

Newsletter

**Issue #3
22, September 2015**

This Week's Newsletter:

**Eid Mubarak
عيد مبارك**

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Desk**

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MYP Assembly Sunday 13th September

From the Principal's Desk

It is with both well-wishes and sadness that I write to you this week. For our Muslim families and staff we wish you Eid Mubarak, especially for those families who have a member undertaking Hajj. It is with great sadness that we received the news of the tragic passing of His Highness Sheikh Rashid bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. To lose a child must certainly be the greatest shock and hardship that can befall a father or mother and our thoughts and prayers are with the Al Maktoum family at this time.



We have held a number of very successful parent information sessions in recent weeks. The Grade 5 camp, our Global Outreach projects to Tanzania and Ethiopia, an introduction to the PYP, a presentation from our caterers, coffee mornings, to name but some. These have been very well attended and do a great deal to strengthen the parent-school relationship.

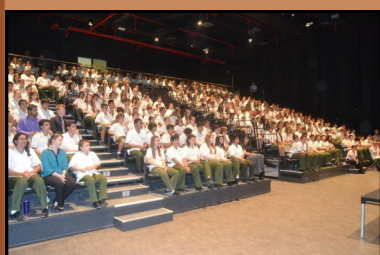
Last week I had the opportunity to attend this year's Digital Education conference. It not only showcased the latest technologies and apps, but gave a platform for school and universities to showcase what they are doing. I believe that when it comes to technology and IT, it is better to be second wave. Let others try the new technologies, listen and learn about what works and which ones were the expensive mistakes and then make your investments.

Of particular interest was a round table discussion on digital citizenship. When adults give children smartphones they are giving them a piece of technology that requires a high level of ethical responsibility. A generation ago if two children had an argument the words were never written down with a signature. These technologies we expose our children to mean that their digital footprint is permanent. There is a growing movement in Europe calling for the right to be forgotten. The presenter told a story of a 14 year old boy in the UK who recently took some inappropriate photographs of his girlfriend and forwarded them to a friend. He has now been put on a police database because the girl was under 18. Therefore if a CRB check was to be conducted, he would appear to be an unsavory candidate. We have all done foolish things in our youth, learnt from them and are grateful that they are in the past. Should young people have the right to have the mistakes of their youth forgotten?

At the centre of our discussion was the question of who is responsible for educating our children about the wise use of smartphone technology and who should bear responsibility when they make foolish mistakes? At GCS we have a well-planned programme presented by Mrs. Amun Quershi, our Head of Technology Integration, which raises the students' awareness of responsible digital citizenship, cyberbullying and privacy protection. Surely the responsibility for our children's education must rest firstly with the adult who gave the technology to the child. It would, obviously, be hugely irresponsible to give our powerful motor car without first giving them advanced safety training. When we give our

Secondary School News

MYP Assembly



children smartphones we give them unlimited access to the internet which has some dark corners that are fascinating to curious teenagers. They will be bombarded with social media. Businesses and salespeople are very adept in identifying and attracting the youth market and targeting our children's buying power. Unscrupulous people are on the lookout for private data: social security numbers, ID numbers, and so on. Unwary children are both all too curious and trusting.

The rules of the game and the power of technology are evolving fast. Don't assume that your children are naïve or that the school is 100% responsible when it comes to responsible digital citizenship education. Talk to your children about these issues, monitor what is on their phones, check the browsing history. Have you set and checked the security and privacy settings, have they set up a VPN, and so on? There is a great deal that is good, too. Parents can now track their children's movements to the meter (as can wives their husbands!). Schools and families need to work in partnership to protect, guide and educate our children.

Best wishes

Andrew Wood
Greenfield Community School Principal

Secondary School News

Dear Parents

Managebac Training for parents will be held on **Wednesday 14th October** in the auditorium at 8am, led by Ms. Kehoe, Deputy Head of Secondary - our in-house Managebac guru.

This is an important practical session to become familiar with Managebac systems and proceeds the emailing of parents login. Please bring a device.

There will also be a short presentation on CAS with Ms. Theresa Cormican.

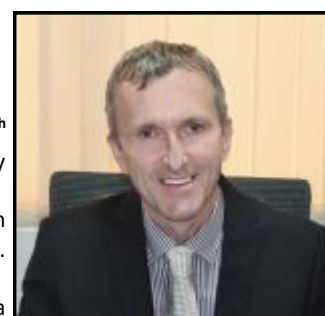
I would also like to reinforce and remind parents regarding reading:

The Importance of Reading.

