



Newsletter

Issue #5
22, October 2015

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From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents

This year's Rugby World Cup has seen some extraordinary matches, the most remarkable of which was Japan's victory over South Africa in the opening rounds. Historically Japan has been one of the weakest teams in the tournament, with only one victory in many years of the tournament. South Africa have won the cup twice and are a powerhouse. Rugby writers have called the match the biggest upset not only in rugby history but in any world cup tournament in any sport. We all love it when the underdog wins and the stunned look on the faces of the South African players at the end of the game was priceless. They clearly went into the game thinking this would be a soft one. The local press roasted the team and its coach. I have been fascinated to see two things that have followed this game: firstly, that every team in the tournament realised that they have a chance of victory. Secondly, the extraordinary way in which South Africa have bounced back. They are re-energised, purposeful, lean and hungry and have won the rest of their games. In some ways, losing was probably the best thing for the team because it taught them not to take any games for granted.

Resilience is one of those qualities of character that it fundamental to success and one which we seek to instil in our students. If we are to learn to play golf, ride a bicycle or play an instrument we are going to fail. We only progress when we reflect on our mistakes, try again and make progress. We often learn more from our failures than our victories. If our students can learn to bounce back they will be better able to cope with life's difficulties when they are adults. As parents we want our children to be able to rise up, dust themselves off and fight on when life knocks them down.

How do we teach resilience to our children? It is one of those values that we call the 'hidden curriculum' – the things we teach that are never examined but are at the heart of a good education. Here are a few ideas:

1. Don't do everything for your children – teach them to solve problems for themselves. These need to be age appropriate, but , for example, when friendships problems arise, take time to show them how to express their emotions in a positive manner and to clear the air if needed and apologise.
2. Don't shield them from the consequences of their actions. If they have chosen to watch TV instead of doing their homework then they must face the punishment that may follow.



Secondary School News

Secondary Cancer Awareness Assembly



3. Help them organise themselves so that they learn to be responsible for themselves. Teach them how to manage their homework diaries, pack their rucksacks or file their work. Don't do everything for them – teach them to solve problems for themselves.
4. Talk about positive choices. A vital part of the journey from childhood to adulthood is learning to master your emotions and to control impulses. When conflicts occur talk about the choices they have and the ways in which they could or should have managed those choices. Honesty, kindness and calmness are decisions.
5. When friendships problems arise, take time to show them how to express their emotions in a positive manner and to clear the air if needed and apologise.
6. Help them organise themselves so that they learn to be responsible for themselves. Teach them how to manage their homework diaries, pack their rucksacks or file their work.
7. Don't accommodate your child's every request. Within the bounds of reason, there must be times when they do not get what they want, or have to wait to be helped or served or simply must go without.
8. Praise effort, perseverance and mental stamina. When they fall off their bicycle and it hurts, help them get back on and try again, even when you can see them wobbling along and quite possibly going to fall over again.

I'd like to end with two of my favourite quotes – ones I call upon when things get rough. The first is from Thomas Carlisle. 'Permanence, perseverance and persistence in spite of all obstacles, discouragements, and impossibilities: It is this, that in all things distinguishes the strong soul from the weak.'

The second is from Robert Schuller. 'Tough times don't last, tough people do.'

Best wishes

Andrew Wood
Greenfield Community School Principal

Secondary School Head of Secondary: Mr. Neil Bunting

Dear Parents

Head of Secondary
Service Learning

In the Primary Years Program students are introduced to action and service as part of the requirements of the International Baccalaureate program. In their final year of the PYP action is part of the exhibition project and this continues when students move on to the secondary school. In the Middle Years Program (MYP) our students are encouraged to continue to look for opportunities to commit themselves to service and consideration for the lives of others.



Secondary School News

Secondary Cancer Awareness Assembly



Here is a quote from the IB website with regard to action:

Action and service have always been shared values of the IB community.

Students take action when they apply what they are learning in the classroom and beyond. IB learners strive to be caring members of the community who demonstrate a commitment to service—making a positive difference to the lives of others and to the environment.

<http://www.ibo.org/programmes/middle-years-programme/curriculum/>

The commitment to service can be an important part of the Personal Project in Grade 10. It is excellent training for the core requirements of Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) in Grades 11 and 12.

GCS encourages MYP students to find creative ways to contribute and to develop life skills such as initiative, perseverance and problem solving through service action and to record their deeds. The GCS motto 'CAR' (Challenge, Accountability, Rigour) can certainly be applied to the process of committing to meaningful action. Students should not underestimate the importance of any service action they complete and should record it immediately in Managebac.

