



GIS NEWSLETTER

11 May 2021

Gjøvikregionen International School
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17th May Celebrations

Unfortunately, we will not be able to celebrate 17th May as a school community this year. However, we can join the rest of Norway in singing the national anthem at noon. We would like to encourage all families to participate in the singing, take a photo and email it to Mr Armanski at adam.armanski@gjovikis.no. We will post all photos we receive by 1:00pm on 17th May on our FB page.

Lost and found

Please note that lost and found items will be available at the main entrance at the end of the day tomorrow and next week. We encourage all parents to look through the clothes and collect their belongings.

Feedback from parent survey

Once again, we would like to thank all families that completed our survey a few weeks ago. We have already presented the results of the sections where parents were asked to indicate their agreement or disagreement with a set of statements about the school. The survey also included several open-ended questions where parents were able to provide any information they wanted to share with us. We have now reviewed the data and would like to address the questions and concerns that were raised several times each. Starting today, you will find articles in the weekly newsletter addressing the following questions and concerns:

- Use of the school playground
- Use of text books at GIS
- Differentiation at GIS
- Use of Managebac
- Teaching language, mathematics and science through units of inquiry
- Support for students with special educational needs

School playground

Upon establishment, GIS secured the football pitch located between Campus Arena and EAB to use as a playground until we could afford a purpose-built playground. So far, we have been able to build a climbing frame, monkey bars, swings and gymnastic bars.

Before the pandemic, MYP students ran an Activity Leader Programme for PYP students on the football pitch. It is a Norwegian programme, which trains older students to organize games for younger children during breaks. The programme was very successful but it has been suspended as we have had to stagger breaks in order to prevent students from different classes from mingling. Participation in the organized activities was optional and some students opted to play on the playground, where they were supervised by a member of the staff.

For the past year, we have used the playground less frequently. At some point, it was not allowed and when it was allowed again, we were running 6 breaks a day, compared to 3 before with the same number of staff, so we had to limit play areas to the areas we were able to supervise. As a result, the playground has been used by individual classes where the teachers have been able to fit in another break.

We are planning to install more equipment on the playground, including slides and zip lines. It is expected that these additions are ready by August 2021. Further plans include an obstacle course.

SFO next academic year

Attached to this newsletter is an application form for a place in SFO next academic year. Please note that places will be guaranteed for all students in Grades 1-4 if the application is returned to Mr Thoresen at leif.olav.thoresen@gjovikis.no by 15 June 2021. All applicants will receive a confirmation email by the end of June 2021.

Upcoming holidays

Please note that this week is short and school ends on Wednesday. It is a regular day; classes end as per the timetable. The following Monday is Constitution Day, so classes resume on 18 May. Please note that there is NO need to empty your child's locker this time.

Accommodation for GIS staff

We are currently looking for accommodation for two members of GIS staff and their families. Please contact Mr Armanski at adam.armanski@gjovikis.no if you are aware of 3- and 4- bedroom houses for rent available as of 1 July 2021 or sooner.

Wanted: supply staff

We are always keen to hear from people who can substitute for absent teachers and teaching assistants. This work can be day to day or for longer periods of time. If you know of a suitable person for this role, please encourage them to send their CV to employment@gjovikis.no

Contact details

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

Taxi (GIS)	Dennis Wanda	dennis.wanda@gjovikis.no
Taxi/bus (Kommune)	Ingrid Raasholm	ingrid.raasholm@gjovik.kommune.no
SFO	Deepika Senthilkumar	sfo@gjovikis.no
Nurse	Ingrid Julie Stadtler	Ingrid-Julie.Stadtler@gjovik.kommune.no
Covid-19 testing	Gjøvik Town Hall	Tel. 61 15 89 11