

International Day: GIA's Colorful Showcase of Cultural Diversity

GIA's International Day was a vibrant and joyful event. Taking place in the gymnasium, this was a true representation of our diverse GIA community, and truly brought out the pride and smiles of everyone who attended! With over 51 different nationalities represented and an astonishing number of attendees, both from the GIA community and outside, it was clear that this year's International Day was a huge success.



GIA's International Day took place on Saturday, November 8th from 9 AM to 12:30 PM, and featured 24 incredible countries and culture tables (These being Guyana, the Apache Nation, Trinidad and Tobago, Singapore, Ethiopia, Australia, South Korea, Argentina, Suriname, Colombia, Brazil, Ecuador, Venezuela, Mexico, USA, Canada, Netherlands, Belgium, Russia, UK, Hungary, India, Nepal, Mauritius, and many more) The attendees received a passport upon arrival and were able to get stamps from every country table they visited. Each table offered unique aspects, including interactive activities, collectables, and, most importantly, a variety of delicious, authentic food, which was a definite highlight of the day!

Written by: Harshal K.

Managed by: Joshua P.



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Towards the end of the event, the Parade of Nations took place, where students, parents, and staff could show their country pride by “walking with the country’s flag and showing their national pride.” To start off the parade, there were musical performances by Music Unlimited and Calypso Magic Music, and performances hosted by Ms. Indiana Fresquet-Del Castillo and Mr. Christian Sobers. These performances truly brought out the joy from everyone, and was an amazing introduction into the parade! In the parade, many countries and cultures were represented by proudly holding their flags on stage while wearing cultural attire and proudly displaying each of their unique cultures.

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The Soccer Matches and the Fight for GLORY!



Written by: Iskandar Z.



The Soccer Tournament was a breathtaking event for the participants, no matter the perspective one looked at it from. The atmosphere at the venue was energetic, the students of different houses were supporting each other loudly while admiring the teamwork skills. It was evident from the very beginning that winning and getting the important points for their house were goals every team set for themselves.

The tournament was able to keep up with the most exciting matches right from the start, since the qualifiers were the ones determining the finalists. The opening match was very tough; both the green and gray teams were doing their utmost to win. It was a game with great defense but finally, Green won by a score of 1-0. Next came the fight of the Blue team against the Red team. The score was similar to that in the first match, and the teams were very competitive. However, Blue kept the fort in defense and won 1-0 to advance to the finals.

The Queens' final match, the ultimate showdown among the toppers of the tournament: the Green and Blue teams. This was the live event that drew the most spectators and got everyone talking. What a fight that was until the Green team became the champion. They really displayed their skills and took the final round 2-0 thus being named the winners. It was clear who the winner was but the contest wasn't finished yet. The last confrontation and the fourth game were between Gray and Red while the ranking of the teams was being decided. The Gray side had a dazzling start and was nearly in full control of the game and ultimately, they won by 3-0.



The tournament ended with very close matches, the Green team as the winner, the Blue team in second place, the Gray team in third, and the Red team in the last place, with Yacine Amri awarded the title of Most Valuable Player (MVP). It was a wonderful tournament which proved to be a marvelous display of the collaboration, sportsmanship, and immense enthusiasm of the four houses. Every single one of those players walked away a winner, setting a high standard for all the house competitions to come!

Gathering Gratitude: A Thanksgiving for Everyone



Written by: Yelena A.



As we begin our Thanksgiving celebration, we want to honor what makes our school truly special: our diversity. Here, we come from many cultures, traditions, and religions, and each one brings something beautiful and unique to our community. We've interviewed some parents who were engaged in working and helping in the Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) community. We have been notified that PTO volunteers donated more than 200 brownies and 25 homemade apple pies. Not only that, but we've also interviewed student volunteers who helped with the decorating of the place before Thanksgiving.

Students were able to keep their schedule neat and help volunteers in less than a week. Kids from elementary to middle school helped by decorating the table, crafting the turkey, etc. Parents were also able to help by donating items and using their personal time to make Thanksgiving in school happen.

While interacting with students, Liv, Sean, and Greyson told us that when they volunteered to help, they felt important and that they were honored to help them. Most of them helped because their parents were part of PTO.



Nine Years of Care: An Interview with Juanita , GIA's Lead Custodian



Written by: Harshal K.

After working at GIA for over nine years, Juanita says the school's diversity is its unique aspect. "We have so many people from other countries," she notes, a fact supported by GIA's 47 diverse nationalities across over 410 students, staff, and parents, which are all celebrated during International Day.

Juanita, GIA's Lead Custodian, is originally from Guyana, where she calls her home and celebrates her birthday on September 27th. Aside from being GIA's lead custodian, Juanita is also an event planner!

