

GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH



Newsletter Issue #27
15th April, 2021



Message from the Principal/CEO Ms. Valerie Thompson

Dear WSS Parents,

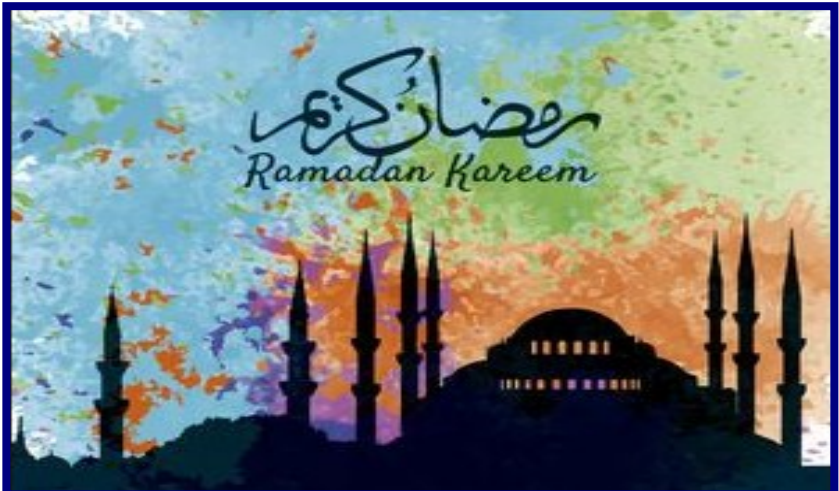
Gate Opening Time

We do want to help parents out, however please note that we do not have enough space to maintain safe Social Distancing if all Blended children are dropped off at school early. Please note that the school gate opens at **8:45am**, so please drop your children at school after 8:45am. Thank you so much.



