



# Newsletter

Issue # 14  
14, April 2016

This Week's Newsletter:

\* [Pg. 1. From the Principal's Desk](#)

\* [Pg. 3. Secondary School](#)

\* [Pg.10. Primary School](#)

\* [Pg.19. GCP News](#)



## From the Principal's Desk

Welcome back to the start of the Summer Term. I hope that you were able to spend some quality family time together during the Spring Break. It has been fascinating to hear of some of the travels of our staff and students during these holidays: from Malta, the Maldives and Manchester, to yachting off the Thai coast. I spent some time in Cape Town enjoying time with family and friends and walking the dogs on the beach. Life's simple pleasures.

During the holidays a group of Secondary students undertook a Global Outreach trip to Tanzania. We have an ongoing relationship with a school there and contributed towards the construction of a classroom last year. This year our students plastered and painted the walls and in the process they engaged with communities whose needs are very different to ours. Expeditions like these are a wonderful opportunity for our students to expand their horizons and to engage with people who may be poorer in material terms but have a great deal to give in other ways. Trips such as this require a great deal of preparation and planning and I am looking forward to hearing their account of the trip in assembly. A huge word of thanks to Theresa Cormican who stepped in to cover for Andrew Ritter at the last minute.

Activities such as these not only foster international mindedness, but involve taking risks, whether in a traveling or cultural context. One of the Learner Profile characteristics of an IB Student is that of being a risk taker. The trip was, for most of the students a step into the unknown and an introduction to a new part of the world and community. As many of you know, rock climbing is my passion, and that involves taking risks, managing hazards and being safety conscious, I have been an active climber for well over thirty years. There is a world of difference between being foolhardy and impulsive, and taking acceptable risks.

Ibn Battuta sailing off into the uncharted waters, Nelson Mandela wearing the green rugby jersey in 1995, the Wright brothers launching their first aircraft, all were well aware of the risks they faced. Being a pioneer involves the possibility of failure.

As they camped out in the African bush students and teachers got to know one another in different contexts and situations. Friendships were forged and strengthened. There need to be challenges in the lives of our children, tough times and difficult experiences teach resilience, develop character and are the anvil upon which well-rounded and compassionate adults are forged.



### Staff News

In September 2016 we will welcome a new IB Diploma coordinator to our school.

Dianne Vella read for a Masters' in Education at Monash University in Victoria, Australia. She is an experienced Science teacher and has been the IB Diploma Coordinator at Geelong Grammar, one of Australia's top independent schools, for the past five years. Prior to that she was the IB Diploma coordinator at a well-respected school here in Dubai. She has a proven track record of raising standards and I am sure will have a positive impact on our programme and students.

We thank Neil Hooper for the contribution that he has made to our school. He has done a great deal to put systems in place and to support our students through their Diploma Programme years. During his tenure we have seen steady growth in our Diploma Programme, both in terms of numbers and results.

Kind regards,

Andrew Wood

Principal



## Secondary School News



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

Dear Parents,

I hope everyone enjoyed a very nice holiday. I am sure time will fly by this term to the summer break.

However, there is plenty happening this term and I wanted to bring your attention to a few up and coming events:

#### Key Dates in Secondary

**April 17: Start of ECA's.**

**April 21: Secondary coffee morning / start of G12 study leave**

**May 2: Start of G12 final DP examinations**

**June 2: Secondary coffee morning**

**June 6: Start of Grade 6-11 end of year examinations**

**June 15: Finish of Grade 6-11 end of year examinations**

**June 30: End of year assembly and goodbyes.**

#### GCP/Secondary

I am very grateful to the support of parents in helping communicate and support events and explaining about the secondary school to new parents. Please continue to support us. Sarah Lumb will be meeting with you and planning ways forward to help parents get a better understanding of how they can help in the MYP/DP and CP through supporting special events and important parts of the course such as the Personal Project.

#### Welcome new families

We have several new children joining secondary this term and we welcome all the new families to the one big family that is GCS. We know your children will be well looked after and made welcome.

#### Secondary Coffee Morning 21 April

At the coffee morning, Mark Bishop will be explaining about his newly launched careers ECA and sharing all he is doing with all of the secondary grades in planning ahead for university and career paths. There will of course be an opportunity for questions. It would be great to see parents at these events.

