

#### GEMS

مدارس جيمس السعودية العالمية - الظهران Saudi International Schools



## The GEM

What's In This Month's Issue!



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Ms. Maritza Vorster Deputy Superintendent





#### ACADEMIC DIRECTOR'S CORNER



It takes a Village to Raise and Educate a Child.

As the sun sets on the first month of the new year, I wish to take this opportunity to wish all of you a Reflective New Year; owing to the fact we continue to live in a world where inequities and injustices exist, I ask all to reflect on creating joy and hope to those who may find those two words question marks in their daily lives. Members of our very own community have been directly impacted by such atrocities.

As we turn to hope amidst despair, the old African proverb "it takes a village to raise a child" and in the words of Hilary Clinton, "it takes a village to educate a child", I find that both groups of words reflect what has and continues to ignite the passion of learning and more broadly the refined educational paradigm that is GSIS. January 2024 has been a short month at GSIS due to the Mid-Term Holiday and long weekend, but during the recent GSIS Bazaar, we saw what the power of our "GSIS Village" community was able to do. Our senior leaders, educators, administrative staff, support staff, parents and helpers all got involved to support our students in their efforts to be central stakeholders in their School's Bazaar. As I walked around the grounds and looked to see all that our students had prepared and the level of creativity and deep level of planning and preparation, what I witnessed not only gave me hope that our students were poised and ready to embrace the world into their world of the GSIS Bazaar. Experiential Learning was the order of the day and was on full display.

The Lower Elementary Grades 1-3 invited us to blast off to space in Grade One, transporting us into their Wetlands and other habitats through the concepts of interactions and environments in Grade Two and mountainous terrain, rivers, and volcanoes exploding in Grade Three during their End of Unit Presentations where inquiry came alive again gave me hope in the transformative nature of learning and teaching at GSIS. Teachers have worked very hard to create holistic real-life experiences for their students, and their efforts were on full display throughout the month of January 2024.

Thursday, 25 January, saw 100 days of schools with too many activities to count, but two which were notable and exceptional were the Grade 7 Girls who amassed well over 300 sophisticated words and Grade 11 Boys who not only undertook the challenge in English but also generated 200 plus words in the Arabic language.

On Thursday, 25 January, at Noon, GSIS launched the teaching of Qudrat Preparatory Examination courses for students in Grades 9-11. These high-stakes tests are worth up to 50% of students' entrance criteria to universities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and this event marks a place of prominence in the School's brief history. Our experienced teachers will undoubtedly equip our GSIS scholars with the pre-requisite knowledge and skills to be successful when they sit their examinations in May 2024.

The end of January will mark another significant moment in the academic life of GSIS, AP students will embark upon Mock Examinations to determine their suitability for the actual external examinations in May, 2024. All AP Mock Examinations will last for 3-hours and will test students' levels of endurance and academic prowess~best wishes to all AP students and remember it is a marathon not a sprint!

As we look forward to February, we begin to get into the business end of the academic year where the end of the academic year is in plain view and we set our sights on August and the next academic school year, it is important to recognize that the foundation has been lain and our GSIS scholars are ready to meet the challenges of acquiring more knowledge and new skill sets.



Yours in academic excellence,

Dr. Alleyne

#### ACADEMIC DIRECTOR'S CORNER



The "AP Excellence@GSIS" column was created to highlight students' achievement on the College Board Advance Placement Courses (AP) at GSIS!

Forty-two GSIS students are currently enrolled and undertaking the AP academic challenge. Advanced Placement (AP) Courses tackle first-year university content and move at an unprecedented pace, especially for High School students. The workload is heavy and the pressure steady, but GSIS students who are poised, mature and possess a growth mindset will not allow the course to defeat them; rather, they will rise to the occasion.

For this maiden "AP Excellence@GSIS" column, it was only fitting to showcase the AP Chemistry course, which is also in its first year of teaching, with the first examinations slated for May 2024. Please watch this space as February 2024 promises to bring a different story around AP Excellence @ GSIS!



