



Newsletter

From the Managing Director's Desk
Leea Gibson, Managing Director

Greetings. The school year is going well, and we are entering the 4th and final quarter. We have had so many exciting and interesting activities during the year which supplement and make the academics more interesting. There are many more activities planned in the 4th quarter as well. We thank all parents and guardians for their continuing support for our programs and procedures.

At this time, I would like to renew my advice to all parents to strictly follow up the day to day activities of your children. Where do they go? Who are they with at all times? How do they use their free time? If they are using the internet, what are they seeing and for what purposes? We are finding more and more students going to pool halls, night clubs, and internet houses for the purposes of negative use. What is frightening is the it is often the school that is finding this, and not the families. I urge you to know where your children are at all times and to accompany them. Keep up the same values for dress code, going out in the evening, and being serious about academics that your parents used. There are so many negative temptations and influences for our children today. We have to be the ones who keep them safe from those things. **PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE!**

Upcoming Events

Fourth Quarter-- April 14, 2014 to June 29, 2014

April 2014-- The month of Conservation-

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Save our planet!

Monday to Thursday, April 14- April 17- Open House Programs, No School in the Campus with the House Programs- Collect the grade reports on the Open House Programs

Friday, April 18 to Monday, April 21- No School, Easter Holiday

Wednesday, April 23- GSS Observance of World Earth Day

Saturday, April 26- Campus Level Academic Quiz Bowl Day

Monday, April 28- 4th Quarter Reading Contest Begins

Tuesday, April 29- Conservation Contest Deadline

May 2014--The month of Community

Working together to make the world a better place. Our diversity is our strength.

Thursday, May 1 to Monday, May 5- No School International Labor Day, and Ethiopian Patriots Day

Wednesday, May 7- Annual Worker's Day- Celebrating All Types of Workers and Careers. Come dressed up as your favorite worker.

Awards will be given for the best costumes. Make sure GSS standard dress code is followed.

Saturday, May 10- Regional Academic Quiz Competition

Sunday, May 11- Mother's Day- Do something special for your mom.

Monday to Friday, May 12 to 16- National Anthem Singing Contests

Thursday, May 15- Midterm Progress Reports Will Be Sent Home

Friday, May 16- Super Citizen's Day

Monday, May 19 to Friday, May 30- Priority Registration for Returning Families and Pre-Kindergarten Students of Returning Families

Tuesday, May 22- Emergency Practice Drills

Saturday, May 24- Upper Primary and High School Track and Field Day

Monday to Friday, May 27 to 31- Final Quarterly Tests

Wednesday, May 28- No School Downfall of the Derge

Friday, May 30- 4th Quarter Reading Contest Deadline

June 2014—The Month of Momentum

Keeping up our effort until the very end of the year!

Tuesday to Friday, June 3 to 6- Final Quarterly Tests

Monday to Friday, June 9 to 13- Review Week for Final Examinations

Tuesday to Friday, June 16 to 20 - Second Semester Final Exam Days (Wednesday, Stay home and study day.)

Monday, June 23- Full Day of School. Students collect the final exam papers and prepare for CDC.

Tuesday and Wednesday, June 24 and 25- No School for Students. Staff Development Days.

Thursday June 26 - ½ Days of School up to 12:00 noon for all students.

Friday, June 27 to Sunday June 29- Honor Programs and Graduations

Starting Monday, June 30 - School Offices Closed for Vacation

July 10- Final Grade Reports Available from the School Offices

July 14-August 8- Vacation Enrichment Programs

Mark your calendars for these important upcoming events!

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Spelling Bee, Science Fair, Super Sports Day, Holiday Celebrations, Cultural Celebration Day, Black History Month, On the Spot Essay Contest, Portions and How to Use Them, NASA Contest Winner- Second Time, Parents and Staff Appreciation Day, World Math Day, Intramural Basketball Competitions, French and Arabic Language Academy	
<u>** GSS Staff Qualifications-</u>	
<u>We never hire anyone who is not qualified!</u>	<u>4</u>

Read with your child or to your child at least 30 minutes a day.

GSS Vacation Enrichment Program

Monday July 14 to Friday August 8

- Academic Support
- National Exam Preparation Programs
- Sports Programs
- French and Arabic Programs

Great Program!