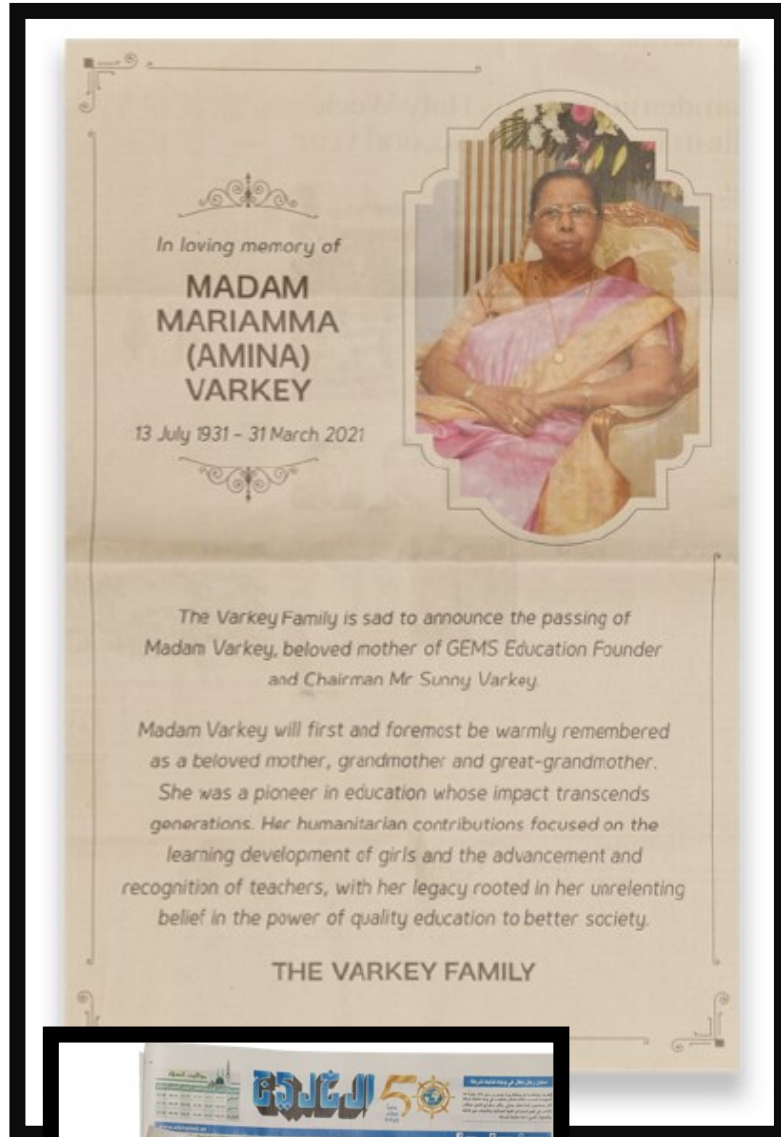
Dates for Your Diary

Date	Details
Mon. 12th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • System re-enrolment facility open. • Deadline book your seat online & also to pay the AED500/- Seat Booking Fee is Monday 12th April. After this date seats will be given to the Waiting List. • Seats Booking Fee can only be paid subject to clearance of full T2 fees. • Seats will not be held beyond the last day of T3 if T3 fees remain pending. Any paid Seat Booking Fee would be lost. Seats would be given to the Waiting list, & if parents decide later that they want a seat, this would be subject to availability, & not guaranteed. • You may change your mind about enrolment at WSS at any time, however the seat booking fee is non-refundable (but deductible from T1 Fees, Sept-Dec. '21).
Tuesday 13th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible start date of Ramadan. • Timings for KG Blended students; 9am-11am • Timings for KG 100% Online students; 11am-1pm • Timings for G1-9: 9am-1pm • Timings for G10-12; As per exam schedule
Sunday 20th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadline to apply for a TC if leaving WSS is Sunday 20th June. After this date the GRE is not available for late TC processing & there would be delays in processing.
Thurs. 1st July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students' last day of the academic year (TBC). • The new Academic Year will start from Sunday 29th August (TBC)



Our Vision; 'Excellence Through Teamwork; Success For All'

Whole School News; Madam Varkey—An Educational Legacy



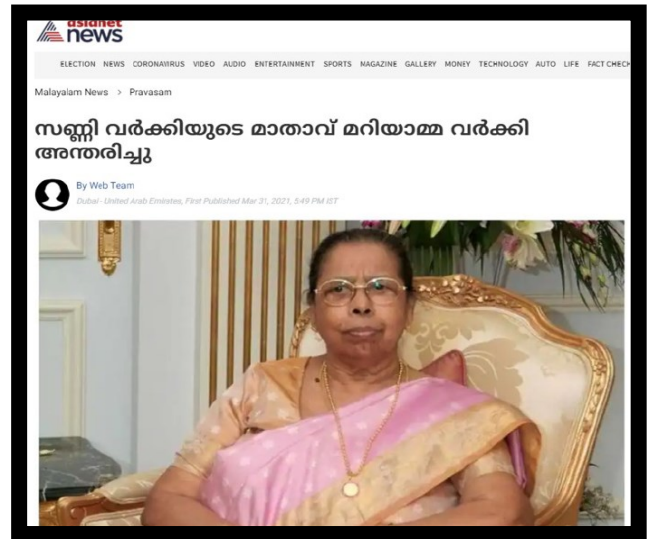
In loving memory of
MADAM MARIAMMA (AMINA) VARKEY
13 July 1931 - 31 March 2021

The Varkey Family is sad to announce the passing of Madam Varkey, beloved mother of GEMS Education Founder and Chairman Mr Sunny Varkey.

Madam Varkey will first and foremost be warmly remembered as a beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She was a pioneer in education whose impact transcends generations. Her humanitarian contributions focused on the learning development of girls and the advancement and recognition of teachers, with her legacy rooted in her unrelenting belief in the power of quality education to better society.


THE VARKEY FAMILY

The GEMS community is mourning the loss of Madam Varkey, the Chairman Mr. Sunny Varkey's dear mother, who came to UAE more than 60 years ago & began the GEMS educational legacy. Madam Varkey was a pioneer in education & in humanitarian work, especially for girls. She was an inspirational role model to a generation of women, and never failed to support her extended GEMS family. We offer sincerest condolences to the Varkey family at this sad time.



സണ്ണി വർക്കിയുടെ മാതാവ് മരിച്ചത് വർക്കി അന്തരിച്ചു

By Web Team
Dubaï - United Arab Emirates, First Published Mar 31, 2021, 5:49 PM IST




GULF NEWS

Sinopharm, Sinovac effective, safe: WHO
PFIZER VACCINE 100% EFFECTIVE IN 12-15 YEAR OLDS

UBAH'S CONFIDENCE SCORES
84% of consumers are confident about the central banking

87% of respondents are confident about the government's ability to manage the economy

UAE leads Arab world in work on closing gender gap

Macron orders lockdown across all of France, closes schools

Mariamma, mother of GEMS Founder Sunny Varkey, dies at 89



في ذكرى لسيده العائله
مرياما (أمينة) فاركي
13 يوليو 1931 - 31 مارس 2021

عائلة فاركي تعني ببالغ الأسى والحنن فقيدتها العالمة، ورائدة مؤسس ورئيس مجلس إداره مجموعه جيمس للتعليم حادي فاركي.

ستبقى ذكري السيدة فاركي محفورة في أذهاننا أولاً وأخيراً كوالده ووجه حنون ومعتاده، فضلاً عن كونها سيده رائده في مجال التعليم فقد ارتقت السيدة فاركي بدرها المتميز في تغيير حياة أجيال عده وصقل مستواهم العلمي ومهاراتهم كما اضطلعت مساهماتها الإنسانية بتطوير تعليم الفتيات والنهوض بالمعلمين وتسهيل الخوض على تلميذهم حامله إرثاً عريقاً متقدراً في أيمانها الراسخ بقدره التعليم عالي الجودة على تطوير مجتمعاتنا.

