

Weekly School Newsletter

Message from the Head of School

It's vital to remember that our children often have a fractured connection to the country of their passport or the origins of their parents. For our kids, their 'nation' is where they go for summer break and where their parents have family members. As adults, many of us lived in one country for much of our early lives, only moving abroad and becoming 'international' as we entered further into adulthood.

It is with this identity challenge in mind, that the Uniting Nations Celebration forms a crucial part of life at GWA (Singapore). Just as the classroom provides the chance to delve into specific topics within a specialist subject area, the UN Celebration gives our students the chance to better understand their family heritage, the uniqueness of their friends, and the importance of intercultural awareness in being an engaged member of the international community.

The past weeks have enabled older students to be actively leading our younger ones, for teachers to encourage research and reflection on what it means to belong to a specific culture, and for parents to play an active part in supporting this learning journey through the cultural display development. This year represents very clear involvement of all members of the GWA family, with the Early Years UN assembly this morning being the launch of this important day in the life of the school. At this morning's wonderful event, older students supported the younger ones as they explored what it means to live in a connected world. Parents have provided a range of cultural activities throughout the morning, deepening our understanding of features that make us different. External dance performers provided a wonderful display for Indonesian culture and happily answered questions from the inquisitive youngsters.

Our UN Celebration tonight brings together food, activities and cultural displays. Our concert will be a showcase of student-developed performances, which further highlight all those many features that make us similar, and equally, those many areas that make each culture unique.

Learning opportunities come in many forms. Classroom teaching enables formal, structured approaches to specific subject areas to be explored. The Uniting Nations Celebration forms a crucial part of student leadership, collaboration, performance and creativity. It enables our children to gain a better understanding of their own culture, to enhance their connection to you as parents and to your broader family. It ensures that students of such a dynamic international school have a deeper insight into the world around them, impacting how they think and act.



David Edwards
Head of School
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IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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gwa.transport@hdt.com.sg

Parent Event



Come join us for a Veggie tour followed by lunch at Poison Ivy Bistro that will take farm-to-table to a whole new level!

Farm Entrance fee \$2

Date: 10 November (Thursday)

Time: 10.30am

Venue: Bollywood Veggies

Organic Farm / Poison Ivy Bistro

Address: 100 Neo Tiew Road

Singapore 719026 (Kranji)

Contact: Judy Lee (PRE)

j.lee@gwa.edu.sg



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.

Please read the attached flyer with this week's newsletter

Message from the PYP Coordinator

Thank you to all of the parents who came to participate in the Parent teacher conferences last week. The conferences allow for teachers, to learn more about their students. Parent insights into their child's strengths and needs, learning styles, and non-school learning opportunities all help to build a bigger picture of the child. The Harvard Family Research Project which is a branch of the Harvard Graduate School of Education, identify that 'we all need praise and constructive criticism to grow. All parents are proud of their children and should hear about their strengths as well as their challenges from their child's teacher. This values the unique strengths of the child and establishes high expectations for their ability to succeed in school and in life.' (www.hfrp.org) Over the past quarter, teachers and students have been working toward this check point in the learning process. The conferences were designed in collaboration with students.

In a PYP school, it is very important that students have the opportunity to reflect and communicate on their learning and be honest with their progress development, strengths, challenges and next steps. Thinking about learning is crucial for future development and progress. This helps to give direction for the future and to help define everyone's role in the learning process. American philosopher, psychologist, and educational reformer John Dewey stated "We do not learn from experience ... we learn from reflecting on experience." One of the IB Learner Profiles is to be reflective and to give thoughtful consideration to our own learning and experience. We are then able to assess and understand our strengths and limitations in order to support our learning and personal development. From this reflection on attaining this new knowledge, we encourage students to go further to think about their place in the world, what is happening and what they can do to contribute to it.



Olivia Burke
PYP Coordinator
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Message from the MYP/IGCSE Coordinator

Experiential learning is a process which results in greater student engagement, delivering opportunities for student leadership, enriched learning and improved academic performance. GEMS World Academy (Singapore) embraces the notion of experiential learning to provide students with connections to a range of learning opportunities to create experiences which are relevant, interesting and absorbing. As part of this programme our Grade 10 MYP students will be engaging in activities both in Vietnam and closer to home here in Singapore over the coming week.

Further to supporting academics, these two experiences will develop long-term connections between the students and the world around them, engaging them in participation to continue developing involvement and interaction with their surroundings. Additionally, the experiences in Singapore and Vietnam will foster the development of communication and social skills through team work, independence and challenge.

A key aspect of all experiential learning programmes is that of reflection which links experiences clearly back to areas of the curriculum adding value to learning opportunities, academic progress and personal development. This ensures that the activities enhance learning whilst also facilitating effective community participation for all of our students.

If you have any questions about the MYP please do not hesitate to contact me.



Mark Gardner
MYP/IGCSE Coordinator
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Click [here](#) to view detailed Events Calendar

7-11 November

WEEK-WITHOUT-
WALLS
(GRADE 10)

14-16
November

CLASS
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.



30 November

PARENT ENGAGEMENT
WORKSHOP

GWA Auditorium Lobby
Time : TBC

GWAPA:

gwapa.singapore@gwa.edu.sg

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



SPORT AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Season 1 has ended! What a rush it was and certainly a busy way for us all to kick off the school year with our Sports and ECA programme. I would like to congratulate all of the students and coaches who competed in our school sports team throughout the past 10 weeks. Your commitment, effort, teamwork and progress has not gone unnoticed and has set things up well for us to continue developing our sporting culture and identity here at GWA. Special mention goes to the 16U Girls Football side who finished the season in 2nd place in their division gaining the silver medal.

Season 2 brings new opportunities for students to be involved in 11 competitive sports teams across the school, and over 30 ECA activities. Parents, do check your emails over the coming days as I will be sending confirmations of places in clubs and ECAs. A reminder that there will be no teams or ECAs for next week with Season 2 starting the week beginning Monday 14th November.



Danny Tauroa
Activities Coordinator
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U16 ACSIS Cross Country - 1 Nov 2016

Emma Middleditch - 2nd place

Herman Klein-Hassling - 10th place

Helmi Yatim - 26th place

Sanaa Soneji



MESSAGE FROM GWA PARENT ASSOCIATION (GWAPA)

Dear Parents,

Thank you for all your help with contributing food and assisting with decorations and displays for tonight's Uniting Nations Celebration. We look forward to seeing you all and enjoying this very special school event!

Please save the date **November 23rd, Wednesday** for the Wine & Cheese GWAPA evening for parents (adults only). It will be a great chance to get to know each other better in a relaxing surrounding outside of school - stay tuned for details in the GWAPA newsletter section next week!

Community Service

We are currently planning food and toys donation drives to support the Singaporean orphanages before Christmas. We will follow with detailed information soon.

If your child is 15 years and above, has a good command of the English language, loves books, enjoys reading and interacting with children and is able to dedicate an hour a week for at least 6 months, she or he can become a volunteer for the kidsREAD programme. You can find more on www.kidsread.sg. Happy reading.

A kind reminder regarding the next Lee Ah Mooi Old Age Home visit on November 19th. Families are encouraged to create and/or bring with them some Christmas decorations that will be displayed on the special board to make the old age home a merrier place. If you are interested to join us, 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



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Elderly home visit
Saturday 19
November 12-3pm
RSVP r.lei@gwa.edu.sg

The Wine & Cheese GWAPA evening
Save the date :
23 November
Details coming soon!

The GWAPA meeting

Date: November 30th
Time: TBC

CONTACT THE GWAPA TEAM

gwapa.singapore@gwa.edu.sg
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