

# Weekly School Newsletter

## Message from the Head of School

To the community of GWA (Singapore)

The opportunity to be a part of a wonderful team, focused on the planning, launch and development of a S\$250 million international school has been a rare gift in the life of an educator. For almost four years, I'm had the pleasure of working within GEMS Education, joining an initial team of five sitting in a shopping mall scheming the shape of what we become GWA, to now supporting 143 staff across all organisational functions. Today marks the end of my journey with GWA (Singapore) and the commencement of an exciting new phase for the school.

Throughout countless late nights, to the steep learning curve of getting construction back on track, to the external accreditation and recognition of the school, there has remained a single-minded focus of why GWA is so important to the Singapore education market. Every decision that has been taken, each personal sacrifice from across our team that has been incurred, has all been to ensure that the trust placed upon us by families is driving our programmes. The enduring commitment embedded into our DNA is to ensure that every member of the school community is provided with outstanding learning opportunities.

I'm incredibly proud of what has been achieved in this foundation phase. We have a school which values every student, listens and respects each family, and empowers staff to take ownership of the standards for teaching and learning. I leave today thankful for the engagement of our staff, grateful for the support of the more than 1500 parents, and energised by the passionate 740 GWA students.

The thirteen years my wife and I have spent in Singapore have shaped who we are, how we view the world, and given us the courage to push onwards to our new opportunity in another country. Whilst today is an emotional one as I walk out the door for the final time, I depart GWA (Singapore) knowing that I could not have contributed any more energy, time or focus to children, families, staff nor our external partners.

To the community of GWA (Singapore), I thank you for your belief in the school, for your positive interactions with other families and staff, and for your considerable support of my leadership over these past years.

Sincerely



**David Edwards**  
Head of School  
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### IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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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 open day 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 Principal

The progress reports for this quarter will be ready to view by 5pm this afternoon. This report provides an overview of the progress made over the quarter and should supplement ongoing feedback being provided by the teachers of your child. As a designated check-point for the entire school, this progress report provides a series of criteria indicators for each subject area and is a stepping stone to the Semester Two academic report, which communicates strengths and areas for development through teacher comments. As with any school assessment reporting tool, please do contact your child's class teacher should further clarification be required.

On Thursday 20th and Friday 21st April, the Early Years and Primary Years divisions will be holding Student-Led Conferences. As an IBPYP school, we believe that students are the directors and owners of their own learning. Student-Led Conferences provide the opportunity for students to reflect upon and share their learning with their parents. They are designed to celebrate your child's achievements and to empower them in setting goals for their own future learning. We look forward to welcoming you to this very significant event in your child's PYP journey.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Early and Primary Years staff for their fantastic work this quarter. These teaching teams work exceptionally hard to provide the best possible learning experiences and opportunities for our students. I would also like to thank our Early and Primary Years students for the commitment and enthusiasm they have demonstrated towards their learning. To those families and students who are leaving GEMS World Academy (Singapore), I wish you the very best for the future.

Wishing all of our community a relaxing and enjoyable holiday.

**Neil White**  
EY/PY Principal  
[n.white@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:n.white@gwa.edu.sg)



## Message from the Secondary Years Principal

GWA (Singapore) continues to be a busy place! The week of March 13th saw Grade 6-8 students engaged in an exciting range of STEM activities, such as investigating options and creating protection for a second story egg drop, and designing the longest flying paper helicopter. During the same week, a group of Grade 9-11 students participated in a Model United Nations (MUN) conference at the Lycée Francaise. During MUN, students can learn about diplomacy, international relations, and the United Nations. MUN also involves and teaches researching, public speaking, debating, and writing skills, in addition to critical thinking, teamwork, and leadership abilities thus giving students opportunities to further practice skills and knowledge acquired at school in general. Finally, Grade 10 students undertook the IGCSE mock examinations during the week of March 20th. This is a crucial practice opportunity for students who have decided to take the final IGCSE examinations in May.

The Parent-Teacher Conference information, including the link to the appointment booking portal, was shared with families last week. The format will be the same as last semester (10-minute appointments in the Auditorium on 20 and 21 April). As always, the conferences provide an additional opportunity for parents to speak with teachers about the quarter three report cards (which will be available tomorrow at 4pm) and about students' academic progress in general. We encourage you to bring your child along to ensure they are included in the discussion.

Finally, I am looking forward to seeing you all at the [GWA Fair](#) on April 22 which is our annual open day filled with exciting and engaging workshops, sports and arts activities.

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



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

31 March 2017

END OF  
QUARTER 3

17 April 2017

START OF  
QUARTER 4

20-21 April 2017

PARENT-  
TEACHER  
CONFERENCES

22 April 2017

GWA  
FAIR

## SPORT AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

### International Rugby 7s

We have another opportunity to see professional rugby players in action here at GWA (Singapore)! During the second week of the holidays the team from Samoa will be using our field for training in preparation for the HSBC Singapore 7s played at the National Stadium on the last weekend of our holiday. GWA students interested in coming to watch a training session are invited to do so on the following days:

- \* Monday 10th April from 3.00 to 4.00pm
- \* Tuesday 11th from 10.00am - 12.00pm

Please use the link to provide necessary information if you wish to attend these sessions: [International Rugby 7s](#)

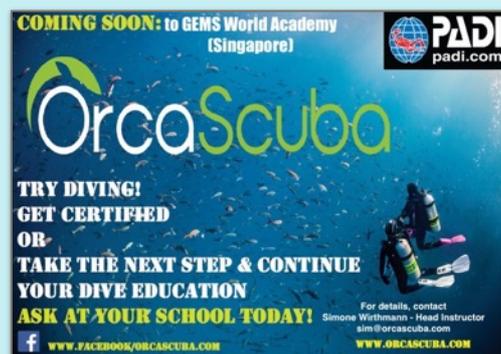
### Reminders

As we look forward to a couple of weeks of rest, relaxation and activity, I'd like to end the quarter with a few reminders:

- \* Orca Scuba Diving are still our preferred partner for all things ocean education and exploration. They have a variety of options available for families of GWA (Singapore) so please contact the Head Instructor, Simone Wirthmann for further details: [sim@orcascuba.com](mailto:sim@orcascuba.com). An information flyer is also attached.
- \* Sports Team Photos take place the first week after the holiday: **Wednesday 19th April from 9.00am until 11.30am**. Please ensure your child is prepared with the correct uniform, and is on time for their photo as advised by the team coach.
- \* The last day for Season 3 Sports and ECAs is Saturday 20 May. Most of our sports teams will have ended their season before this date. The final ECA clubs and activities will take place on Thursday 18th May.

Enjoy your break!

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



## MESSAGE FROM GWA PARENT ASSOCIATION (GWAPA)



Thank you so much to those who joined us to say goodbye to David Edwards. We wish him all the best in his new adventures!

Saturday, April 22nd is the 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](mailto:pc.tsai@gwa.edu.sg) (and cc us [gwapa.singapore@edu.gwa.sg](mailto:gwapa.singapore@edu.gwa.sg)).

If you are more of a food artist, share with our community your national finger food and click the following link to sign-up [SIGN UP HERE](#)

Have a relaxing and enjoyable holiday break.

### GWAPA TEAM



**GWA FAIR**

22 APRIL 2017  
[Sign up here](#)

**GWAPA TEAM**

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

Share your sports news with us, join our Facebook page