



The Tiger Tale

Newsletter



Spring 2017

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All the News that's Fit to Press at GIFS

Upcoming Events

- *Teacher Prep Day / No school for students* – Friday 3/10
- *Student Council TIGER Day Assembly* – Monday 3/20
- *Spring Break* – 3/27-3/31
- *GIFS Off Broadway event "Typecast," A one act comedy* – Friday, 4/21
- *Tea with Marjie* – Sacheon 4/24 & Geoje 4/25
- *GIFS Community Concert* - April TBD
- *International Night* - Friday 5/12



Recognizing Excellence: Eva McWaters

Eva is the first student in Mr. Dean's second grade class to read through an entire reading level of books during the KID-SA-Z.COM Reading Challenge!!



Eva raced her avatar down the halls of GIFS and to the "castle" in the library to save the fair princess, Ms. E.J. Kuntz, our wonderful librarian. She must be saved from the book troll, lovingly played by Mr. Kuntz. We are proud of, and inspired by, her tremendous and consistent effort. Go Eva!!

A Message from the Principal



Greetings and Welcome Spring (almost)!

It is hard to believe that we are now over halfway through the school year and Spring is just around the corner. As usual, there is always much to celebrate and more to look forward to as we reach this stage in the academic year. One of the things I'm most proud of is the amazing and awesome TIGER Library and Media Center! When we started on this project we had a vision that it would become the center of school life and indeed it has. It's such a beautiful space and is being used in many different ways. Our librarians, EJ

Kuntz and Jillian Thomas have created a welcoming and inspirational environment where students and staff gather to read and work together whether it's on bean-bag chairs or in study carrels, researching, studying, and working collaboratively on projects. Recent literacy events have included a Blind Date with a Book, Teacher's Favorite Books display, and an author highlight in the elementary library. If you love to celebrate books and reading, this is a perfect place.

Looking forward, I am so pleased to be part of the planning and visioning for the upcoming GIFS Boarding Program for students in Grades 9-12 beginning in the 2017-2018 school (continued on page 7)



From the Desk of the VP

by Charles Campbell

Dear Parents,

This week our Grade 12 students will sit their mock examinations. We wish them the best of luck during this stressful time. They are on the final leg of what has been an incredible journey as our first cohort.

IB Student Registry Reminder

Students in the Diploma (DP) programme can attract attention from universities worldwide by building a personal profile page in the new IB Student Registry. Universities can use the registry to search and recruit DP students and share their recognition policies. Furthermore, IB World Schools can showcase their profiles. The link: <https://registry.ibo.org/>

Since many of our parents are engineers, here is an interesting article on the IB and engineering: <http://www.theiet.org/policy/media/press-releases/20160818.cfm>

University Counselling

Please encourage your children to keep on top of their university applications. Recently we have had some surprises with students needing references and transcripts generated in a day. This can be avoided by proper forward planning and asking any one of the team for help. The university admissions team is: Mr Campbell, (continued on page 8)

Teacher Feature: Ms. Elizabeth McDuffie



Ms. McDuffie is originally from the Washington DC area. In high school, she worked at a restaurant across the street from the National Zoo and spent a lot of time exploring the U.S. capital on public transportation. Thinking that she was an urbanite, because that was all she had ever known, Ms. McDuffie moved to Philadelphia, another large city, for college. After two unhappy years living among economic depression and cold winter wind whipping between large buildings, Ms. McDuffie decided to peruse a year abroad and live in the tropics where she could be warm all year: a study abroad program in Costa Rica.

While in Costa Rica, Ms. McDuffie learned many things about herself that she never would have learned if she hadn't left the United States. The first important lesson was that she didn't actually like living in the city. Among the volcanos, beaches, and tropical forests of Costa Rica, Ms. McDuffie realized that she actually preferred to be outdoors in nature, not an urban park. She also learned that she loved learning languages. Perhaps most importantly, Ms. McDuffie realized that she wanted to be an ESL teacher. After being hired by a local kindergarten and language institute to teach English, she discovered that that was what she wanted to do with her life.

After her return to the United States and completion of her BA degree, Ms. McDuffie moved back to her home town of Washington DC to peruse her MAT TESOL and teach in the DC

Public School System. With memories of the Costa Rican wilderness playing through her mind, Ms. McDuffie moved to North Carolina where the weather is still temperate, but warmer, and there are vast expanses of nature and farm lands. Eventually she bought a house outside of the capital, Raleigh, and lived across the street from a farm, teaching high school at first and later at an elementary school.

Ready for change and another big adventure abroad, Ms. McDuffie decided she wanted to move to another country that would provide her a natural experience. She wanted a safe county with delicious food and friendly people. Sacheon, South Korea looked to be the perfect destination, and it was! Joined by her daughter, Maya, Ms. McDuffie happily teaches ESL and P.E. at GIFS. She looks forward to creating many joyous memories here teaching, learning Korean, trying new foods, and exploring the outdoors.