Make it a rule never to give a child a book you would not read yourself. - George Bernard Shaw

In a school with a broad range of nationalities a good well stocked library should take centre place. We have a good library at GCS but I would like to see more students reading and getting off games and applications on their tablets for a while.

Young learners are avid browsers but they find it hard to focus on any type of lengthy reading activity, or to stick with one thing at a time. Today's learners are avid multitaskers in the age of split screen/ multiple application living.



Secondary School News

Secondary Back to School Night



Joe Farrell on work placement at Cantrex General Trading, DIP.



Anagha Nair on work placement at The Courtyard Marriot Hotel.



The role of quiet contemplative reading has never been more important.

Encourage your child to read in any language they like and to read anything they like. It does not have to be highbrow novels. I believe if they have a reading habit they will reap untold benefits. Please read with your child. If your child has trouble sleeping, reading could be a restful solution at the end of the day.

Please model your expectations by reading books and newspapers in front of your child. Children are incredibly sharp, and if they only see their parents on iPhones all the time they will think it's right for them to do the same.

Kind regards,

Neil Bunting

Head of Secondary

IBCP (International Baccalaureate Career-related Programme)

This year's new intake to the IBCP (International Baccalaureate Career related Programme) have made a flying start. We have 22 students in our Grade 11 which means we are now full for this year. This is exciting when you consider we started with 6 back in 2010, and now we have 38 in both grades. The Grade 11 is made up of students who were at GCS last year in Grade 10, plus 11 students who are new to the school. Offering 2 pathways in Grade 11, the IB Diploma and IBCP is exciting for GCS and gives our students a definite choice of study. For anyone new to GCS, the IBCP course is offered in Grade 11 & 12 alongside the IB Diploma course. Students study 3, IB Diploma subjects, the IBCP 'Core' which includes work placement, ATL, Community & Service, & Language Development, plus the BTEC National Diploma at Level 3 in a subject of their choice. GCS were one of the first pilot schools in 2010 across the world, where there are now over 90 schools delivering the programme. It is intended to offer students a course specifically tailored to their chosen career pathway.

As part of the IBCP course, students are required to study an additional course to the IB Diploma subjects. This must be an externally validated and authorised course as directed by the IB. At GCS we decided to offer the BTEC (Business & Technical Education Council) which is recognised across the world and at Level 3, gives our students the opportunity to meet the entry requirements for University degree courses when they complete the full IBCP. This year, GCS have introduced a new BTEC, the Level 3 Creative Art & Design course. This gives students the opportunity to study subjects such as Art, Graphics, DT Product Design, Media, Photography, Fashion & Textiles, Jewellery Design, Interior Design. Added to the existing BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Business, this offers our students a wide range of subjects with more being planned for future years.

Since the introduction of the IBCP course, our students have enjoyed great success and have been able to gain places at universities around the world. To date we have 25 students who have graduated with 24 studying in countries such as US, Canada, UK, Holland, Singapore & the UAE. Another student is now working in Agriculture in his native country, South Africa.

Secondary School News

Work placement



Rhea in class at the ICCA completing her cake decoration unit.



Conor George on work placement in the media Department at Gulf News.



In 2015, our graduating class are now progressing to:

- Simran Chaudhry – studying a degree in journalism at Middlesex University, Dubai campus where she has also gained a full scholarship having been recognised in the top 100 of international BTEC students.
- Varun Ahuja – studying a degree in sports management at Bournemouth University in the UK
- Ghaith Al Saseh - studying a degree in hospitality management at The Emirates Hospitality Academy, Dubai
- Yanniek Heijkoop – studying a degree in media at Middlesex University, Dubai campus
- Estelle Cooper – is taking a gap year before studying a degree at Heriot Watt University, Dubai Campus
- James Hanson – entered employment in engineering and will be completing part time study at Heriot Watt University, Dubai campus
- Rami Aldada – studying a foundation degree course at Heriot Watt University, Dubai campus.

Work placement is a vital part of the IBCP course where students complete 3, 1 week internships during the 2 year course. Students arrange their own placements at companies in their chosen career paths. We are always searching for companies who are willing to take our students, so please contact Mr. Worth, IBCP Coordinator on mworth@gcschool.ae if you are able to help. Students are fully monitored during the week and have to complete a detailed case study as part of their studies. Therefore the week is very important to them.



Giordan Pierrepont on work placement at Virgin Megastore, Mirdif.



