A note from Mr. Yuval

Mr. Yuval Dvir, head of GHIS

Dear GHIS community members,

I am often asked about the purpose of education and the pursuit of schooling. There are many possible answers to offer. However, one solution is obvious: education is about building long-term relationships. As young persons learn how to build relationships with their peers and adult educators, they gain the skills, confidence, and friendships that accompany them. At GHIS, students have an outstanding opportunity to develop lifelong relationships with friends and faculty worldwide. In this newsletter, we share some personal stories of community members, sharing how unique our community is and how blessed we are to have such amazing people with us.

Yours,

Yuval

**Siblings in school**

Emuna Lapping (Israel\US)

In GHIS, students from all over the world leave their homes and join our lovely community. There are quite a few students who were able to bring a part of home to GHIS with them, students who came with their siblings. A couple of these students are Lour and Basel, who are twins. The two of them came to GHIS together, therefore have had a bit of a unique journey compared to most of the students here. Lour and Basel both came to GHIS for a similar reason as many others, to experience more in life and meet different people, but what makes them different from most others is that they left home, yet brought a piece of home with them.

Being in a boarding school together, in their experience, has overall been a positive experience. According to Basel, “We definitely fought a lot but my relationship with her is better than ever because we see each other all the time”. It seems like attending the same boarding school has brought them closer together as siblings. “actually great! You have someone whom you can depend on, and who asks about you and makes sure you're fine!” said Lour when talking about what life at GHIS is like with her brother. The two of them have been able to bring a part of their home to GHIS with them, which ended up bringing them closer together than they were before.
New student leadership in GHIS
Liron Tzvia Gandelman (Israel)

Every 6 months in GHIS, we have the student leadership elections. the student leadership is a group of students, from the studying cohorts in GHIS that was elected by the students to represent them and to work constantly with the school's administration. I would like to thank the former student leadership team - Alon Inbar, Maital Perlin, Nava Haney, Alma Berliner, and Mohammad Shalabney for doing an incredible job in the past 6 months. In this round, 14 DP1 students and 4 PDP students ran for student leadership.

On April 25th, the first round of elections occurred- discussion circles. all the school's students had the opportunity to listen to the candidates and elect 5 dp1 students that they believe in and that they want to see in the next round of elections. On April 26th, the top 5 candidates had a panel. We gave a short speech that presents our ideology and opinions and answered interesting questions from the students.

After giving our speeches, I saw the love, support, and appreciation that the students give to every candidate and for me, it was the most meaningful thing to see during my campaign and this process. Around noon, the former student leaders announced the two DP1 students and two PDP students that were elected- Ohene-Anuoyam Fletcher Boateng-Antwi from Ghana, Me, Liron Tzvia Gandelman from Israel and Meera Nassar and Huda Amayre from Palestine.

We are excited to start working together and to collaborate with the administration!

How It Feels to be Nearing the End
Success T. Mulbah (Liberia)

Hello, I am Success T. Mulbah, and a DP2(senior) at the Givat Haviva International School. I enrolled at GHIS in 2020, and it has been a long journey full of fun and sad memories. I have met some fantastic people and experienced friends turned into family. At the beginning of my senior year, I remember feeling so excited that I am about to graduate and go back home to see my family.

Now reflecting on my journey at GHIS, I'm full of so many memories that I can not and will not trade for anything on earth. At this point, I have become so attached to this community and I have mixed feelings about leaving this community because there is just so much that I am going to miss; my friends, teachers, equality, and peace we have here. As the end of my stay is getting near, I am happy that I spent 2 years of my life in this supportive and amazing community and I am hoping to meet everyone in the near future.

I always think of this journey as a preparation for the outside world and GHIS definitely prepared me for what I will experience in the world.
Grigor Petrosyan is currently a student at New York University in Shanghai, majoring in Finance and Business. To him, the memory at GHIS is still as fresh as if it was yesterday: “every day and every memory seems so special to me: Political debates and discussions with Mrs. Kerrie, coding my first ever computer game with Mr. Assaf, learning Arabic, and exploring the Arab culture with Ms. Hiba, exploring the world of numbers with Mrs. Tamar, reading and analyzing distinct literary works with Ms. Hannah, and of course finding out that I can actually draw with Mrs. Efrat.” Not only does he miss the academic life at GHIS but he also misses the time he had with his host family, with whom “every spent day was unforgettable”. His host family has taken him to stunning places in Israel and shown him the unique Israeli culture. He had the opportunity to celebrate national and religious holidays with them and even though he was miles away from his family, he could still feel the family warmth thanks to his amazing host family.