Dr. Alleyne, GSIS
Academic Director had the
pleasure of interviewing
two stellar students on the
course: both Grade 11
students Haneen AlAli and
Albaraa Alkhelaiwi.

#### AP Excellence







#### Q: Haneen, tell us a little bit about what inspired you to take AP Chemistry. How is the course going, and what do you think is the most challenging part of the course thus far?

A: We have many exercises which are very challenging for us. I think the most challenging part would be the lack of resources, maybe resources in terms of not using one specific textbook. However, at the university level, we will experience the same things, I imagine, as we will have multiple textbooks. We have access to an online resource called the AP classroom, which I find very useful. There's a lot more to it as well, such as daily practice with videos, and there are practice questions from past papers, etc.

### Q: What do you like most about the course? what was your impetus for taking the AP Chemistry course, and has it lived up to your expectations?

A: Thus far, I've taken Chemistry before, this course is challenging compared to what I took previously, but it is fun such as the experiments. The lab reports everything that we do is really great, and it's living up to my expectations

### Q: What are you hoping to do in your career? What do you hope to do with this AP Chemistry knowledge and newly acquired skills?

A: I am not quite sure yet, but something involving chemical engineering or something along those lines

Q: . You have been selected to be part of the Ibda' a Program and have advanced quite far in the competition.

Congratulations are in order, and quite an honour to be talking to you on getting this far and long may continue. Can you tell us a little bit about your project and how that interlinks with the AP Chemistry course, if at all?

A: My project is wholly linked to chemistry and involves the Aqueous Modification ZIF-8 for the Desulfurization of Natural Gas. There are several chemistry concepts throughout the course that helped me in my experimentation and in my research, such as the absorption concentrations everything actually is chemistry related.

#### Q: What feedback are you getting from the external judging panel, if any?

A: We got judged, and then they asked us some questions based on our research. One of the judges asked me about purifying wastewater. Another asked why am I doing two applications? Why didn't I just do one? I told him that this would also enhance the environmental concerns over the world, so we can help more than one sector at once. You have to be able to think well on your feet.

#### Q: What do you like most about AP chemistry, and what propelled you to take such a challenging course?

A: The course was highly recommended for university admissions and I have always liked the subject, really my passion.

Q: Do you plan to go to university here in Saudi Arabia or abroad?

A: For sure I plan to attend university here in Saudi Arabia.

Q: Can you tell me a little about what you plan to major in at university?

A: Petty unsure, but something to do with chemistry.

Q: In terms of challenge, is the AP Chemistry course challenging for you, and what do you find most challenging about the course?

A: Yes, the course is challenging and I find reaction rates the most challenging concept thus far.

Q: Have you begun to revise for your mock examinations, which are coming up next week on the 31st, and how do you feel?

A: I feel like I need a few more lessons, but I am ready. I hoping to get a Grade 4 (Grade 5 is the highest).

Q: What advice would you give to a student thinking about doing AP Chemistry.

A: I'd say that they had better be prepared for a lot of lessons and organize their time wisely. It is difficult, and you must be passionate about the subject to enjoy it!

Q: If GSIS were to offer AP subjects next academic year, what subject would you be interested in taking? A: AP Calculus.

#### AP Excellence







#### AP Mock Exams



Many congratulations are in order to our GSIS AP
Scholars, who sat their three-hour long Mock
Examinations on Wednesday
31 January, 2023. These
Scholars demonstrated the tenacity required to work at university level. We will report on the results in the AP Excellence @ GSIS in the February edition of the GSIS
Newsletter.



# KG1 End of Unit Presentation





In an adorable display of enthusiasm, our KG 1 students showcased their knowledge and creativity through an end-of-unit presentation centered around habitats. The tiny tots confidently shared their insights on various habitats with delightful presentations and song.



who do we share the Planet With?

In a heartwarming culmination of their exploration, our KG 2 students their exploration on "Who Do We Share dazzled us with their end-of-unit on "Who Do We Share presentation on "Who Do We Share the Planet With," with a charming the Planet With, "With infectious on pets. With infectious on pets. With infectious on pets, with infectious of smiles and bubbling excitement, smiles and bubbling excitement these little ones shared delight these little ones shared of animal insights into the world of animal companionship.









