



VOICE OF

GKV

WINTER

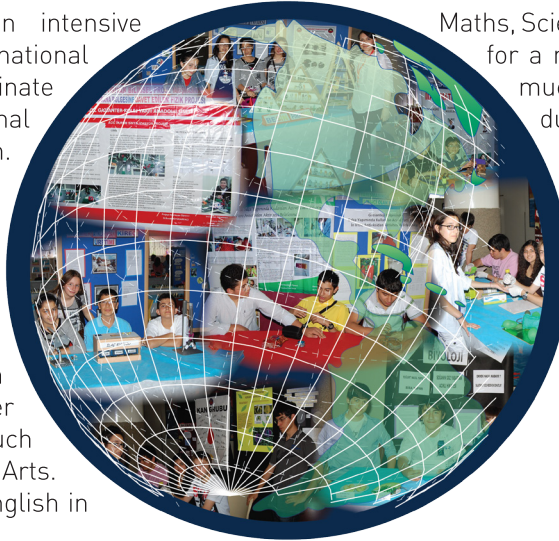
2012

In 2012 Gaziantep Kolej Vakfi opened a new high school named after its founder, Cemil Alevli.

## GKV OPENED ITS NEW SCHOOL

# CEMİL ALEVİLİ COLLEGE

The new school features an intensive preparatory year and an international curriculum that will culminate in the two-year International Baccalaureate Diploma Program. The prospective students attending Cemil Alevli College in its pilot year are very proud to be the first. In addition to the usual national curriculum the program includes English, Maths, Sciences and Turkish Language and Literature together with the elective courses such as German, Italian and Visual Arts. The medium of instruction is English in



Maths, Sciences, and Arts. A low student-teacher ratio allows for a more flexible classroom layout, as well as being much more conducive to second language learning due to better opportunities for interactive practice. In addition, there is a focus on student-centered, project-based learning in which the students can apply their language skills across disciplines.



# Cambridge Esol Exams Certificate Ceremony

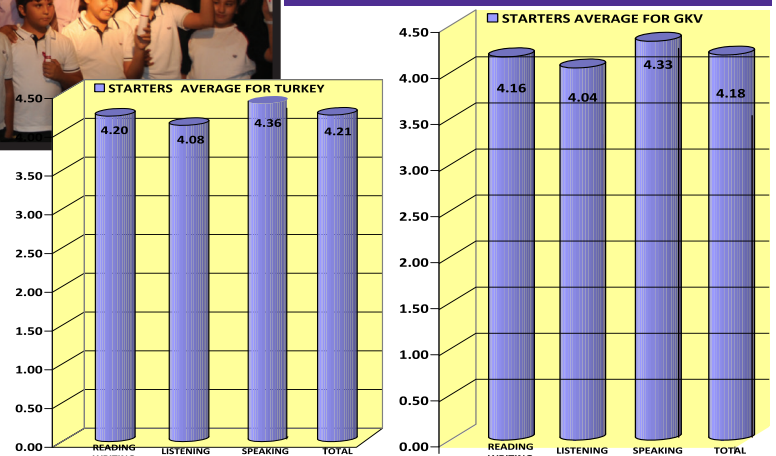
The British Council made the annual review of the Cambridge ESOL Exams in 2012 (bottom-right corner). The review shows that GKV students had the highest marks among the thousands of students in Turkey.



Albert Einstein

*Try not to become a man of success but rather to become a man of value*

The Annual Review of Cambridge ESOL Exams made by The British Council in 2012



GKV is one of the Cambridge ESOL Exam centres each year. Many students between the ages of 9 - 18 take the Cambridge ESOL Exams demonstrating their knowledge of English and also gaining internationally recognized diplomas in English. On 28<sup>th</sup> October 2012, the students

who took the exams on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2012 received their certificates in the presence of the school administrators and their parents in a well-organized ceremony. The students enthusiastically promised to work hard for the following year to be able to achieve the next level of the Cambridge ESOL Exams.