#### Real Life Learning and Experiential Learning: week without walls

This year our students have been to Tanzania and are heading off soon to Ethiopia. It is wonderful to hear them share their experiences and talk about what they have learnt.

**taaleem**  
inspiring young minds



## Secondary School News

Next year we plan to expand this further and some students will be partaking on the inaugural GCS Snow in February. In connection with this we are taking students to learn to ski at Ski Dubai as an ECA. We also have students doing diving.

In January 2016 we would like to look at coordinating local trips so all MYP grades potentially could be out on local trips at the same time. We hope to focus part of a week on experiential learning across the MYP from grades 6-10.

### Real Life Learning

Our students should be very aware that there will be questions in their examinations that are unfamiliar to them. As in real life they are expected to apply learning from one context to another. To recognise and apply knowledge and skills in a new situation, which is foreign to us at first, is a key skill in preparing us for the future world of work.

For example, math learning that is seen by students as isolated skills and concepts simply to pass a test is limiting and ultimately leads to limited or short-term learning.

If math teachers are exposing their students to real-life math, they are giving them the opportunity to contextualize the learning, they are giving learning a relevance and ultimately giving students the opportunity to develop their critical thinking skills, reasoning and communication.

For example, they might apply measurement skills and concepts from the classroom to a football pitch or designing a house. That might lead to explorations of labour and transportation costs and other practicalities.

Combining science and math might lead to explorations of Google Sky and measuring the stride and speed of Usain Bolt on the athletics track.

Learning by doing, or authentic learning, is not a new concept. At one time children prepared for the world of work through apprenticeships and developing a trade. Times have changed, but that vital link between the classroom theory and real life contexts and real world application remains absolutely crucial. For some students activities and simply getting out of their seats, helps students who learn best by kinesthetic applications to succeed. For others it is the process of carrying out the activity for themselves rather than listening to instructions that helps. How many of us can learn a new program on the computer from just reading instructions in a book? Or how many of us prefer playing around with it and learning by trial and error?

When I was at school, I can remember how confusing and frustrating it was because the lack of real world application. I remember the lingering question that was always in my mind – how is this going to help me in the future?

Kind regards,  
Neil Bunting  
Head of Secondary

**taaleem**  
inspiring young minds

## Secondary School News

### Design Technology Department accommodating Wildlife at GCS



So far this year the GCS Design Technology workshop has been a hive of activity with grades 6-11 creatively working on separate projects. We have seen some fantastic desk organisers, mirrors, clocks and iPad cases. But the highlight has been the success of one of the grade 10 projects.

Every morning and every evening the predominant sound around the school is the chirping of birds, busy trying to find a suitable spot to build their nests. Last term grade 10 Design Technology students were asked to design and make a unique bird house that could be displayed around the school, allowing the birds a safe and comfortable place to build their nests. Each student set about researching the types of birds around the school, where to put the bird houses and suitable materials that could be used. In all the students spent about six weeks researching and designing until they came up with the perfect solution. The construction phase tested the students' technical and practical skills while they used a variety of hand and power tools. Each student took risks with their designs all vying to have the most unique birdhouse in the school. After about six weeks the birdhouses were complete and placed on some spots around the school.

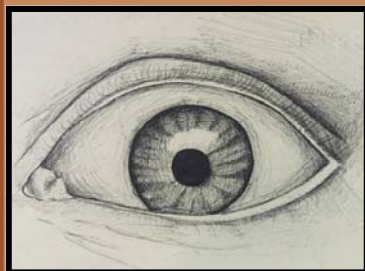
Within a week the birds flocked and raced to claim their territory in one of the bird houses. Currently there are around twenty birdhouses which are all occupied. All students have commented on how happy they are to see the product that they designed and made being used. They are now seeing the fruits of their labour.

Diarmuid O Donovan  
Jeff Pringle  
Teachers of Design Technology

### Art News: Miss Lauren Dixon

The last term was very demanding for our hardworking grade 12 Visual Art students, who ended their Diploma course with an exhibition of their very own curated works of Art.