END OF UNIT PRESENTATION



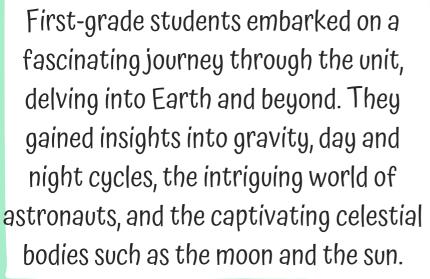
enthusiastically explored the enthusiastically explored the myriad benefits of the aloe myriad benefits of the aloe vera plant, actively engaged in crafting their own in crafting their own compost, and ingeniously designed a greenhouse during this captivating unit.





### GRADE 1 END OF UNIT PRESENTATIONS

EARTH AND BEYOND



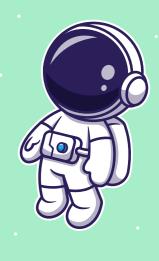












# GRADE 2 END OF UNIT PRESENTATION

PRESENTATION SECOND-GRADE STUDENTS

THOROUGHLY ENJOYED

LANDFORMS AND RODIES OF

THEIR OWN DREAM ISLAND









### **Interactions** and **Environments**

Our third-grade students embarked on a journey of critical thinking and exploration in this engaging unit. They delved into the intricacies of various interactions, showcasing their understanding by crafting diverse adaptations for animals in different habitats.

### **GRADE 3 END OF UNIT PRESENTATIONS**









### KG Educational Visit



KG students relished their day at Paradise Farm, where they had the delightful opportunity to interact with a variety of farm animals and joyfully participated in picking fresh vegetables.









### LE Educational Visit



Lower Elementary students went on an exciting educational visit to Scitech, a science and technology center designed to inspire young minds. As they entered the interactive world of discovery, the children were captivated by hands-on exhibits that brought science to life.









MAKAN EDUCATIONAL VISIT

The Makan educational trip was an incredible opportunity for our children to immerse themselves in the rich culture of our beloved homeland. Through a day spent in the heart of the Sahara with their teachers, they were able to participate in engaging activities and even indulge in some of the delicious local cuisine. It was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience that allowed them to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation for their roots.

### MAKAN EDUCATIONAL VISITS

MIDDLE AND HIGHSCHOOL









On January 16th, we went to a camping site called Makkan. There were no games there, but not a problem! We brought our own games and played volleyball and football. After we played for a while, we started dancing and singing together! After all the time we spent being active, we were exhausted and then took a break where everyone talked or played board games. Then, our math teacher had the idea of musical chairs! The game had about fifteen girls, and there was lots of laughter as we tried to sit down when Ms. Nouf paused the music.

At 11:30, the YUMMY food came. There were hotdogs, burgers, rice with chicken, and some soda. Everybody was SO full and tired when we finished, which was the end of our fun trip. I wonder what educational trip will come next and if it will be this FUN.

### MEDINA TRIP



Medina is a city in Saudi Arabia that holds great religious significance for Muslims around the world. It is the second holiest city in Islam, after Mecca. Many Muslims visit Medina as part of their pilgrimage to perform the Hajj or Umrah.

During a trip to Medina, students visited the Prophet's Mosque, also known as Al-Masjid an-Nabawi, which is the burial place of Prophet Muhammad . It is a place of immense tranquility and spirituality for Muslims. You can also explore the historic sites and landmarks associated with the early Islamic period, such as Quba Mosque and Qiblatain Mosque.

Medina offers a unique cultural experience with its bustling markets, known as souks, where you can find traditional handicrafts, spices, and local delicacies. The city has a rich history and is home to several museums and exhibitions that showcase the Islamic heritage.

### GSIS BAZAAR

We had 60 stalls of fun, games, food, and treats, and more than 800 visitors who joined the GSIS Bazaar this year! Wow! We hope you all enjoyed the fun-filled Family Day!

















