

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

Message from Head of School

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In partnership with the International Baccalaureate Organisation Asia-Pacific team, we were delighted this week to host Ms Annette Edmonson, World Champion and Olympic medalist in cycling. Her visit coincided during a week in which the world recognised International Women's Day and we were fortunate to showcase Annette as an outstanding example of what commitment and passion can achieve.



Annette was initially recruited for cycling through a talent identification programme in her home country of Australia. This school-based system undertook a range of very simple tests and measures for all students, with the data collected then leading to recommendations for sports they would be best suited for. Despite a long history of playing competitive soccer, Annette was identified as having potential in cycling.

Fast forward 12 years, and Annette at the age of 24 is an Olympic bronze medalist, gold medalist at the Commonwealth Games, World Champion and world-record holder. In sharing her story with our students and families, Annette described those moments where she had doubt and when her energy was waning. She outlined the steps taken to reflect, pause and renew your commitment, which has ultimately led to her incredible success.

For our students, Annette represents an excellent example of what dedication can lead to. Success has been a result of surrounding herself with a strong team, yet being willing to personally commit at a deep level. This has led to countless hours of individual training and forgoing distractions so that she has been able to achieve her lofty ambitions. Success has not been 'natural', nor by accident. It has been the result of many years of focus, dedication, passion and consistent application to the task at hand.

At GWA, we ensure that your children are provided with extensive opportunities across Sports, Arts and Academics. Their camps, field-trips and extra-curricular activities provide access to broader areas of experience. Participation at an early age is crucial to later success. We should not, however, be afraid of the notion of excellence, nor supporting the enormous effort it takes to be remarkable at any one skill, sport, artistic realm or academic domain.

Excellence is individual. It is a result of being committed and passionate on a narrow field, consistently applying oneself with razor-sharp focus. Every child at GWA is provided the chance to find their passion and the support to focus on the daily execution of their goals. By spending time with high achievers such as Annette, GWA students can understand better what is needed to successfully drive towards their aspirations.

David Edwards - Head of Education

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CALENDAR UPDATE

14-17 March - STEM Week

25 March - Good Friday

23 March - Senior Years

Play

28 March-8 April - School

Holiday

11 April - Start of Quarter 4

16 April - GWA Open Day

GWAPA UPDATE

16th March - Parent Coffee Morning Session at the Auditorium Lobby, followed by a session with Mr Burke on the role of STEM (in the STEM lab)

On the same day the Community Project (food donation drive) is set at 10:30am . Parents are welcomed to volunteer for food distribution to the residents at the block near the campus.

Message from the School Principal

A highlight from this week has been the Talent Show. Students demonstrate their creativity through music, dance, art, drama and sport. This annual event encourages students to be risk takers, enabling them to develop their confidence in performing in front of an audience. The support given to the performing students by their friends and families was great to see and thank you to all staff involved in coordinating the event.

Next week the focus shifts to our STEM week, where students will be involved in a range of different activities exploring science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Thank you to Mr Burke (STEM Coordinator) for organising the programme of events.

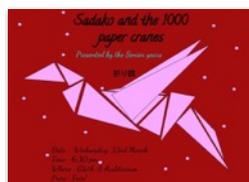
Families will also be receiving the Quarter Three Academic Progress Report at the end of March. This provides additional information which supplements the ongoing feedback provided by the teachers of your child. As a designated check-point for the entire school, this Progress Report provides a series of criteria indicators for each subject area and is a stepping stone to the Semester Two Academic Report, which communicates significant detail and includes additional formal teacher comments.

Neil White- School Principal
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Senior Years Play - 23 March

On **Wednesday, March 23** students in the Senior Years will be performing "A Thousand Cranes" in the theatre. This is the story of Sadako Sasaki, a young girl who was affected by radiation from the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. It tells the story of Sadako through her own experience, and takes us on her journey with her family and friends by her side. This production includes a number of our senior students in all grades from 6 to 10 who are performing onstage and behind the scenes in every aspect of the theatre. We welcome you to join us for an evening performance not to forget.