To Grigor, GHIS was not only a school but also a life-changing journey. “The people I met there as well as the knowledge I acquired throughout the 2-year journey truly played a significant role in the process of my personal development as well as the shaping of my future”. GHIS has a culturally diverse community in which students would learn something new from daily conversations with everyone from around the world. It is an environment that contributed to Grigor’s development of both inter and intrapersonal skills. From a teenager with a great zeal for learning new things and exploring himself in different aspects, Grigor has graduated as a young adult with a clear vision for his future, and now he is totally ready for the next chapter of his life.

Last but not least, as a graduate and alumni of GHIS, Grigor wants to pass on a few lessons that he has learned from this journey to the next generations as he put it: “Challenge yourself in different aspects, always try learning new things and be open to new ideas. At the same time, worry less about trivial things and have fun, enjoy the last years of high school and make many happy memories that will last a lifetime.”
Inbal Vehaba is a 24 years old counselor in GHIS. She is more than just a counselor and has a major role in GHIS. She contributes to the school not only on a counselor level but as a caring mother to the students. Before coming to the school, she had several experiences in guiding and counseling young people. After graduating from high school, she volunteered in a nearby high school called Mevort Eron for a gap year. Since the counselor of that school was injured, she took the responsibility of a counselor. In 2016, after completing her gap year, she went to the Israeli army for two years. With her warm-hearted personality, it was very rigorous and harsh. She embarked on a journey to the US, as a head counselor in a summer camp and got a chance to travel around the country. Once she returned back to Israel, in 2020, she continued working as a counselor for youth in a Kibutz. All these experiences with a counselor equipped her with the interpersonal and communication skills she needed to be an effective counselor.

One day in the year 2021, an ad on Facebook linked her to GHIS, an international boarding school that had a job opening for counselors. The international boarding community intrigued her because she aspired to work closely with people from different countries. To her, it appeared as an interesting place to work and live in. Surprise she has never heard of it although she lived, worked, and learned nearby, she sent her resume to the school. “One of my best decisions”, she said. She affirms that her experience in the school was no less than what she dreamt it would be like. She did not find the job challenging. However, adopting all the different cultures was not easy for her. She comes from a place with low diversity of background and culture so quickly adapting to the sudden change was a challenge for her. “It was a challenge that turned out to be a blessing”, she quoted.

The previous theater play was one of the events during her stay in which her caring and dedicated characteristic were magnified. She was facilitating rehearsals every day as a director. Even when she had to stay in the hospital, her dedication was consistent. She was going back and forth to make sure that the students performed to the best of their abilities. She asserts that the school is constantly striving to create an open environment that accommodates students’ needs. “This school really works with the students, to the point each voice is heard”, she said. Before joining the GHIS community, Inbal did not have a clear idea of what she wanted to do in the future. But after joining the community, helped her focus on herself more and understand what she wants to be doing in the future.

This community has contributed to building up a strong characteristic of Inbal. She became more accepting of different cultures and opinions. Watching many conflicts being resolved over a discussion gave her hope that big political conflicts in the country can be resolved as well.

Sindiana CAS

By Maria Bakhлина (Russia)

The Syndiana CAS is aimed at fostering a peaceful relationship between the GHIS and Syndiana students by exposing them to different cultures, opinions, and views. Initially, Syndiana is a GHIS neighbor school that shares multiple areas with us, where students have to interact, communicate, and live together. Due to the lack of communication and understanding, there was a need to improve the situation between students. Some members of the CAS, Darik Mulugeta and Maranatha Melese from Ethiopia were excited to share more information about this new CAS. It started with teaching Syndiana students English in small teams in a playful but educational manner with songs, games, and activities. Working in separate groups helps people to open up in a smaller community easier, giving space for safe discussions and debates. The knowledge of the common language helps students of both schools to understand one another on a fundamental communicative level.

In the future, members of the CAS plan to organize more after-school activities on a weekly basis to reduce the miscommunication level, bringing students from different parts of the world together. Dancing Dabke with Palestinian students, singing Amharic songs together with Ethiopian students, celebrating Christmas with Christian students - all these is crucial for getting acquainted with other traditions and customs. One of the February theme weeks was devoted to Food Theme, where students taste various cultural foods of different countries while listening to the lecture and presentation, having a discussion afterward. Students were using the knowledge of English that was gained previously in this CAS, practicing new skills. It is influential for all - GHIS students also develop their leadership skills since it requires organization, and communicative abilities, improving connections of the students inside our community. Overall, students have been cooperating and working together towards the same aim, achieving great progress in learning and gaining new skills, and now both schools can’t wait to attend new sessions each week.