# Concert\_\_\_\_\_\_ FRENCH ALLIANCE & EMBASSY INVITATION



#### **TRIO VOLUBILIS**

JANUARY 31 JANUARY 2024

MUSIC HUB

Our students had an incredible opportunity to attend a classical concert at The Music Hub, thanks to the invitation from L'Alliance Française d'Al Khobar.

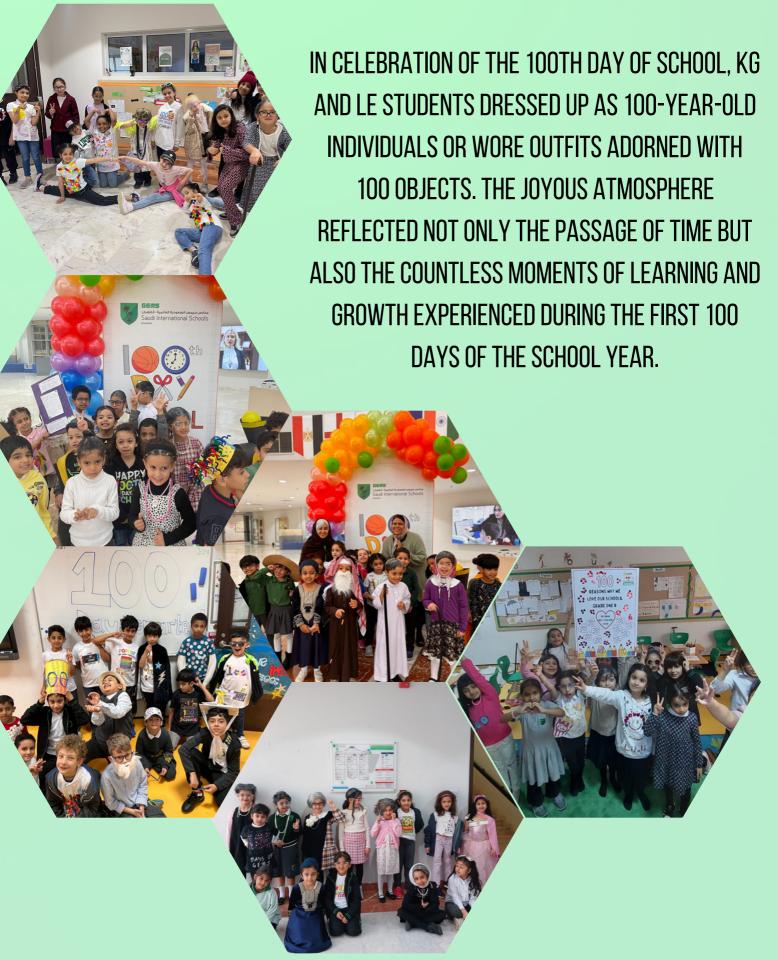
Experiencing a new style of music is a powerful way for students to expand their cultural horizons and develop personally. We're thrilled that the French department and L'Alliance Française are providing these kinds of opportunities for our students.







# 100th Day of School KG-LE



## 100th Day of School MHS

BY: Mayar AlShazli- G8

GSIS recently celebrated its 100 days of school, and January 25th marked the 100th day of hard work, studying and of course memories that we made at GSIS.

The school acknowledged this and decided to celebrate it in a rather unique and fun way. The students of GSIS had to either wear a shirt with 100 things on it or dress up as a 100 year old grandma. It was definitely funny and interesting to see how teenagers and kids view 100 year old people and how they act. Some even decided to get creative and dress up how people used to dress in the nineties. And of course we can't forget Grade 7-who won the word competition with a shocking 3,000 words! The entire class was rewarded with ice-cream sandwiches.

At the end of the day its safe to sa<mark>y tha</mark>t Thursday was definitely a unforgettable day for GSIS students.