## AFS EXCHANGE STUDENT AT GKV

A group of Turkish Cultural Foundation (TKV) - Intercultural Programs Turkey (AFS) representatives from Istanbul paid a visit to GKV Private Schools to meet Saralinda Schell, the AFS exchange student from Kentucky-USA, who is attending GKV this year. The USA Deputy Cultural Attaché, Stefanie Altman-Winans, who is accompanying the group, presented some gifts to the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of GKV



Nuket Ersoy on the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of AFS in Turkey and expressed their sincere gratitude for her hospitality and co-operation. Since 1953, thousands of high school students have benefited from AFS programs in Turkey. TKV, which aims to introduce Turkish youth to other cultures and people and thus contribute to the development of peace and friendship in Turkey, currently has a great volunteer body in Turkey.

## BRITISH COUNCIL GKV Staff, freelance BC teacher trainer

GKV proudly announce that the Head of the English Department, Sultan Ulu has been recognized as a freelance teacher trainer by the British Council.



Sultan Ulu, who was one of the only 13 freelance teacher trainers selected from all over Turkey, participated in the training, 'Train the trainers' in Büyükada from 2-8 July 2012. The training was presented by well-known trainer trainer Sue Leather and her colleague Leila Tehrani. Subsequently, the British Council provided the school with some once-in-a-lifetime opportunities; for example; four GKV English teachers will be taking online courses 'Primary Essentials' & 'Learning Technologies' completely free of charge in December 2012 and January 2013.

## The author of our readers RICK SAMPEDRO at GKV



On September 22<sup>nd</sup> 2012, author and teacher trainer Rick Sampedro, who believes in peace and humanism, did a whole-day workshop in GKV on 'Reading & values' and 'How to use readers in class'.

Sampedro, who is the author of the readers we have been using this year, reminded us in his sessions that teachers have a huge part to play in developing tolerance and in creating future peace. He also mentioned that as a teacher and an author he feels responsible for creating a good future, so he prefers speaking and writing on topics which serve this purpose.

On 26<sup>th</sup> June 2012, GKV broke new ground and hosted a seminar featuring Dr. Herbert Puchta, well-known author of best-selling books and a teacher trainer.

## HERBERT PUCHTA SEMINAR

Puchta chose two topics which are very significant for English language Teaching journey, 'Teaching Young Learners and Teaching teenagers'. Puchta presented the sessions in a two-day workshop, using lively interactive methods. We are proud to say that Puchta came to Gaziantep solely to present this workshop especially for GKV English teachers, and it was very much appreciated.



## The 3<sup>rd</sup> GKV Joint- Workshop

Three years ago GKV held an academic convention which brought NE and the British Council together for a series of workshops with the aim of training English teachers both in the state schools and in private schools.

This year GKV showed that the school has remained faithful to the convention by organizing the third joint-workshop on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2012. The sessions, 'Reading and beyond reading', were presented by Simon Shepherd, a BC teacher trainer, and Sultan Ulu, the Head of the English Department and a teacher trainer. The workshop, in which English teachers from both the state schools and private schools participated, proved very valuable to all who attended.





## School Presidential Elections at GKV



**ALİ ENVER**

**BİLEÇEN**

**A11/A**

High school... the place where we store unforgettable memories of our lives. I have had so much fun and enjoyed every moment of it since the first day I started high school. I've never had a dull moment, because everyday at school has been different from every other day. When the school election was announced I thought, it would be a good opportunity to spice up my life at school. I was far away from the "exam stress" until the third grade of the high school. I didn't know what would happen but I was looking for something different in my school life. Fortunately I caught this chance: School Presidential Election; I would try something that I had

never done before. After all, I have been at this school for two years so I am aware of the common problems. I had a complete faith in doing the best for GKV students. I put in my candidacy and I started to work. After an exciting, stressing, contentious selection process, I was elected as the president of the school. I thought I was going to relax after the election, but it didn't happen so. We began to work immediately. Actually I thought presidency would be an easy job to do but dealing with issues at any time, rushing here and there is just for me. The projects for our friends to have a nice year will continue. Thanks for supporting me.

## Parents' thoughts edmodo

**ÇİĞDEM ERKİLİC**



'Edmodo' provides teachers and students with a secure platform to communicate genuinely in English. The teachers send assignments, quizzes, and videos to the students via Edmodo and The Project Umbrella and the students receive feedback instantly from their teachers.

As a parent, My daughter (Zeynep Nazlı - 2D) and I were very happy and excited when we first logged in Edmodo because we saw her friends and her teacher sharing ideas in the site. It was really exciting for her to type out one or two words in English and to share them with her friends and her teacher via Edmodo.