To get to know more about Juanita, she was also asked some fun questions about her life outside of GIA. Although being from Guyana, she stated that she would love to visit Paris, mainly because of the "country, food, people, and sights." Like most people, her favorite holiday is Christmas, as she stated that "Christmas is something I have always celebrated since I was a child, and a special time for my family." She also talked about her favorite show, which is the American comedy sitcom called "Three's Company," and if she could have met any famous person, she would've chosen Colonel Sanders because of his popular fast food chicken restaurant, KFC. If she could have any superpower, she stated that she would have invisibility, so "I could move around anywhere invisible".

Upon finishing the quick interview, we chatted about our shared connection with GIA, in which we had both been at the school for over nine years. She stated that she had known me for a very long time, ever since I was little, and had seen me "grow out of my shell over the years," and now I was interviewing her. This emotional relationship showed Juanita's close connection with GIA, its students, and staff over the years, and reminds us about how everyone at GIA contributes to what makes our school diverse, special, and connected.



Beyond the Beach: A Miami Art & Design Journey



Written by: Hanaan M. & Simrah M.

From December 2–6, ten students boarded a plane to Miami, Florida, for a whirlwind journey into the heart of the city's art and design scene, a trip their teacher, Ms. Alyssa, described as "fun, immersive, and interesting." Over the course of five days, students explored Wynwood, Miami's famous district of sprawling murals and street art, where they spray-painted canvases of their own and met a local artist who shared insights into the craft. At Superblue, they stepped into surreal, interactive installations that blurred the line between art and experience, sparking conversations about how creativity can engage all the senses. Design Miami offered a scavenger hunt through cutting-edge furniture, lighting, and design objects, encouraging students to see everyday items from fresh perspectives, while the Bakehouse Brunch at Big House Art Complex immersed them in a thriving community of working studios and collaborative energy.

One of the most memorable hands-on experiences came at Miami Hot Glass, where students worked with rods and furnaces to shape molten glass into flowers, pumpkins, ornaments, and paperweights that serve as reminders of their newfound skills.

The trip also coincided with Art Basel, one of the world's premier art fairs, where the students observed groundbreaking works from across the globe and witnessed Miami's role as a meeting point for artists and collectors worldwide. They even learned that the fair's name traces back to Basel, Switzerland.

After days filled with creativity, the group wrapped up with a change of scenery at Miami's shopping malls, reflecting on all they had seen and done. More than just sightseeing, the Miami Art & Design Trip was about discovery and perspective, a chance to experience, create, and explore art beyond textbooks and classrooms, an opportunity to see the world through new eyes. For these ten students, Miami wasn't just a destination; it was a canvas.



Glow Big or Go Home: Students Light Up the Gym for a Cause



Written by: Iskandar Z.



The gymnasium erupted with color as the Model United Nations class hosted a Glow in the Dark Party, which was a social gathering that took place in the gym at around 7 pm on November 14th. It aimed for a high-energy, informal break from the intense classes and to raise funds for the MUN Washington DC trip.

Before the festivities began, a group of students, teachers, and parents collaborated to transform the gymnasium. With an array of colorful lights and streamers, the event was bound to be an amazing social gathering. The students were responsible for taping luminous balloons to the windows and tying ribbons from wall to wall. Others even donated neon sticks to illuminate the room when it went dark, truly giving the party's name some meaning.

The party lasted from 7 to 10 pm. As students arrived, they dressed in a range from casual to flashy. As they paid up front with cash, they were offered a complimentary glow stick to put around their wrists or hold. The DJ got ready to play songs that boomed throughout the gymnasium. Students stood ready to request songs from the busy DJ, each song a banger, which everyone sang and danced to. Later, volunteers served delicious pepperoni pizza and cheese pizza, to fit everyone's preferences, along with drinks like Coke, I-CEE, to keep the party alive and everyone rejuvenated to dance and sing even more. Other than singing and dancing. Students also grabbed extra glow sticks scattered around to decorate their overall appearance and played keep-up with the balloons and volleyball.



The MUN social event was a success, it drew a diverse crowd to support the club's upcoming trip to Washington D.C. Upon paying the entrance fee, participants received a free glow stick to join in the festivities. The DJ's booming music instantly animated the gym, sparking constant singing and energetic dancing to crowd-favorite songs. Overall, the highly interactive atmosphere made for a memorable night that combined social fun with a meaningful financial cause.

Lower School Winter Concert: A Night Around the World.



Written by: Hanaan M. & Simrah M.



