

# Weekly School Newsletter

## Message from the Head of School

The recommencement of school has been a great opportunity for our community to very quickly re-engage. This past Wednesday we celebrated and heightened awareness of cancer through our 'Think Pink' day. In it's third year, this initiative has been created and led by our wonderful SY teacher Claire Rimmer. Our Facebook page has shared a range of pictures, including our school-wide photo and many individual shots. It was wonderful to have so many parents on-site to support this vitally important campaign, join the school picture with students and staff, and to then remain behind for a workshop conducted by the Singapore Cancer Society.

The past two days have been another chance for parents and teachers to meet face-to-face to discuss the learning progress of each child. The conferences build upon the opportunities for discussion provided since August and follow the provision of the quarter one progress report, made available to families on Friday 14th October. The PTC provide a time to speak with some detail, to talk about progress-to-date and to ensure home and school are working together to look at key next steps for each child.

Next week is a significant one for the school, as we come together for the annual Uniting Nations Celebration. Much information has been shared over the past months, both from the school and via our very active Parent Association (GWAPA), who have been supporting nationality groups in preparation for the event.

The main foyer will begin being set up with displays from Wednesday next week and the displays will remain in this lobby area until the following Tuesday. Our Early Years students will have their UN Celebration assembly from 9.10am on Friday 4th and we extend an invitation to all parents to join this performance. Students and staff will be dressed in national costume for the day, with the food fair commencing from 6pm, with the concert starting at 7pm sharp.

Whilst there has been considerable support from staff and parents, the Uniting Nations Celebration is very much a student-focused event. From our stage crew, to the technology, to the displays and performances, the UN Celebration provides an opportunity for students to take ownership of the programme. Most importantly, it is the chance for all of us to learn more about the many countries and cultures which make up our school community. By celebrating all of the wonderful areas that make us similar, whilst equally embracing the many features that make us different, we are ensuring we truly are enhancing an open-minded international mindset.

We thank you for the great support with the events this week, and look forward to welcoming you to the school for our significant Uniting Nations Celebration on Friday 4th November.



**David Edwards**  
Head of School  
[d.edwards@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:d.edwards@gwa.edu.sg)



### IMPORTANT CONTACTS

**Reception:** +65 6808 7321  
[info@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:info@gwa.edu.sg)  
**EY/PY Division Office:** Secretary:  
+65 68087313  
[s.crot@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:s.crot@gwa.edu.sg)  
**SY Division Office:**  
Secretary: +65 68087312  
[h.leu@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:h.leu@gwa.edu.sg)  
**Bus Enquiries:**  
HDT Service Line: 9777 4838  
[gwa.transport@hdt.com.sg](mailto:gwa.transport@hdt.com.sg)

### Think Pink Day 2016

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Everyone at GWA (Singapore) showed their awareness and support for the Breast Cancer cause.



### Message from the Primary Years Principal

A warm welcome back to school to all families as we start the second quarter of this academic year. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome the new families who have joined our GWA (Singapore) community this week. To keep up-to-date with the many events happening over this next quarter, families are encouraged to review the school calendar which can be accessed via the website.

This week has seen our EY/PY Parent-Teacher conferences which have provided an important opportunity for ongoing communication between home and school. The purpose of these conferences is to keep parents informed about their child's progress including their academic, social and emotional development; to set new goals and to discuss any necessary support strategies that may be needed. The aim is to begin and maintain a dialogue between home and school that will ultimately benefit every student. Through this type of partnership, we can all ensure that we are providing your children with outstanding learning opportunities.

As always if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me



**Neil White**  
Primary Years Principal  
[n.white@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:n.white@gwa.edu.sg)

### Message from the Secondary Years Principal

Thank you to everyone who attended the Coffee with SY Principal two weeks ago. I appreciated and noted all the feedback received. As an organization focused on education, we practice what we teach our students: we listen to perspectives, we reflect and make continuous improvements which build on our excellent current standards. As promised, I have scheduled the next session for the afternoon to allow parents may be engaged in mornings, and we will explore some of the unique features of the IB programmes, such as assessment approaches and reporting.

We have just completed the first parent-teacher conferences (PTC) of this school year. I hope you found this a useful opportunity to speak to all teachers in a convenient setting, adding to the ongoing communication between teachers and parents which has been actively happening since the start of the year. We had a great turnout of approximately 150 families with some teachers being very busy with up to 70 individual conferences.

