

# INVESTITURE CEREMONY



## THE PINNACLE OF EUPHORIA

A leader is one who knows the way, shows the way and goes the way." Our very first Online Investiture Ceremony, held on the 31st of May was celebrated with great pomp and grandeur. A spirit of unity and dynamism filled the air as the Investiture Ceremony commenced with the UAE and the Indian National Anthem, followed by the Quran Recitation. Our Principal, Mr K. George Mathew addressed the zealous trailblazers about the primary qualities of a noble leader and the importance of self-awareness. The newly elected Prefectorial Board of GEMS United Indian School were conferred upon with their posts. Each student leader stood proud, prepared to shoulder their responsibilities with vigour, zest and newfound enthusiasm. The leaders were solemnified by the oath where they pledged to uphold and follow the principles and values of the school. The ceremony concluded with the School Song. The Investiture Ceremony 2020 will be an event that will go down in the history book of GUI!

# Message from the Principal



## **Good Morning Dear Student Leaders!**

This investiture ceremony is different and exciting. Different because it is virtual and exciting as we move into digital space to practice leadership skills. There is nothing innovative about this but it shows our ability to be resilient. When most people find COVID period challenging, we are looking for opportunities to improvise our act. This evinces our resilient characteristic as we adapt to new situations successfully. You, the products of Gems United Indian School are made of sterner stuff. You are resilient, responsible and ready to take up new challenges. You have the ability to turn challenging situations into opportunities to learn new ways of working. You are now going to join the league of Leaders! Most people assume and believe Leadership is a position, but I would like you to look at leadership as, 'Who you are'. 'Great Leadership starts with Self- Leadership'. Today, before you are invested with the crown or the badge of leadership, let us try to figure out what is self-leadership. While Leadership is to lead others, self-leadership is to lead yourself before you go to lead others.

The founder of VISA credit card, 'Dee Hock' said, "If you want to lead, invest 40% of your time in leading yourself". We, as a school are investing our time and energy on you to be Leaders. Therefore, you, as Leaders must invest at least 40% of your time on "Leading Yourself". Please make a note of three steps you can take to lead yourself. The First Step: Is Self-Awareness. Look within yourself, and find your voice, your personality, your character. Do you know yourself well enough? It is a kind of introspection. Go looking for yourself in this self-awareness process with a checklist. Prepare a character trait checklist. Ask all those questions on the checklist that you would expect other students, your peers to do. For example, if you want the students you lead, to follow discipline, be orderly, not use abusive language, be kind and considerate, respectful and attentive, and all the rest of it, you may to check some of the boxes in the checklist. If you draw a blank, it is because you do not have that trait! You may NOT be kind and considerate but expect others to be! You now realise that you have some Leadership deficit and therefore prepare a plan to overcome that lack of character trait in you. Self-Awareness helps you overcome what you lack. This process empowers you to expect from others what you have succeeded in doing. You expect others to be kind and considerate; you practiced it, and now you are ready to tick the box and say, yes, it is possible, I did it, so, you can do it too! Set an example by practicing what you preach. The Second Step: Is Self-Reflection: It is our practice in school, towards the end of the day's work, your teachers ask you to spend some time on Reflection. It is a part of our school practice. As a Leader, you may face several challenges while performing your duties. Spend either a few minutes in the morning reflecting and listing out the priorities you need to address, or a few minutes in the evening, to find out what went right, and what went wrong in performing your duties. This daily reflection will help you sharpen your problem-solving skills. The Third Step: Self-Regulation: The greatest challenge most people face in life is lack of time! Most people in positions of responsibility complain of too little time to complete too much of work. Since you will assume a position of responsibility, you need to work around your available time as a student, and that as a leader. Many student leaders get mixed up, and either pay attention doing their own thing, or doing the leadership thing. Self-Regulation is to prioritize, plan, and effectively use the limited time you have. Every meeting you hold should have an agenda and record the minutes. This is your opportunity to practice leadership skills. You can practice these steps to transform yourself and to bring transformation in the school. You can do it, and that is why you are here today, taking up the Leadership badge! Before we appoint each of you as leaders of GUIS, I would like to take you through our core values. By now, you have realized that to be a Leader, you need to transform yourself so that you can transform the school into a great school. You must also know that you need to practice Ethical Leadership. In order to do that, GEMS Core Values will guide you. Be prepared to:

Lead through Innovation  
Pursue Excellence  
Grow by Learning  
And be a Global Citizen.