عائلة فاركي



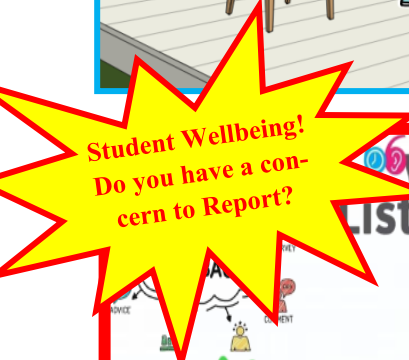
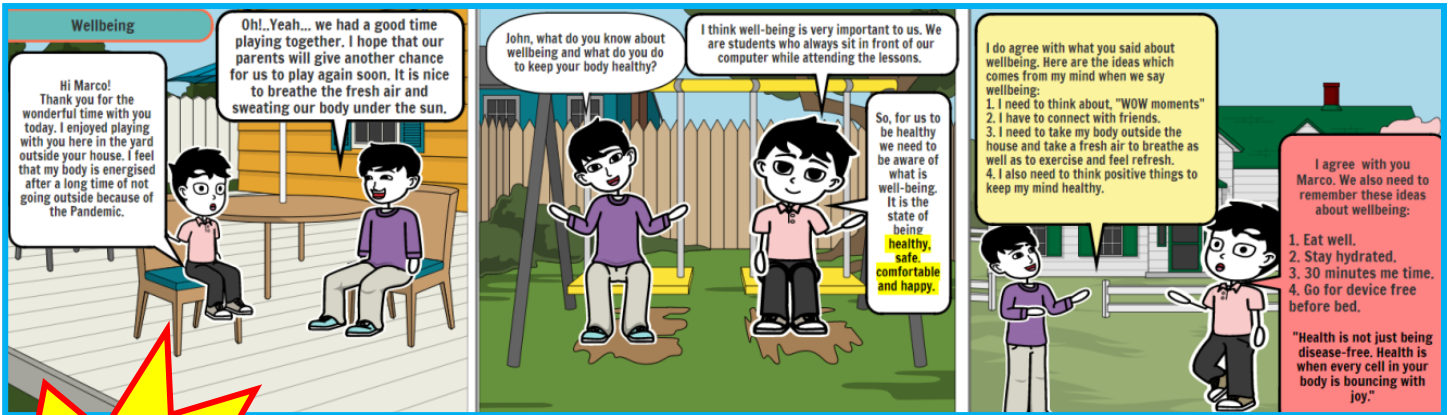
6 NATION

GEMS Education mourns 'Madam Varkey'
SUNNY VARKEY'S MOTHER, WHO CAME TO UAE IN 1959, WAS CONSIDERED A PIONEER OF PRIMARY EDUCATION IN UAE

Community hails Mariamma as an iron lady with a heart of gold

Meeting Mrs Varkey: 'She had a towering presence'

She was an iron lady with a heart of gold. She was a pioneer in education whose impact transcends generations. Her humanitarian contributions focused on the learning development of girls and the advancement and recognition of teachers, with her legacy rooted in her unrelenting belief in the power of quality education to better society.



We're listening

"Tell us what you think!"

SPEAK UP

Take a stand against bullying, raise your concern.

Scan the code for the tutorial

WS GEMS Westminster School SHARJAH

مدرسة جيمس وستمنستر الشارقة

GEMS EDUCATION We see genius in every child

Let's be SMART online

WS

Meet
Don't meet strangers you have met online.

Safe
Keep your information safe.

Think
Think before you click.

Ask for help
Ask for help if something upsets you.

Respect
Respect and be kind online.



مدرسة جيمس وستمنستر الشارقة
GEMS Westminster School
SHARJAH

Give proper
credit when
using other
people's work

Anything
posted
online is
permanent

PROTECT YOUR
PRIVATE
INFORMATION

To be a
responsible
Digital
Citizen

Don't
communicate
with
strangers

Communicate
respectfully

Stand up to
CYBERBULLYING

THINK
BEFORE YOU
POST!

Poster made by:
Hamna 12GF1



SPEAK UP

Take a stand for yourself and others.

SPEAK UP is a platform to report cyber-bullying in GEMS WSS.

