



## Keeping in Touch - FROM A DISTANCE

*On behalf of the Principal and CEO, Srivalsan Murugan*

Ref. No. KIT 006-01Nov20

1 November 2020

Dear Parents,

Ubuntu, which translates to, 'I am, because we are' is an ancient African mantra that centers on the concept that we are connected through universal values of love, kindness, truth, compassion and oneness. **Ubuntu is the essence of a human being, the divine spark of goodness inherent within each being.** This has been the underlying philosophy guiding our school vision to transform our boys into **good role models, better human beings and best among scholars.** It gives me immense delight to give you a brief about how this vision of ours is translated into action by our brilliant student community.

'Ubuntu - #100\_positive\_act', is a community initiative launched by The Ministry of Community Development that aims to spread goodness and humanitarian values and improve our community's quality of life. It encourages daily good deeds by documenting and sharing positive behavior on social media whilst also educating the community on the importance of charity, self-reflection and accountability. Social media is flooded with the positive acts of our students. This campaign extends over a period of 100 days and is open to all residents in the UAE. I urge the members of the parent community to participate in this campaign and share on social media platforms using hashtag #100GoodDeeds.

Kindergarteners and the little ones from the Primary department tried to be a rainbow in someone else's cloud on 'Make a Difference Day' by doing their bit to appreciate members of the support staff by gifting them a customized 'We Care' kit. They also enjoyed their roles as Explorers of Global Goals promoting the use of Sustainable Development Goals in learning in order to contribute to a better future for all. Kindergartners rounded up the week by commemorating World Artists Day and World Pasta Day.

The students of Junior Middle School participated in 'Love, Live, Hope', a campaign dedicated to Breast Cancer awareness. They demonstrated their support for patients and survivors of this disease through insightful posters and sharing photos in pink with slogans intended to educate people about the importance of early screening. The Junior Middle department also observed 'Emotional Resilience' week to build and strengthen resilience amongst students, particularly to embrace the new normal in the current pandemic situation. Students of Grade 6G spearheaded this initiative by elucidating strategies of resilience like meditation, mindfulness exercises or simply sharing your worries with your family, teachers and friends. The students of Senior Middle School organized a special assembly to commemorate International Day for the Eradication of Poverty and students pledged to work towards sharing resources with the

most needy in several ways. They also participated in The Montegrappa Letter Writing Competition at the Emirates Airline Literature Festival. This competition celebrates the aesthetics of handwriting and well-crafted messages. Well, we thought, art of letter – writing is extinct and to see our boys reviving it is indeed heart – warming. Meanwhile, a short story titled, ‘Your planet needs you’, written by Shiva Srinivasan of Grade 8, our own budding author, found its pride of place in The Young Times.

Schools around the world came together for a unique student led conference and learning experience, SCOPE 2020- School Conference of Parties Expo’, led by The Kindergarten Starters, GEMS Education, on 24 October and 25 October. The purpose of this inter –school conference was to empower students with high levels of climate change awareness, deep climate change research and collaborative global problem – solving skills. Our students successfully put the spotlight on the issue and invariably on themselves through their scintillating presentations. The team comprising Akhilesh Patil (11B), Joel Jiji (12C), Shubhankar Ghosh (11B), Azhar Ahmed (10D) and Joy Das (11C) bagged the award for the ‘Best Representation’ in the ‘POOL-C’ category amongst the 39 schools from across the world that participated in the event. Heartiest congratulations to Alex Moby Philip of Grade 12 for attaining the third position in ‘Story of Us’ segment, an ecological creative writing contest themed on the topic ‘Past, Present and Future of nature’ and the impacts of the climate change.

Last month also witnessed the launch of two in – house school clubs, the Generation Global Club and the Math Club. Our repository of school clubs is strengthened and now we have 15 clubs catering to the diverse needs of our learners. Teacher coordinators for these Clubs are Radhika Mishra and Remesan Vengara respectively. The Islamic Department organized a virtual assembly on 28 October to observe the birthday of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) falling on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of Rabi Al Awwal.

We are active on twitter @OOB\_GEMS, Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GEMSOurOwnBoys/> and on Instagram account gems\_oob. Do follow us for latest photos and regular updates.

I conclude by drawing your attention to the assembly theme presented by students of Grade 4 on ‘Sheroes’, a humble dedication to the glories of the beautiful and courageous women around us. The assembly culminated with a bow to the greatest ‘Shero’ in one’s life – Mother! We are indeed grateful to all our Queen Mothers for instilling the concept of **Ubuntu** in our boys. THANK YOU.

Warm Regards,



**Sindhu Padmanabhan**  
Headmistress