

# ENVision

*An initiative towards a sustainable future...*

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ISSUE 1

## A call to action...

The world has never had a clearer view than it does today of the environmental challenges that face our planet. The pivotal moment to swing into action has long been past. The need to act now is imperative.

Over the last decade the world has changed. The issues that face us must inspire us all to act. The GEMS Legacy School have been leaders in sustainability and believe that we as a community can lead the charge of building a better future together with our parents.

Together as a community, I believe we have the capability to make a real, positive and lasting difference to the planet and society. The GLS community have been addressing several changes by ensuring the banning of single use plastic on the school campus, organizing plogging activities to rid our city of plastic waste and we will shortly be transitioning to renewable energy using solar panels on our campus.

We're harnessing our power to encourage change beyond our school in the wider GEMS community and across the world.

For too long, we have overlooked and taken nature for granted. To ensure that we return to nature and help her flourish we had committed to planting 15,000 trees every year through the Plant A Legacy #PAL program which is now a worldwide phenomenon. We can't do this alone. We're working with our twinning schools around the world to drive the systemic change that's needed to protect and regenerate the natural world.

It gives me great pleasure to launch the Envision Newsletter to empower the young leaders of GLS to take the lead in being the change they wish to see. They are the inheritors of this planet and their voices must be heard. And as they raise their voices through this platform, we hope it will be a harbinger for a brighter tomorrow, not just at GEMS Legacy but for the world at large.



**Ms. Asha Alexander**  
Principal / CEO

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# Eco-Action

## SCOPE

Young students from across the world are today more aware about the global concerns. They are ready to voice out their opinions and share their thoughts on the most pressing problems that the world is facing, the biggest challenge being climate change.

Having represented EduCCate Global at COP 25 in Madrid, Mrs. Asha Alexander, Principal, GEMS Legacy School, Dubai, solicits the educators in the schools in the UAE and the world to garner support for combating this burning global issue of climate change collaboratively. Her visit to COP 25 set the foundation for the launching of SCOPE.

To provide student voices a common platform, GEMS Legacy School launched SCOPE - School Conference of Parties, Expo - a first ever, school conference in the year 2020. This conference motivates students from different parts of the world to collaborate and raise voice against climate change and other pressing global issues. We've completed two successful years since then.

The purpose of SCOPE is to empower students with high levels of climate change awareness, deep climate change research and collaborative global problem-solving skills. This inter-school conference caters to stimulating creative thinking skills and expressions of the generation.





# Eco-Action

## GEMS PLOGGING

GEMS Legacy School, Dubai launched 'Plogging' event in the UAE in partnership with DULSCO, as an initiative to bring the GEMS Global Ambassadors together on a common mission.

A firm believer in leading a healthy, sustainable life, Mrs. Asha Alexander, our Principal encourages everyone to maintain a healthy lifestyle and combine it with working towards a sustainable environment.

Plogging is an organized activity that started in Sweden in 2016, which gained momentum globally with increasing awareness of the concerns associated with the growing plastic pollution. The term was coined by Erik Ahlström referring to the act of picking up trash and litter while jogging. It is a portmanteau of the Swedish term plocka upp, which means 'to pick up' and jog.



"The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it."

Robert Swan





# Eco-Action

## ORGANIC GARDEN



We believe that young minds should be nurtured by allowing them to discover their own learning and create memories. The greatest way to help our children realize this is to show them the benefits of having their own piece of green space, and to let them experience the delight of planting seeds, caring for them, and watching them grow. Our organic vegetable garden on campus is a method for us to expand our students' learning by allowing them to engage in sustainable practices.

It's an ideal opportunity for us to assist our students learn in new and exciting ways.





# Envisioning A Brighter Future

## *Small Steps Become Big Strides Towards Sustainability...*

Little drops of water make a mighty ocean. Every effort counts. Each one of us has a vital role to play in conserving the environment. Every sustainable action, no matter how small, is a step towards helping our environment. By taking action, you can make a difference and encourage your family and friends become more environmentally aware. If you want to become an Eco Champion, here are a few simple ideas you can incorporate in your daily life.



