

GAA

Professional Development News



February 2017

Train the Trainer at GAA!



On Wednesday 14th December TELLAL leaders delivered the Train the Trainer course at GAA. Seventeen GAA teachers participated in the bespoke workshop which is usually conducted in Dubai over two days. Teachers from KG, Elementary and Secondary engaged in this professional development which explores a range of learning and leadership styles and how these factors can impact the design and delivery of teacher training.

Throughout the course of the day, the workshop engaged teachers in a range of activities focused on theories surrounding adult education and reflecting on personal preferences relating to workshop delivery. All participants began to think about a GEMS training topic that they would like to offer in order to complete their Train the Trainer certification. Some very interesting training sessions will be coming up soon on the OASIS PD Calendar, hosted at GAA by your colleagues!

Matt Broderick will be delivering a workshop on Digital Formative Assessment next month, followed by Gofran who is presenting an Arabic session on Kagan Strategies. Heather will also be presenting a PD on 14th March titled "Building Cross-Curricular Links in your Classroom". If any of these sessions interest you, please sign up through OASIS!

Here's what some of our teachers had to say about the "Train the Trainer" Workshop:

"I really enjoyed TTT because it made me look closely at my own practice and how I can improve the delivery of my sessions. The best bit was working with so many open-minded, willing, friendly colleagues who I had not interacted with before. Quite importantly, I had fun and this invigorated my teaching over the following days!"

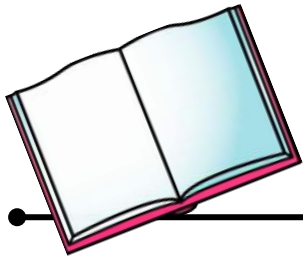
Matt Broderick

I found the training to be helpful as it highlighted how to present effectively and "market" your presentation well. I think a lot of the time we get caught up with content and our expertise and fail to spend equal time on how it will be best delivered. It was a great way to think about the elements of a successful presentation that sometimes fall by the wayside; many of the ideas discussed would also have a positive effect on classroom practice.

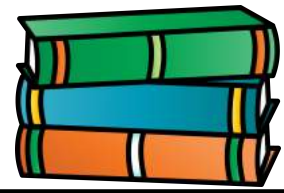
Patrick King

I enjoyed the PD tremendously. The trainers modeled excellent teaching and especially cooperative group activities. It was effective and informative.

Cindy Beck



Erin Kent Returns to GAA



The Elementary school were lucky to have another week-long visit from Erin Kent who continued to deliver professional development focusing on Reading and Writing Workshop implementation. Since the introduction of the workshop approach within the Elementary literacy program in 2015, Erin has traveled to GAA to support teachers in developing their understanding and skills surrounding this reading and writing program. Erin is an expert in her field, and her enthusiasm and passion for literacy is as inspiring as it is contagious!



On Saturday 11th February, Elementary teachers spent a full day with Erin engaging in professional development. Assessment practices, scheduling and approaches to word work were explored, followed by a full week whereby grade level teams worked with Erin to target specific needs within each cohort.

One of Erin's talents is her ability to deliver professional development that is relevant and responsive to needs. KG classrooms engaged in mini-lesson boot camps, Grade 2 explored the art of conferring and Grade 5 planned how fundamental literacy skills will be interwoven throughout the upcoming 6 week exhibition! Needless to say, it was a busy week for all! We look forward to welcoming Erin back in the 2017 – 2018 academic year for more exciting professional development!



Staff Spotlight: Lorna Newman

Our spotlight this month is on Lorna Newman who teaches French and Spanish in the Secondary School. Lorna recently participated in the "Train the Trainer" Professional Development. She planned and delivered a workshop focusing on Assessment for Learning at GEMS Cambridge High School on 13th February.



When did you complete the Train the Trainer course? How did it help you to prepare for your upcoming workshop?

I completed the course over 2 days in October. This professional development was really great as we learnt about training adults and how to put together a training workshop with clear objectives and engaging activities.

How did you decide on your workshop topic? Can you tell us a bit about it?

I have always been interested in Assessment for Learning (also known as formative assessment) and how we can integrate it into every aspect of our lessons so that we really know if our students are learning. It is also a great tool to encourage students to reflect on their own and their peers' performance which ultimately results in a deeper understanding and awareness of their own learning.

