

# THIS WEEK'S NEWS

## Message from Head of School

### IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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This week has been an exciting start to Quarter 4. On Monday and Tuesday, the school underwent a membership inspection by the Council of International Schools (CIS). This review looked at the commercial and education facets of the school, as well as spending much time delving into the values and commitment of the organisation to provide outstanding learning opportunities. It was a highly successful review and one which, once the final report is made available, we will share the findings with the school community.

On Wednesday we hosted our monthly Parent Engagement Coffee morning. This week it gave the leadership team the chance to provide an update on a number of projects taking place at the school. A core focus of the session and one which opened up much positive dialogue, was the discussion surrounding the manner in which parents and school communicate. The discussion reinforced the importance of feedback delivered in a constructive tone and how everything we do in various sub-groups within the school is a reflection of who we are as an entire organisation.

On Thursday night 50 students performed at the Chamber and Solo Concert. There was a wide array of talent on display, from early stage musicians through to young maestros. It was exciting to see so many families present. The concert is yet another example of the commitment of staff to ensure that all students are being provided with multiple opportunities to develop talents in sports, arts and academics. We thank Ms Rodnite, Mr Brandt, Ms Walsh and Mr Bellahouel for their considerable efforts.

On Saturday, we host our annual Open House from 10am-2pm. The day is an opportunity for families across Singapore to experience life at GWA. Teachers will be running master-classes, which will give prospective families a taste of the quality of education provided by the school. The relaxed day also is a chance for our GWA families to interact together, as well as support potential parents as they seek information, prior to making an informed decision regarding the education of their children. We encourage GWA families to come along tomorrow, and to bring with them interested friends.

To our many new families who have joined the school this week, we hope that it has been an wonderful start to life at GWA and, in many cases, Singapore. We look forward to welcoming new and 'old' families to the campus tomorrow, and at our Parent-Teacher conferences next week.

**David Edwards** - Head of Education

[d.edwards@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:d.edwards@gwa.edu.sg)

### CALENDAR UPDATE

**16 April** - GWA Open Day

**21-22 April** - Parent-Teacher Conferences

**25-29 April** - SY: Week-Without-Walls

**2 May** - Public Holiday: May Day

**5 May** - G10-11 Transition Evening (6:30pm in the Auditorium)

**10 May** - G10-11 Transition Evening (6:30pm in the Auditorium)

### RE-ENROLMENT 2016-2017

Re-enrolment notification will be sent out to all enrolled parents via email from the Registrar's Office on Wednesday 20th April. Please contact Kellie or Stephanie should you have any questions

[registrar@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:registrar@gwa.edu.sg)

## Message from the School Principal

Next week we host our Parent-Teacher conferences, which provide an important opportunity for ongoing communication between home and school. The purpose of these conferences is to keep parents informed about their child's progress including their academic, social and emotional development; to set new goals and to discuss any necessary support strategies that may be needed. The aim is to maintain a dialogue between home and school that will ultimately benefit every student.

The GWA Parent-Teacher conferences will take place between 9:00-4:00pm on Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd April, 2016. The booking system was provided via an online portal, which allows you to better manage the conference schedule to suit your personal availability. Information regarding the online booking system was communicated to all families this week. Please note that the 21st and 22nd April are student-free days. Students will be provided appropriate work via their student ManageBac accounts.

Finally, I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming GWA Open Day tomorrow.

As always, if you have any questions or want clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

### Neil White

School Principal

[n.white@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:n.white@gwa.edu.sg)



## ECA and Sport Update

After a relaxing two week break, the Jaguars were back in action on the court and field this week. The 8U boys football team travelled to Singapore American School (SAS) for their third round of games, while the 14U boys and girls basketball teams played their last games of the regular season at GWA.

A super excited bunch of 8U footballers arrived at SAS eager to test their skills and teamwork. Unfortunately, lightning intervened before a ball was kicked much to the disappointment of players, coaches and parents.

For our 14U boys basketball team, there was an air of confidence surrounding the Jaguars as they warmed up for the match against UWCE at the Jaguar Den. For the first time this season our team were able to field a full strength team that included the talented Federico Vanoli.

Early in the third quarter Federico took control of the game. His strong drives to the basket and deft passing proved the difference and the Jaguars got to an 8 point lead. However, UWCE came back strongly in the fourth quarter to wrestle the lead away from GWA.

Tenacious team defence throughout the final quarter kept the Jaguars in touch. With less than 5 seconds on the clock the Jaguars had one final shot to win the game. Sadly, it was not to be as the ball just rimmed out, and the boys went down by two points in an exciting match.

The 14U girls basketball team rounded out the week for the Jaguars with another clinical performance against ISC. In their final regular season game the girls kept their undefeated record in tact as they head into the playoffs.

The Jaguars began the game strongly with controlled offence and tough, uncompromising defence. Offensively, the dynamic duo of Weronika and Charlotte led the way while Claire and Shiori were tireless in defence.

The final score of 32-16 was a fair indication of the difference between the two teams. As a team, the Jaguars are continuing to improve their skill and understanding of the game the more they play. The girls are now eagerly awaiting the playoffs which will begin in May.

### Tony McMullen

Activities Coordinator

[t.mcmullen@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:t.mcmullen@gwa.edu.sg)

## EY/PY Curriculum Update

This week saw the beginning of our Grade 5 student's Exhibition process. Students have been exploring the five essential elements, engaging with the key concepts, investigating how to design an effective central idea and creating their own inquiries into a global issue that is important to them. Over the coming weeks they will be assigned to a teacher-mentor who is there to support and guide them through the process.

Grade 5 students will be also be engaged in a day where various teaching staff will be conducting workshops for them on a variety of topics related to the process of Exhibition. These will include citing, referencing and research, keeping the balance and well-being, concepts, inquiry and action, approaches to learning and development of skills for success. We wish all of the Grade 5 students, teachers and parents the best of luck as they continue their Exhibition journey.

**Olivia Burke** - PYP Coordinator  
[o.burke@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:o.burke@gwa.edu.sg)

## SY Curriculum Update

In the coming weeks SY students will experience the excitement and engagement of our Week-Without-Walls programme, our Grade 10 students will take part in the school's first round of IGCSE examinations and the school will be continuing its journey to become an IB World School when we welcome visitors from the IB in late May to provide verification for our Middle Years Programme (MYP).

Offering the MYP and being part of a global community of IB schools with engaged and passionate teachers and learners provides us with the platform to make a difference to the education of our students and help to shape internationally-minded individuals. To provide further insight into the MYP and how this makes a difference to students, the IB provide a blog which is regularly updated to give the latest news, research and insights into this programme. The site is aimed at the entire IB community and focusses upon classroom culture, student success and access to education. Input is provided from schools, students and practitioners from around the globe. This blog can be found at the following link below:

<http://blogs.ibo.org/blog/category/middle-years-programme/>

If you would like further information about the MYP, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Mark Gardner** - MYP/IGCSE Coordinator  
[m.gardner@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:m.gardner@gwa.edu.sg)

## GWA Chamber and Solo Concert Thursday 14 April 2016



### GWA PARENT EVENTS

Due to the overwhelming response for the Chinese Calligraphy Workshop on Tuesday the 19th of April, please note the change of venue:

Cairnhill Community Club  
 Room #02-02  
 1 Anthony Road  
 Singapore 229944  
 (tel 6737 9537)



**Judy** - [j.lee@gwa.edu.sg](mailto:j.lee@gwa.edu.sg)  
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