



# Weekly School Newsletter

## Message from the Head of School

I have been very fortunate at the end of this week to be in London, joining more than 20 members of GEMS Education global leadership to share experiences from around the world, to explore how to develop more powerful connections, and to review the aspirations of the Chairman through a revised set of goals till 2020.

The opening sessions explored the current status of education globally, outlining risks and opportunities. Most frightening were the figures shared regarding the number of children who have no access to any form of education. Data surrounding poor educational outcomes for those students who do have some form of education in developing countries, demonstrated the significant gap in opportunities and basic educational rights in various parts of the world.

As the leading private education company, GEMS Education sees as a core part of its mission to ensure that all children have access to quality education. This commitment includes bringing together great leaders and inspirational teachers, as well as providing ongoing professional development to staff to both retain and further enhance their skill set.

Beyond soft skills, GEMS continues to ensure that across different models of schools appropriate learning facilities are contracted and maintained. These learning environments provide safe areas in which effective teaching and learning may occur.

The presentations from each of the regional CEOs outlined their plans and processes to further expand educational support in different parts of the world. In many cases, these growth plans will be developed through public-private-partnerships, bringing together government and corporations to ensure greater access to higher quality education. A core aspiration is to move beyond our presence in 14 countries, to being in 50 countries by 2025.

What is exciting for the community of GWA (Singapore) is the role and opportunity that we will play in connecting with students, teachers and parents from around the world in meaningful ways. Knowing that we are part of a much larger organisation, yet connected with a common vision to positively impact lives through quality education, is a powerful aspect of being a member of GEMS education.

To learn more about our projects around the world and to gather a deeper understanding of the fundamental mission of GEMS Education, please do spend time visiting the below two sites:

- **GEMS Education:** <http://www.gemseducation.com/why-a-gems-education/core-values/>
- **Varkey Foundation:** <https://www.varkeyfoundation.org>
- **OECD Report:** <http://www.oecd.org/edu/education-at-a-glance-19991487.htm>



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

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### Parent Event

**Chinatown Dim Sum  
and Tour**



**Venue:** Yum Cha Chinatown Restaurant

**Address:** 20 Trengganu St,  
#02-01 Chinatown, Singapore  
058479

**Time:** 10.30am

*Join us for a Chinese Dim Sum breakfast in the heart of Chinatown, followed by a Chinese New Year Festive bazaar tour in the streets of Chinatown.*

**RSVP :** [j.lee@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:j.lee@gwa.edu.sg)

### PLAY GROUP



**Please note Monday 12th December will be the last day for Playgroup this Semester.**

## Message from the PYP Coordinator

Many thanks to all of the parents who participated in last week's Parent Engagement session. During the session we focused on looking at some of the tools that our students use across the school for learning. Quizlet, Edpuzzle, Google Classroom and Google translate are common programmes that are used in classrooms to enliven learning and develop understanding. It was wonderful to see the parents engaging in these tools as they worked in collaborative groups to unravel the mysteries of their BreakoutEDU box.

Mr. Thompson our Learning Innovation Coordinator has established a Twitter community to share our digital and innovative learning experiences. If you have a Twitter account please access [#GWAinspire](#) to see some of the amazing things that GWA students, parents and staff are doing.

In the PYP at GWA, digital media and technology significantly support students in their inquiries, and in developing their conceptual understanding. It is best considered as a tool for learning, albeit with its own set of skills, as opposed to an additional subject area. ICT skills should be developed and learned in order to support the needs of individual learners in their inquiries. We integrate digital literacy and citizenship into our units of inquiry and everyday practice. The IB Learner Profile highlights that students need to be principled and caring in their interactions with everyone. This includes their interactions online. The world our students live in is highly digitised and we have a responsibility to help them interact appropriately in this world. One of the resources we use at GWAS to assist us in this is Common Sense [Media.org](#). This online non-profit organisation aims to assist teachers, parents and students navigate digital media. Please take some time to visit the following site and make use of the Parent concerns and Family guide sections:

<https://www.common Sense media.org>

**Olivia Burke**  
PYP Coordinator  
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## Message from the MYP/IGCSE Coordinator

Teaching and learning in the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) celebrates the many ways people work together to construct meaning and make sense of the world. As we approach the significant milestone of the end of Semester One it is an ideal opportunity to evaluate, adjust and balance priorities. An IB education at GEMS World Academy (Singapore) empowers young people for a lifetime of learning, independently and in collaboration. Our SY students have achieved a huge amount since the beginning of this academic year and individual reflection upon this will allow students to refine approaches and set goals for continual progress through the remainder of the school year and beyond.