Staff Spotlight: Lorna Newman

*When did you deliver your professional development workshop?
Have you ever delivered PD before?*

I delivered the workshop to GEMS Cambridge High School on Monday 13th February. They wanted to learn more about peer and self-evaluation, which is a very interesting area of Assessment for Learning. I have previously given a short 'speed share' at our GEMS Languages Network in Dubai, a workshop at our GAA Languages Teaching and Learning Conference last year and also a session at our GAA PD afternoon. This, however, was my largest PD session with around 120 people in attendance!

How did it go? Do you feel that your PD was a success?

The PD went really well and all the teachers were engaged and enthusiastic during all the interactive activities. Feedback from the group has been extremely positive with teachers reporting that they learned a lot of new strategies that they can use straight away in their classroom – including one of my favorites: “Kagan’s Quiz Trade”. In reflection, I could have included more examples for elementary teachers as my session focused largely on the secondary division. It was a privilege to be able to work with such dedicated teachers and play a small part in their professional development!



Have you been involved in PD that you would like to share with the GAA community? We would love to feature you in our newsletter! Please contact Katie or Heather!

Network Leader of the Month



NETWORK LEADER OF THE MONTH - JANUARY

This will be based on trainer professionalism, workshop evaluations and feedback.

Matthew Broderick – GAA – Science Network Leader

Matthew organized a GEMS Science Network event at GAA where 75 teachers gathered to share best practice through workshops and presentations.

He also secured a number of resource companies to come along...
Congratulations Matthew!



GEMS have created curricular networks for most subject areas and age groups, with the aim of enhancing collaboration, sharing best practice and supporting each other. GAA are lucky to have 2 of those networks being led by our staff – Matthew Broderick runs the Science network and Heather Broderick runs the MFL network. Network events are held three times a year – September, January and May and the aim is to have each GEMS school represented at each one. The focus this year has been on sharing good practice and they are structured more like workshops than a meeting, giving teachers the opportunity to demonstrate their areas of expertise.

Matt, Science Coordinator at GAA, has grown the Science network this year incredibly. Their first event in September was held at Ferrari World and was hugely successful with many GEMS schools from Dubai and Abu Dhabi being represented and many of our Science teachers presenting a session (including some from Elementary). Matt's second event was held at GEMS Wellington Silicone Oasis in Dubai where over 75 people attended. External vendors were brought in to promote scientific equipment, workshops on a range of teaching strategies were offered and there was a prize draw to win a microscope!

Deborah Hennigan from TELLAL was present to witness the successful event, which resulted in Matt being nominated as the TELLAL Network Leader of the month! Well done to Matt and congratulations for increasing the awareness of the Science network and for helping the GEMS Scientists grow professionally.

Please contact Heather if you are interested in attending any network session in any subject (h.heatly_gaa@gemsedu.com).

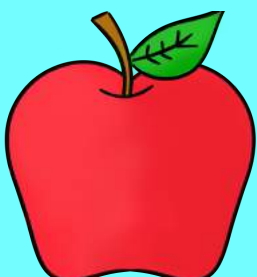
Teachers Lead the Way in Delivering Professional Development



Thursday 26th January saw the second “PD Half-Day” of the year being led by staff members. Having listened to feedback from the October session, longer workshops of 45 minutes were offered and an hour at the end of the day was dedicated to planning implementation of new learning into the next week of teaching. Staff attended two sessions and workshops were delivered on all aspects of learning including the Extended Essay for IBDP, Read and Write Gold, Setting and Achieving your Goals, Assessment for Learning, Nearpod, Jigsaw and Creating Innovative Communities.

Through our excellent teachers offering these workshops, our staff are being given the opportunity to learn and develop in the areas they requested at the beginning of the year such as assessment, differentiation and IBDP/ PYP.

It is fantastic that so many teachers have offered to run workshops on these professional development days! Many thanks to James, Farah, Alex, Michael, Shari, Walt, Lorna, Jen, Abhishek, Peter, Cathy, Nailah, Melany, Paddy, Shelley, Nadia, Katie, Jadees and Heather for offering workshops this month – we would not be able to run these days without you and we thank you for helping to promote PD within the GAA community!



Have you recently participated in professional development?

We would love to hear from you so we can feature you in our newsletter and share your learning with the GAA community!



