

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

Message from Head of School

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CALENDAR UPDATE

19 May - G8-9 Transition Evening (6:30pm in the Auditorium)

16 May to 20 May - Arts Week

26 May - Pop Concert

26-27 May - Grade 2 Camp

30 May to 3 June - SY Exams

10 June - GWA Awards Night, 6:30pm (compulsory for grades 3 and above)



Congratulations

Congratulations to **Roy Milstein** (Grade 9) who has been offered a full scholarship to attend the **ie** University (Madrid) summer school on Entrepreneurship. **ie** is a prestigious private university specialising in business and entrepreneurship. Their representative met Roy when she visited us earlier this year and was so impressed by him that she offered him one of only two scholarships available for Singapore based students - and this despite the fact that Roy is technically a year too young to join the programme. This is a significant achievement that we are all proud of.

At our parent engagement session this past Wednesday, we took the time to explore the upcoming Arts week, as well as to overview the concept of future education at GWA. Claire and Kerian from our wonderful Arts Team, provided great detail on the purpose, structure and opportunities that are available to our students, parents and staff over the next week. Arts Week provides an impressive array of workshops, designed to engage the creative space in our minds.

In providing a first peek into what 'GWA: The Future School' is going to look like, we spent time outlining the reality of the world surrounding us today. The open access to information and the many tools at the disposal of the masses continue to lead to greater democratisation of education. Companies such as Coursera, Udacity and Khan Academy have led some disruption in the education space and have commenced the discussion on the future of schooling.

Coursera and Udacity commenced around 2012, with both now providing hundreds of high quality courses through their online platforms, to millions of students around the world. Many offerings are free, with additional layers provided at a nominal charge.

The story of Khan Academy is well-known. What commenced as one man filming short videos on math solutions for his niece, distributed via youtube, has grown to a company of more than 80 full-time staff providing an enormous array of free resources and courses to millions of students.

At the heart of Coursera, Udacity and Khan Academy is a common mission of providing all people with access to high quality education. It is a noble purpose and one which is very much in line with the GEMS Education Manifesto. Our approach is that all students deserve the right to access high quality education and it is a philosophy which has driven us to develop schools around the world.

Whilst it is exciting to see change happening in the world of education, this advancement is comparatively slow and in many ways is only an enhancement to current methodology. Our model for 'GWA: The Future School' goes far beyond this. We have re-thought what a classroom must look like, and how to better ensure that, regardless of the size of our student population, every student is provided access to global teachers, local mentors and facilitators, local classmates and peers, as well as global classmates. This model significantly impacts the power of learning, caters truly to the individual learner, provides meaningful data on actual student progress, and most importantly, engages students in a model of learning which goes beyond the needs of today, preparing them to be significant contributors to the world of tomorrow.

For light viewing this week, explore how one school in the US has utilised the power of collaborative technology to significantly enhance teaching and learning in their context. **Link:** <http://www.edtechmagazine.com/k12/media/video/wisconsin-school-embraces-telepresence-classroom>

David Edwards - Head of Education
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Message from School Principal

The Secondary School Semester Examinations will take place between **30 May and 3 June**. Relevant examination subject areas have provided revision study guides, which 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.

Please find below the Secondary School Examination Schedule. The exams will be 90 minutes in duration and take place between 9:30-11:00am each day. Students will attend homeroom at 9.00am each morning as usual and then prepare for the start of the examination. Please note that with academic programmes on-going in all subject areas during semester examinations, there will be no examination leave for students to return home after they finish their examinations each day. Grade 10 students will not be sitting semester examinations for subjects in which they have taken IGCSE qualifications.

DATE	TIME: 9:30 - 11:00am
30 May	Grades 6-8: Language & Literature Grades 9-10: Science
31 May	Grades 6-8: Individuals & Societies Grades 9-10: Language & Literature
1 June	Grades 6-8: Mathematics Grades 9-10: Language Acquisition
2 June	Grades 6-8: Language Acquisition Grades 9-10: Mathematics
3 June	Grades 6-8: Science Grades 9-10: Individuals & Societies

Neil White - School Principal
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ECA and Sport Update

Last Saturday, our MS Track and Field team kicked things off with a very successful meet at SAS. Though our numbers were small, our medal haul was impressive.. Emma Middleditch led the way, collecting two golds in the 800 mtr and 1500 mtr events. Other individual medals were collected by Arthur Tinel (Silver for High Jump) and Edouard Deckers (Bronze for Shot), while Maya Regnier , Avanna Harvey, Penny Dabbs and Emma collect bronze in the 4 x 100 mtr relay.