The Interview

What would be the title to your autobiography and why?

What the Heck Were You Waiting For? How I Discovered the Art of Moving on Faster and Letting Go of Things That Aren't Working

What do you think of garden gnomes?

I like them. In fourth grade I had several dolls I had knitted in school displayed at the Children's Museum in Washington DC. One of them was a gnome, so I feel like we have a special connection.

What's your spirit animal? Why?

A bird because they fly wild and free, or maybe a horse because they are strong and beautiful.



Ms. McDuffie wishes all of you peace and love. And excellent grammar skills.

What's up in Elementary?

Mr Dean's 2nd Graders are discovering that being a "good reader" is challenging. We are pushing ourselves to become mindful readers. Reading to ourselves requires more thinking than "when we were young" - when others read to us. Reading an assignment takes more skills. We are actively discussing story elements, vocabulary, cause/effect, fact/opinion, compare/contrast, and sequencing of events. We are involved in a reading challenge that shows our progress through "super heros". As we progress, we move actual characters with our smiling faces down the school halls, up a stairwell, and into the library. We're having fun!

In Math we recently spent extra time breaking down number stories. We've identified key words that give clues to the operations required to solve them. We're finding that even small words such as "has" and "which" give direction.



International sisters in Mr. Dean's 2nd grade class.



Our study of global trade is teaching us about markets, supply and demand, manufacturing, farming, pros and cons, and economies. We enjoy watching videos supporting our learning from our home countries.

Grade 3 in **Ms. Pattinson's** class has been busy learning about 'Living Things' this quarter. We have gone



from finding out that there are 7 criteria for something to be classed as a living thing – Mrs. Nerg – to sorting animals into groups according to their characteristics. We have enjoyed researching an animal of our choice and creating a non-chronological fact file about that animal. We have also created some amazing animal art work, which is now proudly on our walls. Now that the weather is improving (hopefully,) we have moved on



to plants and have discovered that scientists just love to classify and that plants are classified into two main groups. We have also enjoyed measuring activities in Math – as we are learning about ‘living things,’ we focused on measuring our body parts to see if ‘taller people had the longest bones’ and we also measured our jumps to see if ‘taller people jumped the furthest!’ We then created our own bar charts to represent the data we had collected. Grade 3 is certainly having an active 3rd quarter.

In 4th grade, **Mr. Smith’s** class delved into maps and explorers this past quarter. We learned the difference between a Mercator and a Peters Projection map. The world wasn’t where we thought it was! Science this quarter brought us

closer to earth with the rock cycle, weathering, and the philosophy of preservation vs. exploration. After all, how much of our world do we really know? How and why should we continue to delve into scientific discovery? Lastly, we also continued our maths journey into mixed and improper fractions. It seems no matter the challenge, GIFS 4th grade students rise to the occasion with good old fashioned grit. Well done students and parents!

First grade with **Ms. Gragowski** is full of fun and excitement. We recently celebrated 100 days of school, Seollal, and Valentine’s Day. We practiced counting to 100 by 2’s, 5’s, & 10’s as well as working on place value and adding double digit numbers. During Seollal we learned about Korean traditions

and customs that are celebrated during the Lunar New Year. Our class was also really excited to celebrate friendship on Valentine’s Day. We shared special treats and practiced our newly acquired letter writing skills. It was one of our most memorable days together so far. Our newest endeavor is to master the art of persuasive writing as well as adding and subtracting multiples of 10.





The 9th grade class put on skits depicting the “reality vs. expectations” during the Cultural Revolution in China.

ucts in the library to the fifth and sixth graders. Now they will begin a unit on argumentative writing and speaking dealing with controversial technological issues. 9th grade is deep in the forest reading Lord of the Flies and investigating the aspects of narrative writing. They will soon write their own narratives with richly detailed characters and setting. 11th grade has been studying the poems of Carol Ann Duffy for the past month and will begin preparing for their Individual Oral Commentaries, which will be their first official IB assessment. Finally, the 12th graders just completed a drama unit by reading A Doll’s House and Death of a Salesman. They researched and wrote about how the contextual background of the playwrights’ lives and the times they lived in helped to shape both the production and reception of the works.

What’s up in Secondary?

Mr. Anderson writes: Second quarter was dominated by the SKAC Model UN, held at KFS in December. GIFS sent students from 9th, 10th, and 11th grades, and we had our best showing yet. The General Assembly selected a resolution from our 9th graders to debate, Sheryn Putri gave an impassioned speech before the assembly, and Gabriel Guinet was selected as the runner-up for best delegate for his role in organizing speakers and questions. In the security council, Fardin Nasir merged his resolution on the civil war in Yemen with another student’s, made a speech on its behalf, and ultimately succeeded in passing the resolution. I am immensely proud of the very hard work that all my students did last quarter, and I look forward to the Spring. Next up, grading the IB mock exams for the 12th graders!