ADVICE, REMINDERS, AND SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION**2014 National Exam Schedule**

Grade 8- Wednesday, June 11- Amharic, English, Mathematics, Biology
Thursday, June 12- Physics, Chemistry, Social Studies, Civics

Grade 10- Tuesday, May 27- Amharic, English, Mathematics
Thursday, May 29- Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Civics
Friday, May 30- Geography, History

Grade 12- Monday, June 2- English, Math
Tuesday, June 3- SAT, Physics/Geography
Wednesday, June 4- Chemistry/History, Biology/Economics
Thursday, June 5- Civics

Keep your eyes on the prize GSS student, and keep reaching for the stars !

GSS Portion Division Strategy for Curriculum Implementation

Gibson School Systems implements the educational vision and mission which is summarized as the WHOLE CHILD APPROACH. The approach has proved in making the young people strong, creative, hardworking, ethical people of good character who lift up themselves, their families, this nation, and the world at large. To meet the objectives of the curriculum and educational goals the system implements different strategies among which is the portion division and implementation strategy.

The portion division strategy makes the whole teaching learning process systematic, goal oriented, and scholarly. It is a guideline for the teachers to focus on the objectives of various lesson plans and support the students to tackle to the contents of the curriculum based on the portion division timetable.

All GSS students at all grade levels have centralized portion division for each subject which is arranged in time, content, and page range in accordance to various student evaluation documents (Worksheets, tests, exams) which are implemented in Gibson School Systems.

The classification of contents in the portion division bases the flow of the curriculum contents which in its turn reflects the goals and objectives of the academic goals and the whole child approach at large. It is also helpful for the preparedness of the students for academic evaluation and for the system, for curriculum evaluation and revision. The portion division in all its dimensions has been found to be fair and square for the productivity of the students and for the progress of the school systems.

The portion division helps both the students and parents to go through the contents of the subject matter on weekly basis according to the schedule given by the institution. In this regard, parents can find the updated portion division for each subject in each quarter from the campuses their children are enrolled. Again, parents are here informed to support their children to study their lesson at home based on the portion division timetable so that their students will always be productive and high achievers in academic performance and in their life at large.

Assega Lemma,
 Department Manager
 Gibson School Systems

Grades 1 to 12 Parents, sign on all tests and quizzes so that you can track your child's progress.

**KEEP IN TOUCH ! KEEP INFORMED !**

Here are some great ways to find out what is going on in the Gibson School Systems.

Official Website:
www.gyaschool.net

Official Facebook Page: (See great photos of all school events.)
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Gibson-Youth-AcademyGibson-Preparatory-College-Addis-Ababa-Ethiopia/101145989940369>

Follow Us on Twitter: (Get updates and announcements.)
 @GibsonLeea

Email: gyaschool@hotmail.com gibsonschoolsistemas@gmail.com

By Charles Mwaura, Public Outreach Officer (indufolas@gmail.com)

Help GSS By Ensuring That Your Child Does Not Bring the Following Forbidden Items to School or To School Events.

We will seize the items and they will be kept with Mrs. Gibson in her office.

1. No chewing gum or candy	6. No radios, IPODs, or electronics
2. No make up	7. No CD's or games
3. No large earrings or jewelry	8. No sharp or dangerous items
4. No mobile phones	9. No inappropriate literature or magazines
5. No money	10. No intoxicants or cigarettes

GSS Black History Month Celebrated for the 11th Year In Gibson School Systems

By Hadush Kiros, Social Studies IQ Team Member

February was the month of Black History in which heroes of African Descent were remembered for their good work. Passing through life long challenges, they made a difference for the present day human development. Therefore every year in February, students present about those famous people of African Descent who contributed for socio-economic, science and political progress of the world. As a result, our students will have a best model from what they read and relate what they learned from those people to their real life now and in the future. The objective is to make all our students understand that if they work hard, they can achieve their dreams. In the lineup ceremony presentation, the following people of African descent were presented from February 10, 2014 to February 28, 2014. Those were Bessie Coleman, Thurgood Marshall, C.J. Walker, George Washington Carver, Oprah Winfrey, Bill Cosby, Kofi Annan, Jessie Owens, Liya Kebede, Abebe Bekila, Bilal Al Habish, Langston Hughes, Phyllis Wheatley, Martin Luther King Jr., Althea Gibson, Barack Obama, Derartu Tulu, Jackie Robinson, Maya Angelou, Fredrick Douglas, Harriet Tubman, Haileselassie, Meles Zenawi, Tewodros, Menelik, Rosa Parks, Colin Powell, Condoleezza Rice and Nelson Mandela. Quizzes and information given to the students in their communication books that helped to remind the students of heroic people. The poem of Langston Hughes was also read by the students.