Date: Thursday, March 23
Time: 6:30pm
Where: GEMS World Academy (Singapore) Auditorium



ECA and Sport Update

This week was a busy week for our sporting teams with three teams representing GWA. Our 14U boys basketball team were back in action, while our 14U girls basketball team and our 8U football teams played for the first time this season.

Our 14U boys travelled to UWCE campus to take on the Dragons on their home court. Due to injuries, illness and other commitments our boys travelled with only six players. Regardless, our team once again displayed determination and commitment. Through a combination of hard nosed defence and thoughtful team work on offence, the Jaguars remained in touch through most of the game. However, playing away from home and the lack of substitutes gradually took a toll on our boys. As the game progressed UWCE were able to build an unassailable lead. The final score of 32 - 16.

The following day eighteen highly excited 8 and under footballers travelled to SAS for their first round of games. The players were divided into two teams, and with each team playing three games each it meant lots of football for everyone. The philosophy behind the 8U competition is to promote participation and foster the enjoyment of being physically active. As such no scores are kept but eighteen happy footballers returned safely, so mission accomplished.

On Thursday, our 14U girls basketball team travelled to the Canadian International School for their first game of the season. From the outset the Jaguars looked in control. Charlotte Jaeger led the way, scoring with ease and controlling the tempo of the game. Following Charlotte's lead they quickly grew in confidence, despite the fact that most had not played competitive basketball before. The 34 - 1 victory was a perfect way for the girls to begin their 2016 campaign and a great way to finish the week for GWA sports.

Tony McMullen - Activities Coordinator
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EY/PY Curriculum Update

The search for understanding is central to the beliefs and practices of the PYP. The construction of meaning and understanding is complemented by the students acquiring and applying a range of skills. These skills are best developed in the context of authentic situations. Within their learning throughout the programme, students acquire and apply a set of transdisciplinary skills: social skills, communication skills, thinking skills, research skills and self-management skills. These skills are valuable, not only within the classroom but also in life outside school.

Last week, the Grade 4 students were able to put these skills into real, authentic practice while participating in a two day overnight camp to Pulau Ubin. Whilst on this camp the students had to utilise many skills to participate in the various activities. From kayaking to cooking their own meals to, for some, sleeping in a tent away from home for the first time. These activities challenged all of the students and pushed them to take risks.

Next week, Grade 5 students will be going to Rider's Lodge in Malaysia. Prior to arriving at Rider's Lodge, they will be visiting a local orphanage. In the lead up to their camp, the students have been working on many service and action projects to assist the children at this orphanage. We wish them an enjoyable trip.

Olivia Burke - PYP Coordinator
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SY Curriculum Update

We nurture collaboration across the school in many different ways in the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP), with activities involving students working alongside each other in their classes and engaging with different year groups across the school.

An example of collaboration has been the recent interaction between our Grades 5 and 9 students who have shared their learning and offered feedback to each other. Within Individuals and Societies lessons, Grade 9 students prepared information and activities to explore the impact of poverty upon children around the world, sharing this work with the Grade 5's by giving presentations and running activities to explore the topic. Additionally, the Grade 5 students recently spent time visiting the Grade 9 Design class to review and evaluate the work students had produced to design packaging for chocolate bars. The Grade 5 students were able to use the knowledge from a previous unit looking at marketing chocolate to provide the Grade 9's with constructive feedback on their work.

These activities allowed students to effectively develop their communication skills and appreciation of differing perspectives and also provided insight for our Grade 5 students to assist in their transition into the Secondary Years MYP in August 2016.

Mark Gardner - MYP/IGCSE Coordinator
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Visual Arts - Grade 8

Awesome Grade 8 enjoyed exploring the work of artist and environmentalist, Hundertwasser in their 'Art and the Environment' unit. Now they are proud to show case their artwork based on the 'google map aerial views' of their home location and inspired by the colourful and unique work of the Austrian artist.

