

Weekly School Newsletter

Message from the Head of School

On behalf of the entire staff of GEMS World Academy (Singapore), it is my pleasure to welcome families to the 2016-2017 academic year. It has been an incredibly exciting commencement to our third year of school operations and overall the first week has been very successful.

With a significant increase in enrolments, we have been faced with the fun challenge of opening many additional classes across all three divisions. In the Secondary Years, our first senior class has begun and our Grade 11s have been proudly wearing their new uniforms throughout the week, resplendent in the jackets they designed.

On Wednesday and Thursday all students were involved in the GWA Experiential Learning Programme (ELP), which presented a great opportunity for friendships to be made, collaboration to commence and for teachers to learn more about every student in their class. ELP is an essential element of learning at GWA, providing all students with opportunities beyond the classroom to deepen their understanding of curriculum in real-world contexts.

Across the ELP, students explored a variety of problem-solving and challenging activities. Some examples include the tasks set in and around our STEM labs, the sports activities within the gymnasium, and the many cultural activities conducted by the Foreign Language department. Our Grade 10s undertook an entrepreneurship programme, forming businesses, seeking funding, responding to unforeseen challenges ultimately pitching their business to assembled advisors. The Grade 11s undertook a two day orientation for their IB Diploma Programme, inclusive of activities surrounding their Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS) component.

GWA is a vibrant school community encapsulating families from across more than 51 nationalities. As an international school we celebrate all of those great aspects which are common across our cultures, whilst exploring and understanding the many wonderful elements which make us different. At our welcome to new families coffee morning, we spent time exploring the DNA and core values of GWA. As we have clarified with our students and staff, at GWA we interact through a culture of kindness and it is important that all members of our school community engage in a positive and meaningful manner.

We all share a common goal: to ensure that we are providing all members of the school wonderful learning opportunities. By keeping this in mind as we delve deeper into this school year, we can ensure that we are all contributing to the incredible school environment which GEMS World Academy (Singapore) is so well known for.

David Edwards

Head of School

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IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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Mother-Toddler Playgroup



The Mother-Toddler Playgroup will resume on Mondays and Wednesdays from **22 August - 9:30 to 11:30am** in the indoor play area at the KG Lobby

GWA Parent Event



When: Tuesday, 6th

September

Where: Tekka Market,
Little India

If you would like to join other GWA parents for our first parent outing of the new academic year, please contact Judy our PRE at j.lee@gwa.edu.sg

Message from the Primary Years Principal

The beginning of our school year sees students across the grade levels setting goals for their own learning and development. Goal-setting provides an ongoing focus for students and can act as a reflective tool for them to evaluate their own progress. Goal-setting can have a profound impact on student self-motivation and achievement. At GEMS World Academy (Singapore) our teachers support students in setting goals which are realistic and attainable. This in turn leads to greater levels of success and self-confidence.

On Wednesday and Thursday of this week, all students participated in our Experiential Learning Programme coordinated by Mr. Paul Rimmer. The purpose of the programme is to make authentic connections to the curriculum through onsite activities and external field trips. This has been a great opportunity for students to develop communication and team-building skills.

A reminder that we will be holding both our Early Years and Primary Years Curriculum nights next week. Information about both of these events has been communicated to all parents. These events provide an opportunity to learn more about the international programme that GWA (Singapore) students undertake and to also meet the teachers in the classroom environment.



If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Neil White
Early/Primary Years Principal
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Message from the Secondary Years Principal

Schools are very sad buildings when empty and even though GEMS World Academy (Singapore) teachers had been preparing for the new school year since the start of August, it is the students who make our campus come alive. The new school year is finally here and it is great to see students!

This year marks the beginning of the new divisional structure and I am looking forward to serving as the Secondary Years (SY) Principal. Building on the shared values and approaches to teaching and learning, splitting into two divisions will allow us to establish an SY identity and culture, age appropriate for the older grades, as well as the correct foundation for school's future growth. The Secondary Years office can be found in Block C, level 3 - directly above the EY/PY office.

The first week went off to a busy but productive start: our Homeroom programme started with get-to-know-you activities, students have been collecting their iPads and laptops, and participated in grade level Experiential Learning Programme/DP Induction.

Welcome back to school and a special welcome to SY students and families.



Jan Stipek
Secondary Years Principal
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23 August

**EY CURRICULUM
NIGHT**

Time: 6:30pm-8pm
Venue: Auditorium

24 August

**PY CURRICULUM
NIGHT**

Time: 6:30pm-8pm
Venue: Auditorium

25 August

**SY CURRICULUM
NIGHT**

Time: 6:30pm-8pm
Venue: Auditorium

31 August

**PARENT COFFEE
MORNING**

Time: 9:00am
Venue: Auditorium Lobby

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Welcome to another year of Sport and ECAs at GEMS World Academy (Singapore).

On offer are a wide range of activities that continue to provide opportunities for our students to develop the four core values that are fundamental to the GWA culture.

Detailed information and the sign-up link will be sent to families by separate email on Friday 26th August. Please note the following:

- It is an expectation that students from Grade 1 to Grade 11 will participate in two of the three Sport and ECA seasons throughout the year
- Sign-up is open from Friday 26th to Monday 29th August
- Confirmation of Sports Teams and ECA placement will be provided to families by Friday 2nd September
- The first season will run from Monday 5th September until Friday 4th November
- Most Sports Teams and ECAs (unless otherwise stated) will run from 3:40pm until 4:40pm
- A bus service leaves GWA at 5pm each day, for students involved in Sports Team trainings and ECAs.

Further details will be provided in the sign-up email on Friday 26th August. If you have any questions or require further clarification, feel free to contact me.



Danny Tauroa
Activities Coordinator
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First Day of
School -
Academic Year
2016-2017