To Report Cyber – Bullying
Scan the QR CODE



I am a Digital Citizen



Follow the
Stranger
Danger Rule
and not talk
to Strangers






Stand up to
Cyber Bullying
Be
Respectful online

Think before
posting anything
on the Internet.
Anything posted
online is
Permanent

Give proper
credit or ask
permission while
using other
people's work

Protect My
Personal
Information
and also, others
information

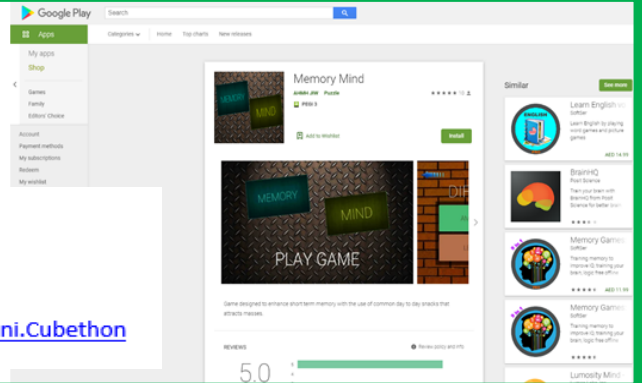
WSS Superstar Staff Champions; Going Above & Beyond!

	Staff Awards; WSS Staff Stars of Term 2	Term 2: January-March 2021
		
		
		
<p>Ms. Neha Puri Teacher of the Term Junior</p>	<p>Ms. Karunya Chandran Assistant Teacher of the Term; Junior</p>	<p>Ms. Namitha Shalini Teacher of the Term Primary</p>
<p>Ms. Vaijyanthi Gopal Teacher of the Term Primary</p>	<p>Mr. Francis Virgil Teacher of the Term Secondary</p>	<p>Ms. Michelle Naicker Admin. Staff Award of the Term</p>
<p>Ms. Namitha Shalini Teacher of the Term Primary</p>	<p>Ms. Wesam Nafie Admin. Staff Award of the Term</p>	<p>Ms. Inpka Appuhamilage Support Staff of the Term</p>

WSS Superstar Champions!

Ali Hani of Grade 8BF1 has been training with Unity to become a game developer. This is an effort by Ali to use COVID limitations to extend his boundary of ability. His game has been listed in 'Google Play'. We are so proud of his achievement. Well done Ali!

A special thanks to his parents for their support and positive guidance during these unprecedented times.



1. Ali Hani

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=io.AHDEV.MemoryMind>

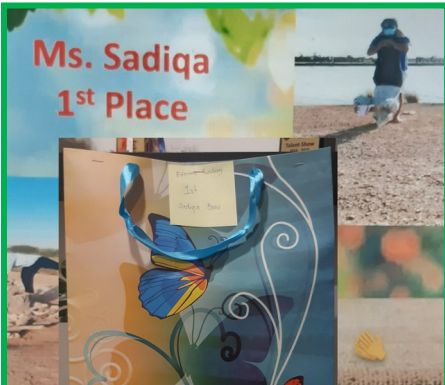
2. Muhammad Hadi

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.MuhammadHadiJiwani.Cubethon>

Aaban – Poem recitation 3rd place (G1/Y2H2)



Mohamed Ahmed Asker- Spell-a-thon 1st place (G1/Y2H2)

