



The Tiger Tale

Newsletter



April 2016

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All the News that's Fit to Press at GIFS

Upcoming Events

- Teacher Appreciation Week – **May 2-4**
- Music in Prugio Park – **Wednesday, May 4**
- No School: Children's Day Holiday – **Thursday and Friday, May 5-6**
- Middle School Futsal in Busan – **Wednesday, May 11**
- GIFS International Night (Dress Up – Bring Food!) – **Friday, May 20**
- GIC International Fair in Geoje – **Saturday, May 21**
- High School Trip to Seoul – **June 4-6**
- No School: Memorial Day – **Monday, June 6**
- Final House Games! – **Wednesday, June 8**
- No School – **Thursday, June 9**
- GRADUATION & RECOGNITION DAY! – **Friday, June 10**



Recognizing Excellence: Meilin Campbell



Meilin has turned a corner developmentally speaking. Still very much a first grader but she is growing in her ability to take personal responsibility and is becoming aware of

the world around her. She sees that her actions have an impact. She is also learning the connection between work and reward. Recently I witnessed her choosing a less-enticing option for snacks (personal vs. Lotteria) during our Dino-park trip. She remained calm and accepted the 'normal' snack without pouting. She was able to see the bigger picture and weigh the needs of her classmates or her own wishes. I'm proud of her!

A Message from the Principal



Greetings!

It's May! Can you believe it? Yes, things are winding down as the school year comes to a close

but in terms of what we do at GIFS, this is a busy time! Please see my notes below for what's happening and dates to keep in mind.

Exam time is starting in the middle of May for middle and high school students and they are feeling the pressure. Please help them by doing your best to ensure that they are eating and sleeping well. And, pat them on

the back for all the hard work they are doing. We see it here everyday and we're very proud of their efforts.

Reminder, too, that the MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) standardized testing is coming up across all grades except for 12th grade. The results from the MAP will accompany the final report cards you will receive in June. Teachers use the results to better understand and diagnose learning needs and, especially at the end of the year, to measure progress from the fall. Of course, there are other assessment tools such as classroom performance, teacher observation, and subject (continued on page 5)



News in the IBDP

by Charles Campbell
Vice Principal and IB Coordinator

Since last Friday our IBDP students have been heavily involved in what is called the Group 4 Project. Our project has involved the use of sensors to test water quality in the local area.

What is the Group 4 Project?

'The group 4 project is an interdisciplinary activity in which all Diploma Programme science students must participate. The intention is that students from the different group 4 subjects analyse a common topic or problem. The exercise should be a collaborative experience where the emphasis is on the processes involved in, rather than the products of, such an activity.'

Career Counselling & University Guidance

Mr Lynch and I recently attended a workshop in Singapore where we interacted with university counsellors from the region as well as university agents from the UK, US, Holland, Australia and a host of others. The Grade 9s and 10s are working on career counselling with Mr Lynch during PSHE and CAS classes. The aim is to build e-portfolios that are a collection of achievements and tell the story of each student. The universities have two key phrases they keep emphasizing.

When it comes to applying at top colleges around the world, it is important to
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Teacher Feature: Ms. Sandria Wilson



Sandria was born in Jamaica and is the second child, and only daughter, in her family. Her father had a positive impact on her education. He was very stern when it came to grades and he valued education for all his children. He was heavily involved in school. He was a superdad!

She believes she is a global ambassador for her country. She has taught in Trinidad, Barbados, the United States, the Middle East, and now, South Korea.

She loves teaching, especially mathematics. When she teaches mathematics, you need to start at the foundation, with baby steps. She thinks no student should fall behind, and that every student can do math. In fact, she thinks it is the easiest subject because you don't have to study, you just need to practice. There are so many resources on the internet, videos, people you can ask, if you need to learn.

Sandria has one daughter, Xoa Pryce, who is 24 years old and lives in Orman Beach, Florida. She is now a junior chemist and will be attending Nova

University in the fall as a medical student. Sandria is VERY proud of her and she is the apple of her mom's eye. They talk every day, even though they live far apart. She talks about her all the time.



The Interview

What would be the title to your autobiography and why?

"My Life," By Sandria Wilson.

How lucky are you and why?

Very lucky. Because everything that I put forward is successful and fruitful. Even if there are things in my way, I get past them.

If you were stranded on a deserted island, what three things would you want have with you and why?

Water, mangoes, and my glasses, cause I gotta see.

What's your spirit animal?

Dogs. I just love them. They are so welcoming and trustworthy.

If you were a bicycle, what part would you be?

The seat, because I like to be in charge. I'm a leader!



Sandria is a very hardworking teacher, coming into work on Saturdays to provide extra study time for her students.

What's up in Elementary?