### EXPLORE THE NATURE

Visit a beach, a park, a wadi, an animal conservation area, or any outdoor space that appeals to you. Experiencing nature firsthand and breathing fresh air will help foster a sense of gratitude towards Mother Earth.



### CREATE A GARDEN

If space permits, create a small garden  at home. You can plant a variety of flowers, or even better, fruits and vegetables. If this isn't possible, keep a few indoor potted plants in your home.

### MAKE A DONATION

If you have items you have outgrown, such as clothes, toys and books, donate it to a charity organization instead of throwing it away. Your old items can be reused by someone else.

### START RECYCLING

Recycling at school and at home is easy. Put aside a few boxes and sort your recyclables, such as paper, glass, plastic, aluminum and tin cans, into each dedicated box. Make sure items are clean and dry before sorting.



### BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Join your family, friends or school for a beach or desert clean up – it is a fun and practical way to learn about conserving and protecting the environment.

### REFUSE SINGLE USE PLASTIC

To reduce the consumption of plastic, use reusable bottles, lunch boxes and cutlery when packing lunches or snacks for school.



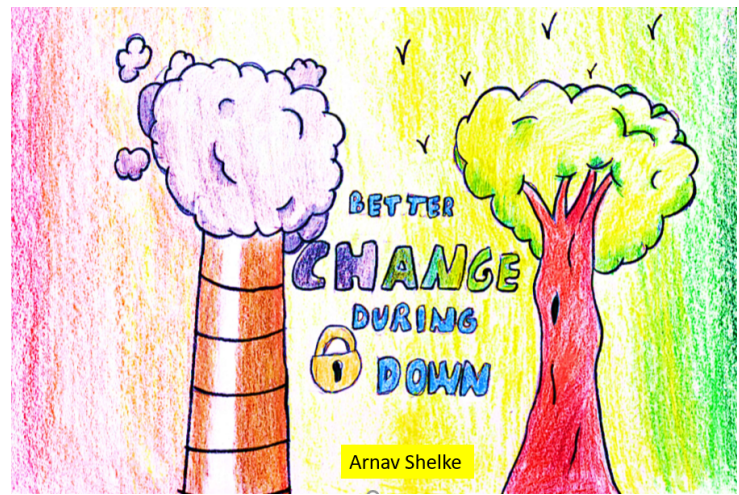
### CONSERVE WATER AND ELECTRICITY

There are easy ways to save water and electricity – don't leave the tap running while brushing your teeth or washing your hands, and switching off lights, TVs, computers and other appliances when not in use.

*Crescentia Cardoz*

*Communication and CSR Manager, DULSCO*

# Eco Art



## CREATING A MASTERPIECE

### TANVEER AKBAR

Tanveer Akbar is a graphic designer and contemporary artist from Dubai. He is also a former student of GEMS Legacy School and is now pursuing his BFA at Chicago's School of the Art Institute. He uses a combination of traditional drawing, painting, and digital software in his work. His work has been showcased in many exhibitions held in Dubai and Chicago.



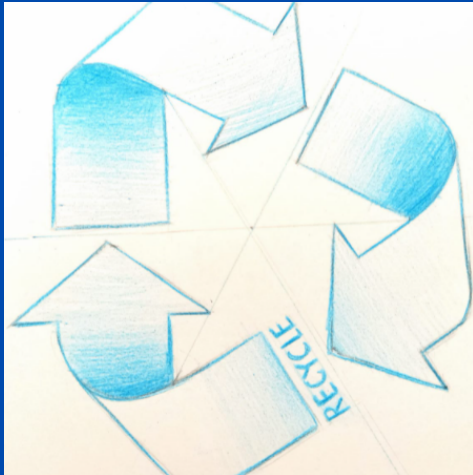


# Eco Facts

## Origin of the Mobius Loop...

The recycling symbol was designed to coincide with the first Earth Day in 1970 to help to promote the benefits of recycling and raise awareness about environmental issues. Gary Anderson, a student at the University of Southern California designed the symbol and won the contest sponsored by Container Corporation of America, this symbol has since been adopted worldwide as the symbol of recycling since then.

