

# Weekly School Newsletter

## Message from the Head of School

Earlier this week, the Varkey Foundation published 'Generation Z: Global Citizenship Survey'. A comprehensive suite of documents, videos and slide decks has been made globally public, with this detailed survey of teenagers and young adults raising some very interesting information. The survey was conducted with over 20,000 young people born between 1995 and 2001 (Generation Z) from across 20 countries.

Data collected shares information on the countries which have the happiest young people, the best countries to live in, young people thoughts on migration and immigration, as well as a series of other key topic areas. The report makes for incredibly interesting reading and something that all parents, and certainly business leaders of today, should really spend time exploring.

Some highlighted facts include:

- More young people are pessimistic rather than optimistic about their futures
- More young people worry about terrorism and conflict than climate change
- Young people are divided on their support of free speech
- Less than half of young people say that religious faith is an important part of their lives
- Most young people are tolerant and know people from other religions
- Young people are in favour of making it easier for migrants to live and work in their countries

The files made available from this comprehensive research makes for compelling review and we are delighted to be so closely connected to the Varkey Foundation. As you may be aware, the founding family of GEMS Education and GWA (Singapore) are the driving force behind this philanthropic enterprise, under the family name.

Provided below are direct links to key documents direct from the Varkey Foundation, which we encourage you to delve into over the weekend:

- [Varkey Foundation- Generation Z: Global Citizenship Survey Page](#)
- [Generation Z Report](#)
- [Generation Z Powerpoint](#)

Wishing you a wonderful weekend ahead.



**David Edwards**  
Head of School  
[d.edwards@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:d.edwards@gwa.edu.sg)



### IMPORTANT CONTACTS

**Reception:** +65 6808 7321

[info@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:info@gwa.edu.sg)

**EY/PY Division Office:**

Secretary: +65 68087313

[s.crot@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:s.crot@gwa.edu.sg)

**SY Division Office:**

Secretary: +65 68087312

[j.tailandier@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:j.tailandier@gwa.edu.sg)

**Bus Enquiries:**

HDT Service Line: 9777 4838

[gwa.transport@hdt.com.sg](mailto:gwa.transport@hdt.com.sg)



**Please note:**  
**GWA FAIR: NEW DATE**  
**22 APRIL 2017**



### Parent Event

Join us for a Valentines Day Lunch! Taste the famous local hawker food in a dining restaurant!

Liao Fan Hong Kong Soya Sauce Chicken Rice and Noodle was one of the first hawker stalls to be awarded a one Michelin star in the Singapore Michelin Guide 2016.

**Date:** 14 February (Tuesday)

**Time:** 11am

**Venue:** Liao Fan Hong Kong Soya Sauce Chicken Rice and Noodle

**Address:** 78 Smith Street  
Singapore 059872

**RSVP:** [j.lee@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:j.lee@gwa.edu.sg)

## Message from the Primary Years Principal

In the next couple of weeks, we have several exciting events happening. From February 14th -17th our Grade 5 students will attend a three day Camp at Riders Lodge in Malaysia. This experience is part of our Experiential Learning Programme.

Book Week will take place the week commencing February 20th. Students will be involved in a range of different activities engaging with books, storytelling, the library and exploring the importance and value of Reading. We will have Secondary students reading to the Early Years students, a book exchange and times allocated in the week where students will drop everything and read. The final event will be our popular Book Character parade in the school auditorium. Thank you to Mr Dempsey and Ms. Yumi for organising the programme of events.

Finally in February 27th - March 1st we will be running our annual Talent Show. Students have the opportunity to demonstrate their creativity through Music, Dance, Art, Drama and Sport. This annual event encourages students to be risk-takers, enabling them to develop their confidence in performing in front of an audience.

A gentle reminder that there will be no school on Friday 17th February for all students due to a Staff Professional Development day which also includes members of our faculty presenting and participating in the Early Years Regional IB workshops from February 17-19 hosted here at GWA (Singapore).



**Neil White**  
EY/PY Principal  
[n.white@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:n.white@gwa.edu.sg)

## Message from the Secondary Years Principal

GWA (Singapore) is fortunate to be a part of the larger GEMS Education family, which gives us opportunities to collaborate, engage in discussion and grow together with the other GEMS schools. Mark Gardner (MYP/IGCSE coordinator) and Arnelle Grundhoefer (DP Coordinator) represented the Secondary Years division on a visit to GWA (Dubai) at the end of January. As part of the GEMS review team, they had a chance to meet GWA curriculum coordinators from around the world, observe lessons, interact with students and teachers, and participate in an engaging workshop leader training. These opportunities are crucial as they allow to build important professional connections, and to ensure the same education standards can be found across all schools in the GEMS family.

