



February 2025

Dear GISC families,

The month of February is almost behind us as we now look forward to the reflective season of Ramadan with its emphasis on family and charity. I am immensely proud of the generosity of our community as we contributed, packed, and delivered the traditional Ramadan food support to our blue-collar staff who are such critical and dedicated members of our GISC family. Thank you for your participation!

But back to February...

It was a month full of celebrations from Chinese New Year and International Week, Sports Days for our younger students, to robotics competitions and career and college prep activities for our oldest students. Every day brought a new opportunity to learn and grow at GISC!

Over the past month, GISC also hosted three GEMS review teams who were tasked with evaluating our education provision, health and safety protocols and procedures, and safeguarding. On all three fronts, GISC received extremely positive feedback with significant progress noted for a school operating for less than 3 years.

Highlights include:

An all-clear report on health and safety/facilities Commendations for the seriousness of purpose and dedication of all staff to safeguarding reporting and procedures, including 100% staff training

For the education provision, a team of 5 GEMS educators spent two full days at GISC observing 53 lessons, and meeting with parents, students, and both teaching and administrative staff.

"Staff and community contributions have been pivotal in establishing the school's reputation, creating a recognized institution, and fostering a positive learning environment that supports both student achievement and staff development."



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"The school cultivates a positive and supportive environment characterized by strong teacher-student relationships, positive peer interactions, and a 'family feel.'"

"Students and parents expressed positive attitudes towards the school, appreciating the support they receive from teachers and peers valuing the recognition of their achievements."

GISC certainly appreciates these commendations from the review team, but more importantly, we are carefully analyzing all noted opportunities for improvement to include:

Maximizing learning time for literacy and numeracy, including developing a school wide writing feedback process and introducing guided reading

Expand independent reading, enhance spelling and handwriting, and provide extended writing and speaking to improve Arabic fluency and confidence

Identifying and supporting G&T students

Enhance the ASA program by developing targeted activities that align with student preferences and incorporating parent feedback

You will begin to see some of these adjustments immediately and certainly as we plan for the coming school year. The insights and very valuable feedback of the GEMS team was truly inspirational and reiterated many of our plans for continuous improvement at GISC.

Speaking of continuous improvement, you have a voice! Please complete your Cognia Family Survey (https://eprovesurveys.advanc-ed.org/surveys/#/action/275696/62213) so your insights and opinions can be added to our roadmap for success!







A reminder about Ramadan hours beginning Sunday, March 2: Classes run from 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM. Staff will be on campus both 15 minutes prior and after these times. Please be mindful of the special family commitments of our staff by picking up your children according to this schedule.

March 20 is a half-day for students with dismissal at 11 AM to accommodate staff professional development in the afternoon.

Our Spring Break/Eid holiday runs from March 28 through April 5.

I send my personal best wishes to all our families for a most blessed Ramadan Kareem!

Warmest regards,

Catherine Spencer Head of School





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