



The Tiger Tale

Newsletter



March 2016

April 2016

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All the News that's Fit to Press at GIFS

Upcoming Events

- Friday, April 8th: **No School - Professional Development Day**
- Saturday, April 9th: **Elementary Basketball Tournament @DIS**
- Thursday, April 14th and Saturday, April 16th: **Parent-Teacher Conferences**
- Saturday, April 16th: **High School Futsal Tournament @BIFS**
- Saturday, April 23rd: **Middle School Basketball Tournament @ISK**
- Friday, April 29th: **Fine Arts Festival**
- Saturday, April 30th: **PTO Trekking Adventure**



Recognizing Excellence: Class Stars in 1st and 2nd!



Some of our stars in class are role-models:

Chikaima, Daniel, Clothilde, Emilia, and Hyuna. These students consistently give their best efforts, are dependable and able to lead groups, and demonstrate self-control and academic integrity. We all are better because of their examples. Nice job!

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



News in the IBDP

by Charles Campbell and Peter Lynch

Dear Parents,
What is CAS?
CAS, or Creativity, Activity and Service, is one of the three core elements of the IB Diploma Programme. As a shining beacon of our values, CAS enables students to demonstrate attributes of the IB learner profile in real and practical ways, to grow as unique individuals and to recognize their role in relation to others. Students develop skills, attitudes and dispositions through a variety of individual and group experiences that provide them with opportunities to explore their interests and express their passions, personalities and perspectives.

CAS complements a challenging academic programme in a holistic way, providing opportunities for **self-determination, collaboration, accomplishment and enjoyment.**

In order to prepare our students for the IBDP in Grades 11 and 12, we have now introduced elements of CAS, through our online ManageBac program, to middle school grades. (continued on page 6)

Teacher Feature: Mr. Patrick Anderson



Pat Anderson was born on the shores of the bright blue Lake Michigan, halfway between the forests of Wisconsin and the towers of Chicago, blessed with two parents, two sisters, and an extremely loud extended family. He grew up obsessed with reading Tom Clancy novels, playing Final Fantasy, learning guitar, and generally anything that would keep him from going outside. But even seemingly safe hobbies like music eventually betrayed him, as his trumpet playing led him to the marching band and the harsh gaze of the baleful sun that we all find ourselves trapped under.

since 2008, and has been here at GIFS since 2013. He spends his time with his wonderful wife, Claire, his dog, Maegi, and his Fender Marauder guitar.



Finding himself outside, Patrick set out, first to university at the University of Illinois, where he dropped out of the education program, and then to Korea, where he became a teacher, forcing him to return again to university.

The Interview

What would be the title to your autobiography and why?

"Pat Anderson: The Pat Anderson Story" by Pat Anderson. For clarity.

How lucky are you and why?

Medium lucky. I once found \$50 in a pocket of one of my winter coats, but I've also been pooped on by a bird.

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

I would take with me a stocked icebox, a bathing suit, and a towel. People pay good money to get themselves to a deserted island, and I'm not going to waste a free vacation.

If I could take you 300 years to the past, or take you from 300 years ago and into the present, where do you think you would survive longer?

As a history teacher, I can definitively say that I would immediately die in the past. I mean, 300 years ago people still died from scurvy and Mongols. I wouldn't have a chance.



Listening to his students describe how their projects will encapsulate communism in the 1970's makes Mr. A happy.

What's up in Elementary?

In **Mr. Dean's** 1st & 2nd grade class, critical thinking is currently a prime emphasis. They are trying to pull specific information from their reading to answer questions, analyze directions in math problems to execute all elements of the objective, and generate ideas as to how and why the world works. (e.g. Lotteria sells hamburgers to make money, not because they love us.

In 4th and 5th grade, March has arrived and they are feeling Spring fever! This month **Ms. K's** class are looking at biomes, including our own GIFS environment. They found cherry blossoms showing them Spring is almost here. In class, they are making up nonsense words and trying to find out what they mean through context clues. Math continues to focus on fractions.