Max Littmoden in Grade 12 on work placement in the Marketing Department at Bug Busters.

Rhea Carvalho is an IBCP student currently in Grade 12. As part of her course she is completing a Diploma at The International Centre for Culinary Arts which is based in Knowledge Village, Dubai. She is achieving outstanding success with samples of her work shown here below. Her work placement last year was spent at Bloomsbury Cakes in Dubai Mall where they were very impressed with the quality of her work.

If you would like to know more about the IBCP course please contact me on mworth@gcschool.ae

Mike Worth
IBCP & BTEC Coordinator

Secondary School News

MYP Assembly



IBDP (IB Diploma Programme)

September is always an exciting month: students return or join our community full of energy and endeavour; memories of the summer vacation slowly fade and the future again holds our focus. Sometimes, regrets can bite quite keenly: maybe a deadline has been missed; maybe a schedule has slipped. There are no sadder words than: "If only – ". Usually, though, the mood at GCS is positive, and it certainly seems to be so, currently.

Occasionally, news filters through concerning students from the last cohort, the Graduating Class of 2015. By and large, its members are doing well and their families and teachers can feel justifiably proud of what these students achieved, not least thanks to their own often selfless efforts. (As an "IB Parent", I can remember something of the strain. How does one respond to: "Dad, I only feel happy when I'm asleep"?) I wonder, though, how many of those recently-departed students will recognize specific aspects of GCS, not least given the many refurbishments that have taken place. I hope that many of them will be able to visit us in the future so that we can again share their triumphs and remember the past.

But now our attention falls, understandably, upon students in Grades 12 and 11. The former have, for the most part, shown great determination to consolidate and to progress. Extended Essays are well underway and several students have begun to think about their longer-term future; The Extended Essay is a wonderful preparation for University research and study. Some challenging CAS activities have also been undertaken. Success in general will depend upon each individual's ability to meet deadlines.

The Grade 11 students are beginning to find their feet although some students have yet to feel that they have a subject programme with which they feel entirely comfortable. They need to remember, though, that course changes cannot be made after October 11th. But they have joined the huge, and growing, number of students worldwide who have committed themselves to the IB Diploma Programme.

Please take a few minutes to access: <http://www.ibo.org/en/news/> It is humbling to remember that we are indeed part of a truly global community that is committed to improving the well-being of others both as what we are now and as what we will become. On a personal level, it has been extremely fulfilling to have had the opportunity to have worked at Greenfield Community School although, in truth, it has been to work in any IB World School.

Let us hope that our students' continuing success will encourage future cohorts to aim even higher.

Nhooper@gcschool.ae

Neil Hooper

IB Diploma Programme Coordinator

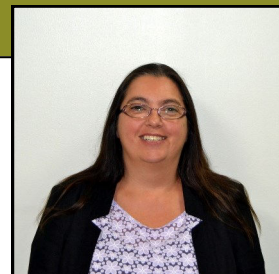
Primary School News

Parents new to the PYP Information Session



Primary School

Parents new to the PYP Information Session



Last Thursday the Primary School held the first Coffee Morning of the academic year with the focus on supporting parents who are new to the Primary Years Programme at the school. A great turn out from parents saw them working collaboratively in groups to ask questions about the programme and find out more, supporting their understanding of how it works.

Parents modelled some strategies that are used in classrooms such as one we call 'Think, Pair, Share'. This is where a student is given time to think about the answer to a question individually, then they explain their thinking with a partner, and listen to their partner's ideas too, and finally share with the group. Parents did this when discussing curriculum content they thought students should learn, and also to see if there were commonalities between their questions.

A short video was shown highlighting the Learner Profile which emphasised the type of learners we strive for our students to be, learning and developing in an environment which is safe and secure enough for risk-taking to take place and for mistakes to be made.

Students must feel confident enough to try new experiences without fear of failure, which is particularly important for our students whose first language is not English. A range of questions were used to help develop the next steps of parental need in order to support understanding. Once again, reflecting the practice in class, by finding out what parents already know and where to take their understanding next.

Please come and join us for the next parent information session. Focus and venue will be sent out nearer the time. All questions asked at the session will be sent out via school communication.

Jill Shadbolt

PYP coordinator

Grade 1 News

1ZJ have gotten right into the swing of things with reading and writing activities. They practiced their reading and spelling skills by matching words with pictures. They also challenged themselves by trying to find as many words as they could think of for certain sounds. Throughout all these activities, they were communicators, risktakers and amazing thinkers!



