



Grizzly Gazette

OCTOBER 2, 2025

Hello GIS Community,

As we officially enter the fall season, the weather is beginning to change, and so is the energy around our school. We're excited for all that the coming month has in store!

In this newsletter, we're highlighting some of the key events and projects currently underway. We invite you to be a part of them — especially the *Cultural Night Cookbook* and the *Book Fair*. These initiatives are meaningful opportunities to celebrate our diverse community, but they rely on your involvement to truly come to life. Your participation plays a vital role in enriching your student's school experience, and we warmly encourage you to contribute. At GIS, we aim to embrace and celebrate all cultures that make up our community — and your voice matters.

Please read through the newsletter, and don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or suggestions. We look forward to hearing from you!

Warm regards,
Ms. Svitlana
GIS Parent Liaison

2025 Fall Newsletter: GIS Parent Liaison Project

GIS Culture Night Cook Book Project



Hello GIS Families!

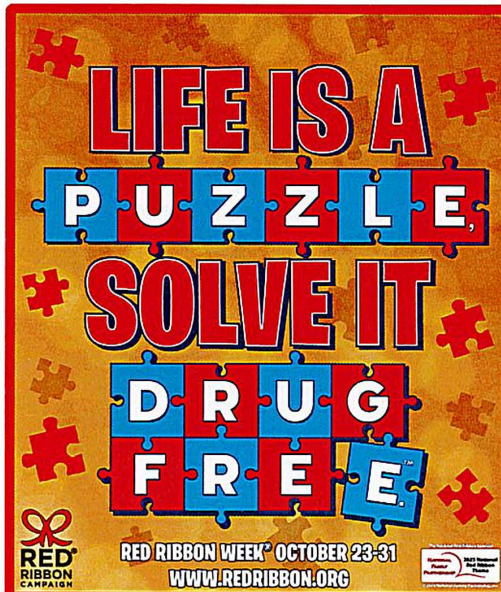
We are looking for recipes for a GIS Culture Night Cook Book project we are putting together. Do you have a recipe that is special to your family? We'd love to include it. Cook books will be sold at our GIS Culture Night on January 29.

Please fill out this Google Form:

<https://forms.gle/ZPZdJ9btFokmgrHqZ>, or email your recipe and information to Ms. Cooper at

megan.cooper@gcccharters.org. The cut off for accepting recipes is November 14, 2025. We hope to receive lots of recipes to share!

Ms. Cooper



**Celebrate
Red Ribbon Week®
(October 23-31)**

www.redribbon.org

Meet the 2025-26 SSC/DELAC Committee

We are pleased to introduce the members of our 2024–2025 School Site Council (SSC) and District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC). Leading this year's team are **Nadia Avramov as Chairperson** and **Jennifer Veske as Vice Chairperson**. Joining them on the **SSC** are **Israel Bernal, Marion Reid, Chioma Emezi, Ryan Herbert, Heather Schutmaat, and Daniel Reilly**. Our **DELAC representatives** are **Eliane McClintock, Inna Kerdey, and Larisa Popazoglo**. We are grateful to each of these individuals for generously dedicating their time and efforts to support the continued growth and improvement of our school community.

To help everyone get to know the members behind these important roles, we'll be introducing them in pairs over the coming months. Today, we're excited to begin with our Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, Nadia Avramov and Jennifer Veske, who will be the first to share their opinion on what sets our school apart from other schools and what motivates them to serve on the GIS School Committee.



Mrs. Nadia Avramov, Chairperson

In your opinion, what sets our school apart from other public and charter schools?

GIS is a unique school because it offers cultural diversity, inclusion, and sharing. It allows students to explore and find their interests and passions, builds on their strengths, and helps them overcome challenges and strengthen their weaknesses.

What inspires or motivates you to serve on the School Committee?

I'm driven to be part of the school committee because I want to know how our school is thriving, what issues we have, and how those issues are addressed and resolved. I want to support our school and school leaders with major decisions that impact our children's future, educational development, and their preparedness to transition to the big kids school.