Secondary Information

Parents Evening

Fork in the Road : Wednesday 4 November 2015

5:30pm School Auditorium

This meeting is for Grade 9 and 10 parents to inform you about the IB DP and CP Program and pathways with Mr Hooper and Mr Worth.

Parent-Teacher Meetings

Monday 9 November 2015

Grades 6-8

Venue: Gym

Times: 3pm-8:30pm first come first served no appointments. Please restrict your meeting to five minutes per teacher.

Wednesday 11 November 2015

Grades 9-12

Venue: Gym

Times: 3:30pm-8:30pm first come first served no appointments. Please restrict your meeting to five minutes per teacher.

There will be no ECA program for any secondary students on 9 or 11 November.

Secondary Cancer Awareness Assembly



Secondary Camps

Grade 6 21-22 January

Grade 7 28-29 January

Cost 950 AED per child.

The camps will have an educational basis and make subject links as well as containing experiential and life skills learning opportunities.

More details will follow on the camp locations and logistics.

We would like all students to attend.

Kind regards,

Neil Bunting
Head of Secondary

Deputy Head of secondary: Ms. Sinead Kehoe

Attendance and Punctuality so far this year

	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Attendance	96.7%	96.5%	96.3%	95.5%	94.9%	95.8%	93.2%
Tardiness	.8%	1.3%	1.6%	1.2%	4%	2.5%	4.5%

Thank you so much to all the parents who support our efforts to improve attendance and punctuality this year. As you can see we still have a long way to go and we need your support. Please make sure your child gets here on time every morning. During the morning registration time they are given very important information for the day ahead, they get to develop a relationship with their homeroom teacher and their Grade Level Coordinators. It is just good manners to turn up on time.

Please also ensure that your child maintains a balanced lifestyle to stay healthy to ensure that they do not get sick. A suggestion is to take multi-vitamins if they find their diet lacking, make sure they exercise regularly to keep stress and a weakened immune system at bay. There is a very worrying trend of absenteeism as students go through the older years – these could prove detrimental to the progress your child regarding the scores they get to make into the IBCP or DP or their desired university scores. These are the years your child needs to increase focus and accountability. Please make yourselves familiar with the consequences of high absenteeism as directed by the KHDA in our Parent Handbook on our website.

The IB is a very challenging and rigorous system and missing just one day can be a huge disadvantage to your child. Teachers are not obliged to provide work for your child if they miss school, 100% attendance is expected.

We hope you join us in our efforts to improve punctuality and attendance at Greenfield Community School!

Sinead Kehoe

Deputy Head of Secondary



Secondary School News

Grade 8 Fieldtrip



Grade 8- Ecoventure Fieldtrip

Tine – Grade 8

“The first day we went to the mangroves after a really long bus drive, we had to get into groups and do some fun activities like walking through the mangroves and try to identify and learn about the living creatures in the mangroves. It was loads of fun. Thereafter we did a treasure hunt and we won.

We arrived at 4pm and directly sorted out our rooms and who we wanted to be with. After that the bell rang which meant dinner time. The food was not my favourite but it was okay. After dinner we went to a separate place and had a nice warm campfire with some delicious marshmallows and shared some funny and some beautiful stories and sang songs. About an hour later we went to bed, we never really slept we always talked so much and had the best time of our life.

The next morning we went on a dhow trip and saw dolphins swimming nearby it was such an amazing experience to be there with my friends. We snorkelled around the coral reefs and learned a lot about the mountains and the ocean.

“ This was the best trip so far and I am so glad we were allowed to do this.”

Leonie—Grade 8 A

On the 7th of October, Most Grade 8 students came to school, ready to go the Al jeer Ecoventure Camp. When everyone was ready and the passports were given to the teachers, we sat in the bus for about two hours when we finally arrived at the first activity of the three day camp. We had arrived at the Mangroves. Before I went there, I had absolutely no idea about what Mangroves are but my knowledge developed greatly. I learned that Mangroves are Trees that usually grow in swamps. They have very long roots that stick out of the ground called, Snorkel Roots because they help the Mangrove get the oxygen they need. The most exciting fact I had learned that day, was that mangroves actually help reduce the impact of Tsunamis because they absorb some of the energy of the waves. I also learned a lot about the animals that find their habitat there and about the food chain that takes place. The first day was really exciting, because it was not only fun but we got to learn a lot about the environment.