Looking back over the semester, some of the events such as the United Nations celebration, the Grade 10 Week-Without-Walls experiences, Sports Day, or the many subject specific activities may stand out in our memory, but it is the ongoing work and relationship between teachers and students which makes the fundamental changes that support the academic and social development of all of our students. In support of this, our reporting system provides further data and guidance to aid continual development and the Semester One Reports will be issued via ManageBac at the end of next week. These provide a indispensable opportunity to open up further dialogue, a focus upon reflection and to develop future goals and aspirations as we move into Semester Two.

If you would like to know more about the MYP then do not hesitate to contact me.



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

**12 Dec 2016**

### EY/PY PARENT TOWN HALL

*Opportunity to meet with EY/PY leadership team to discuss matters related to the curriculum*

**Date:** 12 December 2016  
**Time:** 3.45pm - 4.30pm  
**Venue:** Auditorium Lobby

**11 Jan 2016**

### COFFEE MORNING (NEW PARENTS)

Parent Cafe  
@ 9:00am

**16-20 Jan 2017**

### ARTS WEEK

**25 Jan 2017**

### 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)

## SPORT AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We are really starting to see the benefits of having our school teams playing on a regular basis against other schools in Singapore, with our athletes being exposed to the demands of competing and performing in pressure situations. This has been exemplified over the past week by our 14U Girls Football team with only eight players, defeating Dulwich College with nine players, 4 - 2, and the Girls Touch 19U team who also beat the Australian School 3 -1. Both teams have shown excellent team-work and character to achieve these outstanding results.



It was a big weekend of swimming last week with both the Junior and Middle School ACSIS Championships taking place on Saturday and Sunday. Our swimmers are demonstrating significant improvement and our team is moving up! Congratulations to Alicia Soosai who won the gold in the 50 Breaststroke at MS ACSIS, and Scarlett Nichol and Tania Thong also won medals. Scarlett actually "swam up" in the older age group Saturday, then won two more medals at the JS ACSIS Championship on Sunday. Every one of our swimmers performed well and new personal best times were the order of the day at both meets, with 11 swimmers competing at the MS meet and 23 racing at the JS meet. Great job swimmers and Mr. Betts!

With the holiday season a few days away, I would like to encourage you all to try and stay active and healthy over the break. Get out with your children and enjoy some physical activity as much as possible to balance out the over indulgence of food and beverages we are often exposed to during this time.



**Danny Tauroa**  
Activities Coordinator  
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**19U Girls Touch Rugby**



**14U Girls Football**

## MESSAGE FROM GWA PARENT ASSOCIATION (GWAPA)

Thank you so much to all of you who decided to support this amazing school event and to promote creative arts via demonstrations, displays and workshops for students. Stay tuned for the details to come.

### Food Donation reminder:

GWAPA would like to encourage parents and students to support Food Bank with food donations leading up to Christmas. In EY lobby area (1st level) you will find a Christmas tree and the decorated boxes to collect non-perishable food items. Food Bank accepts all types of non-perishable food items that are unopened, unused and with at least 4 weeks of shelf life. Food that is in the greatest demand is: rice, beverages (UHT or powdered milk, Milo, Tea, Coffee), noodles (rice vermicelli, instant noodles, cup noodles, pasta), biscuits, canned food, cooking oil, sauces, seasonings, spreads. The food will be collected by Bank of Food in the second week of December. Thank you for your generosity!

### Community Service update:

The gardening activity planned for last Saturday at St John's Elderly home had to be postponed and will take place in January. We will update you with the details soon.

**ARTS WEEK**

Jan 16-20, 2017  
Details coming soon

**FOOD BANK DONATIONS**

EY Lobby  
Christmas tree

**CONTACT GWAPA TEAM**

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Share your sports news with us, join our Facebook page

**GWAPA Team**