Please contact either Katie Walker or Heather Healty to be included in next month's newsletter!

February 2017

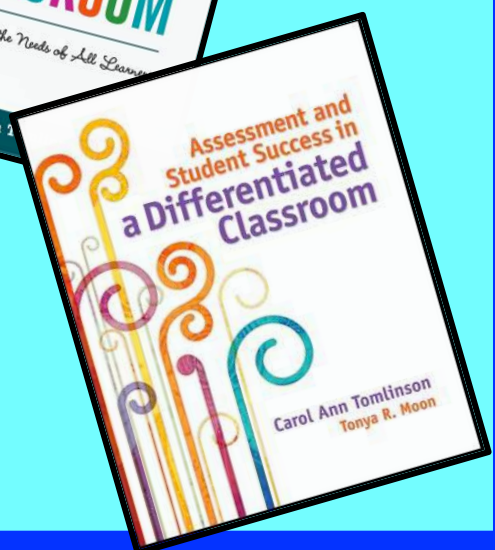
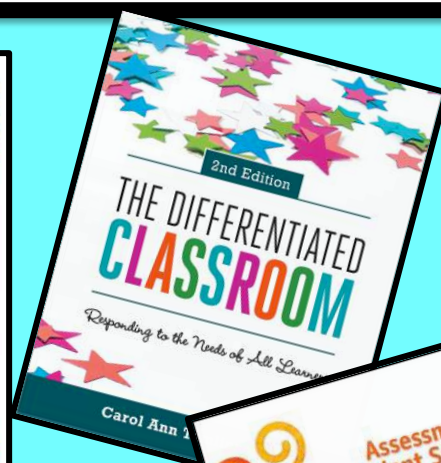
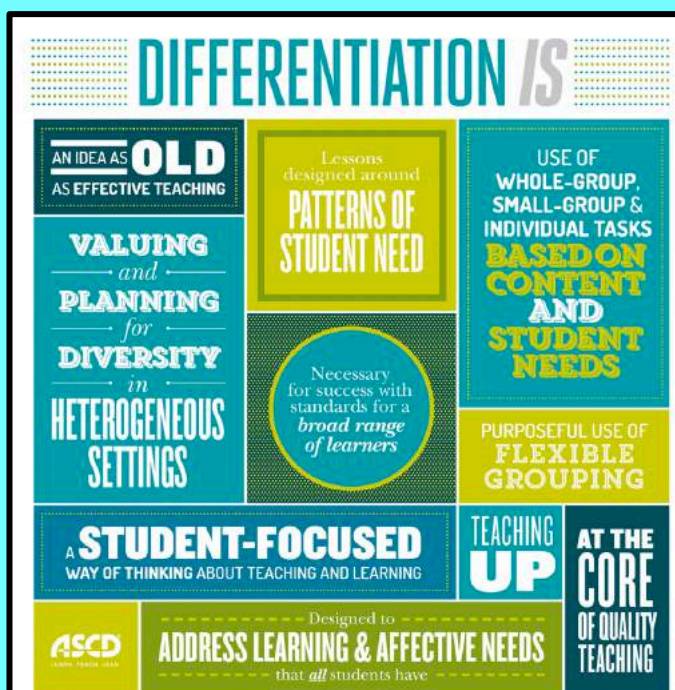
Professional Development Opportunities

Carol-Ann Tomlinson is coming to GAA!

Carol-Ann Tomlinson is an expert within the education field and is known best for her extensive knowledge and understanding of differentiation practices. Having authored over 250 books, been the recipient of countless educator awards and delivered professional development world wide, it is no wonder that she was ranked in the top five most influential voices in Teacher Education.

We are extremely excited to announce that GAA will be hosting Carol-Ann Tomlinson's upcoming Differentiation Professional Development in the new academic year! Stay tuned for sign-up – this is one PD you don't want to miss out on!

To find out more about Carol-Ann, head over to <http://www.caroltomlinson.com/>



Sourced via www.caroltomlinson.com

February 2017

Professional Development Opportunities



Educator Collaborative

The Educator Collaborative is a think tank and education consulting organization which seeks to innovate the ways that educators learn together. Founded by Christopher Lehman, the Educator Collaborative support K-12 educators in studying best practices, integrating technology in education, and learning from one another. A great range of PD videos can be viewed on their YouTube Channel! [Click here to watch!](#)



EdX Teacher Training Online Courses

EdX offers an amazing range of online education courses covering a variety of topics from educational policy and history to curriculum design and teaching techniques. Best of all, these courses are FREE!