When we finally arrived at the Al Jeer Camp, after another hour’s drive from the Mangroves, everyone was exhausted and ready to take a shower. We all head off to our dorms which were quite big and comfortable. We took a short but nice shower. By the time we were done, everyone was starving. It was just the perfect time to eat dinner. To top of the first day at Camp, we had a lovely Camp Fire where we did some fun repeating games and learned about the stars with a fun and interactive Play.

On the second day, everyone was really excited. This part was the part I was most excited about the Dhow Cruise. It took us a while to get there, but when we did it was beautiful. We got on a wonderful and comfy dhow and head of into the middle of the ocean. On the Dhow, we had quite a bit of free time talking and amazingly we even saw a few dolphins on the way. Once we reached our destination, we were all ready to eat Lunch. After Lunch, we split into two



Secondary School News

Grade 8 Fieldtrip



groups, one group did snorkeling first and the other did the Confidence Jump. The Confidence Jump was amazing. We got to go on the top of the dhow and jump off yelling. Everyone did it as many times as possible because it was so much fun. Snorkeling was also great. Once we got the snorkel gear on, we jumped into the water and saw many fish and corals. We learned a lot about the Environment. I learned that there are fish called Rainbow Fish because they have a shimmering skin that reflects in the water. We even got to kiss a Sea Cucumber!

The way back to the Buses was beautiful, we were in the middle of the Sea and got to watch the sun go down and took some wonderful pictures. This day was definitely my favorite. The bus ride back once again took a while but we all had lots of fun in the buses too. In the evening, we had a fun activity where we had to build a survival shelter for an egg which was then dropped from the roof. If the egg survived, we were allowed to crack it onto the instructors head.

On the last day, everyone was really tired but also excited to go back home and see their families. Right after breakfast, we got into our grade groups and learned a bit about fire making, shelter building, first aid and water filtering. Once we learned how each of those things worked, we had an ultimate survivor challenge which was great fun. The Ecoventure Team set up a great situation for us, in which we were stranded in the middle of the desert and had to make our own food, fire, shelter and water. We also had some students pretending to be injured which needed first aid. The challenge went on for about an hour. By the end, we had all realized how hard it is to survive with nothing. The winners of the challenge got free Ecoventure T-shirts and everyone else also got a really cool water bottle.

When we arrived at school, everyone ran to their families and was happy to be back home again. These three days at camp were a great learning experience for me and I believe that if I ever do get stranded, i might be able to survive a bit longer than someone who has no experience.

Science Department News

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. It has been a very busy month for us.

From 4th-9th October, 2015, a Science festival named SciFest Dubai™ took place in Dubai Municipality's Children City in collaboration with Goethe Institute's Science Film Festival that is an official collaborating partner of the UNESCO International Year of Light. SciFest Dubai is partners with KHDA.

This provided a platform to promote creativity, critical thinking, innovation, and STEAM education. The aim was to promote a love for Science and a deeper understanding of the scientific method.

To fulfil this aim our students in GCS actively participated in the festival to compete in various categories and achieved numerous appreciations from the judges. One of our participating students, Avaani Singh (Grade 9C) won third prize in the project competition category. Her project was based upon Thermo electricity, The Seed Back Effect.



Secondary School News

SciFest



Avaani Sing
Grade 9

Avaani said about the event “SciFest was an enlightening experience for me. It was amazing to see all the people who were interested in the world of science. I enjoyed being part of the experience that was SciFest”.

Other students who participated in the competition included:

- Anaam Khan (Gr-10) and Madysun Dobbs (Gr-8) participated in Science Fiction Writing Competition
- Zain Munshi (Gr-8) participated in Science Debate
- Ayah Shaaban (Gr-10), Osama Shaaban (Gr-10), Ahmad Shaaban (Gr-10) and Abdelrahim Shaaban (Gr-10) participated in Project (Invention) Competition Category.

All of the above students earned their appreciation from the judges along with participation certificates.

In addition to the competing students, our Grade 9 and 10 classes also attended the festival over two days. They enhanced their love and understanding of Science through many hands on activities including workshops, video screenings, scientist performances, projects, conferences, presentations, and pecha kucha shows. The most popular activity amongst the students was Arduino - Electric Circuits Workshop, in which students had to program in C++ language to prepare their own computer-circuits.

“Scifest was amazing and a new experience for me. Seeing imaginations coming to life was very revolutionary. The speeches from many different researchers were from different perspectives, they were educational but it was an enjoyable hour” Says Grade 9C student Bryle Andre Dungog.