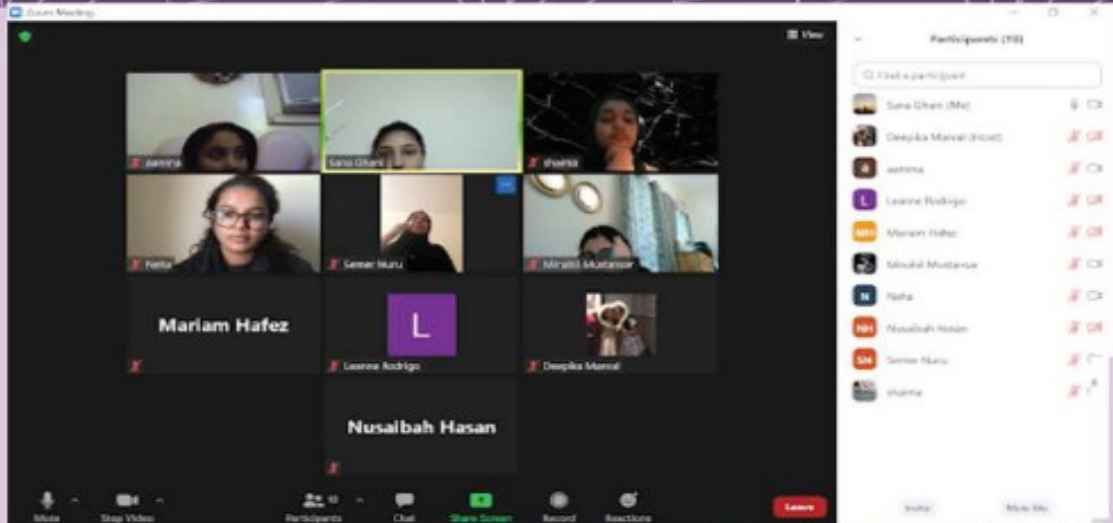
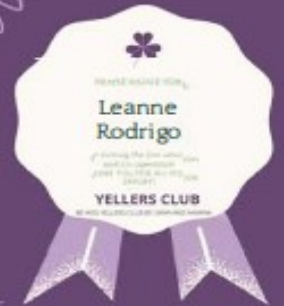
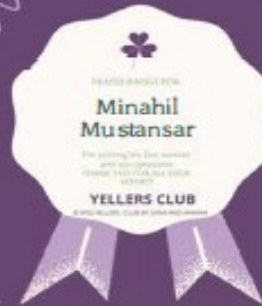
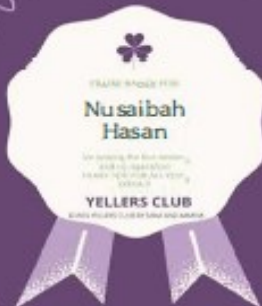
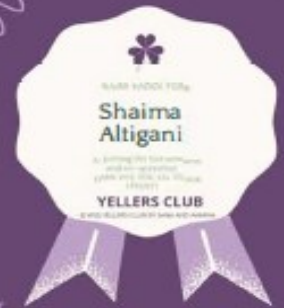
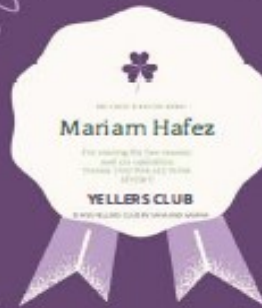
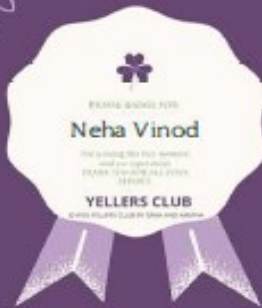


Hayaa -G1/Y2H2

Mohamed Ahmed Asker – G1/Y2H2

WSS Superstar Staff Champions; Going Above & Beyond!

LIVE SESSION PRAISE BADGES



Whole School News; Colin the Kindness & Respect Camel!
Awarded for demonstrating Good Character
(Respect, Kindness & Community Spirit)

MONDAY 12 APRIL 2021 | 33°C | 12:26hhr | [READ OUR E-PAPER](#)

RAMADAN

UAE | CORONAVIRUS | RAMADAN | WORLD | BUSINESS | OPINION | ARTS&CULTURE | LIFESTYLE | SPORT | VIDEOS | PODCASTS

Kelly Clarke
April 12, 2021

Generous Sharjah family delivers care packages and dry goods to less fortunate

► Ayesha Sohail set up UAE Fusion Socialites to unite the community and help low-income residents



Rayyan Sohail (G7/Y8 BS1) helped his mother to donate care packages to the needy, showing great character & the Ramadan value of sharing charity in our community.



☞ The most important gifts you can give your child are a **quality education** and the **values** that will guide them through life ☞

Sunny Varkey

Thank you to parents & students for their feedback videos about their experience of learning with WSS. We appreciate the time & effort to share & speak-up about their personal journey!

Thank you to Chathil, & the father of Jonathan (G9/Y10 BF).

Arshaq shared a very reflective video about 'Inner Talent', with the message that each role in life supports the next, & is of equal value. The Farmer in the field keeps the Dr. alive, & the Dr. keeps the farmer alive.

Also thanks to new student Nadir (G9/Y10 BS1) & ex-student & Sports Captain Shantosh for sharing 'student voice' feedback about how school prepares for the future. Shantosh is currently studying his degree in Australia. Deputy Head Girl Hamna (G12/Y13) shared in impressive video including past photos of her leadership journey over time.

Whole School News



Find our updated Parent Handbook through this QR code. Check-out school policies & procedures to be familiar & comfortable with our system.



