

Weekly School Newsletter

Message from the Head of School

Over the past two days, members of our American community have been celebrating Thanksgiving. Beyond the mounds of food, it is a time where family, friends and communities come together to give thanks. Regardless of our own cultures, nationalities and backgrounds, the notion of pausing in time, joining with those important to us, and giving thanks to all that we have, is a fantastic idea.

For the community of GWA (Singapore), we have much to be thankful for. We reside in a country that is stable, clean, safe and a gateway to incredible opportunities. Within Singapore, we have a melting pot of cultures and experiences which enriches our life and opens our mind to the world around us.

Within the school, we have students with great friends from around the world, teachers who are committed to providing wonderful opportunities, leadership that is available, open and supportive, and parents who engage in positive interactions within the school and outside in the wider community.

As an organisation that is two years and three months old, GWA (Singapore) is far from perfect. We have areas to develop further, programmes to continue strengthening, and additional opportunities that we will have to provide. What makes us different however, is the commitment every day to live our mission:

"We commit to providing outstanding learning opportunities, through an environment of mutual respect, transparency and engagement"

It is not just what we do at the school which we should be thankful for, but most importantly, the manner in which we do it.

Last night, the school leadership team attended the BERG Icons of Learning Awards night. In it's third year, this independent group conducts research and programmes focused on excellence in various industries. As a result of this significant research, which brought together information from unsolicited external sources, delved into the school programmes, and collated the considerable thought-leadership that the team from GWA (Singapore) have shared across Asia over the past two years, [GWA \(Singapore\) was awarded the '2016 Icons of Learning Award for the Leading International School in Singapore'](#).

This external recognition of GWA (Singapore) is a result of significant trust by parents, positive engagement by students, and considerable sacrifice, focus and passion from all staff, across the various functions of the school.

At this time of Thanksgiving, we should pause as a school and give thanks. We have much to be grateful for and people to be thankful to.



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

Parent Event



Fullerton Heritage Guided

Tour: Learn about the humble origins of The Fullerton Hotel building, which was formerly a General Post Office and a government building. Find out which of our prominent former and current Singapore leaders once worked in this historic building and hear tales about her role during World War II as a place of refuge

Date: 8 December (Thursday)

Time: 11am

Meeting Point: The Fullerton Hotel Concierge

Address: 1 Fullerton Square, Singapore 049178
Contact Judy (PRE)

j.lee@gwa.edu.sg for more information



Important bus service notice

GEMS World Academy (Singapore) announces the implementation of an innovative & unique software system called **busRUN** to efficiently manage the school bus operations.

www.busrun.net

Message from the PYP Coordinator

Recent events that have been happening in the world have been a major topic of conversation lately. We encourage our children to become globally minded and to find out what is happening to others around the world. What our students study in their units of inquiry inspires them to think and take action on these things that matter to them.

So how can we help children to begin to process what they may hear or see on TV, the internet or at school and channel this into positive change in the world? Some of our classes watch news items by the various news agencies that have devised news appropriate for students: BBC School Report, ABC Behind the News, CNN Student News are all designed for students so they can make sense of what is happening. If you would like to find out more about how you can talk to your child about current events on the news, please visit and watch these news reports with your child.

Recent articles by Common Sense Media share ideas and tips for helping children to process events and offers ways parents can support them with processing this information. What we know today, what was true last month and will be next year, is that in our homes and classrooms, we are shaping tomorrow's leaders. They likely will have heard many opinions from the media, at home, or in school.

For more information about this please go to www.common sense media.org/blog



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

Message from the MYP/IGCSE Coordinator

Tests and examinations are a central feature of academic study around the world and our Middle Years Programme (MYP) students will be taking assessments under examination conditions in Language and Literature, Mathematics, Sciences, Individuals and Societies and Language Acquisition (French, Spanish, Chinese and E.A.L.) in the coming week.

Rather than final exams, these assessments form part of the continuous assessment which students undertake throughout the MYP, providing another opportunity to demonstrate skills, knowledge, abilities and aptitudes under supervised conditions. As such, the assessment week is embedded in the flow of academic work, giving students the ability to further develop their approaches to learning whilst undertaking assessment activities linked firmly with current units of study.

As a form of assessment, the semester examinations are an additional tool for our students to develop self-knowledge. Through the feedback they receive they will gain deeper understanding about themselves as learners, what it takes to master something, how to approach problems, where the gaps may be in their learning and how to eliminate these gaps.

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

28 Nov - 2 Dec

**SY SEMESTER
EXAMS**

30 November

**PARENT ENGAGEMENT
WORKSHOP**

GWA Auditorium Lobby
Time :9am

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

9 December

**SPORTS
DAY**

16 December

**END OF
SEMESTER 1**



SPORT AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The benefits of team sports in the development of both physical and social character of young people are many, and have long been heralded. For Season 2 sports here at GWA, we were able to offer 11 teams across the school to our students of which we are successfully fielding ten teams! These numbers will continue to increase as GWA grows but what is pleasing is that we are getting our teams out and involved in playing competitive matches against the other international schools here in Singapore and therefore providing ongoing learning opportunities.

Our athletes are learning to be better organised and disciplined, to be more effective communicators and collaborators with their team-mates, and what it takes to deal with pressure in a competitive sporting environment. As many of you are aware, there is a ton of research that stresses the importance of these character building activities for young people and the benefits they offer to the social, mental, and emotional aspects of their lives.

Your support in encouraging these physical and team activities is a major part of the partnership we share as families and educators.

If you have any questions about the Sport or ECA programme please do not hesitate to contact me.



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

MESSAGE FROM GWA PARENT ASSOCIATION (GWAPA)



Thank you to all who attended our first social event last Wednesday the 16th of November. Excellent wine, delicious food, beautiful interiors, small surprises and the best company. For those who could not make it this time, there are vibrant photo's on our GWAPA Facebook page - enjoy!

Community Service

On Saturday the 19th of November our children once again spent some time with the patients of the Lee Ah Mooi Old Age Home. This time they helped the elderly with some simple physical therapy exercises and decorated the Christmas wall for the coming festive season. There will be no visit in December but we plan to have more than one visit in January - details to come soon.

On December 3rd, Saturday, SY students are encouraged to go to St John's Elderly home for a gardening activity. There are 15 spaces available, for details please contact Paola gwapa.communityservice@gwa.edu.sg

We kindly remind you about supporting **Food Bank** with **food donations** leading up to Christmas. In the EY lobby you will find a Christmas tree (1st level) and a decorated box to collect non-perishable food items. Food Bank accepts all types of non-perishable food items that are unopened, unused and with at least 4 weeks of shelf life. These are the following food that are in greatest demand: rice, beverages (UHT or powdered milk, Milo, Tea, Coffee), noodles (rice vermicelli, instant noodles, cup noodles, pasta), biscuits, canned food, cooking oil, sauces, seasonings, spreads. The food will be collected by Bank of Food in the second week of December. Thank you for your generosity!

Don't miss our GWAPA meeting this upcoming Wednesday at 10am- we'll provide a short update and share with you our ideas for the nearest future - see you there!

GWAPA Team




We invite students to hang 'food drive' related decorations on the Christmas tree in the EY Lobby

COMMUNITY SERVICE
St John's Elderly Home gardening activity
December 3 at 4 pm
Rsvp gwapa.communityservice@gwa.edu.sg

The GWAPA meeting
Date: November 30th
Time: 10am (following parent engagement workshop)

CONTACT THE GWAPA TEAM
gwapa.singapore@gwa.edu.sg
Share your sports news with us, Join our Facebook page