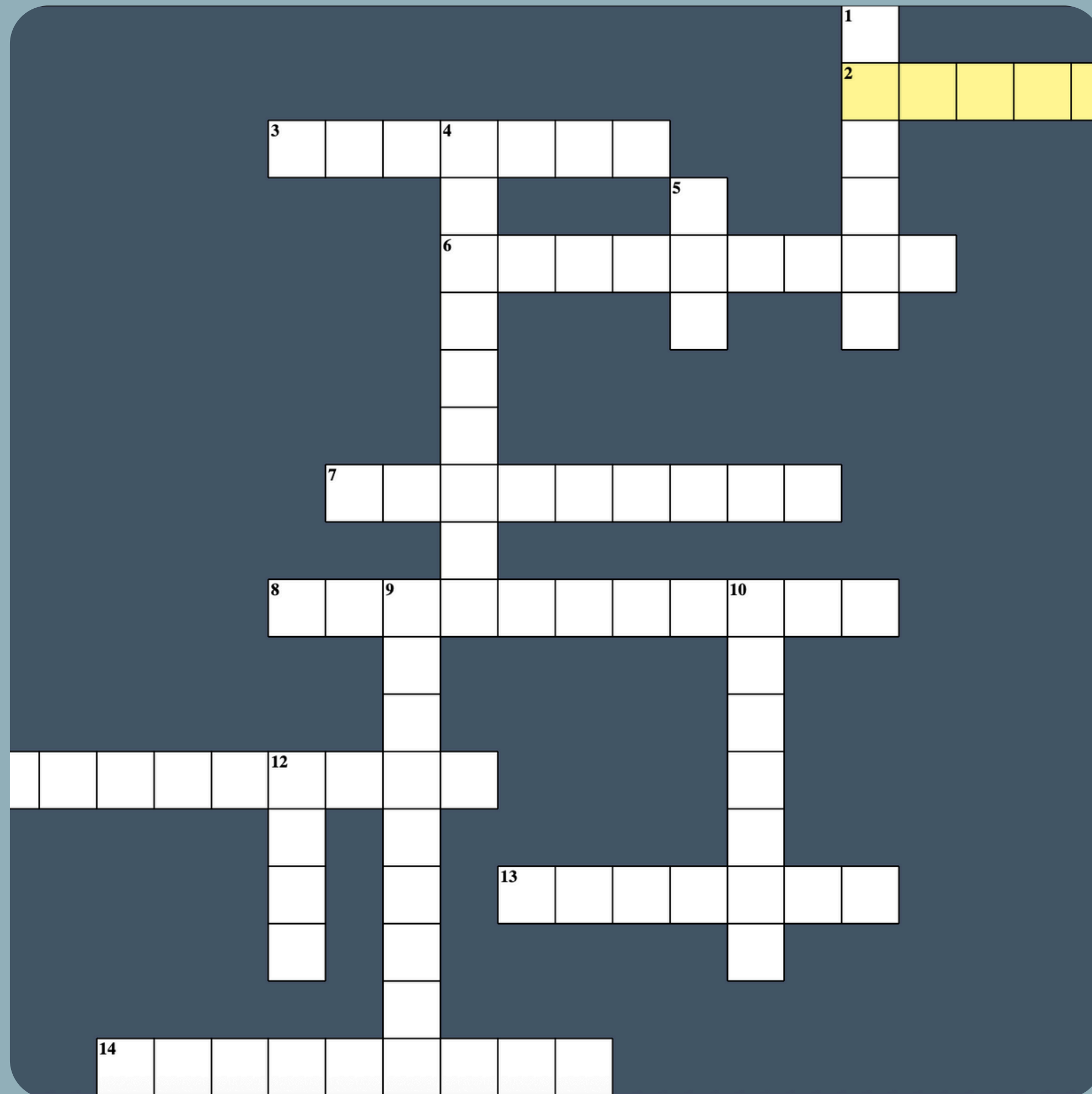
This year's Lower School Winter Concert took us on a musical trip around the world, no passport required. From the moment the performers stepped onstage, it was clear they'd been practicing hard. The students performed pieces inspired by cultures across the globe, guided by their dedicated teachers Ms. Indiana and Ms. Allicock, who somehow manage to conduct, organize, encourage, and keep everything on track. True magic. Highlights? The energy, the teamwork, and the proud smiles. In the end, the show wasn't just about music, it was about confidence, culture, and working toward a shared goal. And if you left the auditorium humming, you definitely weren't alone.

Ms. Indiana reflected, "I hope they remember the joy of making music together and the pride that comes from working as a team toward a shared performance...more than anything, I wanted them to feel confident, celebrated, and excited about sharing their learning with the community." She then added, "The main goal was to highlight the diversity of musical traditions around the world while giving students an authentic performance experience, as it was wonderful to see them connect what we've been learning in class with a real audience in such a fun, meaningful way." All in all, it was a joyful, heartwarming evening that celebrated both culture, and the hard work of our students and teachers. Everyone left with big smiles and a love for music!



JagWrite Crossword!

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Guess Who Said It?

“That’s tough”



Special thanks to the JagWire team who made this possible: Joshua P., Jelani C., Xinling H., Mariana N., Camelia C., Mikayla F., and Gabrielle O.