



Weekly School Newsletter

Message from the Head of School

The upcoming holiday period remains a busy time for many of the team at GWA (Singapore). Our Admissions staff continue to provide support to a large number of new families, many of whom are relocating not just to a new school but also a new country. Our awesome PRE, Judy Lee, has also been providing guidance and we thank those parents who have been generous in being an additional resource to new families as they commence life in Singapore.

Our operations team are hard at work on two key projects, both of which have been under construction for the past couple of weeks. Our cafeteria extension remains on target, with the space significantly expanding upon our present capacity. This will see our current seating for 300 grow to an area able to support up to 900 in one sitting. The extension includes an area which may be enclosed and air-conditioned, particularly important should air quality or environmental considerations impact comfort. The cafeteria extension will be completed and ready for operational use from late January 2017.

The second key project is the development of our Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center. This space creates an area of more than 600 square metres, which will support the development of robotics, AI and media. The significant refurbishment of the balcony space outside the library will create a collaborative area, supporting multiple initiatives and specifically designed to be of great use for our EdTech accelerator and entrepreneurship programme, which launches in 2017. The first phase of this refurbishment will be completed by the end of December, with the balcony area requiring quite a bit of government approval prior to use, which we anticipate will occur from early February.

The operations team, with input from the student council and leadership, has also been working on the expansion of lower primary play areas within the current site restrictions. The students have developed some great ideas and it is now a matter of finding an appropriate area within the campus to help expand the play areas and types offered at the school. The Early Years playground is also undergoing some tidy-up and, despite having waited some time now for an external vendor to honour a warrantee on equipment, we will be pushing ahead with the replacement of a small area that has been out of action for a number of weeks.

For staff and families who are travelling during this festive season, we wish you a relaxing and enjoyable break. On behalf of the leadership team at GWA (Singapore), we extend to you happy holidays and a merry Christmas.



David Edwards
Head of School
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IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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Parent Event

Chinatown Dim Sum and Tour



Venue: Yum Cha Chinatown Restaurant
Address: 20 Trengganu St, #02-01 Chinatown, Singapore 058479
Date: 17 Jan 2017 @ 10.30am

Join us for a Chinese Dim Sum breakfast in the heart of Chinatown, followed by a Chinese New Year Festive bazaar tour in the streets of Chinatown.

RSVP : j.lee@gwa.edu.sg



Message from the Early/Primary Years Principal

As this semester comes to an end, I would like to take the opportunity to mention some of the highlights. Semester One provided our students with many opportunities to showcase their talents and abilities. Our Uniting Nations event provided a wonderful experience for students, families and faculty. The school community came together to share their understanding of different cultures through both presentations and performances. On the sporting front, many of our teams and athletes have had success at different levels.

To conclude this first semester, academic report cards will be sent home electronically. This document is an important summation of student academic progress throughout the first semester, with the comments provided by the class and homeroom teachers giving a clear gauge on student success, as well as indicating areas for further growth. The semester report is a significant item which, in conjunction with the ongoing assessment data communicated to families, provides very clear and detailed information about the progress of each student. This formative information is invaluable for families and teachers, as they now look ahead to individual student study for semester two.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Early and Primary Years staff for their fantastic work this semester. I would also like to thank our students for the commitment and enthusiasm they have shown. To those families and students who are leaving GWA, I wish you the very best for the future and to those returning on Monday 9th January 2017, I wish you a very restful and enjoyable holiday.



Neil White
EY/PY Principal
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Message from the Secondary Years Principal

First of all, I would like to congratulate everyone on the completion of a very eventful and successful semester! We are proud to see how students, their dedicated teachers, and parents keep coming together as a community both in and out of the classroom environment: we have had entertaining and informative student-led assemblies; week-without-walls experience for Grade 10; open mic performance and trivia quiz organised by the student council; curriculum nights; GWAPA workshops; parent-teacher conferences; sports day, and many others.

It is difficult for parents to attend all school events, especially if they fall within working hours. As such, I would like to share some notes from the second 'Town Hall' meeting which took place on 28 November. We went through some details of the SY student survey findings which had been sent to all parents earlier in November. We will be asking for student feedback again in quarter 4 when we also hope to increase the number of responses. Following this, Mark Gardner delivered a presentation aiming to increase parents' understanding of the complexity of MYP assessment. The next session will be scheduled in early February and will focus on the Diploma Programme.

I wish you all very relaxing holidays!



Jan Stipek
Sy Principal
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Click [here](#) to view detailed Events Calendar

11 Jan 2016

COFFEE MORNING (NEW PARENTS)

Parent Cafe
@ 9:00am

16-20 Jan 2017

Arts week!

We are excited to share with you that Arts Week 2017 is fast approaching. Please take the time to click on the live link with your child(ren) and peruse the website so you can familiarise yourselves with the wide range of arts-based events scheduled during the week. Please be aware if your child is keen to join the dance workshops then sign up is required. There is a link to do this.

25 Jan 2017

PARENT ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP

GWA Auditorium Lobby @
9:00am

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

30 Jan - 3 Feb
2017

CHINESE NEW YEAR SCHOOL HOLIDAYS



SPORT AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

School Sports Teams

We have had an excellent week of GWA sports team results! Our basketball teams have been leading the way with the 12U Girls scoring an impressive victory against Avondale Grammar School 26 - 9, the 12U Boys team edged out the Australian School in a nail biting home court thriller 23 - 22, and the 16U Boys team continues to impress with their third straight win over United World College East 48-32.

The 11U Girls Football team remain without a loss after three weeks of intense games and have a current record of 9 wins, 3 draws and 0 losses. We are definitely starting to see the signs of success from our students due to their hard work and commitment to their teams.

ECAs

Planning for Season 3 is underway and I would like to thank those parents who have completed the form I emailed last week asking for an indication of what sports teams your children want to be part of. There are a number of you who are still to complete this and I would appreciate it if you could do so as soon as possible. This is important information for me to organise coaching staff, enter the relevant teams for the season, and to schedule the use of our facilities appropriately.



Finally, thank you for your patience and support during the semester as I have worked my way through the new systems here at GWA. I continue to look for ways to make the organisation and delivery of the Sports and ECA programme more accessible and efficient.

Wishing you happy holidays, and safe travels.

Danny Tauroa
Activities Coordinator
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MESSAGE FROM GWA PARENT ASSOCIATION (GWAPA)

GWAPA wishes you a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. Thank you to all parents for the support this first semester. Hope you have a restful and relaxing break and we look forward to firing up again for the second half of the academic year.

GWAPA DAD'S NEWS



As the saying goes... 'It's not the quantity, but the quality that counts'. The five dads who turned up, a.k.a 'The Founding Fathers' had a great evening at the inaugural GWAPA Dads night out, with interesting chat, cold beers (other refreshing beverages are available) and delicious hawker centre fair.

ARTS WEEK

Jan 16-20, 2017
Details coming soon

GWAPA DAD'S NIGHT

GWAPA Dad's Night at the Races! Turf Club in Kranji.
6:30pm on Friday 13th, January 2017

CONTACT GWAPA TEAM

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Share your sports news with us, join our Facebook page

GWAPA Team

