

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

Shaping tomorrow's leaders, thinkers and doers.

Upcoming Events

19 December - 1:30pm dismissal and start of school holiday

5 January 2015 - Student free day

6 January 2015 - Restart of school

UN Concert Update

We are all very excited to be able to celebrate the opening of our new Auditorium with the upcoming Uniting Nations celebrations in the New Year. The preparations for UN have continued to gather momentum with students being seen and heard practicing their 'phrases' or dances in their spare time, as well as the allocated sessions. Students thoughts about their experiences so far have included:

- 'My presenter partner comes from India and is in grade 8 and I'm in grade 2 and British. We have learnt lots of interesting facts about the Americas, and she is my new friend too'
- 'It has been cool learning to make an iMovie and finding out about the Middle East, even though we originate from South Africa, New Zealand and Japan'

We look forward to continuing working in our groups after the school break and sharing more of what we've learnt and experienced leading up to the final celebration.

Claire Rimmer - Visual Arts
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Message from Head of School

Beyond classroom excellence and sporting success, the past week has seen additional visitors from our corporate headquarters collaborate with the GWA senior leadership team in the analysis of client data, market research, and the ongoing development of a world- leading learning institution. In the coming months many of the initiatives that have been in planning and are now undergoing significant development, will be shared via this newsletter and at our many parent events.

The initiatives include the utilisation of multiple externally recognised formative testing tools, which provide excellent data on student progress, particularly in language and mathematics. The development of a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) Innovation programme, utilising the GEMS Education global partnerships with organisations such as Lego Robotics, will ensure that we clearly reach our target of providing outstanding learning opportunities.

These many developments are timely, given the rapidly approaching handover of the remainder of the Phase One facilities. Our daily site review meetings and work plan is ensuring that we remain on-track for the complete launch of the school site on 6th January. The Building Construction Authority (BCA) have conducted their site inspection, and most of the remaining certificates are in place.

The site handover meeting between Lend Lease (construction company) and GWA remains scheduled for 8am, 29th December. Once this detailed inspection is finished, the 60 contract workers will start moving furniture and resources around the many spaces, ready for the teachers to complete the set- up of their classrooms on 5th January, and for the school to open in full on 6th January.

We are incredibly excited to near the end of this Phase One journey. We again thank you for your commitment to GWA and for working so closely with our wonderful teaching and non-teaching staff.

David Edwards - Acting Head of School/CEO
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Arts Update

In Visual Arts the students have been busy being creative and exploring how to use different visual art media. K2 has been breaking down a story they wrote in English class to images in the art room, that will be turned into a stop motion video. Grade 1 has been transferring the knowledge of colours to create a large scale colour wheel to enhance our new art room. Grade 2 has been applying paint abstractly with a range of paint applicators to create a Celebrations artwork focusing on the colours and images that we see in Celebrations. Grade 3 has manipulated wire into an individual sculpture, that once connected will create a message. Grade 4 has begun creating an art



journal, which will hold their imaginative thoughts and sketches, for

further development. Grade 5 has been focusing on how the elements of art and principles of design can support the composition of a photograph.

Beth Roberts - Visual Arts
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Sports Update

As our teams approach their winter break and a well earned rest they have continued to mark their presence in the Singapore international sporting league (ACSIS). Our Boys 14 U team played a hard fought game against OFS, in front of a great crowd of parents, teachers and fellow students. It was clear from the game that the boys are really beginning to get together, demonstrating greater camaraderie between the players in the team.



The 10 U boys football team continued their unbeaten record this week, scoring 10 and conceding 0! For a team so young, the



players demonstrate great sportsmanship and determination, a true reflection of the IB learner profile attributes in action within the sporting arena. Our final game of 2014 will be on Monday 15th December and will see our 14U Girls take on CIS TK here at GWA.

Kick off is at 4:30pm so why not come along and give the girls some support.

Ken Barker - Athletics Director/ASA Coordinator
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EY/ PY Curriculum Update

In an inquiry-based classroom there is increased emphasis on real-life situations, decision-making, problem-solving, research and action. Pataray-Ching and Roberson (2002) propose that teachers take on different roles within an inquiry classroom:

Inquirer - Teachers inquire about questions of personal and professional interests.

Supporter of learning culture - Teachers carefully consider their classroom's physical environment so that it supports a tone for inquiry that is rich in resources and organised to encourage students' various and spontaneous interests.

Listener and observer - Teachers listen and observe. Observation enables teachers to continually support their students' interests and suggest new avenues for further inquiry.

Question poser - Teachers continually pose genuine and thoughtful questions to help the students and teacher better understand a learning process, concept, or topic.

Organizer - A teacher, as a more experienced inquirer, assists students in becoming responsible for their learning by establishing routines that support inquiry.

Pataray-Ching, Jann, and Mary Roberson.
"Misconceptions about Curriculum-as-Inquiry Framework" Language Arts Vol.79.No.6 (2002): 498-505.

Jacqueline McNalty

Head of Early Years/PYP Coordinator
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SY Curriculum Update

The focus for this week is on the Middle School Semester Examinations, which will take place January 12th to 16th 2015. Subject areas will provide revision study guides on Monday 12th December, which will contain information to assist students in their preparation for the exams.

The preparation time provides students with the opportunity to create their own study plans and prepare for the examinations in a manner most appropriate to their learning style. Teachers will be spending time in class guiding students on the areas to be assessed, as well as helping them best prepare for these examinations.

The specific examination schedule for Grades 6-8 is as follows:

Monday 12th January - Language & Literature
Tuesday 13th January - Individuals & Societies
Wednesday 14th January - Mathematics
Thursday 15th January - Language Acquisition
Friday 16th January - Science

The exam information will also be viewable to parents in the homework section on ManageBac.

Neil White - MYP Curriculum Coordinator
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KEY DATES:

- FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER - 1.30pm DEPARTURE FOR START OF SCHOOL HOLIDAY
- MONDAY 5TH JANUARY IS DESIGNATED AS A STUDENT FREE DAY.
- TUESDAY 6TH JANUARY - RESTART OF SCHOOL
- UN STUDENT CONCERT POSTPONED TO 29TH JANUARY 2015