

Weekly School Newsletter

Message from the Head of School

At the outset, we again thank you for the wonderful support at our Uniting Nations Celebration. The level of success was attributable to the considerable efforts of so many parents, the coordination of GWAPA, the tireless commitment of teachers and the high level of engagement from our students.

Earlier this week, Neil, Jan and myself had the opportunity to attend the first EdTechX conference in Singapore. The two-day event saw entrepreneurs, investors and education providers come together to explore edtech developments, discuss the changing landscape of education, and to forge partnerships with the goal of deeply impacting learning.

Consistent amongst all participants, was the focus on three core areas of development happening in edtech which will positively enhance learning. They are:

1. Personalisation
2. Adaptive content
3. Real-time data driving teaching and learning

Conversations from keynotes raised the importance of technology in helping accelerate development in emerging markets. Data such as the growing challenge of teacher shortage was raised as an area of global concern, with technology being a tool which, when used effectively, may bring teachers based in various parts of the world into classrooms in different regions. The current teacher shortage in Asia alone of 2.8 million, looks likely to grow to 10.9 million by 2020, with the shortage predicted to be at 25.8 million by 2030. These are frightening numbers, highlighting the rapid growth of schools across Asia, and they raise concerns regarding the impact that the teacher shortage may have on learning opportunities in the coming 10-15 years.

We walked away from the conference resolute in the three pillars of our 'Future School' initiatives, knowing that what we are bringing to life at GWA is future-proofing our students and teachers. The blended learning programme launched in Grade 11 provides a co-teaching model, connecting a global teacher with a local GWA educator, both of whom are focused on the development of the Grade 11 and 12 students. We currently have two courses in this blended model and are working in partnership with Pamoja Education to develop a model for teaching and learning which will significantly enhance the chances for success in the high-stakes senior programme.

Our STEM partnership with Carnegie-Mellon University supports our already strong programme, by connecting our team and students with world-leading best practice in STEM. These external partnerships are crucial in ensuring we remain at the forefront of great innovation in education.

Our belief in entrepreneurship as our third pillar will create a culture of 'thinking big' on the campus, bringing together entrepreneurs, students and teachers in a co-working space on campus. The opportunities for sharing, mentoring and working together in solving real-world problems in actual go-to-market businesses is a core goal of the S\$1 million investment fund that we have allocated to this venture.

In all facets of our programmes, we seek to bring together excellent teachers, global experts, and folks that are in the process of 'doing' in the real-world, to further develop our culture of inquiry and opportunities for our students. The discussions at the EdTechX conference highlighted how far ahead we are of other organisations and how much belief there is in the importance of what we are doing within our school community.



David Edwards
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IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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Parent Event

MotionWerkz - Taking Yoga and Fitness into higher level on the swing!
Fees Apply : \$15
Limited slots available per class

Date: 22 November (Tuesday)
Time: 10.30am

Venue: MotionWerkz Yoga Fitness Studio
Address: 2 Kallang Ave #07-22
CT HUB Singapore 339407



Important bus service notice

GEMS World Academy (Singapore) announces the implementation of an innovative & unique software system called **busRUN** to efficiently manage the school bus operations.

www.busrun.net

Message from the Primary Years Deputy Principal

This term has started at a frenetic pace with several fantastic events taking place.

Last week we celebrated the diversity within our community during the Uniting Nations celebrations. The Uniting Nations celebrations began on Friday with our Early Years parade and concert, and continued throughout the day, culminating in our Primary and Secondary Years concert in the evening. Occasions like this highlight what a privilege it is to work within a diverse cultural setting. This diversity adds to the richness of the holistic education we seek to provide.

Last week our sporting teams represented GWA (Singapore) at the ACSIS finals sports events and continued to display our growing sporting reputation while competing against other international schools in Singapore.

Please feel free to contact me if you ever have any questions or concerns.



Mike Gilmour
EY/PY Deputy Principal
m.gilmour@gwa.edu.sg

Early Years UN Performance



Message from the Secondary Years Deputy Principal

Secondary Years examinations are soon upon us and will take place from November 28th -December 2nd. Semester exams are designed to help students gain experience with taking formal comprehensive examinations. Students will be receiving study guides for all examination subjects. Teachers will guide students on how to effectively prepare for these assessments. Students should create study plans and strategies appropriate to their learning style to ensure academic success. A letter was provided to parents and students today providing more detailed information about examination week.



