

Weekly School Newsletter

Message from the Head of School

Our third and final pillar of 'GWA: The Future School' surrounds entrepreneurship. For the past twelve months we have explored the world of entrepreneurship and the various programmes that exist. In most cases, the findings have very much been upon adults going through short training programmes, as well as the many incubator and accelerator offerings that exist. In the K-12 space, it has been disheartening to learn that very few schools focus on entrepreneurship beyond ECAs.

It is with this research in mind and the success of two pilot programmes conducted with SY students in the past 7 months, that we will be launching a very strong entrepreneurship programme for all GWA SY students. The fundamental goal is to create a culture of entrepreneurship on campus and within the school community. We aim to encourage our students to 'think big', develop solutions to challenging problems, to learn by doing and through mentorship, being guided in bringing these solutions to market.

Our entrepreneurship programme has three significant components:

1. The Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center
2. Internships G6-11: Every year SY students will be required to experience the 'real-world' through workplace experience
3. Summer programme: With our external partners, the opportunity to undertake boot camps

To really ensure that we build a culture for entrepreneurship, it's important that we create a suitable space which enables the right mix of people to interact in a start-up environment. To support this, **we are excited to announce a S\$1 million seed fund for entrepreneurship.** This fund will provide start-up and early stage businesses with a co-working space in which to develop, IT support, access to the GEMS network of corporate partners, as well as a suitable network for beta-testing. Commencing from January 2017, we will initially provide seed investment to 3 companies, each with a focus on Ed Tech, who will base their businesses at our Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center. A requirement will be to ensure they are available to mentor student initiatives, and to provide forums to share their journey in taking a business from the start to successful launch. These forums will be available to staff, students and parents.

Our 'GWA: The Future School' initiative has three incredible pillars, all of which ensure we are creating an environment for learning which excites our students and future-proofs them for the realities of later life. With the world rapidly changing, GWA sees it as crucial that we lead the way in developing learning opportunities which significantly enhance the already fantastic IB curriculum we have at the school.

We look forward to hosting families at our upcoming town hall series, in which we will go into far greater detail on each of the 'Future School' pillars. In the interim, if you are interested in connecting your company to GWA, to ensure that you are a direct contributor to our STEM and/or entrepreneurship programmes, please do contact me direct.



David Edwards
Head of School
d.edwards@gwa.edu.sg

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

HDT BUS UPDATE

Effective, 15 September 2016, Mdm Suketha will be the main contact for all GWA (Singapore) school transportation matters. Ms Gayathiri will be assisting as needed.

HDT Transport Site

Coordinator:

Mdm Suketha

Service Line: 9777 4838

Email:

gwa.transport@hdt.com.sg

GWA PARENT EVENT



GWA Parents experienced the Mid-Autumn festival through a Chinese Tea Appreciation Workshop and Mooncake tasting session on Thursday this week.



Message from the PYP Coordinator

A student's journey through the PYP should allow them to gain a better understanding of the world and appreciation for others. This will allow them to interact successfully in a global society. The International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme curriculum is defined in three interconnecting parts. The written curriculum, the taught curriculum and the assessed curriculum. It is designed to balance the acquisition of significant and relevant knowledge and skills, the development of conceptual understanding, the formation of personal, positive attitudes and the capacity to take responsible actions.

The written curriculum is comprised of five essential elements. These elements are knowledge, concepts, skills, attitudes and action. Knowledge is the content of specific subject areas both disciplinary and transdisciplinary. Transdisciplinary content transcends subjects and creates connections for students. Concepts are utilised and highlighted to help create an in-depth understanding of subjects and areas of study. They have relevance both within and beyond subject areas.

The attitudes and IB learner profile contribute to creating international-mindedness and the wellbeing of individuals and learning communities. Through the teaching and learning of the PYP, students' successful inquiry leads to responsible, thoughtful and appropriate action. This action can be on a small level for example a unit exploring responsible water usage might inspire students to encourage their family to turn off the taps while brushing their teeth.