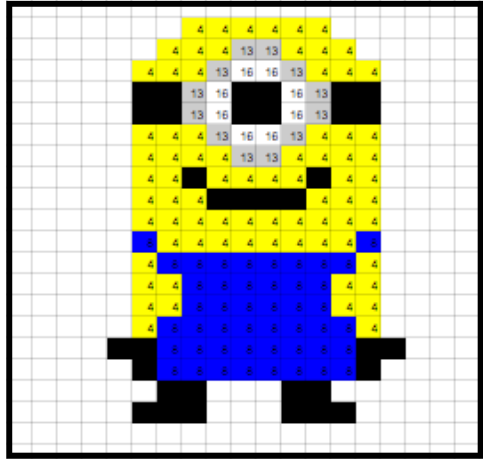
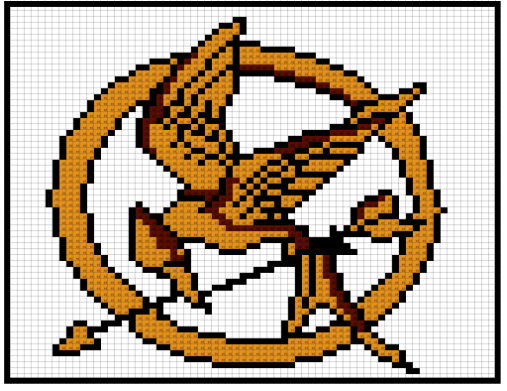
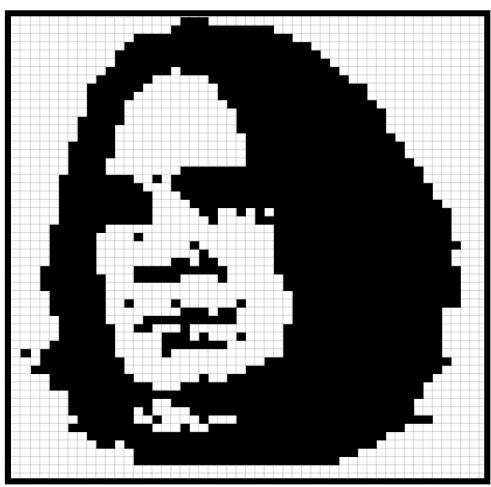
The work exhibited highlighted a whole host of thematic styles, influences and creativity. Each student (as a requirement of the course) completed their own research essay, which was used to influence his or her own ideas. It was a pleasure to hear students articulate their thoughts to each viewer with confidence. The exhibition showed an eclectic selection of works that accentuated how truly individual each project was to every student. It was also a pleasure to watch other grade levels take inspiration from the exhibition, and listen to their informed conversations of individually justified thoughts and opinions.





### Secondary School News

Our grade 6 students have been studying a unit that requires a number of skills required in today's digital world. Starting with the theme of Islamic Art and Geometry, students learned to program their own geometrical designs into a computer. They then learned about binary code, bits and pixels to program their own designs onto spreadsheets – hopefully they will continue their passions to become the creators of our future technologies.



Miss Lauren Dixon  
Head of Art, Music and Design



## Secondary School News



MUGUHU SCHOOL : WHEN WE ARRIVED

## Project Tanzania 2016

### Reflecting on the trip

Excitement was in the air on the 23rd of march in terminal 3 of Dubai International Airport as we said our goodbyes to our friends and family, we were going to Tanzania! A country that we have never been to, or heard much of. We had prepared so much for this moment, all of the fundraising had led up to this and we would like to thank everybody who participated in all of our fundraising activities such as our fun run, we are extremely grateful for the support and project contributions, we made great use of every single contribution big or small. The contributions you gave us went an extremely long way. Once again we want to thank everyone who has contributed towards any of our fundraising activities or towards the project in general.