The Educational Leadership Team have been very busy over the past month screening candidate applications, and carrying out the first round of interviews for potential teachers for the 2017-2018 academic year. The recruitment process is key for any international school and the best candidate has to fit a series of criteria. These include a demonstrated commitment to education and learning beyond the classroom, significant experience working at a recognised international school, prior knowledge of IB programmes (or demonstrated mastery in equivalent framework), skills and attitudes aligned to the purpose, mission and vision of GEMS World Academy (Singapore). Flexibility and willingness to take on new challenges is also important.



**Jan Stipek**  
SY Principal  
[j.stipek@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:j.stipek@gwa.edu.sg)

Click [here](#) to view detailed Events Calendar

**17 Feb 2017**

**REMINDER:  
PUPIL-FREE DAY**

**14-17 Feb 2017**

**GRADE 5  
CAMP  
MALAYSIA**

**20 -24 Feb 2017**

**BOOK  
WEEK**



**22 Feb 2017**

**PARENT ENGAGEMENT  
SESSION  
9AM  
AUDITORIUM**

## SPORT AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

### ECAs

The new SchoolsBuddy ECA system is nearly ready to go live and I thank you for your patience as this system has been uploaded with all relevant information over the past three weeks. When all information is ready you will receive the email from SchoolsBuddy prompting you to sign in and register. I am aiming for you to be able to register your account and then start making selections for Season 3 over the weekend, if not before. Do take some time for read through the signup instructions carefully when making your selections, and take note of the close off date. I believe confirmations of placements will be advised

### SPORTS TEAMS

Huge congratulations goes to the 14U Girls Football team who won their division and went undefeated in all 6 of their games in Season 2. The majority of this team also played in the 16U Football team during Season 1 that also came away with the silver medal. Another great achievement by this group of girls.

Tonight our 12U Girls Basketball team will play their division final for the gold medal. In a close semi-final, our girls held on to defeat Nexus 11 - 5 to earn their place in the final. This caps off a fantastic year for these girls, who have gelled together as an effective team who work hard for each other. Good luck girls!

Tomorrow the 16U Basketball Boys will also play in the final for their division after defeating a strong Canadian International School team 54-35 in their semi-final here at GWA yesterday. These boys are undefeated this season and are hoping for your support as they aim to win the gold medal and maintain a 100% winning record.



Finally, our 11U Boys and Girls Football teams will play their finals tomorrow as they look to end the season on a high.

**Danny Tauroa**  
Activities Coordinator  
[d.tauroa@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:d.tauroa@gwa.edu.sg)

## MESSAGE FROM GWA PARENT ASSOCIATION (GWAPA)

On February 18, Saturday, we are going to visit the Villa Paulos orphanage (website: [www.villapaulos.org](http://www.villapaulos.org)) in Johor, Malaysia.

Departure time - 7:00 am. (we estimate returning from the orphanage at 12:30)

Private bus arranged from GWA to Villa Paulos - we will bring all the collected items. **Please note that every participant will have to cover the private transportation bus fee.**

**IMPORTANT:** Please check the following website for Malaysian visa requirements: [www.kln.gov.my](http://www.kln.gov.my)

If you are interested in joining us, please contact Paola, our Community Service Coordinator by sending her an email ([gwapa.communityservice@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:gwapa.communityservice@gwa.edu.sg))

**There are 31 children in Villa Paulos so we would like to bring 31 personalised shoebox gifts : click here to sign-up for the shoe box gift [Johor Orphanage Shoe Gift Box](#)** Please bare in mind you can prepare a shoebox gift without going to Johor. Paola will collect shoeboxes from you (or from your child) on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday next week, Feb 14-16, in the EY lobby, 1st floor, during lunchtime.

If you have any children's clothes, shoes, books or toys in good condition and/ or non-perishable food like rice, that you would like to donate for the kids in Johor - please put it into the boxes you can find in the EY lobby. PLEASE NOTE: Clothes, shoes and books should be for children 7-17 years old.

**We are also looking for 18 students on Friday morning, Feb 17, at 10.00 to help prepare all donated items for shipment. Please encourage your child to volunteer and contact Paola, our Community Service Coordinator by sending her an email. ([gwapa.communityservice@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:gwapa.communityservice@gwa.edu.sg)).**



**GWAPA TEAM**

**CONTACT  
GWAPA TEAM**

[gwapa.singapore@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:gwapa.singapore@gwa.edu.sg)

Share your sports  
news with us, join  
our Facebook page

**GWAPA  
session**

**22 February**  
following  
Parent  
Engagement  
Workshop at 9  
am