



# NEWSLETTER

25 MARCH 2021



أكاديمية جيمس العالمية  
World Academy  
DUBAI

## INTERNATIONAL WEEK



Students and staff at GWA celebrated International Week this week by dressing up in some wonderful culturally inspired outfits from their country of origin and countries they have visited. Thank you to the GWA Parents Association for all their hard work and displays to celebrate our 81 nationalities at the Academy.



## GWALI: FRANCOPHONIE WEEK

Francophonie week celebrates the French language through numerous activities organised throughout France and the world. To celebrate this event, the Grade 6 and 7 French mother tongue students made a comic strip and French language activities which were shared with the Secondary School French language acquisition students and with the younger French Mother Tongue students.



## ENRICHMENT SIGN UP: TERM 3

1. [Term 3 Enrichment - Club Information](#)
2. [Primary Enrichment Sign Up - Term 3](#)
3. [Secondary Enrichment Sign Up - Term 3](#)



## MESSAGE FROM MS MURPHY

The Holy Month of Ramadan will soon be upon us. For some, this will be their first Ramadan in the UAE and you may be unsure about what that means. Ramadan is a time of spiritual reflection, self-improvement, and heightened devotion and worship. Muslims are expected to put more effort into following the teachings of Islam. The fast (sawm) begins at dawn (Fajr prayer call) and ends at sunset (Maghrib prayer call). Last year Ramadan was a little bit different in the UAE, we spent the Holy Month in quarantine Distance Learning. [Read more](#)



# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO/PRINCIPAL, DR RANA

Dear Parents, Carers and GEMS World Academy Community,

This has been another week of high level and high impact activity. Teaching and learning remains as ever the focus despite the pandemic. A well thought-out curriculum driven by teaching and learning that places the needs of all students at its heart is what we are always seeking to deliver. Ensuring that what we do is personalised to the needs of each individual is the objective of everything we seek to do and is the focus of all our thinking.

All this has been the focus of our Parent Teacher Conferences that we have held this week. We have focused on learning, pastoral care and wellbeing, looking at interventions for each individual student so that we offer bespoke learning solutions, and working with parents as partners to support the educational provision of everyone. It's been a wonderful experience to engage with parents about what really matters to us all, the quality of the teaching and learning in the school, and I've been impressed by the levels of commitment and engagement from everyone involved in these events.

Enrichment and curriculum activities have been outstanding this term despite the pandemic and I'm so grateful, as are the students, to all the staff and parents who have been so incredibly supportive during these most challenging times. I've been particularly impressed by our staff who have shown great resilience in overcoming the obstacles to ensure over 120 enrichment activities have been available to our students. This is an amazing achievement and has kept students feeling safe and secure at a time of global anxiety brought about by the pandemic.

We're also continuing on our journey of refreshment, growth and consolidation as all great organizations do and we're looking forward to a very

bright future. Recruitment of new staff is almost complete and their imminent arrival is being celebrated via Instagram and LinkedIn. I would ask you all to please join us in welcoming our new staff to our wonderful GEMS World Academy family.

We said goodbye to our Grade 12 students today and wished them the best of luck as they head into their study leave and then sit the World Exams. As you can imagine, this has been a turbulent year for them all as they face the pressure of their important external exams whilst coping with the pandemic too, but I know they have the resilience and fortitude to succeed. It was a great pleasure to have some of these students come see me and wish me all the best in my role as Principal. The fact that they took time out to do this shows they have the values and character which will serve them well in the future. We talked about the challenges faced this year and I thoroughly enjoyed our conversation. I am very grateful for their kindness and selflessness. They're a remarkable group of young people of whom we can all be proud.

Finally, I thank my SLT, Grade Leaders, Directors, and Directors of Learning for always focusing on teaching and learning and making sure our focus is always on our students. These colleagues work tirelessly for our community and I for one am indebted to their spirit and hard work.

And to all of you, stay safe during spring break and I look forward to being with you all again next term.



## MESSAGE FROM GWAPA



You can find this week's message from our Parents Association [here](#).



## G12 UNIVERSITY OFFERS

As we head into Spring Break, let's take a moment to celebrate the many offers of admission our seniors have been receiving. Please join us in congratulating the Class of 2021 on all the [latest offers](#) from top universities.



## MESSAGE FROM KHDA

Please read [Advocating for Inclusive Education](#). This new guide helps parents with children of determination become better informed and confident as they navigate the best way forward for their children.

## ARABIC NEWSLETTER

Non Native Speakers participated in school awareness in Arabic.

They acted out many scenes and highlighted the risk of COVID-19 and what we have to do to stay safe. You can watch the video [here](#).



The DP students, Mother's Day magazine has been published. [Click here](#) to read the students beautiful poems as well as their interview with Dr Rana.

## GWA HOUSE CHESS COMPETITION

Last week saw the finals played for the GWA House Chess competition for 2021. 40 students from Grades 5 to 12 competed for over 6 weeks in a total of 268 matches, in an effort to achieve chess glory.

Congratulations to all players for participating and earning house points. Please find the results and a an opportunity to watch their final matches [here](#).

## APPROACHES TO LEARNING SKILLS IN MYP

The MYP framework focuses not only on 'traditional' subject knowledge, but also on the vital skills that students need to learn successfully.

This week Mr. Jon Howarth presented to MYP parents about the Approaches to Learning skills (ATLs).

Our GWA curriculum explicitly teaches these skills throughout our divisions, from the PYP to the DP, in a variety of ways.

Please find a copy of the presentation [here](#).

## DR PATIL'S TIP OF THE WEEK

Please read through our [Travel Guidelines](#) for families travelling abroad this Spring Break. Thank you for all your support in keeping the GWA community safe.

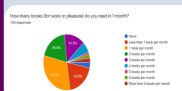
## DRONES IN SCHOOLS COMPETITION

This week in the Design Department, 15 GWA MYP students started their first online session for the exciting new competition, "Drones in Schools". The first session was a theoretical STEM based lesson in which students learnt new scientific and technological knowledge used in creating drone flight. Eventually the students will work in teams to design a new drone with a specific purpose, then raise the money to purchase the required components, and finally build their own fully functional drone. We are looking forward to seeing the final results in a couple of months, when students submit their prototype drones for the international competition at end of May. See the website for more details about the competition: <https://www.droneinschools.com/product/teens-next-big-idea/>.

## GWA READING CLUB

### Our Parents like to Read

Based on our recent survey most of our GWA parents try to fit in at least 1 book per month, which is wonderful considering how rushed life is in Dubai. A book is the perfect way to rest and relax. Our children know this fact and copy our habits by reading nearly the same amount - the charts below show how much parents think their kids are reading. But in actual fact, when we ask them the same question directly, our children claim to be reading even more. Keep up the good work GWA readers.



## GRADE 6 : SCREEN FREE SCIENCE LESSON

Grade 6 Science students have been enjoying exciting experiments at GWA. Our Scientists enjoyed experimenting by using cabbages and detergents to show the effects caused when acids and alkalis mix. Even with the stringent COVID restrictions, GWA Science teachers managed to keep the experiments fun and interesting for students to get the best teaching and learning experience possible. More amazing experiments to come from our Science students after Spring Break.

