

# THIS WEEK'S NEWS

## Message from Head of School

### IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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Tonight is a wonderful opportunity for the GWA (Singapore) community to gather in force, book-ending the academic year. Our GWA Awards night is a time for us to reflect on the year that has been, to recognise the great contributions from students, parents and staff in assisting the school to develop towards a leading educational institution.

The evening commences with a reception in the main foyer from 5.45pm, with doors to the auditorium opening at 6.15pm, for a 6.30pm commencement. Please do take the chance to talk with friends and staff prior to the awards night.

There can be little doubt of the high level of success achieved in our second year of operations. Our students continue to be highly engaged in an extensive array of events, across our three domains of sports, arts and academics. Parents are clear partners with the school in the education of their children, participating in a variety of engagement workshops and information sessions. Our staff continue to go above and beyond, ensuring that every child, parent and colleague is provided great learning opportunities.

The true measure of a school is the interaction between stakeholders. It has been wonderful this week to see families join the festivities at the EY Swim Gala on Wednesday, as well as the PY and SY Swim Gala on Thursday. Our special thanks goes to Steve Betts, who oversaw the preparations for the two days and was a tireless presence around the pool decks.

Wednesday was also a chance for the school, in partnership with GWAPA, to offer a fond farewell to those families leaving GWA this summer. It was a morning of interesting banter, a few tears, and a time of fun reflection from the past two years.

We look forward to seeing all students from G3 onwards tonight, as well as the many parents joining the school for our final main event for the academic year.

**David Edwards**

Head of Education

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### CALENDAR UPDATE

**15 June** - EY Awards Assembly

**17 June** - School year ends (Reports sent out by 5pm)

**17 June to 15 August** - School holiday

**15 August** - Semester 1 commences

### GWA AWARDS NIGHT 2016

The live feed of the GWA (Singapore) awards night will go live at 6:28pm. Please do share the link with family and friends around the world, so that they may join this special event:

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mo8l7QDWwSA>



## Message from School Principal

The end of the academic year sees a real focus on celebrating achievement. Our Awards Night on Friday 10th June recognises students who have demonstrated excellence in academics, sport or the arts. Our Early Years Awards assembly recognises the exemplary attitudes that our youngest learners have shown throughout the year.

Achievement can be defined as an accomplishment that has been reached through special effort or courage. For many of our students this year, this has meant successfully reaching goals that they set for themselves. This has been done through hard work, commitment and persistence. Many have pushed themselves to try something new and they have been amazed by what they have been capable of. This includes our Grade 5 students on their Exhibition journey and our Secondary Years Students on their overseas camps.

Our students, supported by our excellent teaching teams, have achieved a great deal this year and we are proud of all of them.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions

**Neil White**

School Principal

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## Sport Update

For a small school, GWA has certainly made a big impression on the ACSIS sporting stage this year. After a slow start to the year, where our cross country teams rarely trained outside due to the persistent haze, the Jaguars moved into top gear. In total, GWA were able to field no less than 11 sporting teams across a range of sports.



Across all disciplines our athletes won seven gold, eight silver and one bronze

medal in the ACSIS competitions. While our individual athletes still account for the majority of the medals won, our basketball programme appears to be taking shape. The 11U girls and 14U boys team collected silver while our 14U girls team were rewarded for a strong season with gold.



There is no doubt that as our school continues to grow we will see many more Jaguars on the winning podium.

**Tony McMullen** - Activities Coordinator

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SWIM GALA - 9 JUNE 2016

## EY/PY Curriculum Update

Presently, teachers are in the process of completing the report writing 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 their strengths and challenges in order to support their 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.

These end of academic year reports will identify the many areas of progress and growth for individual children. They will also outline next steps for future development. As a family it will be important for you to sit and discuss the attainment and areas for improvement. This will assist with maintaining progress and set them up for a successful beginning to the new academic year.

During the holidays, the experiences and things that your child does will be very important. If you are travelling to another country, the new sites, sounds and opportunities will be an enriching experience for your child. Discuss where you will go, share in researching what you can do there. Talk about the currency, foods, culture, customs, religion and maybe try to learn some words in their language. If you would like some ideas for maintaining your child's reading Common Sense Media have many ideas and resources on their parent site below:

<https://www.common sense media.org/reading>.

**Olivia Burke**

PYP Coordinator

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## SY Curriculum Update

Throughout the year our SY students have shown time and time again that they are able to plan, work together and achieve great things. Recent activities such as the Semester Examinations and Arts Week have demonstrated the progress made and engagement shown in academics and the arts.

Sports is another area in which our students have excelled and it was with pleasure this week that we were able to celebrate the achievement of the girls and boys basketball teams through the presentation of their medals during this week's homeroom assembly. Basketball is by no means the only area where sporting excellence has been demonstrated and our students have displayed skill and aptitude in a wide range of disciplines during the course of the year.

The framework of the Middle Years Programme (MYP) delivers a balanced curriculum with equal weighting on all subject groups to foster the growth of our students across all aspects of the programme, be it arts, sports or academics. The interdisciplinary nature of the MYP also supports the connectivity of subjects and as students excel in one area this can support growth across the curriculum.

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

**Mark Gardner** - MYP/IGCSE Coordinator

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