I am an English teacher in a public school. I wish I could use the sites in my school. I am very happy that my daughter has this great chance. I would like to thank Özlem Orcan for her hard work and her patience.



**Interactive Sites for Education**

**NAZLI ÇANAK**



At the beginning of this term, two interactive sites, Edmodo and the Project Umbrella, were introduced to us by my daughter's English teacher. I have experienced that the sites help my daughter Naz Çanak a lot to practise English. She practices not only listening and speaking but also spelling, which is very important for language learning.

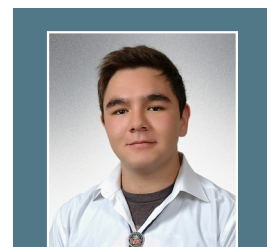


## Connecting Lives, Sharing Cultures

AFS is an educational organization dedicated to providing enriched learning experiences that promote intercultural awareness, tolerance and communication.

To have this unique intercultural learning experience, a group of our high school students attended the AFS exam on 20th October, 2012. One of them was Tarik SARIOĞLU and he wanted to share his feelings and thoughts about going abroad and attending the AFS exam.

I have desired to go abroad via AFS from the first day I heard about it when I was 14. I like speaking English, meeting new people from different countries and I like learning about new cultures so AFS is the best program for me because it offers great experiences like communicating with new people, familiarizing yourself with new cultures and learning a new language. Besides, AFS offers the opportunity to build a strong personality. It teaches you to take care of yourself, cope with life abroad, take responsibilities and improve your self-confidence. There are many things to say about AFS but the most important thing is you will enjoy it and have many great experiences that you may not live again. That's why I attended the exam and want to go abroad with AFS.



**TARIK**

**SARIOĞLU**

**A12/D**

## GKV on CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH PENFRIEND PLATFORM



Cambridge English Penfriends (CEP) is a formal, interactive site for ESL teachers and students. The site helps schools connect with schools in other countries so they can exchange cards designed

by students between the ages of 4- 18. CEP encourages students to communicate internationally. GKV already has a partner school "Colegio Americano Tabasco" and 5th graders are working on

the cards which they are planning to send to their pen friends in Mexico. Of course, they are also waiting impatiently to receive cards from their new pen friends in Mexico.



*We wanted to have an interview with one of our assistant teachers, Igor.*

## AIESEC Assistant Teacher From Karlovac



12 YD Students

■ **Where are you from? What are the similarities and differences between your culture and Turkish culture?**

I'm from Karlovac, a small town in central Croatia, but I'm of mixed background; my mum is Bosnian, so a lot of food that people eat here we make at home. We have a coffee drinking culture and every Croat loves börek and sarma. But the differences are many: we don't have this many carpets in our houses, we don't drink this much tea, we usually don't take our shoes off when we are visiting friends. We are a very passionate nation but Turkish people are more hospitable and warm.

■ **You are working in different departments in our school. Which one is better?**

Both are very challenging and require different methodological approaches. Also it is very important to have great pedagogical knowledge and skills because sometimes high school students need a treatment like the primary school kids. Yet I truly enjoy my time in the high school because every lesson is a new adventure and experience.

■ **Why have you chosen this profession?**

Working with people never gets monotonous

■ **Why Turkey? Why Gaziantep?**

When I was looking for a place to work at, I wanted to go to a country where English wasn't a dominant language and is not shaped by the Anglophone culture and tradition. So Turkey was always an appealing country because as Croatia had once been occupied by the Ottoman Empire and, therefore, we share many costumes and traditions.

but working with young people is always beneficial because when you teach them, you also learn from them.

■ **Are you happy in our school?**

Yes, very much. I'm actually very excited to be here and work here.

■ **Do you like Antep Cuisine? Which one is your favorite?**

I have been to many places but I never like the food as much as I love Antep food. I can prove that with hundreds of pictures already taken, recipes are collected and by going everyday to Halil Usta for lahmacun and to Üçler's for Ali nazik. However I think that everybody from school, especially my colleagues, know that nothing compares to my favorite dish - yuvarlama .

■ **Do you miss your country?**

I miss my country a lot. It is very hard to be away from home but thanks to modern technology, the hospitality of my colleagues and the school, a couple of friends, it is much easier to bear home sickness. I also feel truly blessed to have such a wonderful friend as Ms. Lisa Ann Shannon.