Finally, as you are aware, one of the major school events, UN celebration, will take place next Friday on November 4th. I would like to thank to all SY students for taking part and being positive role models for our younger students as well as all SY teachers for their relentless support. Taking time off class is never easy but learning about and celebrating other cultures and languages helps our students and school community appreciate the diversity that the international school environment brings.



**Jan Stipek**  
Secondary Years Principal  
[j.stipek@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:j.stipek@gwa.edu.sg)

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

**29 October**

**HAPPY DIWALI**

**4 November**

**UNITING NATIONS CELEBRATION**

Early Years - 9:10am in the Auditorium

Primary and Secondary - 6pm start in main lobby

**14,15,16 November**

**SCHOOL-WIDE PHOTOS**

**17 November**

**CLASSICAL SOLO MUSIC CONCERT**

Time: 6:30 pm  
Venue: Auditorium.

Please join us for a fine evening of classical music performed by our Primary and Secondary musicians.



## SPORT AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

My thanks to the many of you who submitted your Sports and ECA forms on time. This has allowed me to start working on organising each activity with the aim of having this information finalised and sent out by Friday 11 November.

With Season 1 ending next Friday 4th November, there will be a one week break with no teams or activities in action before Season 2 starts on Monday 14th November.

Next week our school sports teams will be involved in the final rounds of games and various levels of finals. The progress and commitment shown by the 9U Girls and Boys Football Teams must be acknowledged at this stage of the season as they have persevered over the past 9 weeks and moulded themselves into a very good teams who have worked hard to develop their skills, game understanding and passion for the game. Credit goes to the team coaches Ms Julie Jamaludin and Mr Neil White, and the Grade 11 students who have been assisting these coaches throughout Season 1.

Good luck to all teams for the final games next week.



**16U Girls Football team won 3-0 against SJII on Wednesday this week.**



**Danny Tauroa**  
Activities Coordinator  
[d.tauroa@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:d.tauroa@gwa.edu.sg)

## MESSAGE FROM GWA PARENT ASSOCIATION (GWAPA)

Dear Parents,

Thank you so much for participating in the GWAPA gathering after the Breast Cancer Awareness talk this Wednesday. The United Nations Celebration is coming next week and it's your last chance to join those who decided to contribute food and/or help with assisting teachers with decorations and displays for the evening. A kind reminder whom you should contact if you are keen to help:

- Smitha Kunnath (Africa) [smith.l.kunnath2gmail.com](mailto:smith.l.kunnath2gmail.com)
- Lili Garza (Americas) [lilianagarza@msn.com](mailto:lilianagarza@msn.com)
- Rae Lightfoot (Australasia) [rae@lightfoot.co.nz](mailto:rae@lightfoot.co.nz)
- Cathy Lawrie (British Isles) [cathylawrie@msn.com](mailto:cathylawrie@msn.com)
- Takako Kusunoki (East Asia) [tacobell0824@gmail.com](mailto:tacobell0824@gmail.com)
- Claudia Porges (Europe) [porgesc@gmail.com](mailto:porgesc@gmail.com)
- Meera (India) [meeragh@gmail.com](mailto:meeragh@gmail.com)
- Kohi Naisthein (Middle East) [kohi\\_pr@hotmail.com](mailto:kohi_pr@hotmail.com)
- Upi Yatim (South East Asia) [mrs\\_ady\\_yatim@yahoo.com](mailto:mrs_ady_yatim@yahoo.com)



### Community Service

On October 15 we visited The Lee Ah Mooi Old Age Home. It was a truly moving experience for all the kids and parents. We had a chance to help with preparing the food and feeding the patients, played games with them and smiled at them- and the most rewarding part of the visit was to see the elderly smiling back. We strongly encourage you to join us on November 19th. If you are interested to be involved, please email Ms. Lei directly [r.lei@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:r.lei@gwa.edu.sg) and she will be happy to answer any questions that you may have.



UN  
CELEBRATION  
4th November

Parent helpers for  
displays [master  
contact list](#)

Food contributions  
[sign-up genius link](#)

COMMUNITY  
SERVICE

Elderly home visit  
Saturday 19  
November 12-3pm

RSVP [r.lei@gwa.edu  
.sg](mailto:r.lei@gwa.edu.sg)

CONTACT  
THE GWAPA TEAM

[gwapa.singapore@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:gwapa.singapore@gwa.edu.sg)

Share your sports  
news with us,  
Join our Facebook  
page