**K. George Mathew**  
**Principal**

# Message from the Vice Principal



**Dear Parents, Teachers and Students,**

Trust you all are doing well and are safe in these unprecedented times! While we cope with the 'new normal' that COVID has landed us all in, it gives me immense pleasure to see how efficiently the entire Investiture Ceremony of 2020-2021 was carried out. This precision comes with a lot of planning, rehearsal and delivery and so congratulations are in order for the leaders who worked to make this virtual coronation possible! I'd like to thank our parents for being with us to witness the investiture of their child and am sure it was a very proud moment in each family! In our 5th year, we conferred responsibilities on 4 Student Leaders, 12 House Leaders, 1 Student Council President and 8 Vice-Presidents. These dynamic leaders will be leading by serving over 2500 students under their care.

This is indeed a challenge and responsibility to be proud of! The first step to being a student leader in the school starts with one having a brave heart. This is because many student leaders are greenhorns at the beginning of their leadership journey. I'm glad to see a good mix of new leaders coupled with some experienced returning leaders. The stage is set for some great teamwork! Speaking of leadership training and development, the SLT and Principal will be hosting a number of leadership workshops to broaden the understanding and develop leadership skills. We also intend to invite outside agencies (whenever possible) to address our leaders. All student leaders must now become excellent time managers as they will be double-hatting between roles as students and leaders. It is possible with proper planning, prioritizing, working with resilience and of course balancing relaxation and humour. Sure, a tall ask it seems now but rest assured, not insurmountable. I have seen over the years how students have excelled in their academics and leadership while not compromising on family time and self-development. I am sure this lot of leaders will exceed all expectations. Leadership is more about what others don't see than what they do see. What do I mean by that? To explain further, let me use an iceberg as a metaphor. The exposed part of the iceberg is what we do see. It represents the actions and behaviour of a leader. These reflect the skills of a leader in action. It represents the 'doing part' of the leader. The submerged part of the iceberg is hidden from view. It represents the values- and purpose-driven part of a leader. It is about the intrinsic motivation and intention to lead. While hidden, these determine the choice of actions taken and behaviour exhibited by a leader. This is the character and the being of a leader. I would like to conclude with a quote by our very own UIS spearhead, Principal K. George Mathew, as an inspiration for all leaders out there; ***"While 'knowing' is good, 'doing' is better...but 'adding value' is the best! Be the best!"***

Here's wishing all student-leaders of UIS a very successful tenure with great faith that they may add value to our lives and bring great laurels and pride to their alma mater and families!

Best,

**Shaikh Murad Sarfraz**  
**Vice-Principal**



# Message from the Senior Supervisors



**Dear Parents and students,**

GEMS United Indian School, Abu Dhabi always strives to inculcate a sense of responsibility and commitment among the students with their heads held high, ready to shoulder responsibilities as leaders. With the beginning of the new academic session 2020-2021, an online investiture ceremony was organized on May 31, 2020.

Initially, the candidates had submitted nomination forms which were scrutinized by House Mothers. Students presented speeches to all students and teachers remotely in order to qualify for the elections. A democratic voting procedure was set in pace which ultimately formed the school's Student Council of the year 2020-21. The successful candidates were invited for a panel interview with members of SLT and Principal.

The newly elected Student Council members pledged to work earnestly and uphold the honor and glory of the institution while receiving their prestigious badges remotely from Principal Mr. K. George Mathew. Vice-Presidents of various disciplines were remotely badged by Vice-Principal Mr. Shaikh Murad Sarfraz whereas, Captains and Vice-Captains were badged by Senior Supervisors Mrs. Sunitha Nambiar and Mr. K. Joseph.

It was a proud moment for the parents to witness their children being invested virtually with great responsibilities while embarking on a new journey as leaders. The Principal motivated the children to keep moving forward despite all the obstacles and challenges that life throws at them. He encouraged students to always walk on the correct path and be the change. He said that being a leader is a vital role and that the new Student Council would have ample responsibilities to shoulder. The ceremony concluded with the school song that revved up passion amongst leaders for service to their alma mater and the student community.

**Mrs. Sunitha Nambiar & Mr. K. Joseph**  
**Senior supervisors**

# Message from the President



“Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other” – John F. Kennedy. It is indeed an honour and a privilege to be elected as the President of the UIS Student Council, for the Academic Year 2020-21! Having grown as a student in our prestigious school, I can confidently say that I, Edén Elsa Luis, along with my fellow council members, have made headway to the pinnacles of success.

Under the guidance and support of our esteemed Principal, Vice-Principal, Supervisors and Teachers, along with following our GEMS Core Values – we aim to devise an educational, motivational and pleasant online environment. With regard to our present situation, a wide range of opportunities are placed before us – waiting to be uncovered. Be it studies, sports, entertainment or well-being. This, instills a sense of pride and responsibility in me; I pledge to keep the torch lighting the way, continuously ignited! Together, the UIS family will cross all obstacles and leap forward on our academic journey!