## Secondary School News



### Reflections

Project Tanzania was a really life changing experience, we learnt and did so much that we would never do here. To me that's what the trip is all about, learning new skills collecting unforgettable experiences as well as being independent. It gave us an insight into the real world and how we shouldn't take everything for granted.- Neel Joshi



"The group arrived in Dar Es Salam on the first day of the trip and got onto the bus, all we knew was that there was a bunch of stuff that had to be organized and then we were told that the "stuff" was up to us and the itinerary , and I finally realized why they were called "World Challenge". Looking back I wouldn't have had it any other way." -Emma Scott

"I went into this trip expecting to come out of it the same person I was before going, and at some times during this trip, there were times where I wanted to just go back. But I didn't give up and went with it, and because of that, I learned more than I ever could in a classroom. Everyone gained a different set of skills and in the end, we all learned to appreciate what we have and learned a lot of lessons throughout the trip."- Omar Maslamani

"I thought my life was pretty tough, with all the challenges and problems I undergo through everyday. But honestly speaking after this 12 day expedition, I saw another side of the world making me realize my life's pretty easy. One heavy lesson I learned during this trip is that "life's not fair" it will never be fair but one thing I do know is that we can make a difference being able to make a person or two smile. The satisfaction you get from knowing you made people smile or made their day can be very overwhelming." -Bryle Dungog







### Secondary School News

## The project phase

The project phase consisted of 4 impacts we made on the school. The first was mixing the cement for the walls to be plastered, the second was painting the second building from the inside and the outside, the third was with the world challenge donation that financed the building of a proper bathroom and, the most important thing with the project contributions that you gave we financed the building of the foundations for a nursery.



### GCS World Challenge Fun Run

Congratulations and thanks to everyone who supported and ran in this years annual World Challenge Fun Run. With over 180 runners, GCS was able to raise nearly AED 4000 for this years student-lead service trips to Tanzania and Ethiopia. Special thanks to the GCP Committee, Mr. Toad's Kitchen, Fitness First, Panos Restaurant and everyone else who gave their support to make this day a huge success!

Andrew Ritter





## Primary School News



### Primary School

#### Head of Primary: Mr. Gary Mallon

Dear Primary Parents,

I sincerely hope that you have spent an enjoyable Spring Break with your families and loved ones. It was wonderful to see your children return safely to GCS this week and there were lots of smiles and laughter on the first day back, always a good sign. Before thoughts turn to the summer holidays we have a lot of exciting events happening this term for your children to enjoy: the Grade 5 Exhibition, Swimming Galas, the Primary Production, the Student-Led Conferences and of course the Holy Month of Ramadan are just a few of the Term 3 highlights to be enjoyed.

Term 3 provides a real opportunity for your children to build upon all their previous experiences throughout this academic year and showcase their learning across many formats. It is important that, together with their teachers, our students maintain their high standards of focus, behaviour and commitment to learning as tiredness inevitably creeps in as the end of the year draws closer. We appreciate your support in ensuring that everyone has a positive end to the year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Ms Christinah Mavhiya as the new PA in Primary. Christinah has replaced Ms Carol Muchai, who as you well know, worked closely with the Primary Leadership Team over the last 3 years. Carol has been a wonderful servant to GCS and I will miss her dearly but I know that spending more quality time with her young daughter Riri, will be time well spent. Christinah has been working with us since September 2015 as a Learning Assistant and brings a wealth of previous PA experience to the role. Please do pop in and introduce yourself to her if you get the opportunity over the coming weeks.

Wishing you and your families a productive and positive end to this academic year and hope to see as many of you as possible over the coming weeks.

Kind regards,

Gary Mallon  
Head of Primary



## Primary School News

### End of Unit Celebrations in KG – March 2016

In KG2- The students chose a community helper to research. They found out how the chosen person helps people, which tools they use, if they need special training etc. They dressed up and presented their research at the 'Job Fair'. The parents were invited and had a great time interacting with the students about their chosen job.



In KG1 - The parents joined in the creative construction process by making delicious snacks with a transport theme that we enjoyed after the children had shared both their own and creations by their peers with their parents.



### Primary School News

#### Grade 4

In the Unit of Inquiry Grade 4 students have been learning about how the body systems work together and how to take care for each system. Grade 4 did an interesting experiment in which the students recorded and analysed their pulse and respiration rate while standing still and then after exercising. Objective of the experiment was to give reasons why the pulse and respiration rate changes when we exercise.