On Monday afternoon, it was our 14U Boys' basketball team's chance to get their season back on track against Dover Court. The Jaguars came out firing from the opening tip and quickly asserted their dominance. The Jaguars continued to build their lead with each passing quarter, and by the end of the game had convincingly defeated their opposition to the tune of 54 - 14.

The following day, the 14U Girls had their chance to secure a place in the 14U Girls division 3 final. It was a nail biting affair with no more than 4 points separating the two teams throughout. Claire Payen was outstanding defensively, while Charlotte Jaeger and Weronika Broda kept the scoreboard ticking over. The Jaguars were trailing by a single point with 7 seconds remaining in the game when Charlotte was fouled as she attempted a shot. She calmly stepped up to the foul line and sank two pressure shots to give the home team an exciting one point win.

Rounding the week out, were the 14U Boys basketball who were backing up for their second game in a week. This time the Jaguars travelled to UWCD to determine which team would play for gold on Saturday. Scores remained close throughout but towards the end of the final quarter the Jaguars got out to a winning margin. In a tensely fought match, our boys prevailed 48-38 to move into the gold medal game on Saturday.

Tomorrow, our 14U Boys and Girls basketball teams will play for gold in the ACSIS finals of their respective divisions. The game will be held at SAS with the boys tipping off at 9am followed by the girls game at 10:15am.



The 8U Boys football team demonstrated the skill and teamwork that belied their years. It was a fitting end to a wonderful season.

Tony McMullen - Activities Coordinator
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EY/PY Curriculum Update

Last Friday, our entire teaching staff had the privilege of attending a presentation by Dr. Roby Marcou about *Third Culture Kids*. Dr. Roby Marcou is a Developmental and Behavioural Paediatrician here in Singapore.

Third culture kid (TCK) is a term used to refer to children who were raised in a culture outside of their parents' culture for a significant part of their developmental years. In the book, *Third Culture Kids: The Experience of Growing up Among Worlds* authors David C. Pollock and Ruth E. Van Reken write that a "TCK builds relationships to all of the cultures, while not having full ownership in any. Although elements from each culture are assimilated into the TCK's life experience, the sense of belonging is in relationship to others of similar background."

It is important for expat parents to understand the impact that our amazing expat life has on our children. TCKs are international nomads that have a well developed appreciation for and understanding of cross-cultural views. A group of TCKs who began the Denizen website that explores third culture kids' issues expressed that 'the diverse experiences that TCKs have encountered give them many skills necessary in a globalised world. They are the citizens of the future. They are the leaders of tomorrow. However, they can also struggle with identity and relationships, in their own unique way.'

It is important for us to recognise that for TCKs, their family unit is most crucial. It is often at home that parents can see little changes that may form that could indicate some struggles that the child is having. The school that the child attends can also play a vital role in supporting them in their development. Through parents partnering with teachers, through forming a close knit and supportive community with other parents who share a common transient life experience. By providing a safe environment for the child to express themselves, Third Culture kids can flourish and achieve great things.

Olivia Burke
PYP Coordinator
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SY Curriculum Update

Students and parents from Grade 5 had the opportunity this week to learn more about the Middle Years Programme (MYP) and life in the Secondary Years during the Grade 5 into Grade 6 Transition Evening. The evening began with a presentation in the auditorium which illustrated the similarities and differences between the Primary Years Programme (PYP) and the MYP. To give further support and guidance as students prepare to make the transition into the Secondary Years the presentation also looked at subject groups, assessments and other aspects of day-to-day life in the Secondary Years. Following the presentation there was an opportunity to speak with the Grade 6 teachers to discuss each of the different subject groups within the MYP.

Within the SY this week students have been given their SY Exam Week schedule and teachers have posted the subject revision guides onto Managebac. Students are able to access their unit plans, assessments and homework tasks through Managebac and are reminded that they should log onto Managebac daily for each lesson as this is the method by which teachers give assessments and set all homework.

Should you have any questions about the MYP please do not hesitate to contact me for further information.

Mark Gardner - MYP/IGCSE Coordinator
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Up-coming Parent Events

- Coffee morning at the Dutch club on the **25th of May**, from 10.30 to 12.30. You have an opportunity to enjoy free membership for a month (22, Camden Park, 299814) 
- Picnic at Botanic Gardens, on the **28th of May**, from 16.00 to 18.00. Don't forget your picnic, your rug and games for the children. Meeting point Shaw Foundation Symphony Stage 
- Farewell coffee morning with Parents leaving GWA on the **8th of June** at 9.30 at school.

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