

Weekly School Newsletter

Message from the Head of School

GWA (Singapore) is hosting IB workshops at the school over the next three days, as well as utilising today as an opportunity for expanded PD sessions for all of our staff, both education and non-education. The IB workshops are focusing upon the IB Primary Years Programme, with many sessions delving into early years specific pedagogical matters.

Ongoing professional development is of crucial importance in ensuring that we constantly remain at the leading edge of developments in education. PD provides a significant allocation of time to enable peer discussions, review and study to occur, all of which have a profound impact on school culture, employee retention and most importantly, on the learning opportunities provided at the school.

Many of the Early Years team have committed to attending the three days of the IB workshops, joining educators from across the region. We are also delighted that Lynn White and Julie Jamaludin are leading two of the teacher training workshops, in support of the IB educator network. Primary Years staff have spent the day going into great depth in areas such as mathematics, assessment, feedback and reporting, as well as researching into literacy strategies across the grade levels.

The Secondary Years staff covered a broad array of topics. Exploration on the impact of fake news in research, hands-on use of potential educational apps for middle school students, communication and problem-solving strategies, as well as STEM as an inter-disciplinary connector for subjects were all areas of focus.

Front-of-house, secretaries, marketing and admissions staff have explored the various factors which enhance user-experience, a programme they continue into the weeks ahead. Our IT team, have undergone training on a variety of support systems which will be crucial as the school continues to grow and the site expands further. The HR team have spent time looking at contemporary HR practices from outside the education industry. Finance has continued to work on the global systems project we are piloting for all GEMS schools outside of the Middle-East.

We commit to the professional development of all GWA staff, to ensure that just as we focus upon a culture of learning for our students, so too is it crucial to provide a similar environment for all of our staff. We thank you for your support and recognition of this defining element of GWA.



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IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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Parent Event

Peranakan Heritage Home
Museum



Awarded Best Tour
Experience by Singapore
Tourism Awards 2016, the
Intan is a Peranakan Heritage
Home-Museum.

Date: 9 march (Thursday)

Time: 11am

Venue: The Intan

Address: 69 Joo Chiat
Terrace, Singapore 427231

Fees Apply \$45 per pax

RSVP: j.lee@gwa.edu.sg

Orchestral & Choral Concert



The Music Department is pleased
to announce an Orchestral &
Choral Concert which will take
place on Wednesday, **February
22 at 6:30pm in the auditorium.**

*Please note that this is one day
earlier than previously scheduled.
Performing will be the Primary
Choirs, the SY Vocal Ensemble,
and the String Ensemble.
Everyone is welcome to enjoy a
fine evening of music for voices
and strings.*

Message from the Primary Years Deputy Principal

This week our grade 5 students went to Malaysia on camp. This camp forms part of the Experiential Learning Programme at our school and presents our students with a broad range of activities and experiences. As with most camps, our students had the opportunity to take risks as they participated in a range of collaborative activities designed to challenge them mentally and physically.

In addition to the grade 5 camp, there have been several grades who have recently been on field trips. The purpose of our field trips is to provide tangible links to curriculum and real world experiences which relate authentically to classroom learning. We are excited about the varied learning experiences our students have at GWA (Singapore) as we know that all students learn differently.

We also look forward to celebrating Book Week next week with many exciting activities and opportunities planned throughout the week. We hope that the focus of this week will encourage a lifelong love of reading.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries about the Early Years and Primary Years.



Mike Gilmour
EY/PY Deputy Principal
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Message from the Secondary Years Deputy Principal

This week IB Diploma students have begun the process of learning how to write an Extended Essay. In addition to the six core academic courses taken in the IB Diploma, all students are required to write a 4000 word Extended Essay as part of the programme. The Extended Essay, often called the "EE", allows students to explore a topic in an area of study of interest to them. According to the IB, the "participation in this process develops the capacity to analyse, synthesise and evaluate knowledge". The range of topics that can be pursued are generally related to one of the main subjects. The Extended Essay is a unique task for all students, both those who are studying for the full IB diploma and course students who choose it as an option. While no particular background is formally required to undertake the Extended Essay, students are strongly recommended to carry out research in a subject area they are currently studying in the Diploma Programme to ensure that they have sufficient subject knowledge to complete the task. If a student has a background in the subject that is not from their Diploma Programme studies, the student must ensure that they are familiar with the subject from a Diploma Programme perspective.