Primary School News

Grade 2 Essential Agreements



Grade 2. Grade Essential Agreements

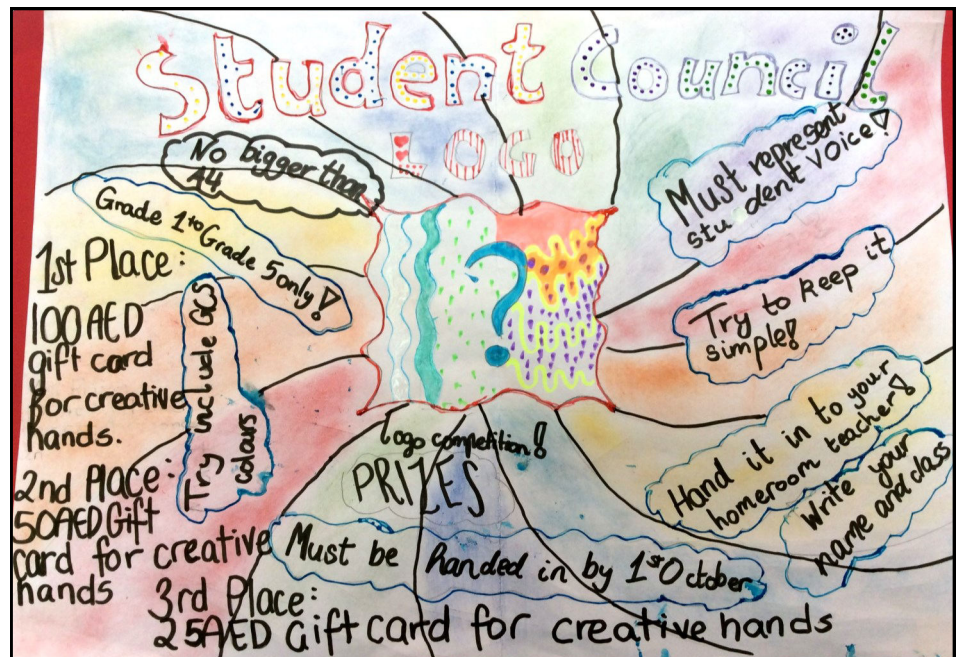
In Grade 2 we had an Essential Agreements rotation, where each class made a list of Essential Agreements for a specific area around the school. This gave every child the chance to be reflective and find ways for everyone to be **Principled** when using the different spaces in school.

Essential Agreements were made for the toilets, the corridors, the football pitch, cafeteria and playground.

Afterwards, posters were made and each class presented their Essential Agreements to the other classes to make sure everybody was up to speed.



Primary Student Council Logo Competition



Whole School News

Mother Tongue Programme



Brain Teaser

Read the following paragraph and answer the questions. In this case the student's language deficit involves making meaning of words. His or her ability to recognize and process structure is intact. These students are hard to detect in a classroom, as they may be able to complete a fact-finding exercise, as you will see; however, they will not have understood what they read because they could not process the language.

Blix and Splox grummed blantly as they bronted along. The cront was jilp and because of this Blix and Splox were sniped with their bluxy drant.

1. Who were the main characters?
2. What did Blix and Splox do as they bronted along?
3. Why were Blix and Splox sniped?
4. With what were Blix and Splox sniped?

Answers:

1. The main characters were Blix and Splox.
2. They grummed blantly as they bronted along.
3. Blix and Splox were sniped because the cront was jilp.
4. They were sniped with their bluxy drant.

Ceanlia Vermeulen

PYP Student Support Teacher

Mother Tongue Programme

This month, the new Mother Tongue Programme kicked off in the primary school. This takes place in addition to the regular language programme.

A number of students in G1 to G5 have been enjoying lessons in their native languages of German (offered by Goethe Institut), French (offered by My First Language) or Spanish (offered by UCAM Español Institute).

The school is very excited about this new initiative and it is looking forward to adding more languages to the programme in the near future.

Nathalie Pageau

PYP French teacher

PYP Modern Foreign Language coordinator



Whole School News

GCP/Slices Coffee Morning



GCP Meet & Greet Coffee Morning



GCP UPDATES



On behalf of the Greenfield Community Parents committee, we welcome you to the 2015-2016 school year! This year looks like it will be a remarkable one, because at our first GCP meeting on the 8th of September, the Meet and Greet Session, we had a FULL-HOUSE! Parents were introduced to the goals of the GCP and were able to sign themselves up for various events and activities that would be co-organized by GCP and the school in the coming year. New parents to GCS were paired with their compatriots through the Buddy Program to help them settle into Dubai and the school.