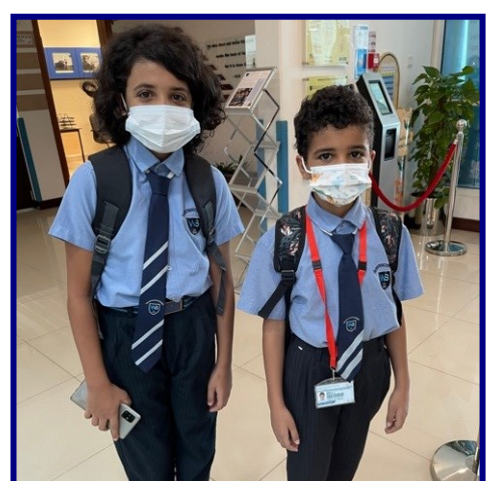
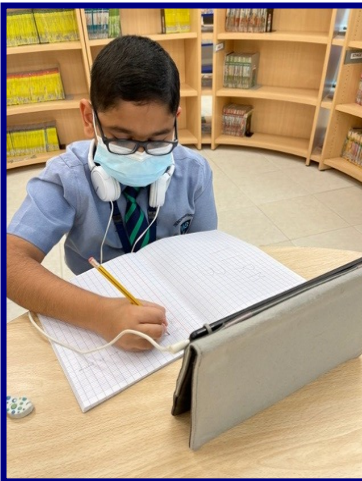
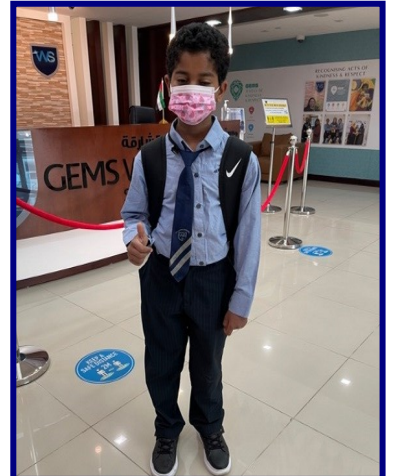
Whole School News



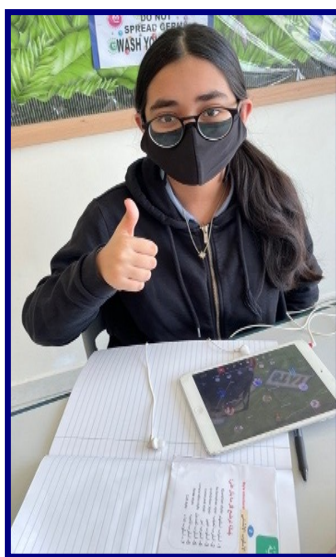
Fire Training was attended by SLT, Teachers & Admin/Support Staff on 30/3/21 to support Health & Safety at WSS.



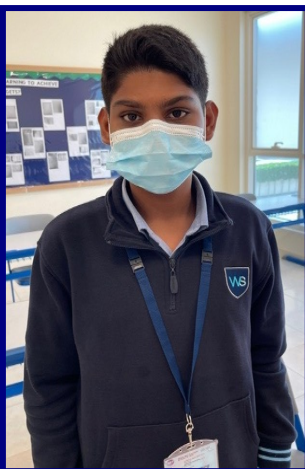
Whole School News; First Day Back!



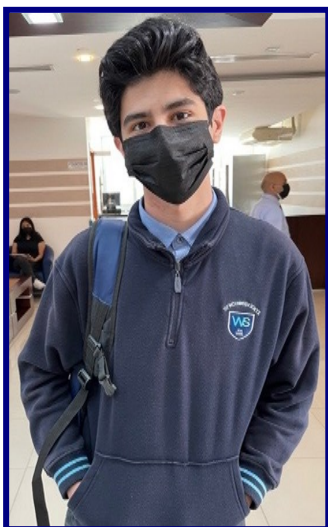
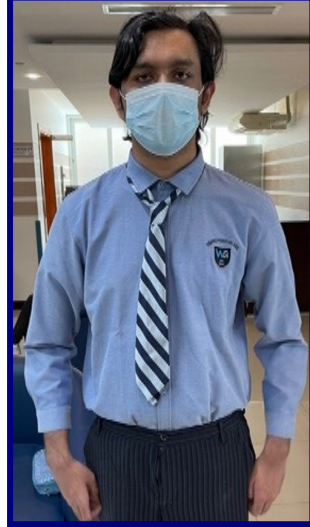
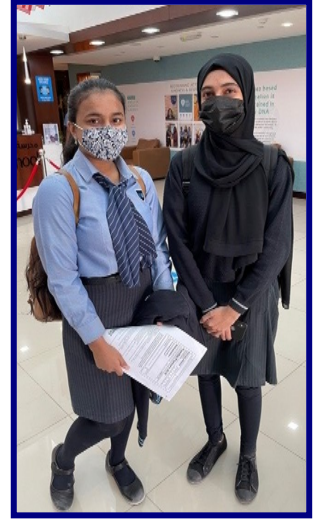
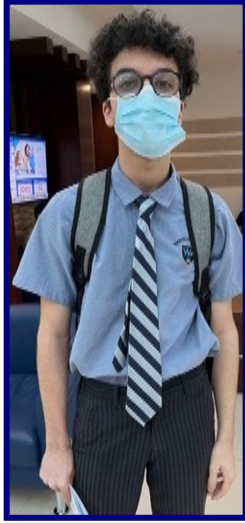
Whole School News; First Day Back!



Whole School News; First Day Back!



Whole School News; Smart Students!



Junior Section News; First Day back!



Junior Section News; First Day back!



Junior Section News; First Day back!