EJ, Lana, and Adara examine their experiment in Mr. Lindsay's Chemistry class. They are learning states of matter.

What's happening up in Secondary?

A busy month in History class! **Mr. Anderson's** 7th graders performed their Kabuki play for elementary at the beginning of the month, finishing their unit on Japanese history. The 9th graders have been studying the Red Scare and McCarthyism, complementing their reading of the *Crucible* in English class. In 10th grade, students are hard at work creating a documentary about the Cold War which will be due after Spring Break. Finally, in IB history, the students interviewed several staff members about their memories of South Africa and have been reading history books to prepare for their IA to work on this summer.

Mr Kuntz's 6th grade just wrapped up a unit on informational reading and writing. They wrote short informative pieces on a subject of their choosing. Some of their choices included the Titanic, panda bears, Lionel Messi, and the role of women in World War I.

In 11th grade IB Lang and Lit, we are deep into the mind and stories of Edgar Allan Poe. We are focusing on how this American gothic master uses a mix of literary elements to craft such suspenseful and memorable tales.

Let's see what's happening in **Ms. Lee's** math classes. 7th graders have worked on Pi Link during the month of March. Each link represents a digit in the pi and they have constructed it for 2 years. They are up to 222 digits but plan to do more. 8th graders started their introduction to geometry. They investigated the different polygons with sides and angles. They celebrated Pi Day with trivia questions. Hopefully they all know that Archimedes of Syracuse was the person who first calculated the pi. In her 9th grade class, students studied Similar Polygons and Bearings. They are creating study session videos on these topics for the first time as a group.

Things are getting interesting in **Ms. Bokern's** Spanish classes as well. Grades 7, 8 and 10 are beginning to discuss an all-time favorite topic, FOOD! This will link both to health and nutrition, and also to foods typical of various Spanish-speaking countries around the world. Ab Initio continues to study narration in the past. Spanish B has moved from the topic "Dependencies and Obsessions" to "Technology." It seems a smooth transition in this day and age.



Kevin Wolf fingers his bass guitar during practice. It is a serious craft.



Musical Notes

Spring has sprung in music classes as well! For grades Kindergarten through 3rd: Students have particularly focused on singing new tunes in solfeggio and hand sign. In K, they now know how to hold the ocarina and can move through the no. 1-5 position with comfortable posture. In Grades 1-3, they have focused on memorizing new songs in words and do-re-mi.

The 4th and 5th grade students have practiced on a new piece for elementary band session 2 and have rehearsed on the stage once a week with Mr. Jeong, our GIFS residential instructor. They also worked together to play a goodbye song for their classmate, Aina. She sang the lead on "Hey Jude," while they backed her up. It was a moving and kind tribute from her classmates and friends.

In Grades 7 and 8, students have continuously worked on theory and practical practice. For this month, they actually focused more on learning instrumental skills. They have started a new Korean song for class band and are still working on shaping the English song that

they started 2 weeks ago.

After School Music Programs

-GIFS Youth Orchestra: Students have been working hard for this month almost without taking breaks during rehearsal. The first rehearsal went well, but they still need to practice for both sectionals and tutti. From now on every other Thursday rehearsal will be a grand rehearsal.

-GIFS Band : This group is really amazing! They have demonstrated very speedy learning despite the lack of rehearsal times Thank you for your independent and dedicated effort! The instructors, Mr. Anderson and Mrs. Lee, have such a high expectations for the GIFS band and are extremely excited to work with them during future rehearsals.

* Upcoming Musical Events

- WASC FAF (Fine Arts Festival) : Fri. April 29th
- Spring Concert/ International Festival : Fri. May 20th @ GIFS
- Graduation, Last Day of School : Fri. June 10th @ GIFS



Family Feature: The Guinets

We are a French/Australian family. We have lived in France our whole lives except for our two times in South Korea: 1 year in Busan in 2010, and now here in Geoje Island since 2013. Patrick works in a shipyard with a gas and oil company and Natascha has had lots of different jobs including hairdressing, teaching French, and nannying.

