



Newsletter

Issue #9
14, January 2015

This Week's Newsletter:

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From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents,

The first two weeks of term has been really positive ones – it has been wonderful to see the quality of teaching and learning taking place. I am always impressed as I walk around our school to see the children's enjoyment and energy that is evident in the classrooms. There is a happiness that is tangible. Our key focus is the quality of teaching and learning, and it should be so in any serious educational institution. At the heart of our staff professional development meetings, we regularly review curriculum and take time to discuss effective teaching techniques, classroom management and assessment.

All our efforts will be in vain if our students do not take ownership of their learning and success. Nothing of lasting value in life is achieved without effort and perseverance. We are all inclined to work hard at those subjects we enjoy and one of the difficult but important lessons school teaches us is that we have to apply ourselves to those subjects that do not come quite so easily. Without doubt, school should be a happy place, but the fact that a student does not find a subject or teacher interesting is not a good reason to give up. Every runner experiences those days when he or she has to drag themselves out of bed to set off training once again. The reward is seen on race day when they are in good shape and well prepared.

New families

We welcome 27 new families to our school this term. Please keep an eye out for them and make them and their families feel welcome.

Book Week

Book Week has been a celebration of the importance of reading and imagination. A love of reading is a strong foundation for success academically and a great pleasure through our lives. Thank you for your support of the many reading activities and the book swap. In Primary we have had a Drop Everything And Read programme happening – something that I would like to continue through the year. It was fascinating to see the range of languages in the international section of the book swap.

Building

Work has started on the new sports changing block in between the swimming pool and the larger sports



Secondary School

Mr. Wood reading for the
Grades 3,4 & 5



pitch. With our increased student numbers and the growth in the sports programme, both in numbers of students participating and the number of galas and fixtures, this facility will be a terrific addition to our campus (at present our students and visitors use the facilities in the sports hall). During the summer holidays the school saw some significant upgrades: a refurbishment of the sports hall, the auditorium completely redone and the new kindergarten playground equipment were the largest of these projects. We have a new Apple Mac IT suite this year. Taaleem is committed to providing all its schools with excellent facilities and it has been exciting to receive such large investments in the school's infrastructure.

Surveys

We welcome and look for your feedback as parents so that we can affirm what is going well and identify areas for improvement. Next week you will receive a survey that can be completed online. It contains 30 questions and should be quick and easy to complete. This survey comes from the school and is in addition to the one that you will receive later this term from the KHDA.

Staff news

A warm word of welcome to Ms. Kelly Colleran who joins our Secondary Humanities team teaching Business Studies and Humanities. She hails from Western Ireland and has a number of years of experience in the world of business before moving into education. Three of our colleagues have moved on in their careers and from Greenfield: Mrs. Abier Khabani, Mr. Abdullah Alsabri and Mr. Ahmed Shaban. We welcome Maha Ghazi (who has been an Arabic TA) into the Primary School Arabic Department – she is taking Ahmed's classes. We are in the process of recruiting replacement French and Islamic B teachers. Mrs. Sahar Kreidli our Parent Relation Officer will take up the the Admissions Registrar post.

International Day

International Day is a highlight of our school calendar. It is a celebration of the many cultures that we have in our school and an opportunity for our school community to gather and experience cuisine and music from all around the globe. You will have received an invitation to the event from the Greenfield Community Parents and seen signing up lists for volunteers from the various countries at the school gate. Please put **Thursday, the 4th of February 2016** 2.30 – 6.30 pm in your diary. For more information please ask Dipika Kalra our GCP Chair.

Living Arabic

Students, Parents and Educators are invited to attend the 3rd Living Arabic event of the academic year at Uptown School on the 23rd of January 2016 from 8.00am – 2.00pm.

'Living Arabic' is a new programme organised by teach-



Secondary School

students, and help you to deliver lessons that will further engage your students and enhance their learning experience.

The day will include a variety of workshops, presentations, performances and demonstrations which will bring alive the love of Arabic through three key areas of Creativity, Communication and Culture.

With over 40 presenters and 60+ performers, participants will learn how innovative techniques and new initiatives are being incorporated into classrooms and the school environment to foster students' enthusiasm and a love of learning Arabic as a living language.

Please do come and join your colleagues, our students and families at this exciting event.

Please register your interest in attending at: <http://www.whatworks.ae/ar/home.html>

Twitter: #livingarabic What Works: info@whatworks.ae

Best wishes

Andrew Wood
Greenfield Community School Principal



Secondary School

Secondary School Head of Secondary: Mr. Neil Bunting



Dear Parents

Welcome back to the new term. We hope you enjoyed the festive break.

