears, physical limitations, or finding the right support can be an obstacle in getting there, but once you're there, **YOU'RE THERE!** As Dr. Seuss put it, "**...be your name Buxbaum or Bixby or Bray, or Mordecai Ali Van Allen O'Shea, you're off to Great Places! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting. So...get on your way!**"

Do you know someone who has lived their dream? Email the GCP and they may be featured in our next newsletter!



Contact the GCP by email at GCP4GCS@gmail.com. We're also available on Facebook on **The Greenfield Community Parents Group** page.

Two weeks ago...

5th of October, GCP Coffee Morning, Parents were able to ask questions and learn more about The Communicator. Also, our school caterer, Slices, heard feedback from parents and are happy to receive new recipes! Look out for a survey soon! If you're experiencing problems with Slices, please email feedback@lices.ae and cc mseymour@gcschool.ae.

8th of October, The Endicott Survey Parents Session, It was well organized, ideas of concern were shared, parent's feedback was given. If you have any suggestions and ideas, please email Mr. Gary Mallon at gmallon@gcschool.ae or the GCP email at gcp4gcs@gmail.com.

A big GCP "thank you" to the moms who have volunteered to be PYP Class reps and Secondary Parents reps (listed here)!

Who are your Secondary Parent Representatives?

Role	Name
Secondary Parent Representative	Sarah Lumb
AS & CAS Liaison	Dipika Kalra
Grade 6 Representative	Carol Crose Kaferle
Grade 7 Representative	Karina Terp
Sports	Marika Mattiazzi
Duke of Edinburgh & Field Trips	Dominique Worth
Productions/Art's	Sadhana Natali-Khan Kerstin Hohmann Marian Alphonso
Additional Support	Helen Mary Ashcroft Turner
University Diploma Programme Personal Project	Najat Salim Tanya Vinsen Kerstin Hohmann Sadhana Natali-Khan Sarah Lumb
Career Programme	Fiona Benger Tanya Vinsen Kerstin Hohmann Sadhana Natali-Khan Sarah Lumb