*Artwork by Mr. Pravin Shimpi*



## Bee Amazed...

Honeybees pollinate nearly 80% of the world's crops, yet they're dying at alarmingly high rates, as a result of global warming and pesticide poisoning. Pollinator-dependent plants would perish without bees. You may aid the bees by planting pollinator-friendly plants and buying local honey products to support local beekeepers.

*Artwork by Mr. Geoffrey Blaquiére*



## Save the Cassowary...

The 'dinosaur bird,' which is said to have inhabited the globe for almost 30,000 years, is in danger of extinction. Due to habitat destruction, vehicle collisions, and the growing frequency of natural catastrophes, the Cassowary has been classified as an Endangered species. For seed dispersion, many plants rely on cassowaries. The rainforest's structure would be threatened without them.

*Artwork by Ms. Divya Suratkal*



# Echoes of Change...



## How education helps in spreading awareness about Climate Change?

Education plays an important role in one's life. With millions of children lacking access to education, this is one of the world's most pressing issues. Poverty and discrimination are the main consequences of this problem. So, given all of this, how can education aid in raising awareness and taking action to combat climate change?

Climate change is a worldwide problem that we must address. The only way to do this is to be literate.

Our curriculum at GLS is structured in such a way that Climate literacy is woven into every topic. Have you noticed how all of our creative writing prompts and big questions in Math are linked to one or more of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals?

Our school has implemented climate literacy, which teaches me about my influence on the environment as well as the climate's impact on me and society. A climate educated person should be able to take meaningful steps to reduce climate change and raise awareness about it.



Education has the potential to have a significant positive impact on our planet, since many individuals around the world will be able to raise awareness and take action. Imagine a world where everyone gets an education and we all work together to solve this problem, regardless of age, size, gender, or ethnicity.

**Hana Mohammed Suneer, 5 E**

# Echoes of Change...

## How can we conserve our natural resources?

Sustainability is the act of responsibility so that the resources on the planet will be able to meet the needs of future generations.

We should conserve natural resources and reduce pollution to conserve the flora and fauna and preserve oceans and other water bodies. Reducing pollution prevents the global rise in temperature, rise in sea level, and drastic weather changes. We should live in a way that we do not disturb the balance of the environment and leave fewer carbon footprints. “Reuse, Reduce and Recycle” should be our motto for not only plastic but for all our commodities. All that we use in our day-to-day life should be for long-term use as much as possible. Recycling plastic reduces its harmful effects on the environment.

Segregation and recycling of wastes are important steps towards reducing the wastes that go into landfills.

Everyone should try to grow at least some food for themselves to reduce the carbon emissions during agriculture. We should also reduce pesticides and harmful chemicals. Consumption of animal products needs to be minimized. People should be given the right kind of awareness and education so that they follow sustainable practices. Small steps need to be taken from the school itself to cultivate the right behavior. Remember there is no planet B, we have to take care of the one we have!

**Vibha Anish, 5 E**



## How to make schools more Eco-Friendly?

GEMS Legacy School motivates the students to protect the environment and take steps to eliminate climate change.

Implementing these practices in school will give the students an example to follow in their daily lives.

There are many steps that are affordable & practical, are already being used in our school. Some of these practices are:

- Indoor plants in classrooms for cleaner air
- Waste segregation & Recycling
- Planting more trees (Plant a Legacy Project)
- Having educational trips which help students to empathize with environmental problems and suggest solutions

These small practices by each school across the globe will help the environment with a big impact!

**Mikhail Kuruvilla, 5 I**



# Echoes of Change...

## How is Climate Change affecting the weather?

These days climate change and global warming have taken over the top charts of topics to talk about. It has really spread across the world to a fact that people take it as a common problem which can easily be solved but that's not the truth. The impact of climate change can really cause potential problems such as overheated summers with unbearable heat and Global Warming. Deforestation and pollution are two of the most prominent reasons that contribute to this global crisis. To be more precise, factory smoke contains greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming and as a result of deforestation, less oxygen and more carbon dioxide are released into the atmosphere, causing climate change.



We can't stop climate change from happening, but we can slow it down and reduce its affects.

