

Weekly School Newsletter

Message from the Head of School

It was wonderful to welcome around 100 parents to the school on Wednesday, for our monthly parent engagement workshop. This month, our focus was on Social Media and the team of presenters covered a range of topics. A core goal of the session was to highlight the many great uses of social media for education and life in general. The presenters also took time to raise areas of concern that we experience as a school and that parents should be aware of at home. Top tips for parenting were also provided.

Our presentation team included our Ed Tech Coordinator (Jay), Counsellors (Laree and Mark P), and Curriculum Coordinators (Olivia and Mark G). Jay provided a great overview of some key applications that enhance teaching and social interaction. As international families, these tools have in so many ways enabled us to stay strongly connected to family and friends. Laree and Mark took parents through student case studies, focused in part around the distracting challenge social media and IT can present in the home. Olivia and Mark outlined how curriculum is designed to focus on 21st century literacy skills, ensuring students have a tool-set that enables them to appropriately use social media applications and technology in general.

An excellent resource for parents was again highlighted. Common Sense Media (www.commonsensemedia.org) is a site rich with information that clarifies, shares and guides parents in supporting children in this digital age. The organisation provides family guides, works through parent concerns and has a variety of videos, handouts and other resources that are of great value.

Three take-home tips were provided to the workshop attendees. These tips are:

1. As a family, discuss and establish guidelines for technology usage
2. Encourage children to self-manage their screen-time
3. If you wouldn't say it face-to-face, don't say it online

We attach for you a pdf of the slide deck which framed up the session. In November, small group sessions on the core topics regarding social media will enable parents to focus on an area of particular interest, in an interactive environment.



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IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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UNIVERSITY VISITS

1. October 4th, 2pm in the Art Room:

The New School, New York. The New School is a collective of 14 Colleges mainly focusing on the Arts:

[Parsons School of Design](#), [Parsons Paris](#), [Eugene Lang College](#), [The New School for Social Research](#), [College of Performing Arts](#), [Mannes School of Music](#), [The School of Jazz](#), [School of Drama](#), [Schools of Public Engagement](#), [Milano](#), [School of Media Studies](#), [Institute of Adult Bachelor Degrees](#), [School of Creative Writing](#), [School of Languages](#)

2. October 4th, 3.30pm in the Auditorium Lobby:

Northeastern University. A highly popular Boston based college with a wide range of degree options

3. October 5th, 3.30pm in the Auditorium Lobby:

St John's University, New York. Over 100 undergraduate programs offered and campuses in Queens, Staten Island, Manhattan, Long Island, Paris and Rome

Jonathan Cox
Academic Advisor
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Message from the Primary Years Principal

The Parent-Teacher conferences are an important opportunity for teachers and parents to discuss your child's progress in school, and are a key part of enhancing successful two-way communication. They provide an opportunity for teachers and parents to step back from the day-to-day classroom events and take stock of how students are doing academically, socially and emotionally.

The Early/Primary Years Parent-Teacher conferences will take place between 9:00-4:00pm on Thursday 27th and Friday 28th October, 2016. The booking system is provided via an online portal, which allows you to better manage the conference schedule to suit your personal availability. Further information regarding the online booking system will be communicated to all families on Friday 7th October, 2016. Please note that the 27th and 28th of October are student-free days



If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Neil White
Primary Years Principal
n.white@gwa.edu.sg

Grade 1.1 Assembly, Thursday 29 September 2016



Message from the Secondary Years Principal

We are looking forward to this year's UN celebration on November 4th. Students, led by staff, have been meeting once a week to prepare for this special evening. These preparations, as well as the evening itself, are a wonderful experiential learning opportunity: not only do students learn about other cultures, they also put in practice skills they have worked on in academic classes. In order for each UN group to be successful, they must brainstorm, discuss, research, build consensus, work as a team, plan, manage their time and reflect on progress. By working across grade levels, our SY senior students also have a leadership opportunity and can role model positive behaviour for younger SY and Primary Years students.

At GWA (Singapore) regular communication between teachers and parents is very important. We recommend that parents stay informed about their child's homework, assessments and grades through ManageBac, and encourage our teachers to maintain active and regular communication with parents face-to-face, over the phone and email.

On October 27 and 28, our regular parent-teacher conferences will take place. This is an additional opportunity for teachers and parents to discuss your child's progress in school, and is a key part of enhancing the existing two-way communication. More information, including the booking link, will be shared in the next two weeks.