Finally the Black History Month was summarized by the Annual on the spot essay contest and On the Spot Writing contest in kindergarten levels. The top five winning students were given the award certificates winner. On February 25, 2014. Thank you to all parents and families who helped to support this special month.

Students Excel in the Science Fair

By Dagmawi Belay, Science IQ Team Member

Saturday, February 22, there was a campus level science fair competition in all higher grades Gibson School Systems. Students had been encouraged to try to find ideas with materials that are easily found from their environment.

On Saturday March 1, the Annual GSS Regional Science Fair Was held. The host campus, CMC welcomed the guest, parents, the managing director and the president. The three upper level campuses, Bole 5-10, Mekanessa and Kolfe sent their best 18 projects. The program was carried out starting from 8:00 am up to 1:30 pm. Twelve judges, who were coming from 1-4 campuses, selected the best three projects from each science stream. (Physics, Chemistry, Biology at campus levels too)

Finally the program was completed by giving award, gold, and silver and Bronze medals for all participants and certificates for judges by Mrs. Gibson, the Managing Director and Mr. Mohammed Aden, the President.

The Staff and Parents' Honored On Appreciation Days

By Meshresha Haile, Academic Head

The Gibson School Systems is not only characterized by formal school curriculum but creatively and systematically integrated with various non-formal activities or events in all our branches so as to produce all round school children. Among the many activities taking place in our school are the staff and parents' appreciation days which are perhaps most appreciated and valued, as teachers and parents are the core stakeholders in the implementation of the educational programs and policies. This year the students and central office celebrated parents' appreciation day on Friday, March 21, 2014 and the staff on March 28 warmly and cordially.

Different programs were carried out. Administrators delivered speeches on the importance of the days and what must be done then. Poems, posters, slogans and decorations all around the campuses. Teachers and students in their part, conveyed sympathetic messages and appreciation to the parents in different forms. Parents were invited as guest speakers.

These programs are very important for us since it keeps the spirit and solidarity of the school, teachers and parents together with the purpose of giving quality education for the rising generation and we wished many returns of the day.

Cultural Appreciation Day in GSS

Tesfaye Negussie, Amharic IQ Team Member

Ethiopia is a Museum of people in which more than 80 different ethnic groups live together having various cultures. Cultural celebration day was one of the events we had this year. We celebrated this day on December 9, relating it with Ethiopian a Nations Nationalities and people's day. As Ethiopia is wide and diverse with different languages, identities and cultures but one country, so are our children in the school. Students are expected to know and internalize this fact that we are different colors that make the whole beauty in unison. We are all brothers and sisters and we appreciate and respect our different languages and cultures. We propagate this idea by dressing different cultural clothes that represent the different cultures and languages. By so doing, we help our students develop strong nationalism, love of their country Ethiopia, tolerance, and self reliance. Students wore their favorite cultural dresses and the top five cultural dresses in each sections were awarded prizes and certificates.

Other Great Activities at GSS

- **Biweekly Clubs
- **Daily Sports Activities (This is track and field season.)
- **Aerobics on Tuesdays and Thursdays
- ** Student Senate
- **Line Up Ceremony Performances on Tuesdays and Thursdays
- ** Character Counts Program Contests and Competitions
- ** Quarterly Reading Contests

2013/2014 Regional Spelling Bee

By Timothy Maina, English IQ Team Member

The 2013/2014 Regional Spelling Bee competition was the most exciting and competitive ever in GSS history. This was primarily because the students had ample time to prepare and also had been promised exciting prizes for the top ten winners. The event that was held in the Ethiopian Convention Center on Saturday, November 30, 2013 involved a total of about 360 students, selected equally from each grade level of the four GSS high school campuses namely Mekanisa, Bole, CMC, and the latest entry, Kolfe as a result of the campus level spelling bees that had been conducted a week earlier.