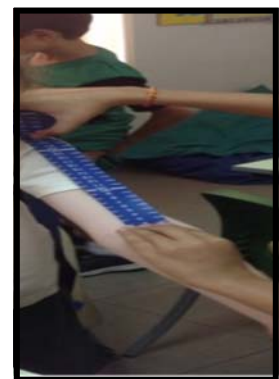
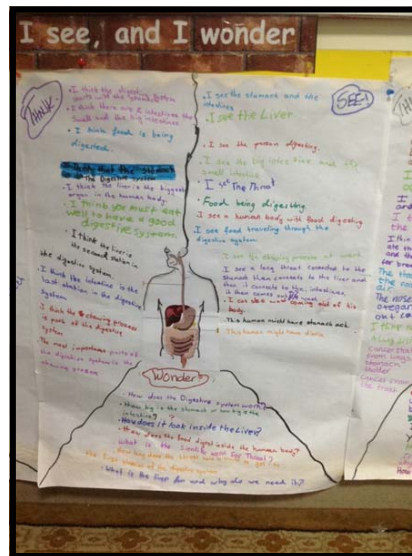
Language focus has been reciprocal reading and explanation writing. In Reciprocal we learnt how to do various jobs like clarify, predict, summarize and become a questioner while reading. We also did a reading comprehension on the heart and wrote an explanation text about the respiratory system.

In Math Grade 4 has been learning about metric units of length, weight and capacity. We are also learning the strategy to convert these units. We have been mastering subtraction using horizontal partitioning method and are also creating word problems on subtraction.

We have had many guest speakers for this unit. Our guest speaker was an author who spoke to the students about narrative writing and improving our writing skills. He talked about different elements of a story. We also had a brain gym instructor as our guest speaker who spoke to the students about brain training. She taught our students various exercises and steps they can take to focus and improve their concentration.

#### Grade 4 Team

#### Grade 4 in action

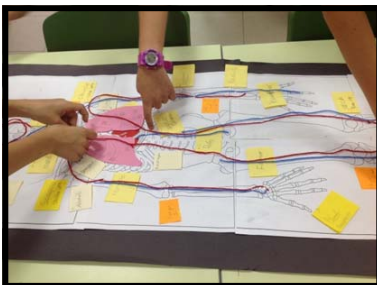




Greenfield  
Community  
School



### Primary School News



Lung in a bottle



Guest Author



## Primary School News

### Arabic

"Innovation is not an option, but a necessity and work style" is a quote said by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoom. It became a reality in the Arabic Department in Greenfield Community School. The Arabic team were able to make innovation the foundation stone in learning and teaching, so they implemented technical and strategic methods in teaching, for example apps like QR code reader, Puppet pals, StoryMaker, iMovie, Quizlet, GoAnimation.

"الابتكار ليس خياراً بل ضرورة وأسلوب عمل" مقولة أطلقها سمو الشيخ محمد بن راشد آل مكتوم فأصبحت واقعاً في خطة عمل قسم اللغة العربية بمدرسة جرين فيلد كميونتي. استطاع معلمو اللغة العربية أن يجعلوا الابتكار الحجر الأساسي في التعليم والتعلم فأدخلوا الأساليب التقنية في التدريس مثل تطبيقات:

- QR code reader.
- Puppet pals
- StoryMaker
- Imovies
- Quizlet
- GoAnimation



## Primary School News

Classes were also taken outside the classroom, like Green Day, in order to support and motivate innovation and creativity.

كما اعتمد قسم اللغة العربية الأنشطة اللاصفية كما حدث في يوم البيئة لتدعيم التعلم القائم على الابتكار.



The Arabic team also managed to introduce active learning in a very effective way, which made a remarkable difference in the progress and attainment of students in PYP:

1. **Acting:** Third grade students were doing roles of the fruit seller and the buyer, as a way to create real life sketches and situations to reflect what they have been learning in class.

وكذلك استطاع قسم اللغة العربية أن يُدخل طرائق التعلم النشط بطريقة فعالة مما كان له الأثر الطيب في مستوى تقدم وتحصيل التلاميذ في المرحلة الابتدائية مثل:

1. التمثيل: تلاميذ الصف الثالث يقومون بتمثيل دور الفاكهي والمشتري كنوع من خلق مواقف حياتية يستخدم فيها التلاميذ ما تعلمونه داخل الصف الدراسي.