At the core of what we teach in Greenfield is the IB Learner Profile. We incorporate it into lesson planning, teaching and learning. We credit students for positive displays of the attributes and we present those ten attributes in assemblies.

If your child is new to the school and to the IB they may be less familiar with the Learner Profile than another child who has come through the school and learnt about the attributes during the PYP.

We will of course be making all students familiar with it on an ongoing basis but do take some time to read and share with your child the attached definitions from the IBO and discuss the shared implications in learning. Attributes such as risk-takers will mean different things to families from different cultures and it is definitely appreciated that these ten key words that you see in any IB school can have different interpretations.

Linked to many of these attributes, is the notion of international and open-mindedness and that is something we show very clearly at GCS.

However you may question what do the attributes do to help children pass examinations and get to university? The use of the ten characteristics links with the IBO's belief in the importance of value-added and holistic education. It may sound very idealistic to talk about the lifelong benefits of learning but that is what the IB is about. The IB is about ideals and the shared belief the learner profile will grow up as students who will help to contribute to a better world. That is why it is just as important the Learner Profile is built into Grade 12 lessons as it is in Grade 1. The Learner Profile is also very important outside of the classroom and the forthcoming camps, for example, are opportunities for students to show and share the attributes. We trust Grade 6 and Grade 7 will learn new things from the camping adventures.

Kind regards,

Neil Bunting

Head of Secondary

Secondary School

Attendance and Punctuality for December

	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Attendance	94.7%	93%	93%	93%	92%	86%	86%
Tardiness	.85%	1.08%	1.92%	1.82%	3.77%	1.49%	3.16%
KHDA Rating	Good	Acceptable	Acceptable	Acceptable	Acceptable	VERY WEAK	VERY WEAK
Improvement since last report?	No L	Not for attendance. Yes for punctuality.	Not for attendance. Yes for punctuality.	Not for attendance. Yes for punctuality.	No. Parents, please support us. Did you know that chronic absenteeism is when a child “only” misses a day or two every few weeks.	Big improvement in punctuality but big concerns for attendance. Did you know that missing “as little” as 10% of the school year can drastically affect a student’s academic success.	

Desert Dance

The timings for the Desert Dance this year have been confirmed –
Secondary Show – Dubai College; **Thursday February 11th**. Dress Rehearsals 2pm - 4pm.
Show 7pm - 8.30pm.

Student Support at Greenfield Community School

Focus on Working Memory and Processing Speed – strategies for parents.

By Farin Padamsey

It is great to be a part of a school where the entire community is open minded to variety of cultures, nationalities, abilities and beliefs. Our school’s strength is its diversity and our teachers and students from all over the globe.



Within this diversity, we have students who have strengths in many areas – academics, leadership, socially and emotionally. As a school we value and nurture these strengths and develop areas which are of concern. As educators one of our goal is to know our students!

Secondary School

This article is focused on children who may have concerns in their working memory and processing speed. What is working memory and processing speed? How we as facilitators and parents develop these areas in our children's development?

The Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children IV (WISC IV) defines **working memory** as "It assesses children's ability to memorize new information, hold it in short-term memory, concentrate, and manipulate that information to produce some result or reasoning processes." **Processing speed** is "It assesses children's abilities to focus attention and quickly scan, discriminate between, and sequentially order visual information. It requires persistence and planning ability, but is sensitive to motivation, difficulty working under a time pressure, and motor coordination too."

It is vital to implement strategies for children who may show signs of weak processing speed and working memory. By implementing these strategies it may result in positive changes in their home and school lives.

Useful strategies for parents are to provide more structure during their day, use of schedules, timers, and clear routines. In giving instructions, number your instructions. For example, "I need you to complete three things ... first ... second ... and last."

Other strategies to improve their working memory is to teach visualization skills – ask them to draw what they just read or ask them to describe what it may look like. Another good example is to ask your child to teach you skills or concepts they have learnt. Playing visual memory games are a great tool to assist with working memory. For example, ask them to circle all "the" words in a newspaper/magazines. In the car instead of watching a movie, or being on their device, play the license plate number game by you stating out loud the number plate and ask them to repeat it backwards.

