

# Weekly School Newsletter

## Message from the Head of School

With a week remaining in quarter one, it is important that we recognise our growth as a school, as we seek your feedback after almost 10 weeks on the academic calendar. In the coming weeks, the EYPY and SY leadership teams will be inviting you to a series of open forum discussions at the campus, to gather parent information on the successes and challenges your family may be experiencing. These open forums are another opportunity to work together, to recognise the many outstanding programmes that exist at the school, as well as to address potential issues before they become engrained.

In 2014-2015, we were a small school covering PreK to Grade 8. Our first year was about building the initial foundations of the school, connecting teachers to families, and in establishing a framework for development. In 2015-2016, we expanded to include Grades 9 and 10, and we pushed ahead with developing our school DNA, our school culture, and to ensure that the programmes provided are recognised around the world. In this our third school year, we have opened Grade 11, experienced another 60% growth in our family population and added 45% more staff.

A strong feature of GWA and GEMS Education, is our eagerness to engage families in the life and development of the school. In the open forum sessions that Jan (SY Principal) and Neil (EYPY Principal) will host in the weeks ahead, we seek to engage in positive conversations about what now defines us, as well as what is of concern. We know your children very well from the school context, including not just their classroom experiences, but also areas such as ECAs. As parents, you know your children best and no doubt hear, see and feel their happiness, success and struggles as they develop towards adulthood.

Beyond these division leadership open forums, we will be surveying all key stakeholders of GWA at the start of December. This will provide new families with the chance to have experienced much of what GWA has to offer, and for returning families to better understand the developments implemented at GWA this year.

As an organisation focused on education, we must reflect and continue to learn. We are enthusiastic about having extended conversations, confirming how great so many facets of life at GWA are, whilst gathering better insight into areas we need to enhance.

The division leadership teams will be in contact very soon to outline the timing for the open forums, and the stakeholder surveys will be sent in early December.

As always, do contact your child's homeroom teacher or the division leadership teams at any time, to seek more information, clarification and support.



**David Edwards**  
Head of School  
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### 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)



### STRINGS CONCERT

11-12 October 2016

12:55pm - Auditorium

**Groups performing:**

**11 October**

Grade 1.1

Grade 2.1

Grade 3.1

Grade 4.3 and 4.1

Grade 5.1 and 5.2

**12 October**

Grade 1.2

Grade 2.2 and 2.3

Grade 3.2

Grade 4.2

Grade 5.3



### Think Pink Day 2016

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, so please mark the date **Wednesday 26th October** as **Think Pink Day** in your calendar. A day where everyone at GWA (Singapore) will be showing and raising our awareness and support for the Breast Cancer cause. This gives you plenty of time to find the perfect pink combination for students (and parents), to wear to school on that day. There will be a whole school photo at 9.15am and donation boxes available for staff and parents to contribute to.

### Message from the PYP Coordinator

All students will be coming to the conclusion of their first units of inquiry. Our students have explored cultures, beliefs, health, well-being and self respect, discovered how best they learn and developed growth mindsets. They have inquired into technology and ideas from the past that could lead to new innovations in the future. The PYP supports the views that students learn best when the learning is authentic, transdisciplinary, and relevant to the real world; where the learning is not confined within the boundaries of traditional subject areas but is supported and enriched by them (*Making the PYP happen: A curriculum framework for international primary education* (2009).

Assessing students' prior knowledge and experience as well as monitoring their progress during teaching, enables teachers to plan and refine their teaching accordingly. Upon summation of a unit teachers conduct summative assessments. Effective assessments, either summative or formative allow students to share their learning and understanding with others, demonstrate a range of knowledge, conceptual understanding and skills. These strategies accommodate for the range of learning styles within a class. It must be reflective and should allow for students to analyse their learning, understand what needs to be improved and master the skills required to do so. In the PYP, such assessments aim to give teachers, students and parents clear, evidence-based insight into student understanding of the essential elements of the unit of inquiry.

Ask your child what they discovered during their current unit of inquiry. What did they know before and what do they know now? What was challenging for them and what did they discover about themselves as a learner?