During the same time period Grade 8 went on a camp trip to Al Jeer, organized by Ecoventure. The students had an amazing time and learnt a lot about survival skills, including, how to build shelter, find water and set fires in the desert. Having studied the Survivor unit in Grade 6 many of our students used their prior learning to excel in these activities. Currently, Grade 8 are studying Biospheres unit, we were really excited to be able to study a local Ecosystem, consisting of mangroves, that have adapted to the harsh conditions of an extreme climate..... great practice for those students who may choose to take DP Biology, as this includes a lot of the content studied.

On Sunday 18th October students in Grades 5-10 attended an event hosted by the Science Club. This event was a joint enterprise between the Science department and one of our multi-talented parents that came in and offered her expert advice on Aerodynamics and Aviation. Ms Rupa Kapitzki-Mukherjee has a Private Pilot Licence (PPL) course from Emirates Aviation Services Flying School, Dubai, UAE, who has flown in USA, Ireland, UAE, and Australia.

This workshop was aimed to help our young group of hopefuls on their endeavour to submit an original and innovative design to the UAE’S Aircraft Design Competition. One of these young hopefuls was Osama Shaaban, who found this talk particularly inspiring as he had recently completed a project in Arabic, on the rights of women and the importance of promoting women to positions/careers normally dominated by males.

Secondary School News

World Maths Day



To continue with our drive to promote and enhance learning of Science outside of the classroom, the Science department has many events planned throughout the rest of the year, such as Taaleem's Annual Science Fair in May 2016, in which students across all the Taaleem schools will be given an opportunity to showcase their talent and love for Science in a two-day exciting event. We are hoping to repeat last year's success in which GCS took home the majority of the prizes!

MYP and DP Science Team

World Maths Day

On Tuesday 13th October we celebrated World Math Day by competing in the World Education Games hosted by 3P learning. It was a great chance for our students to unite through Mathematics for many reasons. Not only did we see students engaged; battling each other in mental math tasks to be crowned champion of their class, but also to contribute to the underlying UNICEF mission to advocate for children's rights to education. Just by participating through the answering of questions, our students earned UNICEF points which will shortly be converted into money and go directly to supporting UNICEF education programs where class and school resources are desperately needed. If you would like to learn more of how you can continue to help please visit www.unicef.org Here are a few statistics from the event.

Globally

Over 5 million students competed
UNICEF points earned 169,474,201
11.8 years spent competing online across 96 hours

Greenfield Community School

1181 students
33 teachers
72 classes

For every 5,000 UNICEF points earned by students during the games, 3P Learning will be donating \$1 towards education projects.

As an **IB inquirer** do you wonder how much money that equates to?

As an **IB thinker**, do you know how to find out?

The Maths Department would like to thank grades 6, 7 and 8 for making it into the top 100 schools for periods of the competition. Unfortunately they did not have the stamina to remain there until the finish with other schools from Malaysia to Mexico gaining advantage over time.

Our 4 school champions from each of the competing age groups were, Danil Ghosh (6D), Sharman Shukla (7C), Emile El Azar (8A), Aleksandra Janus (12A). Here are some of their **reflections** of the event:

Mathletics helped me a lot in Maths. I am happy because my points are going to be used for a noble cause." (Sharman Grade 7)

"I personally liked Mathletics a lot because it was fun playing against my friends and other people around the world. I'm happy to donate the points too." (Danil Grade 6)



Secondary School News

Mathletics



“Mathletics was a great experience as it reminded me of certain tricks I used in Maths before, hence it helped me to improve my mental skills. Additionally, the fact that it was for a good cause further motivated me to go through this experience.” (Aleksandra Grade 12)

Congratulations to all who participated. We look forward to celebrating more successes next year including a top 100 schools finish.

European Council of International Schools (ECIS) Annual Educators Conference, Barcelona, Spain



Ms. Silvia Semana will be presenting a workshop titled “**Interdisciplinary units in the MYP: Getting ready, connect, blast off!**” at ECIS’s signature conference this November.

In the workshop, Ms. Silvia will facilitate the design of a fully integrated interdisciplinary unit (IDU) combining Mathematics with Language, Literature, and Art. The emphasis will be on developing wholesome, practical concrete resources, which can be used in classrooms. The impact interdisciplinary teaching can have in nurturing conceptual learning of Mathematics is of great interest to us at GCS and we are excited to learn more of her experiences after the conference.