2. **Rally Robin:** It is a strategy in which students learn to work cooperatively where students take turns in asking each other questions. This strategy enables all students to work in an equal amount of time, in which no student works more than the other.

## Primary School News

2. التتابع الثنائي: استراتيجية تعلم تعاوني وفيها يأخذ كل تلميذ دورا ليسأل شريكه والعكس بحيث تكون نسبة مشاركة التلاميذ متساوية فلا يأخذ تلميذ وقتا أكثر من تلميذ آخر.

3. **Merging:** Arabic speakers and non-Arabs together in the book week: grade five students while visiting the Arabic as first language class:

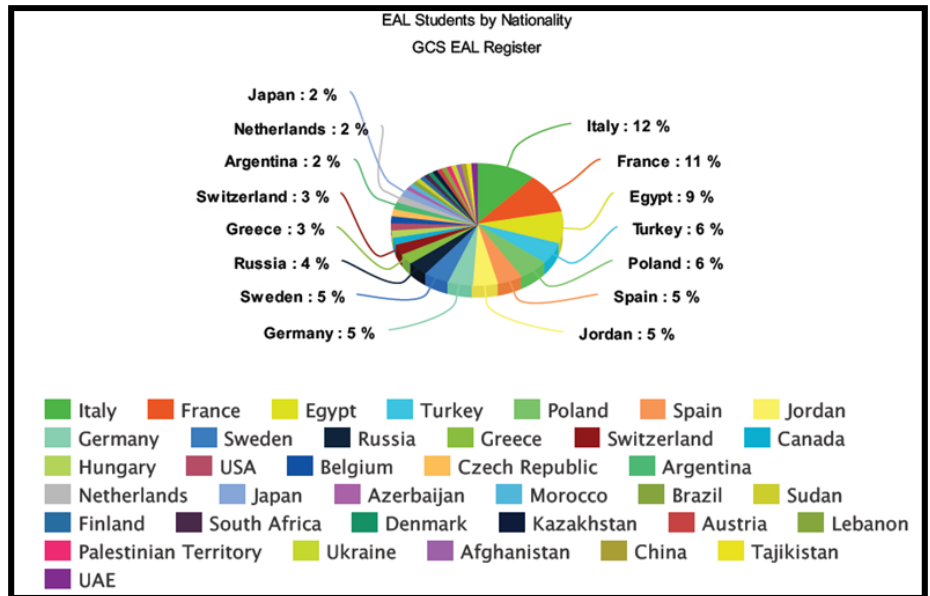
3. دمج التلاميذ العرب وغير العرب في أسبوع القراءة: قام تلاميذ الصف الخامس غير الناطقين باللغة العربية بزيارة صف الناطقين بالعربية:



Arabic Team

## EAL Department

The diversity of our students at GCS is one of the most rewarding aspects of teaching and for the EAL Department particularly so. If you look at the graph below you can see the diverse countries and cultures that our students come from.







### Primary School News



We use the PYP Units of Inquiry as a medium to teach English in a meaningful way to help our EAL students fully access learning opportunities in their homerooms. Through collaborative planning with grade levels we are able to modify the curriculum to support our EAL students.

Some examples of how this has been done using drama, art, craft and IT can be seen below.



The Water Cycle Grade 3



Minibeasts Unit Grade 2



Food Chain Grade 2



Reading and Research



## Primary School News

### Difficulty with Comprehension of Visual Material

Read the following passage silently, then read it aloud and choose the one that makes more sense to you. This example shows the case of students who **can read**, but **make no sense** of what they have read until they **hear** the passage read **aloud**.

These are the students who need information read to them or available on tape/CD/software.

#### **Ladle Rat Rotten Hut**

*(heresy ladle furry starry toiling udder wartswarts welcher alter girdle defferent fimer once inner regional verging)*

Wants pawn term dare worsted ladle gull hoe lift wetter murder inner ladle cordage honor itch offer lodge, dock, florist. Disk ladle gull orphan worry putty ladle rat cluck wetter ladle rat hut, an fur disk raisin pimple colder Ladle Rat Rotten Hut. Wan moaning Ladle Rat Totten Hut's murder colder inset "Ladle Rat Rotten Hut, heresy ladle basking winsome burden barter an shirker cockles. Tick disk ladle basking tutor cordage offer groin murder hoe lifts honor udder site offer...