Ms. Thomas writes: Novels, novels, novels! 6th grade has just finished reading The House on Mango Street to reinforce our learning of figurative language, symbolism, and theme. 8th grade has just finished Laurie Halse Anderson’s novel Speak in order to reinforce our learning of diction, syntax, and imagery. 10th grade is currently beginning a poetry unit, starting with a poem about hope by Emily Dickinson.

Mr. Kuntz writes: 7th graders just completed a creative book report where they got to select their own book and how they wanted to present it. They showed off their finished prod-

Mr. Monaghan writes: In Science, students tackled a variety of topics throughout the second quarter and into the third. In 9th grade Co-ordinated Science, students are learning about the circulatory system in Biology and have just completed a pig heart dissection. Now, they better understand how the structure of the heart relates to its function. In Chemistry, the 9th graders are working hard trying to balance chemical equations and learning about the different types of chemical reactions. In 7th grade we are also studying the circulatory system and students got a closer look at a real life pig heart but they’ll have to wait until 9th grade if they want to dissect one for themselves. In 6th grade, students have their eyes to the stars as we work through our astronomy unit. I can’t wait to see how our students surprise me in the 3rd and 4th quarter this year. Keep working hard Tigers!



Musical Notes

Students have continued to learn the basics in music theory and worked on developing instrumental skills on the melody horns, ocarina, and class band instruments.

Elementary groups (K-Gr.5) have continued learning basic theory, sight reading skills in number and solfa, and developing on practical skills with musical instruments: keyboard for K/1 and Grade 3, and ocarina for Grade 2. Grades 4 and 5 have just started music class this Q3 and will be learning keyboard.

Middle School (Gr. 6 -8) students kept developing sight reading skills, chord recognition, and modulation with various excerpts. In addition, students participated in an introductory band lesson on the guitar for Grades 6 and 7. 8th graders successfully performed on the Korean traditional drum and are currently working on an introductory class band with new songs.

All middle school students are getting their

new mouth pieces for Q3 and working on chord progression on the keyboard.

Afterschool Music Programs:

GIFS Young Orchestra (Tues. & Thurs.)

GIFS musicians have successfully performed many musical pieces at the holiday concert! They are still working on new pieces every Tuesday and Thursday. Recently they have been practicing sectional parts for dance series `Kingdom Dance & Hungarian Dance` for upcoming events like a community concert and International Night.

Secondary Band (Friday)

Students have practiced a new Korean song and each player has almost got their part down. They are about to start one more new song. All members are continuously working on their parts at their own pace at home, too.



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year. I believe that this is an excellent next step for GIFS as it promises to grow enrolment and create a much more robust and dynamic experience for our students while it enhances the sustainability of the IB program.

We are confident that under the leadership and guidance of Mr. Thomas Hibbers, an experienced international educator and boarding school director, that the program will be a great success. Please contact Claire Anderson, Admissions Director, if you have any interest or questions about the boarding program.

Speaking of enrolment, our school, like many others in Korea, is feeling the effects of economic uncertainty in the oil and shipbuilding industries.

Our Geoje families are an essential part of our school community and we want to maintain and enhance those ties. To that end, we recently hosted an information session at the Admiral Hotel and met with potential families, students, and relocation agents to let them know what they can expect when they come through our doors. Elementary and secondary teachers, administration, and GIFS parents and students did their best to tell the TIGER story and encourage others to join our community.

In addition, we recently hosted an Open House for a group of families from Chinhae U.S. Navy Base who are also in search of a new school for their children. It is always a matter of pride as Claire Anderson, Charles Campbell, and I welcome families to GIFS, showing off the great teaching and learning that is going on in our classrooms, in the library, and in our IB program. Students are growing, learning, serving others, and making friends that will last a lifetime. What could be better than that?

Wishing you all a happy spring,

Marjie Carroll



(continued from page 2)

Mr Lynch, and Mr Jolley. We are always more than happy to help, but please come to us having done a bit of research first so that we can help you make the right decisions. Remember what I always say: choose the country and city first, then the university and course afterwards.

Summer schools

Some parents have asked about IB summer schools. In my opinion, the best summer schools for IB students are:

Oxford:

<https://osc-ib.com/pre-ib-summer-schools/oxford/introduction>

Cambridge:

<https://osc-ib.com/mid-ib-summer-schools/cambridge/introduction>

Also there is St Andrews:

<https://www.issos.com/programs/academics/international-baccalaureate/>

And Boston, US:

<https://osc-ib.com/pre-ib-summer-schools/boston/introduction>

Best, Charles Campbell

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

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