This year we will experiment with the concept of an IDU and look to scale it to more of our grades in the following years.

We would like to wish Ms. Silvia all the best for a successful workshop and conference.

Michael Guttormson
HOD Mathematics





Secondary School News

MUN



Model United Nations

The 24th of October has been celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948.

This year the UN requests of the world to 'Turn the World UN Blue' – 24 October 2015

Worldwide iconic monuments, buildings, statues, bridges, and other landmarks across the world will be lit up blue to help unite global citizens and promote the message of peace, development and human rights.



As per tradition, Greenfield Community School Model United Nations group has organized the Third Annual GCS Model United Nations in-house conference. This year's conference will aim to address one of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, notably "Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions", focusing on the Migrant Crisis as one of the most pressing issues in present day.

The two committees, General Assembly 3: Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee along with the Security Council will respectively debate upon different aspects of the Migrant Crisis including treatment and statutes of refugees and how to help them integrate within new societies.

While the conference itself will include the 60+ delegates attending GCSMUN as an ECA, the event of the day that will encompass the whole school as a community participating in an assembly, in which the GCSMUN team will visually depict the difficulties for both the refugees and world leaders in accepting and integrating refugees into countries.

Our mission this year is to further develop GCSMUN to maintain its legacy of creating delegates who are outstanding, capable, and adaptable who will build the future of the world and seek the betterment of their respective environments in every challenge they undertake and every decision they make.

Dolores Alison
MUN Director



Primary School News

Autism Awareness



Primary School

Head of Primary: Mr. Gary Mallon



Developing Risk-Takers in the Primary School.

Amongst its many benefits *The IB Learner Profile* aims to develop students who are risk-takers (courageous). This means coaching students to explore new ideas and innovative strategies, challenging their ways of thinking and encouraging them to be confident in making decisions. Clearly this is not always an easy task for our teachers to encourage our students to do or when one student is trying to encourage a classmate to try out something new. The fear of failure in the background always looms, but our dedicated team of teachers here at GCS are fully committed to ensuring our students are motivated and challenged to achieve their best and that if mistakes are made along the way, then that is not seen as failure, rather progress!

Our students are presented with opportunities on a daily basis to demonstrate their courage, be it presenting a piece of work in front of their peers; trying out a new ECA activity, speaking in an assembly or simply putting up their hand in class to answer a question. We strongly feel that we provide a safe and warm environment in which learning can flourish and one in which students feel motivated and encouraged to *take risks* without fear of consequences.

Risk taking is not confined to our students here at GCS. Indeed our staff act as wonderful role models for our students when it comes to trying out something new: whether that is implementing a new teaching strategy; running a new ECA activity or taking on a new and challenging role within the school.

On that note, I hope that you will enjoy hearing from each of our three recently appointed *Heads of Department* who are beginning a new challenge within the school. Ms. Paula Wistrand, Mr. James Robinson and Mr. Heinrich Bester are highly experienced practitioners and I am delighted that they have joined our middle management team here in Primary. I am very confident that through their hard work and dedication, we will see positive developments in our academic progress and attainment across all three of the core subject areas, Language, Mathematics and Science.

I would like to place on record my sincere thanks and appreciation to Ms. Lisa Thorpe, Ms. Lynette Weke-Kyalo and Ms. Teena Gupta for all that they have contributed and achieved over the last few years in developing these three subject areas. They have provided a wonderful base upon which our three new Heads of Department can move these subject areas forward.

There will be Coffee Mornings over the course of the next few months which will allow you as parents to understand more about Language, Mathematics and Science within the IB framework together with further information conveyed through this Newsletter.

Gary Mallon
Head of Primary

Primary School News

Alphabet Plates



Head of Mathematics

Hein Bester

My name is Hein Bester. I'm from South Africa, where I studied and obtained a Bachelor's Degree

in Physiology, Sports Sciences and a Diploma in Teaching. I taught in London for 11 years, where

I was a class teacher, Maths Specialist and Physical Education and Extra Curricular Activities Coordinator.

I've taught students from KG1 to Grade 12. Although I'm new to GCS, this is my 3rd year in Dubai. I was a Year 6 teacher and the Maths Coordinator at my previous school, before joining the GCS team. I'm married and we have 3 lovely boys; Jonathan-Daniël (who is currently in KG1), Marnich (who will be joining the school next year) and Alexander (5 months).



