

Weekly School Newsletter

Message from the Head of School

One of the great differentiators of GWA in the Singapore education market is that we are a member school of a much larger organisation. GEMS Education is the world's largest provider of private K-12 education, with a strong presence in 13 countries, educating more than 250,000 students every day. We are the only family owned company that covers so many different education systems. Our schools utilise national curriculum from places such as India, UK, US and France, as well as international standards such as the IB.

This week, GEMS Education brought together the education leads for each of the regions, joined at the off-site meeting in Dubai by global directors for key company components. The five regional leads shared experience, inclusive of successes and challenges. The global directors provided updates on a variety of programmes, as well as providing workshops on how these initiatives could be contextualised to each region.

A significant outcome of the global gathering, was the energy spent on exploring how real connections can be developed across regions and schools. Focal points were on shared values, staff talent identification, leadership development and the launch of a global teacher training center. Community service connections between premium schools such as GWA and low-cost schools, such as those in India and Africa, poses the chance to deepen the commitment to empower change through education and to increase engagement across regions.

Projects have already commenced since the meetings from earlier this week, with students, staff and parents benefitting in the months ahead. These great connections will enable our community to collaborate in meaningful ways, strengthening the experiences at GWA.



David Edwards
Head of School
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IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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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 INTERSHIP PROGRAMME

A huge thank you to all the parents who have already offered their assistance and support in arranging internships for our Grade 10 and 11 students. So far we have around 20 opportunities for internships in place, but we are still looking for more!

If you think you may be able to assist in providing a GWA student with a work placement or if you have any questions about the programme, please contact me.

Jonathan Cox -
Academic Advisor
j.cox@gwa.edu.sg



Message from the Primary Years Deputy Principal

This week our early and primary years assembly was led by Mr Rimmer's grade five class. It is always encouraging to hear about the exciting work that is going on in the classrooms. I am constantly amazed at the confidence and enthusiasm our students demonstrate when presenting on stage. Opportunities like these provide our students with real-world situations to develop skills they will use throughout their lifetimes.



The primary years student council has recently been elected and were presented to the school during this weeks assembly. The student council representatives are student elected members who play a vital role in developing our school culture and identity. From raising awareness for specific issues to supporting new students, our student council representatives are enthusiastically working to create a caring school environment.



Mike Gilmour
Primary Years Deputy Principal
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Message from the Secondary Years Deputy Principal/DP Coordinator

Secondary Years students held the first student led assembly of the year this week. The assembly was led by the Grade 9 students and the theme of the assembly was motivation. Using creative videos and student interviews, Grade 9 students provided inspirational and thoughtful advice to identify practical strategies to improve motivation.

The IB Programmes at GWA (Singapore), combined with our dedicated teaching staff, provide students with extrinsic motivational tools. Contextualising learning through meaningful inquiry-based projects gives students a framework to create their own learning. Providing continual support through formative feedback gives purpose and meaning to the learning process.

Intrinsic motivation from each individual student connects directly with what is happening in the classroom. In all IB classes students get to choose the direction of their learning. Students do not have to follow a prescribed path to find the answer to a problem. Students have the opportunity to pursue interests to fit their learning style. Allowing students to utilise their own academic strengths gives them the opportunity to inherently find self-motivation in how they learn. The IB Programme also has Service and Learning opportunities which are yet another way for students to get motivated about a particular cause or event. Students who appreciate the value of the work they are engaged in are more motivated to put forth the necessary effort to be successful.



Arnelle Grundhoefer
Secondary Years Deputy Principal/DP
Coordinator
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Click [here](#) to view detailed Events Calendar

28 September

PARENT ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP

GWA Auditorium @ 9:00am

*Topic: Social Media...What Parents
need to know*

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

26 October

PARENT ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP

GWA Auditorium Lobby @
9:00am

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



SPORT AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



Some fantastic results from our school teams this week, with the 16U Girls Football leading the way with a 7-0 win against St Joseph's Institution International School here at GWA on Tuesday afternoon. The girls were extremely determined to build on the positives of game 1, and they approached the game in a very positive manner. Once again strong defence was evident, and they also looked to attack using the width of the pitch. Excellent effort from the whole squad. Well done!

The 12U Rugby 7s boys have made pleasing progress in the past two weeks. Most of the boys are playing rugby for the first time and their enthusiasm and dedication thus far has contributed to the two games they have won. With more improvement they will be able to close games out that they have been winning at half-time but losing at full-time!



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

Thank you so much to those of you who have taken the time to complete our GWAPA Parent Engagement Survey. If you have not yet had the chance to complete the survey, we kindly encourage you to do so. Your feedback is crucial when planning activities for our GWAPA community. Please click the link below to open the survey:

[GWAPA Parent Engagement Survey 2016](#)

On Wednesday, September 28th please come along and join us for our first monthly GWAPA gathering at 10 am, in the Auditorium lobby, immediately following the Parent Engagement Workshop at 9 am.

We would like to present the GWAPA mission and vision as well as some information regarding the purpose and function of GWAPA. We also would like to share some initial survey feedback and the action plan for the school's UN celebrations.

We are aware many parents can't attend these gatherings during the day and as such it is our intention to plan some of these gatherings in evenings in the coming months. We will do our best to update those of you who won't be able to join us this time. Nevertheless, we do count on your attendance very much whenever you can make it. It's always the best opportunity to connect with each other.



GWAPA Team

GWAPA Parent Engagement Survey 2016
click & fill in before Monday, Sep 26
[GWAPA Parent Engagement Survey 2016](#)

GWAPA gathering
Sep 28, 10:00 am.

FOCUS:
- GWAPA mission & vision
- GWAPA purpose & function
- Survey feedback
- UN celebrations

UN CELEBRATION

Join GWAPA gathering on Sep 28 for more details and planning.

CONTACT THE GWAPA TEAM

gwapa.singapore@gwa.edu.sg
Share your sports news with us! Join our GWAPA Singapore FB page!