

Weekly School Newsletter

Message from the Head of School

The conclusion of the first quarter is an important time to review, reflect and refresh. For more than 50% of our student population, the past 10 weeks has been the first experience of GWA, with many also new to Singapore. The time spent forging friendships, delving into the various IB programmes, and in becoming fully engaged in life at GWA has been exhilarating, challenging and tiring. For approximately 30% of our education staff, they too have been deeply engaged in understanding new systems, processes, culture and curriculum. For many of these staff, they too have been new to Singapore, starting not just an important role at an early stage school, but also settling their own families into unfamiliar environments.

Later today, the EY, PY and SY quarter one reports will be made accessible via ManageBac. These reports provide an important checkpoint in your child's learning, and are a useful tool to help shape conversations at the upcoming parent-teacher conferences. These progress reports are one part of a larger suite of communication which exists between home and school. ManageBac provides ongoing access to the written curriculum, assessment dates and results, as well as the reports direct. Teachers have been sharing the delivered programme of the school via their weekly home room newsletters, as well as being in consistent contact regarding the progress of your child. Our many curriculum nights and parent engagement workshops have provided additional opportunities for face-to-face communication between teachers, leadership, parents and students.

During the week-long holidays, we encourage families to discuss progress-to-date. The family conversation leads well into setting goals for the second quarter. In setting these targets, it is also wise to outline what success will look like and what support your child needs to successfully reach their goals.

Quarter two will continue the open communication between home and school, something which GWA is well-known for. The upcoming family-school meetings will be followed a week later with our annual Uniting Nations Celebration. We look forward to students, parents and staff returning from the October school break with renewed goals for the remainder of 2016, and to engaging together at these exciting events.



David Edwards
Head of School
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IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Reception: +65 6808 7321
info@gwa.edu.sg
EY/PY Division Office: Secretary:
+65 68087313
s.crot@gwa.edu.sg
SY Division Office:
Secretary: +65 68087312
h.leu@gwa.edu.sg
Bus Enquiries:
HDT Service Line: 9777 4838
gwa.transport@hdt.com.sg



Think Pink Day 2016

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, so please mark the date **Wednesday 26th October as Think Pink Day** in your calendar. It is a day where everyone at GWA (Singapore) will be showing and raising our awareness and support for the Breast Cancer cause. This gives you plenty of time to find the perfect pink combination for students (and parents), to wear to school on that day. There will be a whole school photo at 9.15am and donation boxes available for staff and parents to contribute to.

Lunch time Strings concert



Message from the Primary Years Deputy Principal

We have come to the end of what has been a very busy, yet exciting first quarter of the year. As always, it has been encouraging to observe our students grow and learn within the GWA community. This quarter we welcomed many new students and families into our community and it has been pleasing to see how well they have integrated into the life of the school.

When we return from the October break we will host our first parent-teacher conferences of the year. This is a valuable time where students and parents have the opportunity to talk about the teaching and learning that is taking place within our classrooms. We will also be putting the final touches on our Uniting Nations performances in anticipation for the 4th of November concert.

We wish everyone a fantastic and relaxing break and look forward to another exciting quarter when we return.

PY Assembly this week was hosted by Grade 1.1



Mike Gilmour
Primary Years Deputy Principal
m.gilmour@gwa.edu.sg

Message from the Secondary Years Deputy Principal/DP Coordinator

The IB's increased focus on the approaches to teaching and learning in the IB, aligns the DP with the Primary Years Programme and the Middle Years Programme. One of the core teaching and learning skills is the development of student communication skills. Students should strive to maintain open lines of communication with teachers, peers and parents. Good communication is crucial to the promotion of self esteem and self confidence. Clear and effective communication skills are important to help students benefit as much as possible from their educational experiences. Some of the essential communication skills for students are:

- The ability to communicate, in written or oral form, and understand, or make others understand, various messages in a variety of situations and for different purposes
 - The ability to listen to, and understand, various spoken messages in a variety of communicative situations, and to speak concisely and clearly
 - The ability to read and understand different texts, adopting strategies appropriate to various reading purposes (reading for information, for study or for pleasure) and to various text types
 - The ability to write different types of texts for various purposes. To monitor the writing process (from drafting to proofreading)
 - The ability to formulate one's arguments, in speaking or writing, in a convincing manner and take full account of other viewpoints, whether expressed in written or oral form
 - The skills needed to use aids (such as notes, schemes, maps) to produce, present or understand complex texts in written or oral form (speeches, conversations, instructions, interviews, debates)
- "Assessment and Teaching of 21st CentSkills" (ATC21S) project



Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Arnelle Grundhoefer
Secondary Years Deputy Principal/DP
Coordinator
a.grundhoefer@gwa.edu.sg

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

26 October

**THINK PINK DAY &
PARENT ENGAGEMENT
WORKSHOP**

GWA Auditorium Lobby @
9:00am

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

**27-28
October**

**PARENT-TEACHER
CONFERENCES**

EY /PY Principal
n.white@gwa.edu.sg

SY Principal
j.stipek@gw.edu.sg

4 November

**UNITING NATIONS
CELEBRATION**

**Early Years - 9:10am in
the Auditorium**

**Primary and Secondary
- 6:30pm start in main
lobby**

7-11 November

**GRADE 10
WEEK-WITHOUT-
WALLS (VIETNAM)**



SPORT AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

It has been a busy week finalising the list of teams and activities we will offer our students in Season 2. This information will be sent to you today and I apologise for the delay, but it is important that we could provide as many options as possible and this organisation has taken a little longer than expected.

There are a few important points for parents to note:

- Students involved in a team or activity in Season 1 and wanting to be a part of that same team or activity again in Season 2 must signup again.
- All information about what we will offer will be sent without the signup forms.
- Do take a few days to discuss the options with your child(ren) to ensure they are signing up for what they really want to do.
- The signup form will be forwarded in a few days after you have had time to consolidate what you will signup for and you have had some time to plan your weekly routine during Season 2 accordingly.
- Be clear of the final date and time for submitting the signup form and do so on time. This makes the whole process much easier for all concerned.
- We will consider all of the preferences you have signed up for and the aim is for every student to be confirmed in at least one of their preferences.
- Please be sure to read all of the information that is provided about the options before contacting me with queries. Often the clarification you need will be found in the information I have sent you.

Finally, I am optimistic that this process will be a lot smoother than in Season 1 and thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding.



Feel free to contact me or our Parent Relations Executive, Judy Lee j.lee@gwa.edu.sg, with any queries.

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

MESSAGE FROM GWA PARENT ASSOCIATION (GWAPA)

Uniting Nations Celebration

In just 3 weeks it will be the Uniting Nations Celebration, one of the most highly anticipated events in our school calendar. As a parent community, let's support our kids and school to make it the best ever. For those of you who have signed up to help with planning and preparations, thank you so much. In case you have not yet had the chance to sign up for food contributions, please use our [sign-up genius link](#) to RSVP the number of guests and to indicate what food you are bringing. Please bear in mind that it should be nut free and every dish served should have the ingredients labeled - so we can respect each other's health and religion. Also, due to certain limitations, we encourage food items that can be easily consumed as finger food. If you are able to assist teachers with decorations and displays for the evening, please get in touch with the parent team leaders, as listed below.

UN PARENT CONTACTS - DISPLAYS AND PRESENTATIONS

Africa Americas Australasia British Isles East Asia Europe India Middle East South East Asia	Smitha Kenneth Lili Garza Rae Lightfoot Cathy Lawrie Takako Kusunoki Claudia Porges Shaily Badkul Kohi Naisthein Upi Yatim	smith.l.kunnath2gmail.com lilianagarza@msn.com rae@lightfoot.co.nz cathylawrie@msn.com tacobell0824@gmail.com porgesc@gmail.com shailybadkul@yahoo.co.in kohi_pr@hotmail.com mrs_ady_yatim@yahoo.com
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Community Service

This Saturday we will visit the The Lee Ah Mooi Old Age Home; those of you who signed up should have already received an email from Ms. Lei with the details of the visit. If you would like to be involved in next month's visit on November 19th, 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

GWAPA Gathering
Save the date: **October 26th at 10am following the Parent Engagement Workshop**

UN CELEBRATION
4th November
Parent helpers for displays [master contact list](#)
Food contributions [sign-up genius link](#)

COMMUNITY SERVICE
Elderly home visit
Saturday 19 November 12-3pm
RSVP r.lei@gwa.edu.sg

CONTACT THE GWAPA TEAM
gwapa.singapore@gwa.edu.sg
Share your sports news with us, Join our Facebook page