#### **Little Red Riding Hood**

(Here's a little fairy story telling other words – words which are altogether different from the ones in the original version)

Once upon a time there was a little girl who lived with her mother in a little cottage on the edge of a large, dark forest. This little girl often wore a pretty little red cloak with a little red hat, and for this reason people called her Little Red Riding Hood.

One morning Little Red Riding Hood's mother called her and said, "Little Red Riding Hood, here's a little basket with some bread and butter and sugar cookies. Take this little basket to the cottage of your grandmother who lives on the other side of the....."

Ceanlia Vermeulen  
PYP Student Support Teacher

# GCP Updates

Brought to you by the Greenfield Community Parents Committee



## Live Your Dream.

**WITH THE SUPPORT OF HIS PARENTS AND THE GUIDANCE OF HIS DEDICATED COACH, ABDULLAH ZELJO ACCOMPLISHED MILESTONE AFTER MILESTONE, FAR SURPASSING HIS EXPECTATIONS!**

If you saw how many medals he's won, you would think that **grade 11 GCS student, Abdullah Zeljo**, has been training to swim competitively since his toddler years, but that's hardly the case. Only after being well into his teen-age years and overweight, Abdullah started training competitively, and has now become an accomplished gold medalist swimmer!

Admitting that swimming can be one of the hardest Olympic sports to train for, Abdullah was the only one in his family who enjoyed swimming lap after lap.

So who was his inspiration? Abdullah gives a lot of credit to his coach, Konstantin Bushmelov, back in his home country of Bosnia. Abdullah remembers his coach pushing every swimmer beyond their limits. Even after winning 5 gold medals in his first nationals, Abdullah's coach nudged him to swim even better. However, Abdullah is grateful to his coach for believing in him and showing him how to be the best he could be.

One of the hardest parts in getting to his goal was when Abdullah had injured his shoulder and still had to compete. He accounts the pain being almost unbearable, but he remembers the support of his parents, coach and close friends that helped push him through it. And with that, Abdullah managed to beat all his personal records in his races.

Abdullah never imagined he would go this far in swimming, but he was determined. Even after feeling intimidated in his very first nationals race, Abdullah set a goal not be last. **"I wanted to come and make others take that place. That was my dream, and I did just that."** He also managed to beat the fastest known swimmer in Bosnia for his age group and won first place! **"I never felt so proud and thankful."**

When asked what advice Abdullah had to give to the students and family of GCS, he stuck by the phrase to **"Never give up!"** On behalf of the GCP and our school, we are so proud of Abdullah for living his dream!



Abdullah Zeljo, Grade 11  
GCS Student

### Our Gold Medalist Swimmer!

*Dream Big!*

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!

Secondary Coffee Morning  
Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup>  
8am to 9am

In the Secondary Library  
Mr. Bunting and Mr. Bishop will discuss the June Exams, as well as, Careers

Secondary Class Representative, Sarah Lumb

Secondary School parents can contact Sarah Lumb for Secondary School related information and updates. You can email her at [gcp.sarahlumb@gmail.com](mailto:gcp.sarahlumb@gmail.com)

New Changes in the Slices Menu

Take a look at the new menu via The Communicator in the "Resources" section

ETHIOPIA Benefit Concert  
Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>  
7:30pm to 9pm

In the School Auditorium  
Enjoy a concert ranging from classical to pop music, featuring professional musicians Professional Musicians; Alison Turriff (Clarinet, Saxophone, Piano) and Frank Werge (Flute, Saxophone), as well as many of our talented GCS musicians. Alison Turriff and Frank Werge, as well as, our very own GCS talent. 100% proceeds will go towards the Grade 10 and 11 Ethiopia Project Outreach Program. Tickets are currently on sale from the Secondary Reception or at the gate during pick up and drop off.  
Adults: 50 AED  
Students: 30 AED  
Children 5 and Under are FREE!



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!