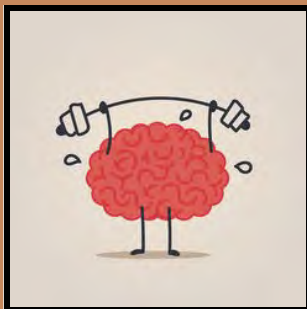
Another example is when going grocery shopping, ask them to remember what needs to be bought, then question once you get to the store. Playing card games such as Go Fish, Memory cards, Uno, Crazy Eights are all great for memory! Finally, the most important strategy which we should all use on a consistent basis is positive praises and valuable feedback.

It is important to learn something new every day. I hope that by reading this article you took something away which you will implement at home to build your child's processing speed and working memory. If you would like to share your ideas which you implement at home that works very well, please email me at fpadamsey@gcschool.ae and will add them to the list of strategies.

Thank you for reading so patiently.

Kind regards,

Farin Padamsey
Head of Learning Support





Secondary School

EAL

Language forms the basis of all learning. Even though students in the language acquisition phase of their development is still not able to write phenomenal essays or deliver thought provoking presentations in English, they shine in so many other aspects of their lives. This contribution to the GCS newsletter wishes to showcase the achievements of particular EAL students. It is way to validate their equal status and an indication of their way to maintain cultural identity.



Marta Smolak (Grade 10 B)

Marta joined GCS in August 2015 from Poland. She has been practicing Archery from the age of 11 and has won most of her competitions. In November 2015, Marta participated in an Archery competition to commemorate Martyr's Day here in Dubai at the Al Thiqa Club for the handicapped.

Marta secured a first place win amongst 20 other participants. Indeed a proud moment for us all here at GCS!



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Sotaro Yasuda (Grade 8 D)

Sotaro joined GCS in December 2015 from Japan. He started doing Shotokan from the age of 4. When he was in Grade 4, he acquired his Black Belt. When he moved to Dubai, he joined a Dojo in Deira to help advance his training. On the 18th of December 2015, Sotaro participated in a Shotokan competition in Sharjah. He managed to win Gold for his Kata performance and Silver for his fight against his opponent. He says the key to success is to remain mentally strong. Heartfelt GCS congratulations to him!



Alice Haynes (Grade 7 D)

With the incredible help from Ms. Bovaird, Alice, who joined GCS in August 2015 from France, managed to not only complete a “non-differentiated” Humanities assessment but also outperform her classmates by achieving a solid 5 in all 4 Criterion. With praise and encouragement, Alice shone. We are all proud of her accomplishments.



Kind regards

Dolores Allison
EAL Coordinator

Primary School

Mr. Mallon Reading to the Primary Students



Primary School

Head of Primary: Mr. Gary Mallon



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back to school after what I hope was a wonderful and exciting winter break spent with family and friends. The second term is well under-way with staff and students once again actively engaged in teaching and learning. We have already witnessed some on-going key developments in terms of indoor and outdoor learning environments in KG; a truly wonderful and creative Grade 2 celebration of learning and we are of course in the midst of *Book Week* as I write.

We are excited about the educational challenges that lie ahead of us and know you will continue to assist us in our efforts to make GCS the best it can possibly be. As a school, we can look forward to Sports Days, the Arabic Spelling Bee; Quran Competition; Emirates Literature Festival; Chevron Readers' Cup and of course the Musical productions and International Day. Exciting times ahead this term!

This academic year, one of our key focus areas has centred on making the learning engaging with a level of *challenge* which encourages our students to develop resilience, independence and persistence. This will facilitate lifelong learning. Learning is our core purpose and we will continue to champion challenge and learning within a safe school environment where students are helpful, considerate and respectful of each other.

Relationships and attitudes are also highly valued here at GCS and an ethos exists in which learning together becomes an enjoyable and fulfilling experience for all. I feel privileged to be the Head Teacher of GCS Primary, a school which has such a strong involvement with its community. Our whole school community values the contribution every child brings to our school which makes our school a happy and harmonious place to learn and work.

A key part of our mission statement is: 'To become a truly world class IB Continuum School, we dedicate ourselves to inspire our students to achieve their personal best, promote a culture of respect and make purposeful and proactive decisions. 'This sentiment underpins everything we do on a daily basis here at GCS.

In the coming days and months, we must continue to assist our students on their path of learning and discovery. We should establish good routines, habits and order within the lives of our children. This will ensure that each child understands that we are paying close attention to their needs and are not distracted by the demands of our social and professional lives. This is the basis for establishing a set of expectations for our children and ultimately it helps them feel safe and secure.