Please inform your child's homeroom teacher if you notice them connecting to their learning at home. We love to celebrate and showcase student action in our school community.



Olivia Burke -
PYP Coordinator
o.burke@gwa.edu.sg

Message from the MYP/IGCSE Coordinator

Our IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) aims to develop active learners who are internationally minded young people with the ability to empathise with others and who exemplify the IB learner profile. The MYP empowers our students to become active enquirers with the ability to investigate a range of issues and ideas of significance locally, nationally and globally, giving them confidence in managing their own learning.

In the classroom we have an emphasis on learning by doing and making connections with the wider world to encourage the development of our students to be creative, critical and reflective thinkers. Additional aspects of our programme which nurture and support a wider appreciation of our place in the world around us include Service and Action in which students engage in the communities around them, and our Experiential Learning Programme in which students experience learning outside of the classroom to support the development of an international mindset. Each of these attributes of the MYP combine together to produce meaningful learning in context that supports the individual development of each of our students.

The knowledge, skills and attitudes developed through the MYP actively build upon those inherent within the IB Primary Years Programme (PYP) in addition to preparing students for the demanding requirements of the IB Diploma Programme (DP), providing effective progression across the IB continuum.

If you have any questions about the MYP please do not hesitate to contact me.



Mark Gardner - MYP/IGCSE
Coordinator
m.gardner@gwa.edu.sg

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

21 September

PARENT EVENT

Lunch at EatPlayLove
Craft Cafe

Judy (PRE)
j.lee@gwa.edu.sg

28 September

PARENT ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP

GWA Auditorium Lobby @
9:00am

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

11-12 October

STRINGS CONCERT

Time: 12:55
Venue:
Auditorium

14 October

END OF QUARTER 1



SPORT AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Our competitive sports teams started their seasons this week with our 11U boys basketball, 12U rugby, 9U boys and 16U girls football teams traveling for matches, while our 9u girls football and touch teams hosted games here at GWA. We had some wins and some losses during the week, and while results are often a determining factor in the success of a season, the process of developing effective and focussed athletes is what is most important at this stage of the year. Our coaches have been working hard to instill the discipline and commitment needed to be part of an effective team.

Our swimming season began last Saturday with the Super Sprint Series swimming meet at Orchid Country Club on September 10. GWA was well-represented with 24 swimmers, led by the "Scarlett Show" as Scarlett Coleman and Scarlett Nichol each won two gold medals and Keira Burke added another. Multiple swimmers won medals and each swimmer recorded at least one personal best time, despite only one week of training! Our group was spirited and happy, including parents in attendance. We anticipate a group of about 40 swimmers taking part in our next competition on September 24 at UWC.



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



MESSAGE FROM GWA PARENT ASSOCIATION (GWAPA)

It has been a very busy week for GWAPA, with a few very successful meetings with various school representatives. These meetings will help us to provide the best possible support for school activities and to help connect parents, thus having a positive impact on the school, community and our children.

Early next week you should receive a link to a survey we kindly ask you to take part in. We would love to know your ideas and preferences regarding GWAPA meetings and events. The information gathered from this survey will help us to increase and improve parent engagement at GWA (Singapore). Thank you very much in advance for the 10 minutes of your precious time to answer the questions. Your voice is crucial.

A kind reminder to save the date and time for the parent engagement session on September 28th (Wednesday) at 9am and the GWAPA gathering at 10am. We will update you on the outline of this event soon.

On the GWAPA Singapore Facebook page you will find updates on GWAPA events and meetings. If you wish to be updated via social media, please let us know so that we can add you as a new member. We encourage you to share your photo stories from the school sports events your child has participated in. It is always great to see the happy faces of our kids in action.

Also please note that the GWA PARENTS WhatsApp group is not an official platform of communication for GWAPA. Our Facebook page is a great place to stay connected, or please email gwapa.singapore@gwa.edu.sg if you have any questions or would like to get involved in our projects.

GWAPA Team