After Class Reading Sessions with Ms. Rapunzel



G2/Y3 Reading Group



G3/Y4 Reading Group



G4/Y5 Reading Group



G5/Y6 Reading Group

Fireflies

By Paul Currier

What are those little green lights floating on the grass and flying in the yard?
Are they moths? Are they UFOs?



No, they aren't moths and they aren't UFOs. They're fireflies.

Fireflies are little insects that glow with a cool green light. If you touch one it won't burn you.

Some fireflies glow to warn other animals that they don't taste good. Frogs, bats, and birds do not like to eat animals that glow. The glow helps keep fireflies safe.

Sometimes we call fireflies glowworms.



You can catch fireflies in a jar. Don't forget to let them go again.

Robots

A robot is a machine. But it is not just any machine. It is a special kind of machine. It is a machine that moves. It follows instructions. The instructions come from a computer. Because it is a machine, it does not make mistakes. And it does not get tired. And it never complains. Unless you tell it to!



Robots are all around us. Some robots are used to make things. For example, robots can help make cars. Some robots are used to explore dangerous places. For example, robots can help explore volcanoes. Some robots are used to clean things. These robots can help vacuum your house. Some robots can even recognize words. They can be used to help answer telephone calls. Some robots look like humans. But most robots do not. Most robots just look like machines.

Healthy Muscles Matter

Did you know you have more than 600 muscles in your body? These muscles help you move, lift things, pump blood through your body, and even help you breathe.



When you think about your muscles, you probably think most about the ones you can control. These are your voluntary (VOL-uh-tar-ee) muscles, which means you can control their movements. They are also called skeletal (SKELE-tal) muscles, because they attach to your bones and work together with your bones to help you walk, run, pick up things, play an instrument, throw a baseball, kick a soccer ball, push a lawnmower, or ride a bicycle. The muscles of your mouth and throat even help you talk!

Keeping your muscles healthy will help you to be able to walk, run, jump, lift things, play sports, and do all the other things you love to do. Exercising, getting enough rest, and eating a balanced diet will help to keep your muscles healthy for life.

The Rafflesia: World's Stinkiest Flower

By J. J. Fong

The Rafflesia is the world's largest flower, but you will not find it at your local florist shop. This bloom is too large and too smelly to be included in any bouquet.

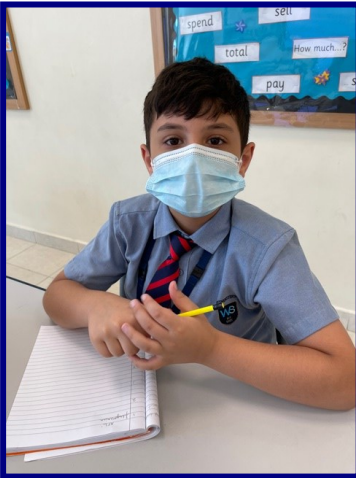


It grows to be about a yard wide, and it smells like rotting meat. The horrid odour helps this rare plant to survive. The stench draws flies, which in turn pollinate the Rafflesia. This is how the Rafflesia reproduces itself.

Rafflesia do not have stems, roots, or leaves. They do not produce chlorophyll. Rafflesia are parasites that attach themselves to vines. The vines serve as host plants which provide the Rafflesia with all its nutritional requirements.



Primary Section News; First Day Back!



WELL BEING AT WSS

Gems Westminster School Sharjah
WSS student led clubs for 6-12

Well Being Club...


Inspiring girls to be strong, smart, and bold. Help them get their best side out, shine the brightest. Teaching them how to prioritize and take care of themselves, as well as aware them about everyday topics.

#Girls

"Here's to strong women. May we know them. May we be them. May we raise them." - Unknown

For more information contact:
Hanna Hour 622 331 91
Ms Swarupa swarupa.h_@wss.gems.edu.ae
Ms Rejina rejina.g_@wss.gems.edu.ae

Enroll on the below link:
<https://forms.gle/6d8BhE1noT7k17H117>




Well-being Week **Grade 12/ Year 13**
Things we enjoy... **Girls**



WELL-BEING WEEK
By Shajila Zeynab, Y12B1

Sidra Ghani of Grade 12 believes that:
"Even the act of self care and being happy as a result is well-being"

This is Haqsa Binte (15819) from 11GH:
"Well-being for me is when I take care of myself such as doing masks, steaming face, skincare etc. It makes me relaxed and value myself."

"Well-being for me is my parents"



GEMS Westminster School
WSS WEEKLY CELEBRATIONS
1st November to 5th November 2020

Well-being Week

Well-being is not just being healthy but also it is about you being happy, relaxed and joying life.