I sincerely wish you and your children a highly successful and enjoyable Term 2 and look forward to seeing

Primary School

Grade 2's Imagination Celebration



you all at some point along our on-going learning journey.

**IF IT DOESN'T CHALLENGE YOU,
IT DOESN'T CHANGE YOU**

Best wishes

Gary Mallon
Head of Primary

Grade 2's Imagination Celebration

We have been very creative, imaginative, and innovative in Grade 2. We are learning about different ways to express ourselves! As you walk the hallways you can see some of our beautiful art murals that we worked on outside to celebrate Green Day. We used various art materials and worked in groups to create our vibrant displays. We have also been trying to utilize natural resources in the classroom in innovative ways. You will notice that many of the rooms have real trees, which each class has chosen to use in their own innovative way.



Another new focus we have worked on is the practice of *mindfulness*. As the Dalai Lama once said, "If every child in the world would be taught meditation, we would eliminate violence from the world within one generation." Thus, all 150 of us gathered together to practice clearing our minds and focusing our thoughts by doing some morning breathing exercises. We also used our mind to imagine different scenes that made us feel happy and calm. This was a powerful way to start the day!

We have been learning about famous artists, including Michelangelo, Di Vinci, Britto and others. In an attempt to gain perspective and be innovative, some of us decided to explore how it would feel to draw lying down. Michelangelo did this when painting the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel! We went under tables and experimented with pastels. This was definitely a memorable experience.

Primary School

Grade 2's Imagination Celebration



Grade 1 FR 'Room on the Broom'



We culminated this exciting unit by creating an imagination fair to showcase our unique ways of expressing ourselves. The hallways were transformed into a talking museum as the students shared their masterpieces with parents and students from other classes. It was a powerful way for them to transfer their learning, use their imagination and gain confidence with presenting. Their beautiful work definitely left everyone feeling inspired.

Please stop by our corridor and visit our classes to see the product of our inspiring work.

Grade 2 team

'Room on the Broom'

Last term we read the story 'Room on the Broom' by Julia Donaldson. This book was one of the resources we used to help us learn how to sequence a story. We listed the sequence of events and then wrote our own story sequences. We created the witch's broom stick using manipulatives and then designed our own fabulous broom sticks, complete with showers and luxury chairs!

In groups we performed role-plays of the story to the class. We had so much fun with these role-plays that we decided to create an ensemble piece with the whole class acting at the same time, ably directed by Mrs. Canham.

As part of our Book Week celebrations, we performed our class role-play in the Amphitheatre for our Grade 4 reading buddies on Monday afternoon, on Tuesday morning for our class parents and later in the week at our Grade 1 assembly. Our performances were well received, particularly by our parents!

Grade 1 FR

Primary School Book Week 2016. A summary.

The GCS Book Week was a complete success featuring a book fair, DEAR, book swaps, buddy reading, the Deluge of Dads and last but not at all the least the *Book Parade*.

The week kicked off with the arrival of the Magrudy's Book Fair. The buzz in the PYP corridors was evident as children browsed their way through the ample displays to see what was available. Seeing so many children excited about books was delightful.

Through the week the excitement grew as more and more children brought books into the class to read. Many children were seen under the trees reading during break times as well! A big thank you to all of the families who supported the fair. A percentage of the revenue made



Primary School

Book Week



from the book sale will be allocated to GCS to be re-invested in our library.

DEAR was electrifying. As the bells sounded three times during the week, children delighted in dropping what they were doing and reading for 10-15 minutes. It was heart-warming to hear many children requesting to have the reading time extended. Especially noteworthy was seeing children in Arabic and Mother tongue classes enjoy the opportunity to read in their respective languages.

The Book Swap, a new enterprise to GCS this year, proved to be a big success. As the week progressed and the idea caught on, more and more pre-loved books were brought in for exchange. Thank you again to all who supported the running of this initiative. Due to its success this year, we are hoping that this event will grow in 2017.

Buddy Reading took place throughout the school with higher and younger grades 'buddying-up'. The older children loved acting as mentors to the younger ones, for whom the whole experience was thoroughly enjoyable and invaluable.

Another highlight of this week was the *Deluge of Dads* visiting our students as guest readers. This proved to be a very successful event, both with the children and the fathers. Thank you to those dads that were able to make it, and again we hope to see this continue through to 2017.

The week rounded off with our very popular book parade. It was truly fantastic seeing the variety of characters on parade. A very special mention to KG2NN class who wrote their own story and then dressed up as the characters.

As Book Week comes to an end, I encourage you to keep up the fantastic work that you are doing at home to support literacy development.