When I'm not teaching, I love the outdoors, photography, a good Braai (South African bbq) and spending time with my family. Being the adventurous type, I always look for any opportunity to explore the great outdoors, including regular camping trips into the desert. I have a good sense of humor, but not everyone always agrees on this fact.

From a very young age I have been fascinated with numbers. Growing up on a farm, I enjoyed counting animals, measuring the rainfall, reading a clock to work out the time of sunrise; it was all practical everyday Maths. I would like Maths in GCS to be: practical and meaningful. I was the student in class that always wanted to know why we needed to study a specific topic and I think it is very important in everyday school life to make learning fun and relevant. We are teaching the next generation and life as we know is quickly changing. The Top 10 highest paying jobs in the world today did not exist 10 years ago. So, as a teacher, I need to make sure I equip my students to the best of my ability, so they can grow up and keep challenging themselves in this ever changing world.

As the Head of Mathematics, I will endeavor to support and challenge the staff, so that they can do the same in their classes. Ensuring that the teaching of Mathematics is consistent, fun and meaningful through daily inquiry and real-life application. As **William Glasser** stated, "We learn best when we **experience something personally** or **teach someone else**". Therefore, it is my aim to ensure that we create as many possible situations in everyday school life for students to learn through their own experiences, personal discussions and by sharing their understanding. As an IB school, we are in an ideal position to support children through personal inquiry on a daily basis.

As a parent, I am confident that my child is getting the best education to support him to become a global citizen, a problem solver and someone who will make a difference in his community and the world.

I look forward to working with you and your children.

Thank you for this opportunity.

How We Learn:

- 10% of what we READ
- 20% of what we HEAR
- 30% of what we SEE
- 50% of what we SEE and HEAR
- 70% of what is DISCUSSED with OTHERS
- 80% of what is EXPERIENCED PERSONALLY
- 95% of what we TEACH TO SOMEONE ELSE

~ William Glasser

Primary School News

Alphabet Plates



Head of Science James Robinson

Dear Parents,

My name is James Robinson and I am excited to be the new Head of Science in the PYP at Greenfield Community School. I have been a Homeroom teacher in Grade 5 for two years with this being my third. I am originally from New Zealand and have previously worked in Abu Dhabi before moving to Dubai.

I would like to believe I bring a fresh energy to the role I have been given and that this will help all PYP students enjoy Science more and progress in this area. I have a few main aims for this year, starting with giving the two PYP Science rooms a revamp and increasing the enjoyment and learning our students get out of these unique learning environments in our school.

Providing a dedicated space and resources for Science appears to be a key need to ensure our students develop their Science skills further. I also hope to be able to provide teachers in the PYP with more lesson ideas and resources to teach with.

Another key aim for me is to create and run an 'Environmental Club' at GCS. I hope to find a keen group of PYP students who want to make a difference in our local environment and are prepared to take action to spread the word.



PYP Language Co-ordinator Paula Wistrand

Kia Ora (Hello), my name is Miss Paula Wistrand and I am the Language Coordinator for the PYP. This is my second year at GCS, teaching Grade 5. Previous to this, I taught in New Zealand for 6 years. My teaching roles in New Zealand had an extensive literacy focus and I undertook numerous courses in literacy development. Through these courses, I have created a strong teaching practice in reading comprehension and writing strategies. In my role as Language Coordinator at GCS, it is my goal to enhance the already rich language programme that has been established.

Language expectations in the PYP are arranged into three main strands: Oral Communication, Written Communication and Visual Communication. These communication strands are organized into sub-strands which include Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing, Viewing and Presenting. Students also study our host language of Arabic and an additional foreign language (French or German). I look forward to seeing student's skills grow as the language programme further develops.



Primary School News

Grade 1 Visit to Heritage House



Mother Tongue Programme

As a way of supporting our Mother Tongue Programme we are looking to enhance the reading material we have available in the library. If you have high quality children's books at home, that are surplus to your needs, would you be willing to donate them to the library as a way of increasing the books available to the students? If so, could you please drop them off to EG84 (Miss Wistrand Grade 5). Thank you in advance for supporting the development of a rich literacy environment in GCS.

Paula Wistrand
PYP Language Co-ordinator

Alphabet Plate

Mondays are exciting days for 2CEK and 4LK as we are Reading Buddies. One of the fun activities was to create an interactive "Alphabet Plate". Once our plates were decorated and ready, we went on a word scavenger hunt around the school and tried to find interesting words that begin with each letter. One challenging letter was X. If you can find a word around school that starts with it, please let us know?