Being a Greenfield Community Parent is all about taking part in your child's school activities and attending the "Coffee Mornings" which are full of useful information. Being an active GC Parent is also a great way to make new friends, have your voice heard and queries answered.

Our first Coffee Morning was held on Monday, 14th of September, with SLICES, the school's new dining partner. You will be pleased to know that the feedback received is helping to make positive changes. Our next Coffee Morning will be the "Happy Lunch Box Workshop" on Wednesday, 30th of September at 8AM in the PYP Collaboration Room. We look forward to seeing you there!

In addition, two outdoor shades have been purchased by the GCP for the school with the help of our sponsors MAX Retail and Bissan Dental Centre. VOTRE Beauty Salon has created a special package for all GCS parents! (For further information, please check out our GCP Facebook page) Also, the Secondary picnic benches, which were funded by the 2014 International Day, are currently under construction.

To keep in touch with the GCP and to know what's going on at our school throughout the year, visit us on Facebook by adding yourself to the Greenfield Community Parents, Dubai – GCP (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/178130185677460/>). Also, we are always open to hearing from you with any questions you may have or suggestions for our future "Coffee Mornings". Do email us at GCP4GCS@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

Your GCP Committee

Advisory Board

I find it important that as we progress into the new academic year, that students, parents and staff alike to understand the role that the GCS School Advisory Board plays.

The Advisory Board is an advisory group that acts as a sounding board and channel of communication to the Principal on both day to day operational issues, and policy. The Advisory School Board can also make recommendations to the Taaleem Policy Committees for changes in Taaleem Foundation Board Policies.

The mission statement of the Advisory School Board is that it exists to act in the best interest of the students, parents, community and staff towards the purpose of excellence in education and as such, in this regard, the Advisory School Board shall act in an advisory and supportive capacity to the Principal.

The Advisory Board is made up of a Chairman, who is not part of the staff compliment of Greenfield Community School nor Taaleem. The Chair and the Principal are supported by a representative of the Taaleem Governing Board, the GCP Chairperson, a PYP staff representative, an MYP staff representative, along with the Head of Primary and Head of Secondary. The Headboy and Headgirl of GCS will also be invited to attend Advisory Board meetings. Furthermore, persons who we believe can add strategic value to the Advisory Board, are invited from the community, whether it be the business community or general school community.

With the student and staff representatives, they will facilitate ongoing discussions within a formal environment with their peers and report to the Advisory Board on points of interest, which they require to be discussed at the Advisory Board meetings. The role of GCP Chairperson on the Advisory Board is to give input as requested by the GCP community.



Whole School News

Eid Mubarak

عيد مبارك



In line with the ongoing development of the Advisory Board, an email address has been established to "hear" from all, on any topics that the school community feels need to be addressed to the Advisory Board. I will welcome your use of this email address as we strive for the ongoing development in the educational experiences of our students and the development of our staff and parent community.

advisoryboard@gcschool.ae

May I take this opportunity to wish our entire GCS family community a blessed Eid Al Adha.

Kind regards

Boyd Edmondson

Chairperson – Advisory Board

EID AL ADHA

Dear parents and respected audience,

As most of you know there is an important event coming up that Muslims all over the world will be celebrating in the next couple of days.

Eid Al Adha, A feast that is significantly recognized in the Islamic culture and history. Muslims celebrate to commemorate the willingness of prophet Ibrahim 'peace be upon him' to sacrifice his son Ismail 'peace be upon him' as an act of obedience to God, before God intended to provide him with a ram to sacrifice instead.

Eid Al Adha begins with a prayer and it's celebrated annually on the 10th day of the last month of the Islamic calendar.

There are multiple traditions & practices related to Eid Al Adha. Men, women and children put on their best clothes and attend the mosque for prayers; others in Mecca would be busy performing their Hajj and praising God through the different practices of Hajj.

Muslims can interpret Hajj from different views and perspectives. It can be seen as a phase of happiness and putting one in a joyful mood, but it also carries many spiritual and religious opportunities. Opportunities for God's forgiveness and indulgence from past sins and mistakes-that is the real spiritual meaning behind Eid and its values for a Muslim.

عيد مبارك

Eid Mubarak

Islamic Department