100th Day of School Upper Elementary School





### FAMILY FIRST WORD CHALLENGE



GSIS students and teachers completed

# 100 UNFAMILIAR WORDS SUCH AS SUPERCALEFRAGELISTICEXPIALIDOSIOUS FOR THE 100TH DAY OF SCHOOL.



GSIS Students collected 10 000
unfamiliar words
which will take up to 30
minutes to read all the words.
Wow well done! We hope that
you learned some new words as
well broadened your English
Vocabulary!

Boutonniere









USIS students and teachers completed

# 100 UNFAMILIAR WORDS SUCH AS SUPERCALEFRAGELISTICEXPIALIDOSIOUS FOR THE 100TH DAY OF SCHOOL.

The class in each grade who collected the most unfamiliar words received a well-deserved ice cream.











### SALAAT AL-ISTISQA'



#### WHAT IS IT?

Salat to seek rain is an emphatic Sunnah. This was performed by the Prophet as reported in the hadeeth of Abdullah bn Zaid: "The Prophet went to the praying ground to seek rain. He faced the Qiblah, turned his cloak inside out, and prayed two raka'at."







### MELODY MONDAYS



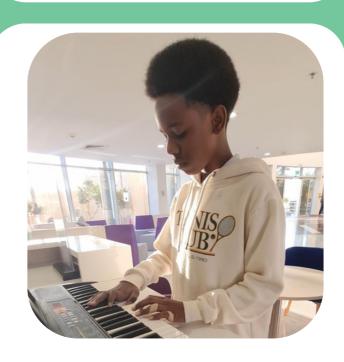
**RAKAN GHASSAL** 



ABDULAZIZ ALDLEIJAN



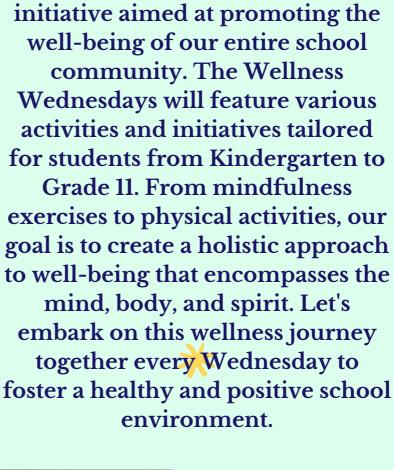
**TAREK ROSTOM** 



MUJTABA ALBALOOLA

### **WELLNESS WEDNESDAY**

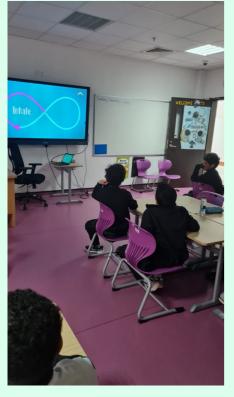




We are excited to introduce

"Wellness Wednesdays," a new













### Congratulations

to Fatimah Alaliw and Jory Ghassal for completing the UN Course that was assigned for January.







#### CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

This is to certify that

Jory Ghassal

has successfully completed the following online course:

**Energy Saving at Sea** 



\_\_\_\_

wir Jose Matherckai Chief Department of Partnerships and Projects

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION



**Fatimah Alaliw** 

has successfully completed the online course

A participant guide of the UN Climate Change process

### Congratulations

to Sara Alghamdi and Nabila El Rabha for completing the UN Course that is assigned for January.







#### CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION



#### Nabila El Rabha



HOW TO PREVENT E-WASTE?



UN ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UNITAR

#### CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION



Sara Alghamdi

has successfully completed the online course

The national implementation of the Paris Agreement

January 23, 2024



### Congratulation

to Sara Alghamdi and Lara Alaql for completing the UN Course that is assigned for January.







#### **CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION**

This is to certify that

#### Lara AlAql

has successfully completed the following online course:



January 24, 2024



Mr Jose Matheickal Chief Department of Partnerships and Projects





#### **CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION**

Sara Alghamdi

has successfully completed the

elearning course on how to report emissions under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution

January 24, 2024

Marco Keiner DIRECTOR

DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENT DIVISION UNFCF



### RAZ KIDS TOP READERS

Here are some of our top readers! Well done! Keep up the good work!