We love animals and travel. We have two dogs adopted from shelters here in Korea: Angel and Sam. We like participating in running races around Korea because there is always a great atmosphere, and also its a very fun day out and a sport we can all do together. We are actively involved in animal rescue here in Korea and foster lots of dogs from the pounds and shelters then re-home them. In addition, we volunteer at a shelter in Busan on Sundays where we walk homeless dogs.

Gabriel, Raphael and Lucy were born in France, but since we lived next to Disneyland Paris, they had alot of English speaking friends also. They are bi-lingual in English and French; although Lucy has forgotten how to speak a bit (she still understands). All three children love animals; especially dogs. Raphael and Lucy would like to be vets when they grow up. Gabriel loves reading and has a passion for history. Raphael and Lucy love music and often go upstairs to play on the keyboard and sing together; they are good at making up dance routines.

The children started at GIFS in Sep-

tember 2013, so this is their third year at GIFS. We all love the school and the family feel of it. We immediatly felt welcome and we are happy with how the children have progressed with their work.

We love the closeness of GIFS; smaller classes means more time to get to know each other and have a good relationship with the teachers. Communication between school and home are excellent. We try to come as much as possible to the school on special days like the September BBQ and Halloween parties. We appreciate the concerts and plays, but my special favorite are the Graduation Ceremonies.

I suggest to new families at GIFS to come to all the events at school, so they can meet and greet other parents. They should not hesitate to contact any staff member with questions because the teachers are always ready and willing to answer emails about any subject.

The most important thing I learnt at school was not to judge a book by its cover. I always wait to get to know people now to make my own opinion of them before judging or listening to what others have to say about that person.

I just want my children to be healthy and happy no matter the job they choose or the country they choose to live in whether it be France, Australia or somewhere else.



as confirmation about



about resource allocation.



for GIFS. I



(continued from page 2)
This is a good resource and allows them to set goals and record their after-school activities and reflect on their participation. It also allows for a record to be kept of their after-school commitments, which can be taken with them when leaving GIFS.

Mr. Kumar, Mr. Lynch and I have had two sessions, one with the grade 6's and one with the Grade 7 and 8's, where the above information was explained, along with how to record these experiences in ManageBac.

Please reinforce the importance of taking part in after-school activities with your child. As your child builds a portfolio of co-curricular pursuits over his/her middle and high school years, it becomes so much easier to gain recognition for these endeavours when applying for universities. Plus, this is how one becomes part of the extended Tiger family experience and carries memories into adulthood that are often more meaningful than pure academics.

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



GIFS Does Math Kangaroo!

GIFS is studying after school too! Math Kangaroo is the world's largest Mathematics competition. More than 6 million students around the globe participate in this competition. Last year was the first time this competition was offered to South Korea and we started to participate.

The purpose of this competition is to prepare GIFS students for future IB exams by ensuring that they have the opportunity of sitting assessments under formal examination conditions and to increase the participation from GIFS in the International Kangaroo Mathematics Competition to be on par with other established schools. Ms. Lee works with the older math students, while Mr. Dean works with 1st through 4th graders. Go team!





Advice from Mr. Wise

How should you be a role model?

Being a role model is not only setting a good example, but it is also being active when there is a fight going on between people. Trying to solve it also gives examples to people who are just standing there and watching a fight going on. So now you know what being a role model really is. I hope you do.

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



GIFS Off-Broadway: "We Open Tomorrow Night"

The drama club wow'd the GIFS family this March with their production of "We Open Tomorrow Night." Their play depicted a dress rehearsal for the GIFS student-run talent show and things weren't running smoothly. The PTA mom was being very pushy. The British act couldn't get a grip on the accent. One kid wanted to air guitar on pogo sticks, and what happened to the lights?

It was a smash hit! Over 90 people came to watch students sing, dance (both ribbon and hip-hop), do magic, say the alphabet backwards, and just act. The cafeteria prepared a yummy dinner beforehand, and the Student Council assisted by selling popcorn, handmade dolls and bracelets, as well as coffee and tea. Great job, guys! Special thanks to Chelsea Wright and Jillian Thomas for pulling it together!