"Reading should not be presented to children as a chore or duty. It should be offered to them as a precious gift." —Kate DiCamillo

Paula Wistrand
Head of Language (GCS Primary)

OUT DOOR PLAY PLANS FOR KGs

GCS KGs are planning to set up an outdoor play area which will have different activities for the children's development. This is keeping in mind their development areas such as problem-solving skills; nurture their creativity, developing fine motor skills, developing larger muscles, as well as providing rich opportunities for their developing imagination, inventiveness and resourcefulness.

Following are the various activity areas planned to be set up and led by mentioned teachers. Please feel

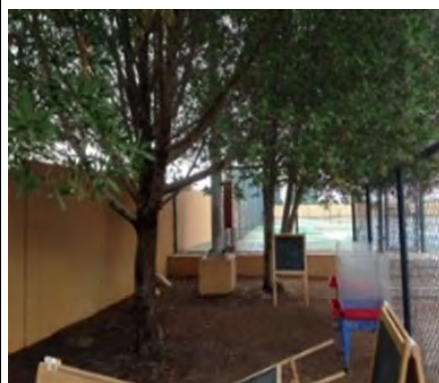
Primary School

free to approach the respective teacher for any further details or to find out how you can help.

1. Out door Reading Area – Ms. Roselyne



2. Fine Motor Exploration Area – Ms. Louise



Primary School

3. Inquiry and Science Area – Ms. Nahla



4. Gross Motor Exploration Area – Ms. Carmen



Primary School

5. Maths Area – Ms. Karen



6. Into the future



Primary School

Volunteers required for the Perceptual Development program

Tentative Schedule for the perceptual development program:

** Parents who volunteer may not necessarily be working with their child's class.

Teacher	Day	From	To
Ms. Nahla	Sunday	1:30 PM	2:15 PM
Ms. Mona	Monday	8:30 AM	9:00 AM
Ms. Roselyne	Tuesday	8:30 AM	9:00 AM
Ms. Louise	Wednesday	8:30 AM	9:00 AM
Ms. Karen	Thursday	11:00 AM	12:00 PM

Perceptual Development

Relating to the ability to interpret or become aware of something through the senses.

Perceptual motor development is the second level of development. Perceptual Motor Development is defined as one's ability to receive, interpret and respond successfully to sensory information.

Preoperational Stage

Between two and seven years of age, mental representations improve and objects do not have to be present for children to think about them. Younger children do not understand that others may perceive objects differently than they do.

Best wishes

Mona Massey

KG1 and KG2 Co-ordinator

Whole School

U 14 Boys Football Team



U14 Football Tournament by Pedro Carmona, 8B

We were first told about the football tournament during a meeting held by Mr. Collins. He explained how there was a tournament at our school on Thursday 7th of January. Mr. Collins later in the day picked 10 squad members to attend the tournament. The matches were each 16 minutes with 8 minute per each half. The full squad included: Lee, Marcus, Suleiman, Shunto, Zubair, Anthony, Ahmed, Daniel, Elias, and I. The 3 matches we played were tough, and they were not easy, we had to put pressure and challenge the other team in order to win. The first match had a score of 1 – 0 to Greenfield. The first half of the match was all trying to take the shots, we just couldn't find the spaces, we put a lot of pressure on the other team and had every person that was open marked immediately, it was a well fought half. The second half, our football improved a lot. The goal was a beautiful through ball to Ahmed who then finished with his left foot, the ball went straight into the back of the net.

We tried to keep the score that way throughout the rest of the second half, maintaining a highly defensive formation and defending as a whole team. We had a short rest after that match and celebrated our victory in the first match. After the short break, we had another match, unfortunately the score of this match ended as a tie, which was good but not what we originally desired it to be, the match started as the other did, a lot of challenge from players of the both teams. It was an incredibly tough match; we were scored on during the last moments of the first half. During the second half, we played our hardest and put all our effort into winning the match, fortunately, we got a free kick from about 5 meters in front the half way line, Lee, our team captain took the free kick, he hit the ball with outstanding force, blowing past the wall and into the back of the net, once again. The match ended with a score of 1 -1 as a tie, however we were still on top of the league with 4 points.