Ms Cherine(2CEK)& Ms Lubna(4LK)

Grade 1 Visit to Heritage House

Grade 1 had the pleasure of visiting Heritage House last week. This was in relation to our 'Where We are in Place and Time' unit which includes a focus on how houses are adapted for different regions. Students were able to look at an old house in Dubai and compare it to the houses they live in today. They were also able to see how houses in Dubai are adapted to the weather conditions here. We even got to see the inside of a wind tower which used to be for cooling systems before the invention of air-conditioning. Our students were fantastic inquirers as they asked the guide many questions which really impressed him. 1FR took action by building their own version of the Heritage House when they came back from the trip. Thank you to all the parents who came along and helped us out on the trip. Your involvement in your children's education is highly appreciated.

Grade 1 Team

Primary School News

Sports Results



World Maths Day and Autism Awareness

This month has been a very busy and exciting time for the children in Grade 3. They have been working very hard to achieve their goals. Last week was assessment week for the end of our Unit of Inquiry 'Who We Are', and also marked a point in assessment, of all of the writing and mathematical skills, that the children have been learning and applying since the beginning of the academic year.

After spending time thinking about their learning and discussing the next steps in their journey of discovery, ideas were put forward to how we could all take action to be better role models to others. Students in 3JH decided to take this action further and set up their own club (Earth Guardians). Here they share ideas of ways in which they could apply a range of positive attributes and values within the local community. The students reflected well on their learning and thoroughly enjoyed the first unit of the year.

On Tuesday, 13th October 2015, it was World Maths Day and the beginning of the World Mathematics Championship. The class were very excited to begin testing their skills against their classmates and other children from around the world. This was a successful way of integrating modern technology into learning and has instilled further enthusiasm for Mathematics.

Last week, the whole of the PYP school were informed about the painting project we were going to start for the Autism Awareness Campaign. 3JH first decided that it would be best to begin with a basic design, before beginning the painting onto the grand canvases. The class applied their knowledge of the art techniques that we had been learning since the beginning of the year to their designs. Once completed, the children used their independence and creativity to start sketching out their designs onto the canvases before finally completing all of the painting today. Everyone took great pride in their work and have had a thoroughly enjoyable learning experience - which is clearly evident in the photos attached below.

Jonathan Harris

Grade 3 Teacher

whole School News

Sports Results



Under 10 GCS VS Nord
Anglia

Sports News

It has been an excellent start to the sporting year for The Griffins. It has been great to watch so many teams in action across the school. Next week, Primary Swimsquad kick into action with a warm-up gala at Victory Heights before the Taaleem gala held the following week. If you want to see the most up to date scores and schedules for each team please visit the GCS School Sport site <http://www.gcssport.com/> Below are our results so far this season, plus some reports from our teams.

Swimming

We had our first Division 4 Swim Gala for the season on Thursday 8th October hosted by Nord Anglia International. With our 8th grade away on a school field trip we were unable to compete in the under 14 age group. Despite this set back, our squad came 3rd out of 5 schools. This result puts us in good standing for future events. Well done to the MYP Swim squad, you are a great group of swimmers.

Michael Guttormson

Football

GCS v DBS

The under 10 boys were confident before the game. GCS started the match confidently with some good control and solid passing. The majority of the possession was with GCS from the start and this possession paid off with an early goal from Nabeel after some slick passing down the left from Owen and Nicholas and Eric. DBS managed to hold onto the ball and disrupt the GCS flow for large parts of the game. With the new tactical corners working well, it did seem like it would not be long before another goal came for GCS. It took longer than expected with the second goal coming in the second half. Although some players were trying out new positions and with some solid work from Will up front, Antonios in the back and strong midfield play by Matej, GCS did manage to finally get the winning second goal.

The final score was 2-0 to GCS, well played boys.

GCS v WIS

Having won their previous match, the under 10 boys were in good spirits. This confidence may have proved costly as the same starting line-up found themselves 2 goals down, against the run of play. The GCS boys had been pushing hard for early goals but they were caught out on the counter attack. After some minor positional changes, the boys seemed to settle in a more defensive pattern which suited their style of play and found themselves back in at 2-1 from a good header off a corner. Their corners were proving difficult to handle for the opposition but it was an excellent free kick by Nabeel that eventually pulled the boys back to 2-2.