Our school, launched the "Plant a Legacy" campaign, aiming to plant at least 15,000 trees per year as a commitment towards the environment.

Let us pledge to plant a tree not only to mitigate climate change but boost biodiversity, reduce carbon foot prints, provide shade, improve air quality, preserve soil and support wild life.



**Aryan Sankar, 5 C**



# Echoes of Change...



## How can we create a sustainable future?



With the onset of a pandemic, in 2020 when the world went into lockdown, Mother Earth started repairing itself from the years of distress human beings caused to it. Now with the world starting to come back to its new-normal, we are once again straining the planet, we call home.

Climate change is a big problem. It is a threat to both, us and the planet. It affects everything. Glaciers are melting, the Earth is getting warmer, flowers are blooming earlier. The list goes on and on. These are the effects of climate change and we are the cause. Fortunately, for every problem there is a solution, and it starts with you. We can all help change the future, sustainably.

Our school, the GEMS Legacy School has taken many initiatives to create a sustainable future. One of our initiatives is PAL [Plant a Legacy] to plant trees for a better future. Our goal was to plant 15000 trees as a school. We reached our goal and we continue to plant a legacy. We also have an e-waste collection drive, recycling plastic bottles campaign, no-plastic campaign, beach clean-ups, waste segregation and composting. We also took the Sustainable Diet course by the UNCC.

These are some of the initiatives we have taken as a school to make the future sustainable. Now it's your turn. There are many things we can all do to help create a sustainable future. It may be something small but it can lead to a big change. The best thing you can do is change your lifestyle choices and others will follow.

It may be a big step for all of us but together we can help build a sustainable future. We have begun our journey and we continue with our sustainable initiatives. Let's all play our part and make a difference in creating a sustainable society. Together we can, together we will!

**Michelle Liz Dennis, 5 E**

# Echoes of Change...

## How do we spread awareness about climate change?

Many individuals underestimate climate change because they associate it with global warming and do not believe it exists. It is, nonetheless, a major and developing worry. The first step in addressing climate change is to correct this misconception. By emphasizing the overwhelming evidence that climate change is real, the need to work to mitigate it will become clear. Climate change can be slowed by action.

Human activities and the generation of greenhouse gases have a significant impact on climate change. The effects of global warming will be less severe if the world's carbon footprint is reduced.

Many drops of water make a mighty ocean, all the awareness we spread can help mitigate climate change.

I am a student at the Gems Legacy school and we do many things to create awareness about climate change.

a) Education is the key to address climate change and so our school has embedded climate literacy in the curriculum. This makes the students environmentally aware and motivates them to take climate action.

a) The students are encouraged to participate in projects related to Sustainable Development Goals. It helps students to empathize with world problems and suggest solutions.

c) Banning the single use plastic has helped reduce plastic waste in our school. The eco ambassadors approach the nearby restaurants to create awareness and encourage them to use paper bags instead of plastic bags.

Together we can be a powerful force for a more peaceful, healthy, and sustainable world!



**Joanna Bennett, 5 B**

# Upcoming Eco Events

## Empathy Towards Nature

In accordance with the ban on single-use plastic bags, GLS has launched the "Empathy towards Nature" project, in which pupils will paint their own cloth bags. These bags will consciously eliminate our use of plastic and limit the quantity of plastic that ends up in landfills or in our seas.



## Rethink Plastic Innovation Challenge

It is an opportunity for students to present a business idea or create a product that reuses or recycles plastic to support a circular economy.

## THE GREAT BATTERY CHALLENGE

Every year, millions of batteries are purchased in the UAE, with the majority of them ending up in landfills. It could take up to 100 years for these batteries to degrade. Batteries are made up of useful components including steel and zinc, which may be recycled easily like newspapers, soft drink cans, and plastic bottles. In September 2018, Bee'ah signed a partnership with Duracell and launched a new interactive recycling competition "The Great Battery Challenge." The students of GEMS Legacy are participating in the 3rd edition, and will collect as many used batteries as possible inside the special bin that Bee'ah has provided to the school. The competition will run from January 2022 until June 2022. We encourage all students to join us in this sustainable campaign.



# Editorial Team



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