The competitions were lead by Mrs. Leea Gibson, the GSS founder and managing director, who was also the pronouncer. The event judges included Ms Nancy, Ms Agatha, Mr. Thomas, Ms Lensy, Mr. Eric, Mr. Nebiyu, Mr. Thabit, and Mr Nega, majority being ESL teachers. At the end, it was Mekanisa campus that had the majority students in the top ten list, with Hafsa Abdurahimid, a grade 12 student from the same campus emerging the first. However, it is Afnan Abdulaz, a grade 5 student from CMC campus who surprised many by emerging fifth. The top ten students were awarded special certificates, specially designed t-shirts and others prizes from the managing director.

WORLD MATHEMATICS DAY CELEBRATED

By Haylish Alemseged, Math IQ Team Member

Gibson school system celebrated the World Mathematics day on Wednesday, March 12, 2014 in all campuses. The Gibson School Systems always believes that this special event can help the students to learn mathematics quickly and easily, opens the door of success and directs their knowledge to the top. The school selected top 5 students in Mathematics from each section from each grade level and got them ready for the question and answer competition. Mathematics teachers were invited to ask Mathematics questions which were prepared for that day. Finally Mathematics books were offered to the winner participants as prizes based on their grade levels. The same thing was done for certificates. The speeches made by the administrators in the lineup, the poster contests in the Kindergarten campuses, and the badges worn by all staff and students. Made that special day much better than ever before for more information you can see the photos of the world mathematics day on our face book page www.facebook.com/pages/Gibson-Youth-AcademyGibson-Preparatory-College-Addis-Ababa-Ethiopia

Register your child in in July for the French and Arabic Language Academy July 14 to August 8.

Work force at Gibson School System

CMC KG	Qualification		
	Diploma /Certificate	BA/SC	MA / SC
Administrators	-	3	-
Teachers	1	27	-
Assistant Teachers	1	22	-
Total	2	52	-
Grand Total	54		

Sarbet KG	Qualification		
	Diploma /Certificate	BA/SC	MA / SC
Administrators	-	4	-
Teachers	-	34	-
Assistant Teachers	-	25	-
Total	-	63	-
Grand Total	63		

CMC 1-4	Qualification		
	Diploma /Certificate	BA/SC	MA / SC
Administrators	-	5	2
Teachers	6	41	-
Assistant Teachers	-	25	-
Total	6	71	2
Grand Total	79		

Sarbet 1-4	Qualification		
	Diploma /Certificate	BA/SC	MA / SC
Administrators	-	7	-
Teachers	8	30	-
Assistant Teachers	-	-	-
Total	8	37	-
Grand Total	45		

CMC 5-12	Qualification		
	Diploma /Certificate	BA/SC	MA / SC
Administrators	-	7	-
Teachers	2	45	4
Assistant Teachers	-	-	-
Total	2	52	4
Grand Total	58		

Mek 1-4	Qualification		
	Diploma /Certificate	BA/SC	MA / SC
Administrators	-	3	-
Teachers	6	12	-
Assistant Teachers	1	10	-
Total	7	25	-
Grand Total	32		

Bole KG	Qualification		
	Diploma /Certificate	BA/SC	MA / SC
Administrators	-	4	-
Teachers	3	22	-
Assistant Teachers	-	17	-
Total	3	43	-
Grand Total	46		

Mek 5-12	Qualification		
	Diploma /Certificate	BA/SC	MA / SC
Administrators	-	8	-
Teachers	8	76	12
Assistant Teachers	-	-	-
Total	8	84	12
Grand Total	104		

Bole 1-4	Qualification		
	Diploma /Certificate	BA/SC	MA / SC
Administrators	-	6	-
Teachers	14	23	-
Assistant Teachers	2	22	-
Total	16	51	-
Grand Total	67		

Kolfe KG	Qualification		
	Diploma /Certificate	BA/SC	MA / SC
Administrators	-	2	-
Teachers	1	10	-
Assistant Teachers	-	9	-
Total	1	21	-
Grand Total	22		

Bole 5-10	Qualification		
	Diploma /Certificate	BA/SC	MA / SC
Administrators	1	5	1
Teachers	-	60	-
Assistant Teachers	-	-	-
Total	1	65	1
Grand Total	67		

Kolfe 1-9	Qualification		
	Diploma /Certificate	BA/SC	MA / SC
Administrators	-	5	-
Teachers	3	24	1
Assistant Teachers	-	7	-
Total	3	37	-
Grand Total	40		