# Message from the Vice President



As we enter this online dimension, I want you to take a moment to realize and understand the challenges that we are inevitably going to face. We will, sooner and not later, have to face these challenges, so if we have to face it anyways, let's do it together. Smooth seas do not make skillful sailors and thus this year can bring out the best version of ourselves. With each challenge, we unlock some part of ourselves within, so I want you all to see each challenge as an opportunity, an opportunity for betterment.

We shall conquer each challenge and march towards success. No one will feel left out and thanks to the help and initiatives of the student leadership team, no one will miss this year of opportunity. Event management will be an area given special importance this year, and as your leaders we will, to the best of our ability, conduct as many events as possible to keep the loss of opportunity to a minimum. With your help, this year shall be one of the most memorable ones yet. And on that note, I wish you all the very best. See you on the other side, of the screen.

# Message from the Head Girl



"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

Being elected as the Head Girl for this academic year has helped me understand the gravity behind this quote. Teamwork is a compound word, combining team and work. It is the leader who combines the 'team' and 'work' in TEAMWORK and it is the leader who glues the team together. As the newly elected Head Girl, I, Candace Sara Ciju, will serve the SLT, the teachers, the staff and all the students of GEMS United Indian School to the best of my abilities.

My fellow Council Members and I will do everything in our power with utmost dedication to ensure that all students have a safe and enjoyable Remote Learning Experience. We will come up with initiatives and programs to ignite the fires in the minds of all our students. I believe that all our dreams will come true if we dare to pursue it. The Student Council will strive to provide the students with plenty of opportunities and learning skills to pursue their aspirations. Let us work together for success!

# Message from the Head Boy



I am Shreehan .S. Kate, a student of this school. I study in Grade 11-B1. I am the newly elected head boy of this school for the academic session 2020-21. It has been almost 6 months into 2020 and there is already a lot that has taken place. This pandemic has forced us to stay within the limits of our homes. The pandemic may have stopped all forms of activity, but not education. We have moved into an online dimension of education, where teaching takes place virtually.

Even though school activities would take place through virtual means, I will try my best to provide an ideal environment for all the students to learn and grow. I would try my best to come up with innovative ideas to guide students and will work towards betterment of our school. I assure all the students that they are free to approach me whenever they wish and express their concerns and unique suggestions to me and that will be taken into consideration. I assure you all that I won't shirk away from my responsibilities and promise to serve the school with utmost dedication. Together, We as the student council will carry out our duties to the best of our abilities and will look forward to the future that is in store for our school.

# **The Student Council 2020-2021**



Eden Elsa Luis  
President



Mohammed Touseef Ansari  
Vice President

## **Vice Presidents - Digital Communications**



Michelle Ana Mathew



Nithin Krishnan

## **Vice Presidents - Student Internship**



Saijo Saji



Mumeena Shali

## Vice Presidents - Performing Arts



Divyanshi Mohnot



Shreya Hazra

## Vice Presidents - Innovation



Tejas Penugonda



Jessica Liju

## Vice Presidents - Well Being



Rachael Biju



Abel George



## Vice Presidents - Inclusion



Jadin Anna Reji



Sona Mariam

## Vice Presidents - Environmental Engagement



Tavishee Patil



Rhesa Thomas

***“A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don’t necessarily want to go, but ought to be.”***

***– Rosalynn Carter***

# **Student Union 2020-2021**



Candace Sara Ciju  
Head Girl



Shreehan Kate  
Head Boy



Hana Rehan  
Deputy Head Girl



Pranav Rajesh  
Deputy Head Boy

***“To handle yourself, use your head;  
to handle others, use your heart.”***

***– Eleanor Roosevelt***

## House Captains - Jupiter House



Akshaya Ajith



Shaan Umer

## House Captains - Mars House



Lakshmi Sanjay



Arshad Abdullah

## House Captains - Neptune House



Neha Anna Bino

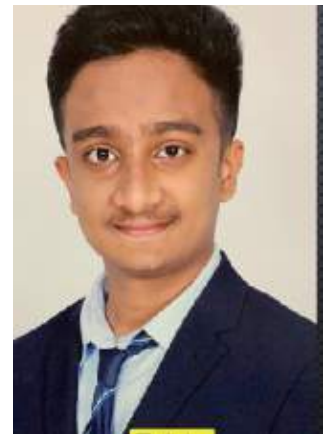


Prajod Ninan

## House Captains - Saturn House



Jayajothi Kumar



Muhsin Shali

## House Vice Captains - Jupiter House



Shevonne Jose



Rithik Menon

## House Vice Captains - Mars House



Akshaya Ahajoy



Parth Dinil



## House Vice Captains - Neptune House



Zayna Khuraishi



Raghav Vivek

## House Vice Captains - Saturn House



Anum Shaikh



Issam Iqbal

***“The greatest leader is not necessarily the one who does the greatest things. He is the one that gets the people to do the greatest things.”***