In **Mr. Dean's** 1st & 2nd grade class, students have been using the BUCK method for word problems: box the question; underline important information, circle vocabulary that tells them to add/subtract; knock out unnecessary information. The math focus goes along with their continued emphasis of becoming critical thinkers when reading; this includes directives. They are striving to be active thinkers when reading. They realize if they cannot explain or make connections with what they are reading then they need to reread it.

In **Ms. Ana's** 3rd grade classroom, students are learning how people have become more Open-Minded over the course of time. They asked the question: Do modern witches have the right to religious freedom? Can they accept other people's belief without judgment?

Spring has sprung for fourth and fifth grade! **Ms. K's** class is working hard as they know this is their last quarter. The Math focus right now is geometry and measurement. In Language Arts, they are focusing on mastering a five paragraph essay. Science has them studying volcanoes and earthquakes (how apropos). They are also enjoying the warmth and sunshine during their recesses.



Adleena lends her math-teaching abilities to Kimora and Chrissy in kindergarten. They worked together to build math stories.



What's happening up in Secondary?

As 3rd quarter drew to an end, so to did several history units with **Mr. Anderson**. 10th grade finished up their look at "Was the US successful at containing communism" with a history in film project. Several of the 10th graders opted to create their own documentary about the Soviet-Afghan War. In 7th grade, students have been studying Joseon Korea, learning the history of our own town of Sacheon during the Imjin War against the Japanese.

Ms. Thomas' classes are working on-poetry! Both 7th grade and 9th grade IGCSE are studying poetry. They are analyzing poems and the effects of poetic devices. 7th grade has studied Robert Frost and is currently broadening their horizons by researching a poet that is new to them. IGCSE is working on unseen poetry analysis skills.

In **Ms. Bokern's** Spanish classes, Grades 7,8 and 10 are creating the menu for their "restaurant". Each restaurant will feature the cuisine of a Spanish-speaking country. As their culminating activity they will role-play being a server in their restaurant and being the customer in the restaurant of a classmate. Ab Initio is studying school: classes,

homework and rules. Language B has just begun the final topic of the year, television and cinema.

With **Mr. Kuntz**, the sixth grade has completed an argumentative writing task in which they took a stance on one of a variety of hot school issues. Students conducted interviews in order to get a wide look at the issue. 11th grade Lang and Lit have finished reading *The Great Gatsby* and are now digging through a variety of passages in order to determine the depths F. Scott Fitzgerald went to while creating this American masterpiece. They are busy highlighting and taking notes all over their papers as they attempt to find out just why *Gatsby* was so great. Overheard in class the other day: "I'm not even sure where I end and the literature begins."

Student council are finalizing plans for the high school visit to Seoul. Have you returned your permission slip yet? Without a firm commitment from students and parents in writing, we cannot run the trip. Everybody **Mr. Woodhouse** has asked is looking forward to going. So come on Tigers, let's have your parents' signatures please!



Musical Notes

Here is the news from the Music Department this April.

In early elementary, students have worked on songs under co-curriculum aspects/themes. They completed music clock with note values matched to number system. They learned songs with various themes linked to those of other subjects, such as, earth day, animal sound in Korean, direction/movement etc.

In Grade 3, students have worked on playing the keyboard and practice singing in harmonies of familiar songs. Students in grades 4 and 5 have worked on learning the ocarina with a wide register range and practiced scales. All groups have just started practicing their class presentation for Spring Concert on May 20th.

Students in grades 7 and 8 have studied general knowledge regarding the theoretical areas from the orchestra family to musical

terms and signs/symbols. They have focused on learning new Korean songs called "I am a Butterfly" and "Sunny," and have worked hard for their performances on May 4th and May 20th.

After School Music Programs

GIFS Young Orchestra : All members have practiced their own parts and put their efforts to shape the whole. They have various pieces to perform and are strongly encouraged to practice at home on a regular basis from now on. As noted last letter, EVERY THURSDAY is GRAND REHEARSAL till the end of May since there are 3 big performances May 4th, May 20th, and June 10th.

GIFS Band : We are learning Korean songs and reworking some old songs for upcoming events. The songs are well on their way.

Hope to see you at our performances!



Family Feature: The Wongs

You can call me Jason Wong, raised up in Macau, studied and lived in Arizona, USA. More than a decade ago, I got an engineering job working in Sacheon and we have been in Korea since then. My wife is Jane Jian, who used to be a high school Geography teacher in China. I like outdoor exercises, stock investment, browsing TV/movies while Jane likes to read, watch TV dramas, and do indoor exercises.

We have two children, Isaac and Nora. Isaac likes rock music while Nora loves to read on her own time. You may have heard two different last names for our family, but actually "Huang" and "Wong" are the same character with different pronunciation because of the different dialects used in China. Both our children enjoy school, appreciate their teachers, and like to make new friends.

