



NEWSLETTER

17 JUNE 2021



GEMS

أكاديمية جيمس العالمية
World Academy
DUBAI

INTERDISCIPLINARY UNITS WEEK

GWA's IDU Week is designed to be a fun and engaging challenge where students explore conceptual connections between two or more subjects. Our students have been making upcycled musical instruments, designing and building sustainable homes, coaching sports to others in different languages, writing and performing duologue or ensembling dramatic pieces about real life migration stories and strategising how to take on the spread of global diseases.



GWALI: REPUBLIC DAY OF ITALY



The Italian Mother Tongue students and parents celebrated the Republic Day of Italy in an online event on June 2nd. The Grades 1 to 7 students made a beautiful presentation describing how Italy celebrates the “Festa Della Repubblica” and how the country voted to move from the monarchy to the republic. The event concluded with our students challenging one another to a quiz.



Total House Points - Whole School



6473



6531



5996



5853



WORLD BOOK OF RECORDS

As part of a virtual international exhibition, Nishka Aggarwal's painting 'Unlock the fresh world with COVID' has been recognised by the World Book of Records in London for the longest virtual exhibition. Nishka proudly represented GWA in the exhibition and assisted in supplying 6000 underprivileged girls in India with hygiene packs through her efforts.



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO/PRINCIPAL, DR RANA

Dear Parents, Carers and GEMS World Academy Community,

A key feature of GEMS World Academy is the way its curriculum blends an emphasis on academic excellence with the values and benefits of understanding each other and of play. Because of this, our activities continue this week in order to help build stronger relationships with one another through team building and celebrating each other's successes in a range of different contexts.

For our Grade 5 students, today is an important moment as they transition into Grade 6. Of course the continuity of the International Baccalaureate curriculum helps ensure that the transition will be smooth and that they will remain in familiar surroundings supported and guided by their leaders, their teachers and the school community as a whole. Our Grade 10 graduation celebration will be taking place next week as they also transition into their next year. As Grade 11 students, they will embark upon the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme which is the gold standard of educational curriculums, so this is an extremely significant time for them. However, all our student groups have progressed this year despite the

additional challenges of the pandemic and I am so very proud to see them continue to grow and move forward with the indomitable spirit that has marked our whole school community throughout the year. We thanked GWAPA for all their support and hard work this year through a 'high tea' hosted by the Executive Leadership Team. It is because of the support of this wonderful group of parents and carers that the school community is so strong and I look forward to continuing to work with this invaluable group to ensure the Academy goes from strength to strength.

We are working hard to provide a bespoke educational experience for each student and hopefully the school timetables for next year have all been well received. Please contact the relevant divisional secretary if there are any queries about them so we can achieve this. On a final note I would like to thank the students this week for being such a positive, friendly, polite and inspiring group. It's been a challenging year and these young people have been wonderfully resilient throughout. It's a privilege to be working for them.



ART IN THE MYP

MYP art students have continued to show their creative skills this term and have been working on a whole range of interesting units in a range of different materials. Grade 8 have just finished a mixed media folding booklet based around insects, Grade 9 have created a sculptural clay project about the myth of Pandora's box and Grade 10 created multi layered batik paintings bringing awareness of endangered animals. All students have had the opportunity to get off screen and create. It has been fantastic to see their ideas come to life in the final outcomes. We would like to share with you this week some of the Grade 8 mixed media artworks.



TEACHING AND LEARNING MESSAGE

As we move ever closer to the end of this academic year, we are provided with an opportunity to reflect on all that has been accomplished. We want to celebrate the achievements of our students, teachers and amazing teaching assistants. Through diligence, perseverance and sheer hard work during extremely difficult times, our teaching staff have inspired students to learn, grow and develop in spite of the many obstacles brought on by COVID. As we approach the end of the current year and we anticipate all the good that will come next year, we want to take a moment to thank all of the adults and students within our community for reaching this point. Your successes are evident and the forthcoming holiday very well-deserved.



MUSIC REHEARSALS DURING COVID

What has been a challenging year due to COVID and in the absence of music rehearsals, there has been a small group of GWA musicians who have continued to rehearse virtually each week over zoom calls. The GEMS World Academy String Ensemble have rehearsed for the past 4 years each week with Miss Angela Nastasa, and have featured in many prominent performances over that time. Recently the ensemble have been performing socially distanced in the foyer on Thursday mornings as students arrive. Thank you to all our dedicated musicians, we hope you will continue to excel at your instruments, and continue to share the joy of music.



TOP SCHOOL SPORTS AWARD

GEMS World Academy - Dubai are applying for the SchoolsCompared.com Top Schools Award for Best School Sport in the UAE 2021. In a very different looking sports year, we are proud of the provision we have been able to provide and the efforts we have taken to keep our community safe. To support our application, we kindly ask for parents/carers to complete the following online survey from the SchoolsCompared.com judging panel: [Click here](#).



GWA PARENTS ASSOCIATION

[Click here](#) for this week's message from the GWA Parents Association. We are forever grateful for the unwavering support received from GWAPA this year. Dr Rana along with our Executive Leadership Team were delighted to treat the ladies to a high tea earlier this week. [Click here](#) to access the GWAPA 2020/21 academic year presentation.



Tips to making the most out of summer holidays

Many universities require candidates to have specific skills or experiences before submitting an application. The summer break is the perfect time to get prepared. Here are six tips for making the most out of the summer. [Read more](#).

WATCH THE LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS PRODUCTION

The Grade 12 drama students proudly displayed their performing talents recently with the production of Little Shop of Horrors. This was a huge undertaking and took seven weeks of rehearsals to prepare and refine. The show was a huge success and we are extremely proud of what our students have been able to achieve in such a short time. This however would not have been possible without the hard work of all of our participating students who were involved in the production from the beginning of the last academic year and unfortunately were unable to participate due to COVID restrictions. Thank you to our middle school performers Emily Yip, Christina Kassapantoniou, Mahek Jindani, Alex Ghorayeb, Arnav Kedia, Alina Nikulina, Nathan Igoe, Maria Galinich, Saadhana Ramesh and Sofia Sacoer. We dedicate this performance to you all and hope we made you proud!

Please find the link to the performance [here](#).