[Have a look at the courses of offer by clicking here!](#)





February 2017

Autism Online Training – Free Professional Development Opportunity!

Over the past few months, Elementary SST Coordinator Shari Duhaime has been promoting a fantastic online Autism training opportunity for all staff at GAA. This course not only focuses on autism, but includes relevant information surrounding best practices in behavior management, self-regulation strategies, and understanding student behaviors. Here is what Shari has to say about this wonderful training opportunity:

The Geneva Centre for Autism has a free online class that GAA has been capitalizing on. All of our Elementary Educational Assistants, Learning Support Assistants, and SST teachers, as well as a number of classroom teachers, are taking this excellent training. One does not have to be diagnosed with autism to have difficulties managing their world. Therefore, this training is much more global than just ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder). The purpose behind getting as many people trained as possible is to establish a strong understanding of behaviors, what triggers them, and how to support students who struggle with self-regulation, communication, and managing all the sensory triggers that make maintaining appropriate behavior a challenge for them. The feedback that has been given from the participants has been overwhelmingly positive. As a staff, we are empowered to support our struggling students with more effective, research based strategies

If you are interested in this course, please sign up [here!](#)
If you have any questions, please email Shari at s.duhaime_gaa@gemsedu.com



Professional Development Opportunities

Upcoming GEMS Professional Development

Did you know that GEMS offer a wide range of professional development workshops each month?

Here are just a few of the upcoming workshops for the month of March.

To see the full calendar, log on to Oasis! If you are unsure how to do this, please see the following page for detailed instructions!

Date	Workshop	Time	Who is this for?	Location
1 st March	Making Learning and Progress Visible	9:00am – 12:00pm	All divisions	GEMS KGS
2 nd March	Digital Formative Assessment	9:00am – 4:00pm	Secondary/ Middle School	GAA – Delivered by Matt Broderick
9 th March	Kagan Cooperative Learning for more Engagement	9:00am – 12:00pm	All divisions	GAA – Delivered by Ghofran Zamrick
13 th March	Blended Classroom and Flipped Learning	1:00pm – 4:00pm	All divisions	GEMS Winchester School Dubai
14 th March	Building Cross-Curricular Learning in Your Classroom	9:00am – 12:00pm	All divisions	GAA – Delivered by Heather Broderick
2 nd April	Effective Teaching of Islamic	9:00am – 4:00pm	All divisions	Dubai American Academy
6 th April	Effective Assessment in Islamic Education	9:00am – 4:00pm	All divisions	Dubai American Academy

How to Search and Apply for GEMS Professional Development



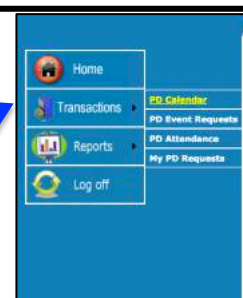
Log onto www.gems.ae and click the GEMS Oasis button.

Type in your Username and Password.



Click on 'Professional Development'.

Up in the top left corner, click on 'Transactions' and then 'PD Calendar'.



How to Search and Apply for GEMS Professional Development

PD Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23 04:00 PM - 04:00 PM: Local Governing Body Informational Session - CHC and Principal only - 28 SEP	24	22 07:00 PM - 4:00 PM: Arabic Network Meeting 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM: PDC Meeting, Abu Dhabi	20 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM: PDC Meeting, PD 04:00 PM - 06:00 PM: PDC Local Governing Body Informational Session - CHC and Principal only - 28 SEP 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM: PDC Meeting, HT 03:00 PM - 05:00 PM: PDC TELUS TRAIN THE TRAINER CLINIC	21	20	1 1
2	3	4 7:00 AM - 12:00 PM: PDP Process - Tools for the Trainer, Indian Curriculum Schools	5 7:00 AM - 4:00 PM: AES, How to use it VLE to support teaching and learning in Arabic	6 7:00 AM - 11:00 PM: PDP Process - Tools for the Trainer, American/IB Curriculum Schools	7	8

You will now be able to see the PD Calendar! Change the month by clicking here.