We became GIFS family in 2007 when Isaac started in kindergarten. GIFS is like a big community where you can meet people from all over the world who speak different languages, believe in different religions, and cook different cuisines. We love to see our kids growing up in the environment that children from different grades can play together like brothers and sisters. Children with different ethnic back-

grounds can develop memorable friendships here.

Though busy at work and at home, we try to spend our free time helping in the school library, volunteering for the reading program, playing sport games with kids in the gym, and participating in most of the PTO meetings and school functions.

As a family, we like to try out good restaurants, travel, or just stay home and take turns sharing the songs we like, or talking about news, history, and issues that we may face.

When new families arrive, we hope new families could be more involved with PTO, willing to spend more time helping out the functions organized by the school or PTO. Together we could help create fun times worth remembering for us and our children to treasure for life.

Our dreams for our children are staying close together, enjoying healthy and happy lives. Before we become too old, we hope we get some great grand kids! For ourselves, if possible, we would like to check out the different wonders of the world before reporting to God.

(Continued from page 1) testing and communication, which offer a balanced evaluation of student achievement. I encourage you to remain in close touch with your child's teachers so that final grades come as no surprise to you and serve mostly as confirmation about what you already know about your child. Good communication is key.

As a whole school, we use the MAP results to see where we stand against other Asian international schools that are members of EARCOS (East Asia Regional Council of Schools) and for making informed decisions about resource allocation. Our decision to hire a full-time English Language Learner teacher and half-time Special Education Needs teacher for next year is, in part, due to our examination of MAP achievements results. We are looking forward to serving your children even better in the coming years.

As always, please contact me to voice your concerns and hopes for GIFS. I look forward to hearing from you.

All the best,

Marjie Carroll



(Continued from page 2) answer these two questions:

Who am I?
What has been my journey?

Having a clear sense of the self, an identity, is paramount when you are asked to sell yourself in the university application process. I have suggested all student register with Pathbrite (a free portfolio builder) in order to demonstrate their passions, strengths, talents and more. The opportunity to do so visually is an added bonus. We will be monitoring these portfolios over the next few weeks to make sure students are actively adding to these valuable portraits.

Finally, the examination schedule for the end of the year has been uploaded to ManageBac. I hope that students are being encouraged at home to start the review process through creating a study schedule.



Don't forget to follow and like us on Facebook and Twitter. We have a website, too. There's always something new to see!

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GyeongnamInternationalForeignSchool/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/GIF-STigerTalk>

Website: gifs.or.kr



Sports Updates

What a great Quarter 3 and 4 we are having SKAC sport wise. HS Futsal results are in and the senior boys gained third place after two all-day competitions run by SKAC. A very pleasing result from a small squad against some much larger schools running much larger squads. The girls too had a very pleasing first round with a very very small squad and some very young players; holding down a mid table position despite complete exhaustion setting in and two broken fingers in goal! Given time the girls squad will mature and should look forward to bringing home some trophies.

The High School Boys and Girls Futsal teams made a fantastic showing, despite being a small squad. We can be very proud of their determination and grit. The boys in particular, were able to hold off much larger teams and end up coming third overall at the SKAC High Schools Final Futsal Tournament. As I write, the Elementary and Middle School boys and girls basketball teams are preparing for their SKAC Final Tournament. At our first SKAC elementary divisional basketball tournament the girls won 3 out of 5 games (Well done Masha our grade 11 student who has been coaching the elementary girls) and the boys, 1 out of 4. Both teams did really well against far bigger schools. At the Middle School SKAC Basketball Tournament the girls were a team to be reckoned with, winning 6 out of 6 games, against very stiff opposition teams. The boys made a good showing for themselves winning 2 out of 6 games. A big thank you to our dedicated school coaches, Mr. Rodriguez, Ms. Wright, Mr. Kuntz and Mr. Whitehead for all their time and dedication to our students. A special note, must also be made of the High School students, who as part of their CAS, have committed to helping with coaching the Middle and Elementary School Basketball teams.





Advice from Mr. Wise

What should I do if I have problems in sports?

The problems that people get into with sports are: fights, verbal abuse, and friendship problems. There are benefits of sports, but there are also problems. Most of the time, I hear about people being bossy or mean. What I suggest is that you should talk to the person who is being bossy. If that doesn't help, leave them alone until they have some improvement. Find some new friends.

For more advice, send letters to Mr. Wise.
Drop off letters in Ms. Anderson's office!



Celebrating Spring: "The Annual Cherry Blossom Field Trip"

In early April, the cherry blossoms trees burst open, and GIFS elementary and middle school heads down to the Sacheon Cherry Blossom Festival for the afternoon. This year, teachers prepared scavenger hunts and other small projects. Students looked for certain bugs, leaves, and flowers.



Once the work was done, everyone got a chance to stroll around the park and take pictures with the flowers. They were gorgeous! There's nothing like standing in the cherry blossom snow. After picture time, everyone trooped down to the festival to buy some sweets and treats, and listen to the performers. It was a great time.