# GKV on BBC World News Working Lives

'Working Lives' is a TV program on BBC World News Channel which takes a handful of working people from a wide cross-section of the workforce and looks at where they work, what they earn, how skilled they are and overall what are their "working life chances".



**T**his time Working Lives focused on six professions in Gaziantep. One of the program guests was the Head of the GKV English Department, Sultan Ulu. The program, which described Gaziantep as the 'Anatolian Tiger', was broadcasted on 19th October, 2012 on BBC World News. All the program guests did a great job and did Gaziantep proud. Here is a quote concerning Sultan Ulu, program guest, by the presenter of the program, Leo Johnson.

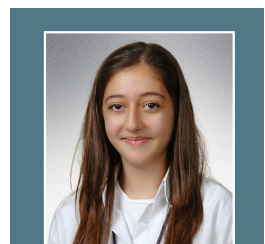
"When Sultan Ulu teaches English to her

class at a private school, she says she doesn't just teach English. "Teaching is life," she explains. And she herself has had an eventful life. Born in Afghanistan, she fled with her family after the Russian invasion, first to Islamabad in Pakistan and then finally to Gaziantep. Her life as a language teacher began at a young age."

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-radio-and-tv-19992762>

## Welcoming Party

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October, a Welcome Party for the 9<sup>th</sup> graders was organised for the first time and we had the participation of 150 students. The guests arrived at about half past seven and the party ended about half past nine. The party was extremely dynamic, exciting and enjoyable. Our students danced all night long without getting tired. They got the utmost enjoyment out of the party!



**ZEYNEP MERVE**

**TAHMAZOĞLU**



**AIESEC**

## From The Points of View of Aiesecers

Had someone explained to me that I would be teaching in primary and secondary school, let alone in Turkey just six months ago, I would not have believed them, as my plans for the future at that moment were involving pursuing my PhD programme in the States. Yet an unexpected encounter with the AIESEC organization, about which I hadn't had any idea prior to that, changed my life and brought me to Gaziantep – my new home. Having been displaced from my comfort zone into a world and culture significantly different from mine, it took a whole month to cope with the change and adjust not only to the new environment, but also to the different educational system. Additionally, teaching in two different departments, namely the secondary school and high school contributed to the feeling of displacement at first. However, with the selfless advice and help from my new colleagues from both departments quickly facilitated the adaptation process. Now, three months into my working experience at GKV, Cemil Alevli prep classes

and primary school classes, with the youngest intellectual forces, are added to my daily working routine. In itself, that routine never gets tiresome or monotonous for the constant dynamics a teacher experiences in the classrooms. My work at GKV can be roughly divided into two teaching categories: myself as a teaching assistant in the primary and secondary school, opposed to taking over the classes in high school as the students' class teacher. The three facilities and their departments differ and teaching in each assumes different preparations, every lesson is as equally challenging and exciting as the previous. Even though I sometimes feel like Spiderman who has had excessive amounts of sugar, I feel very blessed and encouraged to teach as I am being taught by teaching others.



### *Igor Jurilj, MA (Croatia)*

Having applied for an internship programme I thought I was prepared for everything. As it turned out I couldn't have been more wrong. First of all, I was absolutely astonished not only by the size of the school but also by its various and long-established traditions, starting from flag ceremony to honoring the school's basketball team.

Secondly, I admire the teachers of the school. Not only are they masters of their profession and have many years of experience, but they are eager to learn new ways of teaching, so that

they can do their job even better.

And last but not least, I want to say how touched I was by the general atmosphere of the school. Even though there are about 2000 students here, I can feel that it is not just an educational organization, but a big family. Attending different classes, I saw that teachers are very close to the students. They always encourage them, help them to master their knowledge and perform at their best. And when the students fail in something, they take it close to their hearts. Of course, sometimes they have to be strict with them but it happens once in a blue moon. That's why I feel very lucky and honored that I have been granted a chance to be a part of this amazing team and learn from them.