We had a 40-minute break to rest before our last match. The match that would decide the winner of the tournament. The match started out with a lucky own goal that put Greenfield on the lead with one goal. Shortly after, our goalie, Anthony, conceded a powerful shot from the other team. The first half was very well fought and challenged, however as soon as the second half started, everyone was trying even more. I got an amazing cross from a corner kick, and scored a header; the winning goal of the tournament as soon as the second half finished. We shook hands with the other teams, the referee and the coaches as well. We headed out to the MYP Pitch where we were awarded a trophy, which Lee held up during the team photo.

The next week, we had an assembly in which we were congratulated for our performance as well as having another team photo taken. This tournament was very enjoyable and we were all very grateful that we were able to play as a team, and win.

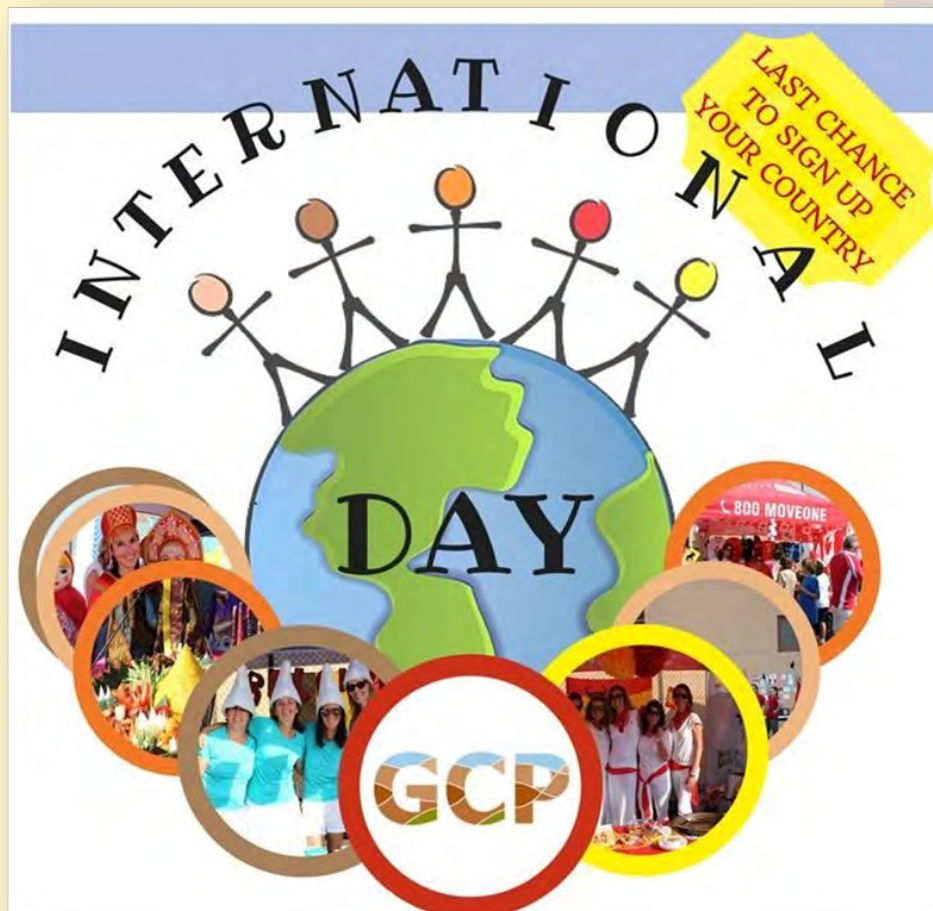
Pedro Carmona
Grade 8 Student

GCP Updates

Brought to you by the Greenfield Community Parents Committee



Thursday, 4th of February, 2016
2:30pm to 6:30pm



Join the fun on International Day as GCS celebrates its colourful diversity! Enjoy foods and entertainment of various countries as our families get together to display their country's best! Don't forget to purchase your raffle tickets as many exciting prizes will be given away as well!

Last Meeting for INTERNATIONAL DAY 2016

Monday, 18th Jan 2016
 8am to 9am

In the Collaboration Room behind the PYP Library.

Be a big part of creating the magic once again here at GCS!

Email Contacts for International Day 2016

To register your free country table:

gtvinsen@gmail.com

To book your country's entertainment slot:

dipikakalra@hotmail.com

To donate raffle prizes:

hal-
varez2922@rogers.com

To sponsor Intl. Day 2016:
dipikakalra@hotmail.com

TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY

To donate fabulous raffle prizes or sponsor portions of the event and advertise your company to over 1500 attendees!

TICKET AVAILABILITY

After the 18th of January at both PYP AND MYP Receptions.

5 AED for Students
 10 AED for Adults
 10 AED per raffle



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!