Earlier this week, a group of former IB Diploma students came by to visit our current DP students. Our students gathered with the former IB

students and had an informal conversation with them about their experiences as previous DP students, as well as their current experiences as university students. One underlying theme conveyed by each of the former students was the need to balance and manage academic expectations for each subject. It was a very informative session.



Arnelle Grundhoefer
SY Deputy Principal/DP
Coordinator
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14-16
November

CLASS
PHOTOS



17 November

CLASSICAL SOLO MUSIC
CONCERT

Start Time: 6:00 pm and 7:30pm
Venue: Auditorium.

Please note that there will be two performances that evening due to the large number of musicians performing. The first concert will take place at 6:00 and the second will begin at 7:30

28 Nov- 2 Dec

SY SEMESTER
EXAMS

30 November

PARENT ENGAGEMENT
WORKSHOP

GWA Auditorium Lobby
Time : TBC

GWAPA:
gwapa.singapore@gwa.edu.sg
Judy (PRE) j.lee@gwa.edu.sg



SPORT AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

As you are all aware Season 2 of our Sports and ECA programme starts this coming Monday 14th November. Nine competitive school sports teams will be involved in games across football, basketball and touch rugby. Tryouts for these teams will begin next week and those students wishing to be part of these teams must attend the tryouts as follows:

- **11u Football Girls and Boys** - Tuesday and Thursday on the field
- **12u Basketball Girls and Boys** - Monday and Wednesday in the gym
- **14u Football Girls and Boys** - Monday and Wednesday on the field
- **16u Basketball Girls and Boys** - Monday and Wednesday in the gym
- **19u Touch Rugby Girls** - Monday and Wednesday on the field

Teams with big squads will select the most appropriate players for the relevant league. Please be aware that players selected in our school teams will be required to purchase the team uniform from the school shop. Coaches for each team will notify players and families of the specific details next week.

For after school ECAs and clubs, students should proceed to the signposted meeting point at ground level opposite the canteen to line up with their group before moving off to their activity venue.

Parents, one final request that you have read all of the information that has been sent to you concerning your child's team tryout and/or ECA to ensure things run as smoothly as possible next week.



If you have any questions about the Sports and ECA programme, please feel free to email me.

Danny Tauroa
Activities Coordinator
d.tauroa@gwa.edu.sg

MESSAGE FROM GWA PARENT ASSOCIATION (GWAPA)



THANK YOU to all the GWAPA parents!

What a wonderful event the UN celebration was last Friday. It was an amazing display of colour and culture. We hope that you all enjoyed the evening of fun, food and fantastic performances as much as we did. An event such as this doesn't happen without the amazing support and hard work of many parents. The GWAPA team thanks you all for being involved, supporting the event via displays and tasty food and most importantly for being there to celebrate the evening with your children.

Attention! GWAPA's very first and much awaited social event, **Wine Tasting at China Collection**, is finally here. In this beautiful, centrally located place, it costs only \$30 per person which includes unlimited wines both red and white, accompanied by finger food such as cheese, crackers, dips and veggies etc. It's a strictly adult only event with limited spaces. The \$30 per person is payable in advance to confirm your attendance. Please pay by Wednesday, November 16th, in order to secure your place for the event - it is not secure until you have paid. You can pay via electronic transfer or by cash. To pay and confirm please contact Kathleen via email kathbacc@yahoo.com or her mobile +65 9061-1032. We look forward to having a wonderful time together.



On Thursday this week a group of GWA parents experienced beautiful nature and good food when they visited the Bollyvood Veggies Organic Farm. Thank you Judy Lee for organising it for us. Go to our GWAPA Singapore Facebook page to see the fantastic photo story from that event.

A kind reminder regarding the next Lee Ah Mooi Old Age Home visit on November 19th. Families are encouraged to create and/or bring some Christmas decorations that will be displayed on the special board to make the old age home a merrier place. If you are interested in joining us, please email Ms. Lei directly r.lei@gwa.edu.sg and she will be happy to answer any questions that you may have.



GWAPA Team

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Elderly home visit
Saturday
19 November
12-3pm

RSVP
r.lei@gwa.edu.sg

The Wine & Cheese GWAPA evening

When: 23 November,
7:30pm-10pm
Venue: The China
Collection - 20 Malcom
Rd S308259
Dress: Smart Casual

The GWAPA meeting

Date: November
30th
Time: TBC

CONTACT THE GWAPA TEAM

gwapa.singapore@gwa.edu.sg

Share your sports news with us,
Join our Facebook page