GCS spent a large part of the second half pushing for the third goal but to no avail. The real strength though for the boys, was the solid defense work from the whole team when they lost the possession during the remainder of the match. Some solid defense from Nicholas and Eric along with the midfield providing some solid work rate from Antonios, Mark, Will and Matej, really helped the

whole School News

Sports Results



Under 10 GCS VS WIS

team along with Owen and Gianluca playing very well throughout while Bryce ensured solid goalkeeping.
Well done lads.

Callum Stevens

Head of Physical Education, Greenfield Community School

Date	Team	Opponent	Result
28/09/2015	U16B Football	Kings Al Barsha	W 2-1
28/09/2015	U16G Football	Deira International School	W 4-0
29/09/2015	U14B Football	GEMS First Point	W 5-0
29/09/2015	U14G Football	GEMS First Point	W 5-0
30/09/2015	U16B Basketball	Horizon	W 40-10
01/10/2015	U12B Football	Gems International Al Khail	L 3-8
01/10/2015	MYP Swimsquad	Taaleem MYP Gala: Uptown	1st place
04/10/2015	U12B Football	Wellington Al Khail	L 0 -2
05/10/2015	U16B Football	Dubai College B	L 3-4
05/10/2015	U16G Football	Cambridge International School	L 0-3
06/10/2015	U14G Football	GEMS International Al Khail	W 5-0
06/10/2015	U10B Football	Nord Anglia	L 4-3
06/10/2015	U11B Football	Nord Anglia	L 3-2
07/10/2015	U16B Basketball	Jess Ranches B	L 31-36
08/10/2015	MYP Swimsquad	Gala 1 Nord Anglia School	3rd
12/10/2015	U16G Football	Wellington International School	W 5-1
13/10/2015	U16G Basketball	Deira International School	W 29-18
14/10/2015	U16B Basketball	Dubai British School	W 32-30
14/10/2015	U11G Football	Wellington International School	L 0-4
18/10/2015	U10B Football	Dubai British School	W 2-0
18/10/2015	U11B Football	Dubai British School	L 2 - 1
19/10/2015	U16B Football	Jess Ranches B	W 6-1
19/10/2015	U16G Football	DESC B	W 4 -1
20/10/2015	U12G Football	Kings Al Barsha	W 5 -1
20/10/2015	U14G Football	Kings Al Barsha	W 1 - 0
20/10/2015	U10B Football	Wellington International School	L 0 -1
20/10/2015	U11B Football	Wellington International School	L 2 - 4



GCP Updates

Brought to you by the **Greenfield Community Parents Committee**



The GCP is happy to announce that we have two new beautiful shades sponsored by **Rheem Air Conditioning** and **Caparol Paints**. Both companies have generously donated 4000AED per portable shade for our students and staff to utilize throughout the school year! Please find the link below to the GCP albums, featuring various Coffee Morning moments, events, as well as, offers and promotions from our sponsors. Their special promos will last till the end of October, so don't delay!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/178130185677460/photos/?filter=albums>

The Primary library is having a "Languages of the World Exhibition"! This is a fun opportunity for all GCS parents to come and read a children's book to the primary students in their own mother-tongue language. The Greenfield Community Parents Committee would love to thank the parents who have already taken part in this fulfilling experience! We would also like to thank the Primary librarian, Mrs. Faith Ogaro for taking the initiative of organizing such a wonderful event. If you're interested in participating, feel free to contact Mrs. Ogaro directly or via email at fogaro@gschool.ae to book a time slot that's most convenient for you. This experience will last till the 5th of November, so make your booking soon!



From a parent who took part in the "Languages of the World Exhibition"

"...I enjoyed sharing this interactive experience with them. It was a true privilege and it gives me such a joy to see what kind of human beings children become in the GCS environment."

Upcoming Events

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10th of November, Tuesday
The GCP Lost and Found Sale
2pm-3pm

Located above the Secondary Library on the 2nd floor, Room C23.

Watch the GCP Board and our Facebook page for meetings and useful information about some exciting events coming up, such as, **National Day and Winter Fest in December of 2015 and International Day 2016 on the 4th of February!**

The school library is looking for donations of books in different languages. **If you have any books from your mother-tongue language, that you would like to donate, please feel free to drop your books to Ms. Paula Wisstrand, Grade 5PW.**

Do you think you have a great idea for the next Coffee Morning? The GCP would love to hear from you! Please feel free to write to us via our email address at GCP4GCS@gmail.com. All ideas are welcome!



Visit us on Facebook by adding yourself to The Greenfield Community Parents Group.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100009997454845&fref=nf>

Email us at GCP4GCS@gmail.com with any questions or suggestions. We're looking forward to hearing from you!

