



GEMS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
CAIRO



Message from Head of School

Dear GISC community members,

With the cooler temperatures, we can feel a lot of excitement in the air as more GISC school activities and initiatives kick off in November. Leading into the winter holiday break, the calendar is chock full of athletic, academic, and social events involving both parents and students. While not a comprehensive list, here are the highlights you need to note for this month:

GEMS Parent Survey will launch on November 7. Surveys will be sent out to each family, and only one survey should be completed for each family even if you have multiple children enrolled at GISC. This survey is an extremely important opportunity for us to “take the temperature” of our school community as we continue to refine processes and programs in a new school environment to ensure the maximum satisfaction of our parents and students. **Please fill out this survey at your first convenience.** It would be wonderful if GISC had 100% participation!

GISC Parent Council will also launch in November. You will receive an invitation to self-nominate for class representative. Each class or homeroom will have one chosen representative who will act as the parent voice on issues of concern and improvement, activities planning, and school/student welfare. Our first Parent Council meeting will be November 14.

Within the next two weeks, you will also receive a parent survey on additional **World Language** provision for 2023-24. In our admissions interviews, we promised you a voice in planning for future World Language offerings, and we encourage you to confer with your child about their interests. It is exciting to expand our horizons to include Spanish or German or even Mandarin Chinese! We are hopeful to offer one more world language next school year.

Student Council is underway with elections for two class representatives G3 through 8 this week. Student voice is absolutely critical to our GEMS and IB philosophies of student engagement. Student Council will report out monthly on their activities and initiatives, so stay tuned!

GISC Athletic Teams are also launching in November! Tryouts for swimming, basketball, handball, and football are scheduled in the coming weeks. The excitement of seeing our competitive sports teams in action is greatly anticipated. Now we just need a school mascot! GISC Gryphons, anyone? I am sure Student Council will weigh in on a mascot choice as a first order of business.

I truly enjoyed seeing you at our last Parent Master Class on “Understanding MAP Growth.” **MAP achievement** monitored throughout the year will play a significant role in personalizing growth goals for each student and will be critical to parent/teacher dialogue and conferences. You may be reading the news out of the US and other countries who are just now getting in results from various norm-referenced assessments. Worldwide, the Covid pandemic has taken an unprecedented toll on student learning.





Achievement has not just stagnated; it has regressed over the past two years. Our baseline data for GISC students supports this same finding. In most grade levels (2 through 8) and in most content areas (Reading Comprehension, Language Usage, Math) an average of 60% of our students are scoring below the world average. We join the world in tackling this enormous deficit, and we feel confident that with the GISC quality of instruction and education program, and students in school every day, we can meet the growth targets for every GISC student.

Parent Conferences/Progress Meetings will be held over several days the last full week of November. We have listened to you, our parents, who have clearly communicated that you need time with your child's teachers. We will do our best to ensure that you have time for positive and informed dialogue, with an opportunity to follow up with each teacher if further conversation is needed. Please understand that time constraints are significant, however we are committed to our first parent conferences affording you the opportunity for meaningful engagement. Look for schedule details next week.

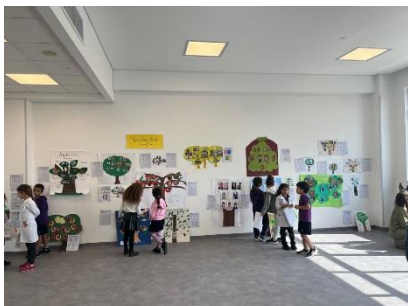
Our third **Parent Master Class** of Term 1 will feature Hanady Fawzy, Head of Elementary, offering tips and strategies for behavior management with your child – Essential Agreements. Mark your calendars for 8:15AM on November 29.

November is a wonderful month to begin the winter holiday season with its emphasis on gratitude with the celebration of Thanksgiving. GISC will also be emphasizing Anti-Bullying month, World Kindness Day (13th) and Universal Children's Day (20th) in this month full of opportunities to be our very best selves and consider the wellbeing of others.

May you enjoy the beautiful autumn weather in Egypt. This is my favorite season of the year anywhere in the world!

Warm regards,

Catherine Spencer





Message from Head of Elementary

Dear Parents,

We are delighted with the amount of positive feedback over the past few weeks. Thank you for your amazing community support and we appreciate all your feedback.

As we start building our Parent Council, we are also building our Student Council.

We are proud to announce that Mr. Moemen Hussein will lead the MYP Student Council and Ms. Fatima Seedat will lead the PYP Student Council,

The students that will represent each year group are:

MYP 1- Thinkers: Mariam Seif Eldin and Yassin Mostafa Hafez

MYP 1 Inquires: Perla Yousef and Talia Wizani

MYP 2- Haya El Hawary, Ahmed Adila, Zaynab Bello

MYP 3 – Nouran Wazery, Jowayreya Hisham

G5: Seif El Agroudy and Lyrra Jesse

G4: Mariya Wafailu Bello and Adam Akram Tork

G3: Leila Abdel Kafi and Youssef Mina





GEMS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
CAIRO



Dates you need to know:

7th November - GEMS PARENTS SURVEY opens.

13th November - World Kindness Day. Our staff will be on the lookout for students being kind and they will receive instant rewards.

19th November - Open House for new families applying for 2023-2024

20th November - Universal Children's Day

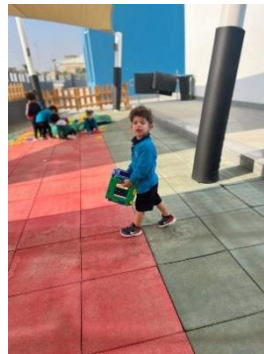
23rd/24th November - Parent-Teacher Progress Meetings

24th November- Huffine happy Thanksgiving!

28th November- KG Dress Up Shape Day

29th November - Parent Master Class

2023-2024 Admissions Now Open
Join us for our Open Day
Saturday, November 19th, 2022





GEMS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
CAIRO

Color Code

- Back to School
- Public Holiday
- School Holiday
- Early Dismissal
- School Activities

2022 2022 2023 2023 Academic Year Calendar



09 / September

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

10 / October

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

11 / November

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

12 / December

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

01 / January

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

02 / February

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

03 / March

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

04 / April

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

05 / May

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

06 / June

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Date Detail

14 Sept	Light Green	MYP - Meet the Teachers Day
15 Sept	Light Green	PYP - Meet the Teachers Day
18 Sept*	Yellow	First Day of School
29 Sept	White	Full Instructional Day for Students
6 Oct	Pink	Armed Forces Day
9-10 Oct	Pink	Break
27 Oct	Light Blue	PD Half Day for Students
24 Nov	Light Blue	PD Half Day for Students
18 Dec - 5 Jan	Pink	Winter Break
8 Jan*	Yellow	Back to School
26 Jan*	Purple	Revolution Day
28 Feb - 2 Mar	Pink	Break
5 Mar	Yellow	Back to School
30 Mar	Light Blue	PD Half Day for Students
16-23 Apr	Pink	Break/ Coptic Easter/ Sham El Nessim/ Eid El Fitr
27 Apr*	Purple	Sinai Liberation Day
4 May*	Purple	Labor Day
13 May	Light Green	Sports Day
1 June	Light Blue	PD Half Day for Students
24 June	Yellow	End of Year Celebration



*Dates to be confirmed