If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Jan Stipek
Secondary Years Principal
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Click [here](#) to view detailed Events Calendar

4 October

PARENT SOCIAL SEMBAWANG HOT SPRING

*The only natural hot spring in
Singapore*

Time: 10am

Enjoy a natural foot spa followed
by local food at the nearby
Chong Pang Market

Judy (PRE) j.lee@gwa.edu.sg

**11-12
October**

STRINGS CONCERT

Time:
12:55pm
Venue:
Auditorium

14 October

END OF QUARTER 1

26 October

THINK PINK DAY & 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

As we continue to develop our competitive sports programme here at GWA, a big part of this is developing the mindset of our students so they understand the responsibilities that come with being a team member. This takes some time and is certainly a characteristic that all team coaches should have in the forefront of their coaching philosophy. Expectations have to be made clear and then followed up with consistency and fairness to ensure that each player understands the importance of this to the whole team.

Now that we have our team uniforms organised, I have asked the team coaches to insist that all players who take a court, or field, or pool, representing GWA be attired in the full and correct team uniform. This is a basic standard that must be adhered to if we are to take competitive sport seriously and establish ourselves as a force to be reckoned within Singapore school sports. Parents, I ask for your cooperation in helping to ensure that your child(ren) understand this and are organised with the correct uniform on 'game day', so they look good, feel good, play good!



Congratulations to our 11U boys Basketball team for their win against GESS on Thursday this week Go Jaguars!



Danny Tauroa
Activities Coordinator
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Swim Meet -24 September 2016

We sent our largest team ever to the UWC Dover Swimming Invitational on Saturday September 24. 45 Jaguars hit the water in a swimming meet that included almost 475 swimmers. Medal winners included Arnav Divaker, Alicia Soosai, Tania Thong, Scarlett Nichol, and Cianah Illingworth. We had many swimmers who competed in a swimming meet for the very first time and our kids raced well, with particularly impressive performances from George Riedy, Elsa Mackintosh and Toko Sekiya. Great job swimmers!



MESSAGE FROM GWA PARENT ASSOCIATION (GWAPA)

Thank you to those parents who were able to attend the Parent Engagement Workshop and GWAPA gathering on Wednesday. It was terrific to see such a good turnout! For those of you who were unable to make the session, please click the link to access the [Social Media presentation](#) delivered by GWA (Singapore) staff. There will be an additional follow up session around this topic during the November parent engagement workshop. More details will be shared soon. The presentation made by the GWAPA team is available to you all here - [GWAPA gathering](#). The team shared the GWAPA mission, vision, structure and function, and there was also an opportunity for groups of parents to begin planning their support for the school's UN celebrations on November 4th.

UNITING NATIONS CELEBRATION

Some willing parents have volunteered to take on the responsibility of being a parent team leader for the continent groups -thank you! Those parents need your help! Please access this [master contact list](#) and get in touch with the parent team leader who is in charge of your child's representative continent group. These team leaders, with other parent volunteers, will support the school in preparing displays. We encourage you to get involved if you are able. We are still searching for willing parents to be the leader for Africa - if you're keen, please get in touch.

FOOD CONTRIBUTIONS - UNITING NATIONS

In order to make the night a huge success, we also require parents to contribute food on the evening. This food will be shared by all before the student performances. Please use our [sign-up genius link](#) to RSVP to the event and indicate the food you will contribute. Thank you for helping us make this event a huge success.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

GWAPA is working in partnership with Ms. Lei (Head of foreign language) in order to provide a regular community service opportunity for families. Children over the age of 10 years, with their families, can visit the The Lee Ah Mooi Old Age Home each month. Families are welcome to join this as regularly as they are able. "The Volunteer Switchboard" will run a short briefing for new families at noon each month. The briefing need only be attended once, and on any following visits, families are free to come at any time between 12 and 3pm. There is the opportunity to take 6 new families each month. The first visit will be happening on Saturday October 15th 12-3pm. If you are interested to be involved, please email Ms. Lei directly r.lei@gwa.edu.sg and she will be happy to answer any questions that you may have.



GWAPA Team

GWAPA Gathering

Parent engagement
[Social media presentation](#)

[GWAPA gathering presentation](#)

UN CELEBRATION 4th November

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

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

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Elderly home visit
Saturday 15 October
12-3pm

RSVP r.lei@gwa.edu.sg

CONTACT THE GWAPA TEAM

gwapa.singapore@gwa.edu.sg

Share your sports news with us,
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