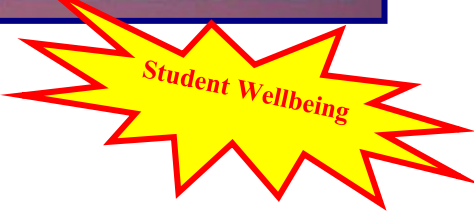
Activities:

1. Have a sunset family time with ice cream.
2. Do fun things with your family during this holiday.
3. Use earphones and listen to your favourite music.

@photo challenge
Click photos of you doing the activities

win grand if you post your photo

Designed by Hiba Hossain, Saha Karimkhan and Sushila Akhila Hossain - DGP

Secondary Section News; TED Talk Club!



TED TALK CLUB

We had a variety of discussions. Including our passion, hobbies, inspirational people to us and other topics as well.



INTRODUCTION

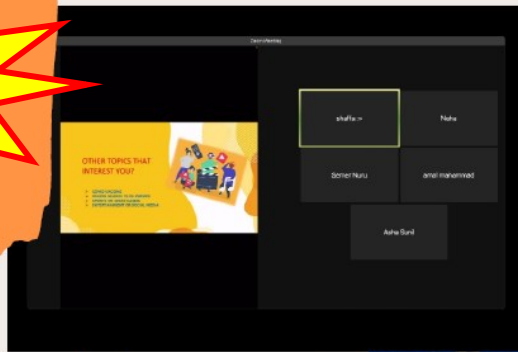
Purpose: To enable members to confidently present their ideas in an innovative and engaging manner.
Goal: To motivate listeners, inspire students and instill confidence while also gaining knowledge on various subjects.



01

Brainstorming Ideas
WHAT IS YOUR PASSION?

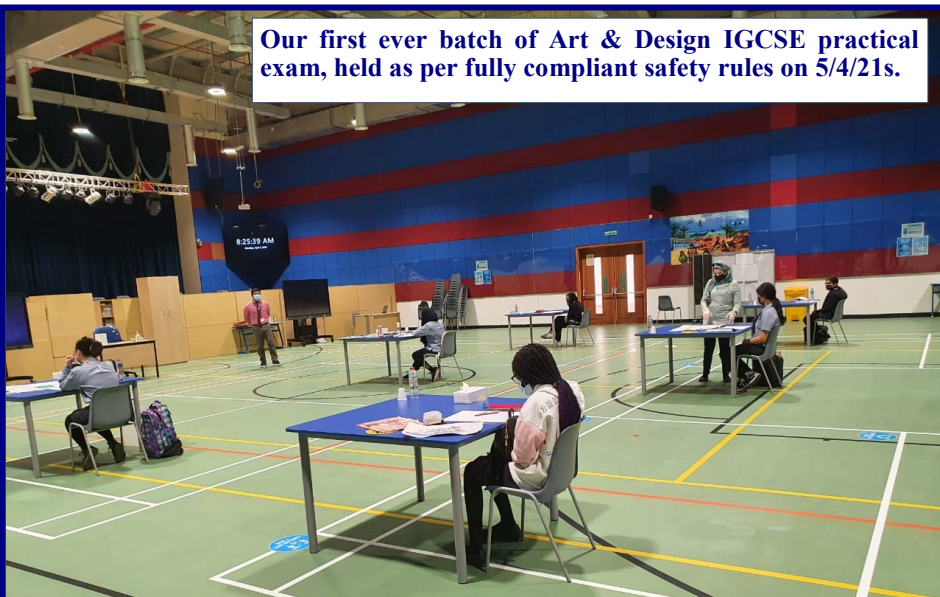
Preparing Students for their Future!



It is a session where you freely express yourself, your views and opinions to others, where you can build up the confidence to present in front of a crowd.

Semer Nuru
Gr 12/ Yr 13GF

Our first ever batch of Art & Design IGCSE practical exam, held as per fully compliant safety rules on 5/4/21s.



Welcome back to school!!

Secondary Section News; Mothers' Day!



MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION

MONTH : MARCH

Gr11/Yr12GH &
Gr12/Yr13GF

SIDRA GHANI



My mom is beautiful person inside and out who truly cares about her family and what's around her. There are many things about her that inspire me but if I had to name one, it would be how she single-handedly takes care of all of the family which I think is very motivating.

MINAHIL MUSTANSAR



You've stuck by my side through everything. You're my best friend and my inspiration. Thank you for being the best. I love you.

NEHA VINOD



My mom is one of a kind; she is beautiful, sociable, cheerful, and hard-working. She is determined; she taught me to believe in myself no matter what others think or say.

SUBUL ISHTIAQ



She holds our family together and motivates me to do good in life.

LEANNE RODRIGO



She always encourages me to aim for the best and inspires me with her strength.

SANA GHANI



My mom is a gem, she's flawless inside and out. She's like my very own best friend who is always there for me.

Happy Mother's Day

YELLERS CLUB LEAD BY SANA AND AAMINA,