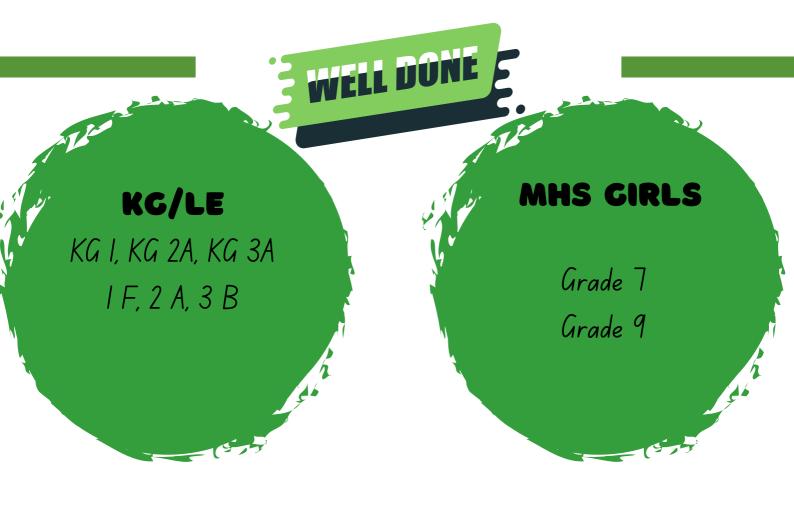








# TOP ATTENDANCE FOR JANUARY







### TOP ATTENDANCE FOR EACH WEEK

**KG - G6 STUDENTS CAN SPEND TIME WITH THE CLASS BEAR** 





































# GSIS Mascot Upholding the GSIS Values



# GSIS Student Profile CARE and HELPFULNESS KG-LE

Our GSIS students
demonstrated their
grasp of the monthly
values (care and
helpfulness) through
active participation in
our morning assemblies
and dedicated lessons.

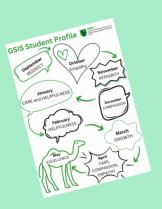












# GSIS Student Profile CARE and HELPFULNESS Upper Elementary

In January, the upper elementary students inquired into the story of "Stone Soup" and discovered the magic of care and helpfulness. After exploring the tale, the 5th graders crafted some special notes about these values for their teachers in both English and Arabic.

January
CARE and HELPFULNESS

















## GEMS JEWELS OF KINDNESS









































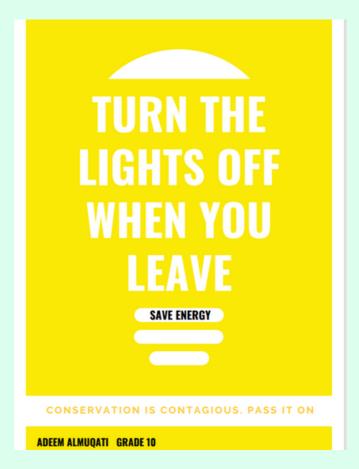
## GSIS STUDENT PROFILE IN ACTION



Our environment ambassadors are actively engaged in diverse environmental campaigns aimed at fostering sustainability. We are excited to kick off our latest initiative focusing on plastic bottle recycling. To make a positive impact, we encourage everyone to participate by bringing their empty bottles and dropping them into the specially designated red bins at the school entrances. This small yet meaningful action contributes significantly to reducing plastic waste and supports our collective efforts to create a greener and healthier planet. Join us in this endeavour as we strive to make a lasting difference, one bottle at a time. Together, we can build a more sustainable future.

