**Olivia Burke**  
PYP Coordinator  
[o.burke@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:o.burke@gwa.edu.sg)

### Message from the MYP/IGCSE Coordinator

For all students completing the final year of the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) the Personal Project is the culminating experience in which Grade 10 students complete an extended, self-directed piece of work. This project allows students to investigate an area of truly personal interest with a focus upon producing a product as a solution to an identified problem through a cycle of inquiry, action and reflection. The personal project allows students to strengthen and apply their Approaches to Learning skills and gives an excellent opportunity to consolidate and apply previous learning from the MYP. This individual nature of the MYP Personal Project allows students to demonstrate and apply their preferred learning style and they are expected to work through their learning journey independently, with the support and guidance of a supervisor.

All Grade 10 students at GWA are currently in the process of creating their product as part of the MYP Personal Project and are generating a wealth of creative ideas in this process. They have met with their supervisor and are recording their learning journey within their process journal through the documenting of challenges, plans, research, solutions and progress. In addition to the product and the process journal, students will also produce a report which gives an account of the project and its impact and their work will be celebrated in the MYP Personal Project Exhibition, to be held in March 2017.

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

**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](mailto:gwapa.singapore@gwa.edu.sg)  
Judy (PRE) [j.lee@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:j.lee@gwa.edu.sg)

**27-28 October**

**PARENT-TEACHER  
CONFERENCES**

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

**SY Principal**  
[j.stipek@gw.edu.sg](mailto:j.stipek@gw.edu.sg)



# SPORT AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

With Season 1 in full flight at the moment, our intentions are now turning to the organisation of Season 2 sports teams and ECA activities. Season 2 will commence on 14 November and end on 11 February.

Taking onboard the feedback from many families, we are aiming to provide opportunities for our students to be involved in the activities that are popular in the school. I hope to be able to provide you with relevant information about what we will offer in Season 2 by Monday 10 October. This will give you time to make decisions about what your child(ren) would like to be involved in before the sign-up forms are sent out for you to make choices. We are aiming to get the sign-up form to you by Wednesday 12 October, with a proposed return date of Friday 14 October.

We are continuing to see some fantastic improvements from our school sports teams, and it's pleasing to see the enthusiasm has remained strong regardless of the outcome of the games. Our 12U and 14U touch football girls epitomise this spirit every time they play, and as they learn the intricacies of the game the improvements they make are becoming bigger and bigger. This was no more evident than in their win against Tanglin Trust School in a home game yesterday. The young ladies involved must be congratulated for the commitment and dedication they have shown towards learning this new game and working as part of a team.



16U Girls Football Team:  
2-0 win against Dover  
Court on Tuesday this  
week



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

## MESSAGE FROM GWA PARENT ASSOCIATION (GWAPA)

### Uniting Nations Celebration

Thank you to those parents who signed up for contributing food for the Uniting Nations Celebration. In case you have not had a chance to do it yet, please use our [sign-up genius link](#) to RSVP to the event and indicate the food you will contribute. If you are able to assist teachers with decorations and displays for the evening, please get in touch with the parent team leaders, as listed below. We are still searching for willing parents to be the leader for Africa - if you're keen, please get in touch with us. Thank you in advance!

#### UN PARENT CONTACTS - DISPLAYS AND PRESENTATIONS

Africa Americas Australasia British Isles East Asia Europe India Middle East South East Asia	TBC Lili Garza Rae Lightfoot Cathy Lawrie Takako Kusunoki Claudia Porges Shaily Badkul Kohi Naisthein Upi Yatim	TBC <a href="mailto:lilianagarza@msn.com">lilianagarza@msn.com</a> <a href="mailto:rae@lightfoot.co.nz">rae@lightfoot.co.nz</a> <a href="mailto:cathylawrie@msn.com">cathylawrie@msn.com</a> <a href="mailto:tacobell0824@gmail.com">tacobell0824@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:porgesc@gmail.com">porgesc@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:shailybadkul@yahoo.co.in">shailybadkul@yahoo.co.in</a> <a href="mailto:kohi_pr@hotmail.com">kohi_pr@hotmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:mrs_ady_yatim@yahoo.com">mrs_ady_yatim@yahoo.com</a>
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### Community Service

We have two spots available for new families to join the the October 15th visit to the The Lee Ah Mooi Old Age Home. 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. If you can't make it this month, please be informed the next visit is planned for Saturday, November 19th.



**GWAPA Team**

**GWAPA Gathering**  
Save the date:  
October 26th at  
10am following the  
Parent Engagement  
Workshop

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

**CONTACT THE GWAPA TEAM**  
[gwapa.singapore@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:gwapa.singapore@gwa.edu.sg)  
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news with us.  
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