

Weekly School Newsletter

Message from the Head of School

Last Sunday saw the announcement of the winner of the 2017 Global Teacher Prize, the culmination of a lengthy review process of thousands of applicants from across the world. An initiative of the Varkey Foundation and the closing event for the Global Education and Skills Forum (GESF), the Global Teacher Prize aims to promote the importance of teachers in guiding the development of youth, who will ultimately solve the problems that surround us.

Maggie MacDonnell is an incredibly deserving winner, chosen from the 10 finalists. She currently is a fly-in teacher in an Inuit village located in the Canadian Arctic. Through programmes she has planned, developed and delivered, the entire community has gathered strength from the increased engagement of youth. Her story is one of great determination and self-motivation, serving as a reminder that one person can profoundly impact the lives of many.

Please spend time exploring the following links, which will give access to Maggie's story, as well as that of the other 10 finalists:

1. 2017 Global Teacher Prize Winner- Maggie MacDonnell Biography and video: <http://www.globalteacherprize.org/winner-2017/>
2. Global Teacher Prize Top Ten Finalists: <http://www.globalteacherprize.org/2017-finalists/>

The past three months has seen us undergo considerable preparation for the senior leadership transition, which takes place on 1st April. During this period, all core files have been reviewed and shared with the incoming Head of School, Mr Richard Henry, with follow-up clarity provided via email and in person. All education elements are in the hands of the Education Leadership Team and commercial handover has been provided to the CEO for GEMS East-Asia, Mr Michael Wilde. With more than 23GB of data distributed, background information provided, and detailed plans reviewed and discussed, you should be confident in a smooth transition for the school in the coming days.

Thursday and Friday next week will see GWA (Singapore) host the CEO of GEMS Education, Mr Dino Varkey. Dino will be onsite to finalise the handover process, to meet with staff on the afternoon of 30th March, as well as to oversee the corporate HOS farewell and welcome event with parents on the morning of 31st March.

We do hope that you will join us in welcoming Dino back to GWA (Singapore) next week, and take the opportunity to warmly greet the incoming Head of School, Mr Richard Henry.



David Edwards
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GWA FAIR

22 April 2017

10am - 2pm

"It takes a village to raise a child"
- African proverb. The GWA Fair 2017 is an opportunity to experience our very special "village".

This international school for global students invites all-comers: current students and parents, interested families and the wider community to this annual fair, filled with exciting and engaging workshops, sports and arts activities. Not forgetting the food!

Network with our internationally diverse community of families, meet our experienced educators, and try your hand at:

- Construction Challenge (STEM)
- Climbing Wall Challenge
- Basketball Shoot Out
- 5-a-side Football Tournament
- Art Activities, Face painting
- Henna Painting, and more!

Creating a brighter future for all children, it's what brings our community and partners together. Pop in on the 22nd April and experience the GWA spirit, where the future starts with us today:

[Register here](#)

Message from the Primary Years Deputy Principal

We've had a busy week at GWA (Singapore) with our students involved in many engaging activities. STEM week went really well and the 'Break-In' lunchtime challenge was a tremendous success. The students who participated showed great ingenuity and problem-solving skills. It was a great time to highlight this important component of our balanced approach to education.

Our Grade 5 students have been working hard on their exhibition projects and it is wonderful to see them research and take action for an issue that is meaningful to them. We are confident that their experiences in the exhibition will have a huge impact on their understanding as global citizens.

We have one week to go until the mid-semester break and we have no doubt it's going to be another action packed week.

As always if you ever have any questions, feel free to contact me directly.



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

IB Diploma Group 4 Project

The Group 4 project is an interdisciplinary activity in which all Diploma Programme students from different Group 4 subjects that we offer (Biology, Chemistry, Physics) must participate. This is a collaborative activity where students from each subject form a group to analyse a common problem. Students will focus on the processes involved rather than the product of the activity. The Group 4 project allows students to appreciate the environmental, social and ethical implications of science and technology. The Group 4 project assessment is included as part of the mandatory hours needed for the internal assessments. Students taking Environmental Systems and Societies (ESS) next year will have the option to participate in the group 4 project.

Further details about the Group 4 trip that we are offering this year and its requirements will be provided at an information night to be scheduled after the break.

IB Diploma Parents should have received a letter informing them of the upcoming Group 4 project with the following trip details:

Where: Tioman Island, Malaysia

When: Saturday 10th June - Wednesday 14th June

Project Provider: Eco Field Trips - Rainforest to Reef Survey (<http://www.ecofieldtrips.com.sg/>)



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

29 March 2017

**PARENT
ENGAGEMENT
WORKSHOP**

9AM
PARENT CAFE

31 March 2017

**PARENT SESSION : WITH
CEO GEMS EDUCATION, MR
DINO VARKEY AND
HOS FAREWELL &
WELCOME**

9am
Auditorium lobby

31 March 2017

**END OF
QUARTER 3**

17 April 2017

**START OF
QUARTER 4**

SPORT AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We will be taking team photos for the school year book on the morning of **Wednesday 19th April**. All students that have represented GWA in a competitive sports team during the school year will be involved. Students must be in **correct full team uniform** for these photos, and will be advised of the exact arrangements for the morning as we get closer to the day. For clarification the following teams are involved:

Rugby: 11U, 12U

Basketball: 11U, 12U, 14U Boys, 16U

Football: 8U Boys, 9U, 11U, 12U Boys, 14U, 16U

Touch Girls: 11U, 12U, 14U, 19U

Swimming: Entire team PY/SY

Netball: 19U

Badminton: 19 Mixed

Cross Country: Entire team PY/SY

Sports and ECAs

Do take note that due to parent-teacher conferences taking place on Thursday 20 and Friday 21 April, all team trainings and ECAs will be canceled on Thursday 20 April. During the SY Week-Without-Walls (24-28 April) there are no team games scheduled for this week. Team trainings and ECAs for Primary Years students will continue as normal.

Some mixed results from our teams so far in Season 3. The 14U Basketball Boys lead the way with two wins from two games, while the 11U Rugby and Touch teams have enjoyed some success in their games and are working on developing consistency with their results. The senior students in our Netball and Badminton teams are enjoying the opportunity to be involved in some competitive matches, with the Netball girls in particular learning the harsh realities of dealing with pressure and staying 'in the game'. The Badminton team relished the chance to play home games against an evenly matched Chatsworth team.



Danny Tauroa

Activities Coordinator

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MESSAGE FROM GWA PARENT ASSOCIATION (GWAPA)



Please save the date, **Saturday, April 22 for GWA Fair - the family FUN day for the whole community**. We want you to be a part of it. If you are a passionate face painter, expert in henna, balloon artist, Chinese calligraphy or origami master, or any other master of creative fun- please send an email to pc.tsai@gwa.edu.sg (and cc us gwapa.singapore@edu.gwa.sg). If you are more of a food artist, share with our community your national finger food (like US brownies or Australian fairy bread) and click the following link to sign-up [Sign up here](#)

Thank you in advance!

Thank you to all students and parents who visited The Lee Ah Mooi Old Age Home last Saturday. This time, apart from helping elderly with some simple massage therapy and feeding, some students entertained them with playing the violin or creating simple drawings. Moving experience, as always.



Please join us for a GWAPA gathering to say farewell David Edwards, right after the Parent Engagement Session on **March 29th at 9am**.



GWAPA TEAM

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Share your sports news with us, join our Facebook page

GWAPA MEETING
29 March

Following Parent engagement session

GWA FAIR

22 APRIL 2017
[Sign up here](#)