#### GRADE I ENVIRONMENT **AMBASSADORS**





Saud Mohammed ID



Judy Alnimr IB





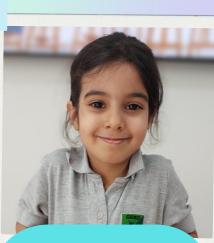
Sulaiman 1E



#### GRADE I KINDNESS AMBASSADORS







Sara Alqahtani IB

### GRADE 2 KINDNESS AMBASSADORS











### GRADE 2 ENVIRONMENT AMBASSADORS









### GRADE 3 KINDNESS AMBASSADORS







GRADE 3 ENVIRONMENT AMBASSADORS











Sura Abo Elrish

## ENVIRONMENT AMBASSADORS UPPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Leen Al Jeshi- 4A



Alen Habib 4B



Mariam Elnoubi 6B



Sumou Naif 5B



Hind Almandeel 5A



Alhanoof Almutairi 6A



Omar Al Qahtani -4C



Hisham Almubarak 4D

### KINDNESS AMBASSADORS UPPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Alanoud Aljaber-4A



Jood Alnasser 4B



Mayan Alali 5A



Safoora Khan- 5



Rana Tamer 6B





Abdulaziz Almutlag 4C



Ahmed Alabadi 4D



# MIDDLE & HIGHSCHOOL ACHIEVMENT BOARD

#### Attendance

Nabila El Rabha G9

Samira Taha G9

Ŵ

Uniform

Sarah Jibril G9

Rawan Aldossary G9

Fatimah Bukannan G10



Fatimah Al Khars G8

Celine Mohammad G10

Muneera Albinali G9





## MIDDLE & HIGHSCHOOL ACHIEVMENT BOARD



#### Compassion

Asail Talhan G8

Lea Mazen Hassan G9

Aleen Alzayer G10

#### **Empathy**

Nora Alelwi G7

Julnar Almohsin G9

Kenzy Taher Gl1



#### Respect

Lana Alalawi G7

Noor Hani Shakar G9



#### Helpfulness

Lara Alaql G7

Najd Alkhashan G9

Hannen Alali Gl1





## Behind the Scenes of the Weekly Wave



We're delighted to share that the GSIS Weekly Wave continues to be a source of joy and information for our students. We trust that each edition brings our school community a sense of connection and pride. For parents who may have missed it, you can catch up on all the exciting updates and highlights on our social media pages. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to bringing you more news from the heart of GSIS in the upcoming editions.







### GSIS Principals' Letter

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! We hope you are doing well and ready for the exciting adventures the year ahead holds for us. As we embark on the first month of 2024, we are thrilled to bring you the latest updates and highlights from GSIS.

At GSIS, we recognize the importance of nurturing academic excellence and our students' social and emotional well-being. This month, we focus on developing social-emotional skills crucial for their overall growth and success.

We encourage our students to cultivate empathy, resilience, and effective communication. Through various activities and discussions, we aim to create a supportive environment where students can build strong relationships, manage stress, and develop the emotional intelligence necessary for a happy and fulfilling life.

We are delighted that our recent GSIS Bazaar was a resounding success! Our students showcased their entrepreneurial spirit, creativity, and talent as they enjoyed the experience of selling their products. The event was a platform for commerce and a celebration of teamwork, innovation, and community engagement. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to everyone who contributed to making the GSIS Bazaar an unforgettable and thriving experience.

On Multicultural Day, we celebrated diversity, bringing joy and unity to our school community. The auditorium came alive with a myriad of performances, each one a vibrant representation of the rich tapestry of cultures within our school. Students reveled in the diversity of dance, music, and traditions, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation for the uniqueness of our global community.

We believe in providing our students with well-rounded educational experiences. This month, we have planned educational visits to take students beyond the classroom walls and into real-world learning environments. These visits will enhance their academic understanding and allow them to see the practical applications of their studies.

This month, we spotlighted kindness and helpfulness as we showcased the outstanding qualities of our students. We are immensely proud of the compassion and generosity displayed by our students in various situations. Their willingness to lend a helping hand and make a positive impact on the lives of others is truly commendable. Let's celebrate these virtues and encourage others to spread kindness throughout our school community.

As always, we appreciate your ongoing support in creating a nurturing and enriching learning environment for our students. Here's to a month filled with growth, learning, and joy!

#### Best Regards,









## Follows (#)