***– Ronald Reagan***

# **Feedback from Parents**

"The swearing in ceremony was conducted in an orderly manner, the student speaker guiding through the event was loud and clear in her deliverables and coordinated between the stake holders well. As a parent to see my daughter, Eden Elsa Luis, being bestowed with the highest position of the school especially in her last academic year (class 12) is indeed a very proud moment to be cherished lifelong."

**-Mrs. Sharon Joy Luis  
Mother of Eden Elsa Luis**

"The investiture ceremony was wonderfully organized and conducted online. It was the school's first-ever online ceremony. The ceremony was a proud moment for us parents, as we get to see our child embark on a leader's journey. It was a successful event thanks to the wonderful coordination of the SLT, Teachers and students. The planning that went into making this event successful was phenomenal. This investiture ceremony was a symbol of the resilient nature of the students at school. This programme was in accordance with the remote learning programme which has been such a fruitful programme, allowing my child to not miss out on his studies even while staying at home. I salute the school for their resilient nature which they have inculcated in the students of the school."

**-Mrs. Asra Ansari  
Mother of Touseef Ansari**

"The Investiture Ceremony 2020 was celebrated with great pomp and grandeur at GEMS United Indian School. As a parent, it filled me with great pride, to see my daughter, Candace Sara Ciju get bestowed upon the title of Head Girl. The several rehearsals had really prepped up our kids on how to behave in an Online Investiture Ceremony. I thank the Senior Leadership Team, the teachers and the IT team for organising such a flawless and amazing ceremony. Let's hope to see our dear kids conquer mountains under the guidance and mentorship of the SLT and all their teachers. Hats off to all staff of GUIS!"

**-Mr. & Mrs. Ciju Kurian  
Mother of Candace Sara Ciju**

"There is a saying that when the going gets tough the tough gets going! This is very well proved by our very own GEMS United Indian School. The School has taught the children the very important lesson of Life i.e., Resilience. It was a moment of pride for us as parents to see our son Shreehan don the mantle of the Head boy. We as parents have been witness to all the rehearsals which were going on and all the efforts put in by everyone for the Big Day. The Ceremony itself was another feather in the cap of GUIS. We take this opportunity to thank everyone for the grand success of the Ceremony. It has taught us that if you work hard you can reach the pinnacle of success. We as parents thank the teachers for their tireless efforts to make the Remote Learning a Big Success."

**-Mr. & Mrs. Santhosh Kate  
Parents of Shreehan Kate**

"It was a pleasure to see how well the investiture ceremony had gone. Nothing can be more elated for a parent than seeing their child on this great platform. The ceremony started with a beautiful Quran recitation followed by the national Anthem of UAE and India , continued with a mesmerising speech, delivered by the principal. The best part was when all the parents saw their kids taking the oath as a true leader representing their respective posts. The entire ceremony was fabulous and everything went in a very precise and perfect manner. Last but not least I thank all the SLT members and teachers who coordinated together to make this very first online investiture ceremony a huge success."

**-Mr. Ghazanfar Rehan and Mrs. Juhee Rehan  
Parents of Hana Rehan**

"I was very happy and privileged to see the first online Investiture Ceremony held on 31 st May 2020 of GEMS United Indian School. All the hard work put in by the teachers, the SLT, the IT Team paid off in the end, to create a wonderfu and well executed event. The principal's speech and address in the beginning was an exceptionally motivational speech that our student leaders should take notes from. The ceremony was truly a momentous and great celebration of the things UIS stands for and as parents, we are proud. The successful accomplishment of this online ceremony truly showcases the immense capacity of the UIS family to persevere even in the most difficult of circumstances."

**-Mr. Rajesh Krishnan  
Father of Pranav Rajesh Krishnan**



# Feedback from Teachers



The Investiture Ceremony is a proud moment for a school and if with changing times on a Virtual platform it is much more innovative. The Deserving young talents of GUIS ABU DHABI were bestowed with the responsibility of leading their School from the front with their commitment, confidence and competence.