The aims of the Extended Essay are for students to;

- Engage in independent research with intellectual initiative and rigour
- Develop research, thinking, self-management and communication skills
- Reflect on what has been learned throughout the research and writing process

(Source: *Extended Essay Guide*, (2017), IBO Geneva, Switzerland)

If you have any questions about the IB Diploma Programme or the Extended Essay, please do not hesitate to contact me.



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

20 -24 Feb 2017

**BOOK
WEEK**



22 Feb 2017

**PARENT ENGAGEMENT
SESSION
(WORKSHOPS ON
LITERACY)
9AM
AUDITORIUM**

1-3 March 2017

**GRADE 4
CAMP**

9 March 2017

**POP
CONCERT**

SPORT AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Sports Teams

What a brilliant Season 2 our school teams have had! Of the nine teams we had competing during the season, five featured in the finals played last weekend in their respective divisions. These are the type of achievements we are aiming for in our sports programme and we must feed of this success to continue striving to improve our team performance and results. Congratulations to the following teams for their medal successes:

- 11U Girls Football coached by Ms. Julie Jamaludin - Silver
 - 12U Girls Basketball coached by Mr. Brendan Burke - Silver, unbeaten in pool play, only losing the final
 - 14U Girls Football coached by Mr. Paul Rimmer - Gold and an unbeaten season
 - 16U Boys Basketball coached by Mr. Phil Chao - Gold and an unbeaten season
- Congratulations to all players and coaches, and let's work hard to continue this success into Season 3.

Sports and ECAs

The SchoolsBuddy system was rolled out this week, and after some minor teething problems that were quickly resolved, has been a success. Allocations have been made and confirmations of places will have been sent to you all via email. Following are some procedural reminders for the start of the season on Monday:

- **Lunchtime Clubs:** Students are to eat their lunch and then report directly to the relevant room for their activity by 12.45pm for PY students, and 1.45pm for SY students.
- **After School Clubs:** Students should report to the meeting area at the ground level of B Block. Signs will be placed for each activity where students will line up and meet their activity supervisor before moving of to the appropriate venue.
- **Sports Team Try-outs:** All students requesting to try-out for a sports team have been **confirmed to participate in the try-outs**. Final confirmation of a place in a school team will be decided and advised by the coach of each team after the try-outs have concluded. Students should report directly to the appropriate sports venue for their team trial - football, rugby and touch to the sports field; swimming to the pool; basketball, netball and badminton to the gym.
- **ECA Buses:** Students will be escorted to the bus bay and should know what bus number they will be traveling on.



Danny Tauroa
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MESSAGE FROM GWA PARENT ASSOCIATION (GWAPA)

It is with much regret that GWAPA has to postpone this Saturday's planned charitable visit to the Orphanage in Johor due to unforeseen circumstances. We are currently working with the staff at the orphanage to determine a new date for the visit and will update the school community as soon as we have confirmed arrangements.

We have had an overwhelming response to both the shoebox gifts and also the food/ toys/ clothing donations. This morning a group of student and parents helped to check, sort and pack the items for donation. All the donations is stored to be ready for the visit once it goes ahead. THANK YOU all very much for your wonderful support for this.

We apologise for the inconvenience that this last minute postponement may have caused families who had arranged to attend but please do look out for our revised date for the visit. Thanks for your understanding and continued support.

Please join us for the **GWAPA update session next Wednesday**, February 22nd following the Parents Engagement Workshop at 9am. There will be a series of workshops focusing on literacy in the Early, Primary and Secondary years. We will brief you on the great upcoming event, the GWA Fair. Also we would love to hear your feedback and ideas on future initiatives and social opportunities. Hope to see you there!



**CONTACT
GWAPA TEAM**

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Share your sports
news with us, join our
Facebook page

**GWAPA
Session**

22 February
following
Parent Engagement
Workshop at 9 am