

Weekly School Newsletter

Message from the Head of School

STEM is our second of three key pillars in the 'GWA: The Future School' initiative. STEM is the acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and provides an opportunity within subject areas for students to find answers about the world around them.

GWA (Singapore) has a unique approach to STEM, with every student PreK onwards undertaking an integrated approach to this experience. Teachers build upon the learning taking place each day, with STEM specific elements and thinking providing students with opportunities to apply skills and knowledge in a variety of contexts, utilising a STEM focus.

Led by our STEM Coordinator, Brendan Burke, our curriculum has been reviewed to explore where natural opportunities for a STEM focus may be included, utilising this focus for interdisciplinary teaching and learning. This enables students to use two or more disciplines to complete a task and to demonstrate learning. By using a STEM approach, great purpose and context to learning is provided, which deepens the reinforcement of a key concept. At GWA, these learning experiences are built into all grade levels in the primary years. In the secondary school, classes utilise STEM as an approach to planning units, across the defined STEM courses such as Mathematics, Sciences and Design.

We are incredibly excited to announce that GEMS Education has formalised a partnership with Carnegie Mellon University and The CREATE Lab. Through this partnership, GWA (Singapore) will be one of five schools globally to become CMU Create Lab Satellite Schools. This partnership will build upon the great work led by Brendan, delivered across our teaching teams and is further evidence of our commitment to lead the way in innovating international education.

Carnegie Mellon University is regarded as a world-leader in STEM innovations. Through this partnership, students, staff and parents at GWA (Singapore) will gain access to current and emerging technologies, as well as research from within the CREATE Lab. Our team will connect with CMU professors, researchers and educators and partner with CMU in the development of projects specific to the school. An excellent addition to this is the development a network of best practices, with sharing taking place globally amongst the participating schools.

Joining us in this partnership will be GEMS Nations Academy, GWA (Dubai), GWA (Switzerland) and GWA (Chicago). This network of GEMS schools will enhance the programmes we provide in Singapore, provide a model of world-leading collaboration, and ensure that our students are provided with exceptional learning opportunities.

STEM joins with our world-leading launch of Blended Learning, discussed in last week's newsletter. Our third and final pillar of 'The Future School' initiative is entrepreneurship, a component which again GWA will take the lead on. Next week's newsletter will provide further information.

As a community, we hope that these incredible programmes being launched this academic year excite our students and confirm your decision in choosing GWA (Singapore) for your family.



David Edwards
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IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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HAZE MONITORING AT GWA (SINGAPORE)



GWA (Singapore) has a very simple and clear matrix for how we respond to this environmental matter. To review, please visit our site via this direct link:

[Haze Procedures at GWA \(Singapore\)](#)

UNIVERSITY VISITS

Following visits from Japanese, English and US universities this week, next week brings us the first major University Tour to be hosted at GWA. With representatives from 28 US colleges coming in on Tuesday, we are hoping for a great turn-out from parents. Everyone is welcome!

September 13th - GWA Auditorium

8.30 - 9.00am - Council of International Schools workshop on the US Application and Selection process.

9.00 - 9.45am - Council of International Schools Asia College Fair

September 14th - GWA Auditorium

3.30pm - The World Bachelor in Business: A four year degree jointly offered by The University of Southern California, Bocconi & Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

As always please do email me for further information.

Jonathan Cox - Academic Advisor
j.cox@gwa.ed.sg

Message from the Primary Years Principal

Uniting Nations Celebration

Preparations are now under way for our Uniting Nations Celebration which will take place on Friday 4th November 2016. Throughout this day, our school will become a showcase of country displays, national costumes and cuisine, cultural performances and workshops.

This week, we conducted our first practice session with the nine different regional groups consisting of students from across all of the grade levels from Grade One to Grade Eleven. The collaborative process involved in the lead-up to the Uniting Nations Celebration brings together students representing many different nations and of all ages exploring their own cultures to share their identity and what makes them unique with others .

Working together in this way also empowers students. It enables them to have ownership of their learning, build confidence, forge new friendships and strengthen bonds within our school community. We look forward to seeing what our students create and share over the coming weeks.

If you require any further information, please don't hesitate to contact me.



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

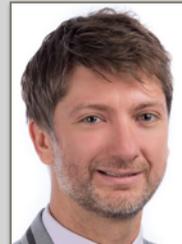
Message from the Secondary Years Principal



Thank you to the SY parents who joined us for the parent workshop last week to learn more about

ManageBac. It is important that each parent actively uses the system: you can support your child's time management, monitor grades and overall academic progress, communicate with teachers, and see attendance. Seeing the units of inquiry, tasks and assignments also provides a great opportunity for parents to have a conversation with their child about learning and school in general.

The SY Education Leadership Team (ELT) also uses ManageBac as part of the formal lesson observation process, which ensures high quality teaching and learning standards. All SY teachers engage in an ongoing professional dialogue with two ELT members throughout the school year. The dialogue revolves around curriculum, planning, teaching strategies and is based on information from ManageBac as well as informal and formal lesson observations.



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

12 September

PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Hari Raya Haji



15 September

PARENT EVENT

Chinese tea appreciation workshop & Moon cake tasting (*fees apply*)

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

21 September

PARENT EVENT

Lunch at EatPlayLove
Craft Cafe

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

28 September

**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

The school was a hive of activity over the past week with the Sports and ECA programme kicking in.

Tryouts for the school sports teams have been held and it was great to see the turnout for the new sports of rugby and touch football this season. The popularity for swimming, cross-country and football were as strong as expected, and we have a good group of athletes for basketball that will work well together over the season.

The first competition games will start next week with all teams in action either here at GWA or at away venues. Players must remember the important role they have when representing GWA as positive ambassadors who display sportsmanship both on and off the playing arena.

Students selected for school teams are required to purchase and wear the full team uniform from the school shop. Coaches will arrange numbering for uniforms.

As always, if you have any questions or require further clarification, feel free to contact me.



Danny Tauroa
Activities Coordinator
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On Thursday this week the 11U Basketball team had their first and second inter-school tournaments, after only one practice session, the results were as follows:

- 5-4 win against CIS
- 12-10 win against AIS

Well done to our 11U boys Basketball team!

MESSAGE FROM GWA PARENT ASSOCIATION (GWAPA)

Thank you so much for those who already approached us, sent email addresses and joined our Facebook page. We really appreciate it! It's wonderful to feel your support for our community. We will soon conduct a survey to gather all your great ideas and preferences regarding future GWAPA events and meetings.



Thank you also for visiting Little India with us on Tuesday. We met as strangers but parted as friends. As a group, we strolled down the busy, vibrant and buzzing streets of Little India, the area that best shows off Singapore's Indian community. A highlight was a very ornamental and colourful Hindu Temple. We headed towards Mustafa Centre, a hub for a variety of products from all across the world, and got to taste the authentic Indian food at The Banana Leaf restaurant. In all, it was a very successful trip for the GWA parents getting to know each other and exploring Singapore. We look forward to welcoming more new faces to our coming events.

A kind reminder for those who are not yet connected with us, please make sure you share your email address with us, sending it to gwapa.singapore@gwa.edu.sg

On the GWAPA Singapore Facebook page you will find updates on GWAPA events and meetings. If you wish to be updated via social media, please let us know so that we can add you as a new member.

Also please note that the GWA PARENTS WhatsApp group is not an official platform of communication for GWAPA. Our Facebook page is a great place to stay connected.

GWAPA Team