To find out more about a session that interests you, simply click on it. A white box will pop up with the details. There is a button that says 'Register' – but don't click this yet! You will come back to this once your divisional leader has approved your PD.

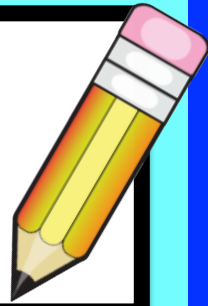
Date: 11 Oct 2016 To 11 Oct 2016
 Time: 9:00 AM To 12:00 PM
 Trainer: ZOY BUCKNER
 Max Seat: 30
 Registration Available From: 13 Jul 2016 To 05 Oct 2016
 Audience: Primary / Elementary / K5 / K12
 Learning Objectives: To recognise the positive effect of quality classroom management on a classroom setting.
 Location: Metropole School (MTR)
<http://www.gemsmetropoleschool-dubai.com/contact.php?objectId=2451&submenuId=6531&parentId=1458>
 Region: UAE
 Location: Metropole School
 REGISTER CLOSE

Application for Professional Development 2016-17
 Personal Details
 Your email address (teacher.guide@ad-edu) will be recorded when you submit this form and is optional.
 * Required
 Name *

Before clicking the 'Register' button in Oasis, you will need to fill out a PD Application form. This form will then be considered by your department principal, and you will be contacted by a member of the PD committee with further details. When it has been approved, go back into Oasis and click the 'Register' button. Don't forget to fill out a leave form if you will be taking time off school to attend the PD! Please see your division secretary for this form.

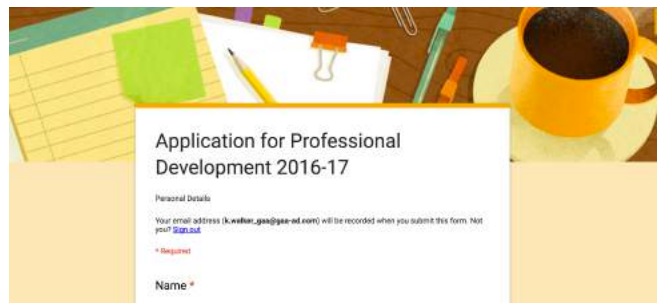
[Click here for the form!](https://docs.google.com/a/gaa-ad.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeqcuuYuTW85kf-KZhF_QDmudZk9aBfKlKdKlJbpQQXjIUJSQ/viewform)
https://docs.google.com/a/gaa-ad.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeqcuuYuTW85kf-KZhF_QDmudZk9aBfKlKdKlJbpQQXjIUJSQ/viewform

How to Apply for Professional Development outside the GEMS Network



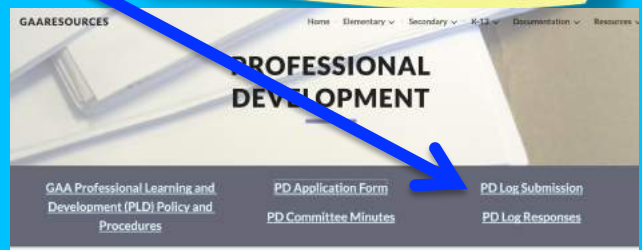
If there is Professional Development that you would like to participate in that is external to GEMS, simply fill out the PD Application form. Your division principal will then consider your application and contact you with further details.

https://docs.google.com/d/gaa-ad.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeqcuuYuTW85kf-KZhf_QDmudZk9aBFK1KdKlJbpQQXjIUJSQ/viewform



Keep track of your completed professional development by logging it on the PD Resources page. Click on 'PD Log Submissions' and fill out the form. This information can then be printed in the future for documentation/ accreditation purposes quickly and easily.

Don't forget to log your PD!



<https://sites.google.com/gaa-ad.com/gaa-resources/documentation/professional-development>

Useful Links



[The GAA Professional Development Resources Page](#)

[GEMS Education Portal \(Access to Oasis\)](#)

[Professional Development Application Form](#)

[Logging your Professional Development Form \(once you have completed a course/workshop\)](#)

[PD Committee Meeting Minutes](#)

Secondary: Heather Heatly
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Elementary: Katie Walker
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KG: Sally Potts
s.potts_gaa@gemsedu.com



Do you have questions?
Just email us!