



GIS NEWSLETTER

22nd January 2019

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MYP Sleepover: Thank you!

We would like to thank all the staff that helped make the event such a success. The students enjoyed each other's company and a wide range of activities prepared by MYP teachers. They woke up to a lavish breakfast organized by parents – thank you for your support! We hope everyone has caught up on sleep by now.

MYP Report cards: no grades for Semester 1

Following the issuance of report cards last Friday, some MYP parents asked us why there were no grades on the report cards. Please note that in addition to individual, descriptive feedback, teachers evaluate student work by awarding levels (0-8) using four prescribed criteria used to assess the objectives of each subject group in the programme. The level teachers assign requires them to match

the standard of the student's work to descriptions mandated by the IB. Because most of the criteria assess skills, and we know skills take time to develop, the levels can be converted into an IB MYP semester grade only when each of the objectives has been assessed more than once. At this early stage of the year, most of the objectives have only been assessed once, so an IB grade cannot yet be generated.

Extension of the Primary Years Programme

To date, we have offered a 5-year Primary Years Programme (Grade 1-5) and a 5-year Middle Years Programme (Grade 6-10) at GIS. This reflects most of our international teachers' experiences from previous IB schools. However, we have come to realize that this model is not the best match for the Norwegian context that we operate in.

Many international schools that our teachers have worked in offer a continuum of education from age 3 to 19. This means that children at these schools start the PYP at the age of 3. By the time they present their PYP Exhibition in Grade 5, which is the culminating experience of the PYP, they have been in the programme for 8 years. As a result, not only have they had an additional 3 years of inquiry-based learning but they have also been learning English for another 3 years and when they start Grade 1 at 6, they usually have solid reading and writing skills.

At GIS, students are first introduced to inquiry-based learning when they are 6. In addition, for most students in Grade 1, English is a foreign language and they only begin to learn to read and write. As a result, they have significantly less time to prepare for the PYP Exhibition. We have consulted several international schools in Norway* to find out how they handle the issue. We learned that they extend the PYP by 1 year so it encompasses Grades 1-6. The extra year gives students more time to prepare for the challenges of the Exhibition as well as the Middle Years Programme. At this age, a year also makes a big difference in terms of maturity. Therefore, upon our recommendation, the School Board decided to extend the PYP at GIS by 1 year to span Grades 1-6. The Middle Years Programme will encompass 4 years (Grade 7-10).

Consequently, GIS will still offer primary and middle school education lasting 10 years and leading to the IB Diploma Programme or equivalent. The change does not affect the fee structure or have any other consequences. Current Grade 5 class will spearhead the change and remain in the PYP next academic year (2019-2020). Following classes will also remain in the PYP until Grade 6.

Please do not hesitate to contact Mr Armanski if you have any questions. Also, we will include the topic in our next PYP information event on 6th March. Please join us then if you have any questions.

*The international schools in Norway that implement a 6-year PYP include: Kongsberg International School, Arendal International School, Trondheim International School, British International School of Stavanger.

School support contact details

If you have any questions about the matters below, please contact the relevant person:

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Swimming	Ragnar Görögh	ragnar.gorogh@gjovikis.no
SFO	Marina Shalaginova	sfo@gjovikis.no

Swimming timetable

Grade	Date
Grade 5	24.01.19 31.01.19 07.02.19 14.02.19
Grade 4	21.02.19 07.03.19 14.03.19 21.03.19 28.03.19 04.04.19 11.04.19
Grade 1	25.04.19 02.05.19 09.05.19 16.05.19 23.05.19 06.06.19 13.06.19