Ms. Jennifer Veske, Vice Chairperson

In your opinion, what sets our school apart from other public and charter schools?

Gateway International School stands out because it's student-centered and inquiry-based, creating a safe and supportive environment where children are encouraged to explore, ask questions, and grow into thoughtful and compassionate individuals. Over the past 12 years, I've seen the amazing impact this has on both students and families, and that inspires me to serve on the School Committee as a way to give back.

What inspires or motivates you to serve on the School Committee? What motivates me most is the opportunity to advocate for students and teachers, build positive connections with parents, and work together to keep strengthening our programs and making GIS the best it can be for our community.

KCRA Kids Can Food Drive: October 4 – November 14



We're excited to kick off our annual **KCRA Kids Can Food Drive next week!** This is a great opportunity for students to help support those in need in our community and have a little fun while doing it! Here are a few important details:

- We're collecting **all types of non-perishable food** (except baby food).
- Donations can be brought to your child's teacher.
- To make things more fun, we're turning it into a **friendly competition between classes!**
- The class that collects the most donations will **win a prize**, chosen by the students and their teacher.

Thank you for supporting this important cause and helping our students learn the value of giving back!

Parental Input Needed on Book Selections!



At Gateway International School, we deeply respect the diverse values and beliefs that make up our community. With this in mind, we want to share some important information regarding our library collection. We recognize that each family has its own preferences about what their children are allowed to read. Mrs. K, who supports our library, helps manage a wide range of books, some of which may cover topics that certain families might find sensitive or not suitable for their children.

Some books in our collection are not approved by all families. Three of the most requested titles—*Harry Potter*, *Goosebumps* (for PYP and MYP students), and *Long Way Down* (only for MYP students)—fall into this category. For this reason, we are asking all parents to complete a permission form indicating whether or not they allow their child to check out these specific books. **We will require a signed permission slip for students to check out these specific titles.**

This form will be sent home with your child after the break, and all parents must complete it, regardless of approval.

Copies will also be available at the front office upon request.

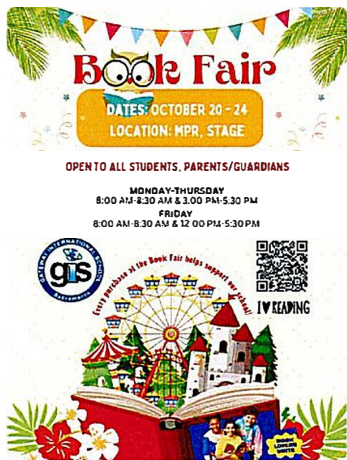
Reminder: Please Return Overdue Library Books

When your child checks out a book(s) from the GIS Library/Inquiry Center, they need to remember to return them after they're done reading. Please help us by looking around your house or in your car for the book(s) that belong to our school. If you cannot find any missing book(s), you will have two choices: buy a new one that resembles the missing one, or pay the replacement cost for the missing book(s). That way, we can keep our library open for other students to use.

I look forward to working with you this school year. Thank you for your continued support! If you have any questions about the Inquiry Center, please feel free to reach out.

Respectfully yours,
Mrs. Kovalev,
GIS Library Para Educator

Book Fair is Coming!



Mark your calendars for **October 20–24!**

The Book Fair will be held on the **MPR stage, not the library.**

Hours:

Monday–Thursday: 8:00–8:30 AM & 3:00–5:30 PM

Friday: 8:00–8:30 AM & 12:00–5:30 PM Check the flyer for full details.

❤️ Level 2 Volunteers:

We need **3 volunteers per time slot.** If you'd like to help, please sign up on our **Volunteer Spreadsheet.**

Questions about volunteering?

Reach out to our Parent Liaison, Ms. Svitlana

Work Cell: 916-225-7695

Email: svitlana.vlasova@gcccharters.org



As John Quincy Adams once said, *"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."* Every act of encouragement, support, and kindness within our school community shapes future leaders.

Let's continue to lead by example—lifting each other up, inspiring growth, and making a lasting impact together.

Contact Us

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International School
Gateway Community Charter
A National Baccalaureate World School (IB-W)