### *Anastasiia Sudakova (Russia)*

## Wonderful Republic Day Celebration At GKV

As we all know the 29<sup>th</sup> of October is Turkey's Republic Day. This year's 29<sup>th</sup> October was the 89<sup>th</sup> anniversary and GKV planned different activities to celebrate it. First, our school director Mr. Atanur Vergili gave a speech about the importance of having a republic. After this some of the students presented a musical play (The Saga of the independence War) written by Nazım Hikmet. Another activity to celebrate Republic Day was an essay-writing competition about the advantages of the Republic. In addition, there was a presentation of poems, writings and folk dances. The aim of all these activities was to remind us of the importance of the Turkish Republic established by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk in 1923, but still vital today in 2012 and for the future of our country.



**BİRCE**

**BAYIR**

**A11/A**

## COACHING TRAININGS

The International Coach Federation (ICF)—the largest professional association of coaches—defines professional coaching as an “ongoing partnership that helps participants produce fulfilling results in their personal and professional lives.



Coaching is a powerful tool that can help you to make changes in your business or career, improve your performance, enhance your relationships with other people and family or develop specific skills. I attended the coaching certificate programme in İstanbul and wanted to share my experiences about coaching and why I wanted to participate the trainings.

I had decided to have coaching training while I was seeking the answers of my own questions, like how much I know myself, what is the reason of my life and what kind of world I want to live in. The passion of finding the answers took me to this unique journey of coaching. Thereupon we have started the projects for coaching training programmes at our school and in December we are taking the first module with our volunteer teachers at GKV. I believe Coaching will make a great contribution to our teachers.





# GKV HOLDS A SUCCESSFUL SEMINAR

To commemorate Teacher's Day, a two day program was arranged by GKV on 21 and 22 November in two separate venues. The first was at the auditorium of Gaziantep Chamber of Commerce where participants were invited to a cocktail party, followed by a stimulating seminar led by Özgür Bolat, a well-known expert of education.

## GKV Commemorates The 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Of Atatürk's Death

Our Great Leader, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of the modern Turkish Republic of Turkey, was commemorated on November 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> in the GKV Conference Hall with various ceremonies.

The commemorative ceremony in our school began with the participation of our Chief of the board of trustees, Nüket Ersoy. The members of our board of trustees, our administrators, our school staff, students and parents also took part. We had an oratorio on stage called "İzindeyiz ATAM" put



on by our students. The ceremony featured songs and poems about Atatürk as well. Furthermore GKV Cemil Alevli High School students presented quotations from other world leaders about Atatürk. We thank everyone who participated in this anniversary.



Hi Friends,  
I would like to share my experiences of my trip to England. Last summer, I went on a trip which our school arranged with G.E.O. I can surely say that it was the best 3 weeks of my life.

It was a very busy program with the lessons and social activities. Can you imagine three weeks of period full of fun and excitement. We did not have any free time because there were a lot of activities during the day and they were all really great. Everything was well organized. I can say that meeting with new people from foreign countries was the biggest advantage of going on this trip. Now, I have French, Italian and even Chinese friends and I am still in contact with them. I have learnt new cultures and I introduced others to our culture too. If you are anxious about learning so many things, don't worry because you will have lessons with people who are at the same level. I can proudly say that I was in the top classroom because



I have good English. I'm grateful to my school for my English. At the end of the course, you get a certificate so you have the chance to see your level. This trip improved my English vocabulary and I learned a lot of useful phrases to use. Of course I also learned some words in other languages from my friends. I had a great time with my teachers and friends. It was a really amazing experience for me and my friends. I hope you will have a chance to go to England and have the experience being to a foreign country.



R. OĞUZ

ARAS

F10/D

Mr. Bolat, who first studied psychology in New York, followed by a Master Degree at Harvard and a doctorate from Cambridge, currently works as a researcher at the leadership for learning center at the University of Cambridge. In addition, Mr. Bolat is involved in the 'New Generation of Teachers Project' and writing articles for the internet version of Hurriyet newspaper.

The program began with a short enthusiastic concert performed by GKV music teachers, followed by opening remarks from the General Director, Mr. Atanur Vergili, where he emphasized the importance of constant input from parents and teachers in the successful education of any child.

The program continued with the lecture by Özgür Bolat, which focussed on what learning and success mean for both parents and teachers. Mr. Bolat underlined the fact that the chief goal of education should be the promotion of learner's independence and autonomy. This involves acquiring a repertoire of learning strategies and practices, developing a positive attitude towards learning and building confidence in oneself as a good learner.

The conference was greatly appreciated by all the teachers and parents who participated, and has contributed to many modern aspects of education.