To inculcate the leadership qualities in students and to give them a feel of functioning of the administrative body, a new school council for the year 2020-21 was formed. It was a solemn occasion where the young students were all prepared to don the mantle of leadership and discharge the responsibilities entrusted upon them by the school. Wishing the newly elected Leaders all the very best for a fruitful term.

**-Dennisson Milton**

**Head of Physical Education Department**

***"Don't follow the crowd, let the crowd follow you."***

***- Margaret Thatcher***

***"The task of the leader is to get their people from where they are to where they have not been."***

***- Henry Kissinger***

# The Pillars of GUIs



**MARS HOUSE**



**JUPITER HOUSE**



**NEPTUNE HOUSE**



**SATURN HOUSE**

# Message from the House Mothers

## MARS HOUSE



“For honor, we strive!”- Mars house motto does not glorify our house, it personifies it! The red flag of Mars symbolizes the vibrancy, determination, and wonderful ambitions of the students. Mars house hugely aims at acknowledging the eminent talents and prodigies of the school.

The house always strives to build an inclusive environment, where no students lag in their personal development. Maximum participation in events and competitions are always promoted in the house. While aiming for great achievements in extracurricular fields, the academics of students are never overlooked. Pastoral care is always provided at its best. Weekly house meetings provide an incredible platform for student leaders to collaborate with team members, and celebrate ideas and strategies. Overall, Mars house plays a key role as a strong pillar of the school, which supports and promotes the growth of every individual!

**Bindhu Zachariah**  
**House Mother Mars House**

# SATURN HOUSE



Successful leaders have "great vision – the ability to formulate and shape the future, rather than be shaped by events. We believe in our Motto “To Aim Greater Heights” The yellow colour allows every student and member of staff to feel a sense of belonging by becoming a member of Saturn House.

By being a member of the SATURN HOUSE family, students and staff are encouraged to show team spirit as all of the Houses thrive on the ethos of “playing your part”. We show respect through fair play and sporting behaviour; we are graceful in defeat and magnanimous in victory. All students have the opportunity to earn House points as they are all invited and encouraged to take part in all events, and everything from their classwork effort to their musical prowess and sporting ability can contribute to the scores. Saturn House is made up of tutor groups per year which are overseen by their Year Group’s pastoral lead and have dedicated and devoted House Captains to promote and encourage engagement in the House system. We the teachers and students of Saturn House are successful team-builders. However, it isn't simply a matter of acting alone. It's about involving the entire house and taking students forward together. I firmly believe that leaders show great determination, with the willpower and patience to see things through. Saturn House aspire to succeed and learn from every experience. We work together to gain great results! We strive to reach greater heights!

**Jalaja Plazid**  
**House Mother Saturn House**



# JUPITER HOUSE



"A leader is one who knows the way, shows the way and leads the way."  
"The strength of the team is each individual member and the strength of each individual member is the team. Jupiter house is not just a house but it is a team, a family where we all trust one another.

We all are dependent on each other and we work towards interchangeable achievements and share common attainments so that we can bring pride to our house. Our house Motto is "Labour with Constancy". It means the quality of staying the same even though other things change. The pandemic has affected educational institutions worldwide. But I'm proud to say that GEMS United Indian School has persevered through it by creating a virtual platform that allowed us to continue Teaching and Learning. The school has successfully created an online environment simulated to feel just like our school classrooms to interact with the students and carry on all house activities to the best. Each one of us is a leader who is gifted and skillful. We focus on our House motto and work hard together to achieve goals.

Thanking you,

**Molly Rinso**  
**House Mother Jupiter House**

# NEPTUNE HOUSE



"The house system functions as a unique platform for encouraging the students to partake in the extra-curricular activities. By actively participating in the cultural and sports activities it gives the students a kind of undying bonhomie. It also provides the children an avenue for a lot of team building activities including development of leadership skills.

Being the House mother of Neptune, it's really a great privilege to interact with the ever resilient upcoming talents. Not to mention the challenge we face, during this pandemic situation to engage students online. However, with their never ending enthusiasm and team spirit, we manage to surge ahead with all the activities planned, in the best possible way. For instance, we could successfully elect the house student leaders and conduct the Investiture Ceremony online, which was well appreciated by one and all. I take this opportunity to thank the previous captains, prefects, team members, colleagues, parents and the school management for their whole hearted support to the house activities of the previous year. As always, this year also we have a team of responsible and vibrant Leaders to lead the house successfully throughout the academic year 2020-21. I strongly believe and hope that we will be able to create much more success stories this year.

Wish you all the very best!

Stay safe, Healthy and resilient always.

Best Regards,

**Soya Ramesan**

**House Mother Neptune House**